## Barrhead St. Andre



#### **Contributors**

Tim Mineard, Linda Dick, Elma Farr, Sandy Farr, Catherine McGrath, Morag Inglis, Georgette Whitelaw, Ronnie Whitelaw, Anne Cosh, James Glen, James Guthrie, Peter Inglis



## from the minister

#### Tim Mineard

#### "I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten"

At this time of the year, we often quote passages from the Old Testament books of prophecy as they looked ahead to the coming of the long-awaited Jewish Messiah and the dawning of hope in dark times. Usually we don't quote the prophet Joel in this period of Advent, but I think there is a real message of hope for us in this text, especially given the difficulties we have all experienced in 2020 and our hopes and fears for the New Year.

The book of Joel opens with a description of how a vast locust swarm had ruined the fields, dried up the water sources, destroyed the grain and completely laid waste to the harvest in the land. Thankfully it's not a phenomenon we have to deal with in this country, but Joel paints an astonishingly vivid picture of the impact caused by such an occurrence. He describes how "the sun and moon are darkened and the stars no longer shine" (2:10) – easy to imagine when modern science tells us that a locust swarm can spread over 400 square miles and contain billions of the devouring insects.

The verse that really stands out for me in the midst of so much devastation is Joel 2:25. Joel spends the first couple of chapters in full-on "woe is me" prophetic doom-mongering! But then, suddenly, the mood begins to change and Joel calls on the people to repent. He begins to sound a cautious note of hope in the darkness – calling to mind the faithfulness of God towards his people over so many years. The optimism soon turns into a confident prophetic proclamation that God has not forgotten his people, and that he will come to their aid once again if they repent and turn to him. But more than that, God promises in the

midst of such overwhelming disaster that he will not just rescue his people but that he will also restore their fortunes. I think it's one of the most beautiful images in the Bible: "I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten". As subsistence farmers, the locusts had literally stripped away years of back-breaking manual labour on the land.

I'm sure many of us just now can identify with that image of hordes of hungry locusts devouring all the good things in our lives, leaving in their wake a trail of devastating destruction. Sadly, that has been the bitter experience for so many people during this past year. COVID-19 continues to cast a long and dark shadow over our lives, to the extent that the light of God's love sometimes seems to be blotted out under the overwhelming darkness and we fear that things will never get better again. But in the midst of that darkness, we can still hold on to the genuine hope that God has not forgotten us or abandoned us, and that he will restore to us again all those wasted experiences that the locusts have stolen away. It may be that the restoration that God promises will look very different to how we would like it to look. But as we move forward into 2021, lets hold on to God's promise that He will restore to us again all those precious things that the locusts seem to have stolen away from US.

May God bless you and your families richly as you celebrate the joy of Christmas, despite the restrictions, and a very happy new year to you all from myself, Fiona, Lucy and Emily.





#### FROM THE FINANCE CONVENER

You will not be surprised to know that this has been a year like no other in respect of the challenges in dealing with the church finances.

The first challenge came when the church had to close and members and friends using the FWO envelopes were unable to bring their offerings to church. Thanks to many of those folk who phoned either their elder or myself and asked us to collect their offerings.

Together with the fact that many members now give by Banker's Orders, this has meant that our offerings income at the end of October was almost £80,000. This is a reduction from last year but not to the extent we feared.

The Gift Day in September was held to support necessary work at the manse before Tim came to St Andrew's. The total achieved was £13,205 and the Board thanks you all for this magnificent contribution, which was helped by the Gift Aid return from HMRC.

As work on the new hall nears completion, we realised deposits and investments held with the Church of Scotland in Edinburgh. There was concern, in view of the slide in the stock market, that we would suffer serious depreciation on these funds, but we were pleased (relatively) to find that the loss was only about £5,000.

There will continue to be challenges going forward and we will have to ensure that any spending is essential for the ongoing work of St Andrew's in Barrhead.

I would ask you all, in these difficult times, to consider your continuing financial giving to the church and I thank you for past generosity.

Christmas Blessings to you all.

Sandy Farr,

Finance Convener.



#### A note of thanks

Just a note to thank you for the telephone calls, cards and prayers over the last 3 months while I was in hospital after a stroke and since I have been home and recovering from the virus.

Thank you to Tim for his pastoral support to myself and the family. I am gaining strength daily and hope to be stronger in my mobility to be back in church in 2021.

Thank you also to the media team for making it possible to join in with worship on Facebook as it has been a real source of comfort and encouragement.

Thank you again.
Anne Cosh

#### **Welcome Tim and Family**

It is my privilege and pleasure to welcome Rev. Tim Mineard to Barrhead St Andrew's Church.

Tim, Fiona, Lucy and Emily are our new manse family. Tim had shown an interest in St Andrew's and after visiting Barrhead and viewing the church and manse, he applied for the vacant charge.

He was born in Huddersfield and spent his early life in Kent, where his father was a Baptist minister. He met and married Fiona, who was from Dundee, and made his home in Carnoustie. Tim spent many years working in various branches of social care. He was called to the ministry in 2015, and gained his theology degree from St Andrew's University in 2019.

Tim was ordained and inducted into St Andrew's Church, Barrhead on 24 September 2020.

He came to us as a probationer and plain 'Mister' before his ordination and induction, which was a very different ceremony as required by the restrictions prevailing at the time. There were only 50 people in the church, including two from Presbytery and five visitors. (Interestingly, this was the first induction service for the new Clyde Presbytery.)

One of the visitors was the Rt Rev. Dr Martin Fair, currently the Moderator of the General Assembly, and minister of Tim's home church of Arbroath St Andrew's. Mr Tim Mineard was now Rev. Tim Mineard.

On Sunday 27 September, Tim was 'preached in' by Martin; he was now on his own and leader of our congregation.

Tim brings fresh, informal and educational preaching. Two months later he has made contact with many of us and is well involved with many in the church. He has had to cope, in very odd circumstances, with Harvest, Remembrance, a Family Service and Communion.

Our on-line church has come into its own, keeping many of us involved in church life.

Please speak to Tim if you meet him in the street; he will be delighted. He relaxes by hill walking, keeping fit and taking on fundraising challenges!!

Tim, Fiona, Lucy and Emily, we wish you well in all you do and pray God's blessing on you all.

With love and all good wishes.

Elma Farr,

Session Clerk, on behalf of all at Barrhead St Andrew's.



On Sunday December 6th, it was a sad day for Barrhead St Andrew's. We said goodbye to Linda, our worship team leader and her husband Graham. Graham and Linda were married in Arthurlie Church 16 years ago and then went on to serve God and this church royally.

Fifteen years ago Linda was appointed worship team leader and in this capacity she led us down wide and varied musical paths; this was well received. Hymns and songs, old and new, fast and slow, rousing and contemplative were all in her repertoire. On occasions she augmented all of this with a mean tambourine. She led the choir with enthusiasm and often took them to the limit of their ability with great effect.

Guild concerts, special services and fun music were also led by Linda. Christmas - who loved it more? We knew the number of days leading up to Christmas from mid-August, thanks to a strange

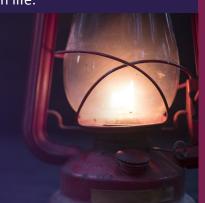
number displayed on the organ. Through good times and bad, Linda never shirked her duty.

Now she has left to live in Lochgilphead to be near her daughter, Lindsay.

Graham, meanwhile, worked quietly in the background, supporting her in everything. Over the past few years he has given of his expertise to operate our sound desk and to help solve computer problems for many in the congregation.

We will miss them both immensely; we wish them God's richest blessing in their new life in Lochgilphead. Hopefully we will still see them from time to time.

Every blessing from Barrhead St Andrew's.





#### Dear All

This is certainly a letter I thought I would never be writing. I expected to be worship leader until someone told me I was playing too many "Sunday notes"!! and hauled me off the organ.

Although brought up in the Salvation Army I had a connection to Arthurlie Church via Springhill Primary and became a Guide in the Westbourne Hall.

Graham came to know Jesus through Arthurlie and we were of course married here and we will always count St Andrews as home. During the very scary days of my cancer we so appreciated a hug and kind word or a prayer. You helped get us through, Thank you.

I have loved serving the Lord and giving my testimony through my music and am heart broken at not doing that at St Andrews, but I am sure God already has a plan for me.

I would like to give a massive thanks to the choir for all their support and hard work over the years. I have especially fond memories of the Guild concerts we all loved to take part in. This does not happen without hard work and you always gave 100%. We always had a fabulous time sharing Gods message and thank the guild for the warm welcome we always received.

My aim has always been to choose music through Jesus and bring hearts to the foot of the cross. There are folks in the church who have always supported and lifted me up when needed but always been positive about the music, you will never know how wonderful those words were for me and I thank you.

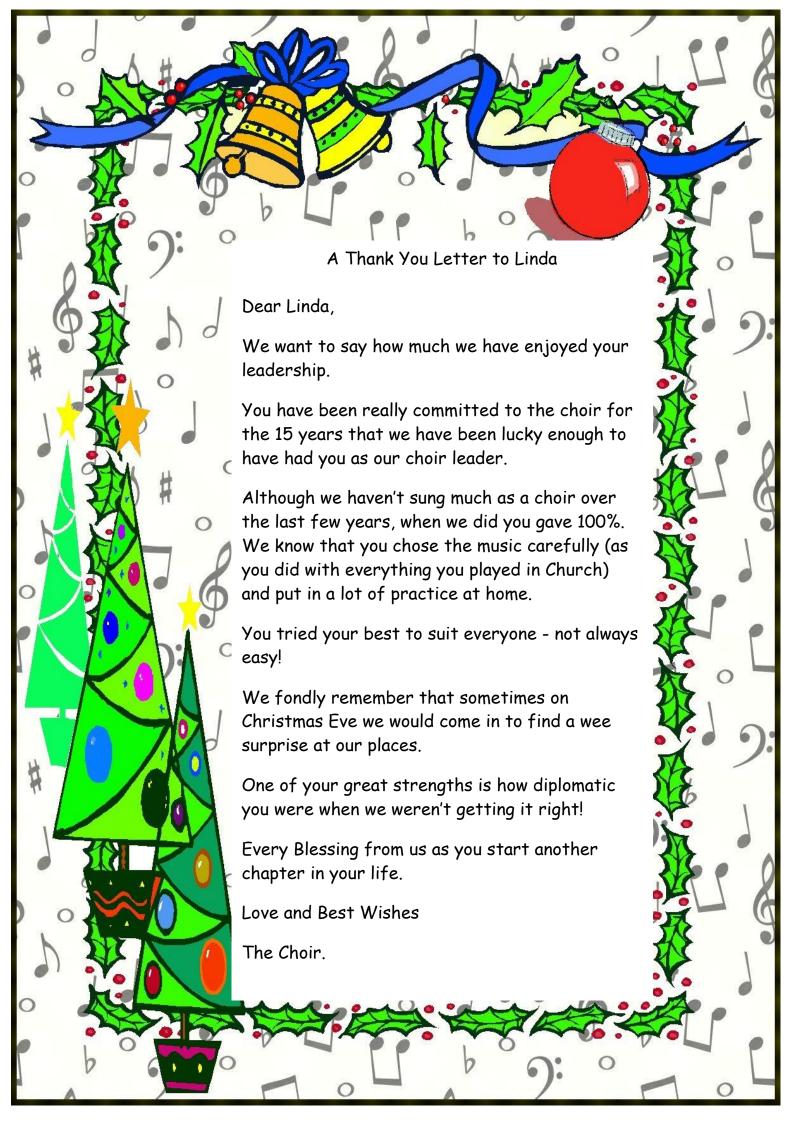
I wish Tim, Fiona and the girls every blessing at St Andrews and am very sad not to be serving alongside them.

This of course is my very favourite season and I can hardly believe I am not organising the Christmas services right now and planning music with Jane. I thank Jane from the bottom of my heart for all the hard work and the blessings my soul has received from her

beautiful singing. I cannot say much more as we both well up at the thought of not worshipping together.

I wish you peace, joy, love and good health for the future Linda xxx





## Church Hall Update

-Peter Inglis

Our New Community Hall is nearing completion!

It's a pity that so few people are able to be at Church just now as our new hall is really taking shape, and most of us are missing watching it progressing. It is in the final stages and we expect it to be handed over to us early in the New Year.

Despite the three month closure of the site from late March till late June when all non-essential construction work was halted by the government, and the subsequent Covid-19 related constraints on working practices, progress has been maintained, and it is expected to be completed within budget.

When the Covid-19 rules allow, our young people who previously met in the halls at the Main Street site will be able to move into the new accommodation.

COMMUNITY HALL APPROACH

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH BARRHEAD



## THE BOYS' BRIGADE

## 1<sup>st</sup> Barrhead Company LEARN, GROW, DISCOVER

Visit and "like" our Facebook page 1st Barrhead Boys Brigade

#### **Latest News**

It has been a very busy and different start to our BB session. Covid-19 has certainly challenged us to think out of the box. We have faced lots of hurdles to find new ways to keep connections ongoing with our young people. Technology has been a real blessing, enabling company-wide communications to continue and remote meetings to take place. These ensured that everyone was kept fully informed.

Following a number of leader meetings over the summer months, there was a lot of reading up on Church of Scotland, Boys Brigade and Youth Sector safety guidance in relation to providing youth work during the current health pandemic. The leaders formally completed a Covid-19 risk assessment which was submitted to the Kirk Session and approved, allowing us to return to 'face to face' meetings from the 1st of October. It felt in many respects like we had run a marathon to get to the starting line.

Keeping our young people and leaders safe is undoubtedly the top priority and never more so than at this time, therefore much of what we took for granted had to change. The key adaptations we have made are:

- Meetings take place on a blended basis, meeting online one week and face to face the next
- Meeting times have been reduced in duration
- Meeting times (start and finish) are phased for each section
- Our average group sizes are 10 persons (creating smaller group numbers)
- Temporarily suspended new member recruitment
- Deployed the new BB Covid program, promoting low contact, socially distant activities
- Full Covid secure safety practices are in place including Hands, Face and Space

In many respects our children find it easier than the leaders. They are already exposed to these measures in school and are far less willing to question, more willing to accept. We can all learn from our young people.

#### **Annual Awards Evening**

Our normal end to a BB sessions is celebrating the achievements of our young people with the annual parents' evening. In April this was not possible. Over the summer we met outside, observing social distancing and presenting each boy individually with their awards. We used the occasion to create an online awards and parents evening which was held in early October and streamed live from the Sanctuary where

we were able to have the Company Section and Senior boys present in the Church. Parents, family friends and boys from both the Anchors and Juniors joined with us for this occasion.

#### President's Men

We were very privileged this year to have 5 senior boys achieve their Presidents Awards. Congratulation to Jack Balloch, Haider Khan, Anthony Fung, June Moore and Aaron Daily.



#### Queens Men

Achieving one Queens Badge is usually a challenge but to have three in one year is not only special, but it marks the end of a journey for these boys. This has included volunteering in the community, working within the company and improving their physical abilities and personal skills. MASSIVE congratulations to Jack Davie, Mark Young and Kerr Fulton.

#### **Outdoor Activities**

Despite all the current challenges, outdoor learning and team work activities are consider the most beneficial way to support young people at this time. It was, therefore, great to be able to take boys in both Anchors and Juniors to Lapwing Lodge on a Sunday afternoon and have them challenge their self with High Ropes, Crates and Archery. As you can see Ryan was up for the challenge and managed to get all the way to the top of the High Ropes! The smile on his face when he got back down was to be bottled.

Check out some of the action.



#### Meeting the Minister

It has been great to welcome Tim Mineard to BB in recent weeks to meet some of the boys. Tim wasted no time in showing his interest in the Boys Brigade by leading worship at our online parents evening, involving the young people in a prayer podcast challenge which was used in our Sunday worship. We very much look forward to building on these opportunities, engaging our young people in the life of Barrhead St Andrews.

#### What does the future have in store for 2021?

Probably none of us can truly answer this question, but for sure the 1st Barrhead will continue seeking to "advance Christ's Kingdom among Boys and promote the habits of obedience, reverence, discipline, self-respect and all that tends towards a true Christian manliness". Our hope will be that we can continue to meet face to face, support each other and perhaps by the summer we can offer our young people some form of residential activities that can reward and recognise the challenges everyone has faced.



#### Tech Team

Over the past 12+ months our digital church offering has grown exponentially and beyond all recognition. Engagement has increased and connections are being built all across the UK and beyond. To help to continue developing this, the Kirk Session recently agreed to set up a tech team which will be led by James Guthrie and Jim Glen. The group will be responsible for Facebook, youtube, website, in church audio and live streaming including online chat.

Our initial focus is ensuring we develop the individual skill sets to manage all the various media communication channels. We are committed to growing this area of Church life as a pastoral care support for members, outreach to our community and a vehicle to connect our existing young people with the life and activities of the Church.

We currently have an online church survey which we would appreciate you participating in to let us know your experience of our online church. https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/W7BGL5X

#### New Church Website

In the last few weeks we launched our new Church website. The new website has a new look and feel and is packed with loads of new features including

- access to all media channels
- \* recent services
- \* music
- \* photos
- \* information on all aspects of Church life
- a new giving facility
- \* easy access contact points
- \* community hub

Please take some time to visit the site and catch up open what is going on in Barrhead St Andrews at this time https://www.barrhead-standrewschurch.org.uk/home. If you would like to publicise anything relevant to the life of the Church via the website, please let us know.

# St. Andrew's Guild

### ello Everyone,

Well at this time I would normally be telling you what the Guild had been doing over the last few months and what speakers we had coming in the second half of our session.

However, I'm sorry to say I have nothing to report!

The last time the Guild met was way back in March for our annual lunch. It was a lovely afternoon, nearly all members were able to be there and we all sat at one big table, a big happy Guild family. There was lots of talking, laughing and of course eating!

I didn't realise how blessed I was that day, and, how memorable and significant that afternoon would be to me in the weeks and months ahead. Everyone of us has been through so much since then, but let's look to the future with "Bright Hope for Tomorrow".

These words have been on my mind for a few days now and have made me think it was about time I started planning for the next Guild session. Where, when and how? I don't know but when the time is right my prayers and maybe yours too, will be answered.

I hope that one of our first meetings can be where we left off, by going out for lunch!!

We might not all be able to sit at one big table, we may have have to social distance, but the Guild have always been known for its ability to adapt and change, so a small inconvenience of being in small groups, six feet apart won't faze us.

Of course, our Syllabus will include our Minister, Tim. I haven't asked him yet, so, please keep this to yourselves. I've one or two ideas, watch this space.

In the meantime, we will continue to remember "Whose we are and Whom we serve".

On behalf of all St. Andrew's Guild members, I pray you all have a very Peaceful, Joyful and Loving Christmas, and Bright Hope for Tomorrow.

Catherine X.





#### Reflections of a Bauble

I began life as a bauble in a foreign factory, I was wrapped in tissue paper and dispatched across the sea. To hang upon a Christmas tree would be my destiny.

The years went by, my fellow baubles shattered on the grate and I expected annually to share that awful fate. And then one day a tiny hand detached my little weight and gave me to a beggar child who stood outside the gate.

He ran home to his family, no tree could they afford, just a piece of fir branch they had picked up from the wood. He hung me up so carefully, and I met with great accord, and in the midst of poverty he knelt to praise the Lord.

I'd never heard of Jesus but their laughter warmed me through. The fire was small and meagre, the embers all too few, and through the generations I brought happiness anew.

And then one day near Christmas, I was taken from the box, no more sound of family or the hanging up of socks. The giggle of excitement when the carol choir rocks, and a giant congregation dressed in their Sunday frocks.

The tree that I now hang on is as grand as you can find and stands in a cathedral with a pulpit placed behind, and in my clear reflection, I can see in crib straw lined, the tiny little figure of the Saviour of mankind.

He was born inside a stable and for him it's only this. There were no creature comforts, there was just his mother's kiss.

And yet there is no story that is quite as great as this.

#### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Now that Tim Mineard, our new Minister is safely in place, on behalf of the Congregation, I wish to take this opportunity as Convener, of Nominating Committee of thanking all my fellow members as well as our Interim Moderator, Rev Ann McCool, for their due diligence ,as well as maintaining a level of confidentiality, during challenging times.

One year ago Committee was formed. Little did we know at that juncture, how Covid-19 would have a major impact on our goal and objective of securing a new Minister following on from Jim Cowan's retiral.

A significant effort, was directed towards creating a solid Parish Profile, which was key to promoting our Church and reaching as many potential candidates as possible.

At the point our Profile was firmed up and ready for advertising and promoting our vacancy, Covid-19 kicked in. Therefore instead of Committee, continuing to meet together, on -line Zoom Meetings, were the order of the day.

To assist in directing actions and activities a Steering Group was formed, consisting of myself as Convener, Jim Glen as Vice Convener and Sheila Denovan as Clerk. This proved to be a positive and beneficial decision, as we were able to extrapolate relevant information and provide directive, in the setting up sub groups, within the remainder of the Committee, to address the various facets of the vacancy, of course with the aid of our Interim Moderator.

Reaching the point where candidates were discussed and pinpointed for Interview, opportunity was taken for the Steering Group to have informal chats with specific candidates, in order to provide a pre interview platform for the remainder of the Committee.

On-Line Interviews were undertaken and we were pleased to have a unanimous Committee decision, in offering our new minister role to Tim.

We are also pleased to report all other candidates interviewed have now secured Ministerial positions across Scotland.

On a personal basis, I wish to thank both Jim and Sheila for their solid support. Both did more than was asked and continued to provide me with a high level of professionalism, ensuring problems and issues were dealt with effictively and efficiently, leading to closure.

**God Bless** 

Ronnie Whitelaw Covener Nominating Committee

Mary Jane Bird was our locum for twelve months during our vacancy. Mary Jane went way and beyond what was asked of her and left behind a very grateful congregation who very much appreciated her efforts. Mary Jane embraced lockdown and came up with so many innovative ideas to keep us all connected, always done with a smile. How much she was appreciated was shown by the outpouring of love shown with gifts and flowers from the congregation. Ronnie gave Mary Jane a lovely send off and a group of ladies took her out for lunch.

Hoping to see you soon when you return to cover for Tim, when he takes a much needed break in January.

Georgette





#### It's a fair question

The current Church of Scotland moderator Dr Martin Fair has been running a series entitled "it's a fair question" where he discussed some of the biggest question facing the Church and Society. This is an inspiring series and is very thought provoking, challenging us as Churches and in individuals to consider how God is calling us to serve. Check out these episodes on the Church of Scotland website https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/home and search "it's a fair question".

## Now You're Talking

Looking for some youth work ideas, why not check out now you're talking Facebook group.



8-9PM

THUR 12 NOV BEYOND LOCKDOWN

MON 23 NOV ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

#### JOIN THE CONVERSATION

FOR JOINING INSTRUCTIONS PLEASE EMAIL CHILDRENANDYOUTH@CHURCHOFSCOTLAND.ORG.UK

The Church of Scotland

This is a great way to keep in touch and share info/ideas/questions/thoughts, do join the conversation. Now You're Talking Facebook group.

Each month these run a series of online meetings where they share ideas and resources to help build and grow youth work connections, where you are meeting "in person" or "remotely".



winter scenes from a little further afield



And your mission (should you choose to accept it): can you identify any of the mouthwatering X mas delicacies from around the woirld pictured below?



## Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all at St. Andrew's



## Contact

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Barrhead