

Newsletter

June 2025



Dundee Westgait
CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
Loving all in faith and friendship

DUNDEE WESTGAIT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

A MESSAGE FROM OUR MODERATOR

Dear friends,

Time does seem to be passing very quickly! It's June and I'm sure that it was only yesterday that I was wishing people a Happy New Year!

As you reflect on the last 6 months, I wonder whether you can identify some highlights- perhaps you have celebrated a significant birthday, or you have been able to enjoy going on holiday, spending time with family or friends and you feel refreshed and alive. Or maybe the last 6 months has been difficult with illness, bereavement, disappointment or a sense of living in a wilderness of uncertainty.

At this halfway point in 2025 it is good to have this newsletter to help us reflect on what has been and to look ahead with regards the life of Westgait Church. There have been many good things happening as well as some serious challenges.

I wonder if it might be good for all of us to have a prayerful pause. Perhaps we can all take time to think about the life of Westgait Church over the last 6 months. To help us do this can I suggest that you-

- (1) Identify something that you are thankful for in the life of the church. Take time to thank God for this.
- (2) Think of someone connected with the life of the church and take a moment to pray for them.
- (3) Think of the life of the church and pray that as a new congregation that gathers in 3 venues that we would have a sense of God's presence leading and shaping our life together.
- (4) Invite God to lead you in how you can contribute to the life of Westgait Church.

At this point let us pray

Yours,

Grant

WORSHIP TIMES

Lochee: Every Sunday at 11am

Menzieshill: First and third Sundays of the month at 2.00pm

Other weeks at 10.45am

Roseangle/Shaftebury Terrace: Every Sunday at 11am

THE GUILD



LOCHEE

The Guild at Lochee is thriving. We meet on alternate Tuesday afternoons when our ladies certainly enjoy the fellowship they share with one another. Last session was varied, and we are lucky in the good support we receive. Recently we finished our session with an enjoyable lunch at the Invercarse Hotel.

We are making contacts with our fellow Westgait Guild members. We had a very pleasant afternoon tea together a few weeks ago and very soon our committees are meeting together to discuss our programmes for the next session. We realise it is necessary to continue to meet in our two locations but hope to come together at least once or twice a year when this can be arranged. We shall discuss the syllabus that we are preparing for our individual Guild and look forward to the times we shall share our meetings.

I wish everyone a very relaxing summer.

Muriel McBean.

SHAFTESBURY TERRACE

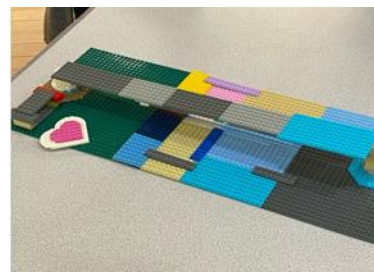
Over the last few years our Guild and the Guild at the Roseangle Centre met to share meetings with speakers from the Guild Projects and other topics throughout the sessions

Our first meeting of 2025 was a Bible Study where we divided into groups to discuss where our faith began. The material for this was provided by the Guild Office and forming discussion groups provide an interactive time for members.

Some highlights from our syllabus this year includes:

- Finmill Guitar group who entertained us with their music
- Selu from Tayside Young Engineers enabled us to play with "Lego" and using a "Building Bridges" theme from Nehemiah, setting the 4 groups of members a task to build

- the longest bridge in around 20 minutes. One of our groups managed to build a bridge 69 points length of "Lego" board.
- the Guild Northeast Area Convener, Mrs. Renee Riddell to visit us. She spoke passionately about her life growing up, travelling and living abroad, and how being a Christian had carried through her life and shared many stories with us.
- Lesley and Eileen gave a short talk on flower arranging display when members were given the opportunity to create their own little posy arrangement to take away.



Evelyn Matthew attended the Regional Mini Gathering in Kingsgate Church on April 30th where the team from the Guild Office in Edinburgh met with Guilds from the Presbytery of Perth. It was a very interesting day of worship and friendship and meeting old friends in the Guild. It was a good opportunity to hear about the new Guild Projects to be supported in our current three-year strategy 'Let Us Build A House'. The first speaker was from *Operation Hope Egypt* working with Release International to give a voice to persecuted Christians. The project in Upper Egypt helps those living in extreme poverty and families are provided with basic living needs and psychological and spiritual care. In the afternoon session we heard from *CrossReach* about two initiatives supporting families at Sunflower Garden in Edinburgh and Daisy Chain in Glasgow. This project ensures vulnerable families can be supported by developing a strong positive relationship between parents and children. The Guild is supporting four projects and at the October meeting in Arbroath we heard of the two others: *Bibles for Bairns* and *Bear Necessities*.

Florence Mitchell

ROSEANGLE

In addition to an interesting, full syllabus of meetings throughout the year, including some joint meetings with others The Guild successfully planned a Christian Aid Hunger Lunch on Sunday 11th May and raised £456. The fellowship on the day was truly wonderful. Many thanks to those who generously donated and to the trusty band of helpers who prepared the lunch. Here's to many more events like this throughout the coming year.

Lynda Ross



CONNECT.....



.....WITH A CUPPA

'Connect with a Cuppa' was started by The Guild at Logie & St. John's (Cross) a few years ago to help keep the church & community connected over the summer period. This was so successful that it continued to be held fortnightly all year round.

Now a Westgait Group, following a few months at the start of the year meeting in Shaftesbury Terrace, the group continues to meet fortnightly on a Wednesday at 2pm at Corso Street Community Hub extending our outreach into the community.

The group is well attended and enjoyed by all. Our numbers range from 18 to 25 participants who look forward to their meetings & enjoy a great 'chinwag', a cup of tea & chocolate biscuits. If you haven't been to a Connect afternoon why not consider going along. You will be very welcome.

For more information contact Pat Milne.

.....CAFÉ

In conjunction with Bethany Trust and CrossReach, Menzieshill Centre offers a weekly 'Connect Café' on Wednesday 1pm – 3pm. The Café offers free healthy food and a friendly social space as well as providing support and volunteering opportunities for people in recovery from a variety of life experiences.

Anyone that would like lunch and the chance to connect with others will be welcome. As well as food they can also offer referrals and signposting to other services where appropriate.

For more information contact Ian Wilson, M:07747 018550

.....YOUTH



Connect Youth based in Menzieshill has been going through a change over the past couple of years. After Naomi moved on as coordinator in December 2023, we were lucky to have our American Young Adult Volunteer, Lydia, take on the role and she did a fantastic job building relationships with young people and helping plan many activities.

As we looked at the future of Connect Youth, the ministry team decided that it would be better if I, in my role as Youth & Family Worker, took on coordination of Connect Youth which helps massively in applying for funding as we can use funds raised to directly support young people rather than paying a coordinators salary.

Since September 2024, we have focussed mainly on our Monday Drop In, offering sports, music lessons, games consoles and crafts as our core activities. We have had around 25-30 different young people attend the drop in and had 20 young people attend our Christmas trip to Tenpin bowling in Dundee which was loads of fun!

Connect Youth, along with our Messy Church team, also attended the massively successful Easter Family Funday in Lochee Park where we served over 1000 slush puppies to the community and had loads of fun and great conversations with young people and families.

As we take a break for summer, it is time to reflect on how Connect Youth can grow and be a thriving youth ministry for Westgait. Some of our ideas involve healthy cooking classes, photography, film making and looking at partnering with local schools as we build relationships with them which have been sadly lacking during the transition. We also are looking into running a Youth Alpha to build a safe space to have conversations about faith in a fun and interactive way.

We would love your support and there are 2 main ways that you can do this:

1. Pray for us! We do all this for God's Kingdom and believe that we are called to serve these young people and be great witness of Christ's love for them.
2. Volunteering! We would be nowhere without our amazing volunteers, and we would

love to recruit some more. If you can't make every week or just want to help with a specific activity, that is totally fine, and I would welcome a conversation of how you can support this ministry.

If you'd like to find out any more about Connect Youth, you can check out our Facebook page at [Facebook.com/connectyouthmenzieshill](https://www.facebook.com/connectyouthmenzieshill) or email me at MMcKenzie@churchofscotland.org.uk

Matthew McKenzie, Youth and Family Worker

..... WITH THE BIBLE

This group meets on a Tuesday morning, now in the Corso Street Community Complex, when we discuss the Bible. The studies since January have been 1 Corinthians and Encountering the God Who Speaks. These two studies are material from The Scottish Bible Society which can be downloaded from the website.

Currently we are looking at 'The Twelve Apostles' by Douglas Connelly this is interesting as we examine the roles of the men who followed Jesus for the three years till his death.

All the studies have been stimulating and thought provoking bringing about much discussion.

Something which is very good about each of the studies is that as well as answering factual questions from the reading there are others which prompt us to look at the church currently and our Christian lives as we live them.

Discussing the Bible in this way is a rewarding way to read the Bible everyone contributes because life experiences are different, and it adds understanding.

Contact Evelyn Matthew for more details.



OTHER BIBLE STUDY



WAGs – WOMEN AFTER GOD

WAGs is a ladies Bible study group that meets every fortnight for prayer support and practical Christian teaching and fellowship. We gather in a home, share food (both healthy and not so healthy!), pray for one another, study God's Word and encourage one another in the faith. At the moment we are using the free online course 'Practicing the Way' by John Mark Comer ([Practicing the Way](#)) a discipleship course that encourages us to become more like Jesus by spending more time with him. We meet every two weeks on Tuesdays at 7 pm.

If you can't make it on Tuesday evenings, grab a friend or two and consider setting up a fellowship group of your own at a different time. Online courses make leading one very easy, you just need a TV connected to the internet or a laptop you can plug in so everyone can see. We usually have someone to host and provide the snacks and someone else to lead the group and guide the discussion, so no one person is overburdened. Having the support of a small group of Christians to pray with and share faith and life together is amazing and the most meaningful part of my week. Try it and see!

Contact Liz Martin for more details.

LENT STUDY

Thank you to all who attended the Lent course based on Tom Wright's 'Surprised by Hope'. It is hoped to follow this up with another course later in the year. Watch this space.....



MESSY CHURCH



'Messy Church is an all-age fresh expression of church that offers countercultural transformation of family life through families coming together to be, to make, to eat and to celebrate God.'

Since developing from a 3-month pilot in early 2018 we have welcomed well over 250 people throughout our time. A highlight is always our Christmas event which most recently took place on 23rd December 2024 welcoming a fully booked crowd of 70 people who enjoyed making Christingles, Christmas themed story cubes and having a great time signing carols and retelling the Christmas story using different props and of course we ended with a meal as we always do!

As we moved into 2025, we have kept Messy Church running every month in Lochee welcoming around 30-40 people per month, mostly regular attendees with a few newcomers each month.

This is a hugely important ministry in Lochee and surrounding areas which we have literally seen children grow up in, coming every month with enthusiasm and some fantastic questions about the bible and faith.

As ever, none of this would be possible without our amazing volunteers and there is always space for more. We have a small but amazing catering team and our dedicated crafters as well as people who come along to chat with families, a valuable skill! If you think you could help in any way, please speak to me and we can chat it through.

If you'd like to find out any more about Messy Church, you can check out our Facebook page at [Facebook.com/messychurchlochee](https://www.facebook.com/messychurchlochee) or email me at MMcKenzie@churchofscotland.org.uk

Matthew McKenzie, Youth and Family Worker



SUMMER FAMILY DROP-IN

Summer Family Drop - In at our Lochee Centre returns for another summer of fun. This outreach has been running for a few years and is always very popular with families attending from across Dundee!

WHEN? Every Monday from 30th June to 28th July from 10am – 1pm. Lunch, provided by Dundee Bairns, at 12noon

WHERE? In the church building

We will be offering crafts, activities such as Lego and Knex building, gaming with our PlayStation 5 and Nintendo Switch consoles and we also have our popular toddler's area for our younger visitors.

We'd love to welcome as many families as possible each week. Booking is essential for this and can be done through our EventBrite page. [Locheesummer.eventbrite.co.uk](https://locheesummer.eventbrite.co.uk)



GENTLE EXERCISE CLASS



The group meet on Fridays at 11.00 in the Corso Street Sheltered Housing Complex (which is down a little lane off Blackness Avenue) for fun and free physical mainly seated exercise, encouraging people of all abilities.

Ages range from recently retired to being retired a long time, one member over 100 is presently on sick leave! There are currently about 10 in the class and we all dress casual.

Caroline our instructor is very professional and ensures that no one should do anything out with their capabilities. At present all the members come from Westgait so if you'd like to join be assured you won't be among strangers

WESTGAIT LIBRARY

There is a small lending library in the Fellowship Hall at Roseangle, and anyone can borrow from it. The library includes a wide range of topics including prayer, Christian living, help in reading the Bible. Authors available include C.S Lewis and Tom Wright.

Although some of the library may appear to be academic titles there are many books open to those who are not theologically trained so, please take time to have a look at all available. Titles are arranged (loosely) in categories.

There is a box for signing books out and feel free to keep for as long as you require – no fines in place! If you have suggestions for any other titles, please let us know.

Further information is available from Karen Young



THE TUESDAY BOYS



A group of like-minded “boys” who after a discussion at Sunday Coffee agree on something to do each Tuesday afternoon, meeting at the pillar box on Blackness Avenue at 1.45. Some of the places we have visited recently:



- University Art Degree Show,
- Barnhill Rock Garden,
- Clatto Country Park,
- The Larick Centre, Tayport
- Balgay Hill and Cemetery,
- Botanic Gardens,
- Museum of Transport



We usually try and use the bus, its free! But sometimes resort to taking cars. We pick someplace nice for our afternoon break and are home by about 4.30pm.

More information available from Alex Duncan.



MENZIESHILL HOUSE



On the last Sunday afternoon of each month, we have a service in Menzieshill House.

Menzieshill House is a single storey building, built in 1991, which replaced a previous home in a different location. It is a bright and airy building, down from Dickson Avenue, set above Ninewells hospital, with views towards the Tay. Operated by Dundee City Council, it can take 24 residents, and they are looked after by 44 staff. There are some nice private gardens. It feels a friendly and welcoming place.

We hold a short worship service and there have been a good number of residents and staff there. We have prayers and a short talk, and the hymn singing is very much enjoyed. Afterwards, there is

time to talk, when a few from the congregation chat with the residents and staff. It's always interesting to hear their stories, and they enjoy meeting us. We look forward to developing our relationship over the months and are very grateful for the invitation to come and be part of life there. We would welcome others from the congregation to come and be there.



UPDATE FROM THE PRESBYTERY



The Presbytery Planning Committee met earlier this month and decided that there was a need for a feasibility study to be undertaken about the future use of buildings in the Perth Road area of the Parish. This proposal was presented to the Westgait Kirk Session who approved this decision.

As we are now in a situation where no final decision has been made with regards to which, if either, building is to be used in the future, The Kirk Session decided that both the Roseangle and Shaftesbury Terrace buildings should continue to be used for worship until a final decision is made.

The plan is that throughout July worship will be in the Roseangle building and then in August in the Shaftesbury Terrace building.