

# Carnock & Oakley Parish Church



FELLOWSHIP

*God's family, living by faith, rejoicing in hope and growing in love*

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BURNING BUSH

14<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Dear Friends,

As I write this, I'm reminded that it is a special day! No not Valentines Day, even though many people will be celebrating the fact that they have someone special in their lives, but today is the first day of the time that we Christians refer to as Lent! A time when many Christians give something up as they look forward to the annual celebration of Easter! I admire those who feel it's right for them, but I've never felt that was what God was asking me to do, but rather I've come to believe that instead of giving up something, that God wants to give us something! Something of himself, because if we use the next forty days, (not counting Sundays!) as a time of drawing a little bit closer to God, then we can expect Easter to be really special! Mind you it would be even more special if you would accept this invitation to join us for the Easter Celebrations!

At the beginning of the month, we had the privilege of hosting a joint morning service for the Churches of the West Fife Villages. Since we only had 150 seats, and there was at least 165 present, it was really something to see folk standing at the back, because the church was so full. The worship was a real joy, and on the first Sunday in April we shall all be joining with the congregation in Limekilns to share worship again. Another exciting time was last Sunday when a number of folk who have served faithfully for over thirty years were honoured for their dedicated service.

Over the coming months a representative group from all of the West Fife Village Churches will be looking together at the future of all of the local churches. Sadly, it will mean looking together at buildings, finance and congregations, and that will mean some unwelcome, and maybe uncomfortable changes. Your thoughts and prayers will be much appreciated as hard decisions are reached. We can look at this situation in two ways, either positively as an opportunity for all of the congregations to work more closely together or negatively in wondering where God is in all of this! I have to tell you He is with us! He isn't confined to a place or a building, but he reaches out to all of us through the ordinary and the surprising of our everyday lives!

We hope you will take time to worship with us this Lent and Easter time, with our Communion being celebrated on March 3rd, but if for whatever reason you cannot be with us, rest assured that we will be thinking of you praying for you.

May this Easter Season be one of joy for you and those you love.

Yours aye,

## Elizabeth

Rev Elizabeth S S Kenny

Interim Moderator and Locum