



St John's News

The Newsletter of St John's Church of Scotland: Carluke

St John's Church of Scotland: Carluke, is a registered Scottish Charity, No SC004066



September 2019

Dear Members

God's rich grace and abundant peace be with you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

I hope you have all had a chance to rest and recharge in various ways over the Summer. How God blessed us with amazing weather! This part of the year sees a flurry of activity after our Summer joint services. Our Sunday morning vestry prayers, youth church, JAFFA 1 and 2, Boys' Brigade, Guild, Grace Notes, Bible Study groups have begun to meet again. All these initiatives promise to offer us opportunities to deepen our Christian faith.

On Sunday, 3 November, we will observe our Friends and Family service during the morning worship. There is nothing in the world like the warmth and comfort of friends and family. Members and friends of our congregation are encouraged to invite as many friends and relatives as possible to join us for a day of worship. We look forward to welcoming Nok and Scot Murray who will be leading our morning worship on that day.

We are longing to see increase in our congregation — that is, people being added to the Kingdom of God and those who are in the Kingdom already growing in grace, understanding, living out their Baptismal promises, spending more time in the Word, engaging in outreach, and joining our weekly prayer meetings and Bible Study groups.

God has given us the inspired Bible so that we will be able to accurately know that which is good, true, and holy. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 says, "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work". I would love our congregation at St. John's to continue to be known as a place where the Holy Spirit is actively at work, a community that lives out the Word of God – forgiving those who hurt us – freely we have received, let us freely give!

Yours in Christ,

Rev Dr Elijah Obinna
Minister

Vestry Times - Wednesdays and Fridays 9:30 am - 12:30 pm

LUPUS
CHARITY
COFFEE

MORNING
SATURDAY 26th
OCTOBER 2019
STJOHNS
CHURCH HALL
CARLUKE
10AM - 1.30PM

HOME BAKING
HOT FILLED
ROLLS

PLEASE COME
ALONG AND
SUPPORT US



Regular Worship Times

Sunday Morning Prayers - 10:20 - 10:50 am, before morning service.

Normal Sunday Services are held at 11:00 am.

Evening Services are held on the **SECOND** Sunday of the month (Healing) and the **LAST** Sunday of the month (Praise) at 7:00 pm

A **short Mid-Week Service** is held on Thursdays at 10:30 am.

Forthcoming Special Events and Services

September

- Sun 8** 11:00 Psalm Sunday
19:00 Healing Service
Mon 9 19:00 Board Meeting, *followed by* Session Meeting
Sun 15 11:00 BB Enrolment and Guild Dedication Service
12:00 Soup Lunch, *in aid of* Guild Projects
Sun 29 19:00 Praise Service

October

- Sat 5** 10:00 Joint Conference: *What Next?* in Kirkton Church
Sun 6 12:00 Congregational Meeting after Morning Worship (see p6)
Sun 13 19:00 Healing Service
Sat 26 10:00 Coffee Morning, *in aid of* **LUPUS UK** (see opposite)
Sun 27 11:00 Harvest Thanksgiving Service
19:00 Praise Service

November

- Mon 4** 19:00 Session Meeting
Sun 10 10:45 Community Remembrance Service at Market Place
11:30 Morning Worship in St John's
19:00 Healing Service
Sun 24 19:00 Carlisle and District *Praise the Lord!*

December

- Sun 1** 11:00 Sacrament of Holy Communion
Thu 5 10:30 Sacrament of Holy Communion
Sun 8 12:00 Souper Sunday Soup Lunch, *in aid of* Church of Scotland
HIV/AIDS Programme

Please watch Sunday bulletins, local press or visit the church website for and changes and more information as it becomes available.

St John's Constitution

Kirks in the Church of Scotland have been governed largely by two constitutions: the 'Unitary Constitution' and the 'Model Deed of Constitution'. St John's Church is currently operating under the Model Deed of Constitution and this has been the case for many years. This means that legal responsibility for the affairs of the church rest with the members of the Kirk Session and the Congregational Board who together are the charity trustees of St John's.

For simplicity and transparency in matters of governance, it is desirable that one body is responsible and accountable. The General Assembly of 2016 encouraged congregations to adopt the Unitary Constitution in which trusteeship is conferred solely on members of the Kirk Session. Under that arrangement, the Board ceases to exist and matters such as property and finance are managed by Session Committees that can include congregational members who are not Session members.

The Kirk Session and the Congregational Board have discussed adopting the Unitary system and agreed that such a move is worthwhile. The final decision rests with the congregation.

Consequently, a Congregational Meeting will be held after morning worship on Sunday 6 October to put this proposal to the membership. All members and adherents are invited to attend.

GW

Next Edition of St John's News

Material for the next edition should be in the hands of the editor, George Reid, NO LATER THAN Sunday 24 November 2019.

editor@carluke-stjohns.org.uk

St John's News

A useful church magazine reflects the life of the congregation. It:

- provides news about past events, and information about future ones;
- highlights the achievements of individuals and groups of all ages;
- features thought-provoking people-orientated articles;
- provides useful contact details and aids to worship, such as prayers.

How far does St John's News meet these characteristics?

All too often, events pass without mention in the magazine. This could be because they occur too far ahead of, or before, the quarterly publication date. Compared to other church magazines, it rarely celebrates the life-achievements of our members: significant birthdays and other anniversaries, academic successes and promotions at work.

However, even in this digital age, I believe there is still a place for a well-produced church magazine. Without doubt it is a most cost-effective means of communicating with members of the congregation. For some, it provides the sole point of contact with the church.

At present, editing, printing and collating the magazine is virtually a one person operation (although I acknowledge the help of Margaret Taylor, Liz Barthram, Iris Nelson and Anne Reid on many occasions). As a result, the time I spend planning the magazine is minimal and I have to rely mainly on casual submissions, never quite knowing what is coming. Contributors can be guilty of waiting to the absolute last minute before making a submission, further complicating production planning.

So how do we improve our church magazine?

At one time, a small team prepared and produced *St John's News*. I am keen to re-form such an Editorial Team. To that end, I invite anybody who may be interested in any aspect of production of the magazine, from acquiring content to distribution of the finished issue, to contact me to discuss the matter. No journalistic experience necessary!

Speak to me directly at church, or email editor@carluke-stjohns.org.uk.

GR

RockNations 2019

We left Carluke on a Thursday morning, waved off by people going to the Thursday service.

Our first night was amazing, with 1,500 young people praising the Lord with their hands in the air. Dave Niblocks sermon was *What you see is not always what you get*, based on 1 Samuel 16:7-12. This was meaningful to the young people as so many things today are about appearance. The end of the night saw many of the youngsters giving themselves to Jesus, or affirming their existing faith, which was amazing.

Day two began at 9:00 am with Tribal Wars, which was colourful - and noisy for us oldies! The first speaker was Shaun Nepstad whose topic was *If you walk away, you will not miss Jesus at first - but you will!* The weather was not kind to us but with lots of workshops and activities, there was plenty to keep us busy.

In the evening, Nathan Finochio - a long-haired, larger than life character was so passionate about Our Lord that it radiated through the whole church, His topic was *What if you told yourself "I'm going to be crowned with mercy and love today"*. He was funny but got his message over as well.

We enjoyed our time with Found Church from Larbert, meeting old friends and making new ones.

The last morning was taken up with Moses; how he grew in confidence over the years to lead the Israelites out of Egypt and to the Promised Land. In the evening, the atmosphere was electric, with the band praising the Lord with such energy. Our last lesson was from Psalm 103:1-12.

All too quickly, our time came to an end. Eleven exhausted people started off back home having learned so much. Arriving back in Carluke at 2:30 am on Sunday morning, I am sure that Elijah will forgive us for not being in church later that day!

We would like to say a big *Thank You* to everyone who helped to make our trip possible.

God's blessings to all,

SK (for GraceNotes)

Clydesdale Food Bank

Demand for help continues to grow. In 2018, we had 1120 referrals and to date this year we have had in excess of 750. Those on Universal Credit find it very difficult to meet all their needs and there appears to be an increase in clients reporting deductions which makes a difficult situation even worse.

Food donations are still at a good level but increased demand means we are spending more each month to maintain supplies. Donation envelopes and paper copies of the standing order and gift aid forms are still available in the vestibule. If you can't see them just ask one of the door team.

Our new website, clydesdalefoodbank.org.uk contains a link, which allows a donation to be made online. It can be a single or regular donation and your gift can also be gift aided.

On a practical note we are short of drivers on Tuesdays and also some volunteers in the food bank itself particularly on Fridays. Please call me on 07913820057 if you can help. Thank you for all your support. Please continue to hold us all in your prayers.

LB

Holiday Club 2019

This year we celebrated Christmas in July. This was in response to a question from one of last year's children - "*Who is this Jesus that you keep speaking about?*"

We learned about different parts of the Nativity story through Bible readings, stories, songs and crafts. By the end of the week, the children understood that the greatest gift of all is Jesus, God's Son.

108 children were registered and attended for at least some of the days with 90 being the most on any day. There was a Parent's Evening on the Friday, giving the families the chance to see what had been happening during the week and it was also well attended. Some of the children attended the Sunday service when the congregation got a little taste of the activities as well as a paper angel to take home.

LB

Housekeeping

In June of this year we had our annual inspection of the kitchen and small hall by Environmental Services. This inspection is to ensure we comply with Food Hygiene Regulations. Our premises passed the inspection with a few recommendations to be considered before next year's inspection.

The food probe thermometer, kept in the kitchen, has gone missing. As so many things do in a church! It has been replaced and I now keep a spare. If the probe goes missing again please let me know and the spare can be used. The record sheet for temperatures of cooked and chilled food has been changed and instead of one sheet used by everyone, you should complete one sheet per event. We are not professional caterers, so please complete only the relevant parts of the sheet and leave it in the folder. The inspector wants to see evidence that we follow food hygiene procedures.

Specific areas in the kitchen are now dedicated to the preparation of different foodstuffs. These areas are identified by signs on the walls and with the appropriate chopping boards. Knives are colour coded to match the chopping boards: white for meat, green for fruit and vegetables, yellow for bread and cakes. Anyone who has worked in our kitchen will know there are times when work space is short and the number of people in the kitchen makes keeping to these areas impractical. Common sense should prevail and safety of workers takes precedence over the designated areas.

Items of unused foods, especially spreads, sauces and oils are frequently left in the kitchen or fridge. The assumption is that someone will use them but the reality is no one does because they don't know to whom they belong! Please remove everything that you have brought for your event or it will be thrown out. The kitchen and fridge is going to be cleared on a weekly basis. If you want something to be kept in the fridge please label it clearly and it will not be removed.

Finally, as I said earlier we are not professional caterers and so many of the rules and regulations don't apply. One such rule is listing all ingredients in food that is being offered during coffee mornings, soup lunches etc. to inform people who have specific food allergies. Donations come from all over and all we can do is alert people to that fact and allow individuals to take their own precautions to avoid allergic reactions. As I also said earlier common sense has to prevail and acceptable hygiene standards maintained.

AR

Christian Aid News

The final total raised by the Carluke Churches working together during Christian Aid Week 2019 was £12,340 which went towards the £1.5 million raised in Scotland as a whole.

Thank you for being part of the remarkable movement of people who come together each May to stand in solidarity with the poorest communities in the world.

Your giving, acting and praying during Christian Aid Week helped people in Sierra Leone and around the world to live life in all its fullness.

Dr Rowan Williams, chairman of Christian Aid said " It has never been more important for humanity to come together to support the most vulnerable. There is no better way of countering the rising climate of hatred and intolerance than a gesture of kindness to a stranger on the other side of the world.

IN



Last Doctor Out Of Biafra

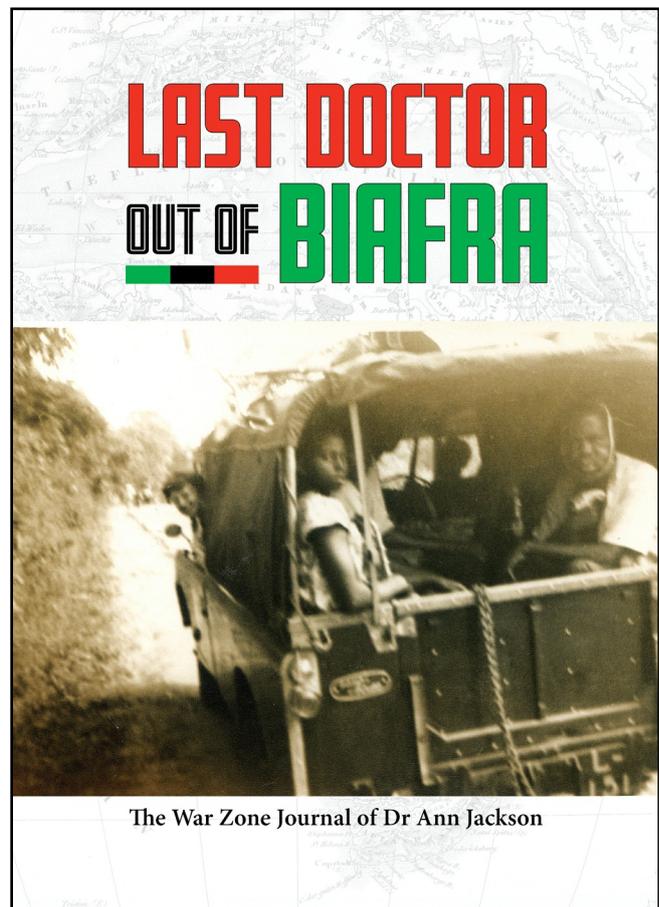
In the spring of 1966, a young Dr Ann Jackson was sent as a medical missionary by the Church of Scotland to Nigeria. The following May, the Eastern Region of the country declared independence and became Biafra. While many missionaries and their families left Nigeria as civil war broke out, many others chose to stay, including Ann Jackson, who spent the next three years in what was now Biafra.

During her time in Biafra "Dr Ann", as she is known by her friends and family in St John's, kept a personal journal. Edited by Joanna and Will Storrar (who was minister in St John's between 1985 and 1991) and published by the Handsel Press, her journal is now available as Last Doctor out of Biafra.

The book was launched at Time for Fellowship after morning worship on 23 June 2019, when Joanna introduced the work and gave a glowing tribute to Dr Anne's faithful dedication to her medical and missionary work in Biafra and beyond. Rev Jock Stein of Hansel Press also gave a few words after which the crowded Large Hall shared a lunch and queued to buy the book. A gallery of photos from the launch event can be viewed on the church website at

www.carluke-stjohns.org.uk/galleries/BookLaunch/index.shtm

Dr Ann's book, normally £15.00 may be purchased at *Time for Fellowship* (Sundays) or *Kettle's On!* (Thursdays) at the discounted price of £10.00.



You took my place!

One day, a man went to visit a new church. He got there early, parked his car and got out. Another car pulled up nearby and the driver got out and said, "I always park there! You took my place!"

The visitor went into the church for the service, found an empty seat and sat down. A member of the congregation approached him and stated, "That's my seat! You took my place!"

The visitor was somewhat distressed by this rude welcome but said nothing and to avoid confrontation, he moved his seat. Another member walked up to him and said, " That's where I always sit! You took my place!"

The visitor was even more troubled by this treatment, but still he said nothing.

Later as the congregation was praying for Christ to dwell among them, the visitor stood up, and his appearance began to change. Horrible scars became visible on his hands and on his sandaled feet. Someone from the congregation noticed him and called out, "What happened to you?"

The visitor replied, as his hat became a crown of thorns, and a tear fell from his eye, "I took your place."