

NETWORK

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Barnhill St Margaret's

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www.bsmchurch.org.uk



From the Minister

Dear friends,

It is hard to believe that the schools have gone back and that September is upon us. Where did the summer go? As we move into a new season, the Kirk Session has been thinking about worship services and reverting back to pre-pandemic worship times. Additionally, we need to continue some form of online presence with worship for those who are not ready or able to attend in-person services. Please be patient with us as the logistics of these changes are worked out.

I have been thinking about the Church service plan for the coming months and been trying to discern what book might be best for preaching through. As an Interim Minister, the day-to-day work with people and the stage the Interim Ministry has reached are 2 factors that influence the theme of the preaching programme. I sense that all of us need encouragement, and so in the coming months we will turn to Paul's letter to the Church in Philippi.

Paul's letter to the Philippians is a fascinating piece of correspondence. He finds himself under house-arrest, which must have been a frustration for someone who liked to travel. Furthermore, he has opponents who are preaching the gospel "out of selfish ambition", trying to stir up trouble for him while he is in chains (1:15-18) Yet Paul remains upbeat because the gospel is being preached and people are being presented with Christ's message.

Despite his difficult circumstances, Paul retains his clear focus on the work and centrality of Christ (2: 5-11). He is able to speak to the Philippians about Timothy; his friend and co-worker in the Christian faith. He says of Timothy, "I have no one else like him, who will show genuine concern for your welfare. For everyone looks out for their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel. I hope, therefore, to send him as soon as I see how things go with me." These words are an encouragement to Timothy and also to the Christians in Philippi.

Coming to the end of the letter, Paul is able to speak of his confidence in prayer and I find these words from him particularly encouraging:

" Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (4:5-7).

Paul faced circumstances that could have caused him anxiety, perhaps you feel the same about where we are as a church and the sweeping changes coming our way. Whatever your anxieties — Be encouraged!

Your Minister and Friend,

Andrew Gardner

Interim Ministry update

During my time with you, there have been extensive conversations and efforts made to move forward some of the issues that have caused division within the congregation of Barnhill St Margaret's. An important next step now is to set up a Transitional Support Group (TSG). This group will consist of 2 members of Presbytery and will be chaired by a member of the Interim Ministry team and Presbytery are in the process of identifying the right people. Thereafter, a congregational meeting will be held, probably on Zoom, with members of the Interim Ministry team present. They will want to speak to you in small groups, listen to feedback and set objectives for the period of Interim Ministry.

Andrew Gardner

Dundee Presbytery Mission Plan.

Included in this edition of Network is a copy of the proposed Presbytery Mission Plan for Barnhill, Broughty Ferry and the Craigiebank, Douglas & Angus, Whitfield cluster of churches. The proposal is for 3 full-time ministers and 1 MDS to cover the whole area.

Representatives from each of these congregations met together on the evening of Tuesday 17th August to discuss the way forward. Barnhill St Margaret's was represented by the paid staff members - Beth Duncan, Alison Tonner, Evelyn Scanlan and me, together with Iain Ross, representative elder. These discussions will continue and we will keep you updated with developments. Presently all congregations can only engage in wind and watertight repairs of any buildings. During this time, all buildings will be reviewed and decisions will be made about their future viability.

Andrew Gardner

CHURCH SERVICES

Good news! Our Church services will be reverting to normal times as from and including Sunday **26th September**.

Our contemporary service will return at 9.15am in the **Church Hall**.
Tea and coffee will be served from 9am.

Our traditional service will start at 10.30am in the Church and refreshments will be served afterwards.

We still have restrictions on numbers attending therefore it would be helpful if you contacted the Church Office to reserve your seat at either service. Face coverings are still required unless exempt.

For those unable to attend either of these services the minister will host a Zoom online service on the second and fourth Sunday of each month at 10am. Details on how to join this service will be sent out by e-mail or you can phone the office on 737294 for details.

We look forward to seeing you.

DO YOU HAVE AN E-MAIL ADDRESS?

Thank you to everyone who has responded to this request. We have significantly increased the number of e-mail contacts on our list which means more members receive information quicker and we reduce the amount of paper we use.

If you have an e-mail address and are happy to share it with us please e-mail the Church Office at church.office@btconnect.com

This will ONLY be used for Barnhill St Margaret's Church purposes and NOT shared with any other parties.



CHURCH GROUNDS

We are fortunate to have lovely spacious grounds surrounding our church and hall. The flower beds and grassed areas are maintained by a small group of enthusiastic volunteers who would be delighted to welcome you to the team. Participation would not be onerous with flexibility in terms of time to suit individual circumstances.

If you would like to get involved please contact the Church Office in the first instance.

Church Register

Funerals:

We remember those who have died recently:

Mrs Ann Patterson
Mrs Margaret Fleming
Mr Horace Farquharson
Mrs Margaret Cundall
Mr James Gordon
Mrs Cath Donald

TUESDAY PRAYERS

Our prayer group meeting continues online at 9.30am. If you wish to join us on Zoom, please contact the Church Office for the link. If you wish us to pray for a family member or friend please phone the Church Office or put a note in the office mailbox.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

13th September:

Autumn Amble from the church to Monifieth Caravan Park. Refreshments afterwards. Contact the Church Office for details.

19th September:

11.30am - Harvest Family Service followed by Harvest Lunch in the hall.

28th September:

2pm Guild meet in the hall
7.15pm - Kirk Session via Zoom

We hope to have the following services should restrictions at the time allow but please check with the office nearer the time.

Sunday 12th December:

'A Time to Remember' at 2pm in the church followed by refreshments in the hall.

Sunday 19th December:

Nativity at 10.30am

Christmas Eve:

Family service at 7pm

Sunday 26th December

Worship at 10.30am

Outreach Group

On Wednesday 14th July, twenty-three members of the congregation took part in a Summer Stroll from the church, through the Rock Garden and Nature Trail. This event was postponed from 7th July because of inclement weather. Fortunately, the walkers enjoyed a warm and sunny day. Refreshments were served in the church gardens afterwards in line with Covid guidance. Everyone appreciated the opportunity to socialise, albeit at a safe distance. Photos can be seen in the Gallery section of the Church website.

Another walk is being planned for Monday 13th September. This will be from the church along the front towards Monifieth. Details are in the Family News or contact the Church Office.

Zoom Coffee and Chat meetings have continued over the summer months. The numbers taking part fluctuates, but normally there are six people in a group. If numbers are more, we arrange two groups.

Keeping the numbers small enables everyone to engage in the conversation. There is also a group for the men and they have been more adventurous than the ladies, meeting together outside in a garden and visiting the Dundee Transport Museum.

If anyone wishes to join the Coffee and Chat Zoom meetings, please contact the Church Office to register.

Men's Group

Earlier this year a men's group was set up to give an opportunity for social contact during the COVID restrictions. Initially this was done by Zoom but as things have eased we have been meeting in different locations for coffee and chat every few weeks. We had an enjoyable excursion to the Dundee Museum of Transport recently.

If you are interested in taking part please let *Graham McKee* know on 07802 527223.

Presbytery Mission Plan

At the General Assembly it was discussed why we, the Church, must look at changes we need to make so that the Church of Scotland will survive. A good explanation of the 'why and what changes we need' has been covered in a video made by Rev Fiona Reynolds from Monifieth Church. This 24-minute video is well worth watching as it makes it clear that we need to make some drastic changes and soon.

The link is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9uwBq46A3ys>

Since the General Assembly met in May the local presbyteries have had to make some very difficult decisions with regards to the future of the churches in their area. What this means for us, is that Dundee Presbytery will have to cut its allowance of ministers from 27.8 to 14.5 over the next five years. They are also tasked with reducing the building portfolio in the city as much as possible.

Barnhill St Margaret's has been placed within the Broughty Ferry and Dundee East Grouping. The other churches in our group are: Broughty Ferry New Kirk, St James, St Lukes & Queen Street, St Stephen's & West, Craigiebank l/w Douglas and Mid Craigie in deferred Union with Whitfield.

Presbytery has recognised that, within this group, there are a number of congregations where the number of people attending worship is declining. There are also some small congregations that are finding administrative and governance responsibilities a burden and this is distracting them from the mission and outreach work that they do.

Mission Planning is to be the corner stone on which all decisions to do with ministries and buildings are to be taken from now on. Each church will be assessed with regards to its mission and outreach and Presbytery Plans will now be replaced with Presbytery Mission Plans, the basis of which will be the "Five marks of Mission" which are:

To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom

To teach, baptise and nurture new believers

To respond to human need by loving service

To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation

To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

Along with all other presbyteries, we must have our Presbytery Mission Plan fully agreed and in place by the end of 2022.

With Refugees Broughty Ferry (WRBF)

WRBF is a group of volunteers, based in the churches in Broughty Ferry, which works to help refugees displaced by war into Europe. Our projects involve working with resettled refugees here in Dundee, as well as with those further afield. An important part of our work is helping individual refugees or family groups with learning English and generally integrating into Scottish life. This can be done over Zoom or face to face. This befriending activity is fun and rewarding and we are always looking for new volunteers who would like to get involved.

We also have volunteered at a used clothes recycling project where clothes are donated, sorted, bagged up and sent to refugee camps in Europe. This is in abeyance at present as new premises are needed. We also work with a partner project in Hungary and look forward to dusting down our plans for a social event for Dundee refugees which had to be postponed due to COVID. If you would like to find out more about opportunities to get involved please contact *Graham McKee* on 07802 527223.



Barnhill St Margaret's Church

would like to invite you to a
**Family Harvest Service on
Sunday 19th of September
at 11.30am**

This will be a special celebration for all families,
whether you attend Messy Church, the Early Morning
or the 10.30 Sunday Service

**Booking is required so please contact the church office
on:- 01382 737294**

**Soup Lunch in the hall afterwards to support
Christian Aid**



Dundee Foodbank: Helping local people in Crisis

Approximately 1 in 5 people are deemed to be living in poverty, and Dundee Foodbank aims to provide assistance to this group by way of providing food parcels to those deemed most needy.

Barnhill St Margaret's Church has been a supporter of the Foodbank for a number of years, by inviting and encouraging members of the congregation to donate items of food each Sunday. At the main entrance to the church are 2 large labelled green plastic baskets where food items can be donated. Ideally dried foods such as rice, sugar and cereals are most useful, as are all tinned items

Urgently needed food items

Tinned fruit

Tinned puddings, eg rice pudding, custard, sponge puddings

Tinned meat, eg Spam, ham, corned beef

Tinned fish, eg Tuna, Sardines

Tinned vegetables

Tinned ready meals, eg minced beef, macaroni

Coffee, tea

Toiletries, especially soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothbrushes and toothpaste.

Young Church

On Sunday the **3rd of October** we will restart our **Chi Rho group**. This group will meet every second week as part of the 10.30am service and is open to all those who are in P6 and above. Future dates for meeting are **24 October; 7 November; 21 November; 5 December and 19 December**.

Plans are moving forward with regards to getting the Sunday Evening Youth Club up and running again. This will run alternate weeks to the Chi Rho group and should be starting just after the October holidays if not sooner!

Guild Breaking News

We hope you will be pleased to hear that the Guild committee are organising some meetings. In the first instance these will be for ALL guild members (formerly afternoon and evening) and take place on a Tuesday at 2pm on the following dates. **September 28th; October 26th; November 23rd and December 7th** - which will be a celebration of the 100th birthday of our Guild coupled with Christmas festivities, a tea party not to be missed! **December 14th** - Christmas meal at Monifieth Golf Club, time to be announced.

Format will be as usual ie. Worship, Speaker or Event, Light Refreshments and plenty of time for a blether. **Hope to see you all soon.**

**Have you visited our new web site yet?
The pages have been re-vamped and all the latest news is available. Find us at
www.bsmchurch.org.uk**

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SC011017

In church there exists a team of volunteers, the Foodbank Rota, who deliver donated items to the Foodbank each week.

As church life begins to return to normal, we would once again invite you to bring along at least one item of food to place in the donation baskets at the main entrance. In this way you can offer real practical help to those members of our community who are in most need.

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