



**SCOTLAND FOR THE LORD**  
**DECEMBER TO JANUARY 2020.**

Belated Christmas greetings – we have left them until now so that many of us have got over having quickly broken our New Year resolutions. We had a quiet Christmas Day and took the opportunity of a glorious sunny day to drive to Killin and the Falls of Dochart situated at the western end of Loch Tay – the head waters of the River Tay, on which Perth is situated. We carried on over Ben (mountain) Lawers en-route to home.

We attended the family get together on Boxing Day at the Livingston



home of Polly's second son and his wife, Tim and Sylvia – with their four lovely daughters and Sylvia's Mum and Dad. We attended a concert where their autistic second daughter, 15 year old Eilidh, sang a solo – beautifully. The eldest daughter, 17 year old Erin, has just given an introduction to her video of *"What it feels like to be an autistic teenager."*



The fears that we felt for her as she stood up to start were unfounded – she nailed it to a hushed audience.

To meet more people we have joined a *Petanque* club – a type of French bowls played with baseball sized metal balls - aimed to finish nearest a thumb sized coloured jack on a gravel court. We have also joined Perth branch of The Royal Air Forces Association with the aim of making 'befriending visits' to ex-Royal Air Force senior citizens who now live alone,

who have mobility difficulties and who seem to have fallen through the net of family and social care.

We were involved in organizing a meal at a local community building (called *The Exit*) for several elderly church members. We joined in with other community projects holding a similar function and, in all, over sixty people enjoyed great fellowship of people their own generation. “Do you remember when...?” was an often heard question – followed by peels of laughter.



*One Of Maurice's last lessons at the Youth club*

Brian Buchanan, aged in his late twenties, has joined the Perth congregation. Brian works at a local firm and had been a member of the Cumbernauld congregation since his early teens – and has matured into a very able leader in teaching and worship programmes. He also has the gift - and energy – of being a ‘shoe-in’ to work with the youth group.

Maurice's last procedure was on 23<sup>rd</sup> January, but this time was at Nine Wells - the main regional Hospital in Dundee. All did not go well – several new nodules were found and had to be removed – and he has been feeling ‘fragile’ since.

With further procedures being needed for up to two years we have made a change of congregation. With Brian physically much more able to be involved with the Perth congregation, we have talked it over and approached the Dundee congregation to work with them. Since Alistair Ferrie, their full time preacher passed on to glory, Dundee feel that with their capable men being in full time work – often being away from Dundee during the week – we will be able to fill the gap in their teaching programme that they have tried to fill. Maurice preaches his first sermon at Dundee on 9<sup>th</sup> February.

Polly's Thursday classes have had a very welcome result. Jan, a widowed sister in Christ, after much encouragement, has successfully resurrected her own considerable teaching skills – after a period of systematic, spiritual abuse and being “politically” side-lined.

On Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February Maurice took two brothers in Christ to the church at Cumbernauld for their men's day. One of the four guest speakers was Paul Hill from the Leicester congregation. He was instrumental in us meeting at the Gospel meeting at the Livingston congregation in 2008 – little did we know how momentous it would turn out for both of us – still with no regrets.



*Cumbernauld men's day*

Again may we take this opportunity to thank you all for the support and prayers you give us in our work in Scotland, it is really appreciated very much by us and the congregations that we work with.

May God continue to bless you all in this new year

Maurice and Polly Charlton