

BUILDING TOGETHER IN WORSHIP, WITNESS AND SERVICE



The **Cairn**



News from St. Anne's Scottish Episcopal & Methodist Church in Dunbar

Rector's Letter

One of the beautiful things about St Anne's is that we are both a Methodist and a Scottish Episcopal Church. Over the past month, I've been learning more about the Methodist Church in Scotland and the changes it has undergone during the past year.

The Methodist Church in Scotland has entered a new season as six circuits have come together to form a single Scotland Circuit. This brings both challenges and opportunities as it develops new models of ministry and explores fresh forms and expressions of church life. Through it all, it has retained a strong focus on justice, inclusion and community engagement, all of which remain central to Methodist mission and are reflected in the ministry and witness of St Anne's Church.

In mid-June, my family and I enjoyed a day at the Solas Festival in Perthshire. The festival is sponsored by the Methodist Church and others who share its commitment to creativity, justice and community. Many years ago, I attended the Greenbelt Festival when the idea of creating a Scottish sister festival was first discussed. Since then, I have attended the Solas Festival

several times, sometimes for a day and sometimes for the full weekend.

Taking part in fascinating workshops and listening to inspiring Christian musicians and speakers addressing issues of justice was both uplifting and thought-provoking. I valued the opportunity to recharge and reflect, and I came away with a renewed appreciation for the role that creativity and the sharing of ideas can play in deepening our faith.

The Bible presents creativity as a reflection of God's character, portraying art, craftsmanship, and innovation as divine gifts, acts of worship, and ways to participate in God's ongoing work in the world. As people are created in the image of God, we are inherently designed to imagine, create, and bring new things into existence. Scripture encourages creative expression as an act of worship; for example, Psalm 33:3 urges believers to "sing to him a new song; play skilfully, and shout for joy." Through creativity, we honour God, serve others, and contribute to the flourishing of our communities.

I am discovering that there is no shortage of festivals and community events taking place closer to home. The Dunbar RNLI Lifeboat Fete, the European Land Art Festival, and the Heart of Dunbar Festival are just a few examples of the events happening this summer. These occasions may provide opportunities for us to use our creativity to serve and strengthen our local community, while contributing to what God is already doing in and through people in this area.

Blessings,

Harriet

Seeing Red

Who doesn't like the colour red? Now that summer has finally arrived this colour is all around us, especially in the garden. Roses, geraniums and poppies, to name but a few plants that are particularly striking at this time of year. My driveway now hosts a shiny red car (mid life crisis?) and, as Wimbledon approaches, who can resist a strawberry?

As some of you will know I like to look at the world through the lens of a camera and over recent days I have had the opportunity to photograph three things that have the word "red" in their title. Interestingly only one of these is actually what my eyes see as true red. That might of course be a problem with my perception of colour (I've always thought red campion flowers look pink!).

The first set of images are of red poppies taken in a field by Saltcoats castle in Gullane. These are not only striking to look at but are iconic symbols of remembrance for fallen service men and women and can be a source of medicinal compounds, the most well known of course being opium. By the time this edition of Cairn is published these fields may be past their best display and if so I would urge you to visit this spot next year in mid June to catch them at their best.





Another iconic symbol of northern Scotland, at least from a photographer's standpoint, is the red squirrel (to my eye rather orangey-brown). They are quite rare in the UK as their population has been adversely affected by the introduction of the North American grey squirrel into the UK in the 1870's.. Grey squirrels carry a pox virus to which greys are immune but reds are not. So red squirrels can only be found in areas where grey squirrels are absent and Scotland hosts around 75% of the UK population of around 200-250,000 animals. These images were taken in Perthshire at Cluny House gardens where a small local population of red squirrels have established themselves, no doubt aided by the regular feeds they receive from the owners!





The third set of photos is of red kites. These are large birds of prey that were driven to extinction in the UK by 1870 as they were perceived to be vermin and a threat to livestock. Their reintroduction in the 1980's in the Chilterns in England and Black Isle in Scotland is one of the great conservation stories of our time, to

the extent that the UK is now home to 17% of the entire world population. I spent a wet afternoon photographing these beautiful birds as they circled around and swooped down to feed. Once again my eyes perceive these birds as more a reddy brown colour but nothing detracts from the fact that they are magnificent creatures and deserving of their title.



Mike

A Gift for the Future of St Anne's

Recently, St Anne's received a generous legacy gift from a parishioner's will. Such gifts are never simply financial contributions; they are lasting expressions of love, faith, and commitment to the future life of the church.

After providing for family and loved ones, some people choose to leave a gift to the church that has been part of their lives through baptisms, weddings, funerals, celebrations, and quiet moments of prayer. Every legacy, whatever its size, can make a meaningful difference. Legacies allow us to care for our buildings, support worship and pastoral work, and continue serving the wider community long into the future.

A gift in a will may be:

- a fixed sum of money,
- a percentage of an estate,
- or a particular item or asset.

For many, it is a way of saying thank you for the place the church has held in their life and of helping to secure its future ministry. Of course, we fully understand that family and personal responsibilities must always come first. However, if you are making or updating a will, we would gently encourage you to consider whether you might also remember St Anne's. As a registered charity, gifts left to St Anne's in a will are normally free from inheritance tax. In some circumstances, leaving a portion of an estate to charity can also reduce the overall rate of inheritance tax payable on the remainder of the estate. We would always recommend taking independent legal advice when preparing or updating a will.

If anyone would like to discuss this confidentially in more detail, please feel free to speak to Rab in the first instance.

Rab

For the time of necessary decision

*The mind of time is hard to read
We can never predict what it will bring
Nor even from what is already gone,
Can we say what form it finally takes;
For time gathers it's moments secretly.
Often we only know it's time to change,
When a force has built inside the heart
That leaves us uneasy as we are.
Perhaps the work we do has lost its soul,
Or the love where we once belonged
Calls nothing alive in us anymore.
We drift through this grey, increasing nowhere
Until we stand before a threshold we know
We have to cross to come alive once more.
May we have the courage to take the step
Into the unknown that beckons us;
Trust that a richer life awaits us there,
That we will lose nothing
But what has already died;
Feel the deeper knowing in us sure,
Of all that is about to be born beyond
The pale frames where we stayed confined,
Not realising how such vacant endurance
Was bleaching our soul's desire.*

John O'Donohue

Contributed by **Noreen**

Christmas Puddings

I wonder how many of us still remember Stir Up Sunday, the last Sunday in the church's calendar before Advent, now more often celebrated as Christ the King.



In the past it was so named because of the traditional collect for that day which begins " Stir up, we beseech the O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people..." and for many families the day to make the Christmas puddings was stir up Sunday. I can certainly recall as a child wrapping a sixpence in foil and hiding it in the wonderful aromatic mixture.

Nowadays, those who enjoy Christmas pudding are much more likely to buy than make from scratch and on these lines we have a great new fundraising idea to suggest .

The Ultimate Plum Pudding Company have been making delicious puddings for over 30 years , using the finest ingredients : the puddings are light and sweet, using a family recipe from Cumbria, packed with luxury fruit and nuts and a good dash of brandy and dry sherry. They have a shelf life of 2 years too.

There are puds to meet all requirements : single serving ones , serves 4 and serves 8. I can give personal testimony to the quality of these puddings having worked with this company within my former church in Essex.

We could have a design competition for a topper for our St Anne's puddings , two different ones perhaps by adults and young church . The puddings are certainly no dearer than good quality shop bought ones and make both excellent puds for ourselves and also as gifts for others.

As a fundraising scheme, this has been a great success for my church in the past and I think would work very well for St Anne's : repeat orders are usual with this company , the product is so good.

There are minimum orders so it would be great if folk could let me know in principle if they would like a pudding for the Christmas season. Happy to chat with anyone with questions!

Anne

Fundraising think tank

Twenty members of the church family met over a chippy tea on the 22nd of June to brainstorm some fun and fundraising ideas.

St Anne's is currently running at a deficit every month to pay our regular commitments and we also have plans for some capital projects. Vestry are acutely aware that the current economic climate is unlikely to make appeals for more monthly giving popular so we have turned our minds to other ideas. Lots of fundraising ideas were suggested, discussed and eventually we all voted on those things we felt we could support both as participants and contributors.



The most popular ideas were then slotted into an outline calendar with a view to having at least one fundraising activity a month. Pam is planning to publish this calendar very soon with a view to commencing this initiative at the start of the church year in September. Vestry very much hope that other members of the congregation will feel inspired to contribute in one way or another to the various planned activities

It was good to be thinking broadly with folk who all have Gods work through St Anne's at heart. So look out for news and advertisements and expect to have fun with friends.

Something Definitely Happened

At exactly 8:12 a.m. the next day, something definitely happened.

Don't ask me what, because if you ask ten folk in Dunbar, you'll get twelve different answers. But there was definitely a shift. You could feel it in your bones.

Old Mike, down at the harbour, nodded sagely. "Aye," he said, "the tide suddenly rolled back further than it should have, like the sea had drawn in a deep breath... and was holding it, watching and waiting."

Moira in the Co-op swore she heard waves crashing, not the gentle lap you get on the beach, but a full-on storm surge, thundering through the aisles, jars and cans dancing and rattling on the shelves. Customers froze, bracing for a rush of water to come bursting through the doors, and then, suddenly, it ceased, leaving a strange hush hanging in the air.

For a single second afterwards, the whole town seemed to hold its breath. No screeching gulls, no cars grinding up the High Street looking for parking spaces, no kids laughing and shouting on their way to school. Just stillness.

Then, all at once, everything carried on again, as if nothing had happened. The community baker's had the usual queue stretching into the street, the Co-op Costa machine was back to spitting brown froth, and some daft was trying to park a campervan in a space meant for a Toyota Aygo, causing chaos.

Normality once more....or not!

By mid-morning, the ever-exaggerating stories were flying around, faster than the dive-bombing gulls.

A delivery driver swore he saw a streak of light over Belhaven Bay, far too fast to be a plane, it must have been a missile or supersonic drone. Someone in the Post Office queue claimed the war memorial clock struck thirteen, though nobody else heard it. By the time word reached the chemist, it had turned into the usual suspects from the day before, MI6, submarines and a new culprit in the CIA, or all three, depending on who you asked.

By mid-afternoon, the Dunbar Banter Facebook page was on fire. Half the keyboard warriors insisted nothing had happened and folk should stop scaremongering. The other half swore blind that something had definitely happened: the earlier streak of light over Belhaven Bay had gained traction among "eyewitnesses" though most were anonymous posts so who could really believe them.

And now there was a new mystery being debated: a fishing boat, apparently seen drifting silently through the harbour without any crew.

Strangely but perhaps predictably, there were no phone pics to prove any of it.

Another anonymous post simply read, "It's started." Everyone was too afraid to ask Anon 365 what "it" was.

Come teatime, the pubs were split down the middle: the Definitely Happened team nodding and whispering over their pints, and the Nothing Happened crowd scoffing, "Away ye go, it's Dunbar, no' the X-Files."

And yet.

When the evening commuter train rolled in, twenty minutes late as usual, more than a few lingered in the doorway, toes hovering over the platform as if testing whether the ground was still solid before stepping down. For reasons they couldn't explain, they also knew something had definitely happened, the echo from that morning had somehow reached them too, twenty miles or more to the west, at their places of work, a faint, restless pulse from Dunbar still humming in the air around them, impossible to both ignore and explain.

So, something definitely happened that day. Everyone knows it, even the ones who say they don't.

Strangest of all, a week later and the gulls have gone quiet. Not vanished, just... keeping their distance. And that's not like them, is it?

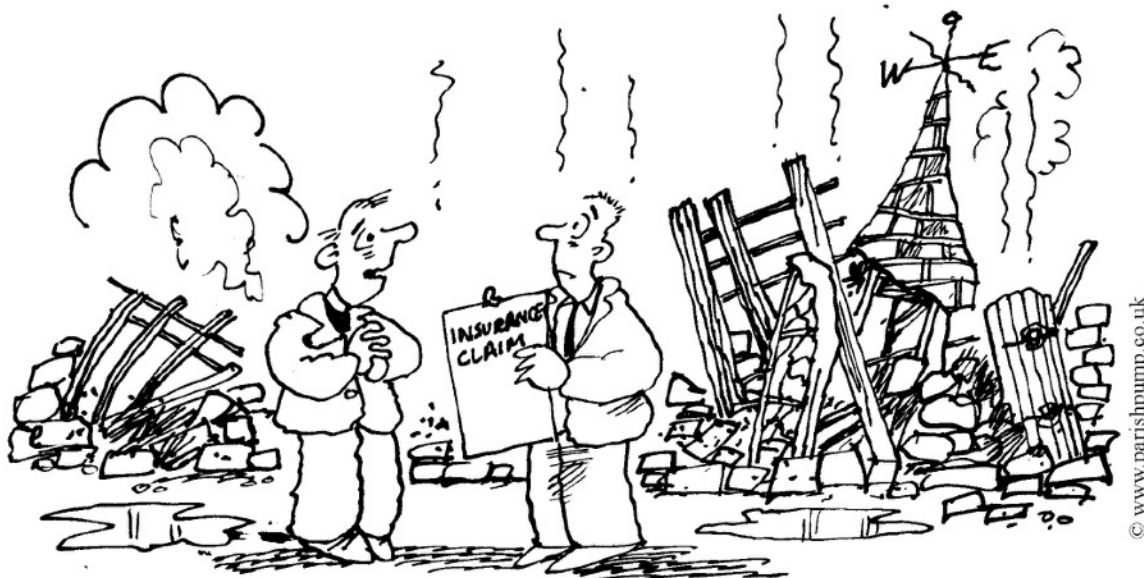
Try explaining that over a pint to the Nothing happened crowd and you'll feel their eyes dart towards the High Street, just for a heartbeat, before they slowly look down at the floor.

Rab

To make you smile



One of my churchwardens is a stickler for 'Health and Safety'...



...er... apart from this little hiccup... it was an excellent church pancake supper...

From Parish pump

What's on at St Anne's

St Anne's Church, Dunbar





Silent Reflective Mornings in 2026

Monthly on Saturdays
at 10.30am for an hour

- 6th June
- 4th July
(extended session for Summer Silence)
- 1st August
- 5th September
- 3rd October
- 7th November
- 5th December
(extended session for Advent)

Each session is followed by coffee and chat

Contact for queries - Sharon Morgan
sharon@eh42.scot

CUPPA		TUESDAYS 10AM - 12NOON
	CAKE	
ST ANNE'S CHURCH		CHAT

Come on in, the kettle's hot!

Take what you need
Give what you can
Everyone is welcome

www.stannedunbar.org.uk


Thursdays at St Anne's Church

10.30 am

Quiet Communion Service
followed by discussion about faith and life

12.00 midday

Prayers for peace - gather at the Peace Pole



www.stannedunbar.org.uk

Notices

Please note that that there will be no singing group at the Sunday services in July and August as they are taking a well earned rest. So, we all need to step up to the plate with our best voices!

Margaret Laidlaw would like to remind congregants that she collects used stamps for charity and would be grateful for any contributions.

What's on elsewhere

Life Bites offers young people the opportunity to learn how to cook and make a meal. It's great fun and a wonderful social event that brings folk together.



LIFE BITES
SUMMER COOKERY PROGRAMME
P7's - S5

PREPARE - COOK - EAT - CHAT
WORK WITH OTHERS TO PREPARE A MEAL TO SHARE TOGETHER

DATES: 6,7,9 JULY
13,14,16 JULY
20,21,23 JULY
*10 AUGUST (NEW P7'S)

VENUE:
BELHAVEN CHURCH HALL

TIMES: 10:30-2:00PM

FREE!
YOU NEED TO BOOK HERE

dacyp.org.uk



SHORT WALKS FOR PRIMARY 7 - S5'S
Summer LIFE WALKS

JOIN US FOR FUN WALKS IN NATURE!
WALK TALK CHAT EAT

EXPLORE MAKE FRIENDS OUTDOOR FUN WELLBEING

6 July 7 July 9 July
13 July 14 July 16 July
20 July 21 July 23 July
TIME: 10:30-2.00PM*
(times may vary depending on route)

Life Walks are guided walks that end with a meal. They are safe space to chat about life, faith and more, and are the perfect opportunity to get out of the house in the summer holidays



DACYP
Dunbar Area Christian Youth Project

OSCR Registered Charity SC036138

Free
But a booking is required

dacyp.org.uk

"You get to know people you know, and don't know"
"You get to talk to people that you don't normally talk to"
"I learned to appreciate the trees"

Life Walks offers a space to explore the locality, soaking up the natural beauty and learning about the local history.

Both events include meaningful conversation and reflection about life and faith

Readings and Rotas

Sunday 5th July (Pentecost 6)

Zechariah 9: 9-12, Matthew 11: 16-19, 25-30

Readings: Rupert

Intercessions: Liz

Chalice: Anne

Organ: Diana

Sunday 12th July (Pentecost 7)

Isaiah 55: 10-13, Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23

Readings: Robert

Intercessions: Noreen

Chalice: Stuart

Organ: Brian

Sunday 19th July (Pentecost 8)

Isaiah 44: 6-8, Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43

Readings: Rosemary

Intercessions: Sharon

Chalice: Sharon

Organ: George

Sunday 26th July (Pentecost 9)

1 Kings 3: 5-12, Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52

Readings: Mike

Intercessions: Mark

Chalice: Mark

Organ: Brian

All readings use the
New Revised
Standard Version of
the Bible

Services at St. Anne's

Sunday

10.30am - Holy Communion

Young Church every 1st and 3rd Sunday

Thursday

10.30am - Holy Communion followed by coffee and chat

12.00pm - Prayers at the Peace Pole



Rector: Revd. Harriet Johnston

email: rector@stannesdunbar.org.uk

Rest days Friday & Saturday

Useful Contacts

Vestry Secretary Pam Shields: secretary@stannesdunbar.org.uk

Treasurer Rab Shields: treasurer@stannesdunbar.org.uk

PVG Coordinator Rev'd Geoff Shutt:

safeguarding@stannesdunbar.org.uk / 07485 238663

Young Church Diana Greene:

youngchurch@stannesdunbar.org.uk

Event Bookings David Robins: events@stannesdunbar.org.uk

Organ Enquiries Brian Dale: organist@stannesdunbar.org.uk

Magazine (subscriptions and contributions) and Social Media
comms@stannesdunbar.org.uk

Please send Cairn contributions by the last Sunday of the month

Website Enquiries David Robertson:

webmaster@stannes.org.uk

Pastoral Care Enquiries

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Find us on 

www.stannesdunbar.org.uk

St. Anne's Scottish Episcopal & Methodist Church, Dunbar is a Scottish Charity, SC010950, regulated by the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR)