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

Staffed Tuesdays & Thursdays 0900—1300 01738 621674

Sunday Services

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

Interim Moderator: Revd Derek Lawson LLB BD, 22 King Street, Stanley, PH1 4ND
01738 828247 dglawson@talktalk.net

Locum: Revd Ray A Gaston MA BD, Hamewith, 13 Manse Road, Dollar
FK14 7AL 01259 743202 raygaston@onetel.com

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

Administrator: Mrs. Pat Paterson

Treasurer: Mr Russell Mann (Attends office Tuesday mornings only)

Session Clerk: Mrs. Pat Robb 01738 625163
patrobb@yahoo.co.uk

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
Church in the Community	Mr. Alan Duff	01764 684635
Worship	Contact Ministry Team	

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
Justice & Peace Group	Mr Raymond Young	01764 684640

The Stewartry of Strathearn

THE BANNER



PENTECOST 2009

Congregational Record

Baptisms: -

30/11/2008 Eilidh Anna Dall, Dunfermline
 28/12/2008 Finn Cameron Wilson, Bushey Heath

Weddings: -

20/03/2009 Jo Dickson with Jane McAfee, Forgandenny
 09/05/2009 Mr Brian Christopher Stewart with Emma Louise Niner,
 Perth

Joined by Resloution of the Kirk Session: -

14/05/2009 Gordon McKay, Perth

Disjoined:-

16/12/2008 Mr Richard and Mrs Violet Turner, Kilmarnock
 13/01/2009 Mr David Sims, Forgandenny
 30/04/2009 Mr Eric and Mrs Shirley Sharp, Dunning
 03/05/2009 Mrs Isobel Sims, Forgandenny

Deaths:-

28/12/2008 Mrs Daisy Sutherland, Aberuthven
 27/03/2009 Mrs Catherine Curran, Dunning
 03/04/2009 Mrs Elspeth Mitchell, Perth
 04/04/2009 Mrs Sharon Inverarity Dunning
 18/04/2009 Mr Victor Stuart Illingworth, Perth
 15/05/2009 Mrs Sheila Thomson, Perth

JUNE

Thursday 4th Aberuthven School service
 9.10 am –9.40 am
 Sunday 7th Trinity Sunday
 Sunday 14th United service in Forteviot Church at
 11.00 am to meet our new
 Interim Moderator Revd. Derek Lawson
 BBQ in Forteviot hall after the service
 Justice & Peace group: meeting
postponed. Revd. Erik Cram will now
 speak in October.
 Sunday 14th Business Committee meeting 7.00 pm
 Monday 15th Forteviot school service 9.15 am
 Tuesday 16th Service in North Church, Perth 6.45 pm
 Wednesday 24th for “setting apart” of Michael Archibald.
 Everyone welcome
 Thursday 25th Dunning school prize giving day
 Monday 29th Forteviot school prize giving day
 Tuesday 30th Aberuthven school prize giving day

JULY

Wednesday 1st Kirk Session meeting in Aberuthven
 church 7.00 pm
 Sunday 5th Prayers for The Stewartry in Dunning
 Church hall at 6:30 p.m. (Note the new
 time)

A Brief History of Forteviot An Address by Gregory Ross on Advent Sunday 2008

Advent is the beginning of the Church Year for most churches in the Western tradition. The word Advent means "coming" or "arrival." Advent also symbolizes the spiritual journey of individuals and a congregation, as they affirm that Christ has come, that He is present in the world today, and that He will come again in power.

The original Forteviot lands became the four detached territories of the Cairnies and Kirkton Mailer to the north of the Earn, Forteviot itself and Whitehill in the south of the district. Each had a pre-parochial chapel; Kirkton Mailer is self-explanatory in that many Kirktons are seen to be derived from early Christian settlements; Cairnies was the site of the Chapel of the Muir; Forteviot has its renowned and illustrious connections while Whitehill has the nominal remains of a chapel in Chapel Burn.

These are the historical echoes of the pre-parochial structure of a shire territory that was formed around a shire commonty by a tribal community in the fifth century and broken up during the time of the later Picts to leave two basic territories appropriated by different church foundations. The one scattered into controlling units served by Christian communities subject to St Andrews and the other based on the old shire commonty subject to Dunkeld.

A particularly powerful Pictish sub-king named Onuist, son of Uргуист, rose to power as sub-king of Fortriu in the 8th century. Onuist founded a new dynasty of Pictish kings from his spiritual base at Forteviot. Towards the end of his reign, he founded a church at Cilrigmonaid, possibly St. Mary on the Rock, in Fife to augment the existing monastery. Onuist's foundation was linked with the relics of St. Andrew thought to have been brought north to Abernethy by Bishop Acca of Hexham during his exile at the start of Onuist's reign.



Dear Friends,

It has been some time since the last edition of The Banner. As you are all, no doubt aware, this has been a testing time for The Stewartry. The initial Vacancy has come and gone and we are in a place and position we might not have been. It would not be helpful, at this stage, I believe, to rake over the ashes – suffice to say out of the ashes came the phoenix! Actually, for Christians that's a bit second hand, isn't it – better the image, the promise from the Book of Revelation Chapter 21 v 5 ***“See I am making all things new”***, not just a clever reconstitution from the ash of the previous life but made new in and through Christ Jesus who was and IS and is to come.

The last two weeks or so have offered us as The Stewartry the opportunity for a new start in that both the Interim Moderator, Revd. Robert Pickles and the locum Revd. Liz Brown have completed their time with regard to the initial Vacancy. I'm sure you would wish me to thank them again on your behalf for their work and witness during what was a difficult and painful time.

Later this month Revd Derek Lawson becomes our new Interim Moderator and Revd Ray Gaston has already started with us as our locum. They will remain with us for the foreseeable future i.e. until an Interim Minister is put in place (if indeed this is what is decided by Presbytery) or the Stewartry is permitted to begin again a Vacancy process.

Both Derek and Ray come with much experience and will, I know, be a great asset to us at this time. Derek's charge is at Stanley and Redgorton. From his brief CV at the beginning of this issue of The Banner you will see that Ray comes with a wealth of experience and I for one look forward to working with him – to learning from him.

John has always been a keen hill walker and sailor. On one occasion during his undergraduate days he accompanied a friend to the house once owned by Gavin Maxwell where assorted animals and birds continued to live. John had a tricky encounter with one of the otters who frequented the bathroom and was not well pleased when John ousted him from the bath and took the opportunity to bite the surgeon's finger! Luckily for John there were no lasting ill effects or damage to his career prospects.

John and Margaret moved to Dunning in 2005 – specifically to the Old Bank House which offered ideal accommodation for them and Margaret's mother, Mrs. Anderson. They long wanted to move back north of the border after retirement and Dunning offered the church and community life they looked forward to. John was ordained an Elder in The Stewartry in 2008. He continues to walk the Scottish hills once a fortnight with Alf Marshall and Bill Peebles; he is Secretary of the Auchterarder Probus and a committee member of the Dunning Parish Historical Society.

CLAN Gathering 2009 takes place at
Madras College, Kilrymont, St Andrews
Saturday 18th to Friday 24th July 09

To find out more go to:
www.new-wine-scotland.org

Christians Linked Across the Nation
Week long celebration with speakers, musicians and
workshops

Onuist's successor was his brother Custantin who had only just begun his reign when word came of the strangers. Initially they came from the larger religious centres starting with Lindisfarne on the Northumbrian coast and working their way around to the Hebrides, devastating Skye and Iona, and then Connaught in Ireland a couple of years later. In 796AD, Lindisfarne monks came to Custantin for protection and he settled them at a foundation in Dunkeld to be joined later by Iona monks. The removal of the Iona community by Abbot Cellach to Kells in Meath was completed ten years later but, more significantly, the relics of St. Columba were moved to the new major ecclesiastical foundation Dunkeld.

To have St. Columba's and St. Andrews relics under his control would have conferred enormous spiritual power on Custantin. Such a move raises two points. Firstly, why not move to existing foundations at Abernethy, Scone or Cilrigmonaid. Were these communities resistant to such a move? Secondly, how was Custantin able to finance such a move? He would only be able to provide personal support from his own lands as sub-king of Fortriu without contravening Pictish law. It is at this time that the division may have occurred between Forteviot and Forgandenny. In the division, Custantin kept the areas associated with the chapels for Forteviot even though they would be detachments from the main area as can be seen in the parochial organisation later. The area of the future Forgandenny parish was established from the settlements of the old shire moor and devoted to Dunkeld.

A lasting memorial was erected to the memory of Custantin at some time after the end of his reign. This was one of two Pictish Class III stones erected in Forteviot. The first stone was moved some time ago for safety to the entrance to Forteviot church while the second remained free standing at Easter Cairnie until it was moved to St. Serf's Church in Dunning. This latter stone has a Latin inscription only recently identified in 1991 as CUSTANTIN, SON OF WUIRGUST.



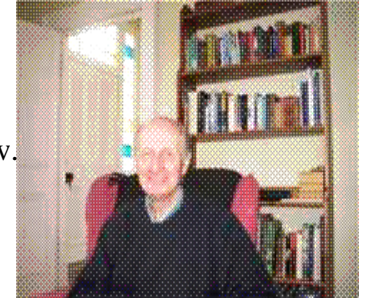
Drust, the very last Pictish king, was killed at Forteviot by the forces of Ciniod, known as Kenneth MacAlpin, who arrived at Forteviot towards the end of his life to become the first MacAlpin King of Scots and Picts by election. To secure his position Kenneth had to create a connection for himself to the ancestor of the last Pictish king, so he made a great spiritual flourish by the transfer of the bones of St. Columba from Iona to Dunkeld in 849AD, though they were probably already at Dunkeld. He also moved the spiritual primacy from Abernethy to Forteviot but it was moved back to Abernethy after Kenneth's death.

The Royal court moved south to a new base at Dunfermline by 1058 AD when King Maelcolm formally adopted St. Andrew as patron saint over Columba. Kilrimont (St. Andrews) eclipsed Dunkeld, Forteviot and Abernethy as the primate's residence. Maelcolm's association with Forteviot went deeper than mere buildings. Because there was only one mention in the chronicles of his anonymous mother, the sister of the earl of Northumbria, local tradition has it that he was the son of the Forteviot miller's daughter Nell. It is highly unlikely that Maelcolm's uncle Siward or his grandfather Crinan would have given their support to Maelcolm over his brothers if this were true, although Maelcolm may well have been born at Forteviot. Maelcolm's contemporary, William I of England, was also said to be the son of a tanner's daughter. Both kings also share the fact that they were only about eight years old when their fathers died

Forteviot, the oldest church, was part of the see of St. Andrews when a burst of charters in 1165 heralded the appropriation of churches within the parish system. William I made a grant of the benefices of Forteviot church to his chaplain Richard of Stirling. Just to the south of Forteviot, in what we now know as Invermay, was another church Mucrosin granted to St. Andrew's with land attached in Injurred; Forgandenny was under the control of Dunkeld and the benefices of Dunning church and of Dupplin were appropriated to Dunblane in 1217

Elder Profile : John Bancewicz

John was born in Strathaven the eldest of 8 children. He attended primary school in Strathaven and secondary school in Glasgow. John's father was a GP and amongst his patients was one Harry Lauder. John's earliest claim to fame came at the age of four-and-a-half when his father captured him on cine film walking hand in hand with Harry Lauder. The footage was subsequently used by STV as part of a tribute to Lauder following his death.



When John's father asked him what he wanted to do with his life John replied 'Become a doctor'. His father replied: 'You're mad!' Hence John studied medicine at Glasgow University where he qualified M.B., Ch.B. after specialising in surgery. It was at Glasgow University that John and Margaret met (in a Psychiatry class) where Margaret was also studying medicine. They both began their medical career in and around Glasgow during which time their son, Peter, and daughter, Ruth were born.

In 1979 John and Margaret moved south to Bramhall where John took up a post of Consultant Surgeon and as Academic Surgeon at the University of Manchester. As John himself said, these were two part time posts which as anybody knows became two full time posts! So they were busy years with a young family and their annual holidays on Raasay and other Scottish islands were most welcome breaks from life in the big city.

John has travelled extensively throughout Europe, to Japan, South America, Jordan, Abu Dhabi, America and Canada as part of his professional networking both speaking at and attending conferences. In his role as Academic Surgeon he also played host to numerous colleagues from far flung places in the world; John and Margaret both enjoyed sharing hospitality and developing friendships with people from many different backgrounds.

Centenary Celebrations at Dunning Church

Over the week-end of **Friday 24th—Sunday 26th September 2009** a variety of activities have been planned to celebrate the 100th anniversary of St Paul's Church in Dunning.

The Planning Team have provided the following advanced notice of specific events:

- **An Exhibition in the church hall** will be open on Friday 24th and Saturday 25th September from 2:00 pm—4:00 pm where tea will be served.
- **A Concert will be held in the Church** on Friday evening, September 24th. Light bites and wine will be served .
- **Bowling and Tennis competitions** will take place in the village and trophies will be presented .
- **The Moderator of the General Assembly will preach** at morning worship on Sunday, September 26th. A buffet lunch will be served following this service in St. Paul's.

A coffee morning was recently held in St. Paul's church hall in Dunning to raise funds in support of the above activities.

More information and publicity will be forthcoming nearer the date.

Celia Marshall

Member of the Planning Team

The earldom of Strathearn was vested in the Crown by David II, who made his nephew Robert the Stewart Earl of Strathearn in 1357. After his accession to the throne as Robert II, Robert gave the earldom as a palatinate (an earldom in which the earl has sovereign power within that territory -basically a small kingdom) to his son David. However, the old traditions of sovereignty within the earldom became such a political hot potato that it was eventually discontinued and the earldom passed out of the Stewart family in the early fifteenth century

James III attempted to bring the Dunblane and Dunkeld dioceses under the central control of St. Andrews which was formed into an archbishopric in 1472. Bishop Thomas Lauder of Dunkeld and Patrick Young, his dean, seemed not to be greatly alarmed so King James may have judged the move rightly. Ten years later, Strathearn was made a "Stewartry" (a sheriffdom of lands held directly by the Crown) under the Murrays of Tullibardine.

And so we have come full circle and once again celebrate our unity as the Stewartry of Strathearn; a congregation that has its origins at the very birth of the Scottish Nation.

An Introduction to Ray Gaston, Locum for the Stewartry

I have been asked by Catriona to let you have a “potted history” so that you know who I am. I hope this will be of help in filling out the picture.

Born 25 May 1936 of Scottish parents.
Educated at the Gordon Schools, Huntly, Aberdeenshire.
Graduated MA (Aberdeen) 1958; BD (Aberdeen) 1961.
Student Summer “placements” – Lewis, Glenelg, Tiree
Taught Maths for a year in Glasgow before marrying Evelyn (1962) –a Civil Servant. Evelyn loves singing and is a member of several choirs, including the Falkirk Festival Chorus.
Studied in Montpellier, France before leaving to be Principal and New Testament lecturer in the Pastoral College, Fianarantsoa, Madagascar with the London Missionary Society.
Parish Minister in Sauchie (1969), and Dollar with Muckhart and Glendevon. (1975 – 1989)
Minister of Scots Kirk, Geneva, Switzerland. Moderator of the Presbytery of Europe 1991-92.
Worked in Church of Scotland Head Offices in Edinburgh as Secretary for Staffing in the World Mission Council. Also Secretary to the Presbytery of Europe.
“Retired” June 2002 from the Parish of Leuchars in Fife.
“Recycled” to Locum posts at Stirling North, Cleish and Fossoway. Alloa West Church (two and a half years), Locum at Kinross, and now in the Parish of the Stewartry of Strathearn.

Two daughters and one son all married and living in Hong Kong, Tillicoultry and Victoria, British Columbia respectively. Two grandsons (Hong Kong) and two grand-daughters (Canada).

Hobbies: dog-walking, trout fishing and watercolour painting.

How can you help Bob?

With the support of people like you, CrossReach can support people like Bob. **YOU** can make a difference to someone like Bob

And here’s the **BIG ask**.

- £50 pays for a counselling session
- £1,300 pays for 26 weeks of counselling
- £3 allows us to send out information
- £10 buys a toy for a child to play with at Perth Prison Visitors’ Centre
- It costs £230 per day to run Perth Prison Visitors’ Centre or £1,600 per week.
- £5 pays for tea, coffee and biscuits for a family who come to the Visitors’ Centre
- £1,500 would fund the training of a care worker in one of our Substance Misuse services
- £5 pays for a meal for a homeless person.

Please donate **now**.

You can donate through our website. Go to: **www.crossreach.org.uk** and click on ‘Donate Now’, or by debit or credit card by calling: **0131 454 4374**, or send a cheque to CrossReach at the address below.

THANK YOU
You just helped Bob!

*The amount of money raised was £622, which was divided between Perth Street Pastors and Crossreach, The Perth Prison Visitors Centre.

Those who attended the Guild sponsored concert by Spectrum* on Friday, February 27th in Dunning will know that one of the two beneficiaries of the monies raised at the event is CrossReach. This is the social care arm of the Church of Scotland and from time to time their magazine highlights the work and the people providing care across our communities.

In the latest edition of Circle of Care, the magazine, there is an article which aptly demonstrates the work of CrossReach: it is called ‘**The BIG ask—can you help Bob?**’ Here it is:

We’ve been told for some time now that times are hard. Credit Crunch, recession, mortgage difficulties, and so it goes on. At CrossReach we understand this only too well. It is a sad fact that in times of recession, the services of charities such as ours are in even more demand. So—we know this is a **BIG ask**.

Imagine Bob—a family man. He could be one of your neighbours. He has been with the same firm for 20 years. Unfortunately the impact of the recession meant redundancy for Bob. He became depressed and, as time went by, he started drinking a lot. **Can you help Bob?** His problem gets so bad that his wife asks him to leave. He then has nowhere to go and ends up on the street. **Can you help Bob?**

When he finds himself turning to crime to feed himself and feed his habit, Bob gets arrested and goes to prison. **Can you help Bob?** His family would like to visit him but finds this hard. **Can you help Bob?**

When he comes out of prison, he still needs help with his alcohol problem and needs help to find a job. **Can you help Bob?** His family would like him to come home but life is difficult and they are worried that he will start drinking again. **Can you help Bob?** Yes!, you can

An Exciting Time

Christmas.... Easter.... Pentecost....

The birth of a baby.... The birth of a faith....The birth of the Church...

I often feel that this should be the peak of the Christian Year – only made possible by the other events that preceded it. Sadly all too often it comes at a time when our minds are turning from winter activities to the annual summer holiday!

Yet what an exciting time it is!

The God who humbled himself and came amongst us as a defenceless infant; who taught and worked in humility and self-effacing service and was pinned helplessly to his Cross; who was vindicated in his resurrection and ascension is let loose amongst us at Pentecost through the Spirit. And so, the ship of the Church is launched to sail the rough, uncharted seas of the world’s history.

And here we are – the children of the Spirit whose hallmarks are: “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness and goodness, faithfulness, humility and self-control” – all aspects of individual Christian character and of the fellowship we can share in community within the body of the Church.

That is our goal.

The Stewartry can be seen as an area of four distinct communities at a social and topographical level. Our task is to make of it – with God’s help – one community in diversity at a Christian level, accepting each other in that diversity and rejoicing in those differences that together enrich the whole.

Only God’s Spirit can enable us as Christian folk to do that which is so hard to do at the purely human level. I have a picture in my mind of a farm, divided into different fields by hedges and ditches that tend to cut off one part of the farm from another and shut them up within themselves. But if we can just get “airborne” and with God’s help, leave in spirit the field we are in, a wonderful thing happens. The hedges and ditches shrink into insignificance, disappear below us. We are freed from their restrictions. We catch the vision on the broader plain and are able to see the whole that is the farm. And ours is a fruit farm on which are asked – individually and collectively – to cultivate the fruit of the Spirit.

Yes, it’s an exciting time, the season of Pentecost. I’m so happy to be sharing it with you.

Ray Gaston

Locum.

**The Church of Scotland
Mission & Discipleship Council**

This Council has responsibility for Leadership Development and Elder Training. As well as books, leaflets and DVD’s available for Elders the following training opportunities are available in 2009:

- Eldership: Today; Tomorrow; Exploring Eldership
- Leading Worship
- Pastoral Care
- Prayer
- Aspects of Faith based on the book ‘You’re an Angel’

Residential Conferences include:

For Session Clerks Carberry 30th October—1st November 2009

For further information contact the Perth Office of Mission & Discipleship on 01738 630514 or email gcoupar@cofscotland.org.uk



Prayer Corner

A Prayer in Six Directions*

God our creator,

We turn to the east, the direction of the rising sun and praise you for the gift of a new life, of new days and beginnings.

We turn to the south and give you thanks for the people, events and things that warm our lives and aid our journey.

We turn to the west, towards the place of sunset and pray for your comfort in our twilight, protection in the darkness and your cherishing of us as life’s journey comes to its end.

We turn to the north from where the cold winds come and ask for faith and hope as we face worry and challenge.

And we bend to touch the earth, to thank you for the things that sustain our lives and to pledge our care for your creation.

And finally we look up to the sky, offer you our dreams and long for that day when we will ascend from this earth to be with you forever.

Amen

***Transcribed from the Radio 4 Daily Service for Ascension Day**
(used by natives of America and their missionaries)

Submitted by **Pamela Bain,**
Prayer Correspondent