

Office: Aberdalgie Church. Staffed Tuesdays & Thursdays 0900—1300. 01738 621674

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Web site:- www.stewartryofstrathearn.org.uk

Office address—The Stewartry of Strathearn Church Office, Aberdalgie Perth PH2 0QD

Sunday Services

Aberuthven	12 noon +	
Forteviot	10.00 am *	
Dunning	10.30 am +*	+ Disabled access and facilities
Aberdalgie	11.15 am	* Sunday Club during term-time

Interim Moderator: Revd Robert Pickles, 41 Auld Mart Road, Milnathort KY13 9FR
01577 863461

Pastoral Assistant: Mrs. Deirdre Yellowlees, Ringmill House,
Gannochy Farm, Perth PH2 7JH
(Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday) 07920 805 399

Locum: Revd Elizabeth Brown 01738 552391

Administrator: Mrs. Pat Paterson

Treasurer: Mr Russell Mann (Attends office Tuesday mornings)

Session Clerk: Mrs. Pat Robb 01738 625163

Session Minute Clerk: Mr Duncan Dow 01764 684520

Conveners:

Fabric : Mr. Graham Ross 01764 684275

Communications Mrs. Catriona Harrison 01764 684104

Finance Mr. Peter Thomson 01738 812483

Caring for Each Other Mr. Ron Harrison 01764 684104

Caring for Others/Outreach Mr. Alan Duff 01764 684635

Worship Contact Ministry Team

Health & Safety Officer Mrs Doreen Dunbar 01764 684728

Children's Ministry:

Dunning Tuesday Club Mrs. Jean Young 01764 684640

Forteviot Sunday Club Miss Cathy McLeod 01738 621511

Child Protection Officer Mrs. Jean Young 01764 684640

Prayer Correspondent Mrs Pamela Bain 01764 684373

Church of Scotland Guild Mrs Sheena Chisholm 01738 730241

The Stewartry of Strathearn

THE BANNER



ADVENT 2008

Congregational Record

Membership

Baptisms:-

21/09/08 Cameron John Alexander Wallace, Perth
 21/09/08 Loren Nicola Baird, Scone
 23/11/08 Thomas James Young, Auchterarder

Disjoined:-

Rev Robin and Mrs Jan Stewart, Murthly

Deaths:-

25/09/08 Miss Magda Deans, Perth
 17/10/08 Brigadier Rory Walker, OBE MC, Dunning
 23/10/08 Mr Kenneth Cameron, Dunning
 03/11/08 Mr Charles Barnett, Dunning
 07/11/08 Mrs Jessie Lester, Dunning

The Late Ken Cameron

My family and I wish to thank everyone who sent letters, cards and phoned in sympathy after Ken's passing in October after a very long illness. They brought great comfort during a very distressing time. We would like to thank Colin, before his retirement, Deirdre and Liz recently, for all their visits both at home and the PRI. They also brought a great comfort to Ken and myself over the years. Also, a big 'thank you' for all who attended his funeral. He got a great send-off which would have pleased, but embarrassed him, as he was a quiet man who avoided any fuss. Thanks also to all who contributed to the retiring collection which raised the magnificent sum of £467. It was divided between the Haematology Unit, PRI (£300) and St Margaret's Hospital, Auchterarder (£167). With grateful thanks once again. We wish you all a wonderful Christmas.

Rosemary Cameron

Mary and Alex Herd arrive in Australia

Many of you may know that Mary and Alex Herd left for Australia in October. They have been in contact to say they have arrived safely and in one communiqué they add: "Have joined the library and are buying a house so that's the two essentials taken care of!" We wish them a warm and sunny Christmas in their new home.

DIARY OF EVENTS IN THE STEWARTRY

December

Wednesday 3rd	Friendship Club at 1.30 pm at Aberuthven
Thursday 4th	Aberuthven school assembly 09.10 am
Sunday 7th	Second Sunday in Advent
Tuesday 9th	Perth Presbytery meeting in Scone Old Parish Church 7.00 pm
Wednesday 10th	Friendship Club at 1.30 pm at Aberuthven
Wednesday 10th	Communications Cluster meeting 7.30 pm at Hennhill House
Sunday 14th	Third Sunday in Advent
Sunday 14th	Dunning Community Trust Carol Service at Duncrub chapel
Monday 15th	Business Committee meeting
Tuesday 16th	Dunning school end of term service 2.00 pm in Dunning church
Wednesday 17th	Friendship Club at 1.30 pm at Aberuthven
Thursday 18th	Aberuthven school end of term service 11.00 am
Friday 19th	Forteviot school end of term service 11.00 am
Friday 19th	Schools end of term
Sunday 21st	Fourth in Advent Christmas service Forteviot Sunday school
Sunday 21st	Earn valley Carols and Coffee evening in Forteviot church at 7.00 pm followed by refreshments in the village hall
Wednesday 24th	Christmas Eve service in Dunning Church at 11.30 pm Christmas Eve service in Forteviot Church at 11.30 pm
Thursday 25th	Christmas day service in Dunning Church at 10.00 am
Sunday 28th	First Sunday of Christmas
JANUARY 2009	
Thursday 8th	Kirk Session meeting 7.00 pm in Dunning Church hall
Wednesday 14th	Friendship Club at 1.30 pm at Aberuthven

2009 Year of Home coming

“You welcomed me as if I were an angel”

2009, the 250th anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns, has been designated by the Scottish Government as the ‘Year of Homecoming’ during which our country will reach out to all those around the world with an interest in, or affinity to, Scotland.

The Christian faith provides rich and challenging perspectives on the Homecoming theme and it is appropriate that the Church of Scotland is a partner of Homecoming Scotland 2009. A Church Visitor and Tourism Strategy group is working closely with Scotland’s Churches Scheme to encourage congregations to welcome visitors and tourists in new and old ways, in 2009 and beyond.

In 2010 the international dimension of the Church will be celebrated with the centenary of the 1910 Edinburgh World Missionary Conference and the 450th anniversary of the Scottish Reformation.

The Year of Homecoming is an opportunity for congregations to affirm the vision of the Church of Scotland to visitors from near and far “to be a church which inspires the people of Scotland and beyond with the Good News of Jesus Christ thought enthusiastic, worshipping, witnessing, nurturing and serving communities.”

Year of Homecoming resources have been prepared by the Church Visitor and Tourism Group for use by parishes. They include:

- an invitation card and artwork to illustrate the theme from Galatians 4:14 “You welcomed me as if I were an angel.”
- a leaflet that outlines the history and work of the Church of Scotland.
- the 2009 Annual Review will have a homecoming theme
- the Mission and Discipleship Council has provided a small grants scheme towards promotional projects including leaflets and websites and these are now available for help with events during 2009.
- Scotland’s Churches Scheme is launching a new website in time for the Year of Homecoming. Churches who join the Scheme can have their own page on the website with their contact details and link to their own website. *For more information contact Church of Scotland*

A Letter from our Interim Moderator

Dear Friends,

Many of you will be wondering how the Nominating Committee are getting on in seeking to fill the vacancy for a Minister for the Stewartry.

The Committee has met monthly and produced a parish profile and application form – both of which can be viewed on the Stewartry web site. There has been some interest, following September’s advertisement in Life & Work magazine. We have had a number of requests for copies of the parish profile; Committee members have conducted some ‘informal’ visits to the parish; we are keeping track of the number of visits to the web site Vacancy Details page. While we don’t know who is visiting our site we feel encouraged that there is interest in the Stewartry.

At this busy time of year many people eligible for a charge will have a lot to distract them. The Committee has decided to re-advertise the vacancy in January’s edition of Life & Work and will continue to meet monthly to review progress.

This process is in the hands of the Lord and I know you will all continue to pray for the Minister that God is calling for the Stewartry and for His guidance on the work of the members of your Nominating Committee.

Wishing you all a warm and happy Christmas,

Robert

Stewartry Christmas Sale

The magnificent sum of £1,590 was raised at the Christmas Sale on Saturday, November 22nd. Thanks to everyone who helped in any way and for all those who came to enjoy the morning!

New gates at the Manse

Mr Robert Robb (98) and his son Mr Jackson Robb farmed in the parish of Aberdalgie at Broxden Farm on the western edge of Perth. When Broxden was taken over for development in 2002 these gates were made redundant. On hearing that the Stewartry were looking for a set of gates for the Manse both Robert and Jackson were delighted to see their gates coming back into use and very generously gifted these to the Stewartry.

Mr Jockie McGregor spent many hours using his skills and expertise to erect the gates across the Manse drive. Grateful thanks must go to Robert and Jackson for this gift and to Jockie for a job well done.

The picture below shows (from left to right) Jockie McGregor, Robert Robb and Jackson Robb.



Pat Robb

Sunday 21st

7:00 p.m.

Earn Valley Carols and Coffee evening

Forteviot church followed by refreshments in Forteviot Village Hall

Wednesday 24th

11:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve services

Dunning Church
Forteviot Church

Thursday 25th

10.00 am

Christmas day service in Dunning Church



Services for Advent and Christmas

December

Sunday 7th

10:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

11:15 a.m.

12:00 noon

Second Sunday in Advent

Forteviot

Dunning

Aberdalgie

Aberuthven

Sunday 14th

10:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

11:15 a.m.

12:00 noon

Third Sunday in Advent

Forteviot

Dunning

Aberdalgie

Aberuthven

Sunday 14th

6:30 p.m.

Dunning Community Trust Carol Service at Duncrub chapel

Tuesday 16th

2:00 p.m.

Dunning school end of term service Dunning church

Thursday 18th

11:00 am

Aberuthven school end of term service

Friday 19th

11:00 a.m.

Forteviot school end of term service Forteviot Church

Sunday 21st

10:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

11:15 a.m.

12:00 noon

Fourth Sunday in Advent Christmas service Forteviot Sunday Club

Dunning

Aberdalgie

Aberuthven.

Dear Friends,

It is all too too easy – and actually I have to admit to having started this letter in that vein before thinking better of going down that well worn path (again) – far too easy to be cynical about the whole secularisation of Christmas ‘thing’! . As Christians even – depressed.

This is the Advent Banner after all.

ADVENT – a whole season in its own right – distinct from Christmas...heralding it - yes– in this time between the “already” and the “not yet.” Advent – as a Season; precious. Distinct. A time of preparation – of waiting – but waiting in expectation - for Christ will come again – and all the angels with Him. In power. In glory. In our time. Maybe so.....

Advent reminds us that the Christ event was ‘bound’ to happen – for God willed it so – that when the time was right God would meet in us in a particular and personal way, with us through the offering of Himself, divine and all powerful in the shape and smell and sound of a helpless baby. That fact alone should grab our attention.....

Advent becomes a season ever more precious to me – more and more one feels the distinctiveness and necessity of this time of mystery. This quietening, this waiting that becomes ever more needful in our noisy, crowded world as God’s appointed time moves to its fulfilment.

This is not a statement that ought to shock us – for every time we meet at table we proclaim God’s Kingship, His presence – our encounter as in remembrance we anticipate.

So together, let us resolve to let Advent bring us to Christmas and Christmas to us in a deeper and richer way – so that when we celebrate our Saviour’s birth we do so with the hearts and souls of people who already know and recognise Him – and this in the understanding that He knows and recognises us.. Let us live as people whose whole manner of living shows that in all and every season we eagerly wait on His return when He will make all things new.

Come O come Emmanuel.....

Marana tha.

Deirdre



Prayer Corner

Advent Prayer

Henri J.M. Nouwen

Lord Jesus,

Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.

We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.

We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us.

We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom.

We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence.

We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.

To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!"

Amen.

Advent and Christmas In the Stewartry

