



# *Carnock & Oakley Parish Church*



For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord,  
Plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

*Jeremiah 29:11*

## **Newsletter Autumn 2019**

### **Session Clerk**

Mr Andrew Croxford  
2B Main Street  
Crossford  
Dunfermline  
KY12 8NJ  
01383 271796

### **Minister**

Mr Charles Lines  
The Manse  
Main Street  
Carnock  
KY12 9JG  
01383 247209 / 07909 762257

### **Treasurer**

Mrs Isobel Gibson  
3 Hawthorn Bank  
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Dunfermline  
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# Diary Dates

**Next Communion will be on Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019.**

Fri, 20 <sup>th</sup> Sep	<b>Concert with Ian Walker</b>	TBA	Oakley
Sat, 23 <sup>rd</sup> Nov	<b>Christmas Fayre</b>	2:00pm	Oakley
Sun, 1 <sup>st</sup> Dec	<b>Communion</b>	10:00am 11:30 am	Oakley Carnock

## Come and join us at the church

*Try one of the groups below or speak to the minister about starting a new group.  
Ideas are always welcome.*

		Church Activities		Contact	
<b>SUN</b>	<b>Weekly Services</b>	Oakley	10:00am	<b>Charles Lines (Minister)</b> <b>07909 762257 / 01383 247209</b>	
		Carnock	11:30am		
<b>MON</b>	<b>Scrabble Bible Study Fellowship</b>	Carnock	2:00pm	<b>Joan Burns</b> <b>850470</b> <b>Sandy Muirhead</b>	
		Oakley	11:00am <i>(1st &amp; 3rd Monday of month)</i>		
<b>TUE</b>	<b>The Guild</b>	Oakley	7:30pm <i>(3rd Tuesday of month)</i>	<b>Ann Riddell</b> <b>850354</b>  <i>Contact an elder to arrange a lift for anyone requiring one</i>	
	<b>Midweek Service</b>	Oakley	12:00 <i>(2nd Tuesday of month)</i>		
<b>WED</b>	<b>Hobbies Group Coffee Morning</b>	Oakley	10:30am	<b>Ann Rae</b> <b>850566</b> <b>Ann Riddell</b> <b>850354</b>	
		Carnock	10:30am-12:00		
<b>SAT</b>	<b>Prayer Breakfast</b>	Oakley	8:00am <i>(3rd Saturday of month)</i>	<b>Mary Hunter</b> <b>738101</b>	

### **Church Website**

For latest news and information on Carnock & Oakley Church events and activities visit our website regularly at - [www.carnockandoakley.org.uk](http://www.carnockandoakley.org.uk)

The site is updated daily whenever possible and we do our best to notify any late changes to previously advertised times or dates.

If you would like items added to the website, please contact Bob Baker,

[Robert.baker16@btopenworld.com](mailto:Robert.baker16@btopenworld.com)

# Welcome from Rev. Charles Lines

## A sign for the times

During the months of July and August I have been working through the Book of Jonah on Sunday mornings. The tale of a man swallowed by a fish is one of the most widely known of the Old Testament stories. Jonah also resurfaces in the New Testament, where Jesus refers to him as a sign pointing to his death and resurrection and the subsequent need for repentance.



In the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD a sign of a fish started appearing where Christians met secretly for fellowship and became commonplace by the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD. Today the sign is often seen on the back of cars. The fish sign, when used by Christians, points to an acronym based on the 5 letter Greek word for a fish, ICHTHUS, where each letter represents an aspect of Christian faith (CH and TH are each one letter in Greek):

I	iēsous	Jesus
CH	christos	Christ
TH	theou	God's
U	uios	Son
S	sōtēr	Saviour

As Christians we believe in the humanity (Jesus), Anointing (Christ) and divinity (God's Son) of the Saviour. Indeed, He cannot be our savior unless he is all these things.

Thinking about this made me start to wonder what sort of sign would be appropriate outside our church buildings if we wanted to communicate in bold terms what we're about. We can no longer assume people know or understand the core message and calling of the church.

A fish might be a bit too cryptic; the secret assemblies of the early church made them fair game for malicious rumors. I think in this age the Church needs to be bold, hiding away is not an option. We need to scale up; I would like to see a large sign outside our buildings describing who we are: **a community of God's children living by faith, rejoicing in hope and growing in love.** Perhaps I can finish by suggesting we could think of an acronym based around the word HOPE, for a generation where hope seems to be in short supply.

***With love,  
Me***

# ***Kirk Session Update***

The Kirk Session has not met since the meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> May although, by the time you receive this, will have met on 7<sup>th</sup> August.

The Kirk Session were pleased with the number of members who attended the meeting with the Special Commission on Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> June. Thank you to all who attended. An interim report from the Special Commission has been received and has been included in this Newsletter.



The Kirk Session held a dinner with Mary Hunter on Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> June to thank her for her contributions to the work of the Kirk Session over many years. A presentation was made on behalf of the congregation to Mary at her final service on Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> June. The Kirk Session are exploring ways of covering the many areas of service carried out by Mary, including the need to find a new organist.

***Andrew Croxford***  
***Session Clerk***

## **Communion Services**

It was agreed previously by the Kirk Session that the custom of issuing Communion Cards was no longer appropriate. Instead, an invitation to come and worship and celebrate the Lord's Supper will be included in the Church Newsletter.



Accordingly, it is my privilege to invite you to come and join with us to celebrate Holy Communion on Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> September at 10:00am at Oakley and 11.30am at Carnock.

***Andrew Croxford***  
***Session Clerk***

*Grow*   
*in Christ*

The members of the Special Commission have now met each congregation in the Presbytery. We appreciate the welcome and cooperation we have received in the process.

I attach the report I presented to Presbytery on 27<sup>th</sup> June. You will see that it is very much an interim report, asking more questions than it answers: but it might give you a feel for what the Commission is doing.

With best wishes  
Andrew R C McLellan

## **- - - R E P O R T - - -**

Dear Members of Carnock and Oakley Parish Church,

### **Report of the Special Commission for the June meeting of Presbytery**

The Special Commission was appointed by Presbytery in February 2019 *to review the missional needs of the Presbytery of Dunfermline and to undertake a review of all charges and buildings within the Presbytery.* We appreciate the support of Presbytery, members of Presbytery, congregations and members of congregations as we carry out our task. We are grateful that every congregation is obeying the terms of the February deliverance. *Presbytery instructs all congregations to engage constructively with the Special Commission in this process.* We are being very much helped by the contribution of Lorraine Fraser as our Clerk

#### **What we have done**

- We have met, and will continue to meet, on the first Wednesday of each month.
- In March we promised the Presbytery that we would meet every congregation before the end of June. We have done that. We have followed the same agendas and the same timetable at every meeting.
- We have appointed a Consultant. We have already intimated that Rev Dr Sandy Forsyth, T F Torrance Lecturer in Theology and Mission at New College has joined our work. Already he has proved a considerable asset: not only for his learning and his wisdom, but also for his enthusiasm for and his commitment to our work.
- We have studied relevant material: for example Doug Gay *Reforming the Kirk*. Church of England Report *From Anecdote to Evidence*. Albert Bogle Re-imagining Conference video recordings. General Assembly Reports: Special Commission, Radical Action Plan, General Trustees. Sandy Forsyth *Pioneer Ministry; What is Mission?* Submissions from members of Presbytery

#### **What we have discovered**

- Each congregation is different.
- Each building is different

- Almost all congregations have a strong family feeling and pride in their history
- Almost all agree that change is necessary, but few identify possible changes
- Dramatic absence of children and young people
- Very little appreciation of or affection for Presbytery
- Little ecumenical engagement

### **What we will do next**

- Explore further what mission is, starting with the material we have been studying
- Examine the condition and usefulness of buildings, studying the reports already in the hands of Presbytery, meeting with local parties as necessary, consulting with the General Trustees.

### **What is uncertain**

The implications for our Commission of the prospective creation of the Presbytery of Fife.

The implications for our Commission of the determination of the General Assembly to increase the powers and the resources of Presbyteries.

### **What we would welcome**

Indications from Presbytery and its members of the kind of final report of the Special Commission which is most needed.

- A new plan for uniting and closing churches?
- New things for the Presbytery to do to meet the needs of the whole community?
- Ways of encouraging congregations to engage more fully in mission?
- Emphasis on children and young people?
- Or?

It is unlikely that any proposals for renewal from the Special Commission will be successful if congregations do not value or respect the leadership of Presbytery

### **Deliverance**

That Presbytery:

1. Receive the report

**--- END OF REPORT ---**



# The Guild

## Guild Report



On the 19<sup>th</sup> February 2019 we had a talk from the Scottish Air Ambulance with slides, which was very interesting indeed. Then on the 19<sup>th</sup> March it was our annual coffee evening for our Guild Projects and Church funds and it was nice to see so many turned out for this fundraising event. The entertainment was by Bonita Bough & Walter Ireland, a singing and music playing duo.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> April it was our extra meeting to arrange the Spring Tea and on the 9<sup>th</sup> April 2019 our AGM.

Shonaid is still our President and as Wilma has retired from being Treasurer, Gillian Harrison very kindly agreed to take on the position of Treasurer. I am again, secretary for another year. The Spring Tea was held on Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> April, with entertainment by Roy McArthur & Friends and an excellent afternoon was had by all. Our outing with Port Seton Guild was on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019 and Shirley organised this. We had a day round the museum, and they put on a talk on Dunfermline for us, with tea, coffee and biscuits. We presented Port Seton with a gift made especially by Charles, our minister, of a lectern and this was our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of being linked with them. Then we went on to the City Hotel for high tea. Finally, our meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2019, was to make up the syllabus for 2019/2020.

We are having a quiz evening to celebrate Guild week on 10<sup>th</sup> September and if you would like to enter a team of four, you would be most welcome. I need to know the teams by the 27<sup>th</sup> August 2019.

If you would like to join us at the Guild, we would be very pleased to have you and so please come along, we are sure you would enjoy the fellowship we have together.

For those wanting to attend the Guild dinner, could you please bring your £10 deposit to the first meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> September.

**Ann Riddell**  
**Secretary**

## Carnock Coffee Morning / Hobbies Group

The Carnock Coffee Morning/Hobbies Group at Carnock is still going well but the numbers were a bit depleted, with holidays etc. We had a few returned that had not been for a while last week, and a hearty welcome they were given as usual. We hope the numbers will increase as the Autumn comes in as we do love our coffee morning, with the fellowship we have together. Please come and join us, you are sure to enjoy the company and the lovely tea/coffee and biscuits our treasurer Anna provides us with.



**Ann Riddell**  
**Secretary**

## Scrabble Group

The scrabble group is a great afternoon with the 11 ladies usually taking part. We have a very enjoyable day with a brain testing afternoon (ha ha) and not to mention our break with lovely cakes and biscuits and tea and coffee. Scrabble is an afternoon we do not like to miss and is surely a lot of fun, with lovely friends from our church, Saline church, Holy Name and the village of Carnock itself. It is a special Monday for us all.



**Ann Riddell**  
**(for Joan Burns) - Secretary**

## TODAY'S ECCLESIASTICAL CHUCKLE

(provided by Andrew Croxford)

**Just sayin' - When you carry the Bible, Satan gets a headache..... When you open it, he collapses..... When he sees you reading it, he faints..... When he sees that you are living what you read, he flees..... And when you are about to forward this message.... He will try and discourage you..... I just defeated him!!! Any other takers?**

## **Kate MacDonald's – Israel, Gaza and The West Bank**

I've been thinking a lot recently about what it means for us to love our neighbour, ever since we read the parable of the Good Samaritan in our worship in Tiberias a few Sundays ago. When Jesus asks the Lawyer, who is the neighbour in the story, the lawyer replies: 'The one who showed mercy'. Sadly, we are living in a world where acts of mercy are too often overshadowed by acts of violence or hatred.

We are living in uncertain times here in Israel. After the April elections, Benjamin Netanyahu was unable to form a coalition, and so another election has been called for September. The campaign rhetoric has been increasingly divisive, ever-widening the cracks which already exist in Israeli society. Politicians across the parties are seeking a common enemy to fight, rather than a common neighbour to serve. Many of my Israeli friends, Arab and Jewish, are sceptical that much will change with the new elections; it is likely that the right-wing will retain its power, with increasing influence from the religious parties.

In this climate of political instability, the work of our partner organisations becomes even more vital. In my recent visits to them, they have all spoken about the importance of loving their neighbour, of working together for a just, peaceful, egalitarian society in Israel.

House of Grace in Haifa will soon be distributing food parcels to low-income Muslim families for the feast of Eid Al-Adha.

Sindyanna of Galilee in Cana has begun a new training programme in hydroponic agriculture so that Arab women can grow food for their families, even in small spaces.

The Galilee Society in Shefr'amr recognises that many factors contribute to the rise in violence in Arab communities and works alongside Jewish NGOs to advocate for equal access to education, employment, and recreational facilities.

New Profile provides counselling and advice services to Jewish young people seeking exemption from military service because they need to work instead to support their families.

ICCI (International Christian Committee in Israel) offers support to teenage girls in Akko at risk of dropping out of school or becoming homeless. Young Arab and Jewish women from Sadaka-Reut have joined together to raise awareness of sexual harassment and gender-based violence at their universities.

All of these partners reach across the divides of religion, race, and socio-economic status. We hear so much about division in Israel. But there are so many who show mercy too, whose acts do not make the news, whose compassion goes unseen. These neighbours give me hope in these hard times. Please hold them in your prayers.

***Margaret Lowe***

### **STRAWBERRY TEA**

It is with no apologies, that I write following the report on this, as it was reported in the order of service.



There was a lovely turn out of friends who supported this event, this contributed to the fun and fellowship enjoyed on the Saturday morning.

Very grateful thanks, to all who gave so generously, and who worked on the stalls, baked and worked tirelessly in the kitchen. Also, to those who supported us but were unable to be there on the day. To the businesses who were supportive.

Thanks to all the sum raised - £500.00

***Mina Kyle***

# Finance

Our funds at 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019 were as follows;



	01/01/2019 £		31/07/2019 £
General Fund	12645		11137
Fabric Fund	7757		7807
Property Renovation Fund	19459		19459
Mrs Dawson's Legacy	1000		1000
Music Fund	209		210
Youth Evangelism	4410		4410
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>45480</b>		<b>44023</b>

## General Fund

Our General Fund at 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019 was £11137, that was a decrease of £1508 since the beginning of the year. We have £3470 to come from HMRC for the period 5<sup>th</sup> April to 6<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

- There was no unexpected expenditure
- Our “extras” in the past three months were;
  - Midweek Service £56
  - Scrabble Group £100
  - Carnock Coffee Group £100
  - Rag Bag £35
  - Oakley Tea Fund £252
  - Strawberry Tea £500
  - Plant Sale £412
  - May Fayre £1520

Thank you once again for your support.

**Isobel Gibson**  
**Treasurer**

## ***Other Items***

### **Come and Join us for an evening with The Ian Walker Band**

Come and join us at Oakley Church for what promises to be a fantastic evening with the Ian Walker Band.

Ian himself is from Glasgow and is a very successful and popular singer and songwriter and has released twenty albums/song books.



Jimmy Scott is from Bo'ness and has been signing and playing Country Gospel music since the 1960s.

Moe Walker is from Holywood, Northern Ireland and has performed as an acclaimed singer on the music scene for many years.

They cover a wide variety of types of music guaranteed to keep you entertained, so please come and join us on Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> September – IT WILL BE GREAT! Time still to be confirmed.

### **The Master's Hand**

Wishing to encourage her young son's progress on the piano, a mother took the small boy to a Paderewski concert. After they were seated, the mother spotted a friend in the audience and walked down the aisle to greet her. Seizing the opportunity to explore the wonders of the concert hall, the little boy rose and eventually explored his way through a door marked "NO ADMITTANCE".

When the house lights dimmed and the concert was about to begin, the woman returned to her seat and discovered that her son was missing. Suddenly, the curtains parted and spotlights focussed on the impressive Steinway on stage. In horror, the mother saw her little boy sitting at the keyboard, innocently picking out "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star". At that

moment, the great piano master made his entrance, quickly moved to the piano, and whispered in the boy's ear, "Don't quit, keep playing".

Then leaning over, Paderewski, reached down with his left hand and began filling in a pass part. Soon his right arm reached around to the other side of the child and he added a running obligation. Together, the old master and the young novice transformed a frightening situation into a wonderfully creative experience. The audience was mesmerized.

That's the way it is with God. What we can accomplish on our own is hardly noteworthy. We try our best, but the results aren't exactly graceful flowing music. But with the hand of the Master, our life's work truly can be beautiful. Next time you set out to accomplish great feats, listen carefully. You can hear the voice of the Master, whispering in your ear, "Don't quit, keep playing". Feel His loving arms around you. Know that His strong hands are playing the concerto of your life. Remember, God Doesn't call the equipped, He equips the called.

***Provided by a member of the Oakley Congregation***

### **ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SOMETHING DIFFERENT?**



Are you interested in spending time painting or drawing with other people at Oakley?

This would be a group of people that would like to dabble in painting or drawing.

It's more of a come and enjoy, than teaching, but Irene will be there with pointers.

The idea is to have fun whilst, possibly creating a masterpiece, you never know!!!

If you are interested, speak to Irene in Church, who will organise something if the interest is there!



# T @ 2



Our open afternoons have continued over the summer months. The Friendship Team have been very pleased with the support from the congregation and encouraged that some non-Church members have been coming along to join us. We would be delighted to welcome many more, so please think about who you know that might enjoy coming along to meet us.

Oakley Church is open on the last Wednesday of the month between 2.00pm and 4.00pm. Cups of tea or coffee are freely available and perhaps the chance to have a conversation with someone you have not met before. We usually have a quiz on the tables – no pressure and no prizes – just the satisfaction of knowing some of the answers!

The dates for the rest of the year are:

Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> September

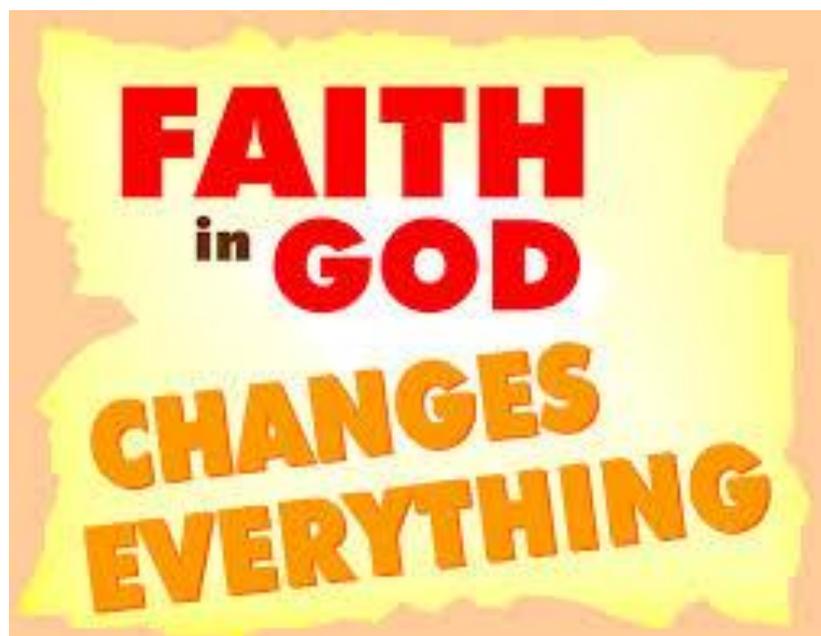
Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> October

Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> November

Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> December (We might have a wee party!)

Pop the dates in your diary and let friends and neighbours know about T @ 2 and encourage them to come along with you! The Friendship Team will be delighted to see you.

**Winifred Narbrough**  
**(Friendship Team Co-ordinator)**



My dear friends

It seems such a long time since I said farewell to you all in Oakley church on 30<sup>th</sup> June, it was a very memorable day for me especially when so many of you came along.

Although I have sent cards and letters of thanks I wanted to round it up so that no one had been missed out, so thank you all for all your lovely gifts, cards and good wishes, I was quite overwhelmed with your kindness. The gift of money I received from the church I used towards a fancy new laptop, as my existing one was giving up the will to live so thank you so much for that. Thank you too for all the support, encouragement and love you have shown me over the years.

I hope you have had a good summer and enjoyed a time of rest along with the heat and the thunderstorms, and are looking forward to the new sessions of groups.

I miss you all so very much and after 30 years with you I will hold you in my heart and cover you with prayer for a long time to come. I think I have found a new spiritual home; it wasn't where I expected nevertheless I feel God has guided me and will plant me there.

Wishing you all every blessing

***Mary Hunter***



***Let us Pray***

Dear Lord,  
You have been kind and gracious to lead us through our  
journeys. Thank you for being a shepherd, light for our feet,  
our healer and our strength.

***Amen***