

# COVENANTER

SUMMER 2018



*ALIVE AND  
WORSHIPPING*

AVENDALE OLD & DRUMCLOG  
PARISH CHURCH

## ***“Alive and Worshipping”***

Don't miss out on what is going on at Avendale and Drumclog.

We have several ways to keep up to date with the service or activities connected to the church.

### ***The website.***

At [www.avendale-drumclog.com](http://www.avendale-drumclog.com) see all the latest news, listen to all or part of the service at Avendale which is recorded each Sunday. Thanks go to the team of people who record and upload the service to the website.

The calendar on the website has up to date information for all the planned activities within Avendale and Drumclog.

If you are unable to attend the service or want to re-listen to the service you can log on later in the day each Sunday.



Our link allows for the recording to be listened to on computer, iphone, tablet or other electronic devices.

Copies of the service on CD can be obtained via Pete Williams and are usually delivered within Strathaven on Sunday/Monday each week.

See Peter before or after the service to arrange a copy. Call 01357 529954

### ***FACEBOOK***

Is another great way to share events and communicate with others who have connections with the church and to the wider community too. You can read about events and you can post messages too!



# SUMMER 2018



I'm sure you have all been enjoying the warmer weather of the last few weeks. Let's hope that the summer this year continues to be better than the last couple of years. It certainly makes folk feel better and there is nothing more infectious than a happy, shared, smile. I hope that many of you will be able to enjoy some time away over the summer months and return refreshed and ready to take part in all that is going on in Avendale and Drumclog.

We have been very encouraged by the number of children coming to church in recent months and pray that they will all come along to the Summer Holiday Club which starts on Monday 30th July. This has been a great success for the past 2 years and I'm sure the young people will have as much fun again as the leaders do!! If you know of any young people who are currently at Primary school please do encourage them to come along and hear the good news of Jesus.



There is much going on within our congregation which needs your prayers and encouragement so please do take time to read the various articles throughout the magazine and don't hesitate to ask for clarification from any of the office bearers involved in them.

Muriel Jones  
Editor

Avendale and Drumclog Church is the known name of Strathaven Avendale Old and Drumclog memorial Parish, Church of Scotland  
Scottish Charity No: SC001956

## Message from the Manse

### "Changes Afoot!"



Dear Friends

Changes! Changes!

Some are welcome, some are not. Some people like them, some don't. Sometimes we are for them, and they work for us, other times we feel different about them. Well what's new there!

Change happens daily all around us and we respond differently to it depending upon how we view the change, and how it affects us, our likes and our feelings. Change always brings a degree of unease and disturbance to life and it requires the need for understanding, for adjustment and for accommodation of different feelings and reactions. Change is "never easy", but it is often necessary to engage with changing times and circumstances, and it is often the catalyst for new opportunities and developments.

Change is afoot in some of the Churches in Strathaven as I write this pastoral letter. By the time you read this article Strathaven: Trinity Church will have been formed by the union of Strathaven: Rankin I/w Chapleton and Strathaven: East I/w Glassford. This is a big adjustment for four congregations and for the Rev Shaw Paterson as he takes upon himself a whole new dynamic to ministry. As fellow Christians in the town, and as members of the neighbouring Church of Scotland congregation, let us pray for a harmonious, happy and healthy coming together in these early months of union and adaptation.

Many different feelings will be experienced; many practical challenges will be faced; many decisions will present themselves

to office-bearers and leaders; and many new and exciting opportunities come to light as the new congregation develops. We wish our Christian brothers and sisters well and ask God's blessing upon their continued witness and ministry in the town and surrounding villages.



Change too is afoot in the Avendale Church worship sanctuary space. After years of discussion, exploration and negotiation with church authorities and with building professionals, a few months ago, both the Trustees and then those attending a Congregational meeting, voted by a large majority to approve extensive changes and refurbishments to the Avendale Church worship space.

To create a brighter, more welcoming, flexible and more modern space for worship and other activities plans have been approved to remove the downstairs pews and to replace them with comfortable individual seats. The chancel area will be also be reshaped and reduced in size, and new heating, new lighting and new floor covering will be installed.

Painting work will also lighten the space and improved sound equipment and new audio visual capability will further modernise the feel to the sanctuary and improve its flexibility and use. It is anticipated that Presbytery permission to proceed will be granted about the time you receive this *Covenanter* magazine. The total cost of the project has been priced at £251,000 (incl VAT). As a result of very vigorous and diligent applications, grants totalling £160,000 have been secured, and to date financial pledges of £64,000 have already been made by some members of the congregation.

A VAT reclaim is also anticipated, but since the level of this is unknown the Trustees are looking to bridge the current funding gap of **£27,000** from local funds and further congregational pledges.



The Trustees believe this funding gap is bridgeable and **invite you to share in the joy of passing on to future generations a "worship building fit for purpose"** as our forbears did for us, giving us, and former generations, much pleasure and benefit in the sanctuary we have enjoyed in our lifetime. **Please make use of the pledge form you will find elsewhere in this issue of the Covenanter to add your financial support to this exciting new development. Your prayerful and financial support is greatly appreciated.**

Back to my opening reflections and comments on "Change." Of course I understand that not all will wholeheartedly welcome the prospect of the proposed changes. I too am uneasy about all the upheaval and disruption we will face in coming months and apprehensive about the necessary adaptations the changes will bring in coming years. But past experience of changes, of fabric alterations, and of "at first" unpopular proposals of one sort and another, tells me that converts are often won over once the change is implemented.

I do hope you can catch and share the vision, (as our forebears did in the past when they created the sanctuary we have so loved), and participate in leaving a fine and fitting legacy for the needs of generations to come after us.

With tenders vetted and a contractor approved, in faith we trust in God to provide the financial generosity and commitment required, and we hope the work can begin in the near future.

Every prayer offered, and every financial contribution made is greatly appreciated and is an investment in the work of God's Kingdom. Thank you.



*Yours expectantly*

*Alan*



## WAYSIDE PULPIT



Whatever today may hold,  
whatever tomorrow might  
bring, the future is secure,  
for Christ is with us, the  
same yesterday, today and  
forever.

Live each moment with  
him in quiet confidence  
and joyful celebration, for  
he is ours, and we are his  
for all eternity.

*Nick Fawcett*

## The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

I'm sure by now you are all very familiar with these letters and their meaning. Like me you will have been bombarded by emails and post from charities and organisations requesting your permission for them to keep in touch with you. It is of course all because of the new Data Protection regulations which came into being in the EU at the end of May.

This short article is simply to inform you that the relevant Data Controllers within the congregation are aware of the legislative requirements of the GDPR as they affect church administration and are actively progressing towards full compliance with these regulations.

Limited, but important, personal data is stored on all members of the congregation to enable the office-bearers to exercise their required pastoral and oversight responsibilities towards you. These are the only reasons for which your personal data is used. Be assured it is kept secure, isn't shared with any third party, and is only processed in a manner necessary for you to benefit from all the opportunities that arise from your congregational membership.

By the time you read this article we will have the relevant Privacy Notice and Data Protection Policy in place should you ever wish to consult them. At present if you have any questions or enquiries they should in the first instance be referred to the Minister.

*(As a result of this legislation no contact names are printed in this edition of the magazine. Those concerned will be contacted before the next edition later in the year. Ed)*

**JOSEPH'S Holiday Club**  
**JOURNEYS July 30th - August 3rd**  
 It's free! **10:30 am - 12:30 pm**



**FOR CHILDREN ALREADY AT SCHOOL**  
**Avendale Old Parish Church**

Contact: Alan Telfer 01357 523031 [www.avendale-drumlog.com](http://www.avendale-drumlog.com)  
 Email: [minister@avendale-drumlog.com](mailto:minister@avendale-drumlog.com)

## Holiday Club Joseph's Journeys

After the success of last year's Holiday Club, preparations are well underway for this year's summer club. Once again Brian Lowrie will be heading up our team and leading the teaching about Joseph. There will be Egyptian related games, quizzes, songs, bible teaching, art and craft and of course lots of fun!! The children will be in four teams and they will have different ways of scoring points in the hope of being the winning team at the end of the week.

Joseph's Journeys is open to all children who are currently at primary school.

When: Monday July 30<sup>th</sup> - Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> August

Time: 10.30 am - 12.30.

Cost: Free

Where: Avendale Church Hall

As a team we greatly value your prayers as we undertake this work with the children.



WEEKEND AWAY ??

## **Weekend @Home**

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2018

Do you like going on holiday but find it a bit of an effort at times? Do you wonder about your accommodation...will it be comfortable ? what will the bed be like?

Well worry no more, the Mission and Discipleship Group has the answer, we are planning a weekend of events but staying at home!!

On Friday evening we plan to have tea together then have an evening of fun, this is an all inclusive weekend so there will be something for everyone.

Saturday will start with breakfast followed by an outing to Dumfries House. Transport will be organised.

We will meet again for a meal at 5.30pm and then have an evening of entertainment, showing the best of Avendale talent! There will be a late night session for those who can stand the pace!

On Sunday there will be a Family Service at Avendale. We will meet prior to this for tea/coffee and croissants. The weekend will conclude with a light lunch.

Please put the dates in your diary, we really want this to be a big family event and it won't be complete without you!

More details about the weekend will be in the intimations in the coming weeks. All meals and gatherings to be held in Avendale Church.

Several children found a dead robin. Feeling that a proper burial should be performed, they secured a small box and some cotton material, dug a hole in the garden, and made ready to dispose of the deceased.



The Minister's 5 year old son was chosen to say the prayer and so with great dignity he intoned,

“Glory be to the Father... and to the Son....  
.....and into the hole he goes”!!

# Greetings from Singapore



Four months into my stay in Singapore as I headed off yesterday morning to my local swimming pool I noticed how mild it felt; on checking the temperature was 26 degrees centigrade which I take as a sign that I am becoming acclimatized!

The heat and humidity is a huge feature of life here and one must drink lots of fluids to prevent dehydration. Singapore also has abundant heavy rain, often accompanied by lots of thunder and lightning. This occurs most commonly in the afternoon, so mornings and evenings are the time for exercise, shopping and dog walking.

Other than weather I would describe Singapore as remarkably green with beautiful, tropical trees everywhere. We are living in a house only a five minute stroll from Singapore's spectacular Botanic Gardens. A group of British ladies known as the Walkie Talkies meets there three times a week, walks a 5 kilometre circuit at a brisk pace and by 9am we are all sitting enjoying a well-earned drink.

This group comes under the auspices of the British Association which coordinates lots of activities and events for the British contingent here and through it I have met an interesting and diverse group of women and joined one of their book groups. Close to 40% of Singapore's population at any time are not Singaporean by birth. The non-nationals work in various sectors including construction,

domestic help as well as in senior management in banking, finance and multinational companies such as Siemens. The domestic helpers are predominantly Filipino and can be seen walking the dogs of their employers (why keep a dog if you are not going to walk it yourself?) and on Sundays (their day off) they meet and picnic with friends all over the city. Meanwhile the affluent and high paid workers often join clubs, such as the Tanglin Club, the American Club, the Raffles Club, the British Club, or, in our case the Hollandse Club. The Dutch Club is also close to our home, very informal, has a gym and pool (in which I am currently learning to do front crawl) and also has no waiting list or large joining fee! Last Saturday found a large UK contingent enjoying dinner while watching a wedding on two large screens, and very jolly it was too.

Singapore is a very wealthy city-state and there is a wide level of income inequality, however it ranks high in all the tables for health care (which is universal), life expectancy, education and infrastructure. The city is clean, very safe and has a public transport system which is nothing short of superb. And although 5.6 million Singaporeans and foreigners live on an island approximately 40kms wide and 25 kms north to south (most of them in apartment blocks), the tree-lined streets do not feel as hectic as, say, London.



Singaporeans do not shy away from displaying wealth: a neighbour of ours has his Aston Martin and two BMW cars parked in his drive, and this is far from unusual. I have also never seen so many shops with names like Rolex, Tiffany and Cartier. I am told that the numerous designer stores are very popular with rich tourists mainly from China, but it all seems a bit ostentatious to this Presbyterian Scot.

In my first week here I noticed that Adam Road Presbyterian Church is just across the main highway from us. Having a service at 11.30 am a few minutes stroll is, I must admit, the main reason for my attending worship there. The church has a team of around ten pastors, two church buildings across the city, 800 children registered in their Sunday school and a role of about 1800 people in total! It is a very welcoming church, with a praise band to lead singing, and a commitment to preaching; I think most sermons last about forty five minutes, sometimes probably longer.

While it is a welcoming church I am unsure if I will settle there, partly because it is so big, and I would prefer to feel part of a smaller faith community and partly because the stance of the church is very conservative, and preaching seems to take precedence over worship!

However all in all I feel most fortunate to have the opportunity to live here in a place so different from Scotland. But home is never very far away; our visit to the vet with Izzy, who is very well, was to see a young Singaporean vet, who had trained in veterinary medicine in Edinburgh, and when I went to sign up with a GP the Birmingham-born, Cardiff-trained, Punjabi speaking doctor turned out to be a friend of one the GPs in Strathaven Medical Centre!

Sitting in our local coffee shop one hears French, German and Italian spoken, while all Singaporeans are English speaking in addition to speaking their original mother tongue. Singapore has four official languages and a diversity of religious faiths. This very multicultural

society works because religious or ethnic intolerance are not permitted by what is a popular, but rather authoritarian government.

Nicholas spends one week in three at the Seoul office in South Korea; lest you think Seoul and Singapore are next door to each other it is a five and a half hour flight! I went with him in April and we met up with our Iain and his girlfriend Amy, who were there visiting Amy's sister. We have also spent a weekend at a beach resort of one of the Malaysian islands and are looking forward to a trip to an Indonesian island to see manta rays and komodo dragons.

Next month brings visits from many family members, including all our sons. We also look forward to seeing a university friend of mine in July and one John Jeacocke in October.

So I send best wishes to all at Avendale, and if you are heading to South East Asia or beyond we would be delighted to see you!

**Alison**

.....  
**GOOD FRIDAY DAY OF PRAYER**

The Worship & Prayer group once again organised a Day of Prayer for Good Friday, which ran from 8am to 7pm followed by the evening service in the Rankin Church. Again this was well received by the wider community, not just Avendale & Drumclog folk. A prayer was said every hour on the hour and a reading every hour on the half hour told the story of the events leading up to Good Friday.



It had been hoped that this event might be shared around the town so that it is not seen as "an Avendale thing" but as yet no one has come forward to take up the mantle. In the meantime the W&P group will continue to organise this for next year as an important part of worship during Holy Week.



## Girls' Brigade.

On Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May the 1st Strathaven Girl's Brigade Company, attached to our congregation, held their annual Parents and Presentation Evening in the company of a good number of parents, friends and members of the congregation. As always the girls entertained the audience with some of the songs they regularly sing, and the work of the past session was reported on.

The usual badges and awards were presented to the girls, with two of the senior Brigader's, Amy MacDonald and Nicola Bell receiving a very special award, the Girls' Brigade Brooch, (the second highest award that can be gained). These had been formally presented, along with award certificates and a Bible at a special All Age worship service in Avendale Church on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> May, but it was also thought important that the wider Girls' Brigade audience shared in the joy and success of these two girls.

There was also a sad dimension to the evening as it marked the retirement of Kay Blair as Acting Captain. Kay offered to help out for one year in 2009 when the company met in the former West Kirk and required a Captain to keep it going. Kay has been leading the company for these last 9 years, but new age regulations implemented by the Girls' Brigade requires that she retires at this time.

Sincere thanks was expressed to Kay Blair by Mr Telfer, who is the Company Chaplain, and he paid tribute to her faithfulness, commitment and perseverance over these years. Personally, and

on behalf of the congregation, Mr Telfer expressed deep appreciation to Kay Blair for her years of service to the Girls' Brigade in Strathaven.

The girls, the leaders and a parent spokesman also paid tribute to the positive impact Kay's example and leadership had made over the years and various presentations were made to Kay to mark her retirement.

Finally, it was noted that unless a replacement Captain can be identified and appointed over the summer this gathering would also be the last one for the 1<sup>st</sup> Strathaven Company of the Girls' Brigade. In light of this possibility Officers from neighbouring Company's at Chapleton and Stonehouse were present to extend a welcome to any girls who would wish to consider transferring to them after the summer. However, if you know of a fully trained Girls' Brigade officer, who meets all the Brigade requirements for leadership as a Captain, and who may be willing to consider this post in Strathaven, please ask them to contact Mr Telfer as soon as possible, thank you.

.....

**PRAYER CHAIN**

The Worship & Prayer group are planning to resurrect a prayer chain within the congregation to help us to be more conscious of the needs of others and pray accordingly. If you haven't already done so, and you would like to be part of this group, please give your name to either Sandi Allan or Muriel Jones by the end of June if possible.

.....



## DRUMCLOG GUILD

Aileen Scott has shared a report of the activities of the Drumclog Guild:

In January we had to cancel our meeting due to the weather. The speaker, Mr Gordon McAllan has agreed to come to our joint meeting in October to tell us about Strathaven Museum Trust.

The quiz night in February was again a great success. We had a very good support and thank Quiz Master Marion Law and her assistants for all their work on the evening and for making up the quiz.

At our Friend's Night in March Mr Robert Nimmo from Wishaw told us about walking the Great Wall of China in aid of St Andrew's Hospice. We had a most informative and entertaining evening. The Sale of Work in April was very successful. We had lovely weather and it was very well attended.

For our outing in May we had a beautiful day to travel to Largs. We went down the coast road through Greenock and Gourock, stopping at Cardwell Gardens for lunch. Some of the ladies crossed on the ferry to visit Millport. We had high tea in Largs before travelling back to Strathaven.

The members attended the joint meeting at Rankin Guild but because of the weather the World Day of Prayer in March was cancelled.

The committee thanks everyone who has supported us during the year and look forward to the new session starting on October.

We meet on Tuesday 2nd October when Dr John Jeacocke will give us a talk entitled 'The Unknown India'.



Please remember our Mission Partners Joel and Mayra and their son Joel Fernando who are based with Latin Link in Mexico.

Mayra mentioned some specific prayer requests for the lecturing and teaching work they both do including at a Bible Institute in Puebla; premarital counselling with young couples; prayer meetings in their home to get together with leaders from different churches and pray for Mexico, Puebla and their different ministries and families; for their mini team in Mexico to provide encouragement, support and their safety as they do God's work.

Please look at the website: [www.latinlink.org.uk](http://www.latinlink.org.uk)

# AVENDALE AND DRUMCLOG

## SUPPORTING LOAVES AND FISHES



Loaves and Fishes has been helping vulnerable and homeless families and individuals for 27 years. Last November/December we were able to help over 900 families with Christmas hampers and toys for 400 children. Your gifts are so appreciated and all go to help the needy in our area. Please continue to pray for our work.

*Irene Pepperell*

### **On the first Sunday of every month:**

If you can, please provide **smaller** packs of tea/coffee/rice/pasta etc., rather than large sizes as these are easier to distribute without splitting.

The following items are suggested -

#### **General store cupboard:**

Breakfast cereal  
Sugar  
Tea bags  
Coffee  
Biscuits  
Jams  
Diluting juice  
Pasta sauce  
Sauce

#### **Long life products:**

Milk  
Fruit juice

#### **Dried goods:**

Pasta  
Rice  
Cup a soup  
Instant mash potato mix



#### **Tinned goods** such as:

Meat  
Vegetables  
Pasta, such as spaghetti  
Tuna  
Pies  
Tomatoes  
Soup  
Fruit  
Beans

#### **Toiletries** such as:

Shampoo  
Toothpaste/brushes  
Soap  
Toilet rolls  
Nailbrushes  
Combs  
Disposable razors

#### **General household**

Tin openers

# Ghana with Compassion

Like many in our congregation Bob and I have sponsored through Compassion for quite a few years. We were fortunate enough to be able to travel to Ghana earlier this year to meet Benjamin in person and how wonderful that was. Letters and photos suddenly became real flesh and we were able to hug him, talk and listen with him.



It transpired that we were the first ever sponsors to visit that project in 10 years and they treated us like royalty with what means they had. A group of children playing musical instruments followed us everywhere and when they discovered I was celebrating a significant birthday, sparkling juice appeared from nowhere!

Benjamin's mum was so overwhelmed when we were able to give her a fan for their tiny bedroom where Benjamin sleeps with her, his step father and 3 month old baby. Day and night 30 degrees is a relentless heat to live in with little or no ventilation.

It was a holiday of 2 halves. The wealth and material possessions of those living in the cities alongside the lack of facilities in the villages, however, they still manage to get satellite TV and watch their favourite football teams! Despite their lack of wealth as we know it the children were all so very happy and enjoying their schooling.

We were very impressed by the Compassion charity for their detailed organisation and transparency of operation. We had to prove that we had the means to pay for our trip and agree to pay for the day trip to Benjamin's village. We were struck by how the sponsoring doesn't just benefit the child, but the whole school and village. If you have ever thought about sponsoring, please do!

They really do what they say, ***"releasing children from poverty in Jesus" name"***.







# HEALTH HELP INTERNATIONAL

You may remember in the last issue of the Covenanter I indicated that as a result of a number of changes the Zambia Container had come to an end, well sorry, that was not the last container. The amount of goods collected was far more than the container could carry so it was decided to send another container with the goods we were unable to load and the 2018 container arrived in Zambia in May.

I suggested to our supporters in Avendale and Drumclog church who normally collected items for the Zambia Container that they could now help to support Tuition Groups in India as government funding for these groups had come to an end.

## **2018 Tuition Groups**

Each tuition group costs about £30 a month to run and I hoped the church could pledge support for the year, thirty supporters £1 per month would fund a group for the year. I was overwhelmed with the support these tuition groups received from our congregation. Avendale Old and Drumclog Parish Church have promised to support three Banyan Tree Tuition Groups and for the folk not so clever at maths that's over £1000 - in fact a number of HHI supporters have donated the whole year's contribution in one donation. To date a total of £687 has been sent to these groups in India. Many thanks to all who continue faithfully to support this cause and to any supporter who has forgotten a month's donation you can catch up any time or for anyone else to make a one off donation it would be gratefully received.

## **HHI Bridge Drive**

The Bridge Drive was held in the former West Kirk on 28th April and a total of £950 was raised. Many thanks to Avendale Church for the use of their kitchen and equipment to provide a light lunch enjoyed by the bridge players. Thanks to all who contributed time, money and baking to make this a successful event.

## **Ragbag Scheme**

The Ragbag container is housed in the Nutberry Room in Avendale and continues to be filled. The container is emptied on a monthly basis and the funds go directly to HHI. Thanks to all who support this church effort. Even although the price paid for the Ragbag contents has been reduced significantly since the initial use of the scheme, the amount raised still benefits HHI with a four figure sum annually.

## **Flower cards**

Avendale Church uses these cards with the flowers which have graced the sanctuary during the Sunday service and given to recipients. Every leaf is an original painting and the cards have been adapted specifically with a commissioned pen and ink drawing for the church building.

## **RS50**

The RS50 is an annual 50 mile cycle around Strathaven which takes place on 19th August this year. The event is organised by the Friends of Strathaven Scouts (FOSS) to raise funds, half of which goes to support the Scout and Guide movement in Strathaven and the other half is donated to charity. In recent years HHI has benefitted from the generosity of RS50 and hopes to benefit again this year.

Many thanks to all who support HHI in prayer, in time and financially. Your continued help has allowed HHI in difficult times to maintain its commitment to life changing projects in Zambia and India.

***Ian Gow***



*The total collected in the strathaven area for Christian aid 2018 was £8055 (including Gift Aid) Many thanks to all collectors and donators*