



Kilbarchan Parish Church

Your local church magazine

Dear Friends,

I hope this newsletter finds you well and in good heart.

A colleague in ministry was recently telling me he was thinking of renaming his church. Instead of the North Parish Church, he thought it could be called the North Training Academy. His reasoning was this, over the last few years he has had a few student ministers on placement and a probationer. With the recent lack of vacant congregations probationers had nowhere to apply to (though that is changing now). The Church of Scotland then granted extra funding to allow probationers to continue in their place for an extra year or so. So, he currently has a probationer on extended placement, an enquirer considering the call to full time ministry and a new probationer has just started. All of this in a congregation which in an early draft of the current Presbytery Mission Plan had considered closing. I see why he thinks the name North Training Academy fits the bill.

Over the last few years we too in Kilbarchan Parish Church have been blessed with students and probationers. Since 2020 we have had Dorothy, Dougie, Thorsten and now Aaron join us. We have been blessed by the variety of gifts and skills they have brought, sharing with me in the ministry of Kilbarchan Parish Church.

But wait, its not just sharing with me. It sharing with all of us. Ministry is about the ministry of the whole people of God. From the youngest to the eldest, we all have gifts and skills to share in the ministry of God within our parish and community. Recently, Aaron and I had the pleasure of presenting long service certificates to three elders, Aileen Hardern, Yvonne Kane and Margaret McIntyre, each of whom have used their skills to serve the church in Kilbarchan.

Maybe history's most famous pointing finger is that of Lord Kitchener portrayed in the First World War recruiting poster, who with a stern eye and pointing finger declared, 'Your country needs you'.

Although I am NOT going to point the finger, I am definitely going to say, 'Your church needs you'.

Your church needs you and your unique skills to build up the church and work for God's kingdom in our community and our world.

The New Testament word for a follower of Jesus is disciple.

Perhaps each one of us, as we seek to follow Jesus and use our unique set of skills and abilities in sharing ministry can be thought of as a learner, a disciple.

Maybe Kilbarchan Parish Church should be renamed Kilbarchan Training Academy too.

Your friend

Stephen



Spring at last... Where did the time go? Six months into my probation I find myself being asked a recurring question, whether it's from church friends in Bridge of Weir, fellow candidates for ministry or folk I bump into when out walking the dogs: what's Kilbarchan Parish church really like?

I used to give a standard answer based on my experiences, something along the lines of: 'friendly'; 'welcoming'; 'inclusive'; 'busy' etc but I don't think that's enough. Now when I'm asked I simply say, 'come and see'. It's a genuine invitation because the best way to learn what a midweek service, Messy Church, Cuppa at the Kirk or the Sunday service itself is really like is to experience it in person. After talking about Messy Church to my wife in glowing terms, I invited her along to the February session to see for herself. Now she knows what I mean.

Besides the regular weekly events in the church and monthly events like Messy Church there will be a number of services and events coming up as Easter approaches. So the invitation is to everyone, if you are able, to come and see. You may well be surprised... Happy Easter and best wishes,

Aaron.



JESUS IS ALIVE!

EDITORIAL



FROM THE EDITOR

It certainly doesn't feel like Spring but here we are with the Spring issue of our magazine which I hope will give information from within Kilbarchan Parish Church and also further afield. There are the usual articles along with some new ones so trying to keep it topical and up to date is my aim. All items for future publication will be welcome anytime (I rely on them) and you don't need to wait for a deadline date.

The Summer issue of our magazine will require all items to be with me at alastair.mackinnon@ntlworld.com by Sunday 19th May at the latest.

Alastair MacKinnon



Messy Church in Kilbarchan

Church Halls, Steeple Square, Kilbarchan



- * games
- * crafts
- * fun
- * worship
- * food

*All children must
be accompanied
by an adult*

Entry is **FREE!!!**

4.00pm - 6.00pm

Saturday 16th March

KIRK SESSION REPORT

Since the last edition of our magazine, the Kirk session has only had one meeting although there have been many interesting services and events in the Church and Halls. At the start of December, our Christmas Fayre was supported by a great number of members and friends despite the snow and tricky conditions underfoot. It was good to see so many stalls with crafts, baking and interesting items on sale but especially good to see so many folk enjoying a time of fellowship while having tea and mince pies.

The following day was the second service of Remembrance and Reflection to be held in 2023. This was both an emotional as well as a comforting event for those in attendance and it is hoped to offer a similar service at the start of Advent every year.

The Church and halls were once again beautifully decorated for Christmas, and we are grateful to Mary Marrison and her team of helpers for their hard work as well as to Marie Alexander for the lovely Advent wreath.

Poinsettia plants were again delivered to our members who are in care, housebound or of a significant age. Thanks to Willie Beattie for coordinating this and to the Hospitality fund for paying for the plants.

Our Christmas cards were designed by members of the Junior Church and delivered by volunteers to every house in Kilbarchan and Brookfield. We are indebted to the team which coordinated this and of course to everyone who ventured out in the wintry weather to deliver the cards.

The Christmas traditions continued with our Nativity Play, a service of nine lessons and a gift service (for Renfrewshire Toy Bank). During Advent, many members collected items for the reverse advent calendar initiative for the food bank. Thanks to both the organisers and the supporters of these events and activities.

Cuppa at the Kirk held a Christmas party afternoon when everyone received a present and enjoyed some musical entertainment. This group met every Tuesday afternoon for a chat and some tea and biscuits – they would be delighted to welcome you to pop in, even just for a short time, between 2.00pm and 3.30pm in the main hall.

Our practice of having two elders visit our church organisations has started once again and it has been good to hear the first few reports indicating the groups are well organised and valued by those taking part. However, all of them would appreciate more helpers and participants.

It has been good to have Aaron Marshall (our probationer minister) taking an increasing part in our worship – whether on Sundays, at mid week fellowship or at Messy Church. He has been visiting some of our members either at home or in hospital, and his ongoing involvement in our organisations is appreciated by everyone in attendance.

We have been delighted to see the number of people worshipping with us both in person and online continuing to increase and also to welcome several visitors to our fellowship recently. From a nucleus of 130 regular worshippers, we are pleased to see around 90 at Sunday worship and are now being viewed by an average of 120 each week through our website, YouTube channel or Facebook page.

Sadly, since the last magazine, two of our members have died and one member has moved away, resulting in the number on our roll, at the time of writing this in February, being 348 and 17 adherents.

At our most recent meeting, it was with reluctance that session accepted the resignation of Alasdair Law from his position as joint session clerk. Over the last five years, Alasdair had been most conscientious in carrying out this role, particularly during the pandemic when he was instrumental in setting up live streaming of services and coordinating newsletters to be circulated regularly to our members. His enthusiasm and technical expertise will be missed from the Clerks team, but it is reassuring that he will continue his work as an elder and still be involved with the sound system and Christian Aid

To misquote a well-known television programme – the search for his successor continues!

Christine, and Helen.



FINANCE

As we move into a new year, this may be an opportunity for members to review their regular givings for the work of the Church.

Expenditure for this year is likely to show an increase from that in 2023 and any deficit will have an effect on the Church's reserves.

Most members donate by way of a Standing Order and this preferred method provides a regular income figure in order to manage the Church's finances. This method goes in hand with the Freewill Offering Envelopes for members who prefer to donate this way.

Offerings can also be boosted by completing a Gift Aid declaration form which enables the Church to recover from HMRC an additional 25% of the total sum donated. We would encourage those who are tax payers to complete a declaration form.

Any member of the Finance Team will be pleased to deal with any enquiries that anyone may have.

As always, a sincere thank you is extended to all for their continued support.

Finance Team (*Marjory Love – Treasurer, Neil Chittick – Freewill Offerings Convenor, Myra Grant, Ian Trushell, Cathy Miller, Alex Christine*)

DODDIE WEIR CHALLENGE 2024

I'd like to thank everyone who supported me in this year's Doddie Weir Challenge in support of Doddie's Motor Neuron Disease(MND)Foundation.

I had set out to cycle on my stationary bike 777 miles which was the equivalent distance of cycling by National Cycle Routes to Inverness, then completing the North Coast 500 (NC500), completing my challenge at Inverness. However, after managing to cycle for 34 consecutive sessions I was able to cover a total distance of 915.25miles, enabling me to cover the return distance from Inverness to Kilbarchan. I had also set myself the target to raise £1000 for the Doddie Weir Foundation and at the time of writing, with the generous support of members of the congregation, family and friends to date I've surpassed my target, raising £1,125 (so far).

Should you wish to donate to the Doddie Weir Foundation 2024 Challenge you can still do this by visiting my JustGiving page by clicking here or copying this link to your Internet browser.

https://www.justgiving.com/page/graham-mckay-1703412501746?utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=page%2Fgraham-mckay-1703412501746&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=pfp-email

JustGiving sends your donation straight to My Name's Doddie Foundation and automatically reclaims Gift Aid if you are a UK taxpayer, so your donation is worth even more.

Thank you for your support!

Graham



BENEVOLENT FUND

Thanks once again to the generosity of the congregation the Benevolent Fund donated £125 to St Vincent's Hospice, Adams House, Renfrewshire Woman's Aid and Renfrewshire Foodbank at the end of 2023

Thanks again in anticipation of your continued support .

Alan Fulton

PRESBYTERY CONFERENCE Saturday 4th November 2023 at 10.00am

The Rev. Robbie Hamilton, the new Presbytery Clerk, was introduced to Presbytery and made most welcome. Thereafter he took the – *oath de fideli*.

Confessions of Faith Overture was put to a vote and excepted almost unanimously.

Ministry Students were presented to Presbytery: Chris Barlas, William McCulloch, Charlene Mitchell, Robert Thomson and Stuart Wilson.

Business: The resignation of Jamie McNamara as Presbytery Building Officer was noted and Presbytery wishes him well as he takes up a post within Perth Presbytery. Agreed that Robbie Hamilton and Douglas Vallance be appointed to the interview panel, along with representatives from the General Trustees and HR, to find a suitable replacement for the Building Officer. Rev John Murning has intimated his intention to retire from Paisley Sherwood Greenlaw on 14 th February 2024.

Vacancy Procedure: Sisted the previously approved vacancy at Baldernock linked with Milngavie St Paul's on the advice of the Principal Clerk, pending the outcome of the request for a Mission Plan Review from Milngavie St Luke's. Appointed an Advisory Committee comprising the Rev Christine Murdoch, John Armit and William John Sim to deal with the vacancy at Helensburgh Parish Church. Granted permission for Helensburgh Parish Church to call a minister on unrestricted tenure all in terms of the provisions of Act VII 2003 and the Presbytery Mission Plan.

Ministry: Supported the application of Tim Mineard and David Nicholson to train to become Placement Supervisors and the application of Francis Murphy to become a Probationer Supervisor and notes he will undergo the necessary training. The Worship Leader Training is going well and is encouraged by the support. It is hoped a further course will be arranged for early in 2024. If anyone is interested in attending please contact YSmith@churchofscotland.org.uk.

Presbytery Implementation/Planning: The basis of severance for Helensburgh linked with Rhu & Shandon was approved and noted the votes of the congregation. The basis of Union for Inverkip, Skelmorlie & Wemyss Bay was approved and noted the congregations votes. Kirk Sessions and office bearers are strongly encouraged to approach their cluster facilitators to discuss local progress towards implementation of the PMP. Withdraws Ian Millar as OLM from the Lochside Linkage from the end of 2023, and allocates him as per the approved plan to the forming linkage of Arrochar, Luss and Rhu & Shandon. Granted permission to the Kirk Session of Barrhead St Andrew's to move ahead with the local appointment of a full-time Youth Worker, recognising that funds are available.

Property: Most of the Committee's activity has been spent considering routine applications for approval of works. Manses - Session Clerks were requested to provide

current EPC certificates for their manses and there had been a reasonable response to that invitation. Energy Improvements to manses, or any property for that matter, can cause significant disruption to achieve their goal and the ideal opportunity to undertake such tasks is when the property is empty. In exceptional cases the improvements may not be financially viable and the option to seek a replacement manse which meets the efficiency criterion may be the easier solution. RAAC There has been a great deal of publicity in the news recently about RAAC (Reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete) initially raised in schools, then cascaded into hospitals etc. the committee don't know what the implications are for our property portfolio but with the help of the everyone, we will endeavour to determine what the evidence is, if any, within the Presbytery.

Stewardship & Finance: Granted reductions in M&M contributions to the following congregations against their 2023 allocation: Craigrownie (on behalf of Lochside linkage) £7500 for continuing employment of their Family worker and Barrhead St Andrew's £7500 towards their Youth & Community worker. Recruitment has begun to seek a suitable replacement for the Building Officer.

Treasurer: Forecast for the General Fund Income & Expenditure for 2023, a Draft Budget for 2024 and Draft Proposed Presbytery Dues for 2024 were put forward in some detail, mainly for noting no real discussion took place.

Presbytery moves to conference session: a) Meet the new Clerk – Q&A: the Rev. Robbie Hamilton gave a pen portrait of his early life and placements during his tenure with the Church of Scotland. b) Coffee Break allowing for time to mingle c) Pastoral Support available: covered two sources of help/ support for ministers and congregations

- **Ascend** a centre for support and development for ministers, details can be found - <https://ascend.churchofscotland.org.uk>.
- **Church of Scotland Learning** is a new initiative, offering opportunities for people across the Church to grow in faith <https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/resources/church-of-scotland-learning> Includes a link to a new website where anyone can join to gain access to a Church of Scotland Learning app.

CLYDE PRESBYTERY Tuesday 13th. February 2024 at 7.00pm

Presbytery Welcomes: Rev Barbara Ann Sweetin transferring from Presbytery of Perth and the Rev Knowledge Zinduru who is starting a familiarisation placement at Clydebank Faifley.

Retirals: The intention to retire has been received from the Rev John Murning on the 14th February 2024 from Paisley: Sherwood Greenlaw, the Rev Ann McCool from Johnstone: High on 11th February 2024 and the Rev Christine Goldie from Bearsden: Westerton on 8th May 2024.

Moderator of Clyde Presbytery as from 10th September 2024 will be Rev Christine Goldie.

Appointments approved: the need for and the job description of an IT Communication Officer and a Depute Clerk.

Business Committee: 14 congregations were invited to nominate a commissioner to the General Assembly this year, while 9 were unable to do so. It has been a difficult task to seek willing volunteers to fill all the commissions. The Business Committee felt that this indicated an underlying problem with the whole GA set up and asked the Clerk to discuss the matter with the Assembly Trustees and Principal Clerk for future years.

Stewardship and Finance: the criteria for awarding funds from the new Mission Fund was approved and applications are to be sent via the Presbytery Office for consideration. Granted are the following amounts from the Discretionary fund: Gourock St John's £5000 "Inner Visions"; Bearsden New Kilpatrick £6500 for a mission project, using their 375th anniversary.

Treasurer: the General Fund Budget for the year ending 31st December 2024 was approved as was the allocation of Presbytery Dues for 2024. Church Treasurers should note that payment is due no later than 30th. June 2024.

Mission: congregations are reminded to forward names to the Mission Officer with regards to a representative(s) to the Local Area Mission Groups (Hubs). Presbytery members are reminded to come along to the Mission Conference on 2nd March in Inchinnan Church.

Presbytery Planning and Implementation: The PMP Committee have been meeting on a regular basis to oversee implementation of the approved Plan. These meetings provide an overview of the entire Plan, and the opportunity to hear from cluster facilitators as to progress in their particular area. It has been very beneficial to have the new Presbytery Clerk and also the Presbytery Mission Officer joining these meetings. The Convenor of the Property Committee, who has recently started to attend our meetings as well. This will prove invaluable moving forward in enabling the committee to have some 'joined-up' thinking, and hopefully also reduce duplication of work.

Review of records: The inspection of records took place on Tuesday 6th and Wednesday 7th of February. 73 congregations presented their congregational, safeguarding and building records for presbytery attestation. The committee expressed their thanks to the many faithful office bearers who made sure these records were in order and reflect due diligence in practice regarding building maintenance, safeguarding, and congregational record keeping.

FUNDRAISING NEWS

The Christmas Fayre was extremely successful in spite of it being a very snowy morning. Our next event is the Easter Extravaganza on 23rd March from 10am-12noon-there will be the usual egg hunt in the grounds for the children-(weather permitting) Hot cross buns will be served with coffee and children are asked to bring along a decorated egg and/or an Easter bonnet for the competition. Entrance remains £3, children £1, please bring along family and friends, there will be Easter novelties, home baking and preserves for sale.

An early date for your diaries: Art Off the Square will take place on Thursday, Friday and Saturday 22-24 August.

It would be good to have some new ideas for Fundraising events so please speak to anyone on the committee.



WORD SEARCH – BIBLE NAMES

AARON, ABRAHAM, ADAM, AMOS, DANIEL, DAVID, ELIAM, ELIJAH, ELISHA, EZRA, FELIX, GOD, HAGGI, HANNAH, ILI, JAMES, JEHOAM, JESUS, MATTHEW, MIRIAM, MOSES, NATHAN, PAUL, PHEM, SAUL, RUTH, PETER, SOLOMON, TIMOTHY, TOI, ZEBEDEE.



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



JUNIOR CHURCH

Since resuming Junior Church in January the children have learnt about Jesus growing up with the story of him being found in the temple in Jerusalem as a boy, and his baptism by John the Baptist. They also learnt about the angels in the Bible and about Lent and the temptation of Jesus by the Devil. For craft activities the children made a maze to find Jesus in the temple, paper bag dove puppets, paper plate angels and pancakes for an early Shrove Tuesday. They love to bake food and of course to eat it too, it's definitely an activity favourite.

It was lovely to welcome back Gregor and Marcus on their visit from Spain for a couple of Sundays and both really enjoyed being back at Junior Church and it was lovely to see all the Havlins back in Kilbarchan.

On the lead up to Easter we learn more about Jesus through parables and the miracles he performed before addressing the Easter story itself. We have some interesting activities to accompany our lessons which hopefully the children will enjoy.

Thanks as always to all those who help out, sometimes at very short notice, your assistance is very much appreciated and new volunteers are always welcome.

Take care

Ros & Shona



CHURCH GARDEN

Spring is round the corner. If anyone can spare a few hours to help in the church garden it would be appreciated. Please speak to Fulton.





KILBARCHAN PARISH CHURCH HILLWALKING CLUB REPORT

February 2024

December hosted two club events: our AGM and the final walk of 2023. The AGM saw 15 of us meet in the church hall to plan for 2024's walks, with tea, coffee, cakes and a blether afterwards. We worked out a full programme ranging from short local walks to Munros, including two hosting weekends. The full syllabus is on the church website at:

<https://kilbarchankirk.org/hillwalking-club>.

Thanks to Alan Vaughan for that! If anyone would like an email copy with contact details for walk coordinators, please email me: eilidhfmhenderson@gmail.com.

December's walk was Corlick Hill, a 303m top above Greenock. Eight intrepid walkers braved torrential rain and mist to complete the circular walk on a mixture of minor roads, windfarm tracks and footpaths. In spite of the weather and resultant sodden socks, it was a actually fun to get outside.

Our January walk was the perfect start to 2024. We climbed Ben Bowie (a 313m Marilyn) from Helensburgh, ascending by the Three Lochs Way path, then a short boggy section, to the trig point and the true summit beyond. An excellent turnout of 15 enjoyed blue skies, sunshine and glorious views of a cloud inversion over Loch Lomond. There was a bonus cafe at the bottom for coffee and cake to round off the day.

Our upcoming walks will be:

- 17th Feb: Glen Moss & The Knapps, Kilmacolm
- 16th Mar: Cairn Table, Muirkirk
- 13th Apr: Blairdenon Hill, Menstrie
- 4th May: Meikle Bin
- 3rd-5th May: Bearnock Lodge weekend, near Drumnadrochit

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



A MEMORABLE AFTERNOON

In November 2023 I received an e-mail from Mary's Meals, publicising a fundraising event to be held in the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall. As a regular supporter of the charity, I was also offered the opportunity to attend a presentation by the charity's founder, Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, on the same day.

This is a man who had established the charity from a shed in his garden in rural Argyll and seen it grow from a small, locally-supported initiative into an organisation operating in 18 countries and providing almost 2.5 million children with a nourishing meal each day.

Despite having read his book "The Shed that Fed a Million Children" many years ago, I was unsure what to expect. What kind of individual would be making this presentation – a self-important chief executive, a flamboyant and larger-than-life character, someone proudly selling his charity's success to the media and public ?

Magnus entered the room quietly, without fuss. He spoke in a relaxed manner, but with calm conviction, self-assurance and openness, as if chatting with friends. What shone out, though never explicitly mentioned, was his deep spiritual belief.

His determination to tackle poverty and injustice was visible, his humility, passion and integrity obvious. Despite an apparently low-key manner, his charisma was evident.

Magnus's objective in his talk was to present a review of the work of the charity during 2023. This was a year of many challenges, with escalating world tensions and the cost-of-living crisis creating financial pressures which seemed likely to force Mary's Meals to pull back from its commitments to many vulnerable communities. But, as he explained, there had been a miraculous turnaround in circumstances, with many unexpected and surprising gifts allowing them to keep their promises of support. Indeed, later that week he was due to fly to Hungary, where he had been invited to explore the potential to support a Mary's Meals project there.

Magnus went on to outline how the project is helping to transform the lives of many more than the 2.5 million children who receive a daily meal, for example :

- children, who have been able to receive an education because of the provision of a daily meal, are now making a valuable contribution to their communities in teaching, farming and other areas of business;
- many of those parents who began by volunteering their services to provide the school meals have been trained and are now employed by their local communities;
- local farmers are able to invest and develop their facilities as they have a more secure outlet for their produce.

Mary's Meals' vision is that every child should receive one daily meal in their place of education and that all those who have more than they need, share with those who lack even the most basic things. Helping that vision to become a reality is something to which we can all aspire.

There were many questions from the audience and the meeting could have continued for much longer than it did. It is a measure of the man, however, that he had to leave promptly to catch the Scotrail service to Dalmlally and enjoy a few days at home.

No private jets or chauffeur-driven cars for this busy chief executive !

Alasdair Law



Kilbarchan Parish Church



kilbarchankirk.org

Facebook - facebook.com/kilbarchankirk

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

YouTube - search for Kilbarchan

Christian Aid Week (12th-18th May 2024)

We will be delivering donation envelopes throughout Kilbarchan and Brookfield during Christian Aid Week and ask that you return your donations to collection points in Kilbarchan and Brookfield at the end of the week.

It will also be possible to donate electronically via a JustGiving page on the church website www.kilbarchankirk.org

By donating, you can help to support Christian Aid's work in some of the poorest communities in the world. It is now a regular occurrence for us to see or hear news reports highlighting the impact of natural disasters and of climate change and these, so often, affect those areas least able to cope.

Kilbarchan and Brookfield have been very generous supporters of Christian Aid Week in the past, raising **£3,460** last year (*over £4,200 including Gift Aid recoverable*). We are very aware of the pressures on every household's budget at this time, but hope that our community will again respond by contributing whatever they can afford.

As always, the success of Christian Aid week depends not only on your donations, but on a team of volunteers who distribute donation envelopes around the villages. If you are able to help in this, or any other way, please contact **Alasdair** on **07805 918509**.



The Second Day

WE ALL know what happened on the first Easter day, and on the third. What happened on the second day? Did the sorrowing disciples huddle together for comfort and shared grief? Did they one by one go to the stone and mourn?

The overwhelming sadness of their plight is unbelievable.

They did not understand, could not comprehend, what was going on. For the the future must have stretched out bleak, friendless, endless.

We are the fortunate ones. Our 'second day' sadness depression or anxiety is always lightened with the sure knowledge that the third day will come.

For that, at Easter, rejoice and thank the Lord God!

ANNA McLEAY

MESSY CHURCH

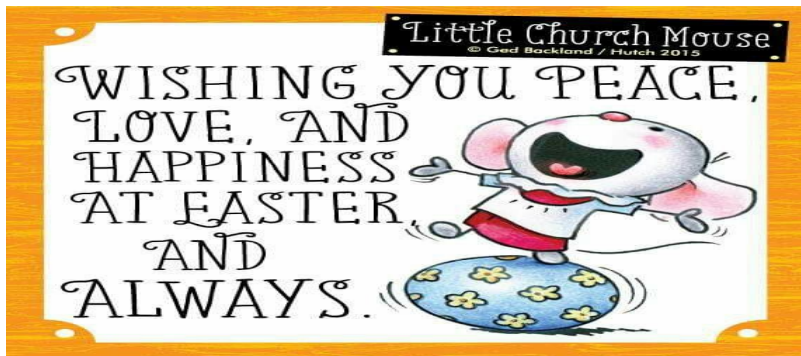
At our December session we celebrated Christmas with a group activity where we made christingles (oranges decorated with red ribbon, fruit, nuts and sweets). We then went into the church where the praise band led us in some festive carols, it is a service that has become a firm favourite with all our Messy families and a timely reminder of the true meaning of Christmas. Our sincere thanks to the praise band for sharing their time and talents with us, it really is appreciated.



In January we continued our theme of Bible super heroes with a look at the life of Moses. From his very early days when his mother hid him in the bullrushes through to his adult life when, despite experiencing self doubt and discouragement, he went on to lead his people to safety and showed them the importance of trusting the Lord.

Our February super hero was Ruth. The story of Ruth emphasises the importance of faithfulness and loyalty and it also reminds us that we don't have to be famous or do great things to be important to God.

Messy Church continues to grow and develop in our journey together with the families who come along each month and with the messy team who give their time and talents to make it happen. Our next session is on the 16th of March when we will be looking at Praise through music.



THE TOTS'CLUB

The club resumed on Monday 8th January from 9.15-11.30. We have about 40 names on the list and 20-25 children and adults attending regularly on a Monday morning. If you would like to join our group of volunteers, please speak to us. Please feel free to drop in for coffee and a chat any Monday morning. On 18th March, Andy Stark will be coming along to take official photos for those who wish. The club will stop for Easter on Monday 25th March and resume on Monday 15th April.

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



PROPERTY REPORT

At the February Session Meeting, Session approved the continued investigation work on the hall gable with a view to remedying the issue of damp penetration on the inside face of the wall.

An upgrade of the fire alarm systems in the church and halls, and a 10 year repeating schedule of redecoration in the manse was approved.

The Property team continues to look at areas of work to maintain and improve our buildings and these will be brought to Session for approval as and when necessary.

Malcolm MacAskill
Property Convener



The best mathematical equation is

1 cross + 3 nails = 4 given

RENFREWSHIRE FOODBANK



Our support of the foodbank continues to be strong with our donations typically consisting of donations of food and household essential items and regular monetary donations, for which RF are extremely grateful. Renfrewshire Foodbank really value our continued support.

The main drop off point within Westway (Babcock Doosan), at Porterfield Road has now changed to a larger, more permanent premises (possibly a sign of the times) at Block E, Westway. For volunteers who deliver Foodbank donations, it's straight on through they security gatehouse and approximately 100 metres on the RHS. Now fully signposted.

As always thank you for your support. Foodbank shortages are regularly posted on the church website.

Graham



ODE TO GRANNIES

In the dim and distant past
When life's tempo wasn't fast
Grandmas used to rock and knit
Crochet, tat and babysit
When the kids were in a jam
They could always count on Gran
In an age of gracious living
Grandma was the gal for giving
Grandma is now at the Gym
Exercising to keep slim
She's off touring with the Bunch
Or taking Clients out to lunch
Driving north to ski and curl
All her days are in a whirl
Nothing seems to stop or block her
Now that Grandma's off her rocker.





ECO-NEWS

The eco group are continuing to research and advise the Church family and the community, on issues we can all address in our daily lives.

We plan to show the film “Legacy” in the hall around mid-April, this is a film inspiring us all in tackling the Global Climate Emergency. It is intended that this will be an open event in place of our usual Eco Forum, so we would ask you to come along to watch this. There will be coffee and tea and a chance to talk about our reactions to the film. The final date will be advised in due course.

After last year’s successful litter picks in conjunction with Kilbarchan Smile, we will be having another one sometime

In the Spring. We will let you know the date soon.

Following our Plant a Tree initiative last year, a number of sapling trees will be available for future planting. We are discussing the best locations for these within the village. At our next meeting we will discuss the number and type of sapling trees we would like to use, and then make progress more with this on-going project.

Please let us know if you have any eco thoughts or ideas you could share. We will keep you informed and up to date on all of the above projects in the coming weeks.

George Grant



Saturday 23rd March, 10.00 – 12.00, £ 3.00/£1.00

And That's an End To It!

There was a man who had worked all his life and saved all of his money. He was a real miser when it came to spending. He loved money more than anything, and as he was very ill, he said to his wife, "Now listen.... When I die, I want you to take all my money and put it in the coffin with me."

And so he got his wife to promise him with all of her heart that when he died, she would comply with his wish.

So, when he died, his body was laid out in the open coffin. His wife was sitting there in black, and her friend sitting next to her.

When all the words had been said and the ceremony concluded, just as the undertakers were about to close the lid, the wife said, "wait just a minute!" She brought out a box and put in the coffin next to the body. The undertakers locked down the coffin and rolled it away.

Her friend said, "My dear, I don't believe you were fool enough to put all that money in there."

She said, "Listen, I'm a Christian and I made a promise. I promised him that I would put all his money in the coffin with him."

"You mean to tell me you put every penny in the coffin?"

"I certainly did," said the wife. "I wrote him a cheque."



..... Or is it?

There was once another rich man who was near death. He was very sad because he had worked so hard all his days too. He too, loved money and he wanted to take it with him to Heaven. So he began to pray that he might be able to take some of his wealth with him when he died. An angel heard his plea and said to him, "Sorry, but you can't take your wealth with you."

The man implored the angel to speak to God to see if he might bend the rules. The man continued to pray that he might take his wealth with him. The angel reappeared and informed the man that God had decided to allow him to take one suitcase with him. Overjoyed, the man gathered his largest suitcase and filled it with gold bars and placed it beside his bed.

Soon afterwards the man died and arrived at the Gates of Heaven to greet St Peter. St Peter, seeing the suitcase said, "I'm sorry, you can't bring that in here!"

But the man explained to St Peter that he had permission and asked him to go and verify his story with the Lord.

Sure enough, St Peter checked and came back saying, "You're right. You're allowed one carry-on bag, but I'm supposed to check it's contents before letting it through."

St Peter opened the suitcase to inspect the worldly items that the man found too precious to leave behind and exclaimed, "You go to all that bother and you bring pavement?"

CUPPA AT THE KIRK

Cuppa at the Kirk continues every Tuesday afternoon from 2.pm until 3.30pm.

This an opportunity for folks to come and enjoy a Tea or Coffee (occasionally a cake!)and some light hearted banter.

Our thanks to everyone who comes along faithfully every week. It is great to see you but we would love to see some more people come along, so please tell all of your friends.

Everyone will be made most welcome.

The Team had a very successful Christmas Afternoon Tea Party and it is hoped we can repeat this soon.

We regularly have Music and Quizzes and we hope soon to have an Afternoon Sing-along-Film.

The dates are to be decided - so watch this space!

Thank you also to all the helpers - We couldn't manage without you.

We look forward to welcoming familiar faces and some new ones too!

The Pastoral Care Team











I am putting out my appeal again for volunteers to restart our Anchor Section (girls and boys are welcome). We need at least 3 people willing to train to become Boys' Brigade leaders. This year the

Boys' Brigade celebrates its 140 year anniversary as a youth organisation. Founded in Glasgow in 1883 with the 1st Kilbarchan formed in 1934. It would be great to see it restart again in our Kilbarchan Parish Church. You can watch a newly published YouTube video called The heritage of the Boys' Brigade.

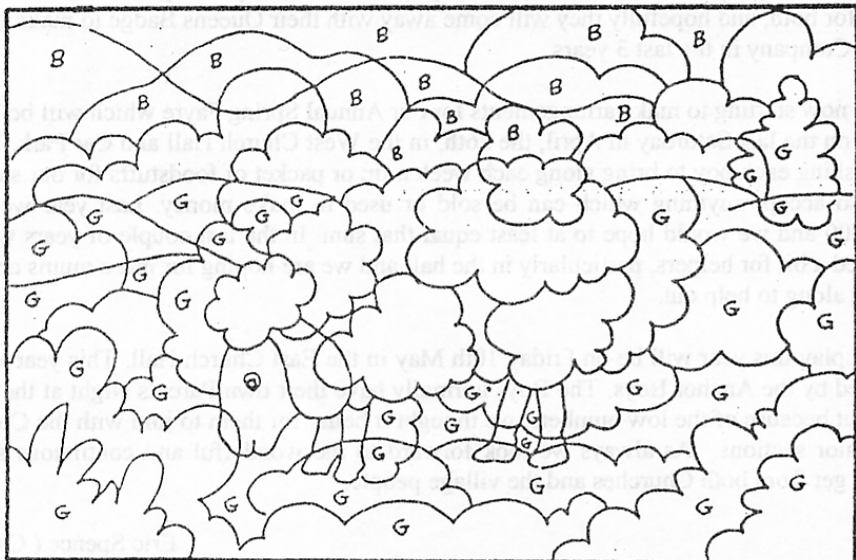
Bobby



How does God show us he loves us?

He gives everyone  and  and a beautiful 
 He comforts us when we are  and is happy when we are 
 He makes  grow so we can make . When we are not sure
 which  to go, he helps us choose wisely. He loves us ALL
 — every person is special.

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



... YOU WILL FIND AN ANIMAL JESUS KNEW WELL.

PARISH REGISTER



MEMBERS LEAVING THE CHURCH

Grant McFadyen to Erskine Parish Church

DEATHS



13/11/2023	Suzanna Mackenzie
17/11/2023	Martha Brown
25/11/2023	William Beveridge
10/12/2023	Georgena Lamont
30/01/2024	Roddy Black
29/01/2024	Ian Sievwright
29/01/2024	Sheila Gardner
03/02/2024	Claudia Russell

ROLL

The Roll of Kilbarchan Parish Church now stands at 348 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



TOD - George and Grace would like to thank everyone for the kindness shown on the sudden death of their son Grant.
The visits, cards, flowers and home baking were all very much appreciated.

USEFUL CHURCH CONTACTS

Minister - Rev Stephen Smith - [REDACTED]

Joint Session Clerk - Mrs Christine Erwin - [REDACTED]

Joint Session Clerk - T.B.A.

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

WORSHIP PROGRAMME

Sunday 3 rd March	11.00am	Morning worship
Sunday 10 th March	11.00am	Morning worship
Sunday 17 th March	11.00am	Morning worship
Sunday 24 th March	11.00am	Morning worship
Thursgay 28 th March	7.00pm	Maunday Thursday Service
Frriday 29 th March	7.00pm	Good Friday Service
Sunday 31 st March	8.30am	Early Morning Service at the Weavers Cottage
	11.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday 7 th April	11.00am	Morning worship
Sunday 14 th April	11.00am	Morning worship
Sunday 21 st April	11.00am	Morning worship
Sunday 28 ^h April	11.00am	Morning worship
Sunday 5 th May	11.00am	Morning worship
Sunday 12 th May	11.00am	Morning worship
Sunday 19 th May	11.00am	Morning worship
Sunday 26 th May	11.00am	Morning worship
Sunday 2 nd June	11.00am	Morning worship

