

LOGIE KIRK NEWS



FEBRUARY 2022

Logie Kirk Stirling (Church of Scotland),

Charity No.SC001298

The induction of Reverend Jan Steyn will take place in Logie Kirk on Thursday 24th February 2022 at 7.00pm



PRESENTATION TO OUR NEW MINISTER

After Jan's induction there will be a presentation to Jan on behalf of the congregation.

If you wish to contribute to this, please place your donation in an envelope marked TREASURER and hand in at the Kirk or to any of the elders.

Donations will be accepted on the evening of the induction.

A letter from our New Minister

Dear Friends from Logie, Causewayhead,

As I write this letter, we are approaching Christmas 2021 which – once again – turns out to be a covid-ridden time. Just yesterday we heard that, once again, our family plans have been squashed by rising infections and governments' decisions. This will not be the first time – and probably not the last – that we discover that our plans are nothing more than merely our plans. We live in an unpredictable reality and during the last two years we have been confronted with that over and over again.

All the events of the recent past continue to confront me – and I suppose all of us – with adapting to new circumstances and to change. Soon we will all face new change when Linda and I move or should I say hope to move, to Stirling. One might laugh at the idea – once again our plans!? And it will be change for all of us as you receive in your midst a new minister and his wife and as we settle into the community and congregation.

Through all of this, we all share a story of faith, love and hope. (And which is the greatest???) We believe that God is with us, loving us, forgiving us and caring for us throughout all of this. And throughout life.

As I think of all that might lie ahead, I pray that we all will be blessed with a sense of God's gracious presence.

Something about the Steyns. As you know, we are both of South African origin. We raised our three children in South Africa. In the early 2000's, I started the transition to the Church of Scotland. In 2010 I was called to St John's and Dairsie in Cupar. We relocated to Scotland, and I served as minister there for about six years before accepting the call to the Scots Kirk Paris in 2017.



We have three married children. The oldest, Ben, is married to Tanja and they have two daughters, Lisa and Ellie-Lin. They live in Pretoria.

Our daughter, Linda, is married to Norman Thompson, an Irishman. They live in Dublin, have one daughter, Sophie and are expecting their second wean.



The youngest, Dirk, is married to Simone and they live and work in the Netherlands. Quite a spread!



we are looking forward to our move to “your valley”. May the days, weeks and years ahead of us be a time of growth, love and care.

With kind regards,

Jan Steyn

Thinking Back...Looking Forward

While there is much to look forward to with the impending arrival of our new minister, it is only right that we take a moment to look back and remember our members who have died in 2021 since the last edition of Logie Kirk News.

**William Muir, Betty Pirrie O'Day, Ann Thomson Mailer,
Dorothy Collie, William (Bill) Mason, Margaret Logan,
Janet Leckie Atkinson, Harry Hunter, Phyllis Balfour**

In 1977, the then all male Kirk Session of Logie admitted two ladies to our Session, Lorna Gammack and Margaret Logan, with both proving to be exceptional elders. Margaret took her place, joining her brothers, Donald and Alastair.

Our Senior Active Elder, Margaret, died on 28th July 2021 aged 93. She was the epitome of what an elder should be.

She visited the folk in her district faithfully. She knew them and their families. She became their friend. She forged bonds throughout the parish and worked to maintain those bonds. Little happened in Logie and its environs that she didn't know about.

At Session meetings she was not afraid to voice her opinion.

Always supportive of events, goodness knows how many scones she baked for the Guild and Coffee Mornings.

Harvest, Easter and Flower Festivals so often featured arrangements based around her favourite yellow and white roses.

John becoming an elder in 2011 was such a special occasion for her.

Sharing the pews with Archie, her sons, their wives, their grandchildren and great grandchildren over many years brought her so much joy.

Knowing many of you would have liked to attend Margaret's funeral, the family has given permission to share the eulogy delivered very movingly by Hamish and Jean's daughter, Dawn and Graham, John and Elma's eldest son.

Margaret Logan



Our Grandma

It is hard to put into words the life story of a woman who was so strong even when her body became weak, who was so giving when so much was taken from her, and who was such a remarkable chief of our clan.

But Margaret Logan, our grandma, could both write and tell a story. Until just a few weeks ago she was still writing every day in her five year diary and she so often talked about her life in chapters, so today we will do our best to tell her incredible story.

Margaret Logan, this was your life...

Chapter 1: A Proud McNicol

Born in Ardbeg farm on the Island of Islay in 1927 to John and Mary, second youngest of a family of 5 (3 boys and 2 girls).

When Margaret was just a baby they moved to Pendreich Farm where she lived so happily until she was married in 1952.

She walked 2.5 miles to Bridge of Allan primary every day with her sister and younger brother.

Then on to Stirling High School - where the trio travelled by pony and trap to the stables at Airthrey Kerse Farm, to catch the bus into Stirling.

Grandma talked passionately of these early happy years in the McNicol household and has continued throughout her life to stay close to the McNicol family.

Her sister was her bridesmaid and she often told stories of her to those of us who were not lucky enough to meet her.

There was also the famous Friday evenings with her brother, Alastair and sister-in-law Janice.

The McNicol clan has always felt like an important part of our own family history.

Chapter 2: Smart Cookie

In the 30s and 40s, when Grandma grew up, many farmer's daughters would stay home and work on the farm, but grandma found a passion at school and decided she wanted to become a teacher.

She spent 4 years studying at Glasgow College of Domestic Science (known as Dough School to many).

She made incredible friendships there which lasted a lifetime and she always spoke of how fortunate she felt to have been there,

Margaret became a teacher at Stirling High School until she was married, and even after she had her 4 strapping lads, she returned to work to "get the best of both worlds" as she described it.

We were all lucky to enjoy her culinary skills over the years from the famous mince and tatties that went to rugby training with her 4 boys, to the hundreds of workers on the farm who enjoyed their rolls and tea out in the fields.

She also did cookery demonstrations across Scotland for The Woman's Guild and The Rural... these were as famous for the stories of her boys as for her cookery.

She always had a keen interest in her garden – she loved the local floral art club and was inspired by many visits to national trust sites across the country. Her desire to learn new things carried on into her 90s, as she mastered her kindle, tablet and even Alexa.

This intellect ran as a thread through her life - as she taught us all poems, Gaelic rhymes and stories, (and she was still keeping John and Ally right until a few weeks ago). She was articulate, worldly and her incredible ability to hold a conversation was never lost. It was no coincidence that she was the hub of the family and had so many friends - her chat was, frankly, fantastic.

Chapter 3: The Logan Clan

We don't know whether it was her great conversations, her bright smile or her positivity for life that drew in our Papa Archie, but what we know is that he was a very lucky man. They got married in 1952 and moved to Powis Lyn at Powis Mains together.

Their sons, John, Hamish and Kelso were born there and with the growing family they needed more space and moved to Stronvar at Craigmill. Here Alastair was born and completed the pack of the 4 Logan boys,

How grandma coped with them all I do not know, but from the stories I hear of night time supers, holidays to the west coast, and the games they all played, there is no doubt it was a home full of joy.

In 1964 this happy home continued as they moved to Blairmains which has remained the hub of family ever since. The farm was the perfect place to raise her boys, and as papa worked hard out on the farm, Grandma worked

hard too - not just keeping all the boys in toe, but also running the books and keeping absolutely everything organised, laying the foundation for the family.

As the Logan boys grew ever more boisterous with the likes of tag wrestling or when they “got tired” after a few drinks, Grandmas ability to turn a blind eye seemed never ending. These wild boys all married and as 7 lively grandchildren followed (Graeme, Craig, Dawn, Callum, Dexter, Natasha and Carina), Grandma was in her element with us all.



We were all fortunate to enjoy Grandma’s great chat, fun overnights at Blairmains and many a song in the car on our summer trips to Campbeltown.

Now Grandma’s clan continues to grow with 5 great-grandchildren who were all lucky enough to meet her. Her legacy most definitely still lives on in us all and there is no doubt family was the most important part of Grandma’s life.

Chapter 4: Love Thy Neighbour

Grandma spread kindness wherever she went, and she had so many special friends who did the same in return.

From her dough school buddies, to our honorary aunts and uncles (Betty and Harry, Annie and Bill), the cousins' lunches, the many friends who she enjoyed travelling with over the years and the regular chats on the phone (such as her nightly calls with Margaret Stirling and weekly calls with Aunt Janice).

For these many social occasions Grandma was always immaculately presented - with Morag doing her hair every Saturday for over 20 years. Even latterly her nails were always done flawlessly.

One of her regular visitors to Blairmains in the early years was Maggie Gardener, who visited every Wednesday night and brought French fancies as a gift.

Grandma's 4 boys would all be told not to touch them until after dinner, but as they were eyeing up which one looked best, young Hamish would lick his finger and touch the best one so the others couldn't nick it!

Every person who has enjoyed time with her meant so much and your contributions to her life are all written up meticulously in her 5 year diaries.

Even in later life Grandma committed to visiting so many of these great friends - she travelled to Annie every other week for 8 years and visited many who couldn't travel themselves.

If you knew Grandma, she would do her very best to ensure you never felt lonely. She never missed a birthday and was so good at keeping in touch with friends all over the world.

As she opened her bed and breakfast in the late 90s, her kindness was spread across even more people. Visitors enjoyed it so much they returned year on year for over a decade and even invited her to visit them in return.

This often came to fruition as Grandma jet-set around the world. Wimbledon to South Africa to the Grand Canyon - she was always on the go and loved seeing new places and meeting new people. Even in her 90s she travelled to London and watched shows in the west end.

Chapter 5: Happy Smile Club

In every memory I have of grandma she is wearing a smile - I think to myself how did she smile for over 90years!! It's no wonder she was founder of the happy smile club. (Bringing cheer to even those who found it harder to smile).

Her remarkable positivity never seemed to fail - Even in some of the saddest moments of her life - when she lost her sons Hamish (my and Callum's dad) and Kelso (Dexter's dad). Grandma kept the family going and held everyone together,

Traditions like the Logan Family party and the many, many evenings Callum and I enjoyed our Grandma teas means we've never felt anything other than at the heart of the Logan family.

Grandma also lost her husband, Archie, but not before 45years of happy marriage.

As Grandma grew older, she was nothing other than young at heart – often looking out for those 20 years younger and worrying about their health and well-being. Her humour was also always on form. At her 90th birthday she did a speech and spoke with the stature of a 30 year old, holding the room and sharing jokes like this one...

I called Dexter when he was a young lad and when he picked up, I said “Do you know who it is?”, there was a pause and Dexter shouted to Alison “Mum, it’s Grandma and she’s forgotten who she is!”

We know a large part of Margaret’s strength came from her faith. As a lifelong member, she is part of the fabric of Logie Kirk and was an invaluable Elder for many years. All of this makes the fact that we’re in this church today all the more fitting.

And in her final days she talked of being with Hamish and Kelso (I’m not sure where she thinks Archie has gone). This remarkable lady even talked of positives in her final moments.

Chapter 6 Hami ski

Many people leave this earth with their tank still half full, but our Grandma, Margaret, squeezed out every last drop.

At this point in a book, I would normally say “The End” - but that’s not what Grandma would have said. She would say that the diary will keep being filled in as her legacy continues through our family.

There is a poignant phrase Grandma shared with us in her final days that we would like to leave with you... to ponder this afternoon when you head home and toast Margaret, Our Grandma, with her favourite dram of whisky and lemonade...

**“Make the most of life, lose no happy day,
Time will never bring back, chances swept away”.**



LENT AND EASTER APPEAL

Walking humbly through
Lent 2022

**Walking Humbly with
our God** *'In our acting*

justly and loving mercy, how do we also walk humbly with our God?'
Micah 6:8

This is the question we will journey with through Lent 2022.

In partnership with Eco-congregations, the Quakers, Young Christian Climate Network, the Church of Scotland, and Operation Noah, Christian aid will work out what it looks like to walk humbly with our God as we continue giving, acting and praying for climate justice.

Starting on Ash Wednesday 2nd March and ending on Palm Sunday 10th April, a weekly audio download (with transcript) will be available, along with questions for reflection and small group discussion.

For more information or to make a donation to this or any other Christian Aid appeal, go to Christianaid.org.uk/appeals

Property Update

In the Kirk the Covid risk assessment has been updated to reflect the reduced 1 metre social distancing and the re-instatement of the gallery. An upgrade to the external speaker system has been carried out with the provision of an additional dedicated amplifier and two new speakers installed in the roof of the lych gate. This provides a permanent improvement to external sound quality, which can now be controlled independently of the internal system.

The failure of a contactor switch which supplied some of the main internal lights highlighted the ageing condition of our electrical installation, and our electrical contractor has indicated that we need to upgrade significant parts of our electrical systems. The annual roof inspection is due to be carried out, and all external woodwork is to be repainted.

Presbytery is to carry out inspections of all churches and halls in the Stirling Presbytery over the coming months as part of an Asset Management Building Audit in order to assess the suitability or otherwise of church buildings for future use. Logie will be inspected in April.

In the Manse an inspection by the Presbytery property convenor was carried out and a programme of work agreed ready for the arrival of the new Minister. This included internal redecoration and cleaning along with electrical and gas safety checks. The garden has been weeded and tidied and the borders enhanced. Many thanks to Fiona and Brian McBride for their hard work.

In the Halls the Covid risk assessment has also been updated to reflect reduced 1 metre social distancing. All outside woodwork is to be repainted.





Remembrance November 2021

Reverend Colin McIntosh led the service of remembrance held at the War Memorial in Alloa Road. Wreaths were laid by pupils from Riverside Primary and from Wallace High Schools. The service was attended by representatives from a number of organisations. A wreath was laid on behalf of Logie Kirk by Session Clerk Dianne McNaughton.

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