Stobswell Trinity Church of Scotland

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September 2026 ***K E EP I N G I N T O U C H*** *No 012*



LONG SERVICE CERTIFICATES

Members of our joint churches were presented with Long Service Certificates for 30, 25 and 20 years faithful service from the Church of Scotland.

A letter from the Rev. Dr. Jean Kirkwood

Dear friend,

Recently, I took a moment to sit in a pew within our sanctuary and to look up at our beautiful stain-glass window at the front of the church. You understand that this is not my usual view on a Sunday morning, although it may be yours. This is a work of someone's imagination, and in the middle of the picture we see the risen Lord Jesus Christ who wears a white robe symbolising his resurrection. Gathered around him is a red cloth symbolising the blood he shed when he died on the cross and around his head is a halo to symbolise his holiness. His arms are outstretched in welcome.

To Jesus' right, stand a man and a woman, each of them carrying heavy loads. The man has a large bag on his back, and the woman is carrying her sick child. In the gospels, we are told that people brought their loved ones to Jesus and he healed them (Mark 1:32). Two women kneel in front of Jesus. One is a mother with her young child. In this I am reminded that Jesus chastised those who kept the children away from him, telling them to "Let the little children come to me and do not stop them" (Matt 19:14). The other kneeling woman may be the disreputable woman who washed Jesus' feet with her tears and dried them with her hair (Luke 7:38). In the background of the picture, there are two men. One could be the rich young man who was sad because he was unable to give all his money away as Jesus suggested (Matthew 19:22). The other holds a shepherd's crook like those who visited Jesus on the night he was born (Luke 2:17). There is a wee face in the background beside the shepherd - an unseen and unnoticed person. To Jesus' left there is an old man who seems to be blind. I wonder if this man is Simon Peter, Jesus' disciple. At the end of John's gospel, Jesus prophesies about the day when Peter will be old and will no longer be free to go where he likes but will be led where he doesn't want to go (see John 21:18). The Gospel of John explains that Jesus was speaking of the kind of death Peter would die and here in the picture we see that he too is wearing red and white (sacrificial death and resurrection). Whoever he is, the old man is led to Jesus by a little child which puts me in mind of verses from Isaiah chapter 11 where we are given an image of a day when calves and lion cubs will feed

together and "a little child will lead them."

These very different people have all come to Jesus with their shared weariness. They each bear their own burden of sickness, sin, responsibility, death, grief, work, poverty, exclusion, and even wealth. All have responded to Jesus' invitation which is written beneath the picture: "Come unto me all ye who are weary and heavy-laden and I will give ye rest," and all have been welcomed. For you and me, and anyone sitting looking up at the window, we might place ourselves in the picture as the hard working shepherd, the sinful woman, the worried parents, the person in the background. Whoever you are the invitation remains the same today: "Come to me," Jesus says, "and I will give you rest."

With love,
Your minister Jean



Please look for the date of our **Harvest Thanksgiving Service** in the intimations in our weekly order of service. Your donated food items will be given to the Food Bank in Albert Street and The Larder in the Boomerang Centre for distribution.[i]

LADIES CIRCLE
SYLLABUS 2026 - 2027

Come along and join us when we meet every second Monday evening at 7 pm in the church hall.

7 September	Opening Night with buffet
21 September	"My Scottish Views" by Ken Le Grice - presentation of some of his photos. Ken will encourage audience articipation in guessing where the photographs are taken.
5 October	Senior Fitness with Sarah Willison
19 October	James Lochhead will talk about Gladys Alward, a Missionary in China, who led 100 children to safety.
2 November	Quiz Night with Logie Anderson as Quizmaster This will be a fun night with lots of banter and laughter.
16 November	Floral Art with Steve Ludlum
30 November	Mills Observatory Visit
14 December	Christmas Lunch

FRIENDSHIP GROUP
SYLLABUS 2026 – 2027

This group welcomes all to join them on Wednesday afternoons from October to March at 2.00pm in the church hall. Please bring your friends and neighbours along with you. Tea and biscuits are available after the entertainment.

21 October	Opening meeting with Jennie Park, our Session Clerk.
28 October	Visit to Dundee Transport Museum This is your last chance to visit before they close in preparation for moving to their new home.
4 November	Dundee Poms with Francis de Franco
11 November	Choir with Alison & Friends. Join in with this happy group of singers.
18 November	The Law with Martin Allan, City Archivist.
25 November	James Lochead will talk about Donald Cassie, the Tartan Pimpernell.
2 December	To be announced.
9 December	Why Astronomy? A talk by Lyn Smith.

Summer Holiday Club
The Great Glen Green Welly Garden Show

This was held in the church hall and garden over three days in the last week of the school holidays. The children who attended were all of Primary School age; we had 14 young people in attendance.

The young people were divided into groups called The Crunchy Corns, The Beautiful Broccolis, the Beaming Beets and Cheerful Carrots.

On day one we explored how in the Garden of Eden we had been in close friendship with God and how us humans made a poor choice not to follow God's rules and so the relationship with God was broken and the garden ruined.

Day two was about how God sent people over the years called prophets to help us make the right choice - to Put God First – and so restore the relationship. The focus of this day was that God never gives up on us; no matter how many times we make a poor choice.

Day three was about God sending Jesus to be our friend and show us how to be a good friend of God. This day was about how Jesus will come back some day and how we have to be ready for this at any time.

Our club times were full of games, activities and songs. If you access YouTube searching for 'If I were a butterfly' you will find the song we sang daily showing how different animals praise God – birds by singing, worms by wriggling and elephants raising their trunks!

The games included welly throwing at targets, foam caber tossing, bowling with potatoes and sword dancing around cushions (health and safety rules meant no real swords were used).

We also had a daily exercise slot where a drumbeat kept us on the move – going up, down, side-to-side and round in a circle while shaking tambourines and maracas.

One of our activities, 'talking about making mistakes', was for all the children in each group to help squeeze all the toothpaste out of a tube onto a paper plate. We then asked them to put it back iin to the tube. The lesson being that sometimes we cannot fix our mistakes; we have to say sorry and try not to repeat that mistake.Lots of fun and laughter took place from both the young people and the adults involved.

There were many people involved in the planning, preparation and performance of this club and the church is very grateful to all of them. We had a helping hand too from the Presbytery of Perth who gave us a grant from their Mission Fund to help us with the cost.

We are delighted to report that we have one new family with two children who are now coming to church and Sunday school as a result of our Holiday Club.

SAFEGUARDING

Hello readers,
I wanted to introduce myself to you all as I take on the role of Safeguarding Co-ordinator for the congregation.
My name is Karen Young and I sing in the church choir.

I want you all to know that you can come to me in confidence with any safeguarding concerns you may have. I will also be responsible to keeping training records and the PVG Register (Protecting Vulnerable Groups) for our church.

If you have any questions or concerns you can email me at: safeguarding@stobswelltrinitychurchdundee.org.uk.
Feel free to get in touch and I will be happy to help in any way I can.

Karen

THE SMARTIE CHALLENGE.

Our total collected up to the end of August is **£797.**

Keep on taking home the tubes of Smarties in the church vestibule and enjoy eating them.

Refill the tubes with your spare cash and return the tubes any Sunday morning.

Will we reach the sum of £1,000 by the end of the year???????
[ii]

Doug Sievwright/Ian Stewart

7th Scout Group

We meet in the Bill Fleming Hall on Park Avenue on the following days;
Beavers (6-8yrs) Thursdays from 6.30-7.30pm
Cubs (8-10½years) Fridays from 6-7.30pm
Scouts (10.½-14years) Fridays from 7.30-9.30pm

We are open to boys and girls.

We currently have **vacancies in all sections** of the Group so please pass our information on to any friends and family who may be looking for a group to join where they can have fun, make friends and take part in a wide variety of activities.

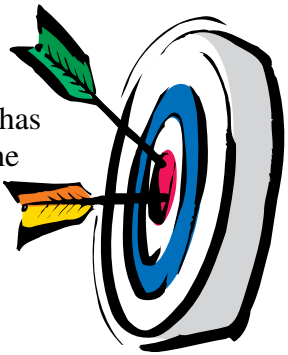
In the coming session we have already plans for:

an All Sections camp in October with a Heroes and Super-Villains theme,
a Birthday Party (40years of Beavers and 110 years of Cubs) screening of a movie at Cineworld,
a Group Halloween Party,
a fundraising Table Top Sale/Coffee Morning (details of how to help with this are elsewhere in this magazine)
a visit to the Brown Street Mosque and
a Family Quiz night.

All of this to be happening before Christmas and on top of our regular weekly meetings!



We have also applied for funding to help us buy archery equipment as one of the Leaders in the Group now has a qualification to teach this to the young people.



Family Quiz Night

Friday 18th December 2026 from 6-8pm
in The Bill Fleming Hall, Park Avenue.

Tickets are a £1 each donation(or more if you wish to)
There will be a number of rounds of questions with more than a few festive ones.
Light refreshments will be served at half-time but those attending are welcome to bring along their own snacks and drinks too.
All monies raised will go to funding more activities for the young people who attend the group.

If you are interested in attending please get in touch with our Group Chair. *(details below))*

Adult Leaders

As always if you, or anyone you know, would be interested in helping out as a leader with any of our sections you would be most welcome to contact our Group Chair to find out more. Any amount of time you can give to help the Group is welcome; one night a month? Every week? At Camps? Or if you have a qualification that allows you to teach specific skills to our young people?

If you would like more information about the Group please contact our Group Chair or Group Lead Volunteer;
Group Chair; Irene Shearer at irene7thdundeecubs@gmail.com
Or phone 07544326947
Group Lead Volunteer, Ian Reilly at ian.reilly@dundeescouts.org.uk

Craft and Chat Club

If you are keen to meet other Crafters there is a group meeting on the **2nd Saturday of every month** in the Glass Park Centre in Baxter Park. It is open from **10am-1pm**.
You can drop in for any length of time and refreshments are available on a Pay-what-you-can basis. It is a time and place to take a breather and have a chat with like-minded people.

Calling all Crafters!

If you are someone who makes/creates anything you would want to sell here is an opportunity to do just that;

On Saturday 28th November 2026 from **10am-1pm** in the Bill Fleming Hall in Park Avenue the 7th Scout Group are holding a **Christmas Table Sale and Coffee Morning.** Table spaces can be bought for £10 and all the money you make after that is yours to keep.

If you are interested in having a stall please contact Irene Shearer on 07544326947 or email at irene.shearer@sky.com

Friends of Baxter Park

This Group would like to invite anyone who has not visited Baxter Park for a while to come and see the two circular rose beds which have been planted by volunteers and are maintained by them too.

There is a mixture of tall standard roses and smaller bush roses in each bed. The beds are in the grass parterre sections on either side of the Pavilion.
(Parterre: A formal arrangements of flowerbeds)

Help with Park Benches

There are currently 15 benches missing from around Baxter Park and we are asking if you can help with this situation. If anyone is able to, could you contact the local councillors in the Maryfield ward to ask them to help get these benches replaced? Our Group has asked on numerous occasions but we are only one voice.

The missing benches are preventing people from accessing the park as there are fewer spots left for resting on or catching your breath or just enjoying the view.

The people you need to contact are: lynn.short@dundeecity.gov.uk
ken.lynn@dundeecity.gov.uk or Georgia.cruickshank@dundeecity.gov.uk

Family/All Age Craft Afternoon

Saturday 24th October from 12noon-3pm in the Glass Park Centre, near the play parks

Come along, with or without children, to create paper decorations, glass lanterns, dook for an apple or browse our Donations table of Halloween items. (Cash only please).

Spring Grove Gardening

On the first Saturday of every month (except January) from 10am-12noon a few volunteers from our Group do maintenance in the Spring Grove in Baxter's Park – where the natural spring rises. It is surrounded by a green fence which over time we are turning into an Ivy Hedge. Over the autumn/winter/ we cut back the bushes and trees in this area to keep it in check.

We cannot work in there in the spring/summer as nesting birds are given the space.



It is the only part of the park with drinking water for birds and animals.

Anyone who has an interest in the wildlife in the park is welcome to come along and help out. Please wear clothes suitable for the weather and sturdy footwear. Gloves are provided and instruction will be given on the use of all the tools provided.

If you wish any further details on the above events please contact our Chair; Irene Shearer on 07544326947 or email at irene.shearer@sky.com

A member of our congregation sent in this encouraging poem.

He is Gone

You can shed tears that he is gone or you can smile because he has lived.
You can close your eyes and pray that he will come back
or you can open your eyes and see all he has left.
Your heart will be empty because you can't see him
or you can be full of the love you shared.
You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday
or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday.
You can remember him and only that he's gone
or you can cherish his memory and let him live on.
You can cry and close your mind, be empty and turn your back
or you can do what he would want: smile, open your eyes, love and go on.

This is an empty space in our Newsletter.

Our next Newsletter dated December 2026 will be available by Sunday 29th November and the closing date for items to be included is **Wednesday 25th November**.

What has your group been doing and what can you intimate for the December/January/February months?

Any item from a member of our congregation will also be gratefully received.

Just a few words from you to fill up this empty space is required and if we receive too much information then we can extend the newsletter to 16 pages.

All items to Norma Watson: email normaw@blueyonder.co.uk

A NOTE FROM YOUR EDITOR

Hurrah! I celebrated another birthday in August and I reflected on what had happened over my lifetime. I have known four Kings and one Queen and I realised that their time was fleeting, whereas my Lord and King is eternal and every morning I give thanks that I am here for another day.

The day of my actual birthday made me realise that there is a lot of love surrounding me. Everyone was so kind. I visited my son, Ewan, and there was a banner on the front door saying: 'Happy Birthday' and inside there were other best wishes signs on the lounge walls for me. A chocolate cake with 2 candles was the highlight of the afternoon.

I was also driven through a cloudburst with monsoon rain to the Invergowrie Inn for Senior's High Tea with some of my church-family friends.

My best burst out laugh came from the two birthday cards given to me from one friend. One card congratulated me on my 90th Birthday and the other card said, 'Look who's 4'. That was love in two envelopes!

To complete my celebration my grand-daughter, Charlotte, who is playing hockey for Team Scotland in the Hockey World Cup in Belgium, scored a magnificent goal and I received a video of the Scotland spectators singing 'Happy Birthday to Charlotte's Gran', and again, love surrounded me.

Yes, my life has had good and difficult times but I have always felt the love and support that I receive from my daily prayers.

Not all of my requests have been granted but I do realise that sometimes the answer has to be, 'No'.

We cannot all win the lottery!

Norma Watson

BILL LATTO sends his thanks for the birthday cards, presents and best wishes, to all his friends who helped him celebrate his 90th Birthday in July.