

**BENARTY AND LOCHGELLY CHURCHES TOGETHER.**

Our Advent Carol Service last December held in St. Patrick's Church was most successful. Another Advent Carol Service is planned for December 3rd. 2017 in St. Finnian's Episcopal Church. Lumphinans Rd. at 7pm with Lochgelly Band.

We are also planning a service dedicated to all volunteers on June 18th at 7pm in Lochgelly. St. Serf's. Church. This is a new venture, and we hope many of you can attend.

The World Day Of Prayer was well received last March hosted by the Salvation Army, Lochgelly. In 2018 World Day of Prayer falls on March 2nd. More details will follow in the next newsletter.

St. Finnian's Church will hold a jazz concert on July 8th at 7pm and concert by Benita and Walter again on August 5th at 3pm. Posters and tickets soon forthcoming.

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday June 14th at 2pm in St. Finnian's Episcopal Church.

Ethne Brown.

**HOW TO KILL A CHURCH.**

1. When you do come, come in late.
2. Never accept an appeal to help out, best to stay back and criticise.
3. Those that take on a job, let them do all the work.
4. Never donate any extra cash.
5. Divulge everyone's failings to people outside the church.
6. If there are a few zealous workers in the church, inform everyone that the church is run by a clique.
7. Don't develop spiritual growth with others, just share gossip.
8. If one person in the church says or does something that you do not like, be mad at the whole church.

**KEEP YOUR CHURCH COMMUNITY ALIVE.**

Ethne Brown.

# NEWS FROM ST. SERF'S

*June 2017*



Your Elder is \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

(Scottish Charity Reference: SC032353)

## *A word from the Locum Minister....*

Well! The last months have simply flown by! I can't believe that I have been here just over a year already! It seems that it was just yesterday that I came here as a naïve South African to the old coalfields of Fife, where the coaldust has long ago settled! But now, I feel like a part of the furniture! Thank you to everybody who made me feel so welcome!

My trip to South Africa in December was a wonderful time and I came back rejuvenated! It was great being with my family again over Christmas especially! But, life has to move on. This last six months has been interesting. I continue to be called upon to do many funerals. I raced down to London to get my passport renewed! What an opportunity to sight see! I continue to be involved with TIBAL (Together in Benarty and Lochgelly). I changed my modus-operandi with regards to visiting members of the Congregation and now rely more on personal referrals, which has meant several visits to our local hospitals. (I previously made appointments with people at the service – diary in hand!) I have been involved in initiatives with Churches Together and have continued to visit the Messy Church Groups. I am a frequent visitor at the Thursday Drop In and coffee mornings. On the whole, I hope I have been behaving myself! But it seems like you have nothing to worry about. It has been great having Pamela Scott on the “team.” I have worked well with her and we have shared quite a lot of our ministries together, especially during the time of her illness. Interim Moderator, Rev. Muriel Willoughby has also been a great inspiration to me and I have enjoyed attending Presbytery with Robin Millar, even though I don't have much to say!

Because of recent political events in South Africa, it is not possible at this time to determine when I can return as being a “white South African”. It will almost certainly mean that I will be unable to find work. For this reason, I have decided to stay on here as long as the current situation prevails (i.e. a vacant charge). I am extremely grateful for this opportunity as it gives me a chance to support my family back home. Of course technically I am not a South African as I was born in the U.K!

The Easter Services went well. Pamela put together a moving order of service for Good Friday in which I had the honour of officiating. The Sunday morning services at Lochgelly and Benarty were well attended. Over the Easter weekend, I had the opportunity to Skype my family (even my mum) and was treated to high tea as well with the Seath's, so it wasn't as lonely as I thought it would be.

*Geoff*

## *CHURCH NEWSLETTER*

*Thanks to all the ministry team and members of church groups who have submitted articles for this issue. Most of which were given to me well ahead of schedule.*

*I hope you enjoy reading this issue and if you feel you would like more information about our church services, or groups, please don't hesitate to get in touch with your elder or myself.*

*My thanks as always to the elders for getting these to you, and to the people who help with getting them ready for distribution.*

*Have a great summer.*

*Anne Scott.*



**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION  
WILL BE CELEBRATED ON SUNDAY 28TH MAY  
AT A JOINT SERVICE  
IN ST. SERF'S, BENARTY AT 10.30am**



**There will be a retiring offering for the church Samaritan Fund**  
Anyone requiring home communion should contact their Elder or any of the below.

### **IMPORTANT CONTACTS**

<b>Rev. Muriel Willoughby</b>	<b>Interim Moderator</b>	<b>Tel. 01383 738487</b>
<b>Rev. Geoff Probert</b>	<b>Locum Minister</b>	<b>mob. 07491 139129</b>
<b>Pamela Scott BD DCS</b>	<b>Parish Assistant</b>	<b>mob. 07548 819334</b>
<b>Ian Brown</b>	<b>Session Clerk</b>	<b>el. 01592 782515</b>
<b>Betty Martin</b>	<b>Depute Session Clerk</b>	<b>Tel. 01592 781715</b>

## CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY AND WORSHIP GROUP

We are currently planning the Congregational Outing to East Links Family Park, Dunbar on 3rd June. This is always an enjoyable visit. We are also planning the Pentecost Service at Lochgelly on 4th June which will include the Sunday Club gift giving. It's hard to believe Sunday Club is almost over till autumn and hopefully we will enjoy many long summer days before we start back. A few more members on the Worship Group would be very helpful to assist with the preparation for special services. If anyone is interested please speak to me at church or come along to one of our meetings.



Laura Pepperday - Group Member

*A baby is a blessing,  
A gift from Heaven above,  
A precious little angel,  
To cherish and to love.*

### A BLESSING

Cody Beveridge  
in St. Serf's Lochgelly  
on Sunday 8th January 2017



## WAYS & MEANS GROUP

By the time you read this we will have had something different to our normal coffee morning for Christian Aid on 13th May. We have decided to have a 'brunch' so I'll let you know how successful this was in the next newsletter. Our Summer Fayre this year takes place on Saturday 1st July at Lochgelly. Maybe this year the weather will be kind and we will be able to have a barbecue. The annual Beetle Drive will be held in Benarty in September and is usually great fun and quite frantic. We are also delighted to host an evening with East Fife Male Voice Choir this autumn so look out for details later. We are always on the look out for new ideas for fundraising and if anyone has any brilliant ideas we'd like to hear them. We also need extra help particularly at the Summer Fayre and if you are able to assist in any way please let me know.

Laura Pepperday  
Ways & Means Group

# FUNERALS

George Aitchinson - Ballingry

Thomas McIntyre - Cardenden

Margaret Wilkie - Lochore

Isabel Robertson - Lochgelly

Fay Proudfoot - Lochgelly

Marion Johnston - Lochgelly

Sheena Cousland - Lochore

Elizabeth Duncan - Ballingry

Nancy McMillan - Lochore

Margaret Inglis - Lochore

Frank Somerville - Ballingry

William Hodge - Ballingry

Elizabeth Brown - Lochgelly

William Robson - Lochgelly

Douglas Middlemass - Burntisland

Andrew White - Lochore

Elizabeth Glennie - Lochgelly

Jan Suttie - Lochgelly

George Morrison - Crosshill

Roland Klym - Lochore



## GREETINGS FROM THE INTERIM MODERATOR

Dear Friends

*How time flies!*

*It is hard to imagine that it is now over a year since I took over as Interim Moderator for Lochgelly & Benarty St Serf's. A lot has happened in that year including Geoff being welcomed and established as locum minister, Pamela being appointed as Parish Assistant, a revised Parish Profile being prepared and a new job description for a part time Outreach Worker being advertised. Although we have not yet found a Parish Minister we are not alone. There are many congregations, large and small, urban and rural, all over Scotland which are seeking a minister at this time. It is not easy when the numbers of new ministers is failing to keep up with the retirement rate BUT I feel that that gives us a new opportunity to find ways to minister without a full time Minister of Word and Sacrament.*

*At St Serf's we are very fortunate to have the stability of Geoff's locum ministry and the new impetus of Pamela's appointment which show that God is at work among us, supporting and encouraging us all to be his body in this parish. However Geoff and Pamela, and even an Outreach Worker and Minister, cannot do everything. At a recent Kirk Session conference we looked at the work of the various groups in the congregation such as Property, Finance, Ways & Means, Pastoral Care and recognised that some people are doing several tasks and others are perhaps getting weary. Perhaps the time is coming to recruit new members who will bring fresh energy and new ways of thinking to these groups which are at the heart of St Serf's and its witness to our community.*

*The elders also looked back at the goals set in 2013 during the Future Focus programme and were able to identify one aspect that still seemed appropriate and realistic. That was the desire to serve and become an integral part of the whole community that is covered by the parish. This is one reason Pamela's appointment is key as she will be getting to know groups and individuals in the parish to find out how the Church can help and get involved.*

*This is an exciting time for all of us in the Church. We can be the people who embrace change and the challenges of new times and I hope that you will join me in praying for Geoff, Pamela, the Kirk Session and the whole congregation as we step into that future which is truly in God's hands.*

*With my prayers and best wishes*

**Muriel.**



Messy Church at Benarty meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month from 6pm till 7pm.. We will close in July and August for summer and resume in September. We have an average of 14 children attending and they enjoy making things and doing puzzles. In January the theme was "The loaves and fishes". February "Jesus loves me". March "Daniel and the Lions Den". April "Garden for Easter" May "Planting seeds for spring". A warm welcome is extended to anyone wishing to join us. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

May Blinnie - Messy Church.

## **GREETINGS FROM THE CHURCH ADMIN. OFFICE**

*It has been a very busy time in the office since my last message to you all. After eleven years we have had to say goodbye to our old and faithful friend, the photocopier. I sometimes wish we had never parted with it, but like us humans, it was old and tired and it eventually told us it had enough. Getting used to the new one has not been an easy task for all users. It has been a wee bit temperamental, but hopefully it will behave and let me get this newsletter printed on time.*



*As usual I will not have the company on Thursday mornings as the Drop In will be on holiday. But I'm sure I will still have plenty work to keep me busy.*

*On behalf of Bob and myself, have a lovely summer.*

**Anne Scott  
Administrator**

## TUESDAY AFTERNOON GROUP

As the days grow longer and the weather improves (hopefully) we are coming to the end of another successful and very well attended session. Our membership continues to grow and currently we have over thirty members which is very encouraging. This may be due to our guest speakers who have covered a variety of subjects and all proving to be very popular.

Our first meeting in 2017 was on St. Valentines day when we had a talk on homemade chocolates (with lots of tasting of course). Ann Allan gave some tips and a demonstration on how to make some lovely Easter flower arrangements. We also had a visit from two firemen from our local station who gave us very good advice on fire safety in the home. Another afternoon Isabel Brown brought along her collection of Royal memorabilia, which she has collected over many years. Our last meeting is a musical afternoon. On our final day we have our closing lunch which is always well attended. We are now looking forward to our summer break and hoping to see everyone when we resume again in September. Please join us if you can.

Best wishes to everyone. Hope you all have a very happy, warm sunny summer.

Marion Lumsden  
group member.



## ST. SERF'S CRAFT GROUP

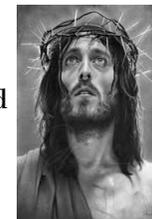
We have our regular meetings on Thursdays from 2pm till 4pm when we enjoy doing our knitting and sewing etc which we then sell to raise funds for the church. We close during the summer months for a break and resume again in the autumn. Hope to see you then.

We also enjoy having a cup of tea and a blether and it would be lovely if any new members would like to join us.

Elizabeth Danks - group member.

## TUESDAY FELLOWSHIP & BIBLE STUDY

We have recently been taking part in the Lent study with our Parish Assistant Pamela Scott. It was very interesting, especially as it involved the film "Chocolat". We also watched the film "The Passion of Christ" which proved to be very intense, so we are hoping our next Bible Study will be based on this film.



Jean Adams (group member),

## PROPERTY GROUP

If you have walked past the church recently you will have noticed that the boundary wall at the Dundas Street entrance has finally been repaired. What a difference! It was on the verge of crumbling and endangering members of the public walking by. There are always property maintenance issues and as you can imagine the upkeep of two churches and a Manse is very expensive. You may be aware that we have a number of community groups using the building (particularly at Lochgelly) so we have decided that the toilets could do with an upgrade to make them more appealing. Hopefully we will be able to get grant funding for this project. More news later! There is something that all members can do to assist in keeping fabric repairs low and that is by taking home a fabric box for your loose change. The boxes are counted twice a year and it's amazing how a few pennies can make a difference. Why not pick up a box next time you are in church or ask your elder if they can drop one off. Remember "mony a mickle maks a muckle!" Have a relaxing summer.

Laura Pepperday

Property Convener

## THE MAGAZINE ON CD'S

Just a wee reminder that recorded CD's are made each time the newsletter is printed. This is a free service to anyone who has difficulty reading news print. Please give me a call on 01592 780077 and I can arrange for you to have one.

**Margaret Morgan.**

## **FROM THE PARISH ASSISTANT**

I have now been Parish Assistant at St. Serf's for 15 weeks now and in some ways, it feels like I am still very new and have lots to learn about the congregation and the community but in others I feel like I have been here for ages. I believe this is down to the welcome I have had from many different people, I have been made to feel like I belong and part of everything that goes on. In the fifteen weeks, I also feel like I haven't done much but when I look at my diary I am very aware of how much I have done and I would like to share some of this with you.

Initially I thought the biggest problem was going to be learning names and although I have some way to go I have been surprised at how far I have come and how patient everyone is when I get it wrong or don't know who they may be talking about.

I have been able to make contact with Lochgelly West and Lochgelly South Primaries and have had meetings with the Head Teachers. They are both willing for me to attend assemblies and hopefully do some classwork. Benarty Primary has been a bit more of a challenge as the acting Head Teacher was also Head Teacher at Kings Road Primary. They now have a new Head Teacher and I hope to make contact with her very soon.

I have been taking monthly services at Mossview and at Benore Care Homes, which have been marvellously attended by members of the congregation. This helps with the singing and shows the people in the Care Homes how much the church appreciates them and thinks about them.

During a discussion with the manager at Benore it was suggested they would love about ten Twiddlemuffs, these are knitted muffs, which are given to people who have dementia or are very agitated. They have various sensory items attached so that these can be felt and played with. At the moment, I have been given nine...I am knitting one although it is taking a bit of time but I have been told that there are others being made. Any that Benore do not need can be offered to Mossview.

During Lent I ran two Lent Studies based on the film Chocolat. There were six of us at Lochgelly and seven some weeks at Benarty. I think everyone who attended enjoyed the six-week study and found it wasn't too heavy. I have now been asked to continue leading the Bible Study at Benarty on a Tuesday evening where at the moment we are using Bible Society material.

Because of illness I missed spending Holy Week and Easter with everyone but God willing this is just the first of many.

**PAMELA SCOTT BD DCS**

## **WELFARE GROUP**



Hello Folks,

As I write this item, Spring is definitely here - the sun is shining, spring flowers are blooming and everyone is getting on with jobs which need to be done in the garden (myself included!). All this makes me hope that the good weather lasts until our Welfare Group Coffee Morning which will be held on the 10th of June. Please put a note in your diaries. Our Tea and Concert will be held this year on 30th September. Invitations have been inserted in this newsletter. Anyone who is a member of St. Serf's and has attained the age of 65 years or over is eligible to attend. If for any reason you haven't accepted our invitation before (lack of transport perhaps), you will be made most welcome and arrangements can be made to assist you.. Please make sure you submit your name to me, Brenda Dickson, 01383 733399, or Anne Scott 01592 780436. Please book early to reserve your space! We very much look forward to welcoming you all. We are pleased to announce that our entertainment for the evening is "Doreen Arnott and Friends" so we know we are in for a thoroughly entertaining night.

Wishing you a fine, sunny Summer and don't forget June 10th.

Brenda Dickson, Secretary

## **THE DROP IN**

After another successful beginning to 2017 we are looking forward to our summer break when we close on Thursday 25th May. During our last session we held a Soup Lunch on 6th April which was very successful. We will resume in the autumn and it will be lovely to see old and hopefully some new faces. We will again be available for teas and coffees every Thursday from 10am till 12noon. So why not "Drop In" for a friendly cuppa.



Margaret Swan.

## **CHURCH WEBPAGE**

[www.stserfschurch.co.uk](http://www.stserfschurch.co.uk)

You can also keep in touch on Facebook at  
Lochgelly and Benarty St. Serf's Church.

## FROM THE SESSION CLERK

June 2017

In December I reported that we were still seeking a Session Clerk, with no success. I am delighted to report that Betty Martin has agreed to share the Session Clerk Position with me. Betty has brought with her a different skill set and we are working well together. The number of tasks that seem to land with the Session Clerk are numerous and it is great that Betty is able to utilise her office skills in the Session Clerk Role.

Many of you will have met our new Parish Assistant and Pamela Scott has settled in quickly to augment the Ministry Team. She has already been active in progressing our school links and carrying out services in our local care homes. Pamela is qualified as a Deacon and is able to carry out wedding ceremonies. We are still actively pursuing the appointment of a part-time Outreach Worker. This post is currently being advertised by the Church of Scotland. This should help as we continue to look for a new minister. Our Interim Moderator continues to support St Serfs by carrying out baptisms and communion services as well as moderating Kirk Session meetings. This is much appreciated and is a big task in addition to her work as the Minister at St Andrew's Erskine Church

The session clerk post is like many posts in the church. It is a job that is better when shared by more than one person. At the Elder's Conference in April it was agreed that much of the work that goes on behind the scenes is carried out by fewer and fewer people, many carrying out several roles. Unless people come forward, even for a few hours, we are at risk of the church being unable to function in the way we have come to expect. If you think you can help please come forward and enjoy more of the life of your church. Every little helps.

All in all we are holding up very well, despite now being in vacancy for over three years and I would like to thank everyone who helps to achieve this. They could do with your help.

“Two are better off than one, because together they can work more effectively. If one of them falls down, the other can help him up. But if someone is alone and falls, it's just too bad, because there is no-one to help him.”  
Ecclesiastes 4: :9-10

Ian Brown

## WEDDING

Debbie Hannah  
to  
James Gunn  
in St. Serf's Benarty  
6th May 2017



## FROM THE TREASURER

Since this is our first newsletter for 2017 I want to start by thanking members for their continuing financial support during the past year. Many members took heed of my requests to examine their giving, use gift aid where they could and consider making a standing order in favour of the Church. I believe the accounts we approved in March show we ended 2016 in a healthy position. Our receipts were well up on 2015 and this should give us confidence to explore new initiatives and projects in 2017.

The budget for 2017 was approved by the Kirk Session in February and is included overleaf in this newsletter to give you the full picture of what we anticipate spending this year. It also shows what we should try to bring in to achieve our proposals. It is intended to continue the practice of showing each week's receipts in the following week's order of service. I think this is useful to keep fresh in members' minds the importance of funding for the ongoing work of the Church. This requires not only regular giving but also support for the many fundraising activities carried on by a tireless and dedicated group of volunteers. Expenditure in the first few months of the year has been heavy but the new equipment and communication systems in which we have invested will bring benefits in the longer term and ensure that we are in the best position to support the ministry team and membership in the activities undertaken to put the Word into action in Lochgelly and Benarty.

Robin

see overleaf

**ST SERF'S CHURCH LOCHGELLY AND BENARTY  
2017 BUDGET APPROVED 21 FEBRUARY 2017**

	2016	2017
EXPENDITURE	Final	Budget
<b>NATIONAL MINISTRY</b>		
Ministries and Mission Allocation	30,978	32,713
Presbytery Dues	986	1,000
<b>LOCAL STAFFING COSTS</b>		
Ministry Team Travelling Expenses	648	800
Ministry Team Telephone/Stationery	313	800
Pulpit Supply and Locum	9,726	7,000
Salaries: Organists	2,152	2,200
Church Officers	3,098	3,100
Cleaners	353	2,500
PAYE & NI	1,806	1,000
<b>BUILDING COSTS</b>		
Heating and Lighting	6,841	7,500
Insurance	4,920	4,600
Council Tax	1,479	1,000
<b>OTHER LOCAL COSTS</b>		
Printing and Stationery (net)	1,586	1,100
Publicity and Advertising	916	900
Cleaning Contract, materials etc.	2,685	500

Church and Manse garden expenses	639	600
Sunday School books and materials	139	150
Licences	696	700
New Projects	0	0
New Equipment	424	0
Miscellaneous	12	100
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>70,397</b>	<b>68,263</b>
<b>LESS ORDINARY GENERAL INCOME</b>		
Congregational Organisations	2,697	2,700
Income from use of premises	7,868	8,000
Income from weddings and funerals	2,580	1,000
Regular fundraising	8,156	8,000
Dividends and Interest	2,727	2,727
	<u>24,028</u>	<u>22,427</u>
<b>NET EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>46,369</b>	<b>45,836</b>
<b>OFFERINGS</b>		
WFO Scheme (non Gift Aid)	11,897	12,500
Gift Aid Donations	22,267	22,000
Tax recovered on Gift Aid	8,225	8,000
Ordinary Offerings	3,002	3,000
Other Offerings, Donations etc.	1,421	2,000
	<u>46,812</u>	<u>47,500</u>
<b>SURPLUS/DEFICIT</b>	<b>443</b>	<b>1,664</b>