



Kilbarchan Parish Church

Your local church magazine

Dear Friends,

It is almost 18 months since the last edition of our quarterly newsletter. Since the beginning of the pandemic, we have put out shorter and more frequent newsletters. By nature, they were shorter as most if not all the organisations were forced to stop meeting physically. I wish to place on record my thanks to Alasdair Law and Christine Erwin for coordinating all this. Now we are back to the Quarterly magazine its back with Alastair MacKinnon as editor.

Now here we are, September 2021 and the beginnings of the season of Autumn. Autumn brings its own images, the return of schools, the leaves turning various shades of red and bronze and gold, cooler days and evenings.

Pre Covid, the end of Summer and the beginning of Autumn also signified things starting up again in Church life, whether it was Guild, or Junior Church or Choir Practice or Kirk Session meeting again in person after the summer break.

With the easing of restrictions and as I write the potential capacity in church for 120, it does feel like things are returning, however gradually. Of course, this will bring its own challenges. Some of us have been worshipping regularly and are so looking forward to getting back to other things too. Others are still hesitant and wary and they will have their reasons for feeling that way.

Of course, we are not returning back, we are moving forward. It is hoped that in the coming months there will be new signs of life in and around our church and hall.

Despite life being less regulated we all still need to be careful. The pandemic is not yet behind us. Infection rates remain high and the present variants are highly transmissible even by those who are double vaccinated. Let's continue to do all we can to mitigate the risk of infection and be sensitive to one another.

We are taking steps forward on what is a seemingly endless journey.

Remember, one day at a time and as we travel from the old to the new, we look forward in faith. For all time is in God's hand. He has led his people in the past, and he will lead us now.

Your friend *Stephen*

EDITORIAL



FROM THE EDITOR

Having had a break from editorial duties for the last 18 months or so I should be back and raring to go but I have to admit instead I am having to rack my brains how I did certain tasks on the computer.

Many thanks to all the people who kept us up to date over these months with the Newsletters. It was the only way we could keep in touch over these difficult months.

Thanks to everyone who has contributed to this magazine. I realise with us not being fully back yet it has not been easy to find things to say.

Keep safe and hope to see everyone in person soon.

Items for the next magazine should reach me by Sunday 14th November.

Alastair MacKinnon



TOTS' CLUB.

The volunteers are hoping that we can resume at the beginning of November after such a prolonged absence-when we were putting away the toys on 16th March 2020, we could never have imagined that it would take so long before we could reopen. Janet and Bobby have decided to retire from the club so many thanks for all their hard work. Bobby will continue as treasurer. If anyone feels they would like to join us to help on a Monday morning-once or twice a month, please speak to one of us:

Elizabeth and Fulton Dunn, Rosie and John Picken, Alison and Ian Keith, Christine Erwin, Margaret Allan, Cathy Millar, Myra Grant, Jenifer Pitchers and Malcolm MacAskill.

KIRK SESSION REPORT

We are pleased to be writing this article for the Church magazine as it is an indication that our Church life and activities are starting to return to a familiar pattern, even though it is doubtful if we will ever return to exactly the same ways that were so familiar prior to the arrival of Covid 19.

During the first months of extreme lockdown, the members of the Kirk Session reached out to help anyone in the congregation or village who struggled with shopping, collection of prescriptions or were in need of someone to talk to. We are very grateful to everyone who provided this support and in some cases are continuing to do so – a very good example of Christian outreach

As you will recall, a newsletter was compiled every month to maintain contact with all our members and keep you all informed. We were very fortunate to have Dorothy Wallace with us during 2020 – she kept in touch with many of you and her technological expertise proved invaluable to us as we venture into the realms of meeting on electronic platforms like Zoom. The session and board clerks, Stephen and Dorothy met this way weekly to keep up to date on pastoral developments and with help from Alan and Emma Vaughan the online reflections were created.

The Church of Scotland provided guidelines for us to follow once we were allowed back into the Church building and a small group worked on the risk assessment which had to be approved by Presbytery prior to services resuming in the Church.

Slowly, slowly the restrictions have been relaxed and we have now come to the stage when we can stand to sing in church (with masks on), sit in comfort on the pew cushions, have some heating (if required) and sit in the balcony.

The newsletters have told you the main details of the last eighteen months but in summary, the Session has continued to meet using Zoom, the four new elders were eventually ordained in October, Dorothy Wallace completed her probationary year in December and was ordained and inducted to the Charge of West Loch Fyne side in April and we celebrated communion in Church and online at the end of June when Dougie Adam joined us for a six week summer placement.

It has indeed been a challenging time, but it is encouraging to see increasing numbers of you once again coming to the sanctuary to worship God and to hear of some of our organisations making plans to resume their meetings.

Alasdair and Christine

FINANCE TEAM

The Finance Team would like to thank church members for their faithful giving all throughout the pandemic. This is much appreciated. Huge thanks also to the organisers of the pop up stalls on Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 August and for everyone who supported this event. We look forward to the time when we can resume our usual calendar of popular fundraising events.



SAFEGUARDING

Hopefully it won't be long until we are able to use the Church hall again and organisations and activities can get under way.

If anyone is interested in volunteering with children or vulnerable adults this would be a good time to get the paperwork in order so that you can take up a position as soon as possible. Over the past months I have been able to speak with both past and future volunteers to ensure that correct forms are completed.

Looking forward to seeing everything safely in action again soon .

Elizabeth Dunn



We hope you enjoyed our zoom pantomime in December, a little light hearted relief from the dark times we were facing.

Due to the uncertainty around restrictions, numbers in the hall and the required preparation time, The Drama group are not able to perform this coming November 2021.

However we hope as things become clearer we are able to meet and plan ahead for another production in 2022.

Fiona McKenzie

CLYDE PRESBYTERY UPDATE

The first meeting of Clyde Presbytery took place on Tuesday 1st September, 2020, this was a service of union (still available online on Youtube @ Service of Union Dumbarton Presbytery with Greenock and Paisley Presbytery | Renfrew North Parish Church). This was followed by meetings in November 2020, February, March and June 2021. When the General Assembly agreed to having new, larger presbyteries it was on the understanding that they would do things differently. This was also the case when discussions took place between Dumbarton and Greenock & Paisley and again when it was agreed to proceed to the merger. One of the different ways of working is related to the small number of business meetings of presbytery. Presbytery will meet for regular business on the second Tuesdays of September, February and June. With such infrequency of meetings, the assumption is that committees would simply get on with the work that came under their remit and to a large extent they would work autonomously and then report back to presbytery. If a committee has been set up to deal with a certain area of the church's life, it has the power to deal with whatever falls within its remit, unless it is a power which is expressly reserved for the presbytery as a whole or unless the committee itself wishes to bring forward a particular matter of concern for discussion by the presbytery. To put it more simply, committees will have the power to act on behalf of the presbytery on most issues associated with their remit. What will be expected of them when presbytery meets for business is that they report on decisions they have made and actions which they have taken. The new website for Clyde Presbytery can be accessed at www.clydepresbytery.org. The Home page contains details of forthcoming meetings as well as the minutes of past meetings and also the remit and membership details of the various committees. The Clyde Presbytery newsletters for November 20, February, April and June 21 can be accessed under the newsletter tab. The new e-mail address for Clyde Presbytery is "clyde@churchofscotland.org.uk" and this is the one which should be used from now on. To contact the presbytery office the address is 'Homelea', Faith Avenue, Quarrier's Village, Bridge of Weir, PA11 3TF and Tel: 01505 615033 or 07837729333.

Ian Keith

KPC ONLINE



kilbarchankirk.org

A lot has happened since the last issue of the magazine in the Spring of 2020. Not a lot of it has been good. We have all seen vast changes to our lives, and in the way we do things, due to the pandemic and the restrictions put in place to control it. Even very ordinary things have had to be done in different ways.

One consequence of this was that our online activity increased dramatically. We couldn't meet in church so we had to find other ways to worship, other ways to talk and to comfort one another. Social media suddenly became a bigger part of everyone's lives and our Facebook page saw a substantial increase in interest and activity.

On the morning of 22nd March 2020, we posted a short video message from Stephen on Facebook. He was standing at the closed doors of the church. Just a short message of comfort and encouragement as we entered the first national lockdown. The following Sunday we posted our first online reflection. We had no idea that it would be so long until we could worship in church again.

Since that first video our online reflections have evolved into something that closely resembles a worship service with lots of willing church members keen to help with readings and music. We can't thank them enough and know that many have really stepped out of their comfort zones to help.

Our videos now look set to evolve even further in the coming months as we explore the possibility of live streaming worship services from church. Keep an eye on our social media for developments on this in the coming weeks.

Of course it wasn't just social media that the church turned to to continue its work and we also found ourselves familiarising ourselves with video conference software like Zoom. Session and Board meetings started to resemble an episode of Celebrity Squares and we slowly came to terms with muting and unmuting ourselves, and hearing "can you hear me?" throughout meetings. Of course it wasn't ideal, but it was necessary to allow church business to tick over.

We also turned to more familiar technology and made our online reflections available over the phone, allowing those with no internet connection to enjoy worship from the comfort of their armchair. This is available by phoning 01505 805893. Calls are charged at local rate.

Another development during this time was that BT, who hosted our website through their free community webkit scheme, decided to discontinue the scheme, meaning we had to look for alternative website arrangements. Admin Al decided to take the bull by the horns and totally redesign the website and secure a new domain name for our home on the web. And so kilbarchankirk.org started to take shape. The new website was launched in March this year with a new look and loads of new capabilities. You'll find worship service details, the latest reflection video, news, diary, documents, newsletter, church magazine archive, and of course all of our groups and organisations have their own dedicated page.

As always if there is anything anyone would like added to the website please contact Alan Vaughan. You can do this by emailing kilbarchankirk@gmail.com, messaging the Facebook page, or speaking to Alan at church.

Church is about connecting people so get involved online. Like, comment and share on Facebook. Follow us on Twitter. Subscribe to the YouTube channel. Browse the website. Do we start up on Instagram? Are we doing enough online? Are we doing too much? Get online and have your say.

Finally I would like to thank Alasdair Law, Christine Erwin, Helen Robertson and Rev Stephen Smith for their input into the website redesign. Their clear vision of what it should include, plus their challenging ideas on how it should look really pushed my limited web design knowledge, and I hate to think how the site would have looked without their invaluable involvement.

Alan Vaughan

**THE BOYS'
BRIGADE**
& GIRLS' ASSOCIATION
> the adventure begins here



1ST KILBARCHAN BOYS' BRIGADE COMPANY

It has been at least 18 months since our boys and officers have met face-to-face as all our contact has been on Zoom. I wonder if the BB will be awarding a Zoom Badge? We have not been idle over the past 18 months as we have been doing classes using Zoom. One class that the Company Section did was on the development of the parachute. I thought I would drop that in! Anchors and Junior Section boys also met using Zoom with parents close by and sometimes even joining in. On Christmas 2020 Junior Section, Company Section and Officers combined to do a Zoom Pantomime of Aladdin which went well - eventually. Why is it that Zoom automatically recorded every rehearsal and yet did not record the actual performance? Isn't technology wonderful! We did an extra night and managed to get it recorded. Doing the Zoom Pantomime allowed the boys to experiment with different backgrounds and special effects, some of which were not provided by Zoom but by the boys' ingenuity and imagination. If you remember we were about 2 weeks before the first Lockdown when we were supposed to have our Coffee Morning in the Church Hall but when cases of Covid were starting to multiply we had the good sense to cancel it. That was in March 2020 - who would have thought that our lives would change so much! There were a number of times that the Company Section were going to meet in the park but the weather was very wet during March this year and then we experienced a second lockdown. BB advice was to keep Company boys and our younger Junior Section boys - under 12 separate from each other. Paisley and District Battalion provided us with hand sanitiser, signage and various other items to allow the Boys' Brigade to continue. Since we were not allowed to meet face-to-face we thought that we would continue with our Zoom Meetings but the boys were often doing school lessons on Zoom during the day and it was felt that it would be too much for them to do BB on Zoom on Friday nights as well. Zoom fatigue - how do you feel after a Zoom Meeting with the Kirk Session or Congregational Board! However during 2020 two of our boys gained their

Queen's Badges and this year 2021 three boys gained their President's Badges.

. Queen's Badge - David McNish and Jacob Cunningham

President's Badge - Alex Malone, Ross Carmichael and Jack Sheridan.

Special thanks to the boys doing their President's Badge as they had to complete the course with a final meeting on Zoom one Sunday in March 2021. I would like to thank them for their enthusiasm and indefatigability in completing their President's Badge during the present difficulties and also their parents for the encouragement that they gave to the boys in helping them complete the course. They now move onto complete their Queen's Badges over the next session. They have all arranged their placements to allow them to complete their service section of the Queen's Badge. Thanks also to our officers and helpers who have adapted their leadership skills to accommodate the changing circumstances of the Covid-19 lockdown.

Recently we have made arrangements to link-up with 3rd Johnstone Company at St Andrew's Trinity to allow the boys to participate in a larger grouping of boys to experience the friendship and competition of a larger company as our numbers were getting smaller and doing games and competitions were becoming more difficult. Our Junior Section boys have also had the opportunity of being part of a larger group as well. We hope to rebuild the Company by concentrating on our Anchor Section and try to recruit more boys from Primary 1, 2 and 3 and see how things go from there. Mary and Alan are retiring and I would like to thank them for their hard work, enthusiasm and good fun over the last 20 to 25 years in 1st Kilbarchan. We have many good memories of camps, competitions and BB Coffee Mornings over the years but we need adults to replace them and it is hard to replace the irreplaceable!

Please help - your Company needs you!

Best Wishes to everyone - stay safe.

Sure and Steadfast.

Robert Stevenson, Captain

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Our regular worship in church continues at 11 a.m. with fewer restrictions now than those we experienced for so long. Although social-distancing rules have been eased, we have taken a cautious approach and still ask folk to occupy designated seats, which are a least 1-metre apart.

Singing, even wearing a mask, has been very much welcomed by attendees.

We are still required, for the time being, to maintain contact details of all attendees for the Government's Test and Protect scheme and for this reason we recommend that anyone wishing to attend books a place beforehand (details below). There is more than adequate capacity for those wishing to attend church but prior booking helps to minimise any delay in entering church.

You can book a place by emailing bookings.kpc@gmail.com or by texting or phoning 0787 620 1096 between Monday and Thursday of the week preceding the service. You must provide your name and a contact number. Confirmation of your booking will be acknowledged.

Our regular Sunday Reflections continue and can be found via the church website <https://kilbarchankirk.org> also on our Facebook page and on YouTube.

You can also access the Reflections by telephone on 01505 805893



FUND-RAISING NEWS.

Some of us were involved with the baking stall at the recent very successful pop-up stalls. Our treasurer Irene Moffat has decided to resign from the committee after many years of dedicated work, thanks to Irene for all she has done.

HARVEST

WORD SEARCH



- BARLEY
- BEANS
- CHEESE
- CUCUMBER
- EGGS
- FIGS
- FISH
- GARLIC
- GOAT
- GOURDS
- GRAPES
- HERBS
- HONEY
- LAMB
- LENTILES
- LOCUSTS
- MANNA
- MEAT
- MELONS
- MILK
- ONION
- OX
- POMEGRANATES
- QUAILS
- RYE
- SALT
- SPICES
- UNLEAVENED
BREAD
- WHEAT

A	L	B	Q	U	A	I	L	S	N	K	L	I	M
G	O	X	C	N	G	H	O	N	E	Y	M	C	O
O	C	E	T	L	E	N	T	I	L	E	S	H	S
U	U	W	H	E	A	T	I	J	K	S	N	E	E
R	S	H	B	A	R	L	E	Y	B	P	O	E	T
D	T	S	U	V	T	Y	S	R	F	N	L	S	A
S	S	E	B	E	E	P	E	A	I	C	E	E	N
R	X	C	U	N	F	H	B	Q	G	D	M	J	A
E	Y	I	W	E	I	G	N	E	S	T	E	I	R
B	C	P	T	D	S	S	F	A	I	T	A	O	G
M	I	S	S	B	H	I	L	B	A	K	T	G	E
U	L	B	A	R	E	T	B	N	S	T	R	F	M
C	R	M	E	E	J	A	N	N	O	I	N	O	O
U	A	A	F	A	R	A	N	Y	S	G	G	E	P
C	G	L	L	D	M	N	U	S	E	P	A	R	G



One day, in the local school, a minister was teaching a group of very small children the Lord's Prayer. He said, " Give us this day our daily bread", and paused for the children to repeat that part. Suddenly , out of the stillness, he heard a tiny but determined voice say " and butter".

CHURCH FLOWERS

As we are now moving towards a more familiar Church service than we had during lockdown, we are planning to reintroduce the custom of having flowers on the pedestals in the Chancel every week.

Flowers can be provided in memory of a loved one, in celebration of an anniversary or birthday, or as part of your contribution to the work of our Church but they do not need to be expensive “formal” arrangements! After the service the flowers are distributed, as a gift from the Church, to people in our congregation who are unwell, or bereaved, or who are celebrating, or who need to know we are thinking of them.

Many of you were previously involved in the flower rota and it would be good to know whether or not you are still able to participate. Also, as there are several vacant weeks, any new names would be very welcome.

You can either make a donation of any amount towards the cost of the flowers, or you can provide and arrange the flowers yourself or help by distributing the flowers after the Sunday service.

If you would like to join or continue in the rota of people who help, or would like more information, please speak to Christine Erwin (01505 703056) or any of the welcome team.

Christine Erwin



BLYTHSWOOD SHOEBOX APPEAL.

As with last year, it's not going to be easy to fill boxes for many people, but if you would like to give a donation I shall be delighted to forward the money to Blythswood.

Please make cheques payable to Blythswood Shoebox Appeal and these or money in an envelope can be put in the plate on Sunday or given to me or any member of the finance team. The cut off date will be the end of October.

Jenifer Pitchers

DIARY OF A CHURCH MOUSE - by John Betjeman

Here among the long-discarded cassocks,
Damp stools, and half-split hassocks,
Here where the Vicar never looks
I nibble through old service books.
Lean and alone I spend my days
Behind the Church of England baize.
I share my dark forgotten room
With two oil-lamps and half a broom.
The cleaner never bothers me,
So here I eat my frugal tea.
My bread is sawdust mixed with straw;
My jam the polish for the floor.
Christmas and Easter may be feasts
for congregations and for priests,
And so may be Whitsun. All the same
They do not fill my meagre frame.
For me the only feast at all
Is Autumn's Harvest Festival,
When I can satisfy my want
With ears of corn around the font.
I climb the eagle's brazen head
To burrow through a loaf of bread.
I scramble up the pulpit stair
and know the marrows hanging there
It is enjoyable to taste
These items ere they go to waste.
But how annoying when one finds
That other mice with pagan minds
Come into church my food to share
Who have no proper business there.
Two field mice who have no desire
To be baptised, invade the choir.

A large and most unfriendly rat
Comes in to see what we are at
He says he thinks there is no God
And yet he comes ... it's rather odd.
This year he stole a sheaf of wheat
(It screened our special preacher's seat),
And prosperous mice from fields away
Come in to hear the organ play,
And under cover of it's notes
Ate through the altar's sheaf of oats.
A Low Church mouse, who thinks that I
Am too papistical, and High,
Yet somehow doesn't think it wrong
To munch through Harvest Evensong.
While I, who starve the whole year through,
Must share my food with rodents who
Except at this time of year
Not once inside the church appear.
Within the human world I know
Such going-on could not be so,
Foe human beings only do
What their religion tells them to.
They read the Bible every day
And always, night and morning, pray,
And just like me, the good church mouse,
Worship each week in God's own house,
But all the same it's strange to me
How very full the church can be
With people I don't see at all
Except at Harvest Festival.



Several years ago, in a church in Ayrshire, and during the Harvest Thanksgiving service, one little boy came forward with his tray of fruit. The minister noticed under the cling film there were two apples, two bananas, two oranges, one pear, and the core of a pear.

CARRY ON LOCKDOWN

As cases of COVID-19 increased across the country in early 2020 it was becoming increasingly clear that drastic measures were going to be required to try to slow down the transmission of the coronavirus. Schools and workplaces were closed and on March 24th 2020 the country entered what became known as Lockdown. Leaving the house was only permitted for essential purposes such as shopping for food or going to work in jobs considered essential to the infrastructure and wellbeing of the country.

From day one of lockdown both my employer and my trade union considered that postal workers were indeed essential. Our nationwide network, connecting every home in the UK, would be used for helping in the supply of essential goods and medical supplies across the country.

There would be no furlough or working from home for me. With some special measures in place and a good supply of hand sanitiser it was pretty much business as usual for the posties. Except that it wasn't. We very quickly saw a huge increase in shopping online, meaning that our parcel workload exceeded what is normally seen at Christmas time. If folk can't go shopping, then the shopping will come to them. It also became clear that the essential supplies we would be delivering turned out to be things like pet supplies, books, DVDs, toilet rolls, boxes of sweets and crisps, alcohol, and sports and leisure wear. And of course, because most folk were at home our job began to resemble a huge game of chap-door-run-away.

So with a whole bunch of mixed feelings I had become a 'Key Worker'.

As I'm sure was the case for all Key Workers my very first thought was for my family. One person in the house on the shielding list and one with asthma meant that I was acutely aware of the danger I was putting them in. At this time my mum's health was also failing so the family care bubble we had established was also at the front of my mind as I carried on chapping doors and running away.

My initial feelings of fear and worry at times turned to anger and resentment as I went about my day trying to dodge scores of folk out and

about taking their government prescribed daily exercise. The quiet country roads that I work on had become busy with walkers, cyclists and joggers. I'm ashamed to admit that I often muttered and growled at these folk from the safety of my van as I passed them, moaning at them to go home where they should be. Jealousy is an awful thing.

But being a Key Worker at work is only half of it. That's the part that you do on autopilot. Get up, go to work, be as safe as possible, do the job, go home. Home – the place that is constantly on your mind with every doorstep interaction, with every squirt of the hand sanitiser, with every curse of the face mask. Returning home to rush past your loved ones, too scared to interact with them until every possible trace of covid has been rinsed down the shower drain in a gurgle of soapy suds. Terrified to visit elderly parents but knowing that the care bubble that is in place is there for a reason – they need the care you give. Having to make the decision to either visit my dying mother in hospital or protect my vulnerable family from Covid was one of the most heart-breaking decisions I've ever had to make. Being a Key Worker obviously has no bearing on such decisions but it was certainly a role I could have done without at such an awful time. So when someone would occasionally say thanks for what Key Workers were doing it made such a huge difference to my day. Not the discounts offered in shops, or gifts and treats handed in to the Delivery Office, but just a sincere "Thanks for what you are doing, we really appreciate it." What a massive difference that made to my state of mind.

And yet, I know that my part as a Key Worker has been a small one. The risks I've been exposed to have been small when compared to others. I have nothing but respect and admiration for health care professionals and hospital staff, literally coming face to face with the virus every day. Care workers visiting homes and nursing homes have been under so much pressure. The abuse faced by retail workers early in lockdown was shameful. I know many people who have been unable to earn a living since the first lockdown which must be incredibly hard. My workload may have increased massively but at least I could work.

Alan Vaughan



HILL WALKING CLUB

In common with other organisations, our plans for the past eighteen months have been decimated. It was only in August five got together and climbed the Corbett of Garbh Bheinn from Kinlochleven. The day was hot and sunny and the views superb.

For the September walk four climbed the Corbett of Meall-an-T-Seallaidh from Lochearnhead in the beautiful Trossachs. Although the sun did not come out, it was a perfect day for climbing and all thoroughly enjoyed the outing.

The remaining walks on the revised syllabus are:

- October 9 - Luss Horseshoe
- November 6 - West Kip, East Kip and Scald Law (Pentlands)
- December 11 - Langcraigs Circuit

The group meet at the Steeple at 8.00 am and will welcome anyone who wishes to join them.

Margaret Beattie



JUNIOR CHURCH

We have not yet been able to restart Junior Church. Before we do we will have to do a risk assessment and with the surge in Covid cases at the moment I don't see us getting back before October at the earliest. We have to always think about the risk to the elderly and vulnerable in the congregation from our young people. Hopefully all our families will be able to be back together again before long.

Ros & Shona

HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

In the 19 months since the last H&S report the whole definition of Health and Safety has been turned on its head. Then it was the Church of Scotland initiative within which we were predominantly looking at a safe environment in our Church and Halls to ensure that there was nothing to endanger our health. Fire risks were assessed and minimised, evacuation procedures drawn up, electricity and gas supplies checked and improved, and peoples awareness of the way we go about our worship and business in the Parish broadened to include safe practices.

Now, it is a case of protecting our own safety from the health limiting world-wide Covid-19 pandemic. The Church of Scotland was very quick to recommend that our churches close our doors for worship and all other activities in March last year. And since then has provided numerous updates from their regular discussions with the Scottish Government. If you have a few hours to fill, check the Church of Scotland Covid pages on their website. There is so much information there, you will be amazed. Amongst many other directives, advice has been given on alternative forms of worship and outreach, and our own weekly online Reflections from Stephen et al has been a great way to keep the Congregation together.

As the impact of the virus has lessened we have slowly and cautiously (the CoS way) been able to reopen the Church for Worship. Initially only 35 people were allowed into the Sanctuary at 2 metre spacing. With the relaxation of Government restrictions we can now accommodate over one hundred by reducing the spacing to 1 metre and including the use of the Gallery. In fact, with the dimensions of the pews you will still be nearer 1.5 metres apart which may be reassuring to know.

We still should not come to Church if we have any symptoms or feel unwell. We still have to give our names and contact details for the obligatory Test and Protect scheme. We still have to sanitize our hands and wear masks. But we can sing again.OK, that is congregational singing with masks on, but it is a start. Surely it cannot be too long till we can get the choir back.

There are also moves in hand to restart other Church based activities like the Sunday School, the Guild and the BB and hopefully these are not too far away.

Similarly, non-worshipping activities within Kilbarchan Parish Church are a part of our community commitment which cannot be ignored. Hoops still have to jumped through and our own covid risk assessments and safety procedures must be adhered to by all. In addition, applications to use Church facilities must be accompanied by the group's own risk assessment relevant to their own activities. If any advice is needed, just get in touch. If I do not know the answer I will do my best to find it.

One of the difficulties in restarting many groups is cleaning. While the Church pays the additional cost of thoroughly cleaning the Sanctuary between Services, we cannot afford to clean the Halls many times through the week to accommodate multiple users. So it must be up to the activity groups to ensure that the halls are completely clean before they leave.

I personally think that Covid is going to be with us for some time into the future. It is something we can only control by conforming to the recommendations given to us by those in the know. I am not one of them. But if you have any other worries or points of concern you can speak to me at any time.

Tony Martin ☎ 352490



Church Mice

Karl Zorowski



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STITCHING GROUP

At the beginning of lockdown, We started well making items for the next sale, however, as the days wore into weeks ...then months, it became more difficult to keep up the momentum. Most of our work was more suited to Christmas than the summer sale.



Some of the group have been knitting small blankets for prem babies and others have been assisting the work of friends.

We have kept in contact with one another, ensuring that everyone was well.

We're really looking forward to starting up again with renewed energy to plan our Christmas stall.

Alison McNicoll



POP UP STALL

We held a pop up stall event on Saturday 21 August. The stalls included garden plants and produce, Forever Living aloe Vera products, aprons and cross stitch towels, home baking, George Grant cards, books and cds, jewellery and trinkets, jams, marmalade and chutneys. Despite a driech morning the support from our church family and the wider community was overwhelming and realised the incredible sum of £1100. A sincere thank you to all the stallholders, their support team and to everyone who donated goods and came along on the day. An amazing effort by everyone concerned, thank you.

Margaret Gibb



Jesus often taught with the help of stories, called parables. The parables were about ordinary people and the everyday things Jesus saw all around him.

Read the three stories below and see if you can answer the questions.

The Parable of *The Sower* (Matthew 13 : 1 - 9)

Jesus gave three reasons why the seed would not grow. What were they?

1. What happened to the good seed?
2. What does the good seed stand for?
3. Who does the good soil stand for?

The Parable of *The Good Samaritan* (Luke 10 : 25 - 37)

1. What happened to the man going from Jerusalem to Jericho?
2. How many of his fellow countrymen passed him by?
3. Did the Samaritan, natural enemy of the Jews, follow their example?
4. What is the message of this story?

The Parable of *The Lost Son* (Luke 15 :11- 32)

1. How many sons did the man have?
2. What did the younger son do?
3. What happened when he returned home?
4. What does Jesus tell us in the story?

PARISH REGISTER



ORDINATION OF NEW ELDERS (28/10/2020)

Elizabeth Crawley
Alison Renfrew
Tony Martin
Arlene McKay

MEMBERS JOINING KILBARCHAN PARISH CHURCH

By Certificate of Transference:-

Mrs Flora Croucher from Houston & Killellan Church.
(Dist 31 - Elder, Mairi Alexander)

By Resolution of the Kirk Session

Mrs Diane McSkimming

MARRIAGE

19/12/2020 Ms Isobel Miller and Mr George Arnott (Lynhurst Hotel)
20/05/2021 Ms Karen Brown and Mr Gordon Docherty (Seamill Hydro)
18/09/2021 Ms Claire Kinnon and Mr Greg Cunningham (University)

MEMBERS LEAVING THE CHURCH

Mr Kenneth Dalglish
Mrs Jean Ann McLeod

DEATHS (* denotes member, ** denotes adherent)



28/02/2020	Agnes Fleming *
01/03.2020	Margaret Johnstone
14/03/2020	Sandra Millar *
30/03/2020	William Chittick *
15/04/2020	Alister Greig
17/04/2020	Jennifer Dalglish
18/04/2021	Sheila Winning
25//04/2020	Jean Weir *

04/05/2020	Christina Robinson *
06/06/2020	Dorothy Vaughan *
29/06/2021	Susan Wilson
01/07/2021	Jim Shaw
16/07/2020	John Russell *
23/07/2020	Jean Winchester *
26/07/2020	Margaret Perrie *
03/08/2020	Stewart Gray
31/10/2020	Ellen Harker
05/11/2020	Irene Blair *
18/11/2020	William Woods
21/11/2020	Jean Clark *
27/11/2020	Leslie Meneely *
02/12/2020	Elizabeth Martin *
13/12/2020	Moira Donaldson
14/12/2020	Walter Gardner *
26/12/2020	Marion McLean *
29/12/2020	Fred Broughton
26 /01/2021	Muriel King *
January 2021	William Morrin *
14/02/2021	Margaret Gatherer
17/03/2021	Johan Baird *
18/03/2021	Barrie McBain
25/03/2021	Richard Courtney
10/04/2021	Ethel Hamilton *
05/05/2021	Gordon Keir
08/05/2021	Jimmy McCarten
09/06/2021	Ruby Craig *
10/07/2021	Ann MacMillan *
21/07/2021	Ann Burns *
26/07/2021	George King *
01/08/2021	George Gardner *
02/09/2021	Margaret Allan *
09/09/2021	Bruce McFee

BAPTISM

15/03/2020 Maya Elizabeth Agnes Earlie, daughter of Laura and Andrew

ROLL

The Roll of Kilbarchan Parish Church now stands at 378 and 18 Adherents.



My sincere thanks to the congregation for the beautiful flowers and cards received on the occasion of my 90th birthday. Very much appreciated.

Myra Goldie

I would like to thank Stephen and all my friends for their care and kindness to me during my recent illness. You made a difficult time a lot easier.

Jan Keir



We hope that you appreciate the return of your quarterly Magazine after a long gap.

Production and distribution of the magazine involves much time, effort and paper and, being eco-conscious, we wish to do all we can to minimise this. During the period of Covid restrictions we produced a monthly Newsletter, which we were able to send to many members electronically.

Distributing the Magazine electronically to members would save both cost and time.

*If you would be happy to receive future copies by e-mail, please let us know by e-mailing **kilbarchan.church@gmail.com***

Thank you. Alasdair Law

USEFUL CHURCH CONTACTS

Minister - Rev Stephen Smith - 01843 82621

Joint Session Clerk - Mrs Christine Erwin - 01843 82621

Joint Session Clerk - Mr Alasdair Law - 01843 82621

Ass. Session Clerk - Miss Helen Robertson - 01843 82621

Clerk to Congregational Board - Mrs Gwen Howden - 01843 82621

WORSHIP PROGRAMME

Sunday 26 nd September	11am	Morning Worship
Sunday 3 rd October	11am	Harvest Thanksgiving Service
Sunday 10 th October	11am	Morning Worship
Sunday 17 th October	11am	Morning Worship
Sunday 24 th October	11am	Morning Worship
Sunday 31 st October	11am	Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
Sunday 7 th November	11am	Morning Worship
Sunday 14 th November	10.45am	Remembrance Sunday
Sunday 21 st November	11am	Morning Worship
Sunday 28 th November	11am	Morning Worship
Sunday 5 th December	11am	Morning Worship

**THE ABOVE ARE SUBJECT TO THE COVID 19
RESTRICTIONS ON THESE DATES**

