



KILBARCHAN WEST

PARISH CHURCH

Newsletter

Winter 2014

Dear Friends,

The issue of the buildings continues to delay the union of the two churches in Kilbarchan. Every effort is being made to avoid arbitration which is understood to be a rather unpleasant experience. The West Kirk Session has agreed to a request from the East that a survey of both churches and halls be carried out by a firm of professional surveyors. They are trying to establish the state of all the buildings. If it is discovered that one of the churches has a serious problem such as dry rot, then a recommendation is likely to be made that the other church be the place of worship for the united congregation. If both churches emerge as equally fit for purpose, then it seems likely that we shall end up in a process of arbitration. However, since we are told that process involves professional surveys of the buildings, the present exercise will save time at that stage.

Christmas now approaches and that does have a bearing on the situation. When Jesus first came into the world, he was not born in a hospital or a house. There was no room at Bethlehem's inn and he had to be born in a stable. After he had embarked upon his ministry, he once remarked, "Foxes have their holes; the birds of the air have their nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." He was a homeless preacher wandering the Galilean countryside. Buildings did not feature highly in his thinking.

Later once the church was founded, it did not have buildings for almost 300 years. In those early days the Christians used to meet for worship and fellowship in each other's homes. It was not until late in the third century and early in the fourth that church buildings began to emerge.

I do understand that people now hold their church building dear. It is the place where memorable experiences in their lives have taken place, such as family baptisms, weddings and funerals. It is also the place where they meet with God and at critical points in their lives they may have felt God near, comforting or challenging them, as need required.

However, at the end of the day buildings are relatively unimportant. At least that was the attitude of Jesus and his first followers. In the Kilbarchan situation one set of people, either from the East or the West, will ultimately have to sacrifice their building. When that time comes, I hope that the losing side will surrender graciously and that the other side will view the situation with sympathy.

In the meantime the uncertainty continues. I appeal for your patience and understanding while it continues. It will go on into the New Year, but I do hope that it will not take too much longer.

I wish you a joyful Christmas and peace and goodwill which lasts well into 2015.

Yours sincerely,

Rev. Alistair N. Shaw,
Interim Moderator.

Dear Friends

Am I the only one confused or do you feel a bit bamboozled as we approach Christmas. For me the confusion came to a head just before Halloween and All Saints Day.

There I was in a supermarket. At the door, was a large Christmas tree with lights and all the trimmings. Not that I am against Christmas. I just personally think that the Christmas shopping and promotion frenzy should be restrained until at least after Remembrance Sunday as a mark of respect and to keep some boundaries. But in these confusing times the 'Seasonal Aisles' seemed to have 2 or 3 different 'seasons' being promoted at once, with Halloween and pumpkins and Christmas items available and poppies on sale at the till.

The story was told of the woman doing her last-minute Christmas shopping at a crowded shopping centre. She was tired of battling the crowds. She was tired of standing in queues. She was tired of fighting her way down long aisles looking for a gift that had sold out days before. She was sick and tired of Christmas and wanted it to be over.

Her arms were filled with bulky packages when the lift door opened. Of course it was full. Still, the occupants of the lift grudgingly tightened ranks to allow a small space for her and her load to enter. As the doors closed she blurted out, "Whoever is responsible for this whole Christmas thing ought to be arrested, strung up, and shot!" Several folks in the lift nodded their heads or grunted in agreement.

Then, from somewhere in the back of the lift came a single voice that said, "Don't worry. They already crucified him."

As we rush headlong into Christmas, with all the preparation and activities, even if it means tightening our belts, it is definitely right and proper to pause and reflect on the meaning of it all.

And that is what this month and the season of Advent offers to us. A 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, my second Christmas in Kilbarchan and to discover again the Christ born in our midst.

I wish you and your loved ones every blessing and peace this Christmas.

Yours

STEPHEN

A STAR IS RECOGNISED!

Our beautiful Church Organ has once again been recognised as being outstanding. Our organ features on the front cover of the '**Star Organs of Britain**' calendar for 2015. This calendar celebrates outstanding instruments that are not very well known throughout Britain.

PASTORAL CARE

On Saturday 6th December there is a Christmas Coffee Morning in the West Church hall from 10 am until 12 noon. We are hoping to get as many of our housebound members there as possible. Lifts have been organized but if you know of someone who needs help getting to the hall, please phone me before the 6th.

The Pastoral Team wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year when the time comes.
Aileen Hardern 702855

FEWsion

FEWsion are looking forward to a busy Christmas season.

They will be raising money for MARY's MEALS by selling gift vouchers after the services in the run up to Christmas.

They will be participating in the Nativity play with the Junior Church/Sunday School and Junior Choir and possibly in other services too.

We might just manage to squeeze in a Christmas outing for the group if we have the time.

But we hope everyone has a very Merry Christmas as well.

Alan, Andy & Marjorie.

KILBARCHAN GUILD

Our joint meetings are well under way and we have had really good attendances at all our meetings. The afternoons seem to have met with approval and a few new members have come along to join us. So far Stephen has given us his thoughts on our theme, and we have heard about the Central Hotel in its heyday. We learnt a lot about the fascinating world of bees from Ian Craig and went home with a bag of goodies courtesy of Browning the Bakers. Our last meeting of 2014 is in the West Church Hall and will take the form of the Christingle Service and Christmas tea.



Our first meeting of 2015 is in the East Church Hall on the 13th January when Alan Downs will show slides and tell us about a visit to Peru. On the 27th January Sheena Ross will talk on the history of Coats of Paisley and our Guest Afternoon on the 10th February is in the East Church Hall when we invite Guild members from the local area to join us. We will be entertained by a local group 'Highlights.'

Our Coffee Morning is on Saturday 14th February in the East Church Hall, so come along and join us for coffee, home baking and a chat with friends.

On the 24th February in the West Church Hall we will hear about the project that we have chosen to support this year. This project 'A Passage from India' is about self-help groups that have been set up in deprived areas. A few weeks ago at our Project Partners Meeting three of us heard about one in Provanmill where the women have set up a lunch club and a laundry and alterations service. They are completely self-reliant and although receiving a loan from this they have to pay it back. The women were inspiring. Over the last three years the Guild has raised over £500,000.00 for six different projects.

Please come and join us at any of our meetings. They are held on Tuesday afternoons at 2.30pm and alternate between the West and East Church Halls. You will be made most welcome.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND SAFEGUARDING SERVICE

Safe Recruitment

I'm delighted to hear some new volunteers have come forward to help in the work of the Church. Any group intending to recruit new helpers please contact me beforehand as the Safeguarding Service has set procedures that must be complied with. This applies even if he/she already has PVG membership and helps with another Church group.

If any helper is leaving a Church group would the group leader please pass on the name/s to me to record on the Volunteers' Register.

PVG Membership

Almost all applications have now been completed and most volunteers have received their PVG membership certificate from Edinburgh. For admin purposes I require the date on your certificate, so please pass this on to me if you haven't already.

Recognising and Reporting Abuse

Harm or abuse of children or vulnerable adults can happen anywhere – even in our Church communities. We all have a responsibility to ensure the Church is safe for everyone.

<p>If you suspect harm, witness harm, or it is reported to you, you must immediately report it to your Safeguarding Coordinator or group leader.</p>
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If you have a question about any aspect of Safeguarding no matter how trivial it seems please don't hesitate to ask.

Anne Whyte,
Safeguarding Coordinator.

KILBARCHAN JUNIOR CHURCH

There is lots happening at the moment with school, clubs and families getting ready for Christmas. For a few weeks now we have been practising our play for the Nativity and this year it is called "The Christmas Present". We will be performing this in the East Church on 21st December. There is still time if you want to take part as there is plenty of room for more shepherds, sheep and angels. If you do want to join in please come along on a Sunday morning and we will show you what we are doing and make sure that you know all the moves! This year we are combining the Nativity play with performances from the Junior Choir which should lead to an interesting and tuneful time for all. Our party celebrations this year will be after the Nativity in the hall for some party food and there may be some presents left for children who have been good.

While you are making your list up for Santa don't forget that there are other children who may not be having such a happy time this year at Christmas and we ask that you remember others at the Gift Service which is the 14th December in the West Church. Everyone should bring along a gift with a little tag which will say whether it is for a boy or girl and what age it is for. This will help the grown ups in the church pass the gifts on to children who are spending Christmas in the Womens Refuge in Paisley and also to the children in Easterhouse.

We wish you a very merry Christmas when it comes and look forward to the New Year

Ho Ho Ho

Moir, Ros, Linda
Junior Church Team

CHRISTMAS GIVING

As we approach the end of another year I would ask everyone to consider their contribution to the funds of our magnificent church. We have held fewer fund raising events this year and our attendances have been down when compared with previous years. The overall effect is reduced income at a time when we are entering a period of essential repairs and improvements to fabric – all in addition to the ongoing maintenance which builds up during the winter months.

Many have increased their annual giving and I would thank all of you who have transferred to monthly bank transfer which ensures that we meet normal monthly outgoings even when attendances are down.

Please think about the good work carried out by the church in Kilbarchan as we spread the Christian message. We have a bright future ahead under the leadership of Stephen – regular giving helps us to maintain the many services and facilities which may sometimes be taken for granted but demand investment of time and money to continuously improve our outreach.

Every amount helps so please do all you can before the year end. May I take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in the excellent fund raising events we have enjoyed during the year. There are some special events planned for next year.

A very Happy Christmas to you all.

Ken Dalglish, Treasurer



1st Kilbarchan Boys' Brigade

The Company had a Coffee Morning in the East Church Halls on Saturday 25th October making about £200 on the day. Many thanks to all who attended and/or donated to it. The enrolment service was on Sunday 27th October in the West Church and was well attended. On Friday 7th November the Company joined with the Scout Group and Glentyan Thistle to have their annual Fireworks Display, which was again a great success, many thanks to David and his team. The 9th of November was Remembrance Sunday and there was a great turnout from all the youth organisations.

On Friday 5th December the whole Company are off to the Pantomime at the Pavilion. This should be a great adventure for them and a good round off for the Christmas Holidays. On Saturday 6th December the Company will hold a fundraising race night at the local bowling club. This is a great fundraising and entertaining night and tickets are available from any of the Officers. The Company will be bag packing in Dobbies, Braehead on Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st December.

I would like to take the opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all at 1st Kilbarchan Boys' Brigade. Remember you can follow us on Facebook or Twitter.

W.C.Speirs

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Follow us on Facebook and Twitter

RENFREWSHIRE FOODBANK



On behalf of Foodbank I would like to thank every one for their continued giving to this project, it is encouraging to get support from members of Church organisations who are not Church members. If you have not contributed to Foodbank now would be a good time to start as we approach Christmas where gifts of mince pies, selection boxes, cakes, puddings and chocolate would also be appreciated, as well as the normal foodstuff.

Jack Miller

PRODUCE STALL

The recent Produce Stalls after the church service have proved very worthwhile with just under £700 being raised. Thanks are due to those who contributed to, bought (or both.) The next one will be into next year and advance notice of it will be given via the intimations on a Sunday.

A Little "Light" Music

Glasgow's oldest amateur dramatic society, **Glasgow Light Opera Club** are bringing their acclaimed concert to Kilbarchan early next year – **Saturday 28th March 2015**.

Featuring a selection of memorable songs from through the years, under the watchful eye of their concert Musical Director, Greenock's Mr David Mackie (ex D'Oyly Carte) and introduced by that giant of West of Scotland musical theatre, Mr Walter Paul.

Tickets are available for pre-order - Put the date in your diary NOW, more information to follow shortly.
Alison Bone

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

FEWsion member, Cate Bone, is making and selling Christmas decorations to boost funding for her Guide trip to Switzerland next year. Cate and Sarah Henderson are joining a group of local Guides and will be coming up with more fundraising ideas over the coming months. These decorations will be on sale by Cate, or her family, in the hall after worship each Sunday during the run up to Christmas. Please support our young talent.

CHRISTMAS

Christ and his **C**oming

Herod and his **H**atred

Rulers and their **R**ejection

Innkeeper and his **I**ndifference

Shepherds and their **S**eeking

Travellers and their **T**reasure

Mary and her **M**eekness

Angels and their Announcing

Star and its Shining

DOUGLAS G. LAMONT

It is with regret that I announce the death of Douglas G. Lamont our most senior Elder in the Kirk Session, having been ordained at the age of 21 in the late 1940's. He passed away at Inverclyde Royal Hospital, Greenock on the 28th October, 2014 in his 89th year.

He had a long association with Kilbarchan and the West Church. He was Social Convenor and organised social events for a number of years. He was involved with the Youth Fellowship when it was formed after the arrival of the Rev Andrew Kerr to be our minister in 1955 and also the Men's Club. Following his education at the John Neilson School in Paisley and further education he became a Mechanical Engineer. He worked with several firms and eventually set up his own business and retired at the age of 70. Douglas first met his wife to be on holiday in Arran and they were married on Christmas Day, 1953. During their marriage they were blessed with the birth of 5 children (all girls) Fiona, Morag, Heather, Seonaid and Claire. Unfortunately a tragedy occurred with the death of Seonaid their 4th daughter from a rare illness.

Latterly over the last few years he was in failing health but still managed on occasion to come to Church. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him and we extend our sympathies to Ena and the immediate family.

John Connell, Session Clerk.

PARISH REGISTER.

The Congregational Roll currently stands at 404.

Baptism:- 26th October, 2014 – Andrew James, infant son of Douglas and Laura Smith.

Death:- 27th September, 2014 – Margaret McKenzie
28th October, 2014 – Douglas Lamont.
20th November, 2014 – Anne McMurray

Members changing address:- May McIntyre from District 9 to District 31 (Elder, Helen Robertson)

CHURCH ORGANISATIONS

AUDIT OF ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

It is coming up to the end of another year and we would ask the treasurer or Leader of each Church organisation to please complete their accounts and submit them to the Auditor, Helen Robertson, after the service on Sunday 11th January 2015.

WORSHIP PROGRAMME

Dec. 7 th	East Church <i>Communion at 11am and 6.30pm</i>	Jan. 4 th	East Church <i>Informal Communion</i>	Feb. 1 st	East Church
14 th	West Church <i>Gift Service</i>	11 th	West Church	8 th	West Church
21 st	East Church <i>Nativity 9 Lessons and Carols at 6.30pm</i>	18 th	East Church	15 th	East Church <i>BB Service</i>
24 th	West Church <i>Family Service at 7.00pm</i> East Church <i>Watchnight Service at 11.30pm</i>	25 th	West Church	22 nd	West Church
25 th	East Church <i>Christmas Day Celebration at 10.30am</i>				
Mar. 1 st	East Church, 8 th West Church, 15 th East Church, 22 nd West Church, 29 th East Church <i>Communion at 11am & 6.30pm</i>				

The Kilbarchan Primary School Christmas Service will take place in the West Church
on Thursday 18th December at 1.30pm.

LISTS when in WEST CHURCH

	CRECHE	COFFEE	FLOWER DELIVERY
14 th Dec	Ellen Osborne Tracey O'Hare	Yvonne Kane Irene Collinson	Mrs M Jamieson Mrs K Dale
28 th Dec	May Whyte Lesley Dickie	Jean Meikle Ethel Hamilton Catherine Connell	Mrs A Hardern Mrs E Gilchrist
11 th Jan	Christine McLeod Evelyn Connell	Margaret Jamieson Mairi McLean	Mrs M Jamieson Mrs K Dale
25 th Jan	Ann McLeod Fiona Payne	June Barratt Angela Murray	Mrs W Osborne Mrs A MacKinnon
8 th Feb	Janice Douglas Lisa Moore	Margaret Lamb Anne McCallum	Mrs E Kennedy Mrs R Borland
22 nd Feb	Betty Cameron Joan MacKinnon	Rona Borland Anne Syme	Mrs M Morning Mrs C Florence
8 th March	Julie Johnston Mairi McLean	Margaret McIntyre Aileen Hardern	Mrs C Crabbe Miss H Robertson
22 nd March	Ellen Osborne Tracey O'Hare	Yvonne Kane Irene Collison	Mrs A Hardern Mrs E Gilchrist