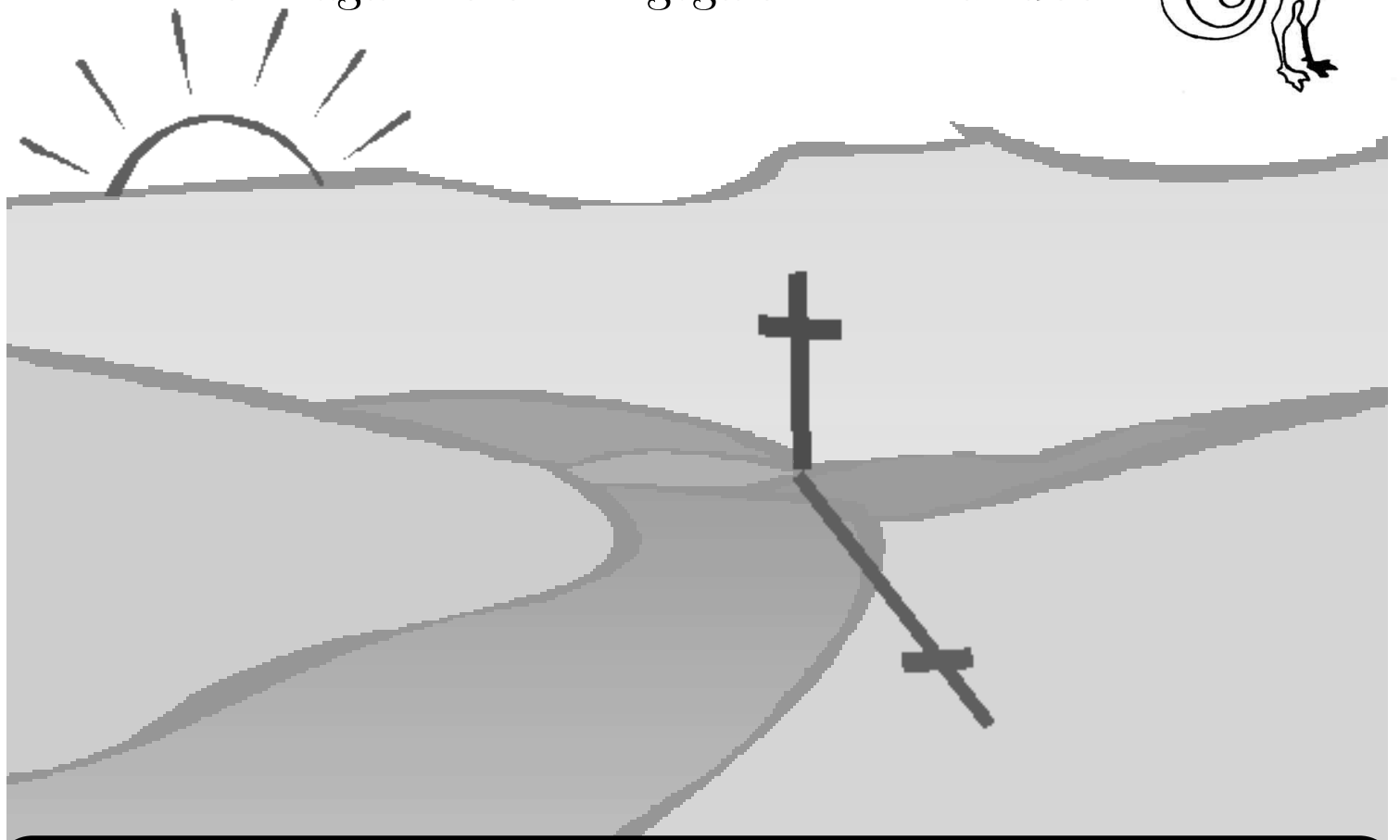


The Wyvern

The Magazine of Kingsgait Kirk Dundee



March 2025

Issue 714



Who's Who

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Merelyn Baxter

Mission Partner

JustBee Productions

www.justbeeproductions.co.uk



Session Meeting TBC

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 **May/June**

**Contributions for the next edition are
welcome**

***anytime during the coming weeks,
but at the very latest by:***

Sunday 27th April

email to

thechurchmagazine@outlook.com

The March/April edition of the *Wyvern* will be
available for collection by distributors
on Sunday 11th May

Greetings from Anita



"A perfect time"

"There is nothing that God hath established in a constant course of nature, and which therefore is done every day, but would seem a Miracle, and exercise our imagination, if it were done but once" (John Donne, LXXX Sermons (1640) Easter Day, 25 March 1627)

This week we welcomed our latest little miracle, now named 'Lachlan', to the family fold. A playmate for his cousin Ruairi, now 11 months old. As a midwife, mother and now a (very young) grandmother I have never ceased to marvel at the miracle of life and thank God for it.

Recently I have been thinking about time, specifically God's timing which is always perfect, even if we don't realise it at first. This letter's opening lines are by John Donne, poet, scholar, soldier, cleric and Dean of St Paul's Cathedral, London (1621–31). Donne is often considered the greatest love poet in the English language. He is also noted for his religious verse and for his sermons, of which Easter Day 1627 is, I think, one of his best. *"If everything were done but once, it would seem a miracle"* is from his poem "Song" which begins "Go and catch a falling star." In these lines Donne is essentially explaining to us that if we could only experience something once in our lives, it would feel incredibly special and wondrous, almost like a miracle, because of its uniqueness.

Too often we miss the miracles God works every day, merely to keep the world turning and us breathing. Perhaps, because we have discovered a fraction of how God does some of these things, we tend to lose sight of the fact that it is God who does them. We cease to marvel, to wonder at the world around us.

Springtime is a perfect opportunity for us to reset our response to the wonders of nature, to download the Awe! App, take our marvel off mute! The perfect time to look around us as if we had just woken from a long sleep to find that everything we hold dear is still here. Smile in awe, wonder and delight at daffodil buds, new blossom and daylight! New life, birth and rebirth, the faces of loved ones, family and friends. A perfect time to take every opportunity to tell others how wonderful God is and marvel at what God does every day and every year without fail, whether that is on the cosmic scale of the planets or the microscopic scale of the human brain. A perfect time, to misquote Paul's letter to the church in Phillipi, for us *to shine like the stars in the sky as we hold to the wonder of life!*

Wishing you and all whom you love, every Easter blessing—Rev Anita

Broughty Ferry Beach

A Poem by Jim Adams

Its journey begins
Below a Castle's
Safe and shunting shadow
Lopes for half a mile
Along the Tay's edge
Ending in finalities
Of long sharp grass

As summer yellows
Stern harbour walls
The beach comes alive
With seagull song
Beachcombers rescue
Rainbows in the sand

Intides come and go
An outwash leaves
Pentangles for tourists
Dreaming in deckchairs
These suburban sands
Have stood times
Thwarted test a
Seaweed's salted tale

Sometimes on cold nights
When winter loosens
Her grip on our Moon
A prince among pearls
Counts those grains
While highrise beyond
Explodes in light.



Guild News



2025 has not worked out as planned for the Guild. Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Fun and Games afternoon on 7th January was cancelled. At our next meeting, Kim Scott, Community Fundraiser for Children's Hospices Across Scotland (**CHAS**), gave us an insight into the help given to families with children who suffer from life-threatening conditions. As well as the opportunity to enjoy a period of respite in Rachel or Robin House, there is a support network throughout the country.

On the same day, Steven Boyd, who had talked to us in October about CrossReach, the Church of Scotland's Social Care service, turned up unexpectedly. After Kim's talk and refreshments, Steven then told us about the 2 projects, Sunflower Garden in Edinburgh and Daisy Chain in Glasgow, which the Guild nationally is supporting. Although his visit had not been planned, it turned out to be an excellent meeting with the members learning not only about CHAS but also more about CrossReach.

Our next speaker was Alana Harper, CEO of Deaf Links, part of Tayside Deaf Hub. This is a community centre in the heart of Dundee, providing advice and social activities for deaf and hard of hearing people. Deaf Links provides advocacy, information, and support to deaf and sensory impaired people. They are the first in Scotland to provide specialist advocacy support to deaf women and girls experiencing gender-based violence/abuse.

Our next change to our programme saw Claire from Just Bee step in at very short notice when the planned speaker could no longer attend. We were delighted to get an update on the amazing range of support being provided to so many people at Just Bee.

We are all looking forward to Marjory Gillan's return when, as well as putting us through some armchair exercises, she will entertain us with humorous stories from her past.

After our short A.G.M. on 18th March, there will be another change to the programme. Instead of the Wighton Singers we will hear about one of the Guild projects, Bear Necessities, Build My Church Bulgaria.

Our session will finish on 1st April with a Daffodil Tea with a difference. Instead of the usual format, our meeting will be open to everyone. We will sell tickets, there will be some stalls and afternoon tea will be served. We hope many of the congregation and friends will support us.

A Hymn Writer

In Connecticut USA, one headstone bears the words, 'She hath done what she could'.

She was only six weeks old when Fanny Crosby caught a cold and developed inflammation of the eyes and the procedure to correct this, according to Crosby, had damaged the optic nerves and left her blind.

When she was six months old her father died and she was raised by her mother and grandmother and at the age three was examined by a doctor who said that her condition was inoperable and that her blindness was permanent. At age eight, she wrote her first poem which described her own condition.¹

She later stated: "It seemed intended by the blessed providence of God that I should be blind all my life, and I thank him for the dispensation."

It was hard in the 1800s growing up a young blind girl but she became a teacher for the visually impaired and married a musician.

But she was a prolific writer and with her Christian upbringing wrote more than 8000 hymns and gospel songs, four books of poetry and was known as the 'Queen of Gospel Song Writers.'

She published hymns under many different names as some publishers did not like to have too many hymns written by the same person. Fanny Crosby was a household name by the end of the 19th century.

Perhaps when we are in church and singing, 'Blessed Assurance' or 'To God Be The Glory' only two of the many Hymns that she wrote, we can admire a person with such a wonderful talent.

J.D . Pirie

**Head over to our Facebook page - Kingsgait Kirk—
each day of Lent to see the Kindness act of the day
posts as part of the 40 acts of kindness for Lent
campaign**



Act 1: Freely give, freely receive

Reflect: "Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give." MATTHEW 10:8 (NIV)

Pray: for a heart that is always prepared to give, even in moments of chaos or uncertainty. Thank God for the abundant blessings you have received and ask for the grace to freely share them with others. Pray for refugees and those who have had to leave their homes, that they may experience generosity, hospitality, and hope in their new surroundings. Ask God to help you live out the words "freely give" through simple, intentional acts of generosity that reflect His love.

Act!: However you choose to do Lent generously every day, whether it's with acts of kindness or generosity - join us in doing them wholeheartedly, creatively and even surprisingly!

Girls' Brigade News



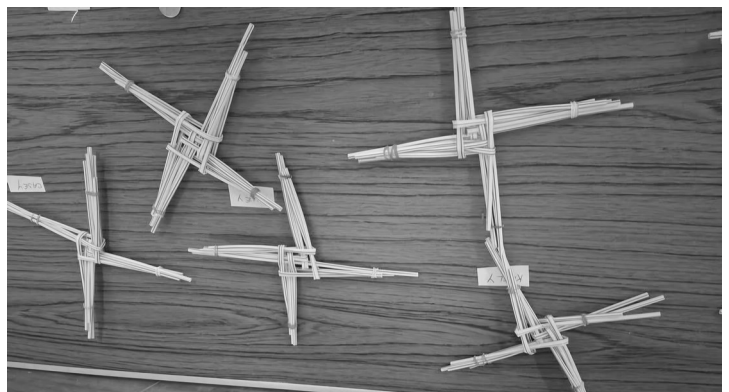
We have covered a wide range of topics in the first 2 months of the year. We marked Epiphany on 6th January when Senaya became queen for the night after finding a Smartie in her cake. This mimicked what happens in France when the child who finds a dried bean or pea in a cake becomes king or queen for the day and can rule their classmates.

To mark the start of the Chinese New Year, the story of the Chinese calendar, with the animals racing each other across a river to decide the order in which the years would be named, was enjoyed before using chopsticks to transfer marshmallows from dish to dish.

Scottish poems were recited to mark Burns Day and haggis, tatties and neeps were enjoyed by most of the girls.

Cards and baskets, which were filled with Love Hearts, were made after hearing the story of St Valentine. The story of St Bride, or St Bridget as she is also called, was shared before the girls used straws to make a St Bride's cross.

After discussing their dreams for the future, the girls made dream catchers using paper plates, wool and beads.



Act 2: "Be more Barnabas"

Reflect: "News of this reached the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he arrived and saw what the grace of God had done, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord." ACTS 11:22-24 (NIV)

Pray: that God would open your eyes to those who need encouragement today. Ask Him to give you the right words to speak or write, and the courage to share them generously. Pray for a heart like Barnabas – one that lifts others up, affirms their gifts and strengthens them on their faith journey. Ask God to make you a source of light and encouragement in someone's life this week.



Reflections of Activities of the St Andrews Parish Church

Boys Brigade and Former Members Association - BB Camp Edition

Stories of the BB would not be complete without a mention of the annual BB camp at Drummond Hall:

Do you fancy a week's holiday full board for 75p?

That was what a great week under canvas cost in the 1950's at the Drummond Hall farm between Stanley and Murthly in rural Perthshire. The farm belonged to Mr & Mrs Allan who then passed it on to their son, Sandy Allan who made us so welcome every year to the acre of land along the road-side. The annual camp dated back to 1908, when the company left the Dundee BB Battalion due to a dispute over the determination to continue wearing their Glengarry headgear and not the "tuppeny pie" of the Battalion. The People's Journal on the 21st May 1955 published an article titled "a big argument over a cap" which the St Andrew's BB won as the cap was the tradition of our BB.

Incidentally there was a photo of yours truly wearing the full BB uniform - haversack, belt, and that Glengarry cap with the St Andrew's badge. Forward some 55 years and the Courier ran a sequence of articles about the church and the BB was included in one of the articles, so I again appeared in the Craigie column recounting some of the treasured memories of the days under canvas. Some of the "laddies" - including myself - were a wee bit homesick on our first time away from home, especially the first night lying on a straw-filled bed along with six other lads. We were very lucky to have a ready-made "grannie" in Mrs Leslie - our camp cook - who had assured us that all would be well in the morning of our first day in a field and so it was. By Wednesday - visitors' day - we were hardened campers and when the buses arrived from Dundee we couldn't wait to show them our five star accommodation. This was followed by a sports afternoon and an officers versus boys football match with the winners - always the officers - treating the boys in the marquee tuck shop.

Continued...

The older boys - called batmen - also had to fetch hot water for the officers to allow them to shave while the rest of us had to do with a basin of cold water laid on benches - called ablutions - in the field standing on wooden duckboards - slatted platforms - to keep us off the wet grass. What the passing motorists must have thought didn't bother us as we were too busy scrubbing.

Frank Galloway

Spring Flowers Word Search

Words can go in all eight directions
Words may overlap but do not share letters.

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t x q f v d d l k w t n n t h l l m r
m l x t a r a t f p k z m k h z x p v
m q p i n q f z y b r p a n s y h r t
p m s t b r f n o i l e d n a d v i n
c y d f l q o q z t d h q z r r x m v
f c k l c r d y c t v b t t x z h r q
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y b o q q l v w w e m k v b n k y j a
h c c r z t l k k f q b r o e m p v q
q r a n c o w s l i p r w q l u v r p
t m p o r d w o n s q f o y z j l i x
l h b c k l b t t t l w h f z x l b k
t q p q l k b d k a m q m c k u n t n
k q b r b f f n k h b m r q t m t j x
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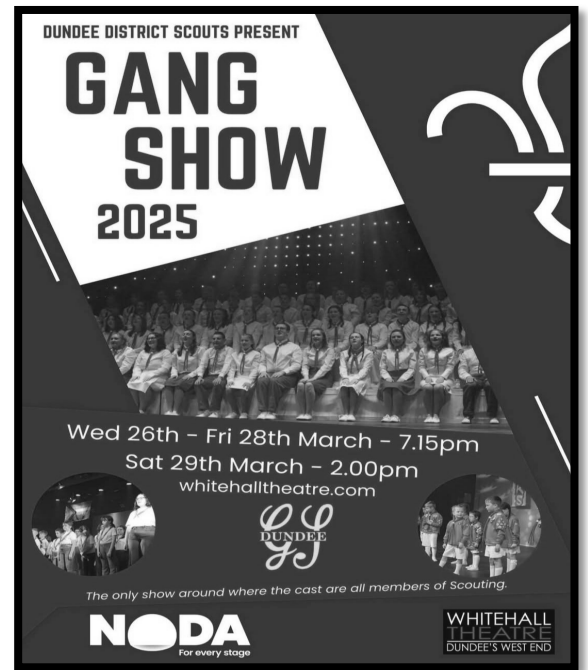
anemone
bluebell
coltsfoot
cowslip
crocus
daffodil

daisy
dandelion
forget-me-not
hyacinth
ivy
marquerite

pansy
primrose
snowdrop
snowflake
tulip
viola

Dundee Scout Gangshow

The Dundee Scout Gang Show 2025 is scheduled to take place at the Whitehall Theatre in Dundee from Wednesday, March 26th to Saturday, March 29th, 2025. This annual variety show features musical numbers and comedy sketches performed by over 100 boys and girls who are members of the Scout Association. Don't miss this opportunity to support local youth and enjoy a fantastic evening of entertainment!



Margaret Robertson

Easter in Ukraine

Every day, Ukraine features on the news as the war with Russia continues. Hopefully, by Easter a peace deal may have been worked out. Even if there is still no peace, the Ukrainians will celebrate Easter and the adults will decorate eggs for the children.

The Ukrainians are particularly well known for the beautiful folk art called pysanky, a craft passed down from generation to generation. To decorate the eggs they use a kistka, which is a small writing instrument. They also use a lighted candle, beeswax and several jars of brightly coloured dyes. The process involves applying melted wax to the eggshell in a design, then dipping it into the different coloured dyes, layer by layer. Once the final layer of dye is applied, the wax is melted off to reveal the intricate design underneath. A finished design may take hours and have dozens of layers of wax and dyes. These eggs are decorated raw and eventually dry out when left. Not surprisingly many of these beautiful eggs are treasured.



Flowers

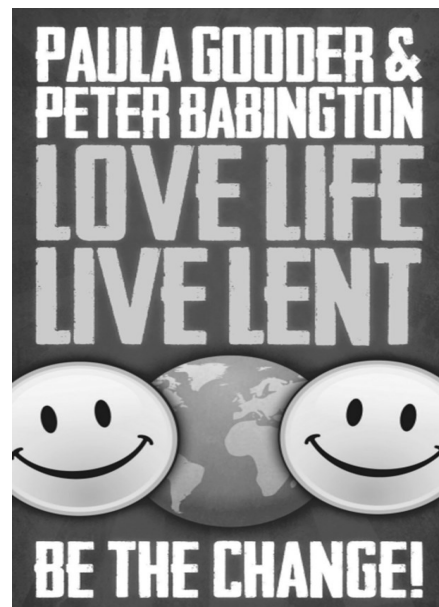
	<u>Flower Donor</u>	<u>Flower Committee</u>
<i>March 2025</i>		
<i>2nd</i>	Mrs. I. Dryden Mrs. S. Valentine	Mrs. M. McKenzie
<i>9th</i>	Mrs. E. Davidson	Mrs. A. Sanderson
<i>16th</i>	Mrs. M. Hunter Mr. I. McDougall	Miss. M. Graham
<i>23rd</i>	Mrs. D. Steven Mrs. M. Chisholm	Mrs. M. McKenzie
<i>30th</i>	Mrs. A. Forbes Miss. M. Stalker	Mrs. A. Sanderson
<i>April 2025</i>		
<i>6th</i>	Miss. M. Robertson	Miss. M. Graham
<i>13th</i>	Mrs. I. Irvine Mrs. S. Walker	Mrs. M. McKenzie
<i>20th</i>	Mrs. S. Valentine	Mrs. A. Sanderson
<i>27th</i>	Mr. P. Davidson Mrs. S. Miller	Miss. M. Graham
<i>May 2025</i>		
<i>4th</i>	Mrs. W. Petrie	Mrs. M. McKenzie
<i>11th</i>	Mrs. A. Black	Mrs. A. Sanderson
<i>18th</i>	Mr. J. Baxter	Miss. M. Graham
<i>25th</i>	Flower Fund	Mrs. M. McKenzie

The Easter
Gift Service
will be on
Palm
Sunday 13th
April

'Love Life, Live Lent'

"Love Life, Live Lent", published by the Church of England is a small booklet with 40 actions, one for each day of Lent, to make the world a better place – locally, nationally and globally.

A number of these booklets are available in the bookcase on the corridor between the Church and St Andrew's Hall. Please feel free to take one.



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

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



Kingsgait Kirk, Dundee



Meadowside St Paul's l/w St Andrew's

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