



Kilbarchan Parish Church

Your local church magazine

Dear Friends,

LENT

“Lent is a time to take the time to let the power of our faith story take hold of us,
a time to let the events get up and walk around us,
a time to intensify our living unto Christ,
a time to hover over the thoughts of our hearts,
a time to place our feet in the streets of Jerusalem or to walk along the sea
and listen to his word,
a time to touch his robe and to feel the healing surge through us,
a time to ponder and a time to wonder...
Lent is a time to allow a fresh new taste of God!”

Ann Weems

For me the words of Ann Weems, a noted poet and author capture the essence of Lent. Lent is a time, a season when we can refocus on what is central to the faith. We lead busy lives and there is so much that demands our time. Some things are essential and some things are trivia. We need to watch our time and how we use it. Here are a few quotes about time.

Dost thou love life? Then waste not time; for time is the stuff that life is made of.

Benjamin Franklin

How we spend our days is, of course, how we spend our lives.

Annie Dillard

Stephen



FROM THE EDITOR



This is but a dream!

The reality is that it is hard but enjoyable work as well as a privilege being Editor of our magazine.

It is sometimes taken for granted that it will come out when we said it would – BUT – this would not be possible without those who contribute articles and I thank them all for their help.

This Issue contains items from our organisations as well as local issues and some further afield. It is your magazine and hopefully reflects what is happening in and around Kilbarchan Parish and Church.

The Summer Issue will come out on Sunday 4th June, 2017, 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 by the 21st of May.



GRANDMA

While we honour all our mothers with words of love and praise.
While we tell about their goodness and their kind and loving ways. We should also think of Grandma, she's a mother too, you see For she's mothered my dear mother as my mother mothers me.

*I will try my best
in every way
To be extra sweet
on Mother's Day.
But if you become
upset with me,
Please relax and
have a cup of tea!*

KIRK SESION REPORT

At the February meeting of the Kirk Session elders were given letters to distribute to their districts. The purpose of the letter was to produce an up to date roll for the Parish Church. It was also an opportunity to confirm our commitment to protecting your privacy and safeguarding your personal data. It is hoped that as many people as possible will continue to be a member of the church in Kilbarchan.

We are no further forward with the sale of the West Church and hall. Marjory Love has been in contact with the General Trustees and has been advised that the local Planning Department have acknowledged a request to discuss the disposal of the West Church and hall before we put them on the market. A meeting is being arranged between the Planning Department, representatives of the Trustees and Historic Environment Scotland sometime in March.

A Listed Building Application for removal of memorials, organ etc. from the former West Church and also the transfer of memorials/plaques to Kilbarchan Parish Church has been submitted to the Council.

We would congratulate Charlie Crabbe on 50 years' service as an Elder in the Church of Scotland. Charlie was ordained in Langbank in February 1967 where he served for a number of years before coming to Kilbarchan West and now Kilbarchan Parish Church.

During our service on the 27th November a Long Service Certificate was presented to June McLaughlin by John Connell for 30 years' service as an elder. We were saddened to hear of the death of the Rev Stan Palmer a former minister of Kilbarchan East Church. Stan was minister for 11 years, between 1980 and 1991, before he took early retirement. We all have our own memories of his time in Kilbarchan. Our thoughts are with his wife Ann, and the rest of the family at this time.

Beadle Duties for the coming months

March	Marie Alexander, Gwen Howden, Alec Christine
April	Margaret Gibb, Mary Marrison, Christine Erwin
May	John Fleming, Willie Beattie, Ian Keith
June	Isabelle Robertson, Myra Grant, Malcolm MacAskill
July	Jenifer Pitchers, Graham McKay, Neil Chittick
August	Una Strachan, Alastair MacKinnon, Sandy Graham

Fulton Dunn



TREASURER'S REPORT

I am writing this article shortly after the Trustees-Elders and Board Members- approved the Accounts of Kilbarchan Parish Church for the year to 31 December 2016. Once signed by the Session Clerk, Fulton Dunn, the Examiner Bill Rennie and myself as Treasurer the Accounts will be submitted to the Church of Scotland in Edinburgh and Greenock and Paisley Presbytery for attestation. After Presbytery have attested the Accounts they will be forwarded to the Charity Regulator.

The Accounts show the Church's financial position to be in a sound state particularly the level of Reserves both restricted for fabric use and unrestricted for general use but there are a number of factors that have led to this situation that are "one off" and will not be repeated in the near future. Firstly the sale of two Manses and the purchase of the present Manse in Shuttle Street led to a net gain of over £220,000. This sum is held by the General Trustees in the Church of Scotland, Edinburgh and invested in a high interest/yield account with the Church of Scotland Investment Trust.

Secondly the Roof Appeal was successful in generating almost £22,000 in six months or so. While fundraising will always be important to the Church both from the social and financial aspects this "one off" Appeal for restricted fabric use will not be repeated in the near future.

Thirdly the Church of Scotland, Edinburgh and Greenock and Paisley Presbytery reduced the Ministry and Mission payments to 121 George Street by over £30,000 last year. This was another factor in the level of our Reserves specifically the unrestricted,

Fourthly a very generous Legacy of £40,000 was received by the former West Parish Church some eighteen months ago and this was earmarked for fabric expenditure during 2016.

The main reason for the Reserves being at a relatively high level is that we have not started spending the significant sums of money identified by the Consultant, in the region of £350,000, on much needed fabric expenditure including a new Church roof. Once this work starts, hopefully late Spring, the Reserves will reduce,

We have been given a wonderful opportunity, with a sound financial base, to both ensure the Church Buildings are fit for purpose for generations to come and, under the guidance of our enthusiastic and dedicated Minister, Stephen Smith, ensure the Church in Kilbarchan and Brookfield grows.

Members in our Church have many talents and I am not talking only about the Burns Supper, Art off the Square, Easter Extravaganza, Pancake and Plant

morning and many more fundraising events but also those members starting the Messy Church and many others who work diligently and quietly on different aspects in the life of the Church including members who organise the Wednesday Morning Midweek Service.

In the course of the next few years the Reserves will fall sharply when the major repairs and alterations have been completed. Please keep this in mind when reviewing your level of offering. If you are paying income tax it is so easy to increase your current offering by 25% by simply signing a Gift Aid form. Richard Pitchers (703786) will be delighted to give you a form and any information required.

It has been a difficult year for many Members but there are many signs that we are “binding together” and the future is bright. We have a Minister who is striving to build a dynamic Church to serve Kilbarchan and Brookfield. If you have not attended the Church recently why not come along on a Sunday morning? You will be assured of a warm welcome.

Thank you for your support.

Jim Moffat



At a Mass at which some young ladies were to take their final vows to become nuns, the presiding Bishop noticed two Rabbis enter the church just before the service began. They insisted on sitting on the right side of the center aisle.

The Bishop wondered why they had come, but he didn't have time to inquire before the Mass began. When it was time for the announcements, the Bishop's curiosity got the better of him. He welcomed the two Rabbis and asked why they had chosen to be present at this occasion where the young ladies were to become the “Brides of Christ”

The elder of the Rabbis slowly rose to his feet and explained, “Family of the Groom”

Lenten Reflection: Are you ready for Easter?

How do you pack for a holiday? Do you wait until the last possible moment and hope it will all fit in the suitcase (and that your passport is still valid) or do you make a list a week or two beforehand, ensuring you're prepared? The danger of leaving it to the last minute is that you could find you're out of sun-tan lotion, or that your swimming costume no longer fits and there's no time to get a replacement.

Lent, which started on Wednesday, March 1st is a period of preparation. For the 40 days before Easter (Lent excludes Sundays), Christians are encouraged to take part in acts of prayer, self-denial, Bible study and almsgiving (giving to charity) to help focus their minds on the events that led up to the Resurrection. Easter is the most important date on the calendar: without Christ's sacrifice on the cross, without his Resurrection and without him taking our sins away with him, there would be no easy way to God.

It's easy for us to take our salvation for granted; when you've been a Christian for a while, you may start to accept your freedom in Christ and even become blasé about it. Lent is an opportunity for us to redress that balance. While we can take inspiration from Christ's 40 days In the desert, facing temptation from Satan, it's perhaps a parable that Jesus told that could be the key for us understanding Lent today. In Matthew 25, we read the Parable of the Ten Virgins who were waiting for the bridegroom to arrive. Five of them were foolish "and took no oil with them", the wise five had brought enough with them to be In for a long wait — but there wasn't enough to share. The foolish five had to go off and buy the necessary oil to keep their lamps burning but didn't get back in time to be allowed into the wedding. "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming" warns Jesus (Matthew 25:13) like Christmas or packing for a holiday, being prepared is essential.

Lent is an opportunity for us to spend time refocusing ourselves on what it means for us to be disciples on the journey of faith. it's a period when we can ask ourselves what we are doing to help bring about God's Kingdom on earth and It's an opportunity to reflect again on the salvation that we enjoy thanks to Christ's sacrifice.

Jesus gave us a clear warning In Matthew 25 to be ready for his return. We would be foolish to ignore it.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We would like to welcome Shona Malone to our Sunday School family, Shona will be teaching the older children in our group and is already known to some of the children as she is involved with the Boys Brigade Anchor Boys.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Linda Vaughan for her commitment, enthusiasm, creative ideas, dedication and passion which she showed each week as a teacher and wish her well as she takes a break.

In Sunday School we are now using the Splash and Bubbles materials from Scripture Union Light, currently both groups are learning about King David and his relationship with God. The younger children made up their own song to the tune of London Bridge is Falling down as we talked about how King David often wrote songs and poems to God.

Many thanks also to all those who on a rotational basis help us each week and if anyone else is interested in adding their name to the rota, you would be gladly welcomed, the same goes for anyone who might be interested in teaching.

Ros & Shona

THE VICTORIOUS JESUS

They cut the branches from the trees
And strewed them in the way,
Because they knew their Lord and King
Would come along that way.
They sang hosanna to the King
And praised His holy name— Now even in this modern day,
We, too, should do the same.
The Christ who came that palm-strewn way
To enter in the gate, Will enter in your heart today,
So do not make Him wait.
That palm-strewn path of long ago
Is still a victory sign That Christ still comes
along the way
Into your heart and mine,





HILL WALKING CLUB

Our final walk of 2016 completed a very successful year when we climbed Stronend in the Fintry Hills in a lovely December day with superb visibility to Ben Lomond, to the Lomond Hills in Fyfe, to the Lanark Hills and to the Pentlands.

Twelve of us enjoyed the glorious sunshine of the January walk to the Falls of Clyde when we walked up to the Bracklin Falls and down the opposite side of the river to Kirkfieldbank, ending the walk at the visitor centre in New Lanark with a welcome cup of tea or coffee!

We were not quite so fortunate with the weather in February for our walk to Doughnot Hill in the Kilpatrick Hills when we suffered wind, rain, sleet and snow, but all twelve of us felt the benefit of the exercise (we think!)

In March we are hoping to climb the two Munros of Beinn Dubhchraig and Beinn Oss near Tyndrum - or a slightly lower climb to Fiarach for those not wanting to climb over 3000 feet. The April walk will take us to Under Saddle Yoke, a Donald near Moffat while the May weekend is to the Braemar Hostel and the June weekend is to Bearnock hostel near Cannich.

The programme for 2017 was made up at the AGM in December and a copy of the syllabus is attached to the Hillwalking Notice board in the Church Hall.

Margaret Beattie



DRAMA GROUP



After our Drama group AGM, we were able to donate £1800 to church funds from the proceeds of our November 2016 production. We are grateful to all who supported us. Come and have an evening of fun and sing-a-long to Mary Poppins on Saturday 25th March at 6.30pm in the hall. Tickets £5 for adults and £2 for children available from Bobbins and any drama group member. This family evening is to help the Drama group celebrate 40 years. Feel free to dress up in 1910 costumes.

Fiona McKenzie

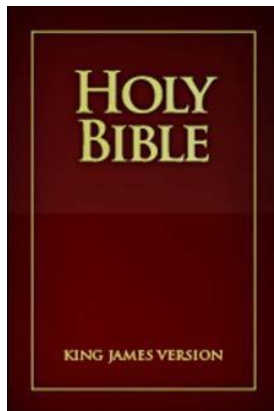
TOTS' CLUB

We had a very successful Christmas party, with over 40 children with their parents/ grandparents and of course Santa's visit was the highlight of the morning, along with the lovely buffet! Since Christmas, we have had an average of 30-35 children coming along, which is a perfect number, although we have 55 on the register. We are unable to set out the hall after the Sunday coffee as the Pipe band now rehearse in the evening. We would be very pleased to have a few more volunteers to help, even to set out at 9am. Please speak to any of us and drop in for coffee any Monday morning. Andy Stark will be paying his annual visit On 6th March to take photographs for those who wish. The club stops for Easter on 3rd April and resumes on Monday 24th at 9.15am.

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

The Guide Book

On the table side by side,
The Holy Bible and the TV guide
One is well-worn but cherished with pride,
(Not the Bible, but the TV guide).
One is used daily to help folk decide,
No! It isn't the Bible, it's the TV guide,
As pages are turned, what shall we see
Oh!, what does it matter, turn on the TV!
So they open the book in which they confide,
(No, not the Bible, it's the TV guide),
The word of God is seldom read, Maybe
a verse as they fall into bed, Exhausted
and sleepy and, tired as can be,
Not from reading the Bible, but from watching TV.
So then back on the table, side by side,
Is the Holy Bible and the TV guide,
No time for prayer, no time for the Word.
The plan of salvation is seldom heard.
Forgiveness of sin so full and free,
Is found in the Bible, and not on TV!





The Boys' Brigade in Kilbarchan Parish Church have a busy period coming up as we go into the second half of our session. By the time you read this article the Anchor Boys from Primary 2 have attended an afternoon of fun, games and songs in Martyrs Memorial Church in Paisley where they will have a great afternoon of fun with some of the Anchors then being picked up by their parents and dropped off for our Messy Church afternoon – hopefully lots of tired boys that night!

Our Coffee Morning and Table Top Sale took place on Saturday 25th February from 10 am to 12 noon. This event has certainly grown over the past few years as we have introduced Crafts for sale on tables around the hall and I am sure it will be a continued success and one of our main fundraisers of the session. On Saturday 4th March all our Anchor Boys took part in the Anchor Boy Day to be held in Gleniffer High School. This event was a great success last year with a Pirate Theme and this year's theme is Space!

The boys and officers will be attending our Spring Service on Sunday 5th March where parents and boys can join together at a family service. The boys will be attending the Battalion Parade on 19th March which this year is being held in St Paul's Church in Johnstone and hopefully there will be good support from our boys and officers in 1st Kilbarchan Company.

On Friday 31st March the Company and Junior Section boys will have an all-night activities night with them involved in quizzes games and a mid-night film show. The boys will finish on Saturday morning around 9 am after a big breakfast. The Anchors will be there from 7 pm to 10 pm. The company will not meet during the school Spring Break.

Our Annual Inspection and Display will take place on 12th May and the officers and boys are hoping to break with normal Display tradition and do something a wee bit special and different this year although badges and awards will be presented as normal, but hopefully there will be a lot of fun during the evening.

We hope to have boys and officers attending the Cumbræ Camp which is being held in Millport on 26th May and running through the weekend school holiday. Officers and boys will take part in water sports, cycling, bowling, hill-walking crazy golf with live music also being part of the camping adventure. Group T-shirts and wrist bands will be given to all boys taking part.

So far this session we have entered boys for the Ten Pin Bowling Competition where our two teams had a successful evening. For some boys this was the first time they had played Ten Pin Bowling and the event turned out to be quite an adventure for them – they had a great time!

Three of our boys entered the Battalion Swimming Competition in Renfrew Baths and came in 3rd at the event – congratulations to Jacob and Ben Cunningham and David McNish for taking part and doing so well at the competition. As I write this article we have two teams entered for the Recruit Games Competition for boys from P6, P7 and S1 to be held at Renfrew North Church and hopefully the boys will do well but more importantly have good fun.

We have one boy who should be achieving his Queen's Badge this session and one boy has now embarked on gaining his President's Badge at the Display. The Company look forward to completing another successful year as an important part of Kilbarchan Parish Church.

Robert Stevenson



*Anchors making pancakes
for their
'Shrove Friday!'*

TWO WORDS QUIZ – ANSWERS

1	Informal money is top and bottom of the scale	Dough	Doh
2	Navigation marker for a young lad	Buoy	Boy
3	Negative but aware of	No	Know
4	Perceive the ocean	See	Sea
5	Help the assistant	Aid	Aide
6	Double confrontation	Dual	Duel
7	Mr Piggy is a bit tedious	Boar	Bore
8	Venison is costly	Deer	Dear
9	Authentic Scottish dance	Real	Reel
10	Observed the view	Seen	Scene
11	Fast animal found on the head	Hare	Hair
12	This stag is at the centre	Hart	Heart
13	Run away from this insect	Flee	Flea
14	Rough successive part of a meal	Coarse	Course
15	Naked endurance	Bare	Bear
16	Turn over and over for actor's part	Roll	Role
17	Embroider this musical note	Sew	Soh
18	Trim this fruit	Pare	Pear
19	This little piece of land leads to wedded bliss	Isle	Aisle
20	Formerly leg joint	Nee	Knee
21	Story and the reverse side of a coin	Tale	Tail
22	Conceited blood vessel	Vain	Vein
23	Stylish young hen	Chic	Chick
24	Is aware of this facial feature	Knows	Nose
25	Throw aside section of Indian Society	Cast	Caste

There were 25 correct entries and the sum of £172 was raised for church funds.
The two winners picked out by Guild Committee members were :-
Eilidh McLean of Howwood and Agnes Douglas of Kilbarchan

KILBARCHAN KIRK ONLINE

kilbarchan-kirk.btck.co.uk f: facebook.com/kilbarchankirk t: @KilbarchanKirk

I wish I had £1 for every time I've heard the words, "I don't do facebook!"

It's not the fact that people don't do social media that takes me by surprise; it's the exclamation mark at the end. Hackles rise along with blood pressures as the shutters come down.

I also wish I had £1 for every time I've defended our internet profile in this magazine.

The internet, and Facebook in particular have become the new village notice board. Not a replacement for the notice board but an extension of it. Like having a notice board at the end of every street, but you don't have to live on the street to read it.

Former moderator of the General Assembly, Very Rev Albert Bogle has just become The Kirk's first digital minister. He hopes to use his new role to create an online Kirk congregation, made up of people who may never set foot in a "real world" church. And *that's* what our online profile is all about – reaching out to people who *don't* sit in our pews on a Sunday; who *don't* come to midweek fellowship on a Wednesday; who are *thinking about* coming to messy church or drama or badminton.

Our Facebook is an open page; open to anyone who feels inclined to look. Open to those who don't do facebook as well as those who do. Open when the church doors are closed.

An open invitation to *come and see!*



FUND-RAISING

The Burns Supper on Saturday 28th January was a great success with 77 attending, and thanks are due to all the excellent speakers and to the committee for organising the event. This was a social event, not for fund-raising - it's important for us to come together socially.

Our next event is the ever-popular Easter Extravaganza on Saturday 8th April from 10am-12 noon in the hall, with an Easter-egg hunt and decorated egg and bonnet competitions. There will be a home-baking stall - donations will be gratefully received - and an Easter gift stall. If you are able to help to serve coffee, please speak to one of the committee. Entrance is £2:50, children £1. The Plant Sale and Pancake Morning is on Saturday 20th May from 10am-12 noon in the halls, entrance as for the Easter coffee morning, with freshly-made pancakes. Plant order forms will be available in April.

Committee members: Jenifer Pitchers (Chairperson), Irene Moffat (Treasurer), Joan MacKinnon, Margaret Allan, Elizabeth Anderson, Rosemary Clark, Helen Miller, Marjory Love, Jemima McDermid, Margaret Gray, Una Strachan and Fulton Dunn. We would like some new members please, especially men.



SENIOR CHOIR

Rehearsals are now well underway on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm in the church and on Sunday mornings at 10am for leading worship on Sundays, and working towards the service on Maundy Thursday, on 13th April at 7pm, when the choir will sing excerpts from "The Armed Man" by Karl Jenkins. If you are interested in joining the choir, please speak to Ian Trushell, the organist, any Sunday after the service.

"Music is a moral law. It gives soul to the universe, wings to the minds, flight to the imagination, and charm and joy to life and to everything."

Plato

STITCHING GROUP

After a very slow start, owing to several of having the Queen's cold, the Stitching Group is, at last, meeting again in the small hall on Wednesdays at 2pm. Up till now, those of us still standing have been having planning meetings in Bobbins. Our stall at the Christmas Fayre made in excess of £380.

We are now working for the Easter Eggstravaganza. Any new ideas for dressing up chocolate will be very useful. We'd love to welcome new members – even if they just come for a chat. Best wishes to all from the Stitching Group.

Alison McNicoll



CHURCH ORGANISTS

'Mess with church organists at your peril'

By John Bingham, Religious Affairs
Correspondent, The Daily Telegraph.

The dedication of church organists has kept the country's choral traditions alive for generations. But, if new research is to be believed, they are not to be crossed. It seems many seize the opportunity to take subtle revenge on clerics who have displeased them or simply play pranks on congregations. A survey of churchgoers found that at least half have noticed their organist slipping snippets of heavy metal classics, advertising, jingles and even nursery rhymes into hymns and anthems.

In some cases it can be a means of waging musical war with clerics while in others it is simply an effort to make the choir laugh.

Among examples cited by Christian Research was that of the organist in Scotland who had fallen out with some of the elders of the Kirk but got his own back by inserting a thinly disguised rendition of 'Send in the Clowns' as they processed in for a Sunday Service.

Elsewhere, a vicar sacked an organist after he played 'Roll out the Barrel' at the funeral of a man known to have been fond of a drink. Another congregation found themselves passing around the collection plate to the strains of Money, Money, Money by Abba"



DRAMA GROUP

It is hard to believe that 40 years have passed since Blair Gillon, minister of Kilbarchan East at the time, gathered together an enthusiastic group of volunteers to form the “Drama Group”!

Yes, 40 years have passed since the group’s first performance of “These Ghoulish Things”

Who would have thought that the enthusiasm of that group would have lasted for 40 years and the congregation and members of the parish would still be supporting us each November. We still have one of the original founder members in our group today, Jenifer Pitchers is still as enthusiastic as she was then, a driving force both on and off stage. There must have been thousands of lines learnt (and maybe a few missed from the script on the night) since the opening night, and hundreds of hours of rehearsal since. Goodness knows how many directors have pulled their hair out over missed lines and missed cues but I am sure the audience never noticed! Looking back on records of minutes and letters which we have on file, shows that the rehearsal pattern has maybe only changed slightly with us starting to rehearse in August planning for November production. In the early years the Group tended to perform in March and November. I don’t know how they managed to find the time to learn their lines and rehearse two productions per year. I think that back in 1995, they must have found that it was difficult then to find time as they reduced the number of performances to one per year as we do now.

The records show that there have been so many enthusiastic actors/actresses over the years and I am sure when you see some of the names I am going to mention, many old faces will spring to mind:- Iain Davidson, Betty Stark (Andy’s mother), Jean Baird, Jen Dougall, Margaret Sayer, Doreen Warner, Jane Warner, Alice Sayer, Stan Palmer, Robert Gray, Jim Gillan, Carol McCormick (nee Scott), Lorna Goodfellow (nee Christine), Carol Thorburn (nee Pitchers), Les Lambert, Rosemary Brown, Ian Miller, Jeannie Ritchie, Elspeth and Alan McDougall, Carol and Graeme Wright, Pamela Gray, Amy Seeth, Alison Berry (nee Chittick)

and of course more up-to-date members:- Jenifer Pitchers, Jennifer Douglas, Robert MacIntyre, Debbie King, Bobby Stevenson, Iain Gibb, Graham McKay, Arlene Donald, Carol Seeth, Fiona McKenzie (nee Fulton), Gregor Gray, Colin Muir, Murielle Stevenson and of course myself.

According to the records the following have been the productions throughout the 40 years:-



March 1978 – “These Ghoulish Things”, November 1978 – “Beside the Seaside”;
March 1979 – three one-act plays, November 1979 – “Letter from the General”;
March 1980 – “Till Further Orders”, November 1980 – “Breath of Spring”;
March 1981 – “Aurelia”, November 1981 – “Love’s a Luxury”; March 1982 –
“I’ll Get my Man”, November 1982 – “It Won’t be long Now”; March 1983 –
“Happiest Days of your Life”, November 1983 – “Goodnight Mrs Puffin”; March
1984 – “Raising the Roof”, November 1984 – “The Bride and the Bachelor”;
March 1985 – “End of the Honeymoon”, November 1985 – “Miranda”; March
1986 – “Fool’s Paradise”; March 1987 – “Miss Pringle Plays Portia” and “Escape
to Fear”, November 1987 – “Autumn Manoeuvres”; March 1988 – “Tag Match”,
November 1988 – “A Quiet Weekend”; March 1989 – “Highland Gathering”,
November 1989 – “The Geese are Getting Fat”; March 1990 – “Pickled in
Paradise”, November 1990 – “Charity Begins...”; March – 1991 – “Do Me a
Favour”, November 1991 – three one act plays; November 1992 – “Lucky for
Some”; March 1994 – no details of the title; November 1994 – “Home for
Christmas”; March 1995 – “What’s Hatching”, November 1995 – “Husbands
Supplied” and “Salon Mayfair”; November 1996 – Calamity Jeannie”; November
2000 – “Man Alive”; November 2001 – “Will you Take this Woman”; November
2002 – “Stramash – A Highland Fantasy”; November 2003 – “Arsenic and Old
Lace”; November 2004 – no production; November 2005 – “Season’s Greetings”;
November 2006 – “Allo ‘Allo; November 2007 – “Murdered to Death”; March
2008 – “Singalong Sound of Music; November 2008 – “Pull the Other One”;
November 2009 – “Wanted One Body”; November 2010 – “A Wee Touch O’
Class”; March 2011 – “The Steamie”, November 2011 – “Whiskey Galore”;
November 2012 – “Paras Over the Barras”; November 2013 – “The Flint Street
Nativity”; November 2014 – “Hi-de-Hi”; November 2015 – “Agatha Crusty and
the Village Hall Murders”; November 2016 – “The Even Greater Escape”.

We are fortunate to have a great set of scenery “flats” which were built by Ian Gavin and, I believe, the pupils of the then Reid Kerr College. This set of scenery

has been invaluable to the Group which has 40 years of paint in every colour on them. At the time they were built, Graham Baird I think was Stage Manager and was followed by Robert Scott who is our Stage Manager today.

I am sure the objective of the Drama Group then, as it is now, was to have FUN and FELLOWSHIP within a group of like-minded people at the same time providing some light-hearted entertainment for members of the Church and the wider community. We try to be as professional as possible and try to pick plays which entertain and perhaps thought provoking. The audiences have really supported and encouraged the Group over the years and we have been delighted that we now perform on three nights with average attendances over the last few years of approximately 100 per night. As we keep a close eye on our costs, and where possible the cast beg and borrow outfits to make up costumes where appropriate and only hiring when they are for specific period plays. This has enabled the Group to donate fairly substantial proceeds after costs to Church funds. We have also been able to target the purchase of equipment and fabric items for the Church hall and stage. A few years ago, well in fact, I think it was about 1990, new curtains were bought for the stage and I think we need to consider them being replaced in the near future, we also have ambitions to replace the lighting above the stage and up-grade the current sound system. Perhaps in the Church and hall upgrade which is to be made soon maybe money can be found for these things with our help. The stage extension which we purchased with the Church's help has been a fantastic benefit, and of course much easier to build and safer to use. The added space on the stage is brilliant and allows us to be more flexible in our choice of play. The stage's flexibility being used both in the Church itself and hall by other organisations on many occasions.

Forty years is a long while for any club or group to exist, so we are going to try to find something special to perform in November of this year. We don't know what yet but we are trying hard to find something suitable for everyone. In the meantime we are going to have a fun evening on 25th March 2017.... Singalong with Mary Poppins with a buffet supper suitable for all the family and we hope you might enter into the spirit in a 1910 costume, I am sure members of the Drama Group will relish getting dressed up!

The current members are looking forward to continuing providing you with some entertainment on a cold winter's night and hopefully we will be able to encourage some new younger or young at heart members to join us.

Roll on another 40 years "treading the boards"!

Alan Fulton

Treasurer



Since the start of the year we have held two more meetings of Messy Church. Our numbers have continued to grow and since we started we have had over 120 people attended at least once, this includes 35 different families. In fact in January we had so many turn up that we had to send out for more food! Pasta, pizza, garlic bread, sausages and fresh fruit continue to be the favourites.

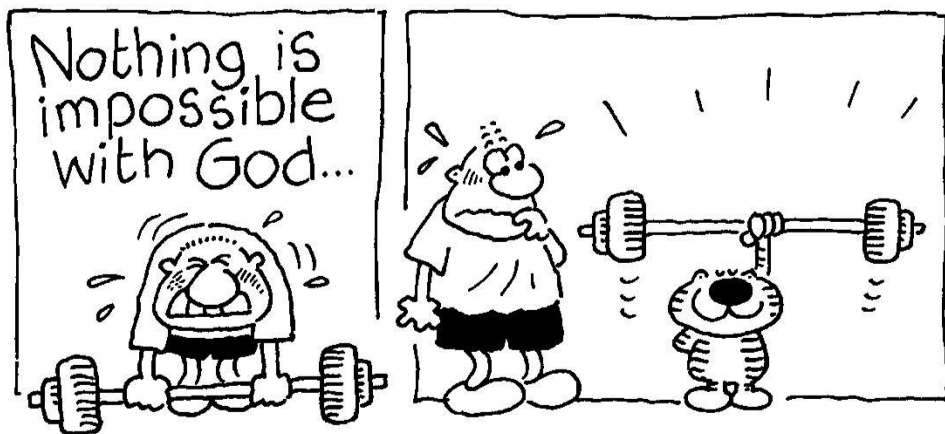
Our themes since the beginning of the year have been Noah's Ark and David & Goliath and some of our artwork can be seen on the walls of the hall. The girls who do the crafts continue to come up with different ideas every month and I am most grateful for this as I am to the people who work in the kitchen, keep our records up to date and do the storytelling and singing. Without all of them there would be no Messy Church.

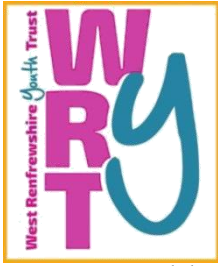


Our next meeting is on Saturday 18th March from 4.00pm to 6.00pm and our theme will be Easter. There will be no Messy Church in April and our last one before the summer break will be on Saturday 20th May again from 4.00pm to 6.00pm.

Lastly I would like to thank the congregation for their support either in donations or words of encouragement, in this a new venture for our church.

Joan MacKinnon





WEST RENFREWSHIRE YOUTH TRUST

in association with

SU Scotland

and local schools and churches in West Renfrewshire

Once again we want to say a big thank you to every church who partners with us and to all those who pray for our work, volunteer at our clubs and support WRYT financially.

On the last day of term at Johnstone High, Rev. Archie Ford and I took part in a Christmas assembly for all year groups in the school. Head teacher Mrs Hollywood began the assembly by showing some of the recent John Lewis Christmas adverts and teasing out some of the underlying themes about Christmas in those well-known adverts before Archie and myself showed a clip from the film 'Joyeux Noel' and spoke about one of the surprising messages of Christmas: that Jesus had come to bring a lasting peace to our own lives and to the world.

The hall was packed and despite pupils being in high spirits at the end of term they were attentive as we shared the Christmas message. Lots of staff and senior pupils stood at the sides and back of the hall after all the seats were taken.

It was the first time in a few years that any chaplains had been invited to be part of a Christmas assembly and the feedback we received has been positive: "I thought that the Christmas service went very well and the input was spot on in terms of tone for our pupils, given that it was the first service in some time. So many thanks indeed".

The school have now invited chaplains to return and be part of their Easter assemblies on Friday 31st March.

Dougie Adam, Schools Worker, West Renfrewshire Youth Trust

Did you know that Kilbarchan Parish Church supports the WRYT financially as do quite a number of individual members of our congregation. If you would like to contribute to the WRYT, you can contact the secretary, Veronica de Blicck, on 0141 812 4258 for details.

SU Group starts in Johnstone High School

In addition to seeing large groups of pupils with no church connection in seasonal assemblies, we are really excited to announce that a weekly Scripture Union group has begun on a Tuesday lunchtime (1.30-2pm) in Mr Arbuckle's RMPS classroom. An SU group is a great opportunity for pupils to make friends and explore what Christianity means to them. Pupils can bring packed lunches and snacks with them, and I provide some traybakes and a few games before we look at a Bible passage together. This term we are looking at some famous friendships in the Bible. You can play your part by encouraging JHS pupils to come along and join the group between now and Easter.

We had 10 pupils and 2 staff plus myself and Ann McCool at the Johnstone High School SU group on Tuesday 7th February.

Dougie



AMAZING BUT TRUE

I am the proud possessor of a fabulous building in which I live in comfort and security. Let me tell you about some of the systems and properties. The building is held together by 202 girders of varying sizes. Inside there is a complicated array of plumbing, in all some 60,000 miles of pipes. The environment is thermostatically controlled to an exact temperature. The most interesting part of the building is the intelligence and security system, consisting of a central computer that outshines even the most sophisticated developments of this world's governments. There are more than 13 billion electrical "gates" operating a data sorting complex with over 10,000 terabytes of memory. The electrical connections are more than 100 times as frequent as in all the world's telephone systems put together. Within the building, there are no less than 3 billion security guards trained to deal with anything that might intrude, cause injury or lessen the total functioning. Video cameras and sound-sensing equipment is of a highly sophisticated kind, quite beyond the capability of most optical and acoustical agencies. Finally, I enjoy the facility of self-regeneration of worn out parts.

Perhaps you have already guessed. Yes, I have spoken about my own body. It was created by the hand of God and, as King David said, it is "fearfully and wonderfully made", a body which furthermore may become the home **of God's Holy Spirit.**

PRESBYTERY PATTTER

Snippets from recent meetings of Greenock and Paisley Presbytery

Fifteen readers were presented to the Moderator, who thanked them for their service and asked God's blessing on them for their future work.

The Moderator presented Thomas Blane, Mr William Boyle and Mrs Annette Gordon with a grant from the Weddell Bursary Fund to assist in the purchase of books during their training for the Ministry.

Rev Ritchie Gillon granted permission to demit his charge at Paisley: St Luke's from the 29th January 2017; Rev Alistair Cook granted permission to demit his charge of Paisley: Lylesland in order to take up the call to Hawick: St Mary's & Old linked with Teviot & Robertson;

Permission granted for an extension of one year of permission to call a minister without restriction to Langbank linked with Port Glasgow: St Andrew's; Call sustained from Bishopton and from Inchinnan; Permission granted to Houston & Killellan to call a minister without restriction in accordance with the Presbytery Plan.

Congratulates the **Rev Dr Derek Browning MA BD DMin** on his appointment as Moderator Designate of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland for 2017.

The Presbytery plan for Howwood and Lochwinnoch has as an interim step the severing of the linkage between the two congregations and instructs the committee to draw up a basis of guardianship for each congregation and sends these amendments to the PPTG of the Ministries Council for their concurrence.

The Howwood manse and the Bridge of Weir: St. Machar's Ranfurly manse have been inspected and found to be ready for occupation; an application in principle, subject to the approval of the General Trustees, has been accepted from Paisley: Stow Brae congregation for the purchase of a replacement manse at a notional cost of £325,000.

**Overture re the Registration of Ministries –
Presbytery of Greenock and Paisley - For 0 against 92
Results for All Presbyteries - Presbyteries For 32 Presbyteries Against 13**

Total Votes - Votes for approval 1,400 Votes for disapproval 630

THE GUILD

The Guild is nearing the end of another successful session and will restart on Tuesday 26th September.

Since the start of the year we have Journeyed through the Psalms with the Rev Jonathan Fleming, the minister of Erskine Parish Church and had a very interesting talk from Margaret Linnie on her upbringing in Quarriers and why she chose to go into nursing. At our Guest Afternoon we entertained members from neighbouring Guilds and in turn we were entertained by Renfrewshire Carers Choir. This choir is an opportunity for those who care for family members to have some 'me' time away from their caring responsibilities.



The project we are supporting this year is run by Mission International in a small town in Haiti. The aim of the project is to construct a multipurpose building to be used as a school, community centre and a new church centre. Haiti is among the poorest countries in the world and has one of the lowest literacy rates. Education is a priority for both children and adults and hopefully this project will help so they can build a better future for themselves. We heard more about this at our meeting on the 28th February.

Our final two meetings are on Tuesdays the 14th and 28th March. On the 14th March Jill Scott and Bill Hicks, two journalists, will tell us about their time working on the Sunday Post and on the 28th March we have our A.G.M.

Please join us at any of our meetings. You will be made most welcome and there's always a chance to chat to friends over tea and biscuits.

The best mathematical equation is

1 cross + 3 nails = 4 given



Foodbanks provide three days of emergency food to local individuals and families in crisis. Frontline care professionals including health visitors, social workers and school Liaison officers refer people who are facing hunger to the foodbank. As well as receiving nutritionally balanced, non-perishable food parcels, people visiting the foodbank are welcomed with a cup of tea, listened to and signposted to agencies who are able to help resolve the underlying cause of the problem.

At the moment they are particularly needing the following - UHT Milk, Juice, tinned Tomatoes, Sugar, and potatoes (tinned or powdered) although other tinned/dried foodstuffs are always readily acceptable.

By donating to the foodbank you can help support local people in crisis.

Thank you for your continued support,.

Jack and Graham



FAIRTRADE

Fairtrade is about better prices, decent working conditions, local sustainability, and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers in the developing world. By requiring companies to pay sustainable prices (which must never fall lower than the market price), Fairtrade addresses the injustices of conventional trade, which traditionally discriminates against the poorest, weakest producers. It enables them to improve their position and have more control over their lives.

This Fairtrade Fortnight we tasted many Fairtrade foods available from Rainbow Turtle (rainbowturtle.co.uk) and Traidcraft (traidcraft.co.uk), where you will find many foods ,crafts and household items.

Watch out for our popular Fairtrade curry night to be hosted by Bobbins on the 17th March . Tickets available from Bobbins or Moira Stark at 346585.

Moira Stark



Eight large blankets have now been sent to Mary's Meals crocheted with your donations of wool. More wool is always required and will be gratefully received.

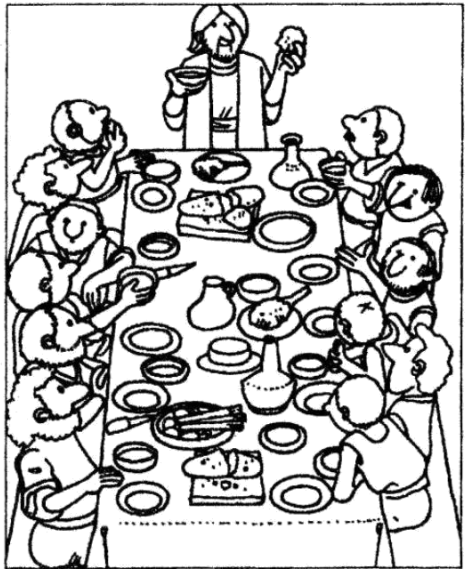
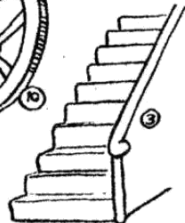
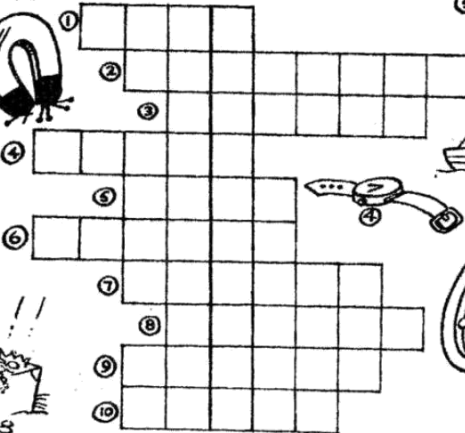
Christine Dale

Kidz Korner

Name the Place

What was the name of the garden where Jesus was arrested?

Mark 14:32-51



Can you find ten differences between these pictures?



Thank You

I wish to thank the Kirk Session for the lovely plant I received for Christmas. It was much appreciated .
Best wishes for the future.

Walter Gardner

Kenneth Dale wishes to thank the church for the poinsettia which he received.

Ann Grieve, her daughter Judith and her family wish sincerely to thank everyone for their sympathy and kindness shown on the death of Kirsty. We all will miss her good days when she was bright and fun. We are most grateful for the support we have had from the congregation and the village.

Thank you for all the lovely get-well cards and good wishes which I have received during my stay in hospital, they are all very much appreciated.

Myra Goldie.

Susan and Malcolm MacAskill would like to say thank you for the lovely flowers, baking and cards they received after the death of Susan's mother.
Thank you to Stephen for officiating at the service.
£220 was collected for Chest, Heart and Stroke, Scotland.

Anne Palmer and all the family would like to thank everyone who attended Stan's funeral on Monday 20th February. It was lovely to be with you all again.,
We have been completely overwhelmed with the kind words in cards, letters and telephone calls which have been such a comfort to us all.
The day was always going to be difficulty but Stephen's service was such a fitting send off for Stan.
With our sincere thanks to you all.

Anne

PARISH REGISTER



CERTIFICATE OF TRANSFERENCE

Mrs Lorna Anderson

DEATHS (* denotes member)

23/11/2016 Edith Moore *
16/01/2017 Roy Hutcheon
16/01/2017 Ina Barratt
26/01/2017 Adam Wilson *
28/01/2017 Sylvia Milne
30/01/2017 Edwin Smith
11/02/2017 Rev.Stan Palmer
13/02/2017 John McCarley *

BAPTISM

29/01/2017 Oliver James Moore, son of Robert and Lisa
05/02/2017 Thomas Roderick Walter Gardner, son of Katy and Steven
26/02/2017 Emily Rose Carol Adie Reid and, Kai Steven McLean Reid,
daughter and son of Lynne and Jason

ROLL

The Roll of Kilbarchan Parish Church is currently 642 with 44 adherents.

Tribute to Stan Palmer

Stan Palmer died in the Royal Alexandra Hospital on Saturday 11 February 2017.

The Rev Stan W Palmer was minister of the former East Church from 1980 to 1991. He succeeded Rev C Blair Gillon. Stan was a late entry to the ministry and Kilbarchan East was his first and only charge.



During his ministry the church celebrated its 200th bi-centenary in 1986.

Stan was a very practical Christian gentleman; all who came in contact with him in any capacity will verify this. He was a genuinely sincere person who helped many who were experiencing difficult situations in their lives.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Anne and all the members of the family at this time.

Willie Beattie

USEFUL CHURCH CONTACTS

Minister - Rev Stephen Smith -

Session Clerk - Mr Fulton Dunn

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 5 th March	11.00am	Morning Worship and Boys' Brigade Service
Sunday 12 th March	11.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday 19 th March	11.00am	Morning Worship
	6.30pm	Masonic Annual Divine Service
Sunday 26 th March	11.00am	Morning Worship, Sacrament of Baptism
Sunday 2 nd April	11.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday 9 th April	11.00am	Morning Worship
Thursday 13 th April	7.00pm	Maundy Thursday Service
Friday 14 th April	7.00pm	Good Friday Service
Sunday 16 th April	8.30am	Early Service at Weavers Cottage
	11.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday 23 rd April	11.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday 30 th April	11.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday 7 th May	11.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday 14 th May	11.00am	Morning Worship
	6.30pm	Eastern Star Annual Divine Service
Sunday 21 st May	11.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday 28 th May	11.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday 4 th June	11.00am	Morning Worship

