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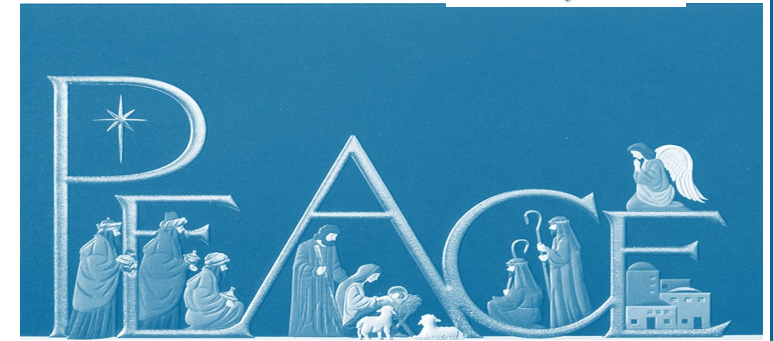


**Winter
2023/2024**

UAPC



LINK MAGAZINE



Articles and letters

The Link welcomes articles and letters, which can be sent by e-mail to **cafair-holm@outlook.com** or by post (Claremont, Hartfell Cres. Moffat DG10 9AL). All communications should bear a name and, if possible, a telephone number. Anonymous contributions will not be accepted.

Copyright

May I ask you to ensure that any article submitted is either one you have written yourself or one that you have had permission to reprint.

Editor

I would like to thank all those who have contributed to this edition of the Link Magazine— Local businesses and of course our regular contributors. All the contributions make for an interesting and varied read.

We trust you have a safe and peaceful Winter, Christmas and 2024. The Spring edition of the Link is due out in March. The Editor.

If the only prayer you ever said was, Thank You, that would be enough. Meister Eckhart, 14th century.



Collection of food items for local families.

May I remind you that this is still continuing and the school is always very grateful for all contributions which they ensure are delivered to those in our communities who need a helping hand.

The collection box is in the foyer of Kirkpatrick Juxta church and is emptied regularly.

Alternatively contact Laurie McVeigh on Tel 478604 to arrange for items to be uplifted.

Thank you.



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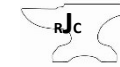
SERMON!

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Jim said he had found the whole experience ‘a great joy’

“It is a world I had no previous experience of and so I was quite raw walking onto set but I worked hard to understand the culture of a major Hollywood production. I really enjoyed meeting people regardless of their role.

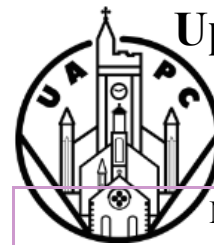
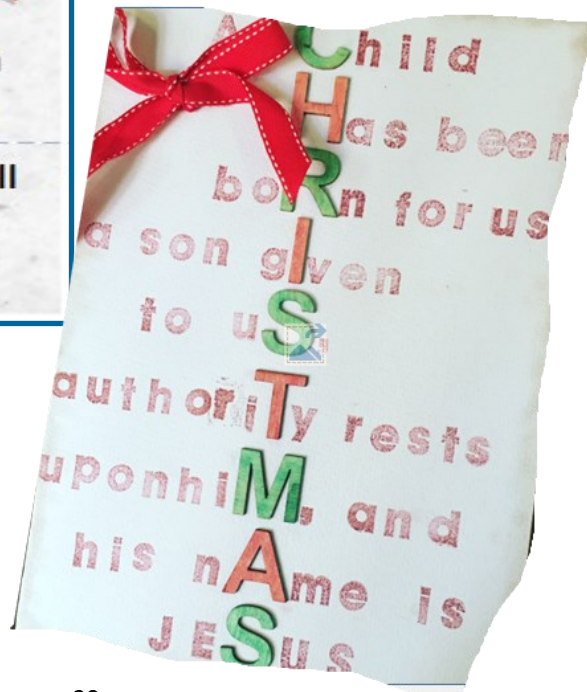
“The supporting actors were a fascinating bunch from very diverse backgrounds, all the technical staff and the wardrobe and makeup women were a scream.”

Members of the congregation have yet to see their minister in his new role, he said.

“One or two in the congregation know but I’m sure they will just roll their eyes and think, ‘What has he done now?’”

The Perth minister said he would repeat the experience if the opportunity arose: “I would do it again and have had offers to play parts in the Netflix drama ‘The Crown’ and another production which may well still happen. I’m a parish minister but if the timings work you never know what might happen.”

Article published in Life and Works Magazine



Upper Annandale Parish Church

(Charity registration number: SCO12236)

<https://www.standrewsmoffat.org>



MINISTER

Rev. Elsie Macrae



Elsie.Macrae@churchofscotland.org.uk

OFFICE BEARERS

Session Clerk: Donald Walker

Treasurer: Mrs Ann Sanders

Dear friends,

My Boots App beeped, and the message read, ‘Give Joy: our Christmas advert’ click and find out. ‘As you count down, you can now watch this year’s advert! Feel festive and find joy in the little things this season’. At least it made me smile at the thought of spending all my pennies buying products- It is interesting that shops at this time of the year think the best way to happiness is to bombard me with the great and wonderful commercial buys that they think my loved ones will love and appreciate. Pause! And ask yourself- What is Joy? Joy is a feeling of great pleasure and happiness. How will buying or giving away products fill me with joy?

On the other hand, John 15:11 reads, ‘I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy’. Jesus is not talking about products or tangible things, rather he is talking of a joy that is unique- “My Joy”- Jesus explains to his followers that this a kind of joy that is fulfilling in a way that the world’s happiness is not. The joy Jesus is offering is an inner joy, a joy that is real, a joy that is resilient regardless to the economic indicators or interests’ rates.

Jesus says, we can enjoy a love which transcend all others- the Love of our heavenly Father is unconditional, nothing compares to the love of God for His love is not based on how we look, our personality, wealth, or moral goodness. It is a love that is offered without preconditions. There is nothing one can do to make God love them more/less- this love is not one that gives you the warm fuzzy feeling every so often, rather, it is a love that guarantees total acceptance when all others have rejected you. A love that truly forgives when all others judge you. It is a love the is merciful when all others have condemned you. When you bask in His love, you experience a wellspring of joy bubbling up in your heart and come end of Christmas this joy will not go away, even after all the great and wonderful gifts under the tree have been opened. This love will last forever and will enable you to learn in whatever situation to be content.... [Philippians 4:11]. Giving away gifts will give you the warm fuzzy feeling, but the Joy Jesus gives will enable you to count it all joy, even in times of trials.

I wish you a winter season of great tidings and joy and may you find the love of God through Christ. This year and the years to come, may you find that His grace is sufficient.

Many hugs, Elsie

Dates for the Diary

What's on at UAPC	Regular activities
Monday Pilates – 6-7pm	Fridays – Toddlers 10-11.30am
Tuesday – Slimming World 5-7pm	Saturdays - Men's Breakfast club 8.30-9.30am (last Saturday of Month)
Wednesday – Drop in Wednesday (Usually 1st & 3rd Wed) 10-11	Starting soon Thursdays – Childrens Fused Glass workshop – 3.30-4.30pm 2nd Nov for 6 weeks
Bible study classes 2.30-4.30pm	Thursday Yoga- 6.30-7.45pm – starting 2nd Nov

Tuesday 14th November 2pm-4pm	Death café
Wednesday 15th Nov 6.30-8.30pm	Menopause Free cafe
25th /26th November	Christmas Tree festival ,
Wednesday 6th December 7pm	Wreath making workshop
Sunday 10th December (time tbc)	Borders Strathspey and Reel Society Concert
Wednesday 20th December 6:30pm	Christmas Carol Service
Saturday 17th February	Dumfries Male Voice Choir
Friday 23rd February	Simon & Garfunkel Tribute Act
Sunday 3rd March 2pm	Bruce Davies concert
April 6th/7th	Craft Fayre
June 8th	Glasgow Chamber Orchestra
2025	
June 14th	Budapest Cafe Orchestra
New events are being booked in regularly, so please check the website www.uapc.co.uk and posters for full details	
<p>Anyone wishing to book the hall or church for events please contact Alison 07715 574666</p>	

TV Role for Perth Minister

A Church of Scotland minister has brushed shoulders with Hollywood celebrities after securing a guest role in a new Apple TV period drama.

The Rev Jim Stewart, minister at Perth: Letham St Mark's made his appearance as 'The Vicar' in The Buccaneers which launched on Apple TV on November 8. The series is based on the final (and unfinished) novel by Edith Wharton and centres around a group of socially ambitious American families seeking to find a husband in Victorian Britain.

He applied after a friend tagged him on Facebook after Forge Productions (a company involved in the production) appealed for a real minister to take up the role.

Filming took place over five days at Gosford House near Aberlady, East Lothian in July 2022.

Jim explained: "As I was on holiday it seemed a fun thing to do and after a Covid test I was allowed on set to start the process of a costume fitting.

"It was incredibly hard work but utterly enjoyable.

"The location was Gosford House in East Lothian, a beautiful stately home that was perfect for the period drama - even though it was supposed to be 1870s New York.

"I played the role of the 'The Vicar.' In the end I was filmed in five separate scenes wrapped around the wedding of characters Lord Richard Marlborough and Conchita Closson. The role was originally a non-speaking part but after spending time with Susanna White, the director, she 'eased' me into speaking during the wedding ceremony. Susanna was also keen to know my opinion in how to set up the wedding ceremony.

"I know now this was quite incredible that such an experienced director would value the views of a newbie on set but as I got to know her she expertly got the absolute best out of everyone she worked with."

During the production Jim mingled with some well-known celebrities including Christina Hendricks (better known for her role in the Netflix advertising agency drama Mad Men) and Josh Dylan (who appeared in Mamma Mia 2 Here We Go Again!)

"As a complete novice to acting I had no expectations or much understanding of the protocols surrounding the principal actors. When I was with the principal actors they were generous and encouraging.

"I received warm encouragement from Christina Hendricks and Josh Dylan before my big wedding scene even though I fluffed my lines which meant a full reset before I nailed it. Simone Kirkby was especially helpful with a big hug at the end of a long day when everyone's eyes were on you!"

SWI We meet monthly, 2nd Tuesday of the month in WAMPHRAY Hall. New members always welcome. At present we have over 20 members. If you feel you want to learn new skills come along from September – May.

WAMPHRAY Carpet Bowling is held every Thursday 7.30pm in WAMPHRAY Hall. At present we have around 28 members. New members always welcome. October-March.

KNIT and NATTER September – May held once a fortnight in the village hall 7pm-9pm. Come along and join us if you feel it's for you. We have around 20 people at present.

Whist Drive held in September raised, £100.00.

Whist Drive held in October raised £90.00. Both events were enjoyed by all present.

Future Services

12th November REMEMBRANCE at 10.55am.

24th December Christmas Eve Service at 7pm. All Welcome!



CHURCH FLOWERS Autumn/Winter

November 5th	Elizabeth Harper	December	Church Decorations
November 12th	REMEMBRANCE		
November 19th	E.J. Wilson		
November 26th	Margaret Shearer		
January 7th	Ann Braid	February 4th	Denise Dempster
January 14th	Helen Braid	February 11th	Elizabeth Harper
January 21st	Rosemary Cowan	February 18th	Moria Hogarth
January 28th	Karren Currie	February 25th	Sandra Johnstone
March 3rd	Sandra Laidlaw		
March 10th	Gayle Lamont		
March 17th	Linda McMinn		
March 24th	Fiona Richardson		
March 31st	EASTER		



Kitega Community Centre | Let's make it happen

Thank you

A massive thank you to everyone who helped make our coffee morning on Saturday 2nd September for Kitega Community Centre such a fabulous success.

We were blessed with a lovely sunny day and it was busy with locals and visitors popping in for teas/coffees and lovely home baking and to support the stalls.

I was thrilled when adding up the totals to reach £884 and along with later donations to reach £1004.

The centre are hoping to employ another teacher to reduce the waiting list and this money will pay a teacher's salary for a year, so you can see how far the money goes in Uganda and get a perspective of the cost of living.

We couldn't have done it without all the support and I just want to thank everyone who baked, ran stalls, helped on the day and of course came along and supported the event.

Every penny raised goes to the centre and helps improve the quality of life for so many.

Treat your friends as you do your best pictures, and place them in their best light. (Jennie Churchill)

Local support services

Minister- Rev Elsie Macrae 01683225146	Samaritans. Tel. 01387 253555
DRI. Hosp. 01387 246246	Dr's Surgery Moffat 01683 220062
Citizens advice 01387 252456	Dumfries Council. 030 3333 3000
Social Work Dept. 01387 273660	Criminal Social justice 0303 333 3001
Dentist's surgery 01683 220753	Chemist Moffat. 01683 220024
Town Hall 01683 221102	Food train. 01556 288427
Alcoholics Anonymous 03301 596 494	Women's Aid. 07710 152772
Childline 0800 1111	Health Visitors 01576 205531
School Nurses 07795 291296	

SCAN TO GIVE

If you wish to give a donation all you have to do is use your phone to scan the QR code on this poster! You will find the poster displayed in the church. The scan to give is not a replacement for regular congregational envelopes or standing orders but for adhoc giving, perhaps in response to a particular event or a retiring collection for instance.



Just hold your phone camera on the pink dot and follow the instructions to donate.

THANK YOU

Not sure how to use the QR code? Just enter the URL standrewsmoffat.bee-online.com into your browser!



We had the Christening of Zara Dalziel on Sunday 8th October conducted by Rev Elsie Macrae. Zara is the daughter of Steven and Hazel and sister to Innes. Granddaughter of Hugh and Sandra Wilson.



HUB

The WAMPHRAY Hub is still meeting on a Monday morning between 10am and noon. It is being well supported. Laughter and Chat is always the aim. Dominoes, cards on offer. Everyone is welcome so come along and enjoy the camaraderie at the hall in WAMPHRAY.

Coffee and Tea after the service on a Sunday raised £100.00 for the Dumfries In Shore Rescue at Glencaple from July -Sep 2023.



Harvest

Lovely service in our wee Kirk celebrating Harvest when Rev. Elsie Macrae led us in worship. A very thought provoking sermon about Mission - making us all think of the struggle facing many families (not only in other countries but here in D & G) to be able to feed their families. The donated goods will be delivered to Moffat Academy's food bank. Many thanks to everyone who contributed. Tea/coffee and homemaking was enjoyed at the close of

Good News!

The Thursday Message

At the heart of the gospel message is spreading the "Good News" and mission to our congregation and parish. We continue to deliver a Thursday Message. Some folks have it delivered by hand because they have not got access to a computer and others get it by E mail. If you are interested in being on either list please phone 01683 220475

We have no obligation to succeed. We do have an obligation to have a damn good try. George MacLeod.



WAMPHRAY PARISH CHURCH

(Charity registration number: SCO07536)

MINISTER

Rev. Elsie Macrae

OFFICE BEARERS

Session Clerk: Mrs Helen Braid

Clerk to Congregational Board: Mrs Linda McMinn

Treasurer : Mrs Sheila Thomson

Session Clerk Report

Autumn is upon us, as the colours change from green to orange, gold's to russets. That nature has arranged bringing to the landscape a pallet of delight. For us to savor and enjoy, this seasons lovely sights.

Presbytery conducted a Service of Dedication on the evening of Wednesday 30th August 2023. We are now in a Union with Moffat and Beattock now known as UAPC Upper Anandale Parish Church. Wamphray Church is remaining open till 2025.

We had our Harvest Thanksgiving Service on Sunday 24th September. Donations of non-perishable items were received and we're given to needy families in Moffat, Rev. Elsie Macrae took the service where we had a good turnout of people.

On a sadder note we record the death of George Braid on Saturday 16th September 2023. George was a member of WAMPHRAY PARISH CHURCH. Married to Ann and father of Kirsty, Lorna and Heather, father in law and a dear papa. George lived at Leithenhall Cottage before moving to Dalmakether, Lockwood Mains and finally Silverlea in Johnstonebridge. The girls attended Johnstonebridge Primary School. George will be sadly missed by everyone especially the carpet bowling at WAMPHRAY. Our thoughts and prayers are with Ann and all the family at this sad time.

Death of Mary Greig on 26th September 2023. Mary lived at Croft Cottage, WAMPHRAY and after the death of her husband David

Mary went to stay with her daughter Carol and Willie McKerlie and granddaughter Christine, who lived nearby at Medina Cottage. They built a Granny Flat for her. Mary lived in WAMPHRAY for many years and was President of WAMPHRAY SWI, a number of years ago. Our thoughts and prayers are with Carol and brother David wife and family at this sad.

Death of David Currie Johnstone MBE & KOSB on Saturday 9th of October 2023. David leaves his wife Sandra and family Sharon, Samantha and Scott, son in laws and daughter in law. Grandchildren and Great Grand Children. David spent his life in the Army travelling all over the Country and world, many times leaving family back home. After retiring David moved back to Aster Cottage in WAMPHRAY, the family home. David had time to spend with the Cadets in Lockerbie. David was an Elder in WAMPHRAY Church for many years until made him step back from the active roll. The Community are with Sandra and family at this difficult time.

CHURCH FINANCE

The major renovation project which has taken so much time and effort over the last two plus years has been completed successfully. The final cost of the building work amounted to £580,038 + VAT of which we paid £565,537 + VAT leaving a balance of £14501 +VAT, retention monies, being payable 12 months hence.

All expenses associated with the renovation, building contract, professional fees, VAT, and replacement chairs, £764,661 in total have been funded by the late David Campbell's legacy, grants received, VAT refunds, members donations and various fund-raising events.

To maximise use of the renovated building a new Audio-Visual system is integral to the future use of the building, so we have taken the decision to proceed with the installation of audio equipment, which is almost complete. The installation of visual equipment is to follow. The cost of this equipment is forecast to be around £72,000, for which we have received grants of £12,000 and the remainder will be funded from the interest-free loan we have been offered. To date we have drawn down £50,000 from the total loan of £100,000 which has been offered.

We would anticipate that the amount of the loan utilised will be around £40,000. As reported in the previous issue of the Link the loan is repayable over a period of 12 years.

We would thank everyone who has supported the project by way of donations, sponsoring a chair, or purchasing a pew, or attending fundraising events. Special thanks have to go to Adam Anderson for his herculean work in obtaining grants of over £220,000 to support this Project.

We now have a multi-purpose building available for worship by the Congregation and use for activities in support of our wider Community

Anne Sanders

Treasurer



Men's Breakfast

Calling all men, come and join us, you will enjoy !

The Men's Breakfast is back! Saturday mornings once a month (last Saturday of each month) 8.30- 9.30 a.m. in the church hall. We realise that this is a bit early but it is

worth the effort!

Bacon rolls or healthy cereal and fruit juice if you desire! Tea, coffee and lots of chat and banter.

UAPC Fundraising Team Update

The redevelopment fundraising team have been busy since the last edition of the magazine.

The group took part in the annual **Moffat Garage Sale** in July where we took the opportunity to “clear out” but also raise funds for the church. Despite the miserable weather on the day over £200 was raised.

In August some of our members attended **Picnic in the Park** selling the famous hog roast rolls. A great opportunity to chat to members of the community whilst they enjoy a roll cooked by our intrepid hog roast team.

Saturday 16th September saw the team organise the **Open Day** to celebrate the reopening of the church building after 9 months of redevelopment and the joining together of our 3 congregations to form Upper Annandale Parish Church. The day was a great success with hundreds of people coming along to see the building and to enjoy some of our fantastic home baking.

Later in September we welcomed the **Budapest Café Orchestra** for an evening concert which was enjoyed by all. If you missed it don't worry the orchestra will return in June 2025.

September was busy month as we welcomed **Moffat Walking Festival** to use the hall as their registration point for the last weekend. The fundraising group provided walkers with refreshments after their walks which were well received by all.

The fundraising group would like to say a big **THANK YOU** to everyone who has supported our events by attending, donating home baking, volunteering or in any other way. Thanks to everyone we have raised over £2000 towards the installation of modern audio-visual equipment.

Christmas Tree Festival

Our Christmas Tree Festival will again be held over the last weekend in November to coincide with the Moffat Christmas Lights event. The church will be filled with trees decorated by a variety of organisations and business from across Moffat.

The festival will be open to the public on

Saturday 25 November 2023 between 10am and 4pm
and

Sunday 26 November 2023 between 1pm and 4pm

Entry is free with refreshments £3. Monies raised from refreshments will go towards the church on Saturday and Mary's Meals on Sunday.

How you can help: we welcome donations of mince pies and shortbread; prizes for the tombola and preloved or unwanted Christmas goods for our sales stall.

We also need lots of volunteers to help over the days – if you can spare an hour or two, please let Imogen Paterson, Alison Kirkwood or Fiona Paton know.



Many thanks for your kind donation of £800.00 on the 13 September 2023 on behalf of Moffat CA Group towards the work of Christian Aid.

Christian Aid works with local partners and communities to fight injustice, respond to humanitarian emergencies, campaign for change, and help people claim the services and rights they are entitled to. Every pound donated and every fundraising event held helps us to eradicate poverty.

Your support for our life-saving work really makes a difference. For more than 75 years, we've been standing with communities living in extreme poverty - with people of all faiths and none. We have been living out our values of dignity, equality justice and love. Thank you for standing together with us and with our neighbours near and far. We are so grateful for you - our supporters, Christian Aid groups and churches across Scotland.

If there is ever anything we can do to support your efforts - provide a speaker, T-shirts or stickers; chat about your events, campaign actions or fundraising ideas - please do not hesitate to get in touch.

The above is an extract from a letter received in recognition of the great work being undertaken here in Moffat by the committee and community.

Remembrance Prayer

to bring your life back to life in ours.

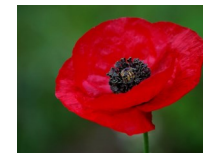
So, Jesus, when peace is in pieces, help us remember your words 'blessed are the peacemakers' and give us strength to work for that peace in our homes, in our neighbourhoods, our communities, our nation and our shared planet home.

When anger bubbles and fear of lost position or property takes our focus off loving our neighbour, remind us of your story about the good Samaritan and help us open the door to each other.

When we judge that we are right and therefore others must be wrong, help us remember your call to leave the judging to God – loving each other is a big enough job to be getting on with.

As we remember those who lost their lives because we have collectively failed to let love win,

breathe into our spirits
your hope and determination
and never-ending will
for your will to be done.



Church Flowers

5th November	Janet Crawford	3rd December	Margaret Buchanan
12th November	Anne Johnstone	10-24 December	Decs for Christmas
19th November	Helen Hinchcliffe		
26th November	Alison Murray		
2024			
7th January	Anne Colledge	3rd March	Pat Yeoman
14th January	Pamela Booth	10th March	Sandra Taylor
21st January	Helen Moores-Poole	17th March	Liz B
28th January	Elsie Roberts	24th March	Marion Little
		31st March (Easter Sunday)	Wendy Simpson
4th February	Fay Salmon		
11th February	Ann Walker		
18th February	Margaret Blacklock		
25th February	Linda Lyons		



Please pop your flower Sunday date onto your calendar or diary.

Thank you to everyone for your wonderful contributions.

A very happy Festive season to all and a safe start to 2024.

Anne College—01683 220446

If you know of an organisation/business who would like to sponsor and decorate a tree please let Imogen know. Sponsoring a tree is £10.

Wreath Making

Following on the Christmas theme Jane will be hosting a wreath making workshop on **Wednesday 6 December 2023** at 7pm in the church hall. The cost of the event is £5 and no booking is necessary, please just turn up. Anyone wishing to make a wreath should bring with them a wire coat hanger and some green foliage.

Borders Strathspey and Reel Society Concert

Something to brighten up an afternoon. Borders Strathspey and Reel Society will be playing in the church on **Sunday 10 December 2023** time to be confirmed. Entry is by donation and refreshments will be available.

Christmas Carol Service

Join us for a service of carols on **Wednesday 20 December 2023** at 6.30pm in the church. Refreshments will be available at the end of the service.

2024 Dates

The following events are planned for next year, watch out for posters and intimations in the church to confirm times.

Saturday 17 February 2024 time-tbc Dumfries Male Voice Choir Concert

Friday 23 February 2024 time-tbc Simon and Garfunkel Tribute Concert

Sunday 3 March 2024 2pm Bruce Davies Concert

Saturday 6 April 2024 time-tbc Craft Fayre

Saturday 8 June 2024 time-tbc Glasgow Chamber Orchestra



Never Underestimate the Generosity of Others!

In October I had the great pleasure of undertaking a 20-mile cycle around our new Parish of Upper Annadale. I was blessed with a wonderful calm, sunny October morning and the journey which was punctuated with snacks and water just flew by.

I returned home refreshed, exhilarated and probably a pound or two heavier given the snacks! Mission accomplished!

The aim had to be to raise funds for the Church Redevelopment Project and I had set myself a target of £1000. I had contacted family and friends far and wide including those in the churches which I visit. I was astounded when support came from London, Dunbar, Stranraer, Dumfries, Lochmaben, Boreland, Lockerbie, Tundergarth and off course Moffat.

I was fortunate to have the help of my able accountant Adam Anderson who kept a running total. The sum realised was £2000. Far beyond my expectations. I had totally underestimated the generosity of others! Thank you to all who made this a huge success. The Lord provides! Jeff Brown

Session Clerk Report

Since my last writing, there have been a lot of changes to the structure of our church. On 1 September 2023 the Union of Johnstonebridge, Kirkpatrick Juxta (KJ), Wamphray and St Andrews, Moffat was declared as official by the Presbytery. The new church which is thus formed had to be called a name which did not bear the previous name of St Andrews, so a vote was held by Presbytery and the new name which was adopted is the Upper Annandale Parish Church.

The first service was held on the 3 September 2023 with the church being reopened in time for that date, in spite of some work still continuing. During the time of the Renovation project, the congregation of St Andrews has been worshipping in KJ church and I would like to express our most sincere thanks to the KJ congregation for their extremely warm, friendly and accommodating welcome during this time. It was a pleasure to be part of their weekly services with such fellowship in a beautiful building.

KJ church is not officially closing until 31 December 2023 but their Kirk Session decided to be part of the UAPC from the opening date of 3rd September. There will be a final service at KJ on 31 December 2023 when the other churches will be closed and it is therefore hoped that as many people who can possibly attend that iconic service, will do so.

Part of the changeover process involved a Joint Kirk Session meeting at which the old Office Bearers of St Andrew's were thanked and retired, with new Office Bearers for the UAPC appointed. This included the new position of Deputy Session Clerk which was filled by Mrs Helen Braid.

We welcome the existing elders from KJ and Wamphray to join as part of the UAPC team. Several of the senior elders of the former St Andrew's Church have taken this opportunity to retire and stand down from their duties. I extend my grateful thanks to all of these dedicated Ladies and Gentlemen who have so faithfully served our church over many, many years.

During the past few months, we are delighted to welcome three new members to our church as well as a considerable number of new people who are attending the weekly services. This is despite the element of chaos which has been inevitable in the initial weeks and months since reopening, as the new system evolves and get settled.

The main renovation contract is now virtually completed with just a few outstanding odds and ends to be done. This has taken several months longer than anticipated, which is partly due to the number of extra items which have been successfully completed. These include such things as new lighting, painting and insulation in the church hall.

We are greatly indebted to Brick and Steel Construction who have supplied and installed many extras free of charge. These include insulation in hall ceiling, the new sound desk, the storage container, water heater in the servery and hand dryers in the new toilets as well as numerous other minor items.
.../cont

Areas of responsibility and those in charge UAPC

Church cleaning	Mr Donald Walker	220707
Church flowers	Mrs Anne Colledge	220446
Free-will offering	Mrs Marion Little	220922
Gift aid	Mrs Anne Sanders	222850
Hall lets	Mrs Alison Kirkwood	478149
Keeper of the congregational roll	Mrs Hilda Saville	221827
Life and Work & "The Link"	Cheryl Fairholm	478367 (cafairholm@outlook.com)
Moffat Toddler	Mrs Alison Kirkwood	478149
Organist/Musical director	Kate Durran/Erin Bullard	220742
Pastoral care	Vacant	
Property committee	Vacant	
Safe Guarding Office	Liz Tait	
Seekers 316	Mrs Fiona Paton	220164
Session clerk	Mr Donald Walker	220707
Deputy Session Clerk	Mrs Helen Braid	01576 470637
Treasurer	Mrs Anne Sanders	222850
Youth	Mrs Fiona McLean	

A friend is someone who can see through you, and still enjoy the show. (Anon)

Teens on Sunday

6-8pm

3rd December & dates in 2024

meet for a meal, chat, & bible discovery at UAPC

more info talk to Fiona McLean or Elsie



Wednesday's Drop in Sessions

We were very grateful to St. John's Scottish Episcopal Church Vestry for allowing us to hold the "Drop In" during our renovations. We are delighted to be back in the Bright and warm Upper Annandale Church Hall for our fortnightly sessions. We are convinced that given the comments from folks who attend they provide a warm haven for people to be together and to chat in a comfortable sup-

portive environment.

We still have healthy core group but we had the pleasure of new faces have joined us and enhanced the chat.

The little crosses, hearts and thoughts continue to disappear letting us know that the message is being shared.

We are keen for others to come along for tea, coffee, scones, and lots of chatter!

For information on dates please look at the posters in the town the Church notice board, the church intimations and church website. Please Drop In between 10-11 am on alternate Wednesdays

The new Audio system is hoped to be commissioned by the time this is published with the Visual equipment to be supplied and fitted early in 2024.

In summary, it has been a really busy time, but the gratifying part of it is, that the Hall and Church are already being used much more frequently and regularly than happened previously.

I wish all members of our church and Community a Blessed and Peaceful Christmas season albeit amidst our troubled world and Holy Land.

Donald Walker



Pastoral Care and Fellowship

In his letter to the Philippians, Paul gave the people these words of guidance:

"If you have any encouragement from being united in Christ, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose."

There are many, in our community, who quietly and unobtrusively live this guidance from Paul. They support and care for others and give of their time voluntarily for the benefit of many with a wide range of needs. May God bless them.

Our group relies on receiving prompt, accurate information about members of the church and in the community who have become ill, are struggling with life's demands, lost loved ones and also those about to celebrate significant birthdays and anniversaries. We are able to make contact, provide a listening ear, send cards, give flowers and offer comfort and prayers. Please provide information to Rev. Elsie Macrae, Hilda Saville, Jeff Brown, Linda McMinn, Laurie McVeigh, Peter Newsome, Allison Kirkwood, Donald Walker or Helen Braid.

May God bless the work carried out in His name and to His Glory. AMEN

Hilda Saville

What I believe can be summed up in five words. God is love, people matter.

Stewart McGregor a member of the Iona Community.



Presbytery Report

Presbytery met on 2nd September in the Howard Centre, Kilmarnock.

Following constitution which included a celebration of communion Presbytery heard tributes to recently deceased former members of Presbytery David Almond, Stuart Birss, Davis Chisholm and Iain Curry. There also followed commemoration of anniversaries of ordination of ministers, elders and deacons ranging from 25 years to 60 years.

Recently elected Moderator, Rev Alison McBrier, Minister at Caldwell and Dunlop, took the oath de fideli and assumed the chair for the remainder of the meeting.

The remainder of the morning was given over to presentation and discussion on Mission, led by the convener, Rev Gavin Niven. He began by reflecting on the stated aim of the Presbytery of the South West to be a 'Mission-minded Presbytery'.

There followed a recorded presentation on the challenge and change around us from the Rev Tommy MacNeil, minister of Martin's Memorial Church, Stornoway and chair of the Church Action Forum. His theme was 'Don't just survive-thrive!' He used the example of people within his congregation who were not keen on some aspects of worship. They cited themselves as traditionalists and longed for a church as it was 50 or 60 years ago. He pointed out that he too is a traditionalist, however his hope is to restore the spirit and action of the church to how it was 2000 years ago! He points out that the book which describes the early church is not called the book of thoughts or of theology, but the book of Acts. These are the acts of people and the spirit and the church has always been and will always be remembered by its acts.

Referring to Acts 11:19-21 he reminded presbytery that the Gospel isn't just for those who sit in the church on a Sunday morning but to everyone, especially those who do not fit into what is often considered the 'normal' mould.

There followed a presentation on how the church can set out the services it provides within and for the community alongside how it can project itself. Of particular note- along with the importance of social media- was the impact that a set of well positioned church gates can have as a means of communicating to passers-by!

The afternoon session dealt with business and the agenda is attached in the appendix. Kirk Session's attention is particularly drawn to the following points within reports:

SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE

Remind every Kirk Session, Presbytery, Employing Agency and department of the National Office, that no person may be employed or appointed to undertake or carry out regulated work unless that person is a member of the PVG Scheme, or the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) or has provided the Safeguarding Service with an appropriate overseas check and has been cleared by the Safeguarding Service.



CONTACT INFORMATION

Title	First Name	Last Name
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Phone Number	Email	
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Address		
<input type="text"/>		
Town / City	Postcode	
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	

SPONSOR A CHAIR

Number of Chairs	At £125 per chair	Total Amount
<input type="text"/>		£ <input type="text"/>

CHARITY GIFT AID DECLARATION

COMPLETE ONLY IF YOU ARE A UK TAX PAYER

As a taxpayer, by completing a Gift Aid Declaration, you allow St. Andrew's to reclaim from Inland Revenue, approximately 28p for every £1 you donate. Gift Aid is reclaimed from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.

- I want the congregation to treat all donations I have made in the last six years, and all donations I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise, as Gift Aid donations.
- I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Please notify St. Andrews if you: • want to cancel this declaration • change your name or home address • no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains. If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code

DATA CONSENTS

- I give consent to store and process my personal data to record my donation to the St Andrews Church Moffat "Sponsor A Chair" initiative
- My personal information may be shared with members of the Kirk Session and members of the congregation involved with the redevelopment project
- My personal information may be used to send me news and other activities relating to the redevelopment project
- I would like my name to be included on an supporters acknowledgement board which will be displayed in St Andrews, post the redevelopment

PAYMENT METHODS

ONLINE CREDIT CARD

Using the following link or scan QR code:

<https://checkout.justgiving.com/7jyx3pas5>



BANK TRANSFER

Bank: Bank of Scotland plc
Sort Code: 80-09-11
Account Number: 00859063
BIC: BOFSGB21094
IBAN: GB37 BOFS 8009 1100 8590 63
REF: CHAIR

CASH OR CHEQUE

Cheques should be made payable to: St Andrew's Church Moffat Redevelopment Fund. Cash and cheque payments can be handed in to Anne Sanders, Treasurer St Andrew's Moffat, Greystones, Hartfell Crescent, Moffat, DG10 9AL.



Phase 2 of the project, commencing now, will involve the purchase of floor coverings, chairs and audio-visual equipment, to further enhance the usability and inclusivity of the space. Unfortunately, there is a shortfall of approximately £80,000 to allow Phase 2 to go ahead and complete the overall project.

In order to help raise the outstanding funds, we are asking individuals and businesses to take part in a “Sponsor A Chair” initiative. Each new chair will cost £145, however we are asking for a donation of £125, and you can select to donate towards the cost of one or more chairs. Individuals that are UK taxpayers are asked to kindly consent to GiftAid if possible, as it will allow tax to be claimed back from the government at no extra cost to you. Businesses registered with Companies House should note that there is tax relief available for qualifying charitable donations.



Donations to the “Sponsor A Chair” initiative can be made by completing the online application and payment available at <https://www.standrewsmoffat.org/post/sponsor-a-chair> or by filling out the form on the opposite page and returning it to Anne Sanders, or to Elsie or one of the Elders at the end of Sunday Services.

Thank you in advance for your support!

Church Place, Moffat DG10 9ES, Scotland, UK
 Web: www.standrewsmoffat.org/redevelopment-project Mail: standrewsmoffat@gmail.com
 Charity no.: SC012236



A young reader contribution



The Runaway Otter

Dear Diary,

Yesterday was chaos, Pineapple my otter escaped and caused havoc in Moffat, so here is what happened.

Yesterday I was giving Pineapple a walk until Pineapple started to speed up and dragged me along. I was wondering what made him speed up then I saw that someone had dropped some raw fish. So I let him off the lead so he could eat it. He ate it with no hesitation and then, while I was getting the lead, he sprinted off and nearly got hit by a car. Then the driver shouted at me because of Pineapple. While I was arguing, Pineapple was on the run for it. I chased him and chased him until he stopped in front of the fish and chip shop. He barged in and raided it, breaking a lot, and was told to give £100 for the damage. I went home and put Pineapple into time-out.

Gethyn Ramage (age 11)

Moffat Academy, Moffat

Authorise the Safeguarding Service to audit periodically congregational safeguarding records and practice and instruct Kirk Sessions and Presbyteries to facilitate and cooperate with such audits. 8. Note the availability of the new revised Safeguarding Handbook which can be found on the

Safeguarding Service area of the Church’s public website and: (a) Encourage congregations, Presbyteries and staff of the National Office to become familiar with the revised Handbook; and (b) Encourage congregations to provide a link to the Handbook on their own Church website.

MISSION COMMITTEE REPORT:

Catalyst for Mission Conference - Presbytery note the Catalyst for Mission Conference will be held on Saturday 11th November 2023 in the Carrick Centre in Maybole and encourage congregations to send delegates.

Presbytery encourages congregations to submit ideas for Seeds for Growth funding to the Mission Committee for evaluation.

M.E.R.I.T COMMITTEE REPORT:

Presbytery encourages those willing to be trained as Presbytery Worship Leaders to contact the convener of the MERIT Committee, Rev Stephen Ogston, before 8th September 2023.

Presbytery encourages those involved in the school chaplaincy to attend the Schools Ministry Roadshow which will be held on Saturday 7th October at St George’s Church Hall, in Dumfries.

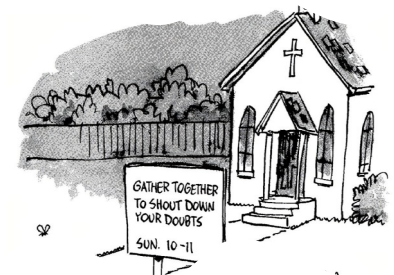
PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Presbytery to approve the sale of Kirkpatrick Juxta Church and Hall together with the glebe lands with the proviso that the KS forward an extract minute so agreeing to the Presbytery Clerk and that they seek the assistance and guidance of the Legal Team of the CoS.

The meeting concluded with the Blessing at around 3pm.

Andy Shuttleworth

Presbytery Elder (South West Scotland Presbytery)



It's All a Matter of Timing

I have a very good friend who is the session clerk of a church in the central belt. Her church has a minister who has been there for a number of years and, while noted as a man of considerable intellect and a good preacher has a tendency to be verbose, particularly in his sermons.

Following Covid, their church's long-standing organist decided to step down, leaving them without an organist for a number of months. Eventually, they were delighted to attract the services of a very talented young man who appeared to be the answer to their prayers. Not only was he a spectacularly gifted musician, able to bring the very best out of the organ whether playing music J.S. Bach, John Wesley or John Bell, but he was also great at getting people involved and had quickly set about forming a choir and a praise band.

All in the garden seemed rosy until, one morning my friend received a call from the minister. "We need to talk about that new organist," he began. Somewhat bemused she asked her clerical friend what the problem was. "Well," said the minister, "I'm not very happy with how he behaves at the end of the services. Over the last few Sundays I have noticed that, after he has played an appropriate tune while I make my way out to the front door, he has started indulging in playing some rather beautiful classical pieces on the organ".

"What's wrong with that?" the session clerk asked.

"What is wrong with that," the minister replied, "is that the congregation don't leave. They just sit in their seats listening to him until he has finished. Meanwhile, I'm standing out the front in the freezing cold, waiting to shake the congregation's hands on their way out. It all came to a head last Sunday morning. I had delivered what I thought was one of my finest sermons, well researched and full of detail, on the defeat of the Midianites. After the service, while I was outside, standing in the wind and pouring rain, the organist decided to play something by Brahms which he insisted on playing to the end. He took a full six and a half minutes for his recital, during which the congregation sat patiently and then, as if to add insult to injury, gave him a standing ovation. I mean," concluded the minister, "what am I to do?"

The session clerk thought for a moment and then suggested, "I'm not sure if you'd get exactly the same response, but have you considered taking the full six and a half minutes for one of your sermons....?"



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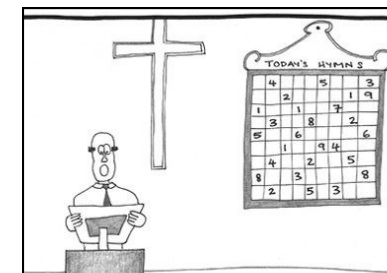
Embracing Winter Wellness with Traditional Chinese Medicine

As the chilly winds of winter approach and the Moffat hills are often seen capped with white snow, let's take a moment to appreciate the beauty of this season and understand how Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) can help us maintain our well-being during the colder months. Winter, according to TCM, is a time for introspection, rejuvenation, and self-care.

Let's explore three simple ways to stay healthy and thrive in the winter season.

1. **Warm Up with Nutritious Foods:** In TCM, what we eat plays a significant role in our overall health. To stay in harmony with the winter season, choose warm, nourishing foods. Soups, stews, and herbal teas can help keep your body warm and nourished. Incorporate foods like ginger, garlic, and warming spices such as cinnamon and black pepper to boost your internal warmth.
2. **Rest and Recharge:** Look at what nature is doing – it's the season of hibernation. Winter is nature's way of encouraging us to slow down and conserve energy. Listen to your body, refrain from trying to fit too much into your day and allow yourself to rest. Adequate sleep and relaxation are essential to maintain your overall well-being and immune system.
3. **Dress Warmly:** According to TCM, it's crucial to protect your body from cold winds, which can disrupt the flow of Qi (life energy) and blood. Dress in layers, wear a scarf to protect your neck, keep your lower back warm by tucking in your underlayers and don't forget to keep your feet warm (avoid bare feet on cold floors).
4. **Stay Active:** While it's important to rest, don't forget to keep moving your body. Gentle exercises like walking, qigong, yoga or simple stretches can help improve circulation, maintain flexibility, and keep your energy flowing. My favourite is a walk round Gallow Hill with my Welsh Terrier, Bella.

By embracing the wisdom of Traditional Chinese Medicine, you can make the most of the winter season and ensure your well-being. Remember, wellness is not just about avoiding illness; it's about thriving and finding balance in every season of life. Stay warm, stay well, and enjoy the unique beauty of winter as you nourish your body, mind, and spirit.



Recycle, Reuse and Repurpose

During the Church building refurbishment project, we have been hugely successful at repurposing items, which has prevented waste, whilst also giving joy to people who have either bought or provided donations for specific items. Many pews have been sold to local people and some from further afield, for use in their own homes and gardens, offering memories of the Church and personal events which took place there. Wood from the pews was very cleverly redeveloped by Carpenters to form all the paneling and new cupboard doors in the sanctuary. The Bird Box and Men's Shed have used the pew wood to create beautiful bowls, coasters and even intricate necklaces; some of these items will be for sale at the upcoming Christmas lights switch on. The Church was gifted a beautifully designed new Cross for the Communion Table, fashioned out of the wood from the pews.



Other items have found homes in more unusual places; doors went to a church being converted into a house in the Borders, cast iron radiators to a developer in England converting warehouses into housing, chairs and tables have gone to local people to upcycle for home décor. A bookshelf engraved with "St Andrew's Church Bookstall" is heading to a new home in St Andrew's Garrison Church, Aldershot for its Cameronian Chapel, here is a link to this church's website which makes for interesting reading <http://www.standrewsaldershot.co.uk/>.

So when you're next in the Church, please take a closer look at the carpentry around the sanctuary and hall, to see how well the recycled wood has been used to create the beautiful new space.

Fiona Paton



The Masons at Upper Annandale Parish Church

The first joint ceremony between, the then, St. Andrew's Church and the masons was on 9th August 1885 when Bro. Frederick Ernest Villiers of Closeburn, the Provincial Grand Master of Dumfriesshire laid the foundation stone in the northeast corner with full masonic ritual to a large crowd.

On 6th May, 1886 Lodge Hartfell, No. 728 was started in Moffat. This occurred midway between the laying of the foundation stone and the completion and first service in St. Andrew's on Friday 23rd September, 1887.

Over the passing years there were numerous church services including masonic funeral services, unfortunately these are only mentioned in the Lodge minutes, but the alongside photograph dated 1916 - 1918 shows members of the Lodge outside St. Andrew's obviously after a Divine Service.



On 6th September, 2018 Lodge Hartfell held its first meeting in the church hall at St. Andrew's Church and still holds its meetings there. On Sunday 9th January, 2022 to cement the union between the church and the masons, Rev. Elsie Macrae and the Worship Master of Lodge Hartfell planted a rowan tree in the grounds of St. Andrew's to celebrate the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

On the 10th September, 2023 the Masonic Order of Knights Templar held its first Divine Service in now, the Upper Annandale Parish Church. The Grand Master of the Order gave the prayer of Dedication and Intercession and at the completion of the service refreshments were supplied for all who had attended, and a cheque was presented to Rev. Elsie. It was quite a spectacle and was thoroughly enjoyed by all and if you missed it this year it is intended to hold it again next year at a similar time.



On 8th October Bill Wells, a mason of several Orders, raised over £1,800 on behalf of Lodge Hartfell, all Royal Arch masons and Knights Templar masons for C.H.A.S. (Children's Hospices Across Scotland) which will be presented to them at Rachel House, Kinross (one of their hospices) on 24th November.

On 3rd November the Provincial Royal Arch Chapter of Dumfriesshire held a ceilidh in Lockerbie and a further cheque for £500 was handed to a representative of C.H.A.S.

The representatives of the masons, Royal Arch and Knights Templar are in discussion with Rev. Elsie regarding the possibility of being present wearing their regalia at one of the Christmas services.

Long may this union between the masons and Upper Annandale parish Church continue.

One final thing for those who are not aware, is that no masonic meeting can take place unless the open bible is in place.

Bill Wells.



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Web: www.thorburnfunerals.co.uk

OUR HISTORY

We are a 4th generation family run firm established in 1958. Back then, it was tradition for the local Carpenter, with skills that translated to coffin making to take on the role as undertaker for the town and so our small family run, independent business, serving Lochmaben and the surrounding area was established. 65 years on we are now helping families in the mid and upper Annandale areas, including, Eaglesfeild and Ecclefechan in the South, Lockerbie and Lochmaben to Beattock and Moffat in the North and all other surrounding villages.



Our business has grown, particularly in recent years and we have overseen many positive changes. In the last few years we have extended and refurbished our premises providing us with bigger and much improved facilities for ourselves and



for families and to accord with the forthcoming mandatory requirements in the Funeral Director Code of Practice by the Scottish Government. We now have two modern clinical rooms, a family room, visitation room and well furnished office. This has been overseen by Kenny Bell (3rd generation) and his son, Steven who brings with him fresh new ideas and at the same time secures the future of our services for many years to come.

ACCREDITATION



In November 2021, after two years of study, Steven was awarded the Certificate in Funeral Practice from the college of Independent Funeral Directors (IFD) and in turn was invited to become a member of the college subject to evidence of continuous personal development. The IFD college was founded in 1995 with the aim to provide funeral directors with a comprehensive educational source of the funeral profession whilst at the same time awarding accreditation from 'One Awards', a quality assurance organisation through verbal questioning, written assignments and observation.

Since then, Steven has maintained his membership of the college whilst electing to continue with his study for an additional two years resulting in him soon to be awarded his Diploma in Funeral Directing. This qualification is unique to the Mid and Upper Annandale area with Steven becoming one of the first Funeral Directors in the UK to hold such a credential.



AFFILIATION

As an independent firm, we are also members of The National Society of Allied and Independent Funeral Directors (SAIF). SAIF is a trade association whose members are all independent funeral directors. In fact, a large proportion of SAIF members' have been run by the same family for generations.

WHY CHOOSE US

Our funeral director's, Kenny and Steven have a genuine interest in people and also a genuine interest in providing the very best compassionate and personal service to the people who suffer a bereavement.

Kenny and Steven have lived in the area all their lives, they are well known and they are trusted. We know and appreciate local customs and expectations. We have a long-term commitment to our community.

The passing of a family member is a very personal matter and when we suffer a bereavement the course of our daily lives is altered, sometimes very suddenly and may never be quite the same again. It is in the first few hours or days following the shock of a bereavement that the help of a trusted and understanding funeral director can be invaluable and a great source of comfort to the family.

PRE-PAID FUNERAL PLANS



A funeral plan is an easy way to plan ahead. You choose the funeral you want and fix the cost of the funeral director's services included in your plan at today's prices. Everyone has different needs when it comes to funeral planning, so we make sure our plans are as flexible as possible. A plan can save your family worry and expense and help make things easier for your loved ones at a difficult time.

Our funeral plans are provided by Golden Charter, one of the UK's largest funeral plan providers. Rated 5-stars on Trustpilot, over 500,000 people in the UK have already trusted them with their funeral arrangements, so you can be sure your plan is in the best of hands.

We understand that it can be hard to think about your funeral and you may not be sure where to start. As your local expert, we're here to help. When you get in touch, we're always available to discuss your funeral requirements and find the plan that suits you best.

