

CARSPHAIRN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

July 2017



Communion

The service of Communion will take place on
Sunday July 2nd 2017 at 10.15am

All are welcome to attend.

Minister: Rev D Bartholomew

Forthcoming services and events

25 th Jun	10.30 am	Morning Worship	Rev. D. Brown
2 nd Jul	10.15 am	Holy Communion	Rev. D. Bartholomew
9 th Jul	10.30 am	Morning Worship	Mrs N. Smith
16 th Jul	10.30 am	Morning Worship	Rev. D. Bartholomew
23 rd Jul	10.30 am	Morning Worship	Rev. D. Brown
30 th Jul	10.30 am	United Service with Choir, Dalry Church	Rev. D. Bartholomew
6 th Aug	10.30 am	Morning Worship	Rev. D. Bartholomew
13 th Aug	10.30 am	Morning Worship	Mr G. Monk
20 th Aug	10.30 am	Morning Worship	Rev. G. Peacock
27 th Aug	10.30 am	Morning Worship	Rev. D. Brown
3 rd Sept	10.30 am	Morning Worship	Rev. D. Bartholomew
10 th Sept	10.30 am	United Family Service and Barbecue	Rev. D. Bartholomew
17 th Sept	10.30 am	Presbytery Sunday	
24 th Sept	10.30 am	Morning Worship	Rev. D. Brown
1 st Oct	10.30 am	Harvest Thanksgiving	Rev. D. Bartholomew
8 th Oct	10.30 am	Morning Worship	Rev. M. McLauchlan
15 th Oct	10.30 am	Morning Worship	Mrs G. Corson
22 nd Oct	10.30 am	Morning Worship	Rev. D. Brown
28 th Oct	7.30 pm	Dunaskin Doon Band Concert, Carsphairn	
29 th Oct	10.30 am	United Service with Choir, Balmaclellan Church	Rev. D. Bartholomew
5 th Nov	10.30 am	Morning Worship	Rev. D. Bartholomew
12 th Nov	10.30 am	Remembrance Sunday Service	Rev. D. Brown
19 th Nov	10.15 am	Holy Communion	Rev. D. Bartholomew

LETTER FROM THE MINISTER

Dear Friends,

It is now recognised that how we react to the events and circumstances of our lives can have an enormous impact on our mental and even physical health. As we think, we change the physical nature of our brain. As we consciously direct our thinking, we can wire out toxic patterns of thinking and replace them with healthy thoughts. New thought networks grow. We increase our intelligence and bring healing to our brains, minds and physical bodies. It all starts in the realm of the mind, with our ability to think and choose. Materialists might try to hold on to the idea that the brain generates all aspects of our mental experience, but this is more and more being shown to be simplistic and inaccurate. It is with our minds that we understand the truths set down in our spirits. It is with our minds that we wire these truths into the brain, which is part of our physical body. It is with our minds that we choose to develop the spiritual part of who we are. If we live into our negative thoughts and allow them to dominate our lives, there is a great danger that they will be self-fulfilling in our lives. We will find ourselves sinking into a pit of depression, we will be consumed by fears and anxieties. And that can have a major effect on our physical bodies. A recent study by the American Medical Association found that stress is a factor in 75 percent of all illnesses and diseases that people suffer from today.

On the other hand if we fill our minds with positive thoughts and lay hold of thoughts that inspire hope and faith we can displace any toxic, negative thoughts that could have such a destructive effect upon our bodies.

The Bible is full of words to inspire faith and hope. The writer of the Book of Proverbs has gathered together wise sayings that are a key to a healthy, fulfilled life and he encourages us to lay hold of his words and keep them in our hearts. The Good News Bible translates Proverbs 4.22, 'These words will give life and health to anyone who understands them.' And then he goes on to say in v.23, 'Be careful how you think. Your life is shaped by your thoughts.' So true. We have a choice in what we think about, what thoughts we allow space to in our minds. Martin Luther once said, "We can't stop birds flying over our heads, but we can stop them nesting in our hair." If we allow space in our minds to bitter thoughts of unforgiveness, they will consume us and twist us into less than the people we are meant to be. If we allow space in our minds to lustful thoughts they can lead us down a path that will find us treating others as objects through whom we can satisfy our desires. We can end up destroying marriages and damaging our own and other people's lives.

On the contrary Paul writes in Philippians 4.8-9, 'Fill your minds with those things that are good and that deserve praise: things that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely and honourable. Put into practice what you learned and received from me, both from my words and my actions. And the God who gives us peace will be with you.'

With all good wishes

David Bartholomew.

GARDEN OPEN DAY

The garden at Arndarroch will be opened to the public on Sunday 20th August and Saturday 26th August by the Dumfries and Galloway Canine Rescue. 40% of the proceeds will go to the Carsphairn Church Fabric Account which funds the repairs and maintenance at the church.

The garden at Arndarroch has been developed from the hillside over the last 26 years. The whole garden is wildlife friendly including the numerous rabbits! Many birds find nesting places in the trees and shrubs whilst others are helped by unusual nest "boxes". Garden waste material is used in the woodlands to provide homes for many mammals and countless smaller creatures.

There is a good collection of herbaceous perennials, trees and shrubs – some rare- and seats are available so that one can sit and savour the magnificent views.

Entrance to the gardens is £3.50, school children – and younger- free. Children enjoy the space and the intriguing corners of the garden and there will be a treasure hunt, with prizes, for them. Teas (all home baking) are £2.50 and there will be the usual excellent plant stall and small craft exhibition. The garden is open from 2 -5pm and dogs on leads are welcome. Teas will not be available on Saturday 26th.

Arndarroch is on the B7000 five miles from Carsphairn and Dalry.

Do go and look round the magnificent garden which some years ago won a highly commended certificate in a national competition organised by the Daily Mail. We are very grateful to Mrs Lindsay for this great opportunity not to be missed.

WORLD STAMP APPEAL

Thanks to everyone who collected used stamps and put them in the box in the church porch.

The collection was sent away at the beginning of March as our contribution towards the Church of Scotland World Mission 2016 project which was to help a scheme run by the Church of South India. I have since heard that the project raised £4334 which was approximately £800 more than the amount raised in 2015. This is quite amazing given the trend towards communicating in a fashion that does not need postage stamps.

This year the appeal's proceeds will go towards the purchase of books for the Giffen Institute of Theology in South Sudan. The Institute is run by the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan and 75% of the country's ministers are trained there. South Sudan is a landlocked country that gained its independence from Sudan in 2011. Since 2013 it has been embroiled in a civil war and the Giffen Institute has relocated twice and now is based in a refugee camp in Kenya. Many of the Institute's resources, including the library, have been destroyed.

Please continue collecting your used stamps. If you are unable to come to church please give them to your elder or someone who can put them in the box. Also please encourage others to keep their stamps, a small effort to contribute towards a very worthy project in South Sudan, a country that has so many problems.

Anna Campbell

COINS WANTED

Old style pound coins are being replaced. In October the old ones will no longer be currency. Why not give them to a good cause? In the church porch is a collecting box in aid of the charity Crossreach. Please collect all your old pound coins and put them in the box.

Thank you. They will be well used. Crossreach is the social care arm of the Church of Scotland and have projects involving all age groups from the very elderly to young babies.

BIBLE STUDY/FELLOWSHIP GROUP

The group continues to meet on Thursday evenings at the Manse, Dalry. Meetings start at 7.30 pm and finish about 9.30 pm. We are currently using a study booklet on Christian Community. We usually start with a time of singing, then have the study, and finish with a time of chatting over a cuppa. New members are always welcome.

DUNASKIN DOON BAND TO RETURN

The rafters of Carsphairn Church will be ringing once again to the sound of brass when Dunaskin Doon Band returns on Saturday 28 October to perform an autumn concert in aid of church funds.

The band is back in the village after a successful concert last year. Newly promoted to the First Section, Dunaskin Doon competed against bands from across the UK at the National Brass Band Championships in Cheltenham last September and finished in a creditable 8th position – the highest-placed Scottish band in all four contesting sections.

The concert will start at 7.30pm and light refreshments will be served during the interval. As last year, there will be no admission charge, but donations at the door are requested.

UNITED FAMILY SERVICE

This year our United Family Service will be held in Carsphairn Church on 10th September at 10.30 am. It will be followed by a barbecue in the Millennium Garden. We hope you will be able to make it along, and we hope the weather will be kind to us.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING

We will be holding our Harvest Thanksgiving service in Carsphairn Church on 1st October at 10.30 am.

FINANCIAL REVIEW 2016

An abridged version of the church accounts for 2016 is included with this newsletter. The accounts show an overall **deficit of £34**; not good news. However it was not surprising to find that the extraordinarily high annual receipts of 2015, our year of 200th anniversary celebrations, were not repeated in 2016. Total (ordinary, unrestricted) **receipts in 2016** were £3,476 less than in 2015 (after excluding grant income). However, following extraordinarily high Donations to our local Benevolent Fund, the overall shortfall is shown to be £34.

The really bad news was that 2016 receipts to Ordinary Unrestricted funds fell £1,649 short of payments made from these funds. Payments for Manse repairs and maintenance were high in 2016, but not exceptional when account is taken of a 2016 payment of £1,030 made for repairs done late in 2015.

Other 2016 costs were also not exceptional apart from Heat and Light costs, where necessary catching up followed many previous months of underpayments (Scottish Power billing failure).

The conclusion has to be that 2016 was a year of not enough ordinary giving to the church to meet ordinary costs.

Efforts will have to be made to try to increase annual giving and to contain spending in future years.

CHANGE OF TREASURER

Work has almost been completed for the handover to our new treasurer who is: Mrs Barbara Patterson, Clonmel, Crossmichael, Castle Douglas, DG7 3AW. We are grateful to her for agreeing to take on this job.

A new Gift Aid administrator has not yet been appointed. Until this happens it is still David Richmond: Merecleuch, Ballplay Road, Moffat, DG10 9JU.

THE BISHOP AND THE CHAUFFEUR

A Senior Bishop often undertook Lectures at major venues, and usually booked the same Chauffeur and his car. They became quite friendly, and discussed many things on the various journeys. On one occasion the Chauffeur said to the Bishop, "I cannot understand why I earn so much less than you. It seems easy to just to talk in front of people."

The Bishop replied "I started from a poor background. I had to get a Scholarship to go to my college. Then I had to earn money to pay my way through University for three years. Then, again for another three years through Theological College, to be ordained.

"I was then appointed as a Curate to an inner city Parish. I was there for two years. I was then given my own Parish, where I ministered for another three years. I then became a Canon, Eventually after another 5 years I was made a Bishop. So I think that is why I am paid to do this work."

The Chauffeur said "I think that I could do your lecture given the right notes."

The Bishop replied "If you think that lecturing is so easy, we could change places today. If you pull into a quiet place we can exchange our clothes as we are similar in build."

So that is what happened. They stopped and changed clothes. They continued their journey to Cambridge where the Bishop was scheduled to lecture on the differences in Theology between the Gospels of John and Matthew.

The Bishop handed over his notes and answers to possible questions to the Chauffeur, who read them through before taking his stand at the podium. The Bishop in the Chauffeur's uniform, stood at the back of the Auditorium.

The lecture went well, until a member of the University audience asked the lecturer (Chauffeur) "Why do you think that the Gospels of John and Matthew are so different?"

The Chauffeur replied "That is such a simple question that I will ask my Driver at the back of this hall to answer it for you."

THE WOODPECKER HAS TO GO!



Q. What book of the Bible first mentions Tennis?

A. Genesis, says that Joseph served in Pharaoh's Court

Q. Who was the wisest financial investor in the Bible?

A. Noah, who floated his stock while everyone else liquidated their assets.

Q. What is the Lumberjack's favourite book of the Bible?

A. The Axe of the Apostles.