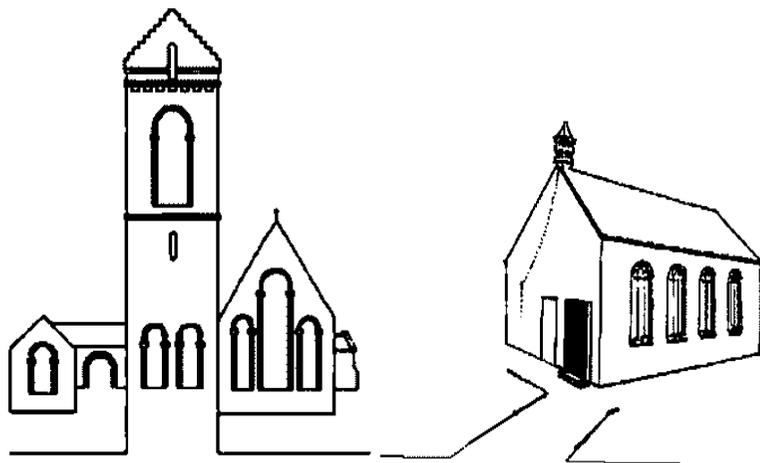


St Leonard's and Cameron
Magazine

LENT - EASTER 2019



View from the Manse

Recipes Desert Island Discs

St Leonard's Parish Kids' Page

Stories from Members

St Leonard's Parish Church of Scotland Congregation No: SC013586
Cameron Parish Church of Scotland Scottish Charity No: SC05565

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Deadline for next issue is 21st April and will cover May and June

View from the Manse

Dear Friends

*He had told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?*

Micah 6:8

The prophet Micah asks, what does God require of us? And he's asking this question in a time of dishonesty, a time of corruption, a time of injustice. It's a time when the leaders and the people had gone so far off-track that they were completely lost.

Now, had Micah asked the people his question, the answer would probably be something along the lines of sacrifice, showing up for worship, giving their offerings.

But Micah doesn't ask the people. Instead, Micah asks this question and then answers it, but from God's point of view. And the answer should never cease to shock and surprise us, to make us uncomfortable as we wonder: am I really doing that?

You see what we discover, is that God doesn't require the things we might expect, like showing up for worship, knowing the Bible inside out, chapter and verse, or having all the right beliefs. Instead, God requires that we do justice, that we love kindness and that we walk humbly with God. And as far as God is concerned, these actions are not optional when it comes to a life of faith.

So often we think of faith in terms of what we believe and how certain we are about those beliefs. But Micah wants us to think of faith in terms of what we're inspired to do and how we're inspired to live. Put simply, how does our belief in God - and as Christians, our faith in Christ - change the way we live our lives?

Continued on page 4

View from the Manse *continued from page 3*

And of course, Micah isn't the only voice in the Bible asking this question. In the New Testament we hear "faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead," and Jesus summed up the life of faith as loving God with our whole being and loving our neighbour as ourselves.

Faith is not a feeling but an action; it's the way we live out our lives with the kind of love that humbly walks with God, seeks out justice, and extends kindness to all. This is what God wants, and it seems to me, as I'm sure it seems to many, that it's what our world needs in these troubled times, when we seem to have gone so far off-track that we're in danger of getting completely lost.

Micah reminds us of where God's focus is. Not to shame us, but to encourage us, to challenge us. None of us are perfect and we all struggle with this, but although we might struggle, we can still try. And with God's help and God's grace we can grow to love more deeply, so that justice, and kindness, and a closer walk with God become more and more how we live.

So how today, or this week, or in the weeks to come, as we journey through Lent toward Easter, will you and I live our faith? How will we seek justice, and love kindness, and walk humbly with God?...because faith is about what we do with what we believe.

Grace and Peace to you



Joining our Church Family

If you would like to join the St Leonard's or Cameron Church family, please contact the Minister for further details.

Dates for the Diary

St Leonard's

3 March	Communion
5 March	Kirk Session Meeting
10 March	Stated Annual Meeting
31 March	Mothering Sunday – All Family Service
7 April	Joint Service for St Andrews Cluster at Hope Park/Martyrs Church at 11am
14 April	Palm Sunday
21 April	Easter Sunday
21 April	Emmaus Communion – 7pm
23 April	Congregational Board

Cameron

7 April	Joint Service for St Andrews Cluster at Hope Park/Martyrs Church at 11 am
19 April	Maundy Thursday Service

Ecumenical

19 April	Way of the Cross
21 April	St Mary's at the Rock – 7am

The Church Family



St Leonard's

NEW MEMBERS

Mrs Myra Milne, Fairways, 32 Forgan Drive, Drumoig, Leuchars
Dakers Fleming, Forgandakey, Forgan, Newport on Tay

DEATHS

Mr Charles Alexander, 4 Lawhead Road East (D41 Hamish Tait)
Mr John M Somerville, 7 Winram Place (D52 Alistair Leiper)

BAPTISM

Lilli Mae Gatherum, daughter of Georgia

Cameron

NEW MEMBERS

Prof Ian Barron and Rev Jane Barron, Denhead, Cameron, currently
Massachusetts, USA.

St Leonard's Church Treasurer

St Leonard's is blessed with people who will step forward when needed. I am delighted that Joan Peter has agreed to take on the role of Treasurer, taking over from Hamish Tait. This is a major role and now that we are moving to the Unitary Constitution, we will be growing a Finance team, from members across the congregation, to assist Joan and spread the load. If you would like to be part of this team, please talk to me or to Joan.

Mary Popple, Session Clerk

PRAYER

Ebb and Flow

David Adam, Tides and Seasons,
1989 (London: SPCK), p. 44

Grant to me, Lord,
Joy in giving,
Joy in receiving.
Love in-coming,
Love out-flowing.
Peace instilling,
Peace distilling.
Wisdom infilling,
Wisdom outpouring.
Grant to me, Lord,
A rhythm of life.

God who my life sanctified
Jesus Christ who death defied
Spirit ever at my side
From inflowing to ebb tide
From ebbing to inflowing tide
Ever with me abide.

Submitted by Marie Robinson

Moving to the Unitary Constitution

"Your talent is God's gift to you. What you do with it is your gift back to God".

Those words, written by Leo Buscaglia, an American author and motivational speaker who died in 1998, appear on the front page of the proposal document, detailing what it would mean for St Leonard's to move to the Unitary Constitution of the Church of Scotland (If you'd like to read the Proposal and you have access to the internet, then you'll find it on the Website stleonardschurchstandrews.com)

And on Sunday 13th January, the congregation of St. Leonard's voted to do just that: to adopt the Unitary Constitution, a decision which the Presbytery of St Andrews confirmed at its February meeting.

Now this being the Church of Scotland, there are still some formalities to be gone through before the Constitution can be officially introduced, which we hope will happen before the beginning of July.

So, while we wait for the paperwork to come through, there are things we can be getting on with; like beginning the process of asking people to join the various Action Groups which are replacing the Congregational Board to take forward and develop the work and life of our congregation. There are eight Action Groups in all:

- Finance
- Property
- Worship & Music
- CoSY – Church of Scotland Youth
- Pastoral Care
- Breaking down Walls
- Communication, Welcome & Fellowship
- Justice and Peace

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Moving to the Unitary Constitution *continued from page 8*

This is a great opportunity for people, for you, to get involved in the life of your congregation. As has been said before, we want more people – as many as want to, and as many as possible – to be involved in making decisions and making things happen at St Leonard’s

It’s why I began with that quote from Leo Buscaglia. It’s why his words appear on the front page of the Proposal; because our talents are God’s gifts to us, and what we do with them is our gift back to God. Our congregation has done and achieved many things in the past, some things that might have seemed impossible at the time, because people used their talents and skills and gifts, their knowledge and experience and expertise to make it happen.

Now is the time for us to do the same. So, don’t be shy. Don’t hide your light under a bushel. This is an opportunity for us to share our gifts as well as the load, and you are part of it. *GWB*

Easter Flowers in St Leonard’s Church

Easter is not quite on the doorstep but there will not be another magazine issued before then.

We shall be decorating the Church on Friday 19th April at 10 am. and will be very grateful for any donations of daffodils and greenery.

With Easter being so late this year, we hope there will still be daffodils available but if not, any suitable Spring flowers will be most acceptable

On Easter Sunday itself, help will be required to put the flowers into bunches and the more volunteers we have helping the more quickly we can get the bunches ready. People will also be required to deliver the flowers round the Parish.

Thanking you in anticipation *Heather Cormack*

There are 16 women’s names in the word search and each name appears in the Bible.

They may be horizontal, vertical or diagonal, forwards or backwards.

B	H	M	L	E	B	E	Z	E	J
R	A	T	D	E	L	I	L	A	H
E	A	T	U	E	E	M	Q	U	T
H	N	H	H	R	V	O	H	D	E
T	N	C	A	S	E	A	A	E	B
S	A	G	Y	N	H	N	E	B	A
E	I	D	R	E	N	E	L	O	S
S	A	R	A	H	R	A	B	R	I
L	O	Z	M	A	R	T	H	A	L
W	L	I	A	G	I	B	A	H	E

(Answers on page 28)

Update on the North East Fife Community Hub



There has been much mention of the Community Hub of late, encouraging folk to show their support, but it has come to light that there are people who weren't at the initial introduction, so don't know what it is all about.

The Hub is currently revolving around a café which is open to all from 10am - 4pm, 4 times a week.

What makes it different from any other café in town is that a number of support groups meet there too, and as the Hub grows it is hoped to increase the range of services available there. Several businesses in the town are supporting the café by donating food; these include Morrisons, Pret a Manger, and Marks and Spencer. This enables the café to operate without a price list, but instead there is a donation box, so people can pay for their food and drink according to their means.

The Hub café is open at St Andrews United Football and Social Club, Langlands Road, on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. All are welcome: those who fancy a cuppa, or a light lunch, on their own or with friends, those who would like to meet up with others to play dominoes (or a triangular variation which looks very complicated!), young mums who bring their babies and meet up with others at a similar stage, those who wish to access support services including the Credit Union (Monday morning only), the Parish Nurse, energy saving advice, or the special football memory group for people with dementia. There is a singing group, and craft activities. A timetable is being put together to help people know when specific groups are available.

Thank you to all those who have already completed a form to become members of the North East Fife Community Hub.

Continued on page 12

North East Fife Community Hub *continued from page 11*

This is really important as the Hub gets ready to put in big grant applications to secure a property which would allow more support groups to come together and be easily accessible; the greater the number of members in the Community registering their support, the more favourably the applications will be regarded.

If you would like to show your support, there are forms available on the wall by the coffee table in the main hall, or they can be emailed if you contact the church office.

If you have any questions, please contact the church office, or Jane and/or Blair Smith in the first instance... or drop in to the café and find out at first-hand what is happening.

Jane Smith

Listen, Learn, Share: Lessons from the Church in Africa

The Church of Scotland World Mission Council, October 2018

This short report draws on a number of conversations with partner African churches, and on a review of current literature. Five themes are considered: Bible study; prayer and testimony; evangelism, discipleship and commitment; repentance and reconciliation; faith and social action; worship and lay participation. The following are excerpts from the report.

'We should step outside our preconceived notions of Christianity and look to other cultures in order to see how modern-day Christianity is impacting the world as we know it.'

By 2060, more than 4-in-10 Christians are expected to live in sub-Saharan Africa.

'The essence of modern Christianity is not found in America or in the West, but is found primarily in the global South' (P. Jenkins, 2011, *The Next Christendom: The Coming of Global Christianity*, Oxford University Press).

The increasing number of professing Christians in Africa today, together with patterns of international migration, represents one important reason for taking Africa seriously. *Continued on page 13*

Listen, Learn, Share *continued from page 12*

The Word is Life: Bible Study (excerpt)

Scripture and preaching are central to Christianity in Africa. Firstly, Bible study is at the heart of personal devotion and church life. Bible studies are a way of nurturing the faithful. Clapperton K Mayuni, from Malawi says there is an 'openness of the people to the Gospel'. Reading the Bible, however, is more than a 'cognitive' exercise; it is grounded in the lives people live. It has practical application to the daily lives of people. The Word is life in the context of a very different view of the world – there is no division between the sacred and the secular; there is particular understanding of spiritual warfare*; and people have an appreciation of the precariousness of life. Secondly, the spoken word of the preacher applies Biblical texts to the daily realities of life and, in some cases, reinforces the notion of spiritual warfare. This encourages people to be 'in the daily habit of reading God's Word'.

Faith and Social Action (excerpt)

Community is at the heart of African life and religious experience. It was often the church that filled the gap in times of political or economic difficulties. Peggy Mulambya Kabonde from Zambia states there is no one model of faith in social action, but it is rooted in church teaching. It is an expression of the practicality of Christianity and the African ideal of Ubuntu. A person with Ubuntu is fully human, generous, open and affirming of others, belonging to community and in relation with others around him/her.

Contemporary African theologians have used African traditional religious values, particularly that of community, to seek to articulate the liberating character of God's Kingdom as a counter-narrative to the legacy of colonialism; the injustices of daily life, as a challenge to patriarchy, and the setting for the manifestation of Ubuntu.

Margaret Masden in Tanzania comments that following on from the example of many missionaries, the Church in Africa still actively ministers to the 'sick and oppressed'. In South Africa, Boitumelo Gabarone explains that the church is a healing community and a key 'component in the healing of the entire society'. *Continued on page 14*

Listen, Learn, Share *continued from page 13*

Worship and Lay Participation (excerpt)

Worship is a dialogue between God and humankind, involving the totality of our experiences and exposure to the world in which we live. In this way, an understanding of worship must include not only what believers do in gathered worship, but also what they do outwith the place of worship.

While the clergy continue to play a prominent role in churches, the life of the churches in Africa is centred on the laity, especially women. They, along with children, are often the larger number in almost every church congregation. The basic arrangements for lay participation in the life of the churches in Africa are fellowship structures, mission structures, administrative structures and charismatic structures. Churches seek to provide space to both the clergy and laity to express their God-given spiritual gifts in the Church. Worship is essentially experiential, Spirit-led, and communal, with worship often leading into times of prayer for healing and deliverance.

Finally, some questions to ponder with regard to our Church in Scotland: Have our conversations been dominated by a desire to share with others what God is doing?

Has our money been spent on providing for those who have less? than we have?

In church we think we know how to pray – how much time have we spent teaching those inside and outside the church who do not?

How much have we looked for from our ministers instead of developing and using the gifts of the whole people of God?

A copy of the report is available to borrow in the information area at Cameron, or you can read it and more online at:

http://churchofscotland.org.uk/serve/world_mission/reports_and_resources/africa_report

Submitted by Marie Robinson

*According to Wikipedia, spiritual warfare is the Christian concept of fighting against the work of preternatural evil forces.

News from Cameroon – 2019

Editor Isobel recently asked me if I had any news from Cameroon. Apart from Christmas Greetings from our friends there, we had none. A few days ago, however, that changed when Hamish and I both received emails from Pastor Tchao and his wife, Rachel.

Rachel's message was a mixture of good and bad news. All is going well for their family, or as well as it can for any family there. Pastor Tchao himself has been promoted within the Baptist Church and this means many hard trips south for meetings. After three years of working in Guider their church is being extended. Rachel continues with her mission to train as many girls and women as she can in dressmaking and dyeing materials, so that they will always be able to feed their families and avoid poverty and prostitution. Now she trains some young men too and the number of willing students keeps on growing. As usual she lacks the materials and sewing machines that she needs to enable her to train even more villagers. When the family had to move to Guider all the machines were left behind for the women of Zidim and Maroua, so that they could continue with their work.

As for the Tchao children, eldest daughter Clémentine tried for years to get into the local teacher training college but failed because her father refused to pay a bribe. She now works happily for an international development organisation. Séraphine managed to get to college in Yaoundé, the capital, and is now married and works as a teacher. Against all odds their son, Augustin, should soon qualify as a doctor. His studies were disrupted for over a year when the Cameroonian government closed down the medical school without giving either warning or reason. After a year at home Augustin went to the Democratic Republic of Congo to continue his studies. Life there has been hard and dangerous for him. On one occasion he was mugged and lost a lot of really important documents, including the all-important Identity Card, without which further education is impossible.

Continued on page 16

News from the Cameroon *continued from page 15*

Augustin has survived many hurdles in pursuit of his goal, often by sheltering from riots in his accommodation. He deserves to succeed. The youngest member of the family, Grace, is in her final year of secondary school and hopes to continue with her education. The Tchaos have worked tirelessly to give their children and the wider community every opportunity to better their lives.

Now for the bad news: on 24th January Boko Haram raided the village of Touro, not far from Guider, burning down over a hundred Christian homes, two churches and the Health Centre. Many people are now destitute, as their food stores for the year, their herds of goats and the few clothes they possessed all went up in flames. A large number of people were hurt but fortunately nobody died, as they managed to flee into the mountains. As Jean Tchao put it: "The Mountains saved their lives". For this to happen now when everyone thought that calm had returned to the Extreme North of Cameroon has been a huge blow. Please keep the people of Cameroon and the Tchao family in your thoughts and prayers as they continue to do God's work no matter what goes on around them.

During our two years in Cameroon Hamish and I visited both Guider and Touro, a couple of hours from our home in Zidim. At that time Touro was visited by tourists, who were mainly from the voluntary organisations in the country. The attraction was Touro's womenfolk who wore huge hoop earrings and decorated bowls on their heads as they went to market, a fearsome sight! Unfortunately, tourism ended with the arrival of the terrorists and the enforced departure of the volunteers.

Rachel's message ended as always with the words:

L'Éternel est mon berger. Que Dieu vous bénisse - The Lord is my shepherd. May God bless you.

Anne Tait

RECIPES FOR FAIR TRADE FORTNIGHT



Fairtrade Banana Cake

Simplified from recipe Fairtrade Foundation Website, Jan 2019

500g extra-ripe, soft Fairtrade bananas, mashed
400g plain flour 2 tsp baking soda
280g butter, room temp. 4 large free-range eggs
350g Fairtrade golden caster sugar
200 ml sour cream 3 tsp Fairtrade vanilla extract

Pre-heat oven to 180 deg. C or gas mark 4. Grease/line a cake tin.
Sift flour and baking soda in a large bowl; add in butter using a hand mixer until mixture is creamy.
Stir the vanilla extract into the sour cream, add this to flour mixture.
Beat in the eggs one at a time; mix in sugar and bananas.
Pour into the tin and bake for 25 minutes or until a skewer comes out clean.
Cool for 10 minutes, then turn out onto a rack.
Optional chocolate icing: Combine 40g soft butter, 230g icing sugar, 30g Fairtrade cocoa, and 2 tbsp milk. Beat till smooth then spread over the cake once cool.

Chocolate Tiffin

Ingredients

110g butter 2 tbsp sugar (Fairtrade)
2 tbsp golden syrup 1 handful of raisins (Fairtrade)
4 teaspoons of cocoa powder (Fairtrade)
225g rich tea biscuits, crushed
225g cooking chocolate, half milk, half dark (Fairtrade)

Method

1. In a saucepan, melt the butter, sugar, syrup and cocoa. Add the biscuits and raisins when melted. Stir to combine.
2. Pour mixture into a small round tin and press down. Melt the cooking chocolate and pour over the mixture in the tin.
3. Pop the tin into the fridge and leave for about 1 hour to set.

MY DESERT ISLAND DISCS

by Ailsa Beebee



When I was asked if I would do Desert Island Discs, I thought I would not be able to find 8 pieces to take with me, but the more I thought about it, the more I realised that a huge number of songs have had an impact on my life or have reminded me of special times. Only picking 8 was going to be quite hard. Where does "Save all your kisses for me" from the Brotherhood of Man go? I used to sing it and do all the actions in my dungarees to my granny on a Sunday. There are so many great songs out there and I do enjoy a good tune, my dad used to say if there was an O Level in pop music, I would get it! This was probably because on a Sunday night while we were all trying to have our Sunday dinner, I would have my tape recorder slap bang up against the radio recording my favourite songs from the charts, everyone had to go silent while my favourite song was taped! Thank goodness for the Christmas when I received a 5 pin-din plug!!! Sunday dinners could be eaten undisturbed, while my little tape recorder recorded happily the tunes with no clattering of dishes in the back ground. So, the pieces of music I have selected are a mixture of my favourite artists and not necessarily their biggest "hits", with a few other pieces that I have enjoyed. A lot have film connections, mostly because I also enjoy a good film with a great score.

1. Dances with Wolves by John Barry

John Barry film scores are amazing, we know so many of them -" Born Free", "Out of Africa", James Bond themes just to mention a few, but the one I love the most is the score from "Dances With Wolves". It came out at a time of the BIG movies, the ones you had to see on a big screen to have the full impact, you could not wait for it to come out on DVD or watch it at Christmas on your TV. The impact of the score with the film was incredible, you could imagine yourself on these vast plains following the bison. The main theme tune has a gentle warmth and depth that just creates a lovely calmness when listened to. *Continued on page 19*

2. Take on Me - a-Ha (1985)

Ah!!! A-Ha - well, you must remember here that I was 15! I thought a-Ha, a band of 3 Norwegian young chaps were rather "dishy", especially Morten Harket! I spent the summer holiday of 1985 sitting in my father's car with my a-Ha album on tape on repeat, while my family were in the caravan!!! "Take on Me" was the first tune we were all introduced to and it has stuck with me. When they returned a few years ago, their music was just as good, if not better. It was more mature, just like those of us listening.

3. Happy – Pharrell Williams

Now this is a modern, happy, tap your toes type of song and no one can deny that. I had difficulty deciding on this tune (or Justin Timberlake and "Can't Stop the Feeling") from the film "Trolls", it is just as fun and crazy. But Pharrell won. This is another film tune. When you teach little people, you have to get to know the films that they are watching. About 10 years ago Graeme started to mention little yellow characters he was hunting, I thought he had lost the plot! Then "Despicable Me" came to our cinemas and the little yellow people or Minions arrived with Gru and this Happy tune. Both music and film will make you smile and make you Happy.

4. When I fall in Love – Rick Astley (1987)

Many people will be wondering why I have selected a cover of the classic by Nat King Cole. I was 17 and Rick Astley was just the bee's knees! Not only that, my best friend bought me this single for my Christmas. Rick Astley had the most amazing voice, however, he put fame aside to bring up his daughter. Fast forward almost 30 years to 2016 and the release of "50" it was great to hear him again, 2018 a new album, "Beautiful Life", the tunes and lyrics are just lovely. I did not pick "Never Gonna Give You Up" or "Together Forever", I picked the one that reminded me most of my best friend, Eleanor. Reliving my youth, I was thrilled to be going to see Rick in concert for the first time with Eleanor at the age of 48!!! He was **AMAZING!!!!!!**

Continued page 20

5. Chi Mai – Ennio Morricone

All I can say about this piece of music is, it is beautiful. Again, like John Barry, Ennio Morricone is known for so many great scores, but this piece will be better known as the tune used in the TV series, "The Life and Times of David Lloyd George", a series my mother loved, but it was the music that caught my ear and is one I could listen to over and over again.

6. Because You Loved Me – Celine Dion (*Up close and personal*)

Celine Dion is an artist I have enjoyed for many years. I was lucky to see her at Murrayfield a number of years ago and her presence on the stage was outstanding. Most folk think of Celine Dion and automatically think "Titanic", that song did nothing for me, not sure if it ruined the film or the film ruined the song, but it was not one of my favourites. I have many favourites by Celine Dion, but this one has recently come back to me, it comes from a film called "Up Close and Personal" with Michelle Pfeiffer and Robert Redford. It is just a beautiful film and the words of the song also have a special meaning in my life, the special person in my life has allowed me to achieve so much "Because You Loved Me".

7. Everything I do, I do it for You – Bryan Adams (1991)

Bryan Adams music I have enjoyed for about 30 years! Seeing him in concert 3 times I could not leave him off my list. There are so many great tunes, Summer of 69, Run to You, Cloud Number Nine and many, many more. Great rock songs you want to play loudly, or lovely soft ballads you can play to relax to, he has something to suit every mood. My choice has come from another film, this one was at No 1 for about 16 weeks in the summer of 1991. It came from Robin Hood, Prince of Thieves with Kevin Costner, a brilliant film and the lyrics have so much meaning.

8. Praise my Soul

Finally, I have picked a hymn. Why this one? Well it is simple. It was one of my wedding hymns. The best day of my life. Can't really say any more than that.

Continued on page 21

Desert Island Discs *continued from page 20*

BOOK - My book is by Richard Scarry –“ When Bunny Grows Up”

I was born in 1970 in Kuwait. There were not a huge number of toys or books available to those families living in the Middle East then.

According to my late mum, my dear dad used to pace the floor with me at nights telling me stories to get me to sleep. It was he that brought Richard Scarry into my life. The book was a compilation of many stories written by Richard Scarry, telling me all about cars, planes, trains, colours, seasons, weather, traditional tales told with the animal characters of the book. I treasured this book and when my niece was born 16 years ago, I passed it on to my sister to read to her. This book had lost its dust cover and was now a plain, hard backed, brown hessian book. Although I knew passing it on was the right thing to do as I wanted Isla to love it as much as I did, there was a huge part of me that still missed this book. When Graeme and I visited our friends in America a number of years ago, I found a copy of the same book. Our friend, Bridget, had also been brought up on Richard Scarry. A trip to Borders near Rutherford, NY resulted in a replacement book being bought.

So, the Bunny Story (written in 1955) I just love to bits. It is the story of a baby bunny whose relatives all wonder what he will be when he grows up, will he be a train driver, a postman, a shop keeper, a farmer, a fireman..... no! Baby bunny when he grows up wants to be..... a daddy bunny! The picture always tickled me as the bunk bed was about 5 beds high and daddy bunny was throwing all his babies up to their beds.

My book is nothing fancy, it is not high powered, it is not intellectually challenging, but 48 years on, it still has an impact on me, it was a huge part of my life, it brings me close to my dad when I look at it and think of him reading it to me. I am pleased to see that Richard Scarry books are still widely available to date. They have stood the test of time nearly 100 years on from the birth of Richard Scarry.

PS Ailsa wanted an essential luxury item – a bag full of Dairy Milk Chocolate! (*Editor*)

St Leonard’s Advent Group 2018 **“An Adult Christ at Christmas”**

The small group met once a week for the four weeks of Advent to open our minds to diverse responses to everyday challenges by people trying to be faithful in contemporary society.

Our first meeting took the topic “Has Christmas lost its meaning?”

As a group we welcomed the opportunity to question the validity of parts of the Apostles’ Creed that fly in the face of the wondrous knowledge we have on conception and the creation of each of us as unique. The group felt however the association of the secular holiday with the celebration of Christ’s birth is a strong link in our secular society and adds to the joy of giving presents and exchanging cards, and especially the wonder of children in receiving them. In that sense the capture of the inexplicable in faith like children reveals the Word of God to our earthly existence.

Our leader expressed this as The Word of God and the Response of Man seems the best “Meaning of Christmas”.

The second topic: Incarnation –“ Only a suffering God can help”

Our leader presented that the word made flesh, meant the word of God came through actions and language and the response of Jesus which led inexorably to the Cross and the Resurrection. The coming of the Holy Spirit enabled, by the flamboyant use of language, to capture the absolute mystery that they proclaimed. It was no longer true to separate human and divine as if opposites.

Our third topic was the place of Music. This was delightfully presented, using modern technology.

Three useful facts

1. Music is the part of worship most people remember and, for some, only the last hymn.
- 2 Within the last thirty years a generational division on taste (with little overlap) has occurred

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St Leonard's Advent Group *continued from page 22*

3. Within the different genres, carols are the most popular and do cross generational boundaries. Sadly, the demand for commercial ratings excludes any reference to the Christmas story. The current favourite classical piece, "The Holy City" makes no reference to the nativity, and any loosely symbolic association with any religion.

Our final wash-up demonstrated how well our group worked. We tried to bridge the wider and diverse approach of the New Spirituality to engage in current affairs such as the conservation of our mother earth: poverty and the division of wealth between East and West. Closer to home many communities have lost public services and suggests that the Church buildings could open doors and give shelter within its walls to those services threatened with closure e.g. libraries, food banks, and community informal meeting places with coffee for lonely students. Some felt another session perhaps at Lent would benefit from a course with Preparatory reading and a CD featuring contributions from distinguished leaders from other churches. *Ian Black*



St Leonard's Visiting Group always organize a summer day on a little bus tour followed by a meal, and we leave about 11am, and return about 4.30 pm. To help us

getting our list of invitations to the outing, we would like anyone who is interested in going on this day out, to tell your Church Elder, who will then pass your details on to us, and we will get details of the day out sent to you, and you can then let us know if the event is suitable for you, and you are keen on joining us for the day.

Douglas Gray



St Leonard's Choir is looking for new members. No auditions. Please speak to the Organist, Margaret Broad or any choir member.

St Leonard's Guild Report

After a busy but a good break to enjoy with our family and friends over the festive season, the Guild returned, ready to start another session.

Our first meeting "Join up the Dots" was a Guild project introducing a truly collaborative partnership between CrossReach and the Guild to tackle the problems of loneliness and social isolation in Scotland. The statistics are very sad when you hear that 11% of adults often feel lonely and 38% feel lonely sometimes; when 22% have a strong feeling of not belonging to their local Community; 8 out of 10 carers have felt lonely and socially isolated as a result of caring for loved ones; 200,000 over 65 year olds have not had a proper conversation with friends or family for a month. CrossReach comes across the effects of this on people's physical and mental wellbeing. Our speaker Rebecca Tennant gave a very comprehensive insight into the problems and, together with the Project, aims to expose these and provide solutions for them. CrossReach provided us with a toolkit of resources that can be used for raising money e.g. Grey Cakes recipe designed to raise awareness of the importance of mental wellbeing and the stigma which society still attaches to those with poor mental health. The cakes are grey on the outside but colourful on the inside. This is to symbolise the unique talents, interests and aspirations which everyone possesses - even when hidden by the grey fog of anxiety or depression. We were told that CrossReach spends £1 million a week on what must be the "Social Work dept." covering all ages and aspects of support required for vulnerable people. All this work done in our name.

At our second meeting we were taken through a year in the working life of Brian Cunningham who gave us an insight in to his duties as Head Gardener of the gardens and estate at Scone Palace. Brian was born and raised in St Andrews and actually brought his Mum along with him for the evening. Brian had a calm demeanour and firstly told us he smiles when folk tell him the winter will be his quiet time of the year

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St Leonard's Guild Report *continued from page 24*

Far from it, it's his busiest. There is propagating of plants and clearing leaves and planning a project. Last year this was clearing a walled kitchen garden that had not been used for many decades. He knows the history of all the trees and shrubs. He had restored many beds of shrubs to their original designs having found old plans. He knew the history of the Palace and gardens and actually acts as a guide and shows groups around the buildings and grounds. His only disappointment is that the majority of visitors' bypass coming around the gardens. He thinks the next project will be to establish a play and picnic area. As you can imagine we all had lots of questions for him. One was how did he get to join the Beechgrove Garden TV programme? He told us it was all by a chance meeting with Carole Baxter as a competitor on a "who could eat the most chillies."! The rest of that story is for another day.

On 14th February was a joint meeting by all four Church of Scotland Guilds in the St Andrew's Cluster and hosted by St Leonard's to hear a talk about 150 years of Scripture Union by David and Maureen Clark. David at the age of 14 years met a wonderful man known as Boss Meiklejohn and this was the start of David's journey of Faith. It was at SU camp that David would meet Maureen who had worked for SU and the rest is history - which seemed a lovely story on St Valentine's Day.

Children's Special Service Mission (CSSM) was founded in 1868 by Josiah Speirs who saw the necessity of sharing the Christian message with children in a way that related to their real needs. Most SU summer camps took place in coastal towns around the country where children could participate in sporting and other activities along with teachings of Bible studies. All groups supported by young volunteer leaders, something rather different from the regimented Sunday Schools of many churches of the time. Over the years SU grew and groups were formed in schools, nurturing the faith of teenagers and students. SU is ecumenical, working with all denominations and none.

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St Leonard's Guild Report *continued from page 25*

In 1888 Elie had its first Mission and over many years and into recent times St Andrews and the East Neuk in particular along with Tayport were well known for both leaders and events in the SU history with many known to those attending the meeting.

In the 1990s the SU branched out into parts of Europe and Baltic areas. It was surprising to many that SU was welcome in the Ukraine and even more so that SU was spreading the word in Russia under the patronage of the Orthodox Church.

Maureen talked of leading SU group missions in various venues. Some children found it difficult to believe that a private boys' school could be so sparsely furnished and uncomfortable. Another boys school which was to house a group of girls had a large open room with 2 rows of baths where they were expected to bathe. Needless to say, there were very few used that week.

New Park School many years ago was used for SU missions because of a particular teacher there who volunteered for many years. Many of us remembered Sheila Kilpatrick.

We are fortunate to have a K2 worker, Mary Walker, working in the Tayport, Leuchars, St Andrews and the East Neuk schools, training volunteers and sharing in curriculum planning. Their funding comes from local Churches and individuals alongside a generous yearly donation from all Presbyteries in Fife.

Over the years, various large properties in Aviemore, near Kinross and recently in Ayrshire have been donated to SU and are used for camps.

David and Maureen's talk was warmly received and it was heart-warming to witness how passionate they felt about sharing the Word of Jesus with children. We can only thank them and support the SU with our prayers and our money.

Mima Clark

Introducing the New Treasurer of St Leonard's Church

In May last year, yet another appeal went out for a church treasurer as Hamish Tait, who has done a sterling job for the last nine years, wished to take a well-earned break. In conversation with him after a Session meeting, I found the words "Do you think this is something I could do?" coming out of my mouth! Where had that come from? My background is in infant education and support for learning. I rarely had the need to count beyond 10!

I have been shadowing Hamish since then and have attended a course in Edinburgh on finance software, but I am seriously out of my comfort zone, on a steep learning curve and requiring lots of support myself. My Educational Psychologist daughter tells me I'm in the Learning Pit (James Nottingham – look it up!) and at some stage I will climb out with a higher level of knowledge, understanding, new skills and stronger neural pathways. I do hope so – I was never any good at PE either! However, I do like a challenge, solving puzzles and being creative and Hamish reckons these are all skills I will need!

On a more serious note, the church's finances are not in great shape. The Stated Annual Meeting, after worship on 10th March, will reveal all. If you would like a copy of the report in advance of this meeting, please sign the sheet in the church entrance or request one by email from the church office.

There are 425 people on the church roll. Unfortunately, not everyone contributes to church funds. If we want the church to be there for us in the future, then each one of us has to think about ways in which to help. It may be that you genuinely cannot afford to give any more, but you may be able to contribute in other ways with time or talent. A small working party has already been set up to identify areas where money can be saved. Please feel free to contact me.

If you have questions about the church's finances, I probably won't have the answers straight away, but I know a man who will and he's on speed dial!

Joan Peter

Our Retiring Treasurer – Dr Hamish Tait

I speak for all members of St Leonard's Parish Church, in thanking Hamish Tait for the work he has done as Treasurer of our church for the last ten years. He presented his first set of accounts in 2010 and has looked after our finances and presented the accounts every year since then.

When Hamish took on the job of Treasurer, he came from the world of medicine rather than that of high finance. Undaunted, he worked diligently to understand what was needed and then kept abreast of the ever-changing legal and financial requirements throughout the decade. All of us who have met with him at the Congregational Board, and at meetings of the Kirk Session have benefited from his intelligence and wisdom. He was always self-effacing and, when appropriate would inject humour. Who will forget his cartoons leavening the presentation of the Accounts at the Stated Annual Meeting each year?

We thank our retiring Treasurer for undertaking the challenges of this job on behalf of us all. The role of Treasurer is a very important one in our church and this has been a job well done.

Thank you, Hamish.

Mary Popple, Session Clerk

*Answers to the word search on page 10
Abigail, Anna, Bathsheba, Deborah, Delilah,
Elisabeth, Esther, Eve, Hannah, Jezebel, Leah,
Martha, Mary, Naomi, Ruth, Sarah*



St Leonard's Parish Kids

The StLPK have been actively embracing 2019. We have tried out Multisport at the university and enjoyed a session of Yoga.

StLPK thank our supportive congregation for a large attendance at the first Parish Pancakes of the year. We raised a further £106 which we can add to over £300 we have already raised for Fife Gingerbread.

Our next Parish Pancakes is on the 24th February from 10am when we will be introducing our Wonderful Waffles as well.

In March we will be discussing gifts and talents with a chance to share these as well.

We shall also be doing a cookery session about creating good food on a budget and go on to use our skills for a charity lunch.

StLPK will be running a charity lunch on Sunday 31st March after the service. This will be a two-course lunch at a cost of £5 per person. All proceeds go to Fife Gingerbread.

Tickets will be available on Sunday from the children in the hall or from the church office.

We will then be off for the Easter holidays and all are welcome to join us in church for the Family Service on Easter Sunday.

If you have any skills, talents or cookery experience or would like to help with Parish Kids please contact Claire Olley, Simon Baldwin or the church office.



Cameron Guild:

Thursday 14th March, 2.30 pm in Cameron village hall: Dr Rosalie Wilkie will be speaking about the Tayside Children with Cancer and Leukaemia (TCCL) Lodge, St Andrews.

Thursday 11th April, 2.30 pm in Cameron village hall: a speaker from the Free to Live Trust, one of the current Guild projects, will be speaking about Seema's Project in Pune, India.

Saturday 27th April: Cameron Guild Coffee Morning, St Andrews Town Hall, 10-11.30 am. Usual stalls; all donations and help on the day will be most welcome - please come and support us.

Plant Pot request: anyone who has old plastic plant pots - 5 inch or 12.5 cm minimum across the top, so not very small ones - please let Peter Robinson know (476914) asap. He can use some for potting up plants for the Coffee Morning at the end of April

St Leonard's Guild

February 28th 7 30pm. Fire Safety in the Home. Officer Paul Dalrymple.

March 14th 7 30pm. A visit to the Western Cape SA
Rev. Jamie Walker.

March 23rd (Sat) 10-11 30am.
Spring sale and Coffee morning in the hall.

April 4th 7 30pm A.G.M.

May/June Annual Outing.

The Christmas Eve collection taken at Cameron for CHAS amounted to £220.



- Nativity Play. A total of £263-15 was raised with £75-50 Gift Aided.
- The "Count Your Blessings Booklet for Lent" beginning 6th March is available on the notice board in St Leonard's church hall as are the details of this year's Tay Bridge Cross on Saturday 11th of May when the Moderator of the General Assembly Rt. Rev. Susan Brown will be taking part. Over the years the Bridge Crossings (including the Erskine and Forth) have raised over £1.5 million.
- Christian Aid Week this year is from Sunday 12th to Saturday 18th May. It will focus on Mums and Babies in Sierra Leone. The more collectors we have the more districts we can cover. Thanks to those new collectors who have already joined us including for the new District of Scholars Gate. The week is the largest U.K. wide act of Christian witness in the year and in 2018 raised over £7 million. We hope to have the usual Bread and Soup Lunch on Sunday 12th May.
- Hope Park Coffee Morning is on Saturday 18th May at 10 am
- Our next meeting is on Tuesday 26th March at 7.30 in St. Leonard's Coffee Lounge. All Welcome. *George Black 474872*

St Leonard's Flower Rota

Thanks to all those who are willing to take part again this year to provide the flowers in St Leonard's Church. Because of the Cluster Group services, we have no service in St Leonard's three times this year. Accordingly, I have had to reorganise the dates and hope this is not inconvenient to those concerned. Apologies and thanks for your support. If you are not already on the Flower Rota and would like to become involved, do get in touch with me. We are always looking for more help and even if there is no date available immediately it is helpful to have reserves as people invariably have to change their date at the last minute.

Thank you

Heather Cormack

St LEONARD'S PARISH CHURCH

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Notice is given that the Twenty-seventh Stated Annual Meeting of the Congregation of St Leonard's Parish will be held in the Church Hall following the service of worship on Sunday 10 March, 2019 at which time and place the Statement of Accounts for 2018 and the Budget for 2019 will be presented and reports made.

Agenda

Prayer of Constitution

Minutes of the Stated Annual Meeting
of Sunday 11 March 2018

Report of the Treasurer:

- Presentation of Accounts Year Ending 31 December 2018
- Presentation of the Budget for 2019

Report of the Congregational Board

Property Report

Minister's Remarks

The Grace repeated together

Neil Gillespie

Clerk to the Congregational Board

Welcome to the St Leonard's Parish Kids' Page!

You know Easter is on the way because as soon as you've swept up the Christmas tree needles, chocolate eggs are on sale in the shops!
We have a colouring page in this newsletter. Pencils, crayons, pens or sharpies – your choice.

Have EGGSTRA fun!



Colour in your eggs and hand in at any St Leonard's Parish Kids' gathering – and you'll get a wee treat!

