



# BRECHIN AND FARNELL PARISH CHURCH SC 008630



## NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2023



Brechin & Farnell both organised well attended May events.

Brechin's Big Coronation Lunch was held in the church hall. Rain did not stop the fun and our own King Scott enjoyed all the attention.

Farnell held their annual Coffee Evening & Plant Sale. Raising a marvellous sum of over £1000.

Well done to all and a big thank you to all who took the time to support us at these events.



### Working Groups

Before the Union, Gardner Memorial had begun to create a number of working groups. I would like to open membership of these groups to the members of Brechin and Farnell Parish Church because I think that this would be a good example of co-operation to tell a prospective new Minister. The Groups are...

Pastoral          Worship          Administration          Youth,

Community, Social/Hospitality – linked with health & hygiene,          Tech/IT/Media,

Stewardship/Finance          Fabric          Grant Applications          Safeguarding Groups

Please ask Elizabeth in the Church Office if you wish to know more about these Groups.

Malcolm

Interim Moderator / Locum

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### OPEN TO ALL

**Friendship & Blethers** Every Thursday in the Gardner Hall from 10am-11.30am. Join us for a cuppy and chat £2pp. Helping combat loneliness.

**Macmillan Coffee Morning** in Colin Tinsley's name to be held in our Gardner Hall on Saturday 8th July from 10am. See poster and social media for more information.

**Summer Fete** Join us at the Glebe House (Old Manse) Farnell on Sunday 9th July from 2 - 4.30pm. Strawberry Tea will be served, with games for children. Entry by donation. A plant stall will also be on site all to raise funds for the Parkinson's UK Charity. (See more on back page)

Please bear with us as we navigate the process of changing our name on facebook and our website. Continue to find us **online** at [www.gardnermemorialbrechin.org.uk](http://www.gardnermemorialbrechin.org.uk) **facebook** at Gardner Memorial Church of Scotland. Watch us live or on catchup at **you tube** simply search for Brechin Gardner Memorial Live. Our **Office** is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 10am-12.30pm. Contact us on 01356 629191 or email [office@gardnermemorialbrechin.org.uk](mailto:office@gardnermemorialbrechin.org.uk)

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June is the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of **World Environment Day**. On Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June I read Psalm 8 and said the following ...

World Environment Day is celebrated annually on 5 June. It encourages awareness and action for the protection of the environment. It has been a platform for raising awareness on environmental issues such as pollution, overpopulation, global warming, sustainable development and wildlife crime.

This year the focus is on plastic pollution. Google World Environment Day if you want to know more about it. Of course plastic pollution, while a huge concern, is only one of the climate change related worries.

The disintegration of the Antarctic ice field and the Greenland ice field will create rising sea levels. The impact of that will be millions of Environmental refugees as coastal erosion bites. Sea levels will overflow harbours, destroy infrastructure and so on. Drought will destroy food supplies. There will be an increased risk of forest fire. Thawing Tundra will release Methane and there will be disruption to the Jet Stream.

And so what do we do about it all? Well today I am going to suggest that we turn to Psalm 8 which points out that we are custodians of the earth. It encapsulates the awe and responsibility we carry.

It begins with an exclamation: "O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!" That is the essence of our relationship with God and the natural world. Our faith and environmental stewardship are deeply intertwined. Our faith calls us to honour and cherish the earth, recognizing that its abundance is a gift entrusted to our care.

The Psalm calls us to Celebrate God's Creation; value Human Dignity and Responsibility; Harmonize with Nature; Question Human Frailty; and act as Environmental Stewards.

Psalm 8 provides a spiritual foundation for our commitment to environmental stewardship.

On the anniversary of World Environment Day, indeed every day, let us renew our dedication to caring for the planet, promoting justice, and fostering sustainability. Leaving a lasting legacy of love and care for generations to come.

Malcolm Interim Moderator / Locum

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### **The Search for a new Minister**

The search for the next Minister of Brechin and Farnell Parish Church steps up a gear this month. The Nominating Committee has been elected ... [in alphabetical order]

David Adams	Ann Banks	Dorothy Black	Karen Brown
Pamela Brown	Sheila Brown	Kathy Calderwood	Heather Edwards
Peter George	Lynn Hawke	Donald Macintyre	
	Fiona O'Neill	Mabel Smith	

.....and their work began in earnest on Wednesday 7 June when they met with Presbytery's Vacancy Advisory Committee. In addition to this the Parish Profile is nearing completion, plans are being drawn up for the inspection of the manse and we will soon be in a position to advertise the Charge.

I must stress that the work of the Nominating Committee is confidential. So please do not ask because they will not say. Please pass any questions or comments to me.

Malcolm Interim Moderator / Locum

A few weeks back at an evening service in Farnell Church I asked three of the congregation to share their thoughts on Spring. This is what they said ....

By university education, I'm a scientist, a physicist. So, at one level, for me Spring means that our beautiful home here in the Universe, the planet Earth, is now mid-way between aphelion – when the Earth is furthest from the Sun - and perihelion – when the Earth is closest to the Sun. The 23 degrees tilt of the Earth on its axis means that now, here in the Northern Hemisphere, it is Springtime.

But at a more spiritual level, Spring means for me the song of the Skylark and Ralph Vaughan Williams' eponymous movement The Lark Ascending. It means Spring Barley growing in the field at the front of my home - which may well find its way into the water of the life made at nearby Arbikie Distillery where I work occasionally. Spring means lambing and lambs, and Spring is touched upon metaphorically in the Book of Ecclesiastes, at Chapter 3 which says:

*“To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven. A time to be born, and a time to die. A time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which was planted ... [It is] for a man to rejoice, and to do good in his life. And also that every man should eat and drink, and enjoy the good of all his labour. It is the gift of God”.*

Mark Nash

Spring is my favourite time of the year; the first indications of spring are gentle in nature. They are almost non-existent; they sneak up on us from behind the folds of winter and at first you have to look hard to see them. Spring is a bit like a youngster taking their first steps, every move is a joy and a vision of hope, these steps are taken with caution and great care.

As the days pass, we have the spring showers which help to freshen everything and encourage new growth along with the increase in heat from the increased day light and sun.

Buds form and then burst open, anxious to feel a glimmer of warmth, the meadows and lawns become gleaming carpets eager to cushion our feet; and the bluebells burst into life.

*I wandered lonely as a cloud.*

*That floats on high o'er vales and hills.*

*When all at once I saw a crowd*

*A host of golden daffodils*

*Beside the lake beneath the trees*

*Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.*

*That poem by Wordsworth sums up spring perfectly, although he was not alone when he had the inspiration for it, he was walking in the lake District with his sister Dorothy and came across the daffodils.*

We have an area on the estate called “Lancelot's” and it is one of my favourite walks, in late January you can see the start of the daffodils pushing through the ground and as the season moves slowly along the daffodils gradually grow and suddenly you have a vast carpet of yellow.

That is my spring.

Donald Macintyre

A perspective from a young farming family

Spring is early starts and late finishes, disturbed dinners and suspended story times for the boys. Its Counting sheep both in your waking and sleeping hours. Its weary parents and patient children, a team effort, albeit with the occasional crossed word (or two!). It's the realisation of last year's planning and the beginning of a new phase filled with new lives, new responsibilities, new challenges.

Spring is the next chapter in the perpetual learning curve we find ourselves on whilst working side by side with life and nature. Above all its a grounding reminder of the miracle that is birth and life in all its forms, and the privilege we have to witness and be a part of that cycle, a cycle that is never long in coming around again.

Catherine McLeod

James Potter Reid Drysdale 1932 –2023  
Minister of Gardner Memorial Church 1978-1999

Jim was born in Edinburgh but he spent the early years of his life on the Island of Orkney. He was a talented pianist from an early age and then one of those life changing events occurred when the organist in the local church took ill and Jim was asked to stand in for one service. The organist never came back and that one service became a regular Sunday commitment leading to Jim helping with the Boys' Brigade. His interest in and commitment to the Church grew and to jump a few years he studied first for an Arts Degree and then a Bachelor of Divinity degree at New College in the University of Edinburgh. Jim's ministerial career taking him first to Fallin in Stirlingshire, a mining village and then to Gardner Memorial. I came to Kirriemuir in 1993 and so Jim was a colleague minister in Angus for around 6 or 7 years. He also did pulpit supply for me in the Angus Glens. In my experience he was a quiet, kind, supportive colleague, who was unpretentious, and in many ways ahead of his time. In Brechin he formed a children's choir who were known as the music makers. He was a Community Councillor and a Children's Panel member in Fallin and Brechin. When he retired he loved driving his VW Beetle.

A man with a sense of humour who had the ability to tell a tale and spin a yarn. Easy going and friendly, with a placid nature. He always saw the best in everybody. Well respected and wise, always cheery, approachable and easy to talk, very much well liked here in the town. Repeatedly described as a lovely man. Jim Drysdale was a gentle man. To my mind he was very much the model of what a Parish Minister should be. Our thoughts and prayers go to his wife Anne & family at this sad time.

Malcolm

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## **BRECHIN UPDATES**

Our Steel Pan Band continues to entertain within our community they have bookings for Brechin Bowling Club (Argyll Street), Edzell Gala, Benholm Care Home, Forfar, Dalhousie Centre, Brechin, The Adam Centre, Montrose and Edzell Senior Citizens Club all coming up this year. Please contact our Office if you would like to have a try out with the steel drums after the summer break

Our monthly Soup & Sweet event is taking a summer break and will resume the last Saturday in September raising funds for our Church & Brechin Community Groups. Check future Posters/social media for details.

Our working groups have appointed Dorothy Black as our Development Group Convenor. Team leaders for these groups are : Pastoral - Heather Edwards, Worship - Dorothy Black, Admin - Elizabeth Baillie, Youth - Sheila Brown, Community - Kathy Calderwood, Hospitality - Morag Dale, IT/media - Janice Low, Finance - Peter George, Fabric - John Grubb.

## **FARNELL UPDATES**

### **FARNELL STONE HOMECOMING**

Preliminary discussions have taken place regarding the return of the Farnell Stone to a suitable site within the precincts of Farnell Parish Church. Found in 1849 in the kirkyard by Andrew Jervise, it was thereafter moved to the porch of nearby Kinnaird Castle. In 1865, the stone was donated to Montrose Museum by the then Earl of Southesk. Much later, it was moved to Pictavia on the outskirts of Brechin. On the closure of that exhibition centre it was then transported to an Angus Museums collections store.

We are looking forward to seeing you at our Garden Fete on 9th July, in the garden of Glebe House Strawberries and cream are served with tea or coffee and there is much to do. There is a child's play area, treasure hunt, find the treasure square, croquet, football and rugby and chuck the welly. As this is a working garden, no unaccompanied children please. There will also be a plant sale with all proceeds going to Parkinsons UK Charity.

Ann Banks has been appointed Chairperson for General Purposes Group for the working groups. As this is a newly formed group we will organize project leaders to sub groups as required.

We are looking for an editor for our Newsletter to showcase our new united charge as we move forward together serving both town and rural. 'Interested'? please contact the Office