



Kilbarchan Parish Church

Your local church magazine

Dear Friends,

As I write this the sun is shining between the showers and I am getting ready to go and celebrate a wedding in our Kirk. Although I have conducted several weddings since March 2020 and the beginning of the Covid pandemic, this will be my first wedding in church since then. So, as you can imagine, I am looking forward to the day. Ailsa and Julien were originally going to be wed in May 2020 and then it was to be 2021, but now, all the planning is about to bear fruit. The day has arrived.

The pandemic is now endemic, Covid is still around, but life does feel more and more normal.

Church organisations are about to begin again after the summer recess and we look forward to welcoming you back.

Worship continues weekly and midweekly and we look forward to welcoming you to worship. You will see from another letter in the magazine that there will be a new face out front, helping lead worship. Thorsten is a student for the ministry and we look forward to welcoming him from September to November.

Yes, in many ways, things feel as if we are getting back on track.

Of course, the National Kirk is in the middle of a massive planning process to determine how best to use the resources we currently have. At a Presbytery and a local level we in the coming months will be involved in planning for the future and planning with mission as the main focus for all our work.

The time of planning, when we don't quite see the shape or haven't quite fully worked out the detail can be a time of uncertainty.

In the midst of times of uncertainty we can easily lose our focus.

Let us hold on to our faith, in God and in one another.

Curtis Mayfield wrote a song, Keep on, keeping on and it contains **this uplifting lyric.**

*Everybody gather round and listen to my song
I've only got one*

*We who are young, should now take a stand
Don't run from the burdens of women and men
Continue to give, continue to live
For what you know is right*

*Most of your life can be out of sight
Withdraw from the darkness and look to the light
Where everyone's free
At least that's the way it's supposed to be*

*We just keep on keeping on
We just keep on keeping on*

Let us keep on, keeping on.

Your friend

Stephen



FROM THE EDITOR

The weather has been kind to us over the school holidays and now the schools are back and the nights are drawing in so it is time to use up some of our batteries that have been recharged over the summer.

September is the month when nearly all our organisations and groups are starting. There's plenty of choice, so why not come along to one where I'm sure you will be made most welcome. Once again this issue is varied in content and you should find something of interest.



If you went somewhere nice on holiday and would like to share it with us then send it in and it will help to brighten up the cold, dark winter days

All items for the Winter issue should reach me by Sunday 20th November at alastair.mackinnon@ntlworld.com As always, early typed copy would be appreciated.

Alastair

Hello and Greetings from Howwood,

My name is Thorsten König, and I am delighted to join you as part of my training to become a minister for Word and Sacrament in the Church of Scotland.

As you may already have guessed from the “ö” in my surname, I am not Scottish; I was born 52 years ago in Germany. My wife Astrid and I, and my mother-in-law, moved to Scotland, to Howwood just two and a half years ago. Before we lived for 16 years in The Netherlands, in Amsterdam. There, I was a member, elder, and treasurer of the English Reformed Church, founded in 1607 as a congregation of the Church of Scotland, which is part of the International Presbytery.

We did not plan to move to Scotland.... In my “previous life”, I did a PhD in food chemistry in Germany and was leading Innovation and Research for the biggest Flavour and Fragrance company all over the world – so I was travelling a lot.

My wife is a paediatric ENT consultant, and in 2019 she got an offer to work at the Royal Hospital for Children’s in Glasgow.

We always thought that once we move away from The Netherlands, we could imagine living in the North of Italy or the South of France, but Scotland was not really on our radar– and then Astrid got this offer.

I contemplated already for years whether it would be time to change jobs – God’s call into ministry was a permanent itching – but being German, living in The Netherlands, and being part of the Church of Scotland there, I was not sure which was the right place to dare to follow this call... And then Astrid got the offer to work in Scotland... This seemed to me like God’s writing on the wall...

So here we are now in Scotland. I finished my second academic year of Theology and Religious Studies at the University of Glasgow. As part of my training, I did already placements, the first at Houston & Killellan Kirk, the second at St George’s Tron Church, and this summer I was six weeks in Orkney.

As my first placement at Houston & Killellan Kirk was during Lockdown, and St George’s Tron and Orkney are not particular “typical” of Church of Scotland Congregations, I thought why continue to go to places further away, when there is a wonderful congregation just “around the corner”.

So, I am looking forward to spending time with you, meeting some of you, and getting to know each other.

All the best,

Thorsten

KIRK SESSION REPORT

Since the last edition of the magazine, we have been pleased to have the Choir return to their place in the Chancel to lead our worship. It has been good to see so many of you attending our Sunday services and to welcome you, either in person or online, to share in the Sacrament of Communion on the last Sunday of June.

It was good that Stephen and his family had a relaxing summer break when we welcomed Rev Robbie MacFarlane and Rev Archie Spiers to lead our worship.

On Sunday 28 May, the congregation met after worship for the Stated Annual Meeting when the financial reports for 2021 were presented along with the session report for that year. Due to covid restrictions, the financial report for 2020 had been circulated electronically and then approved at a zoom meeting.

Sadly, since the last edition of the magazine, four of our members have died reducing the number on the roll to 364. One wedding was celebrated in Church when Ailsa Dunn and Julien Plancq were married in a beautiful ceremony before friends and family from near and far.

Much time has again been spent discussing the Mission Audit which will help shape the future of the Church in this area. The Church trustees (members of the Congregational Board and Kirk Session) met after worship on Sunday 10 July to discuss the consultation document on the Mission Plan for Clyde Presbytery, in particular the proposals for our area and the way in which it might impact our Congregation. By the time you are reading this, there will have been a subsequent meeting of our trustees with representatives of Clyde Presbytery when we hope to learn more about the results from the Mission and Property Audits carried out earlier in the year and discuss the outline plans proposed for this area. The aim is to have the completed plan approved by Presbytery by the end of this year.

The decision of the congregation to adopt the unitary constitution was upheld by Clyde presbytery at their meeting on 21st June and this has now been passed to the Delegation of Assembly for their consideration. Once formal approval has been received, a revised set of teams will be established to oversee the running of our Church. Membership of these groups is not confined to our Trustees, and we will be delighted to welcome anyone from the congregation willing to share their skills and talents to contribute to any of the teams.

Recently, we were pleased to accept the gift of a June Shanks painting of our Church from a local couple whose generosity is much appreciated. This work was painted in 1986 and shows the view of the Church with the steeple in the background, as seen from the Gateside area of the churchyard. The painting will be hung in the Session House where we already have the work by June Shanks showing her impression of the construction of the building in 1786. This painting had been specially commissioned as

part of the bi-centenary celebrations of the formation of Kilbarchan Relief Church.
Please come and have a look at the paintings whenever you are at Church.

Alasdair, Christine and Helen



Remembrance Sunday

On a cold November Sunday morn, an old man sits a while
Looking though old photographs, he can't help but smile.
They're all there, all the boys, with hair cut short and neat
Uniforms of khaki, strong black boots upon their feet.
They met as strangers but soon became like brothers to the end
Smiling at the camera, there could be no truer friends.
They all took the Queen's shilling, went off to fight the hun,
Soon learnt the pain of loss once the fighting had begun.
So many never made it home, lost on foreign shores
Many more were injured and would be the same no more.
The old man's eyes mist with tears as he remembers every face
Each of his fallen brothers and the killing which took place
He proudly dons his beret, his blazer and his tie
For today he will remember the ones who fell and died.
On his chest there is a poppy, a blaze of scarlet on the blue
He steps out into the cold, he has a duty he must do
Once at the cenotaph he stands amongst the ranks
Of those who marched to war and those who manned the tanks,
He bows his head in reverence, as the last post begins to play
And he wonders what will happen at the ending of his days
Will anyone remember? Will anybody care?
About the lads so far from home whose life was ended there?
I wish that I could tell him, that he should fear not
For this soldier and his brothers will NEVER be forgot
We owe a debt of gratitude that we can never pay
And this country WILL remember them, on each Remembrance day.



Maria Cassee

Cost-Of-Living Crisis – Where to Get help

Most households will already be feeling the impact of the cost-of-living crisis. It will present a huge challenge for so many, locally and elsewhere.

The church is looking at ways in which practical support might be provided to those in our community who may be most at risk in the months ahead. In the meantime, we repeat information printed in the last magazine about some sources of information that may be useful not only to our congregation but also to extended family, friends and the broader community.

If you believe you will be unable to meet any scheduled payments, it is important that you contact your supplier as early as possible. Failing to keep up with payments can only add to the hardship you may face.

Here are some of the key organisations which can provide help and specialist advice.

1. Advice Works Renfrewshire- a free, confidential service which provides expert advice on a wide range of money and debt issues including budgeting, negotiating with creditors, bankruptcy, mortgage and rent arrears. Benefit checks are also undertaken to ensure that you are getting all the benefits to which you are entitled. Full information is available at renfrewshire.gov.uk under Advice Works Renfrewshire.

Call to make an appointment with an Advice Works advisor on 0300 300 1238 or alternatively email adviceworks@renfrewshire.gov.uk.

2. Renfrewshire Citizens Advice Bureau- their trained advisers have vast experience and provide practical, independent advice on a wide range of topics including debt and money, benefits, housing, energy and work-related issues.

Full information is available at renfrewshirecab.org.uk. Call 0141 889 2121 to arrange an appointment

3. Renfrewshire foodbank- provides support to anyone in Renfrewshire at a time of crisis. Nutritious food parcels are provided for 3 days to individuals and families who are in need. This is a short-term service designed to help people get back on their feet and be able to self-manage their own situation. The foodbank also has access to specialist staff who can provide advice on maximizing income.

Full information is available at renfrewshire.foodbank.org.uk.

You can contact the Foodbank on 0300 102 2500 or on email at info@renfrewshire.foodbank.org.uk

4. Home Energy Scotland- is a Scottish Government initiative to help create warmer homes, reduce energy bills, and lower your carbon footprint. Energy costs will rise very significantly over this year and Home Energy Scotland want to ensure that people are not overpaying on their energy bills. They can check your eligibility for special

discounts from energy suppliers and help you get a benefits and tax credit check so you're not missing out on additional income. In some cases, funding can be accessed to help your home's energy efficiency.

Contact Home Energy Scotland through the contact form page at homeenergyscotland.org.

The website includes useful tips for saving money on energy costs around the home. Alternatively call free on 0808 808 2282.

5.Shelter Scotland- doesn't provide houses but it does provide advice on any housing issue from home ownership to homelessness.

This includes renting privately, social housing, finding a place to live, paying for a home, rent and mortgage arrears, eviction, repossession, and repairs and bad conditions. *The Shelter Scotland advice helpline is the best way to find out your rights and access immediate, practical advice. Call 0808 800 4444. A wealth of information is also available at scotland.shelter.org.uk*

6.Christians against Poverty- is a UK-wide charity that can assist if you need help with money, whether that's help to get out of debt, find a job or gain vital life skills. *For free debt help call 0800 328 0006. Full information can be found at capuk.org.*

7.Age Scotland- is the national charity for people over 50 and their helpline provides a free confidential service for older people, their carers and families. Their skilled advisers can offer support on various cost of living issues. They are also there for you if you just need a friendly chat.

Call the Helpline on 0800 1244 222 or check out agescotland.co.uk



The Abbot showed a visitor over the Abbey, which was both a Monastery for monks, as well as a Friary for brothers.

Shown into the kitchen the visitor asked the Abbot, "What are they preparing for dinner tonight?"

"Fish and chips," was the reply.

Looking at one man, he said, "And what does he do?"

"He's the fish Friar."

"And that one?"

"He's the chip Monk!"

GENERAL ASSEMBLY 21st – 26th May 2022

I was delighted to represent Kilbarchan Parish Church at this year's General Assembly, and ultimately relieved that I had chosen to do so using Zoom given the travelling issues at that time.

The Assembly began with the induction of the new Moderator, Rev Iain Greenshields, and it was great to see so many people of faith from across the world who had accepted the invitation to attend.

As was expected there was great discussion about how the Church needs to change, in order to involve the next generations. There is no doubt that change is inevitable, but it was emphasised that we are not changing for changing's sake, but Pruning in order to Grow. I thought this was a tremendous way of looking at things.

Monday began with Holy Communion. It was wonderful to take part in this, even sitting in your own home. The short act of worship, including the unaccompanied singing, also made a very moving start to each day. As we are all aware the Church has been discussing Same Sex Marriage for many years and it was good that at long last a decision has been made. Another important issue was the signing of the Declaration of Friendship between the Church of Scotland and the Roman Catholic Church. Although there are obviously some differences there is far more that unites us than separates us and we should celebrate that. The Scottish Churches Leaders Forum is working closely with representatives of many denominations of the Christian faith. It is felt that, where we can, we should present a united front to the world to show that we can do things together rather than apart. By working together, we would demonstrate a much stronger Christian witness. This shouldn't just be at national level, but local ecumenism should be encouraged.

Over the next few days there were reports from many differing committees of the Church of Scotland and it opens your eyes to the amount of work that is being done that we perhaps are not aware of.

The young people who were in attendance had, for some reason, not been given the opportunity to speak at this year's assembly, and it was felt that this was not right. We all agreed that we should do all we can to integrate young people into the decision making of the church.

The message we were all given from the Moderator is that we should be confident in our faith going forward. We shouldn't be unsure of it or question it but put Jesus and mission first and foremost and be confident in what we do. This was the main message that I took from the Assembly.

I was really pleased that I had taken the opportunity of attending the General Assembly and would encourage others to do so, if given the chance.

Myra Grant



WE'RE BACK !



After a long Covid related absence we are delighted to be back again and welcoming you to our Messy Church. We will meet on Saturday 17th September and will run from 4.00pm to 6.00pm with the usual format of fun, crafts, stories and song ending up with a meal when we all sit down as a group. Don't forget to bring a parent along with you. The Messy Church Team look forward to seeing all on the 17th.

The Messy Church Team



BLYTHSWOOD SHOEBOX APPEAL.



Hopefully this will take place towards the end of October/beginning of November. 82,952 boxes were delivered last year to Eastern Europe. This year, people may not be able to donate as much but every small amount helps people who have so very little. We have been supporting this appeal for about 24 years thanks to your amazing generosity.



FUND-RAISING NEWS.

Art off the Square is about to take place as I write this and hopefully will be a great success as usual. Many thanks to Myra and George for all their hard work in arranging the show and to all who brought baking and helped to serve teas and coffees.

CLYDE PRESBYTERY NOTES for Tuesday 21st June 2022

The Moderator Congratulated Rev David Hood & Rev Ian Johnson on reaching 25 years as ordained ministers and gave notice of the leave taking of the Rev Ian Johnson and Rev Alan Sorensen. A warm welcome was conveyed to the Rev Marian Cowie who was transferring from Glasgow Presbytery.

Appointments: Ms Sheena MacFarlane to serve on Renfrewshire Education Trust, Mrs Barbara Jarvie to continue as Presbytery representative on East Dunbartonshire Education Committee following local elections. Locums we're appointed to Paisley North and Bonhill linked with Renton Trinity. Interim moderators assigned to Kilmacolm St Columba, Greenock Wellpark Mid Kirk, Dumbarton Riverside l/w St Andrews's l/w West Kirk and Inver-kip l/w Skelmorlie & Wemyss Bay.

Business Committee: future Presbytery meetings for the coming session will be as follows: Presbytery Business 13/9/22, 22/11/22, 14/2/23 and 20/6/23 with a Presbytery Conference on 4/3/23. An ad hoc committee of Christine Murdoch, Alistair Shaw, Peter McEnhill & Alison McKenzie was appointed to make the necessary arrangements for the upcoming visit from the Moderator, 15th to 24th April 2023, and all congregations are encouraged to suggest suitable projects for him to attend. Requests from Paisley Sherwood Greenlaw, Kilbarchan & Dumbarton Riverside to adopt the unitary constitution we're passed and the Clerk instructed to send the necessary paperwork to the Law Department of the Church of Scotland.

Treasurer: a set of draft accounts had been prepared for the external examiner and a full set of Reports and Accounts will be tabled for the approval by Presbyters at the meeting to be held on 13th September 2022.

Mission: The majority of work being undertaken by the Mission committee has been in supporting the work of the ad-hoc mission planning and presbytery planning committees. Local mission group (LMG) churches have been expending their energy on completing mission audits, AMBA surveys etc. On a positive note, there are still LMG's meeting, sharing and undertaking lots of good work in local communities and beyond.

Mission Officer: Clyde Presbytery Mission Officer, Andy Reid, was appointed with the primary responsibility to 'encourage and support a strong mission focus within the Presbytery and its congregations'. Andy is aided and line-managed by the Presbytery Clerk, through their weekly meetings, and he reports through the Missions Committee.

Presbytery Planning: consultation document produced and distributed to members of Presbytery the report was received (the report was issued on the morning of the meeting as it continues to be a work in progress). Meetings with congregations are to be held during the summer break so that a draft plan can be presented to Presbytery in September.

Safeguarding: the Presbytery Safeguarding Contact is now Caroline Lockhart and her email is carolyn.lockhart@ntlworld.com. Training has apparently commenced by Zoom at all levels. With the removal of the Covid Restrictions “face to face” training in church Halls has restarted. There are now 3 training courses: Introductory Safeguarding Training, Advanced Safeguarding Training and Trustee Safeguarding Training.



KILBARCHAN KIRK ONLINE

kilbarchankirk.org

Find us on:

Facebook - facebook.com/kilbarchankirk

Twitter – @KilbarchanKirk

YouTube – Kilbarchan Kirk



FASTING ?

<p>Fast from criticism, and feast on praise; Fast from self-pity and feast on joy; Fast from ill-temper and feast on peace; Fast from resentment and feast on contentment; Fast from jealousy and feast on love; Fast from pride and feast on humility; Fast from selfishness and feast on service;</p>

DRAMA GROUP



Instead of our usual November production, the Drama group are arranging a social afternoon on Saturday 26th November in the Church Hall. Details coming soon - something fun for all the family to get us all into the Christmas spirit!



So look out your Christmas jumpers, further information and details on how to reserve your free place coming soon!

After a few years' break due to covid restrictions, we hope to take to the stage again with a play at the end of March, the group are currently researching suitable plays and we hope to be back in Spring 2023. Watch this space.

Fiona McKenzie on behalf of the Drama group



PROPERTY MATTERS

Work will commence in September to resurface the access ramp to the halls. It is expected that this will take around a week and access to the halls may be more difficult during this time, although it is hoped that the halls will remain open for use. Any change to this will be notified as soon as possible.

The hearing loop system amplifier in the church has been replaced. Any issues regarding the loop system should be reported to Alasdair Law or me.

We are trying to resolve the issue of the staining on the wall of the main hall and part of the roughcasting on the rear gable wall will be repaired.

A number of smaller works to improve the "user experience" of the halls for church and community organisations are being examined and will be brought forward as soon as practicable.

Malcolm MacAskill



Fantastic Community Response

In response to the ever growing pressures on Foodbanks nationally it was decided to arrange a Pancake Coffee Morning in support of our local Renfrewshire Foodbank.

The event was dedicated to Jack Millar who passed away in early June. Jack was a founding volunteer and stalwart of the team that organises Kilbarchan Parish Church's support of the Renfrewshire Foodbank.

On a warm sunny Saturday morning the Church and Village Community responded really well and the event was a fantastic success.

A willing team comprising pancake makers, table servers, baking stall holders and face painting artist ensured the foundation for a successful event was guaranteed.

Donations of home baking were varied and generous and every table was decorated with a poise of carnations and nymphophilia kindly donated by Henderson's Florist in Johnstone.

A huge thank you to everyone for making the coffee morning such an overwhelming success and providing food and funds that will reach out to those most in need.

The event was a fantastic success exceeding all expectations and the amazing sum of £550 was realised. In addition, a full boot load of food donations, toiletries and household products were gratefully accepted by Renfrewshire Foodbank.

The whole day was a fitting tribute to Jack Millar who is greatly missed.

Graham McKay



BADMINTON CLUB

Badminton club should resume on Thursday 8th September at 8pm in the large hall. Old and new members welcome. We are a friendly bunch, don't be shy!

Susan MacAskill



HARVEST

Beneath sky and sun stretches a field:
naked earth for harvest's yield.
Who will plant, and who will plough,
who will yoke the oxen now?

Sunbeams dance on new-planed wood,
The joiner's pleased: 'This yoke is good.'
The curve sits right, the line is smooth,
but I must leave my well-worn lathe.

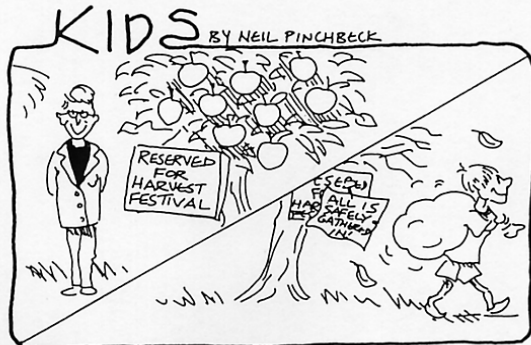
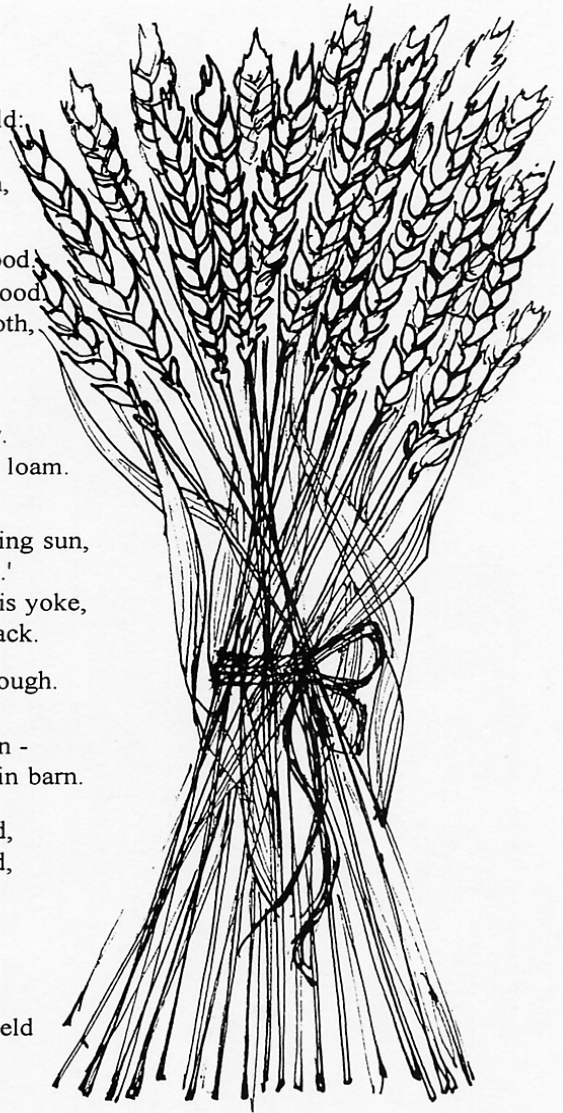
'I yoke my body to the plough,
above the furrow my shoulders bow.
My footsteps trudge through heavy loam.
I scatter grain in earth's dark home.

'My strength ebbs beneath the shining sun,
which parches blood as dry as bone.'
The ploughman stumbles beneath his yoke,
whose harness cuts his burdened back.

The ploughman falls beneath the plough.
The hidden seed begins to grow.
The ploughman dances with the corn -
is scythed and threshed and stored in barn.

Now flour is milled and bread is fired,
new wine is poured, a feast prepared,
a farmer holds out broken bread,
and sparrows flutter to be fed.

'Harvest is won. I pulled the plough.
I tilled the ground. I fell down low.
Stretched out across the furrowed field
I win the corn, the bread, the yield.'



Reflections on an Austrian Catholic Service

The village of St Gilgen lies at the north end of the Wolfgangsee in the Austrian Province of Salzburg. The first recorded reference to a church dedicated to St Gilgen was in 1300 and the church was rebuilt and expanded in the Baroque style in 1768.

At 10.25 on the morning of Sunday, 26th June 2022 the Carillion rang out. The congregation numbered about 60, mostly women, some wearing the attractive, traditional Dirndl dress, plus a few men, some in lederhosen, and fewer children. At 10.30 precisely the Altar-boy emerged from the Vestry and rang a bell. He was followed by the Priest and the organ in the gallery played a short Bach chorale. Without any introduction, the first hymn was sung by the congregation. The words and soprano-line of music were printed in the hymn book. A lady read the First Lesson, followed by the second hymn and The Lord's Prayer.



The Priest's Homily lasted only seven minutes (N.B.). Next came the Sung Psalm led by the Kantor positioned in the gallery. He had a magnificent baritone voice and was accompanied by the organ and congregational responses. The Offering was then uplifted by a single man armed with a wooden box at the end of a long handle walking along the centre and side aisles. The third hymn preceded the Mass which was dispensed as the organist played a modern piece of music which he improvised cleverly at the end. A moments silence followed which was broken by a tiny child coming forward from her seat to the steps of the Chancel to choose another picture-book from the selection in a basket placed on the steps. A sweet touch. A fourth hymn was sung after which the Concluding Voluntary was, again, a modern piece very well played.

The congregation assembled outside the church at the end of the Service at 11.10, the service having lasted 40 minutes. Some members repaired to the nearby hotel for a light lunch where I was introduced to the Organist who had good English. I congratulated him on his excellent playing and the superb Kantor. 'Yes', said the Organist, 'that was me singing too!' Do not expect that at KPC.

Ian Trushell

FINANCE TEAM

With the easing of covid restrictions, Church life is becoming more “normal”. This could be an opportune time for members to review how they regularly give to the Church.

In recent months, some members have opted to give by way of Standing Order, which enables a regular amount to be paid directly into the Church’s Bank Account. Donating in this way is very helpful from the Church’s point of view, as it provides a regular source of income and assists the Church to budget for future expenditure.

Any member who currently does not donate by Standing Order but is interested in giving in this way, can be provided with a Standing Order Form.

Weekly Offering Envelopes are provided by the Church to those members who prefer to give in this way. The Envelopes for 2023 are about to be ordered.

Any member who normally donates using Envelopes and decides that they no longer wish Envelopes in future or anyone who would like a Standing Order Form should contact Marjory Love on 01505 320497 or by e mailing her at marjory.love@btinternet.com.

Marjory will also be pleased to deal with any queries which members may have regarding giving to the Church.

The Finance Team extends their thanks to all members for their continuing financial support, particularly in these difficult times.

Marjory



GOODBYE TO PAPER BANK NOTES!

We won’t be able to use the old-fashioned paper £20 and £50 bank notes as legal tender after 30 September 2022. After then only the new polymer notes will be accepted. The Bank of England, Clydesdale Bank, Royal Bank of Scotland and Bank of Scotland, are encouraging everyone to spend or deposit paper bank notes well ahead of September. <https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/news/2021/september/one-year-left-to-spend-your-paper-20-and-50-banknotes?msclkid=8eccaafab4c811ecb2090c4ed3a6f4fa>

FRIENDLY RECREATION

For a few hours on one night of the week, during the dreich winter months, we meet in the church hall and forget all about our everyday worries and responsibilities. We indulge in light heated games of carpet bowls, breaking for tea or coffee with biscuits. And there is plenty of chat. We are the **Monday Club**.



Have you ever thought of trying carpet bowls? You do not need to be terribly fit, and we adhere to the rules in a relaxed manner. But competition can get keen as we are only human.

Why not come along some Monday after 3rd October, between 7.15 and 9.15. just to watch and find out more. Or maybe even give it a try.

Or if you want more information, give me a call at 346118.

Alec Christine.



SAFEGUARDING.

We are ever hopeful that organisations will be starting back fully after the summer holidays. The safeguarding service in Edinburgh has informed us that volunteers should undergo training every three years but must complete within five years. Since our volunteers have not been meeting in person with our young people for the last two years at least, this means that most of our volunteers require to redo their training. I have indicated this to our Presbytery safeguarding contact and hope that more courses will be offered shortly. I would be grateful if those working with the young people in our Church will do their best to attend training as soon as possible.

Elizabeth Dunn, safeguarding coordinator.



**The person who looks up to God
rarely looks down on people**

SOME THOUGHTS ON JUNK EMAILS

I have received have email addresses which are numbers or strange names @itagui.edu.co, @staff.gbsb.global or @micorreo.uny.edu.ve which are highly unlikely to be genuinely from individuals in the UK.

If you cannot see the email address of the sender look at the sender's name at the top of the email. The line below the name usually says "to me" followed by a little v or a downward pointing arrow head. Click on this and you will see details which include the actual email address of the sender. I am working in Windows but Apple Mac users probably have very similar layouts and controls.

So you have a malicious email, usually referred to as spam. What do you do with it?

As I say above **never click on any link in the text**. This could be anything from a link redirecting you to an offensive website to a virus which could attack your computer with disastrous (but not necessarily immediately obvious) results.

The first reaction is just to delete the email. This is a reasonable reaction and gets rid of the offensive communication straight away.

However, there is a better solution. In your inbox click in the box on the left of the offending email to select it. You will then see a range of options appears at the top of the page. In this is a button labelled Spam. Click this and the selected email will disappear from your inbox and be transferred to a Spam Folder. You can find the Spam Folder in the left-hand column of your email page, possibly below the "more" option. You can delete the email from within the spam folder. Mine will delete spam after 30 days as a matter of course. Again Apple Macs will be similar.

The benefit of doing this is that your computer will recognise this spam and will filter out future incoming emails with similar features. Also, I am on googlemail and I know that the offensive email is also sent back to Google so it allows them to deal with this problem at a higher level. I am sure other email providers work the same way and share information on repeat offenders.

But how does this happen?

At first I thought that my computer had been accessed by malign forces. But I have a good antivirus programme on all my devices, and anyway, a large proportion of people I have spoken with are not in my contact list. But interestingly, they are all linked by Church based activities.

When I searched my email history for the names that I do not normally communicate with a common factor soon became apparent. All of the names appeared on an email over three years ago which was being circulated to promoted a Church event. You know the kind of thing - "this event is happening – tell all your friends" and what did we do? We forwarded the email to a growing number of people and it ended up with an enormous list of names and email addresses. It only needed some twisted person within the email world to pick up on this and save the list for nefarious purposes. It might be a virus in one of our computers or somewhere in the cyber world there is bad software seeking out lists of names. As an aside, have you noticed that after you have been looking at something new from Amazon or eBay how adverts for similar items appear on Facebook? Coincidence?

So how do we avoid this in the future?

Short answer. Do not “copy” your emails to more than 3 or 4 people. When you compose an email you have a *send to* option. There is also a *cc* option, people you wish to *copy* into the communication who are not directly involved. The third option is *bcc*. This is the *blind copy* option where you can keep a third party aware of a communication without informing the other participants. In the office environment one might refer to it as the backside covering option as you keep the boss informed of developments without anyone else knowing. So if you have a large circulation list put them out as Blind Copies so your email will not attract the attention of malicious forces. The only drawback to this is that others will not know who else you have sent it to. This can be covered in the text of your communication, eg “Dear Choir members” or “Fellow Trustees”, or just “I am sending this to all my friends who may be interested in this event”.

I hope this is of some help.

Just a final word of warning to the terminally curious out there. If you really have to click on the link make sure you have recently backed and saved up all the data on your computer. Scrubbing your hard drive may be the only remedy to the consequences.

Take care of yourselves and each other,

Tony Martin

01505 352490



TOTS' CLUB

We were delighted to resume on 29th August with a good number of children and accompanying adults, all delighted to be back. It's good to get to know a whole new generation of babies! The children are also able to enjoy “dancing” along to music with Fiona on her keyboard. Please drop in for a coffee any Monday morning, you will be made most welcome. We would be very happy to have a few more volunteers next session, willing to help out every few weeks on a Monday morning from 9-11.30am. Please speak to any of the following people if you'd like to come along and help. The Tots' club is very much an outreach group in the community so an important part of our church mission.

Elizabeth and Fulton Dunn, Alison and Ian Keith, Rosemary Clark, Christine Erwin, Margaret Allan, Cathy Millar, Myra Grant, , Rosie Picken, Jenifer Pitchers, Fiona Stewart and Malcolm MacAskill.

HILLWALKING CLUB REPORT



May's club walk was the Glen Sherup horseshoe in the Ochils. Eight of us climbed two Donalds and one Donald Top, a lovely route on paths through forestry onto grassy hillside and crossing a dam near the end. It was windy with the odd shower but we got some sun and views including the three Forth bridges.

However, the weekend ended tragically with the death of stalwart club member Douglas Cameron. Douglas had walked with the club since 1990, leading countless walks and chairing our AGM for many years. He and wife Margaret "completed" their Munros with the club on Sgurr Eilde Mor in 2006. We miss Douglas enormously and all of our sympathy is with Margaret and their family.

In June, five of us climbed Kaim Hill from Fairlie Station. Starting on a narrow path past a pretty cottage (previously featured on Location, Location, Location), we wound our way up the wooded Glen onto an open hillside. We walked past the ongoing restoration of Fairlie Castle, which is coming on well and will be a substantial building when finished. The weather was dry and quite windy, but with clear views to Arran, Bute and Hunterston. The youngest member of the group had a birthday, so we ate cake on the summit. We came down to a group of old sheilings and took shelter for our picnic before walking home through a beautiful sunny wood. A good circular walk enjoyed by all.

The alternative June walk was delayed by a 60 mile detour when the A82 closed, but three of us made it to Glen Lyon to climb Beinn Dearg (Corbett) and Meall a'Mhuic (Graham), new ticks for all of us. The route included a mixture of forestry roads and pathless moorland. It was a blustery day with a few showers, but also sunshine and fantastic views.

The busiest July walk was from Balloch to Dumbarton and back, along the cycle track by the River Leven. Nine folk walked the 11 miles in warm sunshine, with a scenic lunch spot among the flowers in Levensgrove Park.

The alternative July walk was swapped to Sgurr Thuilm and Sgurr nan Coireachan, Munros from Glenfinnan. Three of us had an epic cycle and walk of 9.5 hours, with 6 hours of driving, arriving home after 1am. We got sunburn with beautiful views then thick mist. It was well worth it, as it left Jim Dick with only 17 Munros left to climb (he has reduced that to 13 at time of writing!).

August hosted another two walks. Six of us walked the Arrochar loop, in Glen Loin. We had good walking conditions with sun, light showers and two picnic stops along the way. The one hiccup was having to clamber over landslide debris on our return path, but with that accomplished it was a good day out.

Five of us got slightly drier weather to climb Carn a'Chlamain, near Blair Atholl. We cycled up Glen Tilt then followed a good stalkers path to the summit to find a group of intrepid mountain bikers who had cycled up the entire mountain. This was a new Munro for four of us, celebrated with a chippy in Pitlochry on the way home.

Our upcoming walks will be:

- 3rd September: Beinn Trilleachan (Corbett) or Auchinstarry
- 8th October: West Kip, East Kip & Scald Law, Pentlands
- 5th November: Lochgoin Loop, Whitelee Windfarm

For all walks we will meet at the Steeple at 8am. Any new members would be very welcome on these or any subsequent walks.

Eilidh Henderson



KILBARCHAN PARISH CHURCH ECO GROUP



For the first time, the Eco Group welcomed the opportunity to have a presence at the church Stall in the park on Liliast Day on Saturday 11th June. Despite poor weather, we managed to distribute a large number of (sometimes damp) flyers and bookmarks, and engaged people in conversation about eco issues. There seemed to be interest in better ways to recycle, and saving scarce resources in general. We hope to have a bigger presence at next year's stall.

Building on the success of our Eco Forum Event on Wednesday 4th May, we have set a date for our follow up event on Wednesday 26th October and have been in touch with a couple of speakers who have indicated their willingness to support future Eco Forum events -please put the date in your diary and watch this space for further updates.

In the meantime, please continue to support our highly successful “Blister Pack” initiative by bringing your discarded prescription foils along to church. If you are likely to be visiting Largs, Newton Mearns or Rutherglen and have room in your car boot, George Grant will be delighted to hear from you as each of those locations has a Superdrug that is willing to accept our black bags of blister packs.

If you become aware of other possible ways in which we can signpost folks to reduce, re-use or recycle, we would love to hear from you.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Isobel Arnott

JUNIOR CHURCH

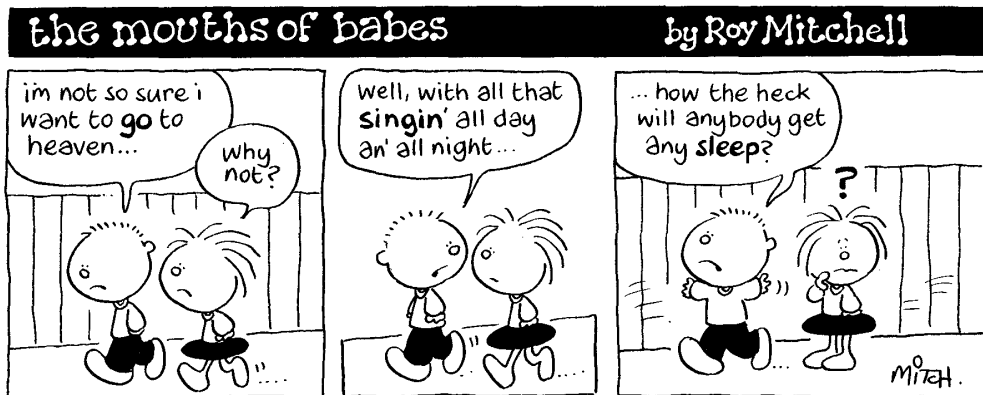
We hope all our Junior Church families have had an enjoyable and relaxing summer and that the sun shone wherever they were, whether at home or on holidays.

Junior Church will resume on Sunday 4th September and we look forward to welcoming all children who would like to attend.

For the first week please join your parents/ grandparents in church and then we will all go to the hall together after the Children's Address

Take care.

Shona & Ros



MIDWEEK FELLOWSHIP



Our new session begins on Wednesday 14th September. We meet in the small hall at 10.30am for tea, coffee and chat followed by a short act of worship at 11.00am.



The atmosphere is friendly and informal and we would encourage you to come along and join us any Wednesday.

Why not take some time out on a Wednesday.

You will be most welcome.

1st KILBARCHAN BOYS' BRIGADE



Three of our boys from 1st Kilbarchan Boys' Brigade achieved their Queen's Badges and were presented with them at the 3rd Johnstone Display. The boys also gained their President's Badge which they were presented with in Steeple Square last September in an informal award ceremony. Congratulations to Alex Malone, Ross Carmichael and Jack Sheridan who have been with 1st Kilbarchan since they were Anchor Boys for their achievement in very difficult circumstances during the Covid Pandemic 2019/2022. All classes were completed online using Zoom and assessments set by Paisley and District Training Committee. Many thanks to Stewart Disney and his Committee for their continued commitment to Boys' Brigade Training.

If you wish to become a Boys' Brigade Leader and continue with our work in Kilbarchan Parish Church please contact me at robert.stevenson@ntlworld.com. Training takes place at the end of September.

Robert Stevenson



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

(15th-21st May 2022)

This year, we again operated a delivery-only system of envelopes throughout Kilbarchan and Brookfield, asking folks to return their envelopes to the church hall, to the offices of Brookfield Alarms, or to donate electronically via the JustGiving page on our website. An additional fundraising event, an illustrated talk on Scotland's hills and mountains, was well supported.

The total sum raised on behalf of Christian Aid amounted to **£3,785**, inclusive of Gift Aid recoverable. While down on pre-pandemic levels, this represented a fine effort, given the pressures on household budgets at this time.

We are most grateful to all who donated so generously.

None of this can be achieved without the efforts of many volunteers who give of their time to distribute envelopes and count the donations. We owe them a great deal of gratitude.

This fundraising is vital to support the efforts of Christian Aid to help those in need in some of the poorest communities in the world, and to campaign for real change which will remove the inequalities which blight the lives of so many.

COUNTRY DANCING



The Country dance are planning to resume the class on Tuesday 13th Sept at 7.30p.m. Anyone wishing to join us will be made most welcome

Helen Miller



THE GUILD

How quickly the summer has passed and we now look forward to meeting up again in late September.

We have an interesting and varied Syllabus drawn up for the 2022/23 Session ..We are delighted that our Minister 'Rev. Stepher Smith will come along to our Opening Meeting and talk around the Guild theme 'Whose we are. and Whom we Serve'. Following on in October, one of or Guest Speakers is Tony Martin who is going to talk and show slides of his recent trip to South Africa.



In the middle of January, we are having some members of the Caledonian Fiddle Orchestra come along to entertain us, get our feet tapping and chase away any winter blues.

In March a representative from Crossreach (the social work arm of the Church of Scotland) is coming to talk about the project 'Heart for Art'

Full details of our programme for the coming session can be found on The Guild notice board in the big hall and on the notice board at the church gates. .

Despite Covid restrictions we had a very successful 2021/22 session and we would hope for the same this coming year Starting on 27th September. we meet up every 2nd and fourth Tuesday of the month in the big hall at 2.30p'm. A warm welcome awaits visitors to any of our meetings.

Jan Howitt

Remembrance Day Wordsearch

M H D E A F P U B T S E K L E
Z J Q A L A R E M H E C D Y J
W I T Z T T Z E M Z J A L Q C
S E O R E H T Q E M P E I Z M
R V I I M U E A N D O P B O G
H O N O U R K G B A O S E Z J
T O O Z M Y N Z E A R M R P H
R W K E P X X K C M E H T P H
X H Z P K N D F I E M M Y L P
Q E O D N P T X F P E F T R A
W P Z Q R E R M I J M O R E T
I Y Z V E F L I R R B J O Y O
Z G T Z Y D R L C Z E Y Q R N
S O L D I E R S A E R K J T E
I W L P B T T D S F Q U Z G C

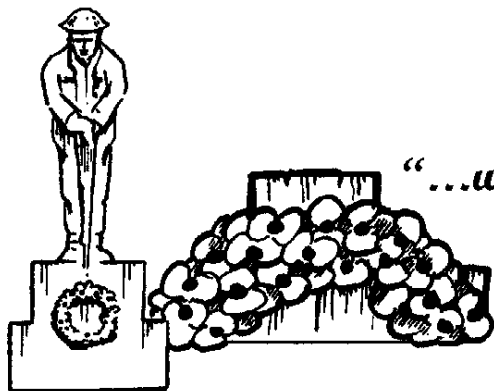
BATTLE
HONOUR
PRICE

CENOTAPH
LIBERTY
REMEMBER

FALLEN
PATRIOT
SACRIFICE

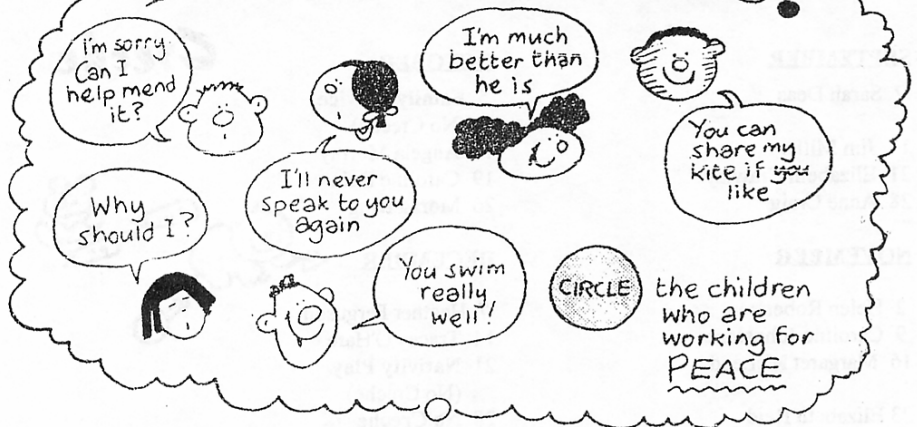
FREEDOM
PEACE
SOLDIERS

HEROES
POPPY
SOMME



"...we will remember them"

PEACE-MAKERS?



JESUS SAID: "Happy are those who work for peace; God will call them his children" (MATTHEW 5:9)

Use the keyboard to crack the code below about what Jesus has won for us by his sacrifice on the cross.

Q 1	W 2	E 3	R 4	T 5	Y 6	U 7	I 8	O 9	P 10
A 11	S 12	D 13	F 14	G 15	H 16	J 17	K 18	L 19	20
Z 21	X 22	C 23	V 24	B 25	N 26	M 27	28	29	30



5 16 3 10 7 26 8 12 16 27 3 26 5 5 16 11 5



25 4 9 7 15 16 5 7 12 10 3 11 23 3 2 11 12 7 10 9 26



16 8 27 28 11 26 13 25 6 16 8 12 2 9 7 26 13 12



2 3 11 4 3 16 3 11 19 3 13 30



(Isaiah 53:5)

PARISH REGISTER



MARRIAGE

'What therefore God has joined together, let no man put asunder'

20/08/2022 Ailsa Elizabeth Dunn and Julien Albert Antoine Plancq

DEATHS

'In my father's house there are many mansions'

27/05/2022 Fred Lowry
26/05/2022 Morag Donaldson
Davy Macdonald (Largs)
11/06/2022 Iris Dunbar (Linwood)
09/06/2022 Jack Miller
17/06/2022 Lillian Robertson (Johnstone)
29/06/2022 John Erwin
06/07/2022 Elaine Brown
07/07/2022 James Barr (Paisley)
16/08/2022 Evelyn Campbell

ROLL

The Roll of Kilbarchan Parish Church now stands at 364 and 18 Adherents.



Helen Miller and family would like to thank all who donated to the retiring offering at the Funeral Service for her husband Jack Miller.

The Chest Heart & Stroke Scotland charity received £1.500.00 in Jack's memory.

Many thanks

Helen

USEFUL CHURCH CONTACTS

Minister - Rev Stephen Smith - [REDACTED]

Joint Session Clerk - Mrs Christine Erwin - [REDACTED]

Joint Session Clerk - Mr Alasdair Law - [REDACTED]

Ass. Session Clerk - Miss Helen Robertson - [REDACTED]

Clerk to Congregational Board - Mrs Gwen Howden - [REDACTED]

WORSHIP PROGRAMME

Sunday 4 th September	11am	Morning worship
Sunday 11 th September	11am	Morning worship
Sunday 18 th September	11am	Morning worship
Sunday 25 th September	11am	Morning worship
Sunday 2 nd October	11am	Morning worship
Sunday 9 th October	11am	Morning worship
Sunday 16 th October	11am	Morning worship
Sunday 23 rd October	11am	Morning worship
Sunday 30 th October	11am	Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
Sunday 6 th November	11am	Morning Worship
Sunday 13 th November		Worship for Remembrance Sunday (times to be confirmed)
Sunday 20 th November	11am	Morning worship
Sunday 27 th November	11am	Morning worship
Sunday 4 th December	11am	Morning worship

