

DUNFERMLINE  
ST MARGARET'S  
COMMUNITY  
CHURCH OF  
SCOTLAND



HE CAME TO TAKE AWAY OUR SINS  
AND PROMISED EVERLASTING LIFE  
FOR US ALL  
ALLELUIA!

## HOW I MISS OUR GATHERINGS!

Over the last year of lockdown and other restrictions, the one thing I have really missed is – gatherings, people coming together.

How I have missed – traffic on our roads, bustling shops, coffee or lunch out with friends, family celebrations, crowds at sporting events, the freedom to go to the cinema or theatre and, of course, church activities, especially live worship with fellow members of the congregation.

I particularly dislike being unable to invite others into our home, or give someone a hug when they are unhappy or down. Knuckle and elbow touches are OK, but I miss shaking hands with others I haven't met before or seen for a while.

Thank goodness for technology. It has allowed us to remain connected, albeit remotely, on zoom and social media platforms such as Facebook. We now enjoy using zoom [WhatsApp or messenger] to have coffee, afternoon tea or supper with friends. We sit at one end of the dining table with the laptop at the other end and we can see our family or friends while we eat together. It's not **the same as meeting with them face to face, but it helps maintain that vital social connection and we feel the better for it afterwards.**

We are after all social creatures. God created man and woman as company for each other. As I write this I am playing music by Barbra Streisand and she has just sung the old, well known song "*People*" – which opens and ends with the lyrics – "*People who need people are the luckiest people in the world.*"

Yes, there are times when we want to get away from it all, to be on our own, but few of us wish or choose to live alone. Of course many of us are forced to live on our own because of circumstances, or the twists and turns of life's journey. And many of those living alone have suffered greatly during the pandemic.

I get irritated when I see or hear about people flouting the public health rules. On the one hand it is irresponsible and selfish. On the other hand, however, it demonstrates our deep, built-in desire for regular social interaction with others.

St Margaret's has worked extremely hard over the past year [and before that] to remain engaged with as many people as possible in the parish.

Our Minister, Iain, has consistently and valiantly led daily readings and reflections on Facebook and twice weekly acts of worship by Zoom. He has also produced a weekly newsletter for church members and friends and kept in regular touch, by telephone, with those unable to connect by electronic means.

Largely unseen, except by those who benefitted [myself included when ill last year], the church Pastoral Team have also been super-active during the pandemic, but also, to be fair, long before that too. They have been reaching out and providing support to those shielding or less able - and continue to do so. Led by Jim and Linda Adamson, the team have been regularly telephoning, visiting [from a safe distance] and dropping off food and other essentials to church members and others in the community. It has been, and continues to be, a hugely important service to others.

Pastoral care doesn't always get the credit or recognition it deserves. Churches, generally, are communities of carers. It is one of the strengths of the church and this certainly shines through at St Margaret's where the provision of such care and support is outstanding.

It is, however, often difficult to recruit additional volunteers to help with pastoral work. I've heard people say "O I couldn't do that". But if we like chatting to and getting to know others [as most of us do]; if we like listening [very important] to other people's stories or if we simply like offering a helping hand – then being part of the Pastoral team could be a really rewarding experience. Perhaps, if we've been the recipients of pastoral care, and we are able, we might like to now give something back.

Additionally, our Youth & Families Officer, Ally Greenshields, and his small team of local supporters, have maintained contact with the wider community and are to be applauded for managing the food stand outside the church. Day in and day out they have purchased food and kept the stand well stocked.

Like almost every other business and organisation, churches across the land have been adversely affected by the pandemic. Some churches which were struggling before the pandemic will not re-open. Those churches that stand a fighting chance of surviving need to think hard, now, about how they might operate in the future. A programme of church rationalisation was underway before covid. Post covid that process must surely take on added importance and urgency. I do not believe any church can go back to the way it was before the pandemic. Churches have been forced, because of the lockdown restrictions, to embrace new technologies. That, for example, has to be one of the ways in which the modern church operates and communicates its message going forward.

I liken our struggle against the corona virus to a form of warfare. At the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War, in 1945, the nation came together to celebrate what is known as VE Day. The 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Victory in Europe was remembered only last year.

For us, the day will come, when public health restrictions against the virus are finally eased, maybe lifted. The very first thing we as a church should plan to do is – celebrate and give thanks that it is finally over or at least under control. We should come together as a "community" and we should - "sing". It shouldn't matter who we are, or what we believe, let's just come together, give

a collective sigh of relief, savour the moment and sing - old songs, new songs, worship songs, secular songs.

Afterwards, we can then get on with the challenging task of plotting our future as a church, hand in hand with God and with our community.

Gordon Brown

## Easter Hope

We have just sadly been informed of the death of Lily Miller – indeed, since lockdown we have lost a good number of our faithful members – too many. The last conversation I had with Lily in the care home she very specifically asked me to read one of her favourite parts of the Bible to her:

*<sup>28</sup> And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup> For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. <sup>30</sup> And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.*

*<sup>31</sup> What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all – how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? <sup>33</sup> Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup> Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died – more than that, who was raised to life – is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. <sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? <sup>36</sup> As it is written:*

*‘For your sake we face death all day long;  
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.’*

*<sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, <sup>39</sup> neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord – Romans 8 verses 28-39.*

Read these words carefully again. The reading of these verses brought great comfort to Lily – indeed, they were the last words that I spoke to her.

This is us approaching Easter – the moment when Christ died for our sins but also when he overcame the power of the grave. Lily’s mortal body will be laid in a grave, but she lives! The reality of these words from Romans resonates with the hope of Easter and hope in the Risen Christ. We remember the wonderful affirmation that Easter brings when we will hear the words, “Jesus Christ is Risen,” to which we will reply, “He is Risen indeed.” Therein lies our hope forever.

## FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the Spring edition of the magazine – and as I write this at the beginning of March, we have had a touch of springlike weather. Hope this is a sign of things to come. This edition of course includes Easter when Jesus died to save us and take away our sins. But more of that elsewhere in the magazine. We have of course “celebrated” the first year of Covid 19. When I think back to the start of it there were a lot of us who thought that it would be a seven-day wonder – boy were we wrong! However, thanks to our wonderful scientists who worked like stink to produce the vaccine quicker than anything before. A great number of us have been vaccinated and feel a good bit better in confidence now. Second doze still to come for most of us but that will not be long now. The main thought about the future is that we require an injection every year just like the ‘flu’ jab and if that is the worst we have to put up with I think we will all be quite relieved. Our thoughts of course are with those who lost loved ones during this pandemic and who can forget the effort put in by Health Care Professionals and people in all other services who put themselves in harms way to care for us. **THANKYOU.** Iain has done a fantastic job keeping in touch through his weekly newsletter and different forms of worship with the magic of zoom. Thanks too to those of you who did “odds and pieces” for neighbours who could not get out for shopping etc.

Looking at the front of the magazine, you may think that I have demoted Iain to second place as his is always the first piece to read. However, when Gordon Brown sent in his thoughts Iain thought that this was so well crafted together and covered everything we were probably all thinking, he thought it could not be bettered and asked me to put it in as first page that you would all read. Only very happy to do so – well done Gordon and thank you for your sentiments.

The lockdown has been going on for some time now and I am sure most of you are as fed up as me with the restrictions – however it is for our own long term good so keep at it and think of things to keep you occupied. You might be like me and end up with a date when we are all allowed out and about.

Yes – not joking! I visited one of our elderly ladies (keeping to all the rules and did not go into the house. She and her carer stood at the door and told me how Margaret likes to listen to music in bed. I quirked “and did you like dancing. She replied as quick as you like “oh yes – a lot”. I responded “well once this is over you could go up to the local dancehall? “Oh, but I do not have a gentleman to go with” she replied “I tell you what then Margaret, when this is over, I will come up and we can have a wee dance around the

living room” “Oh – that would be great”, as quick as you like. Watch out for your toes Margaret – but that’s a date!!

### **ON THE MOVE**

Our treasurer, Moira Watson, is on the move. Please take note that her new address is:

**Mrs. Moira Watson,  
Transylaw,  
ST John’s Drive,  
Dunfermline.  
KY12 7TU**

By the time you receive your magazine Moria should be on the move. Hope all goes well Moira and best wishes in your new home and and with the hopes that “ lang may your lum reek”!

Well, that’s it for now folks. Many thanks to those who contributed for this edition – as always very grateful. For those that didn’t you may get some ideas from reading what is in this edition – so start thinking about the next magazine. Do please take care of yourselves – stay well and safe and

### **REMEMBER**

**YOU ARE NOT ALONE.**

**Ross Kerr  
Editor**

## **QUOTES AND THOUGHTS FOR EASTER**

**Christ the Lord is risen to-day, Sons of men and angels say.  
Raise your joys and triumphs high; sing, ye heavens and earth  
reply.**

**(Charles Wesley)**

**God proved his love on the Cross. When Christ hung, and  
bled, and died, it was God saying to the world, "I Love You"**

**(Billy Graham)**

**Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The  
one who believes in me will live, even though they die, and  
whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe  
this?"**

**(John 11: 25-26)**

**We were old sinners,  
But when we came  
To Christ we are not  
Sinners anymore.**

**(Joel Osteen)**

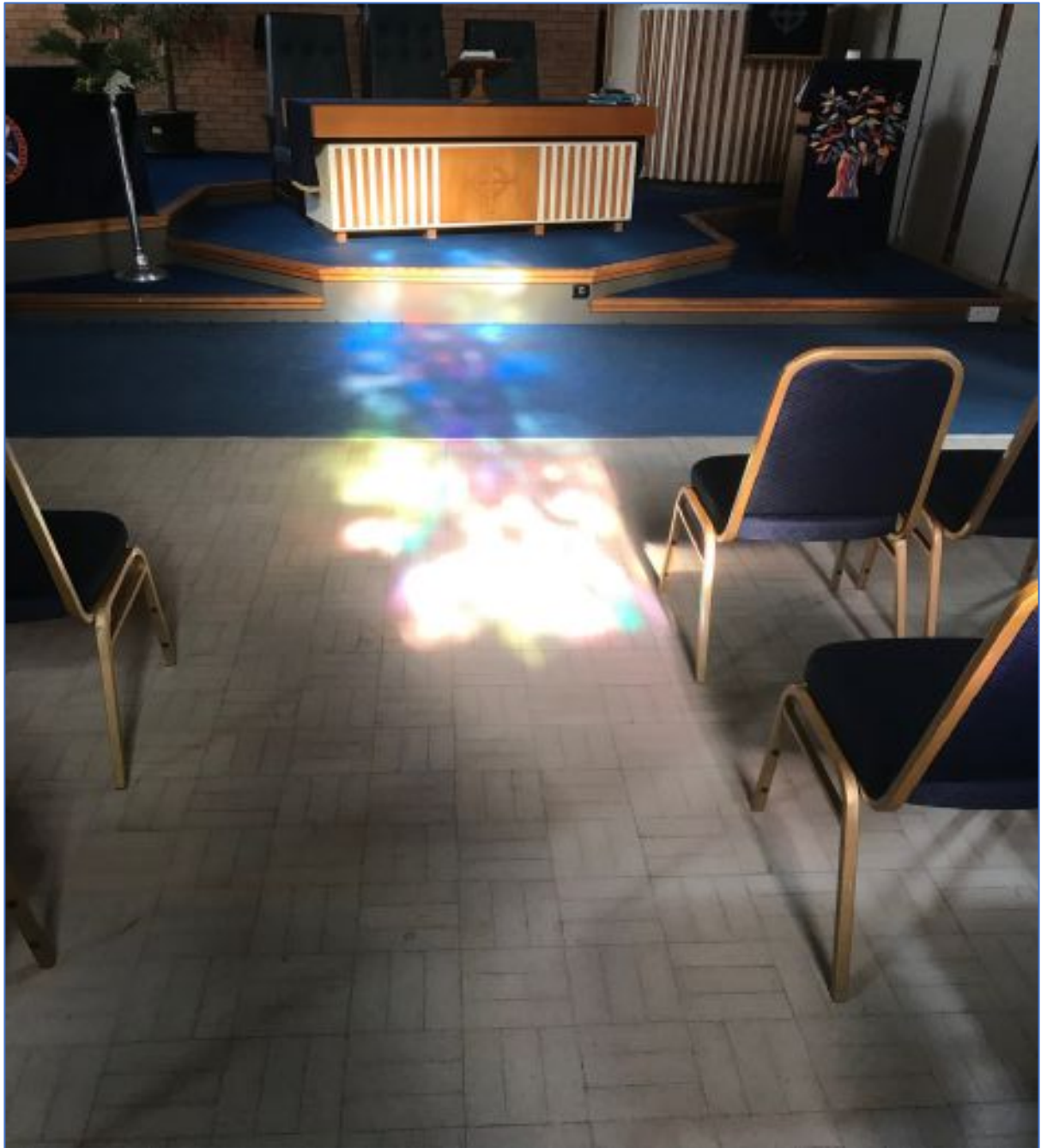
**A bird sitting on a tree is  
Never afraid of the branch breaking,  
Because her trust is not on the branch  
But on its own wings.  
Always believe in yourself**

**Stop being afraid of  
What could go wrong  
And start being positive about  
what could go right.**

**God took the  
CRUCIFIXION  
of Friday  
And turned it into the  
CELEBRATION  
of Sunday**

**(May the love, peace and the fulfilment of Jesus  
Christ's promise from the cross be with you all. Ed)**





**St MARGARET**  
**IN ALL HER GLORY**

I was in the Church back in the days when we could still go into Church. As I walked towards the Altar I was aware of the sun making a pattern on the floor. When I looked it was the sun shining through the lovely window with St. Margaret on it and when you looked at the pattern on the floor carefully you could see that it was in fact the replica of the window with St. Margaret shining through. It really was quite a moment that I wanted to share with you. I stood there for quite a while taking in the whole glory of it all.

Ross Kerr (Ed)

## **EVERY CLOUD HAS A SILVER LINING**

**By the time this article gets in front of your eyes, we will have reached the unfortunate milestone of a full year of lockdown and restrictions. The last year has been full of ups and downs, false dawns and most importantly, the terrible loss felt suffered by many families across the country. As a congregation we have also suffered greatly, many have lost loved ones over this year, isolation and lockdowns have taken their toll mentally and physically, and the sense of Community around our Church has left a void for many people. However, with the light at the end of the tunnel and lifting of restrictions imminent I thought I would write a short piece, highlighting the incredible support our project has received over the past 12 months.**

**First and foremost, the level of ongoing support received from our Congregation has been nothing short of incredible. 70+ duvets were distributed to those who were most in need, 100's of bags of clothes, TVs, toys, supply of food, fuel, money, our Christmas outreach (and the list goes on). I could write an entire article on the generosity of this congregation, and the special people that offer their support time and time again, but as I have promised to keep to a side of A4 I'll keep it short and sweet. You guys are the best! A sentiment that is very much mirrored by our Community!**

**As you can imagine running this project has been no mean feat, and behind the scenes we have been fortunate to receive some Incredible support from Carnegie Rotary Club. After they caught wind of our project from Allan Prentice, it was all hands-on deck! Since lockdown they have been kind enough to donate a fridge freezer for the Hub, significant financial support allowing us to set up a Fuel Poverty fund, presents for the community at Christmas, duvets, clothes, beds, bikes etc. You name it, these guys have gone over and above to help out, and this paragraph does not even begin to do it justice, but there is a press release scheduled by the Church of Scotland, focusing on this project, and specifically the support received from Carnegie Rotary. So, keep your eyes peeled!**

**The final piece in our lockdown project is completed by the generosity of local businesses. Argos, Pets at Home, B&M, Tesco and the Co-Op have all supported in their own way, whether that be food, goods or finances, when we have asked for help these organisations have gone over and above to allow us to offer help, in such difficult times!**

**This project has been a real collaborative effort and just goes to show what can be accomplished when organisations all pull together towards a common goal, and we hope these relationships made will last well into the future with St Margaret's.**

**P.S. As we leave lockdown, if you would like to get involved, donate, or know more about what's going on please get in contact on 07414632338 or [allyg\\_75@hotmail.com](mailto:allyg_75@hotmail.com).**

**Ally**

**(Absolutely super support from everyone mentioned above and lots that just turn up quietly and put food stuffs on the table at the church door. Does this just happen? Of course not, it takes hours of work, visiting businesses and store managers, going to collect larger goods and then distributing them, organising volunteers and organisation of the whole project. So a HUGE well done to ALLY for all this and of course to the volunteers who have supported him. The feedback he is receiving from people who were at the end of their tethers is amazing and brings their true plight into real perspective. Ally has come across terrible situations that some people are in and the poverty that exists on our doorstep purely due to the loss of jobs and often by both adults in the same house. Ally even has had telephone calls in the middle of the night pleading for help and has gone out to help – no heating, non adequate warm coverings, no help from anywhere else – so they turn to the Church and Ally. Ally is demonstrating the teachings in the Bible by Jesus – and just gets on with it in a very quiet way – unless of course he is looking for something from you!!!!)**

**Ally spoke at the beginning of his report that he was keeping it to the one A4 page – I make no apologies for extending that to tell of this great piece of work. Great effort Ally – thank you. Ed)**

## POEMS AND OTHER THINGS (1)

### LITTLE DONKEY'S DREAM.

There was a little donkey who lived on a little farm  
He spent his time outside where he couldn't come to harm  
His field was not far from the seaside where he had a good view of the sea  
Oh how he longed to go there how wonderful it would be

Jumping in the water playing in the sand  
Running free along the beach feeling very grand  
Perhaps some day my dream will come to be  
Nothing else for it but to wait and see.

There are lots of animals on the farm, hens and ducks and geese  
A lovely place to stay and enjoy perfect peace,  
The farmer was a lovely man and good to all of us  
Always happy and cheery and never any fuss

When I went to sleep at night I dreamt of a day at the sea  
Wondering and hoping if it would ever come to be  
To my surprise the farmer led me from my stable  
Put me in the horse box and tied me with a bit of cable

He started up the engine and soon we were on our way  
I didn't know where we were going! Am I getting taken away  
It seemed like ages since we left the farm  
So far I felt safe and I had come to no harm  
All of a sudden we had arrived at our mystery ride  
The back door was opened slowly! We were at the seaside.

The farmer helped me out of the truck and safely on to the sand  
I was so happy that my dream came true I could hardly stand  
The best was still to come as I stood on the oncoming tide  
I was here for the whole day taking the children for a ride  
I will never forget the day that my special dream came true  
So don't give up on your dream and the same can happen to you.

Manuel Giraldas      ( do you remember the days of the donkey rides?? Ed)

## **POEMS AND OTHER THINGS (2)**

### **LIFE IN THE FAST LANE**

**I have worked all over Scotland, the Highlands and Borders as well  
I have worked in the South of England, Kent for a little spell  
I have met a lot of friendly people and not so friendly too  
You find all kinds of people with different points of view**

**In this world to-day we are all too busy to stop  
Running around like mad, each other one fit to drop  
The pace of life seems hectic, never time to spare  
We need to slow down a bit and take a little care.**

**Life is short, it goes in a flash, over in the blink of an eye  
So put the brakes on when you can, please give it a try.**

### **LAVENDER & FRIEND**

**There was a little pony, Lavender was her name  
She lived on a hill and her best friend did the same  
Their Mums and Dads looked after them, made sure they ate their hay  
A big drink of water before they went out to play.**

**Lavender was a Highland pony with a long and wavy mane  
It was very important in the Highlands because of all the rain  
Both of them were full of fun and played all day long  
Chasing each other up and down singing a little song  
I can run faster than youoooooooooooo  
I can run faster than youoooooooooooo  
And there is nothing you can doooooooooooooo  
And there is nothing you can doooooooooooooo**

**Both of them had loads of friends that lived up on the hill  
Two goats, one fox and a woodpecker called Bill  
Roe deer used to come and visit and play with them as well  
All getting on with each other like a magic spell  
When night came they had a shed with loads of warm straw  
Snuggled up with Mum and Dad, I think the word is BRAW!**

**Both of the above by Launam Draisaig  
(not so sure about the "fast lane" at the moment! Ed)**

## **POEMS AND THINGS (3)**

### **LIFE CHANGES**

Life has changed In so many ways  
Longer nights and even longer days  
Stuck in the house for weeks on end  
Driving each other around the bend

..The things that were normal are all but lost  
Going close to friends could be at a cost  
Standing at a distance is a reality  
Catching this virus could be a fatality

The rules that are in place are common sense  
Doing as we are told is our defence  
let us stick to them as long as it takes  
Until it is gone for our own sake

Together we can beat it if we are as one  
Helping each other until it is done  
Keep to the rules and stay well apart  
Then we can plan a brand new start.

### **A HELPING HAND**

Love is all around us, you can see it everywhere  
It is what people do and in what people say  
We sometimes dwell on tragedies and that is rightly so  
Alas we forget the caring things that rarely are on show

So many good things go without mention, some are never known  
Thank God for those lovely favours where rewards are never shown  
When something is done through kindness and anonymous in every way  
We can stand back in admiration and say "Somebody has made  
Somebody's day"

So please look on the bright side, the world is not all bad  
Listen to past experiences from dear old Mum and Dad  
Treat all people with respect and help them when you can  
The feeling of helping someone will make you a better woman or man

(Both are by Leuman Draisaig - things have changed just a bit with the virus situation but it still is very wearisome. Vaccinations are bound to help. - Ed)

## AND NOW FOR SOMETHING QUITE DIFFERENT.

I Was sent this article which – as it is so long – will cover at least two editions of the magazine. The other important message I suggest you consider is that you should imagine that you are an alien from a distant planet needing to learn English. You will learn as you go on just how difficult that would be – unless of course you are already a teacher who currently struggles with this in their daily life! The story starts now.

**If you can pronounce correctly every word in this poem, you will be speaking English better than 90% of the native English speakers in the world.  
After trying the verses, a Frenchman said he'd rather prefer six months of hard labour to reading six lines aloud.**

Dearest creature in creation,  
Study English pronunciation,  
I will teach you in my verse  
Sounds like corpse, corps, house and worse.

I will keep you, Suzy, busy,  
Make your head with heat grow dizzy.

Tear in eye, your dress will tear.

So shall I! Oh hear my prayer,  
Just compare heart, beard, and heard  
Dies and diet, lord and word

(getting the hang of it?? Ed)

Sword and sward, retain and Britain  
(mind the latter, how it's written)

Now I surely will not plague you with such words as plaque and ague.

But be careful how you speak:

Say break and steak, but bleak and streak;

Cloven, oven, how and low.

Script, receipt, show, poem and toe.

Hear me say, devoid of trickery,

Daughter, laughter, and Terpsichore,

Typhoid, measles, topsails, aisles,

Exiles, similes and reviles;

Scholar, vicar and cigar.

Solar, mica, war and far,

One, anemone, Balmoral,

Kitchen, lichen, laundry, laurel;

Gertrude, German, wind and mind,

(please turn to next page)

Scene, Melpomene, mankind.  
Billet does not rhyme with ballet.  
Bouquet, wallet, mallet, chalet.  
Blood and flood are not like food,  
Nor is mould and should and would,  
Viscous, viscount, load and broad,  
Toward, to forward, to reward.  
And your pronunciation is OK when you correctly say croquet.  
Rounded, wounded, grieve and sieve.  
Friend and fiend, alive and live,  
Ivy, privy, famous, clamour And enamour rhyme with hammer.  
River, rival, tomb, bomb, comb,  
Doll and roll and some and home.  
Stranger does not rhyme with anger,  
Neither does devour with clangour,  
Souls but foul, haunt and aunt,  
Font, front, wont, want, grand and grant.  
Shoes, goes, does. Now first say finger  
And then singer, ginger, linger.  
Real, zeal, mauve, gauze, gouge and gauge, Marriage,  
Foliage, mirage and age.  
Query does not rhyme with very,  
Nor does fury sound like bury.  
Dost, lost, post, and doth, cloth, loth,  
Job, nob, bosom, transom, oath.  
Though the differences seem little,  
We say actual but victual

(At this point my fingers and eyes gave up – but don't worry there is more coming in the next edition! By this time you will have noted that it is the pronunciation and emphasis on the way that some of the words are said that makes the difference. Don't know where this poet comes from but his knowledge of English words is pretty good! Ed)



# J.A.M. Club Newsletter..... number one 2021

Hello and Happy New Year!

First of all, I hope that you and your family are all well. Did you have a lovely Christmas? Even though we had to celebrate in different ways, I hope you had fun and received some gifts on your "wish list." Jim and I had a happy time but we really missed celebrating the birth of Jesus with everyone at J.A.M. Club.

On Christmas day we missed having our family join us for dinner as usual... but it got me thinking! We've all had to change some of the ways we do things. Sometimes it's easy but sometimes it can be very hard!

Over 200 years ago, there lived a man called Joseph Priestley who was very interested in nature. One day he came across some sap from a tree in South America.



He discovered something very special about this material-if you wrote on a piece of paper with a pencil, then rubbed this sticky sap over the writing, it could remove the pencil marks! He called the substance "rubber."

When you make a mistake in a jotter at school, you probably use a rubber to fix it. You are then able to **change** what you have written, to make your work better.... so a rubber is very helpful!



But what about changes we need to make to put other things right?

I'm sure you (like me!) can think of times when you've said hurtful words to someone. Perhaps you have been unkind by not including someone in a game....or maybe you have made fun of their efforts when they've been trying to do something new?



Well, one way to make things better is to apologise-to say you're sorry and **mean** it! I expect you have been encouraged to do this by the people who care about you. It really is good advice but it can be difficult to do!

So here's something else which will help. (We've often spoken about it at **J.A.M.** Club meetings.) **Talk to Jesus about whatever is bothering you-he listens!**

An elderly lady who came to our church once said....

"I live on my own but the great thing is I know I can always talk to Jesus-so I'm never really alone and this makes me feel so much better."

Perhaps you should give **prayer** (talking to Jesus) a try. If you haven't done so for a while or maybe never even tried to pray on your own, it could well be the best change you ever make in your life!

**REMEMBER** You can pray **anywhere**, at **any time** and **there are no special words you need to use**. You might be wondering why Jesus wants each of us to talk to him? It's because he loves us and truly cares about us.

St. Valentine's day is on the 14<sup>th</sup> February. It's a day set apart to celebrate love....but never forget, there's someone very special **who will always love you**, no matter what-**Jesus!**

Love and blessings to you and those you love...  
from everyone in the **J.A.M.** Team X

**PS** In your package this month you will find some "extras."

- Something which we hope you find useful.
- Something to "sweeten" your day.
- Something "just for fun." It can be used any way you like-you can use it as a decoration ....or maybe use it to help you invent a Challenge for yourself!



## **A GIRL GUIDE RECIPE AND METHOD**

### **A RECIPE FOR HAPPINESS**

**Four cups of love is all you need,  
Two cups of loyalty, plus a good deed,  
Three cups of forgiveness is an absolute must,  
One cup of friendship with plenty of trust,  
Two spoons of tenderness heaped to the brim,  
One barrel of laughter, to help on the way,  
To keep us happy all through the day.**

### **METHOD.**

**Take love and loyalty, mix through with faith,  
Blend it with tenderness, just to be safe;  
Kindness, understanding you also must add,  
Friendship and hope which cannot be bad.  
Sprinkle with laughter right up to the top,  
Bake it in sunshine, no need to stop.  
Serve this up daily with helpings galore,  
Don't be afraid to come back for more.**

**(came across this in an article I was reading, so hope the Girl Guides  
Enjoy it and don't mind me including it. Ed)**

## **A THOUGHT ON NUMBERS**

In one of this week's morning readings our Minister referred to the Lord sending out the Disciples in pairs.

I have always been fascinated by numbers and hearing this particular reading I started to think more about the number 2. It is a very significant number, considered to be a symbol of partnership and balance but also a symbol of opposition or conflict!

In the Far East it is considered to signify good luck.

In Biblical terms it is said to be Eve's number. Symbolises union but also separation and division!

Mathematically 2 is the smallest prime number and the only even prime number. 2 and 3 are the only consecutive prime numbers.

In Chinese culture 2 is an auspicious number since Chinese people believe that good things always come in pairs.

222 is a cardinal number, factorization being 2 times 3 times 37.

All the references to the number 2 which is a number which features in the Bible quite often and to the reading by the Minister started me to wonder if we are missing a trick here. When we go out on District visitation we always go alone and so my thought is, would we achieve more by visiting in pairs when, apart from regular District visits, we go visiting?

Thinking about it when we have visitors from other denominations knocking on our doors there are normally 2 people on the doorstep.

Any thoughts?

AMOTKS.

## HUMAN STORIES

A fascinating book, one to be lift and laid, rather than read systematically from cover to cover, is: *"Humans of New York – stories"* compiled by Brandon Stanton, published by St Martin's Press, NY.

It is a compilation of photographs of men, women and youngsters going about their business on the streets of New York City. Alongside each of the photographs is a caption, quote or story offered by the diverse range of individuals who agreed to be photographed.

Here is one such short, touching, story supplied by a middle aged man –

*"Right after I lost vision in my eye, I was so bad at walking that I ran into a girl eating ice cream and knocked the cone out of her hand. She screamed, "Are you blind!?"*

*I turned to her and said, "I am blind actually, I'm so sorry, I'll buy you a new cone."*

*And she replied, "Oh my goodness, I'm so sorry! Don't worry. It's no problem at all. I'll buy another one."*

*So we walked into the ice cream store together and the sales person said, "I heard the whole thing. Ice cream is free!"*

.....

*The Men's Breakfast Discussion Group* has been meeting on zoom. We make our own breakfast; gone for the time being are the cooked Scottish breakfasts.

At the December meeting, we were joined by *Dr Gavin Francis*, a GP in Edinburgh, but also a successful author of several books, mainly about travel in remote places. He explained to and discussed with us how he goes about his writing.

We are all battle weary from the corona virus pandemic, but Gavin's very latest book, published on 7 January, is entitled – ***"Intensive Care: A GP, a community and Covid-19"***.

It was described by the Times newspaper as - *"Well written, often entertaining and occasionally deeply moving; an unmissable account of a year we will all try too hard to forget."*

It also explains - how ill prepared the NHS was for such a pandemic; how truly deadly the virus actually is; the many lessons that have been learned, in quick time for the future, and the terrible dangers faced by GPs and other health professionals working on the frontline every week. A must read.

## **Another Monday Morning in Lockdown**

Monday again and still in lockdown. The sun is shining. The golf course is closed because of the snow and ice and in any case is it wise to play golf under the existing restrictions? Should we stay at home or at least take some exercise?

Exercise is considered essential and must be preferable to another Zoom Meeting in front of the same screen and within the same four walls. Possibly more paperwork and emails? No, we decided to drive to Aberdour and do part of the Fife Coastal Path from Aberdour towards Burntisland, a walk no doubt enjoyed by many others.

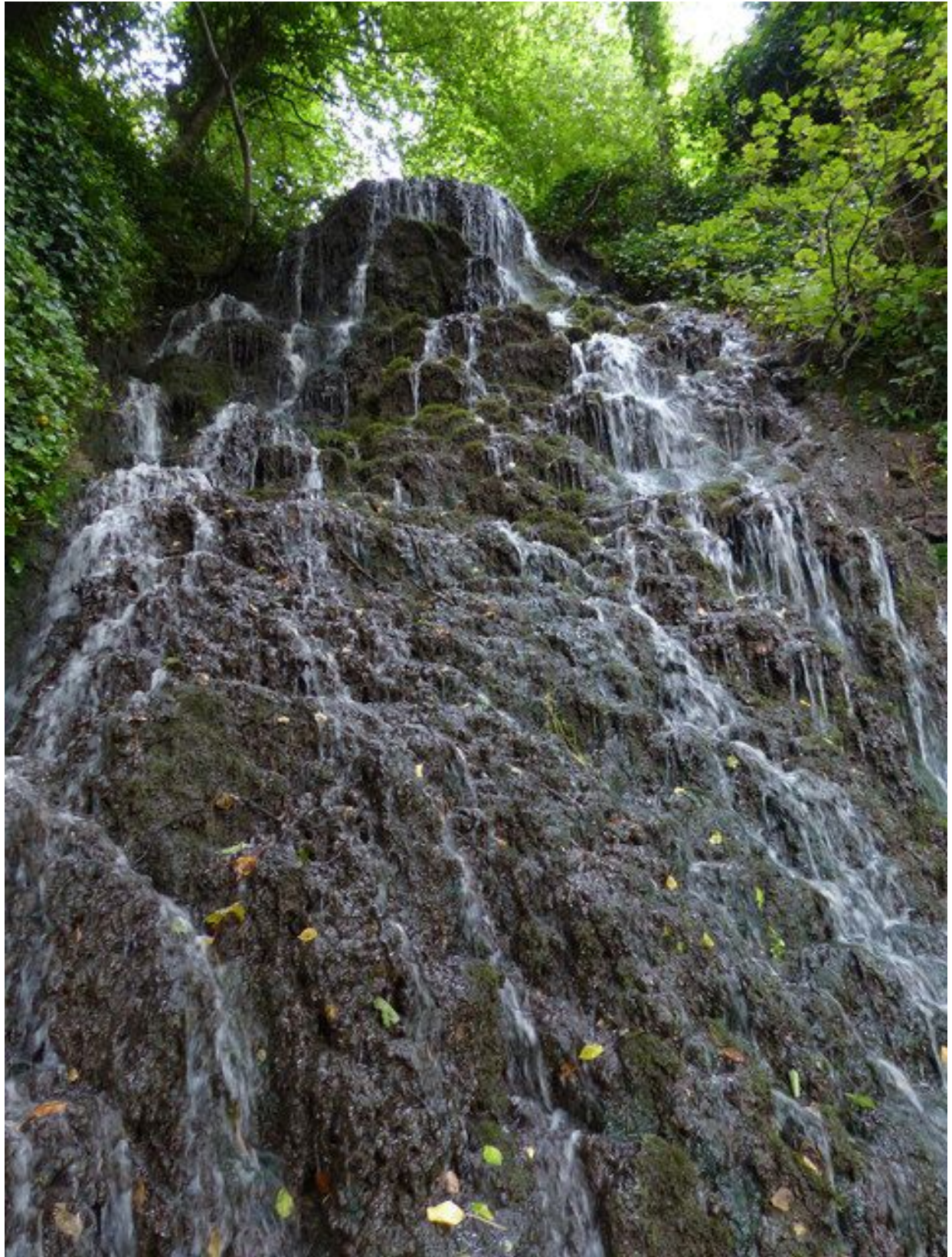
It was a beautiful morning, the path was quiet, the sun was glimmering on the waters of the Forth and the views across to Edinburgh were crystal clear. Arthur's Seat was clearly in view. In the course of the walk we reached the picturesque Starleyburn Waterfall. Someone had thrown a coin into the waterfall and it was glinting in the sun. After proceeding further towards Burntisland we turned back to Aberdour. In the course of our walk we were able to watch two paddle boarders on the water and remarked, on what was a very chilly but bright January morning, that the paddle boarders had every incentive not to fall off their boards! Arriving back at the car we felt refreshed and realized that there is still a real world out there.

No lunch out or even coffee, just a return to Zoom, Team's meetings etc.

**ANON**

(thanks to the person who gave this to me. I have put the photo on the next page so you can see the beauty of this spot. Enticing you to go walking to different places?? Ed)







## *All things bright and beautiful!*

*As this is being written, it's a beautiful day in March. The sun is shining, the sky is blue and the first signs of Spring are appearing. Truly a day to gladden the heart....and remind us of the beauty which surrounds us! The past year has caused great concern for everyone, there's no denying it. Our lives have been strange, worrying and very difficult in many ways. However, in one way Jim and I have come to realise that, although certain aspects of "normal" life have been taken away....we have been given a wonderful gift; the gift of time! How have we used this gift? Well, we thought readers might be interested to find out-if so, please read on.*

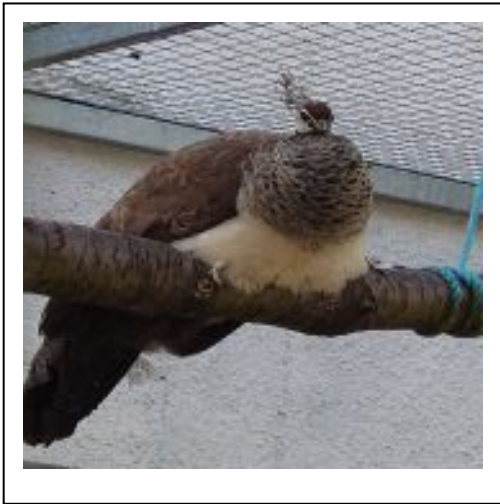
*Having lived in Dunfermline for many years, the Glen (or Pittencrieff Park if you prefer) has always been one of our favourite places. It's an amazing "natural wonderland" which offers so much throughout the year. As each season arrives, the glen is transformed....it's quite magical! During the past year, this is the place where we have spent a great deal of time and have been richly blessed.*



*Many of you will recall Gala days-the excitement of parading down the High Street, enjoying a picnic lunch with games to follow during the afternoon in the Glen. There were crowds of people but there always seemed to be enough space for everyone. In the past months we've had the pleasure of being able to wander, sometimes seeing very few other people. To be honest, sometimes we tried to choose times which were more likely to offer peace and solitude. But on every visit, there were beautiful sights which we were able to appreciate because we had the time to do so.*

*Jim enjoys taking photographs. He is the first to admit that he is an amateur but one who gains great pleasure from his hobby. When he hoped to take photographs of wildlife, we often spent quite a while in the Glen in search of "a good photo opportunity." We have been rewarded by sighting a buzzard circling above us....a heron standing sedately by the pond across from the cafe....numerous playful squirrels who would "pose" for a moment or two if they were given peanuts. On one occasion, Jim put some nuts on the palm of his hand and a lovely Great-tit swooped down, helped himself to a nut and flew off with his treat.*

*Of course we couldn't possibly miss out some of the star attractions in the Glen....the peacocks! Thanks to a lot of hard work, there is a fair-sized group of these magnificent birds once again. It's been great to watch the young ones grow from small chicks to (nearly) fully-grown adults. They seem to enjoy company too! Often when you visit their enclosure, they will happily come over to see you! The attendant who cares for them hopes that they will be able to roam freely like their predecessors. After all, peacocks have right of way in Dunfermline!*



*Of course, sometimes nature rests and, although creatures may still be nearby, they don't make their presence obvious. At these times, our focus has changed to "flora and fauna." The variety of trees and plants in the Glen is amazing! A friend of ours once commented that she loved coming to Scotland because we have seasons! In her part of the world the weather stays much the same throughout the year. There is no better place to witness the beauty of the four seasons than the Glen! Right now, there is an abundance of new life "waiting in the wings." In the Summer months the gardens will be a delight with myriads of gorgeous roses and many other flowers. In Autumn, the landscape adopts a palette of rich colours...fallen leaves which look so lovely, scattered over the grass like confetti. With the arrival of Winter, the Glen becomes magical! Yes. I know the paths become slippery and it's not always possible to visit at such times. However, there is no better place for a walk when it's a cold morning and everything is coated with sparkling frost.*

*So, without a doubt we are blessed to have a place where we are free to wander and enjoy "All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small."*

*Linda and Jim Adamson*



## LOCKDOWN CRAFTS

For many decades, generations of my patient family have tried to instruct the children in the skill of knitting, then given up. Granny Copland should have been given a medal for her efforts, which did not result in much success. Not that it was her fault I have to say. During the lockdown things have changed! Not to be beaten, my Grandson Keiran, successfully completed a hat by his own fair hands (with a weird knitting contraption he was given for Christmas) Which just goes to show, if you can't do it one way look for another. We now have to supply him with wool for future projects

(This sent in by Corinne Keatings for which many thanks. The "contraption" is below – anybody recognise it??? You may remember Keiran from the last magazine – he was the young lad who went shopping in Berwick in his snorkelling outfit. Well done Keiran – see what you can come up with for the next magazine please!! (Ed)



A NOVEL WAY TO  
PICK A PASTRY



I am reliably informed by Irene Cunningham that this appeared  
on Facebook by Viking.

(Another good use of the tongue! (Ed)



## THE MISSISSIPPI BELL



**Another of Ian Hamilton's masterpieces This time the Mississippi Bell which of course sailed up and down the Mississippi river and a modern version of it still does as a great tourist attraction as well as delivering goods. I headed the page in the colour grey as if I recall correctly the "rebels" uniforms were grey and their battle cry was**

**" UP THE REBELS"**

**Isn't this a beautifully built model.**

**(Ed)**

## COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD



Would be good to hear how many you have found. Do send the information to me by e mail ([rosskerr@me.com](mailto:rosskerr@me.com)) or by telephone (01383 726663) All I need is your name ( eg Fred Jones){ and the number you have found. The list will be published in the next edition or perhaps Iain will put it out in his weekly newsletter. (Ed)

## LOGIC FROM AN UNCLUTTERED MIND

A little girl was talking to her teacher about whales

The teacher said it was impossible for a what to swallow a human because even though it was a very large mammal it's throat was very small.

The little girl stated that Jonah was swallowed by a whale,

Irritated, the teacher reiterated that a whale could not swallow a human: it was physically impossible.

The little girl said "when I get to heaven I will ask Jonah",

The teacher asked "what if Jonah went to hell?"

The little girl replied, "then you ask him".

A Kindergarten teacher was observing her classroom of children while they were drawing.

She would occasionally walk around to see each child's work

As she got to one little girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was.

The girl replied "I'm drawing God".

The teacher paused and said, "but no one knows what God looks like".

Without missing a beat, or looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, " they will in a minute".

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her 5 & 6 year olds.

After explaining the Commandment to "honour" thy Father and Mother, she

asked "is there a Commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?"

From the back, one little boy (the oldest of a family) answered "Thou shall not kill".

One day a little girl was sitting and watching her mother do the dishes at the kitchen sink. She suddenly

noticed that her mother had several strands of white hair sticking out in contrast to her on her brunette head.

She looked at her mother and inquisitively asked why are some of your hairs white Mum?"

Her mother replied, "well, every time that you do something wrong and make me cry or unhappy, one of my hairs turns white"

The little girl thought about this revelation for a while and then said, "Mummy, how come ALL of Grandma's hairs are white?"

Anon.

(The strife of the teacher – and it appears it is the "little ones" mainly at the back of the room that come up with the responses. Were you one of them???)

(Ed)

JUST IN CASE YOU THINK ONLY OUR MAGAZINE HAS THE  
VERY OCCASIONAL ERROR!!!!

The following have all appeared in church magazines so let us thank God for churches with typewriters.

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Next weekend's Fasting & Prayer Conference in Whitby includes all meals.

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Sunday morning sermon: 'Jesus Walks on the Water'  
Sunday evening sermon: 'Searching for Jesus.'

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Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

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Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community.

Smile at someone who is hard to love.  
Say 'Hell' to someone who doesn't care much about you.

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Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

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Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

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(cont. from previous page)

For those of you who have children and don't know it,  
we have a nursery downstairs.

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Next Thursday there will be try outs for the choir. They  
need all the help they can get.

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Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on  
October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that  
began in their school days.

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At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be  
'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir  
practice

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Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the  
addition of several new members and to the  
deterioration of some older ones.

Thanks to Marjory MacIntosh for these – none of course relate to St. Margaret's

(Of course as good Christians we could say that these were all deliberate to cause some humour!!!)  
( Ed)

## **ORGANISATIONS**

**The Craft Group** - Meet on Tuesdays in the Rita Elder Hall at 2.00pm. Contact Audrey McArthur on 01383 728128

**Ladies Badminton** - Meet for social Badminton every Wednesday at 10.00am - 12 noon in the Church Main Hall. Contact Cherry O'Sullivan on 01383 720594

**Men's Breakfast Discussion Group** – Meets periodically on a Saturday morning from September - May at 8.30am (see website or programme in the magazine for actual dates and/or contact Gordon Brown on 01577 840248)

**Sunday Club & Crèche** - Meet in the Church at 10.30 am on Sundays during Morning Service, except during school holidays. Contact - Helen Webber on 01383 736486

**JAM (Jesus And Me) CLUB** –Meet Sundays in term time at 5.45pm - 7.15pm. Contact Linda Adamson on 07540 284027

**Rainbows** - Meet every Tuesday in the Rita Elder Hall at 6.15pm - 7.30pm Contact Helen Webber on 01383 736486

**Brownies** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Dunfermline Pack meet on Wednesdays in the Downstairs Hall 6.15pm - 7.45pm. Contact Susan Guild on 01383 727167

**2<sup>nd</sup> Dunfermline Guides** meet on Thursdays in term time, from 7.15-9.15pm.  
For more information, please contact Anne Simpson on 01383 410490 or 07972181351

### **BEAVERS - CUB SCOUTS - SCOUTS - EXPLORER SCOUTS**

Meet in **the Scouts H.Q. Carron Grove**

Contact GSL Graham McCreadie

**Beavers** - Mondays 6.30pm - 7.45pm

**Cubs** - Tuesdays 7.00pm - 8.30pm

**Scouts** - Wednesdays 7.30pm - 9.30pm

**Explorer Scouts** - Thursdays 7.00pm - 9.00pm



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