

# Logie Kirk News



## Easter 2024

Logie Kirk Stirling (Church of Scotland)

Charity No. SC001298

- Some thoughts from the Minister

## **“What does the future hold?”**

**At the Logie Kirk reflection/planning meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> January “uncertainty” was the most recurring theme.**

**This made me think about our lives in general. I started to wonder: What is certainty?**

**And what is uncertainty? And**

**how are lives orbit this need and how the quality of our lives are determined by it. Please bear with me...**



What does the future hold? Well, that is the million dollar question, isn't it?! Not only for Logie Kirk, but for all of us, collectively and individually. If we could know or predict the future accurately, how different would the world not be! We think the world would be a better place... but would it be? If we, as 12 year old youngsters, knew what awaits us, how would we live our lives?

**We really don't know anything about the future and perhaps it is better that way.**

But then again, we would argue, we need some certainty in order to function. Therefore often pretend we know and we then make our appearance, dressed up in the fantasy dress

of certainty. We will most probably be wrong or only fractionally correct.

So let us explore our natural longing for certainty and the discomfort of uncertainty. These two are the two sides of the coin. Our urge to know, to be certain, might have its origin in our need to have some sense of control about our lives. That is why, for example, we have prenuptial contracts! We want to have some control of the future, our circumstances and perhaps even other people. We want to be in control of our own lives, our health and wealth. And therefore we do not like uncertainty. It robs us of control and the feeling of having power.

We build our lives and make decisions. We plan, dream and hope. But how often we are disillusioned! One visit to the doctor and our world is turned upside down. Or we simply... fall! When the unpredictable happens, we can become anxious or angry. The mind and our inner-talking takes over. We have internal fights with ourselves, with others and sometimes we even see wars break out.

**So many things in our world pretend to give certainty and control. Our mobile phones, banks, google, experts. Our future plans, our bookings, our schedules. These – and many other imposters – sooth us into a very pleasant feeling of certainty. Until...**

But there are other ways of being aware of all this. We could notice that our lives are surrounded by uncertainty. And then

follows the insight of how beautiful every day is. We start to appreciate our health and that of those we love. And even the unpleasant wake-up calls become a reminder of the fundamental wonder and grace we live in.

**Life and the world in all its mystery becomes a wonder.  
Every dawn is a gift.**

**Jesus' teachings and the Bible – as well as modern psychology – often speaks about the future, worry, uncertainty and our vulnerability.**

Jesus speaks about seasons and noting the signs that comes with it. He thus talks about the inevitability of change. And about calm and trust in the light of all this. He talks about the loving and caring presence of God. He talks about hope. Hope not putting all our thoughts on our longed-for outcomes but hope that wisdom and guidance will be there when we need it.

Perhaps the most important of it all is to discover ourselves in uncertainty. We find our identity in being God's children, as being people of faith amidst what seems to be threatening changes.

**Rev Jan Steyn**

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**Roll Changes.** Since the last issue of LKN we have gained 1 new member, Jacqueline Lowe. Sadly one member, Isobel Armstrong has passed away.

# Presbytery Report

Presbytery met on Saturday 3rd February at St Matthews Parish Church Perth as a hybrid in person and online meeting.

Rev Drew Barrie – St Serf’s Church Tullibody is demitting after 40 years as a minister.

The Induction of Rev Austin Wicks to Clackmannan linked with Sauchie & Coalsnaughton takes place on the 7th March.



New Moderator of the Presbytery of Perth, Rev Alan Reid, Kinross Parish Church will take place in June.

Ed Morton who is the Administrator for the Presbytery is now also the Deputy Clerk.

Rev Muriel Pearson, minister at St. Andrew’s Jerusalem and Tiberias gave an overview of the situation in Israel and Palestine. The Scot’s Hotel situated on the banks of the sea

of Galilee which looks across to the Golan Heights in Syria is now sheltering a 100 evacuees. Tabetha School at Jaffa is where Christians, Jews and Muslims work and live together. St Andrew's church all 3 faiths meet with bereaved families working towards peace as well the women work to make products for Fairtrade. World day of pray 2024 was written by Palestine Women before the conflict happen.

Mission & Ministries - Committee encourage us to 'Invite a Friend to Church' on Palm Sunday 24th March.

Finance & Stewardship – Katherine Southern spoke on how the committee give us goals to follow with a book published in April 'Living Generosity'.

Perth Presbytery's 1st birthday - John Ferguson, Presbytery Clerk give a general view of the past year – has it been a good experience more support needed communication need for building relationships engage with more people supporting congregations.

We were put into discussion groups to find out how we could use the 5 marks of mission to our advantage.

**Hazel Turnbull, Presbytery Elder**

## **PROJECT POPPY UPDATE**

Thanks to all those who have started knitting or crocheting poppies ready for Remembrance Sunday.

Spare wool and patterns are available at the kirk.

Two tips to pass on...leaving a tail of red wool will make anchoring to cane/net easier and don't press the poppy when complete, becomes flat as a pancake.

Thank you

## Stamps for Logie

Another big donation for RNIB

For years it has irritated me and I'm sure many of you that the Wikipedia description of Logie began by saying it was an "isolated" church. To be honest, I had no idea it was within our powers to change that, but along came Kat who took charge and it is now described as a "hidden gem".

Having just sent six kilos of stamps to RNIB, we are most certainly not isolated more so, I would say we are very well connected.

Included in this tranche were stamps from the Bahamas, Rhodesia and Nyasaland, Japan, Ceylon, New Zealand, Zimbabwe, Tanganika, Cyprus, Romania, Hong Kong, Andorra and Vanuatu to name but a few.

A very wide range of literature based stamps cropped up this



time ranging from Enid Blyton's Famous Five, while the Paddington Bear ones published last

September to mark his 65th birthday bring back memories of my original bear with green duffle coat, yellow hat and

yellow Dunlop wellies. Those commemorating Terry Pratchett's Discworld series are as intricate as his storylines. Timely for Burns' night, two of his gems appeared for a short back and sides, going back to 1996 there was "Oh my love is like a red, red nose" and "Wee sleekit, cowrin, tim'rous beastie".

From 1996 there were several football legends including Dixie Dean, Bobby Moore and Danny Blanchflower. Again from 1996, but from across the pond there were examples of Raven, Hoop and Butterfly. Who knew prior to this that they are examples celebrating traditional American Indian dances?

Postage stamp art are actual mini masterpieces, this time George Stubbs' a Rough Dog and King Charles Spaniels were to the fore.

Car enthusiasts were not forgotten either with a stamp featuring an Austin 7 above a Metro from 1982, selling for 15 1/2 p.

Some of you may have noticed I have fallen under the spell of these tiny reminiscences. Hopefully so too have the increasing number of you donating and trimming them.

6 kilos have already been sent since the start of the year and I reckon there must be another 6 to be sorted through, which should equate to a donation of around £240.

**Brenda Smith**



## Burns Concert

On a very cold Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January we held our Burns concert in the halls. It was supported by both Riverside and Cornton primary schools with the pupils reciting some well Kent and some not so well Kent burns poems. Musical entertainment was provided by The Stirling Male Voice Choir, Jan & Dave Gillies, and a beautiful Gaelic song by Isla Duke. Some delightful Scottish fayre was served up halfway through. £520 was raised by donation for Townbreak, the money will



help them to continue their weekly Dementia Support Sessions in

Alva for the people of Stirling and Clackmannanshire.

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## Elders' Long Service Certificates

Rev Jan Steyn will present Long Service Certificates during the Palm Sunday service on March 24<sup>th</sup>.

Eddie Gray has served for 30 years, Gordon Smith for 34 years, Graham Eadie for 40 years, Brenda Smith for 40 years and Elizabeth Crozier, our Senior Elder, for 45 years.

We thank them for their loyalty, enthusiasm and commitment in serving God, the ministers and congregation of Logie.

# Property Report

## Kirk

Following the high-level inspection report, Igoe Up Ltd have presented an estimate for roof and cracked stonework repairs and this was approved by the Kirk Session.

A site visit was held to review the fixed electrical wiring status. Indications from the electrical contractor are that the church wiring systems may not be in as bad a condition as originally thought, although significant work will still be required.

Work has been carried out to upgrade the distribution board and isolation breakers in the Session House to current

standards so that an Electrical Installation Condition Report (EICR) certificate can now be issued.

Those with a keen eye will have spotted the missing horizontal leg of the 'L' on the 'Logie Kirk' sign at the end of the car park, and this has now been replaced.



## Halls

The estimate for the various repairs to the roof (mainly slates), cracked stonework and defective mortar beds on a gable wall, has been approved by the Kirk Session.

During high winds, the top hat of the roof ventilation unit blew off. It is in a poor state of repair and requires replacement.

The kitchen extract fan trunking has been repaired. This is a large piece of trunking in the attic adjacent to the kitchen which had detached itself from the fan. The fan should now provide proper extract for the kitchen.

The annual fire alarm, emergency lighting and portable appliance testing has been completed. There were no issues.

## **Manse**

The General Assembly of 2023 prioritised the improvement of manses to ensure that they are of an acceptable standard. Manse families are to be treated in the same way as private tenants. A survey was conducted to identify those manses not up to standard. Our manse meets/exceeds those standards.

## **Other items**

We are indebted to Paul Edgar who generously offered us some 2<sup>nd</sup> hand furniture which was available from a charity with which he is involved. Thanks to Brenda for arranging the transfer and installation of several items for the halls and Session House. The package includes chairs, tables, a desk/shelving unit, a microwave and a fridge. Thanks to John Logan for providing transport for the package.

**Gordon Smith, Property Convenor**

More thoughts from the Minister:

## **A metaphor for your life**

**Whether we like it or not, we live in a world which seems to have more and more challenges. At the moment our little planet is not the most peaceful place to live. Climate changes seem to impact society ever more severely. Closer to home, change in behaviour, values and thinking change the world as we knew it. *Well, that is part of my take on things.***

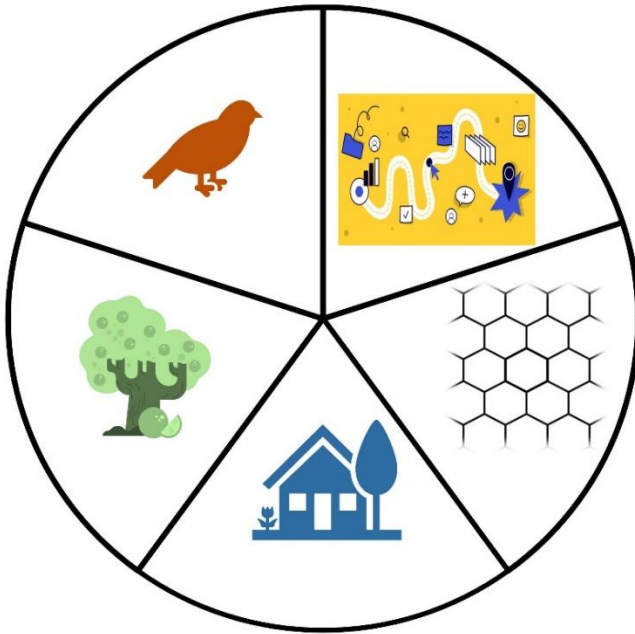
Where does that leave us? I suppose we could continue to live as if nothing has or will change. Or we could create a habit of reflection and thoughtful living. Perhaps we and all those around us might benefit from this. It is about taking some time out, to check in, to see, to understand and to know ourselves a bit better.

In January and February 2024 I had a short series of five services on Images for Faith/Live. This article is a summary of these five images and how it can help us understanding ourselves and others better.

We use metaphors and images all the time. Someone is a *busy bee* or as light as a feather. Or they have a *stormy relationship*, or someone is a *real monster*. Obviously, she is no bee but it helps us to understand. Some images might help us to understand ourselves – and others – in a more meaningful way.

The five images people most often used to describe their lives are (clockwise): Journey, companions, home, tree and bird.

## Images of Faith



### **Life as a Journey**

Using the Journey metaphor helps us to position us in some place. It brings the insight that we change and move on through different phases. We realise there are beginnings, or that we might be halfway, or that we make a new start, we are confronted with endings, curves, uphill and downhill phases.

Where are you just now? Where might you and those whom you love, be in a decade from now?

### **Companions**

We are not alone. Throughout life we are carried, supported and encouraged by others. Who are your companions? What

role do they play? Who are those that support, encourage or even correct you? Do you have a mentor? Who are those closest to you... and do they know it?

## **Home**

Very easily we take “home” for granted. Perhaps you have never experienced “homelessness”. For most of us, home is a refuge and a place of safety. But a house could also be hell – which means we feel homeless. And what is a spiritual home? Do you have a place where you can grow, be nurtured and encouraged? What are the foundations of your home? Can the home of your life withstand storms when they come? Personally I think we are at risk losing our spiritual homes or perhaps the wisdom of understanding the importance of this.

## **Tree**

One of the basic images or metaphors for life is to think about your life from the image of a tree.

Trees grow and it takes time. You cannot build a tree in day or two. Perhaps one can ask oneself: where am I planted? Where are my roots? What nurtures me? And what are the fruit that I produce?

## **Bird**

The fifth image or metaphor for life is birds. Although this was, for me, the strangest, I discovered how often we use this. We talk about having wings or flying (sometimes literally) home. Someone leaves the nest. Or you soar like an eagle or stick your head in the ground like an ostrich. Or that

we do not have to worry because God provides for us as he provides for the sparrows.

What would the image for your life be? Which of these say most about your life?

Take some time to reflect... and discover something meaningful about your life.

**Jan Steyn**

## **FRIENDS OF LOGIE KIRK - DATES FOR THE DIARY**

Please note the following 2 dates for the diary for The Friends of Logie Kirk events:

1. Thursday 9 May - after a gap of a few years we plan to recommence our sponsored debates at Wallace High School from 3.45 to 4.45pm on this day.

2. Wednesday 19 June at 7pm in the Church - this is the proposed date for this year's awards ceremony bringing together Cornton and Riverside Primaries, Wallace High School and the University.

All welcome at both events. Further details nearer the time but please note these dates and come and support the young in our community.

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### Easter at Logie

March 24<sup>th</sup> **Palm Sunday** Meet at the Old Kirk at 10.45am for a short service followed by worship in Logie Kirk at 11am

March 29<sup>th</sup> **Good Friday** Service with Communion in Logie Kirk at 7pm

March 31<sup>st</sup> **Easter Sunday** Service in Logie Kirk at 11am

Come and meet the Logie lambs and hunt for Easter Eggs