

# MY VIEW

Happy New Year to you all, as we set off into the last year in the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Will things be different this year, or will we be plodding the same furrow that has kept us occupied in previous ones? For some it will be different, but for the majority it will probably jog along as it did before. However, some of us do not have any choice; the route ahead has already been set. In this category we find the carers in our midst, who would probably welcome the opportunity to have some input into the way ahead. Here I am thinking about the carers who have family members to be cared for, for one reason or another, and may feel trapped. Then there is the army of employed carers probably working for the local Social Services departments in local care homes or within a sheltered housing complex. This indeed does cover a large section of our society.

This month's edition of 'Life and Work' goes into some detail with a Carers Special. Evidently around one in eight (12.5%) of the population of Scotland are thought to be voluntary carers, saving the economy over £7 billion. Feature writer Jackie Macadam focuses on carers' issues and the Church's involvement. Also Syd Graham, convenor of CrossReach, discusses the contribution of carers and how the churches can support them in **A Caring Church**.

So the above gives us something to think about as we plan the unfolding year, unfettered by being forced to care intimately for others, and to thank God for that. But then maybe we could help some of these people locked in a never-ending life of service. I am sure something can be arranged.

Talking about caring and carers, we, as a congregation, have to think about another area of caring. Here I am talking about the building that we worship in. A building that has served us and our forebears well over the years, now having been in service for 166 years. Yes, it came into being in 1844. Built with sandstone, not the most durable commodity, the facings of the blocks are becoming a bit eroded and rutted due to the vagaries of the weather. Some others will also cite atmospheric pollution, and some remedial work will be required. The extent of this and the work that will be required is being sussed out and costs assessed. So our will and our caring attitude will soon be tested, and I hope we will not be found wanting, and rise to the job in hand like the carers in our midst have been doing for years.

*Bill Smart*

**“Dads are for loving and fixing things!”**



# COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

A new venture that the church has started is the Community Newsletter. It is an electronic newsletter that is published once every three weeks and contains news and information about the Church, St Margaret's School, the Community Police, the Rotary Club and it also has as regular contributors, the Braes Councillors.

The Newsletter is compiled from the articles supplied by the contributors and Iain Morrison does an excellent job in putting it into a newsletter format and then sending it out to those who have indicated they wish to subscribe to it. There are always interesting articles to read and plenty of information about what is happening in the community.

The aims of the Newsletter are:


1. To enable the organisations mentioned above to keep you informed as to what they are doing in the community and their plans for the future;
2. To make people aware of the many good things happening in the area so that people can participate in them, should they so desire; and
3. To be an effective vehicle for drawing the community closer together.

The other thing about the Newsletter is that it is free! The Newsletter is published electronically and sent to your computer. In order to receive the Newsletter, you are invited to send an email to the following address:

[subscribe@polmontold.org.uk](mailto:subscribe@polmontold.org.uk)  
with the heading 'SUBSCRIBE'.

I hope that you will take up the opportunity to subscribe.

**Jerome**



“God our Heavenly Father – thank you for all your help when we are troubled. You care for us in such detail. Thank you for your Son who died for us.”

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“Thank you for being kind to me God.”

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“Thank you for looking after my family as this year has been very hard for us all” 