



# Kilbarchan Parish Church

## Your local church magazine

Dear friends

This year I will celebrate my seventh Christmas with you. How time flies. Last month I was in Ayrshire, in the village of Tarbolton to be precise. The occasion was the induction of Rev Mandy Ralph to the charge of Tarbolton linked with Annbank. It was a great night. The praise was uplifting. There was a tremendous feeling of good will. High hopes and expectation were great.

Mandy and her family were surrounded by so much love from people who had travelled from Largs, other parts of Ayrshire, Edinburgh and many other parts of Scotland including Kilbarchan. They were also supported by the prayers of many folks who know them well but could not be present on the night of her ordination. Minister and people were looking forward to this new chapter in their lives with expectation.

Advent is the season of expectation, of looking forward to the coming of the Lord. In amongst the many activities, parties, and social occasions this season of the year affords - take time out.

Time out for your family and loved ones, time out for yourself, time out to reflect on the meaning of Christmas.

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light, light has dawned upon them....For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9 v 2,5&6)

I'm looking forward to celebrating Christmas again and to discover again the Christ born in our midst.

Susie, Ally and I would like to take this opportunity of wishing you and your loved ones every blessing this Christmas and a peaceful start to the New Year.

Yours

*Stephen*

Recently a friend posted a request on Facebook for Christmas Cake recipes. A friend of hers mentioned Stir Up Sunday, the traditional day for making Christmas Cake and Pudding. Falling on the last Sunday before Advent, Stir Up Sunday takes its name from the Anglican Book of Common Order and the Collect for the day beginning ‘Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people;’

Stir Up Sunday would find the whole family gathered in the kitchen, each taking a turn to stir the cake or pudding batter, before the treats were baked or steamed. “Wait a minute though,” the keen cooks among you may cry, “Christmas Cake needs to be made long before the start of Advent. And as for pudding; well, it needs to mature for months.” I would agree, while being no expert. I had a dear friend, who died well into her nineties, a few years ago. At her funeral, in early December, her son revealed that Mother not only had that Christmas’s pudding ready for the steamer in a couple of weeks but she also had the pudding ready for the following year. She was very well prepared.

How prepared are we for Christmas? I don’t mean, have we all the presents wrapped, the turkey and ham ordered, all the chocolates and selection boxes bought and stored away (I dare not do this, for fear of eating them and the need thereafter, to buy even more.)

How well prepared are we spiritually? The Christian Calendar begins, unsurprisingly, with Advent and more often than not, the readings for the first Sunday in Advent tell of the coming of the Son of Man and the need to be prepared. Sometimes, on the first Sunday, we hear of John the Baptist, coming to prepare the way.

So how do you prepare? It has become quite fashionable to prepare for the birth of our Lord, by reading through the Gospel of St. Luke. Twenty four chapters long, one for every day of the season, it is the perfect Advent Calendar. What better way to prepare for Christmas Day than by reacquainting ourselves with the birth and life of Christ.

However you prepare for the most wonderful time of year, I hope you do have some time for quiet reflection, time with just you and the Lord. And I hope you have a blessed and joyful Christmas,

*Dorothy*



## FROM THE EDITOR

It is quite appropriate that this magazine comes out at the beginning of Advent. Advent is about looking forward and as a congregation we have a lot to look forward to. One way is through the contents of the magazine, our website and social media. Thanks go to my contributors without whom I would be unable to produce what I hope is an informative read as well as a few light hearted bits and pieces. If you have anything you would like to share with the rest of us then please feel free to send it to me and it'll appear in a subsequent magazine.

The spring issue of the magazine will be out in March 2020 and all items should reach me at [alastair.mackinnon@ntlworld.com](mailto:alastair.mackinnon@ntlworld.com) by Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2020.

*Alastair*



## **SERVICE OF LIGHT AND HOPE**

**SUNDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 3.30PM**

“It’s the most wonderful time of the year!” So the song goes. For many people, though, Christmas isn’t a wonderful time at all. And if you’ve suffered a close bereavement, whether it’s the first Christmas since your loss or many years have passed, Christmas can be one of the hardest times of the year.

When a loved one has died, the thought of Christmas can fill us with dread. We remember the joys of Christmases past, and wonder how we will be able to get through this season when the rest of the world seems to be rejoicing. However hard we try to enter into the celebration of Christmas, a sudden recollection of our loss can easily bring us down to earth with a bump.

This year we are having a short quiet service of light and hope. It is for anyone who has recently been bereaved or anyone who feels the pain of loss sharply at this time of the year. In coming together we will recognise we are not alone in our feelings of loss or in our search for hope.

## **KIRK SESSION REPORT**

Since the last edition of this magazine, the Kirk Session has been pleased to welcome Dorothy Wallace who will be with us for fifteen months in her role as a probationary minister. She has already been involved in our regular Sunday worship, has attended Session and Board meetings and visited some of the congregation. We look forward to her increasing involvement in the life and worship of our Kirk.

The senior members outing to Troon was a great success with 38 members enjoying their high tea and fellowship in the lovely surroundings of the Marine Hotel. The cost of this was met by the Benevolent Fund which was augmented by the special retiring collection on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September which raised £259.45. Two regular Kirk Session meetings have taken place - in September and November and there has been one Baptism.

The Sacrament of Communion was celebrated on Sunday 27 October when there were 122 members, 6 visitors and 5 adherents present at the morning communion with 16 members and 1 visitor present at the afternoon communion, making a total of 138 members. This is 11 more than June 2019 and 10 less than October 2018.

In order to increase the number of elders, and following suggestions from members of Session, Stephen has been discussing this with some members over the last few weeks and we hope some new elders will be ordained in the new year. It was decided to support various charities in the next few months – we have already been amazed by your generous support of Mary's Meals at Harvest and the Shoe Box appeal on behalf of Blythswood Care in November. The Session also agreed to once again promote the reverse Advent calendar before Christmas for the Food Bank as well as asking for gifts for Renfrewshire Young Carers and Paisley Women's Refuge at our Gift Service on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December.

The new venture from the Pastoral Care committee setting up a monthly outreach venture called Cuppa at the Kirk is well established and meets in the small hall on the afternoon of the first Monday of each month. All will be made most welcome whether or not they are members of the Church.

We are pleased that four of our members have volunteered to be part of a finance team who will share the work and responsibilities previously undertaken by Jim Moffatt for so many years. We are extremely grateful both to them for agreeing to undertaking this work and to Jim for supervising a period of transition. These proposed appointments will be discussed at a Trustees meeting early in December.

## BEADLE DUTIES

December	Bobby Stevenson	Fulton Dunn	Cathy Millar
January	Alan Vaughan	Rosie Picken	Gwen Howden
February	Colin Campbell	Alasdair Law	Elizabeth Dunn
March	Marie Alexander	Ian Keith	Margaret Gibb



## INTERIM TREASURER'S REPORT

Good progress has been made in the appointment of a new Treasurer and, if all goes according to plan, a Finance Team of four (including a named Treasurer) should be in post next month. As the end of the Church's financial year-31 December 2019-is fast approaching I have indicated to the Trustees of the Church that I will use my best endeavours, in tandem with the new Treasurer and Team, to ensure the Church Accounts are prepared timeously, examined externally and approved by the Trustees before submitting the Accounts to the Presbytery for Attestation before the end of March 2020 and finally to OSCR (Charity Regulator).

With the financial year end of the Church only a few weeks away it is predicted that offerings-bank, free will offering and gift aid envelopes etc., will be very close to last year's income. In the circumstances this will be a good achievement. Fabric expenditure has been incurred mainly in the Church-cornice repairs and electrics- with the Congregational Board planning to spend considerable sums on essential and urgent works in the next year or so on projects including the Manse-conservatory roof-.Halls-access for the disabled resurfaced, new floor on the main Hall etc- pathway from the gate at New Street to the Church. Audio visual in the Church is still under consideration.

The final retention payment due to Carander for the major works contract that was completed a considerable time ago is still under dispute. The financial settlement due to the Church from the disposal of the former West Church buildings has been delayed It is "hoped" "these two transactions will be completed shortly.

It is anticipated that the Church Reserves at the year end will be slightly higher than last year. In view of the major expenditure planned for the next twelve months or so the importance of Reserves to assist in the financing of the works cannot be emphasised enough.

Thank you for your support

*Jim Moffat*

# SNIPPETS FROM METINGS OF PRESBYTERY OF GREENOCK AND PAISLEY

**September and November 2019**

The retiring Moderator, Rev Dr Peter McEnhill was thanked for his years of service and leave taking speeches were presented; Election and installation of new Moderator Mr. Jack McHugh; A warm welcome was given to the Rev Gray Fletcher of Elderslie, Rev David Nicolson, of Erskine Parish and the new members of Presbytery; Presentation by Rev Eileen Ross and Rev John Murning on the life style course Path of Renewal; Inverclyde Education representative: Rev David Burt gave a report on his duties as a member of the council; Presentation of Readers: Mrs. Bird, Mr. Banks, Miss Boag, Mr. Campbell, Mr. Davey, Mr. Glenny, Mrs. Hood, Mrs. MacDonald, Miss McFarlan, Mr. Marshall, Mrs. Maxwell, Mr. Rankin and Mr. Spooner along with Student: Mr. Douglas Adam.

**VACANCY PROCEDURE COMMITTEE:** Rev David Nicholson preached as sole nominee at Erskine on Sunday 18th August and was duly elected; the decision of the VPC to release Rev Dr Peter McEnhill from his charge at Kilmacolm: Old Kirk in order to accept a call to St Andrew's Church of Scotland in Rome and Rev Owen Derrick from his charge at Greenock: Lyle Kirk to take up a charge at the First Presbyterian Church of Tekamah, Nebraska, USA were noted.

**BUSINESS:** remits from the General Assembly 2019 have been received and instructs the relevant Presbytery committees to respond; officially recorded the Interim Moderator appointments of Rev Morris Coull at Greenock Lyle Kirk, Rev Teri Peterson at Greenock St Margaret's, Rev Gary Noonan at Kilmacolm Old Kirk, Mr. Jack McHugh at the united congregation of Port Glasgow New Parish Church, Rev Stuart Steell at Langbank and notes this congregation is now in Guardianship; Appointed locums Mr. William Boyle at Paisley St Columba Foxbar and Mr. Jack McHugh at the united congregation of Port Glasgow New Parish Church; Rev Iain Ramsden appointed as the Veteran's Champion for Greenock & Paisley Presbytery; Mrs. Dorothy Wallace was recorded as a corresponding member of Presbytery; Rev Alan Birss has indicated his intention to retire from 8 June 2020; discussions are taking place with the Presbytery of Dumbarton with a view to some form of merger.

**PRESBYTERY PLAN REVIEW:** the Committee had hoped to be able to bring forward a revised plan for the Paisley Churches at the September meeting. It is still not possible to outline the plan for Paisley and apologies were offered to Presbytery for this; a Basis of Union between Paisley: Lylesland and Paisley: St. Luke's has been drawn up and we await approval by OSCR of the new name;

Paisley: Martyrs Sandyford here the union shall be dissolved and the emerging congregations shall be united or linked with two other congregations. Although attention has been concentrated on the Paisley area, urgent situations elsewhere in the Presbytery are being attended to; Lochwinnoch congregation shall be dissolved; the Presbytery plan for Kilmacolm: Old Kirk is suspended and the committee is to meet speedily with Kilmacolm: St. Columba's to discuss their long-term future; Greenock: St. Ninian's and Old Gourrock and Ashton the congregations shall be linked and Greenock: St. Margaret's congregation shall be placed into guardianship.

**MISSION & DISCIPLESHIP:** members were encouraged to apply for the vacant safeguarding trainer post; new Safeguarding Training for volunteers was available in September, October and November; Kirk session and co-ordonators training is now available from Glasgow Presbytery; Callum MacMillan from Johnstone High Parish Church reported on the 2019 National Youth assembly (NYA); congregations are encouraged to nominate a youth representative to attend the General Assembly in 2020; Kirk Session Mission/Outreach teams should take a look at the new webpage on the Presbytery website, which is an overview of Mission initiatives run by our churches.

**STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE:** the following sums are to be awarded from the 5% Discretionary Allowance to reduce the 2019 Ministries and Mission contributions of the congregations concerned: Barrhead St Andrews £1,500, Greenock St Margaret's £5,000, Greenock St Ninian's £2,500, Johnstone High £1,000 and Paisley Abbey £5,000; the balance of the 5% Discretionary Allowance will be used to reduce the Ministries and Mission contributions of and to inform the congregational treasurers of this by 30 September 2019; proposed Ministries and Mission contributions for 2020 has been sent to congregational Treasurers and that any appeals against these proposed contributions should be made to the Convener by 24 October 2019; 2020 Ministries and Mission contributions for all congregations have been approved and reminds congregations that applications for assistance from the 5% Discretionary Allowance can be made to the Stewardship and Finance Committee at any time.

**COMMUNITY INTEREST:** the Scottish Government is undertaking a consultation on best funeral practice and encourages responses by 20th September; Renfrewshire Council is undertaking a consultation on licensing sexual entertainment venues and encourages interested parties to respond.

**WORLD MISSION & ECUMENICAL RELATIONS:** a speaker from the YMCA addressed Presbytery; Follow Me: Sharing Stories-The World Mission Council's report to the 2019 General Assembly shares stories from our partners around the world as they seek to follow Jesus; The report is now available to be

read online under the “World Mission/Reports and Studies” section of the CofS website; congregations are encouraged to support Scottish Interfaith Week 2019.

**LOCAL CHURCH REVIEW:** the committee intends to conduct Reviews of the congregations in Elderslie, Houston and Killellan, Johnstone High, Johnstone St Andrew’s Trinity, Johnstone St Paul’s and Linwood during October with a view to reporting to the December Presbytery.

**TREASURER:** presented the accounts for the year ending 30 June 2019, these were approved by Presbytery, subject to any amendments which may be required following the Independent Examination; Presbytery also approved the Budget for 2019/2020 and the proposed Presbytery assessments for 2019/2020; congregations are encouraged to make payment as soon as possible but no later than 31st May 2020; an award of a grant to the sum of £6,000 was awarded to the Joint Youth Work Project in the Ferguslie Park area; the Grant will be disbursed equally from the St. James Fund and Hill Memorial Fund.



## MIDWIFE’S DREAM

If only I’d been living around Two thousand years ago,  
I’d have packed my midwife’s bag. To Bethlehem I’d go.  
Here is what I’d carry, on that blessed, holy morn:  
“Tis what I’d bring for Mary, for when her son was born.  
A little robe of linen, warm stockings for his feet.  
A tiny crown as soft as down for that precious head so sweet.  
For Joseph, I’d make herbal tea, and several loaves of bread.  
I’d place two silken pillows beneath fair Mary’s head.  
She’d sit near the stable door, while I combed her lovely hair.  
When the shepherds and the wise men  
Would pay humble homage there.  
I’d let them enter, one by one, and bid them view  
For two seconds, her peaceful sleeping son.  
They would have been more comfortable, if only I’d been there  
With my tattered midwife’s bag so full of love and care.  
Such joy it would have brought me – ‘twould cause my heart to sing  
If only it had been my touch that lulled Christ the King.



*Charlotte Partin*



## 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 some Paisley and District Battalion Competitions and have enjoyed the experience. Remember to check out our 1stkilbarchanbb Facebook page to keep up-to-date with our BB Company News covering Anchors, Junior Section and Company Section boys. Many thanks to everyone who supported our recent Coffee Morning and Table Top Sale when we made £510 which was a great result. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Coming up – All sections will be going Skating at Braehead on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November when the Drama is using the hall and on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November all sections are going to the Christmas Lights Switchon in Steeple Square and then going into the hall for a Christmas Party with some hot chocolate and goodies as well as making some Christmas Crafts and Quiz. On Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December we are going to the Pantomime in Johnstone which we thoroughly enjoyed last year.

I would like to than all my officers who have enthusiastically supported our Boys' Brigade Company during my recent illness and the work they have done with our boys. I hope to return in January. Well done Leaders!

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

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

*Robert Stevenson*  
Captain

# CHURCHES VISITED 2018-2019

## USA

Boston	Cathedral Church of St Paul Trinity Church
Yosemite National Park	Yosemite Chapel

## AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND

Cairns (Queensland)	St Monica's Cathedral
Perth (Western Cathedral)	St George's Cathedral
Dunedin, New Zealand	First Church of Otago

## ASIA

Taiwan	Hualien Menndnite Church
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## EUROPE

<b>AUSTRIA</b>	Herzogenburg Abbey, Durnstein St Stephen's Cathedral, Vienna
<b>CZECHIA</b>	St Nicholas Church, Prague
<b>FRANCE</b>	Cathedral St Leonce de Frejus
<b>GERMANY</b>	Cologne Cathedral St Mary and St Stephen Cathedral, Speyer
<b>HUNGARY</b>	Cathedral of our Lady of Assumption and St Adalbert, Esztergom
<b>SPAIN</b>	St James Parish Church, Alcudia, Majorca
<b>SWEDEN</b>	Gothenburg Cathedral Suenska Kirk, Lidingo St Peteri Church, Malmo Stockholm Cathedral German Church of St Gertrude, Stockholm

## ENGLAND

Chipping Sodbury	Sobery Vale Benefice
Warkworth	Benefice of Warkworth with Acklington

## SCOTLAND

Aberdeen	Ferryhill Parish Church Kirk of Saint Nicholas Uniting
Airdrie	Cairnlea Parish Church
Alyth	Parish Church
Bridge of Weir	Freeland Church
Dingwall	Castle Street Church
Dornoch	Cathedral
Dunfermline	Abbey Church St Leonard's Parish Church
Edinburgh	Canongate Kirk Parish Church of St Cuthbert
Glasgow	Glasgow City Free Church, St Vincent Street
Grangemouth	Abbotsgrange Parish Church
Greenock	Old West Kirk
Inverness	Inverness Cathedral
Islay	The Round Church, Bowmore Portnahaven Parish Church
Kilmacolm	Old Kirk
Johnstone	High Parish Church
Kintore	Parish Church
Kirkcudbright	St Cuthbert's Parish Church
Lamlash	Lamlash Parish Church
Newton Stewart	Monigaff Parish Church Penninghame St John's Parish Church
Oban	St John's Episcopal Cathedral
Orkney	St Magnus Cathedral, Kirkwall
Peterhead	Peterhead Methodist Church
Strathkinness	Parish Church
St Monans	St Monans Parish Church
Weem	Weem Parish Church
On the High Seas	MV Balmoral



## HARVEST OFFERING

The congregation responded with great generosity to the offering on behalf of Mary's Meals.

A sum of **£841.80** was raised, with approx. 50% of this sum gift-aided, enabling Mary's Meals to recover an additional £100 or so. Put into context, this money will enable the charity to support **68** children for a year, enabling them to have a nourishing meal each day and get an education.

Mary's Meals currently supports over 1.5 million children in this way.

Mary's Meals mission is "to enable people to offer their money, goods, skills, time or prayer and, through this involvement, provide the most effective help to those suffering from the effects of extreme poverty in some of the world's poorest communities."

Your generosity really can help to transform lives, thank you.



## Blythswood Shoebox Appeal.

Thanks to your generosity once again, I was able to take 74 filled shoeboxes and £235 in cash (gift aided) to the Hillington depot, a wonderful response.

*Jenifer*





## HILL WALKING CLUB

What a great day the Hillwalking Club had for their September walk when fourteen of them went to Glencoe to climb Buachaille Etive Beag. The weather was perfect and the visibility even better. For some of the group this was their first Munro and they could not have had a better introduction to the Scottish mountains. The low levellers too had a good day when they walked from Balloch to Dumbarton along the River Leven. The return journey on the bus took nearly as long as the walk!

In October the weather forecast was not good for the Glencoe area, so rather than travel such a long distance, the high levellers joined the low levellers in going to climb Broughton Heights. This turned out to be a good decision as Peebleshire had the best of the weather that day, and the six who went on the walk enjoyed wall to wall sunshine, although the wind on the tops was “blowing a hoolie”. We were also delighted to have with us Douglas, our bird watcher, as he could point out a nuthatch, grouse, migrating swans, ducks, ravens, crows, a grey wagtail - and even a swallow and a martin which had been left behind when the others had left Scotland.

We travelled down the M74 again in November to climb the Donalds of Scaw'd Law and Wedder Law, taking in the Donald Top of Glen Leith Fell. After being in cloud and mist for most of the morning the day cleared up and on the way back to the car at Durisdeer we enjoyed seeing the lovely rolling hills and steep sided glens. This is an area where partridges are bred and fed, and in the course of the day we saw hundreds of them looking like little road runners.

The last walk of the year is on December 14 when we hope to climb Bishop Hill in Fife. As usual, we leave from the Steeple at 8.00 am.

On Wednesday 4 December, the AGM will take place in Kilbarchan Parish Church hall at 7.30 pm. It is at this meeting the 2020 syllabus is made up, so lots of suggestions – and volunteers to lead walks - are required!

*Margaret Beattie*

## JUNIOR CHURCH

Junior Church resumed in September and for the first few weeks our themes were Faith, Hope, Love and Charity. We decided that for the charity theme we would ask the children to choose a charity and then to decide how as a Junior Church we could raise money for this charity. The children decided that they would like to help animals, the chosen charity was the SSPCA and we will do a sponsored walk to raise the money, date and location to be announced, but most probably it will take place in and around Castle Semple Loch and will be about 5K.

Another year has flown by and as Christmas approaches our Junior Church will once again start preparing for our Nativity presentation which will take place on Sunday 22nd December. The Junior Church Christmas party will take place on Saturday 14th December from 10-12 noon.

Shona and I would like to thank all those who volunteer their time to assist with Junior Church for their invaluable support throughout the year. We hope our newest rota members are enjoying their time helping the children with crafts etc. Wishing all our children and their families A Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year.

*Ros & Shona*



Christine Dale wishes to thank all those who have donated wool for blankets. These have been sent to many different countries over the past 47 years. The last batch of 6 are on their way to Romania and Kosovo.



Oddments of D.K. wool are always acceptable and also 3 & 4 ply can be made use of, but aran and chunky are not suitable as they are too heavy.



## DRAMA GROUP



At the time of submission, we are a week away from our opening night. We hope that you all enjoyed our production, it has been challenging but we hope you had an evening of laughter and comedy.

All members of the drama group would like to thank you for your continued support!

*Fiona McKenzie*

## TOTS' CLUB

The club continues to be busy, with an average of 25 children, which is a perfect number for the hall and there are plenty of toys to keep the little ones happy, and of course the ever popular bouncy castle. We had a very successful Hallowe'en party at the end of October with some excellent costumes. The Christmas party is on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December, at 9.45am, when the highlight of the morning-apart from the great food-is of course a visit from Santa. We would be delighted if you would like to come along and enjoy the festivities.

The club resumes after the holidays on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January from 9.25am. The cost remains £1 for adults and there is a plentiful supply of tea/ coffee/ juice and biscuits. As a result of the 2018/2019 session, we have been able to donate £500 to church funds.

Please join us for coffee any morning.

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



## Cuppa @ the Kirk

Come along and join us for a cuppa and chat on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December between 1.30pm and 3.00pm in the church hall.

If transport is required please phone

Cathy Millar on [REDACTED] or

Elizabeth Dunn on [REDACTED]



All are most welcome.

# HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

Since the last report the audited Fire Safety Risk Assessments and the Fire Evacuation Plans have been completed for both the Church Building and the Halls.

If you visit the Church website you may notice that these documents are now available for all to see. If you're not familiar with the website, the H&S Committee page is accessed from the Groups and Orgs page. It is the last link on the list of organisations, understandably because it is the newest group – not because it is seen as the least significant.

We have circulated the the evacuation plans to all the groups and organisations which use the halls to keep them apprised of emergency procedures and of the need to carry out their own activities safely. There has been a little bit of concern that in suggesting that the hall users carry out their own risk assessments for their particular activities we are asking everyone to duplicate the same checks. To help with this, the committee met with the Safeguarding Convenor and together we carried out a generic risk assessment for the halls using a Safeguarding checklist. While this will be available for any interested groups it cannot foresee all eventualities which must be assessed by the group leaders.

Whilst the committee has been in operation for just over a year now it is reassuring to note that others in the Church and our attached organisations also seem to be taking a keen interest in looking after themselves and several items have been brought to our attention.

Access through the main gates to Steeple Square has been raised as a potential difficulty, both for outward evacuation and also for inward access for emergency services, be it ambulance or the fire service. This is why we are trying to discourage parking at the gates, you may have noticed the sign asking to keep the entrance clear.

The cords on the roller blinds in the halls were also a hazard. They have now been secured with special clips to keep them out of the reach of inquisitive children.

There is also a perceived risk of harm to children when kettles of boiling water and hot tea pots are in use after the service on Sundays and at coffee mornings. To minimise this risk we are trying to exclude youngsters from the kitchen and this is why the serving tables and trolley are being placed across the kitchen door. It's great to see their enthusiasm in helping with the clearing up, but if the dirty cups and crockery can be left on the trolley then a grown up can take them in to get washed and dried.

In the Church you may have noticed that the emergency lighting over the gallery stairs and above the main entrance have been replaced ahead of the evening services which are likely to occur over the advent period. We are also looking to get the doors at the pulpit end of the sanctuary made more evacuation friendly. In case you

thought you had missed it, the Fire Drill required by the powers-that-be in George St, Edinburgh has not yet taken place, so this is something to look forward to.

### **Further Information**

If you do not have the facility to visit the website, copies of any of the documents mentioned or further information may be had from myself or any member of the Team. And of course any worries or points of concern can be raised at any time.

*Tony Martin* 



## **NEW YEAR**

Give us, Lord, a bit o' sun,  
A bit o' work and a bit o' fun;  
Give us all, in the struggle and splutter,  
Our daily bread and a bit o' butter.

Give us our health our keep to make,  
And a bit to spare for poor folks' sake;  
Give us sense, for we're some of us duffers,  
An' a heart to fee! for all that suffers.

Give us, too, o. bit o' a song,  
An' a tale an' a book to help us along;  
An' give us our share o' sorrow's lesson  
That we may prove how grief's a blessin'.

Give us, Lord, a chance to be  
Our gradely best, brave wise and free,  
Our gradely best for oursels and others  
Till all men learn to live as brothers.

May every day of this New Year  
From January to December,  
Bring you, as you journey on,  
Something lovely to remember.

A very **Happy New Year** to you!



## THE GUILD



We are now well into the first half of our Guild Year and once again we have had a good turn out at meetings.

Our coffee morning in September was a success and raised a total of £454.00 which will go towards speakers' expenses etc.

Stephen came along to our opening meeting and gave us a thought provoking talk on the Guild Theme 'Companions on the Road' and for those of us who have not quite managed a world cruise Vivian McDonald's "Around the World in 50 Minutes" was the next best thing What wonderful photographs!

To avoid weather complications, we held our Guest afternoon in the first half of the Guild Year. Entertainment was provided by a Ukelele Band who played a wide variety of music to sing along to. Thanks go to all who helped set up, clear up and provided baking for afternoon tea enjoyed by around 75 people.

In the first half of November we had the Rev.Rebekah Haldane come along to talk to us on the work of The Sailors' Society in Scotland. This is the Project Kilbarchan Guild have chosen to support this year and we all enjoyed Rebekah's visit.

At the end of November we welcome a return visit from Douglas Keith who is coming to give a talk and show slides on "Glasgow Villages" and following on from that will be our Christmas Afternoon when Moira Gray will be coming along with the school choir to finish off our Session with a selection of Christmas Songs and Carols. Our Gift Offering at Christmas will go towards the work of The Sailors' Society.

The Guild is open to both men and women and we would be delighted to welcome any visitors.

*Jan Howitt*

A banner image showing a blurred view of a church building with a blue sky and greenery. The text "Kilbarchan Parish Church of Scotland" is overlaid in a dark blue serif font.

**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](http://kilbarchan-kirk.btck.co.uk)

Twitter: @KilbarchanKirk

Facebook: [facebook.com/kilbarchankirk](https://facebook.com/kilbarchankirk)



Messy Church continues to be a popular family activity.

We meet in the church halls where families are made welcome before taking part in a variety of crafts and activities all linked to our theme. We then come together to hear a short story and sing a song before sharing a simple meal.

We supported St Vincent's hospice at the September session with our theme "A Woodland Walk. We had five crafts and activities one of which was a concrete toadstool, provided by St Vincents, that the children decorated and can now be seen at the hospice as part of their woodland walk.



*Toadstool in the making*

Our October session followed the theme of Safe and Sound with the biblical message of Safe in His arms. The children enjoyed the challenge of making reflective wristbands and keyrings, following the finger labyrinth, decorating biscuits, trying the Lego marble maze and adding their own self portrait to our frieze. Everyone agreed that it was another successful session.

Our next session will take place on Saturday 30 November when our theme will be Christmas.

We welcome Dorothy to our team and already her knowledge and experience are proving invaluable. We hope that your time with us will be both fulfilling and enjoyable.

At our planning meeting in August Joan shared her decision to step back from leading messy church as she is unable to attend the Saturday sessions. On behalf of all the team Stephen paid tribute to Joan for her excellent leadership and guidance to us all over the last three years. Thank you Joan.

Sincere thanks to all the team for their commitment and enthusiasm, it makes messy church something special.



What do you give a dog for Christmas?

*A mobile bone*

What's a dog's favourite carol?

*Bark, the herald angels sing.*

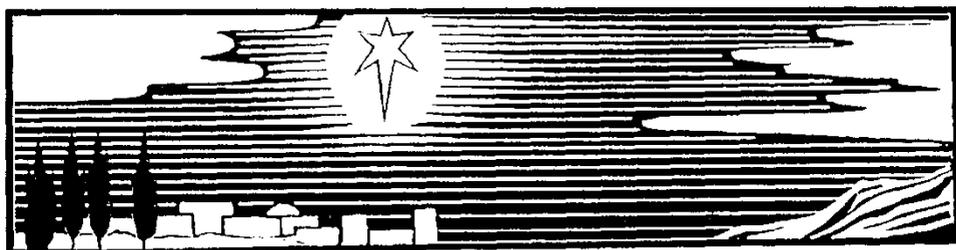
# Christmas Word Search

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

TREE  
HOLIDAY  
GIFTS  
STOCKING  
SANTA  
SLEIGH

REINDEER  
JOLLY  
CAROLS  
COOKIES  
RED  
GREEN

CHRISTMAS  
NORTH POLE  
TINSEL  
FAMILY  
ORNAMENTS  
CANDY CANE



## FUND-RAISING NEWS

Dear Friends

Art Off the Square has once again been a great success with about £5,500 raised for church funds. Many thanks to Myra and George Grant for organising, and all the helpers-for hanging the paintings, printing the catalogues, donating baking and helping in the tearoom.



At the moment nothing else is planned but we always welcome suggestions from you and offers of help.

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

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



## STITCHING GROUP

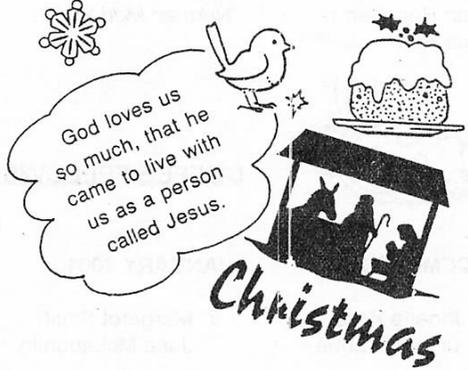
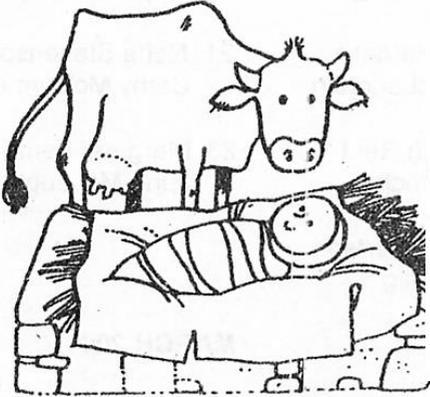
The Stitching Group meets in the small hall on Tuesdays. Afterwards we have coffee in Bobbins. We're always happy to see visitors at either place.

We are currently working for the Christmas Fayre and can promise a variety of handmade gifts suitable for all ages, some of which would suit the gift service. As we are a small group, donations from other crafters would be very welcome.



*Alison McNicoll*

# Kidz Korner



*Christmas*

Find the words on the tree



## Christmas Wordsearch

Some of these words are from the Christmas story, others are things we use to celebrate Christmas. Can you find them all?

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

- angel • cake • cards •
- crackers • holly • ivy • king
- manger • mincepie • oxen •
- presents • pudding • santa
- star • snow • tree •

# PARISH REGISTER



## DEATHS

21/08/2019 Margaret (Peggy) Craig  
10/09/2019 James McIntosh \*  
13/09/2019 Nancy Housden \*  
16/09/2019 James Macdonald  
01/10/2019 Senga Brown \*  
03/10/2019 Elizabeth Friel  
17/10/2019 Elizabeth Stewart  
29/10/2019 Elsie Gibson  
12/11/2019 Elizabeth Anderson \*

## BAPTISMS

29/09/2019 Fraser Graham Neil Darge, son of Iona and Andrew

## ROLL

The Roll of Kilbarchan Parish Church now stands at 405 and 19 Adherants.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for all the cards, beautiful flowers and sincere expressions of sympathy received, following the death of my mum, Agnes. Your kindness and support to myself, my cousins Roslyn, Andrew and Christine has been greatly appreciated during this very difficult time.



Kindest regards to all,

*Jennifer Douglas*

The family of the late Nancy Housden wish to thank Kilbarchan Parish Church so much for the flowers and support at the time of her death. They also thank all who took the time to visit while she was in hospital and Rev Stephen Smith for his visits, support and lovely service. The support from the Church family at this sad time has been very much appreciated.

*The McKirdy Family*

# USEFUL CHURCH CONTACTS

**Minister** - Rev Stephen Smith - [REDACTED]

**Joint Session Clerk** - Mrs Christine Erwin - [REDACTED]

**Joint Session Clerk** - Mr Alasdair Law - [REDACTED]

**Ass. Session Clerk** - Miss Helen Robertson - [REDACTED]

**Treasurer** - Position Vacant

**Clerk to Congregational Board** - Mrs Gwen Howden - [REDACTED]

## WORSHIP PROGRAMME

Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	11.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	11.00am	Morning worship
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	11.00am	Children's Gift Service
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	3.30pm	Service of Light and Hope
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	11.00am	Children's Nativity Service
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	6.30pm	Service of Lessons and Carols
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	11.00pm	Community Carol Singing
	11.30pm	Watchnight Service
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30am	Worship for Christmas Day
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> December	11.00am	Morning worship

### 2020

Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> January	11.00am	Morning worship and Informal Communion
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> January	11.00am	Morning worship
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> January	11.00am	Morning worship
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> January	11.00am	Morning worship
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February	11.00am	Morning worship
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	11.00am	Morning worship
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> February	11.00am	Morning worship
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	11.00am	Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
	2.00pm	Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	11.00am	Morning worship

