



ST JAMES CHURCH NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2018

For Christ, for you

The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it...

As I'm writing this article the clouds are thick and dark grey and it has been raining for hours. What a contrast to the past summer when we had a prolonged dry spell and the golfers enjoyed long running tee shots on the bleached, dried out fairways. We were close to a hose-pipe ban and our local whisky distilleries were running out of water. Most of us were thoroughly enjoying the good weather and maybe also, at the same time, were enjoying a wee moan about the drought! That's human nature, isn't it?

However, we're also aware how fortunate we are that our weather conditions are rarely extreme and so we have nothing to complain about. How different it is for many across the world who live under the threat of unpredictable disaster. Our harvest has been gathered in and once again at this time of year we are encouraged to give thanks to



God for his rich provision. Autumn brings the signs of change and winter confirms that the old abundance is long gone, and we wait for

the new life of spring. And so, the cycle goes on. The Psalmist reminds us that; "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it". Everything to do with the earth's productivity and changing nature is God's. It is not ours to try to take control of, and manipulate, but instead to live with, and to respond to, with respect and gratefulness. The pattern of birth, growth, flowering and decline is reflective of all our experiences and we need to learn to make the most of all these seasons. As Maurice O'Sullivan observed in his autobiographical *Twenty Years A-Growing*;

"Did you never hear how the life of a man is divided? Twenty years a-growing, twenty years in blossom, twenty years a-stooping, and twenty years declining."

Wherever we find ourselves in that broad spectrum of life may we be able to give thanks to God for his rich provision. That's the key to faithful living.

May God bless you all this autumn season.

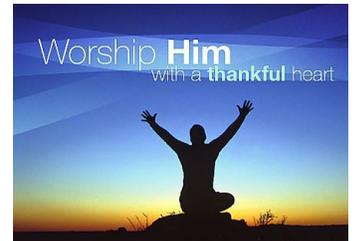
Geoff

Praise Group

Our Mission is to be a Christian community sharing the love of Christ, reaching out to the people in this area and encouraging them to worship God and grow in the knowledge of the care and love of Christ.

The recent Songs of Praise which took place on Sunday 26th August was a great success. We were delighted to see so many people attending, including many from other churches and the surrounding area. The singing was wonderful and so enthusiastic. A big thank you to those from St James who requested their favourite hymns. We tried to include as many as possible! We were most grateful to have all the musicians leading the worship and also those who spoke about their favourite hymn and what it meant to them

A lovely strawberry tea was served in the hall and we are grateful to all who helped organise, bake and serve. We hope to make this an end of summer yearly event.



Rehearsals have now started for the Christmas Concert. New members are welcome to join us on Friday evenings from 6.45pm - 7.45pm. The date of the concert will soon be confirmed.

Kath Robertson

CrossReach - Church of Scotland Social Care

"Care you can put your faith in"

Christmas is coming! It seems like the summer heatwave and holidays were just a couple of weeks ago, but we are officially in the meteorological Autumn and the nights are fair drawing in, so it must mean it is time to choose your CrossReach Christmas cards and calendars.

The full collection can be seen at CrossReach online or catalogues available until end October from Susan McSheffrey (01343 812362).

As one of the country's largest provider of social services, CrossReach provides care for older people, help with alcoholism, drug and mental health problems and assistance for homeless people and those with special learning needs.

Just over 1% of its funding comes directly from the Church of Scotland, with most of the rest coming from local authorities. Donations and legacies are also essential to help continue its vital care work.

Are you unable to go to the church?

For Christ, for you

If so, you may like to receive the service on a CD and enjoy the music and teaching of the sermon in your own home at your own time. Services are recorded every Sunday, then put on CD and can be delivered to you by Hamish Mcleman. For more information telephone Hamish on 01343 812423

Good News Club

The Good News Club continues every Sunday during school term time, with the young people staying in the morning service until shortly after Geoff's Children's Talk. We then go out into the Fellowship Hall and discuss the week's lesson from Scripture Union's "Light" resources. We can cater for all ages up to about 14.

The activities usually generate a good level of discussion and amusement. Outwith term time, there is (at a minimum) a crèche facility every week and we often run the Scripture Union materials anyway, as they cover every week of the year. We are a small group and new visitors or members are always welcome.

Holiday Club July 2019

After a couple of years without a Summer Mission at St James' Church, we're delighted to have secured the help of Chris Watt and the puppets of Out of the Box (Scotland) Ltd for a holiday club in July 2019.



The club will run from Monday to Friday from 10am till 12pm and likely aim at children in P5 to P7. It will be similar to the Scripture Union materials we have used but Out of the Box have written their own. They will take the lead, guiding our team through each day. This promises to be a fun and memorable experience for all and an important outreach to the young people in our community.

If you are interested at all, please speak to anyone involved in the Good News Club or send a message via the "Contact Us" Form on the church's website.

Cooking for one

Having been married for 50 years with my wife doing all the cooking, I had a very limited repertoire of recipes when I was widowed and had to care for myself. It's easy for those who are used to cooking, but people like me need to develop the confidence.

If you feel the same, Moray College has agreed to start an eight-week course, starting in October. They will provide the ingredients, at present at no cost. If you are interested, please telephone Vernon on 815553.



Guild

The Guild started its new session on Monday 1 October, with a celebration of Holy Communion and dedication, led by Rev Geoff McKee. We hope that members old and new will join us for fellowship and fun. Please come along and give it a try. We meet in the Church Hall at 2.00pm every Monday afternoon.

Bowling @ St James

The Bowling Group meets on a Friday afternoon from 2pm to 4pm. We have around 10-14 people who come along to have fun and a little exercise playing bowls. We pay a small contribution every week and last year we donated £400 to church funds.

Due to poor health, Vernon is no longer able to be there every week, to provide the tea and biscuits and look after the money. If anyone can share this responsibility, please telephone Vernon on 815553.

Drop-in

Drop-in started in March 2014, offering tea and coffee and homebakes and the opportunity to chat with friends and to meet new friends in a relaxed environment for a suggested donation of £1. We meet on a Wednesday afternoon from 2 pm, last serving at 3pm, and are open to all.

Recently we have changed to meeting twice per month as for various reasons our pool of volunteers has diminished. The dates up until Christmas are as follows:

- October 2018: 3rd and 24th
- November 2018: 7th and 21st
- December 2018: 5th and 19th



Family Announcements

FUNERALS

- July 5th Catherine Campbell, Moray Street
- July 17th Maureen Robinson, Hersbruck Court
- Aug 30th Joan (Jottie) McKenzie, Buckie
- Sept 11th Colin Munro, Abbeyside Care Home
- Sept 20th Ron Skuse, Prospect Terrace
- Sept 28th Edna Rattray, Stotfield Lane

WEDDINGS

- Aug 11th Derek Costen & Rebecca Stewart
- Aug 18th Bob Bell & Lynn Marr

Finances

Offerings	2018	2017
July	£3,554	£4,286
August	£2,778	£2,725
September	£3,448	£2,775
Total	£9,780	£9,786
Expenses		
July-Sept	£17,305	£14,219

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