



# *Carnock & Oakley Parish Church*



For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you not harm you,  
Plans to give you a hope and a future

*Jeremiah 29:11*

## **Newsletter Spring 2020**

**Session Clerk**

Mr Andrew Croxford  
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01383 271796

**Minister**

Mr Charles Lines  
The Manse  
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**Treasurer**

Mrs Isobel Gibson  
3 Hawthorn Bank  
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# Diary Dates

**Next Communion will be on Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> March 2020.**

Wed, 26 <sup>th</sup> Feb	<b>T @ 2</b>	02:00pm	Oakley
Sun, 15 <sup>th</sup> Mar	<b>A.S.M.</b> <b>(After Joint Service in Oakley)</b>	10:00am	Oakley
Wed, 25 <sup>th</sup> Mar	<b>T @ 2</b>	02:00pm	Oakley
Wed, 29 <sup>th</sup> Apr	<b>T @ 2</b>	02:00pm	Oakley
Sat, 9 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>May Fayre</b>	TBC	
Sat, 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	<b>Plant Sale</b>	TBC	
Wed, 27 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>T @ 2</b>	02:00pm	Oakley
Sun, 7 <sup>th</sup> Jun	<b>Communion</b>	10:00am	Oakley
		11:30 am	Carnock
Sun, 7 <sup>th</sup> Jun	<b>Gift Day</b>		
Sun, 6 <sup>th</sup> Sep	<b>Communion</b>	10:00am	Oakley
		11:30 am	Carnock
Sun, 6 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<b>Communion</b>	10:00am	Oakley
		11:30 am	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 Carnock 11:30am	<b>Charles Lines (Minister)</b> <b>07909 762257 / 01383 247209</b>
<b>MON</b>	<b>Scrabble</b> <b>Bible Study</b> <b>Fellowship</b>	Carnock 2:00pm Oakley 11:00am <i>(Fortnightly on a Monday)</i>	<b>Sandy Muirhead</b> <b>850077</b>
<b>TUE</b>	<b>The Guild</b>  <b>Midweek Service</b>	Oakley 7:30pm <i>(3rd Tuesday of month)</i>  Oakley 12:00 <i>(2nd 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>WED</b>	<b>Hobbies Group</b> <b>Coffee Morning</b>	Oakley 10:30am Carnock 10:30am-12:00	<b>Ann Rae</b> <b>850566</b> <b>Ann Riddell</b> <b>850354</b>
<b>SAT</b>	<b>Prayer Breakfast</b>	Oakley 8:00am <i>(3rd Saturday of month)</i>	

### 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

## Back to basics

On Friday the 21<sup>st</sup> of April 2017 the National Grid announced that it managed a 24-hr period of coal free electricity power generation for the whole of Britain. This was the first such period since we began to generate electrical power from coal back in the late 1800's. The fossil fuel is being gradually phased out in favour of cleaner alternatives.



Coal was the fuel that powered the Industrial Revolution, which brought prosperity to Britain and employment for many in this part of Fife. The coal measures of the Central Belt were laid down about 300 million years ago: I like to think that God had our wellbeing and prosperity in mind when he hid this natural resource under the ground for us.

God also laid down something else for our wellbeing and prosperity, his moral law, written into creation by the finger of God. But a bit like coal, though it was intended for our good it ended up causing harm and even death, so the Apostle Paul tells us in his letter to the Romans. Not that the Law, or coal for that matter, is bad, the problem is human sinfulness.

Laying down the law cannot deal with human sinfulness, something else was laid down to deal with that; the life of God's own Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Also, the power for Christian living does not come from the Law, but from the Spirit of God, the life of Jesus within us. So what is the role of the Law in our faith?

As Boris Johnson pushes for the UK to become a world leader in the lowering of carbon emissions, it is likely we won't be relying on coal much longer. It is clear from Matthew 5:17 that some people thought that Jesus was doing away with the Law, but Jesus clearly says no, as long as the World remains the Law will also remain, down to the smallest part of it.

The Law is the ABC of our faith. As children we learn the alphabet in order to be able to read and write. As adults the use of the alphabet has become second nature to us; we use it without thinking about it. For mature Christians

the law is second nature, fulfilled by love, but children need to learn from an early age what is right and wrong, what is pleasing to God and what isn't. I'm personally hugely concerned for our children and their moral upbringing, and particularly concerned about what children are taught in schools these days regarding morality. The Church desperately needs to focus on young people, not easy when the majority in the church are elderly.

***With love,  
Charles***

## ***Kirk Session Update (Andrew Croxford – Session Clerk)***

The Kirk Session met on Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> January and will meet with the Congregational Board on Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> February to approve the annual accounts.



The Minister updated the Kirk Session on his pastoral work including a forthcoming baptism in Carnock. The Minister encouraged the Kirk Session to see Mission as its main focus in 2020 and it was agreed this should be on the agenda for every meeting of the Kirk Session.

The Kirk Session set dates for the Annual Stated Meeting, Holy Week Services, the Gift Day, and Communion dates for 2020.

At its previous meeting, the Kirk Session considered the option of changing the constitution of our church from the current format of a Kirk Session and a Congregational Board to one with just a Kirk Session but with a number of sub-committees reporting to the Kirk Session. The Kirk Session resolved to consider this matter further and in line with the awaited report from the Special Commission.

Regular reports were received from the Friendship Team, the Protection of Vulnerable Groups Co-ordinator, the Roll Keeper and our Presbytery Elder.

## Annual Stated Meeting

The Annual Stated Meeting (ASM) will be held on Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> March after the Service at Oakley. There will be no service at Carnock that day.

In this Newsletter are reports from the various Groups in the Church. Please take the time to read these and if you would like to become involved in any of the Groups, why not speak to one of the leaders at the meeting. The Annual Accounts will also be received at the ASM and there will be a chance to ask questions about our finances. Our Fabric Convenor will also give a report on property matters and again there will be a chance to ask questions.

The ASM is also the meeting at which appointments to the Congregational Board are made. If you would like to know more about what is involved in becoming a member of the Board, why not speak to Mina Kyle our Clerk to the Board before the meeting.

## 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> March at 10.00am at Oakley and 11.30am at Carnock.

The Kirk Session has set the dates for the Communion Services for the remainder of the year and they will be held as follows: 7<sup>th</sup> June, 6<sup>th</sup> September and 6<sup>th</sup> December.

## Gift Day

The Annual Gift Day will take place this year on Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> June, which is also the day we celebrate Holy Communion. Letters and envelopes will be sent out as usual nearer the time.



## Christian Aid Forth Bridge Cross 2020

The Annual Forth Bridge Cross will take place this year on Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> April, in aid of Christian Aid.

This is one way you can help reduce poverty in our world.

If you would like to know more about taking part or supporting the event in other ways, please see Andrew Croxford who will be pleased to give you more details.

## The Guild

### Guild Report for 2019 / 2020

Our November meeting was a talk on Genealogy by Brenda Borrows and in December we had our annual Christmas meal at the Garvock House Hotel. It was amazing, the food was excellent and the service next to none. Marion did a great job in organising it all and we thank her very much for this once again. I gave out quizzes for fun and everyone seemed to enjoy them and we finally finished off with a poem from Shonaid. We all sang "Away in a Manger", to finish off a very enjoyable evening and the weather was kind to us too, as there was no snow for drivers to worry about.



The first meeting of the new year, was our Scot's night, organised by Shonaid. It was every bit as good as usual and great fun was had by all. She had a new member in her "Call my Bluff" panel to replace Mary, being Wilma, to join Phyllis & Shirley. Her Scottish food was excellent and she had us all singing Scottish songs and hymns. The devotions and poems performed by Shonaid in Scot's, added to a great evening, which she finished off with a not so easy, but superb quiz.

We are now awaiting on the 18<sup>th</sup> February 2020, Mary Welsh giving us a talk on Dunfermline Abbey Church and on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2020, our coffee evening, entertainment by Ensemble, a group of eleven, which has been recommended by one of our Guild members. They have been going for many years, giving

so much to charity and are excellent singers and a pianist. Please, could you buy a ticket and come along and enjoy the show. Tickets can be had from Ann Riddell or Guild members. Also, quizzes can be purchased to raise funds for our Projects and church funds from Ann and some members of the guild. On the 7<sup>th</sup> April, we are having our extra meeting to arrange the Spring Tea and our AGM is on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2020. Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> April is our annual Spring Tea, entertainment by Roy McArthur & Friends. Our outing with Port Seton Guild is on 7<sup>th</sup> May and it is our turn to go there, arranged at our end by Shirley. We are having a meal at a garden centre in Dalkeith. Then on 19<sup>th</sup> May it is our meeting to make up the 2020/2021 syllabus and that concludes our syllabus for 2019/2020.

***Ann Riddell (Secretary)***

## **Carnock Coffee Morning / Hobbies Group**

Our coffee morning continues to run well with a good amount attending each Wednesday morning from 10.30am to 12.00 noon. The laugh of the morning was me putting my foot in it, as cars were the topic of conversation apparently at one point, probably thinking of Anna. However, I did not hear the beginning of the conversation that one person had started, and was that they never wanted to have an automatic, but would not change back after they got used to it. I piped up and said “Yes, I would never go back to a twin tub, even although I did not want an automatic originally”. They all burst out laughing and I said “I thought you were talking about washing machines”. It pays, therefore, not to arrive late as you are sure to catch up with the wrong gist of the conversation. However, it made for a laugh and it just shows how we can have a laugh at our very informal coffee mornings. Please come along and join us, you will be made most welcome.



***Ann Riddell (Secretary)***

## **Scrabble Group**

Our scrabble group on a Monday afternoon from 2:00pm – 5:00pm, is still very popular with all of our 10 members still attending every week. We enjoyed our lunch at the Carnock Inn on the 16<sup>th</sup> December and then had an enjoyable afternoon playing scrabble. It was particularly good at the Inn that day as there were a group who had entertainment in the back room and they had us joining in with their songs. We were shocked when we heard of Anna’s



accident recently and miss her at the scrabble on Mondays. We hope she will be back with us very soon.

*Shirley Young (Treasurer)*

## **Kate MacDonald – Mission Partner**

### **Advent in St. Andrew's Church in Tiberius**

Each week I will set out another box of decorations, or candles, or greenery, and invite the congregation to place them around the church at some point during or after the service. Yesterday we started with the tree, which slowly became more colourful as people came forward during the affirmation of faith, the intercessions, the peace, the offering, and after communion. After the service, over refreshments, we hung the rest of the ornaments and laughed and took pictures and shared stories of tree decorating 'back home'.

One person said it felt like an act of prayer for her. Someone else declared it a new tradition to be repeated next year. Several told me how welcome it made them feel.

What I saw as I led worship was a church of God's people joyfully anticipating, together preparing for, and prayerfully reflecting on the coming of our Lord. That is Advent here in Tiberias. And it is beautiful and precious and holy.

*Margaret Lowe*

## **TODAY'S ECCLESIASTICAL CHUCKLE**

**(provided by Andrew Croxford)**

**A minister parked his car in a no-parking zone in a large city because he was short of time and couldn't find a space with a meter.**

**Then he put a note under the windshield wiper that read: "I have circled the block 10 times. If I don't park here, I'll miss my appointment. Forgive us our trespasses."**

**When he returned, he found a citation from a police officer along with this note "I've circled this block for 10 years. If I don't give you a ticket I'll lose my job. Lead us not into temptation."**

# Finance

## Annual Report for 2019



Our funds at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 compared with those of the previous year (2018) were as follows;

	2018 £		2019 £
General Fund	12645		14745
Fabric Fund	7757		7807
Property Renovation	19459		19459
Mrs Dawson's Legacy	1000		1000
Music Fund	209		210
Youth Evangelism	4410		4410
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>45480</b>		<b>47631</b>

## General Fund

- Ordinary Income & Expenditure;
  - The Income for the General Fund amounted to £57637 and the Expenditures was £55537, making a surplus of £2100
  - We were fortunate to be given a £5000 reduction in our Ministry & Mission allowance reducing it to £03126 from £35126.
  - The balance at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 was £14745
  - We have £1960 to come from HMRC
  - The Gift Day in June raised the run of £6875 inclusive of Give Aid
- Contributions from Church Organisation;
  - Scrabble Group £300
  - Carnock Coffee Morning £300
  - Guild £200
  - Sunday School £240
- Fundraising;
  - May and November Fayres £2689. Both Fayres included generous donations plus £500 give by Gift Aid for the Fayres
  - Strawberry Coffee Morning £500
  - Oakley Tea Fund £252
  - Rag Bag £99

- Ian Walker Bank Concert £607
- Plant Sale £412
- Coffee Morning £263
- TOTAL: £5322
- Our Special Collections for other charities amounted to £500. This was disbursed as below;
  - Dunfermline Town Band £100
  - Andy's Man Club £225
  - Alzheimer Scotland £225
- Expenditure;
  - There was only one large item, Hymnal Plus £2675
- Property Renovation Fund;
  - There was no movement on this fund.
- Fabric Fund;
  - The income to the fund amounted to £50
  - There was no expenditure
  - The balance at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 was £7807
- Evangelism Fund;
  - There was no movement on this fund during 2019.
  - The balance remains the same £4410.
- Mrs Dawson's Legacy;
  - There was no movement on this fund during £2019
  - The balance remains the same £1000
- Music Fund;
  - There was no movement here
  - Balance is £210

Thank you once again for your support.

***Isobel Gibson***  
***Treasurer***



## Other Items



# T @ 2



The Friendship Team have been very pleased at the response to the **T @ 2** afternoons in Oakley Church. On the last Wednesday of the month the Church is open from 2.00pm until 4.00pm to anyone who would like to come along and join us for a friendly chat, a cup of tea or coffee and perhaps an interesting activity.

Last year we enjoyed an afternoon tasting cured and smoked trout. It was well received and all the plates were clean! Some people even took recipes away.

In September Jenny McPherson came along for a Music and Memories afternoon and we were taken back in time to the Love Songs of the 50s. We sang along to crooners and rock stars of the period. Some people enjoyed a wee dance too.

We usually have a quiz on the tables for those who are interested, no prizes for this, just for fun.

On our December afternoon we had some Christmas fun and enjoyed singing Christmas songs.

Dates for our next few afternoons in 2020 are;

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February**  
**Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April**

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March**  
**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May**

The team are always on the lookout for fresh ideas to try out so if you have any suggestions please let us know. Volunteer helpers are always welcome too.

***Winifred Narbrough (850997)***  
***(Friendship Team Co-ordinator)***





God  
Loves  
You



***Let us Pray***

Dear Lord,  
You love and care for everyone. Grant us the grace to love  
and care for others around us and to be peacemakers.  
We ask this in your most holy name.

***Amen***