

*An Appreciation of 28 years Service Given to New Aberdour Church by Mrs Margaret Grant.*

While I've got the mic I'd like to say a few words about a very special lady who is with us tonight and who deserves a special mention. Maybe you all know that Mrs Margaret Grant has recently stepped down as our Session Clerk after 16 years. Margaret actually started off as Clerk to the Congregational Board back in 1987 and for quite a while did both jobs so we're really talking about something like 28 years service to the church.

That's a long time in anybody's book and anybody giving so much of their time to the church deserves recognition but Margaret has done more than just 'going through the motions' because in recent years we've had a long period of vacancy and during that time Margaret has shown real leadership in guiding us through very difficult times.

When things were looking very bleak, Margaret kept on encouraging and guiding us - in fact it's

true to say that Margaret gave this church and parish a self confidence that we maybe never had before so instead of throwing in the towel and losing heart like so many churches have done, we simply became all the more determined to keep a light burning until we found another minister.

Of course during this time Margaret has also trained for the Church of Scotland Readership and is now preaching in churches all over the place so she also brings back an additional wealth of knowledge and experience to us here in Aberdour.

I've always felt that having Margaret allows us to 'punch above our weight' as a church and I know that visitors are often surprised that there is such a big buzz of fellowship in such a small church and believe me much of that is down to Margaret.

So it's my great pleasure to hand over a small token of our gratitude to a 'little wifie wi a big big heart!' - our very own treasure - Margaret!

Can I also ask Betty to come forward with some flowers?

(Graeme Bruce - Christmas Eve, 2015)