

St John's quarterly Finance Report from our Treasurer David Nicoll:

Offerings during June, July and August 2007	£2120.00
Amount paid to Circuit this quarter:	£3800.00
Giving a shortfall of:	£1680.00

August 31st saw the end of another Financial Year, thus leaving a "window" of 24 days to the Church Council meeting to obtain position statements from the Bank of Scotland, T.S.B., A.N. and C & Y, and lastly cash "on hand" from the treasurer. Then brining together all these statements and settling them against the various cash books held by the treasurer to establish if we were all in agreement! Yes we were !!, then onto drawing up a 3 page Financial Statement to show the figures for the year.

A major problem is that we don't all use the same start point of the year ie. Offering - 1st February: Tax Year 6th April: Consessional Year 1st September: It can be confusing when the Gift Aid monies have to be recorded for Tax Relief. Now that the Financial Statement has been prepared it now faces it's final hurdle - our auditors! Thanks must be expressed to these two ladies who have done sterling work for a number of years.

After all has been found to be in order David Nicoll gets a great deal of "Job Satisfaction!" and does thank all participants for their valued assistance. His only regret is that after the work of all concerned in the formulating of the Financial Statements, copies for members are left on the vestibule table. Reflecting over the years finances it is apparent that without the I.V.Trust we would be having problems.

David Nicoll. Treasurer.

If you would like a visit from the minister or know of someone who is ill
Please let us know.

Contact Numbers:

Ministers:	Rev. Mary Patterson:	01674 - 672373
	Rev. David Firth:	01382 -223059
Church Steward:	David Nicoll:	01241 - 875172

We hope you like the news letter and find the information in it useful and informative. Please let us know your views and suggestions. If there are any items of information you would like to see in the news letter or if you have any news, items of interest or a funny story for the news letter please contact:.



Janice Swankie 875453
David Nicoll 875172
Norma Cargill 876139



The Totum Kirkie News Letter

Welcome friends to your St.
John's Church news letter.

Hark the glad sound! the Saviour comes,
The Saviour promised long.
Let every heart prepare a throne,
And every voice a song.



December 2007
Issue No. 17

Ministers: Rev. Mary Patterson
01674 - 672373
Rev. David Firth
01382 - 223059

Message from your Ministers.

Dear Friends,

Over the next few weeks we will no doubt be busy preparing for Christmas. Often these preparations are very time consuming as we face the shops, fight the queues and fill up the freezer.

In the midst of it all, we will have a list of people for whom presents must be purchased. Some of these people we love dearly and so put a great deal of thought and effort (and probably expense) into purchasing a suitable gift.

Others might take us a great deal less time for there are always those for whom we feel *obliged* to buy a small something. These are the folks for which there is an expectation rather than a desire for us to give a gift at Christmas. No doubt we will not expend the same effort or indeed expense on those gifts.

There is a verse in the Bible which tells us that "*God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*" (John 3 :16)

We are free to celebrate Christmas and enjoy all the good things the season brings us because of the fact that God gave his Gift all those years ago to each and every one of us because His love for us was so overwhelming. Every single one of us is the recipient of the very best God had to offer. There was no obligation on His part; a sense of well, having created us in the first place, he should really do something for us. No, quite the opposite. Because we are God's creation, made in His image and likeness, He loves us to the uttermost and only the very best would do and His best was Jesus.

That is what we are celebrating at Christmas and what Jesus' followers should celebrate every day of their lives; the simple fact that God loves us and gave His own Son to be our Saviour and that Saviour came as a tiny baby on the first Christmas.

As we rush around in our endeavours to be ready for Christmas, are we conscious of exactly what it is we are getting ready to celebrate? That God loved us so much that he gave his only Son so that through him we can have eternal life. How much of a gift is that?

Let's get to grips with what Christmas is really about - the most extravagant present ever given and it was given to you and me. When we accept that precious Gift from God then the fact that we received another pair of unwanted socks on Christmas morning won't bother us at all.

Wishing you every blessing this Christmas and a happy and peaceful New Year.

Rev. Mary Patterson

Meetings for future Reference:

Will all church members voted onto these committees please attend the relevant meeting or let David Nicoll know if you are unable to attend.

Circuit Meeting: Thursday 13th March 2008 at Dundee
Church Council: Monday 10th March 2008 at 7.30pm in the Hall
Pastoral Committee: Thursday 6th March 2008 at 7.30pm in the Vestry

Wesley House:

The decision has now been made to sell Wesley House and the paper work is now being progressed. Unfortunately it has been necessary to spend a considerable amount on ground maintenance and on the top flat which had been left in a shocking state. This remedial work has been advised on by our agent as it was felt that the building would be more attractive for sale if in good repair. It is hoped that we can recoup some of the repair bills after the proposed sale.

I am sure we are all sorry to see Wesley House being sold but it was an unanimous decision by the Church Council and Circuit Meeting that this be so, as it was seen as a constant strain on our resources.

David Nicoll, Treasurer.

Gift Day.

Within this news letter you will find a letter from your Ministers, Rev. Mary Patterson and Rev. David Firth, and also a Gift Day envelope. At the last Church Council meeting on Thursday 24th September 2007, it was suggested by Rev. Mary Patterson that the Church should start giving out special envelopes for Gift Day donations to all the members and these to be returned by a particular date.

It was felt this option would be easier for all members rather than coming down to the Church in inclement weather on Gift Day Saturday to hand in their donation.

If you cannot hand in your Donation envelope into the church I am sure David Nicoll, our very worthy treasurer, would be more than pleased to pick it up.

Christmas Fayre

Christmas Fayre was held in the church hall on Saturday 17th November at 10am. Once again it was a great success. This is entirely due to the hard work of the church members who every year give up Saturday to come along and prepare the stalls and the kitchen for the event. Without them the Church Fayres would not happen. On behalf of St. John's Church I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who helped in any way and also to the members who donated items so generously, please continue the good work. This year's Christmas Fayre raised over £500. Congratulations to everyone.

More important than ever that our Church Fayres continue to be successful. Because we have fewer members attending Church on a Sunday this means less money in the offering plate on a Sunday. So we need the monies raised at the Fayres to help to overcome this shortfall.

Thank you once again for your donations towards fresh flowers in the Church. It is lovely to see and smell the fresh flowers on Sunday morning and this would not be possible without your donations. If you wish to donate flowers on a special date please put your name against that particular date in the calendar which hangs in the vestibule, or let me know and I will be pleased to arrange for flowers to be in the Church on that date. Thank you once again — Norma Cargill Tel: 876139



The Laundry Prayer:

**God, you have washed me clean and dried me out,
now turn me upside down and shake me out.
Discharge the static when I cling to things,
smooth out the creases, brush away the fluff.
Pull me, reshape me, turn me right side out,
iron me and air me, ready to be used.
Let me not be afraid of dirt and sweat,
repair me if I split, patch up my wear,
but please, never leave me on the shelf,
outdated, out of fashion, past repair.**

Taken from the Methodist Prayer Handbook.

Future Dates for your Diary.

Friday 14th December:

We are having a **Rudolph Scamper** in the Church hall starting at 7pm on Friday 14th December. This is like a Beetle Drive but as it is the festive season we will be drawing a "rudolph" (without Santa) instead. Please come along and join us for this fun filled night. Bring along as many friends with you to have a great evening filled with laughter. The evening will cost £1.50 per person and refreshments will be provided. Hope to see you there.

Christmas Family Worship Sunday 23rd December:

There will be a Family service in the Church on Sunday 23rd December at 11am. Everyone is very welcome and the Sunday School will be entertaining us with Christmas songs. After the service the Sunday School will be going along to Ceramic Creations in Carnoustie for their annual Christmas outing. This will include ceramic painting and eats.

Christmas Eve Service 24th December:

The Christmas Eve service will start in St. John's Church at 6pm. Everyone is extended a very warm welcome to this service and afterwards there will be tea/coffee and mince pies in the Church hall.

Ceilidh on 8th February 2008

We are planning a Ceilidh in the Church hall to raise funds for the Summer outing. This will be held on Friday 8th February at 7.30pm. As I am organizing entertainment for this evening I am going to print tickets to sell in advance. The tickets will cost £2.50 per person and this will include stovies and bannocks. The last musical evening I organized was very poorly attended and I hope that you will support this one please. The evening is open to all friends and family and you can contact myself, David Nicoll or Norma Cargill for tickets.

Friday 14th March:

On Friday 14th March we are having a **"Bunny Hop"** in the Church Hall. This an Easter version of a beetle drive and is great fun. We will start at 7pm and will cost £1.50 per person. Please come along with your friends and family for a great night's entertainment. Refreshments will be provided and great prizes to be won!

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