

# KINGSWELLS PARISH CHURCH



**‘GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD, FOR HE IS GOOD,  
HIS LOVE IS ETERNAL’**

**Psalm 136:1**

## **AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2019**

**(Scottish Charity Number SC006865)**

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## VIEW FROM THE MANSE

Sitting in the back garden one Saturday morning in early September, I was surrounded by various species of butterflies, bees, other flying insects, and briefly, a robin. In less than an hour, I saw Peacocks, Red Admirals, a few Painted Lady, and two Small White butterflies. The butterflies and bees were feeding on the nectar still present in the fading flowers. Being in the midst of the changing seasons, the back garden was full of life.

Autumn is my favourite time of year. I absolutely love being outside with the slight chill in the air. In the midst of seasonal transition, it is a time of the harvest, and new beginnings. The butterflies are wonderful reminders of this time of transformation. As we know, the existence of a butterfly only occurs through metamorphosis. Beginning as an egg laid by an adult butterfly, it grows into a caterpillar, which then forms itself as a pupa or chrysalis, from which emerges a butterfly. They are gentle symbols of resurrection, endurance, change, hope, and life.

We are in our own time of transition as a parish church as we live into the Church of Scotland's Radical Plan. The long-awaited Presbytery of Aberdeen Plan will be a critical step in our process of change. The Kirk Session will receive the Presbytery Plan prior to 1 October and have opportunities for feedback to the Presbytery as well as devising a plan for congregational discussions. This process is of vital importance as we seek to be relevant and engaging within our congregation, parish and larger community. It is an opportunity to live into the unknown possibilities, while embracing the challenges and chaos along the way. It is intriguing to remember that as God created all things, it was out of the chaos that life began.

The invitation for each of us is to listen for God's guiding spirit through times of reflection, prayer, meditation, and conversations with one another. Meanwhile, it is vital that we remain grounded in our faith, releasing the fear of the unknown, and take time to experience God's presence through the beauty and life surrounding us. In the midst of all the seemingly chaotic shifts, I find it restorative and life-giving to take time celebrate God's presence within and out with, as well as the simple joy of being alive. For such a time we have been born.

Peace, Laurene

**Please use only the mobile phone number to contact Laurene while essential repairs are taking place at the manse.**



## YOUNG CHURCH



We would like to thank to congregation for their support on our Goodie Bag charity day. We sent donations to Charlie House for £100 and to Clan for £75 we hope you had fun discovering what was in your goodie bag.

We are now back to Young Church following the summer break and have started again with our Spill the Beans material on faith heroes. We hope to display our work on the notice boards so you can all keep up to date with what

we are learning.

As always members of the church are welcome to join us in Young Church and see what we get up to.

*Anne Rodger*

## BIBLE STUDY



The Bible Study Class has started following the Summer break and we warmly welcome anyone who would like to come along and join in. We are continuing with our study of the book of Mark and appreciate how much we learn from this study in discussing it

with one another every week.

We meet on **Wednesday mornings at 9.30** in the vestry. None of us are experts, (well, maybe Laurene!) so don't feel you have to know a lot about the Bible, we are all learning as we go and enjoy the support and friendship of the other members of the group.



*Anne Rodger*

## NOSH AND NATTER

I'm pleased to say that Nosh + Natter is still going strong and that over the summer people continued to find it a source of friendship and entertainment.

In July we had the duo Colin and Hilary whose style is contemporary traditional music and we enjoyed singing along to them. In August we



went through to the church to be entertained by Colin Brockie and his accompanist Aden Nazur and we were blown away by the music and Colin's voice. We will be meeting Colin again

next year when he comes with some pupils from North East Scotland Music School in his role of manager. In September we had a change of



plan when Roy Rhodes stepped in to entertain us and hopefully, he will be back again sometime soon.

We look forward to hearing from Aberdeen Music School, Donald Grassie and the Young Ones, and for our Christmas party we will have the return of Music4U to which we are very much looking forward.

All this wonderful entertainment plus soup, tea/coffee and cakes makes Nosh + Natter not to be missed, certainly a date for our diaries. We're

here in the church halls every month on the first Wednesday from 12.30 – 2.30 and everyone is welcome.

At the moment our banner has mysteriously disappeared from the railings at Kingswood Drive and just in case we don't get it back in time for our next get-together here's what the banner looks like:-

<h1>Nosh + Natter</h1> <p>lunch and entertainment</p> 	<h1>Kingswells Church</h1> <p>1st Wednesday of the Month 12.30 - 2.30 All Welcome</p>
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**SEE YOU ON 2 OCTOBER**

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## CHOIR NEWS

After a restful Summer we are now about to commence our practices for our fund raising evening which will be held **on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm** We will start rehearsals on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September in the Church at 6pm to which we will gladly welcome anyone wishing to join our very enthusiastic and happy group. You do not have to be able to read music. You just need to be willing to sing. Hope to see some new faces on the 29<sup>th</sup> September.



*Hugh and Elizabeth Melvin*

## BUILDINGS AND MAINTENANCE

The remedial re-pointing work on the north gable wall of the church has been completed at last, and so brings to a close what has turned out to be a protracted project to fix the water ingress issues we were experiencing over the years with that wall.

Over the last few weeks, the manse has been taking priority, with repairs carried out on the utility room and kitchen. There are, however, a substantial list of projects that are still to be undertaken to bring the manse interior up to a modern living standard and these will be our main focus of attention over the next few months. There are also plans to install further fencing to the manse garden, and to remove some trees on the garden boundary that are causing wall damage. The garden work is scheduled for completion by the end of Autumn.

The outstanding joinery and painting work required to the church halls doors and windows will commence towards the end of this month.

*Mike Reid*

## PASTORAL CARE

I know that it may seem a bit early to be planning for Christmas but for those members of the congregation who normally attend the **Seniors Carol Service** in the Church Halls please pop Sunday, **8 December 2019** into your diary for this event. As usual proceedings will start at 3pm. Invitations will be sent out nearer the time.

On **Sunday 17 November 2019 a service of dedication will be held for our visiting team.** I would be delighted if you could come to church that day to show your support for our visitors who are so committed to engaging with members and ensuring that they are kept up to date with church information and activities. The visitors will meet after the service for tea and coffee and share their experiences and concerns with one another. This will hopefully be of benefit to both the visitors and members of the congregation.

Recently, Laurene, our Minister, and I met with Management at Kingswells Care Home and it was agreed that we would hold a **monthly service at the Home on the first Sunday of the month at 2.30pm**. The first service will take place on **Sunday 6 October** and I would be delighted to see members of the congregation join us. No need to let me know if you are coming, just turn up.

Finally, from time to time we are made aware that a member of the congregation has been ill or in hospital after the event. Clearly, we would like to provide support at the time, therefore I would ask that if you do know of a member who is ill, and you feel would benefit from a visit please let your visitor or myself know.

*Ian Gordon, Pastoral Care Team Leader, (01224 743397)*

### ***Hamish Irvine***

It was with great sadness that we learnt of Hamish Irvine's death on Friday 14 June while in hospital. He was 88. While Hamish's physical health had caused him difficulty for some time, he nevertheless was a regular attender at worship with his wife Jean and a continued strong supporter of our Church. He was a committed Elder and Treasurer for over 40 years and deservedly received a long service medal from the Church of Scotland. When in financial difficulties Hamish almost single-handedly brought the Church into a more stable state by visiting each and every member to encourage a greater financial commitment. He with others 'fought off' Presbytery's attempt to restrain the Church from calling a new minister and later established the right of the Church to have a charge without limit of tenure while Harvey Grainger was minister. It is not an exaggeration to say that without Hamish Kingswells Church would not be the gathering it is today. A man of deep faith who had unequivocal views of how people should behave he carried his beliefs into his professional life as a policeman and Chief Superintendent in the city. He was greatly respected for his organisational skills, his attention to detail, and keen sense of justice. Not all of us agreed with his views on all matters but he was gracious in accepting others' points

of view while promoting his own. It was this tenacity and determination that secured our church's future and we shall be for ever in his debt as he served diligently in furthering the mission of the church here in Kingswells. Christianity was, along with his family the foundations of his life. We shall remember Hamish and Jean, for their resilience and courage in facing up to their daughter's chronic illness, the death of their son-in-law and the precarious heart condition of their granddaughter: the loving support they gave to all their family, as their son recognised in his eulogy at Hamish's funeral, was immeasurable. Hamish will long be remembered; his life impacted in so many ways on so many people. We thank God for his life and service and remember his family in our prayers.

*Editor*

### ***Ella Murray***

It was with immense sorrow that we learnt of Ella's passing on July 6<sup>th</sup> aged 90. Though Ella had been unwell for a while it was thought her time in hospital had proved beneficial but regrettably it was there that she died rather suddenly. Ella was a loyal, committed member of our church, an enthusiastic member of the Guild and supporter of our mission here in Kingswells. A truly gracious lady, sensitive to others needs and a true friend to many. Her life was one of service and love to family and those in her care when in charge of an old-folks' home in the city. We will miss her cheery face and smile. We will miss seeing she and Jim walking in the village – a devoted couple. We give thanks for her life and presence among us. For Jim and his family, we offer our prayers – keep them all in your thoughts.

*Editor*

### ***May Wallace***

May's absence from regular morning worship has not gone unnoticed. In recent months May has been in ARI following a fall and then Glen O'Dee recovering. Recently, however, she has moved to a care home in Grantham to be near to her daughter, her grandchildren, greatgrandchildren and greatgreatgrandchildren.

May has been an integral part of Kingswells Church for many years serving as an elder and being an active member of the community both in Kingswells and Westhill where she lived. Some of our members were taught by her and remember with affection her discipline and the high expectations she had for her pupils. She cherished her membership of Kingswells and supported its mission with vigour and total commitment. She was President of the Guild for many years and nurtured its success in bringing the women of the congregation together in support of the work of the church. Following her retirement, she became a volunteer at the Westhill and Garlogie Day Centre for 24 years. For many years she was an 'Escort', and a 'Relief Escort,' on the minibus which collects members from their homes. May has been greatly appreciated by Centre members and staff for her dedication and sense of humour.

She served on the Centre's 'Friends of' Committee and Chaired it for 11 years. She trained as a 'Music and Movement' leader so that she could take the exercise session at the Day Centre. In 2013 aged 91, May received the Volunteer of the Year Award from Age Scotland at its annual Scottish Parliamentary Reception at which in her responding speech she shared the secret of a healthy and active later life.

Brian Sloan, Age Scotland Chief, Executive said: "This Award is truly well deserved as May not only impresses with her dedication but is also a wonderful example to others of how someone in their 90s can enjoy life."

We will miss her from our Christian family at Kingswells: she is a supreme example of a life lived to the full, caring for others and 'cuddles' for the lonely. We thank her for all that she has done for us and means to us. Keep her in your thoughts and prayers. She is here at her new home with her granddaughter.



Her new address is – Room 63, Macintosh Ward, Apple Trees Care and Reablement Centre, Arlington Gardens, Grantham, Lincs. NG31 7GQ

*Editor*

## TREASURER

Our Treasurer, Jim Henderson will be retiring from this important post at the end of the year after 12 years of dedicated, efficient and professional service to our Church. We are now in the process of finding someone, preferably from our own congregation, to take on this responsibility. If you are interested or know of someone who would be able to undertake this task, please speak to our Minister or Session Clerk as soon as possible. They will be able to provide further details as to what is involved.

*Editor*

## TREASURER'S REPORT SEPTEMBER 2019

The financial report for the first eight months of the year makes welcome reading.

Immediately below is a summary of the General Fund.

Item	This year to 31 August	Last year to 31 August	Change minus = bad	This full year budget	This year as % age of full year budget
Congregational Income	29,697	31,513	-1,816	44,200	67%
Other	10,002	7,258	2,744	12,700	79%
<b>Total income</b>	<b>39,699</b>	<b>38,771</b>	<b>928</b>	<b>56,900</b>	<b>70%</b>
Expenditure	38,563	31,117	-7,446	55,462	70%
<b>Surplus</b>	<b>1,136</b>	<b>7,654</b>	<b>-6,518</b>	<b>1,438</b>	

The modest increase in total income is due solely to the significant increase in room hire income. Congregational income continues to diminish.

Last year we were in vacancy and this reduced our commitment to the Church of Scotland in Edinburgh as well as exempting us from council

tax on the manse. However, this year those commitments have been restored and his together with several 'one off' costs some of which were anticipated have seen expenditure increase ahead of budget.

Since the increase on expenditure is so large and likely to remain in place for the remainder of the financial year, we have revised our general fund budget accordingly and it looks as if as we shall not achieve a general fund surplus. This is unfortunate as it looks as if the other funds also will be in deficit.

Looking at the overall fund balances

	Opening balance	Increase (decrease)	Closing balance
Special Fund-	489	156	645
Picture Fund	<u>3,870</u>	<u>(203)</u>	<u>3,667</u>
Subtotal restricted funds	4,359	(47)	4,312
Fabric Fund	22,505	(3,837)	18,668
General Fund	<u>35,608</u>	<u>1,136</u>	<u>36,744</u>
Total funds	<u>62,472</u>	<u>(2,748)</u>	<u>59,724</u>

In recent years it is evident that the drain on our funds has been and continues to be the upkeep of the buildings – manse, church and halls. It looks as if this will continue to be the situation for the immediate future as significant problems appear to have been identified with the manse.

However, the recent General Assembly has brought forward a radical set of proposals which may see a different emphasis in future.

**Jim Henderson, Treasurer**

## **THE GUILD**

### **Our Aims and Ethos**

Women and men of all walks of life meet together under our common aim. The Church of Scotland Guild is a movement within the Church which invites and encourages both women and men to commit their lives to Christ and enables them to express their faith in worship, prayer and action. This aim has been underlined in our motto which is taken from Acts 27

## **“WHOSE WE ARE AND WHOM WE SERVE”.**

Session 2019-2020 is the second of our three-year strategy “One Journey, Many Roads”. The theme for 2019-20 is “Companions on the Road”, which will build on last year’s theme “Seeking the Way” and gives us the chance to think about how we make our journey(s) by sharing them with others, supporting and being supported in our efforts. We in Kingswells are a small but happy and friendly group with an interesting programme for the session, and always ready to welcome new fellow travellers! Be sure and get a Syllabus!

Sunday 22 September 11.00am – Service of Dedication

Tuesday 24 September 7.30pm – Rev Laurene Lafontaine

*Chris Maxwell*

## **Moderator Calls for Prayer as Radical Action Continues**

**As the Church of Scotland continues its work on the agreed Radical Action Plan voted for by this year’s General Assembly, Rt Rev Colin Sinclair calls on Kirk members to join in prayer using an upcoming series of weekly prayers written by people from across the Church and its partners.**



The Moderator called on congregations in every community to “come together” in prayer and reflection, noting that the 2019 General Assembly asked for prayer after accepting a set of radical proposals which will reshape the Church of Scotland at every level

over the coming years. Commissioners made their decisions recognising that that the Church cannot stand still when the world around us has changed dramatically and fewer people in our country share our faith.

In order to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ more effectively, all of us must embrace radical change. To help us on our way we will need courage, collaboration, generosity and prayer. To support the work

underway in local churches, presbyteries and in the central offices, a series of prayers will be posted on our website and shared across the Church of Scotland from mid-September to December. Rt Rev Colin Sinclair, the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, said: “These prayers can be used personally, in Church gatherings of varied sizes or built into Sunday worship. This helpful resource can act as a catalyst to encourage us not just to talk about praying but actually to pray. Can I encourage you to look out for these prayers, to use them and the other prayer resources that are already available on the website?”

### **Retreat, rest and reflection to allow space for God to change us.**

The 2001 report, entitled *A Church Without Walls*, stated that: ‘It is difficult to change direction. The old routines, requirements and habits are instinctive. We often need to stop, stand back and reflect before we can reset our priorities.’ The report went on to recommend that the leadership in every area of Church life institute the discipline of a period of retreat, rest and reflection to allow space for God to change us. This year’s agreed Radical Action Plan mirrored that emphasis on prayer saying: “We are a people of faith, rooted in prayer. We are not called to be busier: we are called to be faithful in our efforts to follow Jesus.”

Prayers from people across the Church of Scotland and our partners will be posted each week, between 23 September until late November through news stories and on the Prayer section of our website. The first prayer will come from Rt Rev Colin Sinclair, the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, on Monday 23 September.

**This is the time to pray.**

*Church of Scotland Website (News) – [churchofscotland.org.uk](http://churchofscotland.org.uk)*

### **Christian Aid Affirms Churches’ Call for Action on Xenophobic Violence in South Africa**

Christian Aid has expressed concern and solidarity for those caught up in the recent wave of xenophobic violence against migrants and refugees in South Africa. Responding to the attacks, Christian Aid’s

South Africa Programme Manager, Gerhard Buttner, echoed calls for a lasting, peaceful solution and for decisive action against those responsible.

Mr Buttner said: “Christian Aid stands in solidarity with those affected by a recent, renewed wave of violence in South Africa. The last few days has seen escalating attacks against migrants and refugees from other countries in Africa, with looting of foreign-owned shops in South Africa. This violence has led to several deaths and has also now given rise to so-called ‘reprisal’ actions – notably in Nigeria and Zambia. Yesterday, the Fellowship of Christian Councils in Southern Africa (FOCCISA), issued a statement calling for an inquiry by the Southern African Development Community and the African Union into xenophobia, and calling for a lasting and mutual solution. FOCCISA has also called upon the government of South Africa to act decisively with irresponsible authorities.

“This follows **another statement**, earlier this week, by the South African Council of Churches, strongly condemning the acts of violence against people and property, and appealing for swift action. Christian Aid echoes these calls from our friends in the region, whose prophetic voice must be heard. We will continue engaging with our partners in South Africa, to discern other ways we can amplify their calls and stand in solidarity with them. We also recognise that legitimate local and regional voices must be at the forefront of any action.”

FOCCISA is a multi-country ecumenical faith network: several of its Christian councils in a number of countries are partners of Christian Aid, as is FOCCISA’s regional Economic Justice Network, which is based in South Africa.

***Through the financial support that you provide, Christian Aid acts to bring about lasting change in communities that suffer injustice around the world. Please continue to support its work by donating and importantly through prayer.***

*Christian Aid Web Site (News)*

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**Sunday 29 September at 11.00am**  
**Harvest Thanksgiving and Soup Lunch**

**Wednesday 2 October at 12.30pm**  
**Nosh and Natter**

**Sunday 6 October at 11.00am**  
**Celebration of Sacrament of Holy Communion**

**Wednesday 6 November at 12.30pm**  
**Nosh and Natter**

**Sunday 10 November at 10.50am**  
**Remembrance Day Service**

**Sunday 17 November at 11.00am**  
**Service of Dedication for Visiting Team**

**Friday 29 November at 7.30pm**  
**Choir Concert**

**Wednesday 4 December at 12.30pm**  
**Nosh and Natter**

**Sunday 8 December at 3.00pm**  
**Seniors Carol Service**

**Sunday 22 December at 11.00**  
**Nativity Service**

**Tuesday 24 December**  
**Family Christingle Service at 6.00pm**  
**Watchnight Service at 11.30pm**

**Wednesday 25 December at 11.0am**  
**Christmas Day Service**

**Sunday 29 December at 11.00am**  
**Lessons and Carols**