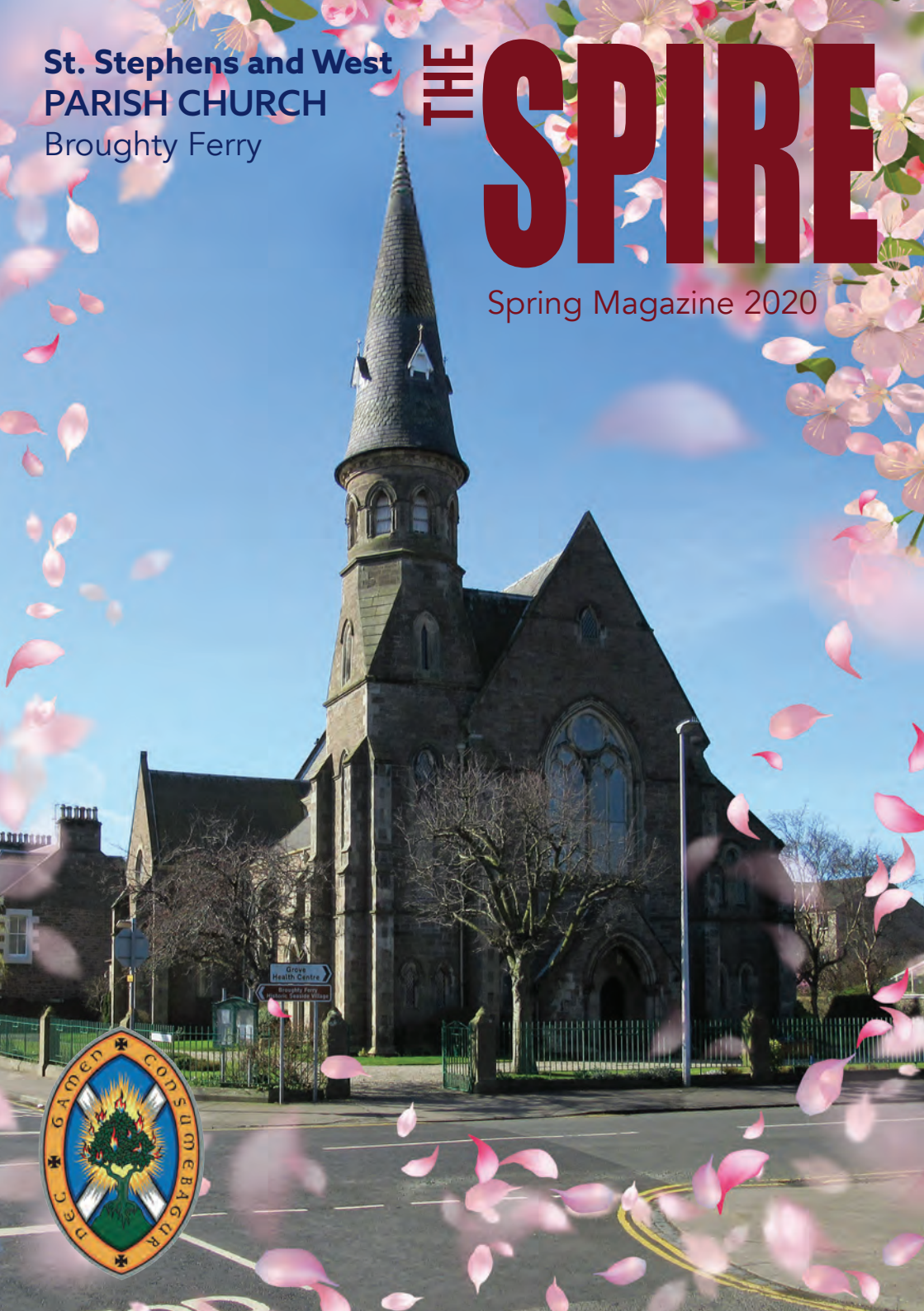


**St. Stephens and West
PARISH CHURCH**
Broughty Ferry

THE SPIRE

Spring Magazine 2020



**This is beautiful, wise and
thought-provoking....**

And the people stayed home.

**And read books, and listened, and rested,
and exercised, and made art and played games,
and learned new ways of being, and were still.**

And listened more deeply.

Some meditated, some prayed, some danced.

Some met their shadows.

And the people began to think differently.

And the people healed.

**And, in the absence of people living in ignorant,
dangerous, mindless, and heartless ways,
the earth began to heal.**

**And when the danger passed,
and the people joined together again, they grieved their
losses, and made new choices, and dreamed new images,
and created new ways to live and heal the earth fully,
as they had been healed.**



Welcome

to this new issue of

THE SPIRE

St. Stephen's & West Kirk Magazine
Pastoral Letter
Passiontide 2020

Dear Friends,

That venerable Oxford Don, Austin Farrer, wrote an article entitled, "Windows on the Passion" wherein he included these most marvellous few sentences concerning the meaning of Forgiveness.

"God forgives with the compassion of his eyes. It is as if he takes my head between his hands, turns my face to his in order to make me smile at him. Though I struggle and perhaps hurt hands scarred with nails, they do not let me go until he has smiled me into smiling: that's the forgiveness of God."

Forgiveness costs God dearly. It scars his hands with nail wounds. His love for us and forgiveness of us are not evidence of an easy going indifference to our petty betrayals. God is not akin to a lazy, indulgent parent who spoils his children because he cannot bestir himself from his own pre-occupations and buy personal peace. God's forgiveness springs from passionate love: love that is the very source of his pain!

If, in the Passion story, you identify with Peter, you will appreciate more than most, the impact of these words. It is not that we are bad people, possessed of wickedness but as creatures of the dust, we can, on occasion, fall prey to our own frailties and vulnerabilities. We break our own hearts when we fail to attain our own ideals but that is NOT the condemnation of God. The judgement of God is the sheer extravagance of his love demonstrated on the Cross.

Gazing upon the Cross of Jesus of Nazareth, are our hearts not touched, moved by his suffering love, so much so that we are changed? Loved by pain, forgiven by such unconditional surrender, how can we possibly feel anything other than real gratitude and inestimable self-worth?

"See! From his head, his hands, his feet
Sorrow and love flow mingled down..."

Warmly and sincerely as ever,
Keith F. Hall



Magazine

Under New Management

It is most gratifying that George Anderson has agreed to continue the sterling service rendered on our behalf by Norman Allan as Editor of the Kirk Magazine.

We warmly recognised Norman's fifty years of outstanding loyalty and imaginative journalism at a suitable presentation to both Norman and Hazel in the Kirk Hall after the Morning Service on Sunday, March 1, 2019. After the Minister offered a few words of real gratitude to both Norman and Hazel, Norman replied in his customary humorous manner.

We are, as a congregation, so very fortunate to have within our charmed circle a cluster of multi-talented individuals willing to offer their skills for the good of our most worthy enterprise. In that regard, we welcome George as our new Editor, confident that he is more than able to serve our Kirk in this new capacity.

Please assist George by sending your contributions for the next Issue of the magazine asap: George.anderson12@btopenworld.com

KFH

A kind message To the Members of St Stephen's and West Church

Thank you for welcoming us to your church. It is rare to find such genuine, lovely people and it has been a pleasure to meet you all over the last year.

Tom and I are moving back to Largs and will no longer be attending your church (although we might pop in if we are ever visiting).

I hope we can find a community such as the one you have built in our next church.

Thank you very much again.
Donna Lanni and Tom Vanson

LANGUAGE LAMENT

A little humour from Norman at his presentation



As one who's getting on in years
And learned to cope with life's arrears
The English language held no fears,
I always new
Which word to use.
It caused no tears
Scots dialect too.

But now I'm driven up the wall
By new terms that I don't recall
The **cybergeeks** have had a ball at my expense
With one **swipe** I'd remove them all,
They don't make sense.

There are no feathers on the critter
Who makes a **tweet** on what's called Twitter
And **viral** needs no pill that's bitter
or doctor's skills.
A **server** doesn't mean a hitter in tennis thrills.

Time marches on, my end grows near,
Bleak winter rushes in.
Soon, by **default** you'll find me here
In God's **recycle bin** !

N.A.

The Parish Register - In Memoriam • • • • •

Not as we knew them
anymore, toil worn and weary
with burdened care,
Erect, clear-eyed, upon their
brow, Thy name they bear.

January 14, 2020: **Helen Brewster**
22 Strathisla Road, Broughty Ferry

February 22, 2020: **Helen Brauer**
Flat 3, 7 Brook Street, Broughty Ferry

March 9, 2020: **Paul Sarandis (aged 47)**
1 College Row, Gardyne Road, Broughty Ferry

March 19, 2020: **Len Crichton**
Orchar Nursing Home, Broughty Ferry

CHARITABLE INITIATIVES

In these unprecedented times it is too easy to forget that as a church we support a number of charitable initiatives and the importance of maintaining support. Reports for all of these are contained in the magazine. With the movement restrictions in place how can you continue to help these initiatives?

WRBF (With Refugees Broughty Ferry) – spring cleaning may also include looking at what you have in your wardrobe and deciding to throw out some clothes. Please consider laying aside and donating to help refugees in other countries. For further information contact Jill Oakley. Phone no. 779923

Starter packs – with being confined to your house I am sure spring cleaning has been top of the list to keep you busy. You will be storing items for disposal at a later date. Can some of these items be suitable for inclusion in a starter pack? Liz Mussen would be glad to hear from you and if you are not sure if an item is suitable or not please give Liz a phone on 779923. Let Liz know what you are storing for collection at a later date, once the restrictions are removed.

Penny+ Box – Please save all your coppers in a jar while we are away from the church and Helen will be so glad to receive your donations once we are back. Monie a mickle maks a muckle.

Meru – As a church we have been supporting St. Stephens Methodist Church in Meru and donations are required on a regular basis to keep this initiative alive. Our cups of tea or coffee plus the lovely homebaking has been temporarily stopped including the donations placed in the bowl. Please consider setting aside and saving your regular weekly donations while we are away from the church. See next page for some information regarding Meru and how it all started in 2008. There is also an update from Meru.

MERU and how it all started in 2008



Back in In 2008 when Sheila Mc Luckie was DHT at Grove Academy in Broughty Ferry, she was asked by the Rector if she would like to go to Meru, a town in Kenya, with Principal teacher of Geography, Marjorie Kerr. She jumped at the chance.

"Marjorie was setting up a curricular partnership with Meru HS and was the instigator of the secondary school link," explains Sheila.

"I was thrilled as I love travelling and was very keen to develop global citizenship in pupils," says Sheila, who was awarded the Alliance Trust prize for Leadership in November 2008 in recognition of her role in developing citizenship at Grove.

While in Kenya, Marjorie and she were asked to address the congregation at St Stephen's Methodist church by the Rev Elijah Mwirigi with whom they were staying.

"It dawned on me as I spoke that my son was getting married in St Stephens and West in the Ferry that spring. The Kenyan congregation were delighted and asked me to convey their greetings. Meanwhile the Rev Jim Roy back in the Ferry welcomed the link and suggested fundraising for a kindergarten for the Meru church.

Sheila also visited Limbene Catholic primary during her visit.



CHARITABLE INITIATIVES

MERU



"It was heart-rending to see the state of the classrooms which local people have to fund themselves. A local primary school link was established with Limbene in 2012, by Mary Holligan from Grove and Alicia Raeper for St Mary's Primary School in Lochee.

A year after the initial link was established Sheila persuaded the Moira Stewart Trustees to support the link with Meru. They went on to fund two classrooms at MBK primary and sponsor four pupils from a children's home through secondary school.

"Primary education is free in Kenya but secondary isn't," Sheila explains.

"The aim of the Meru / Dundee partnership is to help educate children out of poverty. The Grove pupils who did two exchange visits also returned with a greater understanding and value of education," she continues.

Sheila with the support of all of those mentioned plus St Bride's in Monifieth, Dundee Soroptimists and St Peters in York has raised an amazing £34,000 for Meru since 2008. But there have been challenges along the way.

"When I was invited to officially open the classrooms at MBK in 2012 I revisited Limbene and was heartbroken as

the school looked worse and the kids and staff had organised a fantastic song and dance welcome within two hours of hearing we were arriving," she recalls. I had to help them.

"So now there's a new substantial classroom for 60 pupils and toilets and handwashing facilities for all 700 pupils at Limbene Primary and funds will be used to refurbish other classrooms.

"The kindergarten at St Stephen's Methodist church in Meru now has 100 children on the roll but needs another storey and a decent kitchen. UK soroptimists are now supporting the Meru women and garden project.

'Without the support of friends, churches, schools, the Moira Stewart Trust, Dundee Soroptimists and Bartie of Sole body Soul none of this would have been possible. I am very grateful.'



To find out more or to donate to the Meru / Dundee partnership, please contact: semcluckie@blueyonder.co.uk



Dundee Starter Packs SCIO

.....Supported by Churches

SCHA (Edinburgh) called a steering meeting with Dundee Churches in October 2020 and Dundee Starter Packs was formed, after Edinburgh and Glasgow, to provide some bare necessities for people being given their first house, and with no funds for at least a month. Another charity Transform, provides furniture. Voluntary members from different Churches sort the packs and most Churches in Tayside donate household items. The Charity covers all of Tayside, as far as Arbroath and into N Fife. Clients are referred 60% by Dundee City Council, by Hillcrest and by community nurses. On average 20 packs a week go out, 700 a year.

They are particularly interested in receiving utensils, tin openers, pots and pans, children's bedding etc (not clothing), long curtains. Electric goods can be checked by them.

**I am always happy to collect stuff. Call me...
Liz: 01382 779923.**

STOP PRESS.....

Meru update

St Stephen's church in Meru sends us Easter greetings and good progress is being made with the first storey of the kindergarten, now furnished with desks. Kenyan items will be on sale in support of the kindergarten at the Spring cream tea.

The good news from Limbene PS is that they have a new Headteacher, who according to Mercy, is a 'God fearing man'. He is extremely grateful for the support given by the folk of Broughty ferry and Dundee. Only one class of 40 is without desks now. A good recovery has been made from the drought and water is now flowing from the taps in the handwashing station.

Meru was affected by a plague of locusts at the start of this year.

I must admit I was astonished to read of this infestation which had a devastating effect on crops of small farmers.

Recently Von Day, a local supporter, gave me a huge selection of beads, which I posted to Meru to be made into jewellery by teenage girls, to pay their way through Secondary school.

The link then is still very much alive and our Kenyan friends are very grateful for our support.

Thank you
Sheila Mcluckie

BROUGHTY FERRY CHURCHES GROUP

This Ecumenical group continues to work with and for all our Broughty Churches and the wider community. Unfortunately all the planned Lent and Easter services and events have been cancelled but now they are reaching out to see how their members can help those in the community who need it. Donations are urgently needed for the local foodbank.

There is the annual coffee morning arranged for the 9th May, 10-12 for Christian Aid but I suspect this will be postponed.

The BFCG have supported the Communities Officer, Ferry Ward, Natalie Mackland to kick start Barnhill Blethers, a fortnightly Cafe 10-12 with local information available. The trial period was very successful and it is intended to continue once life gets back to normal. I am pleased to say that a number of our church members have joined us and helped to make it a success. It was much needed in the area.

WRBF

With Refugees Broughty Ferry (under the umbrella of the BFCG) This group has now been formed for one and a half years and after a slow start we have managed to build up helping refugees in a few areas. **a)** Some churches donate clothes, blankets etc. to Dundee Refugee Support and some help sorting ready for bagging and sending to camps in Europe and North Africa. **b)** Working as Buddy's with the Council who teach them English. Helping them work towards employment. **c)** working to help our Hungarian partner, Kalunba, a refugee charity in Budapest.

We had organised a Family Fun Afternoon involving refugees and locals this month's but it had to be postponed. We hope to hold it later.

We would love to hear from you if you would like further information or would be interested in getting involved in any aspect of our work. Already we have a growing number of our church members who donate clothes which are taken to DRS sorted and shipped out to refugee camps.



Kalunba Charity, group presented with certificates having completed Hungarian language course



A gathering in St Columba CofS, Budapest

Jill Oakley,

FRIENDSHIP



CIRCLE

Unfortunately the final two meetings of our syllabus have had to be cancelled and this is particularly sad as the group is no longer continuing. Our last meeting was our bring and buy sale which raised £40 which we agreed to donate to the Scottish Air Ambulance Service. I have also had to cancel our annual visit to Pitlochry Theatre due to the Coronavirus.

I have very much enjoyed co-ordinating the group for the last 13 years and have been very fortunate to have had the help and support of a tremendous group people. Two of whom deserve special mention for their tireless help, Margaret Dron and June Watson. Both were members long before me!

mary's meals

a simple solution to world hunger

With a great number of previous filler donations for the Backpacks I will, during the restrictions, be able to make up some with what I still have available and once we are at the light at the end of the tunnel we can send them on their way to help children to study in schools where Mary's Meals are served daily. Thank you as always for your ongoing support.



We were once again able to mark Fairtrade Fortnight by supporting, this year, the Women Cocoa Farmers to grow and sell their produce earning a decent wage. During our coffee and chat after the service the ladies had delicious eats made from fair trade products for us to enjoy. With your generous donations collected in the Meru Bowl we raised £70 which was sent to further the work for a better life for these people.

A message from **Celebrate Age** Network Forum



As the Coronavirus is rapidly changing, this is understandably a very uncertain and potentially lonely time with lots of groups, activities and services having now been cancelled.

If you are struggling and need help, then please do get in touch with us and we will try our best to help you. Below is some further information, that I think you might find useful.

We are co-ordinating a live up to date list of local organisations and agencies that can help during this uncertain time. As this information is changing on a daily basis, please do phone Dial-Op, our free telephone helpline regarding any enquiry about current services relating to your general health and safe well-being including shopping, collecting pensions, bank withdrawals, telephone calls etc.

Lali and her team will provide you with the most up to date information and will signpost you to the relevant services. You can contact:

**Dial-Op on
01382 305757**



In addition, we currently run a Blether Buddies telephone befriending service. This is a weekly companionship call, so if you are on your own and could benefit from someone to chat with, get in touch and we will add you to our list.

01382 305757



Jill Oakley

St. Stephen's and West Church 2019 balance Sheet

As the AGM of the church planned for the 5th April has been cancelled, for your information a copy of the comparative analysis which would have been presented at the AGM is detailed below.

St. Stephen's and West Church 2019 Financial Activities

Balance Sheet at 31st December

	2019	2018		2019	2018
Income					
Offerings	£ 28,757	£ 28,531	Investments	£ 521,665	£ 453,110
Tax Recovered	£ 7,846	£ 6,366			
Legacies	£ 1,023	£ -			
Use of Premises Organisations	£ 13,245	£ 11,966	Cash	£ 41,671	£ 60,402
Organisations	£ 606	£ 1,632			
Fundraising	£ 2,533	£ 4,094			
Bridge Drive	£ 900	£ 985			
Interest/Dividends	£ 13,664	£ 12,828			
Other	£ 4,658	£ -			
	£ 73,232	£ 66,403			
Expenditure					
Church of Scotland	£ 31,500	£ 30,091			
Presbytery Dues	£ 957	£ 851			
Pulpit Supply	£ 420	£ 410			
Salaries	£ 5,900	£ 5,900			
Organ	£ -	£ 919			
Maintenance	£ 15,323	£ 29,393			
Other building costs	£ 14,517	£ 13,193			
Organisations	£ 857	£ 1,062			
Other expenses	£ 2,244	£ 2,591			
Investment Management	£ 4,962	£ 4,007			
External Examiners	£ 720	£ 804			
	£ 77,399	£ 89,221			
Surplus	-£ 4,167	-£ 22,819			
Proceeds of Share Sales	£ 170,554	£ 17,320			
Cost of Share Purchases	-£ 185,119	-£ 139			
Balance brought forward	£ 60,402	£ 66,040			
Balance carried forward	£ 41,670	£ 60,402	£	0	

EASTER

A festival both strange and rare,
The Christ has gone - yet still He's there.
A life extinct like an Autumn leaf,
Yet fresh, like Spring, renewed belief.
Promise there of another start,
Oh wondrous Spirit that thou art.

Colin Walker

Plans for future magazines

As the new editor of the church magazine I would take this opportunity to thank Norman for all his hard work over the past 50 years and also helping me in this transition period.

He will be a hard act to follow but I intend keeping him involved as he has agreed to provide a regular article with a historical theme.

Going forward I am always open to suggestions about the content of the magazine and would welcome feedback. Unfortunately coronavirus has meant the cancellation or postponement of a lot of activities including the cessation of worship for the time being and the magazine will be the only source of information to the members.

Some items I would like to introduce include:

- Any items of interest from the Congregational Board or Kirk Session
- Community information including what's going on etc.
- A few church magazines being made available in local shops. Any suggestions?

Some items you as a member could assist with:

- Anything going on in your community that might be of interest
- Any stories about the coronavirus outbreak and how it has affected you. Also some information about the help you have received .
- Any holidays that you have been on and include some photographs
- Any activities or hobbies that you have which might be of interest with some photographs if possible

I have taken the liberty of calling my first magazine 'The Spire' as most magazines have a name and going forward I think it is a good idea. This name is not cast in stone and I would welcome ideas regarding a name for the magazine. Do you have a name for the magazine? Please contact me at:

george.anderson12@btopenworld.com with any suggestions.

George Anderson

Would you like an electronic version of the newsletter rather than a hard copy? If you would then please contact me via email and I will arrange to set up a system which allows this. Printing of the magazine will continue but this is an opportunity to provide an alternative if you wish.



LAST YEARS SUMMER BBQ



Making a new friend at the Summer BBQ last year. Scots and refugee lasses enjoying a game.



Tug o' war at last year's Summer BBQ at Crombie Park

Helen Brewster.

Died in January 2020.

Helen was a well kent face around St Stephen's and West due to her multiple involvement in the life of our Church.

She always had a stall at the coffee morning and at Christmas her Soup and Cloutie Dumpling package always sold out.

Helen was one of my stalwart house to house collectors during Christian Aid Week. She collected for over 20 years and her area included the extensive West Ferry.

Her other talents were perhaps not so well known to some of you. She was a member of Monifieth Wine Circle and not only a national judge but an expert wine maker... Jim says he never touched a drop of it but I have my doubts. She had been awarded many medals for her wine and once reached the Scottish finals.

Helen's professional career was in Nursing working in Perth, Kings Cross and then Westbay finally ending up as theatre sister in the maternity unit in Dundee.

Helen will be sadly missed for all her talents and unstinting work.

R. McP.

ST.STEPHENS & WEST PARISH CHURCH

BROUGHTY FERRY

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Congregational Board information

Highlights' of the Board meeting on 29 Jan:

The slabbed path that has been laid from the front gates to the door of the vestibule will be extended down the west side of the church to the church hall door.

Ron McPherson is investigating improvements to the Hearing Loop in the Church.

Those using the church will notice a number of improvements to facilitate disabled access into and use of our buildings.

The Cream Tea was scheduled for 9 May 2020 but unfortunately this will have to be postponed. However the Christmas Coffee Morning is in the diary for 28 November 2020 and we very much hope to see a full house as usual.

Our former Session Clerk, John Grieve, is now living in a Care Home close to his daughter in Edinburgh.