



Kilbarchan Parish Church

Your local church magazine

Dear Friends,

How time flies. It seems no sooner has the season of Remembrance passed and we are racing full tilt towards Christmas. There are still 5 weeks to go as I write this but time seems short and there is so much to do.

In this edition of the newsletter, there is a lot of information about forthcoming events and dates for your diary. I hope that you will be able to come along and enjoy some or all of the events and services that are planned.

Earlier this week I saw my first Christmas tree of the year. The following day the first Christmas card dropped through the Manse letterbox. Mind you, it wasn't for us. It was for the previous owners of the house.

Christmas is sometimes the only time we keep in contact with some folks It's good to make sure we have the correct address and contact details. I remember a number of years back receiving a card from the post office saying I had to go to the post office to pick up some post that required me to pay the postage. Someone must have been sending a lot of cards and forgotten to put a stamp on. Easy mistake. Imagine my surprise when I got home and opened it up to discover it was from neighbours across the road!

Keeping in touch is so important. Good communication is important. Essential to any lifegiving healthy relationship.

As we look towards Christmas we remember the birth of Jesus, and how in that birth and life and death, God touched the world and offers to each one a touching place.

I hope and pray that you all have a joyous Christmas and peaceful start to the New Year.

Your friend

Stephen

FROM THE EDITOR



Here we are nearly at the end of another year. I trust that you have found something of interest in the previous magazines and that this one will be the same.

We still have our churches visited where you, the members of the congregation, share their experience of visits to different churches. Various versions of the 23rd Psalm still continue to come across my desk and we'll continue to print them as and when.

The magazine does not just suddenly appear every quarter and I would like to express my thanks to all my contributors without whom you wouldn't be reading this (I assume you do read the Editorial!)

The next magazine will be out in March, 2019 and all items for it should reach me at alastair.mackinnon@ntlworld.com by Sunday 17th February.

On behalf of myself and all my contributors, may I wish you a good read, a Happy Christmas and a peaceful 2019.

Alastair MacKinnon



Mary's Dream

'I had a dream, Joseph. I don't understand, but I think it was about a birthday celebration for our son.

The people in my dream had been preparing for about six weeks. They had decorated the house and bought new clothes. They'd gone shopping many times and bought many elaborate gifts.

It was peculiar, though, because the presents weren't for our son. They wrapped them in beautiful paper and stacked them under a tree. Yes, a tree Joseph right inside their homes! They'd decorated the tree with sparkling ornaments. There was a figure like an angel on the top of the tree.

Everyone was laughing and happy. They gave the gifts to each other, Joseph not to our son. I don't think they even knew him. They never mentioned his name,

I had the strangest feeling that, if our Jesus had gone to this celebration, he would have been intruding. How sad for someone not to be wanted at his own birthday party! I'm glad it was only a dream, how terrible, Joseph, if it had been real!'



KIRK SESSION REPORT

Having had a number of notes of interest from Churches across Europe for the West Church organ, the Kirk Session agreed that the instrument, described as one of the best of its kind, is to be sent to a church in Prenzlau, Germany, which was badly damaged during World War Two. At the time of writing, a small team of organ builders from Germany has already begun dismantling this grand old instrument which was installed in 1904 by the London makers Hill and son. Like a giant jigsaw, pieces are labelled so they can all be put back together again at the other end. There is also a good deal of restoration work to be done. It is hoped that the organ will be installed by 2020. We will keep you up to date with progress.

We recently went through a Local Church Review. The first objective is “To give counsel and encouragement to the congregation”. Another objective is “Give advice or take supportive or remedial action” where “anything unsatisfactory is found...or not in accord with Church law and order”. To help the visiting team from Presbytery we were required to produce a report which gave factual information about the congregation. The most important object of the Review is “To facilitate the congregation in setting out their priorities and plans for at least the next five years”.

After their first visit we were asked to provide an Action Plan for the next five years. The aim of this Section is on vision-building and dealing with the challenges Churches may encounter on implementing their vision. We have had our final meeting with the visiting team and now await the report of their findings. The report and Action Plan will be made available as soon as we hear from Presbytery.

Noah Construction are still progressing plans for the West Church conversion to residential accommodation. A planning application should be submitted to Renfrewshire Council by March 2019.

Our congregation are on the rota to send a representative to the General Assembly this year. Anyone interested in attending should contact myself.

The church is only able to exist with the help of numerous volunteers who keep it running smoothly. I would say a big thank you to everyone who is currently helping in any way. We have a number of posts that we need to fill and would ask for help in filling them. Jim is retiring as Treasurer and Richard as Gift Aid Convenor. We are also in the fortunate position of having a growing Junior Church who are looking for more helpers. If you are able to help in any way please contact either Gwen Howden or myself. Thanks.

Fulton Dunn

Beadle Duties for the coming months

December	Myra Grant, Malcolm MacAskill, Jenifer Pitchers
January	Graham McKay, Margaret Wooler, Neil Chittick
February	Una Strachan, Alastair MacKinnon, Sandy Graham
March	Bobby Stevenson, Richard Pitchers, Joyce Scott



Junior Church

Volunteers Required

It is great to see so many children attending Junior Church. Not only have the numbers been increasing but, as we can see, the age range is also growing. Ros and Shona do a wonderful job of ensuring that they all enjoy the experience and, from the notice board in the hall, we know that a lot of work goes in to finding interesting things for them to do.

As you can imagine it is becoming more important that there are enough adults present to supervise the children and to allow the leaders the chance to put them into age appropriate groups.

It would be good to have another leader who would be a known face for the children to relate to each week. We are also hoping to increase the number of volunteers on the register who can be used on a rota basis (obviously the more we have, the less each volunteer has to do.)

Please give this some thought as it is important to the future of our Church that we encourage children to enjoy worshipping with us and if you feel able to help or would like more information please speak to Ros, Shona or myself,

Elizabeth Dunn, Safeguarding Coordinator.

TREASURER'S REPORT

In terms of finance the most important figures to monitor are the level of offerings from all sources-Freewill Envelopes , Plate and Gift Aid Envelopes. While fundraising is also important both from the social and financial perspective together with Legacies which mean a lot to the Church and “arrive” after a lot of thought and soul searching. regular offerings are the life blood of the Church. We have now completed almost three years of the Union and trends of giving to the Parish Church are now emerging. The latest prediction is that our Offerings this year will be some 5% higher than last year.

I have attended a number of meetings with representatives of Churches in the Presbytery in the last few weeks and this is certainly not the case across the board. As we approach the New Year, I would request members who have not reviewed their level of giving recently, please do so.

In terms of expenditure the annual Ministries and Mission (M&M) figure (payable to the Church of Scotland) is far and away the largest proportion .It is calculated on the basis of roughly 60% of a Church's annual income with notable exceptions including Legacies. M&M contributions cover mainly the Minister's salary and oncosts with the remainder covering a host of items including Christian education and Outreach together with providing social care services and planning the General Assembly.

With the exception of the release of the final retention on the major structural works contract (due early next year) all payments have been made together with all fees due to the Project Manager. The final application for reclaim of VAT for work on the Church only (Listed Building and place of worship) has also been made. The final impact on the Church's Restricted Reserves is significantly less than predicted a year ago. This is due to the diligence and perseverance of a number of Board and Session members who “faced up” to the Project Manager. This resulted in a reduction of about £50,000 in the Contract and a reduction of almost £5,000 in the Project Manager's fee.

As a result of the above significant savings the Restricted Reserves are in a much better position than forecast over a year ago. It is predicted that these Reserves should be around £60,000 at the year end. General Reserves are estimated to be around £80,000 at the year end. The Congregational Board will be considering proposals , in the next year or so, to carry out significant works that will reduce these Reserves significantly including replacing the Church heating system and installing an audio visual system in the Church. It is essential that the fabric of the Church is kept fit for purpose for generations to come.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Jim Moffat

A LOOK TO THE FUTURE AND THE PRESBYTERY PLAN

The National Position

In 2003 the Ministries Council felt that it could only support 1000 ministries throughout the whole of Scotland, hence the need for each Presbytery to have a Plan that would reduce the overall number of ministries. It now appears that their numbers were over enthusiastic, as there are now **ONLY 861** filled ministerial posts in Scotland. Projecting these figures for five and ten years sees an overall decrease in the number of ministers available for charges. The following figures are the **LIKELY** number of ministries available to the church:
By 2023 – 611 charges and by 2028 – 468.

As things stand in Greenock and Paisley Presbytery

The existing Presbytery plan allows for 41 fulltime equivalent (FTE) Ministerial places for Greenock and Paisley. Currently we have 31 ministers of word and sacrament (W&S) in post plus two mission development staff (MDS) – 33 FTE posts, that means we are running with a number of vacancies (10). Currently Vacant or in Guardianship are PG St Andrews l/w Langbank, PG Hamilton Bardrainey l/w St Martins, Paisley St Columba Foxbar l/w St Luke's (deferred), Paisley Lylesland, Paisley Glenburn, Greenock St Ninian's, Howwood, Lochwinnoch, and finally Elderslie, with at least 3 more by September due to ministers retiring: Paisley Martyrs Sandyford, Paisley Oldhall and Greenock St.Margaret's. Neilston becoming vacant from the end of October and a **FURTHER 7 MINISTERS** are eligible to retire within the next 5 years.

Ministers for Greenock and Paisley

Future projections of the likely number of **AVAILABLE** ministers for the Presbytery, assuming that the current pattern of allocation to Greenock and Paisley remains the same at approximately 3.8%, would be as follows: in **2023 – 25** and by **2028 – 18**. So you will see the current plan is unsustainable!

SO WHAT ARE THE OPTIONS FOR THE PRESBYTERY?

1. Tinkering with the current plan to stretch things even more, approximately a **50%** reduction.
2. Developing a hub/cluster approach.
3. Adopting a free market/survival of the fittest policy.

What might these Options look like?

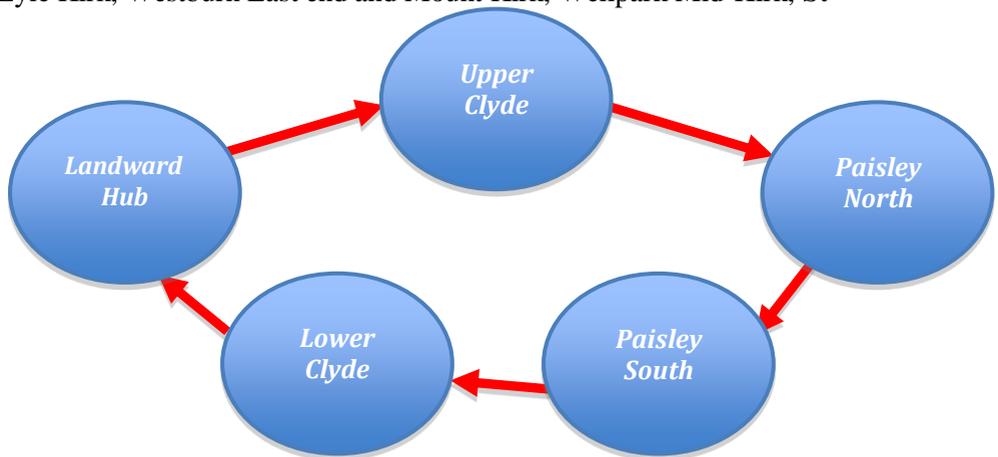
1. Tinkering with existing model using five Zones for the presbytery

Zone 1 – Would get 7 FTE (including 1MDS) posts – split between Barrhead and Neilston, Johnstone and Elderslie and the Paisley South churches – (currently there are 11 FTE posts).

- Zone 2** – Would get 7 FTE allocations shared between Renfrew, Erskine, Bishopton, Inchinnan and Paisley North churches- (currently 11 FTE posts).
- Zone 3** – 5.5 FTE allocations – shared between Port Glasgow, Kilmacolm, Bridge of Weir, Houston, Linwood, Kilbarchan, Lochwinnoch and Howwood (10 FTE currently).
- Zone 4** – 5.5 FTE, (including 1 MDS) Shared between Gourock, Greenock, Inverkip, Skelmorlie and Wemyss bay (9 FTE posts currently).
- Total 25 Full Time Equivalent Posts – but things are starting to look very stretched.**

2. Developing a hub/cluster model

Lower Clyde Hub – Gourock Old and Ashton, Gourock St John’s, Greenock Lyle Kirk, Westburn East end and Mount Kirk, Wellpark Mid-Kirk, St



Margaret’s, St Ninian’s, Inverkip and Skelmorlie with Wemyss bay.

Upper Clyde Hub – Port Glasgow St Andrew’s & Langbank, Port Glasgow Hamilton Bardrainney and St Martin’s, Bishopton, Inchinnan, Erskine, Renfrew North and Renfrew Trinity.

Paisley North Hub – Oakshaw Trinity, Martyr’s Sandyford, Sherwood Greenlaw, St Mark’s Oldhall, Wallneuk North, St Ninian’s, Elderslie, Johnstone High, Johnstone St Paul’s and Johnstone St Andrew’s Trinity.

Paisley South Hub – Abbey, Glenburn, Lylesland, St Luke’s, St Columba Foxbar, Stowbrae, Barrhead Bourrock, Barrhead St Andrew’s and Neilston.

Landward Area Hub – Bridge of Weir Freeland, Bridge of Weir St Machar’s Ranfurly, Houston and Killellan, Howwood, Kilbarchan Kilmacolm Old, Kilmacolm St Columba, Linwood and Lochwinnoch.

Each HUB would be served by a team of Ministers of W&S, MDSs, Ordained local ministers (OLMs), Readers and Local Worship Leaders.

3. Free market/Survival of the fittest model

What are the criteria? Congregational size? Financial Strength? Missional Activity/Vision?

Would that entail abandoning certain areas in terms of cover? Should there be a strategic geographical location criterion? What of our commitments to the poor? Not all of our financially strong congregations are necessarily the most imaginative.

Problems with free market/survival of the fittest model

Should financial ability to pay for ministry be the criterion for getting permission to call a minister – currently we have more than 25 charges qualifying on that parameter. There will still be certainly more congregations qualifying on that basis in 2028 than 18! Assessing strength is a relative matter – most of our congregations are showing some form of decline. Will a survival of the fittest model break the unity of the church?

Constraints on Presbytery Planning

- Principal of providing a minister to every parish or group of parishes in Scotland.
- Ministers in post on fixed terms: Unrestricted tenure or 7 years reviewable tenure.
- Ministers retiring, but not necessarily from where we want them to be retiring.
- No real control over which vacancies get filled – unable to prioritise.
- As yet no regulatory basis to enable us to move to a hub/cluster model – at the moment all we could do legally is to create larger linkages or unions even if we call them ‘hubs’.
- Congregational resistance.
- Congregational culture - theological and liturgical commitments – not everyone fits everywhere!
- Financial viability – are we continuing to resource dead ducks?
- Aged and unsuitable buildings; nettle has to be grasped!
- Does current approach leave room for fresh expressions? (Rev Dr Doug Gay’s assertion that we need to close churches but also found new forms of church.)

- Would it in effect mean abandoning large swathes of Presbytery completely – is ministerial oversight for every parish dead in the water?

Questions Presbytery is trying to consider

- Will we fall into a *de facto* free market model whatever we do – if so are we better planning for it?
- Are we too ministry dependent? Are there other models of church?
- Could small congregation survive as worshipping, witnessing communities with lay leadership and only occasional ministerial input?
- Does the Mission and Ministry (M&M) system need to be reformed, if many churches are not going to get full-time ministry?
- If this was significantly reduced could smaller congregations continue by buying in occasional/sessional ministerial input.

After several meetings with representatives of every Church and Parish the Presbytery will now have to take all the suggestions and comments on board and try to come up with some revised plan or solution which goes some way to alleviating the problem.

** All numbers and details are correct as of September 2018, maybe??**



PRESBYTERY PRAYTIME

God is always with us, even at times when we feel low. Let us pray.

Eternal loving God, you are always with us, even when we feel like losers. You give us strength to cope even when we are down low. And you empower us to rise up, to start again.

You, and only you, can build us back up and inspire us to hope; make us smile and laugh again. And your good will to us will always blast through our stubborn resistance and our petty pessimism. Bless us as we share that news with those we meet. Amen.

(from *Douglas Scott*, presbytery prayer coordinator)



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. Ed.

Scotland

Aberdeen Ferryhill Parish Church
Aboyne Coe Cathedral
Alloway Parish Church
Alyth Parish Church
Arbroath Abbey
Ballater Glenmuick Parish Church
Banchory Parishes of St Columba's and Upper Deeside
Bowden Parish Church
Bowmore The Round Church (Islay)
Campbeltown Highland Parish Church
Carfin St Francis Xavier Church
Culross Abbey
Dunkeld Parish Church
Erskine St Bernadette's Parish Church
Glasgow Garnethill Synagogue
Grangemouth Abbotsgrange Parish Church
Inveraray Glenaray and Inveraray Parish Church
Inverness Cathedral
Johnstone High Parish Church
St John's Episcopal Church
Kelso Smailholm Church
Kintore Parish Church
Kirkcudbright Parish Church
St Cuthbert's Parish Church
Lamlash Parish Church
Melrose Parish Church
Netherton Churches Craignish Parish Church
Kilmelford Parish Church
Kilninver Parish Church
Kilchattan Parish Church (Luing)
Kilbrandon Parish Church (Seil)
Orkney St Magnus Cathedral
Peterhead Methodist Church
Pitlochry Church of Scotland
Port Glasgow Holy Family Church



Stirling Church of the Holy Rude
Ullapool Ullapool and Loch Broom Church of Scotland

England

Bath Abbey
Burford St John the Baptist
Chipping Sodbury Baptist Church
Gloucester Cutsdean
Lower Slaughter
Naunton
Temple Guiting
Upper Slaughter
Guiting Power
Farmcote
Hexham Abbey
Kendal United Reformed Church
London Royal Naval College, Greenwich
St Paul's Cathedral
Little Wittendam Church of St Peterhead
Liverpool Cathedral
Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King
Liverpool Parish Church
Oxford St George, Kelmscott
Ponteland United Reformed Church
Salisbury Cathedral
Shropshire Benefice of Cleobury Mortimer
Stockbridge St Peter's Church
Vale and Cotswold Edge Church of St Lawrence, Bourton on the Hill
Wotton-Under-Edge Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin
Perry and Dawes Almshouses
York Minster

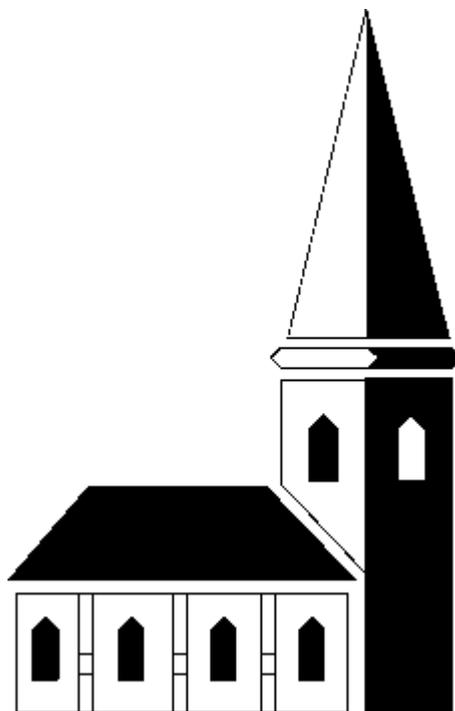
Ireland
Downpatrick Presbyterian Church

Wales

Hawarden St Deiniol's Church
Llandaff Cathedral
Llandudno St John's Methodist Church
Ruthin St Peter's Collegiate Parochial Church

Channel Islands

St Matthew's Church, Millbrook Jersey



Isle of Man

Douglas Promenade Methodist Church
Trinity Church

Belgium

Antwerp Cathedral of our Lady
Dinant Notre Dame Collegiate Church

Estonia

Tallinn Cathedral of St Simeon and Anne
St John's Lutheran Parish Church
Hiiumaa The Orthodox Churches

France

Aix en Provence Cathedral Saint-Sauveur
Arles Church of Saint-Trophime
Avignon Basilica Saint-Pierre
Antibes Sanctuary de La Garoupe
Carmargue Les Saintes Maries de la Mer
Honfleur Sainte-Catherine's Church
Lisieux Sanctuary of Sainte-Therese
Vallauris-Golfe-Juan Saint Pierre de Golfe-Juan

Germany

Breisach St Stephan's
Weimar St Peter and St Paul Luthern Church

New Zealand

Christchurch Cashmere Hills Presbyterian Church

Poland

Cracow St Mary's Basilica
Rzeszow Church of Michael the Archangel

Spain

Alicante Our Lady of the Rosary
Aldea del Obispo Village Church (Western Spain)
Menorca Our Lady del Carmen (Mahon)

Sweden

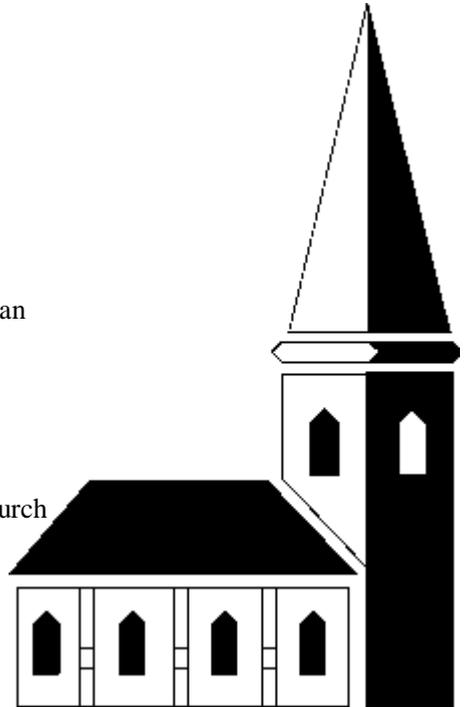
Gothemburg Haga Parish Church
Uppsala Cathedral

United States

Monterey San Carlos Cathedral (California)

On the High Seas

Service aboard vessel 'Black Watch



EDINBURGH'S SISTINE CHAPEL



On a trip to Edinburgh during the Festival, my sister suggested visiting the Mansfield Traquair Church in Broughton Street as it was having an “Open Day”.

The building which was designed by Robert Rowand Anderson for use as an Apostolic Catholic Church (which believed the Second Coming of Christ was imminent) was completed in 1885 with a magnificent vaulted ceiling and with no pillars to constrict the view of the glorious chancel and sanctuary.

In the 1890's Phoebe Anna Traquair was commissioned to paint the interior. She worked part-time on the murals between 1893 and 1901, painting scenes from the Old and New Testaments on the north and south nave walls; the parable of the virgins in the chancel side aisles, and on other walls and roof she painted angels, animals, birds and patterns using gilded plaster for halos, harps and trumpets.



The church was closed as a place of worship in 1958 and the building deteriorated badly. The Mansfield Traquair Trust was set up in the 1990's with the aim of restoring both the buildings and murals which had been badly damaged by water ingress. With money from the Lottery Fund and Heritage Scotland, plus many other Trust Funds tremendous restoration work has been done, and the building is now in use as a conference centre, for gala dinners and a popular venue for weddings – indeed you may even book your place at a Hogmanay Disco! Underneath the church are offices which are the headquarters of the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations.

If you cannot manage a visit, there is an excellent virtual tour at www.mansfieldtraquair.co.uk on the “History” download.

Margaret Beattie

PRESBYTERY OF GREENOCK AND PAISLEY

within Barrhead St Andrew's Church on 11th September 2018

Thanks were given to the retiring Moderator, Rev Jim Cowan and the Election and installation of new Moderator, Rev Dr Peter McEnhill took place; Rev Gary Noonan and new members of Presbytery, Iain Deans, Robert Guthrie and Moira Hellyer were Welcomed into Presbytery; Rev Fiona Maxwell and Rev Morris Coull took their leave from Presbytery; Leading Worship Certificates were presented; Emma Vaughan and Callum MacMillan gave Reports from the National Youth Assembly.

Vacancy Procedure Committee: Rev Fiona Maxwell, Minister of Neilston Parish Church is transferring to the congregation of Kilmarnock Kay Park Parish Church in the Presbytery of Irvine and Kilmarnock; Interim moderators were appointed: Rev Maureen Leitch at Neilston, Mr Jack McHugh at Greenock St Margaret's, Rev Ian Bell at Paisley: St Mark's Oldhall, Rev May Bell at Howwood Parish Church, Rev Hanneke Marshall at Lochwinnoch Parish Church, Rev Maureen Leitch at Glenburn Parish Church with Mr John Spooner as locum, Rev Robert Craig at Martyr's Sandyford Parish Church with Ms Eleanor Hood as locum.

BUSINESS: Mr Russell Banks appointed as locum at Erskine Parish Church; Kirk Sessions are requested to meet in conference, to reflect on the state of decline of the national Church and in particular how that affects the Church locally, and to determine what their vision and mission is for the next three years in collaboration with Presbytery Planning teams.

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE: the following sums be awarded from the 5% Discretionary Allowance to reduce the 2018 Ministries and Mission contributions of the following congregations Johnstone High £5,968, Kilmacolm Old £7,500, Paisley Abbey £5,000, Paisley Lylesland £1,426, and Renfrew North £10,000; the balance of the 5% Discretionary Allowance be used to reduce the Ministries and Mission contributions of other congregations and that any appeals against these proposed contributions should be made to the Convener by 25 October 2018.

PROPERTY: approval was granted to Kilmacolm: Old congregation to carry out repairs to the stone work window surrounds and to treat a further outbreak of dry rot, and to Bishopton congregation to carry out further stonework repairs; the General Trustees have approved the removal of asbestos in the boiler house at Greenock: St Ninian's; Charles Davey (Greenock: Lyle Kirk) and William McCulloch (Neilston) attended the Health & Safety Administrators and Coordinators Development Day organised by the General Trustees.

MISSION & DISCIPLESHP: the two new Presbytery safeguarding trainers and advisors are Anne Craig and Gail Abraham; there are no funds remaining in the Oakshaw East Fund; Presbytery will pay full fees of £85 and travel costs to Stirling for Callum McMillan, Johnstone High for attendance at NYA in addition to funding the place for Ms Emma Vaughan; congregations are commended for their involvement in the ongoing year of Young People (Bliadhna na h-Òigridh) 2018.

MINISTRY: a waiting list has been started for those wishing to attend a Worship Leaders Course in 2019; encourages those Ministers, Locums, and Interim Moderators who haven't already done so to fill in and return the Worship Leaders Survey, even if it's a negative return; Rev Hanneke Marshall has been appointed our Vocations Champion; Rev Hanneke Marshall and Rev Yvonne Smith will attend training to become a Mentor or Presbytery Assessor for applicants in the Discernment Process.

WORLD MISSION & ECUMENICAL RELATIONS: various areas of concern were highlighted and our thoughts and prayers were directed to Pakistan, Israel & Palestine, North Korea and Asia. Also to various organizations the YMCA World Council, Christian Aid, and events taking place within the presbytery the Interfaith meeting on 11th November 2018 and the Souper Sunday / Super Sundaie event(s) in support of the Church of Scotland HIV Programme.



Kilbarchan Parish Church of Scotland

Kilbarchan Kirk Online

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

Web: kilbarchan-kirk.btck.co.uk

Twitter: @KilbarchanKirk

Facebook: facebook.com/kilbarchankirk





1st Kilbarchan Boys' Brigade Company

It has been a busy time since the last edition for The Boys' Brigade in Kilbarchan! So far the Company Section members (P7 to S6) have taken part in various Paisley and District Battalion – Basketball, Badminton, Volleyball and at the moment we are preparing a Junior Team (P7 to S3) and a Senior Team for the Christian Faith Competition taking place in Sherwood Church at the end of November. So far we have been competing well and will be able to keep up the good work in the second half of the session.

Our Junior Section boys (P4 to P6) had a great time in the Glasgow Science Centre recently when they took part in a Sleepover. Many thanks to Shona Malone and Joyce Spiers for taking the boys on this adventure. You can check out the fun on our 1stkilbarchanbb Facebook page.

Night Under the Stars for members of 1st Kilbarchan BB Junior Section

Boys' Brigade (BB) members from 1st Kilbarchan Junior Section have experienced a night to remember at one of Scotland's top visitor attractions. They were amongst the 400 eight to ten year olds from BB Junior Sections from across Scotland who spent an evening and overnight at Glasgow Science Centre for the organisation's 'Juniors Giant Sleepover' on Friday (2 November).

During the evening, the BB members experienced the state-of-the-art planetarium, live Science Show and hundreds of interactive scientific exhibits. The theme for the live Science Show was '**Fantastic Forces**'.

This was the first time that our Junior Section had attended this event as it was very difficult to get onto the list. This is the sixth time that the BB has run its Science Centre event and in that time almost 2400 children and 600 adult leaders have attended. This year's event coincided with The Boys' Brigade's new STEM ambassador scheme to support learning in science, technology, engineering and maths.

John Sharp is Director for The Boys' Brigade in Scotland. He explained why BB is placing so much importance on STEM and events like the Science Centre sleepover.

John said:

“The **Juniors Giant Sleepover** is a very special and exciting event – and this year's was no different. It offers children from different parts of Scotland a chance to enjoy a national BB event which combines learning,

fun and a residential experience. I would like to extend my thanks to all the volunteer leaders and others who made this year's event such a success.

“We know that the majority of a child's learning takes place outwith the classroom. By launching the STEM ambassador programme, we want to support our leaders to offer new and exciting ways for children and young people to get into STEM activities.”



After the live shows on the Friday evening, the BB members enjoyed hot chocolate and story time from Alpha Scotland's Dez Johnston.

To find out more about The Boys' Brigade in Kilbarchan and the opportunities to get involved as member or volunteer, please visit [1stkilbarchanbb Facebook page](#).

Additional information:

- Working with young people in almost 400 communities across Scotland, The Boys' Brigade (BB) provides a safe and caring place where children and young people can learn, grow and discover.

- The BB is a volunteer-led youth organisation, which provides voluntary youth and children's work to the Christian Church.
- BB provides opportunities to learn and develop skills and interests through a varied programme which provides fun and exciting activities across four age groups running from 5 to 18 years.

Coming up – All sections will be going Skating at Braehead on Friday 23rd November when the Drama is using the hall and on Friday 30th November all sections are going to the Old Library to celebrate St Andrew's night as the hall is being set up for the Christmas Fayre. On Friday 7th December we are going to the Pantomime in Johnstone – Freezin but it should be hot stuff.

If you do your internet shopping with Amazon.co.uk then you can support 1st Kilbarchan Boys' Brigade by using

smile.amazon.co.uk and choosing 1st Kilbarchan Boys' Brigade as your nominated charity and a small percentage of your purchases will be donated to us at no extra cost to yourself. You know it makes sense!

Thanks for your continued support.

Robert Stevenson Captain



DISCUSSION GROUP

The “discussion group” is a number of folk who like to talk over various subjects, some religious and some non-religious, in an informal and non-dogmatic way. All shades of opinion are welcome and respected. It is rather in the nature of the “Lambs and Elephants” group that was organised by Owain Jones, former minister of the East Church.

We try to start with a specific subject, but the conversation can move on to anything. So far, our discussions have touched on, among other things.

- What are the essential beliefs for a Christian
- The “work ethic”
- Why do humans go to war
- The “not-proven” gospels
- The second coming

We meet informally in different folk’s houses, so far - on some Thursdays from 7pm till 9 pm. As yet we have not drawn up a regular schedule or rota but may have one for the new year.

If you think you might enjoy this speak to me after one of the Sunday Services

Alec Christine



“HARVEST OFFERING” 2018

The congregation’s response to the Harvest Offering in support of Christian Aid was incredibly generous. More than £600 was received through the returned envelopes and, because of a match-funding scheme for all Harvest offerings received (whereby every £1 gifted is increased to become £5), this means that our donation becomes **£3,000** that can be sent to support some of the most under-privileged communities in the world.

Christian Aid, with support from donations like Kilbarchan’s, stands alongside individuals and communities who face injustice, poverty and the effects of global policies which limit their potential to grow, develop and make their own way in the world. Together, the world is a stronger place.

We are most grateful to all those who contributed.



Alasdair Law



Kilbarchan Parish Church Fundraising Team

presents

The F. P. Big Band

On Saturday 2nd February, 2019

7.30pm in the Church hall

Tickets £10, children £5.

Buffet Supper included



.....AT THE NATIVITY PLAY

Simon, badly disgruntled as he had wanted to play one of the Kings, had been cast as the Innkeeper. So when it came to his turn to speak, he said “Yes, of course you can come in” – but Joseph was equal to the occasion – looking inside he said “I wouldn’t dream of bringing my wife into such a hovel. Come Mary, we will go and sleep in the stable.”

FUND-RAISING NEWS

Two years ago, we were delighted to welcome the F.P. Big Band from Glasgow, when we had a full hall and a great evening. We are delighted to let you know that the band is booked once again to play in the hall on Saturday 2nd February at 7.30pm. Tickets will be available after New Year, price £10, school-age £5 but if you wish to reserve your ticket in advance to be sure of getting one as numbers will be limited, please speak to anyone on the committee, including Myra Grant and Susan MacAskill. The price includes a buffet supper. Please bring your own bottle, soft drinks only.



In 2019, there will be the usual events, the Easter Extravaganza being the first, more details in the next newsletter.

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

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



BLYTHSWOOD SHOEBOX APPEAL.



Thanks once again to all who contributed to this worthwhile charity on their 25th year of bringing a little joy in a shoebox to many under-privileged people. We delivered 75 filled boxes and over £200 in gift-aided donations.



A Christmas thought: STRESSED is just DESSERTS spelled backward.



MESSY CHURCH

Messy Church started back in September and so far this year we have had three successful Saturday afternoons. Our themes have varied from The Parables of the Sower and the Prodigal Son to the story of The Loaves and the Fishes with the emphasis on sharing. On this Saturday

we asked if families coming along could please bring a donation for the Foodbank and were delighted to be able to contribute four crates.

Our next Messy Church is on Saturday 19th January at the usual time of 4 to 6pm. The theme will be Jonah and the Whale which should give us plenty of craft ideas.



It's great to see new families joining us each month.

A big thank you to the whole Messy Church team for all their hard work.

Joan MacKinnon



the mouths of babes

by Roy Mitchell



THE GUILD



Another Guild Session is well underway and as you read this we will be looking forward to our Christmas Afternoon with entertainment by Village Voices. Our Gift Offering at this meeting will be going towards the Project we are supporting this year which is Seema's Project. This project was first started by a group of Guide leaders, one of whom spoke to us, who visited the area of Pune in India and saw first hand the needs of children whose mothers were involved in the human trafficking of sex workers. They have managed to build a separate home for these children and the Guild Project will help to expand this work. This is just one of six projects the Guild will be supporting over the next three years.

We also heard from Stephen about " Seeking the Way", the Guild theme for this year and our own Emma Vaughan told us about her experiences at the National Youth Assembly. One of our local authors Caro Ramsay entertained us with an amusing talk on what it is like to write crime novels. Liz Allan spoke movingly about the love letters her father wrote to her mother when he was a "Desert Rat" In the New Year we look forward to hearing among other things about Hospital Volunteering and taking a trip around the world from the comfort of our seats.

Please join us at any of our meetings. You will be made most welcome.

Joan MacKinnon



ORGAN FOR PRENZLAU, GERMANY.

The Session agreed that the organ of the former West Church should be gifted to the Marienkirche, Prenzlau, which is north-east of Berlin. Prenzlau was severely damaged during the war and during the town's reconstruction the church was re-roofed. More recently the interior has been restored and the installation of the Kilbarchan organ will complete the task. A team from Germany arrived on 11th November and began work on the 12th. It will take until the 28th to complete the dismantling, followed by two days to pack a truck. It will be in Germany by 2nd December. It seems a fitting gift to mark the reconciliation of Germany and the UK after the wars of the twentieth century.



HILL WALKING CLUB

As the weather forecast for the Loch Doone area on September 10th 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's Glen in November, but this time climbed the Donald of Stob 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 Hillwalking 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



CHURCH CHOIR

The service of Nine Lessons and Carols is on Sunday 23rd December at 6.30pm in the church, followed by refreshments in the hall. If you feel able to join the choir, please speak to Ian Trushell, Organist, or any choir member.



STITCHING GROUP

The Stitching Group meets in the small hall on Tuesdays. Afterwards we have coffee in Bobbins. We're always happy to see visitors at either place.

We have been busy over the last few months working for our stall at the Christmas Fayre. Christmas gifts, homeware and decorations abounded. We hope that people used use our stall for the Christmas gift service. In August a lady gave us some beautiful fabric. I was about to go on holiday when she phoned and am sorry to say that I can't remember her name. The group would love to meet her.

We are a small group and would love to welcome new members, even if you don't do any craft work, everybody is welcome to come for company and a chat.

Alison McNicoll



TRANSPORT TO AND FROM CHURCH SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

If you, or anyone you know, would like help getting to the church please let your elder know at his/her next visit. We will be happy to help make suitable arrangements for you.

Pastoral Care Committee



Why didn't the skeleton go to the Christmas Party? *He had no body to go with!*
Where did the mistletoe go to become rich and famous? *Holly-wood.*

JUNIOR CHURCH

Since Junior Church resumed in September it has been great to see that on average we have 8-12 children most Sundays. In September the theme was Moses and we followed his story from babyhood through to receiving the Ten Commandments, the older children made a frieze showing their interpretation of each week's story, whilst the younger ones did a craft related to that week's topic. We then learned all about Esther and one of the highlights of this theme was making Hamantashan cake, each child made their own carefully shaped cakes to give to their loved ones, very yummy was the verdict! Recently we have been looking at the Christmas story from all the various participant's viewpoint, Mary, The Angels, Shepherds and The Three Wise Men and we have made a Nativity scene together which is now on our notice board in the large hall if you would like to take a look. The last few Sunday's of this term we will once again all be involved in rehearsing this year's nativity, written this year by Emma Vaughan.

We hope to once again have a Christmas party for the children and will inform the date and timing once confirmed.

As this year draws to a close Shona and myself would once again like to say a big thank you to all of our regular helpers who are such an invaluable part of the Junior Church family. If any member of the congregation feels that they might like to join our Junior Church helper rota, please feel free to contact myself (rosco5kl@gmail.com) Shona (shona.malone@ntlworld.com) or Elizabeth Dunn, and we would be happy to welcome you to our Junior Church team.

Warm Regards
Ros & Shona



RENFREWSHIRE FOOD BANK



Many thanks to everyone who continues to support the Foodbank. As well as the usual basics we are needing tinned fish. On the run up to Christmas we will accept non alcoholic Christmas puddings and mince pies.

In October our Messy Church donated 4 large crates of food to the food bank. They were delighted that such a group as this would think on helping others less fortunate than themselves. Well done Messy Church!

Jack and Graham

TOTS' CLUB.

We are pleased to welcome Margaret Lafferty who is coming along to help with Janet and Bobby.

We are having a very good session with about 25-30 children coming on a regular basis, including a few very new tiny babies. The Christmas party is on Monday 17th December at 9.45am when there will be songs, games, lovely food.....but the main event will of course be a visit from Santa Claus! If you would like to come along and join us for the party, you will be made very welcome.

We resume after the festive season on Monday 7th January from 9.15-11.30am in the hall. The cost is still £1 per adult for refreshments, and there is always juice along with biscuits for the tots-especially the favourite pink ones!! We all really enjoy our Monday mornings and would be pleased to welcome anyone for coffee.

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



THE LEGEND OF THE CHRISTMAS ROSE

When Christ was born in Bethlehem the stars Shone bright above
and Wise Men traveled from afar with gifts to show their love.
The humble folk brought offerings too but one poor shepherdess
had nought to give the holy child and wept in sore distress.
Most bitterly she grieved - but look! for every tear that fell
a flower of purest white sprang up more fair than words can tell.
With eager hands she gathered them a beautiful bouquet,
her tribute to the King of kings, on that first Christmas Day.
She gave them to the new born Babe rejoicing to behold
His smile as He caressed these flowers With hearts of gold.
And so, long centuries ago, upon that radiant morn
from contrite tears and humble faith the Christmas rose was born.



DRAMA GROUP



It has been a busy year for the Drama group, by the time you read this we will have completed two very different performances this year. In April we had a three night run of *Vicar of Dibley* which was well received by our audience and our November production was the radio play for “It’s a Wonderful Life”. As a group we have wanted to perform “It’s a Wonderful life” for a few years and we hope you enjoyed our special take on the classic Christmas tale. Over 600 people, friends, family and supporters have seen our performances this bumper year.

The drama group could not continue without our very talented stage crew who make us wonderful sets, our “tea ladies” who keep you all in refreshments at the interval and our army of backstage helpers.

We are lucky now to have a relatively large group of “players” meaning you’ll see different faces on the stage sometimes!

If you would like to take part, or help in some way please contact one of the Drama group

Thank you for your continued support

Fiona McKenzie

A CHRISTMAS THOUGHT

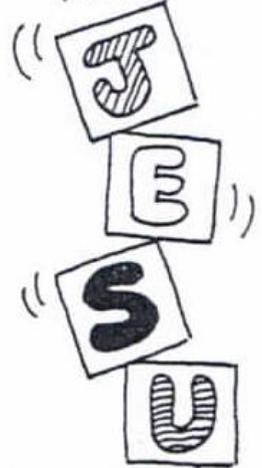
The snow came drifting gently down
When all was quiet and still
The village clock chimed out the hour
This season of goodwill.
And in the distance music notes
Many voices singing
Sacred hymns and Christmas carols
Church bells started ringing.

The presents tied and gaily wrapped
Are placed beneath the tree
Which has been dressed in tinsel best
For this festivity
Tomorrow will be Christmas Day
Excitement, noise and cheer
And friends and family will come
In a happy atmosphere.

But for tonight I'm lost in thought
Just gazing at the snow
Thinking of another Christmas
Of many years ago
A young girl and her new-born Son
A stable had to share
With sheep and shepherds, ox and ass
And angels everywhere.

KATHLEEN GILLUM.

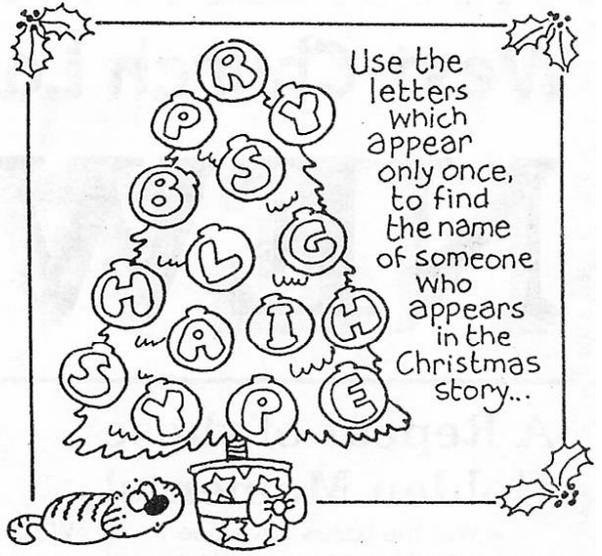
a HAPPY
CHRISTMAS
starts
with



CHRISTIAN SAYINGS

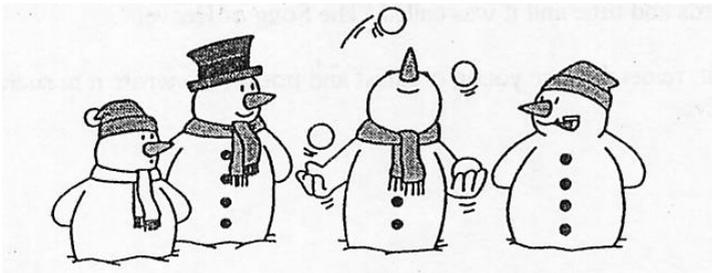
- Greed is not a financial issue. It's a heart issue.
- God often showcases his power on the stage of human weakness.
- It's better to make a difference than to make a point.

Kidz Korner



a star in the East

WHO SAW A STAR IN THE EAST, AND FOLLOWED IT? (MATTHEW 2:1-2)
HERE IS A PICTURE TO COLOUR.



THANK YOU

I wish to express my thanks for all your kindness and support expressed in so many ways during my Dad's recent hospital stay and subsequent death. It meant and continues to be a source of comfort and strength.

Stephen



Agnes and Doreen would like to thank you for the lovely flowers we received from the church on our retirement from the church choir, also for all the good wishes and kind words from members of the congregation.



SARAH DEAS

I recently received this lovely email from Sarah Deas who served as an elder in Kilbarchan West and then Kilbarchan Parish Church before moving to Glasgow in August.

Dear Stephen

We are happily settling into life in the city. I have been attending services at St George's Tron in Nelson Mandela Place, Glasgow. They have made me most welcome and I plan to join this congregation. It is interesting to be part of a relatively new church as it pioneers new approaches to spreading the Christian mission within the city.

I wish to convey my thanks to everyone who has made my family so welcome within the church community in Kilbarchan. We have been members of the churches in the village for nearly 24 years. Our daughters gained a strong Christian foundation through attendance at Junior Church. I have enjoyed making a contribution as a Elder within the West, and latterly, the Parish church. I wish you every success as you continue to meet the needs of the Christian community within the village.

Wishing you all the best for the future.

Best wishes

Sarah

USEFUL CHURCH CONTACTS

Minister - Rev Stephen Smith - 01505 702621

Session Clerk - Mr Fulton Dunn - 01505 704502

Ass. Session Clerk - Miss Helen Robertson - 01505 325382

Ass. Session Clerk - Mrs Christine Erwin - 01505 703056

Treasurer - Mr James Moffat - 01505 703881

Clerk to Congregational Board - Mrs Gwen Howden - 01505 704308

WORSHIP PROGRAMME

Sunday 2 nd December	11.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday 9 th December	11.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday 16 th December	11.00am	Gift Service
Sunday 23 rd December	11.00am	Children's Nativity Play Service
	6.30pm	Service of Lessons and Carol
Monday 24 th December	11.00pm	Community Carol singing
	11.30pm	Christmas Eve Watchnight Service
Tuesday 25 th December	10.30am	Christmas Day Service
Sunday 30 th December	11.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday 6 th January 2019	11.00am	Morning Worship followed by Informal Communion
Sunday 13 th January	11.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday 20 th January	11.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday 27 th January	11.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday 3 rd February	11.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday 10 th February	11.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday 17 th February	11.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday 24 th February	11.00am	Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
	2.00pm	Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
Sunday 3 rd March	11.00am	Morning Worship

