



Kilbarchan Parish Church

Your local church magazine

Dear Friends,

I am writing this letter looking out at a beautiful snow scene. It is the morning of February 18th 2022. Here in Central Scotland, we have experienced a blizzard and the heaviest snowfall this Winter. Meanwhile, the Southern part of the UK has experienced the full brunt of ‘Storm Eunice’, with wind speeds measured at around 110mph in places and a gust of wind of 122mph recorded in the Isle of Wight, the highest gust ever recorded in England.

It has been compared to the ‘Great Storm’ of 1987. There is travel chaos, there will be significant damage and there is a threat to life. People are being encouraged to stay indoors and only make essential journeys if they have to.

Storms come and storms go.

They are unpleasant and challenging for a time, but then they pass and the calm before the storm descends again after the storm. The difference is some have to pick up the pieces and do the work of mending the damage the havoc of the storm has caused.

Those who work on the seas talk of weathering the storm.

I think most scientists would agree that the immediate storm of the Covid pandemic is coming to an end and we are entering the endemic phase of the virus, the learning to live alongside the virus in what has been described too often as the new normal.

Many lives have been lost, many have been ill, some continue to suffer from what is known as long Covid. Our collective mental wellbeing has suffered too. Of course, it has affected so many other aspects of 21st-century life and its impact on the way we live our lives will be felt for years to come. We will weather the storm.

And then there is the life of the church throughout the world and in particular Scotland. The National Church this year is engaging in a mammoth task of Presbytery planning. There will be debates, decisions and some hurt, anger and pain. For some, it will feel like a storm.

But we will get through this, we will weather the storm.

In all the storms of life, let's remember to look out for one another, protect one another and care for one another.

And let us also remember in the words of the great BB Hymn, when the question is asked. 'Will your anchor hold in the storms of life.....', the response is

'We have an anchor that keeps the soul,
steadfast and sure while the billows roll,
fastened to the rock which cannot move,
grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love'

Your friend

Stephen



FROM THE EDITOR.

As I write this, it is a bright sunny but blowy morning. The recent weather has thrown quite a variation at us. With this magazine we hope to give you quite a variation but not quite thrown at you. You'll see that we are getting back to normal with the Guild having resumed, the Junior Church resuming, as is the Midweek Fellowship. We read all about the "live streaming" of the morning Worship, the Eco Church initiatives and much more.

Your contributions are what, hopefully, makes **YOUR MAGAZINE** an interesting read. Any items for the Summer Issue should reach me at alastair.mackinnon@ntlworld.com by Sunday 20th May at the latest.

Happy Reading!

Alastair MacKinnon – Editor

KIRK SESSION REPORT

In December, we were disappointed that the reintroduction of some Covid restrictions caused some of our organisations to temporarily stop meeting but, apart from a couple of services at Christmas time, worship in Church continued. The informal communion service on the first Sunday of the New Year was attended by 52 people with many more participating through the online reflection in their own homes. We are pleased that with the easing of the restrictions at the end of January, the organisations have resumed and numbers attending worship in Church are increasing steadily – it has been lovely to see the return of so many of our faithful members as well as extending a warm welcome to some new faces.

We have been saddened by the death of several of our Church members over the winter and so we now have 372 on our roll.

After a lot of hard work to overcome many challenges, we were able to start livestreaming the services on 19th December. We are very grateful to everyone who helped in any way to make this become a reality. There is now a group of volunteers who supervise the streaming of the services and although there are no longer any reflections or telephone options, members who are not able to access the livestream can be provided with an audio version of the service.

Our Mission Audit was completed and submitted to Presbytery before Christmas, and we look forward to implementing the new Mission Plan as circumstances allow. We are now working, along with the Property Convenors, to compile the information necessary for a property audit. These two documents (which must be completed by every Church in Scotland) will form a major part of the assessment process used to decide the future of Church buildings and Ministers in Scotland.

Our congregation has been invited to send an elder as a commissioner to take part in this year's General Assembly which will meet in May. We are pleased that Myra Grant has agreed to be our representative although it is not yet clear whether the Assembly will revert to meeting in person in Edinburgh or whether it will be held online.

With the further easing of Covid restrictions, we look forward to seeing yet more members returning to Sunday worship as well as participating in our Church organisations.



FINANCE TEAM

Thank you to church members and friends for your continued faithful giving and financial support for our Church activities. As we type this article, our church annual accounts for 2021 are being examined externally and full details will be provided at our AGM to follow in due course. Thanks to your kindness, fundraising events and additional donations received, there was no need to call upon our reserves at any time during 2021. This was a wonderful achievement, considering all the challenges of COVID restrictions. Thank you also to everyone who chose to set up a new standing order for their freewill offering. If you would like to know about this way of giving, please speak with any member of the Finance Team.



Christian Aid Week (15th-21st May 2022)



Last year's Christian Aid Week was again disrupted by the pandemic, so we delivered envelopes throughout Kilbarchan and Brookfield but asked folks to return their envelopes to the church hall, or to donate electronically via the

JustGiving page on our website.

The result was amazing. The total raised from the donation envelopes and JustGiving reached more than **£4,700**, of which a huge proportion was gift-aided, raising a further **£800+** for Christian Aid.

This was substantially more than recent years and is testimony to the generosity of our local community.

For 2022, we still need to be mindful of Coronavirus, so intend to follow last year's format and deliver donation envelopes to as many households in the local area as we can, asking folk to return their donations to a central point at the end of Christian Aid Week.

For this, we require volunteers to deliver envelopes to a street or group of houses in their area during that week. There will be no need to call to collect or re-visit houses.

Please contact Alasdair on  if you are able to help.

This work is vital if we are to provide support to those in need in some of the poorest communities in the world, amongst them are those worst affected by Climate Change.

There will again be a special Christian Aid Quiz to raise additional funds. Hopefully this will be easier than most folk found



As part of our response to tackling local environmental issues, the Kilbarchan Parish Church Eco Group has arranged a Community Information Evening on Wednesday 4th May at 7.30 in the Church Hall and you're all invited

We're very keen to bring together everyone in the local area who has an interest in helping to make Kilbarchan a more environmentally friendly village to live in. We've been fortunate enough to secure time from a couple of external speakers who will give us an overview of how best we can make a difference to the health and wellbeing of our community-both at present and for the future.

Fraser Millar, who until recently worked for Zero Waste Scotland, will speak about some of the ways that we are currently taking forward the Eco Agenda at a Scottish level and Fiona Catterson, who lives in and who brought up her family in Kilbarchan, will talk to us about the successful journey that Oakshaw Trinity Ecumenical Church in Paisley have recently had in achieving the Eco-Congregation Scotland Silver Award for churches.

I'm sure we all have lots to learn to help put Kilbarchan on the Eco map

There will be an opportunity over a cup of tea or coffee to ask questions and to make suggestions as to how best we can all work together to make Kilbarchan an even better place to stay. You can also put forward your own thoughts, ideas and experiences and maybe even take the chance to get involved and do your bit!

Come along and bring a friend, you can be sure of a warm welcome and an interesting evening.



"Never doubt the power of a small group of committed people to change the world. That's about the only way it has ever happened in the past."

Margaret Mead, anthropologist

UNITARY CONSTITUTION

A change of Constitution for our church?

Before the Covid pandemic, we, along with other congregations, were finding it was becoming more and more difficult to recruit volunteers to positions within the Board and Session.

There is now a 'significant' discrepancy in terms of the balance between elders and non-elders on the Board.

We believe the time has come for us to consider changing the constitution to adopt what is called the Unitary Constitution and bring us in line with most congregations within the Kirk.

This would mean that the Congregational Board would be dissolved and all key decisions would be taken by the Kirk Session. This would simplify the decision-making processes of the congregation and conforms more closely with the requirements of charity law and OSCR.

Under the Unitary Constitution, the Kirk Session is served by Committees, which have the power to co-opt non-elders to their committees with Session's approval. These committees have delegated authority to make decisions, within defined parameters. This means that non-elders (including those who currently serve on the Board, and others) are able to use their gifts and skills to shape the decision-making and working life of the church.

The existing Trustees (members of the Kirk Session and Congregational Board) have carefully considered matters and have taken the view that the move to a Unitary Constitution is desirable.

The formal decision as to whether or not to adopt it is, however, one for the congregation to take. This will require a congregational meeting and members will be provided with information beforehand to allow them to come to a decision.

If the proposal to adopt the Unitary Constitution is accepted by the congregation, we must then seek the agreement of Presbytery and the Church's Delegation of Assembly. As the Unitary Constitution is now the Church's recommended option, it is anticipated that this step will be readily approved.

Further information will be provided in the coming months.

JOIN THE ADVENTURE



ANCHORS
5 – 8 Years

ЮΛΑΒΟΤΕΡΟ
8 – 11 Years

Company
11 – 14 Years

Seniors
14 – 18 Years

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT YOUR LOCAL GROUP AT
BOYS-BRIGADE.ORG.UK/JOIN

The Boys' Brigade is a Christian, inter-faith organisation, registered in England & Wales number 305223. A registered charity in England & Wales number 263560.
and in Scotland number 9002829B. Registered Office: Paisley College, Stewart Drive, Paisley, West Lothian, PA5 8BQ, UK.

Kilbarchan Parish Church desperately needs a new generation of leaders to restart 1st Kilbarchan Boys' Brigade Company, hopefully in August/September 2022. If we can get 2 or 3 people willing to train as leaders we can start up our Anchor Section for boys and girls in Primaries 1, 2 and 3. Youth Leader Training takes place in October and is run by our Paisley HQ Training Team. If you feel you can help us restart our Anchor Section, please get in touch through the Kilbarchan Church website or contact me at robert.stevenson@ntlworld.com. Let's restart the Adventure for a new generation!

Bobby

PRESBYTERY NOTES

BUSINESS COMMITTEE: The Rev Christine Murdoch was nominated as the next Moderator of Clyde Presbytery from September 2022. On the retirement of the Rev Dr Charles Cameron at Johnstone St Andrew's Trinity from 30th November 2021, the Rev Stephen Smith was appointed as Interim Moderator. During the sick leave of Rev Scott McCrum at Old Kilpatrick & Bowling, the Rev Christine Goldie was appointed as Interim Moderator. Rev Ann McCool is appointed as Interim Moderator at Linwood ahead of the retirement of Rev Eileen Ross on 31st March 2022. The Rev Alan Sorensen, minister at Greenock: Wellpark Mid Kirk, has indicated his intention to retire from 31st July 2022. Mrs Mary Jane Bird and Rev David Burt were appointed as Church of Scotland reps on the Renfrewshire & Inverclyde Councils when the appointments are reviewed following the local council elections in May. Now that the presbytery has been running for a year a restructuring of committees will take place in July 2022. Clyde Presbytery is due to be visited by the Moderator of the General Assembly in April 2023, the Clerk and Business Convener are to form a small committee to prepare for this visit.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The General Fund Budget for the year ending 31st December 2022 was tabled and agreed. The allocation of Presbytery Dues for 2022 as detailed was approved and the issue of payment requests to be sent to Church Treasurers noting that payment is due on receipt of the payment request and no later than 30th June 2022.

MISSION COMMITTEE: Various church of Scotland newsletters (Children and Youth Ministry; Priority Areas; Faith Impact etc.) are available here:

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/newsletters> or to Join the Faith Impact Forum Facebook Group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/churchofscotlandfif>. The intention is to add to last year's Lent/Easter resources and share them with all congregations. If you have any ideas for worship/children/schools/reflective/creative, please email them to the convenor(gnoonan@churchofscotland.org.uk)

SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE: Training has commenced by Zoom for Volunteers. "face to face" training had planned to be up and running by now in church Halls, but the Omicron variation of the Covid virus has delayed this process. The committee hopes that this will take place in the near future. Congregations are reminded that the recommendation from the Safeguarding Office @ 121 is that Refresher Training takes place every Three Years and not more than Five Years.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE: The building audits – often referred to by the acronym AMBA (Asset Management Building Audits) will take place in February and March. These audits use a methodology provided by the General Trustees and are an essential requirement of the Presbytery Mission Planning Act as passed by the General Assembly in 2021. This process is not taken lightly, as all are experiencing many new pressures in this season of church life. The committee has sought to keep the actual burden placed on congregations in assisting with the audits to a minimum. The Auditors task is simply to arrange the site visit and then complete an audit form with reference to their training and also to the other audits they have completed within the same Local Mission Group. Grateful thanks to all the auditors for their willingness to serve and ask that congregations welcome them with respect and warmth.

MISSION PLANNING TASK GROUP: Would like to thank the congregations of Clyde Presbytery as well as our Local Mission Group representatives for submitting their Mission Audit reports. The group met on Monday 31st January to discuss how to proceed and agreed on the following: The Mission Plan Task Group representatives have all be assigned a Local Mission Group from the opposite side of the River Clyde to analyse. This is to prevent any conflict of interest. The submission from each congregation will be analysed and having evaluated each audit, the Mission Plan Task Group will meet with the Presbytery Planning Review Committee (PPRC) and representatives from Faith Nurture’s Presbytery Mission Plan Implementation Group (PMPIG). The data will be assessed and, the committee in collaboration with PPTG, prepare a draft plan for circulation by the end of February. Presbytery intends to host a Saturday conference on 5th March, where there will be an opportunity to discuss the draft proposal within our Local Mission Groups, along with the assigned Task Group representative, to allow for feedback and suggestions to be gathered. This will then be fed back into the next meeting of the Mission Plan Task Group, which will follow soon after and allow, in conjunction with the Presbytery Planning Task Group (PPTG) to formalise a more concrete draft for circulation as soon as the AMBA audits are completed and the scores returned for inclusion. In the meantime, should any situations ‘flagged up’ by congregations or local mission groups require careful discussion, consultations will be arranged to determine the best route forward. Hopefully, a final draft plan will be in the hands of Presbyters by the end of May 2022. Ideally, most of the plan will be agreed upon at this stage, but there is still time to make adjustments and discuss matters before the December deadline. The Mission Plan Task Group is working within a very tight timeframe at present, so your prayers would be greatly appreciated.

SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

Volunteer training is now beginning again and it is recommended that all volunteers undergo training every 3 years but certainly every 5 years. This means that, given that we have had almost 2 years without Crèche or Sunday school meeting in person, the large majority of volunteers require to attend training courses. I shall continue to update you as and when dates are organised and hope that can be addressed in the near future.

As volunteers, I am sure we are all looking forward to being able to meet in groups in person and hope that this will take place soon.

Thanks for all your help

Elizabeth Dunn



REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

It gives me great pleasure to report that Kilbarchan Parish Church donated an amazing 430kg of food in December last year as a result of our Reverse Advent Calendar initiative. And in January 2022 we have donated 52.5kg.

That is an amazing contribution given that the church community is not yet back to normal.

Renfrewshire Foodbank would like to pass on a huge thank you to all people who donated at the church and for all our ongoing support: it really does make a huge difference.

Graham



Church Mice

Karl Zorowski



COVID UPDATE

Our regular Sunday worship continues at 11 a.m. and the numbers attending continue to grow towards pre-pandemic levels.

Recent announcements by the Scottish Government have eased Covid19 restrictions significantly, but our priority remains to ensure that all attendees feel safe and comfortable when attending worship.

Although social-distancing rules have been removed we continue to advise attendees to occupy designated locations in the church, at least 1 metre apart, and this has been welcomed by many.

The wearing of masks indoors remains a Government requirement, unless you have an exemption.

The Government's requirement to obtain contact details from all attendees has been discontinued, but we shall continue to record the names of attendees, to assist with the Test and Protect scheme should the need arise.

We no longer ask attendees to book a place in advance.

By the time this issue of the magazine reaches you, we shall have resumed serving teas and coffees following Sunday Worship and plans are also in hand for the resumption of the Midweek Fellowship. We know how these opportunities for fellowship are valued by our members.

In line with the easing of Covid restrictions, a number of church and non-church organisations have resumed meeting again within our buildings.

We all look forward to the time when concerns about Covid no longer impact on what we would regard as "normal" life.



STITCHING GROUP



At present, the Stitching Group is not meeting, with the exception of occasional visits to one another's houses.

We are working at home. If anybody has any particular request for an item that we could make, please let us know.

Alison McNicoll

HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

Then there was Omicron. When the last issue of our magazine was published, we had just started to relax a wee bit. And then this new variant arrived. Suddenly we had to re-apply precautions and widen social distancing back to two metres and a few Christmas celebrations had to be revised. But we are getting better at doing things like that. Several of the measures which the Scottish Government and the Church of Scotland had previously relaxed and were now reinstating had still been in place in Kilbarchan Parish Church so it did not affect us too badly.

The Omicron variant was reported to be rampant among certain sectors of the population but fortunately, it did not seem to be too prevalent in our part of the world. Perhaps the multiple vaccinations and good disinfection habits have given us a better degree of protection. Unsubstantiated evidence tells us that the majority of people who were hospitalised by this latest covid variant had not been fully vaccinated.

Then on 28th January, we were told that “the data” showed that the Covid Omicron variant, though still here, was not as serious as had previously been anticipated and we could now relax back to the November level of precautionary measures.

So, we are now back to where we were last time. I was tempted to just repeat the same report as in the November Issue, but I won't. Just remember “the new normal”.

Suffice it to say that in Church Services we are still taking people's names and contact details, sanitizing our hands and hymn books, and using a precautionary spacing in the pews. The congregation is slowly increasing in numbers as more people gain confidence in coming out on a Sunday. It is great to see you all and I hope you feel safe. If you would be happier sitting a little further apart from the others you just have to mention this to the steward at the door and you will be accommodated.

It is also good to see a number of groups and activities restarting within the Church and Halls. These still have restrictions and precautions to which we need to adhere. Please don't be grumpy with the organisers, they are doing their very best under the circumstances and should be applauded.

In the near future, we are planning to reintroduce teas and coffees after the Sunday morning service, restart the Wednesday morning fellowship, and hold an Easter event. There will be the usual safety measures on these occasions but it will be great to have more opportunities to meet each other.

So take care of yourselves and each other.


Tony Martin
352490

EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS



- When in sorrow.....call **John 14**
- When you have sinned.....call **Psalm 51**
- When you worry.....call **Matthew 6:24-34**
- When you are in danger.....call **Psalm 91**
- When your faith needs stirring.....call **Hebrews 11**
- When you feel down.....call **Romans 8:31**
- When you want peace.....call **Matthew 11:28-30**
- When the world seems bigger.....call **Psalm 90**
- When you feel lonely.....call **Psalm 23**
- When you grow bitter.....call **1 Corinthians 13**
- When people seem unkind.....call **John 15:12-27**

AVAILABLE 24 HOURS A DAY 7 DAYS A WEEK
NO WI-FI NECESSARY NO SIGNAL REQUIRED

 **Catholic**

Graham McKay spotted this on a church noticeboard on the lovely island of Santorini.



- Q** Who was the greatest financier in the Bible?
A Noah – he was floating his stock when everyone else was in liquidation.
- Q** Who was the greatest comedian in the Bible?
A Samson – he brought the house down.
- Q** What kind of man was Boaz before he got married?
A Ruth-less.

Towards the end of January, the Church website received a communication from a lady in Norfolk who had found a chalice in one of her local charity shops. It was very tarnished, but she was able to make out the engraving which said “Kilbarchan Baptist Church 1904” and was interested to know if we could tell her anything about the Church. Details about the Church were sent to her, and it was agreed that the chalice should come back to the village. We were delighted when it arrived – especially as it had been well polished and is in very good condition. It is just disappointing that we don’t know where it has been for more than a century!



Kilbarchan Baptist Church was built in 1904 on Glentyan land in High Barholm where the Guide Centre now stands. The church seated 400 but due to declining membership was closed as a Baptist Church in 1916. It then became St Barchan's Congregational Church until it was demolished in the late 1950s prior to the wooden Guide Hut being built on the site.



DRAMA GROUP.



It seems so long since we were able to provide an evening's entertainment (it actually has been)!

With Covid restrictions gradually being lifted and folk getting a bit more

comfortable mixing, we will get together to consider if it will be practical to find a suitable play for the end of the year.

We may be back soon "treading the boards"

Alan Fulton

For the Drama Group.



ECO GROUP



The Eco Group has had several meetings and has been encouraged by the response of the Congregation. We are pleased with the amount of recycling that has been done and hope in the near future to compile a list of places which offer to recycle various items e.g., batteries, crisp packets, spectacles and many more.

You will also have noticed that a new banner has been purchased and should by now be in position on the Church gate. This is a reminder to those entering the Church ground that we are serious about looking after the planet.

It is also good to see our ideas being put on the Church web page to give examples of various things we can all do to help in this journey.

We look forward to hearing your thoughts and hope to see as many as possible at our Community event

The Eco Group



RAINBOW TURTLE STALL

Fairtrade returns to the Church on Sunday 6th March with a stall provided by Rainbow Turtle.

The stall will be available in the hall after the church service. Please remember this is a cash only stall. (I have no cashless facility). I look forward to seeing you.

Moira Stark



THE GUILD

How good it was to be back together again at the beginning of February and what an interesting speaker we had that afternoon. Each year we are asked by the National Guild in Edinburgh to select a Project to support. Our choice for this session was "Home for Good" a charitable Organisation working to place vulnerable children in short and long term care foster and adoption. This is a new venture in Scotland but has been running in areas in England and Ireland for some years. Our speaker, Graeme McMeekin, a father of three adopted siblings, spoke from his heart of the work "Home for Good" does to help prospective carers think through the idea of fostering and adoption and when a match is made the Organisation continues offering both advice and practical help to carers/parents. We learned that there are around 10,000 children in care in Scotland. On looking around the audience Graeme was well aware that none were of an age to be carers but he asked that we tell people about the Organisation and as Guild remember the work of "Home for Good" in our prayers.



Later in February, we had Mr, John Copeland who came along to show slides of his visits to Israel and talk about the people he met there.

In March we have two meetings. The first is on 8th March when Mr Gordon Wilson will show slides and give a talk on the P.S, Waverley. The talk will last around 45 minutes and covers a bit why the Waverley is unique, the work involved in keeping sailing, some of the places you can visit aboard her and finally some of the present challenges she faces. Visitors are cordially invited.

Our final meeting takes place on Tuesday 22nd March when our Annual General Meeting will take place.

Jan Hewitt

WANTED!

Your assistance

Welcome Team

We would like to increase the pool of volunteers who greet attendees at worship each Sunday. All that is required is a cheery smile (behind that mask!) and a warm greeting. Under normal circumstances, you would not be expected to be on duty more than once each month

Any member of the congregation willing to help should contact Christine Erwin or Alasdair Law.

“Live Streaming” system

The system has now bedded in and is much appreciated by its viewers (including several from well beyond the parish boundaries).

We now have a small team of volunteers who can assist in operating the system, but we really need more folk willing to join the team. You will receive full training and always receive the support of others when on duty, which should be no more than once each month.

Please contact Alasdair Law or Alan Vaughan if you wish to learn more.

Remember, you can watch the service live or catch up at a later time via the church website <https://kilbarchankirk.org> or on YouTube. If you are unable to access the church services in this way, contact Alasdair to find out if we can help, perhaps by making an audio version available to you.

Teas and coffees following worship

As you will know, we resumed the serving of teas and coffees following worship on Sunday 6th March.

We still require additional volunteers to help in the hall, stewarding and serving attendees. This is to ensure that no volunteer need be on duty more than once each month.

Please contact Cathy Millar on  if you are able to help.

KILBARCHAN KIRK ONLINE

kilbarchankirk.org

Most of you will now be aware that we have switched from Online Reflection videos to live streaming of Sunday worship each week. Thanks to everyone who helped make the Reflection videos possible, and thanks to everyone for their feedback on both the Reflections and the live streams. It has been a steep learning curve for us as we made the switch to live streaming, but we are now getting to grips with the new equipment. Hopefully this improves your enjoyment of online worship.

Lots of folk are asking, “I don’t do Facebook and I’m not too sure about YouTube, can I still see the live stream or any other videos that are posted?”

The answer is of course YES. The best place to find the live stream is from our very own website – kilbarchankirk.org. From the top menu just tap on WORSHIP and from the dropdown menu tap ONLINE. From there you can watch the live stream as it happens or later if you prefer. Any relevant video posted on our Facebook will also be available from this page. All with no need to join Facebook or YouTube. Simply watch from our very own website.

If you are comfortable with YouTube then ALL of the Reflection Videos from the past two years plus ALL of the live stream videos are available on our channel. Just head to YouTube and search for Kilbarchan Kirk. If you have a Google account, then this also doubles as your login for YouTube. If not, don’t worry, there is no need to sign in to use YouTube.

But our website is about more than just video content and live streaming. If there is any aspect of church life you want to know about then your first stop should be the website – kilbarchankirk.org. Worship times, events, organisation information, news, contacting us, anything, it is our aim to make as much information as possible available from the website – kilbarchankirk.org. I’m hoping that if I say it often enough folk will remember it. kilbarchankirk.org.

Have a browse, if there’s anything you feel needs added or updated, please let me know.

Alan Vaughan



MIDWEEK FELLOWSHIP



We're hoping to be back sometime in March! We meet each Wednesday – in the small hall where the current Covid/Church regulations will apply.

Anyone can come along – tea/coffee will be served at the tables so please bring along your cup/mug anytime from 10.30 a.m. onwards and then at 11 a.m. there is a short, informal service.

It gives a space in the middle of the week to reflect – be still – and the the fellowship part is very much alive with us.

Come and give it a try. A warm and safe welcome awaits you.

For any more information contact:

Joan MacKinnon



JUNIOR CHURCH

Please be informed there will be a Family Service on Sunday, March 6th and we hope to see our Junior Church children and parents at this service.

We look forward to welcoming our children back to Junior Church, which will take place every other Sunday starting from March 13th. Children should join their parents in Church for the start of the service and depart for the Hall after the Children's address.

We will communicate more details to our parents by email.

Ros & Shona



JESUS IS ALIVE!

FUND-RAISING NEWS

Following the success of our Christmas coffee morning , we are holding our Easter Extravaganza on Saturday 2nd April in the halls from 10-12noon, with a selection of Easter stalls, an Easter-egg hunt and a decorated egg and bonnet competition. Donations of baking and Easter novelties for sale will be appreciated, as will offers of help. Please speak to any of the following to offer help: *Margaret Allan, Susan MacAskill, Myra Grant, Joan MacKinnon, Rosemary Clark, or Jenifer Pitchers.* Please encourage family and friends to come along.



TOTS' CLUB

We were saddened by the death of John Picken, a very much valued friend and volunteer who will be sorely missed among our group.

We are pleased to tell you that we now have a date when the Tots' Club will resume. Put this date, the 9th May, in your diary. When hopefully we do not need to leave a door open! We would be very happy to have a few more volunteers willing to help out every few weeks on a Monday morning from 9-11.30am. Please speak to any of the following people if you'd like to come along and help. The Tots' club is very much an outreach group in the community so an important part of our church mission.

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






ILLWALKING CLUB

For the first time since March 2020, the club has succeeded in meeting for three consecutive months' walks. It has been lovely to get back together again.

In December eight of us met at Overtoun House, Dumbarton, to walk the Lancraigs Circuit. It was a damp and misty day, with the mist adding to the atmospheric views of the crags as we climbed beside them then walked along the top before lunching by the Black Lin Reservoir. The descent back to Overtoun House ended with an unexpected sculpture trail.

For the first walk of 2022 in January, eleven walkers met at the Steeple, whilst it was still dark, to wind our way in convoy to Locher Woods car park. As the dawn broke, it was obvious that the rain was on for the day and our initial plan to extend out to Windy Hill was abandoned. Visibility was very poor, so we kept to the main path and had a coffee break at the picnic tables where plans were made for the next three meetings. It was a short walk of three hours, but everyone enjoyed it despite the cold weather. We will plan to return in the summer to do Windy Hill!

February's walk was Misty Law from Lochwinnoch Cemetery on a very wet and windy morning. Nine walkers proceeded up the steep road which ends at Muirfauldhouse. Going through a gateway and across a field to gain an old track, we were then exposed to a strong West wind which became gustier as altitude increased. Misty Law lived up to its name by only coming into view as the summit cone was approached. The remnants of a snow cornice were circumnavigated, but a small snow patch had to be traversed to use the path leading to the summit. One walker lost his footing at the top as a wind gust caught him. The party then retreated down to the lee side to take a break and an early lunch before trudging back down the track. The rain and wind accompanied us as we avoided the many puddles and burns. However, the merry chat continued, interspersed with lively repartee, till arriving back at the parked cars rather wet and tired after some five hours on the hoof.

Our next planned walk is Tinto Hill on Saturday the 12th March, when we are definitely overdue sunshine given the last three months' weather! We will meet at the Steeple at 8am. Any new members would be very welcome on this or any subsequent walk. Please contact me on  if you would like any information.

Eilidh Henderson

Kidz Korner



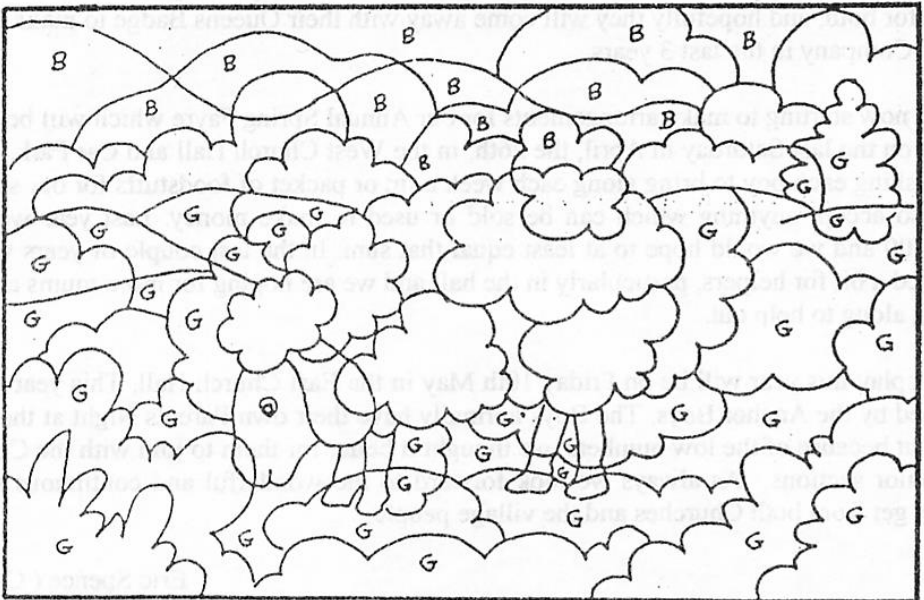
AN EASTER TRUTH!

Use this code to put the correct letters in the spaces below:

⊖	◇	□	~	△	⊕	⊗	△	▽	○	
I	R	S	L	O	E	F	A	J	U	V

IF YOU COLOUR IN ALL THE **B**'S BLUE
AND ALL THE **G**'S GREEN...

Read about a lost one in Luke 15:1-7.



... YOU WILL FIND AN ANIMAL JESUS KNEW WELL

PARISH REGISTER



DEATHS (* denotes member, ** denotes adherent)

16/11/2021 Helen McCaig *
09/12/2021 Allana Ward
12/12/2021 Catherine Garden *
25/12/2021 Willie McBirnie
05/01/2022 Margaret Figgins
05/01/2022 William Wilson
14/01/2022 George Hay
24/01/2022 James Mackenzie
04/02/2022 John Picken *

ROLL

The Roll of Kilbarchan Parish Church now stands at 373 and 18 Adherents.



Dear Stephen,

I was very touched to receive the gift of such very beautiful flowers from the congregation to gladden my housebound days. It was difficult to be so restricted during what should have been a happy time with friends and family and Christmas giving.

Happily, I am now much recovered and ready to face the world after I get my hair cut!!

Blessings to all.



Margaret McIntyre

USEFUL CHURCH CONTACTS

Minister - Rev Stephen Smith - [REDACTED]

Joint Session Clerk - Mrs Christine Erwin - [REDACTED]

Joint Session Clerk - Mr Alasdair Law - [REDACTED]

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

Clerk to Congregational Board - Mrs Gwen Howden - [REDACTED]

WORSHIP PROGRAMME

Sunday 6 th March	11.00am	Morning Worship (All ages worship)
Sunday 13 th March	11.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday 20 th March	11.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday 27 th March	11.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday 3 rd April	11.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday 10 th April	11.00am	Morning Worship (All ages worship including Baptism)
Thursday 14 th April	7.00pm	Maundy Thursday Service
Friday 15 th April	7.00pm	Good Friday Service
Sunday 17 th April	8.30am	Early Service at Weavers Cottage
	11.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday 24 th April	11.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday 1 st May	11.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday 8 th May	11.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday 15 th May	11.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday 22 nd May	11.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday 29 th May	11.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday 5 th June	11.00am	Morning Worship

