



**Fowlis Wester**



The Church of Scotland



**Madderty**

# Parish Magazine

November  
2018



**Monzie**



**Gask**

# Mid Strathearn Church of Scotland

## Interim Moderator: Rev. Dr Graham McWilliams

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Gask News	Judith and Jim James	01738 730378

Dear All,

What a privilege it is for me to write the first pastoral letter to the communities which comprise the new pastoral Charge of Mid Strathearn which was formed by the Union of the Parish of Fowlis Wester, Madderty and Monzie with the Parish of Gask, on 26<sup>th</sup> September.

Firstly, please let me introduce myself. I am Graham McWilliams, Parish Minister at Comrie and Dundurn, where I have served for just over 13 years. I am your Interim Moderator, which means that I am the minister appointed by the Presbytery of Perth to oversee the transition of the Parish of Mid Strathearn from a time of ministerial vacancy through to a time of installation of your next minister.

We live in a time of declining church membership, where people's faith in God is not reflected by their regular attendance at weekly worship. However, even in this climate, it is the call of the church to be a witness for God in our parishes. As St Paul reminds the Christians in Rome, 'how, then, can the people call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?'

Speaking of God, and the Good News that God has given to us in Jesus, is not the sole responsibility of clergy, or Elders. It is our collective responsibility. And so, as the new Kirk Session gathers together all of the strands which are necessary to arrange ourselves into a new functioning Parish, to put us into a position to call a minister, I ask that everyone who reads this letter can find it in their heart to speak of the goodness of God, and encourage everyone in this new parish to be a living, breathing, people of faith, honouring to God in all that we do. It is through this concerted effort that we will be an attractive church, overcoming the barriers that life, and history, will place in our way.

St Paul was a man who regularly challenged the early church, and the people responded. And if it were not for the faithfulness of the people of yesterday, we would not necessarily be the people of faith that we are today. In our faith in Christ, there is more to unite us for the journey ahead than divide us. Not everything will be easy: nothing worthwhile ever is. Some traditions will pass, as they should, and new ones will be created as our living faith informs us of how we should be the church today.

Whatever part of your faith journey I am able to participate in, and support, I will do. But, ultimately, the responsibility of becoming a new church for the present age belongs to the people of God in the new church community of Mid Strathearn. It is your witness that will continue to share the word of God to those who have not yet come to know Him.

I wish you every blessing as, together, we step out in faith.  
Yours in Christ.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Graham".

Rev. Dr. Graham McWilliams

Interim Moderator  
Mid Strathearn



## **SUNDAY SERVICES**

As Mid Strathearn Church of Scotland we have two services each week.

On the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month we have a service in Gask Church at 10.00 am and Fowlis Wester Church at 11.30 am.

On the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month we have a service at Madderty Church at 10.00am and Monzie Church at 11.30 am.

If there is a 5th Sunday in a month we hold a United Service in one of our churches at 11.00 am. Anyone is welcome to come along to any of our services.

If you do not have a copy of our Service Schedule it can be viewed on our website and updates can be found on our Facebook page.

We will still have our usual rotation of service times in the New Year so from January 2019 the services held in Gask Church and Madderty Church will be at 11.30 am and the Services held Fowlis Wester and Monzie Church will be at 10.00am.

Sheena Crawford, Session Clerk.

## **COMMUNION IN MID STRATHEARN 2018**

4th Sunday in January Monzie & Madderty

1st Sunday in May Fowlis Wester & Gask

1st Sunday in August Fowlis Wester & Gask

4th 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)

## **CHURCHES TOGETHER CALENDAR 2018**

**Carol Service** Gask church - Sunday 16th December - 4.00 pm (morning services as normal)

**Watchnight Service** Monzie Church 11.15pm for Carols, 11.30 pm Service

**Christmas Day** Gask Church - 11.00 am

**End of Year United Service** Fowlis Wester - Sunday 30th December - 11.00 am

Service times for 2019 will rotate as normal:

Monzie & Fowlis Wester - 10.00 am

Madderty & Gask - 11.30 am



## Baptisms

15 <sup>th</sup> July 2018	Arthur Hugh Cramb	Fowlis Wester
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## Weddings

14 <sup>th</sup> July 2018	Claire Carmichael & Sam Halliday	Fowlis Wester
4 <sup>th</sup> Aug. 2018	Susannah Drummond-Murray & Jamie Thomson	Fowlis Wester
13 <sup>th</sup> Aug. 2018	Catherine Carrick & Craig Lawrie	Fowlis Wester
8 <sup>th</sup> Sept. 2018	Lorna Haddow & Douglas Ballantyne	Fowlis Wester



## Funerals

8 <sup>th</sup> May 2018	Josie Coupar	Fowlis Wester
27 <sup>th</sup> June 2018	Lilian Clark	Madderty
5 <sup>th</sup> Sept. 2018	Andrew McClure	Crieff (formerly Gilmerton)
31 <sup>st</sup> Oct. 2018	Edna Buchan	Crieff (formerly Madderty)

## **SOCIAL COMMITTEE**

### **BBQ**

The annual barbeque was held at Madderty Hall on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup>.July. A large crowd of members, joined by folk from the wider community, enjoyed excellent food and company. The weather was glorious which encouraged people to linger and chat. Donations totaled £245.

### **Coffee Morning**

This took place on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup>.August at St. Andrew's Halls, Crieff. There were the usual stalls and a tombola with a huge number of donated prizes. Numbers attending were as good as on any previous occasion and the crowd enjoyed excellent home baking with their tea and coffee. The event raised over £770 for kirk funds.

The next event that the Social Committee will be involved with will be the Christmas Fayre at Madderty Hall on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December where we will have a cake & candy stall. We look forward to seeing you there.

We are currently one person short on the Committee and are looking for someone from Fowlis Wester to join us. We are a friendly bunch who meet approximately four times a year to organise events for the Kirk. If you would like to join us then please speak to any Social Committee member. And of course now that we have united with Gask we would hope that a couple of folk from there would like to join us. Again, please speak to any Committee member.

### **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.

We started off this term with a pizza and games evening followed by a very enjoyable evening at the climbing wall at Perth College where we saw some excellent climbing by everyone. After the October holidays we will be undertaking a variety of activities including a film night, games and an



evening or two preparing goodies to sell at the Madderty Hall Christmas Fayre.

We will finish off the term with our usual visit to Frankie and Benny's in Perth which is a highlight for us all.

We would love to have some more young people coming along, so if you know of anyone who might like to come please get in touch for more information. Our next meeting will be Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October.

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

### **Super Adults Outing**

As with many days this past Summer the Outing was blessed with a fine day as we visited Hopetoun House at South Queensferry. Although the cafe was a bit overwhelmed when we all piled in for a cup of coffee or tea when we arrived the visit to the house was interesting and learning about the Hope family and their rise to political prominence during the the 17<sup>th</sup> and early 18<sup>th</sup> centuries was well explained. Those who had the energy to climb right out on to the roof were rewarded with magnificent views of the Firth of the Forth and particularly the new Queensferry Crossing. There were some nice walks in the grounds as well.

A short trip in the bus took us to the Park Bistro near Linlithgow where we all enjoyed a magnificent high tea before returning home by Stirling.

The Super Adults Outing is open to all members of the our united church and also anyone from Madderty Parish 60 years old or over and is generously supported by the McLagan Fund. We therefore look forward to extending an invitation to our members who worship in Gask church who would like to join us, normally on a Wednesday about the middle of July. More information will come in the Spring about next years Outing.

Elizabeth & David Cameron.



## **Messy Church**

We held our last Messy Church on Saturday 29th September and we had a great time. This time we celebrated Harvest with the 22 children who attended along with their families. The children played skittles, did apple printing to make flags, made scarecrows, decorated fish and much more along with singing and story time. We all enjoyed some food together before everyone went home tired but very happy.

Our next Messy Church will be at the beginning of the year. Please check our Facebook page and website for more information nearer the time. All ages are welcome so please come along join us. If anyone would like more information please contact Sheena on 01764 654270.

## **Harvest Service**

Our Harvest Service this year was held in Madderty Church on Sunday 30th September. It was lovely to see the church so full as we celebrated Harvest and also our first service together as Mid Strathearn Church. The church was

beautifully decorated for the occasion. We had a retiring collection supporting Farm Africa which raised the magnificent sum of £333.

### **Mid Strathearn Church Guild**

The Guild meets the third Monday of the month in Madderty Session House at 2pm October, November, February, March, April.

If you would like to join us you would be made very welcome. The new session syllabus is available from Heather Moir or Isobel Robertson.

Isobel Robertson.

Secretary.

### **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.

### **FOWLIS WESTER NEWS**

In addition to those of us who attend the services at Fowlis Wester there is a huge flow of people coming to ST Bean's for a host of reasons visiting. We've recently replaced the Visitors' Book, open since 2011. Scanning through who has signed it, and while in the church of a Saturday it seems that about one in four visitors do so, there are Antipodeans, Europeans, *Americans*, Asians and a host from locally, whether from Perthshire or further afield, across Scotland and the UK as a whole. One particular entry stood out; Bobby & Mary Bean from Virginia. Their comment was 'Beautiful

church – thank you for caring for the moon tartan and the wonderful stone’. It is a reference to the Late John Bean, astronaut, who took a piece of McBean tartan with him on a space mission, landing on the moon in November 1969, and who later sent us a patch which is on display in the kirk.

Turning to our parish, Josie Ann Coupar (née Stewart), died on 25<sup>th</sup> April and was buried in the Churchyard. Josie had been born in Dundee on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1947. Graham and their family are very much in our thoughts and prayers.

Adrian and Lucy Cramb’s son, Arthur Hugh, was christened at Fowlis Wester on 15<sup>th</sup> July while his New Zealand grandparents were over; his brother, Louis, had also been christened here and his Cramb grandparents had been married at Fowlis.

Rounding up on events this summer we have had four weddings over the summer this year. Claire Carmichael married Sam Halliday on Bastille Day. Susannah Drummond Moray married Jamie Thomson on 4<sup>th</sup> August and Katy Carrick married Craig Lawrie on 13<sup>th</sup> August. On 8 September Lorna Haddow married Douglas Ballantyne.

Meanwhile, looking forward, the choir and musicians of Glenalmond College are again to hold their Christmas Carol Concert in the church on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December, in support of raising money for local young people’s charities.

## **MONZIE NEWS**

### **Glenalmond Concert**

On Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> June a sizeable crowd of members and others enjoyed a most marvelous “ Music for a Summer Evening” concert provided by some of the youngsters from Glenalmond College, led by their Director of Music, Dr. Tim Ridley and assisted by the Assistant Director of Music, Ms Jasmine Nicholson.

Ticket sales, after expenses, were to go to the Scottish Charity Air Ambulance whose helicopter can be seen from time to time in the sky above Monzie as it avoids the air space over Crieff. The evening began with a couple of pipers braving the midges at the door to welcome the audience and the event proper got under way with a short introduction to the work of the SCAA by one of their staff, Mr John Pritchard who brought with him lots of interesting reading material. As they get no direct government funding events like the concert are of great value to them in raising money to allow them to continue their good works.

The concert itself was given by ten of the youngsters from the College and what a talented bunch they turned out to be. There were ten items listed in the programme but they added in another where they all sang together as a choir because they were enjoying themselves! There was a trumpeter, solo singers, a violinist, someone playing the recorder, the trombone and and an organist. They provided an excellent concert of mixed music and the kirk proved to be the ideal venue. It would be wrong really to pick out any one performer but mention must be made of the young chap, Alexander Wallace, who played the organ twice. As he began his first piece you could see the audience turning to one another mouthing, "Wow! This chap can really play!" Note his name, someday he will be a very successful musician.

The concert was followed by an excellent supper in the hall where Mr Pritchard gave further details of the work of the SCAA. The evening resulted in over £500 being raised for their funds.

The main thanks are due really to Mrs Isla Crichton who had the idea to contact the College and ask them to give a concert. It was she who set up a meeting with Dr. Ridley, got a date decided and organised tickets and publicity. She was also mainly responsible for the supper spread in the hall afterwards.

Everyone agreed what a success the night was and it is hoped to do something similar again next year as the kirk is such a suitable place for a concert and it was wonderful to hear the place filled with music.

# **GASK NEWS**

## **Partner Plan**

These are some excerpts from a letter from our Missionary Partner, David Sinclair who is working with the Reformed Church in Prague, Czech Republic. He and his wife were over here in the summer, but unfortunately, he was unwell and had to stay longer than he had planned. I wrote to him in the spring and finally have received more information from him.

“Since we got back just over two weeks ago, life has been hectic. The Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren (ECCB) is celebrating one hundred years since its foundation - in its current form (it really has a much longer history) it dates back to the same time as the formation of the then Czechoslovakia at the end of the First World War. At that time, in Bohemia and Moravia - but not Slovakia, the Reformed and Lutheran churches came together (and actually had quite a bit of help in how to organise themselves from the Church of Scotland).

ECCB congregations are, in many respects, remarkably similar to Church of Scotland ones. In the west of the country, where we are, the tradition is predominantly Reformed - so worship looks and feels very like home. The differences are the language, of course, and the fact that here we sit to sing and stand to pray. The church is broad in its theology, willing to criticise the government (particularly, for example, on its attitude to refugees) but is largely ignored. The congregations here face the same challenges as in Scotland, of declining membership and probably a tendency in most places to be somewhat inward-looking. Choice of hymns and style of music brings the same arguments here as at home! The people are, however, extremely friendly and welcoming - and we have been made to feel very much at home.

In October we will be spending weekends in two churches: one to the north, almost in Germany; the other to the south-east, almost in Austria. Both of these will be new to us. I will be preaching in at least one of them, maybe in both. And in the first we will then spend the Monday morning in a primary school going from class to class, talking about Scotland. In the second the emphasis of the visit will be more on their interest in a twinning with a Church of Scotland congregation; it will be very much a first conversation about that, so we will see where that goes.

My job has a large emphasis on twinning arrangements and contacts with 'the English-speaking world', so that currently is mostly about Scotland and the United States, though there are contacts with the United Reformed Church in England as well.”

Anybody may write to David and support him, give him news from this end and find out more about his work and the Czech Republic. I now have his email address, so I can supply it to anybody who is interested.

Judith James

### **Gask Guild – As was**

The Guild in Gask Church is now in the process of ceasing to exist. It has been in existence and lively for more than 80 yrs and last year we spent a very happy time at one Guild Meeting listening to Jean Garrie telling us about the work it did before, during and after World War 2 and reminiscing on the changes which have taken place since then and those which we have experienced.

The membership of the Guild was one of the best ways of getting to know fellow church members and the fellowship which has been built up over the years has been a great prop and stay for times when people were finding things difficult. There is nothing like working together for building a support network and we certainly learned how to work together. The Daffodil Tea was the Guild's big event of the year and over the years must have raised a huge sum of money for the various projects which the Guild supports each year. The entertainments were always well received and I think, that every year, as we set up the tables, there was a heated discussion as to whether the cups should be upside down in the saucers for hygiene's sake or the right way up to be more welcoming! What a problem!

It is fortunate that the closure of Gask Guild should coincide with the fresh start as part of Mid-Strathearn Church and we are grateful that we can continue to be welcomed there.

Judith James

## **The Findo Gask Community Association**

We, in the Parish of Findo Gask , would like to sing the praises of, and blow the trumpet for, the Findo Gask Community Association.

From a quite humble start the Association has grown and developed and we have , over the years, set up and hosted a variety of different events; an Art Exhibition, this developed when we suddenly realised there were four professional artists who live in around Clathy and Gask, and many gifted amateur artists. There have been Beetle Drives and Quiz nights, wonderful Pet Shows, Flower Shows, Gardening Question Times and Scarecrow Competitions and Litter pick gatherings and Barbeques. This has basically been achieved on an “ad hoc’ basis.

This year the Findo Gask Community Association has become much more official. They set up three goals to be achieved, with the aid of council funding, if the goals and the organisation on the part of the leaders of each idea, won the support of the Council. Much to our pride and delight all three ideas were accepted by the council for funding. So since August of this year there is now a Defibrillator installed on the wall of Gask Hall and tutorials on how to use it have taken place. Two groups have started; one an Interage group where older people can come and meet younger families with small children and enjoy playing together. And two people, Ruth Reynolds and Anne Buchan, have undertaken to continue to organise events which go under the title of ” Get-togethers“ just so that people can “Get-together”.

The next “Get-Together” is a charity Coffee Morning on the morning of 10<sup>th</sup> November in Gask Hall. Come and “Get-Together”.

On the 16<sup>th</sup> December, after the Carol Service which we always hold in Gask Church at 4.00pm on the Sunday afternoon before Christmas Day, there is the Annual Christmas Party. So come to the Carol Service and then join the whole community for some Christmas celebrations.



## Church Website & Social Media Update

Following the recent approval of our Union our church website has the new name of [www.mid-strathearnchurch.btck.co.uk](http://www.mid-strathearnchurch.btck.co.uk) However, the website can still also be found by typing in [fowliswesterchurch.com](http://fowliswesterchurch.com), [monziechurch.com](http://monziechurch.com), [maddertychurch.com](http://maddertychurch.com) or [gaskchurch.com](http://gaskchurch.com)



# Mid Strathearn Church of Scotland

Home	<h2>Welcome to our Parish Church</h2> <p>The parishes of Fowlis Wester, Madderty and Monzie linked with Gask are a grouping of congregations serving the rural communities of mid-Strathearn.</p> <p>We worship in four different buildings, each set in or near the key communities of this area.</p> <p>As a family of Christian people we offer opportunities for regular worship and aim to serve our community through caring and involvement. Our congregational life is marked by a sense of 'Christian family', regular prayer, occasional social events, and meetings of various groups for all ages.</p> <p>Our overarching Vision is to know, experience, and demonstrate God's love as revealed in Jesus Christ, and so worship that God, serve in God's name and reach out in God's love to any and all.</p> <p>We seek to be welcoming, open, warm and friendly, and we look forward to welcoming you to any of our worship services, events or buildings.</p>
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The Guild	
DIY	
Spring Festival 2018	
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### Forthcoming Events



#### Next Services

**Sunday 28th October 2018**

**10am Service**  
Madderty Church

**11.30am Service**  
Monzie Church

**Sunday 4th November 2018**

**10am Service**  
Gask Church

**11.30am Service**  
Fowlis Wester Church

### News



#### Messy Harvest

On Saturday we had a great time at messy church. Almost 50 people attended with half being children. Click on the heading to see more pictures taken on the day. Thats to everyone who came along, took part , helped and/or provided food. Keep an eye out for the date of the next one.

Since our new “free” BT website was set up two years ago we have had 22,300 visits to our pages. The pages with the most visits was the Homepage (7,600 views), Church pages (3,387) Church services (1,900) and People (1,060). The website has lots of other information available including service dates and times, social event pictures, previous newsletters and the community calendar.

At least once a week the website is updated to ensure the church services are available on the homepage. Think of the website as your “online parish

magazine” which is always up to-date. In order to do this and keep the website of interest to the public we need regular updates about what’s going on in our church (pictures are always of particularly welcome!). Please pass on your updates for the website Colin by emailing him at [colincrawfordchg@gmail.com](mailto:colincrawfordchg@gmail.com)

### **Facebook/midstrathearnchurch**



Don't forget to check our posts on Facebook. To help our church to reach more people please “like”, “comment” and “share” our posts. It is the easiest way to inform the public of our service and mission.