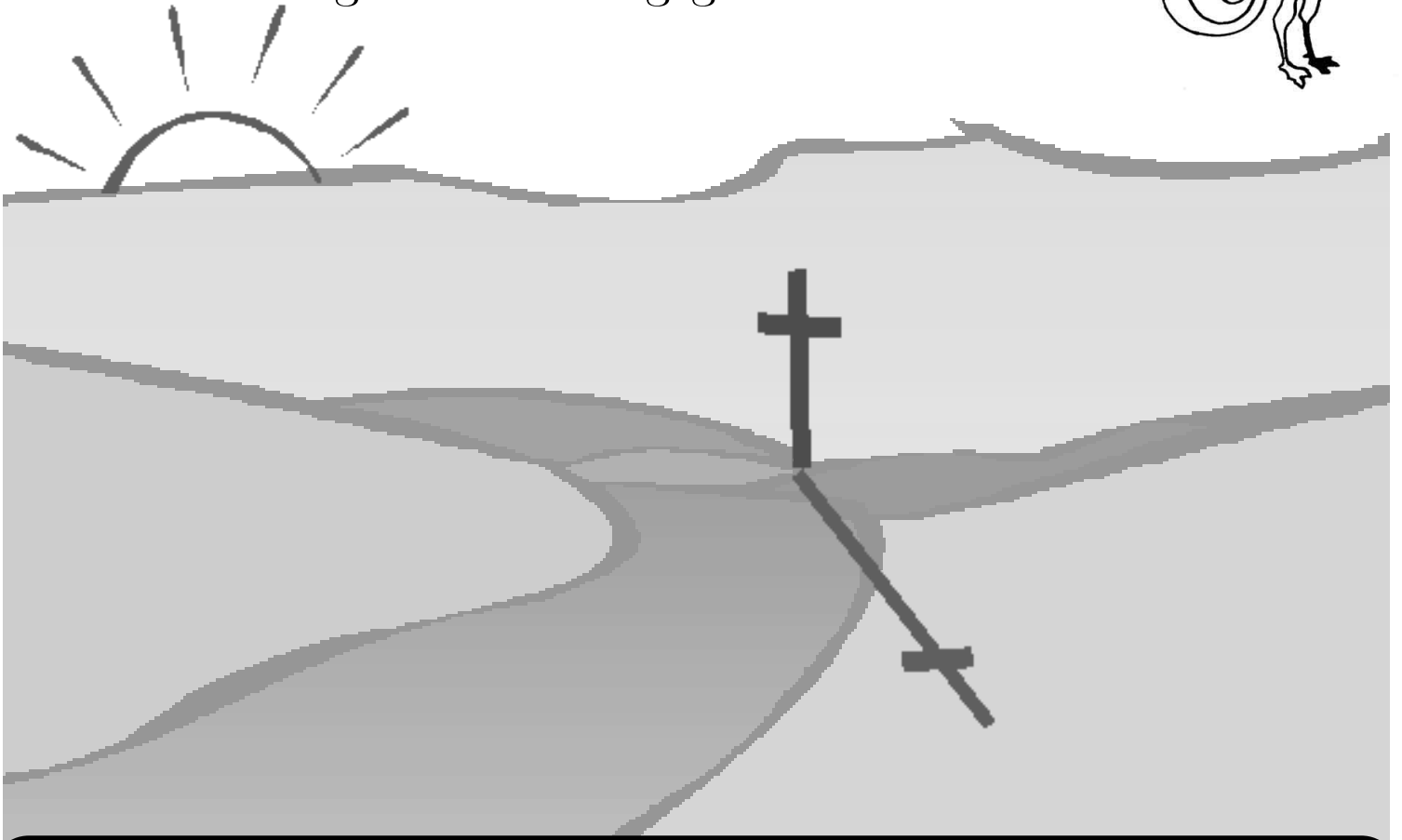


The Wyvern

The Magazine of Kingsgait Kirk Dundee



November 2024 Issue 712



Who's Who

Minister

Rev Anita D C Kerr

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Merelyn Baxter

Mission Partner

JustBee Productions

www.justbeeproductions.co.uk



Session Meeting

20.11.2024

Cong Ref No - 291743

Scottish Charity No - SC011775

Sunday worship is
conducted by Rev Anita
Kerr, every week at 11am .

What's On?

Girls' Brigade

Monday Evenings 18:30—20.00

Carpet Bowling Group

Thursday Evenings—19:00—21:00

Something else happening?

If you have anything you'd like
intimated in the pre-service slides,
please contact Stewart Kerr
by a Friday at the latest:

st_kerr@btopenworld.com

The Wyvern



Next Edition January/February

Contributions for the next edition are
welcome

anytime during the coming weeks,
but at the very latest by:
Sunday 29th December

email to

thechurchmagazine@outlook.com

The January/February edition of the *Wyvern* will
be available for collection by distributors
on Sunday 12th January

Greetings from Anita



“A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. Jesus was in the stern sleeping on a cushion.”

Mark 4: 37-38



The clean-up is taking place after Storm Ashley brought high winds and flood alerts to the Western Isles and northern Scotland last Sunday. The trees have had their first hoovering for this Autumn and the garden is a sea of brown, gold and crimson. The discarded leaves replenishing rapidly despite our best attempts to herd them into our brown bin. Gazing out on the swirls and peaks of discarded leaves with an occasional oasis of green grass, I am amazed and delighted at the patterns left by the wind. Feeling somehow that there might be a message in them, if I but knew how to interpret it.

The account of Jesus calming the storm is recorded in three of the four gospels, Matthew, Mark and Luke. Yet, only in Mark do we have the detail of the cushion. On this cushion Jesus slept soundly despite the storm raging and the waves crashing over the boat. I could do with one of those cushions!

It is inevitable in this life that we all experience storms at some time or other; our health, relationships, employment issues or the economy to name but a few of the squalls that sometimes appear out of nowhere. Then we go below and see if we can wake Jesus, we pray! Perhaps, like the disciples we panic. Our faith is tested, and we are found wanting, *‘Why are you afraid? Do you still have so little faith?’*

Critics of Christianity would have us believe faith is a crutch, implying Christianity is for weak and emotionally needy people. I prefer to think of faith as a cushion, very similar to the one on which Jesus slept on so soundly. A sound faith enables us to tell the rising storm within or without, *‘Quiet! Be still’*. No doubt there will be more storms to come as we travel through autumn to winter, with the presidential election in America and continued conflict in the Middle East and Ukraine. Remember, Jesus said, *‘In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.’*

Thank you Lord, for the cushion that all our hopes and dreams and fears sleep on.

Blessings, Rev Anita

November and December Services

November

10th November Remembrance Sunday

24th November Kirkin' of the Trades

December Christmas Services

Rev Jean Kirkwood and I are delighted to be sharing our Christmas services and in Kingsgait Kirk and Stobswell & Trinity Church.

Christmas Eve Tuesday 24th December

Kingsgait Kirk 7pm - Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

Stobswell & Trinity 11.30 pm -

Watchnight Service (11.00 pm for tea/coffee)

Christmas Day

Stobswell & Trinity 10.00

Christmas Day Service (with Holy Communion)

Weekly Freewill Offering Envelopes

Weekly Freewill Offering envelopes for 2025 will be distributed in the coming weeks. If, for any reason, you have missed some weeks in 2024, please try and make up the difference before the end of year, either in your envelopes or by other payment method. If anyone who is not already a member of the WFO scheme would like to join, please contact Morag Stalker or Alison Collins, who will arrange for you to receive envelopes for the coming year.

Regular bank Standing Orders remain a convenient way to ensure that your offerings are made even if you are unable attend services - forms with the necessary details are available for anyone who wishes to set up a new order.

As always, UK taxpayers are reminded that completing a Gift Aid Declaration in favour of Kingsgait Kirk will allow us to reclaim the tax on your offerings!

Morag Stalker, Congregational Treasurer



WHAT IS? GOD THOUGHTS -PRAY, CHAT, SHARE, GROW, LAUGH, LEARN!
WHERE? GLASITE HALL-
WHEN? 2nd Tuesday of the month @7pm
WHY? "I WANT TO KNOW GOD'S THOUGHTS...the rest are mere details"
 Albert Einstein

2024

TUESDAY 8 TH OCTOBER	WELCOME TO GOD THOUGHTS 😊
TUESDAY 12 TH NOVEMBER	REMEMBRANCE-MAKING GOOD MEMORIES
TUESDAY 10 TH DECEMBER	OUR ADVENT HOPES AND FEARS FOR ALL THE YEARS

2025

TUESDAY 7 TH JANUARY	NEW YEAR REFLECTIONS
TUESDAY 11 TH FEBRUARY	MOVIE NIGHT 'Chocolat'
TUESDAY 11 TH MARCH	LENT BIBLE STUDY "Christ and the Chocolaterie – by Hilary Brand: A Lent course from the movie 'Chocolat'"
TUESDAY 18 TH MARCH	LENT BIBLE STUDY Christ and the Chocolaterie
TUESDAY 25 TH MARCH	LENT BIBLE STUDY Christ and the Chocolaterie
TUESDAY 1 ST APRIL	LENT BIBLE STUDY Christ and the Chocolaterie
TUESDAY 8 TH APRIL	LENT BIBLE STUDY Christ and the Chocolaterie
MAUNDY THURSDAY 17 TH APRIL	TENEBRAE SERVICE
EASTER SUNDAY 20 TH APRIL	CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

CHRIST IS RISEN!! HALLELUJAH HE IS RISEN!!!

WAR

A Poem by J.D. Pirie.

I said goodbye to my mother
With her cheeks all covered in tears
I was young and so very innocent
Void of reason in my tender years.

There was Rob and Alex and Jimmie and I
We were comrades in arms, all four,
We marched off on our great adventure
While other folk just called it 'War'.

But it wasn't long before realisation
Like a poison crept into each head
Were we fools not to listen to others
And take heed of what they all said.

Then our home was the mud of the trenches
And the noise of the guns night and day
With the cries of the wounded and dying
'Neath a sky of ever darkening grey.

I remember that one day quite clearly
For Robbie never said his goodbye
He was lost in that hell of the trenches
And the first of my comrades to die.

Now what will I say to his mother
Her husband somewhere up the line
I'm so sure that Rob died thinking of her
For if I die I'll be thinking of mine.

So I'm scribbling this now on
some paper

I pray it's not my goodbye
But I'm grieving for Alex and
Jimmie

And asking, did they all have
to die ?

Then day followed day in the
trenches

Some men slept and then
died where they lay

But the guns never tired of
the battle

While not one soldier was
too proud to pray.

Now my years as a soldier
are long passed

But the memories still
linger on

Not a day in my life I don't
remember

And think of my friends who
have gone.

So now I look back with
great sadness

And I thank my great God
every day

Then I hope for some peace
in our world

And that's what I ask when I
pray.

Reflections of Activities of the St Andrew's Parish Church Boys' Brigade and Former Members' Association

Sunday Morning Bible Class 10.00am "The Most Important Part of BB Work".

The Motto of St Andrew's Parish Boys' Brigade was "Quit Ye Like Men, Be Strong".

The BB Promoted The Habits Of Obedience, Reverence, Discipline, and Self-Respect.

When I first stepped into the Church Hall - which was at the back of the Church - for the first time in 1950, there was a comfortable feeling of belonging to a friendly group of boys of my own age and older, together with officers of the BB who immediately welcomed you into what was to become an adventure into the unknown. For some reason, I was surprised at the high number inside the hall at that time on a Sunday morning, but that was to become the norm for the years ahead. At this point, I must give my apologies for any - or many - lapses in memory as these recollections stretch back some 74 years. Our BB Captain opened the short service by introducing George Ormond, who took the bible class, and the pianist - possibly Charlie Graham - and T.R.S. Campbell, the Chaplain. George Ormond would then conduct the service in his own inimitable way with his mop of silver-white hair giving the impression of a grand orator surveying his gathered masses. One of his other duties was Church Officer, giving great reverence as he carried in the bible up to the pulpit, then followed the Minister up the pulpit stairs and secured the latch on the door. However, back to the BB Bible Class which always ended with the singing of the last verse of the Company Hymn No.75 "Ye fair green hills of Galilee":

Jesus my Saviour, Master, King,

Who didst for me the burden bear,

While saints in heaven Thy glory sing,

Let me on earth Thy likeness wear;

Mine be the path Thy feet have trod,

Duty, and love to man and God.

As the service ended, George had to hurry away through the connecting corridor to carry out his other duties in the Church, while we filed out the side door dropping a coin into the collection plate as we went. A memory that's stuck in my mind from those days was a Girls' Guildry plaque that hung above that side door and read - I think:

I will pass this way only once. Any good thing that I can do let me do it now as I may not pass this way again.

Frank Galloway

Festive Fun



OH HOLY NIGHT

A D N H P W P J Q B T G F F S Q V
Y D M Q M I A A S T A R R L G F R
F X F A G R D O N K E Y A S Q L J
F S B U G S A V I O R M N F W U W
H H E A X W I X H Z I E K J A C B
E E T M B Y J R S N M V I N Z X I
M P H I N Y R O A E H H N U G L B
I H L B K Y P G S Z B N C Z O Q J
W E E Z M Z N I M E U Q E X L M E
K R H I M Z W F M E P S N P D N S
Z D E R A S K T A B A H S L D Y U
G N M Q J J J S N Y I A E S R V S
V A N F Q F A T G F T G I A Z T X
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B K Y M W I H F R A P E A C E G W

ANGEL
ANIMALS
BABY
BETHLEHEM
DONKEY
FRANKINCENSE

GIFTS
GOLD
JESUS
JOSEPH
MANGER
MARY

MYRRH
PEACE
SAVIOR
SHEPHERD
STAR
WISE MEN



Nativity Sudoku

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ADVENT

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			T	S	

STABLE

MANGER



JOSEPH

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Guild News



The Happy Ukes got our session off to a foot-tapping start and the afternoon tea which followed gave everyone an opportunity to catch up after the summer break

Our first speaker was Peter Hay, coxswain of the Broughty Ferry lifeboat. His excellent illustrated talk gave us an insight into the work of the R.N.L.I. The story of one man's rescue when he got into extreme difficulties in the river was particularly moving. As a result of his life being saved, he, in time, became a volunteer member of the lifeboat crew.

We have been extremely fortunate to hear first-hand about two of the projects which the Church of Scotland Guild is supporting.

Firstly, Lynne and her husband told us about the work of Release International, the Voice of Persecuted Christians in Egypt which is home to the largest Christian minority in the Middle East. Christians face varying levels of discrimination and suffer poverty and lack of education. The money raised by Guild members throughout Scotland will help provide basic living needs, poverty will be alleviated and the impact of persecution will be reduced.

At our next meeting, Stephen gave us an insight into the work of CrossReach, the Social Care Council of the Church of Scotland. Unfortunately, their major projects are out with our area, but, in the Friary in Tullideph Road, Tayside Support Services, work with anyone over 16 in the Dundee area who is willing and committed to moving beyond drug use.

The two projects being supported by the Guild are the Sunflower Garden in Edinburgh and Daisy Chain in Glasgow. Stephen is willing to return at some point in the future to give us more information about these projects.

Going forward, our next speakers are Elliot Sawers, who will tell us about the work of Dundee Disabled Children's Association on 5th November and Sheila Kinninmonth, a storyteller from Fife, will be with us on 19th November.

Church Carpet Bowling Club

We now have 14 regular players coming along each Thursday evening to play carpet bowls.

At the moment, we only have one carpet out so that we are all together trying to master the bowls and rules. Each week there is definite improvement, lots of encouragement and plenty of enjoyment.

If you would like to join us either to play or watch, please come along any Thursday.

Marilyn Graham

Girls' Brigade News



Our theme 'All About Me' has given us the opportunity to try a variety of activities -icing gingerbread men biscuits to look like themselves; making a wax resist design in their favourite colour; 'body' songs and games.

To mark International Dot Day we read *The Dot* by Peter H. Reynolds, which tells the story of a teacher who encourages a student to believe in herself. In the book, the girl, Vashti, is upset in the art class because she says she can't draw. The teacher tells her to make a mark on the paper and then sign it. When Vashti then sees her dot, framed and on display in her teacher's office she's motivated to make an even better dot.

Eventually, she grows in confidence and realises she is indeed a creative artist.

This was an excellent starting point to encourage our girls to gain confidence in their ability to tackle various activities. They made their own dots and developed them into a pattern.

We continued to meet during the school holidays when we enjoyed playing a wide-range of games including dominoes and tiddlywinks.

A Hallowe'en party rounded off the month of October. It proved to be great fun with an amazing selection of fancy dress, all the traditional activities like ducking for apples and doughnuts on string and lots of food.

Our numbers have continued to grow with nineteen girls attending. Although we are delighted to have welcomed so many new girls, we would love to see even more. Girls' Brigade is open to all girls of school-age. We meet on a Monday from 6,30pm to 8pm.

The Last Battle

A Poem by Jim Adams

Groping eyes explore
A Puzzling universe
Hemmed in Black Watch
Drapes chunky armchairs
That stark private room

Memory-loss jogging
Into Alzheimer's
Derails an active life

An old soldier
Squaring up
For his last battle

Once in a harvest moon
He recognizes
Compassionate Mary

Always fussing
Patting pillows
Placing strong black tea
In nicotine hands

Soon that door will close
Leaving Jack tapping
Through some hapless Hades

A mind in freefall
Sharded flashbacks
Recalling childhood pranks
His beloved Anna
Moonstones and French mud

Yet stubborn streaks
Or a boffin's breakthrough
Might sweep flickering lights
Into cobwebbed corners

Leaving sonatas
Forging starcall
Among black holes



October's Church Walk

Our last walk for 2024 was to Arbroath. We caught the 10:00 bus, arriving at our destination 40 minutes later on a lovely sunny day and headed out of the bus station to our first place of interest which was the Keptie Water Tower. This tower was built and completed in 1885 following a drought in the area in 1870. Over the next 30 years, the demand for water increased and eventually the tanks in the tower could not provide enough water, so in 1906, the Keptie Water Tower was closed as another water source had been found.

Close by is the Keptie Pond which we then walked round. There were children fishing for common carp and there were plenty of swans and ducks swimming in the water. Through her binoculars, Stella managed to spot 8 herons sitting up in the trees on the island in the middle of the pond. Before leaving the park, we headed up a hill for a photo of us all on an extremely large bench over 2m tall, called Jock's Bench, (back to our childhood!!!!) This was the first Big Bench in Britain and had been donated by the Keptie Friends.

We were now ready for a lovely lunch at the Bellrock Restaurant instead of our usual packed lunch, before heading along the sea front, stopping at the Lifeboat Shed for another photo then back to the Bus Station for the return journey.

A lovely walk with lots to see.

Marilyn Graham

Dr Graham's Homes, Kalimpong, India

Some of you may recognise the name of this school as it has been well supported by Church of Scotland Guilds over the years. Rev. Dr John Graham founded his "Homes" in 1900 in order to provide schooling for the children of tea plantation workers though, as you can imagine, it has moved with the times. (Kalimpong is not far, by Indian standards, from Darjeeling and the Himalayas can be seen from the school grounds).

A couple of years ago I started sponsoring a little girl so that she could attend the school and be accommodated in one of the cottages on the campus. Kristel is now twelve years old and by all accounts doing well in her various subjects; otherwise she might have found herself living on the streets.

Continued.....

Last year I attended the annual London Reception for supporters of Dr Graham's and this year I went to the AGM in Edinburgh; gradually I have found myself being drawn in and, to cut a long story short, I'm about to become the Minutes Secretary for the UK Committee. This will be a way to become better informed about the school as well as about life in India, a country I have longed to visit for many years. I hope to be able to go over next September, as part of a group, after which I'd love to have an opportunity to tell you more about the Homes, first-hand.

If any of you have had any contact with Dr Graham's, I'd love to hear from you.

Caroline Taylor

A Thank you Message from Faye and Frank Galloway

How quickly the time passes and here we are thanking the kindness of all those responsible for the gift of fruit, flowers, plus the bar of chocolate that disappears "like sna aff a dyke" when spotted by the lady with the sweet tooth. When Alison came to the door with gifts in both hands we were so surprised and very grateful that we were still on the receivers' list. The beautiful flower arrangement will soon be with Wendy at Balgay Cemetery as yesterday - the 22nd of September - marks 33 years since she died in Ninewells Hospital only 10 days from what would have been her 21st birthday. Faye and I thank you most sincerely for your thoughtfulness and kindness over the years.

A Thank you Message from David and Helen Pirie

Helen and David Pirie would like to sincerely thank all those who sent flowers, gifts and cards, and for all the phone calls and good wishes we received when Helen had her heart attack.

Thank you all, Helen and David Pirie.

Flowers

<u>Flower Donor</u>		<u>Flower Committee</u>
<i>November 2024</i>		
3rd	Mrs. D. Grant	Mrs. A. Sanderson
10th	Flower Fund	Miss. M. Graham
17th	Mrs. R. Findlay	Mrs. M. McKenzie
24th	The Guild	Mrs. A. Sanderson
<i>December 2024</i>		
1st	Mrs. M. Pert	Miss. M. Graham
8th	Mrs. A. Sanderson	Mrs. M. McKenzie
15th	Flower Fund	Mrs. A. Sanderson
22nd	Mrs. M. McKenzie	Miss. M. Graham
29th	Mrs. I. Irvine	Mrs. M. McKenzie
<i>January 2025</i>		
5th	Mr. P. Davidson	Mrs. A. Sanderson
12th	Mr. R. Greer	Miss. M. Graham
19th	Mrs. S. Baird	Mrs. M. McKenzie
26th	Mrs. J. Gardiner	Mrs. A. Sanderson

The Flower Committee would like to thank all those who assisted with the delivery of fruit and posies after the Harvest Thanksgiving Service, your help is always very much appreciated.



An American pump organ is on offer for free, if you know of anyone that would be interested, please let them know.

Must be picked up.

Contact Garry or Ruth for details



Useful Contacts

Christian Aid Co-Ordinator

Reverend Caroline Taylor

Flower Committee

Avril Sanderson

Muriel McKenzie

Girls' Brigade

Sheila Valentine

Guild President

Sheila Valentine

Kingsgait Kirk Charity Knitters

Stella Xenophontos-Hellen

Life and Work

Ron Coull

Fair Trade

Sally Romilly

Margaret Chisholm

Church Eco-Congregation contact

Sally Romilly

Wyvern Distribution Co-ordinator

Alison Collins

Wyvern Editor

Aimee Brown

Minister's Details

If you have any pastoral needs or if you know of anybody at home, or in hospital who requires a visit please contact our Minister

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Or

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Please note that Rev Anita Kerr is uncontactable on a Friday.



[Kingsgait Kirk, Dundee](#)



[Meadowside St Paul's I/w St Andrew's](#)

