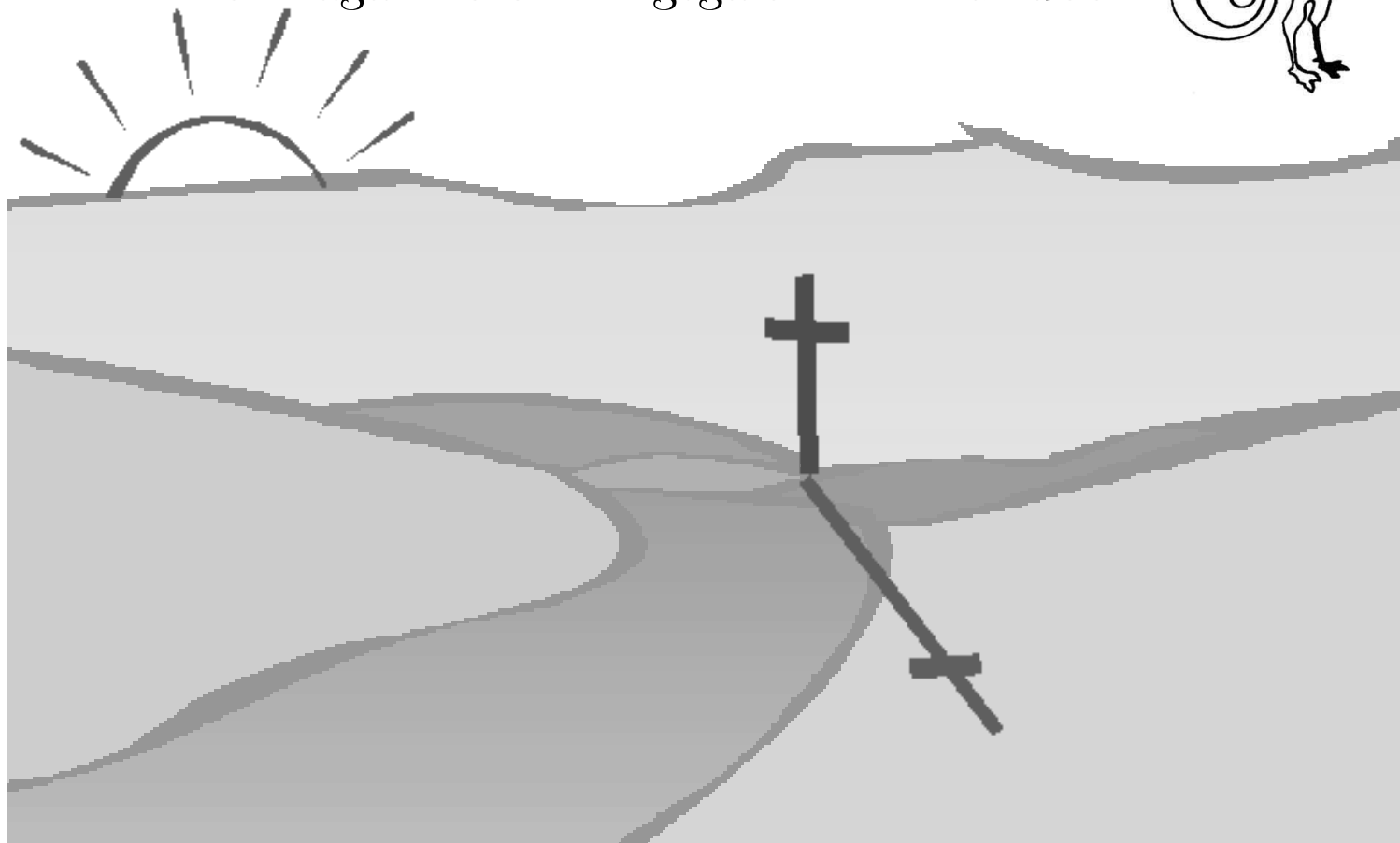


# The Wyvern

The Magazine of Kingsgait Kirk Dundee



# July 2025

Issue 716



"There shall be stability in your times, an abundance of salvation, wisdom, and knowledge; the reverent fear and worship of the Lord is your treasure and His."  
Isaiah 33:6

# Who's Who

## Minister

Rev Anita D C Kerr

## Session Clerk

Margaret Adamson

## Treasurer

Morag Stalker

## Fabric Co-ordinator & Rollkeeper

Mr Ron Chimiak

[rollkeeper@outlook.com](mailto:rollkeeper@outlook.com)

## Church Officer

Mr Garry Collins

## Presbytery Elder

James Burns

## Director of Music

Ruth Irons

## Hall Letting Convenor

Garry Collins

[Halls.kingsgaitkirk@outlook.com](mailto:Halls.kingsgaitkirk@outlook.com)

## Safeguarding Co-ordinator

Pam Chimiak

## Reader Co-Ordinator

Merelyn Baxter

## Mission Partner

JustBee Productions

[www.justbeeproductions.co.uk](http://www.justbeeproductions.co.uk)



**Session Meeting**  
**24th September—7pm**

Cong Ref No - 291743

Scottish Charity No - SC011775

**Sunday worship is  
conducted by Rev Anita  
Kerr, every week at 11am .**

## What's On?

Girls' Brigade

Monday Evenings 18:30—20.00

Carpet Bowling Group

Thursday Evenings—19:00—21:00

### Something else happening?

If you have anything you'd like  
intimated in the pre-service slides,  
please contact Stewart Kerr  
by a Friday at the latest:

[st\\_kerr@btopenworld.com](mailto:st_kerr@btopenworld.com)

## The Wyvern Next Edition September/October

**Contributions for the next edition are  
welcome**

***anytime during the coming weeks,  
but at the very latest by:***

**31st August**

**email to**

[thechurchmagazine@outlook.com](mailto:thechurchmagazine@outlook.com)

The September/October edition of the *Wyvern*  
will be available for collection by distributors  
on Sunday 14th September

# Greetings from Anita



<sup>6</sup> *Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything; tell God your needs, and don't forget to thank him for his answers* <sup>7</sup> *If you do this, you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand.*

I have been thinking about worrying and wondering what it is that makes some of us *worriers* and others not. Are there just two types, those who experience worry and those who cause it? How do we navigate the workplace, family life, Christian living and this world of conflict and climate change without worrying? According to scripture we turn it into prayer. This not only relieves us of the need to worry but rewards us with the peace which comes from being in God's presence, reassured and resting in the Holy Spirit. When the worry-wheel

begins to spin I try to remind myself of the adage, '***Worry is like a rocking chair, keeps you busy but doesn't get you anywhere.***'



Prayer on the other hand has its own rewards, *far more wonderful than the human mind can understand.*

I have recently received an Access to Work grant which has provided me with a wonderful chair and desk to work at the computer. They are specially adapted to provide the additional support needed whilst working for any length of time. In addition to their many features the chair has a 'rocking function' which allows me to rest and rock simultaneously. As I write this letter to you, I have been inspired to think of it as my 'prayer chair'! It is undoubtedly an answer to prayer, and I have thanked God for His answer many times.

In this wonderful new chair, I not only work, I pray with you and for you in all our challenges. When we are understandably worried about loved ones, finances, health and well-being, making difficult decisions about what is best. Asking God how as Christians we are to cope stressful relationships, unkindness and all manner of matters which worry us. *Pray about everything*, tell God our needs. If we think about it, we can pray about it. Prayer is our conversation with God. God unravels our thoughts through prayer, loosening the knots and easing the tension. So, I rock and pray, and His peace keeps my thoughts and my heart at rest as I trust in Christ Jesus.

*Every blessing—Anita*

# 'The Big Brew'

Do you remember we held a Big Brew back in March to raise funds for Transform Trade? Well, we raised a whopping £371, which exceeded the target of £300. We recently received a certificate and letter congratulating Kingsgait Kirk and thanking us for our amazing total.

Among those who will benefit are tea growers like Rosina Begum. She lives in northern Bangladesh, and struggles to earn a living from her small plot of land, which was unsuitable for most crops. But now, thanks to a project run by Transform Trade, she grows tea, which has transformed her family's future. Tea is something we take for granted, yet most tea growers, especially women, have really poor working conditions and earn very little. Being part of the Fair Trade system makes a huge difference.

So thank you very much to all of you who helped raise our £371, whether by donating, baking or serving tea and coffee on the day. In an unfair and uncertain world, it's nice to know we can make some people's lives that bit brighter.



Sally

As each one has received a special gift,  
employ it in serving one another as  
good stewards of the  
manifold grace  
of God.



1 Peter 4:10

FOR THE GLORY OF GOD

# Annual Report and Accounts

By the time you read this, and all being well, the Kirk Session - as congregational trustees - will have considered and approved the Annual Report and Accounts for 2024. As a result of the very generous legacy received from the estate of Miss Margaret Keillar, which raised our total income for the year above the limit imposed by the Charity Regulations for accounts to undergo simply an Independent Examination, it has been necessary for a full audit of the accounts to take place. This, along with other reasons beyond our control, has delayed the approval process beyond the normal deadline of 31st March for submission of Accounts to the Presbytery of Perth and the Church of Scotland Stewardship and Finance Department. Both were made aware of the situation, and there is still plenty of time for us to meet the deadline of 30th September for the accounts, attested by Presbytery, to be lodged with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR).

*Morag Stalker—Treasurer*

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## Fabric Report

Recent maintenance work on the steeple started with vegetation and nests being removed from the outside steeple ledges. The clock tower had a pigeon infestation coming in through the louvre slats so a firm was hired to remove the pigeons and clean the bird debris and also put up metal proofing to stop future infestations.

During this year's property inspection our lightning conductor failed inspection due to regulation changes. A steeplejack firm was hired to bring us up to today's standards. We only had one conductor when regulation states that we need two for our steeple. While putting the second conductor up, it was shown on pictures that some of the concrete on the steeple was crumbling due to rusted pins holding the wyvern in place. All the gaps and loose masonry were filled in with mortar to stop any future erosion. Thanks to your offerings we were able to cover these expensive costs.



*Fabric Convenor*

*Ron Chimiak*

# Christian Aid



## Kingsgait

Thank you very much to everyone who supported Christian Aid Week in May, whether by giving of your time, talents and/or money. The total from the donation envelopes came to £477.50 while the coffee morning raised £238.50, making a grand total of **£716.00**.

Special thanks go to Sheila Valentine, for the smooth running of the coffee morning, Sheena Mullis for taking on the tombola stall and Ruth Irons for the big sing, but please be assured that I appreciated the help and support of every single person who was involved. There was a real buzz in the St Andrew's Hall as we set up for the Saturday and it was a pity that the turnout on the day was smaller than we'd expected.

## Westminster Abbey

Roddy and I attended the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary service in Westminster Abbey on 12<sup>th</sup> June. The sanctuary was packed so, as you can imagine, the congregational singing was rousing. We arrived in plenty of time and were directed to seats immediately behind members of the press, from where we could clearly see the lectern and pulpit. Not surprisingly, the Gospel passage was the parable of the Good Samaritan and in his address, keynote speaker the Revd Prof. Jerry Pillay (General Secretary of the World Council of Churches) spoke of his Christian journey – he pledged his life to God having been saved from drowning - and the power of hope.

It was wonderful to be in the presence of so many Christian Aid supporters from all parts of the UK and beyond. Later in the day we bumped into Val Brown, Head of Christian Aid Scotland, and a friend of hers from Shawlands Trinity Church in Glasgow, who took part in the prayers of thanksgiving. Another participant was Bezwada Wilson, a Christian Aid Partner from India, who campaigned long and hard to bring about a law to eliminate "manual scavenging" (as a Dalit ("untouchable") he had watched his own people forced into cleaning up human waste with their bare hands). He didn't talk about this – his story appears in the order of service – but as he passed our pew, not knowing then who he was, he stood out because of his simple attire (no ornate clerical garb for him) and his lovely smile as he nodded and caught people's eye as if they were old friends.

*Rev. Caroline Taylor*

*Christian Aid Co-ordinator*

# Carillon Festival – St John’s Kirk, Perth

This festival of bells, which I was privileged to attend, took place from 23 – 27 June 2025, with recitals daily at 12noon and 2pm.

The programme was organised by Ian Cassells, who gave a recital on Kingsgait Carillon on the occasion of the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary weekend in June 2024, and the recitalists hailed from different parts of the country.

Our Organist, Ruth Irons, was among the participating carillonneurs and I accompanied her to her recital. Each carillon is different in number of bells, design of playing console and method of access to the bell-playing room. At St John’s Kirk in Perth, access is via a stone spiral staircase within the old building, which is quite a challenge before you can even think of playing the bells. As St John’s has 35 bells, compared with only 16 at Kingsgait, Ruth’s repertoire was adapted to accommodate this. It was great to watch her skill and listen to the tunes. I was lucky enough to have a chance to try a couple of tunes myself after Ruth had finished.

In the afternoon I listened to Ian Cassell’s recital. A camera has been installed in the bell console room to enable visitors inside the church to view the carillonneurs as they play. However, if you want to hear the bells at their best, you should listen from outside. I did both. All in all, a very rewarding day.

*Margaret Robertson*

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## Wormit Rail Crash

The article on the Wormit Rail Crash, or The Sunday School Picnic Rail Crash as it was sometimes called, brought back memories of that day for one of our members, Agnes Reid.

Agnes and her sister, Margaret, attended the picnic of the St Paul’s strand of our united congregation on the same day. They took the train to St Andrews for a picnic at Craigtoun Park. On their return, Agnes was aware of some commotion as the train approached the Tay Bridge at Wormit. However, it was not until the sisters arrived home that they discovered what had happened. Their grandparents, in a state of anxiety, had come to ask their mother if they were all right. Fortunately they had been on a different train. Agnes says that she does not know how her grandparents could have found out about the crash so quickly as many people did not have telephones at home at that time.

*Margaret Robertson*

# For all Guild members - Some dates for your diary.

The National Guild Gathering will be held in the North Church, Perth, on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September at 11 am. Any member interested in attending please contact Sheila Valentine.

The Guild will resume on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September at 2pm with an afternoon of song with the Wighton Singers. A warm welcome is extended to everyone.

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## Girls' Brigade News



The session ended with a 'Family, Friends and Fun Night' when all these boxes were ticked. A good turnout of the girls' families and friends of the company appeared to have a lot of fun.

Some choruses, a dance, an 'All About Me Drive' and Parachute Pandemonium provided the fun and laughter before the girls received their awards for their work throughout the year.

Due to a ruling from Girls' Brigade Scotland, the evening saw the end of Marilyn Graham and Sheila Valentine's uniformed participation in the company.



# Girls Brigade Update

As you may have read in the Girls Brigade report, unfortunately Girls' Brigade Scotland has imposed an age limit for Officers. Sadly for our company - despite being very much more able than some of us! - Sheila and Marilyn fall into this category. This means that they will no longer be able to serve 15th Dundee in uniform. We are devastated that after devoting many years to Girls' Brigade, and having over 100 years of officer experience between them, their GB careers should end like this. It is no secret that, for many years, the Company has struggled for numbers. No matter how dire the situation has been, both ladies have supported the Company have never given up hope. Last session we had more girls than we have had in many years. Again, this mostly down to the dedication of Sheila and Marilyn. We are therefore delighted that Kirk Session has agreed that they are indispensable and we hope both will join us on a regular basis, representing Kingsgait Kirk.

Nationally, this is a difficult time for uniformed youth organisations and Girls' Brigade is no different. Sweeping decisions like this do not help. However, for reassurance, after the summer break the 15th will continue to meet at 6.30pm – 8pm on Monday nights. The new session will start on 25th August. All girls of school age will be welcomed.

*Jacqui, Alison and Felicity*

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## Walk to Lundie on Saturday 26th April

*Shared by Graeme Burns*

8 people attended the walk on this day. It was great to spend the day with Alison, Edith, Grace, Marilyn, Muriel, Tim and Stella. We left on the bus at 09:15am and arrived at Lundie Road End at about 10am, where the walk started from. We stopped for lunch at about 1pm then set off again at around 1:30pm. The bus back was at 2:45pm and I got back to my flat after a wonderful day out at about 3:20pm.



# Sharing of Memories

It was over fifty years ago when I first became an Elder that it was the norm for the minister to take a new Elder round and introduce him to the people in his new district. My district was the whole of the newly built Whitfield housing estate with its linked hexagonal blocks of flats and the houses at the start of the scheme which were all of different designs.

The minister then was the Rev Tom Campbell and we set off on one evening for my introductions. When you visited members of the congregation accompanied by the minister you were always asked in . . . . because you were with the minister!

It was an interesting experience but as the night wore I personally thought that it was a little late to knock on someones door. The Rev Tom Campbell thought nothing of it, however, and just after 9pm we knocked on another door. The man who answered the door quickly invited us in and said that his wife was at work. The introductions completed the man suddenly said that he was just going to have some toasted cheese and would we like some. I politely refused but the minister said that he would be happy to join him. And he did! This was the one and only time as an Elder, or any time, to be honest, that I have ever been offered toastcheese in someone's house after 9pm in the evening. I would imagine that would apply to the ministers, past and present, also!

*J.D. Pirie*

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## FINGAL'S CAVE

*A Poem by Jim Adams*

HE OPENS FOR BUSINESS

JUST AS CHATTERING SEAGULLS

APPLAUD A NEW DAY

ANOTHER DAY WHEN

PERSEVERING PILGRIMS

CAN PROBE THE HEART

OF HIS CATHEDRAL CAVE

HOPING TO TOUCH THE

HEM OF INFINITY

A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

PROBING WATER AND STONE

BY DEVOUT DISCIPLES

SHARING THEIR DREAMS

WITH SECULAR SAINTS

IN THE SHADOW OF A

HEBRIDEAN OVERTURE

TOGETHERNESS IN LOVE

ROWING TOWARDS THE LIGHT

THAT HEALS AND TRANSFORMS



# Flowers

|                       | <u>Flower Donor</u>               | <u>Flower Committee</u> |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>July 2025</i>      |                                   |                         |
| <i>6th</i>            | Mrs. D. Grant<br>Mr. J. Spain     | Mrs. M. McKenzie        |
| <i>13th</i>           | Mrs. A. Dewar                     | Mrs. A. Sanderson       |
| <i>20th</i>           | Mrs. S. Baird<br>Mrs. P. Wood     | Miss. M. Graham         |
| <i>27th</i>           | Mrs. J. Smith<br>Mrs. A. Black    | Mrs. M. McKenzie        |
| <i>August 2025</i>    |                                   |                         |
| <i>3rd</i>            | Mr. R. Taylor<br>Mrs. M. McKenzie | Mrs. A. Sanderson       |
| <i>10th</i>           | Mrs. F. Scott<br>Mrs. P. Chimiak  | Miss. M. Graham         |
| <i>17th</i>           | Mrs. F. Scott<br>Mrs. R. Irons    | Mrs. M. McKenzie        |
| <i>24th</i>           | Mrs. S. Robertson                 | Mrs. A. Sanderson       |
| <i>31st</i>           | Mrs. M. Baxter                    | Miss. M. Graham         |
| <i>September 2025</i> |                                   |                         |
| <i>7th</i>            | Mrs. S. Valentine                 | Mrs. M. McKenzie        |
| <i>14th</i>           | Mrs. R. Wilkie<br>Mrs. R. Irons   | Mrs. A. Sanderson       |
| <i>21st</i>           | Miss. M. Graham<br>Mrs. M. Mudie  | Miss. M. Graham         |
| <i>28th</i>           | Mrs. McKenzie                     | Mrs. M. McKenzie        |



The Harvest Gift Service  
will take place on Sunday  
21st September



# Useful Contacts

## **Christian Aid Co-Ordinator**

Reverend Caroline Taylor

## **Flower Committee**

Avril Sanderson

Muriel McKenzie

## **Girls' Brigade**

Sheila Valentine

## **Guild President**

Sheila Valentine

## **Kingsgait Kirk Charity Knitters**

Stella Xenophontos-Hellen

## **Life and Work**

Ron Coull

## **Fair Trade**

Sally Romilly

Margaret Chisholm

## **Church Eco-Congregation contact**

Sally Romilly

## **Wyvern Distribution Co-ordinator**

Alison Collins

## **Wyvern Editor**

Aimee Brown

# Minister's Details

If you have any pastoral needs or if you know of anybody at home, or in hospital who requires a visit please contact our Minister

## **Rev Anita Kerr**

Email: [Anita.Kerr@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:Anita.Kerr@churchofscotland.org.uk)

Telephone: 01382 456659

Or

## **Church Office**

Kingsgait Kirk

2 King Street, Dundee, DD1 2JB

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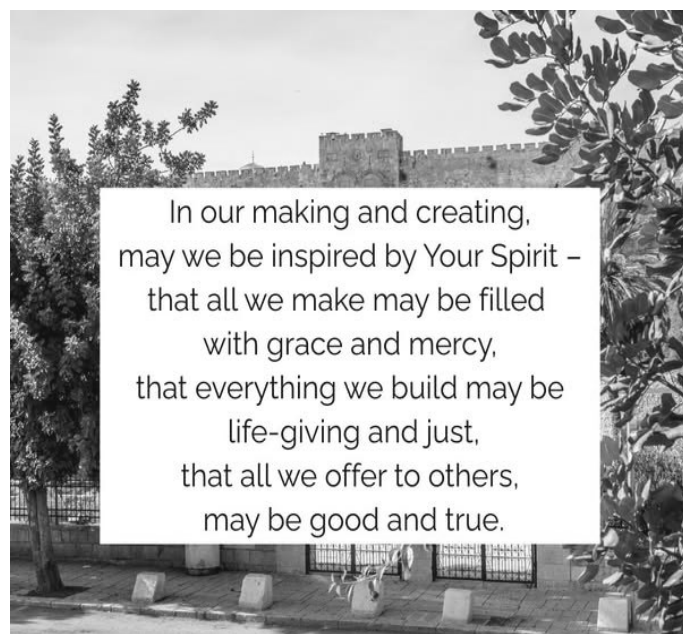
***Please note that Rev Anita Kerr does not work on Fridays***



**Kingsgait Kirk, Dundee**



**Meadowside St Paul's l/w St Andrew's**



In our making and creating,  
may we be inspired by Your Spirit –  
that all we make may be filled  
with grace and mercy,  
that everything we build may be  
life-giving and just,  
that all we offer to others,  
may be good and true.