



Kilbarchan Parish Church

Your local church magazine

Dear Friends,

I hope you are well and in good heart.

By the time you read this newsletter votes will have taken place in congregational meetings in Howwood and Kilbarchan and plans will be underway for a Presbytery service that will link the two congregations together.

In practical terms, this means I will become minister of both congregations in the linkage, leading worship in Howwood at 9.45 am and in Kilbarchan at 11.15am. No long lies for me or the people of Howwood!

Each congregation will continue in their present structure with the Kirk Sessions responsible for the business of their own congregations and church buildings.

All ministerial costs including stipend, travel and other expenses will be shared.

The current Kilbarchan manse will be retained, and its running cost shared pro rata between the two congregations.

In a way, for you, a member of Kilbarchan, the only obvious change is the time of worship, and that is by 15 minutes.

I will have pastoral responsibility for Kilbarchan and Howwood.

There will be occasions when doing something jointly will bring benefits to both congregations and communities.

It is a time of change. It will bring its own challenges. On occasion there may have to be compromises made on both sides for the greater good. Most importantly, I believe it will bring opportunities that in hope and in faith will enrich the lives of both congregations.

For almost 11 years it has been an honour to have been minister of Kilbarchan Parish. I look forward to continuing to be your minister in the future linkage with Howwood.

Come, join me on this journey.

Your friend *Stephen*



As I mentioned in a service recently, I saw Christmas cards for sale in the beginning of August at a well-known garden center. This did confuse me somewhat as they were for sale near a display for summer barbecues! We are fortunate in the church though, to have a reassuring pattern and rhythm to the year, modelled on Christ's life. We thus can look forward to Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter and Pentecost. We also have significant events in the calendar such as Harvest, Remembrance and communion services. These events and services provide a framework for the year, a rhythm to our lives.

It's true also that as we age, we go through different seasons in our lives. From hopefully carefree childhood, to the increasing responsibilities of young adulthood and making our own way in the world. Moving away from home for the first time, perhaps more study or finding employment. Then for some there is the phase of settling down with a partner or marriage and for others remaining single. For some in the congregation there is the responsibility of bringing up children and for others it is being supportive grandparents. Perhaps you are at a stage where you care for your parents. In our faith we are reassured that wherever you find yourself in the book of your life, whatever the chapter heading, our God is present with us on every page. Sometimes God may feel close, other times more distant, but I promise you He is with us page by page, step by step. Enjoy the new autumn season.

Aaron



FROM THE EDITOR

I seem to have missed the Summer with Autumn now upon us. For those of you who managed a holiday either abroad or in the UK, I hope you enjoyed it and are now ready to take part with us in our church life.

Since the last magazine there has been lots happening, the Olympic Games not to mention the start of the football season to name just a couple.

Here in Kilbarchan we too are gearing up to a new session with most of our groups either having started or about to start in this month. You should be able to get the information in this issue. There is one thing I can assure you and that is no matter what you decide to join, you will be made most welcome.

Our magazine comes out quarterly and the Winter one will be out on 1st December with a cut off date for submissions on the 17th November. Items can be sent to me anytime at alastair.mackinnon@ntlworld.com

Alastair MacKinnon, Editor



SEARCHWORD

"THE PROPHETS"

Z	I	P	H	K	U	K	K	A	B	A	H	J
K	A	B	Z	I	H	A	I	D	A	B	O	O
E	G	A	M	E	C	H	D	H	A	C	I	M
Z	G	K	A	L	C	A	I	Z	J	O	N	E
E	A	U	K	A	N	H	S	H	U	O	A	L
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O	E	M	Z	E	M	U	H	A	N	J	N	A
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WORD LIST

AMOS	JOEL
DANIEL	JONAH
ELIJAH	MALACHI
ELISHA	MICAH
EZEKIEL	NAHUM
HABAKKUK	NATHAN
HAGGAI	OBADIAH
HOSEA	SAMUEL
ISAIAH	ZECHARIAH
JEREMIAH	ZEPHANIAH

KIRK SESSION REPORT.

At our last meeting, those present voted unanimously to approve the linkage with Howwood Church as proposed in the Presbytery plan. The implications of this change were summarised in a letter to all members and adherents with a congregational meeting being held after worship on Sunday 18 August. The result of the vote was 81 in favour of linking with Howwood with no one abstaining nor voting against the proposal.

From Sunday 1 September, services in Kilbarchan Parish Church will start at 11.15am and in Howwood Parish Church at 9.45am.

A service of linkage will be organised by Presbytery in the Autumn.

In light of recommendations from the Church of Scotland, session also agreed that four elders, who were no longer able to take an active part in our decision making process, be moved to a list of Elders Emeritus. We are very grateful to Alan, Charlotte, Robert and Aileen for all the work which they did for the Church in Kilbarchan over many years as members of the Kirk Session.

Since the last magazine, we had a very successful stall at Liliass Day when we were also delighted that the Arch made by our Messy Church team was admired by many visitors and won a prize.

The Stated Annual Meeting was also at the start of June when the financial, property and session reports for 2023 were delivered. Thanks were extended to everyone who helps in any way with running our Church whether as an office bearer or by working in the background.

We are grateful to Dr Ian Trushell for attending the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in Edinburgh in May. His report and thoughts on the proceedings are in a separate article in this magazine.

On the last Sunday of June we celebrated the Sacrament of Communion. We were pleased to welcome Rev Mhairi Breingan to lead our service in the morning, and Rev Alister Shaw in the afternoon when we worshipped in the small hall. During Stephen's annual leave in July it was also good to have Rev Dougie Adams back to lead our worship.

Although it seems no time at all since our Church organisations stopped for their summer break, we are now hearing of plans being made for Autumn events and are looking forward to resuming the weekly pattern of meetings and clubs. If you are not already involved in any of our groups, the start of a new session would be a good time to come along and see what goes on in our Church as well as to come to Sunday worship. You can be assured of a very warm welcome.

Christine and Helen



JUNIOR CHURCH:

Junior Church will reconvene on Sunday 8th September at the new time of 11.15am, and we look forward to welcoming back our children and their families, also any new children who would like to join us on a Sunday morning for this new session will be made most welcome.

Shona and I would also like to thank and welcome Katy Thompson and June Burgess to our team and we both look forward to working with them and sharing the new ideas and perspective they will bring.

We also eagerly anticipate hearing what the children have been doing during their summer holidays and hope both they and their families have had an enjoyable time, despite the unpredictable weather.

Warmest Regards

Ros & Shona

FINANCE TEAM REPORT

This is the time of year when our Freewill Offering Convenor, Neil Chittick, will order the FWO envelopes for 2025.

The cost of FWO envelopes increases every year and therefore the Finance Team want to ensure that these envelopes are ordered only for those members who wish to use them. It is appreciated that circumstances can change and FWO envelopes may no longer be appropriate for some members.

We would ask, therefore, that any member who no longer wants FWO envelopes, notifies Neil or any member of the Finance Team **before 15th. September 2024.**

The number of members who give to the Church by way of monthly/quarterly/annual Standing Order is decreasing each year, mainly due to the deaths of members. As with FWO envelopes, it is appreciated that giving by Standing Order is not appropriate for everyone. If, however, there are any members who would like to consider giving by Standing Order, and who do not already do so, we would ask that you speak to any member of the Finance Team who will be pleased to deal with any queries and provide a Standing Order Form for completion.

Giving by Standing Order is very helpful to the Church. It assists the Finance Team in budgeting for expenditure during the year.

An instruction to pay an amount by Standing Order to the Church is in the control of the member and can be amended or cancelled at any time by that member.

As always, grateful thanks are extended to everyone for their continued financial support of the Church.

FINANCE TEAM

Marjory Love (Treasurer), Neil Chittick (FWO Convenor), Myra Grant, Ian Trushell, Cathy Millar, Alex Christine

MESSY CHURCH

Messy church resumes on Saturday 21st September in the church halls from 4 - 6pm. This will be our ninth year of running our monthly meetings between September and May and the numbers attending have been very encouraging.

Messy church is a church in its own right and it provides something for families who may have no experience of church. It is run by a group of volunteers who provide a variety of ways to explore bible stories through crafting, listening, singing, watching a short film and then sharing a simple meal. A warm welcome is extended to all children who bring an adult with them for fun and friendship.



MIDWEEK FELLOWSHIP



The new session of the Midweek Fellowship starts again on Wednesday 11th September. It meets at 10.30am for tea, coffee and chat and a short act of worship at 11am. All will be made most welcome.

At the end of May we always have a discussion as to where our collections for the year are going to go. As well as so much to church funds we like to donate to various charities. This year we managed to give £100 to four different charities. These were St Vincent's Hospice, Calums Cabin, a charity on Bute which provides holidays for children suffering from cancer, First Aid 4 Gambia, who send out medical equipment no longer needed here to Gambia and The Sandplper Trust who provide an emergency hold-all of medical supplies to more remote areas of Scotland where an ambulance might take time to get to. Each year we try to give to small charities that are not so well know.

KILBARCHAN PARISH CHURCH HILLWALKING CLUB REPORT

AUGUST 2024

This quarter, the hillwalking club have tackled four Munros, two Corbetts and four lower level walks, encompassing one weekend away and a wonderful “completion” of all 282 Munros.



June's day trip was to the Southern Uplands to climb Tewsgill Hill, a 569m hill near Abington, via its lower neighbours of Castle Hill and Raggengill Hill. Seven people walked on a mixture of paths, rough ground and minor roads to complete a circular route in pleasantly dry but breezy conditions. The day was rounded off with coffee at the nearby service station.

Meanwhile, another seven of us took a trip to Ullapool for the weekend. We stayed in unaccustomed luxury in the Royal Hotel - quite a contrast to our usual hostels (which were all fully booked). The main target for the weekend was An Teallach, a mountain famed for its pinnacled ridge. Unfortunately, forecast 55mph winds deterred us from scrambling along the full ridge, but we bagged both Munro summits from Dundonnell. This was still an exciting route with breathtaking views and some rocky exposure near the summits. These provided new ticks for four of us, leaving Jim D with only one Munro left to climb! On the Sunday, most tired legs opted for a short but scenic stroll over the Corrieshalloch Gorge, while two of us climbed the relatively easy Corbett of Beinn Liath Mhòr a' Ghiubhais Li.

July's low level walk was around the Dumfries House estate. Twelve walkers enjoyed a varied 7 miles on good paths. The route took in the historic "Barony A Frame", overlooking the Lugar Water valley; an adventure playground, where fun was had on the aerial ropeways and chutes (we have photographic evidence!); and exploration of the arboretum and beautifully restored walled garden. There was even a stop for coffee on the way home at the Ayrshire Food Hub near Hurlford, with excellent cakes.

July's pre-planned Munro walk was Beinn Dearg, near Blair Atholl. Five of us hiked, mostly on landrover tracks, with a rare indoor lunchstop in the Allt Scheicheachan bothy. We were blessed with dry



weather and only a little mist on the summit, but after 29km of distance and 990m of ascent, we were footsore and tired by the end of the day.



July also hosted a brilliant bonus walk: Ben Cruachan (above), Jim Dick's last Munro! Eleven of us climbed steep muddy slopes through muggy woodland to reach brief tarmac, a dam and reservoir, then up steep, loose, rocky paths to the summit. It was a tough climb, but worth it for the stunning views and, more importantly, to make a tunnel of walking poles to welcome Jim to the summit. We celebrated with prosecco, chocolate truffles and Jim's excellent homemade apple cake. Jim has now climbed all 282 Munros, plus 2 demoted during his bagging career, and is already registered with the Scottish Mountaineering Club as "compleator" number 7769. Congratulations to Jim!

August's higher altitude walk was Beinn nan Oighreag, a Corbett near Killin. Four intrepid mountaineers braved some dodgy river crossings, lots of bog, occasional paths, a howling gale on top and, just to complete the day, some rain. It was another grand day out with super company.

August's lower level walk was from Bridge of Allen to Dunblane and back via Darn Road and Glen Road. A full report will feature in our next club article.

Our upcoming walks will be:

- 14th Sept: Glenrath Heights & Stob Law (Donalds)
- 5th Oct: Beinn Maol Chaluim (Corbett) or West Lomond (522m Marilyn)
- 9th Nov: Lewis Hill, Bannock Burn (Grade B)
-

For all walks we will meet at the Steeple at 8am. Any new members would be very welcome on these or any subsequent walks.

Eilidh Henderson, with thanks to Angus McNicoll, David Baillie and Andy Stark



Renfrewshire Foodbank
Westway, E. Blo
Porterfield
Renfrew, Renfrewshire, PA

0300 10
julie@renfrewshire.foodbank

www.renfrewshire.foodbank

24th May 2024

Dear Friends of Renfrewshire Foodbank,

Thank you very much for your continuous and unwavering support to Renfrewshire Foodbank. Support like yours enables us to relieve the immediate threat of hunger while also providing support to help people out of poverty.

We ended 2023 having provided food parcels to 10,099 people including to 3042 children. I'm sure you will agree that these are heartbreaking figures and not something that should be happening at all.

This past year we have continued to offer a fresh pack containing bread, eggs, fruit and vegetables in addition to our non-perishable parcel of food, toiletries, cleaning products and pet food. Over winter, we were also able to provide a soup pack which included all the ingredients and a recipe to make a pot of lentil soup and over the festive period your support allowed us to offer a voucher for a local butcher.

Through signposting to our Financial Insecurity project, we were able to maximise people's income and put over £271,000 back into the pockets of people within Renfrewshire in 2023-2024.

Thank you so much once again for your kindness. We really couldn't do what we do without your support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie Edmiston". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Julie Edmiston
Assistant Manager

THE TRUSSELL TRUST - *Stop UK Hunger*

Who needs food banks?

There are widespread misconceptions around who needs food banks. Earlier this year the trussell trust shared the stories of Steve, Siobhan and Lowri, in an attempt to build the public's understanding around the groups of people who are more likely to need a food bank increasing empathy and compassion.

Steve had to leave a job he loved in event security after an injury meant he would be unable to work again. He was forced to a food bank for emergency support.

Siobhan is a full-time carer for her dad. When her dad's health deteriorated, she had to quit her job to look after him. They were left with no income and turned to a food bank for support.

Lowri and her daughter were left with no income after Lowri was forced to close her business due to a relationship breakdown. They had no option but to turn a food bank.

Key Messaging from the trussell trust

- We live in one of the wealthiest countries in the world yet 1 in 7 people face hunger in the UK due to lack of money.
- People need food banks when they don't have enough money and face impossible decisions between essentials like food, heating and toiletries.
- Certain groups of people such as disabled people, carers, families with children, and people going through an adverse life experience such as becoming sick, a relationship breakdown or domestic abuse, are more likely to face hunger.
- Right now, our social security system is not a strong enough lifeline. It does not provide enough money for people to live with dignity.
- This isn't right. We can't stand by as people are left with no option to turn to a charity for something as essential as food.

Content courtesy of the trussell trust – Stop UK Hunger

CUPPA AT THE KIRK

'Cuppa at the Kirk' resumes on 27th August and continues every Tuesday afternoon in the Church Hall from 2pm - 3.30pm

Numbers are averaging between 14-16 which is great and those who come are enjoying the friendly chat; music; and cuppa with a biscuit or sometimes a cake!

However it would be great to see some new faces, and everyone will be made most welcome. Remember 'Cuppa' is open to all and not just folks in the Church.

'Cuppa' will continue until December when we plan to have a Christmas Party. The date is to be decided - so watch this space.

I would be great if we have some new volunteers to assist and would enable some of the existing team to do a little less.

Anyone interested in helping out on a Tuesday afternoon approximately one in every 5 weeks would be most welcome. If you feel you can help please call Arlene on 07971 917402.

Finally thank you to all the helpers and to all of you who come along so regularly in support of 'Cuppa'.

Pastoral Care Team



COUNTRY DANCING

The Country Dance Class is about to start a new session on 10th September. We hope to welcome back members who have already danced with us and would like to invite new comers to join our group.

This is a fun class which meets on a Tuesday evening 7.30p.m. - 9.30p.m. in the Church Hall. We stop for a break and ask all to bring along their own mug.



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2024

The Summer issue of the magazine went to print just as Christian Aid Week was coming to a close and we were unaware at that stage how successful our fundraising has been. Well, what an amazing outcome !

The amount raised from the donation envelopes which were distributed around Kilbarchan and Brookfield by volunteers was **£5,888.30** including the Gift Aid which can be recovered by Christian Aid. **£430** was also donated on-line via the church's JustGiving link.

In total that is more than **£1,500** above last year's figure – a truly magnificent amount.

In addition, Alasdair and Morag Law's walk on the Speyside Way (more than 65 miles from Buckie to Aviemore) over 6 days as part of the "70k in May" initiative raised a further **£1,700** in sponsorship donations.

They were boosted by the many messages of support received from friends and other supporters, especially on the mornings when waterproofs had to be donned before setting out from their accommodation !

In summary, Christian Aid will receive more than **£8,000** from Kilbarchan Parish Church and its supporters this year, which will do so much to help those in the poorest communities of the world.

In the current economic climate that is a truly wonderful achievement.

Many, many thanks to all who donated their money and their time in delivering this marvellous outcome.

Alasdair



A smile is the lighting system of the face
and the heating system of the heart

Walk this way, please”- a journey along the Speyside Way

The idea

In January, Morag and I decided that we would undertake a long-distance walk this year, having tackled and enjoyed the West Highland Way (WHW) some years previously.

We quickly settled on the Speyside Way and, as with previous such walks, we asked a specialist company to book overnight accommodation for us and organise the transport of luggage from one location to the next, meaning we needed only day sacks when walking.

But, when to go ? Spring seemed best from a weather perspective, but as I am local co-ordinator for Christian Aid, with much preparation involved for Christian Aid Week (CAW) it would need to be after this. We opted for six days walking, May 21st to 26th.

During March, I learnt about a new fund-raising initiative for this year’s CAW, “70k in May”, inviting supporters to journey 70 kilometres - walk, run, cycle, swim/whatever - during the month of May to attract donations for Christian Aid. This seemed a perfect opportunity for us, with our planned distance of approx. 65 miles, from Buckie on the Moray Coast to Aviemore, being well in excess of the 70k.

The walk

We made a conscious decision to use public transport to reach our start point and to return home. Our bus passes meant we paid nothing for the buses to Inverness and onward to Elgin, then Buckie.

On that first evening we walked round Buckie harbour and along the coast, admiring the fine views north to Caithness. The town has a revitalised harbour, new fishing boats and a thriving support industry for the off-shore wind sector.

Next morning we set off westward along the coast in bright sunshine. Most of the route here follows the course of an old railway line and gave easy walking, the sound of the sea a constant companion. At Spey Bay, where the river enters the North Sea, we had hoped to have lunch in a café run by the Whale and Dolphin Trust – sadly it was closed on a Tuesday, so water, crisps and a chocolate bar had to suffice.

Turning south to follow the river brought a change of environment, with lots of deciduous woodland giving respite from the sun. Fochabers was our destination and was reached without any difficulty shortly after 3 and we went straight to our accommodation, an old-style hotel. As we checked in, the receptionist advised us that the hotel was unmanned overnight, but not to worry, there were comprehensive instructions in the room regarding emergency procedures.

Following a hearty meal in the hotel restaurant, we were disappointed when we asked for coffee and were told “Sorry, but the coffee machine was damaged in the fire and we haven’t got it replaced”.

Fire ! Unmanned overnight ! We then got the story of the recent overnight fire and the staff reaching the hotel at the same time as several fire appliances. It took a while for us both to get to sleep that night.



Our destination next day was Craigellachie, in the heart of distillery country. After a grey start, our route took us through several miles of forestry plantations, which gave us some protection from a persistent drizzle. Close to Craigellachie, we emerged from the forest opposite the Fiddichside Inn. Tired and damp, we had no hesitation in heading into the tiny bar (about the size of our kitchen) with four worthies sitting on stools at the counter. My request for two coffees was met with surprised glances from the customers and a polite “we don’t do coffees” from the lady behind the counter. So, shandies it was, then !

That evening, we headed out in a downpour to a local hotel for our meal. The most memorable element was the incredible array of whiskies, several hundred in

number, many Japanese, as the owner is a renowned whisky connoisseur from that country.

It drizzled steadily for much of the next day, 12 miles to Ballindalloch. We received several messages from friends expressing concern for our situation as Edinburgh had had a month's worth of rain in 36 hours. Because of the rain (and midges), our stops were short and infrequent, the various distilleries we passed being barely noticed. Ballindalloch is little more than a cluster of houses close to the former railway station, and our accommodation the only one anywhere near to the Speyside Way. This was easily the most luxurious place in which we stayed. The house has a fascinating history, having been built in 1876 for the owner of the adjoining distillery. It was like something out of Downton Abbey, each room filled with objets d'art, tapestries and antiques.

It was quite an effort next morning, to leave such comfortable accommodation and step out in all our waterproof gear on the longest stretch of our walk (14+ miles) to Grantown-on-Spey.

Fortunately, the rain did not last, the sun appeared, and we finally got some good views of the Spey and surrounding hills. Our route now took us through native pine woods, so typical of the Cairngorms area, but we were caught out by a sudden downpour when in open country that had us scrambling for the waterproofs again. The B&B in Grantown was a welcome sight at the end of a long day.

Our next day, to Boat of Garten, was one of the most memorable of our trip. Having previously met and chatted to only a small number of walkers on the route, we now spent several hours greeting some four/five hundred folk, mostly walking or running, others on bikes, heading north. There were two challenge events on that weekend - The Cairngorms to the Coast, 100 kilometres non-stop; and the annual 100-mile challenge (in 48 hours) organised by the Long Distance Walking Association.

It made our 65-mile walk seem almost inadequate but by the end of a warm day, ice creams at the station of the preservation Strathspey Railway were very welcome.

Our final day was, deliberately, a short one, only 6 or so miles to Aviemore. The weather was dry but overcast, giving limited views of the big hills of the Cairngorms or ***Monaidhean Ruadh*** as they are known in Gaelic. Arriving in the bustling centre of Aviemore was a culture shock after our quiet week. We had no sooner found a coffee shop when the heavens opened and it poured for a couple of hours. Thank

goodness we could take shelter in the many shops. When we eventually reached our accommodation, there was the luxury of a bath rather than a shower, so we could soak our weary limbs and contemplate what we had achieved.

Special memories

The variety of scenery. Masses of bright gorse and broom beside the path along the Moray Coast; the mix of native woodland; the changing moods of the Spey, often calm, occasionally turbulent.

The bird life. Gulls and oystercatchers along the coast, lapwings and curlews on the moorland, pheasants, swallows and swifts in the fields, plus a wide range of woodland birds.

The people. The crowds of folk taking the extreme challenges on the Saturday have already been mentioned - our engagement with them was fleeting but did give the opportunity to publicise Christian Aid, but there were far fewer “ordinary” walkers tackling the Speyside Way than we had expected.

Close to Aberlour, we encountered a small group of adults and youngsters. The three young people all had special needs, one in a wheelchair, the others with differing disabilities but all were undertaking a final task to complete their Duke of Edinburgh Gold award. They had begun this challenge prior to Covid but only now able to complete it. We talked with them for some time – their fortitude and the commitment of their leaders made a huge impression on us.

The support. We were well prepared for our challenge, and although the weather was far from perfect it never dampened (!) our spirits. We were helped enormously by the many messages of support received from friends and family during the walk. Alan Vaughan’s posts on social media kept us connected with Kilbarchan and the regular messages from Christian Aid, each time we received another donation, gave us an added impetus to push on.

Our initial target of raising £500 was almost reached before we set off and the final total of more than **£1,700** was just phenomenal.

We thoroughly enjoyed our week’s walking. The knowledge that we were being supported to raise money which will make a huge difference to some of the poorest communities in the world was also very important.

Thank you again to all who donated or sent messages of encouragement.

Alasdair and Morag

REPORT ON GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2024

Colin the Postman rang the doorbell and handed me an envelope. ‘My Supervisor said I had to hand this to you personally and not put it through the letter box’ he said. The sender’s name was on the outside and it was The Purse Bearer, Palace of Holyroodhouse, Edinburgh. That will be for the Garden Party I thought, but no, it was to a Beating the Retreat and Reception at the Palace. I thought it was in recognition of my many years’ service as a General Trustee, but every First-Time Commissioner received the same invitation! Such was my introduction to this year’s General Assembly.

I elected to travel daily by train from Saturday to Thursday in May. The first item was the inauguration of the new Moderator, Dr Shaw Paterson, with due ceremony. He turned out to be hewn from a very different stone from the previous Moderator, the Very Reverend Sally Foster-Fuller. He is Minister at Strathaven Trinity Parish Church in South Lanarkshire, with a West Coast sense of humour somewhat akin to Rab C Nesbitt! He was full of fun whilst maintaining a tight control of the proceedings.

The Lord High Commissioner was HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, aka Prince Edward, and he addressed the Assembly very well at the start and end of the week’s proceedings. He came across as very knowledgeable of and empathetic to the work of the Church of Scotland which came from the heart as it later transpired that he wrote his own speeches.

The daily proceedings were usually a steady process of Reports from various committees followed by questions from the floor of the Assembly and answers from the Convenor. It was noticeable that the questions often came from the same suspects who appeared to have an opinion on most topics. Everyone speaking had to start by giving their name and number, even the Convenor, so that the Tellers could keep a record of speakers. Why this was necessary when the whole proceedings were recorded on camera is a mystery. The Assembly appeared to be stuck in the past in so many ways. For example, when a vote was taken each Commissioner had a dongle and pressed 1 to agree and 2 to disagree with the proposal, as did those Commissioners at home. It took a couple of minutes to count the votes electronically and one could see the Moderator write down the score as he was wired for sound with an ear-piece. An Assistant Clerk wrote the numbers on a piece of paper, gave it to the Principal Clerk who verified it with the Deputy Principal Clerk and then handed it to the Moderator who already knew the result!

One morning was devoted to the work of Chaplains to the Armed Services whose representatives were present in force in uniform. An absurdly young Air Vice-

Marshall from Inverkeithing with a chest-full of medals admitted that the entire Royal Air Force had only one CoS Padre in post.

The General Assembly is the highest court of the Church of Scotland. Only two matters requiring a high court decision were raised in the entire five days: An Overture from the Presbytery of Glasgow to be allowed to call more Ministers than the number in the Mission Plan and a Proposal to shorten the period of training Ministers using a Graduate Apprentice Degree model. The latter was agreed, but the former was defeated *pour encourager les autres*, I suspect.

A Commissioner planted a question in a debate and had given the Office Bearers plenty of time to answer his question, 'How much does it cost to run the General Assembly every year?' The answer given was circa £800,000, including some fixed costs. There was an audible intake of breath from the Assembly. The question must be asked whether that money could be better spent. Why assemble 300 Commissioners in Edinburgh for five days every year, all expenses paid? Why five days? Why not hold it entirely online? What is the point of the General Assembly in this day and age? 'It's aye been' is not an adequate answer. *Ian Trushell*



TOTS' CLUB.

The club resumes from 2nd September on Mondays from 9.15-11.30am in the hall. All tots from birth-3 years old, accompanied by an adult are welcome to enjoy the many toys, books and jigsaws. Cost is £1 per adult for tea/coffee/juice and biscuits. Members of the church family are welcome to pop in for coffee any Monday. There will be a holiday on 30th. If you feel you'd like to join our group of volunteers, please speak to any of us.

Elizabeth and Fulton, Alison and Ian, Christine, Cathy, Myra, Helen, Margaret, Rosie, Rosemary, Fiona, Jenifer and Malcolm.



FUND-RAISING.

We have just had Art off the Square which I'm sure will have been a great success. Thanks to Myra and George and everyone else who helped in any way. The next major fund-raising event will be the Christmas Fayre on Saturday 7th December.



Kilbarchan Parish Church



kilbarchankirk.org

Facebook – facebook.com/kilbarchankirk

X (Twitter) – [@kilbarchankirk](https://twitter.com/kilbarchankirk)

YouTube – search for Kilbarchan



BADMINTON CLUB



The church Badminton Club should resume on Thursday 5th September, at 8pm as usual, in the large hall. We welcome our existing band of happy enthusiasts, as well as any adults who would like to give it a try.

Susan MacAskill

PLAYLIST FOR LIFE

Playlist for Life is a charity set up by Sally Magnusson over twenty years ago after she supported her mother Mamie through her journey with Dementia. Sally wrote a book about her experiences “Where do the Memories Go” and whilst doing her research discovered the very strong power of personal music in enabling those suffering from dementia to lead happier and more fulfilled lives.

The charity continues to go from strength to strength with a team of full time paid staff, lots of professional resources and many high profile supporters who have reason to be thankful to the organisation. Alex Ferguson the well known football manager being one example.

According to recent statistics there are more than 900,000 people in the UK who currently suffer from Dementia and this figure is expected to rise to 1.6 million by 2040. One in three of us are likely to either develop Dementia or be caring for a friend or relative who requires our support.

What does this mean for us here in Kilbarchan? We have been asked to become a Help Point for Playlist for Life where we distribute information leaflets to enable anyone interested to find out how to compile a playlist of the music and memories that are most meaningful to them. You can do this yourself, so that in the event of you developing Dementia at a later stage, your friends and family will be able to help you enjoy moments of happiness and joy from your past lived experiences. Alternatively you can talk to your friends or family about your musical memories and ask them to help you. It can either be done on paper-we have a supply of leaflets to help you do this, or it can be done with the help of a streaming service eg Spotify or put on an MP3 Player-maybe you could ask someone in your family to help you with this ?

There will be posters around the village to raise awareness of Playlist for Life and a supply of leaflets in the church hall and the Old Library. We also hope to have information available in Brookfield Village Hall. You can also contact Isobel nott arnottisobel846@gmail.com or speak to me any Sunday morning to find out more about this-I

compiled my Playlist about ten years ago. Why don't you check out the website www.playlistforlife.org.uk where there is lots of information and examples of people and carers who have greatly benefitted from getting involved.

REPORT FROM THE MISSION TEAM AND ECO GROUP

Well it's that time of year again when everything starts up again after the summer break and both the Eco Group and the Mission Team have been busy behind the scenes organising a number of events for this Autumn.

First date for your diaries is **Sunday 6th October** when we will be holding a Harvest Soup Lunch in the hall after the Service. We are pleased to report that Mary's Meals is sending a speaker to tell us more about the charity and to show a short video about the work that they do. There will be donation envelopes available and everyone is invited to come along and enjoy a good bowl of soup and a chat as well as having an opportunity to support this very worthwhile Scottish Charity.

The Eco Group is holding a Wateraid Coffee morning in the Hall on **Saturday 26th October** where you can enjoy tea, coffee and home baking and also find out more about the UK Dedicated Water Charity that works to provide clean water and decent toilets to everyone everywhere in the world.

The Eco Group is also in the process of organising a further joint Litter Pick with Kilbarchan Smile and everyone is invited. The event will be on a Saturday afternoon but final date for this has not yet been agreed so watch this space. Looking ahead the Eco Group will again have a Green Christmas stall at the Church Christmas Fayre on **Saturday 7th December** and the Mission Team has arranged to show a family Christmas Film in the Hall (Polar Express) at 2pm on **Sunday 8th December**, all welcome.

There will be further details on all of these events over the next few weeks but meantime please put these dates in your diary and invite your friends and neighbours to come along and join us.

However it's not all about soup and coffee, there is also a lot of other activity going on as the Eco Group is busy gathering together all the evidence we need for our Assessment Meeting with Eco Congregation Scotland in October where we hope to have done enough to achieve an Award for all our efforts over the last few years- we'll keep you posted

You will note another article elsewhere in the Magazine about Playlist for Life and the Mission Team is keen for Kilbarchan Church to raise awareness of this Charity in the Village and to become a Help Point for people who would find it useful to become involved. We are just at the start of this process but would invite you to take a leaflet from the hall and find out more about the work of this very worthwhile Charity.

Many thanks for all your support

The Mission Team and Eco Group



SOUP LUNCH

Sunday 6th October

The Mission team are holding a Soup Lunch in the hall after the Harvest Thanksgiving service on Sunday the 6th October. This is in aid of Marys Meals. , a charitable organisation the church has supported over the years.

It is hoped that a representative of Marys Meals will come to give us a short talk in the Church during the service or in the hall at the lunch.

We hope you will come to this and give what you can. It is a donation for the lunch . See you there

The Mission Team



CROSSREACH

CROSSREACH is a charitable organisation that puts people at the heart of everything they do, from caring for older people, children and families and the homeless, to supporting those with learning difficulties. The history of CROSSREACH stretches back over 150 years to the formation of the Church of Scotland Committee on Christian Life and Work in 1869.

We in Kilbarchan have supported CROSSREACH annually with our purchase of Calendars and Christmas Cards. This has been organised by the GUILD led by Jan Howitt. We are grateful to her for valiant service over many years.

The Guild in Kilbarchan is no longer in existence but I hope that we can continue our support of CROSSREACH this year by purchasing calendars and cards.

When I receive specimens I will display them to members of the congregation in the Hall in the hope you will give this your support.

Willie Beattie CROSSREACH Representative, Kilbarchan Parish Church.

HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

I hope you have all had a good summer in spite of the rather varied weather.

In July three families had their summer destroyed by the senseless murder of three young girls in Southport, and the whole country was appalled by this and by subsequent protests and violence.

We all tend to think it cannot happen here, but then you have to think why did it happen in a dancing class for primary aged children in a community hall in Southport.

In response to this and earlier “terrorist” events the General Trustees of the Church of Scotland tell us - “There is no immediate threat or link with the tragic ongoing incident, however, it goes without saying that many church facilities are similarly used for these types of gatherings, events and activities and as there appears to be a rising cause for concern nationally with these random types of incidents and knife attacks we should collectively exercise extra vigilance and preventative measures in line with the recommendations of Protect UK and the counter terrorism guidance made available to us as an added precaution.”

The GT’s recommendations continue – “If you have third party organisations who assume responsibility for the church or hall premises, I would recommend that they also familiarise themselves with this guidance and take the necessary steps to increase vigilance and access control protocols for the buildings whilst they are in use. Locking all the doors, ensuring entry controls and the introduction of a suitable evacuation (lock in) procedure will prevent, hinder or deter anyone trying to enter with malicious intent until the emergency services are in attendance.”

The Church of Scotland has produced an example of a Security Evaluation Risk Assessment and, on initial inspection, we in Kilbarchan seem to cover most of the recommendations in it. However, we cannot be complacent and steps are being taken to examine all aspects of Church and community activities to ensure that our buildings, facilities and procedures are up to a standard to keep everyone as safe as practicable.

At the same time, we do need to recognise that it is difficult to protect ourselves from random acts of violence, while at the time being a welcoming place in the centre in the community. It is a very difficult balance and we will be endeavouring to include as many views as possible.

Please feel free to contact me directly if you can provide any input to the process especially if you are involved with activities which may be at particular risk.

Stay Safe *Tony Martin* [H&S Administrator] 01505 352490



Fairtrade Fortnight 2024 will run from the 9th of September – 22nd of September.

It's 30 years since Fairtrade products first hit the shelves and this year for Fairtrade Fortnight, we're spotlighting how YOU can Be the Change, by choosing Fairtrade every time.

Our goal is more than people just being aware, it's about them encouraging an active choice to support over 2 million Fairtrade farmers and workers across 58 countries, wherever possible, to ensure they can earn a fairer wage.

This year's campaign will highlight that however big or small a purchase this Fairtrade Fortnight, you have the power to #BeTheChange.

When you choose Fairtrade, you contribute to a fairer, more sustainable future for food production.

When you choose Fairtrade, you help ensure farmers receive a fairer price for what they grow.

When you choose Fairtrade, you help rebalance power in supply chains.

Be The Change, Choose Fairtrade.

Stay tuned in the coming months for more content plus actions you can take to Be the Change.

CLYDE PRESBYTERY

Tuesday 18th June 2024 at 7.00pm

The Moderator expressed a warm welcome to new members of Presbytery: Rev Hazel Shaw, recently inducted to Paisley St George's, recently appointed Building Officer Donessa Shearer, Communications Officer Stuart Wilson and the Rev Stephen Henderson recently appointed as Depute Clerk. Congratulations to the Rev Sandra Black on her recent appointment as Interim Minister at Paisley West, to Rev Christine Goldie for 40 years as ordained minister and her forthcoming retirement. Thanks were given to conveners retiring from post in particular to the Rev Ken Gray, and to retiring elders Roy Anderson, Derek Bissett, Ronal Brown and David Rourke.

Reports: from the General Assembly on behalf of Rev William Boyle and by Ms Martyna Bakon (Youth Rep). Also a report by Christine Buchanan on the past year's work of the Guild.

DECISIONS MADE BY COMMITTEES UNDER DELEGATED POWERS to be noted: as the last ordinary meeting was back in February the list was quite extensive: covering joint or cancelled services, appointment of Interim Moderators, Setting of Vacancy Committees, Property, Presbytery Implementation and planning matters, etc. from 6th March to 9th June 2024.

BUSINESS: The Register of Ministries, the Roll of Presbytery and the membership of committees for 2024-2025 were all approved by Presbytery.

TREASURER: The Accounts for 2023 had been independently examined, presented, approved and a signed copy will now be lodged with OSCR.

MISSION: all Congregations are encouraged to designate a representative for the Local Mission Hub and appoint representatives for CrossReach and Christian Aid if they do not have one. Note the **MAGNITUDE FESTIVAL:** is running from 20-24th July for 11- 18 year olds at Lendrick Muir, an SU Event, <https://magnitude.org.uk/2024> for further details.

PRESBYTERY PLANNING/IMPLEMENTATION: An updated version of the Presbytery planning grid is now available. At the general assembly an overture was upheld which means that approval for plans will be required every five years with annual comments sent to Edinburgh.

PROPERTY: The financial limits requiring Presbytery approval have been changed to: Sanctuaries - £20,000. Halls - £10,000 Manses - £5,000.

SAFEGUARDING: One new trainer has been taken on as part of the team, however the team are looking for more people to take on the job. If this is something that might be of interest, please contact either the Clerk or Convener, Carolyn Lockhart. Congregations are encouraged to examine their SG7 lists and update accordingly in preparation for the implementation of the Disclosure Scotland Act (2020) in April 2025. Since the beginning of May the Boys Brigade now do the PVG for any new Officers although the coordinator still does the references and interview.

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE: treasurers were thanked for the work they do in keeping the financial matters of their congregations in good order. The 2023 Accounts Attestation process is ongoing and a list of attested congregations as of the end of June will be issued to congregations.



CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Just an early reminder of one of the most enjoyable, sociable and successful fundraisers in the Church calendar. So please put Saturday 7th December 2024 in your diary!

Who knows, Santa might be there – come and find out! Ed.



GOOD THINGS IN STORE

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



www.joyfultoons.com © 2016 Michael D. Waters

KILBARCHAN SINGERS

The Kilbarchan Singers start a new session on Monday 9th September in the Church rehearsing for our (is it too early to mention the C word?) Concert. The date for that is Monday, 9th December. Put it in your diary.

And if you feel like joining us to make good music come along, you will be made most welcome



PROPERTY REPORT

As mentioned in the previous magazine, the Property Team is looking at alternatives to replace the current hot air heating system for the Church. We are still awaiting reports from a couple of contractors. While we would prefer the work to take place over the warmer months, we are unable to give any indication of timescale at the time of writing.

The stained glass panels are now in the hands of Rainbow Glass for restoration and preparation for mounting in the Church and small hall. As a prelude to that, the vestibule of the church will be redecorated in September. This work shouldn't impinge on normal services.

Work to fix the surface drain at the Session House and repair the exterior of the hall gable should also begin in September.

Once the drain is fixed, work will be instructed to replace the carpet in the Session House and upgrade the wiring to the alarm systems.

There are other projects in the pipeline, which will be notified at a later date.

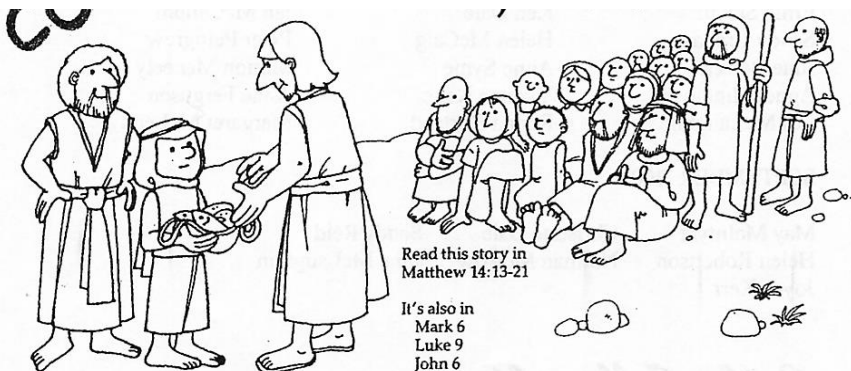
Malcolm MacAskill

Property Convener

Kidz

Korner

Feeding the 5,000



Read this story in
Matthew 14:13-21

It's also in
Mark 6
Luke 9
John 6

Jesus makes a lot out of a little given to him

Can you fit these words
into the boxes?

3 LETTERS

BOY
SEA
TWO

5 LETTERS

BREAD
GRASS

7 LETTERS

BASKETS
GALILEE

4 LETTERS

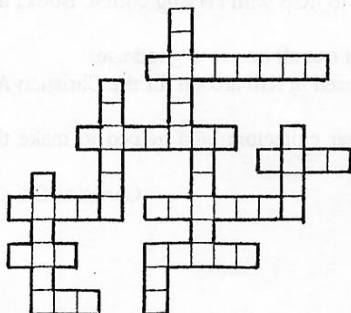
FISH
FIVE

6 LETTERS

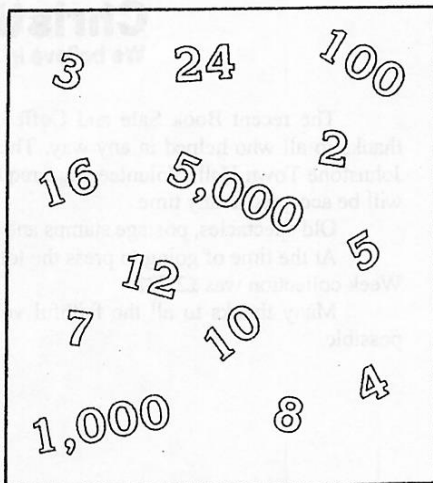
CROWDS
LOAVES
PEOPLE
TWELVE

8 LETTERS

MOUNTAIN



Put a circle around the numbers
which are in the story



Thank You!

I would like to thank everyone who came to my recent birthday party, who gave cards and gifts which were very kindly given and very gratefully received and appreciated.

My thanks also go to the ladies who provided and served tea on the day, also to the praise band for their lovely music.

All of you made my 70th birthday party very special – a day to remember.

Thank you, *Fiona A Stewart*

"Morag and Alasdair Law would like to thank everyone who sent messages, cards and gifts on the occasion of their Golden Wedding in June. These helped make our anniversary so much more special."

THANK YOU for all the good wishes, expressed in so many ways, following my hip replacement. Your kindness is very much appreciated.

Margaret Gibb

Willie and I thank you for all the lovely messages of congratulations on our recent anniversary .

It is so heartwarming to know we are part of such a wonderful caring church family.

Margaret Beattie



PARISH REGISTER



MEMBERS LEAVING THE CHURCH

Allan Payne
Fiona Payne

DEATHS

03/07/2024	Tom Dunn
01/07/2024	Lydia Fleming
Jan. 2024	Elizabeth Campbell
24/07/2024	June Dawson
27/07/2024	Cris Berry
02/08/2024	Marlene Mckenzie

MARRIAGES

Saturday 6 th July	Maxine Irvine and Euan Lindsey Boturich Castle, Loch Lomond
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ROLL

The Roll of Kilbarchan Parish Church now stands at 338 and 17 Adherents.

Please remember to notify Fulton Dunn, the roll keeper, of any changes to address, phone number or email in order to maintain up to date information.
Contact details phone 01505704502 or email KPC.rollkeeper@gmail.com



STOP PRESS

Litter Picking – Saturday 2nd November
Soup Lunch – Sunday 6th October
Christmas Fayre – Saturday 7th December

USEFUL CHURCH CONTACTS

Minister - Rev Stephen Smith - [REDACTED]

Session Clerk - Mrs Christine Erwin - [REDACTED]

Ass. Session Clerk - Miss Helen Robertson - [REDACTED]

WORSHIP PROGRAMME

Sunday 1 st September	11.15am	Morning worship
Sunday 8 th September	11.15am	Morning worship
Sunday 15 th September	11.15am	Morning worship
Sunday 22 nd September	11.15am	Morning worship
Sunday 29 th September	11.15am	Morning worship
Sunday 6 th October	11.15am	Morning worship Harvest Thanksgiving
Sunday 13 th October	11.15am	Morning worship
Sunday 20 th October	11.15am	Morning worship
Sunday 27 th October	11.15am	Morning worship Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
Sunday 3 rd November	11.15am	Morning worship
Sunday 10 th November	11.15am	Morning worship Remembrance Sunday (time to be confirmed))
Sunday 17 th November	11.15am	Morning worship
Sunday 24 th November	11.15am	Morning worship
Sunday 1 st Decemberr	11.15am 3pm	Morning worship Service of Light and Hope

