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LOCHEE LOCAL NEWS

BRIGHT STREET BEACON

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GOOD CHARITY BAD CHARITY

BY PASTOR DAVE

When we consider the idea of charity it rarely, if ever, crosses our minds that we can have good charity and bad charity. However, just as with the idea of food, we can have foods that strengthen us and build us up and other foods that weigh us down (literally). So, what decides if charity builds us up or if charity is toxic and causes us to be bloated and dependent? Well, as with almost any topic, there are many ways to skin a cat, but I would like to pull on one particular thread and that is the thread of closeness. In general, the closer the giver and receiver, the more involved the giver and receiver of charity, the better the charity.

Take the example of a new mural in a school yard. If a local charity pays for a graffiti artist to, out of the blue, spray a new mural in the school yard. The kids the next day might be excited about it, depending on the talent of the artist, but it wouldn't surprise me if after a few months a school kid decides to add his own less talented addition to the artwork in a big sprawling tag.

But what if the artist spent several weeks working with the children and involving them in the design, even including them in the making of the mural? That charity is much closer to

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home, and that charity builds up the giver and the receiver significantly.

Let's go one step further. What if the children paid for the artist and paint with their own pocket money according to their ability—some more, some less? Now the children would be very protective and proud of the mural. That charity is so close that it is even difficult to tell who the givers were and who the receivers are—they merge together.

Lochee Council Ward via Dundee City Council tax receives about £85,000 for community projects yearly. Taking a simplified view of the tax system for the sake of this example, this means that we, as one of about 9,000 households paying council tax in Lochee Council Ward, have paid approximately £14 of that council tax (taking into consideration administrative costs) towards raising this sum of money that the council is now "giving back" to the community.

Now, is money for community projects a bad thing? Absolutely not! But notice the distance between the giver and the receiver. Was Tam, who lives down the back of Charleston, aware that £14 of his council tax money went to fund the purchase of a living Christmas tree for Lochee High Street? Maybe he was, and maybe he is perfectly happy to donate that money. But the distance between Tam giving the money and the money being used is significant. The sense of Tam's buy-in is minimal. He might even have, in a fit of late-night revelry last Christmas, broken a few branches off the tree on his way home, completely oblivious to the fact that he paid a chunk of money to have it planted there. No real relationship has been created between giver and receiver. It feels much more like a transaction than the relationship good charity produces.

How can we close the distance? We need to somehow cut out the middlemen, despite how well meaning they are. It will take more effort, but it's been done before. Organisations like the church or Rotary club or co-ops have practised close, hyper-local charity in the past and the community has been stronger for it. Perhaps it's time to revive these efforts.

At the Heart of the High Street



BY NAOMI WRAIGHT

Bayne's is a family-run chain bakery that sells its delicious goods all across the central belt of Scotland. In 1954 brothers John and Bill Baynes started the bakery in Lochore, Fife, as a way to earn money by selling pies to the nearby miners. As Baynes bakeries began to branch out the number of stores increased to a grand total of 71, and although John Baynes died just ten years after starting the first shop, his son Stanley and grandson John still run the business today.

Perched in the heart of our High Street stands just one of the many bakeries they have planted, which has been there for many years. Open from 6:30am to 4:30pm on weekdays they receive a steady stream of customers all throughout the day and have few items left over at the end of it. When they do find themselves with leftover goods they create a limited number of £4 bags (actual value £12), called "too good to go," which are filled with mouth-watering baked goods and can be bought just 15 minutes before the shop closes. Whether you are grabbing a freshly-baked breakfast roll or helping yourself to a delicious iced doughnut, Bayne's Family Bakers is the perfect place to go.


Michael Lambert, 2011

The Beautiful Game

BY EWAN GURR Jr.

If you had to name something that unites billions of people around the world, what would you say? Maybe food, maybe religion, or maybe striving for success, personally or socially? I would personally say football. The World Cup alone, for example, had an estimated five billion viewers across all seven continents. More locally here in Lochee, it's no different.

Beyond the thousands who support the two main Dundee teams, there are hundreds who support our two Lochee clubs. There is Lochee United, a club at the ripe-old age of 134 years formed in 1892, and Lochee Harp, a slightly younger club formed in 1904. These two clubs played each other time and again in what has been a tale of two teams, but now that's all changed.

As the new football season rolled around, the lower league structures changed. Lochee United moved up to the Lowland League East where they will compete against former semi-professional teams, like Bonnyrigg Rose and Brechin City. One early battle was with the previous season's Lowland League champions, Linlithgow Rose, who United dismantled 5-2 in August.

These wee clubs are a special part of football and the fabric of Lochee. Whether you support Lochee United or support Lochee Harp, these are clubs where everyone knows everyone. So in a world where people are increasingly isolated, it's nice to be able to connect with others over the beautiful game of football.



A Meditation on the Beauty of Friendship

BY DAVID HOLT

"Without friendship, I have nothing to live for." Reading that recently in a book caught my eye because as I've progressed through my 20s into the early 30s, I have come know this to be true, not just in theory but in practice. It is true in two senses: the first is that God created us for friendship with one another, and the deeper sense is that He created us to be friends with Himself.

"Friend" is a broad term these days and often just refers to a general associate, someone we know through work or school or the parents of our children's friends. However, in its richest form, "friend" refers to those people with whom we can confide our deepest struggles and joys; it's a term reserved for those people whom, if we were on our death bed, we would reach out to for one final embrace. That's not to say we shouldn't remain friendly with those 300 Facebook friends, but there is a deeper connection we were created for. It's not about the numbers; it's about the relationship.

Friendship, as God created it, gives us people to share our lives with, all the ups and the downs. It is one of God's ordinary means to help us in this life. When friendship is done well, it reflects something of his love towards each of us. And often when we lack deep connection, it is the internal outcry for true friendship that God has inbuilt into each of us. I am sure we have all felt that at some point in our lives. Our friendships, good or bad, are meant to signpost us to the need for a greater, deeper friendship. The Christian message is that this friendship is with God himself.

Fortunately, Jesus gave us the example of what true friendship love looks like in His laying down his life for ours on the cross. Although before he went to the cross, he told his followers that they were to "love one another as I have loved you", which points to the transforming nature of what his friendship with us should provoke in us towards our own friends. When we surrender our lives to his love, it transforms our hearts and frees us to love those around us more fully. Instead of sacrificing meaningful friendship on the altar of personal gratification we live sacrificially, serving those we love.

So today as you reflect on what friendship means to you, consider this thought: Friendship is important. It is what helps us get through the dark times, and it is what multiplies our joys in the great times. Do you keep close friends, and do you know the greatest friend of all? If you do know Him, have you allowed that to transform your own friendships for the better?



Finding Renewal in Lochee's Autumn Gardens

BY SCOTT MCCURDIE

As the summer heat fades from Dundee, a quiet transformation is taking place within the community spaces of Lochee. The vibrant public planters along the high street and the quiet borders of Lochee Park are beginning their annual retreat. For many local onlookers, this shift from green abundance to rust and amber is not a tragedy, but a profound living sermon on the core mysteries of the Christian faith: growth, decay, and ultimate renewal.

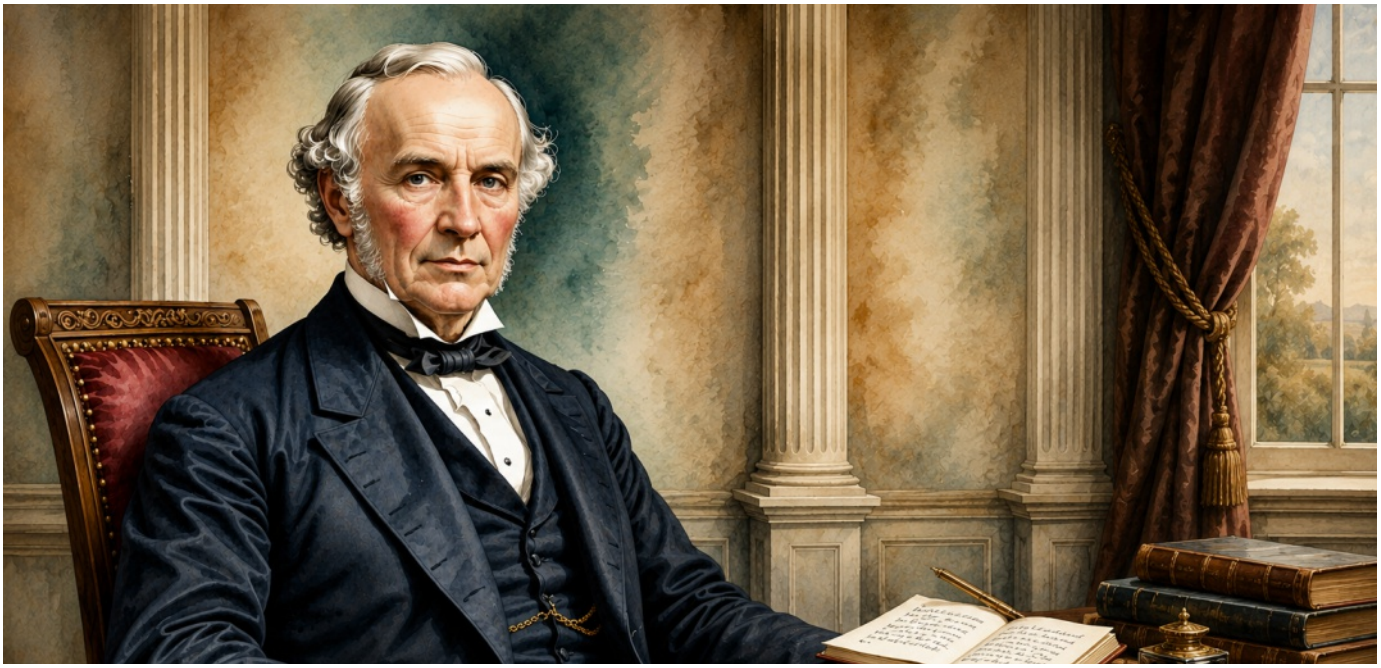
To walk past the street planters managed by local hands at the nearby Fruit Bowls Community Garden on Ancrum Road is to witness the natural world slowing its pulse. Seed pods burst, leaves wither, and annuals drop to the earth. In Christian theology, this deliberate decay mirrors the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Just as a seed must fall into the dark earth and die to produce a harvest, Christ's death is viewed not as an end, but as the essential catalyst for universal redemption. The autumn garden teaches us that letting go is a prerequisite for new life.

Beneath the fading foliage of Lochee's public gardens lies a hidden, sacred economy. The falling leaves rot, nourishing the soil to protect the roots from the impending winter frost. For Christians, this season represents the quiet, hopeful waiting of the tomb. It is a reminder that even when life appears dormant or barren, God is silently preparing the ground for a greater awakening.

The public planters of Lochee are placeholders for a future promise. When spring arrives, these very spots will burst into bloom, echoing the joy of the Resurrection. The cyclical nature of the Scottish seasons provides comfort, proving that life invariably conquers death. This autumn, as you pass the fading petals in our community spaces, take a moment to reflect on the beauty of the breakdown—and the certain renewal that follows.

Fruit Bowls Community Garden is a volunteer-run food project built on a former bowling green. It features raised beds, an orchard, a polytunnel, and a wildlife pond, offering local residents sustainable growing spaces and outdoor educational workshops.

The Humble Ministry and Hymns of Horatius Bonar



BY CATHRYN DICKSON

Renowned Scottish hymn writer Dr. Horatius Bonar began ministering at North Church, Kelso, in 1837. In earlier years, while undertaking missions work in Leith, Edinburgh, Bonar noticed children struggling to sing. He sought to catch their attention by writing simple hymns to cheerful tunes. Inspired by God's world around him, he composed wherever he went—out in the countryside or even while travelling on horseback—scribbling on scraps of paper, envelopes, or the small notebook he kept in his pocket. Over the years, his newfound writing gift produced over 600 hymns for adults and children. Initially, he was reluctant to share them formally, preferring to direct his work towards his ministry within his own beloved congregation in Kelso. In 1857 a collection, *Hymns of Faith and Hope*, was eventually published, and it was then that his songs spread to England and the USA. Meanwhile, traditions in Scotland meant that metrical Psalms were preferred, and it wasn't until D.L. Moody visited Scotland twenty years later that Bonar's hymns began to be more widely appreciated here at home.

The Bonar family were no strangers to suffering, having experienced the loss of five children. Bonar felt the bereavement deeply, describing it as "a very great trial of suffering". Through sorrow he wrote:

Spare not the stroke; do with us as Thou wilt;
Let there be naught unfinished, broken, marred.
Complete Thy purpose, that we may become
Thy perfect image, O our God and Lord.

Recognising where help would come from, his wife Jane also wrote at the time:

Fade, fade, each earthly joy,
Jesus is mine!
Break ev'ry tender tie,
Jesus is mine!

But instead of becoming resentful, during their grief they sought refuge and comfort in the Lord, who blessed them, relieving their distress.

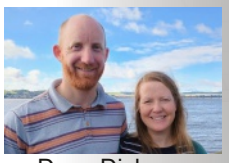
Although Bonar was well-respected within the academic world and his church's denomination, the Free Church of Scotland, even leading as Moderator for a time, he remained humble, preferring to live quietly. Before he died in 1889 he firmly instructed that no one should produce a formal biography about him. His heart was that all glory went to his Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He wrote in his hymn, *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*:

I came to Jesus as I was, weary and worn and sad;
I found in Him a resting place, and He has made me glad.
I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Behold, I freely give
The living water; thirsty one, stoop down, and drink, and live."

It was Bonar's desire for those to whom he ministered to find the rich peace and joy that he had found in Jesus. This offer still rings true today for us all to consider and take to heart.

Come and join us at Lochee Baptist Chapel this Autumn!




Dave Dickson
PASTOR


Tim Wraight
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