

**Almondbank Tibbermore Church of Scotland  
(St Serf's)**

# *The Bridge*

**April 2019**



**Sacrament of Communion – Sunday 28 April at 10.00am  
Service of Thanksgiving Sunday 28 April at 6.30pm**

*Led by Rev Robert Malloch*

**Morning worship every Sunday at 10.00am**

**As from Sunday 2 June morning worship begins at 11.30am**

## Message from the Manse

Dear friends, I have been asked to say a little about us. After school in East Kilbride I was a laboratory technician, before studying Divinity. After serving as an Army Chaplain for four years, Maggie and I have been in the parishes of Glencoe linked with Duror, North Knapdale, Castle Douglas, and Breich Valley (West Lothian).

I have some connection with the area, with my grandparents having lived in Almondbank, my Grandfather running a local shop and my mother being raised here.

Maggie is a (maybe retired?) music teacher who has worked over the years in various educational settings both as a specialist and as a project deliverer and with the Dumfries area choir for the National Youth Choir of Scotland. She is still working with the Midlothian choir.

Our family is Jonathan, Tim, Jenni, and Matthew, with grandchildren Alastair, Catriona and Oscar – scattered around Edinburgh and Perth. They will all be around at some time. Maggie's mum Beryl is also with us at the Manse.

Many thanks for the gifts and welcome Maggie and I have received when moving to Almondbank Tibbermore with Methven and Logiealmond. It was good to meet many of you at the Induction evening in Methven hall and we look forward to getting to know you.

God bless you all.

Your Minister, *Robert Malloch*



By the time you read this the Service of Induction will be over and Rev Robert Malloch will have been in place as our new minister for a few weeks. It's up to us as members of the Congregation to ensure that he and his wife Maggie are made sure of their welcome to our Church and made to feel at home.

We've worked hard to keep our Church running smoothly during the vacancy and I'm sure we can rise to the challenge presented by this new chapter in our spiritual life together with our new minister.

Our success in keeping our Church vibrant during the vacancy was due in no small part to our locum minister Michael Archibald and we owe him huge thanks for cheerfully leading most of our Sunday Services for more than two years during which he's been in our pulpit just under 100 times.

That means he has also prepared 100 sermons, picking the hymns (usually one we didn't know!) and readings each time as well. Not only that, he's conducted many funerals, visited the schools in our parish and in his exceptionally kindly way visited the elderly, sick and bereaved members of our congregation.

Our friend Michael will be greatly missed but hopefully he'll come to worship with us often and will be back to assist Robert from time to time.

Thanks are also due to our Interim Moderator, Rev Graham Crawford. It can't be easy to look after your own Church and do this extra job at the same time.

Last but by no means least, thanks to all of you who have gone the extra mile and ensured that numbers attending Sunday Services and other Church events remained unaltered over the last two uncertain years.

***Wilma Lumsden, Session Clerk***

## Michael's Musings

It would be quite easy to wallow in the emotions of leaving your church. But I am not going to do this because I know that you have a younger, more vibrant replacement to work together with for God's will in this village.

What I am going to mention is that over the last eighteen months, I have been newly impressed with the early church in its formation and its methods of showing and doing the early Christianity.

Okay, I could go on and on about how they shared almost everything. No! I will go on about how they attracted countless folk to join them because when the outsiders took a look at just how the Christians looked after, not only themselves, but others too. Boy! Were they impressed!

And for me! That is how we should be doing any kind of work in the community Such as say

1. Opening up a computer bureau for a couple of hours per week to help them fill up these difficult forms that many are incapable of completing on the computer.
2. Keep on supplying the Foodbank as you have already have done brilliantly since it opened.
3. Start something like a Badminton club that involves all the local community
4. Keep on praying for your Street Pastors in Perth as they step out onto the streets. Unaware of what may face them but knowing that God is directing their feet and that God will protect them.

And advertise what you plan to do in the local press so that many will know what you are doing, and come along to join in, which will involve them in seeing our Church in action in our community.

Whatever – let us behave like the early Christians did and care for our neighbours.

Finally, there are so many of you that I should thank personally for so many acts of sheer grace towards me, for your forbearance shown to me. I do not intend to disappear completely, because I have made so many friends that I cannot easily give this up. I wish you well in the future I know that God will look after you all.

Yours, *Michael*



### **A special message from Michael**

*Dear Wilma*

*I was completely surprised by your generosity to me on Sunday after the morning service when the congregation kindly gave me a wonderful new chair which is where I am now sitting and enjoying it greatly.*

*As you may have noticed I had some difficulty this morning in getting any message over as the sheer thought of leaving your congregation means so much to me, whatever I have given to you all at Almondbank Kirk over these last two or three years is magnified by what you have all given to me in return and the thought of leaving you stuck in my thinking on that morning.*

*So, once again I would appreciate if you would allow this message to be circulated among the congregation, where latterly I knew that when I laughed, you would also laugh, and when I cried, you would do likewise, which is a wonderful situation in a church that really does worship our Lord and is greatly in sympathy with each other and the Locum Minister.*

*I know that you will continue to do even better under the Rev. Robert Malloch.*

*Every blessing, Michael*

Having now parted with you wonderful folk of Almondbank and now realising what a great community it is that you have gradually put together. All that I can really do is to persuade you to carry on and your Kirk will grow as you put so much effort into the community. Okay, there are bits, of course, that need a bit of tidying up but really it is a very well put together outlet of sheer Christianity in Perthshire.

And if each one of you realises the importance of what you do and not get fed up with the weeks passing and now realise that everything that each of you do is of great importance. In one of Paul's letters he goes on about how your Kirk, 1 Corinthians 12 mentions all the parts of the body work together and is as important as any other part.

Paul describes the growing church in this letter and he wishes all to know of the importance of each deed of service to the young church, in the same way you all need to value what each of you does for your church because this is where you lead in being an outpost of Christianity in this area.

No matter whether your service is in praying for the church, attending to all that the Beadle does, singing in the choir, playing the organ, attending the prayer group , making the tea for after the service, looking after the wonderful building , adding up the collections, keeping the books, making up the orders of service, organising our great celebrations in the summer and winter which invite all the village into the church, or merely attending on a Sunday, you all represent the love of Christ in this area which has to be kept going into the future.

I would once again thank the congregation for its outstanding presents which were given to me on my last Sunday. You will continue to be with me in my prayers.

Yours aye  
*Michael*

*“Now that we have welcomed our new minister to our church I am sure that we won't forget the great services we have had from Michael Archibald, his personal experiences he has shared with us, his funny stories told in his sermons were really appreciated by all. I asked him what he was going to do with his bit of spare time, he said he had nae idea, but, I am sure with all the helpful things he does he will find something useful to do. Wishing him all the very best for the future is the wish of us all.”*

*Eck Duncan*

**Prayer Group:** I was thinking of what I should write. I had been praying about it waiting for the Holy Spirit to guide me.

Then the thought came to me we should pray about everything that affects our life. What does that mean when we sin we pray for forgiveness. We should pray to God for all he gives us food, health, clothing, home etc. We should also thank him for spiritual gifts and for eternal life we get when we accept Jesus as our Lord, saviour, priest and king this should be done daily.

As the bible says we should pray for those who hate us and abuse us and we should pray for our enemies as well as our friends. Prayer for the sick and those in hospital is important, we need to pray for our church that is our Minister, our elders. Those who hold office within the church, all the congregation, especially the elderly, disabled, lonely and poor. The list is endless praying for neighbours and not to forget our family.

Christianity is under great persecution all over the world, North Korea will jail and even put to death anyone found to be a Christian. China also will jail supporters of Jesus yet in China now there are more Christians than communists, there is a great revival going on there. There are many more countries that could be named including Britain and America. These brothers and sisters should be prayed for regularly.

The list goes on too much to put in this small letter and I'm sure you can think of many more things that require prayer. It includes our money, our decisions, our children and how we live our lives take it all to the Lord in prayer. There is also the great joy we get by praying to God and the peace of mind that he gives us knowing that he is in charge of our lives.

We should include in our prayers everybody doing God's work in missionaries etc. I think the answer is we should pray about everything that is important to the furtherance of God's kingdom.

Don't forget love, always pray with love in your heart for everybody, friends and enemies.

Hope to see you, even if it's only one visit, at the prayer group.

*God bless, Bill Murray, Prayer Leader*



## **Our Church Family**

### ***Deaths – 'I am the resurrection and the life'***

13 December 2018 : Mary Phillips  
2 February 2019 : Alex Runciman  
29 March 2019 : Harry Dunn

### ***Transferred out***

14 January 2019 : George Berrie  
14 January 2019 : Julie Berrie

### ***New Members by Transference***

14 January 2019 : Fiona McArthur  
14 January 2019 : Audrey Michie  
14 January 2019 : Pat Watt



**The Wee Blether:** We meet every Thursday morning in the church hall between 10.30am and 11.30am for a tea or a coffee and occasionally some home baking if we are lucky. It's a good opportunity to have a chat in informal surroundings and maybe catch up with friends. Remember you do not need to be a Church Member to come along.

**Our Church Choir:** If you enjoy singing why not come along and join us, we practice most Tuesday afternoons. You don't have to be able to read music, just be able to follow a tune and have some fun.

*Irene McLean, Principal Organist*

**Craft Group:** We continue to meet on a Monday between 2.00pm and 4.00pm. We are now working on new hangings which will be displayed in the church on Remembrance Sunday. We hope these will be well admired. It's not too late to join us on a Monday and help with this new project.

**St Serf's Ladies Group:** We are close to reaching the end of another session of our Guild – what a quick year that has been! We only have the Spring Supper/AGM to go which is on Thursday 2nd May. We always have a great evening – so hope as many as possible can attend.

The committee will soon be getting their heads together to work on the syllabus for the 2019/20 session. We are always on the look-out for new ideas for speakers to come along to give talks/presentations, so once again we would love any recommendations you may have.

Our Group normally meet in the church hall at 7.30pm on the first Thursday of each month from October to May (except November when we hold our Open Meeting in the church on the second Thursday).

We are a small, friendly group and would be delighted to welcome new members – it costs £12.00 to join and we would love to have your company.

Finally, our thanks once again go to Alex McLagan (Church Officer) for all his hard work setting/clearing up for us. It is greatly appreciated.

Wishing everyone a lovely summer!

*Carol Duff*



***Below are a couple of amusing intimations which have appeared in various church magazines and noticeboards [not ours I hasten to add!]***

- *On Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the alter.*
- *The Service will close with 'Little Drops of Water.' One of the ladies will start quietly and the rest of the congregation will join in.*



## Recipe Corner

### Deville Chicken

#### **Ingredients:**

|                                   |                                   |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 4 Chicken portions                | 2 level teaspoons English Mustard |
| 2 level tablespoons Mango Chutney | ¼ level teaspoon Paprika Pepper   |
| 1 tablespoon Malt Vinegar         | Pepper and ½ level teaspoon Salt  |
| 2 tablespoons Oil                 | ½ level teaspoon Mixed Herbs      |
| 1 tablespoon Worcestershire Sauce |                                   |

#### **Method:**

Lay chicken portions in a shallow ovenproof dish. Put rest of ingredients in small bowl and beat well together with a fork. Pour over chicken, place dish just above centre of oven and cook for approx. 25 mins (or until chicken is well cooked). Baste 2 or 3 times during cooking.



### **Biblical Quiz – Find the Books of the Bible**

In the following story there are thirty books of the Bible hidden. Can you find them all? All you need is the contents page of a Bible and a very sharp eye! Answers will be published in October's magazine or if you can't wait that long Isobel Scott might just help you out – good hunting.

“This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket, on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much he passed it on to come friends. One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from is john boat, another friend studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving, she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a fact. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalised. Truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph.

During a recent fundraising event, which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta Phi lemonade booth set a new sales record. The local paper, the Chronicle, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As Daniel Humana humbly puts it, “the books are all right here in plain view hidden from sight.” Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those have to be shown. One revelation that may help is that books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. Also, keep in mind, that punctuation and spaced in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mad exodus, there really are 30 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found.



### **WHO'S WHO**

|                           |                    |                                  |              |
|---------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Minister</b>           | Rev Robert Malloch | rojama@live.com                  | 01738 583727 |
| <b>Session Clerk</b>      | Wilma Lumsden      | lummies@talktalk.net             | 01738 583376 |
| <b>Treasurer</b>          | Denis Scott        | dfscott.rbr@gmail.com            | 01738 840139 |
| <b>Clerk to the Board</b> | Jenny Norrie       | jenny.norrie@btinternet.com      | 01738 880483 |
| <b>Gift Aid Convenor</b>  | Heather McRitchie  | heather.mcritchie@btinternet.com | 01738 583068 |
| <b>Roll Keeper</b>        | Fiona Murray       | fionabillmurray@yahoo.co.uk      | 01738 583015 |
| <b>Church Officer</b>     | Alex McLagan       |                                  | 01738 583525 |
| <b>Magazine Editor</b>    | Isobel Scott       | isobelscott.ijs@gmail.com        | 01738 840139 |

### **REGULAR GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS**

| <b>Organisation</b>     | <b>Day &amp; Time</b>                                       | <b>Details</b>                                  |
|-------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Craft Group</b>      | Monday – 2.00pm-4.00pm                                      | All welcome                                     |
| <b>Wee Blether</b>      | Thursday – 10.30pm-11.30pm                                  | All welcome                                     |
| <b>Ladies Group</b>     | 1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday monthly 7.30pm<br>(October to May) | All welcome                                     |
| <b>Highland Dancing</b> | Thursday – 4.15pm – 5.15pm                                  | Yvonne Sherritt<br>01738 582126 or 07552 758411 |
| <b>Rainbows</b>         | Friday – 6.00pm-7.00pm                                      | Anne-Marie Hutton : 07599 501175                |
| <b>Brownies</b>         | Friday – 6.00pm-7.15pm                                      | Sandi MacDougall : 01828 633184                 |