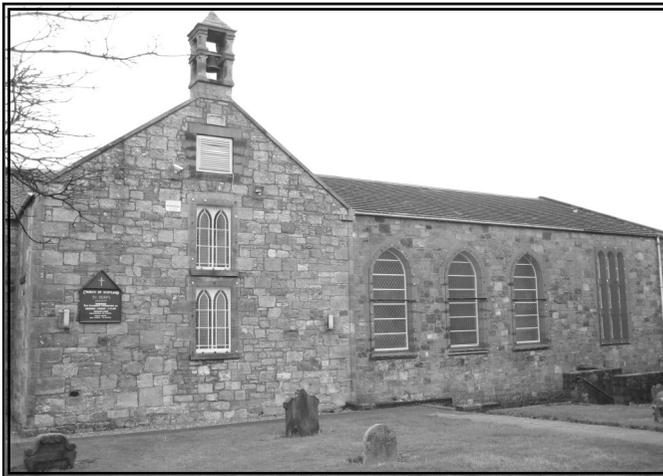


Two Buildings



One Church
One Congregation
One Purpose

NEWS FROM ST. SERF'S

June 2019



Your Elder is _____

Telephone _____

(Scottish Charity Reference: SC032353)

FROM THE LOCUM MINISTER

I thought that I would write this message a little differently than what I have done in the past. I have been here just over three years now. When I arrived, I was quite scared. I found myself living in a strange place and not sure what to expect. Having arrived early March 2016, the winter chill was still in the air. It was certainly colder than the climate I had just come from. But spring was just around the corner. So, I wrapped up – putting on two jumpers if I needed to and began visiting people. I was not able to drive at first, because I was waiting for my British driver's licence, but that did not stop me and I simply walked on foot or took the bus! Once I was more mobile, I was given a SATNAV to use, that proved to be very handy. I took part in the Palm Sunday Service and was immediately struck by the warm welcome! Within a few weeks, I was being invited for meals and taken out occasionally to visit the Scottish countryside. The Fife accent was no trouble, *although I did have to grasp words like Blether and Bairns very quickly. I soon dropped the "Ja" (Yes) for a hearty "Aye"!!*

Within a short while I was doing funerals and getting involved in the life of St. Serf's. My initial fears were soon to be eliminated. The regular coffee morning and Drop-In's - I tried not to miss them as they were an opportunity to meet not just members of the Congregation, but members of the Community too. Everywhere I went; people were welcoming, caring and friendly. Within months after arriving, I was appointed to work for TIBAL as a consultant/befriender, which I really enjoyed until its activities ceased at the end of September last year. Other activities soon followed as the years progressed, Summer and Christmas Fayre's, Remembrance Sunday's, Christmas activities and then moving into the New Year, my first Burns Supper! On several occasions I have been privileged to be a part of community projects and I am now an Associate Rotarian of the Cowdenbeath Rotary Club. Once Pamela and Aileen joined the "Ministry Team" - they added depth to the work of the Church and new members joined. I also enjoyed being a part of the Benarty and Lochgelly Churches Together (BLCT) and getting involved where I could. I have managed to go back to South Africa on holiday twice so far and hopefully there will be another trip soon.

MAKE EVERY MOMENT COUNT

Make every moment count and you'll be happy,
you will find true meaning in your life,
when you learn to utilize each moment,
the simple things will bring you peace of mind.

Make every moment count and be productive,
be useful in a kind and helpful way,
you will find that happiness comes easy,
and you'll be content each moment of the day.

Make moments count throughout the day,
instead of simply passing time away,
make moments count and you will find,
the secret of possessing peace of mind.

Make every moment count and life will lead you,
to a secret world you never thought you'd find,
you will find your life will be worth living,
as the whisperings of Love delight your mind.

Make every moment count and you'll be happy,
your understanding will be growing every day,
with every step you take along life's highway,
you will be helping others find their way.

Make moments count throughout the day,
instead of simply passing time away,
make moments count and you will find,
the secret of possessing peace of mind.

Make every moment count by concentrating,
on peace and joy and blessings from above,
make every moment count by making choices,
that lead you to a wondrous world of love.

©2013 Paul Martin. All rights reserved.

WATCH OUT ON THE ROAD

“ ‘Cause I've sure gotten old! ”

I've had two bypass surgeries, a hip replacement,
new knees, fought prostate cancer and diabetes.

I'm half blind,
can't hear anything quieter than a jet engine,
take 40 different medications that make me dizzy,
winded, and subject to blackouts.

Have bouts of forgetfulness.

Have poor circulation;
hardly feel my hands and feet anymore.

Can't remember if I'm 85 or 92.

Have lost all my friends.

But, thank God, I still have my driver's license.

“A MEMBER”

Are you an active member,
the kind that would be missed?

Or are you just contented that
your name is on the list?

Do you attend the meetings
and mingle with the flock?

Or stay at home in comfort
to criticise and knock?

Do you take an active part
to help the work along?

Or are you merely satisfied
just simply to belong?

Think it over, Members,
you know right from wrong....

Are you an active member,
or do you just belong?

My work this year continues as I now enter my fourth year. Once this letter is published, Easter will have been celebrated. Easter is a season of mixed emotions; and so glorious Resurrection! New life springs forth and brings hope! That is good news for all of us!

I am aware that things might change in the future as my position here is not permanent, but I am also aware that God has sustained me in the past and will do so in the future. I believe that no matter what our own personal circumstances are, the same is true for all of us. God is faithful and sustains us all.

Blessings to you all

Geoff.

**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION
WILL BE CELEBRATED ON SUNDAY 2ND JUNE
AT A JOINT SERVICE
IN ST. SERF'S, BENARTY AT 10.30am**



There will be a retiring offering for the Church Samaritan Fund

IF YOU NEED HELP OR ADVICE IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Rev. Geoff Probert	Locum Minister	mob. 07491 139129
Pamela Scott BD DCS	Parish Assistant	mob. 07548 819334
Aileen Christie	Outreach Worker	mob 07966660258
Laura Pepperday	Session Clerk Pro Tem	Tel. 01592 781029
Ian Brown	Web Page/ Facebook	Tel. 01592 782515

FUNERALS

Annie Stark - Lochgelly

Catherine Blair - Lochgelly

Brian Fotheringham - Glenrothes

Margaret Holmes - Lochgelly

Betty Mackie - Auchtertool

Anne Campbell - Lochgelly

Edith Donald - Lochgelly

John Preston - Ballingry

Stuart Gallacher—Lochgelly

Mary Storrar - Lochgelly

George Dick - Lochgelly

David London - Lochgelly

Betty Allan - Lochgelly

Rae Fowlis—Lumphinnans



TUESDAY AFTERNOON GROUP

Our Afternoon Group is still well attended with a membership of more than thirty. This is a community group and is open to all faiths for men as well as women

We have again had a variety of interesting and informative talks, such as the work of the Salvation Army in Latvia. Norman Black gave us a very interesting talk about his work which took him all over the world. Carol Reddington told us about her work with Fife Day Care and also the work and the value of the volunteers. Our Musical Afternoon is always popular and this year we were entertained by Gerry Duffy and Friends. This was a very enjoyable afternoon.

As usual the winter session finished with a lunch for our members and it was very well attended. I would like to wish everyone a very happy summer break.

If you would like to join us you would be made very welcome.

Marion Lumsden
Group member.



WAYS & MEANS GROUP



The Ways & Means group are responsible for organising various fundraising events. Coming up soon will be a Soup and Sweet lunch on Sunday 9th June following the joint Pentecost service in St. Serf's Lochgelly. Our annual summer fayre will take place on Saturday 29th June and we are also planning another Musical Afternoon Tea in August following the success of last year's event. Look out for more details soon. The group is really low in numbers and anyone who is keen to join us will be made very welcome.



Laura Pepperday, Group Member



Worship & Children's Ministry Group

The group are planning the joint Pentecost Service on 9th June in St. Serf's Lochgelly. The congregational outing this year is somewhere different and we are heading to:-

Active Kids Adventure Park in Perth on Saturday 1st June.

Laura Pepperday

FROM THE PARISH ASSISTANT

Yet again the newsletter has caught me by surprise. I thought I had lots of time to prepare for it but now I find it upon us. It has been a busy time for everyone at St. Serf's and especially for those who have helped at Bubblegum 'n' Fluff, with the school's work and then Easter Code. We have continued to engage with the schools through the Lego club at the West and the Nurture Group at the South, both continue to be fruitful ways to connect with the pupils and staff.

I have continued to visit people, particularly the housebound and those in hospital or care homes. Every month I carry out services at Mossview and Benore. I am now the chair of BLCT and as churches together have held reflective services at St. Serf's, St. Finnian's and the Salvation Army. We have had an Advent service with Lochgelly Brass Band and are planning an Open Air Service for the Summer.

As a member of Dunfermline Presbytery, I have accepted the invitation to serve on the Special Commission of Presbytery which was set up to review the missional needs of the Presbytery and to undertake a review of all charges and buildings within Presbytery. This is not an easy task and I would ask for your prayers for myself and the other members of the Commission, who are the Very Rev Andrew McLellan, Rev Christine Sime, Rev Ian Thom, Rev Andrew Morrice and Alastair McRae. I have also attended training to be an Interim Moderator, hopefully I may not be needed for a while!!

I attended Diaconate Council, for a day in January in Perth and as a member of the Diaconate, I am looking forward to DRAE, which is Diakonia Region Africa and Europe, it is being held in Edinburgh from 19th June until 24th June. Again, I would ask that you remember the conference in prayer especially those who will attend from Africa and Europe.

Finally, I will be a commissioner at the General Assembly this year, which will run from Saturday 18th May until Friday 24th May, please pray that the correct decisions are made, and that God is present during our time together as a court of the Church of Scotland.

When this is all done, I will be spending time relaxing in the presence of God, may you also have time during the Summer months to relax in the presence of God.

Pamela Scott

NEWS FROM OUR OUTREACH WORKER

Easter turned out to be a very busy season with all 3 local Primary Schools accepting our invitation to deliver the Easter Code, a programme which tells the Easter Story in an engaging and interactive way. Our fantastic team worked with over 100 P6 and P7 pupils and we were all moved by some of the thought-provoking responses we received from the children who had clearly grasped the meaning of Easter.



We continue to run groups in Lochgelly West and South Primaries and I have recently become involved with a small creative group at Lochgelly High School.

I have taken part in various discussions around food insecurity in the local area and am involved in the setting up of "Lo'gelly Lunches", a Community Drop In which will operate on Fridays from May in the Salvation Army Hall. The aim is to provide free soup and sandwiches and an opportunity for people to meet, chat and access information and assistance. Everyone is welcome and if anyone would like to assist with this initiative, please speak to me.

Thoughts are now turning to the summer and we plan to continue to run Summer Tuesdays in Benarty from 3-4pm every week during the school holidays for children of all ages accompanied by an adult. There will also be an event for Primary School Age children in Lochgelly. More information to follow!!

I have attended various conferences and training courses as well as The General Assembly and continue to try to find ways we can make church more relevant to younger generations. I am so grateful to everyone at St Serf's for their continuing encouragement and support.

Aileen Christie



Messy Church continues to meet in St. Serf's Benarty on the second Thursday of each month from 6pm till 7pm. By doing Crafts and telling stories we have re-enacted various stories. Our recent ones were Story of Daniel in the Lions Den, The Lost Sheep, and The Palm Sunday Story. The families who come along enjoy this time together and so do the leaders. If you are a parent, grandparent or a responsible adult why not give Messy Church a try. We close in July and August but you would be very welcome when we reopen.

ST. SERF'S CRAFT GROUP

We meet in St. Serf's Benarty every Thursday from 2pm till 4pm. We enjoy our time together with a wee blether and a cup of tea. We have a summer break in July and August. We have a coffee morning in Benarty on the last Friday of the month where we sell some of our crafts for Church funds. If you would like to join us you would be made very welcome.



The Fellowship, Bible Study Group joined with others for Lent. We watched the Film the Theory of Everything and the Lent Study was called The Mystery of Everything, which was based on the film. Anyone who feels that they wish to join our fellowship group, to think a bit more about the love God has for us, would be made very welcome. Please speak to Agnes Seath or Pamela Scott for more information.

PASTORAL CARE GROUP

Pastoral care visitors met on May 7th. We reviewed our progress, prayed for our continued work, for the people we visit and for those who care daily.

There are many resources that can provide us with useful information on many problems. Here, I would like to suggest looking at Alzheimer Scotland, a 24 hour dementia helpline. Freephone 0808 808 3000 or www.alzscot.org.uk Alzheimer Scotland has been announced as one of the finalists for this year's Scottish Charity Awards. Learning to live well with dementia is important in our ageing society. I am sure we all know of someone struggling along with their relatives and friends.

If you would like to join the pastoral visitor group, please feel free to approach any of us, Pamela or Geoff.

Colossians 3;12 'So, as those who have been chosen by God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience'.

Ethne Brown.



CHURCH WEBPAGE

www.stserfschurch.co.uk.

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

NEVER WORRY

Never worry, enjoy this beautiful day
Forget frustrations, let them slip away
Fill this day with happiness and love
Thank God for all blessings from above.



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.

GREETINGS FROM THE CHURCH ADMIN. OFFICE

Gosh, doesn't time fly !! Looking back over the last six months I sometimes wonder "what on earth have I done?" Well it really doesn't take long for most of it to come flooding back. The office is a very busy place but I enjoy my time there. It will soon be time for some of the organisations to have a summer break. That's when I miss the Drop In for the company and my milky coffee..

Bob and I celebrated our Diamond Wedding in April so we took timetime off in April/May for a lovely holiday in Florida. Ella Reid very kindly agreed to hold the fort while we were away. Thanks Ella.

Hope you all have a good summer and take care.

Best wishes,

Anne Scott.

CHURCH NEWSLETTER

My thanks as usual go to the leaders and members of our church groups for submitting articles to the newsletter. Thanks also to Bob and the ladies who proof read this and help sort out the copies for each district prior to delivery. Hope you enjoy reading about what is happening in church and with what the organisations are doing. Should you need help or would like to start having a visit from the Pastoral Group. All you have to do is ask.

Anne Scott.

Editor.

NEWS FROM THE WELFARE GROUP

Hi folks, As I write this I think Spring has finally arrived as the sun has appeared after days of murky miserable weather, and doesn't it lift your spirits!

Because of the many fundraising events in the church this year, the Welfare Group decided to have only one coffee morning. This will be in the Autumn and will be intimate in church and in the local newspaper. But we hope to see you all at our Afternoon Tea and Concert which will be held on the 21st September (invitations to anyone over the age of 65 are enclosed with this newsletter). This is always very popular and we are surprised that more of our senior members don't accept our invitation. Last year we had outside catering for the first time, which was very well received by those who attended. We are pleased to announce that Mr Roy McArthur and his group will be entertaining us this year, and I am sure he will get a warm welcome.

Brenda Dickson, secretary



X-box Kinect

Treasure Map

Bric-a-brac

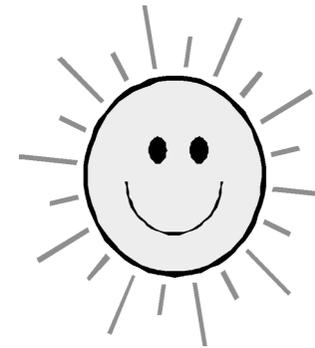
Stalls



Books

Games

Crafts



Summer Fayre

St Serf's Church

Lochgelly

Saturday
29th June
10am-1pm



B.B.Q.
Weather permitting



Face Painting

Tombola

Cake & Candy

Quiz



Cream Teas

LUCKY
SQUARES



PROPERTY GROUP

Following the Presbytery Property Inspection last year we have been obtaining estimates for the urgent work required. We recently had a visit from the Stonemasons to inspect the bell towers at both Lochgelly and Benarty and submit a report. If you worship in Benarty, or have visited the church in recent weeks you may have noticed that an area of ground at the north side has been cordoned off. This is because the Stonemasons discovered that an ornamental stone thistle on the north gable was loose and we have been seeking Presbytery permission to have this repaired as a serious health and safety issue. At the time of writing this, work is due to begin and by the time you read this all should be well.

Laura Pepperday
Property Convener

VACANT POSITION OF SESSION CLERK

You may be aware that I have been acting as Session Clerk pro tem since August last year due to a prolonged stay in hospital by our Session Clerk, Betty Martin. However, due to continuing health issues Betty resigned in February. Since then we have been seeking a replacement and although this has been intimated in the Order of Service for a number of weeks now no-one has expressed an interest in this post. We cannot operate without a Session Clerk and I do not intend to continue as pro tem indefinitely as I already have other responsibilities within the Church. This position does require some computer and other administrative skills as well as attending Session Meetings which are held quarterly. Anyone considering this position does not have to be an Elder. If you would like to nominate someone or would like to be considered for this position please contact myself or Rev. Geoff Probert for further information.

FROM THE TREASURER AND FINANCE GROUP

I am arranging to include in this newsletter the budget monitoring statement that the group examined for the first quarter on 2019. This shows the general fund budget for the year, for the first three months and the actual figures in the first three months so that we can get an idea of how we are doing. It is still early in the year to be definite but I am satisfied that the statement shows the general picture: expenditure on ministry, staffing and local running costs pretty much under control but income, particularly offerings, in need of improvement if we are to end with any form of surplus.

Last years accounts closed with a deficit (overspend) of £13,841 which has to be covered by the funds we hold in the bank and investments. The overspend was not in the general fund but related to the costs of new equipment and property maintenance and improvement. We have funds to meet some of these costs but they will run out eventually and planning for the future will have to take into account the inevitable costs that are creating these annual deficits.

Robin Millar
Treasurer

**Economy
Money
Budget
Finance
Spending** 

St Serf's Church Lochgelly and Benarty: Budget Monitoring Statement

EXPENDITURE	2019 Budget	31/03/19 Proportion	31/03/19 Actual
NATIONAL MINISTRY			
Ministries and Mission Allocation	29,441	7360	5888
Presbytery Dues	1,520	380	0
LOCAL STAFFING COSTS			
Ministry Team Travelling Expenses	2,750	688	425
Ministry Team Telephone/Stationery	600	150	281
Pulpit Supply and Locum	12,500	3125	3126
Salaries: Organists	2,000	500	400
Church Officers	3,120	780	777
Cleaners	3,500	875	814
PAYE, NI & Pension	1,500	375	320
BUILDING COSTS			
Heating and Lighting	7,500	1875	1664
Insurance	4,529	1132	1359
Council Tax	1,470	368	143
OTHER LOCAL COSTS			
Printing and Stationery (net)	1,000	250	65
Publicity and Advertising	600	150	124
Cleaning Contract, materials etc.	150	38	227
Church and Manse garden expenses	800	200	0
Sunday School books and materials	100	25	0
Licences	850	213	190
Church Telephone & Broadband	840	210	131
New Projects	500	125	68
New Equipment	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	150	38	12
TOTAL PAYMENTS	75,420	18,855	16,014
LESS ORDINARY GENERAL INCOME			
Congregational Organisations	2,000	500	95
Income from use of premises	10,000	2500	2710
Income from weddings and funerals	800	200	200
Regular fundraising	8,900	2225	1634
Dividends and Interest	3,150	788	1580
	<u>24,850</u>	<u>6,213</u>	<u>6,219</u>
NET EXPENDITURE	50,570	12,643	9,795

OFFERINGS

WFO Scheme (non Gift Aid)	13,000	3250	3354
Gift Aid Donations	23,000	5750	5111
Tax recovered on Gift Aid	9,000	2250	0
Ordinary Offerings	4,000	1000	825
Other Offerings, Donations etc.	1,700	425	245
	<u>50,700</u>	<u>12,675</u>	<u>9,535</u>
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	<u><u>130</u></u>	<u><u>33</u></u>	<u><u>-260</u></u>

