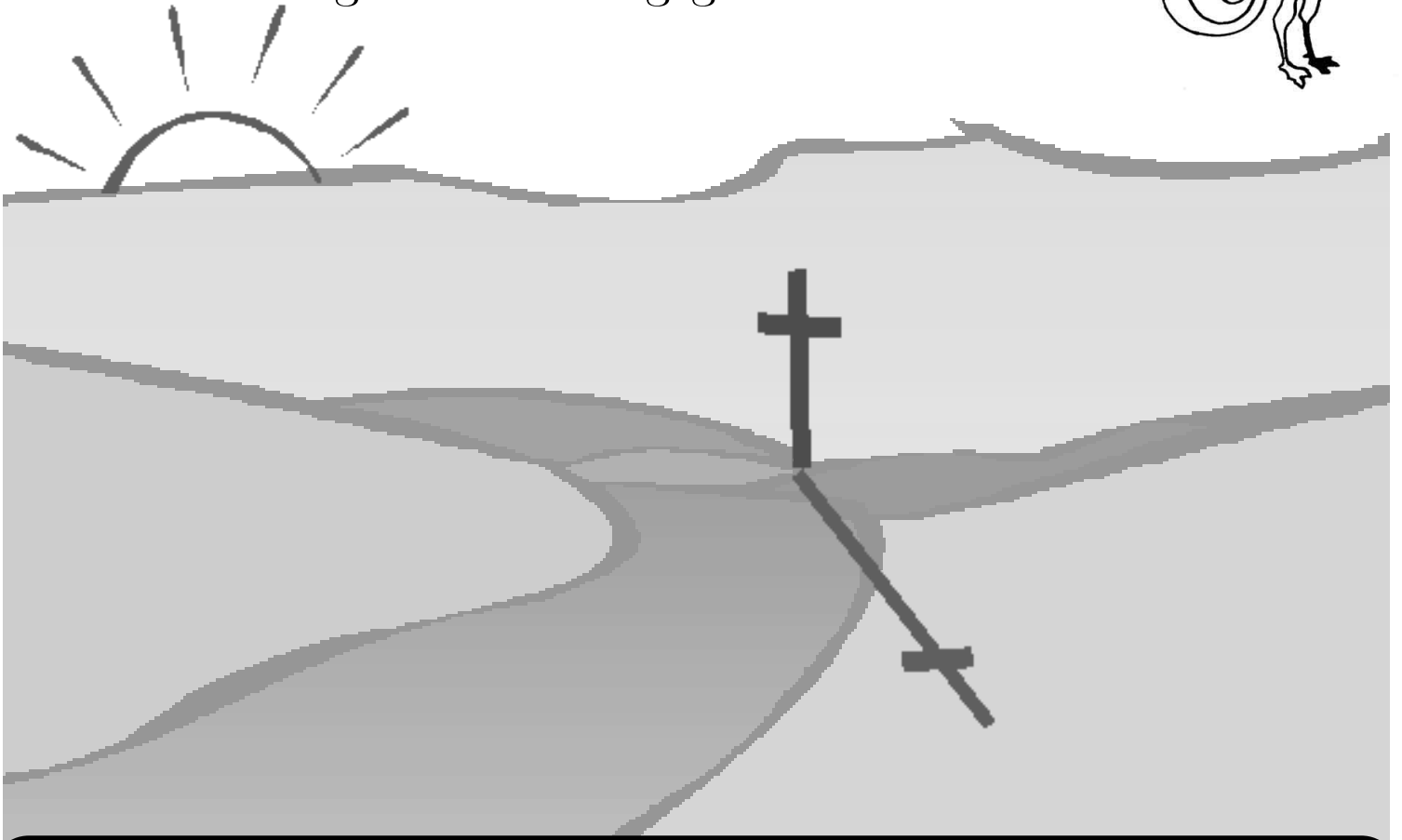


# The Wyvern

The Magazine of Kingsgait Kirk Dundee



# March 2024

Issue 708



# Who's Who

## Minister

Rev Anita D C Kerr

## Session Clerk

Margaret Adamson

## Treasurer

Morag Stalker

## Fabric Co-ordinator & Rollkeeper

Mr Ron Chimiak

## Church Officer

Mr Garry Collins

## Presbytery Elder

Tim Xenophontos-Hellen

## Organist

Ruth Irons

## Hall Letting Convenor

Garry Collins

Halls.kingsgaitkirk@outlook.com

## Safeguarding Co-ordinator

Pam Chimiak

## Reader Co-Ordinator

Merelyn Baxter

## Mission Partner

JustBee Productions

[www.justbeeproductions.co.uk](http://www.justbeeproductions.co.uk)



## Session Meeting March 20th

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—19:45

Scouts - Thursday Evenings  
18:30—19:30 at Meadowside St Pauls

### 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](mailto:st_kerr@btopenworld.com)

## The Wyvern

### Next Edition May/June 2024

**Contributions for the next edition are  
welcome**

***anytime during the coming weeks,  
but at the very latest by:  
Sunday 28th April***

**email to**

**[thechurchmagazine@outlook.com](mailto:thechurchmagazine@outlook.com)**

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

# Greetings from Anita



**“And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east.” Genesis 2: 8**

Jyp and I have just returned from our walk in Baxter Park, in the east of the city. It is a beautiful morning, not yet nine o'clock, the winter sun is shining brightly, the frost and the dew vie for victory over the grass. Jyp, our golden retriever, has performed his regular check on the squirrel population of the park, they are all present and accounted for. A gentle giant he assumes the role of park custodian rather than predator as he carries out his duties.

There are definite signs of Spring, she has not yet sprung, but she is certainly poised for action. Astronomically speaking, the first day of spring is marked by the spring equinox, which falls on March 19, 20 or 21 every year. Meteorologically speaking, the official first day of spring is March 1, St David's Day. Whether we favour the equinox or the weather it is the wonder of the seasons which transports us on a morning like this.

Pockets of snowdrops spring up in the most unexpected places. Purple and yellow crocus and the green stalks of daffodils pushing their way into the daylight remind us winter is almost past. Two gardeners are weeding a large flower bed, and I don't envy them their task, but I will remember their efforts when the bed comes into bloom. As we walk up the north side of the park there are a number of trees down, a legacy from storm Babet battering our shores in October 2023. Their absence on the skyline, allows an uninterrupted view of the four-story houses along this side of the park. Homes, with families, leaving for work, heading out to school, lives to be lived. Windows into lives, and as we stroll, I pray for them, their worries, joys, and futures.

At the top of the park the path we turn and walk into the sun, low in the sky. The Italian Renaissance style pavilion awaits us, now a registry office and best of all Blend café. Fortunately, it doesn't open until 10.00 and Jyp will have to resist running ahead of me to claim his seat by the window and puppuccino! As we come alongside the steps down to the green, we pause to give thanks for this wonderful space in our city, our shared garden, doggy walking friends, families, lunch time school children, staff, and visitors.

*Continued.....*

I am reminded of the Lenten lilies in our church garden, of Lent, this season of preparation which almost seamlessly evolves into one of anticipation. Similar to the subtle changes in the daylight hours we experience an almost imperceptible change in our mood. I feel lighter, I find myself smiling, is this hope, excitement, exhilaration even?

Easter is coming and I don't want to rush it, I want to savour these moments of bright light, anticipation, expectation of salvation. I am not ready yet to fully experience Easter, but I am poised for the promise of another garden with a stone is rolled away, to hear Jesus say, 'Mary' and to cry out, 'Rabboni!'

Jesus is risen, Alleluia!

*Blessings,*

*Anita*

Sketch of Anita and her dog Jyp which her son Jack sketched for her birthday.



# Christian Aid Ceilidh

I am delighted to let you know that we've arranged another ceilidh in aid of Christian Aid. It will once again be held at the Invercarse Hotel, on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June, 7.30 – 10.00 pm. Thanks to Ruth for organising the music side – we will have the same band as last time (who I think really made the evening!) – Ruth, Kenny, Sue, Ian, Heather and Ailsa. There will be a stovie supper and tickets will be available to buy nearer the time.



*Caroline Taylor*

*Christian Aid Co-ordinator*

# Girls' Brigade News



The company covered a wide range of activities in January and February. David was the Biblical hero they found out about. This led to some being clad in tin foil to represent the armour which David rejected when he faced up to Goliath.

The girls also made bird feeders and studied pictures of common birds to help them identify them as part of RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch.

Dragons were made and fortune cookies eaten to mark Chinese New Year, the Year of the Dragon. Pancakes and crepes were made for Shrove Tuesday and cards for Valentine's Day.

We continue to be 'Eco Heroes' and spent part of an evening preparing crisp packets by 'de-greasing' them. They will eventually be made into blankets similar to those wrapped round runners at the end of marathons etc. We are looking forward to a visit from a representative from 'Scrapantics' who will share with us other recycling ideas.

Our final activity of February was making bath bombs for Mothers' Day.

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# Guild News



Three very different topics were covered by our recent speakers. Morag Stalker gave an illustrated talk entitled, 'Sealife, Swamps and Savannah' which covered her time on holiday in Florida and Georgia. Despite the beautiful scenery and lovely buildings, Morag's highlight was swimming with the dolphins.

Alf Ingram gave an excellent presentation on the work of the Scottish Charity Air Ambulance. This vital resource depends on public donations to allow them to carry out their live-saving missions when time is of the essence to get the injured to hospital.

Our third speaker was James Lochhead who shared his knowledge of Doris Day whom he nicknamed the 'Reluctant Superstar'. Doris started out as a dancer but after her leg was badly damaged in a car accident she turned to singing and acting. In later life, she devoted herself to animal welfare charities.

Looking ahead, our next meeting is the A.G.M. and on 19<sup>th</sup> March, Kenneth Baxter will trace the history of Dundee hospitals. Our last meeting will be our Daffodil Tea on 2<sup>nd</sup> April.

# Dana and Siobhan: Faith and Friendship

## *Who we are, where we are from and what we are doing.*

**Dana:** Dana Alkhatib, Palestinian Jordanian, final year medical student.

**Siobhan:** Siobhan Kerr, Irish, final year medical student (postgraduate- Medicinal Chemistry)

We arrived in Muheza, Tanzania on 5<sup>th</sup> of February for our six-week elective medical placement in remote and rural medicine. Our focus is on anaesthetics for Dana and paediatrics for Siobhan.

## *Our common interests.*

**Dana:** Horses! Later books.

**Siobhan:** Horses. We planned this elective while on a ride. Books, love of travel and adventure.

**Dana:** Our love of faith has sparked some ridiculously interesting conversations, and the parallels between our people's histories are unfortunate but remarkable. I think it did bring us closer together.

## *Q. What does your faith mean to you?*

**Dana:** It's the lens through which I perceive the world and, how I distinguish between right and wrong at every level, from brushing my teeth every morning, to choosing a career.

**Siobhan:** Everything. I cannot imagine living a second without my God, He is my all in all. Wherever or to whomever He sends me, I will go.

## *Q. How has your faith shaped your journey so far?*

**Dana:** One of the biggest decisions I made was pursuing medicine over being a professional athlete. I thought to myself 'will I be able to sleep at night?' Something in me felt I had a duty to use the resources, abilities, and blessings Allah SWT gave me in service of my fellow man. There's a verse in the Quran that says that if any one person saves the life of one person you are rewarded as if you saved all mankind. To be given the tools to pursue a reward so great could only mean that this is what I was born for. Young as I was back then, I began my journey with a very quiet confidence; but that's the wonderful thing about faith – the only confidence you need is confidence in your Maker.

When I first arrived in the U K I was practically embryonic! Only 17, and completely on my own in a new country 3500 miles from home, where, for the first time, I was not a member of the majority group. The challenges ahead of me are too many to list, but I believed at the time what I still believe now. Life is a series of efforts. The journey we prepare for as people of religion is long. It extends beyond this life.

Having faith, Iman, is what gives me the fuel for that journey, and keeps me steadfast in the face of so much that I don't understand. It's a shield. Allah SWT kept the Iman in my heart that I needed to survive, Alhamdulillah. Ultimately, I know my job is simply to put in 110% effort. The outcome of my life is not my concern. All I want to do is to One Day stand in front of my Maker and say: "I tried my best".

**Siobhan:** At 17 I became a Christian and felt God's call to become a doctor. My A level Chemistry was a grade below the requirement for my offer to study Medicine in Bristol, but I knew God would get me there going His way. God's way included a degree in Medicinal Chemistry. I cannot express how thankful I am to Him to have come this way.

Not only did I regain confidence in my abilities and live in a wonderful community of Christians, but it also gave me the opportunity to spend time with my great uncle who later passed away. It also included working here, in Tanzania, in the year out before Medical School. God gave me experiences I would never have had anywhere else. Now, Dana and I are back here in the same hospital!

Once in Medical School, I loved every second! God has used my first degree in amazing ways- giving me opportunities I could never have imagined. I have a real joy and fire when I do what He created me to do. I rely on His grace to get me through.

**Q. How has your friendship affected your understanding of the other person's faith?**

**Dana:** My favourite thing I've learnt about Christianity is that there are far more similarities between our faiths than differences. I love when I quote the Quran and-**Siobhan:** I find a parallel verse from the Bible!

**Dana:** Sunlight shining through two windows, coming from the same source of light. In our tradition, the three Abrahamic religions are one in their purest form.

**Siobhan:** I love being able to share with each other along the journey.

**Q. What are your plans going forward and how do you think your faith plays into that?**

**Dana:** The last 5 years have been a journey of discovering not only the world but myself. Allah SWT has grown in my heart a love for all things critical care. I'm optimistic that Emergency Medicine is the way that I will best serve my people. Being separated from my family brings me endless sorrow, but to know that Allat SWT is rewarding me for my struggles, and that one day I'll be of use to the people I love most is what keeps me looking up and forward. When the war erupted back home, my mentor, who ironically, is an atheist, said to me "Dana, I can say with surety that the effort you are going through, in whatever small and distant way, is worth it." And he was right. There's a verse I love that says, "*Verily with hardship comes ease*". I love it because it means the peaks and troughs of life are not separate. However difficult a time I may be having, I'll also have something to enjoy and something to be grateful for. However painful being away from home may be, I have been blessed with wonderful friends and an incredible adventure to take on.

**Siobhan:** Wherever I will be, God will be with me. God surprised me with a passion for paediatrics, which throughout my studies has been affirmed again and again. Looking further ahead, a move into Clinical Genetics, God's created order from millions of years ago. It is an exciting, dynamic field with brand new technology and science but uniquely patient-centred. I too had a conversation with my mentor, also an atheist about the prospect of ethically navigating uncharted waters in this field. He said that in light of the compass of my faith, he had confidence that the speciality would be in a safe pair of hands.

Whether you are reviving a patient, pursuing a new cure, or holding their hand at the end of the road - you are God's advocate, representative, His hands and feet on this earth. It is a gift to be cherished.

**Dana:** In your heart there is something in you that helps you to stand at someone's side in their deepest and darkest moment. It is an honour and privilege.



Thank you to all who contributed their old electronic equipment, jewellery, used stamps and much more towards the Recycling for Good Causes scheme, which in our case, is donating the money raised to Transform Trade. Our first sack of recyclables raised **£68.90!**

Our second sack of recyclables is away to be processed. Please keep your items coming! Details of what is acceptable can be found on the leaflets by the box outside the St Andrews hall. Thanks very much for your support.

### **TRANSFORM TRADE**

Transform Trade, formerly known as Traidcraft Exchange, is working to reform the world's broken model of international trade which is currently full of exploitation, environmental damage and huge inequality. The vision is for trade to become equitable, sustainable and regenerative, so it benefits everybody. Transform Trade's work involves advocating for people-centred trade, as well as providing practical support for marginalised producers in the global south, many of whom were suppliers to Traidcraft.



£820 was also recently donated to Transform Trade from the sale of Fair Trade goods at Kingsgait Church over the years. Some of this was money which had been set aside for future purchases. The range of Fair Trade products on the stall is now quite limited, but favourites such as Cafedirect coffee and Divine chocolate remain, and guarantee a living wage and other benefits for producers. If coffee and cocoa beans can't provide a decent, sustainable income for farmers, they may disappear, and that would be very bad news for consumers. But we can use our consumer power for good, to keep producers in business, and be able to enjoy our favourite treats.

*Sally Romilly*



# Walking Group

Fancy a bit of exercise in the open air? Join the Kingsgait Kirk's Walking Group. We'll meet monthly, on Saturday mornings at 9:30 in the church car park. If you have a bus pass, please bring it, as buses leaving the Seagate bus station will be the mode of transport to the start of each walk.

Dates for your diary; 27th April, 18th May, 15th June, 20th July, 31st August and 28th September.

We'll kick off by heading across the water to Fife, to walk from Tayport to Tentsmuir and back again. The aim for this and all walks is to end the trip at a coffee shop, to rest our feet and relax, before returning home on the bus.

By popular demand, routes will be a total of 4-5 miles. Please bring stout footwear, a packed lunch, clothing for almost all weathers (we live in Scotland, you know) and feel free to bring your dog (on a lead please).

More information about the future walk locations will be in the Wyvern and intimations.

Looking forward to seeing you!

*Tim and Stella*

## Dundee Scout Gangshow

For nearly 60 years, young people and leaders involved in scouting across Dundee and Angus have brought an annual variety show full of singing, dancing, and comedy sketches to the stage. They are back again this year with a show full of fun, laughter and music that will have you tapping along.

Some of our own church family members are involved in the show, with Kirsty joining many other talented young people on stage and Aimee and Billy (who sometimes plays for us on a Sunday morning) taking on roles as Assistant Production Director and Musical Director in the show.



# The Royal Arch Dundee (1848 - 1964)

*A Poem by James Adams*

Symbol of a city

a story in stone

Only her clockface remains

reminding punters that a

Victorian icon

once straddled dockland

Gathering dubious

bouquets along the way

Finally biting the dust

when juteopolis

wound down her looms and lums

Leaving a wasteland

now filled by hi

technology guiding

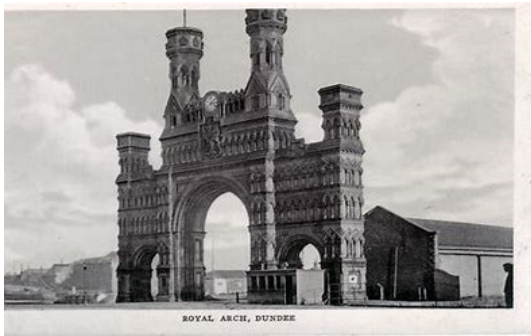
the gritty seaport into

exciting new eras

The old arch has gone

but bragging rights

and memories remain



## Church Carpet Bowling Club

Due to covid, our church carpet bowling club had to stop abruptly and has never restarted, but could this now happen later in the year? We would need more interested members, so if you fancy trying out a new hobby, please write your name on the list in the St Andrews Hall or speak to Marilyn Graham for more information.



# Flowers

	<u>Flower Donor</u>	<u>Flower Committee</u>
<i>March 2024</i>		
<i>3rd</i>	Mrs. I. Dryden Mr. R. McDougall	Miss. M. Graham
<i>10th</i>	Mrs. A. Lowe Mrs. E. Davidson	Mrs. M. McKenzie
<i>17th</i>	Mrs. M. Hunter Mr. I. McDougall	Mrs. A. Sanderson
<i>24th</i>	Mrs. D. Steven Mrs. M. Chisholm	Miss. M. Graham
<i>31st</i>	Mrs. A. Forbes Miss. M. Stalker	Mrs. M. McKenzie
<i>April 2024</i>		
<i>7th</i>	Mrs. S. Johnston Miss. M. Robertson	Mrs. A. Sanderson
<i>14th</i>	Mrs. M. Spence Mrs. I. Irvine	Miss. M. Graham
<i>21st</i>	Mrs. M. McKenzie Mrs. S. Valentine	Mrs. M. McKenzie
<i>28th</i>	Mr. P. Davidson Mrs. S. Miller	Mrs. A. Sanderson
<i>May 2024</i>		
<i>5th</i>	Mrs. W. Petrie	Miss. M. Graham
<i>12th</i>	Mrs. A. Black	Mrs. M. McKenzie
<i>19th</i>	Mr. J. Baxter	Mrs. A. Sanderson
<i>26th</i>	Flower Fund	Miss. M. Graham

## Date for your Diary

The Easter  
Gift  
Service will  
take place  
on Palm  
Sunday 24th  
March 2024

### Dates for your Diary

**Easter Sunday**

**11.00 Celebration of Holy Communion**

**250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations**

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2024**

**3pm Kingsgait Kirk 'Heart and Soul Band'**

**4pm BBQ on the Terrace**

\*

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2024**

**Nine Trades and Three United Trades of  
Dundee**

**Procession from Howff to Kingsgait Kirk**

**Sunday Worship 11.00**

### BUTCHART

The family of the late Robert would like to thank all friends and neighbours for cards, flowers. Thanks to Anita Kerr for the service and the graveside and thanks also to the organist.

# 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

## Traidcraft

Sally Romilly

Margaret Chisholm

## 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

## Rev Anita Kerr

Email: [Anita.Kerr@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:Anita.Kerr@churchofscotland.org.uk)

Telephone: 01382 456659

Or

## Church Office

Kingsgait Kirk

2 King Street, Dundee, DD1 2JB

Tel: 01382 224860

Email: [standrewsdundee@outlook.com](mailto:standrewsdundee@outlook.com)

***Please note that Rev Anita Kerr's day off is a Friday***



[Kingsgait Kirk, Dundee](#)



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

[www.standrewsparishchurch.co.uk](http://www.standrewsparishchurch.co.uk)

## EASTER PRAYER

Thank you for the gift of new life

Lord God,  
We bless your holy name for the love  
you've shown us  
We bless the name of our Lord, Jesus  
Christ,  
Who was crucified for our sake  
Today, as we celebrate his resurrection,  
We are more than grateful to know such  
love  
Thank you for the gift of new life through  
his resurrection  
Thank you for the privilege to come close  
to you through your son  
Fill our hearts with joy on this day and all  
the days of our lives

*Amen*

THE GRACEFUL CHAPTER