



**Fowlis Wester**



The Church of Scotland



**Madderty**

# Parish Magazine

April  
2018



**Monzie**



**Gask**

# Fowlis Wester, Madderty and Monzie linked with Gask

**Interim Moderator: Rev. David Denniston**

## **OFFICE-BEARERS**

### **Fowlis Wester, Madderty and Monzie**

Session Clerk	Sheena Crawford	01764 654270
Deputy Session Clerk, Fowlis Wester	Tim Carmichael	07906 135203
Deputy Session Clerk, Madderty	Ann Cramb	01764 683311
Deputy Session Clerk, Monzie	Archie MacIntyre	01764 652796
Treasurer	Alex Haddow	01764 683484
Assistant Treasurer Fowlis Wester	Gillian Philip	01764 653564
Assistant Treasurer Madderty	John Peock	01764 683332
Assistant Treasurer Monzie	Archie MacIntyre	01764 652796
Gift Aid Convenor	Gillian Philip	01764 653564
Property Convenor Fowlis Wester	James McColl	01764 683446
Property Convenor Madderty	Jo Guest	01764 683470
Property Convenor Monzie	Rob Gilchrist	01764 653170
Property Convenor Manse	Neil Bremner	01764 653331
Superintendent Madderty Sunday School	Bessie Lyall	01764 654505
Sunday School Teacher Madderty	Elizabeth Cameron	01764 683264
Sunday School Teacher Madderty	Sheena Crawford	01764 654270
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Social Committee Chairperson	Sheena Haddow	01764 683484
Safeguarding Co-ordinator	Sheena Crawford	01764 654270
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Guild	Heather Moir	01764 683328

### **Gask**

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Presbytery Elder	Angus Harrison	01738 730326
Property Convenor	Ron Mackie	01738 730202
Treasurer	Craig Robson	01738 580667

### **Parish Magazine Editors:**

Fowlis Wester News	Tim Carmichael	07906 135203
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Monzie News	Archie MacIntyre	01764 652796
Gask News and Guild	Judith and Jim James	01738 730378

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Dear Friends,

By the time you read this my two year spell with you as an Interim Minister will have come to a conclusion.

For me this appointment has been very rewarding and enjoyable (not something that every Interim Minister can honestly say!). I think that together we have achieved much of what was intended at the outset, and I certainly discerned an increased sense of unity, purpose and hope in the congregations.

What happens next?

Well, for me I will be taking up the role of Interim Minister at Glenrothes: Christ's Kirk. It is a little strange that having returned to Perth Presbytery to serve with you having left this Presbytery in 2008, I now find myself returning to Kirkcaldy Presbytery which I first left in 1996! It seems as if I am revisiting my old haunts. In addition to that placement I will also be sharing with other members of the Interim Ministry team in consultation work in other places (much as was the case during my time with you when I was involved also with Shetland Presbytery). Initially, this will involve work with congregations in Fife and in Glasgow.

But the Presbytery of Perth have agreed that I should continue as Interim Moderator in your congregations which means I will continue to moderate the Kirk Session meetings and offer some ongoing guidance as required. So it is not quite farewell (although I will not be around to lead worship or engage in pastoral work).

The Kirk Sessions have appointed a locum who will conduct services on Sundays and offer an additional one day a week to cover urgent pastoral matters. He is Revd Bruce Thomson who was previously Minister in Scone Old. Michael Benneworth and Revd Marina Brown will continue to conduct worship every second week at Madderty and Gask respectively.

For you the next steps will include deciding upon the proposed change to the arrangements between our congregations so that Gask is incorporated into the union with Fowlis Wester, Madderty and Monzie (the present arrangement is a linkage rather than a union).

Presbytery have taken the initial steps on this and consultations will be occurring in the weeks to come. And Presbytery will also have to decide on whether (and on what terms) to give our congregations the 'right to call' a new Minister. As Interim Moderator it will be part of my role to help to guide you through these processes and, should the Presbytery grant a 'right to call' to help you with procedures for creating a Parish Profile and setting up a Nominating Committee etc.

But all this is for the future.

For now I would like to thank you very much for your support and friendship over these two years, wish you well for the next steps on the journey and assure you of my prayers and my ongoing support, albeit in a very different role.

Your (now former!) Interim Minister and friend,

*David Denniston*

# The Four Churches

## COMMUNION SERVICES 2018

Monzie	25th March	at	11.30 am
Fowlis Wester	15th April	at	11.30 am
Madderty	13th May	at	10.00 am
Gask	3rd June	at	10.00 am

## CHURCHES TOGETHER CALENDAR 2018

Messy Church    Saturday 16th June    Madderty Hall    4 - 6 pm

## Four Churches Spring Festival

Things did not get off to the best of starts for our Spring Festival in March when the special united service to launch the Festival had to be abandoned due to the snow! And not just the service on 4<sup>th</sup> March but also the talk and concert planned for later that week. It did not bode well, and more than one person wondered whose brilliant idea it was to have a ‘**Spring** Festival’! With hindsight we might think that August would have been a better date!

But the weather improved (a bit!) and the Festival got underway and proved to be a great success! It would be difficult to single out any one event, but everything from special services to alternative worship events, from wedding dresses to historical talks, from Messy Church to Bruce Davies, from the Primary School to the Easter Eggsperience was so very good and represented so much hard work by so many people.

The sense of life and energy along with the positive spirit, teamwork and unity were very evident, and the numbers attending almost all events exceeded expectations.

What a great experience it was!

An enormous ‘Thank You’ to all who invested so much time, effort and energy into planning for, publicising running and assisting at the various ‘happenings’.

Now, when’s the next one?

David Denniston

*Denniston  
19 Redhills View  
Lennoxtown  
966 782*

2 April 2018

Dear elders and members of the 'Four Churches' (or Four Candles??)

I was utterly taken aback and (for a moment at least!) quite genuinely speechless when Sheena and Stuart made the presentation on your behalf at the Easter Day Service. I was even more startled when I realised the extraordinary extent of your generosity! Words cannot adequately convey the depth of my gratitude or the extent of my surprise. Thank you so very much. I feel both very grateful and rather overwhelmed.

The whisky with the personalised label is amazing, and the Waterford Crystal tumblers are gorgeous. For these (and the four candles, of course!) and the extent of your generosity I am most grateful.

As I said on Easter Sunday, I had little idea what to expect when I was appointed your Interim Minister two years ago, but what I discovered was that you are people with energy, vision and commitment, and I have so enjoyed getting to know so many of you.

Every blessing for the next stage of the journey and very many thanks.

Your friend

*David*

David Denniston



## Baptisms

11th Feb 2018      Charles Hector Maitland Makgill Crichton      Monzie



## Weddings

4th Nov 2017      Johanna Macarthur & Charles Wiseman      Madderty



## Funerals

29th Sept 2017      Helen Elizabeth (Bet) Graham      Monzie

19th Oct 2017      John (Jack) Todd      Gask

6th Dec 2017      Kathleen Comrie      Fowlis Wester

## **Super Adults Outing**

The Super Adults Outing this year is provisionally planned for Hopetoun House at South Queensferry on the 11<sup>th</sup> July. This is still subject to being checked out but it should prove an interesting place to visit, the rooms in the house being furnished in the period of its early existence in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century and there are also some fine paintings to be viewed. The grounds are extensive and on a good day would be well worth a wander through as there is a deer park and some lovely views of the three bridges over the Forth.

For any folk that don't know, the Super Adults Outing is open to all over 60 from our united church or from the parish of Madderty and is supported by the Hay MacLagan Fund. The visit usually involves a visit to a place of interest followed by as good a high tea as can be found on the way home!

We travel by bus and leave around midday and are back home by 8.00pm approximately, the bus and the entrance fee to the place of interest being paid by the MacLagan Fund leaving each of us to pay only for our high tea. Must be good value!

More details will become available as the arrangements are firmed up.

Elizabeth and David Cameron

## **Wedding Dress Display**

This event took place in Fowlis Wester Hall as part of The Four Churches Spring Festival. I wasn't sure how many dresses I would get maybe just a handful, but I had hoped for 40 which was maybe a bit ambitious but I got 38 and 4 flower girls dresses.

The hardest thing was getting enough dress makers' dummies and mannequins from shops, so that the dresses would be looking good, just like

the day they were worn, and of course the wedding photograph so that we could all see the Bridegroom.

A few people offered to do some flowers which just added that lovely touch. To see all the dresses together was quite breath taking. The only complaint, the dresses were only on show for a very short time and a lot of people didn't get the chance to see them, and to crown it all the snow came on Sunday morning and as we all know Fowlis Wester is not the easiest place to get to when the road is covered in snow.

It might be repeated next year, not in the same Hall, slightly different and not in the winter. Watch this space.

I wish to say a huge thank you to everyone who helped me in any way it was much appreciated.

Isobel Robertson



## **Messy Church**

Messy Church is a way of doing church differently. It is for 'All Ages' and is held outwith the 'church' building and is lots of fun!

We held our first Messy Church on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March in Madderty Hall. The theme for the event was 'Easter'. We had crafts, baking, games, songs and stories which were enjoyed by all those who attended. We then sat down and had food together. Everyone had a great time and it was enjoyed by approx.. 35 children along with Mums, Dads, Grandparents and friends.

We extend our thanks to everyone who came along on the day and to those who helped.

Our next Messy Church is on Saturday 16th June at Madderty Hall, 4-6 pm. All welcome. If you anyone would like to know more about our Messy Church please contact Sheena on 01764 654270.

Sheena Crawford.

## **Madderty Guild**

The 2017/18 session has been well attended with very interesting speakers at each meeting.

Starting in October a speaker from Giraffe Trading told us of a local charity helping disadvantaged people to grow fruit and vegetables. They prepare soups and salads for the café in Perth and are taught how to serve the customers. A very worthwhile enterprise.

In November Avril Duncan brought us up to date with the work of a children's home in India.

December saw us meeting in Madderty Hall for our Christmas lunch, a lovely spread contributed by our members. This was closed by singing favourite carols.

We met again in February when the speaker was Crispin Longdon from Cross Reach, the social wing of the Church of Scotland.

Pat Duncan from Mercy Ships spoke to us in March, telling us of the work of this hospital ship and her time working on it. They hope to have a second ship the need is so great.

We hold our business meeting this month when we will decide on the syllabus for the next session.

Once again we invite any members of the congregations to join us to come to any or all the meetings, held on the 3rd Monday of the month at 2pm in Madderty Session house starting again in October.

The Guild projects for the last 3 years have raised a staggering £587,121.31. The next 6 projects will be launched this month, so for the next 3 years we will be collecting under the strategy "One Journey, Many Roads."

## **Drop in Youth (DIY)**

The Drop in Youth group meets fortnightly in Madderty Hall from 7.30-9pm and is for all young people of secondary school age.

This term we have been practising our culinary skills with a very successful evening preparing (and eating) a three course meal and another evening baking shortbread. The next two weeks will be dedicated to the skill of tattie growing, with some help from a very experienced local farmer- thank you David Cameron.

In the spring/summer term we try to get out and about, and in May we have a date with the Reverend Richard Coles at Perth Concert Hall, which will be a bit different.

If anyone would like more information about the group please contact Sheena Haddow on 683484 or Anne Cramb on 683311.

## **Madderty SWI**

Madderty SWI meets 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month from September to May in Madderty Hall 7.30 – 10pm. There are speakers/demonstrators each month who are very interesting and give us the opportunity to learn something new.

If you would care to come along you would be made most welcome.  
Membership is £20 for the year.

If you wish more details please contact Lyn Willsher secretary 01764 683398.

## **FOWLIS WESTER NEWS**

### **Easter Day United Service**

#### **Fowlis Wester Kirk Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018**

On a gloriously sunny morning, amongst some of the first remarks made to the congregation during this his last service with us as Interim Minister, the Reverend Denniston recounted how many years ago Easter Day had last fallen on 1<sup>st</sup> April. On that occasion he had been born and on this particular 1<sup>st</sup> April also, as he pointed out, known as April Fool's Day he was moving on to a new task as an Interim Minister having been with Fowlis Wester, Madderty and Monzie with Gask for almost two years.

The church was packed with those, of all ages, attending for their Easter service from across the piste, those coming to listen to David for a final sermon and those coming to wish him well, to thank him and to join in taking stock of just how far we have collectively progressed during the period he had been our minister. The sun was shining in beautifully, the spring flowers on the windowsills and behind the table on the window sill at the front of the church added more beauty to the occasion, and the hymns chosen by David were to tunes familiar to all so the singing was bold, strong and uniting.

David's sermon on the Easter story with a relevance to us as a congregation wanting and needing to maintain its newly found confidence in its own strengths and talents was inspired. The touch he added, of a balloon,

following the children's address was wonderfully light-hearted but illustrative to the points being made.

After the service the Session Clerks of Gask, Stuart Cameron, and of Fowlis Wester, Madderty and Monzie, Sheena Crawford, jointly thanked David for his sincere and inspiring contribution he had made to us all during his ministry. They presented him with gifts bought with a collection from across the parishes towards his leaving present; as David himself said, for once he was speechless on receiving them, unexpectedly.

As those who wished to gathered at the front of the kirk a communal, brief Holy Communion followed, conducted by David, during which Elders from all parts of the linked parishes served the congregation and after which all went to the village hall for tea and delicious baking. This final part of our communal, united Easter day service was an excellent opportunity for all from across all our pishes – whether regular congregational members, occasional participants or spur of the moment attenders, to meet, to talk about our future for the four candles and to chat about old times and new before heading off for respective Easter lunches or other celebrations.

We thank David, the team of the Transitional Support Group behind him and his wife Jane hugely for helping us to recognise the ways in which we can collectively and individually take the flame forward.

## **GASK NEWS**

### **PartnerPlan**

It has been the custom in Gask Church to be involved in the Partnerplan Scheme, organised by the Local Department of the World Mission committee, 121 George St. This involves being allocated a Mission Partner, with whom we keep in touch and remember in our prayers and with whom we can meet and hear about their work and experiences while they are on furlough.

At the end of 2017 Gask was given a new Partner, Rev David Sinclair, and he and his wife, Mary, have been posted to the Czech Republic to work

alongside their partners in the Ecumenical Church of the Czech Brethren – ECCB.

When we were informed of this, we were told of their visit to this area too late to be able to attend the service and to have the chance to discover much about them, but we agreed that we would play our part as partners. I have been, for the last few years, the contact person in Gask Church for our previous partners and David Denniston asked me and Gask Session and the Session of Madderty, Fowlis Wester and Monzie if I could continue in this role and also act as joint contact for all four churches.

I have just received their first letter from the Czech Republic and have given copies of this letter to all four churches and they should be displayed and available to be read by whoever is interested.

They have been in the Czech Republic for only a short time and their main area of concentration has been in learning to speak Czech, but already David is preaching his first sermons in that language!

We are encouraged to keep in touch with them, tell them about our lives and churches, learn about their work in the Czech Republic and pray for them and their work. I have a full document about the Partnerplan set-up which I can supply to anyone who is interested, but it is too long for the magazine!

Their address is Rev. and Mrs David Sinclair

Dr Zigmunda Wintra 746/15, 160 00, Prague 6, Czech Republic

However I will get their email address and we can use that if it is more convenient.

Judith James

## **Prayer Group**

The Prayer Group continues to meet on the last Wednesday of every month at 10.00 am in the Madderty Session House. The numbers of people who are able to attend vary from month to month, but “where two or three are gathered together.....”

It continues to be a very worthwhile gathering where we bring the concerns which confront the churches and individuals into our prayers. All the names of those who ask for prayer on the prayer trees are mentioned, as well as concerns from the wider world. We also feel that for the people who take part, regularly or irregularly, it has been a significant influence on our ability to listen for God's word and to bind us into fellowship.

The time of day and place of the prayer group, is not set in stone and if anyone would like to join, but cannot make the chosen place and time, would like to get in touch with either David Cameron or Judith James and discuss a more convenient time and place, please do so. We could have as many prayer groups as we like or need!

We do also consider praying "as a job to be done" as important as giving money, hospitality and all the good works which we are happy to undertake. Please help us in this - and make use of us.

## **Church Website**

You can find out what's happening in our church by visiting our website. The church website can be found by using any of the four names below.

[www.fowliswesterchurch.com](http://www.fowliswesterchurch.com)

[www.maddertychurch.com](http://www.maddertychurch.com)

[www.monziechurch.com](http://www.monziechurch.com)

[www.gaskchurch.com](http://www.gaskchurch.com)

The website includes a whole host of information and news including Church services – dates and venues; Parish magazines; Church maps and brochures, Community calendar; and details about all our social events and group activities e.g. Prayer Group, DIY, Guild, Sunday School and Social Committee.

You can download the latest church date & venue plan or community calendar for your own use.

So far, the website has had its pages viewed over 15,000 times. To keep it relevant and useful to everyone please send any information and pictures to Colin, our website administrator by emailing him at [colincrawfordchg@gmail.com](mailto:colincrawfordchg@gmail.com). He updates the website each week to ensure the homepage includes the forthcoming events, services and news.