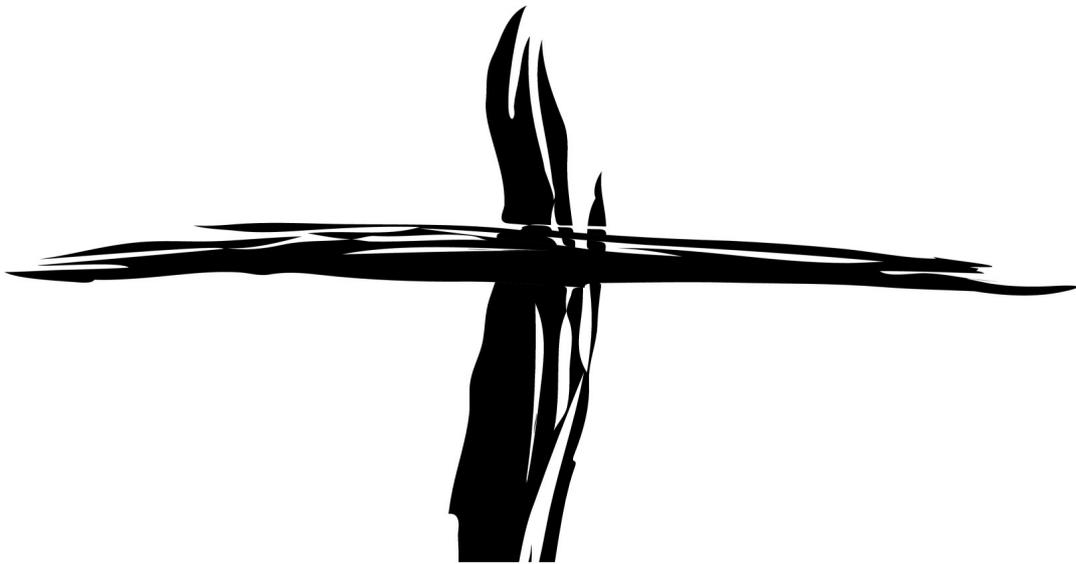


# THE HARVESTER

ST SERF'S PARISH CHURCH TULLIBODY

SCOTTISH CHARITY - SCO 05918

SPRING 2020



**CHRIST  
IS RISEN**

You are invited to share in the

**Sacrament of Holy Communion**

Sunday 29th March 2020

**Elder:**

**Telephone:**

## TINY TOTS

Our current number of tots on the books is 25. They enjoy our regular free play and song time . Following a snack they a period of craft related activities, which are enjoyed by tots and mums alike. We finish this session on 31st March with a visit from the 'animal man'.

We restart on Tuesday 21st April and run until the summer break on Tuesday 23rd June with a visit to the soft play in Alloa.

Thank you to all who help: Anne and Helen in the kitchen making snacks, tea and coffee for the mums . Elizabeth for crafts and song time. Janet on the door welcoming all tots and mums . Jean and Irene on the floor, picking-up toys and talking to mums. Thanks to Alan and George for the help on Mondays to set up the toys and doing the heavy lifting. Thank you, also, to Rena for taking the toys from under the stage. **Beatrice**

## ECO CONGREGATION SCOTLAND

Eco-Congregation Scotland is an environmental movement helping local groups of Christians link their faith with environmental issues, reduce their carbon footprint and engage with the community. Their vision is a Scotland that cares for God's creation, now and forever. Although as a church St. Serf's has not done any environmental work we felt it important to register as a statement of our intent. St. Serf's Church is concerned about the environment and we want to do something about it in the future. We are now registered as an eco-church along with 370 other congregations in Scotland. We will receive newsletters keeping us informed on environmental issues.

There is also a website where we can get written material for study, worship and practical action. In the future we might invite the environmental chaplain to preach at one of our services to help us explore the theological and spiritual basis of caring for creation. They have an award scheme recognising achievement by local congregations. **Tricia Craib**

# PASTORAL LETTER

Every year Jewish people celebrate Passover. It is a meal at which they remember the events of the Book of Exodus when Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt. At Passover they take (among other things) bread and wine.

When Jesus ate the Last Supper with his disciples it was a Passover meal. We are reading Mark's Gospel this year and in chapter 14 Mark tells us, "Jesus sent two of his disciples, telling them, 'Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him. Say to the owner of the house he enters, "The Teacher asks: where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?" He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there.' "

At that Passover meal Jesus took the bread and wine and spoke about his impending death. Ever since then Christians have celebrated with bread and wine, marking Jesus' death but also looking forward in faith to being with Jesus in Heaven.

At our Communion service on 29th March Gordon Roy from SU Scotland will be speaking about the origins of the Communion service in the Jewish Passover meal. Some of our congregation have already heard him speak about this at the Easter Journey meetings we run for the local children or at our evening service. Everyone who has watched his demonstration of the Passover has been enthralled by it. Please make a special effort to come and experience this very moving explanation of the link between Passover and Communion.

**Rev. Drew Barrie**

## KIDZONE & TEENZONE

Kidzone is for children from nursery to primary seven, whereupon they progress to Teenzone.

Each Sunday, during school term-time, we meet in the Church at 11am. After a children's talk from the Minister, we walk to the Church Hall where we have Bible based stories and activities.

It would be lovely to see more children come along— everyone is made welcome.

**Margaret Jackson**



## DATA PROTECTION

All congregations in the Church of Scotland hold data (usually in the form of names, addresses, and sometimes email addresses and telephone numbers of members). This has always been the case. However we are now required to inform you of this fact and do so by publishing this notice here. We will hold your data securely and (with the exception of the contact details of certain office bearers e.g. Session Clerk and Treasurer) we will not pass it anyone outside the congregation. We fully comply with the relevant legislation. Any questions regarding this may be directed to the minister.

# MARK'S GOSPEL

This year we are focusing upon Mark's Gospel. The Gospel of Mark was probably the first of the four Gospels to be written. It is also the shortest of them.

A copy of Mark's Gospel produced about 170AD has this interesting (and quite unkind) introduction: "Mark is called 'stump-fingered' because he had rather small fingers in comparison with the rest of his body. He was the interpreter of Peter. ...He wrote down this same gospel in the regions of Italy."

Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection took place in the year 33AD. Obviously it wasn't called that then! After Jesus' resurrection the disciples took the message about Jesus all over the then known world. They were assisted by converts to Christianity like Paul.

As the original witnesses to Jesus' life, death and resurrection began to get older and die off it became obvious that what they had seen needed to be written down. Mark's Gospel was originally written around 63AD, 30 years after the resurrection. Mark was not one of the original 12 disciples and his Gospel is a record of Peter's experiences of Jesus.

Mark's Gospel was written while many people who had seen Jesus' miracles and listened to his preaching were still alive. That is also true of the Gospels of Matthew, Luke and John. If what the Gospel writers said was not accurate people who were alive then could have challenged it. That is one of the reasons that we can be sure that all 4 gospels are reliable and give an accurate picture of Jesus' life.

I invite you to read Mark's Gospel because it is a reliable record of Jesus' life. More than that, it is inspired by the Holy Spirit and as we read it we will come to know Jesus better, or perhaps in some cases meet him for the first time.

## EASTER CARDS

This Easter we will again be looking for volunteers to put these invitations through people's letter boxes. Christianity revolves around the Gospel message that Christ died for sinners and rose again to life on the first Easter Sunday. By him all are offered forgiveness and new life.

Delivering these Easter invitations, along with the invitations we give out at Christmas, has become one of the things that we do. It is a very important part of our congregation's life. Not only do we give out an invitation to our Easter services, we also say to people that they are welcome at our church. We also hopefully communicate the even more important message that God loves them.

If you are able to help please give your name to Sam Podmore, or put it on the sheet in the church. Whether or not you are able to help with the delivering of these invitations please remember this venture in your prayers.



A decorative graphic featuring a large, stylized letter 'W' on the left, which is intertwined with a leafy branch. To the right of the 'W', the word 'Welcome' is written in a large, elegant, cursive script. Below 'Welcome', the words 'to Our Church' are written in a smaller, simpler, sans-serif font. At the bottom of the graphic, there are two large, dark leaves pointing towards the right.

# Welcome to Our Church

This 'service' is designed for people who cannot manage to be in church on Easter Sunday. As you take part in it please remember that you are also part of the church. Take time to be still and quiet and to think. You are approaching God and he is coming to you. Read aloud (or sing) the words of the hymn "Jesus Christ is risen today." (It is in the Revised Church Hymnary - number 119 and in CH3 as hymn 264).

## **Say this prayer**

Lord Jesus Christ you died at Calvary and rose again from the dead. I thank you that you are alive again and will never die. Thank you for the joy of Easter Sunday celebrated in churches all over the world. Thank you that you are here with me and fill me with gladness. Please make my faith in you stronger. Please forgive me for all I have done wrong and for the things I have failed to do. Thank you for your death on the cross by which you bring forgiveness to everyone who believes. I pray for my family and my friends. (You should say their names or think about their situation). Please give them the joy of Easter. Help them and me to know that you are alive for ever and have conquered death.

## **Now say the Lord's Prayer**

Read aloud the words of the hymn "Christ the Lord is risen today." Or sing it if you prefer. (It is in the RCH at hymn number 118 and in CH3 as hymn 275).

**May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you at Easter and always.**

# CONGREGATION ACCOUNTS

When we read passages of Scripture they do not make sense in isolation but when we look at the Bible as a whole and understand it as God's Word then the individual parables, accounts and events start to make sense. We start to see the whole missional plan of God's love for this world through His son Jesus Christ.

The Finance Committee have been analysing the congregation's accounts, not on an annual basis, but over a period of 8 years to identify patterns, trends and to look beyond the fluctuation of surpluses and deficits as the graph shows.

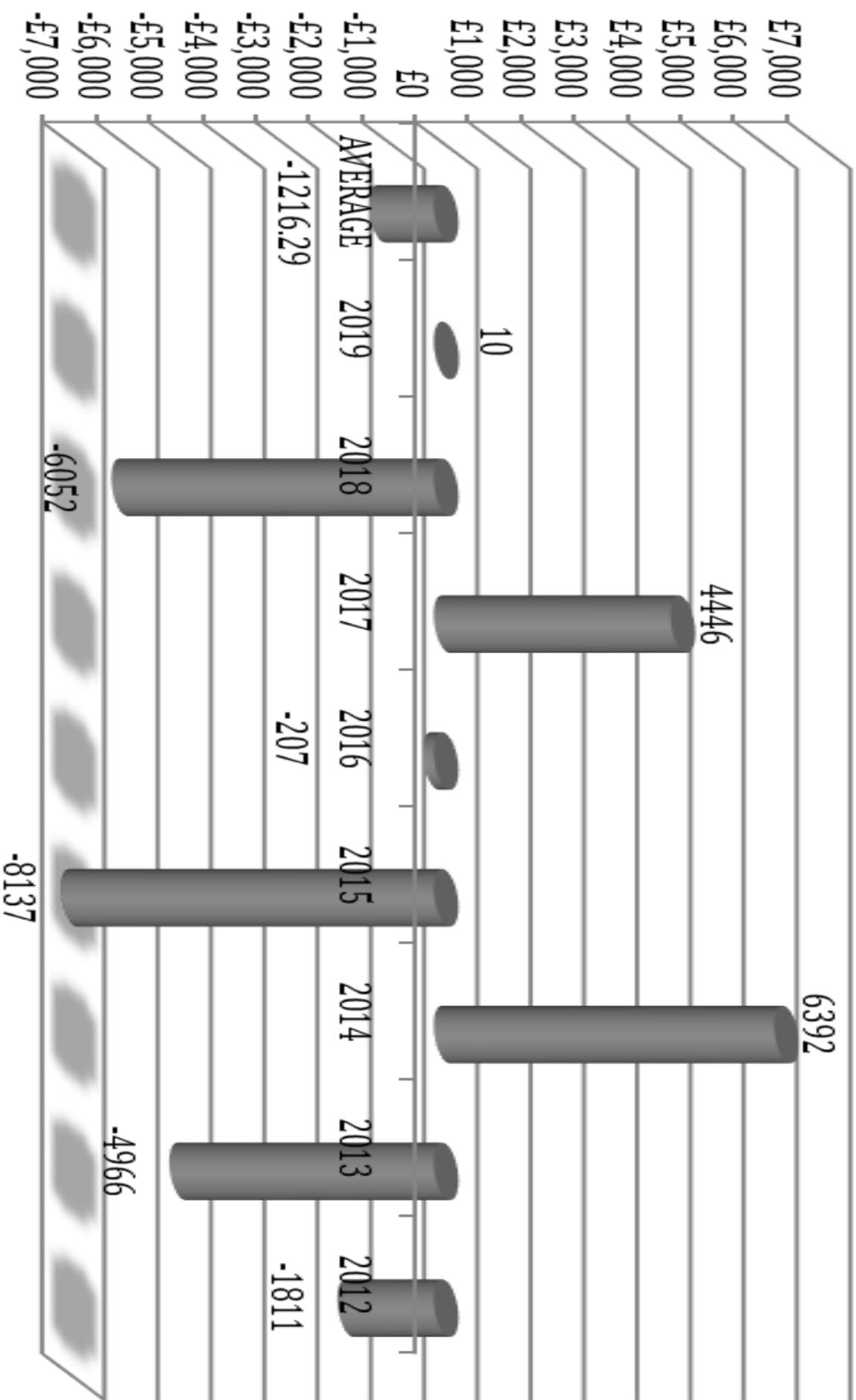
Reviewing the accounts from the last 8 years identified some big differences in the 'spare' money that the Trustees had available. Some years the congregation has had a big deficit and others there has been a substantial surplus.

Drew has been preaching through the Lord's Prayer in the evening services and this year's accounts provide evidence for the wonderful provision of the Lord when we pray "Give us this day our daily bread." The accounts this year have shown a £10 surplus and for that we give thanks, the Lord has provided just what we have needed and nothing more or nothing less!

However, the Finance Committee are keen that the financial uncertainty is reduced year to year and are hoping that a budget over the next two years will mean that there are funds for the unknowns and an ability for the Board and Session not to worry about some of the day to day work so

**Richard Begg**

# SURPLUS / DEFICIT



# SINGING FOR MEMORIES

The church has taken over the organisation and delivery of the *singing for memories* group. This is sociable event for anyone who find themselves not able to get out as much nowadays and whom enjoy the company of others.

Come along to the Church Hall at 12 noon (for a 12.30 start) when we serve soup, tea/coffee and cakes. A sing-a-long follows with well-known tunes and children from local schools entertaining us from 1.30-2.30. There is a suggested donation of £1.00 at each session.

The forthcoming dates for our singing for memories are:

Friday 27th March

Friday 1st May

Friday 29th May

Friday 26th June

We look forward to joining us. For more information please contact **Donald Buchan** (01259 928565)



We are told that Jesus rose from the dead on the third day. St Paul tells us that and the third day is stressed in the Gospel of Luke, in the story of Christ appearing on the Road to Emmaus. In the Book of Acts, the apostle Peter told the crowd that Jesus was raised on the third day. Details in Scripture are seldom incidental. Names, story lines and imagery are almost always suggestive of other stories. In the Book of Genesis, in the story of Abraham and the gruesome binding of his son Isaac, we are told that the drama unfolds on the third day. We read:

“After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, ‘Abraham!’ And he said, ‘Here I am.’ He said, ‘Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt-offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you.’ So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt-offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away”.

It was on Mount Moriah that Abraham prepared the wood and fire, bound his son to the altar and raised the knife for his sacrifice. A ghastly story, a vivid story with many meanings, but the drama took place on the third day. Out of death, or possible death, came life, new life. First century Jewish listeners could not hear the stories of the Resurrection of Jesus without thinking about the story in Genesis and its meaning.

In the Book of Exodus, in the story of the Ten Commandments, it is on the third day that Moses ascended Mount Sinai. Amidst the thunder, lightning and blast of a trumpet, Moses entered the thick darkness where God was. Crucially, Moses encountered the Eternal on the third day. These details are not coincidental. This is a genre of writing and a detail used in one place may be suggestive of earlier stories. The use of the term, the third day, suggests new life, life out of death and encounter with the Eternal.

**Rev. Scott McKenna**

# CHURCH GUILD

## Whose we are and Whom we serve

There are only a few meetings left until the end of our Guild year.

March 25th. Air Ambulance. Ian Lindsay.

Apr 1st. A.G.M. and Buffet.

Apr 22nd. Closing Social with Resonate Choir .

All our meetings are at 7pm in the Church Hall and we extend a warm invitation to come along and enjoy friendship and fellowship with us.

Saturday 30th May is our Guild Trip and this year it's to a Mystery place, followed by a lovely High Tea. ( only those in the know, know where we are going!). The cost has yet to be finalised. Please give names to Margaret Jackson (217921) to reserve your seat on the bus.

## **The Guild Theme this year is Companions on the Road**

Walking with others as our Companions on our journey of Faith, is both rewarding and enriching, it enables us to learn and share more of what God wants for us, as individuals, as a Guild and as a Church. God invites each of us to walk with Him.

May we find direction with God's Word in our hearts.

May we find encouragement with Christ as our Companion.

May we walk in step with others ,guided by the Holy Spirit.

# EASTER SERVICES 2020

This year we will once again welcome our friends from St. Bernadette's to the service we share with them on the Tuesday of Holy Week. The Guild will lead our service on the Wednesday. We will have a Communion Service on Maundy Thursday and our Good Friday service the following evening. On Easter Sunday there will be an all age service in the morning. We will celebrate communion on Easter Sunday evening when we will remember that the travellers to Emmaus realised that the risen Jesus was with them as the bread was broken.

The offerings during Holy Week will be given to OM a Christian charity which seeks to spread the Gospel in various countries throughout the world.

## Easter Services

Sunday 5th April	Palm Sunday	11.00am & 6.30pm
Tuesday 7th April	Ecumenical Service for Easter	7.00pm
Wednesday 8th April	Service conducted by the Guild	7.00pm
Thursday 9th April	Maundy Thursday Communion Service	7.00pm
Friday 10th April	Good Friday Service	7.00pm
Sunday 12th April	Easter Sunday	11.00am & 6.30pm



# STAMP APPEAL 2020

The act of placing your used stamps in the box at the back of our church (located next to where tea and coffee are served each week) can go a long way to helping those who find themselves facing some of life's most difficult situations.

This year's appeal for used stamps will help the women's development centre in Sri Lanka. Sandy Sneddon describes the work of the centre:

In 1986 a remarkable, visionary woman Pearl Stephen began a women's' project in the garage at Scots Kirk in Kandy, Sri Lanka. Her husband George was the minister. Out of that garage an organisation grew to become the Women's Development Centre (WDC). Pearl set up a school for disabled children to provide special education and rehabilitation. Community development work included work with commercial sex workers who were vulnerable to HIV. But WDC is best known for its work with victims of sexual violence.

Pearl died in 2013 and her daughter-in-law Sashi has taken over the leadership. Like Pearl, Sashi combines total commitment to the girls in WDC's care with a love and compassion that does not judge.

When the Sri Lanka justice system gets involved the abuser is charged with statutory rape and the girl can be referred to WDC. Girls come from all over Sri Lanka, they include Sinhalese and Tamils, Buddhists, Hindus, Muslims and Christians. They can stay until the court case is resolved, which can take a few years in some cases. Sashi and her co-workers help the girls care for their babies, train them in crafts and weaving so they can learn skills that will help when they leave. Parents of the girls come for counselling so they can rebuild their relationship with their daughter. Other girls are admitted to local schools so they can return to education.

The latest development is the Sthree Cafe. A travel company has underwritten the costs for developing the back of the building and fitting out a kitchen. The tables and chairs were all made at the WDC vocational training centre and the cooking and serving is all done by women from WDC's programmes. The food is all grown locally, there is minimal use of plastic and maximum use of recycling and composting. Already the cafe is drawing more customers into the original craft shop. If you are in Kandy, try to visit Sthree – we recommend the Hopper Combo breakfast! Sashi and her team at

WDC care for and heal girls who are vulnerable and often discarded by their families. It is impossible not to be moved by what they do.

Every penny raised by the Stamp Appeal this year will go towards supporting these women who have been through so much, and will help towards giving them hope for the future.

Article suggested by **Diane Podmore**

## STEWARDSHIP

### The Narrative of Generosity

In the Narrative of Generosity all 12 stories are stand-alone units which we can use in any order. Each story is approached in 4 parts:

- 1 **Begins** with an introductory passage from scripture.
- 2 **Share** some of our own stories and experiences.
- 3 **Reflect** on what we have heard and shared.
- 4 **Act** calls us to act upon what we have experienced.

We have received the **resource summaries** for each section, and we are now waiting on the '**tailor made**' resources for our congregation.

We had a team meeting on the 11th February and have discussed how to complete the God Story because God is at the heart and soul of what we do.

We then want to take forward the **Money Story** and either the **Volunteer Story** or the **Earth Story**

### MONEY STORIES

We partner with God as we are led in using our money wisely, both in our giving and in our spending; as a reflection of His generosity shown to us.

### FOR GOD'S WORK, FOR GOD'S GLORY

Please read and reflect on **Matthew 6:24**

Please pray for the Stewardship team as we navigate this new method of "doing stewardship". Thank You.

**Jan Gillies – Stewardship Convener**

## ST SERF'S CHURCH CHOIR

Our Choir rehearses on Thursday's at 6.45pm in the Church Hall. New members are always welcome. **Mary Gillies**

## CRAFT CLASS

The craft class meets on Wednesday's from 2-4pm in the Church Hall. The weekly cost is £1 for admission and 50p to cover the cost of tea. Come and join us and enjoy the fellowship. The class takes a recess from the end of March and resumes in October.

**Mary Gillies**

## Mark 16:5-7

As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. "Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'

## KIDZONE AND TEENZONE

We meet each week during term time in the church for **11.00**, then go to church hall about **11.15** for our activities. All school age children are welcome and we look forward to welcoming any new children along. We start with a bible story, then craft and games associated to the reading. **All children welcome**



## PARISH REGISTER

We commend to your prayers the families of the following people whose funerals were held this year.

**Bobby Dawson**

**Marline Allan**

**Kate Porteous**

Jesus said, I am the resurrection and the Life. Whoever believes in me, though they were dead, yet shall they live. And whoever lives and believes in me will never die (**John 11:25**)