



Kilbarchan Parish Church

Your local church magazine

Dear Friends,

I hope this newsletter finds you safe and well as we as Winter is almost upon us.

As Andy Williams once sang, It's the most wonderful time of the year'. Following the poignant services of Remembrance, we approach the season of Advent leading up to Christmas. In fact a few weeks ago, in the first week of November, driving home from hospital visiting, I saw a house with a Christmas tree in the window. That family were keen, but the sense of excitement and anticipation grows.

As we prepare again to remember the journey of a young couple, Mary and Joseph and the birth of a baby, Jesus, our Saviour, it's a time to count the blessings we have in life and to reflect again on the hope that the coming of Christ to our lives brings.

As part of our lead up to Christmas there will be some extra services and concerts. One of the things I like in all our preparing is the Advent Ring and lighting the four candles, Sunday by Sunday as we approach Christmas with each Sunday representing a different aspect of the faith and the Christmas story.

Hope reminds us that even in the darkest of times, there is a light that shines. Faith encourages us to trust in God's plan, even if we feel uncertain about the future. Joy fills our hearts with thanksgiving as we count our blessings. Love is an invitation to share God's love, even as God loves us.

As we light the candles, Sunday by Sunday, may we find our hope renewed, our faith strengthened, our joy overflowing and our love grow.'

May this season be for you and yours a time of peace and renewal.

Wishing you the blessings of Christmas and a peaceful start to 2023.

Stephen Susie and Ally xxx

Well time certainly flies when you are...in Kilbarchan! Hard to believe that after starting probation on the 1st September we are now preparing for Advent and the Christmas festivities. As I look back on my time so far in Kilbarchan Parish church I can highlight three things I have learned. Firstly, this is a genuinely warm, friendly, encouraging congregation with a good sense of humour. I have enjoyed getting to meet folk after church services on Sunday and Wednesday, Cuppa at the Kirk and on various pastoral visits. There is a real sense of a church family. Secondly, there appears to be a very strong community and village identity in Kilbarchan. This was very apparent to me at the Remembrance service and parade with so many organizations from the village present. Finally, this is a village rich in social history of which Habbies are rightly proud. I look forward to learning more.

Aaron



FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to this Christmas issue of our church magazine. I hope that over the last few years you have found something meaningful within them. It is the intention not only to keep you abreast of what is happening in our church but also further afield. There should be something for everyone and if not – send your article in!



The next magazine will be out in March, 2024 and all items for it should reach me at alastair.mackinnon@ntlworld.com by Sunday 18th February.

My thanks to all my regular and occasional contributors without whose input you wouldn't be reading this.

The editorial team wish you all a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Alastair MacKinnon

SESSION REPORT

During the autumn months, it has been good to see Aaron settling into our fellowship, getting to know our members and visiting some of our organisations which continue to be well supported by both members and friends from the community. The Monday Club is now meeting in the afternoon and following the closure of our own Guild, several of the ladies have joined the Howwood Guild and are enjoying times of fellowship together.

We have had one full meeting of the Kirk Session when we heard and discussed reports from the teams which have now been in place for about a year. Thanks were extended to Alan Fulton who had been instrumental in getting new signage put in place throughout the village giving clearer direction to our Church and neighbouring buildings. Plans were approved for a village litter pick and the planting of a tree at the junction of Ewing Street and Barn Green. Agreement was also reached for special services in December to include services of Light and Reflection, nine lessons and carols, and a junior church nativity play. We will once again support Renfrewshire food bank in their Reverse Advent Appeal and Renfrewshire toy bank Christmas Appeal.

Following the report in the last magazine about the bell from the former West Church, we are pleased to see that the bell is now back in its place in the bell tower of the “wee kirk.”

At the start of October, we had our harvest service when the Church was decorated with a lovely display of fruit and vegetables in the vestibule and extra flowers on the downstairs window ledges. The flowers were given to some of our members in care or housebound. Thanks to Mary Marrison and her helpers for coordinating this.

The retiring offering for Mary's Meals, taken at the Harvest service, was very well supported, with over £1,100 being donated, with another £200 of Gift Aid recoverable by the charity.

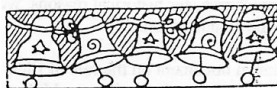
The songs of praise service was well received and we are grateful to Rosie, Ian, the Praise Group and members of the Worship group for organising it.

The communion service at the start of November was well attended both in person and by those who view on the livestream or later on YouTube. During the service Alex Christine was presented with a long service certificate, in recognition of 50 years devoted service as an elder in the Church of Scotland.

We were sorry to learn of the death of one of our members since the last magazine was circulated and we have also been saddened to know of the deaths of some close family

members of several of our Church family. It was however, good to have an infant and adult welcomed into our Church family when we celebrated the Sacrament of Baptism.

Aasdair, Christine and Helen



Wemyss Bay railway station

Many of our readers will be familiar with the railway station at Wemyss Bay, with its wonderful canopies, metal lattice work supports, hanging baskets and an aura of the steam age.

Did you know, however, that it was recently voted “Britain’s best-loved station” in the World Cup of Stations 2023, surpassing 47 other stations to claim the title.

Much of the credit for this is due to the volunteer group “Friends of Wemyss Bay station” (membership £5 p.a.) which helped publicise the station’s attractions, locally and nationwide, to help its bid to be crowned champion. The group has raised funds through the impressive second-hand bookshop on the platform and has also been able to leverage support from other funding bodies to ensure that the building is maintained in an appropriate manner.

The station is worth a visit for the bookshop and café alone.

The group produces a regular newsletter to keep supporters in touch with developments and facts about the station. In their latest edition, there is a fascinating story about the Hair family, who farmed the Skelmorlie Mains Farm until 1958. In that year the family decided to move to Cornwall to take advantage of the longer growing season. The move was undertaken by a special train from Wemyss Bay.

The train comprised a passenger train for the family, their dogs and two newly-born calves; cattle wagons for 76 cows and a further seven calves, a van containing the family car plus their hens in a coop; seven wagons loaded with farm implements and equipment and three others containing household goods and furniture. The train left Wemyss Bay at 2:15 p.m. on Thursday 30th October and reached Wadebridge at 11:35 a.m. the next day. On arrival in Cornwall there was an extra passenger, as another calf had been born at Exeter !

British Rail charged the family £1,000 for the hire of the train, the equivalent of almost £20,000 today.

Not quite a Noah’s Ark story, but remarkable nonetheless.

Alasdair Law

CUPPA @ THE KIRK

'Cuppa at the Kirk' continues every Tuesday afternoon from 2pm-3.30.

This is open to all and not only to Church Members so please come along and bring all your friends for a cuppa and a bit of friendly banter.

If anyone would like to come but does not have transport, please contact Arlene on 07971 917402 or any member of the Pastoral care Team and a lift will be arranged.

We are pleased to say we are having a small Afternoon Tea/Christmas Party on Tuesday 12th December. Please do come along and support this event.

There will be some Christmas Treats and entertainment from George and Myra Grant.

We look forward to seeing you

HOME WORSHIP ▾ NEWS & DIARY ▾ YOUNG PEOPLE ▾ GROUPS & ORGS ▾ ABOUT US ▾ MORE ▾



Kilbarchan Parish Church



kilbarchankirk.org

Facebook - facebook.com/kilbarchankirk

X (Twitter) - [@kilbarchankirk](https://twitter.com/kilbarchankirk)

YouTube - search for Kilbarchan Kirk

CLYDE PRESBYTERY

Tuesday 12th September 2023 at 7.00pm

Presbytery met in person in Rosneath St Modan's Parish Church, while some members joined via zoom, and was constituted with prayer.

The Moderator welcomed the new members of Clyde Presbytery; Ronnie Johnson, Hugh McColl, Stephen McDowall Laing, Catherine McGrath, Kenneth Naismith, Patricia Robertson, Christine Scholarios, Simone Smith, Douglas Thomson, Moira Thomson and Stewart Young and hoped they would soon feel at home.

The Business Convener, Rev Ken Gray, thanked the retiring Moderator, Rev Christine Murdoch, for her service to Presbytery over her year in office. Rev Christine Murdoch, having completed her period of office as Moderator proposed that the Rev David Burt, be nominated at the meeting of the Presbytery on 14th February last, as the next Moderator of the Presbytery. The Presbytery approved and resolved accordingly.

APPOINTMENTS: Rev Stuart Stevenson as Interim Moderator at Linwood from 1st August 2023. Rev Philip Wallace as Interim Moderator at Johnstone St Paul's from 18th August 2023 on the retirement of Rev Dr Alistair Shaw. Rev Yvonne Smith as Interim Moderator at Old Kilpatrick Bowling from 31st October 2023. Rev Jonathan Fleming is Interim Moderator at Greenock Wellpark Mid Kirk from 23rd October 2023 following the resignation of Rev Ian Bell. John Armit, Stuart Steell and Kenny Paton as the Vacancy Committee, per Act VIII 2003, to oversee proceedings at Paisley St George's and Baldernock linked with Milngavie St Pauls. Rev Ian Miller as the Presbytery representative on West Dunbartonshire Education Committee, filling the vacant post. Noted also the appointment of Chris Barlas as locum at Bonhill from 24th August 2023.

BUSINESS: Rev Robbie Hamilton has been appointed as Presbytery Clerk from Monday 23rd October 2023 and thanks and discharges the *ad hoc* committee appointed to oversee the recruitment; Rev Dr Alistair Shaw will act as Clerk *pro tem* from 1st September 2023 until Sunday 22nd October 2023 when the new Clerk takes up post; the new Presbytery Handbook is now available on the website www.clydepresbytery.org under "handbook".

VACANCY BUSINESS: Rev Gary Noonan of Houston & Killellan Kirk intimated his intention to demit his charge from from January 31st 2024 to take up the post of Head of Staff/Lead Pastor in First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood, PCUSA. The Vacancy Committee grants permission for Baldernock linked with Milngavie: St Paul's; and for Paisley St George's to call a minister on unrestricted tenure, in terms of the provisions of Act VII 2003 and the Presbytery Mission Plan.

MISSION: Local Area Mission Groups are to be restarted in line with the Cluster Groupings, known as Hubs, with preferably two representatives from each congregation

within a Hub. Rep Elders/Ministers should encourage participation and forward names and emails of those nominated to aknox@churchofscotland.org.uk; Note funding is available for work with under 40s, through Presbytery Mission Funding.

PLANNING: Rev Tim Mineard, Convener, stated that Kirk Sessions are encouraged to consider the relevant legislation for their own particular circumstances (Unions, linkages, etc) and commends the letter from the Convenor to the attention of Kirk Sessions.

PROPERTY: Granted permission for the Kirk Session of Baldernock to dispose of the church halls. Applications are approved from Lomond Parish Church to install emergency lighting in the church building and install new improved lighting in their car park all for a total cost of £58,795; Port Glasgow: New Parish Church to carry out repairs to their bell tower at a cost of £15,570; Dumbarton: Riverside Parish Church to carry out repairs to their hall roof at a cost of £305,000 or thereby; Cross Parish Church to carry out alterations to the sanctuary and if undertaken in the current year gives them permission to exceed the £20,000 financial limit. Greenock St Margaret's to carry out some refurbishment work to the amount of £17,000 and allows these churches to access money held within their Central Fabric Funds. The request from Greenock: St Ninian's Parish church to put the buildings and site of Greenock: St Ninian's Church up for sale and to market the land, church and hall was agreed. In relation to the application of the Kirk Session of Kilmacollm Old congregation, and the Kirk Session of Greenock: St Ninian's congregation the General Trustees (1) authorise the sale of the manse at Glencairn Road, Kilmacollm, PA13 4NJ, authorise the sale of the church, hall and land at 11 Norfolk Road, Greenock, PA16 0JG at such price and on such other terms and conditions as may be decided by them in consultation with the Kirk Session and (2) determine that the free proceeds of sale shall, in the first instance, be used to purchase a replacement manse and any balance remaining, subject to the operation of the Levy under Regulation 8 2008, be credited to the benefit of the congregation in the Consolidated Fabric Fund.

Presbytery declines approval for the financial board of Bonhill Parish Church to undertake repairs to the church roof due to the building being categorised as 'B' in the Approved Presbytery Plan and the substantial financial costs involved; declines approval for Clydebank: Kilbowie St Andrew's to carry out Church Tower repairs until its financial board demonstrates how the project will be funded.

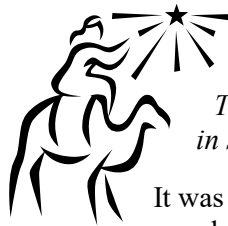
The Manse Deliverance Outline by the GTs to ensure the welfare and appropriate living conditions of our ministers and privately renting tenants was forwarded to all session clerks for their attention and action; reminds congregation financial boards of their responsibility to maintain vacant manses and their gardens in an acceptable condition; reminds congregations of the 2022 General Assembly's instruction regarding EPC surveys and instructs them to forward the current position to the Property Committee convener; the Kirk Session of Milngavie: St Paul's are in the process of selling their existing manse, the title of which is vested with the local trustees, and seeking a more

modern equivalent and that the Kirk Session of Helensburgh, in seeking to purchase a new manse, have viewed a suitable property within the parish and both having paid due diligence to the 'Guidelines for Manses' as published by the General Trustees in the process. An inspection was carried out of Paisley: St George's manse by representatives of the Property and Ministry Committee and declared fit for purpose. There were a few items of maintenance to be undertaken but they would be attended to in good time.

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE: the list of congregations whose accounts have been attested and instructs them to send a copy to OSCR before the deadline of 30th September 2023; congregational treasurers are thanked for their diligence in preparing these accounts and for their continuing work with congregational finances.



WE THREE KINGS OF ORIENT ARE WHAT?



“A cold coming they had of it at this time of the year, just the worst time of the year to take a journey, and specially a long journey, in. The ways deep, the weather sharp, the days short, the sun farthest off, in solstitio brumali, the very dead of winter.”

It was 1622, and the Bishop of Winchester, Launcelot Andrews, was preaching a magnificent sermon to King James I. Reckoned one of the best preachers ever, Launcelot Andrews' words were later taken up by T S Eliot and transformed into his wonderful poem 'The Journey of the Magi'. What a vivid picture we can see it all! The camels' breath steaming in the night air as the kings, in their gorgeous robes of silk and cloth-of-gold and clutching their precious gifts, kneel to adore the baby in the manger.

Yet the Bible does not give us as much detail as some people think. Tradition down the centuries has added a great deal more. For instance, we know from St Matthew that the magi were 'wise', or learned men of some sort, but we do not know if they were kings or not. The Bible tells us there were several; tradition has decided upon three, and even named them: Balthassar, Melchior, and Gaspar. But the Bible does tell us that the magi gave baby Jesus three highly symbolic gifts: gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. Gold stands for kingship, frankincense for worship, and myrrh for anointing — anticipating his death.

There is a lovely ancient mosaic in Ravenna, Italy, that is 1,500 years old. It depicts the wise men in oriental garb of trousers and Phrygian caps, carrying their gifts past palm trees towards the star that they followed..., straight to Jesus.

SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

It is good to be able to report that we are now able to provide a crèche for babies and young toddlers. We are lucky that there are several volunteers who have now taken safeguarding training and we also have a new volunteer who has undergone the process and is now on the rota for crèche work.

While it is great that we have several volunteers available to help out in the crèche, we are still in need of more helpers for Junior church. At the moment we only have Ros and Shona with just two others available to help out if necessary. It would be great if we could provide a few people to go on a volunteer rota and help on an occasional Sunday. If you feel this would be something that you could help with please speak to either Ros, Shona or myself.

We continue to try to ensure that our Church is a safe space for children and vulnerable adults.

Elizabeth Dunn (safeguarding coordinator)



Reverse Advent Calendar 2023.

Kilbarchan Parish Church will be supporting Renfrewshire Foodbank once again this year. This is an event our congregation has supported magnificently in previous years.

The format remains the same. Fill a stout box or bags with a food item, under the sink cleaning or household item or a personal care item, every day, commencing from Sunday 26th November until Saturday 16th December.

All donations can be brought to the church on Sunday 17th December or arrangements can be made for donations to be collected by calling Graham McKay on 0787 6213781.

Monetary donations will also be greatly accepted as an alternative way to support the Foodbank.

Sincere thanks in advance. *Graham*



ECO GROUP Update

LITTERPICK

We are delighted to report that we had a very successful joint Litterpick with Kilbarchan Smile on Saturday 15th October-the sun shone and we had 22 volunteers who collected 14 bags of litter and then enjoyed a very welcome cup of tea/coffee and cakes in the church hall. We intend to repeat this initiative again in the spring and hope to involve other local organisations to make it an even bigger success next time-many thanks to all those involved



PLANT A TREE IN 23

This Autumn instead of holding another Eco Forum, we decided that we would “Plant a tree in 23” and were lucky enough to be granted funding from Kilbarchan Civic Society to enable us to plant a semi mature silver birch tree in the grass area in Ewing Street. The Planting took place on Friday 10th November and was attended by 26 people on a lovely sunny autumn afternoon. The Kilbarchan Smile Team has very kindly agreed to maintain this tree and we hope going forward that others in the congregation and beyond will be encouraged to “plant some more in 24”-

watch this space for ways that you can get involved!

GREEN CHRISTMAS AT THE FAYRE

The Church Eco Group are hosting a table at this year’s Christmas Fayre on Saturday 2nd December.

The aim is to highlight eco-friendly ways of wrapping presents, and making all sorts of decorations at Christmas without using plastic, tinsel or glitter.

We will have demonstrations, examples, and advice, to help you enjoy a simpler and sustainable time. There will also be information about “alternative gifting” ideas for those friends and relatives who are difficult to buy for or who would appreciate an opportunity to receive a gift which also helps those less fortunate.

Why don’t you come along to see us, for some friendly, useful tips to enjoy a “Green” Christmas this year.

FUNDRAISING NEWS



Art off the Square was an extremely well attended and successful event at the end of August, thanks as always to Myra and George and all the helpers with hanging the art and in the tearoom and donating the delicious baking.

The Christmas Fayre has just taken place and hopefully this will have been the usual successful morning.

We hope to arrange a family film show on a Saturday afternoon in the spring

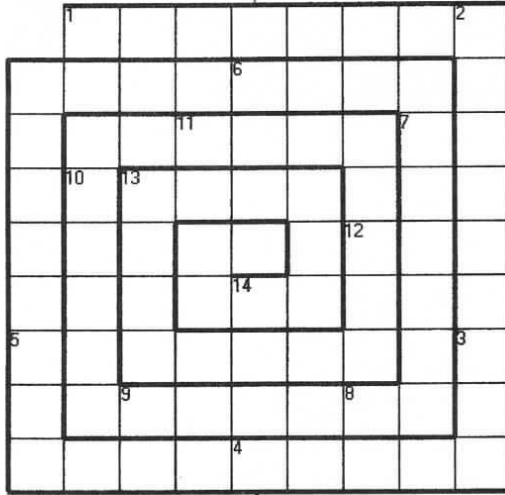


FAIRTRADE

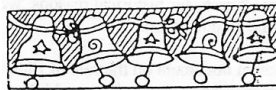


Thankyou to everyone who supported the November Rainbow Turtle stall. Its great to have so many people supporting Fairtrade. Over £ 500 was raised at the stall – many thanks to the early Christmas shoppers. Please remember our local Co-op stocks many fairtrade items including tea, coffee, chocolates and wines. The Rainbow Turtle shop (opposite the Paisley Abbey) stocks lots of lovely fairtrade presents and groceries. It also stocks Eco friendly goods . Thankyou again *Moir Stark*

Christmas Spiral Puzzle



- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. The reason the wise men wanted to find Jesus | 8. An infant |
| 2. Animal that Mary rode to Bethlehem | 9. He saves people from their sin |
| 3. Earthly father of Jesus | 10. There was no room there for Jesus |
| 4. Announced Jesus' birth to the shepherds | 11. The wise men brought these to Jesus |
| 5. Watched their flocks | 12. City where Jesus was born |
| 6. It led the wise men to Jesus | 13. A place where animals sleep |
| 7. Where the baby Jesus was laid | 14. The mother of Jesus |



Nine Lessons and Carols

Sunday 17th December

6.30pm

KILBARCHAN PARISH CHURCH HILLWALKING CLUB



November 2023

This quarter has hosted three club hillwalks and almost every variation of mountain weather. The first of our two September walks was Beinn Trilleachan, a Corbett at the south-west end of Glen Etive, known for rock-climbing on the Etive Slabs. Five of the club eschewed the rock faces and set off up the walking route in heavy rain, through tick-infested, steep and partially pathless terrain. As the rain, wind and mist worsened, two sensibly turned back, but an intrepid three reached the summit safely - a new Corbett for all three.

The lower altitude September walk was swapped from the planned Coilessan Glen to Ben Bowie, a Marilyn between Helensburgh and Balloch. Six set off from Balloch, in much better weather than forecast, up the John Muir Trail route to the summit, gaining excellent views of Loch Lomond and the Clyde.

In contrast, October's weather was awful and our West Lomond walk had to be cancelled because of the red weather warning and flooding which accompanied the wettest two-day period on record for Scotland.

November's walk was extremely well attended, with fourteen of us walking in the Pentlands. It was a cold and beautifully sunny day for Allermuir Hill and Caerketton Hill (with a wee detour over Capelaw Hill for an enthusiastic few). This was a short but scenic, and sometimes steep, hillwalk on excellent paths, with great views north over Edinburgh and the Firth of Forth, and south to the rest of the Pentlands.

Our upcoming events will be:

- 6th Dec: AGM in the small hall at 7. 30pm
- 9th Dec: Corlick Hill, meeting at the Steeple at 9am

Any new members would be very welcome at the AGM and walk. Our 2024 walks will be planned at the AGM, so if you'd like to walk with us in January or February please email me at eilidhfmhenderson@gmail.com after the 6th Dec and I can share next year's walk programme.

Eilidh Henderson



CHURCHES VISITED AT HOME AND ABROAD

SCOTLAND

The Round Church **Bowmore**, Islay
Campbletown Highland Church, Argyll
Parish Church of Holy Trinity, **Elie**, Fife
Cumlodden Church **Furnace** Argyll
North and West **Islay** Churches
Prayer Sheet for **Islay and Jura** Churches
St Magnus Cathedral, **Kirkwall**
Clark Memorial, **Largs**
Paisley Abbey
Peterhead Methodist Church
Pittenweem, Church of Scotland
Cornerstone, **St Andrews**, Fife

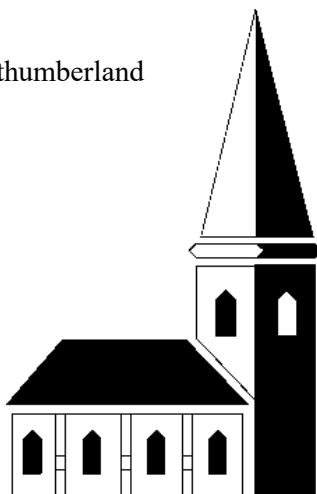


ENGLAND

St Andrews Church, **Castle Combe**
St John the Baptist Church, **Chester**
Gorsedh Kemow, Group of Churches, **Cornwall**
Gloucester Cathedral
St Thomas the Apostle, **Howick**, York Minster Northumberland
St Pancras Old Church, **London**
Parish Church of St Mary's, **Tetbury**

ABROAD

St Juliens Church, Tournon, **France**
Notre Dame de Fouriene, **France**
Santorini Cathedral, **Greece**
Gallarus Oratory, Republic of **Ireland**
Galway Cathedral, Republic of **Ireland**
Church of St Philip, Guidecca, **Italy**
Siracusa Cathedral, **Italy**
Santa Maria/St Nicholas de Callella, Girona, **Spain**
Malaga Cathedral, **Spain**
Valencia Cathedral, **Spain**



This is a much greater number than last year when we were all affected by Covid.
Many thanks to all who sent in leaflets.

Willie Beattie

CHRISTMAS HEALTH AND SAFETY NOTICE

All persons planning to dash through the snow in a one horse open sleigh, going over the fields and laughing all the way are advised that a Risk Assessment will be required addressing the safety of an open sleigh for members of the public. This assessment must also consider whether it is appropriate to use only one horse for such a venture, particularly where there are multiple passengers.

Please note that permission must also be obtained in writing from landowners before their fields may be entered.

To avoid offending those not participating in celebrations, we would request that laughter is moderate only and not loud enough to be considered a noise nuisance. Benches, stools and orthopedic chairs are now available for collection by any shepherds planning or required to watch their flocks at night. While provision has also been made for remote monitoring of flocks by CCTV cameras from a centrally heated shepherd observation hut, all users of this facility are reminded that an emergency response plan must be submitted to account for known risks to the flocks.

The angel of the Lord is additionally reminded that, prior to shining his/her glory all around, s/he must confirm that all shepherds are wearing appropriate Personal Protective Equipment to account for the harmful effects of UVA, UVB and the overwhelming effects of Glory.

Following last years well-publicised case, everyone is advised that Equal Opportunities legislation prohibits any comment with regard to the redness of any part of Mr R Reindeer. Further to this, exclusion of Mr R Reindeer from reindeer games will be considered discriminatory and disciplinary action will be taken against those found guilty of this offence.

While it is acknowledged that gift bearing is a common practice in various parts of the world, particularly the Orient, everyone is reminded that the bearing of gifts is subject to Hospitality Guidelines and all gifts must be registered. This applies regardless of the individual, even royal personages. It is particularly noted that direct gifts of currency or gold are specifically precluded, while caution is advised regarding other common gifts such as aromatic resins that may evoke allergic reactions.

Finally, in the recent instance of the infant found tucked up in a manger without any crib for a bed, Social Services have been advised and will be arriving shortly.

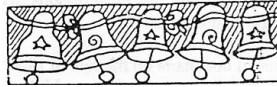


Daddy, is that Santa's carbon footprint?

THE TOTS' CLUB

The club resumed on Monday 4th September from 9.15-11.30. We have about 35 names on the list and 20-25 children and adults attending regularly on a Monday morning. The Christmas party is on 18th at 9.45am when Santa will pop in to see the tots. We are happy to see anyone for coffee on a Monday morning especially at the Christmas party and if you would like to join our group of volunteers, please speak to us. The club resumes on Monday 8th January 2024.

Elizabeth and Fulton, Alison and Ian, Myra, Helen, Rosie, Rosemary, Christine, Margaret, Cathy, Fiona, Malcolm and Jenifer



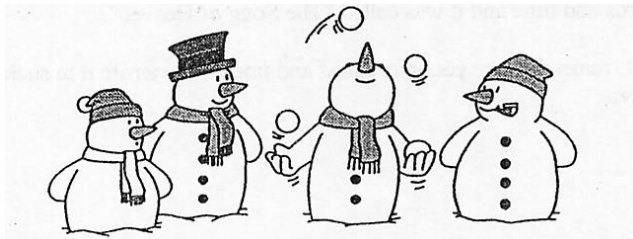
JUNIOR CHURCH

Since starting back in September, our children have been learning about Jesus's disciples and all their names, and we made a boat into which we put Jesus and his disciples. Next we learnt The Lord's Prayer over a few weeks, making scrolls, a colourful poster, which is hung in the large hall, and then prayer ribbons, displayed on the Junior Church noticeboard. We have also been learning about Fruits of the Spirit and Friendship with the story of Ruth and Naomi and made friendship bracelets to symbolise this.

As we approach the end of the year we will start rehearsals for this year's Nativity, which will take place on Christmas Eve, and which is always a pleasure and immense fun to put on for our Church family.

Wishing all our families a Joyous Festive Season.

Ros & Shona





Last month I had a meeting with Paisley and District's Outreach worker where we discussed the revival of 1st Kilbarchan Boys' Brigade Company. It was felt that if we could identify 3 people from our congregation who would be willing to

commit to run an Anchor Boys' Section this would be a good start. Three people would allow for absences during the year where 2 people would always be available to take the Anchor Section of Primary 1 to 3 boys and girls. The Anchor Section would meet in the early evening for one hour a week. If you would be interested in volunteering for this very worthwhile cause then please contact the Rev Stephen Smith our minister or myself, Robert Stevenson.

This is a strange story about a BB boy who went on the Annual Camp to Ardwel in the Mull of Galloway in the 1950s and a deck of cards. Each morning at a BB Camp the tents would be inspected after breakfast at 10 am. The tents were inspected by the officer of the day and each boy marked out of 10 points. Tents must be tidy, clean with sleeping bags rolled up and cap, belt and haversack displayed on top of the sleeping bag. Badges were also displayed and the centrepiece was the boy's bible taking pride of place. One boy did not have a bible to display and so put a pack of cards in place of the missing bible!

After inspection the boys attended morning devotions taken by the Company Captain. The inspecting officer was obliged to inform the Captain of the results of the morning inspection and reported that all the boys had displayed a bible however one boy had placed a deck of cards instead of a bible. The Captain called the boy and asked why he had displayed a deck of cards instead.

The boy said, "Sir, I have no bible in my house since my father returned from the war. He had been captured and held in a prison camp for three years and has found it hard to keep a job since he returned home. One time when he was "sick" he collected all the bibles in our house and burned them but when I asked him why, he couldn't remember burning them. So I did not have a bible to bring to camp.

With that the boy started his story. "I heard this on a record and learned the words by heart".

"You see, Sir, when I look at the Ace it reminds me that there is but one God. The deuce (two) reminds me that the Bible is divided into two parts; the Old and New Testaments. And when I see the three I think of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. When I see the four I think of the four Disciples who preached the Gospel. There was Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. And when I see the five it reminds me of the five wise virgins who trimmed their lamps. Ten of them; five who were wise and were saved; five were foolish and were shut out. When I see the six it reminds me that in six days God made this great heaven and earth. And when I see the seven it reminds me that on the seventh day God rested from His great work. When I see the eight I think of the eight righteous persons

God saved when he destroyed this earth. There was Noah, his wife, and three sons, with their wives. When I see the nine I think of the lepers our Saviour cleansed, and nine of the ten didn't even thank Him. When I see the ten I think of the Ten Commandments God handed down to Moses on a tablet of stone. When I see the King it reminds me that there is but one King of Heaven, God Almighty. And when I see the Queen I think of the Blessed Virgin Mary who is Queen of Heaven. And the jacks, or knaves, it's the devil. When I count the number of spots on a deck of cards I find three hundred sixty-five, the number of days in a year. Fifty-two cards, the number of weeks in a year. Four suits, the number of weeks in a month. Twelve picture cards, the number of months in a year. Thirteen tricks, the number of weeks in a quarter. So you see, Sir, my pack of cards serve me as my camp Bible, almanac, and prayer book."

The Captain turned to the Inspecting Officer and told him to mark the boy as if he had displayed his bible.

The Object of The Boys 'Brigade is:

"The advancement of Christ's kingdom among Boys and the promotion of habits of Obedience, Reverence, Discipline, Self-respect and all that tends towards a true Christian manliness."



THE CHRISTMAS CARD

A striking Christmas card was once published with the title "If Christ Had Not Come". It was founded upon our Saviour's words "If I had not come". The card represented a pastor's falling into a short sleep in his study on Christmas morning and dreaming of a world into which Jesus had never come.

In his dream he found himself looking through his home, but there were no little stockings in the chimney corner, no Christmas bells or wreaths of holly, and no Christ to comfort, gladden and save.

He walked out to the street, but there was no Church with its spire pointing to heaven. He came back and sat down in his library, but every book about the Saviour had disappeared.

The doorbell rang and a messenger asked the preacher to visit his poor, dying mother. He hastened with the weeping child, and as he reached the home he sat down and said "I have something here that will comfort you." He opened his Bible to look for a familiar promise, but ended with Malachi. There was no Gospel and no promise of hope and salvation, and he could only bow his head and weep with her in bitter despair. Two days later he stood beside her coffin and conducted the funeral service. There was no message of consolation, no hope of Heaven.

At Christmas we thank God that Jesus Christ did come, and that HE is the Saviour, and that all our needs for this life and the next are tied up with Him.

As seen in the 'Courier' - the magazine of Cathcart Trinity Church

MESSY CHURCH

Messy church follows roughly the same format each month of a welcome, some craft work, a short film or video and song then a shared simple meal.

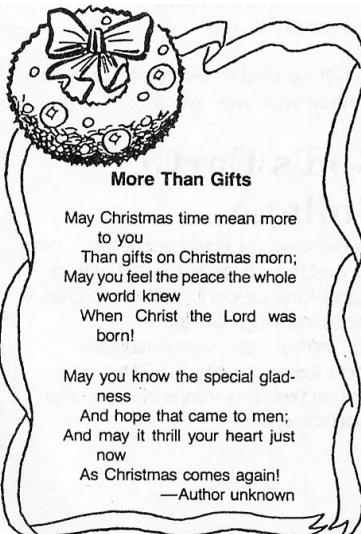
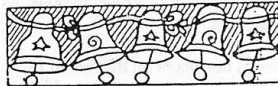
At our September session we learned about Noah, his ark (did you know that the design of the ark became the blueprint for shipbuilding) and the message of God's promise seen in the rainbow.

On the 21st October David and Goliath was our theme. The children took part in a variety of crafts including making paper rosettes for bravery, making chocolate truffles to represent the five stones David had in his pouch representing Faith, Trust, Courage, Obedience and Praise and challenging themselves to Beat the Giant game.

As this magazine goes to press we are preparing for an ECO green Christmas session in November and looking forward to our Christingle Messy Church on the 9th December when we welcome the Praise Band to lead us in some festive music.

We have around 20 children plus adults attending Messy Church and it's thanks to the enthusiasm and creativity of ALL the Messy team that makes it so successful.

P.S. Well done everyone, another very successful messy church. I think we had 46 attending and they all had a great time and hopefully are now more aware of ways to make it a Green Christmas and of the range of fairtrade products available. My sincere thanks to you all for your time and efforts in what was a busy session. Looking forward to December 9th when we will be making christingles as a group activity and the praise band will lead us in some festive music. Many thanks again, *Margaret*



"IT'S VERY ENCOURAGING TO SEE SUCH A GOOD TURN OUT....."

The Blessings of the Twelve Angels

The gifts the wise men brought to Christ
Myrrh, frankincense and gold
Is a renown Christmas story
That is frequently retold.

But, over 2000 years ago
Twelve angels brought gifts too
Blessings sent from heaven's throne
And now, passed down to you.



They brought the gifts of hope and joy
Wonder, praise and peace,
Benevolence and comfort
Which when shared tend to increase.

Perseverance, strength and grace
And faith born from above,
All carried safe on angels' wings
Wrapped in eternal love.

The blessings of the Twelve Angels serve as reminders that the most precious gifts of Christmas are not those held in the hand, but treasured in the heart.



A HAPPY HOME RECIPE

4 Cups of Love	5 Spoons of Hope
2 Cups of Loyalty	2 Spoons of Tenderness
3 Cups of Forgiveness	4 Quarts of Faith
1 Cup of Friendship	1 Barrel of Laughter

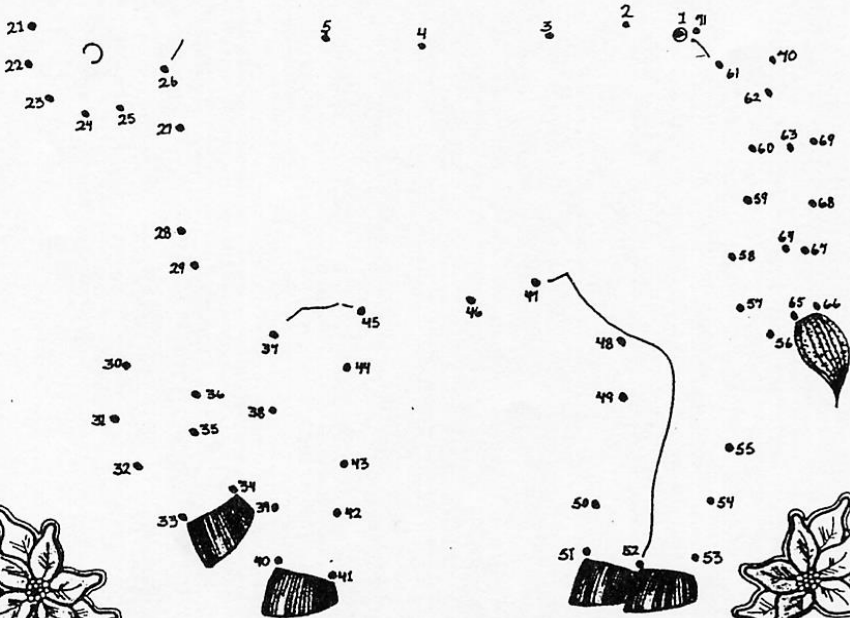
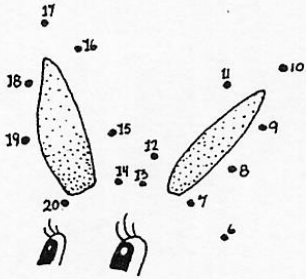
Take love and loyalty, mix it thoroughly with faith.
Blend it with tenderness, kindness and understanding.
Add friendship and hope.
Sprinkle abundantly with laughter.
Bake it with sunshine.
Serve daily with generous helpings.



A CHRISTMAS HELPER

Connect the dots beginning with number 1 and continuing to number 71. Find out who was Joseph and Mary's special helper on their way to Bethlehem.

MERRY CHRISTMAS
&
HAPPY NEW YEAR



Thank You!



Thank you to everyone who sent messages of sympathy and support following the death of our Dad, Ian Vaughan, on Friday 3rd November. The many cards, flowers, social media messages and kind words have been a great comfort to us. It has been lovely to see that the village that Dad loved so much will remember him fondly. Thank you all so much.

Stephen, Alan and Wendy

40th Wedding Anniversary



Andy and Moira Stark would like to say thanks for all the lovely cards and presents we received on the occasion of ruby wedding Anniversary . We have had a lovely year celebrating with family and friends ,

Thankyou *Moira and Andy*

Heartful Thanks



I would like to thank everyone who helped me through my dark days over the time Joan was in the QEUH for all your prayers, phone calls, practical and moral support during that difficult time. You know who you are!

Alastair MacKinnon

PARISH REGISTER



BAPTISMS

08/10/2023

Ella Georgia
daughter of Courtney and David
Jamie (Adult baptism)

08/10/2023

Wedding Blessing Service

19/08/2023

Olu and Ugo

DEATHS

30/08/2023

Irene Campbell

11/08/2023

Jeanne Ferguson

06/09/2023

Elizabeth Hunter

03/11/2023

Ian Vaughan

07/11/2023

Jack Hastie

112/11/2023

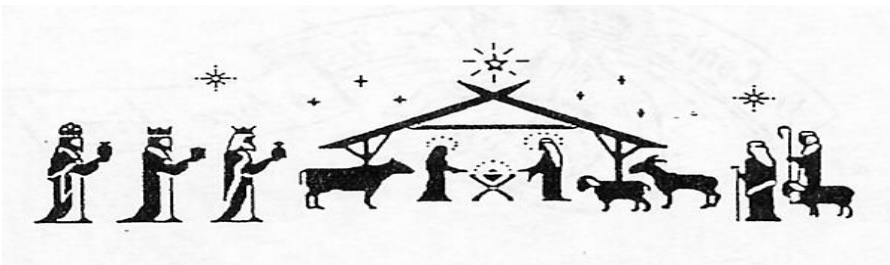
Les Burgess

ROLL

The Roll of Kilbarchan Parish Church now stands at 351 and 17 Adherents.

Please remember to notify Fulton Dunn, the roll keeper, of any changes to address, phone number or email in order to maintain up to date information. Contact details phone 01505704502 or email

KPC.rollkeeper@gmail.com



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]

WORSHIP PROGRAMME

Sunday 3 rd December	11am	Morning worship
	3pm	Service of light and hope
Sunday 10 th December	11am	Morning worship including Gift service
Sunday 17 th December	11am	Morning worship
	6.30	Service of lessons and carols
Sunday 24 th December	11am	Family Nativity Service
Monday 25 th December	10.30am	Morning worship children can bring a present from Santa
Sunday 31 st December	11am	Morning worship
Sunday 7 th January	11am	Morning worship and celebration of Holy Communion
Sunday 14 th January	11am	Morning worship
Sunday 21 st January	11am	Morning worship
Sunday 28 th January	11am	Morning worship
Sunday 4 th February	11am	Morning worship
Sunday 11 th February	11am	Morning worship
Sunday 18 th February	11am	Morning worship
Sunday 25 th February	11am	Morning worship and celebration of Holy Communion
Sunday 3 rd March	11am	Morning worship

