



**Fowlis Wester**



The Church of Scotland



**Madderty**

# Parish Magazine

**May  
2019**



**Monzie**



**Gask**

# Mid Strathearn Church of Scotland

Interim Moderator: Rev. Klaus Buwert

## OFFICE-BEARERS

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Deputy Session Clerk, Madderty	Ann Cramb	01764 683311
Deputy Session Clerk, Monzie	Archie MacIntyre	01764 652796
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Assistant Treasurer Fowlis Wester	Gillian Philip	01764 653564
Assistant Treasurer Madderty	John Peock	01764 683332
Assistant Treasurer Monzie	Archie MacIntyre	01764 652796
Assistant Treasurer Gask	Craig Robson	01738 580667
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 Gask	Jamie Findlay	01738 730459
Property Convenor Manse	Neil Bremner	01764 653331
Gask Hall Convenor	Rebecca Mackie	01738 730289
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Presbytery Elder	Angus Harrison	01738 730459
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Church Newsletter, Mid Strathearn.

Dear friends,

I have been asked to contribute an item to your newsletter as your Interim Moderator. I do so at a significant time in the history of the vacancy. At the time of writing you have just appointed a Nomination Committee who are tasked with seeking your next minister. We have a meeting this week with the Presbytery Advisory Committee who will offer advice about how to go about this. Then the work begins in earnest.

I want to make two points in this article. Firstly, it has been a long time, but as a congregation you have come a long way since I was first involved at Mid Strathearn. I have been very impressed at how the folk I have met and meetings I have been at are marked by a sense of forward looking. David Denniston and others have all played significant roles, but you are the people who have to take the congregation forward. The past is always with us, and has shaped us to be who we are today. The wise will learn from the past, hold on to what was good, learn from what wasn't, but also realise we can never go back. We all have our different histories, our different baggage, but as one united parish you now have one united future.

Secondly, how can you ensure that the future will be united and positive? In a time of vacancy a church often feels that without a minister they are leaderless and rudderless. The Church Without Walls report of 2001 proposed an upside down model of church which I think is the right one, the Biblical one, and would transform every congregation and the whole church if it was adopted. Remember that the word "minister" means servant. The top layer of church life is the ordinary member in the pew. The hierarchy does not rise from there. It descends. The minister is the servant of the local church. The Presbytery exists to support, from below, the parishes within the bounds. At the base, is the General Assembly. I remember hearing of one church that had lots of ministers. The organist was "minister of music". The Sunday School superintendent and was "minister of education". The treasurer was "minister for finance", and there were other ministries. Jesus himself, said he came 'not to be served but to serve' (Matthew 20:28). If anyone aspires to be more than just an ordinary church member, a consumer, in modern terms, the career ladder goes down. Become a servant of others, (Matthew 20:26) treat others as better than yourselves (Romans 12:10). It is not true that in a vacancy you have no minister. You have many ministers and many ministries. The motivation for serving each other in this way must be

good old fashioned love, (Romans 10:9, 10; John 13:35). So, ask God to pour out his love into your hearts by the Holy Spirit (Romans 5:5) and see what happens!

Unfortunately I will not be with you much longer as Interim Moderator, but I will be very interested in hearing of your progress as you continue your journey together.

Yours  
Klaus Buwert



## Sunday Services

Mid Strathearn Church have two Services each Sunday Morning

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday – Fowlis Wester Church - 10.00 am

Gask Church - 11.30 am (Sunday School  
available during service)

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday - Monzie Church - 10.00 am

Madderty Church - 11.30 am (Sunday School  
available during service)

If there is a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in the month we ‘Worship Together’ at 11.00 am. The location of these Services can be found on our Service Schedule. If you do not have one then please refer to our website at :- <http://www.mid-strathearnchurch.btck.co.uk>

Everyone will be made most welcome at any of our Church Services.

Sheena Crawford, Session Clerk.

## **COMMUNION IN MID STRATHEARN 2019**

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in January Monzie & Madderty

1st Sunday in May Fowlis Wester & Gask

1st Sunday in August Fowlis Wester & Gask

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in October Monzie & Madderty

Come if you'd like to. come if you're able to and come as you are to share the Lord's Supper with other Christians in Strathearn when you can;  
Whatever your denomination, or none, all are welcome.

Our services and other worship schedules are available from our website  
[www.mid-strathearnchurches.btck.co.uk](http://www.mid-strathearnchurches.btck.co.uk)

## **WORSHIPPING TOGETHER CALENDAR 2019**

MAY - AUGUST 2019

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June

Fowlis Wester

11.00 am



## Baptisms

17 <sup>th</sup> March 2019	Bruce William James Sargeant	Gask
14 <sup>th</sup> April 2019	Logan Alistair Joseph Robertson	Monzie



## Funerals

23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2018	Janette Cameron	Perth (formerly Drumharvie)
26 <sup>th</sup> November 2018	Charles Morris	Crieff (formerly Madderty)
15 <sup>th</sup> January 2019	Jean Woods	Monzie
11 <sup>th</sup> February 2019	Jean Phillips	Gask
12 <sup>th</sup> March 2019	Christine McEwan	Crieff
14 <sup>th</sup> March 2019	Alison Gillon	Perth (formerly Gask)
26 <sup>th</sup> April 2019	Norman Troup	Blairgowrie

## **SOCIAL COMMITTEE**

Last year we had our usual 3 events (BBQ, Coffee Morning & Cake & Candy stall) as well as the big Spring Festival which covered many events, including a concert with Bruce Davies, and also a concert in Monzie Kirk by Glenalmond College students. The 3 usual events raised approx. £1,226, but we always keep in mind that as a Social Committee, our aim is not principally to fundraise, but to hold events that encourage people to mix socially.

This year we again plan to have our usual three events as listed above. These take place in July, August and December. Look out for more info nearer the times on the website, facebook page and community calendar.

If anyone would like to join the social committee, we would be delighted to welcome new members, or if you have ideas for any social events, we would love to hear from you.

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

The Drop In Youth group continues to meet in Madderty Hall fortnightly on Monday nights, and is open to all young folk of secondary school age.

We finished off our term last year by participating in the church's Cake & Candy stall held at the Madderty Hall Christmas Fayre. We baked shortbread to sell and benefitted from some donations from other people to sell, including an array of wooden goods handmade by Sandy, which all sold very quickly! We raised £76 with which we purchased a voucher from Embrace the Middle East (charity helping Christians in the Middle East) to "Build A Home" which turns a makeshift shelter into a comfortable, safe home. Well done to the young folk for all the effort that went into that.

This year we have revisited the topic of "Food & Hunger," and have had many interesting evenings including a visit to Perth Foodbank where we learned that the Foodbank is short of donations of long-life milk and tins of fruit. We have blind taste-tested premium brand foods versus value brands, with some surprising results. And we had a night learning about hunger in poor areas of India and other countries, and how to make paper bags just as



they do to sell to be able to afford to buy food. Some of our bags did not pass the rice test! We also learned about food groups and healthy eating; and had a laugh as we tried to identify flavours of sweets without having seen the colour of the one we were eating.

Our summer term will come to an end in June, and we will restart in August. If you know of anyone who might like to come along, they would be most welcome.

Please contact Sheena Haddow on 683484 or Anne Cramb on 683311.

### **Super Adults Outing**

The Super Adults Outing this year is going to be to the Waterfront at Dundee. As there are a number of attractions there, those going on the trip will be able to choose what they would like to see themselves. Obviously, the new attraction there is the V & A Museum of Art and Design which has a free entry ( and a cafe !) for the the main exhibition but a charge to see the specialist exhibition which is currently featuring the video games industry - a big success story for Dundee. There is also Discovery Point with Capt Scott's ship RMS Discovery on view or if it is a nice day the Waterfront is a pleasant space to stroll or sit and watch the river go by! The city centre is also not too far away for those who would like to see the shops.

After our afternoon visit we will have tea somewhere nice on the way home. The times for the bus have still to be fixed but it will be leaving Crieff about midday and Madderty Hall thereafter and returning about 7.30 to 8.00pm. It is open to all 60's and over who are members of Mid Strathearn Church or residents of Madderty Parish, so we will be very glad to welcome those former members of Gask Church who would like to join us this year.

The Outing is sponsored by the MacLagan Fund so the cost for the bus and the tea will be £12. The date is Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July and more details will be available from Elizabeth and David Cameron on 01764 683264 or [ferneyfolddavid@gmail.com](mailto:ferneyfolddavid@gmail.com) as they become available.

Elizabeth & David Cameron.

## **Messy Church**

Our Easter Messy Church took place at Madderty Hall on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April. It was lovely to see families coming together to celebrate Easter with us. We spoke about new life at Easter and shared some 'egg crafts' – decorating hard boiled eggs, making easter egg wreaths, egg shaped yarn chicks and lots more. We decorated a large cross with our hand prints and remembered Palm Sunday by making palm branches and using clothes pegs to make donkeys. There were some lovely Easter gardens made reminding us of the Easter story. For those who enjoy games we had 'Egg Toss' and Lenten Cross target games.

Before enjoying food together we had some very energetic Easter action songs and story time. It was soon time to say goodbye to everyone but not before our egg hunt and scavenger hunt which had been set up outside the hall. Grateful thanks to everyone – hope to see you next time!

Sheena Crawford

## **Mid Strathearn Church of Scotland Guild**

This has been a good year for the Guild, working under it's new name. We are delighted to welcome three members from Gask Guild to swell the ranks. Our speakers have been pleased to share their enthusiasm for their subjects.

The Christmas lunch was the usual success.

Long service certificates were given to 10 members having served the church community and wider world for 405 years between them.

We are currently working on the syllabus or the next session which will start on 21<sup>st</sup> October. We meet in the Madderty Session House at 2pm and extend an open invitation to all to join us at any or all of the meetings . You can be sure of a warm welcome and a cup of tea!

Heather Moir

## **Madderty SWI**

Madderty SWI meets the first Wednesday of the month from September to May in Madderty Village Hall 7.30 pm. There are speakers/demonstrators each month who are very interesting and give us the opportunity to learn something new.

New members will be made most welcome; the new session syllabus is available from Isobel Robertson, or Lyn Willsher secretary 01764 683398.

## **New Arrival**

Alfie Cameron James Bush - born on 23rd March 2019, a son for Maggie & Mark Bush and little brother for Harrison.

## **Progress on our Nominating Committee**

At the congregation meeting on 28 April at Madderty Church in our quest for a new Minister we elected our Nominating Committee. With continuing support from Perth Presbytery, the ball is now in Mid-Strathearn's court for the pace we move at in this quest, and we are moving ahead. The committee has been drawn from across both the Session and the Congregation of those who were felt to reflect the parish as a whole and who were willing to serve on what amounts to the calling and selection committee.

On 8 May the committee met for the first time and decided that Tim Carmichael, from Fowlis, should be its convener, supported by Archie MacIntyre, from Monzie, as depute and with Norma Robson, from Gask, as its clerk. At the time of writing, in a very positive, cooperative atmosphere, its 13 members are preparing a profile of the parish. This ranges from our history and recent formation via finances and buildings to worship life. Through a variety of media, including word of mouth, the news that we are looking to fill the vacancy for the minister of Mid-Strathearn Parish is spread.

We have completed our period of Interim Ministry the stronger for it, even though, at times, it may have appeared to be frustratingly procedural. We are extremely grateful to the legacy that David Denniston and his successors have passed on to us, and for the continuing support from Perth Presbytery. We have now entered the stage of actively seeking a permanent minister; the aim of the parish profile is to inform prospective ministers from across Scotland,

and beyond, about the vacancy here in Mid-Strathearn Parish. If attracted by what they read, they can contact our Nominating Committee to express their interest.

Readers will probably be aware, from a variety of sources, of personnel and financial constraints on the Church of Scotland at present. As a result, we are authorised to call for a 70% minister or, in other words, one who may have other interests and for whom this attractive charge will be able to provide the bulk of their working week. The Nominating Committee is looking forward to welcoming expressions of interest from all applicants.

## **MONZIE NEWS**

The congregation were joined in February by pupils from Ardvreck School who took part in the service by doing a bible reading and acting out a small scenario organised by Michael Benneworth. They were due to return to Monzie on 28/4/19 but this date was changed to an all together service at Madderty to accommodate the Annual Stated Meeting and the formation of the Nomination Committee for the vacancy. The children will be back at Monzie again before the summer holidays.



## **GASK NEWS**

This year the Easter Day service was held at Gask Church where I hope everyone managed to see the Easter flower cross. Sadly I missed it as I was away in Arran but have seen the beautiful pictures. In fact the idea came from Whiting Bay church in Arran where we worship every Easter and they have an Easter cross - so I gave Anne Buchan and her helpers the idea. The cross is made from last years Christmas tree which I think is a lovely link to the Easter story. I hope that those who saw it enjoyed it- it I always one of the highlights of my Easter.



Sue Maclean

## **Try Praying**

David Cameron and Judith James, who are the representatives from Mid-Strathearn on the Presbytery Prayer Promoters Group, attended the annual meeting in April. The speakers this year were Emma Weaver and David Hart from the Try Praying team of the Church of Scotland. This team is responsible for producing the Try Praying booklets which are produced to engage non



church goers and people who do not normally pray in their first attempts in praying.

The Try Praying logo has been advertised on buses and churches over the last 5 years or so, and this year there has been a huge increase of advertising over the whole of Scotland.

The Try Praying Team talked, most interestingly, about the amazing stories of people, who, in desperation, had taken and read the booklet and called on God to help them and the incredible results that had come from this.

Mid-Strathearn churches have decided to follow one of the suggestions of the Try Praying team and have invested in waterproof plastic boxes, which will hold the three types of booklet, for Adults, for Youth and for Children and this box will be displayed outside the four churches of Mid-Strathearn. Anyone who visits the churches is free to take a booklet and read it, use it for praying if that is appropriate, and pass it on to someone else, if that is appropriate.

One idea which appealed to the monthly prayer group was that each booklet, which was put into the plastic box displayed at the church, should be numbered and that a member of the congregation of the church should undertake to pray for one number – “their number”. They would not know, of course, if had been taken or by whom, but they would pray for its journey and the journey of the reader and for their prayers to be answered and for them to be blessed on their journey.

David and Judith would be grateful if a member of each of the congregations in Mid-Strathearn would be willing to take responsibility for putting the booklets into the box of their church and recording if any are taken and refilling the boxes as is necessary.

This is a new venture and we pray that others may come to know the blessing of prayer and the amazing way in which God works for anyone who calls on him.

## **Obituaries**

### **Jean Phillips**

From the time Jean and Roy Phillips moved to Gask, almost 20 years ago Jean has been a faithful member of Gask Church. She became an Elder and contributed greatly to the community within the church. She was always measured and kind in her approach to problems and to decisions of any kind. She contributed in many ways to the wider community, taking on the Chairmanship of Homestart and training in Baby Massage and looking after young mothers as they cared for their babies. Towards the end of her life she became totally blind, but throughout her illness she never lost her courage and hope. She was a great inspiration to us all.

### **Stuart and Janette Cameron**

It is a sad reflection on people generally that they are usually far more appreciated when they leave a place or a job than they are when they are in it. However this is not the case with Stuart and Janette. They have been stalwarts of the Church and Community of Gask for their whole lives and their reliability, commitment, humour, patience and hard work was an example to us all.

We were all devastated by Janette's sudden death in November and she is remembered as the ultimate provider of beautiful food, beautiful hand work, beautiful flowers and always a cheery smile and a friendly word for everyone. She was President of the Guild several times, and a winner of many prizes in the WRI. After they left Drumharvie to live in Perth, Janette threw herself into life there as well as keeping up her commitments to Gask.

Stuart and Janette continued to care for Gask Hall and supervised the letting of the hall and all the improvements and everyday upkeep of the hall. A big task, as not everybody manages to leave it "as they found it" as they are asked to do!

First, as an elder, then as Treasurer of Gask Church and then as Session Clerk, Stuart managed to steer us through linkages with other churches and then finally through to the Union with Madderty Monzie and Fowlis Wester and the birth of the Mid-Strathearn parish.

Everything which Stuart achieved was done with care, real thought and concern for other people's opinions and his devotion to the church and the way of Jesus Christ.

As a church and a community it was a real privilege to know Stuart and Janette and we are thankful for all we have shared with them and learnt from them.

## **The Findo Gask Community Association**

Gask Hall report.

The main floor at Gask Hall has had a make-over, with the wooden floor being heavily sanded and then coated with four thick coats of lacquer - some 50 litres in all apparently. The floor had recently deteriorated and was, on inspection, in a poor condition, with splinters causing particular problems for the inter-generational group that was using it weekly. Crawling babies were apparently as effective at mopping up the splinters as sheep can be at taking tick off a hill - so something needed to be done and quickly. Ronnie Mackie swiftly obtained a competitive quote and the Findo Gask Community Association, who use and sponsor use of the hall in a number of ways - including for the inter-generational group that suffered the splinters, managed to obtain funding to cover what was needed. The work was finished off last Friday, with the hall coming slowing back into use this week - allowing time for the coating to harden up, aided by the current warm spell. At the same time some gaps in the floor were filled, although how well this will withstand hard (and sharp heeled) use only time will tell, but for the time being at least it will allow the trainee ballerinas that use the hall gracefully to slide across the floor without fearing getting stuck in a rut. The stage has also been sanded but the quote/funding did not cover recovering it. Its condition was generally fine, just faded. Volunteers will hopefully finish that off in the next few weeks, so ensuring it looks apiece with the new floor.

As the photograph shows it has lightened the room up considerably, as well as allowing for effective cleaning. The hall, for those that don't know it, has another smaller room, which can itself be sub-divided by partitions, as well as a full set of facilities and a very recently upgraded kitchen. The approach has been actively to encourage community use, subject to the Church's requirements, and it is very well used for fitness classes, all sorts of parties



and country dancing - as well as those uses described above. Rebecca Mackie very kindly looks after the bookings.

At the same time one of the two posts which hold up the porch was found to be rotten at the bottom and has been replaced. So hopefully the hall is good shape for use in the coming years.

James Findlay Q.C.

