**St Vigeans Church**

**Newsletter**

**August 2022**

We are in the midst of changes within the Church of Scotland which will impact on St Vigeans.

Over the last few months, numerous meetings and discussions have taken place, forms have been completed and inspections of all our properties have been carried out and a proposal for the new Arbroath Cluster of Churches put forward.

I am pleased to advise everyone, who has not already heard, that it is proposed that St Vigeans Church will remain open but sadly other Churches in our area will be closing. This however does not mean that there will not be a number of changes over the next year – we will no longer be in guardianship and we will share a minister or ministers with other churches.

I appreciate how important both St Vigeans Church and our Church family is to many of you and at least we are now over the first hurdle. There will however be many other challenges ahead and to ensure the long term future of our church we need everyone to work together and support St Vigeans and your office bearers as they adjust to these changes.

However, please be patient and I will keep you informed as to what the future and options are for us as soon as possible. But always remember that we will try our very best to get the best outcome for St Vigeans.

Margaret

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| A group of women sitting in chairs  Description automatically generated with medium confidence | **MODERATOR’S VISIT TO ANGUS** |

**COMMUNION SERVICE**

SUNDAY OCTOBER 30th at 11 am

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CONDUCTED BY REV PETER PHILLIPS

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| **A picture containing text, clipart  Description automatically generated** | **THE GUILD** |
| The session commences on Monday, 19th September at 2 pm in the hall.  As the syllabus is not finalised, it will be intimated in the Church who the speaker will be in September. We would welcome new members. We meet the third Monday of each month September to April. Subscription is free for the first year for new members.  Looking forward to seeing former and new members,  Jean Duncan | |

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| This has been a very sad time at St Vigeans.  In May Stuart Bell and David Nairn both died followed by James Thomson and George Taylor in June and Doris Eaton and Helen Gray in July.  Several of these people where very involved with the life of St Vigeans and we shall miss them all greatly.  Our thoughts and prayers are with the families and friends of them all. | Orange flowers with green leaves  Description automatically generated with low confidence |

**Science Recognises the Power of Prayer**

In recent years Christianity has been under attack by atheists who are strongly opposed to belief in the existence of God. They have expressed their point of view in a number of bestselling books. A typical example is seen in the book written by Christopher Hitchens who has been described as a dogmatic atheist. The title of his book is “God is Not Great: How Religion Poisons Everything.”

Have researchers produced numerous scientific papers that agreed with Hitchens’ claims? We would expect these to be quoted in his writing and they would no doubt be highlighted by the media. This appears not to be the case.

There are, however, many scientific studies that confirm bible teaching that *“the earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.”* James 5:16. Unfortunately, in their books, anti-theist writers choose to ignore the evidence that contradicts their beliefs.

Some examples of evidence of the value and the power of prayer are published in the “UCB Word of Today” summer 2022. The evidence provided by these academic papers is hard to refute. The papers have been produced by secular, non-religious institutions such as Florida State University, Columbia University, Psychiatric Journal, Yale School of Medicine, etc.

1. Positive religious beliefs play an important part in recovery from drug and alcohol abuse.

2. People over 65 who attend church were less likely to lose their mental faculties in future years

3. Teens who find meaning and importance in their faith have better relationships with their parents, which lead to a more satisfying experience for the whole family.

4. Victims of abusive relationships recover a positive self-image and reduce their emotional pain when their lives include prayer.

5. People who value religion and regularly attend church are 90% less likely to suffer from depression than their non-religious peers.

6. Three major universities have shown that people who hold meaningful religious beliefs and live accordingly are less likely to suffer from heart disease.

7. Those who attend church look after themselves and live longer healthier lives.

It would appear that Christopher Hitchens has got it wrong – Religion does not poison everything. The evidence strongly supports that the opposite is true. It would appear that nonsense remains nonsense even when it is written by world famous authors and academics.

## **CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

If you are moving, please complete this address slip and return it to the Roll Keeper,

**Miss B Brown, 2 Lochlands Drive, Arbroath. DD11 3DT**

Name: ……………………………………………………………………………...

Former Address: …………………………………………………………………...

New Address: ……………………………………………………………………...

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| Sunday Fun Club | We are all looking forward to the starting back at the Sunday Fun Club. Our first meeting will be on Sunday 21st August 2022 at 11.00. As usual we will meet in the Church for the first part of the Church Service before going to the hall.  We are delighted that Hannah Robbie and Anna Reid have agreed to join the team helping deliver the Christian message to the younger children. Their contribution to our sessions will be greatly valued.  Jim Menzies |

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|  | A picture containing funnel chart  Description automatically generated | Toddlers  Group |
| We are looking forward to the next term of toddlers which commences on 18th August, not many of our current toddlers are moving on to playgroup or nursery so we still have a waiting list, we do however have 2 new mums and 3 children joining us, we look forward to welcoming them to the group. I am grateful to all the faithful helpers who contribute their time to making the group an enjoyable and worthwhile experience for us all.  Sandra | | |
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| A person and person holding a baby  Description automatically generated | | **BAPTISM**  Lexi Heather McGregor, daughter of Lesley-Ann and Scott McGregor was baptised on Sunday 24th July | | |

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| STEWARDSHIP REPORT |
| £10 Challenge Update  Thank you to all in the congregation who took part in the £10 Challenge. By the end of June £1,021.80 was raised by people using their talents to increase £10 by as much as possible. I know some found it difficult initially to identify a talent in themselves but with help from others it has been wonderful to see the variety of talents and skills in the congregation. Thank you to those who took up the challenge and helped with this fund raiser.  St Vigeans Open Day.  In May St Vigeans Church along with St Vigeans Museum had an Open Day which was very well attended. Many people travelled a distance to see the Pictish Stones and our beautiful Church and were treated to hearing excellent music played on the piano. Thanks go to Historic Scotland for opening the museum free of charge and to St Vigeans Conservation Group who demonstrated stone carving and were able to give local knowledge of the area. Teas and coffees were provided in the hall and donations went to Christian Aid. Again, I would like to thank everyone who helped make this another successful day.  Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebration.  Sunday 5th June saw St Vigeans Hall full to capacity with people of all ages celebrating this special occasion with an afternoon tea with music in the hall and games and crafts for children along with music in the church by the choir In Harmony. This was part of the Music in St Vigeans programme organised by Miss Addison throughout the month of June. What a lovely happy occasion and it was so good to see the hall full with some ”well kent” faces but many whom we didn't know, all enjoying time together. A huge amount of organisation, time and help went in to making this successful and like any event much is done behind the scenes before and afterwards. Thank you to all involved. The Be Creative group made all the bunting to decorate the hall so beautifully and many, many people very generously donated sandwiches and home baking for the afternoon tea. A special thank you to all in the Social committee and Stewardship committee for all that you did in making this such a special occasion and to the many people who came along to enjoy a delicious afternoon tea and happy afternoon.  St Vigeans aims to be a friendly, welcoming and forward thinking family, serving God and the local community and I think St Vigeans definitely demonstrated this.  Helen Rosie |

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| A red and white sign  Description automatically generated with medium confidence |
| St Vigeans Church was able to send a magnificent £566.20 to Christian Aid this year. This came from the Christian Aid envelopes provided in the Church in May during Christian Aid week, along with very generous donations given for teas/coffees in the hall on the day of St Vigeans Open Day.  No event happens without the support and help of many people, before, during and after an event so I would like to thank everyone who helped in any way and to all who contributed to this worthwhile cause. Thank you.  Helen Rosie. |

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| **SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING** | |
| St Vigeans Scottish country dance class shall resume on Monday 5th September 7.30- 9.30 in the hall. Tea and biscuits provided bring your own cup.  A braw time is had by all, so feel free to join us . All abilities of dancers are very welcome.  £3 per class.  Anne Whitehead.  07743383967  Dates for dancing – September: 5th & 26th.  October: 3rd, 24th & 31st. November: 7th & 28th. December: 5th. | A person wearing sandals  Description automatically generated with low confidence |

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| **Arbroath Piano Club** | |
| Arbroath Piano Club meet in the Church at 3 pm – 4 pm followed by tea on the Second Sunday of the month and will resume on 11th September.  New members would be warmly welcomed as our numbers are low.  Listeners /players welcome! | C:\Users\Neil Pullar\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\0AXH5TOI\MC900441789[1].png |

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|  | **HALL SERVICES & SNACK LUNCHES**  There will be a Service in the Hall on the First Sunday of every month with Snack Lunches after the service resuming in September |

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| ££££££££££ | **Treasurer’s Report** |
| Please note below a summary of giving for the first half year of 2022 and a comparison with last year  Giving June 2022 June 2021 Variance % Change  Open Plate £ 1,604 £ 732  FWO £ 6,486 £ 5,215  Gift Aid £13,008 £13,743  Tax Recovered £ 7,490 £ 7,557  Total £28,588 £27,247 £1,341 +4.92%  Fraser Bews  Treasurer | |

Although we are now allowed to hand deliver the Newsletter, we are continuing to e mail it to as many people as possible and deliver it to the rest of our members.

If you would prefer a paper copy, please let me know or if you have an e mail address that we do not already have please send it to me – my e mail address is [margaret.pullar@btinternet.com](mailto:margaret.pullar@btinternet.com)

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| Contact Details  Rev Peter Phillips, Interim Moderator - 01241 830464  E mail: pphillips@churchofscotland.org.uk  ----------  Keith Scott, Locum - 01241 879615  07712 044 091  E mail: [k.t.scott@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:k.t.scott@hotmail.co.uk)  -----------  Fraser Bews, Treasurer  07917 211 993  E mail: fraserbews1@gmail.com  ----------  Margaret Pullar, Session Clerk - 01241 876667  07745 943 346  E mail: [margaret.pullar@btinternet.com](mailto:margaret.pullar@btinternet.com) |

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|  | **BE CREATIVE** |
| The Be Creative Group knitted bunting for the Royal Jubilee Tea Party  They are now on holiday and will resume on 7th September meeting on the first & third Wednesdays of the month in the hall at 7 pm. They are hoping to knit or crochet poppies for the Remembrance Service but if you have an idea for any type of knitting, crochet or craft or just looking for company please join us. | |

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|  | **Music in**  **St Vigeans** |
| The summer series made a welcome return this year on the four Sundays in June. Although there was difficulty in getting performers, due to the pandemic stopping rehearsals for choirs and instrumentalists, eventually, the  concerts were arranged and a good-sized audience each week encouraged and supported the players and singers. Thanks to all who helped with the organisation - Mrs. Lawson for the ladies bouquets, those who welcomed and introduced programmes,  those who gave the vote of thanks, the door ushers who made the guests welcome, the social committee, who provided the refreshments which were greatly appreciated by performers and guests. Thanks to all. Helen M Addison.  We are also very grateful to Helen who arranges all the performers and ensures that everything runs smoothly. Thank you, Helen. | |

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| A picture containing diagram  Description automatically generated | **HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICE**  23rd October at 11 am.  Full information will be on our website and intimated in Church |

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| A picture containing text, clipart, gambling house  Description automatically generated | Annual Blythswood Shoebox Appeal  Leaflets for this year’s appeal are not yet available but we will hand them out or e mail them as soon as we can. The collection date is likely to be early November, but we will confirm this nearer the time. |

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|  | DOOR DUTY |  |
| **September** | **October** | **November** |
| **Betty Brown** | **Jay Ferrier** | **Dorothy Baird** |
| **Sheila Hosie** | **Betts Ferrier** | **Andrew Baird** |
| **Gertrud Smith** | **Laura Paton** | **Meg Manson** |

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| **CHURCH OFFICER** | | | | | |
| **September** | | **October** | | **November** | |
| **4th** | **Andrew Lawson** | **2nd** | **Andrew Lawson** | **6th** | **David Smith** |
| **11th** | **David Smith** | **9th** | **David Smith** | **13th** | **Mike O’Donnell** |
| **18th** | **Mike O’Donnell** | **16th** | **Michael O’Donnell** | **20th** | **Fraser Bews** |
| **25th** | **Fraser Bews** | **23rd** | **Fraser Bews** | **27th** | **Andrew Lawson** |
|  |  | **30th** | **Andrew Lawson** |  |  |

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| **CHURCH FLOWERS** | | | | | |
| **September** | | **October** | | **November** | |
| **4th** | **Hall Service** | **2nd** | **Hall Service** | **6th** | **Hall Service** |
| **11th** | **Liz Lawson** | **9th** | **Christine Fairweather** | **13th** | **Remembrance Sunday** |
| **18th** | **Jean McPhail** | **16th** | **Chloe Allardyce** | **20th** | **Nancy Robbie** |
| **25th** | **Donation** | **23rd** | **Harvest Thanksgiving** | **27th** | **Advent** |
|  |  | **30th** | **Communion** |  | |

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| **COMPUTER** | | | | | | |
| **September** | | **October** | | | **November** | |
| 4th | Isa Christie | 2nd | | Gerda Reid | 6th | Gerda Reid |
| 11th | Fraser Bews | 9th | | Isa Christie | 13th | Isa Christie |
| 18th | Jim Menzies | 16th | | Fraser Bews | 20th | Fraser Bews |
| 25th | Sandra Menzies | 23rd | | Jim Menzies | 27th | Jim Menzies |
|  |  | 30th | | Sandra Menzies |  |  |
| C:\Users\Owner\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\IE\559S27VM\4017812952_20e931f75b_b[1].jpg | | | **REMEMBRANCE SERVICE IN THE CHURCH ON 13TH NOVEMBER AT 10AM** | | | | |

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