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Kirriemuir St Andrew's

Scottish Charity No SC004395

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Link representatives:

Mrs J Wilkie (Oathlaw/Tannadice)
Mrs H Main (St Andrew's)



Lunchtime in the Office

A Church of Scotland minister in Edinburgh was asked to conduct a short prayer and Bible service at lunchtime. It was at the Scottish Office, now known as the Scottish Executive, which is based in Leith. The numbers were very small. There may be a few hundred people working there, but there were only nine at the lunchtime meeting. Quite a few of the minister's own congregation work there. Perhaps they did not know about the meeting, *or perhaps they did!*

There are many such groups in places of work. Those who attend are all regular and devout members of churches and chapels, mostly of the Baptist persuasion it must be admitted, and often given to literal interpretation of the Bible. They are enthusiastic and must often wonder why their professedly Christian colleagues do not join them.

Two of that minister's elders work for the Scottish Executive but were not at the meeting. They are genuine Christians too but dislike wearing badges or cutting themselves off from others. They place more stress on the witness of comradeship, conscientious workmanship, and helpful personal relations. One of them admitted that people sometimes come into his office and, after a rambling preamble, confide some distress that is destroying the peace of their lives. He doesn't tend to speak much about religion and, when he does, it is with diffidence and a smile.

We are all different and have different ways of expressing our faith, and all of them are worthwhile.

David Taverner
Minister

Gardeners' Question Time

On Friday, 22 May, an interesting and entertaining evening was held in St. Andrew's Church Hall. The distinguished panellists included Ian Christie from Westmuir, who is currently President of the Scottish Rock Garden Club; Ian and Maggie Young from Aberdeen, who are gardeners, broadcasters and artists; and Ally Bruce, formerly of Pathhead Nursery, who now lectures in Dundee.

The evening began with a competition called "Odd One Out", organised by Ian Christie, which was an array of numbered plants. The odd one out turned out not to be a plant at all, but fossilised dinosaur dung!

A superb buffet was produced by Kay Dorward, Ruth Fraser, Jenny Aitken and Margaret McLagan, and consisted of a main course and a dessert, followed by tea or

coffee. The meal was absolutely delicious.

Questions to the panellists followed on very wide-ranging gardening topics. Specimens of sick plants were produced as well as photographs of unknown healthy plants, and the panellists proved to be most knowledgeable and helpful in identifying plants, giving reassurance, and advising how to look after unusual or tender plants and in solving problems involving rabbits, cats, and New Zealand flatworms.

Ian Young also provided Quiz questions for each table, which were pitched at just the right level to interest and to entertain. Plants were awarded as prizes.

Thanks go to Ian and Ann Christie and to members of the Social Events Committee for arranging an enjoyable and memorable evening.

SEVEN DEADLY SOCIAL SINS

Politics without principle
Wealth without work
Commerce without morality
Pleasure without conscience
Education without character
Science without humanity
Religion without sacrifice

These were considered by Mahatma Gandhi as sins which undermine the fabric of our society.

The words are just as relevant today as when they were written - every area of life has to have underlying values, without which it would be everyone for themselves.

To: St Andrew's Members From: The Treasurer

I came across this story and I thought you might be interested in it, especially if you are feeling down.

LAGUARDIA airport is one of America's busiest. It was named after Fiorella La Guardia, the Mayor of New York during the Great Depression. Acting as judge in one of the poorest parts of the city in the winter of 1935, he found himself forced to pass sentence on a grandmother who had stolen bread to feed her starving grandchildren. He felt sorry for her but fined her ten dollars. Then he paid the fine himself and fined everyone in the courtroom fifty cents for living in a city where such a thing could happen! The grateful woman went home with nearly 50 dollars. Mayor La Guardia exemplified the difference between sympathy and compassion: sympathy sees and says, "I'm sorry", compassion sees and whispers, "I'll help". Our little church does a lot of good, maybe too quietly. The people in Peru are only a small part of the people we have helped last year and it is much appreciated; not headline news, but still rewarding. We want you not to show sympathy, but compassion as the Mayor did and give your Help.

Jock Kerr

Giving in Grace

As long as we are worshipping, caring for others in church and community and nurturing new life in Christ it will always cost the congregation money. The only time the church will relinquish its claim on our money is when the doors are locked for the last time. Until then, life costs time and money.

Our country is in an economic crisis, people are worried about the threat of unemployment, everything seems to be going up in price - it is a difficult time for most people. While the balance sheets of our churches can lead us to think we are doing OK, the financial requirements of the church do not stand still. **Just a small increase by each member**, can make a significant difference to the survival of our churches, and it is surely an expression of our faith if we give in grace. So please don't just think about it.

Congratulations to **Jim Kerr**, who was ordained as an **Elder at St Andrew's Church** on 21 June 1959. On Sunday, 21 June 2009, during the morning service, Jean Nicoll presented Jim with a special certificate on behalf of the congregation to mark his Golden Anniversary as an Elder. The Certificate is signed by the Moderator of the General Assembly and the beautiful calligraphy was done by Jean Wilkie of Tannadice Church.

HOLIDAY CLUB FOR CHILDREN Monday 6 July to Friday 10th July In St Andrew's Church Hall

I Had a Dream

Many years ago we were living in Southsea, a naval port in the south of England. Our children were attending a very good Church of England school where religious instruction was an important part of the daily lessons. Around Easter time our youngest son Colin, then aged 6, came home from school with a very serious look on his face. When I asked him what was the matter, he looked up at me and said, "Sure if Jesus was alive today we wouldn't kill him". I quickly reassured him that of course we wouldn't. I later wondered if this was the first spark of a future minister in our family. However, the dream was not to be as the Navy moved us on soon afterwards and the influence of the Church of England school was lost. So, no budding minister was to be part of our family, but, hopefully, if he had gone down that path he would have chosen the Church of Scotland. We will never know.

Muriel Smith



Enjoying the Strawberry Tea at Ladywell Farm on Sunday 21 June

*Look to this day!
For it is life, the very life of life.
In its busy course
Lie all the virtues and realities of your existence:
The bliss of growth,
The glory of action,
The splendour of achievement.
For yesterday is but a dream,
Tomorrow is only a vision,
But today well lived makes yesterday a dream of happiness
And every tomorrow a vision of hope.*

The Doctor

Dr Loukas shut his surgery.
Patients could wait, as they had done before;
Instruments of his trade he laid aside.
A different tool he took from out his store.

No probing needle now, no stethoscope:
The thing he needed was a ready pen
To tell Good News to all the passing ages,
How God had spoken to the sons of men.

Not in a word, but in The Word made flesh,
God's one true Son, made man to save the soul,
Luke saw; he also wrote what others told him.
His fluent pen brought order to the whole.

Thus Dr Loukas shut his surgery
In hope to reach a wider clientele
With healing words no medicine can equal:
With healing words no chemist shop can sell.

T.W.

GOD'S THOUGHTS ON LAWNS

GOD: Frank, you know all about gardens and nature. What in the world is going on down there on the Planet? What happened to the dandelions, violets, and thistles I started long ago? I had a perfect no maintenance garden plan. Those plants grow in any type of soil, withstand drought and multiply with abandon. The nectar from the longlasting flowers attracts butterflies, honey bees and flocks of songbirds. I expected to see a vast garden of colours by now. But all I see are those green rectangles.

ST FRANCIS: It's the tribes that settled there, Lord. The Surburbanites. They started calling your flowers 'weeds' and went to great lengths to kill them and replace them with grass.

GOD: Grass? But, it's so boring. It's not colourful. It doesn't attract butterflies, and honey bees, only grubs and worms. It's sensitive to temperatures. Do these Surburbanites really want all that grass growing there?

ST FRANCIS: Apparently so, Lord. They go to great pains to grow it and keep it green. They begin each spring by fertilizing the grass and poisoning any other plant that crops up in the lawn.

GOD: The spring rains and warm weather probably make grass grow really fast. That must make the Surburbanites happy.

ST FRANCIS: Apparently not, Lord. As soon as it grows a little, they cut it – sometimes twice a week.

GOD: They cut it? Do they bale it like hay?

ST FRANCIS: Not exactly, Lord. Most of them rake it up and put it in bags.

GOD: They bag it? Why? Is it a cash crop? Do they sell it?

ST FRANCIS: No Sir, just the opposite. They throw it away.

GOD: Now let me get this straight: they fertilise grass so it will grow, and when it does grow, they cut it off and throw it away. These Surburbanites must be relieved in the summer when we cut back on the rain and turn up the heat. That surely slows the growth and saves them a lot of work.

ST FRANCIS: You aren't going to believe this, Lord. When the grass stops growing, they drag out the hoses and water it so that they can continue to mow it and get rid of it.

GOD: Enough! I don't want to think about this anymore. St Catherine, what movie have you scheduled for us tonight?

ST CATHERINE: 'Dumb and Dumber'. Lord, it's the story about

GOD: Never mind, I think I just heard the whole story from ST FRANCIS!

(the above came to a member by email from Vancouver Island, British Columbia)

Tannadice Church Events Committee

The **Spring Fair** held at Tannadice Church on Saturday 4th April raised £237 for Church Funds. Those attending had an excellent morning and thanks are due to all those who contributed to make the event such a success. Enjoyable **Coffee Mornings** were held in March and May with £174 being raised for Church and Extension Funds.

Church Fete

The Annual Church Fete on Sunday 14th June was well supported considering the heavy downpour which commenced at 1.20 pm and lasted to after 4.00 pm!

Most of the Stalls and the Band moved into the Church and unfortunately the Bouncy Castle went unused due to the weather conditions.

Thanks to all who manned stalls, helped set up and dismantle pergolas, served cream teas and generally contributed to the £575 raised towards Church Funds.

P in the Park

Our annual outreach event "P in the Park" is being held on **Saturday 15th August** from 3.00

pm till dusk in the Jubilee Park, Tannadice.

This **free event** is open to all in the Parish and beyond and it is hoped as many members, villagers and friends of the congregation will come along for what is always an enjoyable afternoon and evening.

Once again, a Roast Pig is being provided by families of the Church with salads and soft drinks provided by the Congregational Board at no cost. In addition we hope a Country & Western Singer will be available to entertain us.

Golf Outing

The Friends of Tannadice are to follow up on their successful golf outing last August. This year's outing will be in **late August or September** at a venue to be arranged.

Golfers and friends of both Congregations are encouraged to attend.

Further details will be notified shortly, but in the meantime anyone wishing to register interest should contact John Rome on 01307 850493.

For Younger - and Older Readers!

We know that when Jesus started to do the work that God had sent him to do, he travelled about the countryside telling the people about God's love for them and teaching them how God wanted them to love one another and help one another. There are many stories we can read in the Bible which tell us of the wonderful things Jesus did. Here is one of these stories.

Near the Sea of Galilee lived a family who had heard quite a lot about Jesus and the wonderful things he did but they had never seen him. They looked forward to a time when he would come to their village so that they could all go to listen to him. One day something awful happened. The father was not well and it was discovered that he had leprosy. This was a dreadful disease that ate away people's bodies until they eventually died. At that time there was no medicine which could cure it. It was very contagious which meant that anyone who touched or came near a person with leprosy would soon have it too. This made people very afraid so that they would go nowhere near a leper. The poor people who caught leprosy had to leave homes, families and friends and find somewhere away from those who were well. They were not allowed to come near the villages or towns or even near the roads where they might meet other people.

Many of them went into the hills to find places where they could shelter. If they did move about they had to shout "unclean" so that everyone would know they were near and keep away. Their families would take food and leave it nearby so that they could collect it. Often the families were too poor to provide food so the lepers starved to death.

One day the family heard that Jesus was coming on his way to Capernaum. They were all very excited and when the mother took out food for her husband she waited until she saw him come to collect it and she shouted to him that Jesus was coming that way and could help him if he could only manage to get near him. The leper knew that Jesus could heal him so he waited until it was dark and went to a place near the road where he could hide himself but could still watch for Jesus coming.

The following day he heard the sound of people's voices and movements. He saw Jesus coming. As usual he had with him the disciples and there was a crowd following him. When they saw the man drawing near and saw that he was a leper they were very frightened and angry. They drew back and shouted at him and

many threw stones. When Jesus saw him he was not afraid. He was very sorry for the poor man. The leper said to him "Master, you can make me well if you will". Jesus answered, "Yes, I will make you well". He went to the man and put out his hand and touched him. How happy the man was to be well again and be able to go back to his home and his family and friends.

Find the answers to these clues and put them in their places in the crossword. They are all in the story. Solutions on the back page.

| Across | Down |
|--|--|
| 5. They had to leave their friends and 6. The father of the family was a 7. When the leper came to Jesus the people threw 9. Who were with Jesus? 11. There was also a following Jesus. 12. The crowd was | 1. The lepers had to shout "....." 2. People felt when a leper was near. 3. the lepers had to away. 4. The leper knew that Jesus could him. 8. Jesus felt for the poor man. 10. The family felt When the father became ill. |
| | |

OBITUARIES

Alfie Elder, 17 Rowan Avenue, Kirriemuir.

Alfie was born and brought up at Lochhead Farm, outside Forfar. He enjoyed farming but he was very good with his hands and preferred making things out of wood or metal. When he and Jean retired to Kirriemuir, he did numerous practical jobs for neighbours and local people and for St. Andrew's Church. Alfie was an elder at St. Andrew's Church and took his duties seriously. He also ran the Car Transport rota and would never see anyone stuck. He was a thoroughly decent, good-natured and reliable man with a strong sense of duty. We remember Jean, and their son Craig, in our prayers.

Andrew McFarlane, Arbuthnott Street, Gourdon.

Andrew's work took him to far-flung parts of the world, including a recent spell in Australia. He was held in high regard by his colleagues and his specialised expertise was in great demand in the oil industry. Andrew was a keen member of Tannadice cubs and scouts in his youth. He also made a point of staying in touch with a few good friends he had made in the Tannadice area, whose company he very much valued and enjoyed. He was a kind man with an easy temperament. He married Heather last year, and was looking forward to the arrival of their first child soon, so his tragic death in an accident is particularly upsetting. We think of Heather in our prayers, and also remember his parents, Alister and Janet, and his sisters, Sandra and Sarah.

Mrs. Sheila Shaw, 18 Henry Street, Kirriemuir.

Sheila was brought up in Monifieth and spent much of her youth in hospitals overcoming TB. She served with the Wrens during the War, and she worked in a shoe shop in Kirriemuir, which she enjoyed. Sheila played an active part in the life of the community. She was a member of Westmuir Rural and St. Andrew's Guild, and she enjoyed indoor bowling. She was also good at embroidery and sewing. She was a contented person who was very fond of the children in her extended family.

We remember her husband, Jim.

Mrs. Margaret Todd, Storyville, Kirriemuir.

Margaret was a practical person who could turn her hand to anything. She enjoyed baking and cooking, knitting and tapestry work. She ran a Gift Shop in Kirriemuir for a few years. She also played the organ at Memus Kirk, played the piano in a Dance Band, and was very well-known and active in the Tannadice and Oathlaw area when her family

lived at Miltonbank. She was married to her late husband, Eck, for 55 years.

We remember her daughter, Anna.

Although they were not members of our Churches, we also deeply regret the passing of **Donald Main in Kirriemuir** and **Isobel Adam in Justinhaugh**, who were very good friends of St. Andrew's Church and Tannadice Church respectively. We benefited from their generosity, helpfulness and goodwill.

We remember in our prayers Helen and her family, and also Bill Adam and his family.

† † † † † † †

PARISH REGISTER

WEDDINGS:

St. Andrew's:

Craig Wallace and Lynsey Donaldson, 19 Middlefield Avenue, Kirriemuir.

Tannadice:

Angus Forbes and Donna Petrie, 12 Provost Stewart Place, Stonehaven.

NEW MEMBER:

St. Andrew's:

Sheila Scott, 49 Slade Gardens, Kirriemuir.

BAPTISMS:

St. Andrew's:

Cameron Alistair Coull, 22 Inch Terrace, Montrose.

Tannadice:

Ruairidh Alexander Dunlop, Mains of Glasswell, Kirriemuir.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA – 2009

You may have recently read about the latest trip that Bob Wallace made with 3 other Kirriemuir Rotarians, earlier this year. Bob has been recognised by the Rotary Club for his work in raising funds to help the homeless and those still suffering from the effects of the terrible war. The recent visit was to disburse the money given to the Bosnia Fund and to ensure that the funds went where they were most needed. Families are identified by local contacts in Kljuc in advance of the visit. The following are examples of just how these families are helped as told by Bob.

- Erzumana and her 3 sons were visited twice. On the last visit in 2007 she had been in hospital but she is in much better health and taking medication for her thyroid and heart condition. The flat had recently been painted using monies sent in advance of our visit. We provided foodstuffs and household items. We all went to the market where we purchased basic clothes with football tops, shorts and trainers for the boys. We also made a donation towards her medication. The family was most grateful for the support.
- A husband, wife and 3 children. The husband has been made redundant from the local factory and they had no income. The family had been gifted a cow to help sustain them. We provided them with foodstuffs and household items.
- We visited Badema, a widow who lives alone. She has a son with learning difficulties who I had previously met. He is now with an aunt in Sweden. We gave Badema boxes of groceries and supplies.
- We visited an unemployed man with his wife and disabled 11 year old daughter. The family is homeless. They were allowed to stay in very poor accommodation but there had been severe water entry and it became uninhabitable. An uncle had allowed the family to stay with him but for a short and finite duration. The man is building his own house with help and support from the community. He wants his family to enter the house as soon as it is watertight. There is still a significant amount of money to be found. We were impressed by the man's ambition and sheer hard work. We made a contribution for materials and this was given to our contact who would release the money as appropriate.

- We were told of a family with specific difficulties. The husband had been in the Bosnian army but returned with psychiatric problems and has since left the family home. The mother also has psychiatric difficulties and has 4 children under the age of 6. After discussions with our partners in Ključ we visited the local hospital and met with the head of staff. The doctor knew of the family and agreed that it would be inappropriate for us to visit. It was decided that, given the mother's condition could be monitored by the hospital, the priority should be the welfare of the children. A trusted nurse in the psychiatric department was also a neighbour of the family. We left money with the hospital to be dispersed by the nurse as appropriate. A donation was also made to the psychiatric unit.

On leaving Ključ we visited Drin Hospital on the way to Sarajevo. We were met by the Director who led us on a tour of the hospital which has over 550 patients, from the very young to older adults, with severe and profound difficulties. The hospital is massively under funded by both central and local government. They receive only about £7 per day per patient to support the whole organisation. We donated money and gave the Director sweets for the children.

In Sarajevo we visited the Christine Witcutt Centre which has a broad mixture of young people with additional support needs. These were being met well with a mixture of individual and group methods. There has also been a significant development with the more able youngsters being integrated into local schools for part of the week. Specialists from the school also make home visits to those young people who, for a variety of reasons, cannot attend the Centre. The home support includes physiotherapy, music therapy and occupational therapy which are of great value to the youngsters and their families. The children in the youngest class gave a performance of dance and drama which was well received. We made a donation towards the first class work of the Centre. The Director presented a gift and a book to the Rotary Club of Kirriemuir in acknowledgement of the support shown.

Footnote: Fund raising for the project is ongoing (£800 has already been raised) and another trip will be planned when there is enough money to make it worthwhile.

A BENEDICTION

“The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you”

*The love of Christ befriend you,
The care of Christ attend you:
Christ have you in His keeping
When all the world is sleeping.
Christ be with you to-morrow
In pleasure or in sorrow.
Christ help you in temptation
And every tribulation;
Christ strengthen you for duty,
Give to your spirit beauty,
And comfort you with gladness
For every hour of sadness.
Christ bid His angels serve you,
And from all ill preserve you.
Christ make you pure and holy,
Christ keep you meek and lowly.
Until, with Him in Heaven,
His crowning grace be given;
The care of Christ defend you,
The love of Christ befriend you.*

Marianne Farningham

From a press cutting extracted by Mrs Norah Brown of Stanwix, Carlisle in the early part of the 20th Century. Mrs Brown died in 1948 and was married to Ralph Brown, Farmer, Bruntsiel Bog, Canonbie, Dumfriesshire who was my great-uncle. (John Rome, Tannadice Church).

Solutions to crossword:

Across - 5. Families; 6. leper; 7. stones; 9. disciples; 11. crowd; 12. angry.

Down - 1. unclean; 2. afraid; 3. hide; 4. heal; 8. sorry; 10. sad.