



Kilbarchan Parish Church

Your local church magazine

Dear Friends,

Lent is related to the word *length*, a reference to the lengthening of spring days preceding Easter Sunday. Lent has traditionally been understood as a penitential season of the church, meaning that it's a time to focus on repentance and turning our hearts toward God. If you grew up in a traditional Catholic household, Lent was almost always associated with giving up something, such as eating chocolate or drinking alcohol. The idea behind this kind of piety is to deny the body pleasure, because bodily pleasure is perceived as 'at odds' to spiritual fulfillment.

Self denial, at least from my perspective, begins with a false and damaging assumption, namely, that the body is sinful. My distrust of ascetic practice comes from my personal experience of doing a poor job fooling my soul into thinking I've really improved myself by giving something up. I usually wind up resentful and, in an absurd twist of events, find that what I have denied myself for a time, I crave even more than when I started.

So, rather than the idea of developing a penitential congregation for the season of Lent, instead, I encourage you to "add" something positive to your spiritual lives. (*Via Positiva* replaces *Via Negativa*!)

I've often thought adding daily prayer to one's life during the season of Lent would be a good thing. Something simple like giving thanks before each meal, praying for peace each day, or focusing prayer on the needs of others.

What about reading a daily poem for the season of Lent?

Or why not turn off the television and pick up a good book.

And here's a wild idea, why not do something really subversive like reading the Bible during Lent? I can't think of a better way to prepare for Easter than reading one of the gospels and experiencing the sacred rhythms of the life of Jesus.

Rather than seeing Lent as a dutiful season of pietistic gloom, I see it as a time of

deep hope. This season reminds us that winter doesn't last forever – light arrives and days lengthen. And much to our surprise, even some of our tears dry up with the arrival of Easter morning.

Your friend

Stephen

Home Communion

If you are ill or unable to come to church and would like to receive Home Communion, or if you know of someone who would like to receive Home Communion, please contact Stephen, our minister, or your elder. We can then make arrangements to bring this to you.

The church recognises that this is an important part of our ministry.



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 always be

welcome (I rely on them) and you don't need to wait for a deadline date but here it is anyway.

The Summer issue of our magazine will require all items to be with me at alastair.mackinnon@ntlworld.com by Sunday 17th May at the latest.

Alastair MacKinnon



Spring is in the air. As I am writing this during a slurry of snow, the day after Storm Ciara peaked, you can be assured of my optimist personality.

The snowdrops are out, the daffodils are making an attempt at an appearance and there are a number of lambs in our fields, so yes, Spring is in the air.

And with Spring, we can turn our attention back to nature, back to God's wonderful creation and remind ourselves that we are the creatures the Lord put in charge of looking after it.

“ And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all

the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.”(Genesis 1:26, KJV)

Dominion, according to the dictionary, gives control, authority. With any authority comes responsibility. We can use the earth for our needs but we have a responsibility to preserve it for further generations. What is more, we have a responsibility to ensure it is fit for purpose of all creatures who dwell on it. Climate change is a major concern to the Church of Scotland and here in Kilbarchan Parish Church, we aim to ensure we are taking steps to care for God's creation. At the beginning of the month, the Kirk Session approved the formation of a brand new committee who will over see our involvement in Eco Congregations Scotland.

Eco Congregations is a non denominational body which helps church groups across the country ensure they are running as environmentally friendly and effectively as possible.

The first step, once a committee is formed, is to register our church in the Eco Congregation website. There is the opportunity to become a Bronze, Silver and Gold member, depending on the criteria met. The wonderful aspect of Eco Congregation is it includes everyone, from regular attenders, to occasional visitor, from the Kirk Session to the Tots Club, everyone has an opportunity to take part in helping our church be more aware of our environmental impact. Indeed, there is plenty of scope for taking it community wide.

This is God's creation but it is our home and this is your group. For more information, please speak to me and I will try to point you in the right direction.

Best Wishes,

Dorothy Wallace

KIRK SESSION REPORT

Over the last few months, the Kirk Session has been pleased to see Dorothy regularly taking part in our worship and getting to know our congregation both by visiting and chatting after the services. It has been good too, to welcome Alex and other members of her family to our fellowship.

Over the Christmas period, we were delighted that so many members (and visitors) came to participate in our worship, particularly to the new initiative of the afternoon service of Light and Hope which celebrated Christmas in a quieter, more reflective way. Thanks go to the Junior Church and their helpers for the Nativity Play and to Ian Trushell and the Choir for leading the service of nine lessons and carols. All of these contribute so much to our worship and fellowship. We were also pleased to see a very good attendance at the informal communion on the first Sunday of the New Year.

The appointment of the finance team was approved at a meeting of all Church trustees in December and this group is now making good progress towards settling into the new system of shared responsibilities. We are very grateful to June, Ian, Myra and Neil for taking on this important work.

Since the last magazine, there has been one regular meeting of the Kirk Session at which approval was given for four new elders to be ordained. It is hoped this service can be held in March. Plans were outlined for a session “Away Day” at the end of March when elders will be, amongst other topics, prioritising and developing the Action Plan which was approved last year. Approval was given for the establishment of a committee to develop the aims of Eco Congregations within our Parish.

Also, at this meeting, Marjory Love was able to confirm that the sale of the former West Church and Hall buildings had been concluded on 20 December 2019. This followed a protracted period of negotiation and the Session expressed its grateful thanks to Marjory for all the time and effort she had once again committed to ensuring the best possible outcome.

Alasdair Law and Christine Erwin – joint session clerks

Beadle Duties

March	Marie Alexander	Ian Keith	Margaret Gibb
April	Isabelle Robertson	Alasdair Law	Myra Grant
May	Mary Marrison	Christine Erwin	Willie Beattie

FINANCE TEAM REPORT

Over the past few months, we have been working hard to establish a new Finance Team to take responsibility for the role and duties of the Treasurer and ensure all matters relating to financial administration for the Church are dealt with efficiently. Four people have volunteered to be part of the Finance Team - June Burgess, Ian Trushell, Myra Grant and Neil Chittick. Detailed proposals for the Team were approved by a meeting of the Church Trustees on 3 December 2019. An outline of the roles of the Team members is given below:

- June Burgess: Named Treasurer and lead administrator, payments, bank reconciliation and reporting.
- Ian Trushell: Deputy lead administrator, payments, bank reconciliation and reporting.
- Myra Grant: Cashier (income other than church offerings) and petty cash.
- Neil Chittick: Cashier (for Church events)

A number of existing volunteers will continue to support the Finance Team with a variety of specific duties relating to Church finances. Jim Moffat will provide ongoing advice and support to the Team. We greatly appreciate the commitment of everyone involved.

Jim has prepared the financial statement for the year ended 31 December 2019 and will provide a report to the Stated Annual Meeting on 15 March 2020.

With offerings holding up, fundraising well supported and the receipt of a number of generous legacies during 2019, we were able to meet expenditure without utilising reserves. For most of the year, reserves remained virtually unchanged from the level at the start of 2019. However, at the end of December 2019, the sale of the former West Parish Church and Hall was concluded, thereby considerably increasing our reserves. The amount from the sale is held by the Trustees of the Church of Scotland on behalf of our Church and can only be used for fabric expenditure. Details will be available at the Stated Annual Meeting.

While it is good news to have reserves, it is important that we all regularly review our level of giving. Undoubtedly, there will be challenges in the decades to come that will have to be met to ensure the continuing presence of the Parish Church to serve the people of Kilbarchan and Brookfield.

Finance Team

kpc.finance.2020@gmail.com

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.btck.co.uk



Twitter: @KilbarchanKirk

Facebook: facebook.com/kilbarchankirk

Our online profile continues to grow and develop. Interaction between ourselves, the national Church of Scotland and other local churches is really enhancing our social media involvement. While information on our website tends to be more static, like worship times, contact details and general information on our groups and clubs, it is on social media (Facebook in particular) where more of the dynamic content can be found. Most of our organisations are still not taking advantage of the incredible reach that our social media has. There is no need for group leaders to be active on social media for their information to be shared. Simply send an email to kilbarchankirk@gmail.com and it can be added to our Facebook and Twitter.

Get involved in sharing what we have to offer our community.

Alan



“People will wrangle for religion; write for it; fight for it; die for it;
anything but live for it.”

C.C. Colton

JUNIOR CHURCH



Can't believe we're already midway through February folks, isn't it lovely see the snowdrops herald that Spring is just around the corner!

It's great to see that we now have such a strong core of children that attend Junior Church each Sunday with quite a wide gap in age from youngest to oldest which offers a variety of different perspectives on the bible themes we cover each week.

So far this year we have had an interactive look at the 23rd Psalm, it's meaning and learned about it's author, David, through games and actions for the psalm itself. We have explored prayer and discussed how we use it to communicate with God, through fun activities such as naming something we can pray about using every letter of the alphabet, looking at different forms of communication I.e. letters, phone, semaphore, morse code to name but a few. We have been learning some new songs and prayers as well which hopefully the children can sing for the congregation at the Easter service.

We have a sponsored walk planned once we can agree a suitable date in February/March or April with parents, to hopefully allow the majority of the children to attend. We will raise money to send to Australia to help the animals affected by the terrible bush fires. Originally we were going to raise money for the SSPCA, however after seeing what was happening in Australia the children wanted to donate any money they raise for this cause instead. Each child will have a sponsor form, created by Alasdair, so please support them if you are able. Venue will be Lochwinnoch, from Castle Semple Loch cafe walking to and around Parkhill Woods and then back to the cafe for a drink and snack.

Topics on the run up to Easter are, The Lord's Prayer with a novel craft to help the children remember it, a look at Lent and what it means, lots of fun activities to help learn about The Fruits of the Spirit which will take place over a few weeks.

Lastly as always we would like to thank all our wonderful helpers for their invaluable assistance and hope our newest additions are finding their time spent with Junior Church both enjoyable and rewarding.

Ros & Shona

.PRESBYTERY OF GREENOCK AND PAISLEY

Tuesday 10th December 2019

APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONERS TO THE GENERAL

ASSEMBLY 2020: The Presbytery of Greenock and Paisley elected its representatives to the ensuing General Assembly as resolved on 12th November 2019.

PRESBYTERY REFORM PROPOSALS: the Business Committee was instructed to progress a Petition to the General Assembly of 2020 to unite the Presbytery of Greenock and Paisley with the Presbytery of Dumbarton from 1 September, 2020 or earlier if both Presbyteries agree, to make the arrangements required to enable that union to take place and to wind up or transfer any business or aspect of the Presbytery's life and witness which will not transfer to the new, united Presbytery.

BUSINESS: of the 14 General Assembly commissions allocated to Greenock & Paisley, only 12 ministerial and elder commissions have been taken up; Rev Ken Gray was appointed as Interim Moderator of Paisley: South from 30th January 2020 on the union of Paisley Lylesland and Paisley St Luke's, Rev Eric McLachlan will continue as locum at Paisley South following the union with locum duties being shared with Mrs. Christine McDonald; Rev David Stewart has retired as Presbytery chaplain from 31st December 2019.

PRESBYTERY PLAN REVIEW: the Basis of Guardianship for Port Glasgow: Hamilton Bardrainney was approved; the Presbytery plan for Paisley: Stow Brae is suspended, conversations are taking place between Stow Brae and Glenburn with a view to a possible linkage or union; the Presbytery plan for Paisley Abbey is for a FTE Minister of Word and Sacrament on unrestricted tenure.

MISSION & DISCIPLESHIP: Kirk Session and Mission/Outreach teams are reminded to visit the news section on the Presbytery website, which gives an overview of Mission initiatives run by our churches, to pass on information to young adults (18-30) connected to their congregations to apply for places on the new national weekend residential events: Windmill Christian Centre, Arbroath, 24th-26th January 2020, Abernethy Centre, Barcaple, 7th-9th August 2020, to consult the Dementia Friendly Churches guide https://www.dementiaaction.org.uk/news/17693_developing_a_dementia-friendly_church; Callum MacMillan, Johnstone High was nominated as Youth representative at the General Assembly in 2020.

COMMUNITY INTERESTS: members of Community Interests Committee visited Erskine Waterfront Campus meeting staff and toured the facility. The campus is part of CrossReach Residential Care and Educational Service; an invitation to lunch and conversation with Faith Community in Scotland to discuss with two people from each congregation in Greenock and Paisley Presbytery what's happening in your parish; what's good about it; what are the struggles and how to tackle poverty.

MINISTRY: Revs: Fletcher, Marshall, Murphy, Noonan and Smith will undergo training as Supervisors of candidates for the ministry.

PROPERTY; subject to the approval of the General Trustees and/or CARTA applications were approved from: Lochwinnoch congregation to sell their manse, Gourock: St.John's congregation for the installation of a new stained glass window at a cost of £30,000, Port Glasgow: New Parish Church congregation to sell the former Port Glasgow: St. Martin's church and hall buildings; a grant of £1,200 from the Cargill Bequest Fund to the Bishopton congregation in connection with the installation of an external platform lift for disabled access to the Sanctuary and an Audio Visual system was approved along with a grant of £2,500 from the Central Fabric Fund to the Bishopton congregation towards the cost of the installation of the platform lift for disabled access.

LOCAL CHURCH REVIEW: reports of Houston and Killellan, Johnstone St Paul's, and Linwood, the Interim Report for Elderslie Kirk and the draft report for Johnstone St. Andrew's Trinity were submitted to Presbytery; thanks to the visiting teams and team leaders for their diligence in following the timetable to allow these reports to be submitted; the report for Johnstone High will be presented at the February 2020 meeting of Presbytery; the committee encourages each congregation for the many different initiatives being undertaken in each place; the action plans and initiatives for each congregation and encourages their office-bearers as they seek to take initiatives identified forward; the committee intends to conduct Local Church Reviews in six congregations within the first half of 2020. These congregations are Bishopton, Erskine, Greenock St Margaret's, Inchinnan, Langbank and Port Glasgow Hamilton Bardrainey.

SUPERINTENDENCE: the annual inspection of records will take place on Tuesday 11th February 2020 between 1.30pm and 3pm in Barrhead: Bourock and Paisley: St Mark's Oldhall, and on Wednesday 12th February 2020 between 1.30pm and 3pm in Greenock: Lyle Kirk, Newark St building and Bridge of Weir: Freeland.



1ST KILBARCHAN BOYS' BRIGADE COMPANY

I was feeling discouraged at the start of January 2020! We seemed to be losing too many of our Junior Section boys and I was wondering what I was doing wrong, however, after watching and speaking to my leaders we felt we had to carry on with our Boys' Brigade Company and weather the storm. Watching the leaders work on a Friday night with the boys, I could see the enthusiasm and commitment of the work being carried out by the leaders. The lost boys were taking up other activities on a Friday evening and the boys we still had coming were enthusiastic and happy. Changing to another night was not possible as the hall was being fully used by other church organisations. Looking to the future, we have 2 boys who will complete their Queen's Badge this session and will be going on their Completion Course at BB Scottish Headquarters at Carronvale near Falkirk. We have around 6 boys and 2 officers going to the Cumbrae Camp in May we are still a very active Boys' Brigade Company. We recently managed to gain bronze medals at the Paisley Battalion Ten-Pin Bowling Competition. So all is not lost – Our Anchor will hold! Reflecting on the object of The Boys' Brigade allowed me to regain my enthusiasm for the work the Company does for our young people and that we still have an important part to play in the life of the church.

The **Object of The Boys' Brigade** is:

“The advancement of Christ's kingdom among **Boys** and the promotion of habits of Obedience, Reverence, Discipline, Self-respect and all that tends towards a true Christian manliness.”



HALLOWEEN



It was really appreciated when parents thanked us for the work and kindness of our Company Officers when our boys moved on to other activities. There is always the possibility of them returning to us when their present new activity changes and Friday attendance is possible.

We have our Coffee Morning coming up on Saturday 14th March 2020 from 10 am to 12 noon and I know many in the church will support us on that day.

If you do your internet shopping with Amazon.co.uk then you can support 1st Kilbarchan Boys' Brigade by using smile.amazon.co.uk and choosing 1st Kilbarchan Boys' Brigade as your nominated charity and a small percentage of your purchases will be donated to us at no extra cost to yourself. You know it makes sense!

Thanks for your continued support. Looking forward to growing the Company in 2020!

Robert Stevenson, Captain



Saturday 4th April , 10.00am – 12.00noon, £3.00/£1.00



“When I was 14 my father was so ignorant I could hardly bear him, but by the time I was 21 I was amazed to see how much he had learnt in the last seven years.”

Mark Twain



HILL WALKING CLUB

The December walk to Bishop Hill on the eastern side of Loch Leven was a pleasant way to finish the hillwalking year. Apart from getting soaked during our stop for lunch, we had it mainly dry but had to take David's word for it that the views were superb as we were shrouded in mist all day.

The January walk is always well attended, but this year we were astounded to see as many as twelve turn up in torrential rain – and the forecast telling us it would be like that all day! We arrived at Auchinstarry, a stop on the Forth and Clyde Canal and walked along the banks to the Twecher junction where we turned off for the Antonine Wall. Leaving the road we made our way along a very muddy path and headed for the Roman Fort via the John Muir Trust Way. Our next climb was Bar Hill, where we saw the remains of the Romans' parade ground, the latrines and the baths, all well described on information boards, and then steeply climbed Croy Hill, where we were buffeted by high winds, before making our way back down to the banks of the Canal and then back to the car. A very interesting and educational walk giving us a lovely circuit of the canal during which we saw swans, goosanders, mallards and even a heron - pity the forecast got it right as the rain did not cease for a minute during our three hour outing. Not only did we not stop for coffee, we did not even stop for Alastair's ginger wine and shortbread, our traditional tippie on the first walk of the new year!

Our February walk was to Knock Hill above Largs on the day storm Ciara was forecast to hit Scotland, but we decided to continue as it was not going to take us long to get there, nor very long to complete the walk. It was a good decision as we had a lovely dry walk in sunshine with great views over the Firth of Clyde and only on the summit did we realise the wind was very strong! We even found a spot sheltered enough to have our coffee and Alastair's ginger wine. We got back to the car just after noon when the wind had really strengthened and the waves were crashing on to the promenade, but we were thankful to have had a good walk and get back dry.

The March walk is to Glen Sherrup near Glendevon taking in two Donalds and a Donald top and the April outing is to Corserine (a Corbett) and Carlin's Cairn (a Donald) on the Rhinns of Kells. The May weekend is to Corran Bunkhouse, but booking for this is now closed.

Margaret Beattie

COMBAT STRESSED??

Greenock and Paisley Presbytery have appointed Rev Iain Ramsden as their Veterans' Champion and he sends the following message: -

“If you or anyone you know struggles with recurring nightmares, anxiety, depression, trouble sleeping, flashbacks, night terrors, feelings of isolation or other similar symptoms then don't DESPAIR - **HELP IS AVAILABLE!**

There are a number of organizations which offer help and support – such as Combat Stress – sSAFA Veteran's UK – and many more – all there to help you through those difficult days and nights.

Please don't suffer in silence or keep these feelings to yourself – IT'S GOOD TO TALK AND these groups WILL offer you good, solid advice AND HELP.

Each of us suffer in different ways – but all of us need help. IT IS NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF.

For further help and advice please contact –

Rev. Iain Ramsden, in complete confidence, on

* * * 07795 972560 or email - s4rev@sky.com for more information.”



CHOCOLATE - Calling all chocolate fans and fighters for fairness! In 2020 we will continue our mission to ensure that all farmers are paid fairly for their work and are able to earn a living income, starting with cocoa farmers in West Africa.

Fairtrade Fortnight will be back Monday 24 February - Sunday 8 March 2020 and we hope to host a stall from the Rainbow Turtle shop.

We'll be continuing to focus on cocoa, the special role women farmers play in the journey to living incomes, and sharing new stories and tools to get more people choosing Fairtrade chocolate. We travelled back to Côte d'Ivoire, and Sierra Leone, to meet some truly inspiring women who want their stories to be heard by the UK. This Fortnight they need your help to share their stories and make the case for Fairtrade. For more information visit the Fairtrade Foundation web site . Thankyou

Moir

HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

If you visit the Church website you may notice that all the Health and Safety documents are now available for all to see. If you're not familiar with the website, the H&S Committee page is accessed from the Groups and Orgs page. It is the last link on the list of organisations, understandably the last because it is the newest group – not because it is seen as the least significant. For those of you without internet access, a folder has been put together containing paper copies of the H&S Plan, the Fire Risk Assessments, Emergency Evacuation Plans, and various other pieces of information. This is located in the Kitchen, beside the Accident Book.

At the last group meeting an interesting point was raised by one of the team regarding the use of covers on electrical sockets. This has been perceived by conventional wisdom and a lot of marketing to be a good thing. It was also included in a Church of Scotland safeguarding checklist. It now turns out that these “safety” items may not be such a good thing, so we queried it with the General Trustees. Here is the response of their Fire Safety Adviser,

“Due to the IET wiring regulations and BS1363, pretty much all plug sockets are of the “shuttered socket” variety. This means that, when there is no plug in the socket, the live and neutral terminals are protected by a shutter which prevents access by little fingers or other things like pens, screwdrivers etc. The reason a plug can get in is that the earth pin on the plug is longer than the other two which activates the shutter and allows the pin access.

In order to defeat that mechanism, something would need to go into the earth terminal to open the shutter. The issue with these socket guards is that they are not certified or rated for use in BS1363 sockets. In my opinion they are utterly unnecessary as the protection for which they are sold is already provided by the socket itself.

There are further issues with the socket protectors – many are moulded to the incorrect dimensions for a BS1363 socket and could actually cause damage to the socket. This could result in damage to electrical equipment, shorting or even fire risk.

There is also the risk that someone breaks one with the “earth” pin stuck inside. This then defeats the shutter built into the socket and exposes the live and neutral contacts.”

So we no longer need to put these dummy plugs into our electric sockets.

We are still looking to get the doors at the pulpit end of the sanctuary made more evacuation friendly, and progress is being made to replace the heavy, and high, bolts with a user friendly lever mechanism. Once this has been done you may expect the Fire Drill required by the powers-that-be in George St, Edinburgh to take place, so this is something to look forward to.

Further Information

As information becomes available it will continue to be posted on the Church website and added to the H&S Folder in the Kitchen. Further information may be had from myself or any member of the Team. And of course any worries or points of concern can be raised at any time.

Tony Martin



After the excesses of Christmas and Valentine's Day, I thought it would be appropriate to continue our 23rd Psalm variations with the following – simply headed :-

'DIETING'

My diet is my shepherd, I shall not want,
It makes me jog quietly round and round green pastures,
It leads me to quietly drink water,
And jump on and off the scales.
It guides me to resist all pleasurable food
For my figure's sake.

Even as I walk through the supermarket aisles
I will buy no Bovril
For you are with me;
Your measuring tape and your calorie counter
They confuse me.

You prepare a table before me
In the presence of the Tellytubbies.
You cover my lettuce with low-fat mayonnaise,
My diet coke overflows
Surely a rumbling stomach and a feeling of irritability will be with me
All the days of my slimming plan
And I will worry about my weight forever.

Dr. Debbie Lovell

‘SHOPPING LIST’ QUIZ ANSWERS

1	Letter to drink	Tea
2	The ‘Staff of Life’	Bread
3	From the sea	Fish
4	Ram or billygoat	Butter
5	Old sailor	Salt
6	King or Emperor	Penguin
7	Long stories, they say	Cereals
8	Swiss or sausage perhaps	Rolls
9	Farewells	Cherrios
10	Angle digits	Fish fingers
11	Tipsy tearmakers	Pickled onions
12	Male leaves – from Eden?	Mangoes
13	Iced letters	Frozen peas
14	Dandy penguin	Macaroni
15	Hinder short man	Detergent
16	Ask for braces	Pears
17	Popeye’s girlfriend perhaps?	Olive oil
18	Rasp, Straw or Traffic	Jam
19	For lighting or planting	Bulbs
20	Vikings and their eye colour	Danish blue
21	Incites	Eggs
22	Dog rose perhaps?	Cauliflower
23	Fully grown and a well known gorge	Mature cheddar
24	Eastenders, River City etc.’	Soap
25	Vehicle disintegrates	Carrots

For the first time in the 25 years that I have been doing a quiz there were no correct sheets handed in. The joint winners with 23 correct answers were, namely

Margaret Gibb of Kilbarchan and MacKinnon family of Lerwick
each of whom will receive a £10 Braehead voucher.

The sum of £151 was raised for Church Funds.

Many thanks to all who made this possible.

FUND RAISING

Dear Friends

One of our long-standing committee members, Elizabeth Anderson, very sadly passed away towards the end of 2019. Elizabeth was very conscientious and always willing to take part in our activities and she will be sadly missed. Also, due to health problems, Joan MacKinnon can no longer attend most of our events, although she has said she will still bake for us, which is very kind.

The Easter Extravaganza takes place on Saturday 4th April from 10am-12 noon in the hall and--weather permitting--grounds where there will be the usual Easter egg hunt (which will take place in the small hall if wet). There will be an Easter gift stall and a decorated egg and bonnet competition. Entrance is £3, children £1, which includes hot-cross buns with coffee/tea/juice.

Thank you for your continued support even in small ways-e.g. collecting change, it's surprising how this mounts up.

Jenifer Pitchers-Chairperson, Irene Moffat-Treasurer, Margaret Allan, Rosemary Clark, Margaret Gray, Marjory Love, Jemima McDermid, Joan MacKinnon, Helen Miller, Una Strachan, Fulton Dunn, Myra Grant and Susan MacAskill.



Messy Church in Kilbarchan

Church Halls, Steeple Square, Kilbarchan

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



*All children must
be accompanied
by an adult*

4.00pm - 6.00pm

Saturdays 21st March and 16th May

Renfrewshire Foodbank

Kilbarchan Parish Church's support of Renfrewshire is magnificent and this was demonstrated most visibly throughout November culminating on Monday 2nd December 2019 when our donations from our Reverse Advent Calendar weighted in at the fantastic total of 357.30 kilograms or 56.26stones.

To put this into some perspective the congregation of Kilbarchan Parish Church donated more food than the combined weights of Andy Murray, Roger Federer, Novak Djokovic and Rafael Nadal plus 23kgs of assorted tennis balls, towels, rackets, bananas and Robinsons soft drinks.

Some facts about the Foodbank in Renfrewshire

- The Renfrewshire Foodbank Project is supported by local churches and community groups working together towards stopping hunger in our local area.
- The Foodbank works on a voucher referral system.
- In order to obtain help from a foodbank, you will need a voucher issued by a local agency.
- There are five Foodbank locations in Renfrewshire
- 6,106 three-day emergency food supplies were given out in the past year
- Renfrewshire Foodbank opened its doors in 2012
- 1 in 5 of the UK population live below the poverty line.

A typical food parcel includes:

- Breakfast cereals
- Soup
- Pasta
- Rice
- Pasta sauce
- Tinned beans
- Tinned meat
- Tinned vegetables
- Tinned fruit
- Tea or coffee
- Sugar
- Biscuits
- Snacks



Currently the Foodbank has plenty of pasta and beans but often run out of UHT milk, Juice, Tinned Tomatoes, Tinned Potatoes, Tinned Fish and Tinned Fruit.

Donations of the above **especially tinned and dried potatoes** and all non-perishable food items will be greatly appreciated.

Thanks to everyone who is in a position to support the work of the Renfrewshire Foodbank in anyway. This is possible by donating a gift of food or by making a monetary gift.

For further information check out

<https://renfrewshire.foodbank.org.uk/get-help/whats-in-a-food-parcel>.

Graham & Jack
Coordinating Team



The Drama group had a busy year and following our November production were able to donate £1500 to the Church.

At the moment, we are looking at possible plays for November 2020. If you would like to join us, either on stage or as part of our backstage crew, please speak to any member of the Drama group.

We look forward to the continued support of our friends in the congregation.

Fiona McKenzie on behalf of the Drama group



CHRISTIAN AID

Christian Aid Week this year starts on **Sunday 10th May**.

As in previous years we shall be organising a door-to-door collection in Kilbarchan and Brookfield. Just short of **£4,000** was raised last year, a great result which will make a major difference to those in need throughout the world. Across Scotland, more than £1.1 million was raised through these door-to-door collections, coffee mornings, curry nights, sponsored walks, plant and book sales.

New volunteer collectors are needed if we are to cover all of Kilbarchan and Brookfield - please contact **Alasdair Law** on [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] if you would be willing to assist this year.

The role involves distributing envelopes in one street, or a group of houses, and returning to collect donations. It should not take a huge amount of time.

If you volunteered last year, Alasdair will contact you directly to check your availability.

Climate Change. This has been a focus of Christian Aid's activities for more than a decade.

News last year of the destruction of large swathes of the Amazon rainforest through major fires and deliberate clearing for industrial development have led to Christian Aid, in conjunction with other faith-based organisations, to call for the global ecumenical movement to "join hands in the defence of the Amazon, which is not only a South American treasure, but one for the entire planet".

One shocking statistic indicates that the richest 10% of the world's population accounts for 50% of carbon dioxide emissions, while the poorest 50% is responsible for just 10%.

That is why Christian Aid and others are calling for a New Deal for Climate Justice.

Why is Climate Change of such importance to organisations such as Christian Aid ?

Christian Aid and its partner agencies in many countries strive in innovative ways to conserve such rainwater as falls because drought affects lives in so many ways. With a reliable supply of clean water :

- families no longer have to spend long hours, walking miles to find and collect water;

- children can attend school if they are not required to go and search for water;
- crops survive. People can get a more varied and nutritious diet;
- if crops do well, opportunities arise to sell excess produce and raise families out of poverty.

Disaster response. In the last year, your support for Christian Aid has enabled them to provide immediate relief on the ground :

- in April, shelters, hygiene and dignity kits, clean water and food were provided to communities in India and Bangladesh, affected by Cyclone Fani;
- In July, safe drinking water and hygiene training were provided after an Ebola outbreak hit the Democratic Republic of Congo;

Also in July, shelter, clean water and food were provided for people who lost families and homes following major flooding in Bangladesh and Nepal. Millions were forced from their homes due to the floods.

What you can do. Christian Aid Week provides an opportunity to assist these efforts, either by volunteering to carry out a door-to-door collection or by donating whatever you are able when the envelope is put through your door.

Thank you.

Alasdair Law, local co-ordinator



STITCHING GROUP

The Stitching Group continues to meet in the small hall on Tuesdays at 2.30 Followed by coffee in Bobbins. We're always happy to see visitors at either place.

We are currently working for the Easter Eggstravaganza and would welcome some fresh ideas for our sales table. Let us know if there is any item or craft that would refresh our collective imagination.

Alison McNicoll



TOTS' CLUB

Last Christmas is a long time away but we had a lovely party and of course a visit from Santa, who seems to enjoy his visits more and more!!

Our numbers are on the rise again with over 40 tots on the register, which is a tribute to how enjoyable the club is for adults and tots alike, thanks to all the volunteers who have been involved for about 7 years, it's amazing how the time passes! There are usually 5 volunteers on duty each Monday. It has been good to see Dorothy at the club on several occasions. Fiona comes along most Mondays and plays the keyboard for the tots.

On Monday 2nd March we shall have our annual visit from Andy Stark when he will have the not-so-easy job of taking photos! Some tots are happier than others to have their photo taken.

The cost remains £1 for adults and there is a plentiful supply of tea/ coffee/ juice and biscuits.

Please join us for coffee any morning.

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





There has been two sessions since the last magazine, both well attended and thoroughly enjoyed.

On 30 November, with a slight change to our usual format, we celebrated the beginning of advent. After meeting and greeting the families had a short time of choosing their Christmas themed crafts before we all came together and each made a Christingle. We used glow sticks instead of candles (elf and safety) and went into the church for our talk and songs. As we entered the church Fiona was playing carols on the organ, upstairs was lit so that we could see the hangings and with the children carrying their Christingle it all created a very special atmosphere. Myra and George Grant had kindly agreed to lead the singing of three seasonal items which took the whole experience to another level. Sincere thanks to Fiona, Myra and George for making it so special. We then returned to the large hall where the kitchen team had worked their magic, turning hot dogs into reindeer and providing cakes that are part of Christmas traditions from around the world.

In January our theme was 'Light of the World.' The crafters excelled themselves, the children usually look around the tables then choose which crafts or activities they want to do but they all wanted to do everything, it was difficult sticking to our timetable. After our talk and song Alex led us on a game of follow the leader to the large hall for our meal.

As this magazine goes to print we will have had our February session where the theme will be Listening and Learning, report to follow in the summer edition. Thank you to the Messy team who make it all happen and to the congregation for your continued support.



Kim & Jason by Jason W. Kotecki

Get comics free by e-mail: www.KimandJason.com



THE GUILD

It is hard to believe that we are now half way through our winter session and despite mixed weather conditions we have had a good turnout of members at each meeting. Our programme has been varied. Alasdair Law started off the year by talking about walking in Scotland and showing slides of the walks. These really showed the Scottish mountains in all their glory throughout the seasons of the year. Alasdair was also able to interpret the Gaelic names of the mountains which was of real interest. The next meeting was our Burns afternoon when one of our members, Sheila Hunter, whose relatives lived in Mossgiel Farm, gave us a most interesting talk on Robert Burns, the places he stayed and some of the characters in his writings. There were also photographs of the small town of Mauchline where the local Burns Club have, in recent times, highlighted with plaques all the houses and buildings connected with Burns. We also learned that the Churchyard in Mauchline houses the graves of some of Burns' associates and also Covenanters' graves. Well worth a visit!. Our final speaker was Mr. Hugh Duff, a retired librarian, who gave us a most interesting talk on the lives of the twin sisters Agnes and Margaret Smith. In the late 19th Century these remarkable Ayrshire born women travelled extensively by camel throughout the Sinai desert discovering many ancient religious writings the most important being the oldest extant scroll of part of the Gospel of St. Mark.



As to our remaining meetings, on February 23rd Margaret Bryce from Johnstone Credit Union will talk to us about the history and work of Credit Unions. and we will hold our 'Martha's Table' at that meeting. On March 17th, we are having Wendy Sandyford giving a talk on Victoria's daughters, and finally on March 31st we hold our AGM.

Jan Howitt



*God, give us eyes to see the beauty of the Spring,
And to behold Your majesty in every living thing....
And may we see in lacy leaves and every budding flower
The Hand that rules the universe with gentleness and power.*

Kidz Korner



HAPPY EASTER



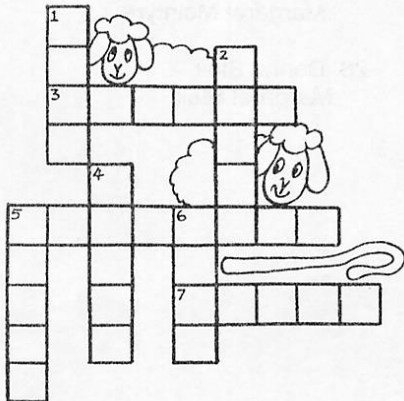
This is what the Good Shepherd is like :-

The sheep hear his voice and come to him; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. He walks ahead of them; and they follow him, for they recognise his voice.

Jesus says; 'I am the Good Shepherd and know my sheep and they know me and I lay down my life for the sheep.'

(From the Gospel according to John 10)

Use this to help you solve the crossword

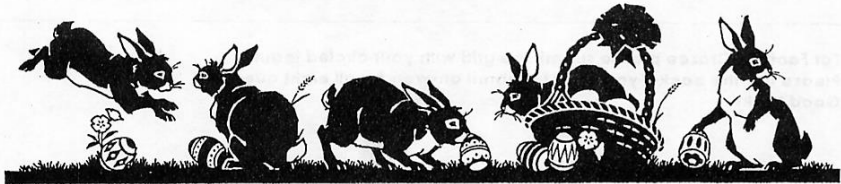


ACROSS

- 3 When Jesus walks ahead, what do the sheep do?
- 5 Jesus is the Good one of these
- 7 Jesus walks _____ of the sheep (it means in front of).

DOWN

- 1 Jesus lays this down for the sheep
- 2 The sheep recognise this when Jesus calls them
- 4 Jesus calls his own sheep by name and _____ them out
- 5 These hear Jesus' voice
- 6 The sheep use their ears to do this



PARISH REGISTER



DEATHS

01/12/2019 Jim Macaffer
19/12/2019 Carol Wilson *
21/12/2019 Charles Wighton *
26/12/2019 Barbara Ferguson *
26/12/2019 Jane Gough
14/01/2020 Joyce Orr
30/01/2020 Robert McIlroy
02/02/2020 Andrew Adam *

MARRIAGE

07/12/2019 Arlene Donald and Graham Mackay
19/12/2019 Barry Joseph McCaig and Irina Yurievna Shishakina

ROLL

The Roll of Kilbarchan Parish Church now stands at 401 and 19 Adherents.



An Easter Blessing

The Lord of the empty tomb

The conqueror of gloom - come to you

The Lord in the garden walking

The Lord to Mary talking - come to you

The Lord in the Upper Room

Dispelling fear and gloom - come to you

The Lord on the road to Emmaus

The Lord giving hope to Thomas - come to you

The Lord appearing on the shore

Giving us life for ever more - come to you

NEW WALL HANGING



This hanging was designed by Elizabeth Martin to commemorate the union of the former East and West Churches on 15th December 2015. It depicts two trees growing together around a Celtic cross representing the Christian faith which unites us. Leaves symbolising the intermingling of the congregations were sponsored in aid of the roof restoration fund, with approximately £1,500 being raised. Each leaf has the name of those who donated to the roof fund.

Thanks go to all who supported this venture and to everyone who took the time and the energy to create this beautiful symbol.

The names of all who donated and created are on a plaque at the side of the pulpit steps.

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 1 st March	11.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday 8 th March	11.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday 15 th March	11.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday 22 nd March	11.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday 29 th March	11.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday 5 th April	11.00am	Morning Worship
Thursday 9 th April	7.00pm	Maundy Thursday Service
Friday 10 th April	7.00pm	Good Friday Service
Sunday 12 th April	8.30am	Early Service at Weavers Cottage
	11.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday 19 th April	11.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday 26 th April	11.00am	Morning Worship
	6.30pm	Masonic Lodge and Eastern Star Service
Sunday 3 rd May	11.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday 10 th May	11.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday 17 th May	11.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday 24 th May	11.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday 31 st May	11.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday 7 th June	11.00am	Morning Worship

