



May 2018

Pages 2 - 3	A View from the Manse
Page 4	Dates for your Diary
Page 5	St Andrews Cluster Joint Service/A Vision for Pentecost ...A Vision for the Future
Page 6	The Church Family, Prayer and Thank You
Pages 7 & 8	Ramblings of the St Leonard's Treasurer/Its Tea but not as I know it
Page 9	Rev Valerie Watson
Page 10	St Leonard's Parish Kids
Page 11	World Mission Stamps
Page 12	Update on Malawi Ploughs/Guild Notices
Pages 13 & 14	Christian Aid & Calling all Kids
Page 15	Flower, Tea & Coffee, Crèche Rotas & Easter Flowers at St Leonard's
Page 16	Useful Contacts

A View from the Manse

Dear Friends,

One of my favourite Easter stories comes from the Gospel of John, and takes place in the days after Easter, when Peter and a few other disciples decide to return to their boats and nets and go fishing. It seems like a perfectly normal thing to do. After all, that's how they'd earned their living before they met Jesus.

But they've lost their touch. They fished all night and didn't catch a single fish. They're discouraged and frustrated, and then just after dawn they hear a man standing on the beach asking them if they've had any luck. When they reply that they haven't, he tells them to try the other side of the boat, and figuring that it can't hurt to try, they cast their nets to the other side and catch so many fish that they can't even haul the nets into the boat.

Immediately they recognise that this stranger on the beach is their friend, Jesus, and they quickly go to shore to meet him; building a fire and sharing a beach breakfast with him.

And I think that what I love about the story is that the disciples, at a loss for what to do now that Christ has risen, return to something familiar. They return to what they know.

But they find that it's not the same anymore. And here comes this man with a ridiculous suggestion that the problem is simply that they're fishing from the wrong side of the boat!

Continued on page 3

A View from the Manse continued from page 2

Like all fishermen, the disciples were fishing from the left side because the steering apparatus was located on the right side of the boat and thus fishing from that side risked tangling the net, and no one was going to risk damaging the nets never mind the boat. Yet when they do what Jesus suggests, when they allow the risen Jesus to change their old habits, the disciples get more than they imagined possible.

You and I are so like those disciples returning to their boats and the life they knew. We celebrate the seven weeks that take us from Easter to Pentecost, while going about our old habits, routines, and patterns of life. Like the disciples, we too return to what we know.

Jesus doesn't criticise the disciples for returning to their old way of fishing. Instead he offers them a small but significant change, a twist on the old way that has huge results.

And Jesus offers us the same. The risen Jesus offers us a twist on the old way, as we're called to respond to Resurrection with fearless love that transforms even our smallest habits, routines, and ways of life.

What would it look like for you and me to fish on the other side? What would it look like for you and me to go about everyday life responding to the call of the risen Christ...casting our nets on the other side and allowing familiar ways to be transformed by resurrection love.

Grace and Peace to you.
Your friend and pastor



DATES FOR THE DIARY

St Leonard's

- 13 May St Andrews Cluster Joint Service at Holy Trinity Church – 11am.
- 20 May A Vision for Pentecost...A Vision for the Future
- 5 June Kirk Session Meeting

Farewell to Alan McGeoch

Our organist at St Leonard's, Alan McGeoch, will be retiring at the end of May after being church organist and choir master for the last ten years as well as for an earlier period between 1984 and 1993. Working with Alan McDonald, Colin McIntosh and finally closely with our minister Graeme Beebee, he has thoughtfully led our singing of hymns and in his choice of introits and anthems sung by the choir. He has also been a very constant organist when required for funerals and weddings. Alan has now decided it is time to have some Sundays off and be able to visit his growing grandchildren more often.

During this last ten years the choir has gone from strength to strength meeting Alan for rehearsals at 9:45am every Sunday from September through to June. He has also worked with the St Leonard's children to provide music for the Nativity Play on many occasions. He will be greatly missed.

We would like to mark Alan's retiral with a presentation and this will take place during worship on 28th May, which will be his last day as our organist. If you would like to contribute please put a donation in the offering bag marked for Alan's retiral.

Mary Popple, Session Clerk

St. Andrews Cluster Joint Service

Sunday 13 May at Holy Trinity Parish Church

The congregations in the St. Andrews Cluster are coming together to share in another joint service on Sunday 13th May, hosted this time by Holy Trinity Church. The service will begin at 11.00am, and as it's the start of Christian Aid Week, the service will take as its theme the work of Christian Aid. As part of the worship a collection will be taken and offered, with all money given through the open plate going to The North East Fife Community Hub initiative and project. Following the service there will be the chance to stay behind for a Bread & Cheese Lunch in support of Christian Aid.

A Vision for Pentecost...A Vision for the Future

On Sunday 20th May, the Church celebrates Pentecost: what some people think of as the Church's birthday. Now whether you think of it that way or not, Pentecost certainly marks a turning point in the Church's life: the moment when the Holy Spirit came to Jesus' friends in that room and the Gospel's message and Kingdom's vision burst in the world.

Here at St. Leonard's we're going to celebrate all this with an all-age service: A Vision for Pentecost. We're asking you to share your ideas for how we can grow our fellowship, how we can connect more with our community, ways for our congregation to make a difference. Any idea will be welcome...anything at all...from the really straightforward to the truly outlandish. So, let's get our thinking caps on, be involved and see where our vision will take us next.

The Church Family



New Members

Cameron

Mr Ian Cameron by resolution of the Kirk Session

St Leonard's

Prof Gavin Reid, 23 South Street

A Christian Aid Week prayer from 1958

Let us pray
for grateful hearts
for sympathetic hearts
for generous hearts
and wills quick to help
and persistent in effort.
That our nation and government
may give generously for relief of refugees
and be ready to help them find new homes
and new homelands
That all nations may live
free from fear and free from want.

Amen.

Submitted by Marie Robinson

Thank you.

The family of Margaret Beasley would like to thank everyone who contributed to the retiring collection at Margaret's funeral. £1128 was raised for the Maggie Centre.

Treasurer's ramblings

Well, my optimism following the great response to the last Gift Day has proved to be without any foundation! The budget report for the first quarter of 2018 shows a 12% drop in givings compared to 2017. And I had hoped for a 2% increase! Will the second quarter show an improvement? I am not optimistic! In addition, spending on property was 4 times the budget due to various maintenance jobs and new lighting for the hall. For the quarter, the bottom line is a deficit on the general fund not far short of £4,000. There is no way we can cover this kind of expenditure from our falling income, so I (or whoever my successor is) will have to draw on the Fabric Fund to balance the books at the yearend.



Nina Swan and I have a serious concern that some of us who think we can gift aid our givings may not actually qualify. If you contribute by green WFO envelopes or by standing order to our gift aid account (number 90433819), you need to ask, "Do I pay any income tax?" and, if the answer is "Yes", "Did I pay enough tax in the year 2017-2018 to cover all my gift aid contributions, to all my charities?" If you paid less tax in that fiscal year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all your donations, it will be your responsibility to pay the difference as HMRC will want it back. If you don't pay tax or think you may not be paying enough to cover your givings, please speak to Nina or me. And if anyone needs a note of their givings during the tax year to 5th April 2018 for their tax return, just let me know.

Continued on page 8

Treasurer's ramblings continued from page 7

The following is a transcript of a recent phone conversation to the Church Office. The names have been changed to protect the innocent. The Secretary answered the phone.

"St Leonard's Parish Church. Ephesia speaking. How may I help you?"

"This is HMRC Centre 1. Can you confirm some information we've received from one of your congregation?"

"I may be able to, but not if that would breach data protection regulations. But go ahead."

"Is Sean McGlump a member of your congregation?"

"He is."

"Did he donate £10,000 to the Church?"

"He will!"

Hamish Tait

It's tea but not as I know it



On a recent holiday in Spain I went into a café and asked for tea with milk. I was a little surprised when the server poured some milk into the bottom of the mug, then took the mug to the coffee machine to add boiling water which excited the milk into a frothy head. With the bubbles at the top of the mug

I was handed the mug and a designer pyramid teabag. Now this teabag was insubstantial, and the froth was resistant so getting the teabag in touch with any liquid was challenging and the amount of liquid was less than you get in an espresso. Apparently, this is *té con leche* - tea with milk but not as I know it.

Later I moved on to tea with lemon – a safer bet I hoped. I was given a teapot of hot water, cup and saucer, a tea bag of green tea with mint and a slice of lime – interesting!

Rev Valerie Watson

Many of you will remember Valerie from her fifteen months at St Leonards and Cameron. She was the steady hand who replaced Alan McDonald when he was away fulfilling his duties as Moderator of the Church of Scotland.

For the past five years, Valerie has been minister of Kilchoman, Kilmeny and Portnahaven Churches on Islay. As regular visitors to Islay, Mary and I have attended many services in these churches and have enjoyed spending time with Valerie on the island.

Being very close to her three score and ten years, she is retiring (for the third and last time – she claims) at the end of June this year. Mary and I thought that there may be several members of St Leonards and Cameron who might like to join us in sending a card to wish her well in her retirement. Mary has made a card to send on behalf of the two congregations which will be available to sign in both churches on the following dates:

10th, 17th and 24th June.

We do hope that as many of you as possible will take the opportunity to send good wishes to someone who served our congregations well and was greatly appreciated during her time with us.



St Leonard's Parish Kids

The St Leonard's Parish Kids (StLPK) have had a great month which started with the lovely Easter All Age Family Service in which they distributed well over 250 chocolate eggs to the congregation. They have enjoyed their holidays and were back with Parish Pancakes at the end of the month.

With 2018 being the Year of Young People for the Church of Scotland the StLPK wish to thank our congregation for their continued kind support in all our endeavours.

May is a busy month bringing us ever closer to the Summer.

On 6th May we welcome George Black who will speak to the children about the workings of Christian Aid and some of his work abroad.

There will be no StLPK running on 13th May as there is a Joint Service for Church of Scotland at Holy Trinity from 11am (to which children are most welcome).

A PANCAKES & PIE SALE is being held on 20th May. On the 20th May we will run Parish Pancakes before church from 10am and have a Pie Sale after the service on this day. This is our last chance to do pancakes before the end of our (school) year and our last fundraiser for LifeStraw StLPK chosen charity. Any contributions to the Pie Stall would be much appreciated.

We have half term holidays from the 27th May to 3rd June.

Dates for your diaries include 10th June Community Picnic (in partnership with Lawhead Primary School) 1-3pm at Lawhead (StLPK will meet at Lawhead to help set things up on the 10th June) and 24th June is a sponsored walk from Cameron to St Leonard's with a Picnic at St Leonard's Church afterwards.

From the Church of Scotland
World Mission Council

World Mission Stamp Appeal

I am writing to thank you for the used stamps which you have kindly sent to raise funds for the World Mission Stamp Appeal. Please thank everybody involved in collecting these stamps for their continued support and hard work. It is through your support that vital funds are able to be raised to help our partners worldwide. In 2017 we raised an amazing £2,194 that will be used to support Giffen Institute of Theology (GIT) in South Sudan run by our partner the Church the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan (PCOSS).

The Appeal which started in April 2018 is raising money for the Hungarian Reformed Church in Transcarpathia (Ukraine) which gives valuable support to children and young people with learning difficulties and disabilities. They help to run a number of day care centres which provide education, emotional and physical support for children and young people with disabilities, allowing them to live life in all its fullness and to enjoy participating in society and family life.

The three centres, which are open five days a week, cater for approximately 50 children/ young people. A special programme for teenagers is held once a week. In general, there is little support for people living with disabilities in the Ukraine. Those who have access to one of these centres are given the opportunity to reach their full potential.

We are pleased to be able to support their important work with money raised from this year's stamp appeal.

With every good wish
Carol Finlay

Update on Ploughs for Malawi

Eighteen months ago, at harvest thanksgiving we launched an appeal for money to buy simple ploughs in Malawi for rice farmers. At that time, we sent out enough money to purchase 21 ploughs which were sourced locally in Northern Malawi. Farmers took a loan from their farming association (KASFA) to buy a plough and then they pay the loan back in instalments over several seasons. KASFA buy more ploughs with the money from repaid loans. There are now more than 50 ploughs being used. Rev Prof John Riches, chair of Just Trading Scotland is just back from a visit to the farmers and observed the life changing role that ploughs are having. He talked with one farmer, Mackson Mwambungu who showed him the blisters on his hands from hoeing his land. Mackson hopes to be able to get a plough soon. He listened to the story of a widow Cecelia Sikwesi who currently pays around £30 per year to have her land ploughed. If she took a loan from KASFA she would be able to save that money and she hopes to have enough money to send some of her children to school. What started at St Leonard's is growing momentum with groups all over Scotland contributing, so thank you.

What is also important is that we continue to buy the produce from these rice farmers and from the other small-holder producers in the developing world. Each item on the Fairtrade stall has a story to tell. Please do continue to support this ministry. *Mary Popple*

Cameron Guild Notice

Next meeting of Cameron Guild: Thursday 10th May 2018, 2.30 pm at Cameron village hall. Planning meeting for our next session - all welcome.

The Coffee Morning on 28th April raised £1058.54. Thanks to all who supported it.

Christian Aid

Christian Aid Week this year is from Sunday 13th- Saturday 19th May. Since there is a United Service in Holy Trinity on 13th, we are dispensing with our Bread and Soup Lunch, but Hope Park/Martyrs are holding a Coffee Morning on Sat 12th from 10-11.30. Due to holidays and illness we are short of three collectors despite some established ones taking on more districts. Collecting simply involves leaving an envelope early in the week & collecting it later. If you wish to volunteer, phone me on 474872.

Read 1 Chronicles 28: 11-21. David gave his son Solomon very detailed instructions for the huge task of building the temple, but he assures him that "The Lord my God is with you" and that people "with skills of every kind will volunteer."

Haiti is one of the poorest countries in the world. This makes it even harder for Haitians to cope with the earthquakes, storms and hurricanes that hit them relentlessly. Prosperity Raymond, Christian Aid's Country Manager for Haiti, has a huge task. Tens of thousands of people like you will volunteer this Christian Aid Week. Your hard work will give Prosperity the resources he needs to help our neighbours in Haiti. Pray that God's strength will support Prosperity. Ask Him to strengthen all those who volunteer.

At The Gathering in Edinburgh in March, Skype put us in direct touch with Emma Bowder, "our woman in Bolivia", who gave an inspiring talk and answered questions on solar ovens & the enormous help they have been to women who previously spent hours gathering firewood and cooking. The ovens are being adopted in Kenya and Malawi – there will be a travelling pictorial exhibition of them in St Leonard's in the autumn in the week following our next meeting on Friday 14th September at 7.30pm in Cameron Sunday School.

continued on page 14

Christian Aid continued from page 13

At our last meeting Maureen Jack gave a quite horrifying account of her last visit to Gaza with World Mission. Clinics and hospitals suffer from a shortage of medication and funding, which leads to difficulty in maintaining consistent courses of chemotherapy over long periods. Drug addiction is a problem, not helped by the lack of pain control experts. This means that morphine is used at an early stage which can lead to addiction. Children are infested with worms from the water. Electricity is erratic. Generally, the parents of child cancer patients needing treatment in Jerusalem are not allowed permits to travel hence a much older relative travels instead.

As Christians, we must pray for the people of Gaza and Israel, and for all who seek the will of Christ for the land of His birth.

George Black

Tay Bridge Sponsored Cross in aid of Christian Aid: five walkers from Cameron raised approx. £255 (plus the additional gift-aid) on Saturday 21 April. Many thanks to all the generous sponsors!

Calling all kids - big and small! *The church has three groups that work with children: as a rule of thumb, the church's crèche is for pre-school children and there is a group every Sunday of term time for those in primary up to the age of 9 and, once you break into those all-important double figures for 10+ we have meetings once a month. The older children help to set our agenda and run many of our activities. If you have children, grandchildren or know of children in the parish who you think might like to try us out - just let us know. Better still, drop in from 11am in the hall. We'd love to see you.*

