

# CANONBIE CHRONICLES

## **An Introduction from our Interim Minister, the Revd. Ian Murray....**

One of the differences between an Interim Ministry and Parish Ministry is the unknown background to the minister. Where a minister is “called” to a parish, there’s been a process of interviews and hearing the minister in action. Whereas with an Interim Ministry, someone lands in the community, journeys with you for 18 months, and then disappears before a new minister is properly called and inducted!

So by way of introducing myself I thought it best to give you some of my background.

I’m originally from a farming background in Aberdeenshire, although my parents were in the hotel trade for many years. I was educated in Dufftown and secondary education in Aberlour. On leaving school I served my time as an apprentice cooper at Glenfiddich Distillery – a job I absolutely hated. And as soon as I’d finished my time, I left to study a basic course in social work training. For six years I worked with Moray District Social Work Department and in the evenings attended night classes to gain the “Highers” I’d failed to get through leaving school too early!

From a young age I’d played the organ in the Scottish Episcopal Church. One Sunday the priest failed to arrive and the members of the congregation turned to me and said “you’re here every Sunday, you can lead our worship”. That was the beginning of some sense of calling to the ministry. My families minister, (CofS) advised I gain experience of working with people, hence my time in the Social Work Dept.

At the age of 24 (1994), I was accepted as a full-time candidate in training for the ministry. The following year I began a 4 year Bachelor of Divinity course at Aberdeen University. In 1999 I worked in St Columba’s Church of Scotland, Pont Street, London, and at the end of that year embarked on a one year MSc. in Palliative Care in the Postgraduate Medical Faculty in Glasgow University. This was as a result of a scholarship I’d won in my final year at Aberdeen.

Following that I remained in Glasgow for a further 18 months where I completed my probationary period with the late Revd Leith Fisher at Wellington Church.

In 2002 I was ordained in the newly linked charges of Tenantry with Blair Atholl and Struan in Highland Perthshire. I remained there for almost 9 years, during which time I chaired the Superintendent’s Committee in Presbytery and sat on the Judicial Commission for the Church of Scotland in Edinburgh. Superintendents oversee any issues of complaint or conflict within the Presbytery and the Judicial Commission is a court with delegated powers from the General Assembly to hear appeals in cases of discipline involving ministers.

In 2010 I moved from Highland Perthshire to the Angus Glens to work in the West Angus Area Ministry. This is a team of ministers who cover the whole south west of the county of Angus, following a very similar working pattern to that of a medical practice. We all had our own parishioners, but would move throughout the area depending upon where best our gifts could be utilised. My own parish, in which I spent 70% of my time, was the Isla Parishes (not the Isle of Islay – but the river Isla!) and the remaining 30% was throughout Kirriemuir and Glamis.

Earlier this year I accepted an invitation from the Ministries Council to become an Interim Minister – there are 8 Interim Ministers working throughout Scotland.

The purpose of the post is to “Work with individual congregations and help them negotiate transitions at key points in congregational life, through worship, pastoral care, workshops, and the focussed addressing of issues identified by congregations, Presbytery and the Ministries Council following conflict or other challenges.” I will be with you, living in the Manse in Newcastleton for anything between 18 months and 2 years.

My parents live in Portugal and I have one sister and a nephew in Bridge of Weir, and in my spare time I drive and restore vintage cars, have two black Labs, and still manage to hammer out a tune on the piano!

I’ll look forward to getting to know you all a whole lot better over the next few months.

Ian Murray

We shall be celebrating

**Communion**

On Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September, 11:30am.

Please join us.

## Fairtrade

“Before you finish eating breakfast in the morning, you have depended on half the world.”

Martin Luther King

“Learn to do right: seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow.” Isaiah 1:17



First of all thank you so much for your continued support for Fairtrade through our Traidcraft stall. Keep an eye on the stall as new stock arrives regularly. It's a great place for getting small presents and cards as well as your regular tea and coffee. Very soon new catalogues and order forms will be given out and there will be a wide selection of Traidcraft's Christmas cards on display – I know it's awfully early but it gives you a chance to see if there is anything that appeals before you buy elsewhere.

A big difference between Traidcraft and many other companies that sell Fairtrade goods is that Traidcraft isn't just a retail company. It has a charity arm that campaigns tirelessly for the poor and the oppressed. By supporting Traidcraft we are helping them pursue their vision: “A world freed from the scandal of poverty, where trade is just, and people and communities can flourish.” Rather similar to Isaiah 1.17!

At the moment Traidcraft have a “Stand up for Justice” campaign which is about making British firms accountable wherever they operate in the world. At the moment there is a gap in British law which means it's almost impossible to prosecute big companies for causing serious harm abroad. That's not fair trade. Over the next few weeks they'll be information in the foyer including, postcards to send to the Attorney General and a petition form to sign. You can also read about the campaign online at [www.traidcraft.co.uk/campaigns](http://www.traidcraft.co.uk/campaigns). And of course the more we buy from Traidcraft, the more we support their work. *Kirsteen Davies*

Lois Lane and Leoniek van-Belzen will

### **Brave the Shave**

In aid of MacMillan Cancer support.  
In church after worship – 12:30pm Sunday  
18<sup>th</sup> September.

Lois (71386) and Leoniek (71391) are  
looking for sponsors for their headshaving.  
Catch them in church to sign-up. More info:  
[bravetheshave.org.uk](http://bravetheshave.org.uk)

### **Canonbie Church Film Nights**

**Inn of the 6th Happiness** (1958)

Ingrid Bergman   Curt Jurgens   Robert Donat

6:30pm. Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November.  
Admission free. Tea & coffee served.  
Bring your own supper, beer & wine.

Our Monday evening **Fellowship Group** will start on Monday 5th September, 7:30pm in the Community Café. **Youth Group** will start on Sunday 25th September, 7:30 -9pm at Mozie Law. Ring Ruth on 71583 for more details.

### **Macmillan Cancer Support events**

Friday 23rd September 2pm - 5pm

Come along to Canonbie Church and Community Cafe to enjoy afternoon tea hosted by Mrs Elizabeth Mitchell and help raise much needed funds for Macmillan Cancer support.

Saturday 24th September 10am - 12 noon

Come along and be part of the World's Biggest Coffee Morning.

### **Other news....**

Our **Craft Fayre** will be held in the Village Hall on 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> November. **Lunch Club** in the Village Hall, 5<sup>th</sup> October, 12 noon. **Pint and Prayer**, 6pm in the Cross Keys Hotel. Space for Christians to meet, drink and chat. First Friday in every month. The Church of Scotland will be **On the Road – Listening, Sharing, Planning**, at St Mary's Greyfriars, St. Mary's Street, Dumfries. 14<sup>th</sup> September, 6:30pm. This event will share information about the future shape of the Church, its ministry and discipleship. 'On the Road' is about listening and responding to the thinking, experiences and questions of participants from local congregations all over Scotland. See the website for more details. The funeral of **Walter Grieve** was held in our church on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> August. 9 youngsters from our church joined in the fun at **Spree in the Borders** in at Whithaugh Park, nr. Newcastleton in June. See the website for a full report. **Canonbie & District Residents Association will be holding their AGM** in the Church in September – date tbc. Peter Witherspoon has offered to help out with any **genealogy/ancestry/graveyard stone search** enquiries we receive. Our Presbytery Children & Youth Worker, Donna Hislop successfully arranged a Messy Church and a Holiday Club in our church over the summer.

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