



Kilbarchan Parish Church

Your local church magazine

Last weekend, I headed to Glasgow for the final afternoon of the World Pipe Band Championships, the pinnacle of the Pipe band calendar.

I saw several Grade 1 Bands including Inverary and District who were crowned World Champions for the 2nd year running. I also saw our own Pipe Band play and the 3B band winning 6th position in the World in the 3B section.

Glasgow Green was awash with the sound of the pipes and the drums.

As you know, I do drum, I have drummed since I was 14, mainly a drum kit. I have played in various bands over the years. I love drumming so much that in a CV I once compared myself to Animal from the Muppets. When I appeared for interview, a member of the panel looked confused, he was expecting someone with wild unruly hair and lots of it!

Recently I have picked up the sticks again and head along for drum practice with the Pipe band. Its good fun but also hard work as I relearn what are called the rudiments, the building blocks of drumming.

To become good at something or improve a skill, you have to practice. And then practice again. And then practice some more.

There is a story told of Sir Winston Churchill accepting an invitation to return to his old school at the annual prizegiving.

The boys were warned to be on their best behaviour, some speeches go on and on, and the teachers didn't want the boys to become restless. Politician can speak for the length of a ministers sermon if not more.

Sir Winston Churchill stood up and gave the shortest speech ever. I want you remember this

He said - NEVER GIVE UP! NEVER GIVE UP! NEVER GIVE UP! And then he sat down.

The children all clapped. This is a message for me, for you, for all of us.

We must never give up, being true to who you are, Never give up being kind, being caring being loving.

For God never gives up on any of us.

Your friend *Stephen*



FROM THE EDITOR

Hi everyone,

By the time you are reading this, the church organisations will mostly be back in full swing.

We have had wonderful weather for the school break and whether you spent your holiday in Kilbarchan or

somewhere just as exotic, I hope you enjoyed the sunshine. All good things come to an end what with the schools resuming and church groups also starting up there will be plenty of choice over the coming months.

Remember this is YOUR church magazine and I can't print what I don't get in. All items for the Winter magazine should reach me by Sunday 23rd November at the latest. As usual early typed copy would much appreciated

Alastair MacKinnon, Editor



The following was received by a member of our congregation from a friend in the USA and simply titled:-

God's Work

- Coincidence is when God chooses to remain anonymous.
- Prayer: Don't give God instructions, just report for duty.
- Don't put a question mark where God put a period.
- Forbidden fruits create many jams.
- God doesn't call the qualified, he qualifies the called.
- God loves everyone, but probably prefers "fruits of the spirit" over "religious nuts!"
- God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage.
- If God is your co-pilot - swap seats.
- Most people want to serve God, but only in an advisory capacity.
- The task ahead is never as great as the Power behind us.
- We don't change the message, the message changes us.

KIRK SESSION REPORT

During the summer months, there was only one session meeting. It was held in June, which now seems a long time ago, but I hope you all have some pleasant memories of the sunny days we have had this year.

Amongst other business, we agreed to

- take part in the Renfrewshire Doors Open Scheme again
- participate in the Blythswood Shoe Box Appeal
- have another soup lunch in aid of Mary's Meals following the Harvest Service
- proceed with arrangements for a Youth Quiz in October
- a request for some funding from the benevolent fund contributing towards the cost of the seniors' afternoon tea.

At that meeting, we accepted the resignation of Ian Keith from the post of Presbytery Elder. Ian had faithfully attended Presbytery meetings on our behalf for many years and then reported back to the Session. Ian was given a plant for his garden in recognition of his commitment to this role.

We were then pleased to appoint Graham McKay to take on the role of Presbytery elder for Kilbarchan Parish Church.

It was with regret, but understanding, that we recorded that Aaron had made the difficult decision to leave his post as our Assistant minister and take up a position with Skills Development Scotland, in order to provide financial stability for his family. A presentation had been made to him on the completion of his Probationary period but following his last service with us, there was a cake with an image of some of the things (apart from his services) which he will be remembered for.

He will be missed both by the congregations and by Stephen who will feel the loss of his help ministering to the communities of Kilbarchan and Howwood.

Further to the recent safeguarding and OSCR changes, Margaret McIntyre and Yvonne Kane have agreed to relinquish their districts and have their names added to the list of elders' emeritus. Stephen expressed the gratitude of Session for all their contributions to Session over many years.

At the end of worship on Sunday 25 May, long service certificates were presented to Gwen Howden, Alan Fulton, Margaret Gibb and Graham McKay in recognition of thirty years dedicated service as elders in Kilbarchan.

Unfortunately, Joyce Scott was unable to be in Church then, so Stephen and Christine took her certificate to her later.

They had been ordained in the former East Church on Sunday 28 May 1995 by Rev Alaster Bull and we are so very grateful for all the work they have done for the Church in Kilbarchan before and since being ordained as elders.

Again, it is sad to write of the death of more of our members – their names are recorded later in the magazine.

However, it has been encouraging to see new faces coming regularly to worship in Kilbarchan – we hope they will all have received a warm welcome from the congregation and will become involved in some of our Groups which will be starting up again soon.

Christine and Helen.



Messy Church in Kilbarchan

*Church Halls,
Steeple Square,
Kilbarchan*



- * games
- * crafts

* fun

* worship

* food

Everyone is welcome

All children must
be accompanied
by an adult

Entry is **FREE!!!**



Saturday 20th September

4.00pm – 6.00pm

KILBARCHAN PARISH CHURCH MISSION TEAM REPORT

I hope that you have all had a lovely summer and managed to enjoy some sunshine?

It's that time of year when we start to look forward to all our usual activities starting up again.

You'll be pleased to know that the Mission Team will be holding another Soup Lunch in aid of Mary's Meals on Harvest Sunday 5th October. Please put the date in your diary and come along to enjoy a delicious bowl of soup, interesting chat and support this very worthwhile cause. Entry is by donation to Mary's Meals.

Although it's far too early to think about the "C" word, The Mission Team will be holding a Family Christmas Film afternoon in the Hall on Sunday 7th December at 2pm. Look out for further details nearer the time.

KILBARCHAN PARISH CHURCH ECO GROUP

The Eco Group has been pretty quiet over the summer but we are now gearing up for a busy time over the coming months.

We are planning another Joint Litterpick with Kilbarchan Smile on Saturday 4th October at 2pm. This is a fun activity for all ages and helps ensure that we keep our village looking beautiful. There is the added bonus of a cup of tea/coffee and delicious home baking in the hall afterwards for all who take part.

Following on from the success of our Wateraid Coffee morning last year, we plan to hold another Coffee Morning on Saturday 8th November from 10am-12noon. Entry will be £4 for adults, children free, and will include tea/coffee and home baking. Please put this date in your diary and come along to support this Charity's mission to provide clean water for everyone everywhere.

Plans are also afoot to hold a Fashion Recycling Event in November-details to be confirmed-watch this space.

Many thanks for your continuing support

The Mission Team and Eco Group

MUSIC IN WORSHIP

Music has featured in Western Christian Worship from earliest times. Starting with early, sung plain chant, music developed from the 17th century into Cantatas, Oratorios and Masses written by skilled composers to modern times. The introduction of organ music into Scottish churches, particularly within the Church of



Scotland, was a gradual and often contentious process, marked by significant resistance and eventual acceptance. By 1866, however, The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland made it clear that it saw no objection in principle to the use of organs. What then is the purpose of music in worship?

Preparatory: The music played as the congregation gathers in church is chosen to ‘set the scene’ for the worship to follow. It is usually quiet and reflective to promote a sense of calm and tranquillity. Examples of such music include perhaps a Bach Prelude, a classical piece, such as ‘Sheep May Safely Graze’, a modern classic, like Bernstein’s ‘Somewhere’, or an achingly beautiful Scottish Slow Air, e.g. Phil Cunningham’s ‘Loch Katrine’s Lady.’

Worshipful: Singing psalms and hymns is a major part of our worship and these are chosen by the Minister to reflect the seasons, the church calendar and important events, e.g. Christenings, Remembrance, etc. Some hymns are rousing; some are tranquil; some are fast; some are slow. Even different verses require different styles. My task as Organist is to lead the singing as appropriate. An unaccompanied verse or last line is singularly effective and the congregation knows to keep singing.

Celebratory: The closing Voluntary aims to have the congregation leave the church with joy or meaning. The Ukrainian National Anthem is played to remind us of that continuing struggle, ‘Variations on America’ by Charles Ives is played on the Sunday nearest 4th July, as is ‘La Marseillaise’ near Bastille Day, ‘Scots Wha Hae’ near St Andrew’s Day, and ‘The Dambusters March’ in mid-May. Sometimes it’s simply a March, Toccata or Trumpet Tune to send the congregation out with a smile. Occasionally, it’s a very quiet piece to reflect sorrow after a tragic event.

Choral: The Choir has an important role in leading congregational singing and performing Introits and Anthems which enhance worship. I am greatly supported by the Choir whose members are incredibly talented and loyal.

Sir Chris Hoy's "Tour de 4" Charity Cycling Challenge

The Tour de 4 is a brand new cycling initiative, born from Sir Chris Hoy's vision to change perceptions around stage 4 cancer following his own diagnosis.

He's encouraging all those affected by cancer directly or indirectly to come together for this inaugural event.

This event is open to anyone who can ride a bike to get involved so

I will be participating in this challenge and will be cycling the blue route which is 37.4 miles long.

I will be fundraising on behalf of Cancer Research UK and if you are able to support me you can by following the link to my GoFundMe page on the church website or by using the link below.

<https://gofund.me/9a4cd7a5>

Thank you

Graham McKay



SOUP LUNCH

Sunday 5th October

The Mission team are holding a Soup Lunch in the hall after the Harvest Thanksgiving service on Sunday the 5th October. This is in aid of Marys Meals, a charitable organisation the church has supported over the years.

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

See you there

The Mission Team

THIS IS THE WORLD THAT GOD MADE

This is the field
that is part of the world that God made.

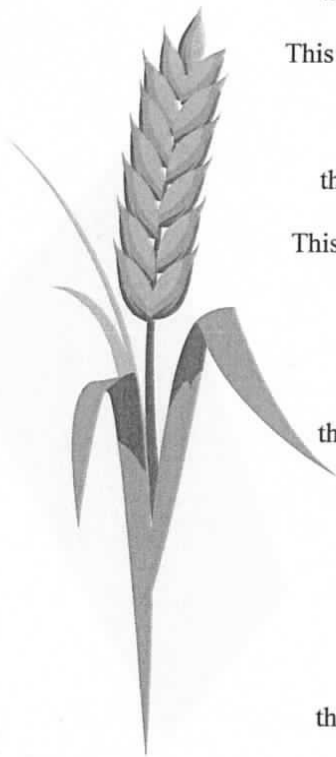
This is the wheat
that was planted by the farmer
that grows in the field
that is part of the world that God made.

This is the flour that was ground by the miller
that comes from the wheat
that was planted by the farmer
that grows in the field
that is part of the world that God made.

This is the bread that was made by the baker
that contains the flour
that was ground by the miller
that comes from the wheat
that was planted by the farmer
that grows in the field
that is part of the world that God made.

This our tea when we eat the bread
that was made by the baker
that contains the flour
that was ground by the miller
that comes from the wheat
that was planted by the farmer
that grows in the field
that is part of the world that God made.

This is the day when we say 'THANK YOU'
to the baker,
the miller,
the farmer
and to God
for giving us bread by which we live
in the wonderful world which God made.



CUPPA AT THE KIRK

Cuppa at the Kirk continues on Tuesday afternoons in the Church Hall from Tuesday 26th August from 2pm - 3.30, until the last 'Cuppa' of the year on Tuesday 9th December.

Everyone who comes seems to enjoy the banter and numbers have steadily increased since the start.

The Pastoral care Team have organised an Afternoon Tea event on Saturday 13th September at 2pm, and it is hoped the weather will be more favourable than last year when we had a heavy snowfall!

If you have not already had an invitation from your Church Elder, and you would like to come, please give your name to any member of the Pastoral Care Team.

The team would like to thank everyone who supports Cuppa, and to everyone who helps on a Tuesday afternoon.

If you haven't already given it a try, please come along. You will be made most welcome.

Arlene McKay



JUNIOR CHURCH

We hope all our children and their families have had an enjoyable summer and have made the most of the mainly decent weather. Hopefully the books received at our prize-giving service have been avidly read during the summer break. We look forward to welcoming our children back and hearing what they all got up to when we resume Junior Church on Sunday 14th September.

Enjoy the sunshine. ☀

Take Care!

Ros, Shona, June & Katy

THOUGHTS ON PRAYER

What is prayer?

I looked in the dictionary and found some definition like “ The practice of addressing God in words or through meditation, as in praise, gratitude, sorrow or intercession.” Another was “A specially worded form used in addressing God.”

These don't sound particularly user-friendly to me, and when I was given a little card with some other definitions on it I thought I'd share them with you.

Prayer is ...

The key of the morning and the bolt of the evening.

Two people in love.

A wish turned God wards.

A conversation with God.

Prayer is seeing things from God's point of view.

And some advice ...

Pray with persistence but not impatience.

Give God a moment – He will turn it into gold.

God loves to use small to do great things.

And for prayer to be effective and powerful, all you need is the time, the place and the Book.

Time: Enough to forget how much it is.

Place: The more alone you are so far as others are concerned, the less alone you are as far as God is concerned.

The real, rare blessing is, not that you actually pray, though will... not that you actually read the Book, though you will ... it is this ... there's Someone else there.

Book: Bible reading is the listening side of prayer.

As seen in “THE LINK” – the magazine of St Ninian's Parish Church, Stonehouse



TOTS'CLUB

The club resumes on Monday 1st September from 9.15-11.30am. We shall welcome tots from birth-3 years along with their accompanying adults. If you'd like to help please speak to any of us.

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



SUPPORTING RENFREWSHIRE FOODBANK – THANK YOU

Renfrewshire Foodbank would like to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt thanks to the congregation for their ongoing support of Renfrewshire Foodbank.

Your generous donations of food, essential items, and cash continue to make a real difference in the lives of people facing crisis in our community.

Thanks to your kindness and the support of others across Renfrewshire, in 2024 we were able to provide emergency food to over 10,400 people in need. This is an incredible figure, and one that reflects both the growing need in our communities and the power of collective compassion.

Unfortunately, the need for our services continues to rise in 2025, and we are already seeing signs that this year could be even more challenging. While we remain deeply grateful for all the support we receive, our biggest challenge right now is stock.

The volume of donations we receive is no longer enough to meet the increasing demand. As a result, we are having to supplement supplies by purchasing food in bulk from wholesalers to ensure no one in Renfrewshire goes hungry.

Your continued support, whether through donating items, fundraising, or raising awareness, is vital and so appreciated.

Thank you once again for standing with us and helping to support some of the most vulnerable members of our community.



This Fairtrade Fortnight, from 22 September to 5 October 2025, thousands of individuals, schools, community groups and companies across the UK will unite under Fairtrade's "Do It Fair" campaign to celebrate and stand with the people around the world behind the everyday products we love. Our Church is a Fairtrade Church using only Fairtrade coffee, tea and sugar. Watch out for fairtrade events coming soon.

AUTUMN WORDSEARCH

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

NOVEMBER
 HALLOWEEN
 HARVEST
 OCTOBER
 COZY
 CINNAMON
 SWEATER
 SEPTEMBER
 FIREPLACE
 MAPLE
 HOT CHOCOLATE
 APPLES
 SPICES
 PIE
 THANKSGIVING
 LEAF
 SCARF
 CHILLY
 PUMPKIN
 SPOOKY
 WINDY



FUNDRAISING

Art off the Square will have taken place by the time you read this. Thanks in advance to Myra and George and to everyone who helped in any way. There have been various discussions about the way ahead for Fundraising, particularly the need for new committee members and/or people to organise a specific event. There will be a meeting on 21st September in the small hall after the service. Hopefully anyone interested in helping will come along and we can organise some new events. If you are interested and unable to come on 21st, please speak to Jenifer Pitchers

FINANCE TEAM REPORT

This is the time of year when our Freewill Offering Convenor, Neil Chittick, will order the FWO envelopes for 2026.

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

We would ask, therefore, that any member who no longer wants FWO envelopes, notifies Neil or any member of the Finance Team **before 14th. September 2025**.

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

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

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

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

FINANCE TEAM

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

PROPERTY REPORT

A number of projects had been carried over from 2024 for completion this year:

- **The large stained glass panels have been installed in the church vestibule.** The small panels will be installed in the halls soon.

During the last few months,

- the underside of the side galleries has been plaster-boarded and replastered;
- The redecoration will take place after August;
- the internal gable of the large hall has been replastered and will be redecorated after a short period to ensure the plaster has dried;
- the redecoration and re-carpeting of the Session House is due to start at the end of August;
- the external gable of the hall will be repainted soon;
- the upgrade of the rear path adjacent to the church is being re-assessed.
- the first phase of repairing the manse fence has been completed and the second phase should begin in August.

Malcolm MacAskill
Property Convener



MIDWEEK FELLOWSHIP



We will re-start on September 10th, meeting in the small hall at 10.30am for a cuppa and chat followed around 11.00 with a short service. If you feel you need to charge your batteries midweek then this is the ideal time and place. It is all very informal and you can be sure of a warm welcome. Just give it a try.

Kilbarchan Parish Church of Scotland

Kilbarchan Kirk Online



Find all the information you need on what's happening at KPC on our website and social media.

Web: kilbarchan-kirk.btkc.co.uk

Twitter: @KilbarchanKirk



SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING GROUP.

The Scottish Country Dance Class will start up again on 9th September at 7.30pm in the church hall. As well as being a friendly, sociable class that welcomes

new and experienced dancers, and in addition to brushing up on a bit of style and technique, Scottish Dancing is renowned for it's health benefits. Exercise your mind as well as your body as you work your way through the maze of intricate patterns and steps. (I am joking of course.) Yes it's great exercise for body and mind but first of all it's fun and very sociable.

The class is open to all, not just to our Church members. So, if you have a friend that wants to try it out, encourage them to come along. Tuition is given and patience is the by-word of everyone in the class.

I must not forget the tea and biscuits at the interval - all for £2.50.

If you would like more information contact Mrs Helen Miller at 703631.

Les Lambert. Teacher.

ART OFF THE SQUARE 2025

Once again the exhibition this year was a big success, with over 200 paintings on display, along with Jewellery, Textiles and Woodturning. This was a huge team effort and thanks are due to everyone who organised the event, distributed advertising, helped with the hanging and dismantling of the work, kept the church hall clean and tidy, greeted visitors, served teas and coffee, and provided home baking and, of course, to everyone who came along and supported it. This is the Church's biggest fundraising event of the year which, this year, has raised over £7,000 for Church funds. We had many lovely comments about the exhibition and, of course, the legendary home baking, which we were told was + 'second to none'. Thanks to all concerned.



MESSY CHURCH

Can't believe that its 10 years since Joan and Alastair brought the Messy church team together, many of whom are still as active as they were on day one and, with their foresight and guidance, made it the success that it is today.

How time flies.....

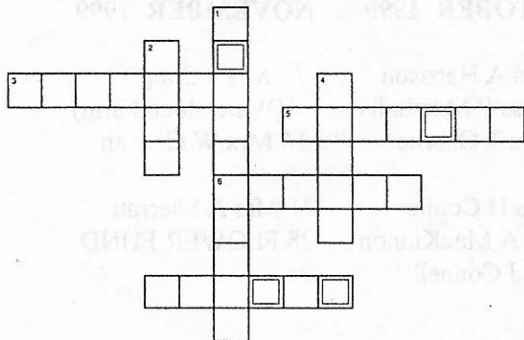
Messy church meets usually on the third Saturday of the month from September through to May in the church halls from 4 - 6pm. The team are busy planning our themes for the next session which typically begins with a short introduction to the Bible story followed by lots of creative activities, singing and a short film before we share a simple meal. You can see some photos of our previous sessions on the church website. We will begin our new session on Saturday 20 September where children who enjoy fun and fellowship will be very welcome, all we ask is that they bring an adult with them.

CHILDREN'S CORNER



Rearrange the letters in the ☐ boxes to find out what Zechariah was told to call his son.

Find the answers in Luke 1:8-17

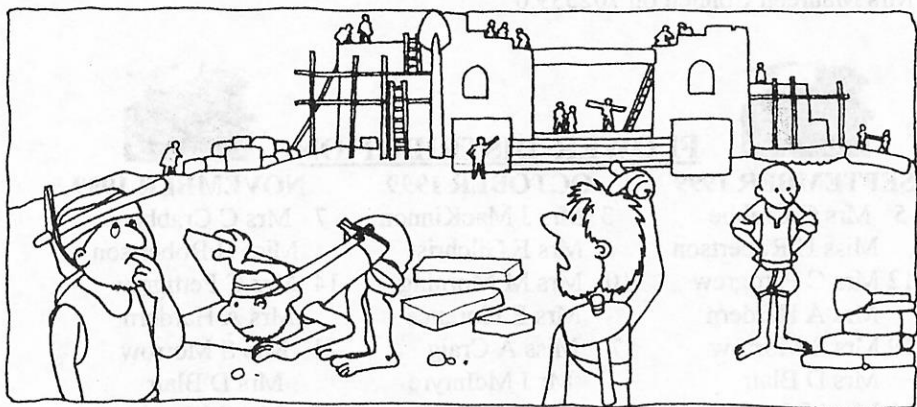


ACROSS

- 3 What was the angel's name?
- 5 What was Zechariah burning?
- 6 What was Zechariah's job?
- 7 Which prophet would Zechariah's son be like?

DOWN

- 1 What would Zechariah's son be filled with?
- 2 What would Zechariah's son not be allowed to drink?
- 4 What appeared to Zechariah?



Some of the workmen have lost their tools.
Can you find them?



Adze



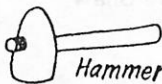
Shovel



Mallet



Pick



Hammer



Saw

PARISH REGISTER

Certificate of Transference - New Member

Mr Allan Durward
Mrs Jennifer Durward
Mr Robert Thirde
Mrs Rosemary Thirde
Mrs Norma Hancock

Deaths

03/06/2025 Anne Logan
15/07/2025 Louise Mills
29/07/2025 Anne McCallum
09/08/2025 Margaret Smith
11/08/2025 Hamish Munro

The Roll of Kilbarchan Parish Church now stands at 312 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



I would like to thank everyone who has visited and sent messages of sympathy to myself, Carol and family over the last few weeks since Robert's passing, The support we have received is appreciated and has been a great comfort during a difficult time,
Many thanks to all those who attended Robert's funeral, It was lovely to have so many Church family present.
The retiring collection in aid of Dementia UK raised £590.
Thanks again
Joyce



Well done to the Church gardeners who have done such a wonderful job this year. The colour has been spectacular. We are very fortunate to have such talented volunteers. *Margaret Beattie*

USEFUL CHURCH CONTACTS

Minister - Rev Stephen Smith - 01505 702621

Session Clerk - Mrs Christine Erwin - 01505 703056

Ass. Session Clerk - Miss Helen Robertson - 01505 325382

Worship Programme

Sunday 7 th September	11.15am	Morning worship
Sunday 14 th September	11.15am	Morning worship
Sunday 21 st September	11.15am	Morning worship
Sunday 28 th September	11.15am	Morning worship
Sunday 5 th October	11.15am	Morning worship
		Harvest Thanksgiving
Sunday 12 th October	11.15am	Morning worship
Sunday 19 th October	11.15am	Morning worship
Sunday 26 th October	11.15am	Morning worship
		Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
Sunday 2 nd November	11.15am	Morning worship
Sunday 9th November		Morning worship
		Remembrance Sunday
		(time to be confirmed)
Sunday 16 th November	11.15am	Morning worship
Sunday 23 rd November	11.15am	Morning worship
Sunday 30 th November	11.15am	Morning worship
Sunday 7 th December	11.15am	Morning worship

There will be a service of light and hope on a date and at a time yet to be confirmed.

Dear Friends

