



St Vigean's Church

Newsletter

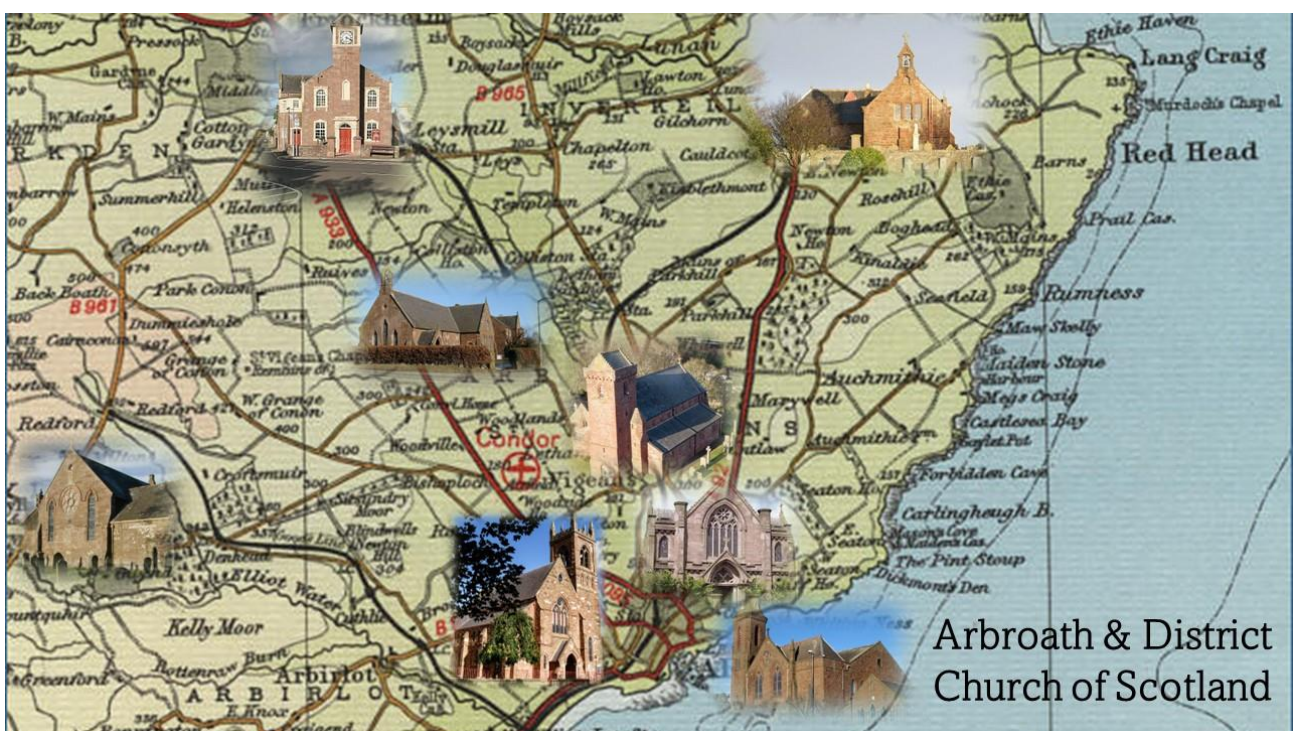
December 2023

In our last few Newsletters I have given you a brief history of St Vigean's Church and now I can tell you that a new chapter will begin within the next few months!

Initially, as outlined in the Presbytery Mission Plan, it was hoped that nine churches in the Arbroath Cluster, both town and country, would unite to become Arbroath and District Church of Scotland with six Worshipping Centres. Following the results of feasibility studies, these will be the existing buildings of West Kirk, St Andrews, St Vigean's, Carmyllie, Inverkeilor and a suitable venue to be decided in Friockheim. The Old & Abbey halls will be retained to create a Mission Centre and Colliston, Arbirlot, Friockheim and Old & Abbey church buildings will close together with the halls at Arbirlot and Inverkeilor.

At the first vote in June all nine congregations voted on both the Basis of Union and Basis of Team Ministry with seven voting in favour and two against these proposals. After many meetings and discussions to attempt to find an acceptable way forward it was decided to hold another vote, but this time Arbirlot, who voted no, would not be included.

This vote took place on 3rd December with all eight voting congregations voting in favour.



On a day to day basis what will this mean for St Vigeans? There is still a great deal to be discussed and decided upon and these discussions will be held early next year with the Union taking place soon after.

I do not want to give you false or inaccurate information, but I can tell you that all members of the eight congregations will become members of the new united church, all existing elders will form one new Session with one Session Clerk team, one Treasurer team and all funds, with the exception of restricted funds, will be pooled. A new minister will be appointed to join the Ministry Team, but this cannot happen until after the Union.

One thing that I am sure of is that although there will be changes there will still be roles, duties and responsibilities for everyone, and we will still need everyone's support for St Vigeans. Our Church family is important in many different ways and let us pray that this family is extended to include all in the new united church.

I will keep you as well informed as I can, but please if you want to ask anything you know where to find me and I will try to allay your fears.

There will be changes of that there is no doubt but please remain patient and positive and with God's guidance we will all be one.

Margaret Pullar
Session Clerk

REFLECTION

By the time you read this, St Andrew's Day, November 30th, will have come and gone, but his connection with Scotland is interesting. Andrew was the first of the Apostles to be called by Jesus to be a disciple. He was a fisherman in Galilee, and brother to Peter who would become leader of the disciple band. It was Andrew who introduced to Jesus the boy who had five loaves and two fishes before Jesus miraculously fed the huge crowd with these. It is said that Andrew took the new Christian faith to Asia Minor, modern day Turkey, before being crucified by the Romans for preaching this new religion. His request to be crucified on an x-shaped cross because he felt unworthy to die in exactly the same form as Jesus, was granted. Three hundred years after his death the Roman Emperor Constantine, the first Christian Emperor, moved his bones to his capital city Constantinople, now called Istanbul. A Greek monk had a dream when he was told to take Andrew's bones to the ends of the earth, and having removed some of his bones, he was shipwrecked off the east coast of Scotland. A church was built to house them and in the twelfth century St Andrew's Cathedral was erected on the site. Sadly, the original bones were lost, but it may indeed be that somewhere in Scotland lie some of the bones of that great first disciple. In more senses than one, Andrew may indeed be somewhere among us.

Rev Ian Gough



COMMUNION SERVICE

on SUNDAY 28th JANUARY

at 11.00 am

CONDUCTED BY REV PETER PHILLIPS

On Sunday mornings we have been working our way through the Book of Acts, seeing how the Early Church was born after the promised Holy Spirit came on the day of Pentecost. The disciples were frightened, meeting together behind closed doors after Jesus' resurrection in fear of the authorities. Jesus had told them to stay in Jerusalem to wait for the promised gift of the Holy Spirit, and so they obeyed, even though their natural instincts would have been to flee. What a transformation took place when the Holy Spirit came; the disciples became bold witnesses for Jesus, standing up and preaching the Gospel. They prayed together, supported one another and met the needs of fellow believers.

St.Vigean's church is very good at helping in practical ways, wherever there is a need, at a local or international level. Showing God's love in action.

As a church there are still uncertain times ahead of us, as we move towards a team ministry, as we face today's challenges, but in the words of Corrie ten Boom, who had many personal challenges

"Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God";

or in the words of the Old Testament prophet, Jeremiah

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you. Plans to give you hope and a future".

So as all the planning and preparation continues, let us make sure we are always looking to Jesus and following His clear instructions.

It has been a real encouragement to work with staff in Inverbrothock School as part of their Religious and Moral Education, talking through the topics of Friendship and Kindness, with good interaction with the pupils. I have also been able to share with them the different aspects of church and they look forward to visiting church in the better weather.

As we approach Christmas, may we not get so caught up in all the preparation that goes into it, that we forget the real reason for Christmas. To many it has become a season of parties and presents, yet we give thanks for the greatest gift of all - when our Heavenly Father gave us His Son, Jesus to be our Saviour.

With every blessing, Keith

THE GUILD



Good news!! The Guild is to start up again on Monday, 15th January at 2 pm in the hall. As the syllabus has not been finalised the Speaker will be intimated in the Church.

We were not able to meet at the beginning of the session in September because we were unable to appoint Office Bearers. However, we are pleased that Elinor Dowson has agreed to be Secretary. A big thank you to Nancy who has been Secretary willingly for many years. Well done, Nancy, for all your hard work.

We would like new members. Anyone, man or woman is welcome to join us.

A Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for 2024 to all.

Blessings

Jean Duncan

Thank you to all who supported World Aids Day on 3rd December. We raised £113.72 for this worthy cause.



I am sure that you are all aware of the attractive flowers that are on the Communion Table every Sunday.

Rosie Burnett is our Flower Convenor, and she is always looking for people to supply the flowers. Can you help out by either supplying the flowers or giving a donation and Rosie will do the rest!!



December Services & Events

3rd December

Service in the hall followed by Congregational vote for the Union. There will then be a Snack Lunch with a collection for World Aids Day.

8th December

Seniors' Party in the Hall at 2.30pm

10th December

Morning Service & Gift Sunday

17th December

Family Nativity and Presentation of Long Service Certificates followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

Christmas Eve

Morning Service at 11am & Christingle Service at 6 pm.

Christmas Day

Joint Morning Service at the West Kirk at 11 am.

31st December

Joint Morning Service at St Andrews Church.

STEWARDSHIP

Doors Open Weekend

Since the last newsletter, St Vigeans Church participated in the Doors Open Weekend on 9th and 10th September. Over 160 people visited our beautiful and historic church, with guided tours if wanted, by willing and knowledgeable members. Thank you to all who helped, either as guides or providing tea/coffee for the visitors. Thanks also to Helen Addison for playing the piano on the Saturday and to the Piano Club members for their participation on the Sunday afternoon.

Joseph Long Concert.

Regretfully we had to cancel the concert by Joseph Long for 22nd October. Joseph lives just south of Aberdeen and we had to make the difficult decision as to whether it was advisable and safe to make the journey, given the devastation to roads and bridges as well as severe flooding in South Aberdeenshire and Angus due to Storm Babet. We are planning to reschedule the concert for the Springtime but a date still needs to be finalised. My thanks go to William Lawrie for organising this and for refunding the tickets already bought.

Coffee Morning with Stalls.

By the time this newsletter comes out we will have had the Coffee Morning with Stalls in The Old and Abbey Church Hall on Saturday 25th November. Again, thank you to everyone who supported this by giving donations, volunteering their help, attending on the day and for help tidying up afterwards. These events don't happen without the input of many people so a huge thank you to all who supported this event. We raised the sum of £900.

Helen Rosie

FUN, FOOD & FRIENDSHIP AT COMMUNITY SPIRIT



Come and join us, every Tuesday evening from 4.30-7.30pm for a hot meal at tea time, things to do and friends to chat to.



Our community cafe is for everyone - no upper or lower age. There's no cost but donations are welcome. Find us at Fisheracre, Arbroath.

Image by photographer.com/FreePress

FUN, FOOD & FRIENDSHIP AT OLD & ABBEY HALLS



Come and join us, every Wednesday evening from 1st November between 4.30-7.30pm for a hot meal at tea time, things to do and friends to chat to.



Our community cafe is for everyone - no upper or lower age. There's no cost but donations are welcome. Find us at West Abbey Street, Arbroath.

Image by photographer.com/FreePress

FUN, FOOD & FRIENDSHIP AT FRIOCKHEIM

Come and join us, on the first Saturday of every month from 11.30am-2.30pm for soup, sandwiches and friends to chat to.

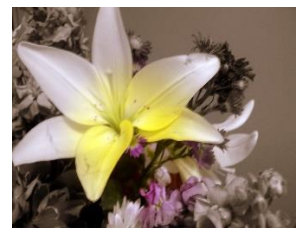


Our community cafe is for everyone - no upper or lower age. There's no cost but donations are welcome. Find us at 2, Millgate, Frickheim.

Image by photographer.com/FreePress

These are joint activities with all the Arbroath Churches. If you know of anyone who would like to attend or if you would like to volunteer to help, please contact either the names on the posters or Margaret Pullar - 01241 876667 or e-mail margaret.pullar@btinternet.com for further information.

Sadly, since our last Newsletter John Gillan was killed and Christine Kydd and Jim Muirhead have died. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families and friends.



GIFT SUNDAY



This year Gift Sunday is on 10th December and we are collecting items for the Lighthouse Appeal. They are looking for cosy items to include new pyjamas, underwear and socks to suit boys and girls aged 2 to 12 years.



TREASURER'S REPORT

Giving to end of October 2023

	2022	2023
Open Plate	£ 3,245.61	£ 3,276.78
Freewill Offering	£10,635.25	£16,130.60
Gift Aid	£16,885.60	£11,837.00
Tax Recovered on Gift Aid	<u>£ 7,490.48</u>	<u>£ 7,095.26</u>
	<u>£38,256.94</u>	<u>£38,339.64</u>

So overall giving very slightly up on last year by £82.70.

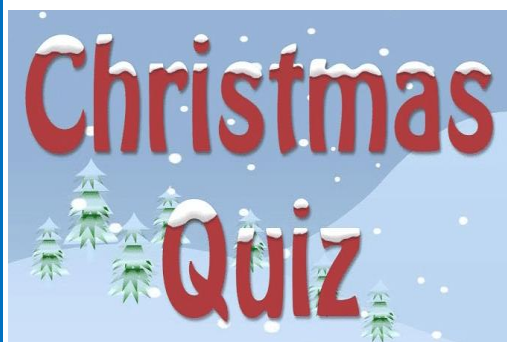
We have been carrying out a number of necessary and planned improvements to the church and hall over the year and by the end of the year we will have completed the following:

New Kitchen for the Hall	Total Cost	£29k
New Boiler for the Church	Total Cost	£17k
Paint Outside of Hall	Total Cost	£11k
Drainage and new pathway to Church	Total Cost	£26k
Clean out Guttering	Total Cost	<u>£ 3k</u>
		<u>£86k</u>

Early next year we will be adding a disabled toilet and baby changing facility inside the church costing approx. £35k so total spending of £121k which will obviously have a significant impact on the overall funds held by the Church but will leave us in a very good place to build for the future as part of the Arbroath Cluster of Churches.

Fraser Bews

Treasurer



Copies of our Annual Christmas Quiz are still available from Dorothy & Andrew Baird e mail - dot0148@icloud.com or any Elder. The closing date for entries is 15th December and all the proceeds will be shared between St Vigeans Conservation Group and Art for Ukraine. Answers will be available on the Church website or from Dorothy & Andrew.

Thank You

To my dearest St Vigeans Church Family

The girls and I would like to thank you for the incredible support you have given, and are continuing to give, to myself and my girls. Be it in person or remotely, physically and financially, taking the time to do so and giving your time and all your well wishes, kind thoughts and words, and your prayers; it all has helped us in so many different ways. God is truly Great and Good for He is looking after us and caring for all our needs through you, our wonderful Christian family. God will always find a way, but the fact that He has found a way through you all, is significant to me and I am ever so grateful that you have made yourselves available to be so instrumental in God's care plan for us.

With all our Love and Gratitude

From Gerda, Anna and Cate

We are still collecting for this cause until Mid-December.

If you have not yet contributed art materials or given a donation there is still time!!



At the moment we e - mail our Newsletter and other information to many of our members and the Elders deliver the rest.

If at any time 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

SUNDAY FUN CLUB

The Fun club has got off to a slow start with attendance not what we had hoped for. At the moment we have two leaders, and this means that during school terms the leaders will be missing services every second Sunday when they will be committed to preparing exercises for the children. It would be a great help if we had another volunteer to help either on a regular or, perhaps, only on occasions when we do not have cover.

On Sunday 17th December we will have our Family Nativity with the children, leaders and others all taking part!! This will be followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

Over a number of years, the Fun Club has asked our members to contribute to "Send a Cow" instead of giving each other Christmas Cards. "Send a Cow" has changed its name to "Ripple Effect," and we would like to continue supporting the good work that they carry out in various parts of the world.



The new name for Send a Cow



HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICE

A huge thank you to everyone who donated to the Foodbank at our Harvest Thanksgiving Service and also on a Sunday. The ladies at the Foodbank sent me this photograph of all the items from the Harvest Thanksgiving Service with their thanks.

Any fresh produce was donated to Food, Fun & Friendship



TODDLERS

Since the summer holidays Toddlers Group have had some challenges, We have only managed to have 3 sessions due to the new kitchen delays, teachers strike and weather warnings. We plan to have a Halloween themed session on 26th October. Hopefully we will all have fun. We are expecting some new families this term so hope they enjoy being part of the group. Thanks again to all our willing helpers who make this a successful group.

Sandra



BE CREATIVE

Be Creative has had a successful happy session with new and "old" faces! It is so refreshing that as well as enjoying the group some of our non-church members have helped out at the Fete and Coffee Morning.

Over the last few months, we have knitted and crocheted several items including the above blanket, knitted by one member and crocheted together by another! We have also supported Blythswood, Special Baby Care Unit at Ninewells, Cairnie Lodge Care Home, the Homeless and others.

The date of our Christmas Party is 6th December, and we will then resume again on 17th January. If you enjoy knitting, crochet or would just like some company please join us. We are always happy to welcome new members and also new ideas!

PIANO CLUB



The piano club is meeting in December on the 2nd Sunday as usual. We are pleased that we have gained more playing members but still would welcome others. We break for the Christmas period and meet again in February.

Helen.

PROPERTY

There are many different works proposed or being carried out at present, but the 'To Do List' is getting shorter!

Hall

- The new kitchen is now finished including a commercial dishwasher and freezer.
- The rones have been repaired and the outside will be repaired and painted (with a long lasting finish) within the next few weeks. The rones will be painted after this work is carried out.

Church

Path up to the Church, on the side nearest the houses, has been lifted and pipes laid to allow for toilets and a small kitchen area to be installed in the Church. This work was delayed due to adverse weather conditions but is now almost complete. The path is being re-laid with a chip finish of grey granite and once this work is completed the toilets can be installed in the Church.



Annual Blythswood Shoebox Appeal

Thank you to everyone who filled shoeboxes and to Andrew & Dorothy Baird for organising the appeal. This year we filled 31 shoeboxes - a great effort.

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING

It's hard to believe it's time for our Christmas dance on Monday 4th December. We have had a successful Autumn session with many good evenings of dancing. Our 2023 session shall start back on Monday 15th January at 7.30 in the hall. Everyone very welcome if you want to give Scottish dancing a try. Dates for next year January 15th, 22nd, 29th, February 5th, 19th, 26th, March 4th, 18th, 25th, April 8th, 22nd and 29th.

Anne Whitehead 07743383967.



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:

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New Address:



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DOOR DUTY

December
Liz Lawson
Gertrud Smith
Andrew Lawson

January
Dorothy Baird
Andrew Baird
William Lawrie

February
Joyce Mathieson
Betts Ferrier
Jay Ferrier

CHURCH FLOWERS

December	January	February
3rd Hall Service	7th Hall Service	4th Hall Service
10th Christmas Flowers	14th Donation	11th Nancy Robbie
17th Christmas Flowers	21st Donation	18th Jean Duncan
24th Christmas Flowers	28th Communion	25th Alan Imrie

COMPUTER ROTA

December	January	February
3rd Fraser Bews	7th Heather Lockhart	4th Isa Christie
10th Heather Lockhart	14th Amy Robbie	11th Anna Reid
17th Heather Lockhart	21st Sandra Menzies	18th Heather Lockhart
24th Heather Lockhart	28th Hannah Robbie	25th Amy Robbie

BEADLE DUTY

December	January	February
3rd Fraser Bews	7th Andy Lawson	4th Fraser Bews
10th David Smith	14th Fraser Bews	11th David Smith
17th Andy Lawson	21st David Smith	18th Andy Lawson
24th Fraser Bews	28th Andy Lawson	25th Fraser Bews

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

Fraser Bews, Treasurer

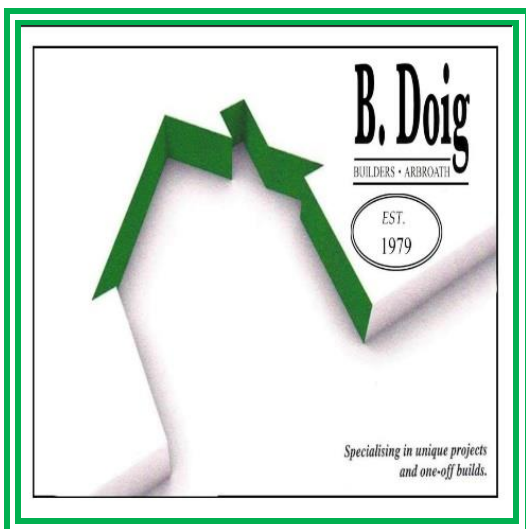
07917 211 993

E mail: fraserbews1@gmail.com

Margaret Pullar, Session Clerk - 01241 876667

07745 943 346

E mail: margaret.pullar@btinternet.com



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