



Kilbarchan Parish Church

Your local church magazine



Dear Friends,

It feels a little strange to be introducing something two and a quarter years after I've arrived in Kilbarchan. And I don't believe in reinventing the wheel. However this is the first edition of the magazine for the newly united church of Kilbarchan Parish Church. Maybe in years to come it will become a collectable!

So Hi! Good to meet you.☺

Welcome to the Kilbarchan Parish Church magazine. To date we haven't come up with a more inspiring name. Maybe you can think of something? Answers on a postcard or just speak to myself, Alastair MacKinnon (Convener of the Administration and Publicity) or any elder.

Of course, the church in Kilbarchan has been served well in the past by two magazines, West Words and Onwards. We thank Alastair MacKinnon and Alec Ritchie respectively as editors for many years of hard work and the production of many more editions. Alastair has agreed to act as editor for the new magazine. The idea is that we will take the best from the past and blend together to create something new. This magazine first and foremost is your magazine. We would love to hear from you and have you share your ideas for the way forward for the magazine and for the church.

The way ahead will be exciting and challenging. I look forward to making the journey with you.

Stephen



FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to this, the first magazine of Kilbarchan Parish Church of which I have the privilege of being asked to be the Editor. This is an unusually large magazine due to all the information about what is happening in YOUR church and beyond. I do hope that you find it interesting and if there is any item you wish to be included in the next issue then please submit it to me as shown below by the 22nd of May. As Stephen says *'This magazine is first and foremost your magazine.'*

You'll have seen that we just say 'Your local church magazine.' This is because we are looking for a suitable name, and that is where you come in! Please put on your thinking caps for a title and send it to me along with why you decided on it. All names will be considered.

Alastair MacKinnon - Editor
alastair.mackinnon@ntlworld.com



I SAID A MOTHER'S DAY PRAYER FOR YOU

I said a Mother's Day prayer for you to thank the Lord above
For blessing me with a lifetime of your tender-hearted love.
I thanked God for the caring you've shown me through the years
For the closeness we've enjoyed in times of laughter and tears.
And so I thank you from the heart for all you've done for me
And I bless the Lord for giving me the best mother there could be!

KILBARCHAN PARISH CHURCH – HOW DOES IT WORK?

Kilbarchan Parish Church operates under the Quoad Omnia constitution. This means there is a **Kirk Session** and a **Congregational Board**.

The **Kirk Session** looks after the spiritual life and pastoral care of the congregation. It also has responsibility for education, mission and outreach, worship and publicity. The principal office-bearers in the newly formed Kilbarchan Parish Church are :-

Moderator	Rev Stephen J Smith
Session Clerk	Fulton Dunn
Assistant Session Clerks	Helen Robertson and Christine Erwin
Treasurer of Congregation	Jim Moffat

At present the **Kirk Session** has set up six working committees with the following Conveners.

Worship – Ann McLeod

Stewardship and Finance – Jim Moffat

Administration and Publicity – Alastair MacKinnon

Youth and young church – Joan MacKinnon

Pastoral Care – Cathy Millar

Integration and Relocation – Colin Campbell

Each committee has its own remit. Some of what they do is looking at how things have been done in the past and taking the best of both forward. Some of their work will be new and innovative.

The **Congregational Board** have responsibility for the financial and property matters relating to Kilbarchan Parish Church.

The chairperson is often the minister. The Clerk to the Board is Gwen Howden. The Property Convener is Robert Scott and he is assisted by Ian Gibb, Marie Alexander and Sandy Graham. They draw on other members of the Board for their talent, experience and expertise to assist. To date they have formed committees looking at tackling the proposed work needing done on the building and another looking at grant funding and applications. There will also be sub groups looking at access issues regarding the church buildings and another looking at selling the former East Manse and purchasing a suitable one for the united charge.

KIRK SESSION REPORT

The first meeting of Kilbarchan Parish Church Kirk Session took place on 12 January 2016 at which 55 of the 73 elders attended.

Elders elected to the Congregational Board:

Marie Alexander, Neil Chittick, Christine Erwin, Gwen Howden, Mary Marrison, Malcolm MacAskill, Jim Moffat, Richard Pitchers, Joyce Scott, Una Strachan, Ian Trushell, Ken Dalgleish, Rosemary Clark, John Fleming, Alexander(Sandy) Graham, Marjory Love, Jack Miller, Alastair MacKinnon, Ann McLeod, Christine Maxwell, Helen Robertson, Anne Whyte.

Congregation members elected to the Congregational Board:

Judith Ansell, Laura Berry, Alison Bone, Betty Clark, Andrew Connell, Elizabeth Crawley, Muriel Donald, Janice Douglas, Iain Gibb, Alex Lightbody, Mary Love, John Lyle, Susan MacAskill, Eddie McGlashan, Sandra McKay, Leslie Meneely, Allan Payne, Jane Pinkerton, Robert Scott, Marjory Smylie, Moira Stark, Margaret Woodcock.

Reports were given by each of the committees at the session meeting on the 18th February.

Worship Group proposed:

- We should continue with a welcome team rota which will be arranged by Gwen Howden
- That Elders be responsible for beadle duties. A rota will be organised by Fulton Dunn with 3 elders on duty per month.
- To continue with the practice of readers for lessons. A note to go into the intimations asking for further volunteers and a rota will be prepared by Myra Grant.
- A new flower rota which has been prepared by Doris Irvine and Christine Erwin for the coming year.
- To continue visits to organisations and a rota of visiting elders will be prepared by Fulton Dunn.

Each church had different traditions for celebrating communion. Session has agreed to the following suggestions from the committee:

- Continue with a non-carded communion service the first Sunday in January
- Two carded communions to be held.
 - The last Sunday of April when there will be a morning and evening service (lighter nights).
 - The last Sunday in October when there will be a morning and afternoon service.
- Stephen would like to have informal acts of communion immediately after a service and possible dates are end of June and end of August.
- Non-alcoholic wine will be used.

Stewardship and Finance Group proposed:

- That for an interim period elders would continue to look after their existing districts where possible. Confirmation of membership, Gift Aid and acceptance of Data Protection would be sought from members.
- That the Data Protection Policy be approved by Session but Session decided not to implement it fully until later in the year.
- That contact be made with the Church of Scotland Stewardship convenor who will help with information regarding grant applications.
- That Richard Pitchers will handle the merger of Gift Aid records.
- Organisations should ensure that account titles are changed to the Parish Church.
- The Kirk Session Benevolent Fund and Hospitality Fund should continue.

Administration and Publicity Group proposed:

- That a new corporate image be produced
- Costings be sought for a new notice board for the Pillar at New Street.
- Alan Vaughan should continue in his role with the Web Site and Social Media

- That the Church magazine be an A5 booklet. A new name has still to be decided.
- That intimation sheets continue to be printed by Grace Tod.
- That we will continue with Christmas cards but not Easter cards.
- New banners and signage should be investigated for the Parish Church.

Youth and Young Church reported that:

- A Crèche rota will be drawn up by Sandra McKay from existing PVG holders.
- It would be good to have a list of people willing to help with Junior Church. Any volunteer would have to apply for the position and prior to taking up post be PVG vetted.
- FEWSion will take an extended break for a few months. Other methods of delivery are being investigated.
- The concept of Messy Church be considered for introduction at the Parish Church. It is a family orientated event involving parents and children and is being run successfully in other local churches. It requires a large group of helpers.
- They are looking at the possibility of running a film club.

Pastoral Care Committee reported:

We are meeting to discuss how, as a church, we can care for and support each other and the wider community. In doing so we hope to help our new church move forward.

Already we have begun to discuss issues such as Safeguarding (Elizabeth Dunn to attend a roadshow in March), Data Protection, parish visits and events such as the Senior Members Outing where Graham McKay and Neil Chittick have agreed to organise this for another year with help from others.

We will be discussing other events and practices, old and new as the weeks progress.

Relocation and Integration Committee reported:

- The committee was divided into three sub-groups, tasked to create inventories
 1. Organ, music, Bibles, Hymn books, stationery.
 2. Memorials, records, memorabilia, stained glass, communion materials, vases and crosses.
 3. Furniture (moveable and fixed), carpets, hangings, art work, crockery, small electrical appliances.
- All inventories had been completed.
- All sub-groups have met and recommendations made.
- The Property Convenor will identify items for disposal to free up space in the church and hall.

A small group met with CARTA (Committee on Church Art and Architecture). Church street buildings have lost their ecclesiastical exemption and council planning permission is required for fundamental alterations to the buildings e.g. removal of the organ, pews etc.

An organ recital will be given by Malcolm Archer on Tuesday 29th March. Malcolm Archer is known internationally a composer, organist and choir trainer.

If you have any questions about the union please contact Stephen (702621) or Fulton (704502)



LENT

There is a rhythm to the life of faith. The anticipation of Advent. The joy of Easter. The energy of Pentecost. As Christians, we have a set of days and seasons, leading us in one spiritual direction before switching gears to another.

We are now in the season of Lent. It is the time of starkness that always contains surprising space for growth and depth – space we might not have noticed otherwise. In Kilbarchan, as the church in transition, we are perhaps more aware of the seasonality of our Christian journey – both together and individual – than we may have been in years past. I know that I am.

Lent gets us back to the basics of our faith and our Jesus story. From the moment he's born, they're out to kill him, the Christ child, and in Lent we see Jesus turn his face towards Jerusalem, towards those who are out for him, towards the inevitability of death and the impossible certainty of resurrection.

Lent is about the growth that happens when we embrace God's calling to us. It is about the seriousness of our faith, and the surprising joy that can only come in the aftermath of disappointment, suffering and tragedy. It is about life and death and life after death.

And so it's back to basics and what is at the heart of our faith, individually and together.

And so in times of doubt and faith, days of challenge and comfort, know that Jesus journeys with you this Lent.

Your friend

Stephen



TREASURER'S REPORT

The Congregational Board, comprising elders and elected members of the Parish Church, is now in place and is responsible for the finances of the Church and all property issues. The Board will report to all Kirk Session meetings. Major finance and property matters will require Session support/approval

The future of the former West Church Buildings will be determined by the Board and Kirk Session in association with the Trustees of the Church of Scotland 121 George Street. With the Title Deeds of the former West Church vested with 121 George Street the final decision will be with them but it is hoped there will be no disagreement. It is anticipated that by April/May this year we should be in a position to start identifying potential interest in the former West Parish Church Buildings.

On the subject of title Deeds the former Kilbarchan East Church, Halls and Manse Deeds are vested with the senior office bearers of the former East Church and held by a local Solicitor. This is one of the many issues that will be addressed by the Trustees to ensure decisions are taken that will sustain the future of the Parish Church.

With the long wait for Union now over I would request members to review their level of giving and if possible increase your offering to the Church. Richard Pitchers, Gift Aid Convener will be delighted to give advice on Gift Aid and setting up/increasing a Standing Order. Una Strachan, Freewill Offering Convener will be pleased to assist you in any way including giving you new envelopes .Richard can be contacted on 703786 and Una on 342671

It would be very helpful if former members of the West Parish Church, in particular, paying by bank Standing Order or members wishing to set up a new Standing Order notify their bank of the undernoted details in order that their offerings are directed to the Parish Church bank account. Member wishing to donate money to the Parish Church by transferring money electronically etc are requested to use the details below.

The Parish Church's bank details are as follows-

Clydesdale Bank
1 Prieston Road
Bridge of Weir PA11 3AH

Kilbarchan Parish Church
Sort Code 82 61 11
Account Number 90047071

I would like to take this opportunity to request all Treasurers of Church organisations to change the name on their bank account to Kilbarchan Parish Church as soon as possible.

In terms of property there is a list of priority capital works mainly wind and watertight measures that will require to be carried out in the next year or so. A further list of works has been identified that, although non essential, are important to the life of the Church including an audio/visual facility. These projects are planned to be carried out as soon as possible depending on grant availability, fundraising, level of offerings and Reserves. As Property Convener, Robert Scott, in association with his Committee, will address the priorities and report to the Congregational Board.

The Property Committee has identified a new Church roof as not only a priority but important to start planning the work immediately. An application for grant in relation to the roof has already been submitted and further grant submissions will be made as other projects are “firmed up”. The Reserves of the Parish Church at the year end will very much depend on the success of these applications and/ or whether Church funds are used. Any member with experience or knowledge of any grant provider who has assisted any other Church please do not hesitate to contact me.

A replacement Manse for the Minister is on the agenda and a group has been formed by the Congregational Board to take this matter forward. This will be financed from the proceeds of the sale of the former West Church Manse (net sum from the sale invested currently in the Church of Scotland Investment Trust) and if necessary part of the sum raised from the future sale of the former Kilbarchan East Church Manse. There is much work to

be done on legal etc issues and the aforementioned group are working on them.

The Parish Church will face many challenges ahead particularly in the first year or two. The Ministry and Mission for the Church payable to the Church of Scotland , Edinburgh is over £82,000 for 2016 .This figure is based on the last three year average of all offerings, fundraising etc. by the two former Churches. On the evidence of the last few months this figure is far too optimistic and an appeal will be made to Presbytery in April.

Fundraising will be very important to the new Church. We are very fortunate to have an active Fundraising Committee who already have an interesting and varied programme covering the next nine months or so. The Congregational Board have responsibility for Liliias Day and the Christmas Fayre. Please support these events as not only will they raise money for the Parish Church but the community at large come into Church premises and enjoy the fellowship.

If there are any aspect of the Kilbarchan Parish Church finances that you require further information please get in touch with me. Even after thirty years plus as a Church Treasurer I still could not guarantee I can give you an instant answer but I may know where to go to get the information you wish. At this early stage in our new Church it reminds me of a piece of music of many years ago that has the words “There are more questions than answers”. One way or another I shall get an answer!!

Thank you for your support

Jim Moffat

Telephone Number 703881



I - JUDAS...

I, JUDAS, here write my testimony. Son of Iscariot; a Galilean; friend, follower and betrayer of Jesus of Nazareth. Have you never wondered why I did what I did? Have you never asked what I was like? Listen and I will tell you.

I was one of the twelve, one of Jesus' closest friends and disciples. Then how did it happen? Why did I betray him? Throughout the ages I have been remembered that fateful day, the day we entered Jerusalem. Jesus was riding on a donkey and the crowds were shouting and cheering: 'Hosanna, to the Son David'.

It was then that I thought? Is it really he? is he the Messiah? is he the Son of God? The doubts wouldn't leave me, they kept gnawing at me: 'if he's the Messiah, why doesn't he drive out our Roman oppressors?' He had only to speak the word and the people would have risen up against Rome. I felt impotent, but then I realised I could force him into action. Yes it was then I decided to betray him. If he was the Messiah then the rebellion would start, and if he weren't, well I would be 30 pieces of silver to the good.

It was only when I handed Jesus over to the soldiers in Gethsemane that I realised what I had done. I looked into his eyes and saw sorrow - sorrow and pity for me! It was then that I realised he was the Messiah, the Son of God.

I then knew that he had come to free us not from Rome but from ourselves. I had tried to manipulate God and my folly was exposed to me. I ran from the forgiveness I saw in Jesus' eyes and sought only oblivion. In my shame and my pride I would not accept God's love and forgiveness of me, and thus found eternal loss instead.. Learn from my folly lest you should share my fate.

CONGREGATIONAL BOARD

The Congregational Board comprises of 22 elders and 22 members elected from the congregation. It is the Board's responsibility to ensure the Church properties and its financial affairs are fit for purpose.

There are many projects plus lots of routine maintenance ahead of the Parish Church and we are very fortunate to have a superb property committee.

What would be extremely beneficial to this group is to have a list of members of the congregation they can call on for advice or assistance on a one off basis.

So if you are a joiner, architect, painter, surveyor, cleaner or have any talent you could contribute to your church please add your name to the list by phoning Robert Scott 01505 702493 or myself.

The financial affairs of the Church are obviously a major task which needs to be shared therefore if you have a financial background please contact Jim Moffat our Treasurer 01505 703881.

We look forward to hearing from you and working together in the fellowship and outreach of the Kilbarchan Parish Church.

Gwen Howden Clerk to the Board 01505 704308

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING

Tuesday evening has been a long standing fixture in the village diary for a Scottish country dancing class and we are delighted it's set for many years to come. We start at 7.30 pm for two hours and have a well earned cup of tea or coffee in between. Collectively there is a broad range of dancing experience within the group from beginners to 'well seasoned' troupers and we would warmly welcome any new classmates who would like to join in. Don't let getting to the hall on a dark winter's evening put you off as lifts can be arranged.

We have an annual theatre outing and a joint evening with the country dance class at Elderslie Kirk. So if you're a 'have a go' individual with a good sense of humour you'll fit right in!

Anne Whyte



£ **UND-RAISING NEWS**

Dear Friends

We are now a new committee of the Parish Church. You will see the list of members at the end and if you wish to join the committee or help to organise an event, you will be made most welcome. I would like to take this opportunity on your behalf to thank Grace Tod, who has retired from the committee after many years.

The **Easter Eggstravaganza** is on Saturday 19th March from 10am - 12noon in the hall. As usual, there will be an Easter-egg hunt for the children and a decorated egg/bonnet competition. There will also be Easter gift, home-baking and preserves stalls, for which donations will be gratefully received. Entrance, with tea/coffee and hot-cross buns is £2:50, children £1, which includes the egg hunt.

There will be a **Produce Stall** in the hall after the service on Sunday 3rd April. Please donate baking, jams, home-grown vegetables or fruit and also put some extra money in your purse to buy these fresh products. If this is a success, we shall continue at intervals throughout the year.

The annual **Plant Sale and Pancake Morning** is on Saturday 21st May from 10am-12 noon in the halls. The plants from Stewarton Nursery are always of a very high quality. Order forms will be available from Fulton Dunn in April. Please encourage family and friends to order their plants from us. As usual, there will be freshly-made pancakes with butter, cream and jam.

“**Art Off the Square**”, our major fund-raising event, is on Thursday, Friday and Saturday 18-20 August. Please note the date in your diary. Further details nearer the time.

The **Ladies’ 4Evening** takes place on Tuesday 15th November at 7.30pm in the hall, when the speaker will be Aileen MacLeod who will demonstrate fascinators and tartan goods.

Looking well ahead, we are planning a **Burns’ Supper** on Saturday 28th January 2017.

We look forward to your support at these events. Also, remember to save small change and hand it in with your name attached so that Gift Aid can be claimed, if appropriate.

Committee members are: Margaret Allan, Elizabeth Anderson, Betty Clark, Rosemary Clark, Fulton Dunn, Margaret Gray, Marjory Love, Joan MacKinnon, Helen Miller, Irene Moffat, Jemima McDermid, Jenifer Pitchers, Una Strachan and Anne Whyte.

Jenifer Pitchers (Chairperson)

Tel. 703786 e-mail: ripitchers@ntlworld.com



MIDWEEK FELLOWSHIP



We all lead busy lives and the daily routine takes over. Have you thought of a short time of “calm” in the middle of the week? Why not come along and try it. There is no obligation to come every Wednesday — come when you feel like it — Come when other commitments allow.

Coffee/tea from 10.30 a.m. onwards and informal worship lead by one of the Worship Team of Stephen, Christine Dale, Margaret Christine and Jane Pinkerton. We meet in the small hall.

If you would like more information or just a chat about it then phone either:

Joan Mackinnon Tel. 352491 email: joan.mackinnon@virginmedia.com

Margaret Christine Tel. 346118 email: mgtchristine@live.co.uk

It's a good time to come as Kilbarchan Parish church evolves.

Margaret Christine

THE GUILD

We are coming towards the end of our 2015/2016 session of the Guild. The afternoons seem to be very popular and it is good to see some gentlemen joining us.



Stephen started us off by talking about the Guild theme ‘Go in Peace’ and since then we have had a varied programme from talks on the Intense Fostering Service provided by Kibble to a more light-hearted look at a trip by icebreaker to the Arctic. At Christmas the carols and songs performed by the school choir put us all in the festive spirit. In the New Year Mr. Jack Glenny gave us a very entertaining talk on Burns Suppers abroad and at the guest afternoon in February between eighty and ninety of us enjoyed the music and verse provided by the Comrie Singers.

As well as having regular meetings over the winter months all the Guilds in Scotland support six different projects over a 3 year period. In the last three years over £775,000 has been raised for these projects, some in the U.K. and some abroad. We are now at the beginning of a new 3 year cycle and the project we have chosen to support this year is ‘Feed the Minds.’ Its aim is to eradicate the practise of F.M.G., Female Genital Mutilation. This particular project is in Kenya but it happens all over the world including Scotland.

After an extremely successful session we end with our A.G.M. on the 22nd March.

Please think about joining us next year. You will be made most welcome.

“EASTER THOUGHTS”

- * Easter is a sky that’s fair,
Church bells on the morning air.
- * All nature’s joys for us to share, **That is Easter!**
- * Season of new hope and cheer,
Sounds of anthems ringing clear.
- * The story, old hut ever dear, **That is Easter!**
- * Earth’s awakening, flowers a-bloom,
Casting out Good Friday’s gloom.
- * Resurrection from the tomb. **That is Easter!**

STITCHING GROUP

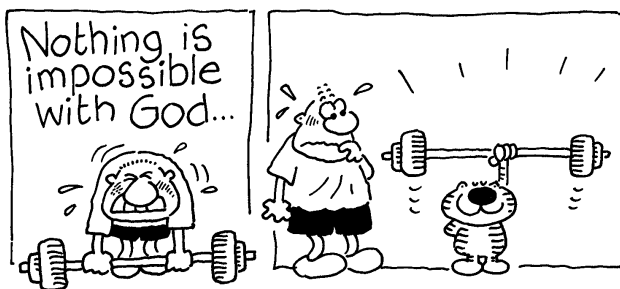
The Stitching Group meets in the small hall every Tuesday afternoon from 2-4 pm. This includes coffee in Bobbins. At present most of our work is for fundraising events, plus we often respond to a charity appeal. We'd love to embark on a new hanging to celebrate the new Kilbarchan Parish Church, but this will be deferred until we have an idea of what space is available, not to mention funds.

We'd like to thank all the friends who contributed to the Christmas Fayre table and also those who have donated materials. With your help we raised £450.

On every second Tuesday, we share the halls with the Guild. While this has been satisfactory (at least for us and nobody else has complained) we do have an overlap in our membership. We are also aware that there is another stitching group in the village which also meets on Tuesdays. It would be interesting to expand our group to include other crafters, so if anybody would like to join us and would prefer another day for meetings, please let me know and we'll see what might be possible.

We are now working towards the Easter Extravagnza, making presents and including lots of chocolate.

Best wishes to all from the Stitching Group. *Alison McNicoll*





1st KILBARCHAN COMPANY

COMPANY SECTION

It's been an action packed season for the Company Section so far. All the boys have been busy most Friday nights with the usual programme of badge work activities and sports. Two of our Senior boys, Cpl Joe Barrett and Cpl Callum Carmichael have been particularly busy as they are working towards gaining their President's Badge this session.

In addition to our usual Friday night activities, we've had various other trips and events on throughout the session. Our first outing was a trip to Laser Station and Adventure Golf at Soar at Braehead. For Halloween we had Elaine Muir come and show the boys how to do some gruesome special effects make-up. In November, we had a very cold outing to the rugby to see Glasgow Warriors play Treviso. In December Sgt Jack Miller, Pte David McNish and some of the officers took part in the Glasgow Santa Dash to raise money for the National Autistic Society. Pte David McNish deserves a special mention as he raised a phenomenal £208!

We have been having lots of success in the Battalion Championship this year. In September, C/Sgt Scot Simpson and Sgt Jack Miller came 3rd in the Senior Badminton competition. In November, C/Sgt Scott Simpson, Cpl Joe Barrett, Pte Ben Cunningham and Pte Conrad McAllister came 2nd in the Physical Education competition. In January Cpl Callum Carmichael won individual gold in the Ten Pin Bowling competition and Pte Ben Cunningham, Pte Jacob Cunningham and Pte David McNish came 2nd in the Senior Relay at the Swimming Gala. As things stand, these fantastic results place us 3rd in the Battalion championship - a superb achievement for a small Company such as ourselves.

ANCHORS AND JUNIORS

The Anchors and Juniors have had a busy year so far and fortunately we have had help from some of the mums to run the programme for the boys on Friday nights. Some of the mums are going on to become officers in the Company and their help is much appreciated. The Anchors visited the Big Adventure in November and both the Junior Section and the Anchors, as well as some of the Company Section boys took in the Pantomime at the Pavilion which was a great family night out.

We have had a busy period with the Coffee Morning and Table Top Sale on Saturday 27th February in the church hall.

The Anchors will be attending the Anchor Boy Day in March at Gleniffer High School which will have a Pirate Theme and gives the boys an opportunity to meet Anchor Boys from all over Renfrewshire.

The Juniors will be attending a Sports Day at Linwood at the end of March where they will have the opportunity of trying out some new sports and games.

Our Display and Parents' Evening takes place in May when the boys from all sections will demonstrate some of the activities and Fun we have at the Boys' Brigade. Boys will also receive the badges and awards which they have worked so hard for during the session.

One important point to make is that the Boys' Brigade could not run without the help and support of the parents, grand-parents, aunts and uncles – and even sisters!

The Company Section is looking for help to run the Company Section as some of the officers cannot manage every Friday because of work commitments so we are making an appeal for anyone who wishes to help with the P7 to S6 boys to contact Robert Stevenson or Andy MacLean. If you wish to help with the younger boys you would be made most welcome with training provided!

Andrew MacLean and Robert Stevenson



DRAMA GROUP

The Kilbarchan Parish Church Drama group would like to thank each and every one of you for your support with our last production in November 2015.

We were able to give a donation to the church of £1800. This is more than we have been able to give in previous years mostly due to this production having low costs and outlay. We are eternally grateful to our stage crew who always manage to create great sets for us, and at very little cost.

We are always looking for new members, whether that be; to perform on stage or help out behind the scenes. If you are interested, please speak to any member of the drama group, contact details are on the noticeboard in the Hall.

SAVE THE DATE

Our next production will take place on Thursday 24th, Friday 25th and Saturday 26th November. At the moment the group are working hard to look for a suitable play to perform. Details to follow in the summer!

Fiona McKenzie - on behalf of the Drama group

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Happy New Year 2016 from Kilbarchan Parish Church Sunday School and we hope everyone had an enjoyable break over Christmas and New Year and were entertained by our nativity 'Hey Ewe', which gave the sheep's perspective on the birth of Jesus.

The older children have been hearing all about Joseph and his brothers and have made a 'Coat of many Colours' bookmark and also a cow on the week we learned about Joseph's interpretation of Pharaoh's dreams plus a Pharaoh mask. The younger group have been learning about a variety of different characters including Joseph and Esther and have been doing lots of varied craft activities linked to the particular week's theme.

We are also working on expanding our song repertoire and hope we may be able to perform a song or two at the Palm Sunday or Easter Service.

Ros & Linda

PRESBYTERY PATTERN –

Snippets from recent meetings of Greenock and Paisley Presbytery.

The Vacancy Procedure Committee have granted a further extension of six months to Howwood linked with Lochwinnoch and Langbank linked with Port Glasgow: St Andrew's to call a minister.

The Moderator thanked Miss Suzanne Dunleavy for her dedicated work within the Presbytery and wished her well for a long and happy retirement and the Rev David Stewart has been appointed as Interim Moderator of Bridge of Weir: St Machar's Ranfurly Church as from the 1st February 2016.

Rev Ann McCool was congratulated on her appointment as Moderator Elect for the Presbytery of Greenock & Paisley from September 2016; and as such has resigned as Interim Moderator of Howwood linked with Lochwinnoch from the 1st February 2016.

Approved the application by Barrhead: Bourock for a grant of £300 from the Oakshaw East Fund towards the costs of school chaplaincy work.

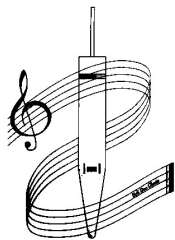
There will be a Safeguarding Roadshow in Erskine Parish, on Tuesday 29th March at 6pm. There have been significant changes and new instructions from General Assembly regards Safeguarding and this will assist in their application.

The Presbytery Planning Task Group that Paisley St James's as approved by Presbytery at its meeting on the 13th. October 2015 stated that a Basis of Dissolution should be drawn up for this congregation and affirms that this is now the amended plan for this charge.

The congregations of Paisley: Wallneuk North and Paisley St Ninian's Ferguslie are now looking at a basis of Union as approved by Presbytery at its meeting on the 10th November 2015.

The vote on the basis of deferred linking between Paisley: St Columba Foxbar and Paisley: St Luke's took place on Sunday 7th February, both churches agreeing to linkage.

Celebrity recital to mark farewell to Hill organ



Everyone in Kilbarchan and everywhere else interested in pipe organs will have a final opportunity to hear the Kilbarchan Hill organ in the hands of an internationally renowned musician.

On Tuesday 29th March, at 7.30 pm, Malcolm Archer will give a recital on this fine instrument, described as '*... one of the finest organs ever installed in a parish church in Scotland*'.

Malcolm Archer is currently Director of Chapel Music at Winchester College, and was previously Director of Music at St Paul's Cathedral, London, where he directed the choir for several state services, including the 80th birthday service for HM The Queen. He is well known as a composer of Church music (his anthem 'Rejoice the Lord is King' and his Hymn Tune Preludes for organ were heard regularly in Kilbarchan West), and is in demand as a choir trainer and organ recitalist throughout the world. It is a great privilege to welcome him to Kilbarchan.

Tickets, priced £10, will be available from John Connell, Helen Robertson, Alastair MacKinnon and at Bobbins and the Old Library Centre.

Tom Ferguson.

GLORY OF THE EASTER STORY

The glorious Easter Story a troubled world can find
Blessed Assurance and enduring peace of mind
For those that we grow discouraged In this world we're living in,
There is comfort just in knowing God has triumphed over sin
For our Saviour's Resurrection was God's way of telling men
That in Christ we are eternal and in him we live again.....
And to know life is unending And God's love is endless, too,
Makes our daily tasks and burdens so much easier to do....
For the Easter Story of Christ the living Lord,
Makes our earthly sorrow nothing when compared with this reward.

SAFEGUARDING

Harm or abuse of children or adults at risk can happen anywhere - even in church communities. Abuse is incompatible with our Christian values and is never excusable. We all have a duty to ensure a safe church for all vulnerable people.

Within Kilbarchan Parish Church, the safeguarding coordinators appointed by the Kirk Session are Elizabeth Dunn and Anne Whyte. If anyone suspects or witnesses harm or abuse it should be reported to them immediately.

All volunteers who work with children or vulnerable adults within our church must first be cleared with the PVG scheme before taking up post. Training is also provided and is mandatory for all volunteers. Our present situation is that all our volunteers have been cleared by the PVG scheme and the majority have undergone training.

As the Churches unite we will bring our records together to ensure that all the criteria in the Church of Scotland guidelines is adhered to. Any concerns regarding safeguarding in the Church should be brought to the attention of Elizabeth or Anne.

THE TOTS' CLUB

The club has now been in session for several weeks since Christmas and the numbers are once again very high, proving the popularity of this form of outreach into the community of Kilbarchan and surrounding area. If you have some free time on a Monday, please join us for coffee between the hours of 9.15 and 11.30am in the large hall and if you'd like to help out occasionally, even better! We are now in our 4th year of running the club and we are all still enjoying seeing the children grow and develop and playing with all the many toys and bouncy castle. Many of our first group of children are now at Nursery, so we are getting to know all the new tots. We shall be registering once again with the Paisley Express Wish campaign, so please save your vouchers for us if you get the Paisley Express.

Ian and Alison Keith, Rosie and John Picken, Janet and Bobby Stevenson, Elizabeth and Fulton Dunn, Margaret Allan, Cathy Miller, Jemima McDermid, Christine Erwin, Jenifer Pitchers, Malcolm MacAskill, Judith Ansell, Fiona Stewart.

kilbarchan-kirk.btck.co.uk - New church. New website.

There can't be many people who don't know we are now continuing our journey as one church - Kilbarchan Parish Church. There may still be one or two though who don't know we also have a new website. A new corner of the World Wide Web dedicated to our church and its place at the heart of our community. You can find it at the web address shown above so please make sure you update your internet browser bookmark accordingly.

So what use is a website?

Have you ever misplaced or recycled the Intimation Sheet and can't remember when the next Kirk Session or Congregational Board meeting is? It's on the website. What is the next Guild meeting about? It's on the website. Has someone ever asked you about one of the church groups or organisations, like the Badminton or Hillwalking clubs or Tots Club, and you can't for the life of you remember any details about them? It's on the website. Or maybe you've lost your order form for the Plant Sale – you'll find it on the website. Perhaps you know someone new to the area that is interested in coming to church but wants more information. Point them towards the website. Church service times, information and contact details, news on church events, links to other village organisations, help with genealogy enquiries, you can find all this and links to our social media sites on the website.

Social media?

We have a Facebook Page and can also be found on Twitter. In fact our Twitter and Facebook accounts are linked together so that our Twitter feed mirrors our Facebook timeline. Social media is great for keeping up to date with what the church is doing and for promoting the church in our local community and farther afield. Here's an interesting statistic - for every seven minutes spent online, one of those minutes is spent on Facebook. It's a fair guess that a significant proportion of our congregation are registered on Facebook. That can also be said of people who may be interested in our church but don't attend – yet. So if the statistics are correct then social media is a very powerful, free resource for building our community and enhancing the outreach of our church. Not to mention it's good fun to interact with people locally and around the world.

A website is only as good as the information it is sharing. If there is anything you'd like added, changed, or indeed removed, please contact Alan Vaughan either at church or at kilbarchankirk@gmail.com



HILLWALKING CLUB

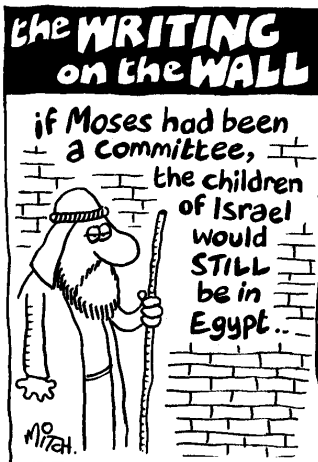
The 2016 Hillwalking year started well with a lovely crispy January walk on the hills above Luss. Fourteen of us climbed to Beinn Dubh in quite tricky icy conditions and when we reached the top, the snow started falling and stayed on for the rest of the day. Despite a few falls on the ice, we all made it safely back.

In February, seventeen of us traveled east to climb in the Pentland Hills. We were very blessed that the day stayed dry, although the strong cold wind managed to blow one of our ladies off her feet. We climbed Turnhouse Hill, Carnethy Hill and Scald Law where a birthday boy celebrated a big birthday with cake and champagne.

For the March 5th walk we are heading south to Ettrick Pen in the Eskdalemuir Forest. This is a Graham (692 metres high) near the Southern Upland Way, and on April 9th we are going to Victoria Bridge, near Bridge of Orchy, to climb the Munros of Stob a'Choire Odhar (947 metres) and Stob Gabhar (1087 metres). The May and June outings are weekends away, first one to Station Lodge Hostel at Tulloch near Spean Bridge and the second to Ratagan Hostel on the shores of Loch Duich.

We'll hope the good weather we have had for the start of the year continues.

Margaret Beattie





I hope you all had a peaceful Christmas. I cannot believe the time that has passed since last wrote to you.

The run up to Christmas was a very busy time at the Foodbank. We moved into our new office at Renfrew. This was built for us by Doosan Babcock and we are so thankful to them for their very kind support. Our number is still 0141 889 7999.

Our volunteers had no sooner finished sorting the many wonderful donations you sent at Harvest when some of the local secondary schools collected for us. This was followed by our December Tesco Neighbourhood Collection which was once again a great success. We collected 6,588.69kg of food, 20,394 meals for people in need in Renfrewshire, The success of this collection is down to the many volunteers who gave their time and to the generosity of the people of Renfrewshire who donated the food.

We received lots of donations from you for Christmas, including Christmas goodies. It was lovely to be able to add Christmas puddings, selection boxes, etc. to the food parcels, making them a wee bit more special for Christmas.

We are really grateful for the donations you send as the need for the food continues to grow with many people in Renfrewshire living in poverty. Since 1st April 2015, we have given a three day supply of food to 3,377 adults and 1,215 children. We could not do this without your help.

The items we are short of at the moment are: small bottles of diluting juice; small jars of coffee; snacks such as savoury rice and noodles; potatoes; small sauces such as ketchup and H.P. and toiletries.

Once again, many thanks for your continuing support of Renfrewshire Foodbank.

Best wishes for 2016 *Elizabeth Alexander*, Project Manager,
Renfrewshire Foodbank

LINKING NAMES QUIZ - ANSWERS

- | | | | |
|----|---|--------|---------------------------|
| 1 | Scottish Singer - Boxer nicknamed The Lion. | 5(6)5 | Annie(Lennox)Lewis |
| 2 | U.S. President - Created Rip Van Winkle. | 6(10)6 | George(Washington)Irving |
| 3 | Accident Prone TV character - British P.M. | 5(7)8 | Frank(Spencer)Perceval |
| 4 | Country Music Singer - S.A. President. | 6(6)7 | Willie(Nelson)Mandela |
| 5 | Ceramic Designer - Bachelor Boy. | 7(5)7 | Clarice(Cliff)Richard |
| 6 | American Outlaw - Scottish Inventor & Engineer. | 5(5)4 | Jesse(James)Watt |
| 7 | British P.M. - Scottish Climber. | 5(7)7 | David(Cameron)McNeish |
| 8 | Narnia Creator - Formula One Champion. | 2(5)8 | C.S.(Lewis)Hamilton |
| 9 | American Dancer - Bald Swimmer. | 7(6)7 | Isadora(Duncan)Goodhew |
| 10 | Sex Symbol - Gladiator. | 4(7)5 | Jane(Russell)Crowe |
| 11 | Mutineer - Fashion Designer. | 8(9)4 | Fletcher(Christian)Dior |
| 12 | Carry On Actress - Underwater Expert. | 6(7)8 | Hattie(Jacques)Cousteau |
| 13 | Childrens TV Presenter - British P.M. | 7(8)8 | Floella(Benjamin)Disraeli |
| 14 | Singer Song Writer - Welsh Poet. | 3(5)6 | Bob(Dylan)Thomas |
| 15 | Radio 2 Presenter - TV Presenter & Entertainer. | (5)7 | Ken(Bruce)Forsyth |
| 16 | Scottish Actress – Scottish Football Manager. | 6(6)8 | Hannah(Gordon)Strachan |
| 17 | Cleopatra's love - introduced the Pillar Box. | 4(7)8 | Mark(Anthony)Trollope |
| 18 | Confederate General - U.S. Artist. | 9(7)7 | Stonewall(Jackson)Pollack |
| 19 | Restaurateur & TV Chef - British P.M. | 6(6)8 | Gordon(Ramsay)Macdonald |
| 20 | Cowboy Actor - Ballet Dancer. | 4(5)5 | John(Wayne)Sleep |
| 21 | English Footballer - Elizabethan Explorer. | 6(7)5 | Trevor(Francis)Drake |
| 22 | Australian Golfer - British Chancellor. | 4(6)6 | Greg(Norman)Lamont |
| 23 | Tennis Player - Formula One Presenter. | 4(6)6 | Andy(Murray)Walker |
| 24 | Rebel Actor - One of the Rat Pack. | 5(4)6 | James(Dean)Martin |
| 25 | Swimmer - Author. | 5(6)7 | David(Wilkie)Collins |

I do hope you enjoyed this 2016 quiz. There were 32 correct entries and 6 wrong ones. and the sum of £207 was raised for church funds.

The two winners picked out by our Minister, Stephen, at the Midweek Fellowship were :-

Agnes Douglas of Kilbarchan
and
Jean Young of Kilbarchan

CHRISTIAN AID



Bangladesh, the focus of Christian Aid Week 2016, is a country of many islands, known as Chars, which are very vulnerable to flooding. Homes are cut off from amenities and livestock are washed away. Christian Aid partner GUK can transform the lives of people by providing Home Safety Packages. These packages see people's homes raised on earth plinths to make them less likely to flood. This coupled with being given livestock, seeds and a wormery to produce compost, ensures that there is a solid foundation on which families can build a new life. GUK also supports women to learn, innovate and earn money.

The people of Kilbarchan and Brookfield have supported Christian Aid for a very long time. Until a few years ago there was a Johnstone and District Christian Aid Committee. It was good to meet up with people from the Church of Scotland and other denominations in Johnstone and the villages.

Christine Dale tells me that it is 44 years since we started the door to door collection in Kilbarchan and Brookfield. Christine has divided the villages into Districts. Many volunteers prefer to be responsible for the same district year after year. Towards the end of April there will be a list in the church hall. It is hoped that volunteers will add their names and we will be able to collect from all the houses in the villages this year. Thank you,

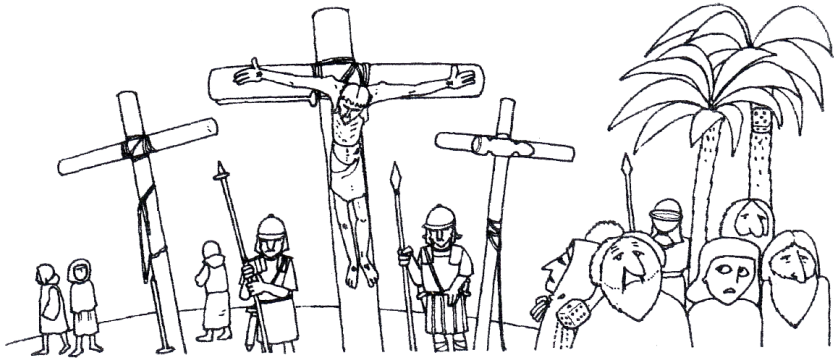
Evelyn Campbell

LEAFLETS FROM VISITED CHURCHES

If you visit a church on holiday, I should be grateful if you would bring back a leaflet, magazine or order of service. I shall collect them until September then display them at the back of our church. We have found churches appreciate our visits, best wishes and even a copy of our magazine.

Willie Beattie

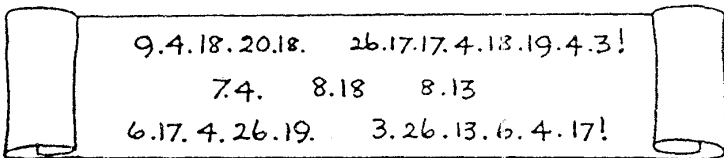
Kids Korner



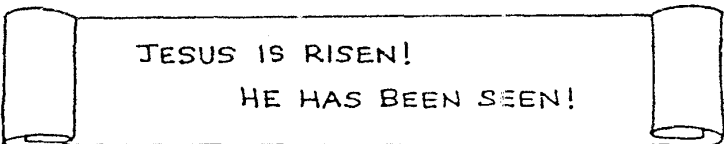
Can you find a hammer, three nails, a cup of wine and a pair of dice hidden in the picture? Circle them.

CODED MESSAGES

The disciples of Jesus, when they entered Jerusalem on what we now call Palm Sunday, were aware that Jesus was wanted by the authorities, who were threatening to kill him. Early on the Friday morning of that week they may have wanted to get in touch with other friends of his, but it may have been dangerous to send normal messages. Here is one they might have written – in code. Can you work out what it says? (1 = B, 2 = C, and so on)



On Easter morning the message would have been very different. Using the same code, write this message in numbers:





FAIRTRADE STATUS

As a new church we have to apply to the Fairtrade foundation to become a Fairtrade Church. To achieve Fairtrade status we must use Fairtrade tea and coffee after the service. We must move forward on using other Fairtrade products such as sugar, biscuits fruit & flowers. We should be promoting Fairtrade

especially as we are in the middle of Fairtrade Fortnight and also during the year through events, worship and other activities where possible.

Fairtrade is about better prices, decent working conditions and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers.

It's about supporting the development of thriving farming and worker communities that have more control over their futures and protecting the environment in which they live and work.

And it's your opportunity to connect with the people who grow the produce that we all depend on.

At time of publication we will have had a Fairtrade Breakfast and run a stall after the service where you could buy all your favourite Fairtrade goodies. Watch this space for more events.

Moira Stark

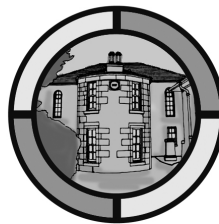


I would like to say thanks to everyone who looked after me when I came home from hospital after my hip operation. I couldn't have done it without them. I know it was ages ago, but thanks again. *Jemima*



On behalf of the Congregation of the late East Church I would like to thank Alex Ritchie for the years he served as editor of Onward, the East Church Magazine. His comments were of great interest. Enjoy your free time now Alex. You served the church well and deserve our thanks. *Walter Gardner*

PARISH REGISTER



Members leaving the church

Mrs Karen Murphy to Melbourne, Australia

Mr Anthony Arthur

Mrs Anne Arthur

Members joining the church

By certificate :-

Mrs Morag Law from Bishopton

Baptisms

January 31st Emma Fiona McLean, daughter of Eilidh and Andy

February 7th Emily Jennifer Yule, daughter of Pamela and David

Marriage

28th November, 2015, Stephen J Smith and Susie D Young

Deaths

07/01/16 Daniel Ferguson (died on 28th December, 2015)

07/01/16 Nancy Law (died on 26th December, 2016)

13/01/16 Gordon Blackwood (died on 7th January, 2016)

15/01/16 Nan Shaw (died on 7th January, 2016)

02/02/16 Bert Hutchinson (died on 27th January, 2016)

09/02/16 Agnes Bruce (died on 30th January, 2016)

WORSHIP PROGRAMME

Sunday 13 th March	Morning Worship Annual divine Service (6.30pm)
Sunday 20 th March	Morning Worship
Thursday 24 th March	Maundy Thursday Service (7.00pm)
Friday 25 th March	Good Friday Service (7.00pm)
Sunday 27 th March	Early Service at Weavers Cottage (8.30am) Morning Worship - Sacrament of Baptism
Sunday 3 rd April	Morning Worship
Sunday 10 rd April	Morning Worship
Sunday 17 th April	Morning Worship – Sacrament of Baptism
Sunday 24 th April	Morning Worship – Holy Communion Evening Service – Holy Communion (6.30pm)
Sunday 1 st May	Morning Worship
Sunday 8 th May	Morning Worship
Sunday 15 th May	Morning Worship
Sunday 22 nd May	Morning Worship
Sunday 29 th May	Morning Worship

All Services at 11.00am unless shown otherwise

