Hi Everyone

We have indeed enjoyed wonderful days of sunshine during these past months. Perhaps we have a little more to come before Autumn arrives? Within this Late Summer issue we have an array of atmospheric photographs from Fossoway Walking Group to accompany their report of a successful season. Brian’s interesting review of Gillian Galbraith’s “The Good Priest” is a clear recommendation to those of us who enjoy a good read. There are diary dates to note and a number of Church related reports. We have an interesting and enjoyable few months ahead. Future Focus will continue on Tuesday 19th August at 7pm and Saturday 30th August 10am until 4pm. My warm thanks to the Production Team and our many Distributors. Your time and help is appreciated. Kind regards Karen

Enjoy the little pleasures in life!

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Dear Friends,

I do hope that you have been enjoying the beautiful summer weather and that you have managed to find some time to have a holiday or at least some time to relax and refresh your batteries. I had a very relaxing holiday with my family in May and spent some ‘quality’ time playing with my granddaughter Summer. Since I returned I have been really enjoying finding my way around the lovely countryside, visiting and getting to know some of you a little better.

Inevitably at this time of year, when it is a little quieter, I like to spend some time not just visiting but looking ahead to the things that will be happening in the coming months and you should find somewhere in this issue of your newsletter a list of dates and events for your diary for the rest of the year ahead. It’s important that we take some time to look ahead, and not merely to the months left in this year but to 2015 and beyond.

I don’t know if this happens to you too, but sometimes a piece of scripture keeps coming to mind and one Bible reading that has been accompanying me on my journey of faith recently is Jeremiah 29:11…

‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the LORD, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’

It makes me wonder what ‘future’ and what ‘plans’ God has for our churches in the Crook of Devon and Cleish? How does one discern the path that God wants us to follow? One thing I know for sure is that this is something that I cannot do by myself or even with just the Kirk Session and so we have decided to invite Mr Rob Rawson, Mission Development Worker with the Church of Scotland Mission and Discipleship Council to come along to the church to lead us all in the Future Focus programme and help us to discern the way ahead. Rob will be coming at 7pm on Wed Tues 5th, and Tues 19th August and on Sat 30th August at 10-4pm. I know that by the time you receive this newsletter we may already have had our first meeting but it is still possible to come to the other meetings. I hope that you will able to come along and we can look at, and develop, our plans for the future of our church together.

As I get to know each of you I begin to realise the wealth of skills and talents that each of you bring to our church life together. From Sept 21st to Oct 5th we will be celebrating our Season of Giving. The Season of Giving is a relatively new idea that churches have been requested to observe. We are asked that each year we consider one of three main aspects of our giving to the church: our time, our talents and our money. This year we will be thinking about the gift of our talents and you should find that there is a wee questionnaire in this newsletter to help you think about your talents and how you might contribute to the life of our church.

The last Sunday in September is also ‘Back to Church Sunday’, this is now a national event which encourages us to take an invitation out to somebody we know, who may have not been to church for a while, or who may never have been to church, to come along and join with us in worship on that Sunday morning. Special invitations will be given out nearer the time. The one way we can ensure that there is a ‘future’ for our church is to increase the number of people coming along so I hope you will be able to help, and invite someone to come ‘back’ to church on Sept 28th.
I hope that you will pray for the success of these ventures and also for the success of Messy Church which we hope to start soon. As you may imagine, this is an initiative to engage with the young people in our wider community and to encourage them to learn more of the Christian message, and its great fun too!

As we seek to do Christ’s work together I thank you for all the support and help that you give me and I continue to keep you all in my prayers and pray for God’s special blessing upon you and all we do together in his name.
God Bless, Rev Lis.

Loving Lord,
You have called us to love and serve you, and we will. We know that you have loving plans to prosper us; give us the wisdom to know what we should be doing to help, the courage to put plans into action and the faith to see them through. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who died that we might truly live, and who accompanies us on every step of the Way. Amen.

Bloom as often as you can.
CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

“Those who fall asleep in the Lord shall renew their strength like eagles”

Funerals

1st May 2014.  Mr. Malcom Smith.  Carnbo.
22nd July 2014. Mr. William (Bill) Arbuckle.  Crook of Devon

A little faith will bring your soul to heaven, but a lot of faith will bring heaven to your soul.

Author Unknown
Notes from the Session 05.06.14

Reports

Prayer Promoter
At the previous Session Meeting it was approved that Ian Boe would take on role of Prayer Promoter for Fossoway Church.
Ian attended the early part of the Session meeting to report on the Perth Presbytery Prayer Promoters’ meeting. He showed some examples of prayer booklets which are available for adults and teens as well as younger children.
It was agreed that some of these booklets will be bought and our minister will be introducing them to the congregation in the near future. Rev Carolanne Erskine – who was a student with us a few years ago - has offered to loan us some promotional material for this, if we wish.

Session Clerk
Janet informed Session that Willie Black, Robert Drummond, Alan Harper and Ian Boe have offered to help at Muckhart Primary School PTA when the Commonwealth Baton goes through Muckhart.

Presbytery
A short report from Perth Presbytery is included within this newsletter.

Finance
Our Treasurer informed Session that this coming year is going to be a very challenging one financially.
Heating as one source of major expense and concern as our present system is not at all efficient. The Function Group has agreed to look at this issue.

Pastoral
Referral cards are now printed and placed on pews. Congregational members as well as Session members are encouraged to use them.

Property
The property group continue to look at ways to improve parking around the church as well as how we can improve our heating system.

Group Structure
In the past, the management of the church has been through the work of 6 groups within Session.
These have been: - Worship, Christian Education, Pastoral, Outreach, Functional and Social.
Every elder has been a member of one of these groups with members of the congregation helping on each one.
Our minister is now in the process of re-energising, re-organising and re-vitalising the life and work of our church so that we can all be more efficient and effective; enabling each of us to strengthen our focus and involvement.
It has now been agreed that there will be 3 main groups, within which there will be smaller groups to manage the life and work of the church.
These groups are:-

- **Functional** coordinator, Alistair Stewart  
  This group will manage  
  1. Finance and Stewardship  
  2. Property and Security  
  3. Health and Safety/Hygiene  
  4. Insurance both buildings and content  
  5. Office  
  6. Hall Lettings  
  7. Cleaning and employment contracts

*Elders on this group are:* - David Chisholm, Willie Black, Jim Christie, Tom Mechan, Nigel Watson, Alan Harper and Neil Hill  
*Congregational members are* ……………………

- **Spiritual**, joint coordinator’s, Gini Currie & Debbie Hill, supported by the minister  
  This group will manage,  
  1. Worship, Sacrament/Prayer  
  2. Music/Choir  
  3. House Groups  
  4. Pastoral  
  5. Education  
  6. Crèche  
  7. Rotas  
  8. Pedestal flowers

*Elders on this group are*, Robert Drummond, Helena Thomson, Susan Park,  
*Congregational members are* ……………………

- **Outreach**: coordinator, Janet Harper  
  This group will manage  
  1. Newsletter  
  2. Web Page, Facebook  
  3. Messy Church  
  4. Kinross Churches Together  
  5. Fund Raising events  
  6. Social events  
  7. Windowsill flowers  
  8. And others…………………

*Elders on this group are:* - Eileen Black, Betty Stirling, and Donald Brown  
*Congregational members are:* - ……………………

Within the near future group coordinators will be looking for help and support with all aspects within their group. If you could help with any one aspect of any one of the groups please, please contact the appropriate coordinator soon.

If you would like any more information, or wish to ask about anything mentioned here please do not hesitate to contact me on 01577 840 225

Many thanks  
Janet  
Session Clerk
Colours

from Janet.

Colours surround us all of the time, often giving us clues to seasons, weather, feelings, moods.

I think it is safe to say that God loves colours. He sprayed them all over our universe; most beautifully onto a velvet red rose, a shining sun, a glowing smile; maybe a kingfisher flashing along the Devon, the tip of the tail of a red squirrel as it scampers off the bird nuts and into the trees, but most magnificently of all, onto a rainbow arching up to heaven.

Artist, Georgia O'Keeffe said, 'I found I could say things with colour that I couldn't say in any other way.

The colours we use in church, the pulpit fall, the bible ribbons and the table cover recognise the movements and moods of the Christian year.

Purple is used for times of preparation and penance; white or gold is used for celebration and rejoicing; green is for re commitment and growth in Christ; red is for the fire and power of the Holy Spirit.

Within our church I place the following colours at the following times:-

White - Easter, Christmas, Holy Communion, Weddings, and Transfiguration Sunday

Purple/Blue - Advent, Lent, Funerals

Red - Pentecost, Ordination of ministers and elders, Membership

Green - Epiphany, Ordinary time, which is whenever none of the others apply

I do believe that our God of love and grace is a God who communicates with us through many different ways; a very powerful one being through the most awesome diversity and wonder of our colourful universe.
These are the accounts as at 30 June 2014, the elders having already received their copies.

Overall our offerings are slightly higher at £17,059, compared to the figure of £16,571 last year. Gift aid is marginally higher whilst non gift aid and open plate are marginally lower. The tax recovered on the 2013 donations, can now include some open plate and non gift aid items (provided individual items are no more than £20), has come in at £7,735 compared to the £7,675 of the previous year. Under our Other Ordinary General Income our Regular Fund Raising events has increased from £1,334 to £1,635 mainly due to our film nights whilst the Use of Premises has reduced from £270 to £182 as the Crook of Devon SWRI are now our only regular contributor.

Overall income was £26,872 this year and £27,630 last year.

Under Expenditure the first section is the National Ministry which at £11,635 is a more regular figure, compared to £10,406 last year, as we have had a minister since January.

The second section is Local Staffing Costs standing at £3,773 compared to last year’s £5,105. The minister has incurred costs of £682 but last year we had pulpit supply costs of £345. Other Salaries etc last year were boosted by paying locum costs of £2,575.

The third section is Building Costs where we have spent £5,686 compared to last year’s £5,904. Under Fabric Maintenance we spent £1,251 on upgrading the path at the west side of the church and £362 on sundry electrics. Last year we spent £318 on electrics and £572 on replacement speakers. Under Fabric Maintenance Manse we spent £286 on fuel oil against the £692 of last year. Under Heating & Lighting we spent £2,660 compared to the £3,270 of last year – this was mainly due to a rebate of £955 from Scottish Hydro who had been billing us at the correct rates applied to the wrong sections.

The fourth section is Other Local Costs where we have spent £6,366 compared to the £3,252 of last year. This year we have paid to the Community Office £708 for the last quarter of 2013 and £224 for the first quarter of 2014 whereas in 2013 we only paid £552 for the first quarter – this was due to the different way we were being charged. Under Other expenses we spent £5,200 this year against £2,379 of last year. This year we have paid out £3,300 as our share of rent for the temporary manse and £675 as our share of the deposit whereas our main item last year was the sum of £1,500 which we donated towards the cost of the AV system.

Overall expenditure was £28,004 this year and £25,202 last year.

In our General Fund with church head office we placed £7,000 from the tax recovered but have had to withdraw £9,000 to meet expenses.

Under the Fabric Fund we raised £342 from the Bodystop event and £365 from the Scottish Concert and have spent £2,400 for the design of the Luke family wall plate (from funds received from the family) and £442 on an additional laptop for the AV system. The fund stands at £10,256 as against the £12,310 at this time last year.

Tom Mechan
FOSSOWAY WALKERS
2013 - 2014

Our original walking programme for 2013 - 2014 involved some changes because of bad weather and tracks being closed. We were fortunate to get good weather for the November walk from Muthill via fields and woods to Crieff. This was a new area for many of us. The December walk around Crook of Devon was followed by an excellent Christmas lunch at Powmill Milk Bar. Early New Year walks took us along the river Forth at Alloa and then the 15th century Blackness Castle to Abercorn Church. The return path on this outing was overlooking land on House of Binns estate. Strathmiglo followed in April, again took us on woodland paths and boundaries of fertile Fife fields - even got a lesson on solar panel farming! Loch of the Lowes concluded our day walks and at that stage there was great optimism of Lady hatching at least one of her eggs - alas almost six weeks on, we have had to give up hope.

Many of the walks are led by different people in the group and Eunice and Kitty are very grateful for this.

The final event for the year was a weekend at the Highlander Hotel in Newtonmore.
Nineteen of us had a really great weekend with perfect weather and excellent accommodation. On 31st May, everyone had arrived at the hotel in time for dinner. We left early the next day after a hearty breakfast and travelled by car to Kingussie to start the walk to Loch Gynack. We climbed the hills in peaceful wilderness. When the track levelled out, we stopped for our picnic in lovely sunshine and then headed back to Newtonmore. The following day we walked in Rothiemurchus estate from Coylumbridge to Loch an Eilein and back by a different route. Although the terrain was flat, this was a much longer walk than the previous one and there were some sore feet at the end of it! Our final day was a shorter walk as we went from Cluny Castle to the Carnegie bothy in Glen Banchor and had our last picnic before heading home by the same route on the A9.

Eunice and Kitty.

This digest may be useful to Presbytery Elders in reporting to Kirk Sessions, to Ministers and Session Clerks in preparing the agenda of Session meetings and to Magazine editors in passing on information of wider interest. Further information is available from the Presbytery Office (Tel. 01738 451177) or via the Meetings Page of the Presbytery website: www.perthpresbytery.org.uk

Headlines:

□ An invitation to all members of congregations is given to join Presbytery in the new session at its new style meetings when there will be a main speaker, workshops and fringe activities:
  - Saturday 13th September 2014 at Auchterarder Parish Church – Theme: Mission-shaped Church
  - Saturday 13th December 2014 at Perth: Riverside Parish Church – Speaker: Rt. Rev. John Chalmers
  - Saturday 14th March 2015 at Kinross Parish Church
  - Saturday 13th June 2015 at Crieff Parish Church (venue to be confirmed)

□ Congregations have been asked to note that the deadlines for applications for Presbytery approval for any required matter are as follows: 15th August for the September meeting; 15th November for the December meeting; 15th February for the March meeting and 15th May for the June meeting. Emergency applications may be made at any time and will be treated on the basis of their urgency.

Congregational Matters:

□ All congregations have paid their Presbytery dues for the year.

□ The Kirk Session of Scone and St. Martins have agreed a new pattern of Church Services of Worship on Sundays which will be reviewed early in 2015.

□ Presbytery approved an application from Abernethy & Dron & Arngask for permission to repair the roof of the Church of St. Serf in Abernethy and for permission to release £34,158 from funds held on behalf of the congregation by the General Trustees to meet the cost.

□ Presbytery has attested the Trustees’ Reports and Accounts of congregations within the bounds. Out of 35 congregations, 22 passed attestation first time and the rest had been informed of the errors which required to be addressed prior to submission to OSCR. One congregation has still to make its submission.

□ Presbytery has made a discretionary reduction in the Ministry and Mission allocations of the following congregations in recognition of particular challenges and opportunities this year:
  - Perth North Church: £12,000
  - Scone & St. Martins: £4,000
  - Comrie: £2,000
  - Perth St Matthew’s: £950
  - Abernethy & Dron & Arngask: £840
  - Auchterarder: £840
  - Trinity Gask & Kinkell: £125
  - Cleish: £440
  - Fossoway St Serf’s & Devonside: £400
  - Crieff: £840
  - Perth Riverside: £840

□ A request has been received from the Panel on Review and Reform for 17 people from this area, a mix of ministers, elders, members, those connected to the church but not part of it, who would be prepared to come together for an evening meal on Thursday 28th August and a conversation to help the Church of Scotland improve its processes and ensure all are heard. Names of those interested to the Presbytery office.

Presbytery Matters:

□ Reports of diligence were received from those who had been commissioners at the General Assembly.

People:

□ The Rev. Bill Ross, formerly of Muthill with Trinity Gask & Kinkell, has been inducted to the charge of Aberdour with Pitsligo in the Presbytery of Buchan.

□ The Rev. Stuart Picken, formerly of Ardoch with Blackford, has transferred to the Presbytery of Stirling.

□ The Rev. Timothy Fletcher, an Auxiliary Minister, has transferred to Perth from the Presbytery of England where he served in London: Crown Court.

□ The following elders are retiring from Presbytery at the end of June: Representative Elders:
Rosemary Johnston (Abernethy & Dron & Arngask), Alistair Ramage (Auchterarder), Donald Graham (Cleish), Robert Hearton (Comrie), Liz Cunningham (Dundurn), Raymond Paul (Scone & St. Martins); Equalising Elders: James Mackay (Cargill Burrelton), Ian Brown (Perth: Kinnoull), David Walton (Redgorton & Stanley)

Mrs. Sheila Green and Mrs. Rosemary Johnston have retired as convenors of the Presbytery Fabric and Finance Committees respectively after serving in that capacity for four years.

The following new elders are joining the Presbytery from the beginning of July: Representative Elders: Kathleen Baird (Abernethy & Dron & Arngask), Allan Kelman (Aberuthven & Dunning), Ruth Buchan (Auchterarder), Alice Melville (Auchtergaven & Moneydie), Suzanne Wilkie (Cleish), Iain Cormack (Comrie), Johnston Brown (Dundurn); Equalising Elders: Ruth Knox (Auchterarder), George Miller (Blackford), Alan Imrie (Perth: Kinnoull), Roy McCasland (Errol), Jo Young (Perth: St. John’s)

Rev Scott Burton has agreed to replace Rev David Souter as Presbytery representative to the Perth Prison Visitors Support & Advice Centre.

Community Matters and Events:

The Solas Festival will be held at the Bield at Blackruthven from 20th-22nd June. Further details from www.solasfestival.co.uk

The Rev. David Post will give a talk about the work of St. George’s Church in Baghdad at St. Ninian’s Cathedral, Perth on Friday 27th June at 7.00pm.

Please visit the Presbytery Tent at Perth Show on the South Inch, Perth, Fri.1st to Sat.2nd August.

A concert will be given by Alastair MacDonald at St. Matthew’s Church, Perth, on Tuesday 19th August at 7.30pm to raise funds for the Food Bank.

“Perth Alive” organised by local churches will be held in the North Inch on Saturday 23rd August from 1pm-5pm. Further details from John Banks: E-mail johnb424@icloud.com

Presbytery has welcomed the setting up of the Perth & Kinross Credit Union. Further details from www.pkcu.org.uk or telephone Tel. 01250 870577

Healing Rooms Scotland meet on Tuesdays 6.30-8pm at Blend Coffee Lounge, 274 High St, Perth, and on Thursdays 10.30-12noon at Orwell & Portmoak Church Office, South St, Milnathort.

Resources:

Presbytery has commended a booklet produced by the Stewardship & Finance Department of the Church of Scotland entitled: “Church Financing Online – How do we do it?”

Presbytery will meet again for ordinary business at Auchterarder Parish Church from 10am on Saturday 13th September 2014 (draft programme below)

Meetings are open to the public

9.30 Tea/coffee and gathering
10.00 SESSION 1 - Opening Worship (led by local musicians, Presbytery Worship Leaders/ Readers along with Moderator)
10.30 Guest Speaker – to be confirmed
11.15 SESSION 2 - Workshop/break-out groups (various groups available for people to choose - with the aim to encourage congregations in their ministries and to draw out practical things for congregations to reflect on and try.
12.15 SESSION 3 - Sacrament of Holy Communion
12.45 Lunch - Participants to bring their own lunch. Tea and coffee will be available. Non Presbyterians can depart during lunchtime if they so choose.

Various displays will be available to peruse. Local congregations may be able to share news of events.
1.30 SESSION 4 - Business Session of Presbytery
About 3.00 Closing Act of Worship and Depart
Fossoway Diary Dates 2014
Aug 5th - 7pm Future Focus
Aug 19th – 7pm Future Focus
Aug 30th – 10-4pm Future Focus
Aug 31st – Celebration of Holy Communion
Sept 7th – Family service
Sept 18th – Kirk Session meeting 7.30pm
Sept 21st – Season of Giving also World day of Peace
Sept 28th – Season of Giving also Back to Church Sunday
Oct 5th - Season of Giving also Harvest Thanksgiving All Age Worship
Oct 26th - 7.30pm Cleish and Fossoway joint choir concert at Cleish Church
Nov 2nd – Family service
Nov 2nd – 1.30-3.30pm Future Focus at Fossoway lunch at 12.45pm
Nov 9th – 9.30am the service will be at the Village Hall for Remembrance Day
Nov 20th– Kirk Session meeting 7.30pm
Nov 29th – Christmas Bazaar
Nov 30th– celebration of Holy Communion
Dec 7th – 6.30pm Service of Remembering
Dec 7th– Family service
Dec 14th - Christmas Nativity service
Dec 14th – 1.30-4.30pm Kinross Churches Together Christmas service at the Lochleven Campus
Service planned and led by Cleish and Fossoway St Serf’s and Devonside Churches
Dec 21st - 5pm Chrstingle Service
Dec 24th - 11pm Watchnight service, the choir will be singing from 11pm-11.15pm
Dec 25th – Christmas Day service

Junior Church
No Junior Church from June 29th – Aug 24th there will be a DVD Club instead

Perth Presbytery meetings
Sep 13th – (Saturday) 9.30am-3pm Auchterarder Parish Church.
The theme is ‘Mission, and the changing context in which we work.’ Congregations are encouraged to attend and share with others the initiatives that have been tried.
There will be a guest speaker and workshops in the morning and a business Session in the afternoon. Programme details available on request
Dec 13th – (Saturday) 9.30am-3pm Perth: Riverside Church
PROGRAMME for 2014-2015

Membership is open to ALL women in the community and our Meetings are held in the Church Hall on the last Tuesday of each month at 2pm.

2014
Tuesday 30th September
A talk by Rev. Lis Stenhouse

Tuesday 28th October
SPEAKER: Mary Wilson
Slideshow and Floral Demonstration

Tuesday 25th November
SPEAKER: Nan Cook
Kinross Day Centre

DECEMBER: CHRISTMAS BAZAAR.

TUESDAY 27th JANUARY 2015
CHRISTMAS / NEW YEAR LUNCH

Tuesday 24th February
SPEAKER: Chris McGregor
Insight into various aspects of Dementia

Tuesday 31st March...AGM
SPEAKER: Lucille Henderson...Yoga in a CHAIR

TUESDAY 28th APRIL: SPRING OUTING

Traidcraft Stall
Thank you to everyone who has supported the stall in the last year. Fossoway sales from April 13 to March 14 amounted to £210.60 and the total of sales from Cleish and Fossoway was £975.46. This helped towards our overall sales for the year of £8,635.31 which mean that we are the 48th highest sellers of Traidcraft in the UK! All the profit goes into buying stock and we always manage to pay our bills in time.

I bring the goods and catalogues from Kinross Parish Church on the 1st Sunday in the month to the tea and coffee after the service and please come and have a look and say hello. Often people say to me that they wish they had remembered to bring some money with them so here is a gentle reminder. In September I will bring some of the new cleaning range, Clean & Fair.

Karena Jarvie

REFRESH
COME AND JOIN US FOR TEA, COFFEE,
HOME-BAKING
GOOD COMPANY.
THURSDAYS ... from 2 o’clock
...until 4 o’clock
FOSSOWAY... FILM FRIDAY

Fossoway Friday Films or Fossoway Film Club is becoming a regular favourite for many. It continues to meet on the first Friday of each month at both 2.30 in the afternoon and at 7.30 in evening. Occasionally we have to rearrange the date but this is always well publicised before the event. In July and August we have not shown a film in the afternoon but we shall resume ‘normal service’ in September. We show a different film at each time and put a poster in the Hall, the Inn and the garage advertising what films are being shown. If there is particular film you would like to see on the ‘big screen’ please contact Janet, Helena or me and we shall see what we can do to accommodate your wishes.

Popcorn is available on arrival and at an appropriate time, approximately half way through the film we stop for a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit. There is no charge for the event although a donation of £2.50 to meet the cost of refreshments, the licence and the film, is greatly appreciated. In the evening there is also the opportunity to enjoy a glass of wine while you watch the film.

We have now established a library of DVDs that may be loaned for a donation of £1 to cover the costs. We ask that when you take one out you record the title, your name and the date in the blue file in the rack and that you return the DVD within two weeks.

All are welcome to come and join us to enjoy the films and the fellowship and we look forward to seeing you and your friends.

Alan Harper

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FOSSOWAY CHURCH

Minister: Reverend Liz Stenhouse  BD  
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E-mail: lissten@sky.com

Reader: Brian Ogilvie  
Tel: 01592 840823  
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Session Clerk: Janet Harper  
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DEADLINE for our Christmas issue is FRIDAY 7th NOVEMBER 2014  
Submissions to: Karen Bernard

PRODUCTION
Karen Bernard.  
Tom Mechan, Robert Drummond, Donald Brown, Anne Stewart and our many distributors.
The Good Priest.

Gillian Galbraith.

This is the sixth book from the pen of Gillian Galbraith and is a change from her previous ones we have enjoyed so much. DS Alice Rice is superseded by Father Vincent Ross the local parish priest in Kinross and the action takes place in Kinross-shire and a little beyond rather than Edinburgh.

This appeals to me having worked in Oxford literally ‘across the fence’ from Colin Dexter with his Morse placed in and around us. Amusement was ours as we checked out the houses and businesses in various localities. Even more fun was had with guessing who was used as a character in the books. We met with Colin in the ‘Grapes’ our local hostelry and he had much joy collecting his ‘victims’ and ‘villains’ from the gathered crowds. Even today we sit at home watching Morse and now Lewis spotting our old areas.

This is repeated in our local scenes of Kinross-shire. A lot of amusement is given trying to guess the exact position of a home.

A rather scruffy paint business is set near where Dave Buchan has his garage in Kinnesswood. Could this be hidden behind his fuel pumps? Have a look as you go into fuel up. The old manse is used as a B&B with the new minister, a woman placed in a modern soulless set of ‘executive’ homes on the edge of Kinross. This is one of the few mentions of the Presbyterian Church almost air-brushed out of the society in this novel.

A very clever piece of writing is used when considering a fictional shop on the main street in Milnathort. Much is made of Robertson’s and Giacopazzi’s, that we know and love, with the sleight of pen just not quite telling us an exact position of the essential shop. Just read and enjoy but be aware that you are being pointed all the wrong ways.

Father Vincent has his own problems. He would like to be a wine connoisseur but his meagre stipend hardly allows it. The local ‘yoof’ high on cheap booze or other materials give him grief both verbal and physical with the claim of all priests being paedos.

Then an accusation causes a suspension from duty. What to do? This is where the stories become even more involved and convoluted and it is your job to keep up.

There is a splendid parrot saved from deepest Leith of Hibee fame which turns the air blue in a convent giving joy to all. But Gillian’s best for me is her being so up to date with football stars. Vincent’s brother, a police sergeant in Dundee, is a supporter of the Tangerine machine and there are honourable mentions of Gauld and GMS showing the top quality depth of her research.

There are lovely remarks made about the Episcopalian form of worship being less tribal than the Catholic form although the two are very similar.

However you must read this and enjoy it looking for all the little quirky comments made. A wry smile is a possibility on each page.

Like her Alice Rice books there is no smooth ending although problems are solved. But like real life they are ragged edged with bits that may come back to bite you later. Religion and its place in the modern world are laid out for us. What do we think? Also the present and historical problem of paedophile priests is not ducked – it is real and raw. There is closure
I appreciate the writing of Gillian Galbraith; it entertains and amuses but also brings moral and social issues to the reader without lecturing. We have to make up our minds on them.

The Good Priest is a clever book with a clever cover. It looks like the front vestment of a parish priest and you are meeting Father Vincent immediately. He is a flawed hero but all the more real for that.

This book is sure to appeal to Kinross residents and to others who have moved away. But it is a really good puzzle in the Alice Rice mould yet is quite different.

The Good Priest is published by Birlinn books

Brian Ogilvie

Fossoway: St. Serf’s & Devonside

Future Focus Session 1 (5/8/14)
Facilitator’s Report

Introduction

An encouraging total of 22 people (not including the Minister) attended the session at the church hall and divided themselves into four groups, seated around tables. There was a mix of elders and non-elders, although most were elders.

The evening began with Rev Lis Stenhouse introducing the facilitator, Rob Rawson (Mission Development Worker) who then led a short time of devotions before the exercises began.

Timeline Exercise

The evening consisted of two main parts with a short tea break in between. The first part provided an opportunity to look back into the church’s recent past (50 years) and discover more of how the current congregation came to be.

Those gathered worked in four groups. Each group was invited to draw a timeline on lining paper dating from 2014 back to 1964. Key events were to be recorded for both the church and the parish/community over this period. Events considered to be positive (“celebrations”) were to be noted above the line, whilst the opposite (“struggles”) were to be noted below the line. The right hand end of the lining paper was to be sectioned off and left blank. This is because it will deal with the future and will be completed in the final daytime session.

Although it is not possible to record the actual drawings, the main events have been collected from all the small groups and recorded below. As one would expect, there were a number of duplications, but the “happenings” need only to be mentioned once.

Celebrations

1960s
- Duncan McConkey is Minister
- Fete is held at Tullibole Castle
- Church of Scotland appoints first female Elders
- Church of Scotland appoints first female Ministers
- Very high percentage of community engaged with the church
- Sunday School room, vestry, toilets, etc. are built
1970s
- Part of Glebe is sold
- Monthly services are held at Carnbo
- Evening craft class for boys is run
- Sponsored walk all around the village is held
- Sunday School numbers reach 70

1980s
- Linkage with Cleish takes place
- Rev David Reid arrives
- Football team is formed for Sunday School children
- The Choir is formed
- Barn Dances take place
- Fossoway Frolics takes place
- New Women's Group is formed
- Junior Church launches weekly After School Club

1990s
- Youth Group takes place
- Rev David McLeod arrives
- Donation is received for the floodlights
- Kitty joins the church!
- The Old Manse is sold off

2000 to present
- New Hall and office is built
- Noah’s Ark frieze is created
- Brian Ogilvie is appointed as Reader
- Rev Joanne Finlay arrives
- Refresh is launched
- Stewardship campaign takes place
- Christmas tree, flower festival and pantomime
- New AV equipment is installed
- Film Club is started
- Men’s Breakfast Group starts up
- Holy Land pilgrimage takes place
- Junior Church toilet is built
- Holiday Club is held (2008)
- New housegroup starts up (2011)
- Remembrance at the Village Hall (Community Action)
- Art exhibition in E. W. Hall
- Rev Lis Stenhouse arrives

Struggles
1960s
- Session meetings last 20 minutes *(Is that a struggle?*)

1970s
- Financial difficulties occur

1980s
- The Guild suffers poor attendances
- Struggle to maintain two manses occurs
1990s
- Church suffers decline in marriages and baptisms
- Elizabeth Wilkie dies
- Struggle to keep up membership numbers occurs

2000 to present
- Rev David McLeod dies
- Rev Joanne Finlay leaves
- New Housegroup suffers drop in numbers

Trends for celebration
- 1980s to 1990s – New housing
- 2000s to present – Refresh enjoying good support
- 2000s to present – School using the church more regularly

Trends amongst the struggles
- 1960s to 1970s – Poor attendance
- 1970s to present – Decline in % of community engaging with church activity
- 1980s to 1990s – Demise in housegroups
- 2000s to present – Significant drop in Junior Church attendance

Everyone then had the opportunity to browse amongst the other tables and see each group’s timeline. In a short plenary session, comments were invited as to what common themes participants noted. The responses for celebrations were: new ministers arriving, the Elizabeth Wilkie Hall, the new AV system, festivals/events and Refresh. Responses for the struggles included finances, declining numbers, fabric matters and the death of David McLeod.

(TEA BREAK – thanks to Janet who refreshed us!)

Mapping Exercise
The second part of the evening involved the same groups drawing a map of the parish upon which they were to provide as much relevant information as possible and paying particular attention to where people gathered. Despite these maps being artistic masterpieces (one especially!), they cannot be copied in this document, so the following features were collectively noted:

Main Features
- Church building (& Glebe)
- A91 trunk road
- A977 main road
- A823 and other key roads
- River Devon and Rumbling Bridge Gorge
- Seabab Hill
- The Aldies
- Other settlements: Drum, Rumbling Bridge, Powmill & Carnbo

Commercial Features
- Shops
- Fabric Shop
- Petrol Garage
- Hepburn’s Garage
- Dog Kennels
- Deer Farm
- The Crook Pub
- Post Office
- Milk Bar & Gift Shop
Municipal Features
- Primary School
- Seamab School
- Children’s Nursery
- Village Halls
- Nursing Home

Leisure Features
- Muckhart Golf Club
- Tennis Court
- Children’s Play parks
- Millennium Walk
- Tullibole Castle
- Aldie Castle
- Bowling Green (at Carnbo)
- Scout Camp
- Lendrickmuir SU Centre

Miscellaneous
- Windmill
- The Selvan
- Dalqueich
- Coldrain
- Bullstone
- Travellers’ Site

One map highlighted areas where church members “commute” from. These were Dollar, Dunfermline, Kinross, Milnathort, Muckhart, Tillicoultry and the Rural Farming Community. The final “feature” required from each group was for each person to draw a red spot on the maps to mark where their homes were. They were then invited to draw blue spots as to the locations of their key friendships/networks. Any red or green spots that were not in the parish were to be placed in the margin. One key aspect was highlighted, which was that few homes were located close to the church building, yet a good number of friendships were close to or associated with this location and indeed, littered throughout the central areas.

Once again, there was a plenary session in which comments were invited as to any themes that transpired, following the groups looking at each other’s work. Comments were thus:

- Common features noted were the church building, shops, rural and agricultural features, River Devon, schools (and SU centre), village halls and the nursing home. Those in the congregation lived across a wide area, with a good number living outside the parish, but friendships tended to centre round the church building, although they also were well spread out. It was also commented that the church did not have a great influence in the schools and although there were no medical facilities in the parish, people often met up at the Kinross surgery!

After a brief summing up, the meeting was concluded by Lis who closed in prayer.

Rob Rawson Facilitator