

# connections



the magazine of  
Stonehaven Carronside  
Church of Scotland

**March**

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Connections No. 11*

## **CONNECT WITH CONNECTIONS**

As you are aware, this is the March edition of - although it may still have been February when you received your copy. What does March mean to you?

Maybe it's the weather - common topic of many conversations. It is said that March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb.

We can only hope that if March starts off stormy it will end on a calm note, but the key word is *hope*. However, this saying seems to be simply a rhyme rather than a true weather predictor.

Or maybe it is the expression "mad as a March hare", a phrase derived from the antics of the hare, said to occur only in the March breeding season. The phrase is used to refer to any other animal or human who behaves in the excitable and unpredictable manner of a March hare. Perhaps you know a person or an animal like that?

if it's March, then it is also the start of spring and one of the two occasions in the year when we have to remember Daylight Saving Time. How do you remember which way to change your timepieces?

Some people say "Spring Forward, fall back" because in the spring, you put the clocks 1 hour ahead (resulting in one hour less sleep but longer daylight!) and in the fall or autumn you put them 1 hour back. "March forward" is another way of saying the same thing.

It doesn't matter **how** you remember. The important thing is that you **do** remember before you go to bed on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March to change the timepieces which do not reset electronically!

A cheerful note to finish...spring flowers. Snowdrops which represent the freshness of a new start, purple, yellow and white crocuses which add colour to your garden and open spaces in the town and daffodils, the official flower of March for good reason—they're one of the first flowers to burst out of the cold ground every spring. Daffodils symbolize rebirth and new beginnings plus their delicate scent will make you feel instantly happier! Maybe this will inspire you to respond to Donald's appeal on page 7!

Please send items for the April magazine to [jenniferrmacdonald@hotmail.com](mailto:jenniferrmacdonald@hotmail.com) by Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Editorial Group:

Elaine Craig	Steve Craig
Diane Dart	Morag Duncan
Catherine Knox	Katherine Mathers
Jennifer Macdonald	

*March winds and April showers, Bring forth May flowers.*

## LETTER FROM THE MANSE

*Rev Sarah Smith writes:*

It is hard to believe that we are approaching March. This year is flying by, and I don't know where the time has gone.

We are now in Lent, which is the 40-day period that takes us from Ash Wednesday to Maundy Thursday, as we journey with Jesus towards the cross, and then the joyous day of Easter when we rejoice and shout that Christ is Risen, He is Risen indeed, Alleluia.

Sometimes people give up things for Lent, others take things on. This got me thinking about the New Year when we might have made a resolution or said that we were going to do something new this year.

How is that going for you? If you made a resolution, do you remember your resolution, and if so, are you still on track? If you said you were going to try something new, have you done it? What was it like for you, if you have done it?

It can be so easy to hide under the comfort of the known, stay in our routines, and not veer out and try something new. I do wonder though what we miss out on when don't try something new, or step outside of our comfort zones.

What conversations do we miss? What connections do we not make when we stay inside the known?

As a church, what do we miss when we only rely on what we have always done? Who do we miss when don't venture out to meet new people?

There is always an opportunity to start new, try something new, step outside of our comfort zones, so the invitation is always there. While we might be scared of failure, we will never know if we don't try.

What is one thing you can do this month that is outside of your comfort zone? What conversation have you been avoiding having? What activity do you want to try, but are scared to try? What is something that we as the church, can do together to step outside of our comfort zone, and venture into an unknown territory?

There have been times when I have been lost, whether that be on the road, walking, in the hills. While I am scared because I wonder if I will be able to get back to where I need to get to, I also take time to explore where I am, and see the beauty that lies in that new area.

*continued/*

## LETTER FROM THE MANSE *continued*

I was walking through the area at the Falls of Clyde on holiday this past summer. I had seen before I had left that there was a longer trail, and so I decided I was going to do that trail. I successfully followed the trail for a good bit of it and then I crossed a bridge that I thought I was supposed to cross. I had some interesting terrain to navigate through, including somewhat sliding under part a tree that was in a nice muddy patch. I thought I was still on the right path, and then slowly realised that I wasn't. I could have turned around and gone back, but I decided to keep going because it was a beautiful area. I could have turned back, to what was safe.

Sometimes I think that we are called to step onto that unknown path, or off of what we had known to explore a new area, and trust on God to guide us through that unknown terrain. You will never know what you might find or experience unless you do.

My invitation to each of you is to step outside of your comfort zone. Allow yourself to step into something new and different, and explore that area, and see what you can learn from that place and that experience.

*Sarah*

### **FAMILY NEWS**

#### **DEATHS**

*Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life"*

#### **2023**

9<sup>th</sup> February Funeral of Catherine Gibson , Stonehaven

*Our thoughts and prayers are with members who have had a bereavement of a close relative who was not themselves a member of Stonehaven Carronside Church.*

### **HOLY WEEK SERVICES**

Easter Sunday this year is Sunday 9th April and, in the week, leading up to Easter, which is known as Holy Week, there will be services as follows:

- Monday - Wednesday will be at St. James at 7pm.
- Maundy Thursday with communion will be in St Bridget's at 7pm
- on Good Friday, there will be a Tenebrae service in St Bridget's at 7pm.
- On Easter Sunday, there will be the usual open-air service at the harbour followed by a cooked breakfast at St Bridget's.
- Easter Sunday morning worship will be at 10.30am in Dunnottar Church.

## FLOWERS / DUTY ROTA

### FLOWERS

MARCH	
5 <sup>th</sup>	Sam Davidson
12 <sup>th</sup>	Ruby Still
19 <sup>th</sup>	Jackie Lawrence
26 <sup>th</sup>	Mary McBain

**Contacts: Joyce Beaton, 07312 092684**

**Ruby Still, 07753 803449**

### DUTY ROTA

MARCH			
5 <sup>th</sup>	Stewards	Roberta Duncan, Hazel McCartney	Sound Les Anderson Coffee
	Reader	John Balsillie	Diane Dart, Stella Melville
12 <sup>th</sup>	Stewards	Moira Marshall, Lynne Pollard	Sound John Balsillie Coffee
	Reader	Craig Pollard	Joyce Beaton, Jean Houghton
19 <sup>th</sup>	9.50am	Hazel Paterson, Carol Eddie	Sound David Macdonald Coffee
	Reader	David Macdonald	Donald McRae, May Arthur
26 <sup>th</sup>	9.50am	Moira McRae, May Arthur	Sound Derek Hunter Coffee
	Reader	Moira McRae	Sam Davidson, Jackie Lawrence

### SAFEGUARDING

Our Church should be a place where everyone is safe from harm and abuse. If you suspect or witness harm or abuse, or if it is reported to you, please report it to your Safeguarding Coordinator (details below), who will then contact the Safeguarding Service for advice.

**Contact: Dunnottar Church Safeguarding Coordinator**

**David Macdonald, 764 750**

email: davidmacdonald153@gmail.com

## DATES FOR THE DIARY - MARCH

<b>MARCH</b>			
Thu	2	Café Carronside - St. Bridget's	10-11.30am
Fri	3	Lunch Club - St. Bridget's	12.30pm
Sun	5	Morning worship - Dunnottar Church	10.30am
Mon	6	Kilwhang Ringers - St. Bridget's Bible Study Group - St. Bridget's	10am 2-3pm
Tues	7	Bowling - St. Bridget's	2pm
Wed	8	Craft Group - St. Bridget's	2-4pm
Thu	9	Café Carronside - St. Bridget's	10-11.30am
Fri	10	connecTions copy due	by 6pm
Sun	12	Morning worship - Dunnottar Church Service at Edenholme	10.30am 2.30pm
Mon	13	Kilwhang Ringers - St. Bridget's Bible Study Group - St. Bridget's	10am 2-3pm
Tues	14	Bowling - St. Bridget's	2pm
Wed	15	Craft Group - St. Bridget's	2-4pm
Thu	16	Café Carronside - St. Bridget's	10-11.30am
Sun	19	Morning Worship - Dunnottar Church	10.30am
Mon	20	Kilwhang Ringers - St. Bridget's Bible Study Group - St. Bridget's	10am 2-3pm
Tues	21	Bowling - St. Bridget's	2pm
Wed	22	Craft Group - St. Bridget's	2-4pm
Thu	23	Café Carronside - St. Bridget's	10-11.30am
Sun	26	Morning Worship - Dunnottar Church Service at Clashfarquhar	10.30am 2.30pm
Mon	27	Kilwhang Ringers - St. Bridget's Bible Study Group - St. Bridget's	10am 2-3pm
Tues	28	Bowling - St. Bridget's	2-4pm
Wed	29	Craft Group - St. Bridget's	2-4pm
Thu	30	Café Carronside - St. Bridget's	10-11.30am
Fri	31	Lunch Club - St. Bridget's	12.30pm

**Hall Bookings : Hazel McCartney - Tel 760 619  
email [carronsidehall@gmail.com](mailto:carronsidehall@gmail.com)**

## LOOKING AHEAD

### **INVITATION TO A GARDEN PARTY!**

#### **St Bridget's Garden**

#### ***Donald McRae writes:***

The garden at St Bridget's is a window to the community of our church, and at the moment it is looking very scruffy. I can manage the grass and pruning of some of the bushes but not, in particular, the long front border.

We have two options

I am proposing that we have a gardening day on 1st April but for that I need committed volunteers.

(The second option is to pay to have a company come and do it.)

If you would be willing to help, please contact me - **Donald McRae on 762896** or better still come and talk to me.

PS - There may be the possibility of a cup of tea and a piece.

### **SPRING SALE AND COFFEE MORNING**

One of the signs of spring in Carronside Church has to be the spring sale and coffee morning which is on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April in St Bridget's. Please start looking out items to donate to the stalls—the £1 stall will be there so any donations of bric a brac will be warmly welcomed.

### **THE FIDDLE**

Our Grandad had a fiddle  
That hung beside the hearth,  
He loved to set us dancing,  
To see us sing and laugh,  
Or sometimes, embers dying,  
He'd play a wistful air,  
To set us all a-dreaming  
Before we climbed the stair.  
The fiddle's long been quiet,  
Yet sometimes, after dark,  
I seem to hear it singing,  
As sweet as any lark,  
And in imagination  
I'm back by firelight,  
As Granddad's flying fingers  
Send stars to fill the night.

*Maggie Ingall*

*I miss the good old days when you could have an opinion without  
offending someone.*

## YOUR MONTHLY DIARY OF EVENTS

### PRAYER GROUP

The Prayer Group offers on-going prayer support to those who wish it or to those for whom we are requested to pray. We are also supported by prayer recipients. Confidentiality is always respected and if you require prayer support, please speak to one of the following:-

**Hazel Hunter, Ros Marshall, Pat Logue, Carol Balsillie or Moira McRae.**

### BIBLE STUDY GROUP

The Bible Study Group meets in St. Bridget's on Mondays from 2pm-3pm. We are studying the Gospel of John.

All welcome.

**Contact: Rev Sarah Smith, 762 166, ( mob) 07756 006 385**

### THE CRAFT GROUP

The Craft Group meets in St Bridget's Hall on Wednesday afternoons from 2 - 4pm so do come along and join us knitting, sewing, making things and chatting to everyone who comes along.

**Contact: May Arthur, 07786 607633**

### STONEHAVEN GUILDS

The Stonehaven Guilds meet in Fetteresso Church Hall every second Tuesday afternoon at 2pm. Here are the meetings planned for March 2023. All welcome.

<b>2023</b>	
March 14 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Week in Spain- Morag Ryan
28 <sup>th</sup>	AGM

**Contact: Joan Macdonald, 760 471**



## YOUR MONTHLY DIARY OF EVENTS

### **THE MUNCH BUNCH LUNCH CLUB**

We had our first lunch of 2023 and were delighted with the tremendous turnout- best one so far!!, and hope everybody enjoyed their lunch, and will return again.

We offer 3 soups, 3 hot puddings, a table of cold sweets, tea/ coffee and a biscuit- all for only £5 per head.

We meet at St Bridget's at 12.30 pm, and welcome new friends to join us for a blether, and something to eat- all are welcome.

Our next lunch will be on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March and because of the way Easter falls, the following one will be the 31<sup>st</sup> of March.

If you would like any more information, please get in touch.

**Contact: Deb Blacklaw, 07796 173864**

### **CAFÉ CARRONSIDE**

Our coffee mornings are back in full swing again and we continue to enjoy seeing everybody on a Thursday morning at St Bridget's from 10am.

We offer coffee/tea/ fruit teas, scones and homebakes for only £2, to which all are welcome.

If you need any information, please get in touch.

I have attached the rota for the month of March, and please get in touch if you can't manage, so we can swap.

**Contact: Deb Blacklaw, 07796 173864**

<b>CAFÉ CARRONSIDE DUTY ROTA FOR MARCH</b>				
	<b>coffee</b>	<b>kitchen</b>	<b>Server 1</b>	<b>Server 2</b>
2	S Davidson	A Cairnduff M Marshall	C Balsillie	J Lawrence
9	D Blacklaw	A Cairnduff J Macdonald	S McLennan	D Dart
16	D Blacklaw	A Cairnduff J Macdonald	R Duncan	J Irvine
23	D Blacklaw	A Cairnduff J Macdonald	J Houghton	S Dalgarno
30	S Davidson	A Cairnduff M Marshall	C Balsillie	S Melville



## **YOUR MONTHLY DIARY OF EVENTS**

### **BOWLING**

Numbers are keeping up and the quality of bowling is getting better every week.

We would still welcome anyone else who would like to try this gentle game.

We are planning a visit to Kinneff Bowling Club in March

**Contact: Allan Cairnduff, 763 387**

### **KILWHANG RINGERS**

We are back ringing after our Christmas break and have 12-15 ringers regularly attending the group.

We held our AGM on Monday 13th February, when we organised our next performances and our annual coffee morning which will be 13<sup>th</sup> May this year.

If you would like any information about the group, or to "book" us, please be in touch.

**Contact: Deb Blacklaw, 07796 173 864**

Five little bells hanging in a row.  
The first one said, "Ring me slow."  
The second one said, "Ring me fast."  
The third one said, "Ring me last."  
The fourth one said, "I'm a chime."  
The fifth one said, "Ring me at Easter time."  
*Author unknown*

### **QUIZZES**

#### **February quiz - Famous Pairs**

##### **The answers are**

1 Adam and Eve, 2 David and Goliath, 3 Cain and Abel, 4 Samson and Delilah, 5 Mary and Joseph, 6 Fish and Chips, 7 Salt and Pepper, 8 Steak and Kidney, 9 Rhubarb and Custard, 10 Bill and Ben, 11 Sooty and Sweep, 12 Pinky and Perky, 13 Wallace and Grommet, 14 Punch and Judy, 15 Tom and Jerry, 16 Romeo and Juliet, 17 Hansel and Gretel, 18 Jekyll and Hyde, 19 Bonnie and Clyde, 20 Steptoe and Son, 21 Simon and Garfunkel, 22 Morecambe and Wise, 23 Ant and Dec, 24 Laurel and Hardy

Congratulations to our winner, A prize is on its way.

#### **This month's quiz**

This month's quiz is based on Numbers. Please send entries to one of the Editorial Group by Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

## **SESSION SNIPPETS**

### **SESSION SNIPPETS– March 23**

The Kirk Session meets on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March but that's too early for this magazine. We have, however, welcomed four new Elders to Session – Deborah Blacklaw, Samantha Davidson, Jean Houghton and Lynne Pollard – who were all ordained on 29<sup>th</sup> January. Session had a special meeting that day to formally add their names to the roll and as Charity Trustees for OSCR. Sam is joining the Property Team and Deborah is keen to take on the Roll Keeper function.

#### **Roll Review**

This will be progressing over the next period with all members on the present Communion Roll being asked to provide some details within the GDPR requirements so that our records are updated. I appreciate that if you move house and are not regularly in contact with Carronside Church, notifying us of your change of address isn't a high priority. It is important to us to maintain contact with you unless you specifically request us not to, so this is also a spring clean/tidy up of the Roll. Please help us with this where you can, it's most appreciated.

#### **Social**

Some concert activities are in the pipeline over the next quarter with dates to be confirmed but we are planning to have Rodolphe and family (Portlethen Minister) on 23<sup>rd</sup> April and the return of Richard Michael in June. It is hoped to have one in May but details have yet to be finalised.

#### **Website**

We are looking to revamp our website and checking with other churches as to how theirs are operated and managed.

#### **Christian Liberty**

A polite term for "Cash for the Kirk" and is our plea for those of you who do give by standing order to think about increasing your contribution, please. Covid hit the balance sheet hard with no income from lets during the pandemic and many of our users have either packed in or are yet to get going again. If you don't contribute by bank standing order, could you please think seriously about doing this. It gives us the comfort of knowing regular income is there each month.

Bank details are: Sort Code 80-09-68; Account No 00831530; Name - Stonehaven Carronside Church of Scotland. Gift Aid your contributions if you pay tax – we receive more than you give!

**Brian Sim, Session Clerk**

**01569 762038; email [bsim84@gmail.com](mailto:bsim84@gmail.com)**

## **WELCOME TO OUR FOUR NEW ELDERS**

*We are pleased to welcome 4 new Elders to the Kirk Session-they are all familiar faces in the church but we thought it would be good to let them tell you a little about themselves. They were a bit reluctant but were all persuaded to write something!*

### **LYNNE**

My name is Lynne Pollard I grew up in Drumlithie. I moved to Aberdeen with my husband Craig where we lived for 13 years then decided to move back to Stonehaven to have a more rural setting for Kasey then 9 and Ryan then 7 to grow up and be closer to their cousins who live nearby.

We live with our grumpy cat Jess and hamster Brodie but we would love to get a dog in time.

I work full time as an Occupational Therapy Assistant so this is very rewarding being able help people who are elderly or people with disabilities to remain independent as possible.

If I have any spare time I like to walk or read. I look forward to my role as an Elder and will relish all the challenges ahead.

With regard to helping round church and activities I am usually happy to help with anything that is asked of me! One interesting fact about me I will share is I have Phonophobia - I have a fear of loud noises!

### **SAMANTHA**

My name is Samantha Davidson, I moved to this area when I was about 12 and attended Mackie Academy. I worked as an operations technician in Shells Brent field for many years before becoming a full-time mum to our 4 children, though the 3 girls are really young adults now off doing their own thing and only my youngest Michael (14) is still at home. When they were young, I helped as a Sunday school teacher here at Dunnottar Church.

My latest "project" has been to breed my Scottish terriers, this has long been an ambition of mine (and the only way I was going to be allowed to increase the number of dogs I have).

So just before Christmas we had a litter of 4 pups, this was traumatic, amazing, tiring, rewarding and probably the longest 4 months ever. 3 of the pups have gone onto brilliant new homes and my little "Amazing Grace" has stayed to bring my total number of dogs to 5.

I am a volunteer bus driver for the community bus based at Stonehaven Community Centre.

I have been coming to Dunnottar and now Stonehaven Carronside for over 40 years and am looking forward to serving as an elder.

## **WELCOME TO OUR FOUR NEW ELDERS *continued***

### **JEAN**

I was born in Stonehaven; I am originally from Cellardyke, Fife. I have a husband, three children – two girls and one boy- and five grandsons.

We have no family pets now but I was a puppy walker to 12 guide dog puppies. 2 retirees came back for their final years.

My hobbies are bowling, cycling, walking, quilting and knitting.

I volunteer with the local trishaw team taking residents from local nursing homes out on an electric three-wheeler bike for a wee run. I also volunteer with Carronside café and the church rota.

### **DEBORAH**

Hi. My name is Deb and I originally come from Dingwall but moved down this way in 1983. I am married with three grownup sons whom we are very proud of.

I currently run the Carronside Café on a Thursday, the Lunch Bunch once a month and I am musical director/secretary of the Kilwhang ringers.

I enjoy attending the church and have met many great friends there , always making me feel welcome.

*All four are looking forward to joining the Kirk Session of Stonehaven Carronside Church.*

### **AN EASY RECIPE TO TRY**

#### **Biscoff Bake**

##### Ingredients

400g jar Lotus Biscoff Spread, plus 5 tablespoons extra to decorate

3 medium eggs

2 tsp. baking powder

##### Method

Preheat oven to 180°C (160°C fan) mark 4.

Line a 20.5cm (8in) square tin with baking parchment.

Scoop all of the Biscoff out of one jar into a bowl, add eggs and baking powder.

Mix with a wooden spoon until combined.

Scrape into the lined tin and bake for 18-20min, until just set.

Leave to cool for 10min in tin, then evenly spread over the extra 5 tablespoons of Biscoff.

Leave to cool before cutting into squares.

## **WORLD MISSION**

### **WORLD MISSION**

**Contact: Eileen Sim, 762 038**

### **INDIA VILLAGE MINISTRIES**

#### **IVM services are recognised by the state government:**

Suresh writes:

IVM received a commendation certificate from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for the best Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) services through the hands of the District Magistrate & Collector Sri Ranjit Basha, IAS & Superintendent of Police Shri Joshua, IPS, on the eve of 74<sup>th</sup> Republic Day on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2023 for "rendering excellent social service to the orphans, children education, economic empowerment of destitute women, Covid relief activities and rural development in Krishna District of Andhra Pradesh".

Suresh reports that they are humbled to receive this merit certificate from the government, and they give thanks to God for this recognition by the Government.

**FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 2023** is taking place from 27<sup>th</sup> February – 12<sup>th</sup> March 2023. This Fairtrade Fortnight aims to spreading a simple message: that making the small switch to Fairtrade supports producers in protecting the future of some of our most loved food and the planet.

Did you know coffee, bananas and chocolate could soon be much more difficult to find on our shelves?

Climate change is making crops like these harder and harder to grow. Combined with deeply unfair trade, communities growing these crops are being pushed to the brink.

By making the small switch to Fairtrade, we can all support producers in protecting the future of some of our most-loved food and the planet.

As part of Fairtrade Fortnight 2023, on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February, Fairtrade launches the Endangered Aisle to shine a light on the supermarket staples most at risk of becoming endangered from the climate crisis, including coffee, bananas and chocolate.

As part of the launch, Fairtrade will release new research highlighting how climate change is endangering the future of supermarket staples grown by farmers overseas. These findings will be available on their website <https://www.fairtrade.org.uk>.

## FAIRTRADE

### HERE ARE SOME 'DID YOU KNOW'S' ABOUT FAIRTRADE

- Every Fairtrade banana bought in the UK makes a significant difference to the 36,000 Fairtrade farmers and workers who grow them – and their communities. Fairtrade means fairer prices and safer working conditions for farmers and workers.
- Coffee- When you choose Fairtrade coffee, not only can farmers build a better quality of life for their families and communities, but they can also invest in growing better quality beans too.
- Flowers - Several supermarkets are now selling fairly traded flowers. Buying a Fairtrade bouquet might not feel like a big deal to you but it's certainly a big deal for those who are looking to clean up the floristry production line. Whatever the occasion, you can say it with Fairtrade flowers. From roses to sunflowers, there are Fairtrade blooms to suit everyone.
- Tea - behind your brew, real people face low wages, discrimination and the hard choices living in poverty can bring.
- Sugar - consumers and companies choosing Fairtrade sugar sent more than £5million in Fairtrade premium back to sugar cane smallholders last year.
- Cosmetics – You might not think to search for Fairtrade make-up but it's certainly out there! You can get fairly traded eyeliner, mascara and lotions so you can now incorporate Fairtrade products into nearly every part of your beauty and wellness routine.
- Sweets and snacks - From sugary to nutty, and a whole lot in between, find your favourite Fairtrade snacks and grains in-store and online!
- Laundry products – You can wash your clothes with peace of mind too. There is such a thing as Fairtrade washing detergent. It's made with natural plant-based ingredients and has the added bonus of being eco-friendly.
- Rubber gloves – You can clean the bathroom safe in the knowledge that your protective gear was made with natural rubber harvested by farmers in Sri Lanka who get a fair price for their product

#### *And last but not least-*

- Wines and spirits - you can buy an increasing range of Fairtrade wines from South Africa, Argentina, Chile and Lebanon, as well as Fairtrade beers and spirits.  
So, you can drink your gin and tonic with a clear conscience!

## A POEM AND A PRAYER FOR THE WORLD

### **TOUCH THE EARTH LIGHTLY**

Touch the earth lightly  
Use the earth gently  
Nourish the life of the world in our care.  
Gifts of great wonder  
Our to surrender  
Trust for the children tomorrow will bear.

We who endanger,  
who create hunger,  
agents of death for wall creatures that live,  
we who would foster  
clouds of disaster  
God of our planet, forestall and forgive.

Let there be greening,  
birth from the burning,  
Water that blesses and air that is sweet,  
Health in God's garden,  
Hope in God's children,  
regeneration that peace will complete.

God of all living,  
God of all loving,  
God of the seedling, the snow and the sun,  
Teach us, deflect us,  
Christ re-connect us  
Using us gently and making us one.

*Shirely Erena Murray ( New Zealand)*

*From Touch the Earth Lightly, a booklet by Peter Millar*

### **LET THERE BE GREENING**

May the rain fall on our land and the cows grow fat:  
May the children take the wisdom of the ancestors  
and build upon all that is good:  
May time stand still as we gaze upon the beauty that is around us:  
And may the love in our hearts envelope all those whom we touch.

*Zulu prayer*



**PROPERTY**

**PROPERTY REPORT**

**David Macdonald, Property Convener**

**07751 195321**

**[davidmacdonald153@gmail.com](mailto:davidmacdonald153@gmail.com)**

*a mistake than makes you humble is better than an achievement than makes you arrogant.*

## **A WEE SMILE**

Overheard in the vestry:

"The congregation's a bit thin this morning," said the minister. "Did you tell them I was preaching?"

"No Minister, I didn't" replied the Session Clerk." But you know how things get out."

There was a queue of men at the Pearly Gates waiting to enter. A sign overhead read "For men who have been bossed around by their wives". The queue extended as far as the eye could see. Close by there was another sign "For men who have never been bossed around by their wives". Just one man was standing underneath it. St Peter came over to him and asked, "Why are you standing here?"

"I don't really know" he replied, "except my wife told me to."

The church members were meeting to discuss raising money to repair the church roof. A wealthy member stood up and said he would give £5. As he sat down, a bit of ceiling fell on his head. He rose again and said he would make it £50. Another member was heard to say "Hit him again Lord"

At the annual Church fete in a village church in the Borders, a family gave a Siamese kitten for a guess the name competition. Being black and white, it was called Whisky. When the winner was announced, a deaf lady at the back of the hall said "Disgraceful. Mrs MacFarlane winning whisky at a church event."

At a crowded church meeting, the minister asked, "Can you all hear me at the back?" A voice at the back said, "Yes I can hear you perfectly but I don't mind changing with someone who can't."

Two little boys had been having a very serious discussion when one of them saw a nun going past. One of the boys went up to her and asked "Are you one of them things that goes into the fields to scare the birds?"

One Sunday in winter, the lights failed just as the service was about to start. Undaunted, the minister and congregation found one or two candles and in the almost complete darkness, they proceeded with the service. The hymns were chosen to be ones everyone knew and didn't need to see the words.

Meanwhile, unknown to the others, one of the congregation, an electrician by trade, had gone out to check the fuses.

As the congregation sang the first line of the third hymn, 'Jesus bids us shine with a pure, clear light', the lights came on again.

## **PRAYERS**

### **CREATE OUR HEARTS ANEW**

Come, Creator Spirit, create our hearts anew.

Hearts that are frozen, melt;  
Hearts that are hard, soften;  
Hearts that are heavy, lighten;  
Hearts that are lonely, befriend;  
Hearts that are broken, mend.

Heal the tender-hearted;  
Encourage the feint-hearted;  
Support the kind-hearted;  
Protect the humble-hearted;  
Console the down-hearted.

Amen.

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### **LORD, GUIDE US!**

Come, Lord,  
guide us this day.  
Guide our families  
lest anyone stray;  
Guide our hearts  
in all we say;  
Guide each life  
along its way;  
Guide our souls,  
our fears allay;  
Guide us all,  
for this I pray.

Amen.

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