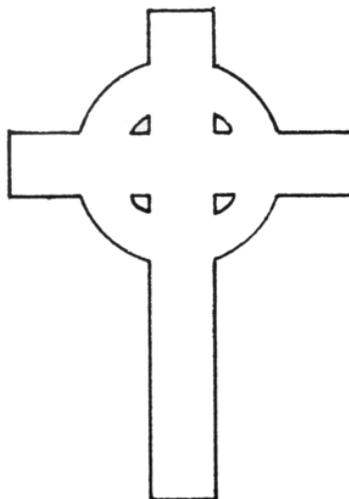


Meadowside St. Paul's

Church of Scotland



January, 2019

***MAGAZINE OF
CHURCH AFFAIRS***

INTERIM MODERATOR

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Registered Charity No: SC013162 Congregation No: 291769

CONGREGATIONAL CALENDAR

January	20	11.15 am	Tim Xenophontos-Hellen
	23	12 noon - 1.30 pm	Church open for prayer
	27	11.15 am	Rev Caroline Taylor - Sacrament of Holy Communion
		12.15 am	Kirk Session
	30	12 noon - 1.30 pm	Church open for prayer
February	3	11.15 am	Tim Xenophontos-Hellen
	4	2 pm	Guild
	6	12 noon - 1.30 pm	Church open for prayer
	10	11.15 am	Tim Xenophontos-Hellen
		12.15 am	Congregational Board
	13	12 noon - 1.30 pm	Church open for prayer
	17	11.15 am	Rev Caroline Taylor
	18	2 pm	Guild
	20	12 noon - 1.30 pm	Church open for prayer
	21	7.15 pm	Congregational Board
	24	11.15 am	Rev Caroline Taylor
	27	12 noon - 1.30 pm	Church open for prayer

A fuller picture of all our weekly activities can be found on our website:
<https://www.mspdundee.co.uk>.

OUT WITH THE OLD...

In the spirit of starting the New Year with 'a good tidy', we have been clearing out the walk-in cupboard off the Kitchen, which is used mainly by the Guild and for catering supplies/equipment. There are various items whose 'ownership' cannot be identified, some of which do not appear to have been used for some time. These will laid out in the Hall on the next few Sundays to see if any individual or organisation wants to lay claim to them. Anything unclaimed by early February will be donated to a good cause, or otherwise disposed of.

Morag Stalker

GREETINGS AND NEWS FROM OUR INTERIM MODERATOR

Dear Friends

2019 has arrived: I hope that, even if you didn't celebrate its dawning with family, friends and/or fireworks, it will be a year filled with blessings both hoped for and unexpected.

My unexpected start to January came in the form of a virus, which is still hanging over me and preventing me from getting on with "the job". I had great plans for catching up with friends and then turning my thoughts to the two congregations, but sometimes things don't go as we would wish.

I am very grateful to Tim Xenophontos-Hellen for stepping into the breach on Sunday 6th January and to Lewis Rose who has covered for a funeral (St Andrew's).

Please be assured that I will be back with you on 27th January – and look forward to catching up with you all then. I haven't forgotten my proposed gatherings under the banner of "We are the Church" and hope to have details of these sorted out and published for your interest before too long.

As you may know, I have agreed with both Kirk Sessions to do the equivalent of one day's pastoral work per month, so this will enable me to meet some of the members who are in hospital or in poor health at home, as well as allowing them/you to put a face to the name behind this letter.

I don't know about you, but when life doesn't work out as I expect, I do try and see where God is. When prolonged fatigue after a bout of glandular fever forced me to take early retirement from Leuchars: St Athernase, we moved back to Broughty Ferry. This meant that I was able to care for my elderly aunt on behalf of her other nieces and nephew, none of whom lives in Dundee; I'm not sure how things would have worked out otherwise. As I often say, the Holy Spirit is always a few steps ahead of us.

So, in the meantime, I have been enjoying some walks in this unseasonably mild winter weather, and reflecting on what God might have in store – not only

for me, but for you and also the congregation of St Andrew's.

Let's pray that this is the year when your new minister will be called.

May God bless you.

Caroline

THE GUILD

The lead-up to Christmas was a busy time for Guild members. On Sunday, 18th November we were grateful to Tim Xenophontos-Hellen – sporting his Guild tie! – for conducting our Guild Dedication Service. At the last 'ordinary' meeting of the year, Morag Stalker shared photographs and memories of her Californian road trip. In December, members joined the St Andrew's Church Guild for their Christmas Carol Service, led by the Rev. Caroline Taylor, and a delicious afternoon tea – many thanks to St Andrew's members for their warm welcome and hospitality.

Ann Black and Jannette Walker attended the national Guild's 'Christmas Big Sing' at St Cuthbert's Church in Edinburgh, and we look forward to hearing about their experience at our next meeting. MSP Guild's own Christmas Party rounded off the year with games and festive refreshments – a big thank-you to Irene Birse, Jenny Young and committee members for all their hard work in organising the afternoon. We were delighted to be joined by Stella Xenophontos-Hellen (Tim was out of town on business) and Session Clerk Margaret Adamson, who was able to gratefully accept the Guild's annual donation to the church. The party was also the opportunity to mark, only slightly in advance, the 90th birthday of our 'senior' member, Margaret Ingram, who continues to be an active and enthusiastic contributor to Guild activities.

The second half of our 2018-19 programme starts on Monday, 21st January, when we welcome John Quinn talking about the Verdant Works and Dundee's Jute Industry. Meetings over the next couple of months are as follows:

4th February: Films with Music, *Allister Fiddes*

18th February: The Sailor's Society – one of the national Guild's projects

4th March: Scouting, *Dr Fiona Smith (Leader of MSP's 30th Scout Group)*

18th March: Daffodil Tea

It is also hoped to organise one of our ever-popular Soup & Pudding Lunches, in aid of the Guild projects, on a Sunday in the near future – date to be confirmed in due course.

Although we had expected to be back in the Lower Hall on completion of the heating works, further building issues affecting that room mean that meetings will continue to be held the Main Hall, at 2 pm, until further notice. We look forward to seeing all members – and anyone else who would be interested in joining us – for what promises to be a most interesting series of meetings.



SCOUT GROUP

Meetings have resumed after the Christmas and New Year holiday.

The Scouts have started a fitness regime for their Skills Challenge. Over the next 6 weeks they aim to improve the skills in circuit training, running laps of the hall, skipping and jumping. The Cubs have completed their DIY badge for which they made items such as Name Plates for their bedroom doors and Bird Nesting boxes at Douglaswood Campsite. This term, Scouts and Cubs will be working on their Photographer Badges.

The Group is seeking new recruits, especially for the Beaver Section. They plan to produce advertising leaflets and would welcome ideas about suitable places to display them.

THANKS

Thanks to all involved with organising the delivery and decoration of the Christmas trees, and providing the Advent Ring and candles. They really did add something special to worship at the Christmas season. Thanks also to all who organised and delivered much-appreciated Christmas parcels.

LEST WE FORGET

There are no traditional war memorials on the walls of Meadowside St. Paul's. A decision was taken at the time of the Union in 1981 to record, in a Book of Remembrance, the names on the honour rolls of the four congregations which went on to form Meadowside St Paul's. The book records in beautiful calligraphy the names of each serviceman and the congregation they were part of. It sits on a lectern on the back left-hand side of the chancel area, and is illuminated and turned to a different page each week.

Last year I began doing some research into the men whose names are recorded in an attempt to look beyond the names to the people behind them, and to honour their sacrifice by better understanding their background, life and families. Some of these stories I would like to share with you in the pages of our Magazine. I am beginning with Donald MacPherson whose name is recorded among the fallen of the former Albert Square congregation.

DONALD MACPHERSON (1887-1918)



Donald was born in Dundee on 5th June 1887, the son of George MacPherson and Margaret Robertson. His parents originally hailed from Alvie and Weem respectively and were married in Moulin in 1878. His father George was a Wines & Spirits Dealer with shop premises at 45 Hilltown.

Donald was their only son. He had five sisters, one of whom was his twin, Isabella. The three older siblings were born in Pitlochry; and the twins and a younger sister were born in Dundee. Donald was born at 36 North Lindsay Street, and the family would later move to 20½ Caldrum Street.

He attended Morgan Academy, and became a journalist with the Courier in Dundee and Arbroath, first as a reporter and then on the editorial staff. A 'crack shot', Donald gained many honours in miniature rifle competitions prior to enlisting into the Black Watch, 13th (Scottish Horse) Battalion in 1914.

In 1914 he was promoted to Corporal, and by the time of his death in 1918 he had been promoted to Sergeant. He served first of all in Gallipoli, and after a bout of illness contracted there, returned to service in Egypt, the Balkans and France.

During his war service, he was mentioned in despatches of 7th June 1918 by Lt. Gen. George Milne “for gallant conduct and distinguished services rendered during the period from the 21st September, 1917, to February 28th, 1918.” This related to his work as a scout leader during the Allied campaign in Salonika. As a known marksman, he was often called upon for sniping duties.

On a fortnight’s leave after the Salonika campaign, he returned home to Dundee and on 21st August 1918 married Eleanor Sharp Peebles, a Milliner. Eleanor’s father Thomas was a Watchmaker at 15 Union Place. They were married at 1 Fort Street, Dundee by Rev. Hugh Watt of St Enoch’s Parish Church. The couple’s last known address in Dundee was 5 Westfield Lane.

After his marriage Donald returned to the front in France and was killed in action, at the Battle of the Beaurevoir Line (part of the Hindenburg line) on 6th October 1918 - a mere six weeks later. He was 31. He was reportedly killed instantly by a shell fragment, and Eleanor was given the news by her younger brother George, who was a Corporal in the same Company (but not Unit) as his brother-in-law. An extract from George’s letter to Eleanor reads,

“He suffered no pain whatever, and died like a soldier with his face to the front. Some of the scouts brought his body in yesterday, and we buried him to-day in a little village. The minister rendered the service beautifully. After putting a cross over his head we came away and left him sleeping peacefully. All the Dundee boys ask me to send their deepest sympathy, and I know they mean it, as Donald was one of the best”.

Evening Telegraph and Post, October 18 1918

Donald is buried in Templeux-Le-Guerard British Cemetery in the Somme region of northern France. George was wounded in November 1918, but went on to survive the war. Prior to the war he had worked in the offices of M. & C. Hill, jute spinners.

Tragically, Donald would never see his son (also Donald), who was born posthumously in 1919. Donald and Eleanor had been married for only two months before his death. Eleanor moved back in with her parents at 321 Blackness Road after Donald's death.

She went on to endure the additional tragedy of losing her son, also to war. Donald was a wireless telegraphist in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, and was aboard naval trawler HMS Alouette when it was torpedoed by a U-boat and sunk in the Atlantic Ocean on 19th September 1942. 17 of her 44 crew, including Donald (aged 23), were lost. Eleanor died in Dundee in 1980 at the age of 91. She never remarried.

The First World War also had an impact on the wider MacPherson family. Donald's uncle, James McPherson, emigrated from Scotland to Australia, and in 1890 married Helen Stevenson (also a Scot, born in Stirlingshire). They settled in Rockdale, a suburb of Sydney. Their two oldest sons, Thomas and George, were also killed in WW1 having enlisted in the Australian Infantry. They were both killed in the Somme Campaign in 1916, that regiment having returned to operations in France after taking part in the Gallipoli campaign aged 23 and 25.

MA

SUNDAY CLUB

Children, parents and grandparents all enjoyed preparing for and presenting the story "This is the Star" by Joyce Dunbar, at the Christmas Service in Church. Club members enjoy Caroline's and Tim's talks, and enjoy guessing what they brought to show the congregation each week. We will be using the bible timeline and mini timelines during our weekly activities in the Hall. As we enter a New Year, in common with others, we will be cleaning out our cupboards, disposing of old materials and making room to find what we need more easily.

INTERIM MODERATOR'S BLOG

Caroline's blog can be found at <https://www.mspdundee.co.uk/blog>, but for those who don't have internet access, we'll be publishing some of her posts in the magazine - here's one from October last year —

A MATCH MADE IN HEAVEN

No, this isn't a romcom. I am sure it will turn out to be a story with a happy ending – it has certainly had a happy beginning!

Boy meets girl. Or boy meets boy. Or girl's eyes lock with girl's across a crowded bar.

No, none of the above. This match made in heaven concerns Dundee Congregational Church and their new minister. Along with members of Meadowside St Paul's, I accepted the invitation to the induction of the Revd Alan Livingstone which took place last Thursday evening (18th October).

In any church, the arrival of a new minister is always something to celebrate. There's an excitement in the air, the singing is always wonderful, and, after the formality of the service in the sanctuary, there are usually tables set out in the hall groaning with delicious savouries and home-baked goodies to be enjoyed. Dundee Congregational Church was no exception to any of these aspects.

The format was similar but not identical to that used in the Church of Scotland. Alan had already begun his ministry – now that's totally different from our way of doing things. But how lovely for him, and his congregation, that they already knew one another. Their mutual fondness was apparent.

Questions regarding his commitment to the Lord and to serving in the Church were in some cases the same as are used in the C of S. What was different – and very interesting to those of us from outwith the congregation – was to hear a report on how they had come to call their new minister and, in reply, Alan's story of how he came to apply and accept. That the front door was locked on his arrival at the church for interview did not deter him! Yes, there was humour sprinkled among the seriousness of the occasion.

What I shall remember most from the evening is the strong sense that here was the right minister in the right congregation. Truly a match made in heaven. It was perhaps that sense of the divine at work that made one of the Meadowside St Paul's members say, somewhat wistfully, 'I kind of wished it had been our turn to induct our new minister.'

We all feel that in some degree. Is it you we're waiting for?

**ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL
NEW YORK**

A new world symphony
cast in sacred stone
echoes around
mid Manhattan's
glitzy ghettos
showering hope
over a bright
eyed metropolis
mesmerised by
hologrammed highglass
never ending neon
and touchy tycoons
trapped in tinsel towers.



CHRISTMAS EVE RETIRING COLLECTION

Our joint Christmas Eve Service with our friends from St Andrews raised £173.50 for Dundee Foodbank - thanks to everyone who contributed!

SYMPATHIES

The congregation, as David's church family, records its heartfelt sympathies to him and to the whole  family on the loss of Gordon in late November last year. We grieve with them, and send our love, support and prayers to them as they come to terms with this loss.

FLOWERS IN CHURCH

We are indebted to the following for provision of flowers in January and February:

January	6	████████████████████
	13	████████████████
	20	Flower Fund
	27	████████████████
February	3	████████████████
	10	████████████████████
	17	████████████████████
	24	████████████████
March	3	████████████████

If you do not already donate to the Flower Fund, but would like to do so, please contact ██████████ (tel ██████████) or speak to any member of the Flower Committee. As well as helping to beautify the church, the flowers are distributed to housebound and other members after the service, and are much appreciated. The Committee are always grateful to hear suggestions of who might receive flowers on a particular Sunday, or to have help with delivering these.

████████████████

NEWS FROM ST ANDREWS



St Andrews have been running **Messy Church** on a monthly basis since October last year. Meetings for 2019 (all 11am - 1pm in their church halls) continue on Saturday 19th January, Saturday 16th February and Saturday 30th March. Join them for messy craft fun, food, songs and stories.

Messy Church is fun for all ages and is very family orientated. Children must be accompanied by a participating adult.

Session Clerk:

Miss M Adamson

[REDACTED]

Tel.

[REDACTED]

Congregational Board Clerk:

Dr J Burns

[REDACTED]

Tel.

[REDACTED]

Congregational Treasurer:

Beadle:

Mr B Millar

[REDACTED]

Tel.

[REDACTED]

FWO Treasurer:

Mr B Pounder

[REDACTED]

Roll Keeper:

Mr B Pounder

[REDACTED]

Hall Allocation Convener:

Miss I Birse

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Editor of Congregational Magazine:

Miss MA Robertson

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Health & Safety Officer:

Mrs K Strachan

[REDACTED]

Tel.

[REDACTED]

Fabric Convener:

Mr E Hughes

[REDACTED]

Tel.

[REDACTED]

Safeguarding Co-ordinator:

Miss J Ireland

[REDACTED]

Tel.

[REDACTED]

Christian Aid:

Dr F Smith

[REDACTED]

Tel.

[REDACTED]

Cubs, Scouts & Beavers:

Dr F Smith

[REDACTED]

Tel.

[REDACTED]

Guild:

Miss M Stalker

[REDACTED]

Tel.

[REDACTED]

Life and Work:

Miss MA Robertson

[REDACTED]

Tel.

[REDACTED]

Sunday Club (Trailblazers) & Crèche:

Miss MA Robertson

[REDACTED]

Tel.

[REDACTED]

Organist:

Dr W Stevenson

[REDACTED]

Tel:

[REDACTED]
