

**THE MAGAZINE OF
ST. JOHN'S CHURCH
KIRKCALDY**

The Manse
May 1997

Dear Friends,

I am glad to report my health has recovered from whatever unknown "bug" upset me prior to Easter. I was very upset at being denied the chance to celebrate Easter with you, but I know all went well in the safe, competent hands and voice of our good friend, Revd Jack Millar. To him I would like to express special thanks, while not forgetting Bill Stenhouse, our Session Clerk, and all the office-bearers who ensured all went smoothly in my absence.

Once I began to revive again, my wife and I went for short runs in the car. On one such occasion, we drove down the Chance Inn road between Montraive and Freuchie. It is a narrow, steeply-graded road with the little hamlet of Chance Inn at the bottom of the valley. Apart from tarmac streets, it looks as if it has been frozen in time a hundred years ago. Leaving it behind, the road soon climbs steeply, giving beautiful views of the Howe of Fife from an angle not usually known.

There were the villages of Balmalcolm, Springfield, Pitlessie and Kingskettle spread out like little toy villages with "Dinky" motor cars traversing the roads between them. It gave me a new view of the countryside and a different perspective on the geography of the terrain.

Most of us go to work, or go shopping, or go to recreational pursuits, by much the same roads every day. Where I live, some men take the train to work in Edinburgh daily. My immediate neighbour always walks round Gourlay Street to Percival Street, and down Dean Road to Massereene Road.

The man across the street invariably goes to the same station by going along to Bennochty Road, and across the railway bridge.

Most of us have similar habits. When I'm in Glasgow, I subconsciously follow the bus routes to my parents' house, even though they are the routes of the 1950s and 1960s!

To step off the usual route and go along a new road can give a whole new perspective and viewpoint to life.

When Jesus called His disciples to "Follow Me", He was about to take them along ways designed to give them a new view and a new perspective on Life. He still challenges us to do likewise today, in the light of the Easter Faith, the newest road of all.

It occurred to me there was a "hidden joke" in the name "Chance Inn". It suggests a place found accidentally, by chance, without knowing it is there in the first place. Yet it is well signposted, so there is no "chance" of missing the "Chance Inn"!

Often people look at life as no more than a collection of haphazard events, crises, meetings and all sorts of miscellaneous flotsam and jetsam. Sometimes some things happen to us apparently purely by chance, with no rhyme or reason to them. Sometimes it looks as if nothing has a pattern or a purpose, and it's just a matter of getting on with the nitty-gritty of life.

When Jesus called His disciples and gave them a new perspective on things, they began to see there were patterns and purposes in life.

Two men walking home from Jerusalem to Emmaus were trying to make sense of the Death of Jesus. Jesus joined them on the road and very quickly opened their eyes to the patterns in God's scheme of things which caused The Crucifixion.

I believe He still comes to us in His Risen Form and shows us how things we thought were "by chance" were nothing of the sort, but part of God's plan for us.

I am a minister because I met a stranger on the old Glasgow Subway railway, on my way to University. He turned out to be a prospective divinity student and he challenged me to go to Divinity with him. I did and have never regretted it.

Looking back, what might be regarded as a "chance encounter" became THE turning-point in my life.

Perhaps if we "drive" along the roads of life and have Courage and Faith to go off the beaten track, we will see our lives from a new perspective and see that many things "by chance" were, and still are, the instruments of God's purpose and part of the way He establishes His Kingdom on Earth.

Yours sincerely,

Samuel M. McMaugh

REMOVED BY DEATH

05.11.96 Miss Cruikshank, 51 Kennedy Crescent
09.11.96 Mr. E. Michie, Bennoch Lodge Nursing Home
08.01.97 Mrs. Taylor, 3 Hendry Road
07.02.97 Mr. John Forbes, 5 Nelson Street
01.03.97 Mr. Stewart Findlay, 22 Hazel Avenue
06.03.97 Mrs. Chalmers, 14 Salisbury Street
08.03.97 Mr. J. Kidd, 76 Winifred Crescent
31.03.97 Mrs. C. Whyte, 3 Denend Crescent
01.05.97 Mrs. Agnes Summers, 55 Cumbrae Terrace

TRANSFERS TO ST. JOHN'S

Mr. T. Reid, 17 Percival Street
Mrs. T. Reid, 17 Percival Street
Mr. Chapman, 65 Kennedy Crescent
Mrs. Chapman, 65 Kennedy Crescent
Mrs. Greig, 109 Ralston Drive

by Certificate From

St. Andrew's Church, Kirkcaldy
St. Andrew's Church, Kirkcaldy
Templehall Church, Kirkcaldy
Templehall Church, Kirkcaldy
St. Brycedale Church, Kirkcaldy

by Profession of Faith

Miss Linda Ness, Balbeggie Avenue, Thornton
Mrs. Vanessa Robb, 28 Viceroy Street
Mr. Richard Robb, 28 Viceroy Street
Miss Mary-Ann Harris, 24 Longbraes Gardens
Mr. John Harris, 24 Longbraes Gardens

09.03.97
09.03.97
09.03.97
09.03.97
09.03.97

Mr. D. Stoddart, 8 Canmore Gardens
Mrs. Stoddart, 8 Canmore Gardens
Mr. G. Stoddart, 8 Canmore Gardens

Restored from Supplementary Roll
Restored from Supplementary Roll
Restored from Supplementary Roll

TRANSFERS FROM ST. JOHN'S

Mr. Wm McLeary, 17 Miller Street
Mrs. Boak, 55 Overton Mains
Mrs. Burns, 27 Milton Road

Transferred to

Burntisland Parish Church
33 Boswell Street, Edinburgh
Linktown Church

CRADLE ROLL

22.12.96 Rebecca Mary Janice Hooper, Barraton Cottage, Cluny
09.03.97 Jordon Thomas Wilson, 36 Valley Gardens
06.04.97 Hannah Nicola Martin, 23 Kelso Place
04.05.97 Hannah Dall, 6 Winifred Street



MEN'S ASSOCIATION BOWLING GROUP

Jim Christie



Another successful indoor session has come to an end. A very good competitive match was played against the Women's Group - some of whom could be good bowlers. The 'Darling Trophy' was won this year by Jim Christie. The End of Indoor Session Bowling Competition was won by Martin Wood and Tom Dickie. The prize was a pound of Hepburn's sausages, so breakfast was ensured for Martin and Tom!

Outdoor bowling started on 5th May at Beveridge Park. Anyone is welcome to join us on Monday evenings at 6pm.

We've nothing new to say, it's all been said before;
Just come along and you will find a welcome at the door.
Pay 30p each Thursday, we will not ask for more;
and share in all the goodies we always have in store.

To what do I refer?
The GET TOGETHER, of course!

Effie Cooper

ST. JOHN'S BOYS BRIGADE

John Methven



Another session has ended, with Parents' Night and presentation of awards and badges having taken place. The Anchor Boys have had a very successful session and this year will be transferring 13 boys to the Junior Section. Congratulations are due to June Waddell and her staff for their excellent programme over the winter session.

The highlight of the Junior Section session was the "Burns for Bairns Night", which we shared with parents and friends. Each boy took part, reciting poetry or making music, and a sponsored 'tattie peel' was held the previous night. The boys peeled their way through 56lbs of tatties, which were then eaten along with haggis and neeps and our other national drink! Sponsor money totalled £165.85, which we donated to the Boys Brigade Church of Scotland Mission Fund.

The Company Section are now finished their winter programme and go to Aberdeen for their summer holiday, to coincide with the visit of the "Tall Ships Race". A very interesting programme by Aberdeen City Council should be an added attraction.

We are finding it very difficult to carry on B.B. work and unless we can receive more staff or helpers in the Junior and Company Sections, the position of St. John's B.B. could become critical, with a threat of closure in the near future. If you have a skill or a hobby in First Aid or Crafts, Model Making, Orienteering, Baking, Cooking, Communications, Sports etc., why not give us even one hour of your time each week, and we can then have a programme for everybody. We have the Boys - we need your support.

Please contact John Methven (592496) or any member of B.B. staff.

ST. JOHN'S RAINBOW GUIDES

Andrea Ladyka, Rainbow Guider

"I will do my best to love my God and to be kind and helpful"

Our main event this term was a party at Balwearie High School on Saturday 10th May, to celebrate Rainbow Guides' 10th Birthday. There were about 240 Rainbow Guides plus Guiders present, and it took the form of a "Mad Hatters Tea Party". We made Wizard Hats to wear at the party (adults included!) and also peg streamers. There were party games, tea, birthday cake and a magician, and the Rainbows all got cake and a present to take home.



Our crafts for the first part of this term were tied up with the party, plus seed planting and outdoor activities when weather permitted. A visit to the First Station on 21st May was enjoyed by all.

Sarah and I passed our First Aid exam in December, and we sat our Stage 1 Sign Language exam on 19th April and will have to wait a month to find out whether or not we have passed. Sarah is approaching the end of her first year at college and Lyn is hoping to be accepted to train as a nurse. Liz and I continue to work!

As always, our waiting list is full, as is the Brownie waiting list, therefore Rainbows are having to wait longer to move up to Brownies.

We continue to run a "Mums' Rota", which means those Mums who are able to, help out once a term. We have had to do this because we cannot find another adult to help and we are required to have a ratio of one adult to five children. Although this is working well, it is not an ideal situation. Is there anyone with some spare time and spare energy on a Wednesday evening? If so, please get in touch.

Our last meeting was on 4th June and Rainbows will start again after the school summer holidays.



FABRIC

Bill Whyte, Fabric Convener

With effect from 19th March 1997, I was appointed Fabric Convener to succeed Mr. Jack Jarvis, who regrettably wished to stand down after five years. St. John's owes a great debt of gratitude to Jack Jarvis in many ways, especially as a result of his involvement as the Contractor for Phase II of the roofworks. His costings greatly benefited the members of St. John's.

There will be an ongoing requirement for maintenance work to be carried out to maintain the Church property, including the Manse - some of a minor nature, some quite major - and these in the main will come to light during the annual Fabric Inspection in June.

It is hoped, with the help of any willing members of the congregation - male and female - to form a team which could undertake the more minor repairs and improvements, thus limiting costs. If you can assist in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me.

TEEN CHURCH

Rosemary Cox

Although our numbers have been small, we have enjoyed our fellowship together on Sunday mornings at the Teen Church.

Our activities have not been so varied this session, but we are looking forward to a Modern Christmas Panto, which is being organised by Kirkcaldy Churches Youth Team, and hopefully some of our members will be involved in the production.

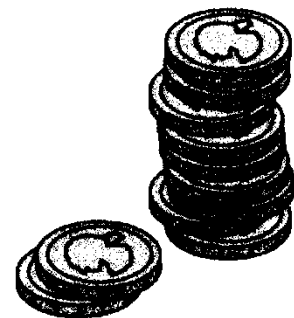
Any teenager who would like to join us next session would be made most welcome.

We had fine weather for our Forth Bridge Walk on Saturday 3rd May and raised the sum of £300 for Christian Aid.

LIRE, PESETAS AND FRANCS

Many of you have contributed foreign coins or old British currency to the National Bible Society of Scotland. A large quantity was delivered to Bible House recently and the Bible Society express their thanks to everyone who was able to help.

As this is an ongoing project, it would be appreciated if you could hand any such coins/notes to Sandra Marshall, St. John's Bible Society representative. All the money collected is used to supply Bibles for overseas.



WOMAN'S GUILD

Edith Chapman

Both evening and afternoon meetings have been successful, with a variety of speakers and events. A concert, coffee mornings and the Annual Drive have been enjoyed by all. Next session our name will be "The Guild", and a warm welcome awaits old and new members.

? TO CHRISTMAS

Yes - Christmas! This is an early intimation of the Christmas Fayre to be held in the Church Halls on Saturday 22nd November 1997. Advance notice is given to all craft, jam/pickle makers to start gathering their ingredients. It is hoped that all organisations will once again take part by manning a stall. We also hope to have Santa visiting.

Let's try and raise more than last year's £2,000.



CHOIR

Brian Booth, Choirmaster



On 14th March 1997 we held our annual Musical Evening and raised £327 for Church Funds. Thanks to all who supported us.

Choir practices resume on Thursday 11th September at 7.15pm. As always, we are looking for additional members and a warm welcome awaits you.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND : WORLD MISSION

Margaret Simpson, Correspondent



Missionary Partner : Tony McLean-Foreman, Theological College, Sri Lanka

In his correspondence of February this year, he recounted his experiences of sharing of study and worship with colleagues in a country of many differing faiths. His comments on travelling and exploring this dramatic country and descriptions for the children are most graphic (see letters on vestibule board).

Finally, he makes obvious reference to the continuous civil strife and inevitable suffering among the town and village families. We in St. John's were able to contribute practically in terms of a Retiring Collection on the March Communion Sunday - £136.80 which was sent first to H.Q. 121 George Street, Edinburgh.

Letters of interest, encouragement and information can be sent out directly to him in Sri Lanka by any department or group. (See board for address.) Meanwhile, we remember our partner in our prayers.

FAILURE

FAILURE doesn't mean YOU are a failure

it does mean you haven't succeeded yet!

It doesn't mean you have accomplished nothing

it does mean you have learned something.

It doesn't mean you are inferior

it does mean you are not perfect.

It doesn't mean you'll never make it

it does mean it will take a little longer.

It doesn't mean God has abandoned you

it does mean God has a better idea!

GREETINGS FROM TARVES

Brian A. Booth, Organist

On Sunday 6th April 1997, it was my privilege and pleasure to play at the Service in Tarves Parish Church, Aberdeenshire. The congregation of Tarves is of similar size to St. John's.

I conveyed the best wishes of the Minister and Congregation of St. John's to the Minister and Congregation of Tarves. I said that although we worship in separate buildings, we are all part of a much greater and wider company. I wished them every blessing in all that they did, especially as they approach the bicentenary of their present Church building. The Minister of Tarves, the Revd Leslie Barrett, has written to Mr. McNaught thanking us and extending his Congregation's good wishes and blessing.

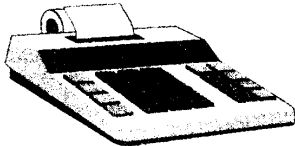
It was a nostalgic visit for me to return to the Church where I received my first organ lessons, some 41 years ago. Old acquaintances were renewed. I have been asked to play again and I look forward to that occasion.



ADVANCE NOTICE IS GIVEN THAT PLACES WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE MOTHER & TODDLER GROUP FROM AUGUST THIS YEAR. THIS GROUP IS OPEN TO ANYONE (MOTHER, FATHER, GRANDPARENT, CHILDMINDER) WITH A CHILD UNDER THE AGE OF FIVE. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT LORRAINE FAIRFUL ON 644783.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Brian A. Booth, Treasurer



As I reported at the Stated Annual Business Meeting of the Congregation on Sunday 23rd February 1997, our expenditure for 1997 will exceed our income by some £7,000. A copy of the General Fund Budget for 1997 follows for your information.

We are now a third of the way through the year, and to date there is nothing to suggest that there is any change in this position. Please reconsider your level of giving in the light of this deficit. Some form of fund-raising will have to be organised for the second half of the year.

GENERAL FUND BUDGET

ACTUAL

1996

£

BUDGET

1997

£

£

		£	£
INCOME			
(a)	<u>Offerings</u>		
20,064	W.F.O. Scheme	20,064	
13,275	Deeds of Covenant	13,275	
4,916	Tax on Deeds of Covenant & Gift Aid	4,248	
1,549	Ordinary Offerings (Open Plate)	1,549	
579	Other Offerings, Donations etc.	125	
<u>2,005</u>	Gift Aid	—	39,261
<u>42,388</u>			
(b)	<u>Other Ordinary General Income</u>		
3,166	Contributions from Congregational Organisations		3,166
66	Interest from Current Account		66
752	Miscellaneous		752
917	Gift Boxes		917
<u>4,505</u>	Christmas Fayre, Nearly New Sale, Fete		<u>2,132</u>
<u>9,406</u>			<u>7,033</u>
<u>£51,794</u>	TOTAL ORDINARY GENERAL INCOME		<u>£46,294</u>
EXPENDITURE			
(a)	<u>Local Ministry</u>		
1,667	Service Supplement Fund		2,500
16,008	Minister's Stipend (net)		16,110
1,904	National Insurance & Insured Pension Fund		1,916
3,606	Main Pension and Housing & Loan Funds		3,630
3,390	Travelling Expenses		3,480
412	Other Expenses		432
<u>114</u>	Pulpit Supply		<u>210</u>
<u>27,101</u>			<u>28,278</u>
(b)	<u>Mission and Wider Work</u>		
7,230	Mission & Aid Fund		7,750
<u>620</u>	Presbytery Dues		<u>650</u>
<u>7,850</u>			<u>8,400</u>
(c)	<u>Local Congregational Purposes</u>		
5,035	Salaries		5,886
1,705	Telephone, Postage, Printing, Stationery		1,790
589	Fabric Repairs & Maintenance		1,000
2,461	Heating & Lighting		2,707
3,095	Rates, Insurance & Council Tax		3,101
745	Organ & Piano Maintenance		320
89	Cleaning Materials & Laundry		100
126	Upkeep of Grounds		260
773	Publicity & Advertising		700
537	Sunday School		550
100	Flower Delivery		100
307	Miscellaneous		300
<u>1,643</u>	Equipment		<u>100</u>
17,205			16,914
439	Less: Contributions from Outside Agencies etc.		400
<u>16,766</u>			<u>16,514</u>
<u>£51,717</u>	TOTAL ORDINARY GENERAL EXPENDITURE		<u>£53,192</u>
<u>£77</u>	SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		<u>(£6,898)</u>

The weekly Sunday Offering required for 1997 is £800

20TH KIRKCALDY GUIDES

Jeanette Brown, Guide Leader



I wonder if I may share a story with you

The Faithful Few

Friday nights were sacred when I was a child. My mother was a Girl Guide Captain, Friday night was Guide night and Guides came first. It didn't matter if it was pouring with rain or she was experiencing great pain from her arthritis; when she came home from teaching, she put on her uniform and set off on the bus for an evening of badges, ball games and Baden-Powell. Supported by a great team of helpers, she made sure the girls had an informative yet fun-packed evening.

Times have changed. Whenever I attend gatherings of Scouts, Guides and Boys and Girls Brigades, I hear the same plaintive plea: 'We need more leaders!'

It has never been easy to get people to commit themselves to helping out with youth organisations. It usually means one evening a week almost every week of the year. That calls for commitment. When you're dealing with the young, it's no good being here today and gone tomorrow. They like continuity and I don't blame them.

There's no shortage of excuses for not volunteering. With both parents working, running a home takes up most of the spare time they have. Single people are hesitant to volunteer in case their motives are questioned. So once again we fall back on the faithful few.

Youngsters are more demanding nowadays, too. What was regarded as exciting 30 years ago is now seen as boring. Nor is there the same respect of authority, often because those in authority have undermined themselves. However, it's no good complaining about the way young people behave if the older generation is unwilling to give them leadership. You may remember being taught as a child about Jesus, the Good Shepherd. I'm sure your teacher pointed out that in Biblical times the shepherd always led his sheep. He wasn't behind, but out in front meeting any danger before his flock. He led them along a safe path and found pastures where they could be properly fed. Far be it from me to suggest that young people are like sheep - but they do need leaders

Although many youngsters nowadays have many other interests, we always seem to have a full guide unit. As some of the older Guides move on, there are always younger girls ready to join. The Guides are noisy, boisterous at times, but all seem to be happy. We had a very successful weekend at Logie House, by Cupar, in March with 15 Guides having fun and working on badges through 'a trip found the world'. Many of these activities teach them new skills and they are always willing to learn if we show them the way.

As soon as the schools finish for the summer we are off to Summer Camp under canvas. Many of the Guides will have camped before, but for several it will be the first time. Hopefully the weather will be kind, as living in a wet field for a week can be difficult! I don't think the weather will bother the Guides - perhaps it's the Guiders who don't like to get too wet!

**A man overheard his young daughter and her best friend discussing his activities.
"What's a Rotarian?" asked the friend.
The daughter replied, "A sort of Brownies for daddies"!**

DEED OF COVENANT

Stewardship Committee



We know! You've heard it all before. "Here's this Deed of Covenant business cropping up again". While we apologise for doing so, we nonetheless feel it is most essential that we try once more to show how important this part of our giving is to the well-being of our church.

A Deed of Covenant does not change your lifestyle in any way, but it does mean a great deal in benefit financially to the church.

Take a minute to look at the table below and digest it.

Minimum Income Tax paid per year (approx.)	Current Weekly Offering	Deed of Covenant agreed sum per year	Church reclaims tax per year (23% rate)	Equivalent weekly offering
£78	£5	£260	£77.66	£6.50
£47	£3	£156	£46.60	£3.90
£16	£1	£52	£15.53	£1.30

OK so far? If not, have a word with Phil Reeves who is our expert on this.

Briefly, whether you are in employment or a retired person, and paying Income Tax, you qualify to participate *without any change in your Free Will Offering to the church*. The amount you put into your envelope every week will be boosted by approx. 30% which the church is able to use to help meet the many commitments it has throughout each year.

We very sincerely implore you to give this your earnest consideration and contact Phil as soon as possible (tel. 269559).

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP

May Whyte, Teacher



We wound up our season on Monday 5th May and will recommence on Monday 20th October, every alternate week until Monday 15th December, from 7-9pm in the Small Hall. We would welcome some new members. Age is no barrier - young and not-so-young, but young-at-heart!

This is not a high-powered class - it is a social, enjoyable evening with good music, and the inevitable tea and biscuits. It is a good way of keeping fit, although the ability to laugh when things go wrong is essential! It has all the ingredients for a happy evening.

After all, Scottish music and dance is our national heritage and it is up to us to keep it alive.

So, please, if you are interested, come along and see for yourself. A very warm welcome awaits you. Bring a friend. Everybody welcome.



FLOWER FESTIVAL

St. John's was founded in September 1907, with the laying of the memorial stone by the then Moderator of the General Assembly, the Right Revd J. Mitchell. The church was dedicated a year later.

On the night of Friday 19th July 1975, the church building was completely destroyed by fire. However, as Mr. McNaught said at the time, "There is more to a church than a building, and the life of the Church will continue". The congregation of St. John's continued to worship on a Sunday, firstly in Meikle's canteen and subsequently in the church hall, while at the same time working tirelessly to raise funds to rebuild the church.

To celebrate the 20th anniversary of the opening of the new Church of St. John's in September 1977, a **Flower Festival** is being held from **Friday 19th - Sunday 21st September**, when the Church will be filled with a range of dazzling floral displays on the theme 'All things bright and beautiful' (Hymn 154).

This is an event not to be missed and it will be publicised far and wide to maximise the number of visitors. Entry will be by programme, priced £2.00, which includes refreshments. It is hoped that members of the congregation will not only buy a programme for themselves, but also sell them to their friends. All money raised will go to Church funds.

The ladies of the organising committee are still seeking sponsors, to give donations for the purchase of the flowers. Anyone wishing to make a contribution, please contact any of the following: Mrs. Aird, Mrs. Booth, Mrs. Cook, Mrs. Docherty, Miss Finlay or Mrs. Michie.



*In celebration of the 20th anniversary
of the opening of the new Church building*

Theme: "All things bright and beautiful"

Friday 19th - Sunday 21st September 1997

Opening Times: Friday: 2pm - 8.30pm
Saturday: 10am - 5pm
Sunday: 2pm - 4.30pm



Entry by Programme : £2.00
(including refreshments)



To round off the Flower Festival week-end of celebration, there will be a special "Songs of Praise" service in the Church on the Sunday night.



*Yesterday is history,
Tomorrow is a mystery.
Enjoy today; it is a gift,
That's why we call it the present.*

Doesn't this echo the words of
Matthew 6.34?