

Outlook

The magazine of St. Leonard's Parish
Church, Dunfermline

St. Leonard's: The Family Church



Christmas 2005 Edition

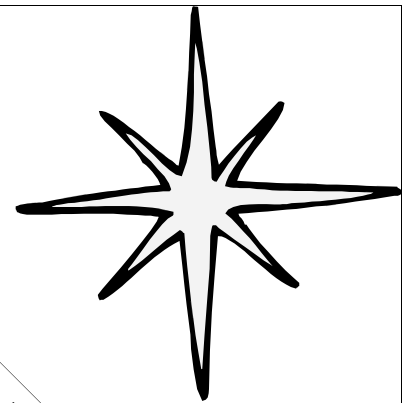
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Special points of in- terest:

- Advent starts on
Sunday 27th No-
vember
- Christmas Day is on
a SUNDAY this year

MAKE CHRISTMAS HIS STORY



***The Manse
November 2005***

Dear Friends

As I write Advent Sunday is not far off, heralding the imminence of another Christmas and the season of Epiphany. For Elizabeth and me this will be a very different Christmas, shared with our young daughter Ruth. It will be an unusual Christmas for all of us, as Christmas Day falls on a Sunday this year – and our service that morning will have an added extra treat for us all (come along to find out what).

Having a young child reminds me more than ever of the fragility of God's amazing plan of Salvation, long promised and prophesied in the Scriptures of the Old Testament, but totally surprising the world when God came among us in the baby Jesus. For the Creator to break through into time and space and become part of His creation, and such a vulnerable part, is truly awesome.

Advent begins this year with the prophet Isaiah calling for God to "come break through" to the people and ends with Mary's voice, declaring with praise that God casts down the mighty from their thrones and lifts up the poor and broken-hearted.

The same call to "come break through" comes to us, but break through what?

Break through the busyness?

Break through the noise and clutter and rush?

Break through the familiarity, the sense of "we've done this before, we know the story"?

Break through the cynicism, that somehow the Christmas spirit will be put away along with the decorations?

Or should it be something like: "Break through our lives, O God, in new ways... transform us... make us new... take us on new journeys even if over well-worn pathways."

The seasons of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany can be any of these, and all of these. It can feel difficult – impossible even – to try to break through some of the realities of the secular world's version of Christmas. And yet part of the Christmas miracle is that there is something amazing, something captivating, about this story that *does* break through, and does transform us, and does change our lives.

Amid the majesty, mystery and awe of these weeks, we are offered an encounter with God. The stories of all three seasons will interact with the stories of our lives today, and in so doing God will break through, and we can be forever changed.

I always especially enjoy this time of year, but of course for some of you it may be a time of mixed emotions. Nevertheless, I hope and pray that you will be able to be in church Sunday by Sunday and as God's people we will all know something real about the joy of Christmas, when we remember how God sent his only Son to be born among us.

May you know the peace of God throughout the coming seasons.

Your minister and friend



Andrew J. Philip

Deaths

"I am the resurrection and the life"



October

4th **Dorcas Sharp** (84), 25 Pitbauchlie Bank

10th **Mary Zapora** (84), Leyspark Nursing Home

21st **Agnes Sinclair** (93), Gillie Court

25th U **Dorothy Yorkston** (79), 102 Graycraigs, Cairneyhill

U Denotes church member

Weddings

"... faith, hope and love..."



September

9th **Gillian Clare Payne** to **Stewart Nicholas Rodaks**
24 Rosebank, Dunfermline

17th **Deborah Niven** to **James Stephen Andrew Price**
48 Lilac Grove, Dunfermline

November

5th **Kirsty Gail Wilson** to **Christopher James Crichton**
170 Pitencrieff Street, Dunfermline

Our Advent Calendar

Things to look forward to in the run up to Christmas.

Sunday mornings in Advent

Pitcorthie Community Centre — 11am
St. Leonard's Church — 9.30am & 11am
(*Sunday School — St. Leonard's @ 11am*)

27th Nov— *"Watch, Wait, Hope"*
4th Dec — *"Comfort, Strengthen, Promise"*
11th Dec— *"Rejoice!"*
18th Dec— *"God's Purpose Revealed"*

Carols by Candlelight

18th Dec @ 6.30pm — St. Leonard's

Christmas Eve Services

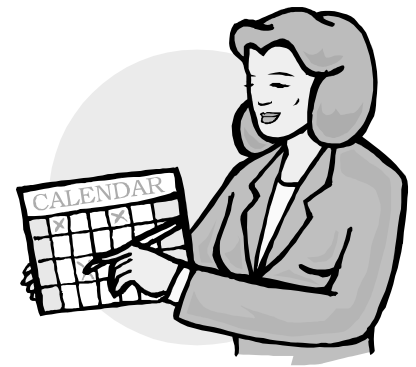
Pitcorthie @ 7pm
Christmas songs and carols
St. Leonard's @ 11.30pm

Christmas Morning Family Service

St. Leonard's @ 10am—*Bring a present to show others*

1st 'A' Guides Coffee Morning

The 1st A Dunfermline Guide Unit are holding a Christmas coffee morning on Saturday 3rd December from 10.00 am until 2.00 pm. There will be craft, cake & candy, lucky dip as well as tea/coffee. All are invited and proceeds will go to the Riding for the Disabled Association.



Meet the elders

Alison Cook continues her series on 'Who's Who in the Kirk Session. This time, we meet one of our newer Elders Shona Brown.

Name: Shona Brown

Resides: Dunfermline

Family Members: Husband Steven (Our resident Technical Expert) and Daughter Alana. Shona's Dad John has recently come to Live with her and has become a regular visitor to the Church.

Work Status: Shona currently works part time in a bank as a Customer Service Operator.



How long have you been a member of St. Leonard's? Shona has been a member at St Leonard's for about 8 years, prior to this she attended Scone Old Parish Church.

How did you feel about being asked to become an Elder? Surprised, wondering why me, but very honoured.

How are you enjoying being an Elder? Really enjoying the different aspects – the duties, getting to meet lots more people in the Church.

Special Moments/Highlights of your Church Life ? There have been many, but the one which stands out is this year's holiday club. This was the first year Steven and I were involved **full time** at the Holiday Club. It was a super experience, I was very much inspired with the young leaders – they were inspirational. One night they prepared the dedications, it was so emotional. I was so impressed by their biblical knowledge and their faith just shone through.

Any Hobbies? Cross stitch, knitting, watching Cookery Programmes on the TV and trying out their recipies.

Thanks Shona, I pray that God will continue to bless you both as an Elder

Turn to page 13 to meet Lynne McKean

An urgent message from the Congregational Board

Bill Tulloch

The congregation of St. Leonard's has a well deserved reputation for its generosity.

Consider: when challenged to fund the appointment of a Youth Worker, we did so and we still do; when asked to give donations for the Holiday Club, the lady collecting them was heard to comment on the 'amazing generosity' she was facing; The introduction of the new hymn book has been funded by many folks buying their own copies and by donations to provide Church copies; Church organisations have more than doubled their contributions to church funds over the last year.

So, well done good and faithful servants? Yes, indeed, but at the last Congregational Board meeting a few weeks ago we were faced with a situation where it was plain we were heading for a deficit of several thousand pounds on our year's workings. This deficit is in the area of our general housekeeping - paying salaries, maintaining, heating, lighting, insuring our buildings, paying water rates, Council Tax, telephone bills - all of which have to be covered by our week by week givings. Very gradually we have been slipping into a situation where our regular income is not meeting our regular outgoings - a recipe for long-term financial trouble which will in the end prevent us from being the vibrant and effective Church we are called to be.

Faced with this situation the Board has decided on two immediate measures:

Firstly, all expenditure by those authorised to spend on our behalf is to be carefully reviewed and no expenditure, other than small, routine amounts will be undertaken without the Board's prior approval.

Secondly, to resolve the present predicament the Board is making an appeal to our only source of income - namely ourselves. You will have already noticed the envelope which has been delivered with this copy of 'Outlook'. Please give what you can by putting it in the envelope and placing the envelope in the receptacle provided at the back of the Church.

It is hoped that these steps will deal with the immediate difficulty we face.

In the longer term we will still face problems unless we can take measures to maintain a higher level of income and to exercise more control on our spending.

On the income side we know what has to be done - more people giving more generously by FWO or Direct Debit and more people who can do so by signing Gift Aid Certificates.

On the expenditure side the Board must be more active in seeking out suppliers with lower prices for the things we consume and by examining the ways in which we spend our funds.

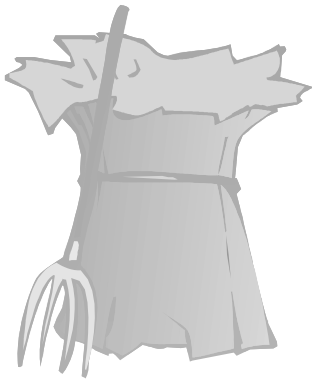
We would want the whole congregation to be involved in this exercise - put your thoughts to Elders and Board Members and come to the ABM early next year with your thoughts and proposals.

One final thought. Go back to your school days and tackle this wee sum: If 200 members or households in St. Leonard's dropped an extra 50p in the offering for the 52 Sundays in 2006, how much better off would we be?

Answer: £5,200. **Deficit? What deficit?**

Harvest Thanksgiving

Maureen Black



A very big "THANK YOU" to all the folks who helped to decorate the church for the harvest thanksgiving service.

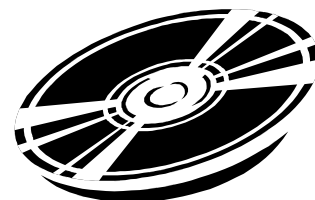
A special "THANK YOU" to

- Robyn and Curtis Mathews
- Stephen's the Bakers for the Harvest Loaf
- Tesco for their generous donation from which we bought the fruit and veg.

Songs of Praise

There are still some CD recordings of the 'Songs of Praise' centenary service available.

You can buy them for the very reasonable price of £3.00 at the rear of the church. Alternatively, contact Maureen Black.



Social Group

By Gordon Hamilton

During our centenary year the congregation have had various opportunities to enjoy time together other than at a Sunday service. These have included a show at the Carnegie Theatre, various walks, a visit to the Scottish Parliament and an open day in the church with teas and coffee. At all of these occasions there have been many favourable comments and requests from people that we should continue to provide similar opportunities. The Kirk Session are happy to encourage the formation of a group who could help organise social activities. We have asked in the Sunday Intimations for another two or three people to join Ian Kirk, David and Maureen Black and Gordon Hamilton. These positions may already be filled but please approach any of us if you want to join or even if you have an idea you would like to bring forward. Perhaps you only want to be involved for a short time or for one specific event and that would be fine. Members coming and going help to keep things fresh and are a source of new ideas.

At a preliminary meeting we discussed various ideas and these included.

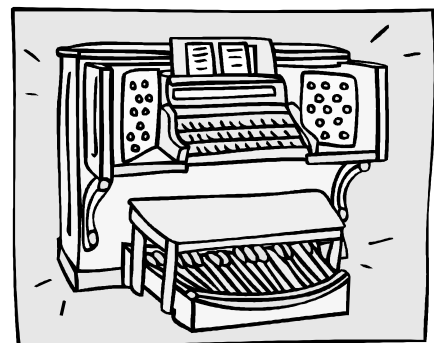
- A programme of walks will take place next year.
- We would like to go ten pin bowling at Halbeath when it opens.
- A visit to the Santa Train at Boness: unfortunately fully booked this year.
- A Beetle-Drive in the church halls.
- A day outing to a place of interest: one suggestion was to visit Rosslyn Chapel, have lunch then perhaps go to the Edinburgh Crystal Factory.

We do need ideas and while we obviously cannot do everything it would be nice to come together socially occasionally. The congregation can only be strengthened by such activities especially if we can provide something for all age groups. So think about it, come forward with ideas and when you see something intimated, come along and join us. I promise you will not regret it.

Music, please maestro!

Barry Meiklejohn

Since George retired as our organist, choir master and all round musical maestro, we have been fortunate indeed to have Shona Mahoney and Ian Roy playing the organ for us.



Not being a gifted musician like these two, it seems to me that coming to terms with all those pedals and stops (technical terms!) is a daunting task, so I take my hat off to them.

So, why don't you show them that you appreciate their playing. Go up and introduce yourselves after the service and just say thanks. Help them to feel welcome to our services. As well as being the Family Church—show how we can also be the 'Friendly Church'.

Soup Lunch

Alison Cook, Session Clerk

At the end of October, we had our first Soup lunch which appeared to be enjoyed by those who attended. We intend to have these on the last Sunday of every month until the Summer with the exception of December (the last Sunday of December is Christmas Day).

Fellowship is very important and I know quite a few of you miss the Teas and Coffee's in the hall over the summer. It is perhaps a more pleasant way of socialising than grabbing a quick cup of tea in the Church. The minister intends to have a family service on these Sundays and so we can use the MacLaren Hall for serving the soup.

To make this a success, we need (wait for it...)
SOUP!

If you are interested in volunteering to either donate a pot of soup, or to help serve, I would be delighted to hear from you.

Please give me a call on 01383 880818 (evenings or weekends).

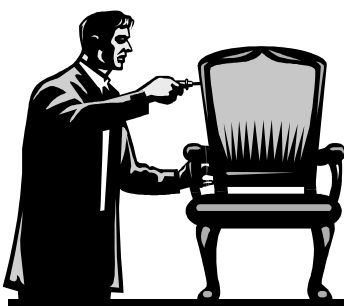
There is a sheet at the back of the Church. Please put your name down if you would like to help.



Session Clerk's Chair

Stuart Laird

How many members ever noticed the rather old looking broken seated and dilapidated chair that used to sit on the left as you entered the main door of the church? This chair has been in the church for as long as anyone knows! It is reputed to have been the chair used by Session Clerks of years gone by when the Session Clerk was a most dominant figure within the congregation (there were no lady Clerks in those days!) and he ruled the Session with a rod of iron. Hence perhaps the reason why the wooden seat was in such a broken and dangerous condition!



The chair has now been repaired so that it is safe to sit on it once again, and one is able to feel the power emanating from its leather covering.

We are indebted to Jimmy Robertson (Elm Grove) for making such a fine job of renovation and we extend our grateful thanks to him for all his precise and accurate work.

Youth Alpha

By Chris Beattie, Youth and Family Worker

Over the last few months the Youth Fellowship (YF) within St Leonard's have been looking at the Youth Alpha material. Youth Alpha is a practical introduction to the Christian faith and tries to explain it as simply as possible.

The Youth Fellowship Leadership team saw the Youth Alpha material as a way of not only enthusing existing Christians within the YF but also helping find out where the young people are at in regards to their faith. With sessions such as 'Why and How do I pray', 'Why and How should we tell others' and 'The Holy Spirit' it is a great opportunity to lay the foundations for future development of the young people's faith.

Each Sunday night the young people have been split into different groups where they are given an opportunity to give their views over the topic being discussed. Each group has two leaders (an adult and an older young person) who facilitate the group time through asking relevant questions and expanding on the answers given within the group.

The young people have been encouraged to be honest throughout the sessions as it is very important that they experience and find out the answers to some of the most important questions that they will ever face.

It is after all, an opportunity to explore the meaning of life.



Thanks, Syd!

Barry Meiklejohn

After many years as editor of OUTLOOK, Syd Stobie has reluctantly decided to stand down.

As editor, Syd ensured that OUTLOOK was always published on time and that the quality of the publication—a major link with the church for many folks—was consistently high.

So, on behalf of all who read OUTLOOK, thank you Syd for all of your patience, gentle prompting and all round professionalism over the years.

Fancy taking over as editor? Come and have a chat with Syd or myself.

Elder's Prayer Group

Alison Cook, Session Clerk

A number of our Elders meet at 7.00pm before each Kirk Session to pray both for our Church and individual members. This is something I have felt passionate about for many years.

We have already witnessed answer to some of our prayers. The bible states that if you need prayer, you should to go to the Elders and ask them to pray for you, (James 5:14). Please take advantage of this group either for yourself or if you know of any person or situation requiring prayer. If your request is of a confidential nature, your name need not be disclosed to anyone but myself. Please use the slips attached.

May God continue to richly bless you

Alison Cook
Session Clerk

REQUEST FOR PRAYER	
NAME :	CONTACT NUMBER :

On the mend!

Anna McDonald

George and Anna McDonald would like to say a BIG 'thank-you' for the many cards, phone calls and visits to George while he was ill in hospital.

By the grace of God and all of your many prayers and good wishes, George is continuing to improve.



3rd Dunfermline Boys' Brigade Company

Jan Hamilton

Anchor section:

Numbers are increasing weekly in this section. The boys had a recent visit to the local Fire Station to learn about safety. They had fun watching the firemen using the equipment and learning the importance of fire prevention. As part of their craft work the boys had made a fantastic model of a fire-engine which they took along on their evening visit. There were some happy faces among the firemen when they found a storage area on the model which the boys had filled with sweets.

The boys are looking forward to their visit along with the Junior section to the local Christmas Pantomime.

Junior section:

The Junior section are using a new achievement scheme this session. It is based on BODY- MIND- SPIRIT- COMMUNITY & CREATIVITY Mrs. Jasper has planned the first part of the sessions programme based on FOOD. The boys have looked at countries where food/water is in poor supply. We have used games & quizzes to look at Harvest & healthy eating, tasting sessions from foods from around the world, and finished by making fruit & veg smoothies.

Chris Beattie our Youth & Family worker visited the Anchor & Junior sections and lead our opening service. Chris informed them that they all had an important part to play in the B.B' s and being part of a team allowed them to show their own individual strengths. He also presented the boys with their membership cards. Chris spent time with the boys learning about what they do in the Boys Brigade and is helping to supervise them at the Dunfermline V Livingston game at East End Park 19th November. (We have been given free tickets for the game) Well done Chris considering you are a Motherwell supporter! When I introduced Chris to the section I asked if any of them knew what his role was? "He helps the Prime Minister at school & church" was one reply!

We are participating in all Battalion events, 5 & 7 a- side football, indoor event and a knockout quiz. Our scripture paper this year is based on Jonah.

Company section:

We have 15 boys ages 12 - 17 in the Company section. They have attended camp at Pitlochrie & Craggan.

4 boys are working towards their Queen's badge the highest award in the Boys Brigade & we have 2 boys working towards their Presidents badge the 2nd highest. The target boys are making bird boxes as part of their target award.

There is a ten pin bowling night organised before the Christmas break.

The Boys & Officers of the 3rd Dunfermline wish you all

a Happy Christmas & Peaceful New Year

Meet the elders (continued)

Alison Cook continues her series on 'Who's Who in the Kirk Session. This time, we meet another of our newer Elders Lynne McKean.

Name: Lynne McKean

Resides: Dunfermline.

Family Members: Husband Andrew and 2 Daughter Emma and Joanne (both of whom have now left the house)

Work Status: Lynne has worked in Human Resources for HM Revenue and Customs for the past 21 years.



How long have you been a member of St. Leonard's? I have been coming to St. Leonard's for about 10 – 11 years. Lynne originally lived and worshiped in England, but moved up to Scotland with her husband.

How did you feel about being asked to become an Elder? Shocked and Surprised, I did not know how people became elders, but I felt very honoured to be asked.

How are you enjoying being an Elder? Still feels very new and feel that I still have a lot to learn, but I am thoroughly enjoying it

Special Moments/Highlights of your Church Life ? I have been a Christian for many years. From the first time I entered St. Leonard's, I felt it was very special. St. Leonard's has become a very special place to me. Every week since joining, I feel that I have received a message which was special to me.

Any Hobbies? Making and decorating cakes, walking

Thanks Lynne, I am sure that many people also know you as President of the Guild. May God continue to bless you.

Scouting achievements

Well done!

5 Explorer Scouts completed their expedition for the Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award a few weeks ago. For this they walked from Fort William to Fort Augustus.

Watch out for more details and some of the scouts personal accounts of their walk in the next edition of **OUTLOOK**.

Situations Vacant

Church Officer (Beadle)

ST. LEONARDS CHURCH URGENTLY REQUIRES 'A CHURCH OFFICER'

Duties mainly fall on a Sunday, however the person needs to be flexible to cover weddings and funerals etc.

In spring & summer, the grass around the church also needs to be cut. An honorarium is paid.

Any interested parties should contact Alison Cook on 01383 880818 (evenings or weekends) or 736323 week days.

The next edition of **OUTLOOK** will be published in the spring of 2006 in time for Easter. The final date for submitting articles is ***Sunday March 19th 2006.***

Church Organisations

SUNDAY:

Morning Worship - St Leonard's	9.30 & 11 a.m.
Morning Worship - Pitcorthie	11 a.m.
Sunday Schools	11 a.m.
Youth Fellowship	6.30 p.m.

MONDAY:

Mums & Toddler Group	10 a.m.
Beavers	6 p.m.
Guild (FORTNIGHTLY)	7.15 p.m.
Scouts	7.30 p.m.
Venture Scouts	8 p.m.

TUESDAY:

Mums & Toddler Group.	10 a.m.
Kirk Session (<u>Second</u> Tuesday of Month)	7.30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY:

Prayer Meeting	10 a.m.
1st. A Brownies	5.30 p.m.
<i>Boys Brigade</i> -	
Anchor Boys (Pitcorthie)	6.15 p.m.
Junior Section (Pitreavie)	6.15 p.m.
Company Section (McLaren Hall)	7.15 p.m.

THURSDAY:

Friendship Group (March onwards)	2 p.m. (Fortnightly)
Beavers	5.45 p.m.
Cubs	7 p.m.
Congregational Board (<u>Last</u> Thursday of Month)	7.30 p.m.

FRIDAY:

Rainbow Guides (Morris Hall)	5.30 p.m.
1st. A Guides (Morris Hall)	7.00 p.m.
1st Brownies (McLaren Hall)	5.30 p.m.
1st Guides (McLaren Hall)	7.15 p.m.

Who do I call?



Minister	Rev. Andrew J. Philip, B.Sc., B.D. 12 Torvean Place, Dunfermline minister@stleonardsparishchurch.org.uk	721054
Session Clerk	Alison Cook	880818
Youth and family worker	Chris Beattie	842721
Organist	vacant	
Church Officer	vacant	
Treasurers	Scott and Susan Paterson	729666
Clerk to the Board	Maureen Black	881872
Property convener	Maureen Black	881872
Gift Aid	Janis Foster	
Church office	Marjorie MacLean stleonards_dunf@lineone.net	620106
<i>Church Office is open Tuesdays & Thursdays 8.30 a.m. to 12 noon.</i>		
Outlook	Barry Meiklejohn barry.meiklejohn@btinternet.com	731550

St. Leonard's Parish Church
Brucefield Avenue
Dunfermline

Email: office@stleonardsparishchurch.org.uk

St. Leonard's Parish Church is a congregation of The Church of Scotland.

WE ARE ON THE WEB!

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