

South Scene

The Magazine of Stonehaven South Church



Summer 2010 Edition

ROSTERS - JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST 2010

DUTY OFFICERS

June 6 Mrs P Logue; J Hines;
Mrs A Arandia; R Crabb

June 13 G Edgar; W Wisely;
A Johnston; Mrs A Craig

June 20 Mrs C Gardner; Miss C Hunter;
Mrs H Alexander; S Aitken

June 27 L Anderson; H Beveridge; G Edgar;
Miss C De Jonckheere; Mrs R MacMillan

July 11 J Balsillie; Mrs E Craig;
R Crabb; Mrs A Arandia

July 25 Mrs C Clouston; L Murdoch;
Mrs A Craig; A Johnston

Aug 8 R Walker; Mrs A Dawes;
S Aitken; Mrs H Alexander

Aug 22 Mrs S Brewster; Mrs P Logue;
Miss C De Jonckheere; Mrs R MacMillan

FLOWERS

Miss M Scott

Mrs A McAlpine

Mrs K Durie

Mrs C Gardner

Mrs s Brewster

Mrs C Gardner

Flower Fund

Mrs J Mackintosh

Communion

Sunday 27th June at 10.30am
Informal Communion at 6.30pm
All Welcome



Welcome to the June issue of South-Scene.

“The General Assembly was exciting!” Those are words that you do not often expect to hear. The General Assembly is essentially the Church of Scotland’s Annual General Meeting, a week-long business meeting in May each year. I have attended several General Assemblies and observed many others. Often they have interesting debates, often they deal with tough subject. But exciting?

Surely not, never that!

This year’s General Assembly was not expected to be of any interest, all the big questions are supposed to be coming next year. Yet I think this year was one of the most interesting and exciting Assemblies I can think of for some time. And I say that because of three decisions.

The first big decision was on the future of ministry. Given the state of the Church’s finances and the fact that there is over a £5 million annual deficit in minister’s salaries, the cold hard reality is that the Church can no longer afford to employ the number of ministers that it has at the present moment. So over the next few years the number of ministers will be reduced to one thousand (1000). This may seem like a very negative decision and one which will certainly mean the role of the minister will have to change as parishes get bigger through Church unions and linkages. If a minister has two or three or more Churches to look after how can he/she visit every member, lead every funeral, spend time with every sick person, plan and lead worship in every place? The answer is of course that no minister can meet these kinds of demands. Where this decision becomes exciting, I believe, is that it lays before the Church the challenge to find new local ways in which other people in the Church can be involved in leadership and ministry. It takes away the image of the minister who does everything and lays instead some of the responsibility at the feet of members of the Churches. And I think out of that

can come some new and exciting ways of being a Church which is relevant in today's world.

The next important decision was to continue with the Third Article Declaratory. Now I grant you, with a name like that, it might not seem like something which would mean all that much. But the Third Article is the one that establishes the parish system and ensures that every person in Scotland, be they Church member or not, is part of a local Church parish with a minister on whom they can call. Why is it so important? Because it says that as a Church we still care about this nation. As a Church we still care about the people around us. As a Church we exist not merely for those who have chosen to become members, but also for all those who have no time or interest in God. That means that we have to make sure in our planning and in our Church identity we recognise that we are a parish Church and that we have a responsibility to all people.

The final important report and decision of the General Assembly concerns the Panel on Review and Reform, a group that has had much influence on our Church. Their proposal which was accepted by the Assembly, is that Presbyteries when they inspect Churches every five years, as under the current system, should also be asking congregations about their plans for the future. It might sound pretty trivial, but for the first time that I can remember, the Church is being asked to look forward; to plan not just to maintain what we have, but to look to how we might develop the Church. In effect all Churches are being asked to plan for mission, to plan how they will reach their parishes, to plan how they will grow their Churches. I think that is a phenomenal thing for the Church to take on. It is a decision which puts at the heart of the Church mission and the desire to share the faith with others.

It is not often that I can be so positive about the Church. And it is not often that I can be so excited about the General Assembly. Yet I feel that this year steps have been taken which give a new direction to Church life in Scotland, one which asks us to look outward and to look to the future of our Church. That will mean the

Church enters a time of change. A time when many of the duties that we associate with ministers will change. A time when the role of the ordinary folk in the pew will change. A time when the whole nature of the ministry and work of the Church will change. And, in a world where so many are lost to the good news of Jesus, I for one welcome the possibilities that lie before us.

In the year that we celebrate the 450th Anniversary of the Reformation and the birth of our Church I am reminded of the motto of the reformation "*Ecclesia reformata, semper reformanda*" - 'Church reformed and always reforming'. It was always the intention of our Church fathers like John Knox that the Church change and develop to keep the gospel of Jesus at the forefront of the nation. Perhaps we have forgotten that in the last few generations. This year's General Assembly at least gives us the chance to put right that forgetfulness and once again become a Church which speaks to the people Scotland through each and every parish in Scotland.

Who says the general Assembly is boring or never achieves anything!

Your friend and minister,



Sudoku puzzles

Puzzle 1 – Easy

6						5	
1		2		7			
7	9				4	1	6
5			8			3	
	8			2			7
		7			3		4
3	5	4	2				1
				3		2	9
	7						3

Puzzle 2 – Medium

		8			4		2
		5	6			1	9
		7		8	9		4
1							6
		2		6		4	
	9						8
6	5		8	9		2	
8		9			3	6	
	7		5			8	

Puzzle 3 – Medium

			6		2	7	
		7		9	3		1
			1				9
3	5			7			2
	2						8
	9			4			3
2	7				5		
	8		7	1		3	
		1	8		4		

Puzzle 4 – Hard

			6	7			
6	8				5		1
7		9	4				8
		4	5			8	
	7			9			6
		6			7	9	
9					4	5	2
5			2				7
2				5	3		

South Church Guild



In a previous edition of SouthScene an appeal was made for anyone who wished to be involved in the Guild to contact the minister as soon as possible. There being no response to this appeal, the Kirk Session concluded that there is no interest in maintaining a Guild at South Church and so the decision was taken to close our Guild. This was communicated to the national offices of the Guild in Edinburgh and letter was received from Fiona Punton, acting General Secretary of the Guild, indicating that all records for South Church Guild have been closed and offering best wishes to all those who have been members of the Guild in the past.

While this may seem something sad to report and perhaps marks the end of an era, at South Church we have a number of other ways in which folk can share in the fellowship which they may have in the past enjoyed in the Guild. One of these, the Craft Group, reports elsewhere in this magazine.

The Kirk Session also wants to offer its thanks to all those who served as members and office bearers of the Guild at South Church. We hope that all will take advantage of such groups as the Craft Group for times of fellowship and friendship.

Recently the Session Clerk received the following letter from the Head of Stewardship for the Church of Scotland. We felt it so important that we have enclosed the letter in its entirety here.

The Church of Scotland Ministries and Mission Contributions 2010

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Thank you for supporting the worship, mission and service of the Church through the money you give in your offering. It is important that you know what happens to this money. This letter tells you about your congregation's Ministries and Missions contribution - the money that your congregational Treasurer sends to the Church Offices in Edinburgh. How does this enable the worship, mission and service of the Church?

The information below shows how your congregation's contribution is used to support Parish Ministries, Mission and renewal, and the general support and services provided for congregations and councils of the General Assembly.

Please note that the cost of your minister is not what he/she is paid. The cost is the total for stipend and the employer's national insurance and pension contributions, and is based on a minister with ten years' service.

<i>Congregation</i>	<i>Contribution</i>
STONEHAVEN SOUTH	£26,427
<u>Parish Ministries (87%)</u>	£22,991
The cost of ministry in your parish is	<i>£39,100</i>
The support you receive from other Church of Scotland congregations is	<i><u>£16,109</u></i>

Mission and Renewal (5.5%)

£1,664

This supports the Church's work in resourcing congregations for Christian Education and outreach, in caring for the vulnerable in society, in partnership with Churches in some of the poorest parts of the world, and in providing a Christian perspective on the issues of the day.

Support and Services (7.5%)

£1,982

This provides financial, legal, safeguarding and other services, and meets the cost of the General Assembly and the Moderator.

Please note that Ministries and Missions Contributions only provide part of the total funding required for the work of the Church listed above. A fuller picture is given in the leaflet Funding our Faith, which is available free to all congregations

(If interested speak to the minister - ed)

I hope that this helps you understand Ministries and Missions Contributions and shows you are enabling the sharing of the Gospel through the money your congregation sends through the Church Offices to all parts of Scotland and beyond.

Yours sincerely,

Gordon D Jamieson
Head of Stewardship



TREASURER'S REPORT.

Last financial year was an expensive one for the Fabric Fund, with the formation of the the fire exit from the hall and the creation of the chapel area in the church. This year should not be so bad, although we, as a public building, are required to have an asbestos survey carried out which will cost in excess of £1000. Additionally repairs are required on the east gable of the church which will cost in excess of £5000.

With old buildings like the church and the manse, maintenance is an ongoing process, and in this context I would like to thank Bob Crabb for all the work that he does that saves us the cost of paying a contractor.

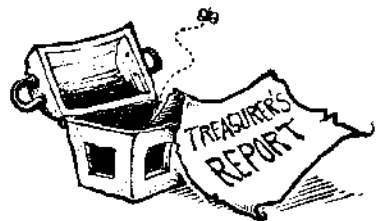
I did appeal for members of the congregation to review their level of giving, and, whilst I know that some have been very generous, some others have not changed their contributions for many years. In the meantime our running costs have increased significantly.

The fundraising events have been well supported and, and I hope they will continue to be so.

To try to improve our financial position a Stewardship Campaign will take place before too long. I must emphasise that we are still solvent, but a bigger cushion would be better!

Finally, to end on a positive note, this year the Christian Aid collection came to £417.30, which is a very good figure indeed.

Bill Wisely, Treasurer



Craft Group



Coffee or tea, a chat, the chance to do some craft activities - that is what Craft Group does every Thursday afternoon or evening in the conservatory.

As well as making items for Fundraising events, we have knitted hot water bottle covers for soldiers, made items for babies in the Special Nursery, and knitted trauma teddies. Card making has been very popular with a range of techniques having been tried very successfully. As well as seasonal cards we have also been making 'Thinking of You' cards.

Can you crochet? We invited Anne Bellerby to show us some of the wonderful items she has made and to help us develop our crochet skills. This was a very successful evening and one we can hopefully repeat in the future - either crocheting or developing another skill. Last year we did bag making and card stamping and were delighted with our finished products. Next year? Watch this space...

The Craft Group will continue until the end of June and then resume in September when we look forward to seeing everyone again as well as welcoming new faces.

Contact Sheena Brewster for More details.

Thursday afternoons 2.00 to 4.00pm	Thursday evenings 7.00 to 9.00 pm
3rd June	10th June
17th June	24th June

The Congregational Board

The Congregational Board of the members of South Church administers the temporal affairs of the congregation. The Board consists of lay or secular members, who are not involved in the spiritual affairs of the Church. The Board is responsible, under the chairmanship of the minister, to ensure that the business of running the Church - which includes fabric of the church and manse, giving permission for hall hires via the Church secretary and deciding on all other matters that may affect the Church - goes smoothly.

Membership of the Board is open to any member of the congregation on nomination and has a three (3) year term of office. At present the Board comprises 15 members who meet on a regular basis every third Thursday of the month for at least 10 months of the year.

As Trustees of the Church, Board members and Elders meet yearly to hold a joint Trustees meeting, which is followed by the Annual Stated Meeting where the 'Business' is presented to the congregation.

Board Members also have Sunday morning duties. Recent changes mean that two (2) Board members must be in attendance on a Sunday morning. One to greet and one to usher to the pews. This is a shared responsibility with the duty Elder.

As the Board is also involved in the financial giving of the congregation, Board members are involved in collecting the offering, doing the count at the end of the service, and banking the money.

At the meetings, the minutes are recorded by the Clerk to the Congregational Board, who is currently an elder of the Church. Elders are also present at Board meetings since they also are Trustees of the Church.

At present there are five (5) vacancies on the Board, which is a cause of concern. Existing Board members are stretched for duties and having a full complement would mean a more realistic rota of duties and wider discussion on Church matters.

As you read this article, think about how you could help your Church. Join the Board and be involved in the business of South Church. This is a group that matters and they need your help and input on the business management of our Church.

Anyone interested can approach the minister, their Elder, a Board member or the Clerk to the Congregational Board for information of duties and frequency of meetings etc.

Gordon Edgar

Clerk to the Congregational Board, tel: 01569 766169

News from Fundraising

The Fundraising Committee is very grateful for the excellent support that it has received from members, however there was a disappointing response to the questionnaire which was in the last magazine. The committee is hoping to organise a harvest supper and concert in the autumn and also a games night for all ages which would include games of whist and beetle.

We have had a great deal of help from the Craft Group but the numbers on our committee have dwindled and we would very much welcome new members. I hope that people will seriously consider joining us, everyone would be welcome and I hope that they would get pleasure from being part of the organisation of future events.

Please speak to me (Clare Clouston) if you are interested (01569 764656)

Clare Clouston

Celebrating the World Cup

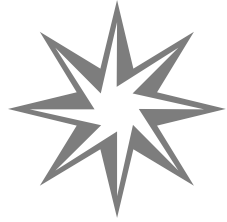
On Friday, June 11 the latest World Cup takes place in South Africa. Over the course of a month, the world's greatest football tournament takes place. With 64 games being played in a variety of venues in the African nation, there's no escaping the soccer.

A total of 32 teams will be competing for the cup and the honour of being world champions. The tournament was held for the first time in Uruguay in 1930. Just 13 teams took part, seven being from South America, four from Europe and two from North America, with the host nation becoming the first holders of the World Cup.

The event came out of the Olympics: FIFA, the game's international body, agreed to recognise the Olympic's football contest as a championship for amateurs and organised the event for the 1920-28 Olympics. FIFA and the Olympic organisers disagreed over the use of amateur players and, on the opening day of the 1928 Olympics, FIFA's president Jules Rimet announced that there would be a separate tournament for football. Uruguay was chosen as the venue for the first World Cup as they were the final Olympic champions. European nations had to travel to the country by boat, which explains why just Belgium, France, Romania and Yugoslavia made the long journey. Two further tournaments took place before the Second World War, but the 1942 and 1946 tournaments were cancelled.

Between 1934 and 1978, just 16 teams took part in the finals, expanding to 24 teams in 1982 and another eight countries were added to the finals in 1998: to give you some idea how hotly contested these places are, 204 countries took part in qualification matches for this year's tournament. The final is one of the most-watched television programmes in the world: a mind-boggling 715.1 million people saw Italy beat France on penalties four years ago. In 2002, millions will also have seen three of Brazil's World Cup winning players celebrate not by cheering but praying on the pitch. Kaka, one of the three, says of the moment, "It was a really fantastic and amazing thing".

Other Christians will be in the teams and backstage teams of this year's tournament, letting their faith be shown by their sportsmanship and fair play. Chaplains will be on hand alongside trainers, coaches and medical staff to pray for and listen to players' concerns. And the tournament, which encourages fair play and co-operation between nations, reflects the worldwide church that God has created us to be.



KIDS' PRAISE

CHILDREN'S CORNER

We have had a very busy and rewarding year at Kids' Praise and to bring the year to a close, we are looking forward to our fun afternoon at Luthermuir and the Celebration Service. These events will take place on Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th June respectively. On the Saturday, families and friends of Kids' Praise will travel to Luthermuir for a fun packed afternoon of games and races with picnic refreshments. On the Sunday, the children will be taking part in the service with songs, poems and a sketch, and at the end of the service, the children will be presented with their books.

There will also be additional presentations in respect of the winners for the Hunter/Hill Competition which the children have recently participated in. The competition is open to all the children and this year it was based on the story of 'David and Goliath'. The older children participated in a quiz and also had to design a poster emphasising 'With God's help you can achieve great things'. The younger children were involved in 'Designing a Shield'. The competition will be judged by Sheena and David Brewster and the winners will be announced at the Celebration Service.

So what have we been up to?

Easter Extravaganza

*Since the last issue of the newsletter, the children have been involved in an Easter Extravaganza. This was held on a Friday evening in April in the church hall and the idea was to bring families together for some **food, fun and fellowship**. The evening commenced with an excellent meal which was provided by the catering committee followed by a selection of Easter activities, including an egg and spoon race and an Easter Egg hunt in the church. The activities were organised by David Brewster. As an extra challenge, the children were asked to bring a decorated hard boiled egg which was judged by our Minister, David. With some fantastic entries, nobody envied David's task of choosing two winners. All the children's work from the evening was displayed in the church on the Sunday morning following this event.*

Spring Workshop 'Spring into Summer'

Kids' Praise held a workshop in the hall on Communion Sunday. Children were split into teams and participated in a selection of activities including planting a sunflower and creating flowers by using paper plates. We are hoping that the seeds will flourish into fantastic sunflowers over the summer holidays.

Christian Aid Sunday

Our theme for this week was based on the Christian Aid project for 2010 called 'Toilet Trouble' and the children heard about the project that the monies collected during Christian Aid week support. The children listened to a story about a boy called Jeremiah who lives in Nairobi in Kenya, East Africa. He lives in a very poor part of Nairobi and his family and other families do not have toilet facilities or water. This year, monies collected will go towards building new toilet and shower blocks and provide clean water for drinking, making it much cleaner and healthier for people such as Jeremiah and his family.

Pentecost Service

This was a service with a difference as the congregation had been invited to a 'party' at the church. Prior to this Sunday, the children had helped to create 'Happy Birthday' banners, birthday hats and shakers. The church was decorated with balloons and during the 'party' everyone in church participated in a game of pass the parcel. During the course of the game, nine letters were found and were arranged on a line to spell 'Pentecost'. As the party continued, the children were given time to create birthday cards and had opportunity to show their cards to the congregation and read out their 'Thank You' messages. At the end of the 'party' the children gave out gift boxes with the symbol of the dove to everyone in the church. (see the article from the Worship Group and pictures on page 12 - Ed.)

As you can see, it has been a busy time at Kids' Praise and we hope you enjoy the attached photographs and cards made by the children with this article.

Looking Ahead

During the months of July and August, Kids' Praise takes a break and will resume at the beginning of September. The new session will commence with a family event and invitations will be sent out to the children during the holidays.

On a personal note, I would like to thank the members of the team and parents for their commitment, talent, time and hard work throughout this past year. We have had a great time with the children and we are looking forward to seeing the children after the holidays.

*Wishing everyone a **happy and fun time** holiday.*

Carol Eddie.

A Selection of Kids Praise Pentecost Birthday Cards



**We thank you for
all the love and
friendship**

**Thank you for everyone
being able to get together.
For all the families that
come and for meeting new
friends. Thank you for Kids
Praise and for the people
that lead us**

Thank you for the love
shared in the church
and for the fun and joy
we have in Kids Praise

Thank you very much for
the love and fellowship within
the church and for the
chance to make new friends.

Barney's Page



GOOAAAAL!

I've got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward - to Jesus. I'm off and running and I'm not turning back. Philippians 3:14

Hello friends,
This month sees the World Cup kick off - a month of football!

Football is all about scoring goals. The Bible also talks about goals: but here it means something you work towards.

Our verse reminds us that we should make it our goal to look to Jesus whatever we do. It's a big job, so ask God for help!

Love Barney

How do footballers stay cool? *They stand next to the fans*

Jokes

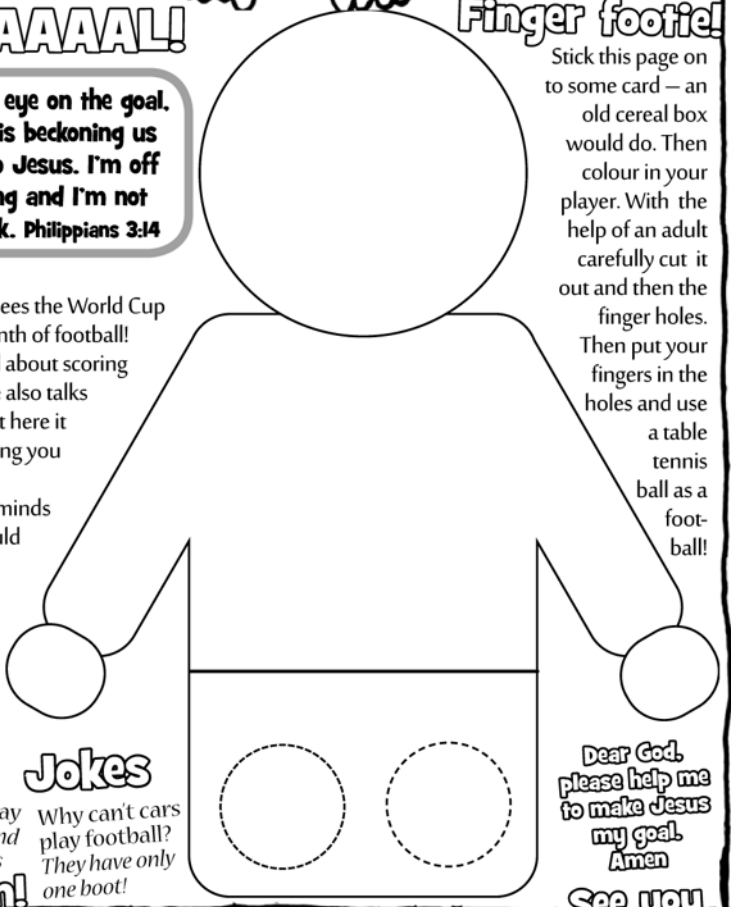
Why can't cars play football?
They have only one boot!

Groan!

THESHEEPDIP.CO.UK

Finger footie!

Stick this page on to some card - on an old cereal box would do. Then colour in your player. With the help of an adult carefully cut it out and then the finger holes. Then put your fingers in the holes and use a table tennis ball as a football!



Dear God, please help me to make Jesus my goal. Amen

See you next month!

Origins of Father's Day

Later this month, we'll be telling dads everywhere that we think they're terrific. Father's Day is such an ingrained tradition that it seems hard to believe that it's a relatively modern invention.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the day designed to complement Mothering Sunday which, although set up as a day to return to your home church, had become a day to honour mothers everywhere. Father's Day was the idea of Sonora Dodd, a mother in Washington DC, who devised the idea while listening to a sermon in church. She wanted to celebrate her dad who had fought in the civil war and raised six children single-handed after his wife – Sonora's mother – had died.

The first Father's Day saw members of the YMCA wearing roses to church: red to honour a living father, white to remember a deceased one. From that small act of observance, the idea of a worldwide celebration spread – despite meeting initial resistance from others who thought the idea was farcical. Others thought that the day would lead to days such as Grandparents' Day to National Clean Your Desk Day!

While US Presidents latched on to it with limited degrees of enthusiasm throughout the years, it wasn't until 1966 that President Lyndon Johnson proclaimed the third Sunday in June to be Father's Day. Robert Nixon, in 1972, was the US President who made the day a national holiday. The day has spread across the world, with us in the UK joining our cousins over the pond in marking the day on the third Sunday in June. Father's Day was also picked by trade groups in New York as an opportunity to buy a gift for dad: it would boost their trade as well as giving something nice to a father. Sonora didn't object to this, possibly because it helped her gain further support and acceptance for the day.

Other countries have their own Father's Day, Thailand's Father's Day, for example, is set to the birthday of the current king and celebrated by giving fathers a Canna flower.

Hindus mark the day on the new moon in the second week of August, while Taiwan holds its celebrations on August 8.

Here in the UK, sales of socks, slippers and handkerchiefs will again soar as children show their appreciation for their fathers.

The Worship Group

Do you like fun, laughter and friendship? I do too!

When the group was first mooted, I was rather interested. The idea of helping to choose music and talk through ideas for special services really appealed. What held me back was how little I know. How could I help when I know so little? A year of laughter, chat and ideas on from that point, and I know my fears were so misplaced. I am learning as we laugh together. We enjoy and build on each other's ideas and planning is so straightforward when it is a task shared.

There are around eight of us in the group at present. Our most recent collaboration produced the Pentecost service with the birthday celebrations for the church. We undertook different tasks, choosing hymns, doing readings, and giving short talks, not to mention the balloon blowing and pass the parcel. (See the photographs on the next page)

In March, maybe you attended the all age service when the young folk presented a play and worked on producing prayers of thanks for the things they like about church and celebrated the mothers and the mother church.

We will be meeting shortly to plan services for the month of June.

We do not all stand at the front of the church and spout forth. This can be rather an intimidating experience. Some of us are 'front men' and some of us are 'behind the scenes', but all of us enjoy the experience and fellowship of working together.

There is always room for more ideas, so if this group appeals to you, why not come along to our next meeting. You could really surprise yourself.

Elaine Craig

Our Pentecost Service



Young People and the Church

At a time of economic recovery, concerns over climate change, never ending political scandals and claims that the church is dying; some people say that Britain is a somewhat fragile state. I think it is too easy to look for flaws in our country as well as our people.

For too long now young people are thought of as trouble makers and thugs; the thought of them being 'the future' seems to be forgotten by many people. Many young people have lost hope, and they have lost faith. Too many now see alcohol and drugs not only as the only way for fun but also the only way to be recognised as a normal teen. However, it is our duty as a church and as a society to unite together and change these attitudes. We must support people; not turn against them. We must keep trying and not give up and first see the good in young people; recognise their achievements before complaining about their lack of adherence to things such as school uniform policies. For example, recently Mackie pupils received prizes for the UK Maths Challenge. Instead of being praised many more letters were received complaining about uniform standards.

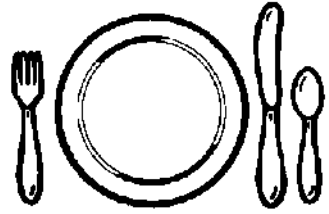
In the UK it is claimed that Christianity is in decline, with only around 10% of the population saying they are Christian. However, I know many young people who have a really strong faith, and go out of their ways to practice their faith; whereas in the past many people were Christians simply out of tradition. I also know many are scared to express their love for God as it is sometimes seen as something strange and weird.

I think the Church should provide more guidance and moral teaching, and connect more with young people, although I don't want to generalise as there are organisations that are doing this. I have got a lot out of Kids Praise at South Church both as a child and now as a helper and I think instead of complaining about people not going to church we should enjoy time with those that do, and hopefully when people see how much we get out of church they will join us.

Personally, I think it is hard to be a Christian but I know that it is more than worth it.

Natalie Arandia

Catering Committee



The Catering Committee has been kept quite busy over the past few months. We again baked scones in our smart new ovens on the morning of the Spring Coffee and Craft Sale at the end of March and the following week it was pizzas and hot dogs for the very happy Kids Praise Fun Night at the start of the Easter holidays. We have had good attendances for Coffee After the Service on the first Sunday's of the month and we have had three extra coffee times as well – two for Kids Praise following their special services for Mother's Day and one for the Worship Group after their very successful Pentecost Sunday with delicious birthday cup cakes and sponge cakes kindly provided by Carol Balsillie. This year we had a Soup and Sandwich lunch after the service on the second Sunday of Christian Aid Week and we were pleased to welcome Rev. Maggie Jackson and Rev. Liz Campbell from St. James' to join us. Now we are looking forward to our joint summer services with Dunnottar Church when we will enjoy coffee and fellowship each Sunday after worship.

Carol Gardner

An Appeal from Kids Praise

The young folk at Kids praise would love to hear from anyone who would like to offer to help lead their activities or from anyone who has a special talent or skill or hobby which they would like to share with the young folk. If that's you, then please get in touch with Carol Eddie or the minister as soon as possible.

Kirk Session

Each year the elders hold a Kirk Session conference at which we focus on aspects of our church and how we might develop. These conferences over the years have provided a way forward for our church. The theme of our conference in November 2009 was 'Communication' and it was felt then that our discussions should be shared with the whole church. Below is a summary of the discussion and conclusions.

The first questions which was addressed was:

“Who does South Church Communicate with?”

The answer where wide ranging - our members through our elders' districts, other churches in the town, youth groups, the people who use our church halls, people in our community, the presbytery, the national church, our own church groups, those who read our magazine, the sick, those who read our articles in the Mearns Leader, local schools, those who attend funerals, neighbours of members, flood victims and flood relief volunteers, clubs and societies around the town, hospital staff, those who work and those who live our town's old folks' homes, those who get married by the minister, those who attend baptisms, those who come to special services like remembrance.

Elders where then asked to grade the quality of our communication with all of these groups and sadly it was recognised that much of our communication is either very poor or indeed conveys a negative image of our church.

Recognising that we could not deal with every single area of communication we had identified, elders where then asked the question:

“With whom is it important that we communicate well?”

The answers broke down into three areas. Those needing pastoral care, our members, and those who do not currently come to church.

Having now identified who we wish to communicate with, elders were invited to suggest ways that we might improve our communication with each of these groupings. Ideas were wide ranging but some of those listed were: Development of the Magazine making it on occasion a parish magazine, having more people of all ages involved in the production of the magazine, a pastoral care team to offer additional help to those in need, more follow up with young families who come for baptism, a family social, a members handbook, district meals and socials, home communion, recordings of Church services, recognising and encouraging people's gifts, cards for members who are ill, memorial services, mission events.

Finally elders were encouraged not to let the idea and thoughts of the conference be forgotten. And so a number of actions were decided. A team would take over the editing of the magazine. The possibility of a number of groups would be investigated, including pastoral care, mission, Church governance and worship. An appeal would be made in the magazine for helpers for young people's work, a family social night to be held and a Kids Praise badminton group to start.

To date some of these plans have developed. Already the worship group has led and influenced a number of services in our church and will continue to do so. Kids Praise held their family social and an excellent time it was for all and plans are well underway for their badminton group. Their appeal for helpers is elsewhere in this magazine. At the last Kirk Session meeting a group of elders formed a small steering group to investigate further the developing of pastoral care at South Church. The conclusions of our elders conference will go on influencing the work of the session over the rest of this year.

If you have any ideas for any of the topics discussed here, or you would like to be involved in any way, contact our Session Clerk, Karen Smith.



Joint Summer Services

Once again we will share our Sunday services with Dunnottar Church during July and August. This year the services will begin at 10:30 a.m.

Our theme for the services this year is “The Fruits of the Spirit”.

As usual, tea and coffee will be served after all the services.

We hope all our members will join with us over the summer.

Details of Services

4th July Dunnottar Church

11th July South Church

18th July Dunnottar Church

25th July South Church

1st August Dunnottar Church

8th August South Church

15th August Dunnottar Church

22nd August South Church

29th August Dunnottar Church

It Shows in Your Face

You don't have to tell how you live each day,
You don't have to say if you work or play,
A tried, true barometer serves in its place,
However your live, it shows on your face.

The false, the deceit you wear in your heart
Will not stay inside where it first got its start;
For sinew and blood are a thin veil of lace,
However you live, it shows on your face.

It you have battled and won in the great game of life,
If you feel you've conquered the sorrow and strife,
If you've played the game fair and you stand on first base,
You don't have to tell it. It shows on your face.

If your life's been unselfish and for others you live,
Not for what you can get, but for what you can give,
If you live close to God in his infinite grace,
You don't have to tell it. It shows on your face.

Anon.

Celebration of the 450th Anniversary of the Reformation in Scotland Sun. 29th Aug. Auchenblae

One of the leading characters of the reformation was born locally. George Wishart of Pitarrow, was a leading reformer. John Knox was one of his followers. Wishart was burnt at the stake in St. Andrew's by Cardinal Beaton, thus became one of the martyrs of the reformation.

The celebration of reformation locally is to be held at Auchenblae where a memorial is erected to Wishart. People will be gathering from a wide area, so put Sun. 29th August in your diary. Activities afternoon and evening, so do join in. Leaflets with more information at Church soon.

Presbytery of Kincardine & Deeside
Scottish Reformation
Celebrating the 450th Anniversary
Sun. 29th Aug. 2010 at Auchenblae

Programme of Services

3pm St Palladius Church Ruins (20 mins.)
Thanksgiving for early missionaries to NE

4pm George Wishart Memorial (20mins.)
Thanksgiving for Reformers

6pm Service of Thanksgiving for Reformation
Preacher: Very Rev Sandy MacDonald
Worship Leader: Presbytery Moderator

Other happenings

Auchenblae Heritage Group will supply map of village with walk.

2.30 - 5.30 Village Hall open with Teas & Exhibition
(Exhibition by Aberdeenshire Libraries)

2.30 - 5.30 Primary School open with children's exhibition,
also Picnic Area (take a picnic meal)

Come and share fellowship with others from across the presbytery.

FAMILY News

Baptisms:

Noah Iain Hunter, son of John and Linda (28th March)

Deaths:

Aileen Marshall (funeral held on 12th February)

Margaret Leslie (funeral held on 5th April)

William Christie (funeral held on 12th April)

Sheila Ogilvie (funeral held on 16th April)

Douglas Paley (funeral held on 22nd May)

Marriages:

None since last magazine

New Members:

None since last magazine

Please note that only Church Members are noted here. Deaths and marriages may have taken place of non-members.

Stonehaven South Church

Cameron Street
Stonehaven

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Session Clerk: Mrs Karen Smith
31 Forest Park
Stonehaven
Tel 01569 763380

Church Secretary: Miss Christine De Jonckheere
and Hall Lets Church Office
Tel: 765876

Normal Sunday Morning Worship at 10.30am

Tea and Coffee served after service
on 1st Sunday of each month