



# Kilbarchan Parish Church

## Your local church magazine

Dear Friends,

Once in a while, I go to a café where I sit at the window front, drink a hot chocolate or coffee and write. Sermons, letters and a lot of emails have been created like this. I like to look up from my notebook and watch the world go by, finding inspiration in the continuous flow of life. On every face, young and old, life has left its traces. Every person has a story to tell. Our stories are interwoven and we are part of one big narrative: that of humankind.

The story of humankind seems to be at a low point. Many people feel that the world finds itself in a downward spiral, an on-going mess of violence, egotism, destruction and regression. The flood of information that reaches us every day from around the globe is impossible to digest and so hugely complex that we risk to either ignore it altogether or to come to a rush conclusion based on doubtful information. Things are getting out of control and this perceived loss of control is traumatising for many. However hard we try to fix things, it seems we are only just about able to patch up the symptoms but fail to get to the roots and change things around for the better. Governments are visibly overwhelmed with the tasks ahead of them. Somehow we sense that we haven't hit rock bottom yet and that there is more to come. The world changes at a speed that makes it impossible to predict the consequences for our lifestyle. We will have to find new ways to make things work and we might do well to ready ourselves for more big changes.

Easter is approaching and I believe that the symbolism and message of Easter are today just as important as 2,000 years ago. Good Friday is the day when we remember that God has sacrificed his own flesh to die on the cross and suffer the pain of the world alongside humankind: the pain of despair, destruction, loss and death. Without the experience of Good Friday, there can be no Easter joy, without the reality of death no appreciation of the deeper meaning of life. Both are part of the same narrative. We know deep in our hearts that the deepest lows and highest

highs are both part of our individual stories as well as of the story of humankind. Flowers blossom in the desert, whilst rain forests are being destroyed. Love flourishes in war times, newborn babies die in their parent's arms. Seemingly insurmountable walls are broken down, new ones are built. Soldiers ready to shoot suddenly hesitate, people we trust turn against us. This is our story. This is the Easter story.

I wish for you all that the hope of Easter will prevail over the feeling of despair. May you never lose sight of hope in the ups and downs of life and may you will always be surrounded by people and communities who carry you through the rocky stages of life. Happy Easter!

Your friend,

*Stephen*



In the coming months, there will be changes within the Kirk Session. As a congregation, we are so grateful to Fulton for his 8 years serving as Session Clerk, 5 years in the East Church and 3 years in the newly united congregation of Kilbarchan. He has always gone the extra mile and been a calm and level headed presence throughout what were traumatic changes in the life of the church in Kilbarchan. The church and congregation owes to him a tremendous debt. Watch this space for news soon regarding the vacancy.

There will also be a change in the position of Treasurer. Jim has served as treasurer for over 30 years and intends to step back at the end of March. He too has served the congregation exceptionally. Again we hope to have news regarding this soon to be vacant post in the not too distant future.

*Stephen*



## FROM THE EDITOR

I am looking out my window and seeing snowdrops, crocus in bloom and daffodils starting to flower. This reminds me that spring is upon us and the dark winter days are now behind. We can now look forward to the rest of 2019 and can all strive to play our part in the life of Kilbarchan Parish Church. One way is in submitting an item for our magazine to share with others. I am very grateful to those of you who contribute regularly and the occasional contributor. This after all is **your magazine** and we want to reflect that. As you peruse this one, I hope that you find something to interest you.

The summer issue will come out on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2019 so there is plenty of time for you to think what you would like to see in it and send your article to me at [alastair.mackinnon@ntlworld.com](mailto:alastair.mackinnon@ntlworld.com) by the 19<sup>th</sup> May.



## JUNIOR CHURCH

We finished 2018 with another successful Christmas party and an original nativity play 'Helping Hands' written by Emma Vaughan that we hope everyone enjoyed. A big thank you again to Moira Gray, Rosie and the Junior Choir for their, as always excellent, contribution to our nativity and to all the parents who helped behind the scenes.

In January we covered a variety of bible stories, Tower of Babel, Gideon, David & Goliath and John the Baptist and in February we are learning more about Jesus and his disciples. The children have learnt to say hello in different languages, have decorated a votive candle, painted and decorated some stones (David&Goliath) and made some edible locusts out of croissants, raisins and chocolate sticks.

Looking ahead we have lots of interesting themes and crafts to share with our children.

Shona and I would also like to welcome our new volunteers and hope they enjoy their involvement with Junior Church and find it a rewarding experience.

*Shona & Ros*

# KIRK SESSION REPORT

The Kirk Session received and agreed the Local Church Review Report from Presbytery. I include the conclusion from the report and copies of the full report will be made available to the congregation.

## ***Report Conclusion***

*The visiting team report that they found a congregation in good heart, active and with vibrant plans for the future. Regulatory and procedural matters were in order, although we note that Safeguarding training for Elders is described as ongoing and we would urge the Session to complete that process as soon as possible, making use of the Presbytery resources available. We were pleased to note that although the congregation felt that the relationship with Presbytery had previously been strained- mainly down to issues of communication and support re the process of union- nevertheless they felt that there was now a better and more positive relationship with the united church.*

*The local church review team commend the life and work of the church and their ambitious plans for future development. We would particularly encourage the proposed development of adult Christian education courses as a means of fostering discipleship. Our one hesitation is that many of the proposals are slated for year 1 of the five year plan and we fear overload to some degree, and so perhaps a little more prioritisation and staging through the whole five year planning process is necessary. We particularly commend the willingness to support the Minister's participation in the Church of Scotland's study leave scheme.*

The 5 year Action Plan produced will be reviewed to take on board comments from Presbytery. The plan will be reviewed and updated regularly and committees have been asked to take on board relevant action points.

Stephen reported that Dorothy Wallace will be joining us in the summer as a probationer for 12 to 15 months.

The Kirk Session nominated Ann McLeod to be a commissioner of the General Assembly to meet in Edinburgh for a week beginning Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2019.

We have lost two influential members of the Kirk Session during the last few months. John Connell had been an elder since 1963 and was Session Clerk of the former West Church. Richard Pitchers had been an elder since 1975 and was the Gift Aid Convenor for the former East Church and the Parish Church. Both will be sadly missed.

This is the last time that I will be writing the Kirk Session Report as I am retiring after 8 years as Session Clerk in both the former East Church and the united Parish Church. Willie Beattie and John Connell were hard acts to follow but with the help of Session I feel that we are in a strong position going forward. I would like to thank Christine Erwin and Helen Robertson who as assistants were always willing to help when needed. There are so many other people who have helped during this time and I am indebted to them all.

We have many talents within the congregation that help make this such a successful church under the leadership of Stephen. It can only continue if we all contribute to its smooth running.  
Thank you all for your support.

*Fulton Dunn*

### **Beadle Duties for the coming months**

March	Bobby Stevenson, Joyce Scott, Fulton Dunn
April	Ann McLeod, Alasdair Law, Colin Campbell
May	Cathy Millar, Elizabeth Dunn, Alan Vaughan
June	Marie Alexander, Gwen Howden, Margaret Gibb



Jim Moffat has served as Treasurer to the former East Church and to the Parish Church for 37 years. During these years there have been many financial challenges, the Union, property renovations etc as well as the day to day running of the accounts, Jim has carried out his responsibilities with such diligence that this Congregation owes him a huge debt of gratitude for his dedication. The Congregational Board reluctantly accepts Jim's wish to retire on the 31st March at the Stated Annual Meeting.

The financial side of the Church is obviously of major importance and the 'vacancy' must be addressed immediately.

Can I appeal to anyone in the Congregation, who has a financial background or knowledge, to very seriously consider the crucial roll of Treasurer.

Another possibility could be a 'group' where several people would take over financial control.

Jim has very kindly offered to assist in the transition.

If you feel you could contribute to the financial running of the Church in any way please contact the Minister or myself, Gwen Howden.

*Gwen Howden*

# TREASURER'S REPORT

As I intimated my retirement as Treasurer of Kilbarchan Parish Church to the Kirk Session early in February, this will be my last Report. I succeeded Willie Beattie as Treasurer of the former Kilbarchan East Church in 1982-some thirty seven years ago-and became the first Treasurer of the Parish Church some three years ago. My intention is to complete the Church

Accounts to 31 December 2018, ensure the Examiner/Auditor is satisfied, approval of the Trustees is in place and present the Accounts to the Stated Annual Meeting on Sunday 31 March 2019. This will be my last duty as Treasurer. It goes without saying that it has been a privilege to serve the Church for such a lengthy period but there comes a time when you have to return to the "back benches/pews"

Many will be aware that the Church Bank Account was defrauded and although the sum illegally taken from the Account has been replaced significant disruption in the Bank Account has taken place. I have no information on how the fraud was perpetrated but the necessity for the Bank to establish a new Church Bank Account and the need for Members who contribute to the Church by Standing Order to complete new Standing Order Forms has not been without problems. Once again thank you for your cooperation. I had hoped to quietly retire into the background but "the best laid plans---"!!!

Reserves at the end of December 2018 were slightly higher than the previous year mainly due to a very welcome increase in Offerings, a significant saving in the Major Works Contract and a reduction in the Ministry and Mission payment to the Church of Scotland, 121 George Street, Edinburgh. More information will be available at the Stated Annual Meeting on the 31 March.

Sincere thanks to all Members for their support over the years.

*Jim Moffat*



# **PRESBYTERY OF GREENOCK AND PAISLEY**

**Tuesday 11th December 2018 and February 12th 2019**

**at The Cornerstone, Bishopton**

**SPEAKERS:** Grey Space Project – Rev Alan Birss  
Interserve – Ms Grace Penney.

**PRESENTATIONS:** Safeguarding Certificates to Gail Abraham and Ann Craig

## **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

**BUSINESS:** note the Rev Liz Geddes Rev Eileen Ross and Rev Peter Gill are on sick leave; the Rev David Burt has been appointed as Vice Convener of the Business Committee; there is a pressing issue of a lack of sufficient locum cover for congregations in vacancy or guardianship; and encourages all those qualified to provide such cover to consider offering themselves in service to Presbytery; Rev Iain Ramsden has been appointed as locum at Erskine parish church as from the 9th December 2018; Rev Yvonne Smith has been appointed as Interim Moderator at Paisley St Luke's from 28th January 2019, Rev Pamela Gordon at Linwood from 6th February 2019, Mr. Jack McHugh at Langbank linked with Port Glasgow St Andrew's from 31st March 2019 and Rev Owen Derrick at Greenock St Margaret's from 31st March 2019; the Presbytery Planning Task Group has concurred with the amendments made to the Presbytery plan at its meeting on the 13th November 2018, and the plan as amended is now the plan for Presbytery, all in accordance with the terms outlined in Act 7 2003, (Appraisal and Adjustment); the sist applied to that decision whilst awaiting concurrence has now been lifted, and instructs the VPC to ensure that the vacant congregations whose permission to call was withdrawn now dismiss their nominating committees and formally end their vacancy processes; the Clerk will write immediately to all congregations affected by this decision to amend the plan informing them of their right to dissent and complain/appeal the decision and of the process and timescale for so doing; Mr. Jack McHugh as the next Moderator for the Presbytery of Greenock & Paisley from September 2019; Order of the Day: at 7.45pm at the March meeting for the election of Commissioners to the forthcoming General Assembly.

**TREASURER:** the accounts for the year ended 30 June 2018 were presented to Presbytery; the Annual Accounts of the Presbytery, as presented, were approved for the year ending 30 June 2018, subject to any amendments which may be required following the Independent Examination which is currently being carried

out; the Budget for 2018/2019 and the Presbytery assessments for 2018/2019 as detailed were approved; Presbytery instructs congregations to make payment as soon as possible but no later than 31st May

**STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE:** the 2017 accounts of Linwood have been attested by the committee in the name of Presbytery and the congregation authorised to submit these to the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator; one copy of their examined Financial Accounts for 2018 should be submitted to the Presbytery Office and to the Church's Stewardship and Finance Department no later than 31 March 2019; congregations now have until 30th June to hold their Annual Stated Meeting for the previous year.

**WORLD MISSION & ECUMENICAL RELATIONS:** the dates of the WM Study Tour of Israel & Palestine, 1-11 November 2019, and also the WM Study Tour to Israel specifically for younger people to take place 31 May- 9 June 2019, and encourage Presbyters to make this opportunity known amongst congregations; the committee encourages congregations to pray for, and support, Christian Unity Week 18-25 January 2019.

**PROPERTY:** an application by the Greenock St Margaret's congregation to dispose of their present manse, subject to the approval of the General Trustees. The General Trustees require the net proceeds of the sale to be held in the Consolidated Fabric Fund and it will be a requirement of Presbytery that such funds are held as restricted funds for the sole purpose of purchasing a replacement manse should that prove necessary, and it is recommended that the congregation use the services of the Church of Scotland Law Department; the Church of Scotland Insurance Services (COSIS) have now indicated that cover is available for water damage and other risks at empty manses including where the heating is left on; until further notice, any installation and upgrading of AV equipment and/or lighting at churches and halls should be notified to Presbytery and the General Trustees or CARTA before any works begin; congregations who handle and prepare food such that they fall into the category of a food business operator it is essential that all congregations take adequate preventative and management steps to manage the risk of illness from food allergies; a compulsory purchase order issued by Renfrewshire Council for part of the access to the glebes at Inchinnan has been accepted, note General Trustees are acting on behalf of the congregation; the annual Presbytery Diligence Return re. The Care of Ecclesiastical Properties was completed and returned to the General Trustees on the 17th January and duly acknowledged.



**HEALTH AND SAFETY SEMINAR:** The property committee has invited Brian Auld, Assistant Secretary (Safe Buildings) at the General Trustees' Department to speak to representatives of all congregations in Presbytery at a Health & Safety seminar to be held in the Cornerstone, Bishopton, on Tuesday 2nd April 2019 at 19:00, tea and coffee will be available prior to the seminar beginning. Congregations are invited to send up to three representatives.

**MISSION & DISCIPLESHP:** Sessions requiring training other than for new volunteers may contact the Presbytery of Glasgow on 0141 332 6606 to access their provision; applications for the General Assembly Youth Representative should be submitted; Kirk Sessions should explore what opportunities exist for a fresh expression of church in their parish, as per the General Assembly 2018 remit from the Mission and Discipleship Council; Kirk Sessions are encouraged to complete the questionnaire outlining their existing provision for mission and discipleship; the Boys' Brigade leaflets, from their Disability Advice Network, for working with young people who have a disability, these contain useful advice for all organisations; application forms for each of the 2 funds, namely the Smith-Lefevre, and Port Glasgow Newark Mission Fund should be submitted by 12 noon on Friday 22 February 2019;

**MINISTRY:** the Minister of every Worship Leader is responsible for their continuing Development; potential Worship Leaders should gain some experience of participation in worship before applying to become a Worship Leader.

**LOCAL CHURCH REVIEW:** report for Kilbarchan Parish Church was distributed; further details see Kirk Session Report.

**SUPERINTENDENCE:** dates, times and venues for the annual inspection of records were given and instructs congregations to ensure all records are presented for examination at their allocated time.

*Ian Keith,*

Presbytery Elder

## BRITISH BIRDS QUIZ - ANSWERS

1	Something you do when eating	Swallow
2	Happy dog	Wagtail
3	A precious metal, an emblem	Goldcrest
4	Short for a journal with lots of pics, something cooked in pastry	Magpie
5	A brand of soap	Dove
6	Regal ruler, what you do with a rod and reel + 'er'	Kingfisher
7	Description of a coward, a tool	Yellowhammer
8	A hard black mineral, nipple	Coal Tit
9	Vocal music, fungal infection	Songthrush
10	Portion, stretch of elevated ground	Partridge
11	Short of breath	Puffin
12	Scarlet flier	Red Kite
13	Famous, heather	Starling
14	Frolic at the highland dance	Capercaillie
15	Mangy pup, W.C.	Curlew
16	Funereal, limit	Blackcap
17	An enclosed area of land, charge on public transport	Fieldfare
18	Building for habitation, a boy's name	House Martin
19	Chopped hay or straw, move gradually	Chaffinch
20	Popular lager in the 1980s and 1990s	Kestrel
21	The way a dog drinks, needed to fly	Lapwing
22	Very dark colour, slang for a girlfriend	Blackbird
23	Above our heads, frolic	Skylark
24	Moan or complain	Grouse
25	A farm building,, change the 'a' to an 'o' on a small tool for pricking holes	Barn Owl

There were 30 correct answers and the sum of £150 was raised for Church Funds.

Thanks to all who made this possible.

The first two correct answers drawn at the Tots' Club' were :-

Ian Fisher, Kilbarchan

Sheena Cadoo, Kilbarchan

## Sisters of Sinai by Janice Soskice

As the achievements of women are currently gaining more recognition it is perhaps appropriate to mention the contribution of Agnes and Margaret Smith. The twins, born in 1843, were promised by their wealthy father, that, if they learned the language he would take them to visit France.

The young pre-teen sisters, in what was surely an instinctive, and now recognised method, thereafter spoke only in French to each other until they were proficient in the language and thus earned their tour of La Belle France. The young polyglots subsequently mastered Spanish, Italian and Greek and were rewarded by visits to these countries.

After the death of their father, as mature women, they hired a yacht to cruise along the River Nile but were cheated of enjoyment of the sights and companionship of others by the devious ways of the captain. They blamed their lack of Arabic!

This deficiency they rectified and after hiring camels, guides, porters, tents and equipment set off on a trek across the Sinai Desert to reach the famous monastery on the southern edge.

Their scholarship was acknowledged by the abbot who allowed them the use of the library. There Agnes discovered the oldest extant scroll of part of the Gospel of St Mark.

This led to an important visit by illustrious Oxford dons to make a detailed translation.

It is disappointing to report that the Oxford authorities have never recognised the sisters' contribution although they were honoured by universities in Germany and Canada.

What is of relevant to us is that Agnes and Margaret, from age 6 to 19, spent their formative years in Kilbarchan in a large house( demolished in 1956) in Craigends Drive. (John Connell admitted to scrumping for apples there as a lad!)

It is certain that the girls, both staunchly Presbyterian, would be familiar with both the original former West and East Church buildings.

These important women should be remembered with pride by our congregation.

*Submitted by Margaret McIntyre*



## 1st KILBARCHAN BOYS' BRIGADE COMPANY

1<sup>st</sup> Kilbarchan Boys' Brigade Company recently celebrated our very own Burns' Night Celebration where our boys and girls performed their recitations really well. The haggis was piped in by David McNish and the boys and girls had an opportunity to try some haggis – a first for some of them!

The few weeks later we celebrated The Chinese New Year – the year of the Pig! We brought out our Chinese Dragon for the occasion and everyone managed to get a taste of some Chinese food. Did you know that The Boys' Brigade is also found in Hong Kong! Our members were surprised to see a presentation featuring boys and girls from the Hong Kong Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association complete with Pipe band in full Highland Dress!

The Boys' Brigade in the UK is

- Working with young people in almost 400 communities across Scotland, The Boys' Brigade (BB) provides a safe and caring place where children and young people can learn, grow and discover
- The BB is a volunteer-led youth organisation, which provides voluntary youth and children's work to the Christian Church
- BB provides opportunities to learn and develop skills and interests through a varied programme which provides fun and exciting activities across four age groups running from 5 to 18 years.

We would like to grow our company in Kilbarchan, so if you know of anyone who could benefit from joining our happy and focused band of young people please encourage them to join us. We are also looking for adult officers to join us and undertake training in working with young people.

I was looking at the number of things we do and it is a long list of sports, skills and education! Here is a sample – and I am sure I have forgotten some!

Trips and outings (Theatre, Skating, Millport, Ice Hockey, Science Centre), Badminton, Basketball, Ten Pin Bowling, Team Games and Challenges, Quizzes, Music Tuition, Team Building, Baseball /Rounders, Camping, Cross-Country, Football, Athletics, gymnastics, Tai Chi, Volleyball, Swimming Gala, life skills, Art and Craft, Leadership Training, Christian Fellowship . . .

We recently won the Battalion Christian Fellowship Competition held in November and our team of David McNish, Ben Cunningham and Jacob Cunningham won the competition with a news bulletin of Jesus Healing the Blind Man which the judges thoroughly enjoyed! You can see the video on our 1stkilbarchanbb Facebook page as well as photos of all the things we do! This was the first time Kilbarchan had ever won this trophy!

Now that we are in the second half of our session we have held our very successful Coffee Morning and are now preparing for our Display and Annual Cumbrae Camp. We still have some competitions to compete in and so far we are 4<sup>th</sup> in the Paisley and District Battalion Competition. The Battalion Parade at the end of April is to be held in Lochwinnoch where the Company celebrates its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

**If you do your internet shopping with Amazon.co.uk then you can support 1<sup>st</sup> Kilbarchan Boys' Brigade by using [smile.amazon.co.uk](http://smile.amazon.co.uk) and choosing 1<sup>st</sup> Kilbarchan Boys' Brigade as your nominated charity and a small percentage of your purchases will be donated to us at no extra cost to yourself. You know it makes sense!**

Thanks for your continued support.

*Robert Stevenson*  
Captain



## Church Mice



# HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

## Background

A Health and Safety initiative was launched by the Church of Scotland late in 2017 with the objective of having all Parishes formalise their Health and Safety procedures. To assist with this the General Trustees issued a Health and Safety Toolkit.

This Toolkit stresses that responsibility for health and safety within any Church of Scotland lies with its “Financial Board” which, for Kilbarchan Parish Church, is the Congregational Board. The Board is called upon to appoint a team to administer health and safety affairs and a member of the Board shall be nominated “Congregational Health and Safety Administrator” to be a point of contact for health and safety issues within the Church and to report to the Board on these issues.

## The Team

The Kilbarchan H&S Team first met on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2018 and comprises the following volunteers; May Henderson, Fiona McKenzie Campbell McKenzie, Ann McLeod, Tony Martin, Gwen Howden, and Christine Erwin. It was proposed that Tony Martin take the role of Congregational Health and Safety Administrator and this was approved by the Board on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2018.

## Scope

The Toolkit recommends that the following aspects should be covered:

1. A health and safety policy shall be drawn up confirming strategy and congregational commitment to high standards
2. Procedures shall be drawn up outlining safe practices
3. Risk assessments shall be carried out for all buildings, including:  
all hazards encountered in the day to day business of the church,  
fire safety,  
utilities,  
food safety.
4. Consideration of the health and safety of our employees.
5. Provision of a Safety Poster.
6. Provision of Labels and Signage confirming safe practices, fire exits, etc.

## Progress

A Health and Safety Policy Statement and a Health and Safety Management

System has been drawn up setting out a strategy to manage health and safety issues within the congregation and confirming the roles and responsibilities of all concerned towards maintaining a safe environment within the Church. This was circulated to Board Members and accepted at the Congregational Board meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> December.2018.

Risk Assessments are being carried out for the church building, the halls and the kitchen, and Safety Procedures will be drawn up for various activities and eventualities to help minimise any risks.

The Team are also considering our responsibility towards external groups and bodies which use Church facilities. As we have no input or control of their actual activities then it must be the responsibility of the organisers of these groups to ensure that their activities are managed in a safe manner, but we still have to ensure that they have a safe environment and know what to do if an emergency occurs.

### **Further Information**

It is planned that all policy documents and procedures will be available on the Church website. Further information may be had from any member of the Team, and points of concern can similarly be raised.

*Tony Martin*  
352490





## FUND-RAISING NEWS



Dear Friends,

On 2<sup>nd</sup> February we were delighted to have a full hall to welcome back the FP Big Band. Thanks to all who helped with the stage, lighting and the lovely buffet supper. We were also pleased to have the help of Susan MacAskill and Myra Grant. We raised an excellent £665 for church funds.



The Easter Extravaganza takes place on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April from 10am -12noon in the halls and grounds. We shall have the usual Easter-egg hunt and decorated egg/bonnet competition. Entrance is £3, children £1, including hot-cross buns with coffee. There will be an Easter gift stall and a home-baking and preserves stall and hopefully you will all come along with family and friends to support your fund-raising committee.

The Pancake Morning is on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May-not sure if we are able to have a sale of plants-but come along between 10am and 12noon to enjoy the delicious freshly made pancakes.



Thank you for your continued support even in small ways-e.g. collecting change, it's surprising how this mounts up.

*Jenifer Pitchers - Chairperson, Irene Moffat - Treasurer, Margaret Allan, Elizabeth Anderson, Rosemary Clark, Margaret Gray, Marjory Love, Jemima McDermid, Joan MacKinnon, Helen Miller, Una Strachan Fulton Dunn, Myra Grant and Susan MacAskill.*



*Nothing dies more quickly than a new idea in a closed mind.*

*Don't just entertain new ideas. Put them to work!*



## THE GUILD



The second half of our session started with a very interesting talk on the Hospital Volunteering Service at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Paisley where trained volunteers, of different age groups, are involved with long stay and lonely patients both chatting and listening to them, reading to them, playing board games etc. Unfortunately our meeting on January 22<sup>nd</sup> had to be cancelled due to adverse weather conditions. However we hope that our speaker for that day will come back next session and entertain us with her talk and slides entitled 'Around the world in 50 minutes.'

We have an interesting programme drawn up for February and March, when we had our Guest Afternoon on 12<sup>th</sup> February when we invited other local Guilds to join us. This was followed by a talk on the work of the Food Banks and a Martha's Table on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> February. Moving on to March 12<sup>th</sup> we have two ladies from the Baptist Church in Linwood telling us about their Project 'Helping Hands' and bringing along some of their work and our final meeting – AGM – will take place on 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2019.

We will be happy to welcome visitors to any of our meetings.

*Jan Howitt*



### DRAMA GROUP



At our recent Drama AGM, we agreed to give £2500 to the Church as the profit from the two productions in 2018, which were "Vicar of Dibley" in April and "It's a Wonderful life" in November.

We are now on the lookout for our next production which will be in November 2019. If you are interested in joining the drama group or can offer your support in any way please speak to any member of the drama group.

*Fiona McKenzie*

# ROYAL ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL



## Volunteer with us!

- Do you have some spare time on your hands?
- Want to use your life experience to help others?
- You can make a big difference to patients in a hospital setting!



Patients that have been in hospital for a prolonged period of time can experience isolation and frustration due to a lack of stimulation and visitors. Volunteer visitors can make a huge difference to their experience through providing friendship, chatting, sharing activities and assisting with other tasks that will benefit patient care.

We are looking for friendly, confident volunteers with plenty of life experience to help to improve the patients' stay on long term wards at the **Royal Alexandra Hospital**. Typical duties would involve chatting to patients, generally getting to know them, about their lives; their likes/dislikes etc. All our volunteers receive out-of-pocket expenses, induction training and regular one-to-one support from project staff.

### Interested? For more information, please contact:

Harry Balch, Volunteer Manager,  
Volunteer Services,  
Level 7,  
West Glasgow ACH  
Dalnair Street  
Glasgow  
G3 8SJ

☎ 0141 201 0361  
Email: [harry.balch@ggc.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:harry.balch@ggc.scot.nhs.uk)



## STITCHING GROUP

The Stitching Group has resumed for the spring (we're always optimistic). Thanks to those who supported our stall at Christmas which earned our highest total ever of arounds £400.

We meet the small hall on Tuesdays at 2.30 and afterwards have coffee in Bobbins

We are currently starting work for the Easter Eggstravaganza. If there is any item you'd like to see on the stall, please let us know, otherwise we'll just have to specialise in chocolate as usual in as many guises as we can think of.

Anybody who'd like to visit at either the hall or Bobbins is welcome – no sewing or knitting required.

*Alison McNicoll*



## TOTS' CLUB

We resumed after Christmas and toy-cleaning, on 7<sup>th</sup> January and have welcomed quite a few new children with their accompanying adults which is good, as the numbers are now averaging 30 each Monday. The club meets every Monday from 9.15-11.30am until Easter with 22<sup>nd</sup> April as a holiday. The children enjoy playing with a huge variety of toys, jigsaws and books and of course the ever popular bouncy castle. The cost is still £1 per adult for refreshments, and there is always juice along with biscuits for the tots-especially the favourite pink ones!! We all really enjoy our Monday mornings and would be pleased to welcome anyone for coffee.

*Rosie and John Picken, Elizabeth and Fulton Dunn, Ian and Alison Keith, Janet and Bobby Stevenson, Christine Erwin, Margaret Lafferty, Cathy Miller, Margaret Allan, Myra Grant, Fiona Stewart, Malcolm MacAskill, Jenifer Pitchers.*



# Kilbarchan Parish Church of Scotland

## Kilbarchan Kirk Online

Find all the information you need on what's happening at KPC

on our website and social media.

Web: [kilbarchan-kirk.btck.co.uk](http://kilbarchan-kirk.btck.co.uk)



Twitter: @KilbarchanKirk



Facebook: [facebook.com/kilbarchankirk](https://facebook.com/kilbarchankirk)

Activity on our social media has seen an increase lately and I'd like to thank those that take the time to get involved. Hopefully those that do get involved find it informative and fun to be a part of. Please remember if you are part of any of the church organisations and would like to share information then don't hesitate in letting me know about it. If you would like to start a Facebook Group for any organisation, then this can also be included under the umbrella of the church Facebook Page. If you would like any more information on this then please speak to me.

The church website continues to hold all relevant information on service times, events and organisations. If you would like to add, or indeed remove, any information please speak to me or email [kilbarchankirk@gmail.com](mailto:kilbarchankirk@gmail.com).

*Alan Vaughan*



## Church Mice

Copyright Karl A. Zorowski



## MESSY CHURCH

Since the beginning of the year we have held two Messy Church meetings on a Saturday. In January we looked at the story of Jonah and in February we used the hymn "All things bright and beautiful " when we thought about the world around us and how we can help to keep it for future generations by recycling etc.

Numbers attending have been good and the children, and the adults, have all enjoyed the various crafts and games on offer. We always finish with a story and song and over the months the favourite song we have found is "Our God is a Great Big God" It has a very catchy tune and if you can get it up on YouTube you will see what I mean.

Our next Messy Church is on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March from 4.00 to 6.00pm when we will look at Mother's Day. In May we will be hoping for fine weather so as we can have a games day and picnic in the church grounds. So come along and join us.

You will be made most welcome.

*The Messy Church Team*



**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April, 10.00am – 12.00noon, £3.00/£1.00**



## HILL WALKING CLUB

On a gloriously sunny day last December sixteen of us made our way to Stirling to have an exciting escarpment walk on narrow paths round Lewis Hill. The views of the Ochils were superb, and also of the Wallace Monument and Stirling Castle and in the distance the Munros of Beinn Vorlich and Stuc a' Chroin. We were amazed by the unusual shapes of the rocks below us and loved the views of the North Third Reservoir from the summit cairn. The descent also was interesting when we stopped to examine the remains of old limekiln workings. All in all a great day with lots of ups and downs but without having to climb too high!

The first walk of 2019 took us to Muirkirk in Ayrshire where nineteen of us, including a nine year old young lady, climbed the hill of Cairn Table which has two very high cairns, one of which is a Great War Memorial, and also a direction board pointing out Ailsa Craig, Arran and the Galloway Hills. We may have spent longer on the summit had the wind not been quite so fierce, but at least it was dry – unlike on the descent when we had very heavy rain. On the way back to the car park we stopped to read the inscription on another cairn built in memory of John Loudon Macadam and passed the ruins of his home and walked on his first ever tarmac road.

The forecast for our February walk to Broughton Heights was dreadful suggesting 60 mile per hour winds, so the eleven of us who turned up at the Steeple were relieved to give it a miss and go instead to the Greenock Cut where we had a lovely walk – half of which we had with the wind at our back blowing us along and the other half battling against it. Unfortunately we were caught in a very heavy shower, but with the strong wind we were almost dried out by the time we got back to the car. A really enjoyable morning walk – and back in time to see the rugby!

The planned walk for March is to The Merrick in the Galloway Forest, and for April the high level walk is Beinn Challum and the low level Auch Glen near Tyndrum. May and June are weekends away with walks from Braemar Hostel and Ratagan Hostel respectively. The syllabus for 2019 is on the Hillwalking notice board in the Hall.

*Margaret Beattie*



## RENFREWSHIRE FOOD BANK

Last year in the weeks leading up to Christmas there was a great response to the "Reverse Advent Appeal." Many thanks to everyone who took part in providing extra food for families over Christmas.

Over the last twelve months members and non-members of Kilbarchan Parish Church have donated 326 Kgs. of food. This equates to the equivalent of 777 meals for people in crisis in Renfrewshire.

Requested from the distribution centre in Paisley most recently are tinned puddings, tinned fruit, and gents toiletries i.e. razor blades. Could these requests be considered along with basic food items.

Thanks for your continued generous giving.

*Graham & Jack*



## THEY MISSED HIM

THEY MISSED HIM! They were looking for a lion  
He came as a Lamb,  
and they missed Him.

They were looking for a warrior,  
He came as a Peacemaker,  
and they missed Him.

They were looking for liberation from Rome,  
He submitted to the Roman stake,  
and they missed Him.

They were looking for a fit to their mould,  
He was the mould breaker,  
and they missed Him.

**WILL YOU?**





## Christian Aid News

**Christian Aid Week** this year starts on **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May**.

As in previous years we shall be organising a door-to-door collection in Kilbarchan and Brookfield. More than **£4,000** was raised last year, a wonderful sum which will make a major difference to those in need throughout the world.

New volunteer collectors are needed (to distribute envelopes and collect donations in one street or a group of houses) if we are to cover all of Kilbarchan and Brookfield - please contact **Alasdair Law** on **0141 533 0389** or **0780 591 8509** if you would be willing to assist this year.

If you volunteered last year, Alasdair will contact you directly to check your availability.

We hope to have a speaker from Christian Aid participate in one of our morning services during March, to tell us how the fund-raising efforts of communities such as ours are helping to transform lives. Keep your eyes and ears open for the the date of this talk.

*Alasdair Law*



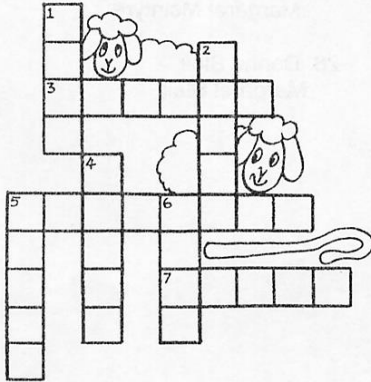
A  
Mother  
is the person  
who sits at the head  
of the family holding it so  
firmly together in her own special  
way binding it with love and devotion  
as only she can for she gave us life nurtured  
us and listened to our daily trials and tribulations  
gave comfort and love when all was lost to us  
she made us laugh when we wanted to cry  
and picked us up when we were down  
she asks nothing, expects nothing  
and deserves everything  
God created Mothers  
He created Love  
in her for  
us



# Kidz Korner



EASTER EGGS LAID WHILE-U-WAIT



### ACROSS

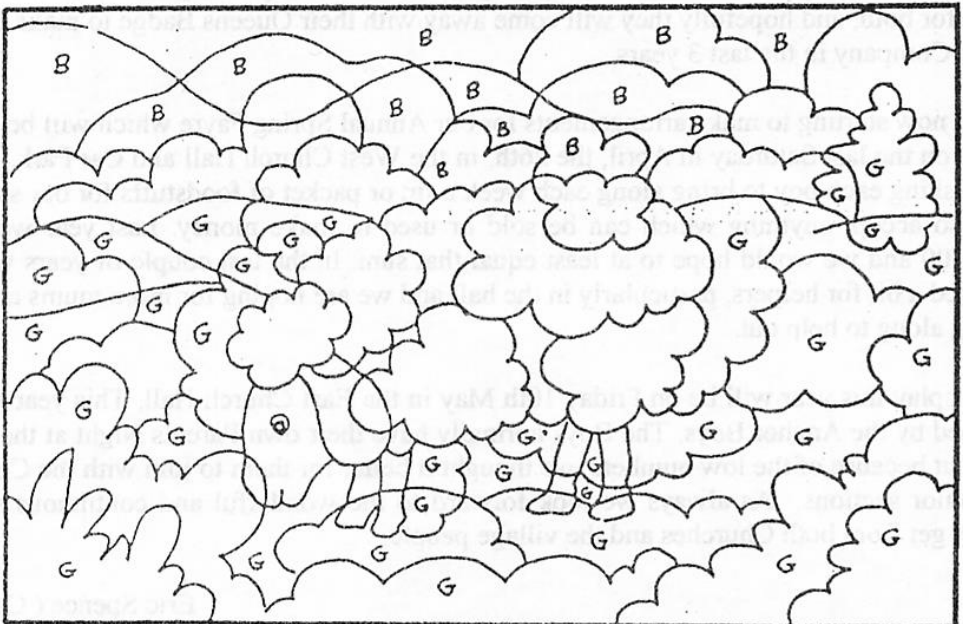
- 3 When Jesus walks ahead, what do the sheep do?
- 5 Jesus is the Good one of these
- 7 Jesus walks \_\_\_\_\_ of the sheep (it means in front of).

### DOWN

- 1 Jesus lays this down for the sheep
- 2 The sheep recognise this when Jesus calls them
- 4 Jesus calls his own sheep by name and \_\_\_\_\_ them out
- 5 These hear Jesus' voice
- 6 The sheep use their ears to do this

IF YOU COLOUR IN ALL THE **B**'S BLUE  
AND ALL THE **G**'S GREEN...

Read about a lost one in Luke 15:1-7.



... YOU WILL FIND AN ANIMAL JESUS KNEW WELL



Many thanks for the cards, flowers , best wishes and practical help I have received over the last few months during my chemotherapy treatment. Your love and support has been greatly appreciated.

*Jean Young*

I wish to thank the Kirk Session for the lovely plant I received for Christmas and I appreciate it very much. Best Wishes for 2019,

*Walter Gardner*



Dear Editor,

I am very grateful to whoever contributed “Mary’s Dream” (Issue 12, Winter 2018) which I intend to share with my own congregation as a gentle yet powerful reminder of the risk of worshipping an imaginary Jesus at Christmas. At our own carol service we looked at John 1 v 14 where we are told: “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...full of grace and truth.” (ESV) In a world where truth is increasingly perceived as subjective, we can be grateful that God sent Jesus into our world to reveal the absolute truth about God, humanity, life and salvation.

Yours,

*Michael Veitch*

(Minister of Wooler Evangelical Church ... and son-in-law of Arlene Donald!)

### THANK YOU



On behalf of Carol, Hazel and their families, I would like to thank you for the overwhelming support we have received from Stephen and all our friends in Kilbarchan Parish Church on Richard’s death in December. It has meant a great deal to us, and your continuing support to me is greatly appreciated. Cancer Research also benefited to the tune of almost £1420 from donations at the funeral service.

*Jenifer*

# PARISH REGISTER



## MEMBERS JOINING KILBARCHAN PARISH CHURCH

By Resolution of the Kirk Session :-

Mr. Grant McFadyen - Elder, Yvonne Kane (Dist.6)

## DEATHS (\* denotes member)



25/11/2018	Alice McCulloch – as Interim Moderator
30/11/2018	John Connell *
07/12/2018	Elizabeth Barrett *
10/12/2018	Richard Pitchers *
20/12/2018	Eleanor Muir
29/12/2018	Elizabeth Stoddart
23/01/2019	Ruby McBirnie
26/01/2019	Robert Newton
27/01/2019	Alexis Smith *
28/01/2019	Peter Sharpe (Oban)
19/02/2019	Robert Clark *

## ROLL

The Roll of Kilbarchan Parish Church now stands at 414 and 19 Adherants.



## THE CHURCH INVISIBLE

In 2018 I conducted services of thanksgiving for the life of 5 folks who had served as elders within the congregations of Kilbarchan East and Kilbarchan West. Betty Blair, Kenneth Dale, Margaret Jamieson, John Connell and Richard Pitchers all gave so much to the life and work of the church in Kilbarchan down through the years. We continue to mourn their passing and give thanks for their lives and Christian witness.

*Stephen*

# USEFUL CHURCH CONTACTS

**Minister** - Rev Stephen Smith

**Session Clerk** - POSITION VACANT

**Ass. Session Clerk** - Miss Helen Robertson

**Ass. Session Clerk** - Mrs Christine Erwin

**Treasurer** - Mr James Moffat

**Clerk to Congregational Board** - Mrs Gwen Howden

## WORSHIP PROGRAMME

Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	11.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	11.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	11.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	11.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	11.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> April	11.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> April	11.00am	Morning Worship
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> April	7.00pm	Maundy Thursday Service
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> April	7.00pm	Good Friday Service
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> April	8.30am	Early Service at Weavers Cottage
	11.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> April	11.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> May	11.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> May	11.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> May	11.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> May	11.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	11.00am	Morning Worship

