

DUNDEE PARISH CHURCH (ST. MARY'S)
THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

CHRONICLE



SPRING 2010

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Dates for future meetings of the Kirk Session

27th April 2010 in the Church Hall at 7.30 p.m.

Material for the Summer issue of "Chronicle" should be in the hands of the Session Clerk, no later than Tuesday, 18th May, 2010. All things being equal, the magazine will be ready for distribution on Sunday, 30th May, 2010.

Dear Friends,

How often have you changed your views on a given issue and adopted a stance diametrically opposed to the one held previously?

With regard to the Church as an institution, I believed in the importance of maintaining orthodoxy but I am now full of questions about various expressions of our faith. Sometimes I now espouse a view I once derided. It can be very isolating and tempt one to give up and leave 'thinking' to others of a more stable disposition.

Two factors comfort and encourage me to go on. Firstly, there is nothing worse than coming up against someone who has never changed their views and considers it a virtue to defend them to the death. Secondly, it is reassuring to find how many others who have given much to the world, have also confessed to having had the same experience.

The Hungarian writer, Arthur Koestler, one of the most incisive intellects of last century wrote in his book, "The God That Failed," - "Since my schooldays I have not ceased to marvel each year at the fool I have been the year before. Each year brought its own revelation and each time I could only think with shame and rage of the opinions I had held. But lately new insights instead of shattering and destroying all that went before, seem to combine into a pattern sufficiently elastic to absorb new material and yet with a certain consistency in its basic features."

With gratitude to Koestler, I am now of the opinion that all true things must change and only that which changes remains authentic. That having been said, I am prepared to acknowledge that the traditions I hold sacrosanct are also subject to change.

It seems to me, that we are all on a journey and therefore must be prepared for changing vistas and differing circumstances. What has been written and acknowledged in the past as 'infallible' can be no more than "passing calculations in the sand."

Hopefully, while not being too timid about expressing my own understanding of the nature of our faith, I will always be ready to listen to the views of others and learn from them. In short, shouldn't we all try to live by the light given us and earnestly seek further illumination? After all, it's the next step on our journey that matters, not the fading shadows of the past.

Ever sincerely yours,
Keith F. Hall

SUNDAY SERVICES

PARISH REGISTER



MARRIAGES

"There is nothing love cannot face: no limit to its faith, its hope, its endurance."

12th December 2009 Duncan Scrimgeour and Claire Smith
both former pupils of High School of Dundee

IN MEMORIAM

"Memory reaches further than the eyes"

3rd January 2010 Hannah Muir, Ballumbie Care Home.

8th February 2010 Maureen Crole, 81 Atholl Street, Lochee

11th February 2010 Bill and Chris Sharpe, Redwood Care Home, Broughty Ferry

MY WRIST WATCH

I look at the face of my wrist watch -
time ticking away, with a glassy smile,
in this hemisphere.

One revolution in light, the other in darkness
And behind the chattering tick I hear
the sound of traffic outside my window
rising to a crescendo, in morning and evening peak
and dying away when the drivers sleep.

O precious time, ticking away upon my wrist -
illuminated, regular
give me enough of time to dream, to sleep
to rise and exercise each talent
in full days of thanksgiving and praise
until the heartbeat stops
and you keep ticking on,
ticking away the time
in other lives than mine.

L. David Levison

March

07	11 a.m.	Morning Worship Lent III	Very Rev Dr James A Simpson formerly of Dornoch Cathedral
14	11 a.m.	Morning Worship Lent IV Mothering Sunday	Very Rev Dr James A Simpson formerly of Dornoch Cathedral
21	11 a.m.	Morning Worship Passion Sunday	The Minister
28	11 a.m.	Palm Sunday	The Minister

April

04	11 a.m.	Easter Sunday	The Minister
11	11 a.m.	Easter I	The Minister
18	11 a.m.	Morning Worship	The Minister
25	11 a.m.	Holy Communion	The Minister

May

02	11 a.m.	Morning Worship	The Minister
09	11 a.m.	Morning Worship	The Minister
16	11 a.m.	Morning Worship	The Minister
23	11 a.m.	Whitsun Holy Communion	The Minister
30	11 a.m.	Morning Worship	The Minister

The Town's Churches

The January issue of 'Life and Work' published an article with the above title by John R Hume. It was one of a series by Mr Hume and considered the impact of the Reformation on the churches of Dundee. While basically a good article there were some statements in it that prompted me to reply through the magazine's letters page. Scottish church history is very complicated, and interpreting Dundee's is not easy due partly to the loss of records, as I know from my own research. Not all members take or have access to 'Life and Work', moreover the Editor may not print my reply as the space for letters is limited, and it was suggested to me that I copy it in the 'Chronicle':-

I read with interest and appreciation John R Hume's article [January] on the impact of the Reformation on the city churches of Dundee. Perhaps I might be permitted to comment on some of the subjects raised.

As Mr Hume stated, large medieval churches such as St Mary's Dundee had to be divided into smaller ones. The building was 284 feet in length and 174 feet in width at the transepts. Later, this division was to provide amusement to the poet Thomas Hood, who lived in Dundee for a period around 1815 and penned the lines,

'And four churches together with only one steeple

Is an emblem quite apt for the thrift of the people'.

The ancient Church was destroyed or partly destroyed through war or fire in 1303, 1547, 1645-51, 1745 and 1841. However, the building always rose again from the ashes and rubble, though not always immediately and in the same form.

Following the fire of 1841 three of the four churches that Hood saw were badly damaged. What Mr Hume referred to as the North Church (also known as St John's or the Cross Kirk) was not rebuilt, the congregation moving elsewhere. The Town Council decided to rebuild St Mary's or the East Church, which occupied the choir of the medieval building, and also the South Church

or St Paul's. A service for the laying of the foundation stone of the East Church was held in St Andrew's Church on 19th May 1842 with the official bodies processing thereafter half a mile to the site of the church for the stone laying. The new church was completed in 1844 to the design of William

Burn. In 1847 the rebuilt South Church was reopened under the name St Paul's (South) Church.

St Mary's is the parish church of Dundee and has never been the subject of amalgamation. No dividing wall has been removed as mentioned by Mr Hume. Externally its building is basically the same as when rebuilt in 1844. Its succession of ministers dates back to 1558, the Reformation coming early to Dundee.

The building of 1847 occupying the transepts is no longer a church following a union. The Steeple Church, in the nave adjacent to the medieval tower, is the place of worship of the union, representing five formerly independent congregations.

While there are early references to 'the Lady Chapel', the original medieval building was the choir or chancel, the first stage of what became a magnificent church dedicated to the Virgin Mary who became the titular saint of Dundee.

David, earl of Huntingdon, founded the Abbey of Lindores. The foundation charter, executed circa 1196, granted to the Abbey 'the church of Dundee', not a chapel. St Mary's Church was subject to the See of Brechin, and the Abbot of Lindores was rector of the parish of Dundee, with the Bishop of Brechin about 1220 consenting to the appointment of a vicar to perform the duties of the church. Under that authority vicars were appointed down to the Reformation.

As Mr Hume pointed out the congregations of the City Churches still play a vital role in the centre of Dundee. The very stones cry out that Christian worship has been offered on this site for over 800 years and still is.

Ian McCraw

The Guild

Unfortunately our first "spring" meeting had to be cancelled because of the weather. The second on Bibles to Brazil was very interesting.

The third, the speaker took ill at the last moment but Anna Yamauchi who joined the Guild this session very kindly stepped into the breach with no notice and gave us a very interesting glimpse into her life in Japan.

We look forward to the A.G.M. on 16th March and a talk related to one of our 2 projects for this year on 30th March, Conflict between Israel and Palestine. Both are at 2.15 in the hall. We hope to join up with our twin Guild for our summer outing.

Anne Gibson. Co-ordinator.

Take Care

Just before Christmas we received at the Church a copy of a magazine entitled "Charity Matters". One of the articles in it concerned a practice which we would not wish to encourage.

The article states: "A card through the door indicates that a delivery service was unable to deliver a parcel and gives a contact number. This is actually a premium rate number originating abroad and anyone calling it is billed at least £15 by their telecoms provider, which takes a cut of the money made from the scam, or the proceeds of crime as it is called.

"Unfortunately, our UK telecoms providers claim they are powerless to stop the scam, from which they profit, so it's down to their customers to look after themselves."

So, take care!

Kenneth C Deas

Congregational Giving

December 2009		January 2010	
06	£659.14	03	£346.00
13	£682.24	10	£425.60
20	£586.00	17	£660.17
27	£322.00	24	£546.10
		31	£641.88
February			
07	£639.00		
14	£474.50		
21	£545.80		

Edward Everett Hale

If you were in Church on 31st January, you would have found the following *Pause for Thought* on the intimations page. It was written by Edward Everett Hale, an American Unitarian minister and writer who lived from 1822 to 1909.

"Never bear more than one kind of trouble at a time. Some people bear three - all they have had, all they have now, and all they expect to have."

I had never heard of Mr Hale, but Chambers Biographical Dictionary told me that he was born in Boston and became minister of the South Congregational Church there in 1856. He carried out a great deal of philanthropic work, and edited religious and other journals, and documents concerned with the founding of Virginia. He also wrote short stories.

He was the grand-nephew of Nathan Hale, an American eighteenth-century war hero who became a spy for George Washington. He was captured by the British and executed. Within the United States he is regarded as a national hero, and perhaps, not surprisingly, became the "patron saint" of U.S. espionage agencies.

Kenneth C Deas

Wednesday Club

Members have continued to enjoy evenings of happy fellowship together during the winter season.

Sheena Wellington was a delightful and entertaining guest at the Christmas supper. In January we were transported to Peru by Alistair and Dorothy Forrester who showed photos of their trip last year to the Amazon Basin, the Inca Trail and Lake Titicaca. The Eden Bell Ringers are a group of 6 (or more) ladies who have learnt the art of handbell ringing to great effect. Their visit to the club in February was most enjoyable.

On 17 March there is the AGM followed by Alf Ingram's talk about 'Wade's Highland Highways'.

The summer outing is still a mystery! It is likely to be on Wednesday 12 or 19 May, possibly to Scone Palace. We hope to be in a position to give firm details at the AGM.

Dorothy Forrester

THE FLOWER CALENDAR
"To beautify the place of My Sanctuary"

March 2010

07 Mr and Mrs P.J.R. Miller
 14 Mrs. Nan Heron
 21 Mr. & Mrs. Roger Leslie
 28 Mrs. J.A.C. Stothers

April 2010

04 Miss Isobel Darroch
 11 Mr. & Mrs. G.D. Bell
 18 Rev. & Mrs. Derek Lawson
 25 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Nimmo

May 2010

02 Mrs. Shirley Richardson
 09 In Memory of Sheila Rogers
 16 Dr. Anne Langlands & Mrs. Winnie Nicoll
 23 Miss J.T. Smith
 30 Dr and Mrs Alistair Forrester

ELDERS' DUTY ROTA

March 2010

Mr I.M. Grieve
 Mr D.P. Beattie
 Mr G.B.R. Cram *21st
 Miss J Laburn
 Mrs K.N. Deas *7th
 Mr J.S. Carrol
 Mr R.T. Lumsden *14th
 Mr M.J. Beattie *28th

May 2010

Mr G.R. MacCallum *9th
 Dr A.C. Langlands
 Mrs A. Bell *16th
 Mr M.R. Cunningham *2nd
 Mr K. Alexander *30th
 Dr C.H.M. Walker
 Dr J.M. Anderson *23rd

April 2010

Mr J.K. Mearns *4th
 Mr D.B. Smith
 Dr I.S. Henderson *25th
 Mrs M. Henderson
 Mrs J.E. King
 Mr W.R.M. King *11th
 Mr I.M. Fergusson
 Mr Neil Gray *18th

June 2010

Mrs D.L. G. Forrester
 Mr J.L. Chalmers *13th
 Miss C.R. Henney
 Dr A.G. Forrester *6th
 Mr D.G. Campbell *27th
 Mr J.M. Hardie *20th

* = Leader

An Easter Reflection

When I cannot see the end of things,
 When the darkness shines brighter than the sun,
 When the wound will not be healed,
 When I can find no answer to my questions:
 Help me to believe you are there,
 For me.

You are the first to weep over shattered lives,
 The wounded healer who mends broken hearts,
 The first to die and rise,
 The holy victim who shouts through the silence,
 "It is finished."

When I am blinded by the power of present things,
 Fix my eyes on you,
 The battered God of the cross,
 And break the power of my painful days
 With reminders of new and better experiences
 Still to come,
 Your resurrection sunrise,
 For me.

Russell Parker
 Eagle Publishing Ltd.