



Kilbarchan Parish Church

Your local church magazine

Dear Friends,

As I write this letter Christmas seems to be just around the corner, five weeks still to go, yet, I know those days will just fly past because there are so many exciting things happening during that time, so much to do and only five weeks left to do it.

There's lots of information about forth coming events in this newsletter and dates for your diary too. I do hope that you will be able to come along and enjoy all or some of the events that are planned. Remember among all your celebrations and buying of gifts that "the greatest [gift] of all, is, God with us." The greatest present of Christmas is God's presence. "They shall call his name Emmanuel, which translated means, 'God with us'." (St. Matthew 1:23)

The only person in history who was able to choose where to be born chose a humble stable. He came in a humble way to bring God's love to all and the Magi, anxious to bring their gifts found him there in a manger and worshipped him as the King of Kings. They brought their gifts of gold, myrrh and Frankincense but none of these were the greatest gift they brought. The greatest gift they brought was their devotion; their willingness to endure whatever it took and to look as long as it took to find what God had promised them through the sign of the star. Their physical gifts paled in comparison to their gift of devotion and love. It is this reciprocal giving and loving that lie at the heart of Christmas.

"Christmas is love in action. Every time we love every time we give, it's Christmas" (Dale Evans). We can show our love in all sorts of practical ways this Christmas and this practical giving is just an outward expression of our devotion to God and our willingness to do his work in our church and community.

I hope and pray that you all have a joyous Christmas and peaceful start to the New Year.

Your friend,

Stephen



FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to this the eighth issue of our church magazine. I hope that over the last 2 years you have found something meaningful within them. It is the intention not only to keep you abreast of what is happening in our church but also further afield. There should be something for everyone and if not – send your article in!

The next magazine will be out in March, 2017 and all items for it should reach me at alastair.mackinnon@ntlworld.com by Sunday 20th February.

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

The editorial team wish you a peaceful New Year.



all a Happy Christmas and

Alastair

MacKinnon

WARNING ! ADVENT VIRUS

Be on the alert for symptoms of inner **Hope, Peace, Joy and Love**. The hearts of a great many have already been exposed to this virus and it is possible that people everywhere could come down with it in epidemic proportions.

Some signs and symptoms of **The Advent Virus**:

- An unmistakable ability to enjoy each moment
- A loss of interest in judging other people
- A loss of interest in conflict
- A loss of the ability to worry (this is a very serious symptom)

- Frequent, overwhelming episodes of appreciation
- Contented feelings of connectedness with others and nature
- Frequent attacks of smiling
- An increasing tendency to let things happen rather than make them happen
- An increased susceptibility to the love extended by others as well as the uncontrollable urge to extend it.

KIRK SESSION REPORT

It was good to be back in the Church building for the Remembrance service and to see the commemorative plaques in place within the Parish Church. Major work has been carried out on the buildings and we owe our thanks to those involved in monitoring the work and ensuring it was completed as soon as possible. There is still some work to be completed but this should not impact on any further services.

We had a very positive response from people while we were worshipping in the hall and would like to thank you for your patience while the work was taking place.

We also thank the many volunteers who spent Friday cleaning the Church to make it possible for us to use on Remembrance Sunday.

So far 14 people have shown interest in the Former West Church buildings. Marketing of the buildings will continue. Sandy Graham is thanked for giving of his time to give access to prospective buyers.

At the October Communion there were 150 members, 4 visitors and 10 adherents present. This was 12 more than June 2017 and 4 less than Oct 2016. The offering for the benevolent fund was £307.52. Session agreed to collecting money for Mary's Meals during advent.

2018 has been declared to be a Year of Young People by the Scottish Government, and the Church of Scotland will also be involved. The Mission and Discipleship Council encourage national initiatives and will launch a Year of Young People Toolkit for use in congregations.

Beadle Duties for the coming months

| | |
|----------|---|
| December | Marie Alexander, Gwen Howden, Margaret Gibb |
| January | Mary Marrison, Christine Erwin, John Fleming |
| February | Willie Beattie, Ian Keith, Isabelle Robertson |
| March | Myra Grant, Malcolm MacAskill, Jenifer Pitchers |

Fulton Dunn

CHRISTMAS

Glad Christmas comes, and every hearth
Makes room to give him welcome now,
E'en want will dry its tears in mirth,
And crown him with a holly bough;
Though tramping 'neath a winter sky,
O'er snowy paths and rimy stiles,
The housewife sets her spinning by
To bid him welcome with her smiles.

Each house is swept the day before,
And windows stuck with evergreens.
The snow is besom'd from the door,
And comfort crowns the cottage scenes.
Gilt holly, with its thorny pricks,
And yew and box, with berries small,
These deck the unused candlesticks,
And pictures hanging by the wall.

Neighbours resume their annual cheer,
Wishing, with smiles and spirits high.
Glad Christmas and a happy year
To every morning passer-by;
Milkmaids their Christmas journeys go,
Accompanied with favoured swain;
And children pace the crumping snow,
To taste their granny's cake again.

The shepherd, now no more afraid,
Since custom doth the chance bestow,
Starts up to kiss the giggling maid
Beneath the branch of mistletoe
That 'neath each cottage beam is seen,
With pearl-like berries shining gay;
The shadow still of what hath been,
Which fashion yearly fades away.

John Clare

Columba News – the magazine of St Columba, Ayr





TREASURER'S REPORT

I am writing this report early November when work has almost been completed on the Church and Halls and it is all systems go to have the Church open for worship on Remembrance Sunday. Thanks are due to all the volunteers who helped to clean the Church and move all Bibles etc. back on to the pews.

The final costs of the works will not be known for some time but the latest information is that the contract figure should not be exceeded and there may be a slight reduction. VAT will be recovered on the costs relating to the Church only-Listed Building and main place of worship. Until the final valuation has been prepared and the allocation of costs between the Church and Halls is calculated, the amount of recoverable VAT will not be known. There is a significant delay in recovering the VAT and it may be necessary to utilise some of our Unrestricted Reserves till the full VAT settlement is made.

I am still hopeful that when all the final accounts are paid resulting in all the Restricted Reserves-circa £300,000 -having been paid out, the Unrestricted Reserves of around £60,000 will be intact.

Despite the many challenges over the last few months, offerings have held up well and I am hopeful that the yearend total will be comparable to that of last year. This will be a good achievement given that a number of Standing Orders ceased at the end of last year and were not renewed.

In terms of revenue expenditure, Ministry and Mission Allocation- Minister's salary etc. - paid to 121 George Street takes up the major part of the budget. In 2017 a number of reductions were granted leading to a final figure of just under £63,000. The good news is that the equivalent figure for 2018 is almost exactly the same figure. It will still be a challenge to meet this figure.

As the New Year is fast approaching perhaps this is the appropriate time to review your level of giving and if you are in a position to do so please consider increasing your offering. Linking your offering to Gift Aid increases it 25 % if you pay income tax. Please contact Richard Pitchers-tel. no.703786 for more information.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Jim Moffat

John Kendrick Skinner CSM. DCM. VC



In August George and I were invited by the Lord Provost and Glasgow City Council to attend an unveiling ceremony to honour my great uncle, John Skinner. To commemorate the centenary of the awarding of his Victoria Cross, the City of Glasgow laid an engraved paving stone outside the People's Palace at the Doulton Fountain.

John enlisted in the King's Own Scottish Borderers when just sixteen (lying about his age). He served in numerous campaigns from the Boer war through to the First World War. In total he was wounded eight times and despite being given home leave he always was



desperate to return saying “I should be with my men”. His first meeting with the King was when, as a Company Sergeant Major he was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal. It was his bravery at Passchendaele on 16th August 1917 which earned him the Victoria Cross and the French Croix de Guerre. In spite of the fact that he had a head wound, he and six men surrounded three German block houses. The first he took single-handedly capturing the whole garrison as prisoners and appeared carrying two machine guns, one under each arm. He and his men went on to capture the other two block houses, rounding up a further 23 prisoners, three more guns and two trench mortars. A total of 60 prisoners were captured.

When King George V presented the VC and asked John how he had managed to hold all the prisoners he replied “Sir, I am a true Scot and once I get hold of something I don’t let go”.

He was killed by a sniper at Passchendaele in March 1918 aged thirty-five while attempting to rescue one of his men who had been wounded. Such was the esteem in which he was held that, contrary to the rules which said that the fallen were to be buried where they fell, his men carried his body seventeen miles back to their lines. At his funeral he was carried by six VC holders, one a Private and one a General. This was, and still is, a unique event in British military history. Many years after the war ended his commanding officer, Sir Beauvoir de Lisle, said of John Skinner “he was the bravest man I met in a war won by brave men”.

One story which came to light made us all determined NOT to jump to conclusions – when John was on leave and walking in Glasgow with his sisters, a lady approached to give him a white feather. This was after he had been given the VC!

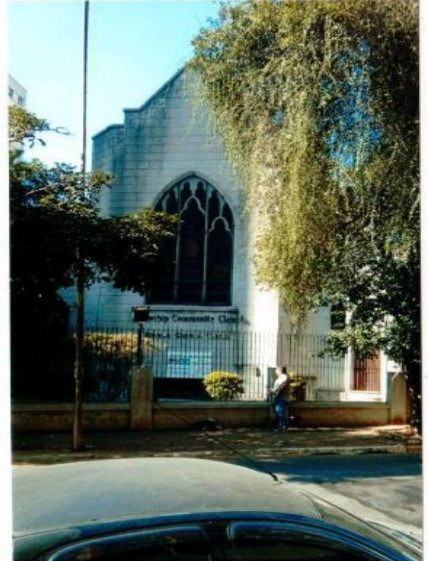
Although he had no offspring his brother (my grandfather) had seven children and eleven grandchildren. There were 34 family members and partners at the ceremony, some from as far as Australia. We had a wonderful reunion in the evening as some of us had not met for forty years or more and some were meeting for the first time. We were all very proud to have this brave, shared ancestor.

Myra Grant (née Skinner)

This time we travel to Brazil and Kirkwall to look at churches visited by members of the congregation.

Fellowship Community Church

Sao Paulo, Brazil



In the summer Maria and I travelled to Brazil.

This was a journey that we had been planning for some time, returning to the land of my birth for the first time in over 50 years.

Our first stop was Sao Paulo (where I was born) and one of the places I wanted to visit was the church where I attended Sunday school as a boy, namely the Fellowship Community Church.

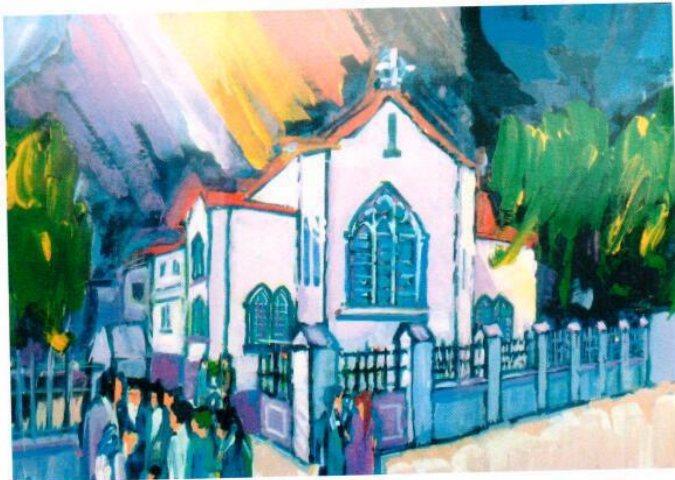
The Fellowship Community Church, which has only been in existence since 1921, is a well-known church in Sao Paulo for many expatriates; the English speaking communities as well as local Brazilians. It's a well-known church in Sao Paulo's English-speaking community through its association with the American Society.

We discovered that the church was only a short walk from our hotel and so we made our way there on a beautiful sunny Sunday morning. Arriving early, well before the service started, we signed the visitors' book and were warmly greeted by various members of the congregation as they arrived.

Everyone was very keen to hear where we came from and at the beginning of the service we were invited to say a few words to the congregation and I explained my connection with their church. I was very happy to extend warmest wishes from Kilbarchan Parish Church and that we were both delighted to join them for worship that morning. I had brought some copies of our latest church magazine which I left with them.

I also mentioned that my parents had come to Brazil as result of my father working for Coats the thread makers and after the service we met various people who had both a connection with the thread mill and indeed my old school.

We were overwhelmed by the very warm welcome we received from everyone during our visit and we left with some great memories and our impression was that it reminded us so much of our church In Kilbarchan.



Neil Chittick

St Magnus Cathedral, Kirkwall, Orkney

– The Light in The North.

Linda and I recently got the chance to return to Orkney, one of our very favourite places. You know we love history, and the insights being revealed in Orkney just now are making historians and archaeologists totally rethink the Neolithic map of Britain. Don't you just love it when all the stuff you learned in school turns out to be not quite right?

We were based in Kirkwall so it's hard to walk around the city (yes, city!) and not notice the towering sandstone building that is St Magnus Cathedral. Founded in 1137 by a Viking, Earl Rognvald in honour of his uncle, St Magnus, parts of the building have been standing for over 850 years.



While there were many positives from The Reformation perhaps one of the negatives was the impact it had physically on abbeys and cathedrals. St Magnus wasn't entirely immune to this and many treasures, vestments and artworks were lost or destroyed and wall decorations plastered or painted over during The

Reformation. The building itself did however emerge relatively unscathed. Some cathedrals find themselves dotted with bullet holes and battle scars while most of the damage done to the sandstone of St Magnus has been done by centuries of Orcadian wind and rain.

2017 is the 900th anniversary of the martyrdom of St Magnus and many events have taken place throughout Orkney to celebrate. One such event is the Art Exhibition ‘Sails in St Magnus’ which consists of 14 giant banners hung like ships sails between the pillars of the cathedral, commemorating the crusade of Earl Rognvald to Jerusalem in 1151. These were originally displayed in the cathedral in 1993 but have been returned especially for the Magnus 900 celebrations. They certainly make a dynamic and colourful addition to an already beautiful building.

The cathedral was built using both red and yellow sandstone which gives a distinctive polychromatic effect to the building. The relics of St Magnus were enshrined in the new building once it had been consecrated. 2017 is also the centenary of the discovery of these relics, including his skull, in a hidden cavity in one of the pillars.

St Magnus Cathedral is owned by the people of Kirkwall and is home to a Church of Scotland congregation. Worship is welcoming and inclusive. Just as it should be. It is also much more relaxed than other large, tourist friendly, cathedrals we’ve visited. While welcoming visitors warmly there is still a real sense of a church serving a community, which is a lovely balance to have in such a large church.



The purpose of these church visit articles, and our practice of bringing back church leaflets or orders of service, is to remind us of our wider church family. Because of the large amount of visitors St Magnus receives it makes worship quite an ecumenical experience. As the church fills up it's interesting to see some people genuflecting before sitting. As worship continues a quick glance around will see some folk blessing or crossing themselves after prayer. If one thing in any church service is bound catch people out it is what version of the Lord's Prayer is used. At St Magnus you are wholeheartedly encouraged to use whatever version or language you would normally use. The result is a wonderful openness of faith which kind of sounds like everyone is speaking in tongues for a minute. It certainly reminded me of a church family that is much wider than I had originally appreciated.

Alan Vaughan

Where we go to next time is up to you, the reader. I only need one of you to put pen to paper (or whatever you do on a computer) for this series to continue. I hope I'm not disappointed!

Ed.



If you should find the Perfect Church
Without one fault or smear
For Goodness sake don't join that Church
You'd spoil the atmosphere
But since **NO PERFECT CHURCH EXISTS**
Where people never sin
Let's cease in looking for that Church
And **LOVE** the **ONE** we're **IN**

As seen in St George's Anglican Church, Taormina Sicily.

PRESBYTERYPATTER

Snippets from recent meetings of Greenock and Paisley Presbytery

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS: Rev Stuart Davidson, Pioneer Minister, was welcomed to Presbytery whereon he reaffirmed his vows of ordination and signed the formula. Presbytery also welcomed Mrs Cowie, Mrs Sharp and Miss Smith, as newly appointed representative elders.

LEAVE TAKING: Rev Jonathan Fleming took leave of the Presbytery ahead of his translation to Largs and the Moderator wished him well in his new charge.

25 YEARS SERVICE: The Moderator offered sincere congratulations to Rev Karen Harbison, Rev Dr Peter McEnhill and Rev Stuart Steell celebrating 25 years as Ordained Ministers.

NATIONAL YOUTH ASSEMBLY

Two delegates from Johnstone High Church, Mr Callum McMillan and Miss Rowan Houston, gave a short report on their time at the National Youth Assembly 2017 and finished by thanking Presbytery for the opportunity to attend.

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING: Mrs Georgette Whitelaw and Mrs Ann Thompson, the current training personnel, gave a short presentation on their role in an effort to encourage someone to replace them when they retire in February 2018.

ELECTION AND INSTALLATION OF NEW MODERATOR: Thanks were given to retiring Moderator, Rev Ann McCool, and congratulations to the new moderator Rev Jim Cowan.

BUSINESS: sick leave of Rev Stuart Stevenson and Rev Dr Ken Forrest; Rev David Stewart appointed as Interim Moderator at Langbank linked with Port Glasgow St Andrew's, Rev Robin Allison at Erskine from the date of this meeting; worshipping in their church halls: Kilbarchan congregation from 27th August to 29th October, Kilmacolm Old congregation from 3rd September and Paisley Lylesland from 29th October to 19th November to allow for necessary building works to be carried out; resignations have been accepted from Jack McHugh as assessor elder at Paisley St Ninian's from 1st October 2017 and Deaconess Miss Isobel McCully as a member of Presbytery and thanks them for their service in previous years; Rev Robert Craig appointed as Veterans' Champion for the Presbytery of Greenock & Paisley and instructs the Clerk to notify the Chaplain to HM Forces; the date of the 21st September at 7.p.m. in

Neilston Church was set for the service of Admission to the Office of Reader of Mr John Spooner; Rev Liz Geddes appointed as locum at Langbank linked with Port Glasgow: St Andrew's as from the 1st October 2017.

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE: all 2016 accounts of congregations have been attested and all treasurers will be notified; the following sums are to be awarded from the 5% Discretionary Allowance to reduce the 2017 Ministries and Mission contributions of the congregations concerned: Bishopton £ 2,500, Bridge of Weir Freeland £5,000, Kilmacolm Old £5,000, Linwood £1,000, Paisley Abbey £5,000, Paisley Stow Brae £5,000 and Renfrew Trinity £5,000; the balance of the 5% Discretionary Allowance be used to reduce the Ministries and Mission contributions of remaining congregations and treasurers to be informed along with the proposed Ministries and Mission contributions for 2018.

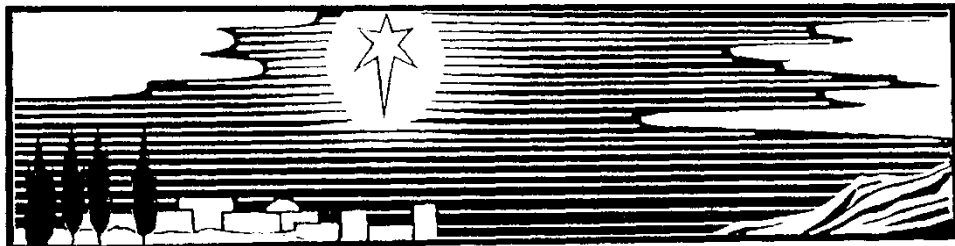
PROPERTY: Wallneuk North congregation to carry out roof repairs to the church halls at an estimated maximum cost of £31,130 plus £6,226 in VAT to give a total of £37,356 and approves an application from the Paisley: Wallneuk congregation to the General Trustees' Fabric Committee for the release of £30,000 from their capital holdings in the Consolidated Fabric Fund; instructs the congregations of Paisley Wallneuk North and Paisley St Luke's, whose property records were incomplete at the Annual Inspection of Records, to provide the missing information from their property register and the manse condition schedule immediately to allow these records to be attested; the new manse of Paisley: Stow Brae congregation is at 290 Glasgow Road, Paisley and the previous manse at 25 John Neilson Avenue, Paisley is now in the process of being put up for sale; the issue of the Health and Safety Toolkit (red folder) by the General Trustees recommends that congregations appoint a Health and Safety Administrator; the forthcoming 'How to make your church buildings work for you' seminars organised by the General Trustees; reminds congregations of the circular that was issued earlier this year by Elspeth Annan, Church of Scotland Solicitor, for the attention of Congregational Treasurers concerning the revaluation of Churches and Church Halls.

MISSION & DISCIPLESHIP: the presbytery prayer co-ordinator has sent out details of prayer events being held in this presbytery, along with ideas for prayers; encouraging each kirk session to nominate a prayer promoter and let Douglas know the name and contact details; the Safeguarding Training dates for Volunteers. Co-ordinators, Kirk Session and Panel Training have been issued; the next deadline for receipt of grant applications is 12 noon on Friday 20 October 2017; churches should be encouraged to invite the NYA delegates in their congregation to speak about their experience; Mhairi Breingan attended the NYA and met young people from this presbytery (8 of the 70+ delegates); commends

Presbytery involvement in the year of Young People, (Bliadhna na h- Òigridh), 2018 as declared by the Scottish Government; churches could investigate projects in conjunction with Fischy Music in their own parish Primary Schools; the Church of Scotland's National Day of Prayer is on 25th November; Rev Hanneke Marshall gave a talk about Bridge of Weir:St Machar's Ranfurly Church experience of using the 'Fruitfulness in the Frontline' resource; Mr Jack McHugh appointed as locum at Port Glasgow Hamilton Bardrainey linked with St Martin's from 5th October 2017. Presbyters are invited to lead prayer stations at the next Presbytery meeting.

WORLD MISSION & ECUMENICAL RELATIONS: the General Assembly encourages the whole church to take part in the Thursdays in Black campaign; presbyters and all church members are encouraged to use the forthcoming centenary of the Balfour declaration to reflect on the current situation in Israel / Palestine and to pray for a just peace for all who live in Israel / Palestine today; the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, and drawing on the vision expressed in the Joint Statement issued on the occasion of the Joint Catholic-Lutheran Commemoration of the Reformation in Lund, affirms the aspiration that by drawing close in faith to Christ, by praying together, by listening to one another, by living Christ's love in our relationships, all Christians will open ourselves to the power of the Triune God. 'Rooted in Christ and witnessing to him, we renew our determination to be faithful heralds of God's boundless love for all humanity'; training for Worship Leaders is planned for the future and interested parties should email: Rev Maureen Leitch, maureen.leitch@ntlworld.com.

PRESBYTERY PLAN REVIEW: the committee will hold further meetings with the churches in the south of Paisley and review the plan for Paisley: Glenburn; the draft job description for the MDS post in Paisley: St Ninians Ferguslie was approved; the Ministries Council has seen fit to develop and take forward Hub Ministry in rural areas only.



CHURCHES VISITED

Over the last year or so members of our congregation have visited the following churches and brought back various leaflets. As you can see, we do get around! Many thanks to Willie Beattie for compiling this list. Ed.

SCOTLAND

Aberdeen Ferryhill Parish Church
Alyth Parish Church
Arran St Bride's Church, Brodick
Lamlash Parish Church
Brechin Cathedral
Dalbeattie and Kirkgunzeon Parish Church
Dingwall Castle Street Church
Dornoch Cathedral
Dumfries St Mary's-Greyfriars Parish Church
Dunblane Cathedral
Dunfermline Abbey
Glasgow Cathedral
Govan and Linthouse Parish Church
Grangemouth Abbotsgrange Parish Church
Helensburgh St Michael and All Angels Church
Hillington Park Church
Inchinnan St Conval's Kirk
Invergordon Parish Church
Kilmacolm Old Kirk
Johnstone High Parish Church
Kintore Parish Church
Kirkintilloch St David's Memorial Park
Luss Parish Church
Millport Cathedral of the Isles
Orkney St Magnus Cathedral, Kirkwall
St Magnus Church, Birsay
Paisley Holy Trinity and St Barnabas
Oakshaw Trinity Church
Salvation Army Citadel
Portree Parish Church
Rothesay United Church of Bute
Strathkinness Parish Church



SUNDAY SCHOOL

The first few weeks after Summer Sunday School we revisited some favourite bible stories, Moses and the Burning Bush, Zachaeus the Tax Collector, Daniel and the Lions Den and Joshua and the Walls of Jericho. We have planted seeds as an accompaniment to the parable of the seeds which all the children really enjoyed doing and hopefully will provide each with a colourful reminder. Looking forward, we are starting to rehearse this year's chosen Nativity story which will be performed on Christmas Eve, the children have already chosen their parts. We are also pleased to announce that there will be a Sunday School Christmas party this year on Saturday 16th December. We will send out invitations with more details in the next couple of weeks in order to ascertain numbers.

Finally we would like to extend a massive 'Thank You' to all those who helped with Summer Sunday School and also to our weekly helpers whose assistance is invaluable, especially during craft activities. We have a rota system in place and additional volunteers are always welcome.

Merry Christmas

Ros &



Shona



FAIRTRADE NEWS

On the 11th of October, Gryffe High hosted a Fairtrade producer visit on behalf of Rainbow Turtle. Pupils from Mary Russell, Park Mains High School and St Roch's Secondary School joined us for the event. We were lucky enough to meet a producer from Mandala Apparels who had come all the way from India. She spoke about the cotton industry and what her company does to ensure fair and ethical business practice. Pupils were asked to reflect on the principles of Fairtrade and asked to generate ideas on how a business could ensure they are meeting these principles.

Check out www.mandalaapparels.com

Moira Stark

TOTS' CLUB

We are pleased to welcome Myra as one of our volunteers. We had a very successful Hallowe'en party with almost 30 children in a variety of costumes, lots of games and songs and lovely food as usual!



The Christmas party is on Monday 18th December at 9.45am when Santa will of course pay a visit. We resume on Monday 8th January from 9.15am.

Please drop in for coffee any Monday morning and if you feel that you have a Monday morning to spare every few weeks, we would be delighted to welcome more volunteers. We usually now have 5 volunteers on duty each week as there is a lot to set out in the hall.

Rosie and John Picken,
Janet and Bobby



Elizabeth and Fulton Dunn,
Stevenson, Alison and Ian

Keith, Margaret Allan, Cathy Millar, Christine Erwin, Malcolm MacAskill,
Myra Grant, Fiona Stewart and Jenifer Pitchers.





BLYTHSWOOD SHOEBOX APPEAL.

Thanks to all who contributed so generously with money, goods and 84 filled shoeboxes, a terrific effort for this worthwhile cause.

THE CHOIR

Rehearsals are well of Nine Lessons and at 6.30pm, led by the refreshments in the hall.



underway for the Service Carols on 17th December choir and followed by

NATIVITY CHILD

Nativity Child, awaken anew the child in me.
By the light of the star which heralded your birth,
Light up my life with joy.

Give me the capacity to see as a little child sees;
The ability to see the precious jewels hidden in the everyday moment.
Help me to see with eyes that look upon the world In simple wide-eyed wonder.

As a young child offers its hand into the warmth and reassurance of its father's

Help me to trust in you.

Like a peaceful child, tenderly cuddled on its father's lap
Help me to nestle snugly into the warm embrace of your loving arms.

Help me to celebrate the name of the Nativity Child
With all the boisterous exuberance of a toddler

Help me to dance, to sing, to skip, to simply splash around in the delight of
your love

As I stride out, wander off like a little child, help me to know your eyes are
ever on me,
lovingly, tenderly watching me, protecting me from harm.
And should I fall Lord, gently pick me up.

Nativity Child, awaken anew the child in me
That in simple trust and wide-eyed wonder
I may let you lead me into being that which I was born to be.



MARY'S MEALS

Most members of the congregation will be aware of the work of the Mary's Meals charity which, since 2002, has set up school feeding programmes in some of the world's poorest communities. Currently, their work enables more than **one million** children across four continents to enjoy a nutritious meal each school day. In addition to the obvious health benefits, this initiative has also resulted in significant increases in school attendance and in the attainment of these children.

The church in Kilbarchan has been generous in supporting Mary's Meals in the past and it has been decided to hold retiring offerings after all services during Advent this year, beginning 3rd December. The good news is that, thanks to the generosity of other donors, every donation made between now and 31st December will be **doubled**. This will mean that twice as many hungry children can be fed by your donations.

More information about the charity, its aims and achievements will be available in church during Advent.



FUND-RAISING NEWS

Following the success of the Big band Evening last year, we are delighted to be having an evening of Dixieland/ Jazz with the Allander Jazz band on Saturday 12th May. Please note the date in your diaries as it is anticipated that tickets will sell quickly. The contact for the band is Jean Young's brother-in-law. They recently played to a large audience in Houston. Further information later, but tickets can be ordered at any time!

Prior to that evening, we have the annual Easter Extravaganza on Saturday 17th March in the halls.

Committee members: Jenifer Pitchers (Chairperson), Irene Moffat (Treasurer), Joan McKinnon, 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.



NEW HANGING



Elizabeth Martin has designed and is stitching a new hanging for the Parish Church in the form of a vine.

Hopefully by now you have all signed a leaf, as this will be a record of the church family for future generations, and it will be accompanied by a framed list of all of your names. We are eagerly anticipating the unveiling of the hanging.



NEW BOOKS FOR CHRISTMAS

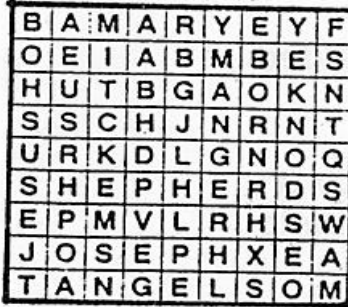
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|----------------------------|---------------|
| The Art of Kissing | by Miss L.Toe |
| How to get a Great Present | by B.Good |
| Winning at Charades | by Vic Tree |
| Guessing your Present | by P.King |
| Bad Gifts | by M.T. Box |
| Wedging for Beginners | by I.C.Bottom |

**Kidz
Korner**





WORD SEARCH

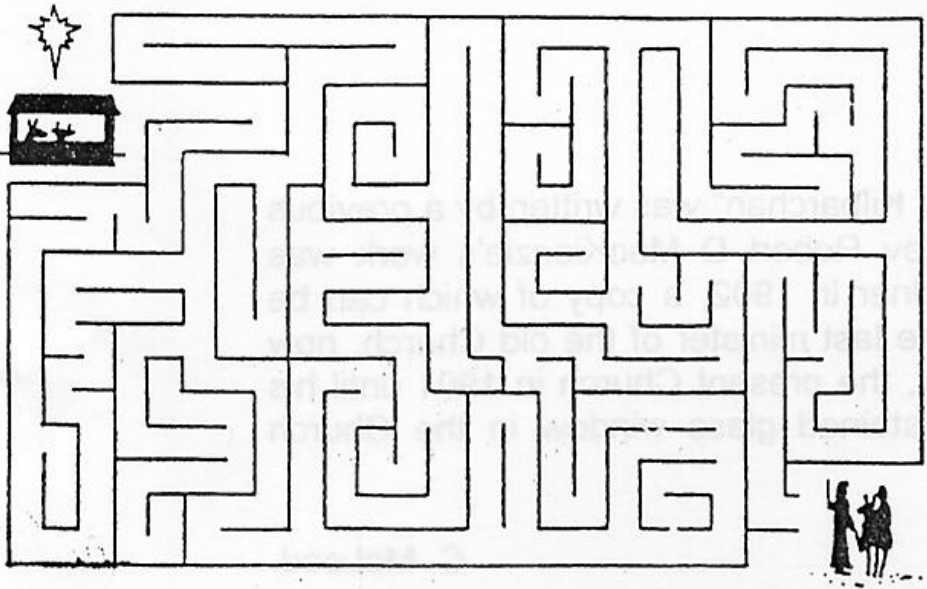


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| ANGELS | JOSEPH |
| MANGER | JESUS |
| BORN | DONKEY |
| BETHLEHEM | STAR |
| MARY | SHEPHERDS |

PARISH REGISTER

MEMBERS JOINING
KILBARCHAN PARISH

Help Joseph and Mary find their way to the Stable



CHURCH

By Resolution of the Kirk Session :-

Mrs Roslyn Caldwell, Paisley.

DEATHS

 (* denotes member)

15/ 09/2017 Mrs Elizabeth Beckett *
01/10/2017 Mrs Mae Sanderson-Brown *
02/10/2017 Mrs Joan McNeil
22/10/2017 Mr Kenneth Davidson
14/11/2017 Mrs Janette Parrott *
07/11/2017 Astrid Stephen

BAPTISMS

19/11/2017 Ted Alexander Harvey, son of Ruth and John
19/11/2017 Brody May Harvey, Daughter of Ruth and John

MARRIAGE

07/10/2017 Nicola Paton and Iain Macdonald (in Largs)

ROLL

The Roll of Kilbarchan Parish Church now stands at 424.



Items Food Bank often run out of are UHT Milk, Juice, Tinned Tomatoes, Tinned or Powdered Potatoes and Sugar.

Christmas items for Food Bank should be donated no later than Sunday 17th Dec.

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 3 rd December | 11.00am | Morning Worship |
| Sunday 10 th December | 11.00am | Morning Worship |
| Sunday 17 th December | 11.00am | Gift Service |
| | 6.30pm | Nine Lessons and Carols |
| Sunday 24 th December | 11.00am | Family Service with Children's Nativity Play |
| | 11.00pm | Carol Singing |
| | 11.30pm | Christmas Eve Watchnight Service |
| Monday 25 th December | 10.30am | Christmas Day Service |
| Sunday 7 th January | 11.00am | Morning Worship (followed by a short informal Communion Service) |
| Sunday 14 th January | 11.00am | Morning Worship |
| Sunday 21 st January | 11.00am | Morning Worship |
| Sunday 28 th January | 11.00am | Morning Worship |
| Sunday 6 th February | 11.00am | Morning Worship |
| Sunday 13 th February | 11.00am | Morning Worship |
| Sunday 20 th February | 11.00am | Morning Worship |
| Sunday 27 th February | 11.00am | Sacrament of the Lord's Supper |
| | 2.00pm | Sacrament of the Lord's Supper |
| Sunday 4 th March | 11.00am | Morning Worship |

