



Kilbarchan Parish Church

Your local church magazine

Dear Friends,

The nights are fair drawin' in! It's dark before 5pm. It feels like it is time to hibernate like dormice do.

Yes, we have Christmas to look forward to, but in the coldest months of the year, many want to batten down the hatches against the treacherous weather outside and preserve our energies. If only we could suspend the demands of life, just for a few months, until the sun comes out again and we feel its warmth. The urge now for some is simply to pull the duvet over the head.

In some ways, the pandemic has felt like a long Winter, and as it continues, many are weary.

In life and in the life of the church we have made many adjustments and some things have come back and others seem as far away as ever. In church life, we are now back to regular worship with singing and comfy pew cushions. Those who come say they feel very safe and singing with a mask is ok and much better than they imagined it would be.

We now have around 60 worshipping every Sunday which compares to between 100 and 120 before the pandemic.

For those who haven't yet managed back, I want to encourage you to consider coming back to worship. I understand some may feel not quite ready to return. If you have any concerns or questions please let us know. We would love to see you at some point over the Christmas period. Or perhaps make a New Year resolution, 2022, the year to come back to church.

Your church is here for you. We look forward to seeing you.

Susie, Ally and I would like to take this opportunity of wishing you and your loved ones every blessing this Christmas and a peaceful start to the New Year.

Yours

Stephen

FROM THE EDITOR



Welcome to this edition of YOUR magazine. I trust that you will find something both informative and meaningful within these pages. It is the intention not only to keep you abreast of what is happening in our church but also further afield. There should be something for everyone and if not – send your article in!

The next magazine will be out in March, 2022 and all items for it should reach me at alastair.mackinnon@ntlworld.com

by Sunday 20th February.

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

The editorial team wish you all a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Alastair MacKinnon



THE GUILD

The Guild has been up and running now since the end of September. The members have been most supportive and we have around 22 people attending each meeting.

It is hard to believe there are only two meetings before Christmas, the first being on Tuesday 23rd November a gift wrapping showcase and our Christmas afternoon Tuesday, 14th December.

We meet up again in the New Year on Tuesday 11th January 2022 at the usual time of 2.30pm and we are delighted to welcome Mr John Copeland to give us a talk with slides on the subject "People I met on my travels in Israel".

Visitors to any of our Meetings will be made most welcome.

Jan Howitt



KIRK SESSION REPORT

The Session Clerks have continued to have weekly meetings using Zoom, with Stephen. These have often included Gwen Howden in her capacity as Clerk to the Board and have been a very useful forum to keep up to date on Pastoral issues as well as to discuss plans for services prior to them being suggested to the whole of the kirk session.

At our Harvest service, the Church was decorated with flowers on the window ledges, along with a small display of fruit, vegetables and a beautiful loaf on the communion table. Thanks to Mary and Margaret for organising this and to the elders who delivered the flowers. Our special harvest appeal for Marys Meals raised the excellent sum of £1,690.

The sacrament of Communion was celebrated on Sunday 31 October when 64 participated in Church while others took part in their own homes as part of the online reflection. At that service, thirty filled and decorated shoe boxes were dedicated prior to being given along with £345 to Blythwood Charity. This is yet another example of the generosity of this Congregation reaching out to support those less fortunate than ourselves.

In the last three months, it has been really good to see the Monday Club, The Guild and the Badminton Club resuming their meetings. We are grateful to everyone who completed a risk assessment on behalf of these groups and to all who continue to ensure our buildings are as Covid safe as possible for groups as well as for those have decided to return to worship.

It has been a pleasure to anyone coming around our Church to see the glorious autumn colours in the Church grounds – thanks to everyone who looks after the grounds but especially to Fulton.

As part of a wider planning exercise by The Church of Scotland, Clyde Presbytery has asked every congregation to take part in a Mission Audit. Accordingly, all trustees and other interested, were invited to our recent session meeting when those present were asked to discuss (in small groups) what they felt our Church does, does well, should stop doing, and what they would most like to happen in the next five years. We were encouraged by the variety of responses which will now be collated and incorporated with some local details into a document to be approved by those who contributed prior to being forwarded to Presbytery by the start of January.

Approval was given at the Session meeting to once again donate £100 from the Benevolent Fund to each of Adams House, St Vincents Hospice, Erskine, Renfrewshire Young Carers and Paisley Women's Refuge.

Alasdair and Christine



STITCHING GROUP

The Stitching Group came back together during the month of September. With fewer numbers we are now meeting once a fortnight in each others' homes. It is wonderful to be back together and have a chat along with a cup of tea and a wee cake! We are still knitting and sewing so we look forward to selling our wares at the Coffee Morning on 27th November in the Church Hall. Hope you managed along and managed to buy some of our handiwork. If you would like to join the Stitching Group you will be made most welcome.

Janet Stevenson



JUNIOR CHURCH

Wishing all our Junior Church children and their families a Joyful and Happy Christmas and we look forward to welcoming them back to Junior Church early in the New Year. Stay safe and keep healthy.

Warm Regards

Ros & Shona



MIDWEEK FELLOWSHIP

With the easing of restrictions, we hope to resume our usual Wednesday morning meetings early in the New Year albeit in a slightly different format. Until we meet again, stay safe and enjoy the festive season.



FINANCE TEAM

The Finance Team would like to thank all those who have been so generous with their givings throughout the year. We wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Good New Year.

Clyde Presbytery Report for September and November 2021

The Business Convener, Rev Ken Gray, thanked the retiring Moderator, Rev Ian Johnson, for his service to Presbytery over his year in office. Then the retiring Moderator, Rev Ian Johnson, having completed his period of office as Moderator proposed the Rev Dr Alistair Shaw, nominated at the meeting of the Presbytery on 9th February last, as the next Moderator of the Presbytery. The Presbytery approved and resolved accordingly.

The new Moderator offered the Rev Mhairi Breingan and Rev Stuart Stevenson his warmest congratulations as they were about to celebrate 10 years as Ordained Local Ministers.

Presbytery approved an application by Kilbarchan Parish Church congregation for the installation of cameras and associated technology in the church to enable them to "live stream" Sunday services.

Vacancy Procedure Committee: Agreed to release: Rev Peter Gill from Paisley North to take up a call to Bannockburn: Allan linked with Cowie and Plean; and the Rev Dr Ruth Morrison from Clydebank Waterfront linked with Dalmuir Barclay to take up a call to Kirkintilloch: St Mary's. Sustains the call of the Reverend Elspeth McKay, LL.B., LL.M., BD, to Paisley Abbey; instructs the Clerk to send intimation of this decision to the Presbytery of Glasgow requesting the release of Mrs McKay from her current charge of Cumbernauld Old in order to take up the call to Paisley Abbey.

Presbytery Planning: Presbytery was presented with the Basis of Union between Kilmacolm St Columba and Kilmacolm Old Kirk and the accompanying Basis of Reviewable Charge. The Clerk was asked to submit these to the Faith Nurture Forum for their approval. There followed much discussion around the basis of Union and it was not clear that the deliverance would be approved and therefore the Moderator called for a vote. He reminded all present that only full members of Presbytery were permitted to vote on this matter. The Basis of Union was approved.

Presbytery approved in principle the proposed split time post of Minister/Associate Minister for Paisley North/ Pioneer Development worker, as 40/60 and empowered the planning committee to take forward deliberations with the Faith Nurture Forum re this post.

Business Committee: the following ministers are retiring from their charges Rev Dr Charles Cameron will be retiring from Johnstone St Andrew's Trinity Church from 30th November 2021; Rev Eileen Ross from Linwood Parish Church from 31st March 2022; Rev Barbara O'Donnell from Bonhill linked with Renton Trinity from 30th April 2022 and the Rev Ian Johnson from Dumbarton: Riverside linked with St Andrew's linked with West Kirk from 30th June 2022.

Treasurer's Report: Presbytery confirms approval to change the Accounting Reference Date from 30th June to 31st December 2021. A budget was proposed for 2022 to be recovered by way of Presbytery Dues. Church Treasurers will be provided with a figure to use in their budgets for next year.

Mission Committee: Introduced to presbytery the recently appointed mission officer, Andy Reid, and offered him our prayers and encouragement in his new post. Mission Resources -Sign up to the Faith Impact weekly newsletter: <https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/newsletters>. Children and youth ministry monthly newsletter: <https://mailchi.mp/churchofscotland/children-and-youth-ministry-13447462?e=ee955d307c> This newsletter contains links to numerous resources, for Christmas, family ministry etc.

Mission Planning: After much discussion the presbytery agreed to:

- a) appoint a short life Task Group, to create and implement a process of Mission auditing, to determine how best to deploy Ministry, within future Mission Plans.
- b) that following the group's work, the same group are co-opted onto the Presbytery Planning Committee, to collaborate in the creation of the amended Mission Plan for approval by the Presbytery in terms of section 2.2 of ACT VIII 2021;
- c) the Task Group shall consist of:
 - 1) a convenor (Rev Jonathan Fleming);
 - 2) the convenors, failing which a member, of each of the Mission, Local Church Review, Property and Stewardship & Finance Committees;
 - 3) two members of the Planning Committee, one from each side of the River Clyde;
 - 4) such other members as the Task Group shall decide to co-opt.

The Presbytery instructed the Task Group to:

- a) create a rubric by which congregations can evaluate the missional opportunities currently undertaken and potentially viable, thus prioritising the mission of the local Church, complying with the terms of the ACT.
- b) begin consulting with local congregations and local mission groups without delay;
- c) prepare in conjunction with the Presbytery Planning Committee a draft Mission Plan which demonstrably prioritises the mission of the local church and which complies with the terms of the Act and accompanying Guidance and Code of Practice; to prepare a preliminary draft Mission Plan for consideration across the Presbytery by 28 February 2022;

- d) invite responses to the preliminary draft Mission Plan and to meet with congregations and groups as appropriate; and, taking account of all responses;
- e) prepare a draft Mission Plan in conjunction with the Presbytery Planning Committee by 31 May 2022 for final approval by the Presbytery.

Mission Planning Task Group, which was established at the September Presbytery meeting, has met and considered the Mission Planning Tool Kit, which has subsequently been sent to both congregations and to mission groups. A response is due from congregations and other groups by the end of January. The data collected would then be used to feed into the Presbytery Planning Committee to construct the Presbytery Mission Plan.

The website for Clyde Presbytery can be accessed at www.clydepresbytery.org. The site contains links about forthcoming meetings as well as the minutes of past meetings of presbytery and a variety of resources. 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.



WHEN JESUS CAME TO BRITAIN

Jesus may have been one of the first tourists to Britain. And not only that, he may have come on a pilgrimage to learn more about the Druids, says a book by a Church of Scotland minister. The activities of Jesus before the start of His ministry at the age of thirty, have been the subject of much speculation. A number of legends suggesting that Jesus travelled to the British Isles with Joseph of Arimathea, a disciple who worked in the tin trade, formed the basis of the book “Jesus the master builder.” The book claims that Jesus would have encountered the secrets of masons and builders in his work as a craftsman in Palastine and would have been aware of the Druids. “This may be a book that many people in the Church will feel is irrelevant,” says the author, “But those with wider horizons will find it interesting and exciting and not heresy.”



1st KILBARCHAN BOYS' BRIGADE

Our boys are now settled into St Andrew's 3rd Johnstone Boys' Brigade and are enjoying being part of a larger group. We were invited to join them at the Johnstone Remembrance Commemoration in Houston Square when our boys carried 1st Kilbarchan Colours and laid a wreath at the Johnstone War Memorial. We hope to revive the Anchor Section if we can get enough Primary 1, 2s and 3s but we need young enthusiastic leaders to grow the Company from the Anchors up through the different sections in the years to come. In September we had only one enquiry about joining our Anchors but were unable to provide the parents with a starting date but with the numbers being so small it would be unfair to start with so few boys. Hopefully 1st Kilbarchan can be revived once we get free of Covid regulations.



FUND-RAISING NEWS

The first fund-raising indoor event was a Christmas coffee morning at the end of November. Hopefully this will lead to events starting up as the social life of the church, such an important part of our outreach, begins after the pandemic.



TOTS' CLUB

The volunteers are now thinking about the beginning of 2022 for our restart but this may be delayed until after Easter as there is still the problem of ventilation and in mid-winter, we can't have doors open apart from the problem of young children and an open door!!!

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



BLYTHSWOOD SHOEBOX APPEAL

I am pleased to let you know that I delivered 30 filled boxes and a large monetary donation to Blythwood Care in Hillington, where their warehouse is very full of boxes to be sent to Eastern Europe, India and Pakistan. Thanks to everyone who contributed to this very worthwhile charity, which we have supported for over 20 years.

A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

'Grant me the strength from day to day
To bear what burdens come my way;
Grant me throughout this bright new year
More to endure and less to fear.
Help me to live that I may be
From spite and petty malice free.

Let me not bitterly complain
When cherished hopes of mine prove vain,
Or spoil with deeds of hate and rage
Some fair tomorrow's spotless page.
Lord, as the days shall come and go
In courage let me stronger grow.

Let me with patience stand and wait:
A friend to all who find my gate.
Keep me from envy and from scorn.
As shines the sun with every morn
On great and low, so let me give
My love to all who round me live.

Lord, as the new year dawns today
Help me to put my faults away.
Let me be big in little things;
Grant me the joy which friendship brings.
Keep me from selfishness and spite;
Let me be wise in what is right.

A Happy New Year! Grant that I
May bring no tear to any eye.
When this new year in time shall end
Let it be said I've played the friend,
Have lived and loved and laboured here,
And made of it a happy year.

As seen in a local church magazine

HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

Since the last report there have been several groups and activities restarting within the Church and Halls. I am sure we all welcome these. There are still restrictions and precautions to which we need to adhere. Please don't get grumpy with the organisers, they are doing their very best under the circumstances and should be applauded.

We would all like things to return to normal. Perhaps we just need to rethink our definition of normal. Most of us have had double doses of vaccine. Many of us oldies are having booster jags along with this year's flu inoculation. Many of us are happy to get back out and about, visit friends and attend functions. We have all missed the social contact with other members of the church and village community.

But please remember that there are still many who are not as confident about leaving the security of their own home. Who would really like to meet their pals but don't know how safe it would be. They still feel vulnerable to this horrible virus. After 20 months of isolation, quarantine and sanitisation they are all a bit confused when they see pictures of football fans and youngsters in night clubs and entertainment venues. Please give them space and reassurance and time to readjust.

How can we reassure them and encourage them back into the church fellowship? We just have to be sensible. The new normal is not the same as the old normal.

The new normal asks us not to go out and mix if we think we may be infected by the virus. You can get home testing kits from the local pharmacy if you want to be sure. Thankfully the latest kits only require a nose swab. I hated the feel of the swab in the back of my throat and I'm sure this discouraged many.

The new normal requires the organisation you are visiting to keep contact details for the Scottish Government's Test and Protect Scheme. This may add a few minutes to entry times so please don't all turn up 30 seconds before start time.

The new normal still requires us to sanitise our hands regularly.
The new normal still requires us to wear face coverings within church buildings. Though we can remove them if we are sitting down drinking tea or coffee or eating cakes. But please remember to replace them when you are moving about and going to chat to your pals.

The new normal still requires us to keep a sensible distance apart. Within the sanctuary we are only using every second row of pews to give people space. Seated activities in the halls will have tables set a safe distance apart.

The new normal requires all activity leaders to think about what they want to do, to analyse the risks of doing it and to establish sensible precautions.

Covid is still out there. Fortunately the vaccination system has reduced the side effects and illness experienced by many in the population, but it is still there.

“Rules” may have relaxed to become “recommendations” but we really still have to be sensible and look out for our neighbours.

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 I have found where to get the answers to many questions. So if you have any other worries or points of concern you can speak to me at any time.

Tony Martin
352490



When you stop believing in Santa Claus?
When you start getting clothes for Christmas

Why is Santa a good race car driver?
Because he's always in the pole position.

What do you give a train driver for Christmas?
Platform shoes!

What do monkeys sing at Christmas?
Jungle Bells, Jungle bells. !



The Church of Scotland

LET'S CARE FOR CREATION. CLIMATE JUSTICE NOW.

I write this as COP 26 is taking place in Glasgow, so what better time to remind you that Kilbarchan Parish Church enrolled last year, to work towards becoming an eco congregation within the Church of Scotland.

How we choose to live our lives has a direct impact on the lives of others. The way we travel, the food we eat, the way we deal with waste and our continuing demands for goods all affect others. It is our responsibility to ensure a fairer world for future generations.

The committee has looked at the environmental audit of the Church of Scotland as a starting point and, having spoken to and written to the various groups who use the Church facilities, we realise we are already doing some of the things suggested in the list.

Given the lower numbers attending Church services at the moment and accessing the hall at present, we are limited in some of the things we would eventually like to take forward. Information is being put on the website and posters have been placed in the hall and outside notice boards.

On a personal basis it is important that we realise that it is not about achieving perfection, but to remember that any changes we make, no matter how small, when added together, will make a big difference.

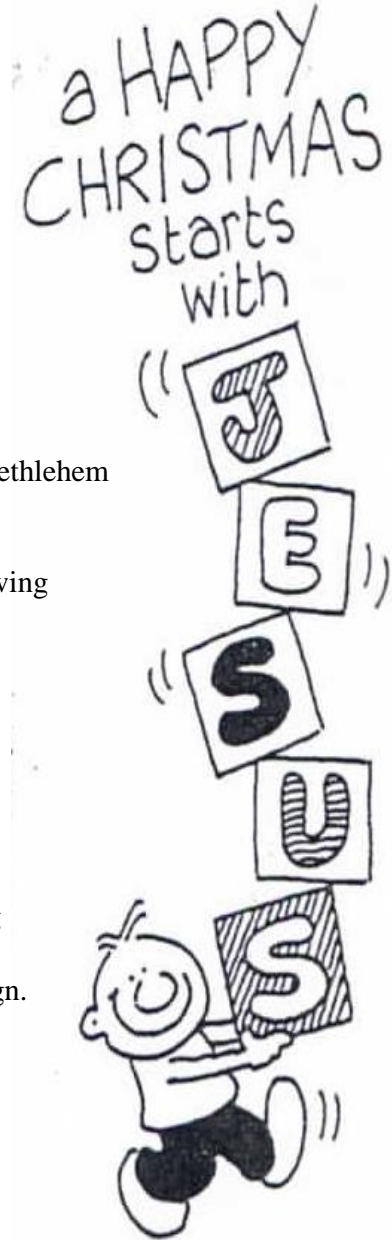
The eco-congregation group

THE GIFT OF CHRISTMAS

As night grew dark curtains across the sky
I saw a stranger hurrying by
Carrying upon his back
The burden of a bulging sack
“Who are you” to him I cried
“I am December” he replied
“I come to bring God’s gifts to you
The gift of Christmas ever new.”

“Open your sack for me” I said
Another before my eyes he spread
Upon the table of the earth
The symbols of the Saviour’s birth
A star as brilliant as a gem – pointed East to Bethlehem
A crown – Christ’s Kingship to recall
- the King of Creation and Lord of all
And a trumpet for summoning angels as they wing
As on the first Christmas Eve they sang
“He comes, Rejoice, Believe”

The stranger in haste to travel far
Taking trumpet, crown and star#
Left me to take the long hard road
Bent with the weight of his wonderful load
The good gift of Christmas he will bring
For all who keep Advent to watch for the King
And for His appearing on earth once again
To claim His own Kingdom, to rule and to reign.





RENFREWSHIRE FOODBANK REVERSE ADVENT COLLECTION

Firstly, I'd like to thank everyone who continues to support the work of Renfrewshire Foodbank. I know from talking to the volunteers at the Porterfield Road Collection Point, that the continuing support of Kilbarchan Parish Church is greatly appreciated.

Secondly, we are supporting the foodbank through the Reverse Advent Calander principle. The reverse Advent Calander works as follows.

1. Participants select a box or large and robust bag.
2. Each day commencing the 21st November you will place a food item (no fresh or perishable items) I to your box or bag.
3. Boxes and bags should be available for drop off at the church or available for collection no later than Sunday 19th December.
4. All boxes and bags will be taken to Porterfield Road on Monday 20th December for distribution before Christmas.

For anyone who needs their Advent box or bag collected from their home contact Graham McKay on 07876213781 to arrange.

Items that are required are:

Jam
long life/diluting juice
long life milk
tinned potatoes
sweets and crisps
toilet paper
deodorant
shaving gel
shampoo
tin openers
bags for life
Chocolate and Selection Boxes

The Foodbank also provides cleaning items such as small boxes of laundry detergent, bleach, washing up liquid, cloths and surface cleaner.

Warmest thanks in advance and Merry Christmas to you and yours.

Graham and Jack



HILL WALKING CLUB

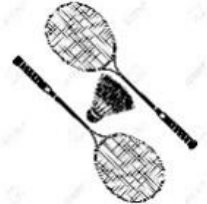
The September walk attracted seven folk who climbed the Corbett of Meall an t-Sealaidh from Lochearnhead. The weather was good and the views were superb.

Not the case for the October walk when the weather was not great, but four enthusiastic walkers set out to climb the Luss Horeshoe. Unfortunately the weather did not improve and it was so wet and windy on the summit the group retreated after climbing one hill.

No-one was keen to walk in November so the Pentlands walk did not take place.

At the time of writing, there are no plans for any further walks.

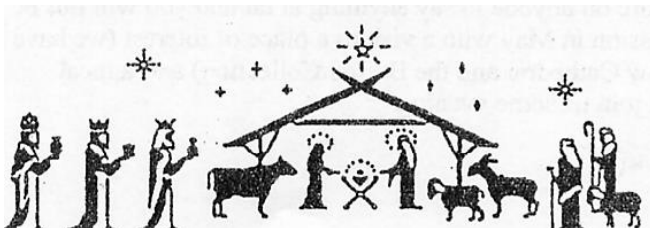
Margaret Beattie



BADMINTON CLUB



The badminton club has resumed. Ours is a social, rather than competitive group. We would be glad to welcome new members on a Thursday night, from 8pm till 10pm. Why not give it a try!





Letter received from Mary's Meals following our Harvest Offering

Dear Friends,

A heartfelt “thank you” for your precious donation of **£1716.40** [plus Gift Aid equivalent to more than **£300**].

Mary's Meals normally serves nutritious meals in school to children living in 19 of the world's poorest countries, giving them the energy and opportunity to gain an education that can one day be their ladder out of poverty.

Amid the Covid-19 pandemic, we are determined that our work won't stop. We are continuing to safely distribute meals to children at school where possible, or at home for those who are not yet able to return to the classroom.

Your gift will be used to help change more young lives in countries like Ethiopia.

This includes children like 11-year-old Lydia, who receives Mary's Meals at Tsehafe-Werdi Primary School.

She says: “If we don't receive education, we cannot save our country and we cannot be in a safe place. I hope all of us will decide the future of our country.”

Lydia has high-flying ambitions to become a pilot when she finishes school, telling us: “I saw the birds which are flying in the sky and I want to be like them.”

Together, we are bringing the hope of a brighter future to so many children. I thank you, with all my heart, on behalf of the children who eat Mary's Meals.

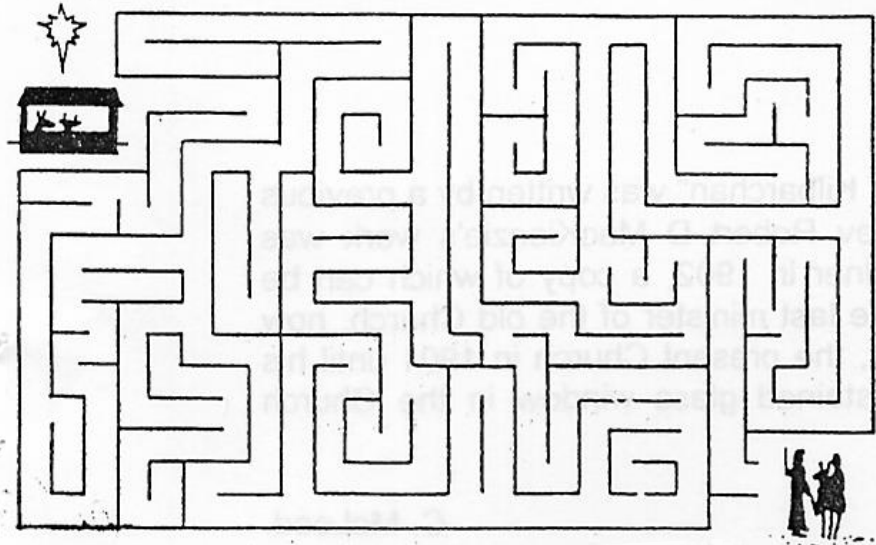
Yours sincerely,

Daniel Adams

Executive Director, Mary's Meals UK



Help Joseph and Mary find their way to the Stable



PARISH REGISTER



MEMBERS LEAVING THE CHURCH

Mrs Jennifer Clift to Aberdeen

DEATHS (* denotes member, ** denotes adherent)

28/09/2021 Kenneth Ritchie
27/10/2021 Alexander Carmichael *
31/10/2021 Janet Stevenson *
31/10/2021 John Ramsey
09/11/2021 William Hughes

ROLL

The Roll of Kilbarchan Parish Church now stands at 375 and 18 Adherents.



KILBARCHAN KIRK ONLINE

kilbarchankirk.org

Find us on:

Facebook - facebook.com/kilbarchankirk

USEFUL CHURCH CONTACTS

Minister - Rev Stephen Smith - 01505 702621

Joint Session Clerk - Mrs Christine Erwin - 01505 703056

Joint Session Clerk - Mr Alasdair Law - 07805 918 509

Ass. Session Clerk - Miss Helen Robertson - 01505 325382

Clerk to Congregational Board - Mrs Gwen Howden - 01505 704308

WORSHIP PROGRAMME

Sunday 5 th December	11am	Morning worship
Sunday 12 th December	11am	Morning worship
Sunday 19 th December	11am	Morning worship (Christmas Carol service)
Friday 24 th December	3.30pm	Christmas Eve Worship in the Church Hall
Sunday 26 th December	11am	Morning worship (children can bring a present from Santa)
Sunday 2 nd January	11am	Morning worship and celebration of Holy Communion
Sunday 9 th January	11am	Morning worship
Sunday 16 th January	11am	Morning worship
Sunday 23 rd January	11am	Morning worship
Sunday 30 th January	11am	Morning worship
Sunday 6 th February	11am	Morning worship
Sunday 13 th February	11am	Morning worship
Sunday 20 th February	11am	Morning worship
Sunday 27 th February	11am	Morning worship and celebration of Holy Communion
Sunday 6 th March	11am	Morning worship

