

CHRONICLES



*St. Blane's Church
Dunblane*

October 2019

Number 219

Minister's Letter

46 Kellie Wynd
DUNBLANE

October 2019

Dear brothers and sisters

Doors open day is just the start....

A few weeks ago it was doors open day. Lecropt have been part of that for many years and it was great that St Blane's joined in as well, as both churches welcomed many people through their doors.

As part of my role in Presbytery (Convenor of the Church in Community Committee) we have just convinced the Presbytery to change the way it does Local Church Reviews. To cut a long story short, Presbytery has agreed that every church should have a 5 year plan detailing priorities and new things they might do.

St Blane's and Lecropt will also have to make their own plans and we will have to show what kind of things we are doing to reach out in mission. Both of our congregations might not have those plans in place but we are already working hard on mission and discipleship.

Firstly, mission. We are called by Jesus to go into the world to make disciples, to baptise and teach them what Jesus has taught us. We are learning in these times when people rarely turn up at church off the cuff that we must help people feel welcomed and encourage them towards knowing Jesus more. We also seek to be a place in our communities where people can find friendship as well as fellowship.

We are now into our second year of Thursdays@Lecropt and it has been great welcoming people, who have drifted away, back to church and also meeting new people. This 2 hour slot has become important in giving people a safe welcoming place to explore faith and also have some fun.

We have just started Boccia@St Blane's and already it has been great to welcome a couple of people who don't come to church at all but find the friendship and fun of Boccia something that they are happy to do in St Blane's. We have already been challenged to a match by a church near Perth!

Later in October Zach will launch Awesome, a new primary school club on a Friday which will also encourage younger people into St Blane's for fun and an introduction to Jesus and the faith. And in November, now that both congregations are in partnership with Mission Aviation Fellowship, we are looking forward to MAF running a quiz which will be a lot of fun and we will be inviting teams to sign up soon. All that together with "The Sweet Sorrows" concert last June and we are really looking forward to hosting the Christian comedian Tom Elliot next March in St Blane's.

These amongst our Sunday work and usual activities are about mission; they are events that you should feel comfortable inviting family and friends along to, knowing that they will be quality un-cringeworthy times. It's hard sometimes speaking to people about faith or asking them to come to church on a Sunday but perhaps it is easier to ask them along to these sorts of events as a first step. Please pray and be brave enough to say to someone, I'm going to this fancy coming along with me?

Secondly, discipleship, we are also working hard to build the fellowship in both congregations as well as help each other to grow in the faith. Through our studies in the Lord's prayer we have already thought about the invitation to call upon God as being "Our Father". In that phrase we look up at him who loves us and also around at those we are connected to and love in the Lord. Christianity or the Kingdom is something we enter as individuals through faith but not a place where we remain alone, we find ourselves with fellow believers.

There are now so many opportunities to get to know each other a bit better, to deepen relationships amongst ourselves and our congregations. The events described above as well as the Guild, the book group in St

Blane's, the Prayer Course, the ladies bible studies to the times of fellowship before and after the services all work towards that.

It's been great at St Blane's to see people mixing after the service over a cuppa in the church at the same time as the children being part of that. Plus our all age joint evening services are restarting, not to mention the highlight of this fellowship year, the weekend away. Now the Kirk session of St Blane's through the M&D committee are talking about house groups and the like.

These discipleship times are so important because we learn from each other, we begin to trust each other more and we grow more in our faith together. I really hope that you make use of these opportunities to get involved in mission and discipleship because following Jesus is a team event rather than an individual race.

Here's a summary of some of the things you and others can get involved in.....

Boccia @St Blane's	Thursdays	10.30-12noon	St Blane's Church
Thursdays@Lecropt	Thursdays	2-4pm	Lecropt Hall
Awesome	Fridays	3.30-5pm (from Oct 25 th)	St Blane's Church
MAF Quiz	Friday 1 st Nov	7.30pm	St Blane's Church
Weekend Away	Friday 15 th -Sun 17 th Nov		Cumbrae
Guild	Mondays	(fortnightly)	St Blane's Church
Prayer Course	Fridays	7.30pm	St Blane's Church
Book Club	Wednesdays	(fortnightly)	St Blane's Church
Ladies Bible Study	Will restart after the prayer course at the Manse		
All age services	1 st Sunday of the month	4.30pm	St Blane's Hall

Blessings
Gary

Prayer chain

In a time of struggle, maybe through a health problem or a difficulty along the journey through life, problems can seem overwhelming and you can feel alone. It may be a time when on your own you can't focus, let alone pray, although you know that's where your strength and comfort will come from in stressful times.

The prayer chain is here to help in these times. If you have a prayer request let us know, or if you feel you would like to be one of the pray-ers speak to Jean Proto.

To submit church events or announcements please e-mail:
stblanesannouncements@gmail.com

Items for **December Chronicles** should be submitted by
Thursday 14th November. Contributions are always welcomed.
Please e-mail douglas@crannoch.plus.com

Presbytery Report

A lot is happening at the moment which perhaps is not something that can often be said about our august body!

Our new Moderator who takes up post in December is **Jean Porter**, currently long-serving Deacon at St Mark's Raploch in Stirling. We wish her well and I suspect she will lead us with humility and a sense of gentleness. Jean will be our third female moderator in recent years which is excellent and somewhat remarkable given our parish ministers are overwhelmingly male. Our eldership is much more equal.

Worship Training -This is now up and running with over 50 people signed up for initially a 7 week course. The response has been highly encouraging both in terms of numbers and the content. Our minister is one of 7 Ministers who are delivering the material and Lecropt is one of 3 venues along with Killearn and Tullibody. St Blane's has 2 elders signed up.

Presbytery Reform -This is ongoing with the momentum for change building up. The national objective is to reduce 43 presbyteries to 12/13 by 2024. Stirling is co-terminus with 6 presbyteries which give us various options but probably just 3 in practice –north to Tayside, south to Falkirk and West Lothian or dissolution. I have attended as an observer 2 meetings of the 4 presbyteries covering what was Tayside who are now planning to merge into one, provisionally Strathtay. The Very Rev David Lunan, former Clerk to Glasgow presbytery, will be speaking to presbytery at its next meeting on Thursday 3rd October and helping to inform our thinking about our future. Part of the thinking behind reform is to devolve authority and resources from 121 to the regional church which, in turn, will help the local church to grow.

Local Church Review –Training has been given to all churches in presbytery about a new system of church review based on encouraging churches to review their own vision, mission and planning. We have until spring 2020 to undertake this. Our Minister, as Convener of

Church in Community, has taken the lead in this and our church hosted the 2 training sessions.

Nationally the church is seeking to action the change agreed at the General Assembly this May. The four national Councils - Ministries Council, Mission and Discipleship, Church and Society and World Mission - are being replaced by 2 agencies provisionally titled **Faith Nurture** and **Faith Impact**. There is inevitably a great deal of uncertainty at 121 with some people losing their jobs and others taking on new roles at short notice. Part of the objective is to save money and reduce considerably the headcount in 121. Do remember all those involved in whatever capacity in your prayers.

National Moderator 20-21 –having been nominated at the General Assembly, much to my surprise, to the nominating committee, I found the process fascinating and challenging. The Committee has now made a recommendation and an announcement will be made shortly.

Dan Gunn
Presbytery Elder

The Guild

The new Guild session commences on Monday 7th October. This will be a joint Dedication Service with the Cathedral Guild. The service this year will be held in our own Church and will be followed by refreshments and an interesting presentation by Linda and Kevin Clarke - Canterbury to Rome. All are very welcome.

Our first regular Guild meeting will be held on Monday 21st October and fortnightly thereafter. A very interesting and varied programme has been arranged. We look forward to meeting together again and would be delighted to welcome all who would like to come along and enjoy the evenings with us. We extend a very warm invitation to you all.

Liz Reid

PRISONER'S WEEK 2019 – 17TH TO 24TH NOVEMBER OUT OF SIGHT OUT OF MIND

Prisoners' Week, an initiative of the Churches in partnership with the Scottish Prison Service, aims to stimulate discussion, highlight concerns and share hope, in prisons and communities across Scotland. It takes place in the third week of November. This year's theme is '**Out of Sight Out of Mind**'. Jesus taught us that 'as much as you do it to the least of those, you do it to me' (Matthew 25:40).

In a year where the number of those locked up in our prisons has reached a new high, this year's Prisoners' Week theme encourages us to find out more about the prisons, prisoners, their families and those affected by crime in our area. It is a challenge to think about those we usually keep out of sight and out of mind...and to think about how we can show our care for them inside and outside.

As part of Prisoners' Week you are warmly invited to the ecumenical **Prisoners Week National Launch Service** which will take place in **Bridge of Allan Parish Church, FK15 0AQ, on Monday 18th November at 18.30.**

The Service will last approximately 45 minutes, followed by a similar period for refreshments.

Further information can be found on the Prisoners' Week website www.prisonersweek.org.uk

Children's Corner

BibleWise

OUR GOD HAS MADE ...

Can you fill in the missing words in the puzzle below using the Bible verses listed at the side?

Isaiah

45:7

Amos

5:8

Psalms

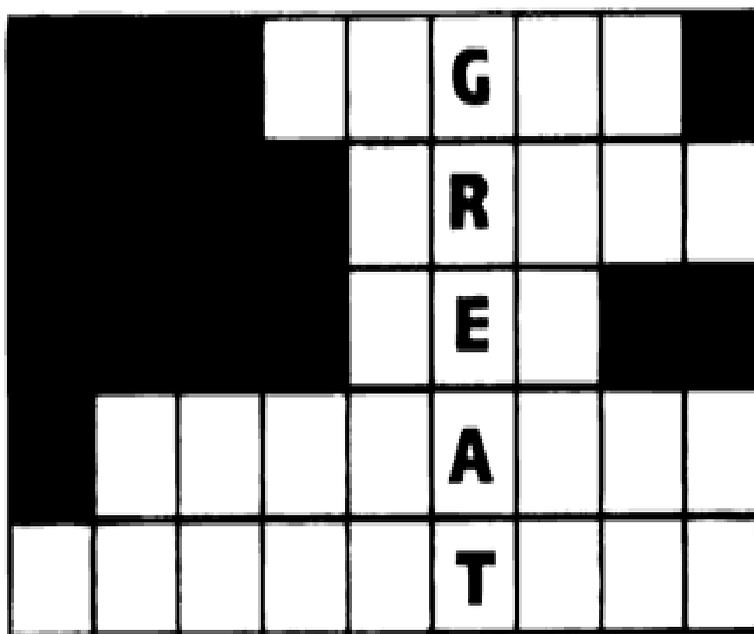
95:5

Job

9:9

Psalms

104:26



Ian Brown. *Along the Puzzle Trail*. Greenville: Emerald House, 2001.

**Daily Bible Reading Guide for
November - December 2019**

<i>November 2019</i>		<i>December 2019</i>	
<i>Fri</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Matt 13:24-30</i>	<i>SUN 1</i>
<i>Sat</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>Matt 13:31-35</i>	<i>Mon 2</i>
			<i>Tue 3</i>
<i>SUN</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>Luke 12:22-31</i>	<i>Wed 4</i>
<i>Mon</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>Matt 13:36-43</i>	<i>Thur 5</i>
<i>Tue</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>Matt 13:44-52</i>	<i>Fri 6</i>
<i>Wed</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>Matt 13:53-58</i>	<i>Sat 7</i>
<i>Thur</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>Matt 14:1-12</i>	
<i>Fri</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>Matt 14:13-21</i>	<i>SUN 8</i>
<i>Sat</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>Matt 14:22-36</i>	<i>Mon 9</i>
			<i>Tue 10</i>
<i>SUN</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>Luke 14:12-24</i>	<i>Wed 11</i>
<i>Mon</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>Matt 15:1-20</i>	<i>Thur 12</i>
<i>Tue</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>Matt 15:21-28</i>	<i>Fri 13</i>
<i>Wed</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>Matt 15:29-39</i>	<i>Sat 14</i>
<i>Thur</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>Matt 16:1-12</i>	
<i>Fri</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>Matt 16:13-20</i>	<i>SUN 15</i>
<i>Sat</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>Matt 16:21-28</i>	<i>Mon 16</i>
			<i>Tue 17</i>
<i>SUN</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>Luke 16:1-13</i>	<i>Wed 18</i>
<i>Mon</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>Matt 17:1-13</i>	<i>Thur 19</i>
<i>Tue</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>Matt 17:14-21</i>	<i>Fri 20</i>
<i>Wed</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>Matt 17:22-27</i>	<i>Sat 21</i>
<i>Thur</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>Matt 18:1-9</i>	
<i>Fri</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>Matt 18:10-20</i>	<i>SUN 22</i>
<i>Sat</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>Matt 18:21-35</i>	<i>Mon 23</i>
			<i>Tue 24</i>
<i>SUN</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>Luke 19:11-27</i>	<i>Wed 25</i>
<i>Mon</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>Matt 19:1-12</i>	<i>Thur 26</i>
<i>Tue</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>Matt 19:13-22</i>	<i>Fri 27</i>
<i>Wed</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>Matt 19:23-30</i>	<i>Sat 28</i>
<i>Thur</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>Matt 20:1-16</i>	
<i>Fri</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>Matt 20:17-28</i>	<i>SUN 29</i>
<i>Sat</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>Matt 20:29-34</i>	<i>Mon 30</i>
			<i>Tue 31</i>

Please note at the time of print the December readings were not available. These will be printed as soon as they become available and copies left in the Mitchell Room. Alternatively you can e-mail douglas@crannoch.plus.com to receive a copy by e-mail.

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday: Morning Worship 10.00 a.m.
Evening Service 6.30 p.m.

Communion: Last Sunday in February, May and October
10.00 am and 6.30 pm (after Thanksgiving)

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