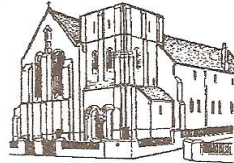


CONTACT



The Parish Magazine
of
CARNOUSTIE CHURCH



No 459

May 2016

From the Minister's Desk

**“The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it; for He founded it on
the seas and established it on the waters” Psalm 24: 1-2**

Dear Friends,

We are entering a time for decision-making in our land and in our Church. Of course, May is the month for the week-long annual meeting of the General Assembly, and there will be much to debate for the commissioners gathered in Edinburgh.

We are to receive the results of the votes of the Presbyteries on Ministers in Same-Sex Marriages on the Saturday morning, and the Assembly will be asked to finalise the Act permitting congregations to ‘opt-out’ of the Church’s teaching and call a Minister in a Same-Sex Marriage.

The Presbytery votes, however, illustrate the continued divided nature of the Kirk on this issue, as only 26 of the 45 Presbyteries voted in favour. But this issue will only be a small part of the discussion on the opening Saturday, and the agenda for the remainder of the week is large and complex. More of that in a later report!

(continued)

Meanwhile, the people of Scotland are voting for a new Scottish Parliament – not just in the sense of new or renewed MSPs, but also for a parliament that has changed with the new powers given to it in the latest Scotland Act and promised for the future. We need to pray for those MSPs and for the future Scottish Government.

The dust will barely have settled on the polling booths when they are brought out again in the middle of June for the Referendum on staying in or leaving the European Union. Again, another major decision to make which will impact on our future in the nation and the world, whichever way the vote goes.

The Psalmist reminds us that God’s people are not to be an inward-looking, world-denying little club, but to proclaim His Kingship over all of creation. How our people live in this interconnected world is of great concern to the King of kings, and we are called, like the prophets of old, to ‘speak truth to power’ and challenge the governments with the Word of God.

Ultimately the Lord Jesus Himself will return to make all things new, and then every knee will bow and every tongue confess that He is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Until that day we are to labour for that Kingdom and live out its values and power through the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Yours in the Grace and Peace of our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ.

Mike Goss

READING FROM THE BIBLE

Sun May 1	Mike Richardson.	Sun May 29	Allison Edwards.
Sun May 8	Gordon Hampton.	Sun June 5	Alan Ferguson.
Sun May 15	Rhona Goss.	Sun June 12	Irene Hoar.
Sun May 22	Sandra Dow.		

*Carnoustie Church is a registered charity.
Registered as Carnoustie Church of Scotland.
Charity Number SCO15146.*



STAMP CORNER



Over recent years there have been many attempts to improve the revenue-generating power of the postage stamp. Some countries will do almost anything to sell postage stamps, especially to hoarders and collectors, who in turn will never use them. This represents a nearly 100% profit for the postal administration involved.

In the past 40 years a growing number of scented stamps have been issued. In 1973, Bhutan's postal authorities released the world's first. The 6 stamp series depicted beautiful roses and each stamp was perfumed to smell like a rose.

Since Bhutan's aromatic stamp, numerous other countries have issued not only flower-scented stamps but stamps smelling of Brazilian coffee, Belgian and Swiss chocolate and even sweet and sour pork from China in 2007 when they celebrated (no prize for guessing) the Year of the Pig.

The stamp commemorating France's hosting of football's 2016 European Championship this summer incorporates a raft of special features. An image of the silver trophy is printed in metallic foil and that of the official tournament ball is printed in relief. If you scratch the surface, the stamp smells of freshly-cut grass.

It seems that the possibilities are endless, so perhaps Royal Mail might be persuaded to honour Scotland next Burns Night with a stamp incorporating the fragrance of haggis, neeps and tatties! Dream on !!

Meantime please continue to put your contributions of used stamps in the box at the back of the Kirk. Unwanted spectacles too. Last week I delivered more than 12 pairs to Specsavers where they are always welcomed.

Allan MacLaren.

MEET, EAT AND SING

“Meet, Eat and Sing “ is taking place in the church on Sunday, May 29.

The Director will be Richard Walmsey of St Ninian's Church, Perth.

Everyone interested in taking part in this splendid afternoon and evening of music should talk to Kirsten, phone her on 853874 or email her on kirsten@rscmscotland.org Bookings must be in by Sunday, May 22.

The Evening Service will begin at 6.30p.m. and everyone is welcome to come along and hear the joyful music.

Kay Landsburgh.

COMMUNION TEAM – SUNDAY MAY 22

Sandra Dow, Allison Edwards, Alan Ferguson, Allan Gall, Ann Green, Norma Murdoch and Sandy Thornton.

Additional volunteers –

Communion Duties: Audrey Doherty and Susan Turner.

Washing Glasses: Sheila Blair and Jenny MacLaren.

The team will be responsible for getting the Church ready for Communion, serving the elements and tidying up afterwards. i.e. washing the glasses and putting everything away, including the communion Table and chairs.

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YOUR MINISTRY OF FLOWERS

Sun May 1	Mrs J. Robertson and Mrs A. Thornton.
Sun May 8	Mrs E. Oswald and Mrs G Stirling.
Sun May 15	Mrs E. Baker and Mrs S. Swinton.
Sun May 22	Mrs A. Ferguson and Mrs K. Morrison.
Sun May 29	Mrs J. Hoar and Mrs P. Simpson.
Sun June 5	Mrs J. Dundas and Miss A. Hood.
Sun June 12	Mrs S.G. Landsburgh and Mrs N. Young.
Sun Jun 19	Mrs M. Ewart and Mrs N. Murdoch.
Sun Jun 26	Mrs H. Dorward and Gillian and Mrs P. Murphy.

**DOOR DUTY TEAMS –MAY**

Sun May 1	Alex McGill, Ann Banks, Allison Edwards, Alan Ferguson, Alan Lindsay, Val Russell and Gavin Allan.
Sun May 8	Gordon Hampton, Margaret Ramsay, Effie Bruce, Mandy Ferguson, Gwen Pyne and Sandra McKay.
Sun May 15	Ian Johnston, Jennifer Craib, Johann Stevenson, Jim Patterson, Kay Landsburgh, Graham Landsburgh and Prue Milne.
Sun May 22	Kirsty Mann, Neil Russell, Allan MacLaren, Jenny MacLaren, Jane Ower, Irene Morrison, Evelyn Baker and Irene Hoar.
Sun May 29	Sandy Thornton, David Blair, Audrey Duncan, Audrey Doherty, George Roger, Christine Roger, Mairi Allan and Sandra Armit.
Sun June 5	Allan Gall, Mike Richardson, Ann Green, Sandra Dow, Jacqui Armstrong, Norma Murdoch and Jean Brown.

THE NEXT CONTACT

The next edition of CONTACT will appear on Sunday June 5. Contributors are asked to ensure that all items for inclusion are in the hands of the Editor by Sunday May 22.



This year Heart and Soul is on **SUNDAY 22ND MAY 2016**, and once again people from Churches all over Scotland will be gathering to celebrate our common Christian faith in Princes Street Gardens in Edinburgh.

There will be tented booths all along the central way with displays and people from various congregations, from the central committees of the Church, and from outside Christian organisations. Once again MAF are promising to bring one of their planes for you to explore (on the ground!).

We'll also be joined by a swing band and a children's choir, and the closing service is not to be missed as thousands join together to sing praise in the gardens.

While the programme starts at 1 pm, it's easy to join in later on in the afternoon, so why not come along after Sunday morning service? Things will be finished by 6 pm, so there's time to go for a meal before heading home.

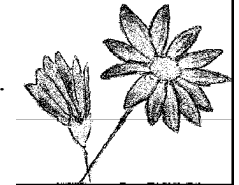
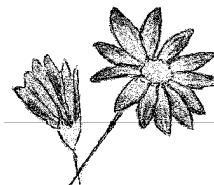
If you've never been before, it's one of the best things the National Church does for bringing us all together and celebrating our common life!

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MISSION AVIATION FELLOWSHIP

This story was written by Jo Lamb and can be found on the MAF website.

It's early, 4:45am, in Antananarivo, Madagascar's capital. The sun is slowly transforming the world with light. But life has already begun in the MAF hangar. Passengers begin to arrive, and the Cessna Caravan is prepared for departure.

With coffee poured, I sit to hear one passenger's story. Her name is Hilde, and she looks very alive – even at this unearthly hour. I can already sense God's love within her. A qualified nurse, Hilde was working in a hospital in Belgium when she felt God's call. Sensing a new season, she began a journey of discovery – her first stop: Madagascar.

She visited the Good News Hospital in Mandritsara, a trip that takes two days by road. With MAF, it's an hour and a half from Antananarivo – the route we are flying today.

Hilde's journey ended abruptly when she reached the hospital. She knew this was where she would stay.

Since then, Hilde's never looked back and she now lives permanently in Madagascar. Sponsored as a missionary by international NGO Tearfund, she feels completely settled in this remote town. She shares a house with a Malagasy eye doctor who feels like her sister.

“And Mandritsara feels like my home,” she smiles.

Although Hilde began as a practising nurse at the Good News Hospital, she now trains Malagasy people to become nurses. “They come to Mandritsara for three years, then leave fully qualified,” she explains. “It's a very practical way of sharing Jesus. We may not always speak about Christ, but in our actions we do. Many come to the hospital and have been trained, helped and healed. It's our way of doing the Gospel work.”

It's the Malagasy people and God's call on her life that keep Hilde passionate about her work. “So many come from far away to be treated, I know it's worthwhile,” she says. “Women can give birth safely and babies are saved. Major wounds are treated. That's what keeps me going.”

A lot of Hilde's patients come with injuries suffered on the road, because travelling overland can be so dangerous. That's why many are grateful for MAF's service.

Taxi-bus accidents happen a lot, where vehicles turn upside down. Sometimes people walk for three days carrying others on stretchers. There's no other hospital for 150 miles.

When I ask Hilde about MAF's help, she doesn't hesitate. “There's a lot of coming and going with MAF! People have become so used to seeing the aircraft that they say, ‘Look! There's our plane coming!’ I hope no one thinks it's really ours – we don't have that kind of money!” she laughs. “But the MAF pilots – they're so flexible, helpful and always kind. Today I almost didn't have a seat, but now I'm here! They work hard to find a solution and fit everyone in. I'm very thankful”.

Hilde and the rest of the team at the Good News Hospital are certainly humble. They've followed God's call to work in a very challenging and deprived part of the world. Although the hospital is well equipped by Malagasy standards, x-rays dry in the open air, and patients often wait all day in the courtyard to be seen.

“Sometimes I feel like such a small part of God's plan,” Hilde says. “I even think, ‘Oh, other people are doing much more than me for the Gospel!’ But we can all think that.

“Perhaps you do it in your office, or in a plane, or in a hospital – but we are all part of God's big plan.

“We must all do our bit, holding our own personal vision and faith within. As long as together we're giving to the poor, feeding the hungry and visiting the prisoners – together we can all make a big difference for Christ. It's not our words. It's what we do with our lives.”

Our part in Carnoustie is supporting MAF's work through our Church Partnership, please continue to help.

Irene.

FROM THE FINANCE TEAM

As will be seen from the opposite page the Church Accounts for the year to 31 December 2015 and the Budget for 2016 both show a deficit. From these figures it will be seen that it is costing more to run the Church than we, the congregation, are giving. Running at a deficit is unsustainable.

To continue our work for God in the community, we need to address this so a Stewardship Season is being organised for June, when you will receive a hand-delivered personal pack. Please read it carefully and prayerfully consider its contents, then complete your response form, which will be collected in a sealed envelope in the week beginning Sunday June 26.

We are constantly trying to ensure maximum benefit for every pound spent. The property and finance teams work hard together to achieve this. For example, recently we were required by our insurers to have all the electrical installations, in both the Church and the Philip Hall, professionally inspected and certified (property team) and the finance team obtained a grant from C of S headquarters in Edinburgh to part fund this potentially costly work.

Our essential expenditure includes our Ministries and Mission contribution to the Church of Scotland, most of which comes back to us to meet our Ministry costs including stipend, employer's national insurance contributions and pension fund. Salaries and payments for gas and electricity, insurance, building maintenance, etc. also come into the *essential expenditure* category, which accounts for approximately 90% of our running expenses!

Despite the present difficult times, if everyone could manage a little extra we might be able to break even this year. If members who don't give were to make a regular contribution towards the running of their church, that would help.

We appreciate that not everyone pays tax but if you do, please consider completing a Gift Aid form and we will do the rest. There is no additional cost to the giver and if you cease to be a tax-payer you just have to let the treasurer know.

- A 5% increase in everyone's giving would increase the offerings by approx. £2400 per year and if these were Gift Aid donations the tax refund would be £600.
- A 10% increase would raise the offerings by approx. £4800 per year and if these were Gift Aid donations the tax refund would be an additional £1200.
- 15% would increase the offerings by approx. £7200 per year and if these were Gift Aid donations the tax refund is £1800.

The offerings of members enable us to carry out the activities we do. However, we would like to do even more, and with your help we can.

CARNOUSTIE CHURCH				
GENERAL ACCOUNT				
Receipts and Payments at 31 December 2015				
	£	£	£	Budget 2016
Open plate			1,795.03	1800
Envelopes			3,382.00	3200
Gift Aid (regular donations)			44,575.00	43500
Hall lets			6,239.50	5800
Tax on Gift Aid		9,581.58		12250
Interest on Gift Aid claim for 2014		13.76		
			9,595.34	
Donations - Organisations			686.90	400
Funerals & memorials		1,990.00		2300
Weddings		200.00		200
Donations (Regular)		4,080.00		4000
Donation (Irregular) General	836.00			600
Gift and Prayer day Gift Aid	0.00			0
Gift and Prayer day non Gift Aid	0.00	836.00		0
Contact adverts		180.00		180
Carnoustie Choir use of church		150.00		150
Life and Work net income		25.30		30
Duncan Trust		761.73		760
			<u>8,223.03</u>	
			74,496.80	75170
deduct				
Ministry			46,397.94	48754
Salaries			8,370.78	8270
Organ			750.02	5750
Gas & electricity			6,139.10	6300
Water & drainage			276.09	250
Insurance			5,685.39	6200
Printing & stationery			556.92	600
Presbytery Dues			562.65	600
Manse - Council Tax			1,075.13	1100
Sundry expenses			<u>2,367.22</u>	<u>2390</u>
			72,181.24	80214
			2,315.56	-5044
Allocation to Fabric Fund			<u>5,000.00</u>	<u>5000</u>
Deficit for year			<u>-2684.44</u>	<u>-10044</u>



COFFEE BREAK



Committee members and helpers welcomed guests to the closing Coffee Break of this session. Over coffee and a variety of home baking treats everyone was soon enjoying a good blether and the goodies for sale on the stall were quickly snapped up.

A warm welcome was given to Ruth, who had come from St Andrews on behalf of the charity, Christians Against Poverty, to receive a cheque for £1,700, the proceeds of the just completed Coffee Break season.

Ruth thanked the 'Breakers' for what she described as their very generous gift and support for the charity.

We thank all our Coffee Breakers and all who have baked and served a wonderful variety of home baking over the year. Their support, advice and help is very much appreciated. We remember with affection Jimmy Lindsay, Chris Robertson and Jack Picken, who in their own ways helped and supported the committee at every Friday Coffee Break

Have a lovely summer, everyone and we look forward to seeing you all again in September.

Evelyn Baker.

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Funerals: *"Jesus said, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me shall not perish, but have everlasting life.'"*

Apr 18 Mrs Margaret F. Barbour, Willowbank.

Apr 20 Mrs Pamela Gran, Willowbank.

* denotes a Carnoustie Church member.

PRAYER FOCUS

We offer these thoughts to add to your own prayers:

1. **Earthquakes** – Pray for those providing aid and help in the aftermath of the earthquakes in Japan and Ecuador.
2. **Scottish Parliament Elections** – Pray for the election campaigns and for the voters that we might seek the best MSPs to govern Scotland with integrity and grace.
3. **General Assembly** – Remember the annual meeting of the Church of Scotland in Edinburgh this month, and pray that Ministers, Elders and Deacons will be guided by the Holy Spirit and the Word of God in all their deliberations.

God gave you a gift of 86,400 seconds today. Have you used one to say 'thank you?'

William Arthur Ward.

I & M MacDOUGALL

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TRY FOBEL FIRST!

The Treasure Hunt, confined to the centre of Carnoustie, is to be held on Friday evening 17th June 2016 commencing at 6.30pm.

All participants to meet at the Black Slab where the Treasure Hunt will start and finish. Transport to the Manse will be available if required.

The Barbeque which follows, will commence in the Manse Garden around 7pm.

To ensure your dietary requirements are catered for it's a 'bring your own food and own cold refreshments' night.

To allow the 'chef' to get organised during the Treasure Hunt, please hand in your food to the Manse immediately prior to going to the Black Slab for 6.30pm to start the Treasure Hunt.

Entry forms to Pat Thornton, 9 Collier Street by
10 June

Team name

.....

Number in team

Contact Phone no.

.....

Entry £2 per team

.....

CARNOUSTIE CHURCH

MINISTER:

Rev Michael S Goss,
44 Terrace Road,
Carnoustie, DD7 7AR.
Tel: 01241 410194 Mobile: 07787 141567
e-mail: michaelgoss@blueyonder.co.uk

LOCAL ORDAINED MINISTER

Rev Dougal Edwards Tel 852666

OTHER USEFUL 'PHONE NUMBERS

SESSION CLERK

Mrs Irene Hoar 859405

DEPUTE SESSION CLERK

Vacant

ACTING TREASURER

Mrs Sandra Dow 852823

ROLL KEEPER

Miss Kirsten Mann 853874

PROPERTY CONVENER

Mr Alan Ferguson 856088

FUNDAY CLUB LEADER

Miss Jean Reid 853218

YOUTH GROUP CO-ORDINATOR

Mrs Mandy Ferguson 856088

HALL KEEPER

Mr Colin Roberts 853435

CONGREGATIONAL VISITATION CO-ORDINATOR

Mrs Effie Bruce 411078

FLOWERS CONVENER

Mrs Sandra Penman 852204

GUILD SECRETARY

Mrs Irene Hoar 859405

CONTACT EDITOR

Mr David Blair 853663

FORTHCOMING DATES

- Sun May 1** 11 00 am: Morning Service in Church. No Funday Club.
6.30pm: Angus East Songs of Praise in Barry Parish Church.
- Mon May 2** 12.15 – 1.00 pm: Prayer Group meets in Duthie Room.
- Wed May 4** 7.00pm: Local Congregational Visit. Carnoustie Church.
11.000 am: Morning Service in Church. Funday Club and Youth Group leave during service.
- Sun May 8** 12.15 – 1.00 pm: Prayer Group meets in Duthie Room.
- Mon May 9** 7.45 pm: Youth and Children Team meets in Duthie Room.
- Wed May 11** 11.000 am: Boys Brigade End of Year Service in Church.
- Sun May 15** 2.00 pm: Sponsored Walk: Christian Aid and Barry. Details to follow.
- Mon May 16** 12.15 – 1.00 pm: Prayer Group meets in Duthie Room.
- Thur May 19** 3.00 pm: Afternoon Service in Braehill Lodge.
- Fri May 20** 2.30 pm: Stewardship Planning meeting at 1 Caesar Avenue.
- Sat May 21 – Fri May 27** Minister at General Assembly.
- Sun May 22** 11.000 am: Communion Service in Church. Funday Club and Youth Group leave during service.
- Mon May 23** 12.15 – 1.00 pm: Prayer Group meets in Duthie Room.
- Sun May 29** 11.00 am: Morning service in Church. Funday Club and Youth Group leave during service.
2.00 pm: Meet, Eat and Sing. Singers meet in Philip Hall.
6.30pm: Choral Service in Carnoustie Church.
- Mon May 30** 12.15 – 1.00 pm: Prayer Group meets in Duthie Room.
7.30 pm: Kirk Session meets in Duthie Room.
- Sun June 5** 11.00 am: Morning Service in Church. Funday Club children leave church during Service.
- Mon June 6** 12.15 – 1.00 pm: Prayer Group meets in Duthie Room.
7.30 pm: Worship Team meets in Duthie Room.
- Tues June 7** 7.30 pm: Presbytery Communion in Church.