



# Kilbarchan Parish Church

## Your local church magazine

Dear Friends,

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2016

I type this a few hours after receiving my flu jab.

It is the day after sharing in a service giving thanks for the life of my father in law, Russell Young who died suddenly and unexpectedly.

Christmas is fast approaching and it will soon be 2017.

The world seems to be going crazy and Donald Trump is President elect of the USA.

Some people think faith is a bit like the flu jab. That somehow if they believe the right dogma, or worship a certain way, or do certain things then their faith will somehow inoculate them or protect them from coming to any harm. They will somehow avoid all pain and heartache and life will be one success story leading to another.

The message of Christmas is that God came in the birth of a baby, Jesus. That God was somehow limited to a finite human life. A life that knew hardship and ease, sorrow and joy, crippling doubt and tremendous courage.

It's the message we all need to hear this Christmas. It's the message we need for a New Year. It's the message we need in a world where old certainties are shaking. It's the message I need as I think of the grief and loss I've experienced in many ways this year.

May you have a blessed Christmas and a peaceful start to the New Year.

My flu jabbed arm is getting sore now.

*Stephen*

## FROM THE EDITOR



Welcome to this the fourth issue of our church magazine. It is hoped that it keeps you abreast of what is happening in our church and further afield. There should be something for everyone and if not – send your article in!

The next magazine will be out in March, 2017 and all items for it should reach me at [alastair.mackinnon@ntlworld.com](mailto:alastair.mackinnon@ntlworld.com) by Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February.

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



## ANGELS

Without Angels, Christmas would have been a very puzzling series of events. Without an Angel, Elizabeth (mother of John) would have had no information as to the name and purpose of her son. Without an angel, Mary would not have known that her pregnancy was special and that her child was the Son of God. She would never have known what to call her child. Without an Angel, Joseph would never have married Mary but, as the Bible says, he would have ‘divorced her secretly’.

Without an Angel there would have been no shepherds visiting the tiny infant. No one would have known that the infant son of Mary was, also “Christ the Lord”. The world would have had no “Joy”, no “Peace”, no “Good News” and no “Glory” since these were words given by the mouths of angels.

Finally, without an Angel, Joseph would not have known of King Herod’s wicked plan to kill the new-born baby, If the family had not fled to Egypt, Jesus might have died with all the other little boys of Bethlehem

The word “angel” means “messenger” and God has always used messengers to spread the good news. Sometimes angels are heavenly but God also calls us to share the good news of Christmas - “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace - goodwill - to all people.”

## **KIRK SESSION REPORT**

At the November meeting of the Kirk Session the Worship Group, chaired by Ann MacLeod, recommended that there should be 3 formal communions during 2017 instead of the current 2. One of the benefits of an additional communion will be for pastoral care with the additional visit to districts. The Kirk Session agreed that communion will take place on the last Sunday of February, June and October with afternoon services in February and October and an evening service in June. Informal communions will continue and will most likely be held in the small hall.

At this year's November communion there were 154 members, 2 visitors and 8 adherents present which was 5 more than April 2016. The offering for the benevolent fund was £231.48.

The Church of Scotland has altered their advice to congregations regarding Data Protection. The Data Protection letter will be adjusted accordingly and all members will receive a letter in the next few months asking them to confirm the details held. Since we are creating a new roll we will ask you to confirm your continued membership of the Parish Church.

Malcolm MacAskill confirmed that Hardies have been appointed to manage the works on the Church. A "drone" survey was carried out examining the roof elevations at close range and it is hoped that work will start in Spring 2017 with minimum disruption to normal services.

The Church of Scotland Committee for Art and Architecture (CARTA) visited on 21<sup>st</sup> September and reported on 26<sup>th</sup> October. They have agreed that the marble surrounds of the memorials in the former West Church can be left in situ and the brass inserts of the war memorial and other commemorative plaques can be removed. Listed building consent is now being sought to remove the war memorials, plaques and stained glass. We are experiencing difficulty in finding experienced companies to do this removal work. If you can recommend anyone please pass details to Malcolm.

The communion table from the former West Church is situated in the small hall and consideration is being given as to its future location. CARTA are content with its current presence in the hall.

Marjory Love reported that the General Trustees have agreed that Winchester College of Music be able to remove the organ from the former West Church. No payment will be made for the organ but all costs incurred in the removal will be met by the College. Listed building consent is required from the planning department before removing the organ but, due to the amount of detail required for the application an external consultant will be employed to complete the necessary documentation.

The General Trustees are consulting with Renfrewshire Council with regards to potential future use of the former West Church buildings. It was hope that the former West Church building would have been on the market by the beginning of November. We are now told it will be into next year before this happens.

### **Beadle Duties for the coming months**

December	Richard Pitchers, Joyce Scott, Ann McLeod
January	Alasdair Law, Colin Campbell, Cathy Millar
February	Andy Stark, Elizabeth Dunn, Alan Vaughan
March	Marie Alexander, Gwen Howden, Alec Christine

*Fulton Dunn*



### **There are many kinds of members...**

Some are like wheelbarrows:  
They only move when they are pushed.  
Some are like canoes:  
They need to be paddled.  
Some are like kites:  
If you don't keep them on a string, they'll fly away.  
Some are like footballs:  
You can never tell what way they will bounce.  
Some are like a good watch:  
Open-faced. pure gold, quietly busy and full of good works.

**...what kind are you?**



How many chimneys does Father Christmas go down?

*Stacks!*

## TREASURER'S REPORT

The first anniversary of the Parish Church is fast approaching and it is good to report that the finances are in reasonable shape. While there is no room for complacency there are signs that members are reviewing their offering levels, either contributing through the Bank or Envelopes, and where possible increasing their contributions. This is good news as regular giving is the "life blood" of the Church.

The Greenock and Paisley Presbytery and the Church of Scotland 121 George Street have shown understanding of the financial problems facing our Church in its first year by making a "sympathetic" decision on the final calculation of the Ministry and Mission Allocation for the Parish Church this year. The figure has been reduced from over £80,000 to roughly £50,000. While the size of this reduction will be for one year only it is greatly appreciated and will greatly assist in ensuring the Reserves of the Church are maintained at a prudent level. The Ministry and Mission figure for next year will be £64,000.

With the proceeds from the sale of two manses less the purchase of the manse at 41 Shuttle Street together with the legacy of £40,000 plus the Roof Appeal now standing at almost £22,000 finance is now in place to start major fabric work including a new Church roof in the spring. Office bearers are working with the recently appointed Project Manager to determine a number of issues including the scope of the work, up to date costings and a list of tenderers. It is planned to discuss with the Project Manager and the appointed contractor the programming of the work that will cause minimum disruption to Church activities while taking cognisance of costs.

There has been a delay in the complete closure of the former West Church Bank Account-hard to believe but we are almost there! There are still a few members' standing orders going through this Account. Once this Account closes the Bank will have no alternative but to return the standing order to the member's own Bank Account .Please contact me if you wish details of the Parish Bank Account.

Fundraising has been going well with the Ladies Evening and the Big Band event both successful financially with £1,275 raised in total and socially with members and friends having enjoyable evenings in the Church Halls.

To end on a further positive note the Special Offering on Remembrance Sunday for Erskine Hospital raised almost nine hundred pounds. This included a donation of three hundred and forty pounds from the Stitching Group. An excellent sum of money for an excellent cause.

Thanking you for your continued support.

*Jim Moffat* 703881

# **PRESBYTERY PATTTER**

*Snippets from recent meetings of Greenock and Paisley Presbytery*

**THANKS TO RETIRING MODERATOR** Rev Alistair Shaw, the Business Convener, thanked the retiring Moderator, Rev Dr. Ken Forrest, for his service to Presbytery over his year in office and presented him with a gift from the court. Mr. Forrest replied in suitable terms.

**ELECTION AND INSTALLATION OF NEW MODERATOR** Rev Dr. Ken Forrest proposed the Rev Ann McCool, nominated at the meeting of the Presbytery on 9th February last, as the next Moderator of the Presbytery. The Presbytery approved and resolved accordingly.

**WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS OF PRESBYTERY** The new Moderator welcomed Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Cross, Miss Slater and Mr. Shaw as new Presbytery representatives.

**LEAVE TAKING** Very Rev Dr. Lorna Hood and Rev Donald Campbell, the Moderator then wished them well for a long and happy retirement.

**BUSINESS** Rev Dr. Johnstone McKay, from the Presbytery of Ardrossan, was appointed as locum at Gourrock: St John's church from 11/9/2016; and Rev Stuart Steell as Interim Moderator at Houston & Killellan from 30/10/16. Rev Elizabeth Geddes was granted a practising certificate. Rev Arthur Sherratt from the Presbytery of Ardrossan was transferred. Moderator welcomed him to Greenock & Paisley and invited him to reaffirm his vows of ordination. A practising certificate was granted to the Very Rev Dr. Lorna Hood. Mrs. Margaret Sharp and Mr. Richard McWhirter were appointed as assessor elders at Paisley St Ninian's Ferguslie.

**MISSION & DISCIPLESHP** commends the young people of the Presbytery on their participation in the National Youth Assembly and was pleased to receive their thoughts on the experience; Miss Rebecca Craig, Mr. Robert Cockburn and Mr. Callum McMillan spoke of their experience, and thanked Presbytery for assisting with the cost of their attendance. Notes the nomination process for a Presbytery youth representative to the General Assembly 2017, and encourages congregations to make suitable nominations.

**STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE** Attested the 2015 accounts of the congregations listed, they now fulfill the General Assembly's Regulations and the requirements of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) regulations. The Clerk will now contact the treasurers of the congregations advising them of the attestation of their accounts

and informing them that these may now be sent to the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator. Instructs the Clerk to advise the General Treasurer's Department of the agreement that the following sum be awarded from the 5% discretionary allowance to reduce the 2016 Ministries & Mission contributions of the congregation concerned: • Kilbarchan £15,000. The proposed Ministries & Mission contributions for 2017 are as detailed, any appeals against these proposed contributions should be made to the Convener by 20 October 2016.

**PROPERTY** Approved subject to the approval of the General Trustees, a revised programme of roof repairs to their church and halls proposed by the Erskine congregation, at a total cost of £74,400 incl. VAT. The Property Committee has approved a grant of £5,000 from the Cargill Bequest Fund to the Erskine congregation to assist with the cost of their roof repairs. Approved various repairs and upgrades to the flat roof, emergency exits and disabled access, proposed by the Paisley: Glenburn congregation at a total cost of £15,282. The Property Committee has approved a grant of £1,528 from the Cargill Bequest Fund to the Paisley: Glenburn congregation to assist with the cost of this work. The Property Committee has approved a grant of £2,040 from the Cargill Bequest Fund to the Greenock: Westburn congregation to assist with the cost of repairs to the church tower. Homologates approval of the decision to sell the Glebe at Inverkip by the General Trustees.

**PRESBYTERY PLAN REVIEW COMMITTEE** Presbytery plan for Port Glasgow: Hamilton Bardraffiney and Port Glasgow: St Martin's; to be amended. The Ministries Council at its last meeting agreed to raise Paisley: St Ninian's Ferguslie NCD to full status as from the 1st October 2016.

**WORLD MISSION & ECUMENICAL RELATIONS** Noted with pleasure that to date £220,000 has been raised through the World Mission Council's 'Let us build a house' challenge to Presbyteries and encourages congregations that have not yet supported the appeal to consider getting involved in order to help the United Mission in Nepal to offer support to earthquake victims who are still without shelter.

**VACANCY PROCEDURE COMMITTEE** Granted Paisley: St Columba Foxbar in Deferred Linkage with Paisley: St Luke's an extension of permission to call a minister for a further 6 months from this date. Approved a call from Bishopton to Rev Yvonne Smith. Granted Gourrock: St John's permission to call a minister on unrestricted tenure. Remits the linkage of Howwood and Lochwinnoch to the Presbytery Plan Review Committee.

## CHURCHES VISITED

Over the last year or so members of our congregation have visited the following churches and brought back various leaflets. As you can see, we do get around! Many thanks to Willie Beattie for compiling this list and displaying them in the church.

### SCOTLAND

Abbotsgrange Parish Church, Grangemouth

Alyth Parish Church

Arbroath: St Vigeans Church

Ballater: Glenmuick Parish Church

Bridge of Weir: Freeland

St Machar's Ranfurly

Campbeltown: Lorne and Lowland Parish Church

Dingwall: Castle Street

Dornoch Cathedral

Dunbar Parish Church

Dunkeld Cathedral

Edinburgh: The Robin Chapel

St Mary's Cathedral

Galston Parish Church

Houston Kirk

Glasgow: Govan Linthouse Parish Church

Jordanhill Parish Church

Newlands South Church

Johnstone: High Parish Church

Kirkwall: St Magnus Cathedral

Leuchars: St Athernase Parish Church

Paisley: Oakshaw Trinity Church

St James's Parish Church

Point Free Church

Renfrew North Parish Church

Salen and Ulva Parish Church

Scourie Church, Sutherland

West Kilbride Parish Church

### ENGLAND

Gloucester Cathedral

Truro Cathedral

Wiltshire: Parish of Lacock with Bowden Hill

Worcester Cathedral

York Minster





## **JERSEY**

St Columba's Church of Scotland  
St Matthew's Church, Milibrook

## **CANADA**

Notre Dame Cathedral, Ottawa

## **DENMARK**

The Marble Church, Copenhagen

## **FRANCE**

Macrae Battalion Trust Pilgrimage,  
Contalmaison Notre Dame de la Garde, Marseille

## **GERMANY**

Cologne Cathedral  
Evangelical Church, Duisburg

## **ITALY**

Basilica San Michele, Apulia  
Basilica Santuario Parrocchia, Apulia

## **NEW ZEALAND**

St Peter's Presbyterian Church

## **NORWAY**

St Olaf's Cathedral, Trondheim  
The Open Church, Trondheim

## **SPAIN** Cordoba Cathedral

Basilica San Miguel, Madrid  
Seville Cathedral  
St Andrew's Anglican Church, Majorca

## **SWITZERLAND**

Geneva Calvin's Auditorium  
Church of Scotland

## **ON THE HIGH SEAS**

Sunday Services aboard the "Boudicca"

**O, come let us**

*adore Him...*



## FUND-RAISING NEWS



The Ladies' Evening on 15<sup>th</sup> November raised the sum of £210. About 45 people enjoyed a talk about tartan gifts, kilt-making and tartan fascinators. We were also able to support the Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice shop once again.

The next event is the Burns Supper on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January at 6.30pm. Tickets will be available from the beginning of December, price £20. Almost 30 have already been booked, so speak to any of the committee to reserve your ticket. The speakers are: Ian Keith (Chairman), Sandy Graham, Stephen Smith, Bobby Stevenson, Ros Collins and Anne McLeod, and entertainment will be provided by Carolyn Lambert, Marie Alexander, and Iain Gibb, accompanied by Rosie Picken. This should be an excellent night-with the meal by the University of the West of Scotland catering department.

Betty Clark has been a committed member since the first meeting and has decided to leave the committee at the end of December. She will be sorely missed and our thanks go to Betty for the years of work-the Plant Sale was originally her idea as one of our first events.

Committee members: Jenifer Pitchers (Chairperson), Irene Moffat (Treasurer), Joan McKinnon, Margaret Allan, Elizabeth Anderson, Rosemary Clark, Helen Miller, Marjory Love, Jemima McDermid, Margaret Gray, Una Strachan and Fulton Dunn. We would like some new members please, especially men.



## RAISE THE ROOF FUNDRAISING

The Big Band Night in October was a brilliant evening, everybody really enjoyed the music and there have been many requests for the band to return. Over 100 people were present and the wonderful sum of £1,065 was raised for the appeal. The F.P.Band refused to take their donation, which was very generous.

# THE GUILD

Tuesday afternoon Guild meetings have proved a success and we are now averaging around 35 members coming along to each meeting. We hold our annual coffee morning prior to the start of the session and this year we raised over £330.00 for our funds.



Our programme has been varied ranging from a wonderful slide show taking us on a magical tour of the French Riviera to learning of the work of the Hospital Chaplains employed by Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board. In this secular world the chaplains are there for any patient or staff member who feels the need of a listening ear.

Around Christmas our members have for many years provided gifts for the less fortunate in our society. This year we received a request from the residents of The Haven in Kilmacolm asking if we would help them provide a toy for each child living in poverty in Inverclyde. There was great support for this request so on our Christmas afternoon on 13th December, when we will be entertained by the children from Kilbarchan School Choir, we will bring along our toys for the children who would otherwise have nothing.

We are always on the lookout for new members, so 'if time hangs heavily on your hands' on a Tuesday afternoon, why don't you come along and join the fellowship.

It was with sadness the members learned of the death of Frances Combes husband John and that of Russell, Jean Young's husband and we would like them to know that our thoughts and prayers are with them at this time.

*Jan Howitt*



# FAIRTRADE

Fairtrade is making a real difference to the lives of more than 1.5 million farmers and workers in 74 developing countries. We can help by stocking up with Fairtrade items in the shops or visiting the Rainbow Turtle shop in Paisley for cards and presents. There will also be a Fairtrade stall at the school Christmas Fair on 10th December.



*Maira Stark*

## SAFEGUARDING

I attended a roadshow last month where members of the Church of Scotland safeguarding team from Edinburgh gave a series of presentations.

They started by reminding us of the importance of ensuring that we provide a safe environment in which all children and vulnerable adults who worshipped in our Church, or attended any organisation within it, could feel safe. While it is necessary to make sure that everyone is free from any form of harm or abuse within the Church, it is also important that those volunteering to work with our young people are able to recognise signs that things are not right outside Church. To this end it is mandatory for all volunteers to attend safeguarding training which is provided by the Presbytery and we are in the position where the majority of our volunteers have done this.

Many things were discussed in the course of the evening and we were kept up to date with new rules being put in place and also encouraged to give our own thoughts about the future needs of safeguarding in the Church.

I hope, as new training dates become available, more of our volunteers will be able to attend so that we can make certain that we are doing our best for the wellbeing of any youngster who joins in our fellowship.

*Elizabeth Dunn* (Safeguarding coordinator.)



## SENIOR CHOIR

Rehearsals have now well underway on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm in the church and on Sunday mornings at 10am for leading worship on Sundays, and working towards the service of Nine Lessons and Carols at Christmas. This takes place at 6.30pm on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December, followed by coffee and cake in the hall. All welcome. If you are interested in joining the choir, please speak to Ian Trushell, the organist, any Sunday after the service.





## HILL WALKING CLUB

As the weather forecast for the Loch Doone area on September 10<sup>th</sup> was not very promising, the club decided to go to the Wanlockhead area to climb some Donalds — hills over 2000 feet but under 2500 feet - and were rewarded with a good day there, climbing Green Lowther and Lowther Hill.

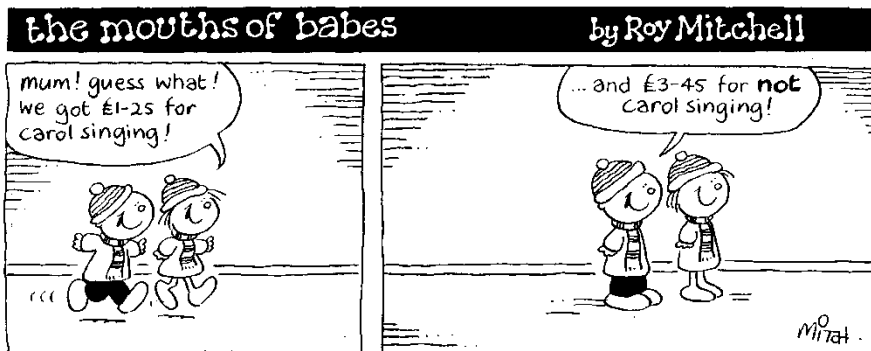
In October, ten of us climbed Ben Lomond (along with another 500 or so folk!) Although it started quite misty; as we reached the summit the sun got through and gave us a perfect day and magnificent views. Just to make **it** different, we came off the mountain by the Ptarmigan Ridge, which starts off with an exciting rocky descent then becomes a long gentle downhill route.

We made a return trip to Hell'a Glen in November, but this time climbed the Donald of Strib an Eas. This started with a squelchy forest walk then an almost vertical grassy climb to the summit. We were once again fortunate with the weather as the sun shone the whole day and all eleven of us enjoyed our outing.

The next walk we have planned is to Stronend in the Fintry Hills on December 3, as usual leaving the Steeple' at 8.00 am.

The AGM of the Hillldng Club will be held in the Church Hall on Wednesday 7 December at 7.30 pm. It is at this meeting we make up the Syllabus for the coming year, and anyone interested in coming along will be made most welcome.

*Margaret Beattie*





## 1<sup>ST</sup> KILBARCHAN BOYS' BRIGADE

So far we have had a busy and successful few months through September to December 2016. The number of Anchor Boys has increased although we have seen a smaller number of Junior Section Boys attending this year but this was due to boys moving up to the Company Section. Company Section numbers have pretty much remained the same as last year since some of our older boys have gone on to university after leaving school. The Company Section has been joined by Douglas Gillespie, a former boy in the Company who is a Physical Education Teacher and has revised our PE programme. Kieron Miller, Craig Donald and Colin Gray also play a significant role in running the Company Section and preparing boys for their President's and Queen's Badge endeavours.

Alan McCulloch, Mary Love, Christine McKenzie, along with Euan Hayton providing the music on Friday evening, ensure the Junior Section boys have a varied and entertaining programme of activities throughout the night involving handicrafts, penny whistle instruction as well as traditional BB activities. Hopefully the numbers attending Junior Section will increase as we enter the new year.

The Anchor Boys are supervised by Joyce Spiers, Shona Malone and Cate Bone. Cate is completing her Duke of Edinburgh Award Community Involvement area of the scheme by helping out at the Boys' Brigade. The Anchor Boy leaders provide an active and varied programme for our P1 to P3 boys on Fridays from 7 pm to 8.30 pm in the small hall.

This year the Company and Junior Section Boys attended the Ice Hockey at Braehead and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. They posted a short video on our 1<sup>st</sup> Kilbarchan Facebook page. Why not check out our Facebook page and keep up-to-date with all our activities? On Halloween the Company Section boys helped out with the Halloween Party and everyone had a great time participating in all the traditional Halloween games and pranks. We also had a ghost walk for the Junior Section and some of the younger members of the Company Section when Alan McCulloch told some ghost stories set around the square in Kilbarchan. The following week we joined with the Scouts to provide the annual

fireworks display as well as providing hot drinks and snacks in the hall afterwards, which was a great success.

The Company and Junior Section had a good turnout for the Annual Service of Remembrance and all the Officers would like to thank the parents for their support in helping us with this.

This year Joyce Spiers, Shona Malone and Christine McKenzie completed their course in the Youth Leaders Training at BB Headquarters and are now fully trained officers in 1<sup>st</sup> Kilbarchan Boys' Brigade Company. Craig Donald is supervising two of our Company Section boys who should complete their Queen's Badge in time for our Display in May 2017.

Kilbarchan Boys' Brigade finish the year when we visit the pantomime "Elfie" at the Pavilion Theatre in December.

Thanks go to Kilbarchan Parish Church for supporting the boys by attending our Coffee Mornings and Fireworks Display – it is much appreciated.

*Bobby Stevenson*

1<sup>st</sup> Kilbarchan Boys' Brigade



## **Thoughts At The Beginning Of The Church Year**

*We..sing:* 'Onward Christian Soldiers' but have to be pressganged into service

*We sing:* 'Tell Me The Old Old Story' but are seldom there to hear it

*We sing:* 'Take My Silver And My Gold' but put our small change in the collection

*We sing:* 'O For A Thousand Tongues To Sing' but fail to use the one we have intelligently or to use it at all

*We sing:* 'I Need Thee Every Hour' but grumble at spending one in church

*We sing:* 'What A Friend We Have In Jesus' but only turn to Him when we are in a jam

*We sing:* 'I'm Not Ashamed To Own My Lord' but wouldn't dream of mentioning Him outside the church



## **“90768” the Album**

You may have noticed that each time you go to watch a TV chat show, there is always some “old rocker” or “sixties pop star” trying to make a comeback by promoting a revival CD.

Maybe we will soon see George Grant on such a chat show!

George has just released a CD he produced on vinyl some forty years ago. Somehow the vinyl LP found its way to the Japanese market and became well sought after by the fans of this type of retro music. A record company contacted George and it is now for sale on CD. George was asked to re-designed the cover and add the words, history and background to the album and as you can imagine not only is the music great but so is the cover. The title of the album is 90768. This comes from his childhood as the son of a station master in Muirkirk, 90768 was a real steam engine. George spent his childhood around railway stations in Leslie in Fife, Balgowan Station in Perthshire and of course Muirkirk, Ayrshire. The album invokes childhood memories.

The album was recorded in 1976 on a four-track in George’s bedroom. Instruments were added to the first vocal/guitar tracks and after involving his good friend Hall Harper, the final recording was mastered and sent for pressing. Only 50 copies were made as that was all he could afford. He screen printed sleeves and disc labels and albums were sold to friends and family. How did it end up in Japan!!

The album contains many instruments – 12 string guitar/base guitar/bowed bass guitar/bouzouki/mandolin.



Having listened to the album, it brought back memories of my teenage years with sounds like Gallagher and Lyle and I detected on a couple of



tracks influence of “Yellow Submarine” and solo music from John Lennon and Paul McCartney. I can really recommend you listen to a copy. If I were George I would be proud of my achievement. George has copies available and has said if anyone wished to purchase one for a modest amount of £5, he will donate the money to the “Raise the Roof” fund. Treat yourself to a listen and hear a blast from the past, happy memories.

So, don’t be surprised if we see George on that chat show.

*Alan Fulton*



## CHRISTMAS AFTERNOON

The Christmas Afternoon is on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm. The entertainment will be provided by the St James’ Handbell Ringers, a very talented group of musicians, and by Kilbarchan’s Village Voices, along with the Junior Choir, led by Moira Gray. There will be non-alcoholic mulled wine, mince pies and Christmas cakes. Donation tickets are £5.



A £10 note and a £1 coin met one day.

“Hello” said the £1 coin “I haven’t seen you for some time. What have you been doing with yourself?”

“Oh I’ve been used at lots of sporting events, the theatre, the cinema and the garden centre” replied the £10 note. “What about yourself?”

“Oh the same old thing” said the £1 coin. “Church, Church, Church.”

***Think about it!***

## **BENEVOLENT FUND**

When you attend Communion and donate money to the Benevolent Fund you may wonder where that money goes. The Money is used to support “good” causes. This year, your contributions went towards funding the Seniors’ Outing which is an event enjoyed by many of our members who have reached a certain age. Each year we also try to donate funds to charitable causes which are close many of our hearts. At the November Session meeting it was agreed to donate £100 to each of the following – Adam’s House, St Vincent’s Hospice and the Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice.

Thank you for your continuing support. We would hope to be able to help more deserving causes in 2017.

*Alan Fulton*, Benevolent Fund Treasurer



## **STITCHING GROUP**

It is the stitching group’s practice to have a summer project which very often supports children, by making clothing for tiny babies in hospital premature baby units, or responding to aid agency requests for items during emergencies resulting from war or famine. This year we decided to support Erskine Hospital’s 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary and started mass producing poppies. We did think we might have got a bit carried away with it, however, thanks to you, we managed to raise £340 to add to the retiring collection on Armistice Sunday. If anybody would like one for next year, we do have 1 left.

We are currently having fun making Christmas decorations and toys and look forward to seeing you at the Christmas Fayre.

Best wishes to all from the Stitching Group.

*Alison McNicoll*



## TOTS' CLUB.

We had a very successful Halloween party, when we had our youngest ever child in costume-a little boy aged 6 days! We had 45 children present, all in fancy-dress, along with Mums, Grans etc. and everyone enjoyed the fancy dress parade, singing nursery rhymes, passing the pumpkin and the lovely food. The club continues on Monday mornings from 9.15-11.30am. The Christmas Party is on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December and of course Santa will be coming along with gifts for all the children. After the holiday, the club resumes on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January. Please pop in for coffee any Monday morning. If you think you would like to help, speak to any of the volunteers - the more toys we have to put out and clear away, the more help we need.

Rosie and John Picken, Elizabeth and Fulton Dunn, Janet and Bobby Stevenson, Alison and Ian Keith, Margaret Allan, Cathy Millar, Christine Erwin, Malcolm MacAskill, Judith Ansell and Jenifer Pitchers.



Why does Father Christmas come down chimneys?  
*Because they soot him.*

# TEN OF OUR CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

## 1 PULLING A CRACKER

Christmas crackers were invented in 1847 by London pastry cook Tom Smith, using an idea borrowed from the French tradition of wrapping sugared almonds in paper as gifts. The custom took off with a bang when the friction cap strip was added a few years later. Crackers have since evolved into cardboard tubes bearing a cheap toy, paper crown and obligatory bad joke.

## 2 MISTLETOE

From ancient times mistletoe has been seen as a giver of life and fertility, a safeguard against poison and an aphrodisiac. Kissing under the mistletoe is said to have originated at the Greek festival of Saturnalia, although later it was deemed a “plant of peace” under which enemies or fighting spouses could declare a truce. Unless, that is you were caught kissing someone else’s spouse.

## 3 PANTO

Panto as we know it first kicked off at the end of the eighteenth century and is now as much a part of the festive season as drinking too much alcohol at the office party. The basic formula is simple and comprises men dressed as women, women dresses as men and individuals of both sexes hamming it up as the back end of a cow.

## 4 SANTA CLAUS

The story goes that the rotund old man who likes to give out pressies for free wore green until the Coco Cola company changed his attire to red — to match their trademark colours — for a 1931 advertising campaign. Some factions credit Cocoa Cola with creating the enduring image of the jolly, bearded fellow while others claim Mr Claus wore red long before the drinks company was his personal stylist. Only the man himself knows for sure.

## 5 FOOD

Egg nog, Christmas pudding, mince pies, Brussel sprouts. What is it about Christmas that makes you eat things you wouldn’t at any other time of year? As with many such traditions, festive nibbles have their roots in necessity. Back in the days before fruit and vegetables could be flown in year-round, it was the case of eating seasonal foods or go hungry. Sprouts are at their prime around Christmas time.

## 6 DECK THE HALLS

Decorations have come a long way — or not, depending how you look at it — since their humble Pagan origins. The first Christmas cards, or pictures as they were then, were sent during the fifteenth century, with decorated trees first appearing in Britain during the late 1790s.

## 7 QUEEN'S SPEECH

The brainchild of BBC founding father, Sir John Reith, the first royal Christmas message was made in a radio broadcast by George V in 1932. The first televised message came 25 years later. Since 1960, the speech has been recorded in advance and even today is reportedly done in one take. A move, we presume, to thwart any chance of unused footage appearing on Auntie's Christmas Bloomers.

## 8 RUDOLPH THE RED-NOSED REINDEER

The most famous of Santa's sleigh-pulling posse, Rudolph was created as a promotional character for Chicago-based Montgomery Ward department stores. Company bosses — although said to be apprehensive that the reindeer might be seen as an alcoholic due to his glowing, bloated nose — gave the go-ahead, inadvertently spawning one of Christmas's most irritatingly catchy songs.

## 9 STOCKINGS

Legend has that this tradition began when three poor sisters hung their stockings by the fire to dry and Saint Nicholas took pity on them and filled their hosiery with bags of gold. In Britain, the stocking has long given way to the huge sack. Children in other countries are a little more modest and put out stockings, shoes and small boxes.

## 10 SCROOGE

Dicken's classic A Christmas Carol, has long been a favourite with Scrooge alongside JR Ewing, The Hooded Claw and Anne Robinson as baddies we all love-to-hate. And with the cost of Christmas ever growing, saying Bah Humbug has never seemed so appealing.

1<sup>st</sup> Kilbarchan Boys' Brigade

## COFFEE MORNING

Church Hall

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2017

10.00am – 12.00 noon

Tickets £2.50





Since the last issue of the magazine we have held three Messy Church afternoons. All have been on Saturdays from 4.00pm to 6.00pm and numbers attending, including helpers, have ranged from 35 – 48. It's been good to see non Church families as well as families that we see on a Sunday morning. Our themes have been The Good Samaritan, Joseph's Coat of Many Colours and the preparation

for Christmas. Many different crafts have been attempted- even a bit of First Aid tuition. At the end we have all sat down to enjoy a meal together. I continue to be amazed at how many children eat pasta on its own without sauce or cheese!

Our first Messy Church in the New Year is on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> January, followed by one on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> February. Both will be from 4.00pm to 6.00pm.



Why not come and join in the fun. We would be delighted to see you.

I think the photos probably say better than words just how much the children, and the adults, have enjoyed it all.

*Joan*



# BLYTHSWOOD SHOEBOX APPEAL

This raised a record 84 boxes along with many donations of money, thank you to everyone who donated so generously. Blythswood hope to deliver their 2 millionth box this year. We have been involved for almost 20 years, so have helped towards this amazing number. The boxes were delivered to a very busy warehouse in Hillington, to be checked and will now be making their way to some very happy recipients in Eastern Europe.



**In the summer Gabriel lives under a bridge in Timisoara, the biggest city in western Romania. In the winter he and his family return to the Roma colony in a far-flung village, to a dwelling without doors, windows, ceilings, running water or electricity.**

This is what it means to live on the margins of society in Europe today. Gabriel, aged five, is one of six children. His father was recently released from prison. His mother is registered as having a learning disability. His sister was taken away by social services and is now in foster care. Some of the family don't even have birth certificates and so lack any official identity. None has ever been to school.

Presented with a shoebox from Blythswood Care, which gift did Gabriel like best? "He liked everything," says Flavia, a social worker employed by the council and by Blythswood Banat. "The family barely has anything to eat. Sometimes the children can go without food for a whole day. They love sweets and toys."

Last year, Blythswood's Shoe Box Appeal resulted in 116,576 gift-filled boxes going to children and adults in eight East European countries and in Pakistan. Hundreds more including the one received by Gabriel — were produced by donors within Romania, inspired to show care towards the poorest in their own country. We do not have to pass by on the other side.

# SUNDAY SCHOOL

Both the older and younger Sunday School children helped make a banner to celebrate Harvest Thanksgiving, which was very colourful and depicted lots of different kinds of foods, in particular fruit and vegetables. In the run up to Christmas we are now practicing hard for this year's Nativity, entitled 'Born in a Barn' and look forward to performing it for the congregation on Sunday 18th December in church.

Linda and I would also like to thank all those who have been supporting us each week by helping us with Sunday School, it is greatly appreciated.

*Ros & Linda*



## CHRISTMAS CAKE

I thought the time had come to bake  
that rather special Christmas cake,  
and so I started to prepare  
and weigh the fruit and flour with care  
I warmed the oven, greased the tin  
and felt a certain pride within.  
It smelled so good in just a while,  
I thought it sure to raise a smile.  
But later I was not amused -  
I found the eggs I should have used!  
So, bakers, now this warning take,  
be careful with that special cake.

Iris Hesselden



I thought this was good, as I have been having rather a lot of senior moments lately.  
(I'm told they are not Senior Moments, they are Intellectual Interludes) sounds better,  
doesn't it! *Ed.*





## DRAMA GROUP



At the time of writing, we are about to embark on our three night run of “The Even Greater Escape”, a comedy farce about some rebellious senior citizens in a care home who take matters into their own hands with some hilarious consequences.

We are delighted to welcome some new faces to the group this year - and lots of “extras” to the cast! The stage crew have once again created us a brilliant set -we are thankful for.

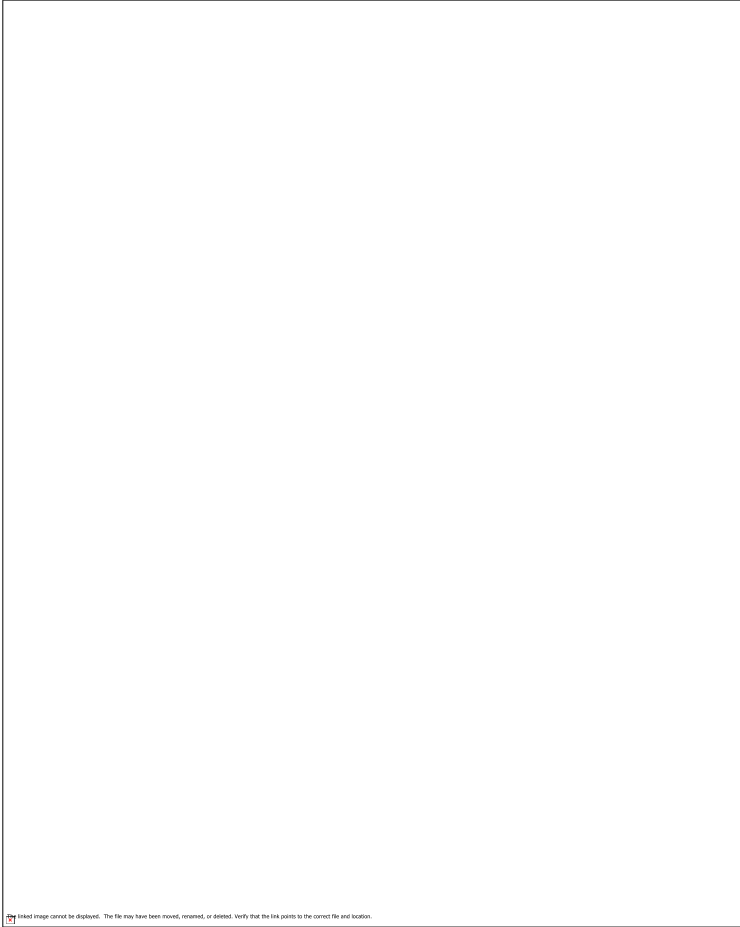
We are reliant on the support of the congregation, our friends and family who come to see us year on year. Each year, we try to find a play which will suit our members and also that our audience will enjoy.

We hope you enjoyed the show!

*Fiona McKenzie* - on behalf of the Drama Group

## The Three Wise Men

Follow the lines to see what gift each  
wise man has brought



What has antlers, pulls Father Christmas's sleigh and is made from cement?

***I don't know.***

A reindeer!

***What about the cement?***

I just put it in to make it hard!

# PARISH REGISTER



## CERTIFICATE OF TRANSFERENCE

Mr James McIntosh, joined Kilbarchan Parish Church from Barrhead Bourock Parish Church

### DEATHS ( \*denotes member)

22/09/2016 Elizabeth Macdonald \*  
25/10/2016 John McCartney  
29/10/2016 David Newton \*  
2/11/2016 John Combes \*  
2/11/2016 George Tod  
9/11/2016 Russell Young

### BAPTISM

6/11/2016 Rebecca McKenzie , Kilbarchan

### WEDDINGS

19/11/2016 Eilidh McNicoll to Philip Henderson

### ROLL

The Roll of Kilbarchan Parish Church is currently 647 with 44 adherents



We would like to thank everyone for the flowers, cards & support we received after Russell's sudden death. We all appreciate how many people thought so highly of him.

*Jean Young & family.*



Thank you for all the Enquiries, Best Wishes and lovely Get Well cards which have come our way since my visit to hospital.

Also for the beautiful Church Flowers I received last Sunday. Thank you all.

*Doris Irvine*

# USEFUL CHURCH CONTACTS

**Minister** - Rev Stephen Smith

**Session Clerk** - Mr Fulton Dunn

**Ass. Session Clerk** - Miss Helen Robertson

**Ass. Session Clerk** - Mrs Christine Erwin

**Treasurer** - Mr James Moffat -

**Clerk to Congregational Board** - Mrs Gwen Howden

## WORSHIP PROGRAMME

Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	11.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	11.00am	Gift Service
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	11.00am	Children's Nativity
	6.30pm	Nine Lessons and Carols
Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	6.30pm	Christmas Eve Family Service
	11.15pm	Carol Singing
	11.30pm	Christmas Eve Watchnight Service
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30am	Christmas Day Service
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> January	11.00am	New Year Service
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> January	11.00am	Morning Worship (followed by a short informal Communion Service)
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> January	11.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January	11.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> January	11.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> February	11.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> February	11.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> February	11.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> February	11.00am	Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
	2.00pm	Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	11.00am	Morning Worship and Boys' Brigade Service

