



# Kilbarchan Parish Church

Your local church magazine

**WITHOUT GOD**

Our week would be

**SINDAY**

**MOURNDAY**

**TEARSDAY**

**WASTEDAY**

**THIRSTDAY**

**FIGHTDAY**

**SHATTERDAY**

**7 DAYS WITHOUT GOD**

**MAKES ONE WEAK!!**

## ***FROM THE MANSE***

Dear Friends,

Just a short note this edition of the newsletter as much of the past two weeks has either been in Fife or travelling back and forward to Fife.

My Mum has just passed away after a long and courageous struggle with cancer. Thanks for all your kindness and support expressed at this time in so many ways.

Your friend  
*Stephen*



## **FROM THE EDITOR**



Summer is over and I am now back to reality. I trust that you had a good break and feel refreshed and looking forward to what the new session of all our organisations and groups have in store for us.

It was good to see that Orders of Service, newsletters and magazines have been brought back from holiday. These will be displayed at the back of the Church once we resume worship in it. I am hoping that somebody out there who visited a church when on holiday would like to share their experience with us so as the 'Churches Visited' series can continue. As I've said before, this is your magazine and only what comes in can go out!

The Winter magazine is scheduled to go out on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December and all articles should reach me by Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November.

*Alastair MacKinnon* - Editor  
[alastair.mackinnon@ntlworld.com](mailto:alastair.mackinnon@ntlworld.com)

# KIRK SESSION REPORT

I hope you had a good summer. We have not had a Session Meeting since the last edition of the church magazine so just a few updates on what was reported earlier.

We can now confirm the Church roll at 425 members with 24 adherents. A number of people have indicated that they wish to join the Church and will be joining at a future service.

As you will all see from the scaffolding covering the building, work has started on the Church and will continue until the end of October. Worship from the 27<sup>th</sup> of August until the end of October will take place in the hall. The work cannot be completed without some inconvenience but every effort is being made to make sure this is kept to a minimum.

Planning agreement has been given for the removal of the memorials and organ from the former West Church. The memorials will be moved to the Parish Church as part of the current work. Winchester College is now in a position to remove the organ.

We are still waiting for the General Trustees to issue a remit to the Solicitor of the Church of Scotland to get underway with the marketing and sale of the former West Church properties.

## **Beadle Duties for coming months**

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| September | Bobby Stevenson, Richard Pitchers, Joyce Scott |
| October   | Ann McLeod, Alasdair Law, Colin Campbell       |
| November  | Cathy Millar, Elizabeth Dunn, Alan Vaughan     |
| December  | Marie Alexander, Gwen Howden, Margaret Gibb    |

*Fulton Dunn*



At a training evening for Elders from two neighbouring churches, one elder said to the other, "And how far are your Session with the Ten Commandments?" His neighbour replied, "Oh we are trying to memorise them." The other smiled in triumph as he said, "Oh, we are farther on than you. We are trying to keep them!"

## TREASURER'S REPORT

The final stage of the 2016 Final Accounts for Kilbarchan Parish Church process has been completed with a copy of the Accounts, attested by Greenock and Paisley Presbytery, now in the hands of OSCR (Charity Regulator). Details of the Accounts can be viewed on the OSCR website.

To ensure finance is available instantly to meet the costs of the major works on the Church and Halls it was necessary to redeem high return investments held the Consolidated Fabric Fund. Over the last year or two these investments, resulting from the sale of the two Manses and the purchase of one, has provided an excellent return to the Church. This means that all earmarked fabric Reserves either held in Edinburgh or by ourselves are instantly available.

The advice of the Church of Scotland Insurance Company was taken to increase cover while the contract was underway. This is mainly to ensure the cost of the works-circa £300,000-is covered for malicious damage, theft, fire etc during the period of the contract. The premium for this was £940.

The Roof Appeal was given a boost by a donation of £120 from Sandy Graham following the sale of his home made jam.

Tom Ferguson, former Organist of the West Church, was in touch recently regarding the sale of CDs of the West Church Organ recital last year. Details of the timing of the release of the CDs, prices, how to pay etc. will be available- perhaps even in another section of the Magazine. The recital last year resulted in a donation to the Church of £530.

In the next few months there will be a dramatic change in the Church Reserves with most of the Earmarked Fabric Reserves fully utilised and the remaining Reserves left to cover cash flow, emergencies etc. If you are in a position to increase your level of offering please do so. For information on Gift Aid or donating by Standing Order, please contact Richard Pitchers (703786).

We have been given a wonderful opportunity to ensure the future of the Church in Kilbarchan for generations to come. Regular giving is the "life blood" of the Church. Thank you for your continued support.

*Jim Moffat*

# KILBARCHAN KIRK ONLINE

Our internet and social media profile continues to grow slowly but surely alongside our ever constant website. Huge thanks to everyone who takes the time to get involved and have a bit of a laugh.

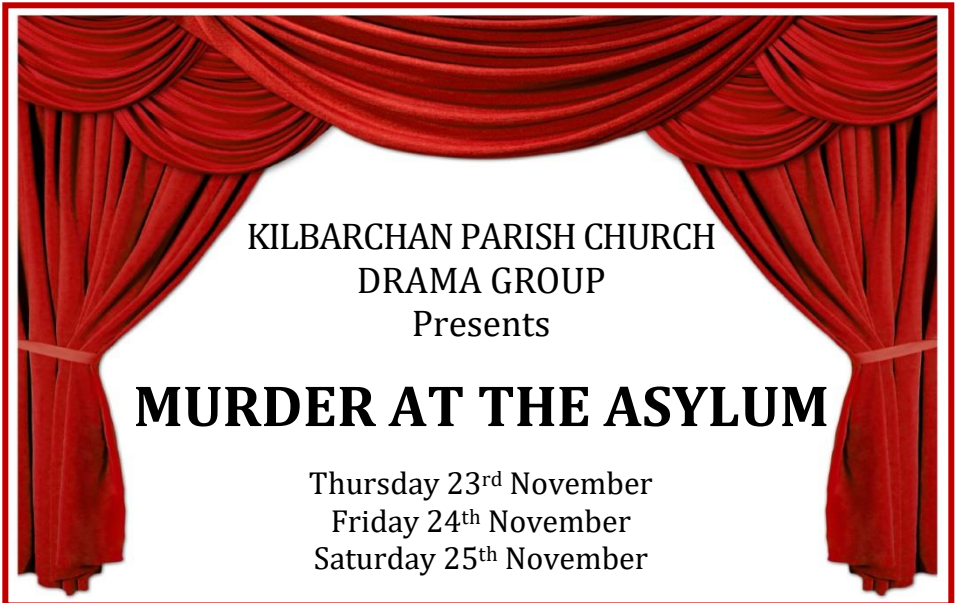
Alison Bone recently decided to step down as a Facebook Admin and I'd like to thank her for her time, support and help during her time as "the other Admin AI".

The internet doesn't sit still though and I am pleased to reveal that we will be welcoming a new Admin very soon. My spelling and dodgy sense of humour demand it.

Can I also remind organisations to update the information they want displayed on the website. This can be handed to me any time or email it to [kilbarchankirk@gmail.com](mailto:kilbarchankirk@gmail.com).

Many thanks for your continuing support and I'll see you online.

*Alan Vaughan*

A graphic featuring a pair of red, draped curtains with white ties-backs, framing the text below. The entire graphic is enclosed in a thin red border.

KILBARCHAN PARISH CHURCH  
DRAMA GROUP  
Presents  
**MURDER AT THE ASYLUM**  
Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November  
Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November  
Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November

## **Rev Andrew Kerr, M.A., B. Litt.**

As a congregatiin we were saddened to hear of the death of Rev Andrew Kerr at the age of 95.

Andrew was born in Hamilton on 7th Sept 1921. There, he grew up with his younger sister Agnes. After graduating from Glasgow University, where he was greatly influenced by Prof William Barclay, often quoting him in sermons, he was probationer minister at Dalziel church in Motherwell where he met Jean Humphries whose father was Session Clerk. They married in 1949 & his first charge was in Arbroath. During that time, with others, he served the people of Arbroath as they tried to come to terms with the loss of 6 of the 7 crew of the Lifeboat Robert Lindsay in 1953.

Andrew & Jean came to Kilbarchan in 1955 and was minister of Kilbarchan West until 1991. Andrew loved his time here, and loved to walk from one end of the parish to the other on visits. He made some good friends here over the years, friendships which endured the rest of his life.

When he returned to Renfrewshire almost ten years ago, he took great delight when people stopped him in the street to introduce themselves and tell him that he had christened or married them or their children.

Throughout his life Andrew maintained his love of literature with a particular passion for Scottish authors such as Sir Walter Scott, Robert Burns and even more modern writers such as George McKay Brown, William Souter and Edwin Muir. It had been a bone of contention that he had not attained a BD, since you then had to pass New Testament Greek which he just could not do, (the irony being he later married a Classics teacher). Therefore while in Kilbarchan he studied for and attained an BLitt (for which his certificate was in Latin & he still needed help to translate!)

Both he and Jean travelled all over Scotland and before retiring they developed a love for France. He set himself the task of reading all Simenon's Maigret novels in the original French, dictionary by his side. They both adored the Borders, and it was to there they retired. Life didn't stand still. Jean had acquired a qualification in Teaching English as a Foreign language, so Andrew accompanied her on teaching assignments to Cambridge, Poland, Greece and Jerusalem.

He particularly enjoyed the fact that he acquired access to the library in St John's College in Cambridge. He also began to help out in the far-spread parish of Gordon, Duns and Westruther by taking services there whenever help was needed.

In December 1999, not long after celebrating their Golden Wedding anniversary Jean died very suddenly. In Andrew's own words, the light had gone out of his

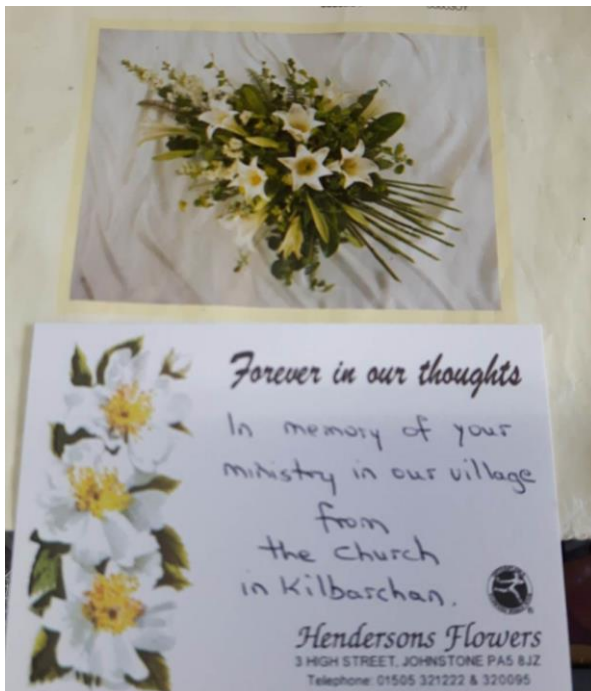
life. Nevertheless, he continued to take services and to keep up with friends, even travelling to visit a friend in Paris well into his eighties. After moving to Kilmacolm, he maintained his independence, and until recent months, when he became particularly frail, he would still walk to the shops every day.

Andrew is remembered as being an excellent preacher, a good visitor and friend to many. Andrew is also remembered as a minister who kept remarkably good health.

Under his ministry three young men were called to the ministry, Bill McCaig, Ian Shedden and Ian Miller.

His faith was unfailing and integral to his life and believed passionately in a life after death.

We commend Andrew's sister Agnes and members of the wider family in prayer.



Tribute given by Rev Stephen Smith at church on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2017.

## **General Assembly Report** - Greenock and Paisley Youth Representative, Emma Vaughan.

I was this year's Youth Representative for Greenock and Paisley at the Church of Scotland's General Assembly. A week's holiday in Edinburgh might sound like bliss, but I can assure you my time as a Youth Rep was far from relaxing...

The opening ceremony was on Saturday the 20th and the highlight was Princess Anne's (the Princess Royal) speech. She was actually much funnier than I expected. However, this wasn't the last time I saw Princess Anne as she attended Heart and Soul the next day. If anyone reading hasn't been to the Heart and Soul festival then I strongly encourage you. Not only is there interesting stalls with information in buckets about all areas in the church, there's also food and entertainment. My favourite part of the day was worshipping with everyone there. Standing in the middle of Princes Street Gardens, surrounded by my brothers and sisters in Christ, belting out songs and bowing our heads in prayer – it was just an experience I'll never forget and I encourage you all to attend next year.

Monday morning was a difficult morning. I woke up to the news of the Manchester Attack. When a tragedy like that happens, all you want to do is be with your loved ones. I was away from my family, my friends, my boyfriend, and being unable to hug any one of them was very difficult. But the General Assembly was my light in the darkness. The Moderator, Derek Browning, spoke such beautiful words and just being able to pray together and stand silently together made me feel slightly better in a devastating time.

I learned a great deal about CrossReach which I found particularly interesting. It was discussed if people who do not identify as Christians should be able to work for the organisation, and finally decided that it would be discriminatory to exclude such individuals.

There was also the debate on whether the church can afford the living wage – a discussion which was very frustrating as there is so much the Church of Scotland wants to do but can't afford to do. This is a theme that popped up a few times over the week – another instance involving visas.

The Guild is continuing to encourage young members to join and men are still equally invited. It was noted that more intergenerational work must be done in the church and the Guild hopes to achieve this.

Moreover, I never thought I would hear the word “memes” at the General Assembly but to my surprise, I did! The debate that ensued still makes me giggle.

Possibly my favourite session of the General Assembly was the Mission and Discipleship Council. This Council suggested that the National Youth Assembly



should end after the year of 2019. As someone who has never attended the NYA before, I read this part of the report and thought, oh well. However, my fellow youth Reps did not feel the same. Extra prep sessions were created to discuss how to deal with the report in a mature manner and I have to say the speeches my friends made were incredibly moving. Furthermore, after our spokeswoman – Esther – finished reading her amendment, and was asked by the Moderator if she had a seconder, every single Youth Rep rose to their feet and raised their hand. It made me so proud to show the church that the youth can work together. Therefore, thanks to the Youth Reps, a new council will be formed to discuss the future of the NYA.

It was during this session that I had planned to stand up and speak. Since the report stated that the year of 2018 would be “The Year of The Young Person” I wanted to ask if the church would consider Youth Reps to be able to vote at the 2018 General Assembly as this isn't a privilege we are granted. This factor disheartened many of my fellow Reps and we felt very helpless during many debates. However, I was advised against speaking out as my question was deemed “controversial” and could impact the success of Esther’s amendment.

On the Thursday evening I was invited to a Beating Retreat at Holyrood Palace. It wasn't long into the night when we learned that Princess Anne was somewhere in the hall so obviously it became our mission to find her. After creating a line of Youth Reps nearly as wide as the room, we caught her and I can now say I have met a real princess.

Overall, I had a fantastic week in Edinburgh. As one of the very few young people in my church – “young” meaning 16-25 in this context (sorry if this offends anyone) – I was beginning to fall out of love with religion. The media portrays Christians as old-fashioned and hateful, and that stereotype was making me ashamed to call myself a Christian. However, the General Assembly showed me there is nothing to be ashamed of. CrossReach, Street Pastors, the work we do for refugees, it's all happening within the Church of Scotland and I'm so glad I've had this experience to open my eyes.

I would like to end this report by thanking a few individuals. Without the kind words from Stephen Smith and Andy Stark in my application form to presbytery, I would not have been able to experience the General Assembly at all. Furthermore, I need to thank Suzi Farrant and her team for taking care of me while I was away. I also must thank Fraser Stockton for helping me find the words for this report. My last thank you is for my church, Kilbarchan Parish, as thanks to them I am now able to attend my first year at the National Youth Assembly where I will continue to meet like-minded people and grow in Christ. I thank you all again and look forward to what the future brings.

# THE GUILD



How quickly the months fly past. It is hard to believe that our first Guild meeting of the 2017/18 session is on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September at 2.30 p.m when our Minister, Stephen Smith will speak to us on this year's Guild theme 'Go in Love'. We have drawn up a varied and hopefully interesting programme for the season, including Mr.Robert Nimmo showing slides and talking about his experiences while on a charity trek on the Great Wall of China, Mrs. Catherine Mills talking about Victorian Nursery Rhymes and the Bible, Mr. Alistair Dinsmor from the Police Museum in Glasgow giving a talk and showing slides on the compelling and dramatic history of the Glasgow Police, which is the oldest police force in the United Kingdom. We look forward to welcoming old and new members to our meetings, and would encourage anyone at 'a loose end' on a Tuesday afternoon throughout the winter to come along and be part of a warm and friendly group of men and women.

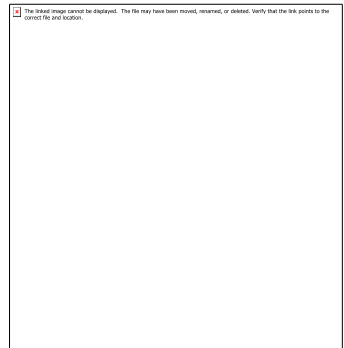
A reminder that our annual Coffee Morning will be held on Saturday 9th September in the Church hall from 10.00 - 12.00. Tickets, priced Adults £2.50, children go free, can be had from Guild committee members or at the door. Please do come along and join us for coffee and a chat.



## SENIOR CHOIR

Rehearsals have resumed and new members will be made very welcome, speak to Ian Trushell any Sunday morning.

*No prize for guessing who submitted this! Ed.*



“There are two ways to live your life. One is though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle” *Albert Einstein*

## Recordings of the organ in the former West Church

The two CD recordings of the former West Church organ are at long last in the final stages of preparation. One features John Kitchen, one of the best-known organists in Scotland, and organist for the City of Edinburgh; the other is by Tom Ferguson, organist at Kilbarchan West until the union in 2015.

These will provide a lasting memory of the wonderful sounds of the Hill organ, soon to be moved to Winchester College.

Both CD's are available at £10 each; orders should be placed with Alastair MacKinnon.

If you cannot order through Alastair at Kilbarchan Parish Church, you can also order direct from Tom Ferguson. Either send him an email at:

tom.ferguson@talktalk.net

or write to him at:

3 Castleview Drive  
Paisley  
PA2 8ED

Please make sure you say how many of each CD (John Kitchen / Tom Ferguson) you would like, stating how you wish the CD to be delivered (through Kilbarchan Parish Church, another personal route – please give details, or by post). Please add £1 to cover postage and packing if you want your order to be posted to you, and make sure you include your postal address! Please try to complete your order by 17<sup>th</sup> September if possible.

If paying by cheque, these should be made payable to 'Kilbarchan Parish Church'

For on line payments direct into the Church account:

|                 |                          |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Name of Bank    | Clydesdale Bank, Paisley |
| Name of Account | Kilbarchan Parish Church |
| Sort Code       | 82 61 11                 |
| Account Number  | 90047071                 |

If using this method it is ESSENTIAL that you use the reference 'CD' plus your NAME so you can be identified, and email Tom Ferguson ( tom.ferguson@talktalk.net ) to say you have done so, giving your reference.

Any profit made after the production costs have been met will go to help the work of the National Pipe Organ Register, who do great and valuable work in documenting information on pipe organs throughout the UK. The website can be viewed at:  
[npor.org.uk](http://npor.org.uk)

The CD by John Kitchen includes music by G F Handel, William Russell, Johann Pachelbel, Charles-Marie Widor, Alexandre Guilmant, Herbert Howells, Edward Elgar and Cor Kee.

The CD by Tom Ferguson includes a wide range of music often heard at Church services during the 36 years he was organist at the Church.



## HILL WALKING CLUB

Ten walkers attended the Braemar weekend and all were pleased with their achievements. One party climbed Ben Avon and Beinn a'Bhuird – a huge walk which they enjoyed, some climbed Corbetts, and some went for coffee and cakes as the weather wasn't great!

The June weekend outing was to Bearnock Hostel from where thirteen members went to climb a variety of mountains. Six of us went to the end of Glen Strathfarrar to climb a very steep Graham, Beinn na Muice. The weather was absolutely atrocious and while climbing up was difficult, descending was horrific! On the way back to the hostel, we got caught up with the cycling stage of the Highland Cross and had to be ultra-careful as about 300 cyclists made their way from Cannich to Beaully. The three who went into Glen Affric to climb the Corbett of Carn a Coire Ghairbh had an extra mile to walk as that part of Glen Affric was being used for the running stage of the Highland Cross, and they were not allowed to drive down the glen. At least they had reasonably good weather unlike the four who tried to climb the Munros of Sgurr Ruadh and Beinn Liath Mhor at Loch Carron. The wind was so strong they had to abandon their climb as they were in danger of being blown off the mountain.

In July, only four braved the long day of climbing three Munros from Glen Etive – Ben Starav, Beinn nan Aighenan and Glas Bheinn Mhor, and, especially as they were very late in getting home, they have all to be congratulated on such an achievement. The low level walk that day was the Corbett of Beinn Maol Chaluim when seven of us had a super dry day and enjoyed magnificent scenery on the summit ridge, looking into Glen Etive, across to Bidean nam Bian and the Buachailles, and down into Loch Leven.

The August meet was attended by thirteen walkers – eight of whom successfully climbed the Munros of Beinn a' Chochuill and Beinn Eunaich while the other five struggled across a saturated, boggy track to the foot of the Graham of Meall nan Gabhar. At that point Jim decided to retreat as the sole of his boot had parted company from the upper! Two others decided it was a great idea to go back to the car with him by a forest track and left Gus and Eilidh to climb to the summit. Eilidh has planned to climb her final Munro- Sgurr a Mhaoraidh on August 26. We offer congratulations in advance of her magnificent achievement.

The remaining walks on our programme are the Grahams, Craignaw and Dungeon Hill in September; in October a climb from Glencoe to Sgurr na h-Ulaidh - or the alternative walk is the Graham of the Pap of Glen Coe; and in November the Donald of Comb Law.

All walks leave from the Steeple at 8.00 am and anyone interested in coming along will be made most welcome.

*Margaret Beattie*

# STITCHING GROUP

The Stitching Group has spent the summer drinking coffee in Bobbins and visiting Ardardan .

Next session, we are going back to meeting on Tuesdays as some of the group can't now come on a Wednesday. On weeks when the Guild meets in the large hall, we intend to collect whatever materials are required from the cupboard and take our work to Bobbins, to give them peace.

We'd be delighted to see new members. We can provide some patterns and materials. However if anybody wants some company, please join us at any time.

Best wishes to all from the Stitching Group.

*Alison McNicoll*



\* games

\* crafts

\* fun

\* worship

\* food

## **Messy Church in Kilbarchan** *Church Halls, Steeple Square, Kilbarchan*



*Everyone is welcome*

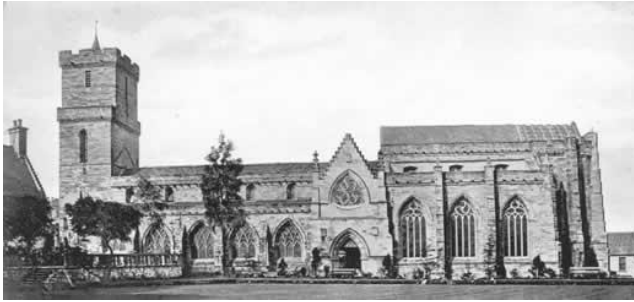


All children must  
be accompanied  
by an adult

Entry is **FREE!!!**

**4.00pm - 6.00pm**

**Saturdays 16<sup>th</sup> September, 21<sup>st</sup> October and 11<sup>th</sup> November**  
**Further dates to follow**



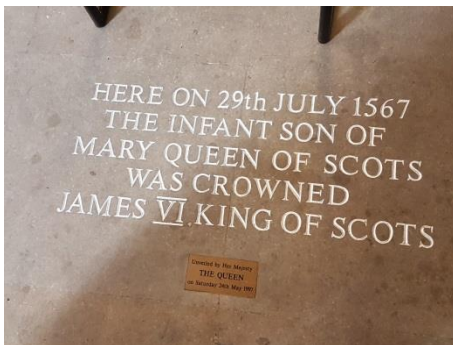
## Church of the Holy Rude

Stirling.

As some of you may know me and Linda both love history, and love nothing better than visiting historic places, buildings and monuments whenever we can. To stand in a place while reading its history as the smell, sound and atmosphere surround you and soak into your clothes and hair is a very special feeling.

On a recent bank holiday we decided to take a trip to Stirling. Not as a history field trip but just simply to get out for a while, do some shopping and have a bit of lunch. Who were we trying to kid? We were in Stirling! History rises up in front of you at every turn. So yes, we ended up in the castle. There is however one type of historic building I like to visit a lot more than Linda does – churches.

So, as we left the castle with a light rain spotting the cobbles I managed to persuade Linda to step into the Church of the Holy Rude, and step into 900 years of church, as well as Scottish history.



Other than the castle there are no buildings in Stirling older than The Church of the Holy Rude. Founded in 1129 as the parish church of Stirling, it was here on 29<sup>th</sup> July 1567 that the infant King James VI of Scotland (and later James I of England) was crowned, making this the only active church, apart from Westminster Abbey, to have hosted a coronation. The present church building

is the result of a rebuilding of the original church which was largely destroyed by fire in 1405. Building was carried out in two phases and completed in 1546.

As we know only too well churches can at times go through disagreements which can result in congregations splitting up. In 1656 as a result of an argument between the incumbent minister, Rev James Guthrie and his more liberal assistant on how services should be conducted, it was decided that with no solution

forthcoming that the church be split in two, each half conducting different services in the same building. Segregation of the resultant congregations, Stirling East and Stirling West, was implemented by building a wall across the width of the church. This wall remained in place for nearly 280 years and was only removed when the congregations were united in 1936. It may be worth noting that the disagreeable Rev Guthrie was a well-known Covenanter and was hanged for treason at the Grassmarket in Edinburgh on 1<sup>st</sup> June 1661. The wall in his church outlasted him by some considerable time.

There are many beautiful windows in the church, the most notable are The Guildry Window which casts a large golden cross surrounded by blues and purples on to the floor of the nave; the Angel Window which is high up in the choir so that as you look up to heaven you can see the angel; and the newly installed Poppy Window which is in memory of Argyll and Southerland Highlanders who fell during the Great War. This is a stunning window and was unveiled in 2016. It is nice to see that such an ancient church is still progressing and is not afraid to add even more richness to its impressive history.

As I mentioned, King James VI was crowned here and one of his greatest achievements was his authorisation to translate The Bible into English, making it more accessible to the church and to ordinary people. This of course has become known as the Authorised or “King James” Bible. There is a fascinating display in the church recounting the history of The Bible and its translation to English – a version that was initially banned by the church. As far as I can gather this was for no other reason than it undermined the church hierarchy and maybe let ordinary people know just a little too much about the love and grace of God. But what do I know?

This is a fascinating church which incorporates much of church and national history. Indeed, there are still bullet marks visible on the tower from the siege of Stirling by Cromwell’s troops in 1651. Its long and fascinating history make it an odd building in places with some parts not quite fitting with others but this all adds to its beauty and charm. Overall this is a sacred and spiritual church which is alive and well along with the rest of our church family, ever changing and growing in a world that is changing and growing at perhaps a different speed.

*Alan Vaughan*

# NATIONAL YOUTH ASSEMBLY

After attending the General Assembly in May of this year, I knew that the National Youth Assembly was the next step. The thought of never again seeing the friends I made in Edinburgh was a reality I wasn't willing to face, and we all agreed we would have to go. Thanks to the Kirk Session and their kindness, I was able to see the friends I had been missing so dearly.

It is an incredibly odd feeling entering a room full of strangers and yet feeling at home. "Family" began to mean more than just those I am related to. The atmosphere is one that mere words aren't enough to describe, so I'll stop trying.

This year's National Youth Assembly's themes were Young People and Discipleship, Interfaith and Priorities of the Church. Each topic held incredibly interesting discussions and I encourage anyone interested to read the NYA Supplementary Report when it is published online later this year as it will cover far more material than I can in this article. However, I'll try to cover as much as I can in the word limit I was given!

Young People and Discipleship was the area that interested me the most. Hearing studies that suggested why young people fall away from the Church gave me much food for thought. Furthermore, learning about discipleship was incredibly fascinating. We were asked a series of questions ranging from "on a scale of 1 to 5, how does the Bible affect your discipleship?" (most people voting "not great") to "on a scale of 1 to 5, how would you rate yourself at sharing your faith journey with others?" (again, most people answering "not great" – myself included). Seeing this response from everyone was truly eye-opening.

Interfaith was another area that I greatly benefitted from. A "human library" was organised for us to move round where people of different faiths spoke of their beliefs and traditions. I heard from a Sikh, a Muslim and even someone from the Bahá'í faith – a faith I had never heard of before that day. Being able to learn of a faith from a person directly involved with the religion was highly beneficial and interesting. These individuals even stayed the night and attended Gartmore Parish Church with us the next day.

The last topic discussed was Priorities of the Church. A member of the Council of Assembly came to speak to us and asked for our opinions. However, he did not manage to stay to hear what our ideas were. The absence of this member did not go unnoticed by our group – especially because one question asked was, "how can



we better hear young people in the Church?" Our Youth Moderator aims to bring light to this absence in the hope it will show how serious the National Youth Assembly and its young people are.

Furthermore, I was able to take part in a Mental Health First Aid workshop where I learnt about the importance of good listening skills. Mental Health First Aid training is now something I am very interested in and may even look into further.

My highlight of the weekend was definitely our time of worship. Each morning and every night we sung songs, listened to sketches and sermons, and bowed our heads in prayer. The theme of each worship session seemed to revolve around talents – forcing us to ask the question, "how can we use our talents to serve God?" Each time for worship allowed everyone time to reflect and in doing so I found the answers I had been searching for. As someone whose talents lie in writing, creating and art, I often wondered why God gave me these gifts and not the gift of science where I could cure diseases, or the ability to create machine to save our planet, or the intellect to fix our society. However, during my time at NYA, I was given the answers I needed.



Over the few days I spent at Gartmore House, where I felt welcomed, moved and meditative, I felt the call to apply for the role as a National Youth Assembly Youth Representative. This role works closely with the Youth Moderator and

Clerk to ensure what was said at the NYA is put into action. Lots of meetings are involved, and even the opportunity to write part of the NYA report for the Blue Book which is used at the General Assembly. Twenty-eight people put their names forward to be considered for the role, but only eighteen places were available. I had to write a paragraph explaining why I believe I am a good candidate and then have two of my peers write a passage as well. Then, everyone present was given ten votes to express who they felt was best for the job. Amazingly, I was voted in.

Since then I have attended my first meeting where I was placed into the Interfaith working group. I was incredibly honoured to be placed in this group as I personally believe it is one of the most important aspects discussed at the NYA and to be placed in a group in charge of taking this forward was very daunting. However, it is a subject I feel passionately about and if anyone has any questions I encourage you to find me for a chat.

After checking the word count I realise my limit is almost up and yet I feel I haven't expressed nearly enough. I would like to end this piece with this: the National Youth Assembly is due to come to an end in 2019. I only found this amazing event this year and I am already saddened that I cannot attend longer. Again, I thank the Kirk Session for allowing me to attend NYA and for Stephen Smith for starting me on this amazing journey.

God bless, and here's to an exciting future,

*Emma*



## **COUNTRY DANCING**

This session of Country Dancing will start on Tuesday September 12<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm. until 9.30pm. and run each Tuesday until 15<sup>th</sup> December. We meet in the Church hall and if you would like to join us please come along you will be made most welcome.  
Please bring your own cup.

*Helen Miller*

## FUND-RAISING

“Art Off the Square” took place on Thursday and Friday 24/25 August from 2-9pm and Saturday 26 from 10am-4pm, organised once again by Myra and George Grant, along with their helpers, many thanks for all the hard work. Thanks also to all who helped in the tearoom and provided the delicious home baking. The magnificent sum in excess of £4,200 was realised for church funds.

At the moment with all the work in the church and halls, we have no other events planned so if there are any suggestions, please speak to a committee member.

Committee members: Jenifer Pitchers (Chairperson), Irene Moffat (Treasurer), Joan MacKinnon, 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.



## DRAMA GROUP



Date for your Diary - 23/24/25 November 2017 the Drama Group production of "Murder at the Asylum" a comedy by Peter De Geesewell.

As I write this the casting is taking place and rehearsals are about to start.

We look forward to seeing you there in our 40th year of the Group.

*Alan Fulton*, Treasurer



**LEARN FROM MISTAKES OF OTHERS.**

**YOU CAN NEVER LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO MAKE THEM ALL YOURSELF**



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

The Junior Section of the Boys' Brigade celebrates 100 years this year and the Anchor Section is 40 years old, this I discovered recently. We celebrated 100 years of the Junior Section at the end of March with a Birthday Cake made by Ben Cunningham of the Company Section. We now look forward to a new session and on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> we spent a day on Millport reminiscent of our traditional Life Boy Trips in Millport where we always had a great day out!

On Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September we started our new session off with a Fun Night with Bouncy Castle for the younger boys, a gladiator challenge for the older boys as well as a giant game of Twister. The evening ended with a barbecue with real locally sourced hamburgers in traditional Scottish Morning Rolls – yum, yum! Everyone had a great time! Some of the boys brought friends along to experience a BB Friday night!

Everyone has been given a list of all the competitions to be organised by Paisley and District Battalion and hopefully 1<sup>st</sup> Kilbarchan will improve on last year's efforts. We have a Coffee Morning in the Church Hall on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2017 from 10 am to 12 noon and I hope as many people as possible can manage along to support our Boys' Brigade Company. Remember we also have local people providing stalls with craft goods in the small hall.

Our Officers are planning new adventures for the Fridays that we are not in the Hall due to the Drama Production – the Drama Group celebrates its 40<sup>th</sup> birthday as well this year or if the building work overruns.

We have our Halloween Party on 27<sup>th</sup> October including our usual High-Junks and the Alan McCulloch Ghost Story - ooooOOOOO! The following week 3<sup>rd</sup> November is the Firesorks Display in the park organised by the Scouts and BB. Remember to come along to the Church Hall after the event for hot soup and snacks. . We go to the Pavilion Pantomime on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December – The Wizard of Never Woz. The younger boys especially love to travel by train from Johnstone Station to Glasgow Central and the trek up through the busy Glasgow streets to the Theatre. The Company have a major fund-raising event on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> December when we will be bag-packing in Morrisons the day before Hogmanay – please come along and support the boys and girls.

We should have 2 boys completing their Queen's Badge this year and 2 more embarking on gaining their President's Badge. After our surprise visit to

Trooping of the Colour and managing to have 2 officers and 3 boys on the Camp on Cumbrae – Who knows what will come along this year!

Thanks to everyone in Kilbarchan Parish Church for their continued support of our Boys; Brigade Company. We are looking for adult helpers for the Company Section. If you think you can help please let me know?

*Robert Stevenson*



We are looking for one or two volunteers to organize the Christian Aid Week collections in Kilbarchan and Brookfield from next May., and to lead and keep up a team of 45 collectors. Anyone interested please see Christine Dale or Evelyn Campbell, to get more information.



Christine Dale is appealing for more of your oddments of wool, any type from 2ply to Aran, and no amount is too small.

The last appeal provided enough wool to make 15 single-bed size blankets 45” x 63”, and these were collected by Mary’s Meals.

Old or unfinished knitting that can be unraveled and re-used is also acceptable.

Thank you.



**MARY'S  
MEALS**

Put a smile on their plate

*Christine Dale*



## MIDWEEK FELLOWSHIP

A warm welcome awaits you on a Wednesday morning in the Small Hall between 10.30 and 11.30 a.m.



A time in the middle of the week to have fellowship – to have a quiet, reflective time – to worship in a Smaller, informal setting. If this appeals to you – why not give it a try. At time of writing this, a start date is not available – it’s usually the beginning of September.

We really do hope to see you.

*Margaret Christine*



Thank you for your continued generous giving to Food bank. The food items especially requested now are :-



Tinned soup, Tinned Fruit, Tinned custard, Tinned rice, Cereal, Jam, Coffee (Small size), Tea bags (small size), Cartons of fruit juice, UHT Milk.

Many Thanks .

*Graham & Jack*



## BLYTHSWOOD SHOEBOX APPEAL



We shall be participating once more in this very worthwhile appeal. Leaflets will be available at the end of September and the filled boxes should be returned at the beginning of November, the date will be on the church website. As usual, if you feel you wish to contribute but are unable to fill a box, Jenifer and Aileen will be happy to receive your donations of goods or money.

## MESSY CHURCH

Having had a break over the summer holidays Messy Church will be back on Saturday 16th September from 4-6pm in the Church halls. As I write this the team are planning a meeting to discuss our theme for the day. Look out for this on posters, Facebook and e-mails.



If you have been before please join us again and if you think you might give it a try we will be delighted to see you. Children, remember to bring an adult with you. They will have fun too. By the time we sit down to eat no doubt you will find new friendships have been made.

Our future dates to the end of the year are Saturday 21st October and Saturday 11th November.

Hope to see you there.

*Joan and the team.*



## **SAFEGUARDING**

We are very fortunate in Kilbarchan to have so many people volunteering to organise or help in the organisations within the Church. Before this can happen each volunteer must have references taken up and a PVG certificate obtained. After the volunteer has taken up the position it is then necessary for them to undertake a training course.

Safeguarding Training is one of the main tools for ensuring a safe Church for all. The aim is to prevent harm and abuse of all children and vulnerable adults within the Church.

The two main trainers in the Presbytery have recently retired after 20 years in the position. It is therefore necessary for new trainers to be found. If anyone within the congregation feels that they could volunteer for this position please speak to me for more information.

*Elizabeth Dunn*

**PRESBYTERY PATER**

## *Snippets from the June meeting of Greenock and Paisley Presbytery*

**REPORTS** General Assembly reports were given by the Clerk on Due Diligence by commissioners and Highlights from assembly business, also the Youth Representative – Miss Emma Vaughan. Congratulations to Emma on the delivery of her report, a clear concise and uplifting experience for Presbytery, many thanks Emma.

**VACANCY PROCEDURE** Renfrew North Church has been granted an extension of twelve months for permission to call a minister also Langbank linked with Port Glasgow: St Andrew's being granted a further extension of twelve months permission to call a minister.

**BUSINESS** The Rev Bill Armstrong, Rev Ian Bell, Rev May Bell, Rev Donald Campbell, Rev Alastair Cherry, Rev Lilly Easton, Rev Ian Fraser, Very Rev Dr Lorna Hood, Rev David Kay, Rev Maureen Leitch, Rev Bill McKaig, Rev David Stewart, Rev Alex Whiteford and the Rev Margaret Whyte are granted practising certificates, in accordance with Act II 2000 and notes they will retain their seat in Presbytery. Mary Jane Bird has been appointed as an additional elder to Presbytery. Applications are invited for the positions of Safeguarding Training Officers. The Rev James Cowan's election and installation as Moderator will take place at the October meeting of Presbytery.

**TREASURER** Agreement was reached to transfer £2,700 from the Bequest Fund to the Miss Lang Bequest Fund, and £800 from the Bequest Fund to the Eventide Homes Fund to enable the annual grants to Christian social projects and Adam's House to be made by 30 June 2017.

**COMMUNITY INTERESTS** The allocation of the following grants were approved:-From Eventide Home Fund - £800 to Adams House. From Miss Lang Bequest Fund -£400 Barrhead Memory Lane, £300 - Starter Packs, £200 – Johnstone High Soul Space/Healing Rooms, £400 - Street Pastors, £400 - Supporting Parents, £1000 - Inverclyde Family Contact Centre. Agrees to support the Community Chaplaincy Listening Service (CCL) as it is rolled out across Presbytery bounds and supports appropriately qualified chaplains willing to work in support of the NHS.

**MINISTRY** The Rev Eileen Manson appointed as locum at Greenock St Ninian's from 1 July on the demission of the Rev Allan McIntyre.

**PRESBYTERY PLAN REVIEW** The votes on the basis of Severance and Guardianship by the congregations of Howwood and Lochwinnoch were noted, in particular that of Lochwinnoch congregation who voted against the Basis of Severance; Presbytery resolves to sever the linkage in terms of Presbytery's right to effect adjustment in such circumstances as outlined in section 13.2 of Act 7 2003, (Appraisal and Adjustment) and to intimate this decision to the Assembly



Committee; the linkage shall be severed as from the 1st July 2017; the Rev Ian Fraser will become the Guardian of both charges as they move into guardianship.

**STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE** Agrees that the following sums be awarded from the 5% Discretionary Allowance to reduce the 2017 Ministries and Mission contributions of the congregations concerned : Greenock East End - £2,750 Houston and Killellan - £1020 Inchinnan - £5000 Johnstone High - £1000 and instructs the Clerk to send an extract minute of this decision to the Church's Stewardship & Finance Department and to inform the Congregational Treasurers.

**PROPERTY.** An application to the General Trustees by the Inchinnan Congregation for a grant of £3,000 towards the cost of the architect's report in connection with water ingress at the Chancel window; was approved, subject to the approval of CARTA, an application by the Paisley Abbey Congregation for the replacement of the existing polycarbonate sheet panels with toughened glass panels and replacement of the existing manually operated door with an automatic sliding door at the cloister area entrance to the sanctuary and cafe / shop and to also provide improved disabled access at an estimated cost of £17,600. It is intended that funding will come from the Landfill Tax; approves, subject to approval of the General Trustees, various applications were made by Kilmacolm: Old in respect of re-slatting the church roof, stonework and dry rot repairs, renewal of central heating boilers in the church and Kidston Hall, a programme of electrical system tests and PAT testing. Funding is available and the property Committee has approved a grant of £5,000 from the Cargill Bequest Fund to assist with the cost of these works subject to approval of the General Trustees. Reminder that a circular was issued earlier this year by Elspeth Annan, Church of Scotland Solicitor, for the attention of Congregational Treasurers, concerning the revaluation of Churches and Church Halls, the last date for lodging appeals against valuations is 30th September 2017.

**MISSION & DISCIPLESHIP** The application to the Oakshaw Mission Fund from Glenburn, requesting £300 for outreach work in Gleniffer High School; the application to the Smith Lefevre Fund from Martyrs Sandyford, requesting £740 for a "Going Bananas" holiday Bible club at Montgomery Road were both agreed. The range of LEARN resources available and commends them to Kirk Sessions and congregations; new resources on Children, Youth and Young Adults are available on the Church of Scotland website, and instructs Kirk Sessions to give this information to all in their congregation working with Children, Youth and Young Adults. The next date for grant applications to be submitted to the office is 12 noon on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2017.

**TOTS' CLUB**

We had a very successful summer party at the end of June, when the children had to find a teddy, along with a sunflower in a pot with their name on it, in the church grounds.

The club resumes on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September when we hope to welcome many Tots along with the adults looking after them. It is important to remember that each adult is fully responsible for the tot/s in his/her charge. We have a varied selection of toys and of course the ever popular bouncy castle.

Please drop in for coffee any Monday morning and if you feel that you have a Monday morning to spare every few weeks, we would be delighted to welcome more volunteers. We usually now have 5 volunteers on duty each week as there is a lot to set out in the hall and we seem to have amassed quite a few new toys- putting them away in our cupboard is a work of art, some of us are better than others!!

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, Fiona Stewart and Jenifer Pitchers.

### *Tots' Team in Party Mode!*



**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Summer Holidays are over and we are all back to school! There has been a good turnout of children at Summer Sunday School and Creche and we thank those who volunteered to take it thus giving us a break to recharge our batteries ready for the new session. This session will once again be an exciting one when we learn about Jesus through songs, stories and crafts.

*Ros & Shona*

1st Kibbarchan Company of the Boys' Brigade



## CHRISTMAS FAYRE



Just an early reminder of one of the most enjoyable, sociable and successful fundraisers in the Church calendar. So please put Saturday 2nd December 2017 in your diary!

*Who knows, Santa might be there – come and find out! Ed.*



## GREED

A young man once asked God how long a million years was to him. God replied, "A million years to me is just like a single second to you."

The young man asked God what a million dollars was to him. God replied, "A million dollars to me is just like a single penny to you."

Then the young man got his courage up and asked, "God, could I have one of your pennies?"

God smiled and replied, "Certainly, just a second."

1<sup>st</sup> Kilbarchan Boys Brigade was invited to attend trooping of the Colour in London on the 17<sup>th</sup> June along with other companies throughout Britain.

After finding out that we had been successful to get a place it was all systems go to get organised as we only had a few weeks to prepare. Due to short notice we managed to get interest from 9 boys and 1 girl. These were Anchors Boys Corey and David, Junior Section James and Company Section Ben, Jacob, David McNish, David Johnstone, Alexs, Kayden and Morgan who helps with the anchors. Leaders Shona and Joyce accompanied by parent helpers Linda , David and Louise. Unfortunately 2 had to drop out before our journey.

We set off on the train from Milliken Park on the Friday evening catching the Virgin train to London and our connecting train to Hemel Hempstead arriving late at 11.30pm.

Accommodation was fantastic at BB Headquarters - Felden Lodge with dormitory rooms, kitchen and dining area ideal for excited boys, girl and parents.



We were up early and on the 7.15am train on the Saturday morning into London to meet at Horseguard's Parade for 8.30am dressed smart in our BB uniforms. Trooping of the colour did not start until 10.00am so we made use of this time to meet other companies and organisations. We were lucky in our enclosure to be right next to the parade ground and get a great view of the parade.



Kate, Camilla and Harry were in a carriage and after one of our Mum's shouted we got a wave and smile from Harry followed by the Queen and Prince Philip. Prince William, Princess Anne and Prince Charles followed the Queen on horseback.

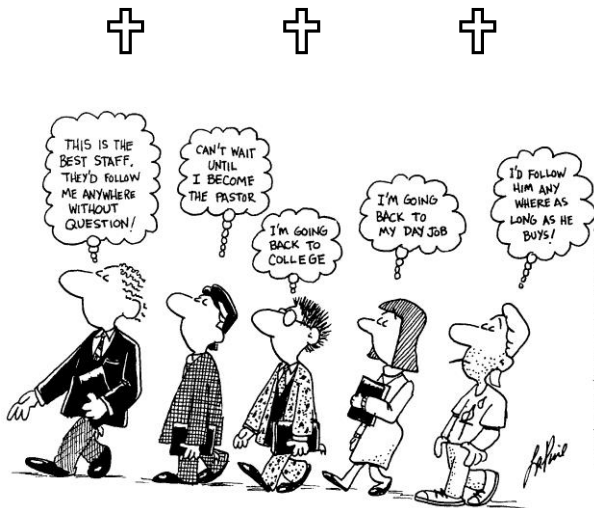


The bands and music were excellent keeping the boys amused as it was a very hot day and they were tired given our late arrival and early start. Although they felt awful for all the soldiers and people fainting we were under the shade and had taken water supplies and snacks.

After trooping of the colour we had the privilege of walking up the mall with other invited guests to the front of Buckingham Palace to await the Queen and her family come out onto the balcony and wave to the crowd as well as watch the fly past with a number of aircraft including spitfires, Hurricanes from the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War and the Red Arrows. It was a fantastic experience and something that we will all remember and hopefully have opportunity to do it again.

As most of the Boys had never been to London we spent the rest of the day sightseeing taking in big Ben, Houses of Parliament, Downing Street, London Eye, HMS Belfast, London Bridge and the Tower of London as well as the underground. A fun time was had by all.

*Shona*



# Kidz Korner

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# PARISH REGISTER



## MEMBERS JOINING BY CERTIFICATE

Mrs Anne Palmer, 4 Bream Place, Houston  
Mrs Mary Borland, Crimond, Bonar Crescent, Bridge of Weir.

## DEATHS ( \* denotes member)

25/05/2017 Ermione Semple  
19/06/2017 Margaret Greenshields \*  
05/06/2017 Ian Keir \*  
21/07/2017 Evelyn Robertson

## BAPTISM

06/08/2017 Joyce Helen Spiers  
06/08/2017 James Matthew Wheeler, son of Joyce and Matthew  
06/08/2017 David James Baird, son of Joyce and David  
20/08/2017 Arran George Shaw, son of Sandra and Andrew

## ROLL

The Roll of Kilbarchan Parish Church now stands at 425 and 24 Adherants.



## Five important ways to Bless your Neighbours.

- B** – Body – Health, Protection, Strength
- L** – Labour – Work, Income, Security
- E** – Emotions – Joy, Peace, Hope
- S** – Social – Love, Marriage, Family, Friends
- S** – Spiritual – Salvation, Faith, Grace

*From Pray for Scotland.*

## WORSHIP PROGRAMME

|                                   |         |                                     |
|-----------------------------------|---------|-------------------------------------|
| Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September  | 11am    | Morning worship                     |
| Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> September | 11am    | Morning worship                     |
| Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> September | 11am    | Morning worship                     |
| Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> September | 11am    | Morning worship                     |
|                                   |         |                                     |
| Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> October    | 11am    | Morning worship                     |
| Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> October    | 11am    | Morning worship                     |
| Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> October   | 11am    | Morning worship                     |
| Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October   | 11am    | Morning worship                     |
| Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> October   | 11am    | Sacrament of the Lord's Supper      |
|                                   | 2pm     | Sacrament of the Lord's Supper      |
|                                   |         |                                     |
| Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> November   | 11am    | Morning Worship                     |
| Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> November  | 10am    | Remembrance Service at War Memorial |
|                                   | 10.45am | Remembrance Sunday                  |
| Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> November  | 11am    | Morning worship                     |
| Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> November  | 11am    | Morning worship                     |
|                                   |         |                                     |
| Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December   | 11am    | Morning worship                     |