



Pray | Plan | Involve | Build

take time to remember loss, loss of lives in two World Wars and in more recent conflicts, and to give thanks to God for the sacrifice of so many.



It's a time when each one of us can take a moment to remember our own personal family stories and perhaps to ask God to show us where He was, and is, and will be, in those stories and the various seasons that we go through.

Dear friends,

On Sunday mornings during November we are continuing with the story of Nehemiah and the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem. One of the things which struck me when reading through the book of Nehemiah was the fact that when everyone pulled together under Godly leadership the walls were rebuilt in 52 days! For 70 years since returning from exile in Babylon, the people had not been able to rebuild the walls. Suddenly they found themselves in a situation when things changed rapidly; it was a different season. It must have been very exciting even exhilarating.

We often talk in the church about "seasons"- a time for this or that, or to do one thing or another (see Ecclesiastes 3: 1-11). For the Church of Scotland nationally there has been a season of decline in members and resources for nigh on 70 years. Last month I encouraged us all to pray as Nehemiah did in his day. Perhaps you were moved, as I have been, to pray something along the lines of "Lord bring your church into a new season, - revive us!" We continue to pray that the union of our churches in Arbroath and District will go ahead in 2024 and we can settle into a new season of envisioning, unity, and growth where many can get to know Jesus, or get to know Him better.

November is a month when we enter a season of Remembrance. Remembrance is a thoroughly biblical activity! We

When we partake of Communion we do so "in remembrance" of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. In the letter to the Hebrews we are encouraged to fix our eyes on Jesus as the one who is unchanging no matter what the season. We are told that it was for the "joy set before Him that He endured the cross" (Hebrews 12: 2). Remembrance can bring back the trauma of pain and loss, but with the help of the Holy Spirit it can also be a transformative experience that prompts joy and thanksgiving and an outpouring of praise. Whilst enduring imprisonment Paul was able to say in his letter to the church in Philippi:

I thank my God every time I remember you. 4 In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy 5 because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, 6 being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. (Philippians 1: 3-6)

So in our season of Remembrance, let's pray that we will learn more about Our Heavenly Father as we richly experience His presence in us and amongst us. We want to learn, like the people who rebuilt the walls that we don't need to get stuck in remembrance. In relationship with God and in prayer, we can find the energy and hope to go into the next season.

Love to you all, Jonathan

Gift Day 2023 Less than a month to go!

Over recent years at St Andrew's Church we have set aside a time of thanksgiving on the last Sunday in November. This has been a time when we can look back and reflect on what God has done for us, both individually and as a community, and give thanks. Of course, it is more than just looking back, it is also a time to look to the future... seeking God's guidance in our lives, both as individuals and as a fellowship. It is also a point in time to give thanks for what our God will do in the year ahead - a year in which there will be challenges but equally great opportunities as we embark on a new chapter for us as part of the broader church in the town!

This year we will be having our annual Gift Day on Sunday 26th November. Money received through our Gift Day over recent years has ensured that we have been able to

achieve what we set out to do. At St Andrew's we will continue to use these gifts as we have done in previous years, that is to support the day-to-day work of our church fellowship, much of which is often unseen in the background.

Last year, the challenges inflation and spiralling energy costs - which affect us all, at a personal level and the communities in which we live - saw unprecedented pressures on our finances. As a result, for the first time in our history the General Fund ended in significant deficit - £18,000!!! High energy costs being the main contributor to this outcome. In last month we have now secured energy contracts which will provide some stability over the next two years in relation to these costs. However, even with these contracts our energy costs will be twice pre-energy crisis levels! As a result we will again be facing another General Fund deficit for 2023 despite increased income from NHS vaccine centre lets.

(Continued overleaf)



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ST. ANDREW'S ARBROATH**Member Records**

October 2023

Baptisms - Ted Masson **Weddings** - None

Funerals - Brian Ingram

Jonathan and Ian, our pastoral assistant, conducted other funerals though none were of members of our congregation. Nonetheless, we remember the bereaved families in our prayers.

IMPORTANT DATE**NOVEMBER EDITION**

Word Processed files as attachments, should be sent directly to the Editor by

**Thursday 23rd
November**

**If you do not have my email,
phone me on 01241 875235**

Therefore, our Gift Day is more important than ever in supporting the day-to-day work of our church fellowship.

I recently saw an old St Andrew's Church Christian Stewardship booklet from 1961 which had been handed into the church office! Here are a few quotes from it:

"So the real "I" doesn't possess anything at all, but during the period that we live on this earth, that is between being born and the day we die, we are given responsibility for three things –

TIME TALENTS POSSESSIONS

We don't own these things – the owner is, of course, God. He created them. He has lent them to us and we are certainly stewards of them. That means, that when our time is up, the owner will expect us to give an account of how we used them – because these are His, after all, not ours.

All stewards -

We are therefore stewards of the time that flows through our lives...

We are stewards also of the various abilities or talents we are given...

We are all stewards of something, whether we possess a luxury car, or a fat bank balance – or merely a toothbrush...

Some of the language may seem very dated now, however the questions still stand to-day...

... "am I using the time I have been given as God would want?"

... "am I using the skills, talents, abilities I have been gifted with as God would want?"

... "am I using the possessions and money I have as God would want?"

So, in the weeks and days before Gift Day 2023 let us prepare our hearts through prayer and seek God's guidance:

Proverbs 11:24-25

*'One person gives freely, yet gains even more;
another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty.'*

*A generous person will prosper;
whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.'*

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

'Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each

of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.'

How can I give my donation this year? This year there are a number of options for giving your donations.

This year there will be dedicated envelopes going out with the November Quest magazines for those that get physical copies. Those who receive electronic copies can pick up an envelope from the church office or they will be beside the collection box on Gift Day itself.

If you use digital/online banking your donation can be made by bank transfer. Bank details are as follows:

Sort code 80-12-35

Account number 00438921

Please ensure you include your **name** and '**Gift Day**' in the payment reference – to enable us to identify that your donation is part of the Gift Day collection and of course if you are a tax payer, your name enables us to claim a tax refund directly from HMRC (£2 for every £10 donated – this may not seem like a lot but last year we were able to reclaim £1,624 from HMRC on Gift Day donations, so well worth doing!).

For those who wish to make a cash or cheque donation, a Gift Aid declaration is printed on the envelope. However, you can use an envelope of your own, please just mark it as 'Gift Day' and, if you are a tax payer, a Gift Aid declaration form will be included with the electronic copy of the Quest magazine for you to print out and include if your envelope.

Envelopes should then be dropped off at the church, either at the Sunday service on the 27th if you are attending, or by dropping through the letter box. If you can't drop your envelope off on the 27th, don't worry, they can be dropped off between Sunday 27th November and Sunday 4th December, including the Wednesday morning service on the 30th November. If you need any assistance, please don't hesitate to contact the Church office.

On behalf of the finance team, I would like to thank you.

Every blessing,

Scott

GIFT DAY 2023	
Gift Aid declaration. I would like to enhance my donation through Gift Aid. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations, it is my responsibility to pay any difference.	
Title:	Full Forename(s):
Surname:	
Home Address (first line)	
Postcode:	Date:
Signature:	

Guild News

Hello friends, this is the latest bulletin from the guild. On the 2nd of October we had the pleasure of listening to a very insightful and informative evening with Rev Chris Hay. Chris helped us to understand the new presbytery and the history behind it. We had fun trying to construct a puzzle of the layout of the presbyteries within a map of Scotland. On Monday 16th, our guest was Jim Christie from The Men's shed. Jim proved to be an entertaining speaker who gave us a very comprehensive history of the men's shed. It was heartening to hear of the positive impact this enterprise is having on men's health. The engagement with the community as a whole and all the lovely support the gentlemen provide - making raised planters for Seaton grove, chicken coop for Ladyloan school and marker posts for the cliff walk to name but a few. In addition to all of these they have a wonderful array of beautifully made products which are for sale.

You are encouraged to pop down any morning to the shed in Dens Road between 10 am and 1pm when you can view

what's on offer. Any gentlemen interested in having a warm and welcoming place to visit are very welcome and you may even get a cuppa.

Please refer to the WHATS ON SHEET for a reminder of the guild activities.

Nov 5th - after service a craft sales table in aid of guild projects

Nov 13th - Monday 7.30pm an introduction to guild project STARCHILD

Nov 27th - Monday 7.30pm an evening of Craft and Chat

Dec 11th - Guild Christmas Party at the Meadowbank.

CHRISTMAS BIG SING TRON CHURCH GLASGOW.
On 1st December

I have included a couple of photos taken by Gaynor; I must say grateful thanks to Gaynor for her expertise. If it was left to me you would all be decapitated or out of focus. THANK YOU GAYNOR.

Until next time remember - **“Whose we are and whom we serve”**

Dalitso Project

Hi all,

Great news:) The team arrived safely in Malawi. After 3 flights from Glasgow to Heathrow, to Ethiopia and then Blantyre, and a full day of travelling, Kiri messaged to say they arrived at Thyolo.

I am sure the 2 weeks will fly past, and a lot of work will be achieved. The one concern was a holdall had gone adrift between flights, never making it out of Heathrow as a tag had come off!!! It has now made its way to Blantyre and the final autumn parcels for the children will be given out Thursday 26th. I received news that the team are getting through the tasks, meetings with children, staff, chiefs and guardians done, been on a visit to the Mary Spink Centre where new toilets and a ramp have been installed, and Becky, Naomi and Chifundo had clinic meetings in the pipe line. Ayla having fun playing 'teat' with the children. Much more news on their return.

More of the Christmas money gifts for sponsor kids has

been hitting the bank account and will be transferred out in November. We are so thankful to all the sponsors and others who have given generously so we are able to get gifts for all the children whether sponsored or not. Still time for anyone else who would like to donate - just see any Dalitso management member.

We are again manning the soup kitchen/coffee and cakes in the big hall at the Fayre which will be held in the church on Saturday 11th November, as well as our Church soup lunch the next day. Each day will have different soups so if you feel like the weekend off cooking come along to both!!!

At the October Fayre we raised, after other donations, over £1000 - It was the weekend of the terrible rain, and we did wonder how it would go. But God is good, and you all came out and supported. The crafters also had good sales too, so a wonderful day all round.

Please get in touch with me or Charis on 07877 256236 or any committee member, if there is anything you want to ask about Dalitso.

Doris

Toiletries

Once again, a very big thank you for all the donations of toiletries left in the cupboard in the small hall. Twenty bags of toiletries were recently delivered to the Women's Aid and, as always, were very gratefully received. Thank you.

Christmas Gift Service

Every year we gather in new toys and presents which are then donated for local children. This year we will again be supporting the Angus Toy Appeal. We would ask that you bring your gift along on Sunday 3rd December or Wednesday 6th December, and please remember that you do not need to wrap them. Thank you.

HEBRIDES REVIVAL CONFERENCE 2023

A few of us attended a Revival Conference in Stornoway recently. Through extremes of weather – wind, torrential rain, single track roads, sheep and deer at roadside, stormy sea - we arrived in one piece!

The first thing I was aware of on the island was a great sense of peace and especially in the vicinity of the churches. Over 200 people presented from all over the UK and two people from USA.

The following is a very brief part summary of the content. The conference was led by Tommy McNeil, minister of St. Martin's Memorial Church of Scotland in Stornoway, his wife Donna and the teaching Pastor Kenny Borthwick.

'I Will Build My Church'

Matthew 16:18

The title of the conference, appropriate for this time of transition.

1. A phrase which resonated with me on the first night was **'sometimes death has to occur before there is resurrection'**, pertaining to the church and the difficult times we are in. Not knowing what's ahead.

But to remember through it all, it is Jesus who builds the church - Zechariah, 4:6 **'Not by power, not by might, but by my Spirit, says the Lord'**

Not I might, not I could, but emphasis on **I WILL**.

We all need encouragement as a church and churches coming together. It seems like there is turmoil, unsettlement, delays-even weariness in these days of uncertainty - where the church is going or what church is going to look like in time to come. We are each a 'living stone.' I am His, you are His - His treasured possession. God will take us and build us back up .

2. Message on Revelation 1-3. **'We really need to listen to the voice of God'** more so now than ever, in these challenging times. John the last remaining apostle – exiled because he spoke the truth in the name of Jesus. While in the Spirit the Lord spoke to John a message to each of the seven churches – caution and consequences if they didn't listen. A warning to refrain from being led astray by false teaching – what sounds good, what people want to hear, rather than what the bible teaches. Following Jesus and what scripture tells us is not easy. It's not meant to be. It is a difficult journey, but the reward far outweighs the risks.

'Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches.' As well as the seven churches in Revelation, maybe a challenge for us too.

3. Habakkuk 3:1-2, 2:14

Verse 2 – **'Lord I have heard of your fame, I stand in awe of your deeds, Lord. Repeat them in our day, in our time make them known; in wrath remember mercy.'**

Despite setbacks, 'God is building his church layer by layer.' Just as God answered Habakkuk's complaint of injustice, wickedness etc. to encourage Habakkuk, He answers and will continue to answer our prayers too. The Lord has not forgotten us. Instead of 'once upon a time, let it be once upon a now' ... We were encouraged not to forget our revival heritage. Many

of you may have heard of John (Jock) Troup – Scottish evangelist who was instrumental in the 1921 Fisherman's Revival which swept through the fishing ports of England and Scotland. Records show 100 fisherman were converted in Arbroath alone. And not forgetting the Lewis Revival and the prayers of two sisters Peggy and Christine Smith 84 and 82 years old from Barvas, one blind and the other crippled with arthritis. They prayed two to three times weekly from 10pm until 3am, such were their hearts for revival. They sensed the Lord was speaking to them the words of Isaiah 44:3, **'I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground.'** May we have a hunger again for revival. It begins with each one of us, the church, and then it should spill out to our communities with our private and corporate prayers. And prayer changes everything and 'touches heaven.'

There was encouragement for ministers, pastors, their spouses and retired ministers with a dedicated prayer time/ministry space at the end of the evening sessions and for any others who needed prayer. And to remember to pray for them and their families – with the ever increasing demands on their time. The churches on the isles and islands are going through similar issues – reducing from three to two ministers and all that encompasses the other responsibilities.

4. After a Q and A session in the afternoon, we were split into groups according to area/district covering Scotland and England.

That was a powerful time, especially when we were all asked to pray at the same time. And to round it off-singing 'a capella' the words of Psalm 72: 17-19, which are sung in each of the churches on the islands after communion.

There was a fairly large group of young people who participated in most of the conference and some instrumental in the worship. They also had their own prayer time in their meeting place 'The Shed,' while we were praying.

Perspective is Everything

5. John 14:15-17 **'If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you for ever-the spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.'**

We were asked to consider 'how often we ask the Holy Spirit – our advocate, Comforter, Helper in to our life/church? Do we control how much we allow the Holy Spirit to move and work? Do I love the Holy Spirit? Do I know growing in my relationship with Jesus? Do you?

We need the Holy Spirit to break down the barriers, to set us free. 'He is not an optional extra. He wants to live in us. We need to be careful and not grieve the Holy Spirit. The hungrier we are for God, the more intimate a relationship with the Holy Spirit.'

Finally, the weekend was and continues to be a personal challenge. It was powerfully uplifting, with many tears, such was the overwhelming presence of God.

I know I need to listen to what the Holy Spirit is saying to me – less of me and more of God. To God be the glory, great things He has done and will continue to do, for such a time as this.

(Caroline Farquhar)

More In Photos

The Guild guests

Rev Chris Hay
and
Jim Christie

