



Kilbarchan Parish Church

Your local church magazine

Dear Friends,

King George VI in his 1939 Christmas address quoted the following:

“I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year, ‘Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.’ And he replied, ‘Go out into the darkness and put your hand in the hand of God. That will be to you better than a light and safer than a known way!’”

I write this pastoral letter just before Advent. It covers the months from December 2 to February 2023. Some of you will read it during Advent, others over Christmas and perhaps some early in the New Year.

Times are challenging, with ongoing war in Ukraine, the cost of living crisis and the climate change emergency.

Yet in the midst of all the change and turbulence I know at some point in the coming weeks I will sing one of my favourite lines from a Christmas carol, Philip Brooks 1868 hymn, ‘O little town of Bethlehem.

At the end of the first verse we sing, ‘the hopes and fears of all the years are met in Thee tonight.

Hopes and fears are surely two things common to all of humanity. The years go by with alternating degrees of one or the other or both in each of us. When our faith is strongest, we’re likely to hold more hope. When our faith is weakened, fear can take over.

Naturally we want the hope that isn't just, "I hope so," but "I know so." Yet a crisis, a life altering blow can rock our reliance on God. The fear can be exhausting, paralyzing. When we're hoping for miraculous healing for a relative with a heartbreaking prognosis, we're simultaneously working to overcome the fear of what's next. We're hopeful for a better situation at work, while anxious it might never improve. We're praying for a more stable world, but current events can make us question where God is. Family members hurting each other, financial struggles, a sudden death of a beloved person, a lost home, addiction, ... any number of traumatic events can throw us into turmoil and fear, leaving us vulnerable to despair.

God reminds us that He is with us, and that He can give us peace, a peace the world can't provide. "Do not be afraid!" is the most commonly repeated phrase in the entire Bible.

The birth of Jesus Christ brought all the hopes and fears of all of humanity together in His plan for our salvation.

The message of Christmas is the same, Emmanuel – God is with us in Christ. This is the resolution God has made with his creation. He will never leave nor forsake us. He is with us always.

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

Stephen, Susie and Ally xxx



FROM THE EDITOR

It's a drech day and the world in turmoil at the moment, but there is also good news! This magazine will try and cheer you up by keeping you up to date with what in happening in our church, community and further afield. There is also some seasonal items to remind us that we are in Advent and the run up to Christmas and all that it entails.



The next magazine will be out in March, 2023 and all items for it should reach me at alastair.mackinnon@ntlworld.com by Sunday 19th 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

KIRK SESSION REPORT

It has been good to see the number attending Sunday worship continue to increase steadily, with almost 100 in attendance on the last Sunday of October when we celebrated the Sacrament of Holy Communion. We look forward to this trend continuing as we journey through Advent towards Christmas.

Once again, one of the main topics considered by the Kirk Session has been the Mission Audit. Clyde Presbytery issued a draft plan on 2 November and in it we learned of the proposal to link the congregations of Kilbarchan and Howwood once the existing linkage which Howwood has with St Pauls. is severed. This proposal was discussed at a meeting of session on Sunday 20 November when it was agreed to ask Presbytery to alter the wording to include reference to the increased workload this will put on to the minister and to refer to our Parish boundary now encompassing 35 square miles since Lochwinnoch Parish Church was dissolved in 2020.

The approval of the change to our constitution to that of a Unitary Constitution was agreed by the Delegation of Assembly and we received a copy of the new constitution on 23 August. As a result, we have been working towards setting up new teams who will take the work of our Church forward. There is a more detailed report about this elsewhere in this magazine

The final meeting of the Congregational Board was held on 13 October when thanks were expressed to all those who had been involved in the work of the Board. A presentation was made to Gwen Howden who had been Clerk to the board for 23 of the 42 years the board had been responsible for the finance and fabric of our Church.

After almost three years leading the finance team, June Burgess has stepped down from this role. We are very grateful for all the work she has done helping to set up the new finance team structure. Marjory Love has agreed to extend her involvement in the finance team and will now be our Treasurer as well as Gift Aid convenor. This was unanimously agreed by Session .

We were pleased to welcome Euan Easton to our fellowship and agreed by resolution to admit him formally to our Church Roll at our meeting on 27 October. Sadly, three of our members have died since the last magazine so we now have 362 members on our Church Roll.

There have been a couple of changes to some elder's districts. If you have been affected by these, we encourage you to make your new elder feel welcome and discuss with them any questions you might have about our Church.

During the Autumn we have been pleased to have Thorsten Köenig contributing to our worship during his placement as part of his studies for the Ministry. It has also been good to have his wife, Astrid, joining the Church Choir as they lead our worship every week.

Due to changes made by Blythswood Care to their collection system, we made the difficult decision not to continue with our practice of filling shoeboxes to be delivered to folk in need abroad. Instead, there was an opportunity to leave a donation for the charity on several Sundays in October. This resulted in £610 and three shoe boxes being collected – a great response, and we extend our thanks to Jenifer Pitchers for all her work for this appeal over the last twenty-five years.

Donations made at our harvest service towards the work of Christian Aid amounted to £565.64 and these two totals reflect yet again, the continued generosity of our congregation.



Church Mice

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



IN THE WORDS OF LINUS VAN PELT,
"...THAT'S WHAT CHRISTMAS IS
ALL ABOUT, CHARLIE BROWN!"

MERRY CHRISTMAS
FROM PASTOR CHEESE,
DEACON COFFEY, AND
THE ZOROWSKI FAMILY

Dear Friends,

As I write this, it is the midst of November. Outside it is 12 degrees, and in the last days, we had the warmest November days on record.

Maybe I am of an age when you remember back, and you think it was different back then. End of November, it was cold – and when I was a little boy - of course – every year, we had weeks and weeks of snow. My sister and I spend days and days in the kitchen together with my mother baking traditional German "Plätzchen". "Plätzchen" are something like little biscuits or cookies. But the term "Plätzchen" is exclusively reserved for this wonderful small bakery stuffed with sugar, chocolate, marzipan, cocoa, almonds, nuts ... and of course, no calories at all. All this belonged to Advent for me, and without there could be no Advent, back then when I was a wee bit younger...

Then I got to know Astrid. To my surprise, they had slightly different Advent and Christmas traditions and different recipes for "Plätzchen". And on Christmas day, I was introduced to the other big German Christmas tradition: The Christmas Goose. You must know that Germans are split regarding how the Christmas day meal must be composed; it ought to be a carp or a goose. And now I joined those who cannot imagine Christmas without a roasted Goose, red cabbage, and "Kartoffelknödel".

And then, in Amsterdam, we became very good friends with a couple from Australia. They told us that they and their children miss the traditional Christmas BBQ with family and neighbours outside in the sun. The cold weather and being indoors hampered them from getting into a good Advent and Christmas mood.

Something else belongs to Advent for me - taking some time with a cup of tea or coffee and – of course - "Plätzchen" and listening to stories. Not the sweet and cute stories which are now on television, not the story of the Coca-Cola Christmas truck. It is important that we continue to tell the stories, which is why we are celebrating Advent. And when we tell these stories, we may discover that they are not ancient but want to tell us something today.

Take a moment, take a cup of tea and coffee, and read the story of Mary and Joseph (Luke 1:26-38 and 2:1-6) and the story of the wise men (Matthew 2:1-12). God told Mary and Joseph the magnificent and incomprehensible news that Mary would give birth to Jesus, who would be called "the Son of the Most High" and "Son of God". And if this was not enough, they had to go on a journey to Bethlehem. And Mary was pregnant. They did not know what to expect, and when they arrived in Bethlehem, all they found was a stable; this had to be good enough for Mary to give birth.

The wise men were on a journey, too. In our tradition, they arrive at the stable in Bethlehem in January to worship the baby Jesus. They did come from far away. Their journey was long. Most likely, they were already on their way before Jesus was born. They were on their way for weeks. They did not know what to expect; they were just following the star.

We are on a journey, too. We came a long way. We wonder what we can expect. What will the new year bring? There are so many uncertainties.

Mary and Joseph trusted in God.

The wise man followed God's call.

Their journeys were their Advent. When they saw Jesus in the manger surrounded by shepherds worshipping the newborn king, they knew that this was the beginning of new life, new hope, and God's promise became true.

Let us continue to tell these stories of Mary and Joseph and the wise men to each other. Let us share "Plätzchen" and our stories that this time become our Advent journey with new hope.

And if someone needs a recipe for "Plätzchen" or a Christmas Goose, please do not hesitate to ask me.

Thorsten



A new structure for the Kirk Session

Following the decision of the congregation, at a meeting on 8th May 2022, to adopt the Unitary form of constitution, approval was given by Clyde Presbytery and the Delegation of Assembly at 121. A copy of the new constitution was received on 23rd August and since then we have been working towards putting new arrangements in place.

The Congregational Board met for the final time on 13th October, with its responsibilities passing to the Kirk Session. We are most grateful to all those who have served the Board well over the years.

The Kirk Session has now established the following teams to manage the work of the church – **Finance, Mission, Nurture, Pastoral Care, Property and Worship.**

The responsibilities of each team can be summarised as follows :

Finance

- Manage the church accounts, and meet all reporting requirements
- FWO envelopes and Gift Aid
- Stewardship of church funds

Mission

- Outreach within the local community, seeking new ways to engage with non-members
- Organise events and contribute to other local events such as Liliis Day
- Communication – digital, Church magazine, other publicity
- Support for charitable organisations, such as Foodbank, Fairtrade, Christian Aid, Blythswood Care
- Eco Congregation

Nurture

- Youth work – Tots' Club, Junior Church, creche, Messy Church
- Ongoing Adult Christian education
- Support for new and prospective new members

Pastoral Care

- Visits to housebound and care homes
- Cuppa at the Kirk and other social events for Senior members
- Develop links with external organisations to support those in need
- Maintenance of Church Roll / Elders' districts
- Birthday/anniversary cards
- Data Protection & Safeguarding

Property

- Schedule regular maintenance and remedial work for Church, hall and manse
- Health and Safety
- Hall lets

Worship

- Arrangements for Communion, baptisms, funerals, weddings
- Special services – Holy Week, Christmas, Harvest, Remembrance
- Orders of Service/Intimations/ Live Stream operation
- Mid-week Fellowship
- Copyright licensing and reporting
- Identify new opportunities/resources for worship

Elders and former members of the Board have been invited to join one of these teams, according to their talents and interests. We hope that other members of the congregation will feel encouraged to contribute to the work of the church by joining one of the teams. Please speak to Christine, Helen or myself if you would like to know more.

Alasdair

Joint Session Clerk



SAFEGUARDING NEWS

With most of our volunteers and Trustees needing trained I was glad that a series of courses were on offer in November and December. Sadly these very quickly filled up as all churches in the Presbytery are in the same position. More training should be available in the new year and I would ask for a speedy response when you are notified to allow us to secure more places.

The Junior choir continues on a Monday night and it is good to see increasing numbers of children in Junior church. As always a big thank you to the volunteers who give so freely of their time to encourage our young people

Elizabeth Dunn (coordinator)

FINANCE TEAM



The Finance Team is grateful to all members for their continuing financial support, whether it be by Standing Order, which enables a regular amount to be paid directly into the Church's Bank Account, by way of Weekly Offering Envelopes or by a donation in the plate each Sunday.

The Weekly Offering Envelopes for 2023 will be delivered to members shortly.

There have been changes to the composition of the Finance Team. June Burgess has decided to step down from the role of Treasurer and at the Session Meeting on 27th. September, Marjory Love was approved as Treasurer with immediate effect. Marjory continues as Gift Aid Convenor for the moment.

The Session thanked June for her great diligence, commitment and energy in the role of Treasurer and the Finance Team adds their thanks to June, who stepped forward when Jim Moffat retired.

June and Marjory are liaising until the necessary paper work has been completed. Myra Grant, Neil Chittick and Ian Trushell continue as members of the Team and are joined by Alec Christine and Cathy Millar.

Any member of the Team will be pleased to help with any queries which members may have in relation to giving and general financial matters.

Marjory will be available on Sunday mornings and can be contacted on 01505 320497 or by e mailing her at marjory.love@btinternet.com. Anyone who has an urgent need of funds can contact Myra who will be able to assist in such circumstances.



Robert Scott received a presentation at the church service on Sunday 20th November thanking him for his loyal service to the Drama group .

Robert was an unseen hero behind the scenes being stage crew manager for many many years!

He organised the set , sorted out the lighting and set up the hall amongst many other tasks. We even coaxed him on the stage with a walk on part ! He also managed the sets for the then Musical group .

LEAFLETS FROM CHURCHES VISITED BY OUR MEMBERS.

In PreCovid Pandemic times we able were to display nearly 100 leaflets. With travel restrictions in force during the Pandemic there was no leaflets. However now that travel restrictions have been eased we received 7 which were duly displayed at the Harvest Service this year.

SCOTLAND

St.Andrew Blackadder Parish Church, North Berwick
Peterhead Methodist Church
Ferryhill Parish Church, Aberdeen

ENGLAND

Carmel Priory, Cumbria
Rock Methodist Church, Cornwall

USA

Faith Church, Florida, USA
Saints Peter& Paul Parish Church, San Francisco, USA



We hope there will be a fuller display at our Harvest Service in 2023.

Willie Beattie



FUND-RAISING NEWS.

Art off the Square at the end of August was a great success, raising an amazing £4.600 for church funds, thanks mainly to the hard work of George and Myra Grant. Thanks also to all who helped at the door, with baking and in the tearoom.

The fund-raising team has now been incorporated into a new Session Mission committee and we hope to organise some events to bring local people into the church and halls. Any suggestions will be much appreciated. Our first venture was the Christmas Fayre which will just have taken place when you receive this magazine, and will have been successful we hope.

As was customary a service of communion preceded the meeting, the service being held in the church of the outgoing Moderator, St Paul's Johnstone. Thanks were given to retiring Moderator, Rev Dr Alistair Shaw and the election and installation of the new Moderator, the Rev Christine Murdoch took place.

A warm welcome was extended to the Rev Marian Cowie, transferring from the Presbytery of Glasgow and to new elders appointed to Presbytery: Angus Baird, Frances Campbell, Elizabeth Johnstone, Steven Lee, Sheena McFarlane, Malison Ndau and Lynn Ross. The Rev Fergus Buchanan spoke of his imminent retiral and praise was extended for his work in Presbytery.

Decisions taken by the business and property committees are notified to the Presbytery, these tend to be straightforward matters. Appointment of interim Moderators Rev Sonia Blakesley to Kilmacolm Old, Rev Karen Harbison to Inverkip l/w Skelmorlie & Wemyss Bay, Rev Barbara O'Donnell to Baldernock l/w Milngavie St Paul's and finally the Rev Ann Knox was appointed as the Convener of the Mission Committee.

An Application by Kilbarchan Parish Church congregation was approved for the installation of a Wi-Fi transmitter/receiver. The General Trustees are aware of the project and have no objections. The congregations of the former Presbytery of Greenock and Paisley due to be included in the annual tranche of Quinquennial Inspections, which this year will be carried out by the Presbytery's Building Officer – Jamie McNamara, had been previously intimated. This will include Kilbarchan Parish Church (originally omitted in error).

BUSINESS COMMITTEE: encourages congregations to put forward ideas and projects for the Moderator to visit whilst working within Clyde Presbytery in April 2023. If any congregation has an innovative project either within their church or parish area, and thinks the Moderator may have an interest in it, please send details to the office and the team set up to arrange his diary.

TREASURER: The Clerk and Treasurer have been instructed to sign the Trustees Report and the balance sheet where appropriate on behalf of Clyde Presbytery. The Treasurer to obtain the Independent Examiner's report and lodge a copy of the signed accounts, Trustees Report for the Period (18 months) ended 30th December 2021, with OSCR.

MISSION: Clyde Presbytery Mission Officer, Andy Reid, was appointed on 1st November 2021, The Mission Officer has been supporting, encouraging and coordinating local congregational mission activities, in line with his main duties. Andy

will host the first Clyde Missions Conference on Saturday, 10th September, 09:30-13:00. Additional conferences are currently being planned, with the Presbytery office, as a twice yearly event, with key mission topics under discussion. 'Missional Confidence' is our first subject and will include two speakers, each with a focus on engaging young people and understanding what God wants of us respectively. To further the Church of Scotland missional focus, Andy is forming a small cohort from Clyde Presbytery, of those exploring new forms of church and fresh ways of engaging their communities in context. (Please contact Andy at andy.reid@churchofscotland.org.uk if you would like to be included in this group)

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE: noted that the accounts from congregations have been attested and can now be sent to OSCR. Many thanks to all finance teams for their hard work.

SAFEGUARDING: Congregational Safeguarding Coordinators should notify their demands for the following three courses - Advanced Safeguarding Training (Coordinator Training/Panel Training), Trustees Safeguarding Training (Kirk Session Training) and Volunteer Training.

PRESBYTERY PLANNING: The Presbytery Planning committee are continuing to meet with ministers, Kirk Sessions and Clusters to discuss the proposals in the Presbytery Consultation Document. The Clerk has been instructed to send the Asset Management Building Audit (AMBA) results, the Building Officers comments, and the other agreed criteria to all Presbyters, Ministers and Session Clerks. Congregations should review the additional comments, when received, particularly with regard to outstanding works from previous quinquennial reports and to report back if those works have been subsequently completed. The AMBA building audits have now been completed for all of Clusters but it has become clear that AMBA in itself does not provide us with the clarity needed to make fair, transparent and objective determinations regarding our buildings and additional criteria need to be included in the decision-making process.





MESSY CHURCH IS BACK!!!

Messy church resumed on Saturday 15th October in the church halls. 8 families consisting of 12 children accompanied by 8 adults enjoyed exploring the parable of "Jesus feeds the five thousand" through stories, crafts and a short video. We then shared a

meal of pasta, hot dogs, fruit and vegetables together. It was good to welcome our messy friends back and there was a lot of noisy happy catching up with everyone.

This just couldn't happen without the enthusiasm and commitment of the Messy Team who all make each session a real success, thank you.

Our next meeting will be on Saturday 3rd December at the usual time of 4 - 6pm when our theme will be Christmas.

A warm welcome is extended to all children who bring an adult along for fun and friendship.

Margaret Gibb



TOTS' CLUB.

We were delighted to welcome Helen Miller to the team of volunteers-anyone else will also be welcomed. We have approximately 25-30 tots on the register, which is good considering we had 4 weeks off at the end of September/beginning of October. Our Hallowe'en party was a great success with 21 children and their parents/grandparents. The Christmas party is on Monday 19th December at 9.45am in the hall and Santa will of course be paying a visit about 11am. If you'd like to come along and join in the fun and enjoy some lovely food, please do. We shall resume on Monday 9th January at 9.15am

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

An Tiomnadh Nuadh anns a' Ghàidhlig

“When a community receives the Scriptures in their language, something profound happens.” (Bible Society of Scotland)

What took a member of Kilbarchan Kirk to a sound-proof booth in a converted church in Edinburgh in July this year?

Read on

Following a translation of the New Testament into modern Gaelic by The Bible Society of Scotland in 2017, this summer saw the Gaelic New Testament Audio project take place in Edinburgh and Stornoway.

The project is an audio resource and from early 2023 it will be available on a variety of digital platforms. It will be aimed at schools, churches and the wider community and will feature all characters and books of the New Testament voiced by Gaelic speakers from within the community. Altogether, 9,500 lines of text – including the book of Jude which was my particular responsibility!

The recordings were facilitated by Faith Comes by Hearing – an international non-profit organisation who aim to record and freely provide the Bible in the languages of the world.

It was both a challenge and a privilege to be a part of this project.

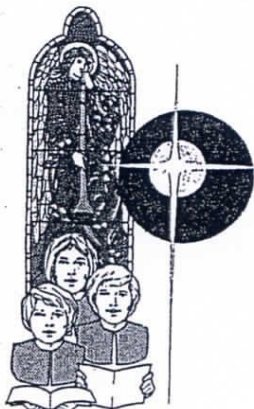
Morag Law



Our Christmas Prayer

God grant you peace at Christmas
And fill your heart with cheer;
God grant you health and happiness
Throughout the coming year.

God guide you with His wisdom
And keep you in His care;
This is our special wish for you
This is our Christmas Prayer.



1st Kilbarchan Boys Brigade Presentation Night

7th October 2022



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 Boys 'Brigade Motto is: ‘Sure & Steadfast’

The motto is taken from the bible, the book of Hebrews, Chapter 6, Verse 19. Which *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast.

The Boys' Brigade was founded in Glasgow on **4th October 1883** by Sir William Alexander Smith. From this one Company formed in Scotland the BB has grown in to a worldwide movement having worked with millions of children and young people for well over a century.

1st Kilbarchan Boys' Brigade was originally registered on the 1st of June 1935 and was connected to both the West and East Churches in the village. The first Captain was John A Lightbody and the Chaplain was the Rev F Wood of the West Church and in 1945 the Chaplain was Rev R L Sim and Rev V C Alexander. The Junior Section, formally known as the Life Boys was enrolled on 16th February 1955 and met in the East Church Hall. A young man called John Connell was the Officer in Charge of the Life Boys that night.

The Boys' Brigade would like to thank all parents, grans and grandpas, aunts and uncles for bringing along the boys every Friday evening and for supporting us throughout the years with Coffee Mornings, Race Nights, Competitions and all the other activities we do in the Boys' Brigade. A special thanks to all our officers and helpers for their hard work and enthusiasm on Friday nights.

Alan McCulloch, Mary Love, Shona Malone, Sean Malone and Calum Carmichael and the Rev Stephen Smith

One of the highlights of the BB year was the Annual Camp and BB Companies travelled all over the UK and beyond. In those days the camp normally ran for 2 weeks and the boys were under canvas or in a church hall. My first camp was spent in a church hall in Scarborough in 1963 with the highlight of The Beatles doing a concert there in the middle weekend! Many of us younger boys would get “homesick” after a week and some parents sent letters to keep the contact from home and let us know that they hadn’t forgotten about us. I recently found this letter from my mum . . .

Dear Bobby,

Scarborough Camp, 1963

Just a letter to let you know that we are glad you went to the BB Camp in Scarborough. Have you been to the Fair yet? Bring us back some parsley, sage, rosemary or thyme if you can. I'm writing this letter slowly because I know you can't read fast. We are all doing very well.

You won't recognise the house when you get home - we have moved. Your dad read in the newspaper that most accidents happen within 20 miles from your home, so we moved. I won't be able to send you the address because the last family that lived here took the house numbers when they moved so that they wouldn't have to change their address.

This place is really nice. It even has a washing machine. I'm not sure it works so well though: last week I put a load in and pulled the chain and haven't seen them since.

Your father's got a really good job now. He's got 500 men under him. He's cutting the grass at the cemetery.

Your brother Tom is still in the army. He's only been there a short while and they've already made him a court martial!

Your Uncle Alan drowned last week in a vat of whiskey in the Chivas Distillery in Paisley. Some of his workmates tried to save him but he fought them off bravely. They cremated him and it took three days to put out the fire.

I'm sorry to say that your cousin Frank was arrested while riding his bicycle last week. They are charging him with dope peddling.

I went to the doctor on Thursday and your father went with me. The doctor put a small tube in my mouth and told me not to talk for ten minutes. Your father offered to buy it from him.

The weather isn't bad here. It only rained twice this week, first for three days and then for four days. Monday was so windy one of the chickens laid the same egg four times.

About that coat you wanted me to send you, your Uncle Stanley said it would be too heavy to send in the mail with the buttons on, so we cut them off and put them in the pockets.

Uncle John locked his keys in the car yesterday. We were really worried because it took him two hours to get me and your father out.

Three of your school friends went off a bridge in a pick-up truck. Ralph was driving. He rolled down the window and swam to safety. Your other two friends were in the back. They drowned because they couldn't get the tailgate down.

I hope you are enjoying the BB Camp.

There isn't much more news at this time. Nothing much has happened.

Your loving Mum

P.S. I was going to send you some money but I had already sealed the envelope.



Reverse Advent Calendar in support of Renfrewshire Foodbank.

Once again this year we will be supporting the Renfrewshire Foodbank's ongoing challenge to ensure that those in greatest need in the Community are supplied with basic foodstuffs and household items.

If you are able to support the Reverse Advent Calendar initiative please put a foodstuff or household item into a box or stout bag(s), every day from Sunday 27th November until Saturday 17th December. All boxes or bags should be brought to the church or made available for collection on Sunday 18th December.

If you require your boxes or bags collected please contact Graham McKay on 07876213781 and a suitable time will be arranged.

Our support of the Renfrewshire Foodbank has been impressive over many years but this support is even more vital in these extremely challenging times.

Thank you in advance for your continuous support.

Graham McKay



FAIRTRADE-

Thankyou to everybody who supported Fairtrade at the recent stall in the hall. Don't worry if you missed out , remember you can stock up on all your favorite Fairtrade items at the Rainbow Turtle shop in Paisley. The Co-Op also has a good stock of Fairtrade food and drinks.

Wishing you a Merry Fairtrade Christmas.

Moirra Stark



THE GUILD

Thanks to our loyal members we have had a very successful session with a variety of speakers providing extremely interesting talks.



The committee took the decision to support the National Guild Project "Starchild". In early November, Michaela Foster Marsh founder of the charity came along to our meeting and gave a most impassioned talk on how and why the charity came to be working within Uganda. As a result, the guild members are delighted to give our support to the building of a centre which will promote inclusion for mothers and their children with Autism, learning disabilities and physical disabilities who have been ostracized by their local community.

We now look forward to our Christmas party and will be entertained by Myra Grant and members of the Praise Band.

Our first speaker of 2023 is Miss Irene Thom who you may remember was a teacher and Depute Head in Kilbarchan Primary School who will provide a talk entitled "Its never too late".

A date for your diaries Tuesday 24th January 2023 at 2.30 pm when we have an afternoon of entertainment by members of the Caledonian Fiddle Orchestra, and we would actively encourage anyone of any age group to come along to a fun foot tapping afternoon in the church hall.

Wishing all our members and friends A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Jan Howitt



BLYTHSWOOD SHOEBOX APPEAL.

As a result of the Hillington depot closure, it was decided to accept donations this year, accordingly I handed over in excess of £400 and a significant amount of Gift Aid and also 4 filled boxes

to the Blythswood representative in the car park of Beith Parish Church. Thanks so much to our generous congregation.

MY TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

On the first day of Christmas my true love said to me:
“I’m glad we bought fresh turkey and a proper Christmas tree.”

On the second day of Christmas, much laughter could be heard
As we tucked into our turkey, a most delicious bird.

On the third day we entertained the people from next door
The turkey tasted just as good as it had the day before.

Day four, relations came to stay: poor gran is looking old.
We finished up the Christmas pud and ate the turkey cold.

On the fifth day of Christmas, outside the snowflakes flurried.
But we were nice and warm inside for we had our turkey curried.

On the sixth day I must admit, the Christmas spirit died.
The children fought and bickered, we ate turkey rissoles fried.

On the seventh day of Christmas, my true love he did wince,
When he sat down at the table and was offered turkey mince.

Day eight, and nerves were getting frayed, the dog had run for shelter
I served up turkey pancakes with a glass of Alka Seltzer.

On the ninth day our cat left home, by lunchtime Dad was blotto
He said he had to have a drink to face turkey risotto

By the tenth day the booze had gone (except our home made brew)
And if that wasn’t bad enough we suffered turkey stew.

On the eleventh day of Christmas, the Christmas tree was moulting
The mince pies were as hard as rock and the turkey was revolting

On the twelfth day, my true love had a smile upon his lips
The guests had gone, the turkey too and we dined on fish and chips!



Nine Lessons and Carols

Sunday 18th December

6.30pm



JUNIOR CHURCH

It is good to see that the number of children attending Junior Church is slowly growing and we hope that this continues.

Thus far we have covered Creation, Cain&Abel, Abraham and Esau&Jacob with accompanying crafts related to our bible stories, like making paper chain snakes or a collage showing Jacob's ladder. We have used some bible story podcasts and also sometimes videos of the stories, plus short quizzes afterwards to help keep the children's interest. Fiona Stewart also helps by playing relevant music/hymns on the piano related to that day's chosen topic.

We hope to be able to put on a Nativity this year, most probably taking place on Sunday prior to Christmas.

Shona and I would also like to take the opportunity of thanking our regular attendees and their families for their support this year and Fiona for her invaluable help each week. We wish all our families A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year for 2023.

Take care

Ros & Shona



PROPERTY REPORT

As most of you will be aware the ramp to the halls has been repaired and is in good order. We are awaiting an updated quotation from builders regarding work to repair the gable wall of the main hall to prevent water penetration.

Following the adoption of the new Church Constitution, a new Property team has been appointed, including the Health and Safety remit. The team is Marie Alexander, Fulton Dunn, Iain Gibb, Tony Martin, Malcolm MacAskill and Graeme McKay. The new Team will be meeting in the near future to put together a programme of works for 2023, which will be subject to Session approval and availability of finance.

Malcolm MacAskill

Property Convener

KILBARCHAN PARISH CHURCH HILLWALKING CLUB REPORT

November 2022

September started with 60mph winds on the mountain summits, so our planned high level walk was cancelled. Instead, us Corbett baggers joined those at a more sensible altitude for Croy Hill from Auchinstarry Quarry. Under cloudy skies threatening rain, ten of us walked east along the bridle path of the Forth and Clyde Canal then west onto a path to the Antonine Wall, past a huge steel head of a Roman Centurion, and on over Croy Hill, the site of a Roman Fort. We continued down the route of the Wall, with the construction of its ramparts and ditches clearly seen at points, before climbing to the triangulation pillar on Barr Hill, then descending to an early lunch stop. Suitably "fortified", we continued up to view the preserved foundations of this Roman Fort, including a Bath House, where informative boards explained the purposes of the several rooms. We descended to Twechar village, crossing the Canal to join the bridle path east, back to Auchinstarry.

We were blessed by a beautiful day for October's walk in the Pentlands. Eight of us climbed West Kip, East Kip and Scald Law - really pretty hills with good views, excellent paths and just one short very steep section. The hills were busy with other walkers, fell runners, mountain bikers and a few dogs. We even met a friendly ornithologist who educated us about the rare moss inhabiting Bavelaw Marsh at the foot of the hills. An excellent turnout of twelve joined November's walk of the Lochgoin Loop, 8.5 miles around Whitelee Wind Farm. We got drenched in continuous heavy rain and mist, but had the joy of a warm cafe and hot drinks at the end.

Our upcoming events will be:

- 7th December 7.30pm: AGM in, the church hall, where we will plan our walks for 2023. Please bring your suggestions and requests for walks.
- 10th December 8am: King's Seat, Ochils. Meeting at the steeple.

Any new members would be very welcome at the AGM or walk, even if you have no previous hillwalking experience.

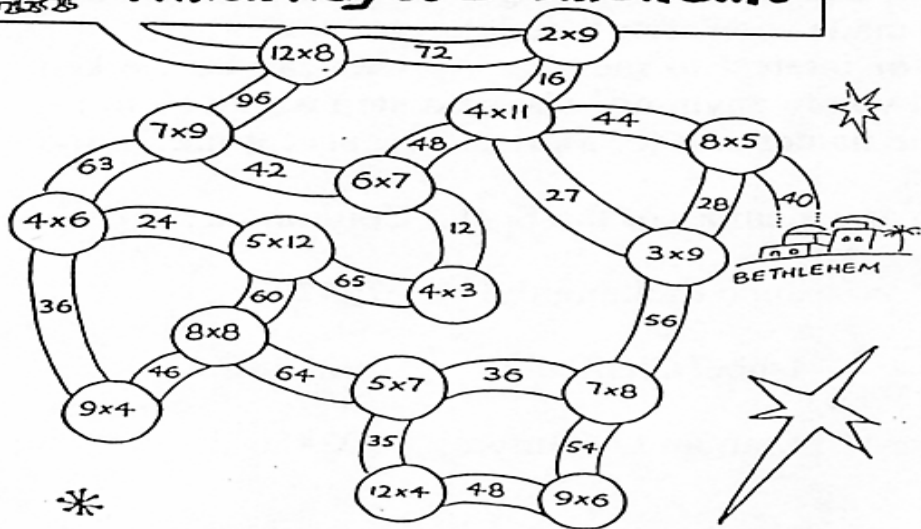
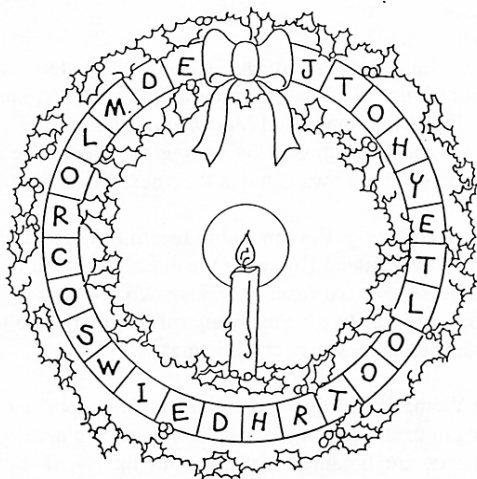
Eilidh Henderson

CHRISTMAS

A WREATH OF LETTERS

Begin with the letter j and go around the wreath skipping every second letter to find the hidden message.

You must go around the wreath twice to use all the letters.



PARISH REGISTER



DEATHS

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

24/08/2022 Marjorie Orr – Johnstone St Andrew's Trinity
26/08/2022 Lottie Anderson
01/09/2022 Norma Sang– Johnstone St Andrew's Trinity
28/09/2022 Bob McKay–St James Pollock
09/10/2022 Isabel Hutchison
18/10/2022 Tommy Linnie
27/10/2022 Bill Provan– Johnstone St Andrew's Trinity
06/11/2022 Anne Dunn
15/11/2022 Isobel McKirdy
16/11/2022 Beth Ramsey

ROLL

The Roll of Kilbarchan Parish Church now stands at 362 and 17 Adherents.



The McKay Family would like to thank the Kilbarchan Church Family for all the flowers, cards, kind words and messages of support received on the occasion of our recent bereavement. All were much appreciated.

Graham McKay

On behalf of our family, thanks for all the support that we received from friends; at Evelyn's funeral on 30th August, in cards, letters and flowers, hugs, knowing silent nods and all the other ways in which sympathy and understanding is expressed. The kindness of folk has been overwhelming. The sum of £1,020.00 was donated to UNICEF. Thank you.

Colin Campbell



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 4 th December	11am	Morning worship
Sunday 11 th December	11am	Morning worship
Sunday 18 th December	11am	Morning worship
	6.30pm	9 Lessons and Carols
Saturday 24 th December	6.30pm	Christmas Eve Worship. Family Service
Sunday 25 th December	10.30am	Morning worship (children can bring a present from Santa)
Sunday 1 st January	11am	Morning worship
Sunday 8 th January	11am	Morning worship and celebration of Holy Communion
Sunday 15 th January	11am	Morning worship
Sunday 22 nd January	11am	Morning worship
Sunday 29 th January	11am	Morning worship
Sunday 5 th February	11am	Morning worship
Sunday 12 th February	11am	Morning worship
Sunday 19 th February	11am	Morning worship
Sunday 26 th February	11am	Morning worship and celebration of Holy Communion
Sunday 5 th March	11am	Morning worship

