



# Cluny Church

Newsletter 58 - Spring 2019

## **CLUNY PARISH CHURCH**

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### **Times of Church Services**

**Sunday morning worship takes place at 11am in Cluny Church except for the joint services which are held at 10am on the first Sunday of the month and alternate between Cluny (April) and Monymusk (May) and so on. Joint services at 10am will take place at Monymusk Church for all the Sundays in July and at Cluny Church for all the Sundays in August. Members of Cluny Church are reminded that the minister's day off is Monday. It would be appreciated that, unless there is an emergency, contact should be made at any other time during the week.**

**[www.clunychurch.weebly.com](http://www.clunychurch.weebly.com)**

## Letter from the Manse

Once again the days are lengthening and, after what has been a very mild winter, we see flowers coming through the ground and ploughs working hard making the fields ready for their new life after a dormant period. I love this time of year when new life springs from the ground, lambs are seen in the fields and the long dark nights noticeably reduce as the days go by. To me it is hopeful time; a time of expectation for what is to come. The natural cycle of the earth's changing seasons is indeed one of God's great plans. However, as the years go on and I see more winters and springs due to my advancing age I recognise a change in what I had thought was the normal pattern of the seasons. I look back on my childhood in Dundee probably with rose tinted glasses! But when I do think back, now more than 50 years ago, my memory is that the summers were warmer and drier and the winters colder than those of late. I do wonder if this is just my memory failing or is it a change in our climate? As church members we have a responsibility to do what we can to help the environment and while that is easy to say it is more difficult to put into practice. Each of us plays a part in caring for God's creation; maybe by looking after land as farmers or gardeners, maybe in the choice of cars we drive (and I appreciate that I drive a 4X4 diesel car), by our food choices and so on. As new life springs from the ground my prayer is that together we will find ways of reducing the damage we do to the environment. Perhaps we can start that process in simple ways: walking or cycling instead of using vehicles, turning down the heating by one degree in our church and saving a little energy, improving the insulation in the ceiling space both in the church and the hall. This will be a task I am going to give thought to this year and see what changes we can make.

As Easter approaches I am conscious of the new life that comes from the grave and the wondrous gift that God has given us of sharing the new life his Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, offers us. I hope that you will join with us during our Easter celebrations to

celebrate and give thanks for the life that God has offered us which lasts eternally.

May I wish you and yours every blessing and please if you need a visit do give me a call.

***Euan Glen***

## **Cluny Parish Register**

### **Death**

Mr Tony Lincoln of Sauchen died on 19th December 2018

## **Memories**

The Minister has been spring cleaning his study and has come across some photographs from Praise in the Park some ten years ago. Amazingly they show that he hasn't changed at all in that time!

These pictures have now been put into an album in the church and are available to view. Perhaps there are more photos out there from other church events which we could add to the album as an archive of the life of the congregation. If you have any and you would like them to be used in that way please contact the minister.

## **Cluny Kirkers**

As described in the Chairman's Comments later in this newsletter, the Kirkers stopped for a few months as we looked to see how best we could entice new members to attend. In March we restarted after a few months break and will aim to hold the meetings every two weeks to allow children time to do other things on a Thursday night. I would ask that you pray for the Kirkers as we try to find ways in keeping a children's ministry alive in our congregation.

## **The Easter Story for Children** **(as told by the Meaningful Chocolate Company\*)**

A true story....

Two thousand years ago Jesus visited Jerusalem. People waved palm branches to welcome him as a king. But some wanted to get rid of him. On the Thursday, just before they ate, Jesus began to wash the feet of His friends. He did this to teach them that they should serve and help others. Jesus then had a last supper with His friends. Jesus gave thanks. He shared a cup of wine and a piece of bread telling His friends to 'do this in remembrance of me'. Later that night a man called Judas led the soldiers to Jesus. Jesus was praying but He was arrested and led away. On the Friday a man called Pilate handed Jesus over to be killed. The soldiers put Jesus on a cross. When Jesus died there was an earthquake and everywhere went dark. The body of Jesus was taken off the cross and placed in a tomb. They rolled a large stone over the entrance. Very early on Sunday morning the women went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the entrance. Suddenly two men in bright shining clothes stood by them. "Why are you looking among the dead for one who is alive? He is not here, he has been raised". Jesus had risen from the dead to meet His friends again. "Now go and tell everyone about God's love" said Jesus.

Today billions of people all over the world believe that by dying and coming back to life Jesus, as the Son of God, gave people the chance to know God in a new way.

*\*manufacturers of The Real Easter Egg, available from Traidcraft*



## CrossReach @ 150



2019 marks 150 years of social care provision in Christ's name through the work of the Church of Scotland. The roots of the Church's social care, today known as CrossReach, can be traced all the way back to 1869. The work of the "Life and Work Committee" was set up in that year under the convenorship of the Rev Professor Archibald Charteris. He saw the potential for a church wide initiative that could provide care and support for the most vulnerable people in society – but also be flexible to the changing needs of the age. The work of this committee sowed the seeds for some of the modern day social care still undertaken by CrossReach – the Social Care Council of the Church of Scotland – in its care for the poor, the addicted, the abandoned and downtrodden.

Looking back, one of the landmark moments for the Church included the opening of its first 'Eventide Home' for the elderly in 1926. The Church also recognised the benefit of counselling for those whose lives were impacted by addiction and in 1962 opened the Tom Allan Centre for counselling, which remains today as not only a place where those in need can access counselling (and many



other services), but as a recognised counselling training provider. The 150-year legacy of the Church of Scotland's social care work continues to pioneer innovative care projects for those most in need of care in our society today, all centring around the original ethos of 'caring in Christ's name'.

CrossReach is proud of its reputation as one of the country's largest providers of social services, crossing social boundaries to provide care for older people, help with tackling alcoholism, drug and mental health problems (including post-natal depression) and assistance for homeless people and those with special learning needs. More than 2000 people are employed by CrossReach and they support some of Scotland's most vulnerable people, from the youngest to the oldest through a range of services that have care and love at the heart of the work

If you would like to find out more about CrossReach in this special anniversary year here is a link to the website which includes an online shop <https://www.crossreach.org.uk/>

# CROSSREACH

Care you can put your faith in



## **Chairman's Comments at the Stated Annual Meeting 17th March 2019**

2018 was in some ways a bit of a strange year in Cluny because we planned much but due to circumstances outwith our control, we did not fulfil our expectations. For years the Board has been discussing the upgrading of the church hall and 2018 was the year this was to begin. Sadly it was thought we might have asbestos in the ceiling coverings and a survey was conducted which led to a lot of legal complaints involving the Church of Scotland Law Department and the police and this rumbled on for over 6 months. The bottom line is that we were cheated by a bogus surveying team and lost over £500 of church money. It was a learning experience but we hope we can put it behind us and think about the repairs this year. We are planning to redecorate the hall, including the toilets, upgrade the lighting and consider improvements to the heating at some point.

2018 also saw the end of two long term activities within the life of the congregation. Numbers attending the Cluny Kirkers fell drastically last year and the decision was taken to stop the Kirkers meetings. This was not an easy decision because the Cluny Kirkers had been running successfully for more than 20 years but we seemed to be struggling to attract enough children to justify the time and effort invested by the leaders in preparation.

We also stopped the prayer meeting and bible study group on Wednesday evenings as numbers had dropped to only one or two attending along with the minister. Quite a bit of work goes into the planning of these meetings and it was becoming more difficult when it was just a couple of people attending.

However there has also been much hard work done in the life of the congregation for which I am grateful. Worship continues weekly and though numbers vary, usually between 15 and 35 people attend worship at Cluny Church. In 2018 we were blessed with the arrival of Fiona Lister on placement with us for nine months. She is a student training for the ministry who has been warmly welcomed into the life of our congregation and who has worked hard and well in the tasks given to her by me. I have to say that it has been a challenge for me



but one which I have enjoyed for I have had to reflect on my work and service and have looked forward to our weekly hour long meetings exploring ministry and what it means. Fund raising events continue to be well supported and this is heartening but would not happen without the hard work and dedication of the members of the Session and Congregational Board and I thank them for this. Special services such as our outdoor summer service (held indoors in 2018 due to the weather) and our Christmas carol service with the choir together with our Easter family services have been well supported.

During 2018 I have continued my ministry among Presbytery in my role as Clerk although this never seems to get easier as the years go by. However it is a job that I enjoy in particular being a support to my colleagues as best I can. I have also in 2018 enjoyed my ministry among the school communities in Cluny Primary where I am warmly welcomed by staff and pupils alike and at Alford Academy where again my welcome is always positive and for that I give thanks. Our relationship with Monymusk Church is important to me and I am delighted that in 2018 the close working relationships have continued. 2019 is now well under way and the good news is that we have restarted the bible study group with new members attending. We have also restarted the Kirkers on a twice per month trial period to Easter but numbers are still perilously low. Fiona grows from strength to strength in her ministry with us. I want to thank the members of the Board and Session especially the office bearers for their hard work and to the members for their continued welcome when I occasionally visit and for their support of our church.

2019 promises to be a year of change within the wider Church of Scotland and we can't bury our head in the sand and hope that it will pass us by. I am uncertain what it will mean to me as much as to us as a congregation because none of us likes change. People are bored of me saying this, but it is coming and we have to be ready for it. However, I feel confident that working together as a team as we have done in 2018 and before we shall be able to face the challenges and grow from them.

May God's blessing be upon you and upon the congregation.

***Euan Glen***

## Climate Change, Coffee and Fairtrade

How is climate change affecting coffee farmers? There are 25 million farmers and workers in the world whose livelihoods depend on coffee production. Farmers have generations of knowledge making them adaptable and resilient to the uncertainties of agriculture. However, the impact of climate change is intensifying at a rate never seen before by farming communities. This is putting the livelihood, food security and wellbeing of farming families at risk. There are many reasons why Fairtrade needs to support farmers to take action. For example, a regional study in 2015 warns that



temperature increases of 2 to 3 degrees will push Arabica coffee production higher into the mountains and forested reserves. The expansion of coffee production will displace indigenous communities and the biodiverse wildlife living at these altitudes. As well as supporting and advocating for farmers who are facing the social, environmental and economic implications, Fairtrade can trace the impact of climate change throughout the coffee supply chain.

The report by Coffee Barometer in 2014 predicts that the areas suitable for coffee production will decrease substantially by 2020 in important coffee-producing countries as diverse as Brazil, Honduras, Uganda and Vietnam, whilst global demand for coffee will continue to rise. Without changes to coffee varieties and farming practices, we can expect more vulnerability to pests and disease, unpredictable yields and higher coffee prices.

How is the Fairtrade Premium already being invested to tackle climate change? In 2013, €44 million in Fairtrade premium was received by coffee producer organisations to invest in strengthening businesses, communities and farming. The premium was invested in a variety of ways to tackle the negative effects of climate change. Examples include:

(1) Ecological water management At COOMPROCOM in Nicaragua, the premium was invested in water tanks and wells to combat severe water shortages due to climate change. This is supplying drinking water and irrigation systems to farms and communities across the Matagalpa region.

(2) Preventing soil erosion In Indonesia, the cooperative Permata Gayo is using the premium to invest in environmental education and training on local climate change issues. The area's volcanic soil can be very productive but over-farming, pollution from chemicals and erratic weather is causing erosion.

If you would like to buy some Fairtrade Coffee (instant, ground, decaffeinated or beans) please contact Ann Wilkinson and she can add your order to the regular ones from the church and save you being charged postage and packaging.

### **Fairtrade at Cluny Church**

Grateful thanks to everyone who has bought Fairtrade goods from the stalls held after services throughout the year. Cluny Church returned the profits made (£216) to Traidcraft Exchange for its work in the developing world.

At the joint service held at Monymusk Church on the first Sunday in March (in the middle of Fairtrade Fortnight) Euan spoke about the importance of the Fairtrade Premium, a sum of money in addition to the price paid to the farmer, which goes into a communal fund for workers and farmers to use – as they see fit – to improve their social, economic and environmental conditions. The previous article describes how the premium can be used to help tackle the problems that climate change is bringing to coffee producers.

## **Praise the Lord, by Fiona Lister**

“If music be the food of love, play on” – this famous and often misquoted phrase is from the opening lines of Shakespeare’s Twelfth Night. It can be taken in many ways but for me it has always voiced my love of music and the connections between music and faith in my life.

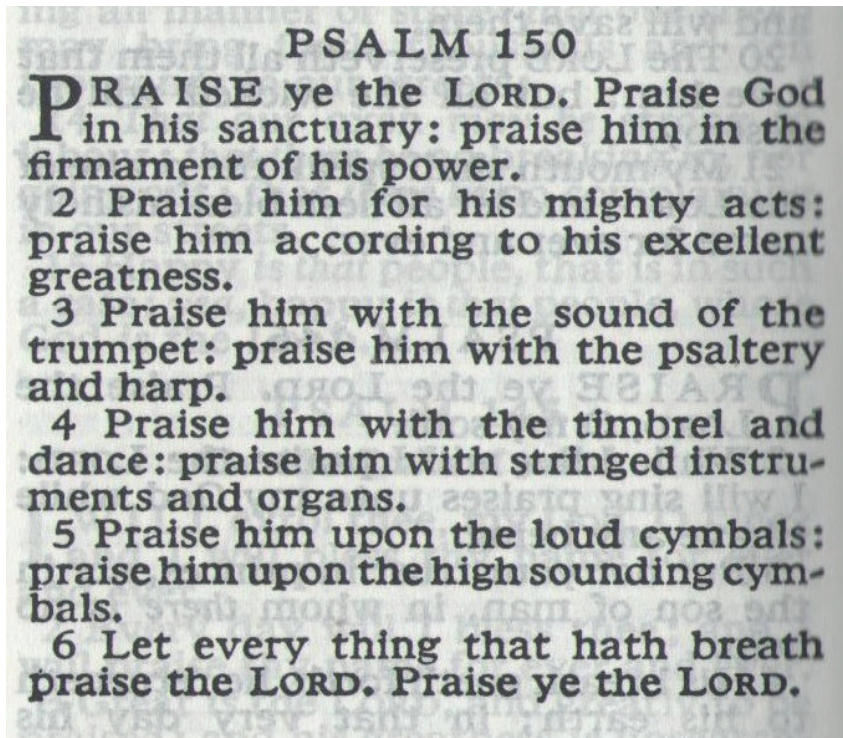
I was brought up in a house where music was constantly present; my Dad played the piano and was often heard playing songs from Irving Berlin musicals or the ragtime music of Scott Joplin and I would either attempt to sing along or dance around the living room. My brother and I spent many happy hours making up a top ten list from our parents old 45s and 78s, playing them on the old record player. The best times were when my Granny and Grandad were with us or we were visiting them in Banchory and Grandad would play Scottish fiddle music in the north-east style whilst my dad vamped for him on the piano. Once I was in my teens I was able to join in and these were some of my happiest memories as Grandad, Dad and I made music together.

This love of music resonates to my core, so it is no real surprise that it also moves into my faith journey. The hymns were always my favourite part of a service – and still are. Singing is where I can find a connection and path to God and my years in the praise band at Kemnay have been very influential on my call to ministry. There are so many favourites – from the word of the Magnificat in ‘Tell out my Soul’, through the call to trust and obey in the words of the old hymn ‘When we walk with the Lord’ and on to the more modern worship songs of ‘10,000 Reasons’ and ‘My Chains are Gone’. I find my prayers and my praise, my highs and my lows through these musical offerings. When constructing a service, choosing the hymns is my favourite part.

Music has been a part of worship from ancient times. When we open the Bible, we can find in the book of Psalms all the words which we need to express our greatest joys and our deepest despairs and all emotions in between. I recently found a book – ‘The One Year

Book of Psalms' – and have been working my way through the 365 readings which accompany the psalms, giving a greater depth to my understanding of how and why they were written as well as who has found meaning in them over history. As well as being the author of a lot of the psalms, David also organised the musicians and singers, ensuring that praise was sung in the temple.

Singing and making music can be a profound experience; it can express our joys, our concerns, our reliance on God or the depths of our pain and anguish. This is prayer; this is forging and strengthening a relationship. So put on that record, tape, CD or MP3 player, play an ancient hymn or a modern worship song. Speak to God in that most ancient of ways and remember that we join in a tradition thousands of years old when we follow the command of Psalm 150:



## **Community Use of Cluny Church Hall**

We would be delighted if you would like to hire the hall for community or family functions. The Congregational Board recently decided to charge £12 per hour for such use. Please contact the Minister if you are interested.



## **Dates for your Diary**

### **Sunday 28th April:**

Holy Communion in Cluny Church at 11am.

### **Saturday 25th May:**

Boules Tournament from 9.30am in Monymusk Square. To enter the competition or to volunteer to sell raffle tickets or donate raffle prizes please contact Neil McArthur: [neilwfmcarthur@gmail.com](mailto:neilwfmcarthur@gmail.com) Cluny Church has been the recipient of generous donations from this event and would like to thank the organisers and encourage you to support this year's tournament.

### **Saturday 1st June:**

Plant Sale in Millbank Hall 10am until 11.30am.



## Newsletter

Thanks are due to those who provide items for our twice yearly newsletter. We would be happy to receive further suggestions and items for inclusion in future letters. If you wish to add an item for the next newsletter e.g. advertising a local event or to tell people about a local organisation please contact either Euan or the editor.

## Church Flowers

Mrs Betty Ross has been Flower Convener at Cluny Church for eight years and thanks are due to her for organising the rota and also to everyone who puts flowers in the church for the weekly services. Betty would be delighted to hear from anyone else who would like to do so. You can contact her on 01330 833591.

## Church Website

The minister has set up a website for Cluny Church and would appreciate any feedback. You can access it on [www.clunychurch.weebly.com](http://www.clunychurch.weebly.com) The site includes details of church life and a programme of events.





Cluny Church of Scotland SC003429