

Stamperland Parish Church Magazine

Focus



April 2015

<http://www.stamperlandchurch.btck.co.uk/home>
Registered Charity No SC003155

The Church of Scotland Stamperland Parish Church; Clarkston

Registered Charity SC003155

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Dear Friends,

The first man to write a history of England was a monk, who, because of his saintly life is known as the venerable Bede. He lived in the north of England in the early years of the eighth century. In his famous book called "The Ecclesiastical History of the English Nation," Bede tells us what happened after the Christian Gospel was proclaimed to Edwin, King of Northumbria, and his council. The King turned to the members of the Council and asked each person what his thoughts were about this new religion called Christianity. Bede records the reply of one of the Council members.

"Up until now, o King it seems to me, that our understanding of life can be likened to the swift flight of a sparrow through the room in which you sit at supper in the winter, with a good fire blazing, while the storms of rain and snow prevail outside. The sparrow flying in at one door and immediately out at the other, while he is inside is safe from the winter storm. After a short space inside the light and warmth of the room, the sparrow vanishes once again into the darkness. If, therefore, this new teaching sheds light on the meaning of life, it seems worth following".

The events of the first Easter contradict this pagan view that what lies beyond this life on earth is complete darkness. Jesus came from God, shared our human life in this world for a brief 33 years, and at Easter, returned to God. As we reflect on the awful events of the last week of Jesus' life, it's hard for us to grasp that what unfolded for Jesus was part of a divine plan.

The result of men and women being sinful creatures was that the human race was not able to enjoy perfect fellowship with a righteous God.

What happened at the end of Jesus' life was God's way of mending this broken relationship between himself and

4.

at Calvary so that you and I might be able to enjoy a fuller and richer quality of life than is possible during our years in this life. Far from going into darkness at death, the soul leaves the body and passes beyond the boundaries of time and space into the nearer presence of God.

The resurrection appearances of Jesus convey this to us.. Jesus in his spiritual form, was able to move freely between Jerusalem and Galilee, a distance of 70 miles . He was now able to go through locked doors and suddenly appear in front of his amazed disciples. After 40 days Jesus knew that his disciples were convinced of eternal life beyond death and were ready to continue the work that he himself had begun. So Jesus left the disciples in his visible form and returned to God. St John, because he stood up for the Christian faith was banished to the Greek island of Patmos. There he had a dream, and so vivid was his dream, that that when he awakened, he immediately wrote down everything that he had seen. His vision of Heaven is recorded for us in the last two chapters of the book of Revelation. St John paints a picture for us of a state of existence where there is no pain or suffering , but instead, there is perfect light and peace in the presence of Jesus.

Easter makes all the difference. Where once the human race believed in nothing but darkness after death , now we who trust the Lord can look forward to sharing Jesus' life of endless light and joy and peace.

A Happy and Blessed Easter to you all.

Yours in Christ's service,

Jack Drummond

Baptisms

Isabella Black	24 Glenorchy Drive	Darnley
Andrew Richard Burke	40 Stamperland Gardens	Stamperland

Holy Week Services 2015



It is that time of year again when Stamperland celebrates the magic of Easter with our Holy Week Services. Although, if our local Morrison's is anything to go by, they seem to think that selling chocolate eggs was appropriate from the start of January!

Nonetheless, by popular demand, after the success of 2014, Rev. Jack Drummond and some of our Elders will lead the services. Will you come and join us to celebrate this special time of year? You can be assured of a very warm welcome.

Monday 30th March	7pm	led by Steven Owens
Tuesday 31st March	7pm	led by Scott Russell
Wednesday 1st April	7pm	led by David McKee
Maundy Thursday	7pm	led by Rev. Jack Drummond and joined by Netherlee Church

Good Friday - Walk round Clarkston. Services in various Churches on the hour from 7am – 3pm (Stamperland's slot is at 8am)

Good Friday	6pm	led by Rev. Jack Drummond
Good Friday	7.30pm	In Netherlee Church led by the Netherlee Choir

Easter Sunday Dawn. Meet at Stamperland Church at 6.50am to travel to Linn Park

Easter Sunday Worship **11am**

David McKee

DONATION

Some time ago Stamperland Residents Association sold the Stamperland tennis courts to a developer who has since built a care home on the land. The Residents Association have recently been in a position to allocate funds from the proceeds of the sale and have, very kindly, given a donation of £5,000 to Stamperland Church.



Our organisations of Boys' Brigade, Scouts and Guides have also received a generous donation and we very much appreciate the generosity of the Residents Association Committee towards our church and youth organisations.

Kay Bolton Treasurer.

TREASURER'S REPORT



A full set of accounts in the format specified by the Office of the Scottish Charity Register, was presented at the Stated Annual Meeting on the 9th March 2015. Copies of the full accounts are available in the church vestibule. The following paragraphs are a brief summary.

In 2014 the Church's income totalled £88,778. Of this amount, £52,403 was in the form of offerings and £3,807 resulted from Fund Raising activities, a decrease of £900 on the previous year. £8,151 came from the use of our premises by non-church organisations. Those organisations which kindly contributed to our running costs were as follows; The Guild £400, The Guides £160, Brownies £55 and Stamperland Pipe Band £500.

Tax claimed on offerings donated through Gift Aid amounted to £9,575 an increase of £1788 on the previous year. The Day of Giving, which took place in October, brought in £4,214 and it is partly thanks to those who "Gift Aided" their donations, and also increased their offerings during the year, that our income from tax recoveries has increased. During the year we were fortunate to receive a legacy of £5,000.

Over the year our total expenditure was £78,850. £42,573 of this sum was our contribution to the National Ministry and Mission Fund. This amount includes our contribution to our minister's stipend and to the wider work of the Church of Scotland. We also paid £2,339 to Glasgow Presbytery. We have no control over these two items of expenditure which represent over half of our income.

In 2014 expenditure associated with fabric amounted to £ 8,479. The major items of expenditure were the replacement of the ceiling in the vestry £834, roof repair £588, tiling of the church steps and vestibule £910 and hall lighting £870. The cost of refurbishing the manse windows and doors was £732 and the purchase of the floor coverings in the manse was £1,000. The manse has been let since October 2014 and the rental income goes directly to the General Trustees in Edinburgh. We have, however, been able to claim £1,526 towards the cost of the manse fabric expenses. Our heating and lighting costs were £6,304. This expenditure was up slightly from last year. Most of the maintenance and repair tasks within the church, including the upkeep of the church grounds, were undertaken by volunteers and this helps to keep expenditure under control.

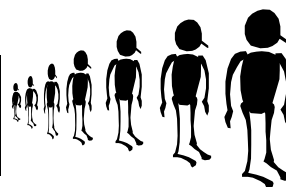
The final outcome was that, thanks to the legacy and Day of Giving, we ended the year with a surplus of £9,928.

A budget was presented for 2015 which shows that we are anticipating a surplus of £1,570 provided all goes according to plan.

Many thanks are due to Ian McNab for the many hours he has to spend auditing the accounts in the format required by OSCR.

Kay Bolton Treasurer

DUTY TEAMS FOR THE COMING MONTHS



Mar 1st COMMUNION

Mrs A MacFarlane (Con)
Mrs S Bell
Mr N Walker
Mr D Brown
Mrs M Young
Mrs J Silcock

Mar 8th – TEAM 5

Mr R Allan (Con)
Mrs J Herriot
Mr J Curror
Mrs J Curror
Mr S Russell

Mar 15th – TEAM 6

Mr A Graham (Con)
Mrs E Graham
Mr N Walker
Mrs M Neilson
Mrs K Baird
Mrs S Skelton

Mar 22nd – TEAM 1

Mr W Paterson (Con)
Mrs M Young
Miss L Robb
Miss G Scott
Mr D McKee

Mar 29th – TEAM 2

Mr G Fairweather (Con)
Mr G Robertson
Mr R Russell
Mrs J Silcock
Mr D Brown
Mr S Owens

April 5th – TEAM 3

Mrs A MacFarlane (Con)
Mr A Henderson
Mrs S Bell
Mrs R McNiven
Miss J Stewart

April 12th - TEAM 4

Mrs N Fisher (Con)
Miss J Barr
Mrs J Cranston
Mr G Finlayson
Mrs G Walker
Mrs K Bolton

April 19th – TEAM 5

Mr R Allan (Con)
Mrs J Herriot
Mr J Curror
Mrs J Curror
Mr S Russell

April 26th – TEAM 6

Mr A Graham (Con)
Mrs E Graham
Mr N Walker
Mrs M Neilson
Mrs K Baird
Mrs S Skelton

Any duty member who cannot attend on any date allocated should arrange a substitute for that date and inform the Duty Convener.

8.

PROGRESSING THE VACANCY



All over Scotland, in country parishes, in towns and cities there are derelict churches, churches converted into flats, furniture warehouses, community spaces, restaurants, etc. In 1996 there were 1,230,000 members of the Church of Scotland. Membership is now less than 400,000. The number of Church of Scotland charges has reduced from around 2,000 to 1,000. Crucially, there are only 800 Church of Scotland ministers many of whom are approaching retirement age. In a few years time there could be as few as 600 ministers.

Churches are trying to meet the challenge of declining numbers in different ways. Some initiatives are successful; some result in increased attendance at a few churches and are to be applauded. But the general trend is relentlessly downward. Recognising this and the impending shortage of ministers, presbyteries in Scotland were tasked to develop plans taking account of the shortage of ministers in a determined effort to ensure there would be no areas of Scotland which did not have a Church of Scotland presence.

Different presbyteries approached the planning task in different ways. The plan developed by Glasgow Presbytery was not to the liking of everyone with many churches selected for closure. Fortunately, under the plan, our church is to remain open and fully-functioning for the foreseeable future. Glasgow Presbytery would like to see a close connection between our church and Netherlee church with the eventual sharing of ministerial resources. Presbytery is very clear that both sets of church buildings will remain in full use. There will be church services in both Stamperland and Netherlee Churches every Sunday. Sunday Schools, Guilds, uniformed organisations, etc., would remain, as at present, in both churches.

The current proposal from Presbytery is that Stamperland and Netherlee churches should jointly look for and jointly choose a new minister. The “new minister” would, initially, be the minister at Stamperland church. When Tom Nelson retires from Netherlee Church (in about three year’s time) our ‘new minister’ would become minister of both churches. As well as the ‘new minister’ there would also be at least one part-time Ministries Development Staff serving the two churches. The Ministries Development Staff would be people with specific skills, for example, skills appropriate to youth ministry or to old age ministry. Discussions are currently rather focussed on the precise nature of the (legal) relationship between Netherlee and Stamperland Churches and we have to wait for satisfactory resolution of such issues before proceeding to fill our vacancy.

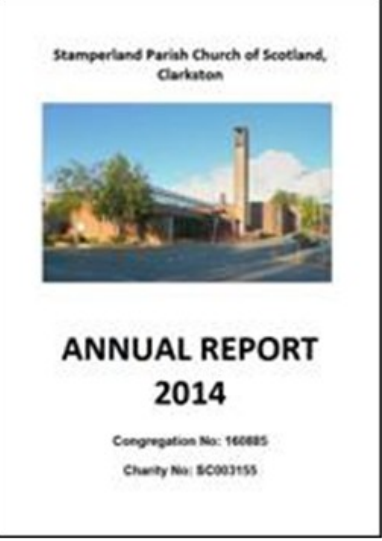
For the avoidance of doubt, Glasgow Presbytery intends that Services will be held in Stamperland Church every Sunday with continued use of our church and hall accommodation by all groups and organisations as at present.

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Before any decisions are made there will be full consultations with Stamperland and Netherlee congregations and it will be for congregations to make final decisions.

Norrie Bolton Session Clerk

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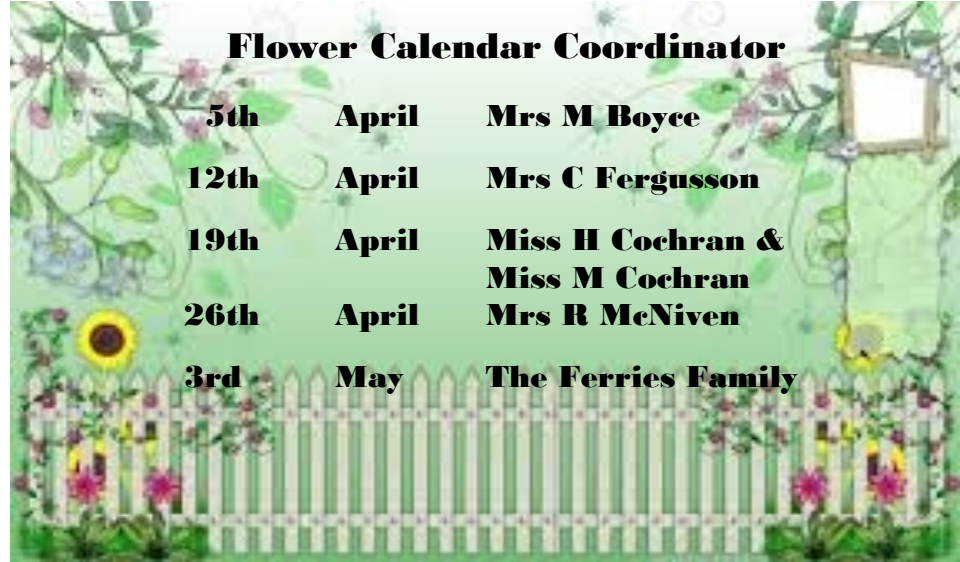
ANNUAL REPORT 2014

Stamperland Church's Annual Report was formally published on Monday 9th March at the Stated Annual Meeting.

The Annual Report describes what our church does and highlights some of our achievements during the past year. The Report also presents the detailed financial accounts for 2014.

Copies are available in the church vestibule.

Norrie Bolton Session Clerk



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1st Stamperland Guides

This is a very short Focus Report as I have just returned from a very successful indoor camp with Stamperland Guides at Avondyke Outdoor Centre. The girls were very well behaved and had a brilliant time, but it was heads on for the whole weekend and once you stop it catches up, but I have now sat down !!

For the first time, every member of Stamperland Guides, leaders and girls, attended the camp. The theme for the weekend was "Disney Villains"we're no princesses.

The Guides had to do activities for 'money' to buy food and equipment to cook their lunch over fires. 3 Courses ...no one starved and they had a great time. Some of the menus were amazing. Chicken noodle soup. Tomato pasta, custard and fruit, chicken and rice. There was a camp fire; treasure hunt; giant villains Cluedo and lots of craft. Mothers day gifts and cards were made. The fabric painting bags were so nice they could easily have been sold. This was many of the girls' first camp with the Guides and they all did really well. The Senior Patrol worked with the leaders running activities and we have identified some potential leaders. So one day I will be able to give up.???

Five of our girls attended the Strathclyde Patrol Leaders Training day. It is good for them to go to events where other leaders organise activities and they had some training from Girlguiding Scotland on how to be a good PL. It was good to have so many places as we could send all our PLs.

Stamperland Guides took part in the Comic Relief Girlguiding DANCEATHON on Sunday 8th March at Stamperland Church Hall. Over 80 girls from all over the County came and danced for over 4 hours, raising hundreds of pounds.

Units also had their own Danceathon and raised some extra money which will be added to the County total. We had a red nose spectacular at camp and raised another £30. Every girl received a specially made badge. The highlights of the UK GIRLGUIDING DANCEATHON were shown during Comic Relief. Nice to know we all took part.

I was very proud of Stamperland Brownies and Guides for the wonderful turnout at the County Flag Handover. The Brownies singing was great fun and I have never seen the Guides look so smart. Thanks to Stamperland Church; the Minister; Nancy Fisher and her wonderful team; the Congregation and the uniformed groups for their involvement in the County Flag Handover. The Church looked so nice and welcoming. Thank you also for the beautiful flowers.

Christine Mailley, stamperlandguides@hotmail.co.uk



11.

75th Anniversary – we need your help!



As we go into 2015, Stamperland Church celebrates it's 75th anniversary within the local community and many of the youth groups started either in that year {1940} or not long after. I'm advised that the Scout Group was formed shortly after the church started and was formally registered in December 1940. Therefore we are also celebrating our 75th anniversary.

As this is an important milestone for the Group, I would be interested if any of the congregation past and present who have been involved with the 79th Scout Group, and have any information, photos or memorabilia, to contact myself or any of the Leaders with a view to possibly having a night to celebrate the Scout Group's connection within the local community, later in the year.

We will also be planning some events to mark this within the Group, so look out for details during the year.

Joe Mailley

Beaver Colony

We are approaching the end of another session in which the Beavers have been working hard for their badges and I am happy to report that they have all been successful so far.

They are now working on their next badge so we hope that they will finish it when they are back after the holidays.

The Beavers will be off for three week's at Easter and will not start back until 23rd April for our final session before summer.

The Beaver's wish you all a happy Easter.

Alison Macfarlane – Assistant Beaver Scout Leader

Tel: 0141 644 2712

Cub Pack

February was a varied month for the Cubs with a visit to Braehead to go Ice-Sliding. The boys all kept going for 90 minutes up and down the snow – even the centre's management were impressed by their energy!

We also had a bit of an international theme in February and March looking at how Cubs and Scouting is different, but similar in different parts of the world and also

lantern making and pancake making amongst them.

At our AGM in March it was great to be able to hand out over 50 badges to the Cubs covering Home Safety, Swimming, the Community Challenge Badge and as mentioned last time the Emergency Aid badge for those that were not able to complete it in January.

Moving On & Chief Scouts Silver Challenge Award – At our AGM the Cubs bade farewell to Robbie, Ben, Reuben and Flynn as they made their way up to Scouts. We have very much enjoyed having them with us in Cubs and wish them well in their continuing journey in Scouts.

At the AGM Elaine and I were also extremely proud to present Robbie, Ben, Reuben and Flynn with their Silver Chief Scouts Challenge Award. This is the highest badge available in Cubs and the boys have worked very hard during their time in Cubs to gain this badge – a huge “Well Done” to them all.

Philip Moseley – Cub Scout Leader
Tel: 0141 620 3146

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Edith Moseley hails the right kind of Taxi!



Whilst on holiday on the island of St Thomas in the Caribbean in February, Edith hailed this taxi for a tour of the island.

After she got off and passed behind it she discovered she had in fact hailed a very suitable vehicle for her journey.

It certainly looked the place to be in the month of February, that's for sure!!

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Young Son: Is it true, Dad, that in some parts of Africa a man doesn't know his wife until he marries her?

Dad: That happens in every country, son.



**What Use is made of Stamperland Church and Halls on a Weekly Basis?
(Mainly between September and June inclusive)**

Sundays	Worship Stepping Stones Parties	Sanctuary Large Hall Large/Small Halls	Morn Morn As Booked
Mondays	Baby Sensory Brownies Guides Pipe Band Session	Large/Small Halls Large Hall Large Hall Sanctuary Session Room	Morn/Aft Eve Eve Eve Eve Monthly
Tuesday	Rainbows Guild Sounds Int. Choir Friendship Club	Small Hall Session Room Large Hall Session Room	Eve Weekly Eve Weekly Eve Weekly Eve Summer
Wednesday	Open Door BB Football Training Pipe Band	Sanctuary Large Hall Sanctuary	Morn Weekly Eve Weekly Eve Weekly
Thursday	Beavers Cubs Scouts	Small Hall Large Hall Large Hall	Eve Weekly Eve Weekly Eve Weekly
Friday	Keep Fit Class 1 Keep Fit Class 2 Heart for Art Dance Classes BB Junior Sect BB Coy Sect	Large Hall Large Hall Sanctuary Large Hall All Halls All Halls	Morn Weekly Morn Weekly Aft Weekly Periodically Eve Weekly Eve Weekly
Saturday	Flowers Team Parties Fund Raisers	Sanctuary Large/Small Hall All Halls	Morn Weekly As Booked As Booked
All Days	Cleaning/Maintenance	All Halls	As Required

**Need the use of a Hall? Get in touch with
Connell Cranston on 07847 588702**



SHARING IN PRAYER APRIL : THANK GOD IT'S EASTER



MY KING

*My King was born King
The Bible says He's a Seven Way King:
He's the King of the Jews - that's an Ethnic King.
He's the King of Israel - that's a National King.
He's the King of righteousness.
He's the King of the ages.
He's the King of Heaven.
He's the King of glory.
He's the King of kings and He is the Lord of Lords.*

NOW THAT'S MY KING.

*Well, I wonder if you know Him. Do you know Him?
Don't try to mislead me. Do you know my King?*

*David said the Heavens declare the glory of God, and the
firmament shows His handiwork.*

*My King is the only one of whom there are no means of measure
that can define His limitless love.
No far-seeing telescope can bring into visibility the coastline of
the shore of His supplies.
No barriers can hinder Him from pouring out His blessing.*

<i>He's enduringly strong.</i>	<i>He's entirely sincere.</i>
<i>He's eternally steadfast.</i>	<i>He's immortally graceful.</i>
<i>He's imperially powerful.</i>	<i>He's impartially merciful.</i>

THAT'S MY KING

*He's God's Son. He's the sinner's Saviour.
He's the centrepiece of civilization.
He stands alone in Himself. He's honest. He's unique
He's unparalleled. He's unprecedented. He's supreme.
He's pre-eminent. He's the grandest idea in literature.
He's the highest personality in philosophy.
He's the supreme problem in higher criticism.
He's the fundamental doctrine of historic theology.
He's the carnal necessity of spiritual religion.*

THANK GOD FOR EASTER

MY KING



THANK GOD FOR EASTER cont.

*He's the miracle of the age.
 He's the superlative of everything good that you choose to call Him.
 He's the only one able to supply all our needs simultaneously.
 He supplies strength for the weak.
 He's available for the tempted and the tried.
 He sympathises and He saves. He's the Almighty God who guides
 and keeps all His people.
 He heals the sick. He cleanses the lepers.
 He forgives sinners. He discharged debtors.
 He delivers the captives. He defends the feeble.
 He blesses the young. He serves the unfortunate.
 He regards the aged.
 He rewards the diligent and He beautifies the meek.*

THAT'S MY KING.

*Do you know Him?
 Well, my King is a King of knowledge. He's the wellspring of wisdom.
 He's the doorway of deliverance. He's the pathway of peace.
 He's the roadway of righteousness. He's the highway of holiness.
 He's the gateway of glory. He's the Master of the mighty.
 He's the Captain of the conquerors. He's the Head of the heroes.
 He's the Leader of the legislatures.
 He's the Overseer of the overcomers.
 He's the Governor of the governors. He's the Prince of princes.*

THAT'S MY KING.

*His office is manifold. His promise is sure. His light is matchless.
 His goodness is limitless. His mercy is everlasting.
 His love never changes, His Word is enough. His grace is sufficient.
 His reign is righteous, His yoke is easy and His burden is light.
 I wish I could describe Him to you but He's indescribable.*

THAT'S MY KING.

*He's incomprehensible. He's invincible. He's irresistible.
 I'm coming to tell you this, that the heavens of heavens can't contain
 Him, let alone some man explain Him.
 You can't get Him out of your mind. You can't get Him off your hands.
 You can't outlive Him and you can't live without Him. The Pharisees
 couldn't stand Him, but they found out they couldn't stop Him.
 Pilate couldn't find any fault in Him. The witnesses couldn't get
 their testimonies to agree about Him. Herod couldn't kill Him.
 Death couldn't handle Him and the grave couldn't hold Him.*

THAT'S MY KING

The Friendship Club

The Friendship Club recommences for the summer period from April to August. We meet in the Session Room at 7.30pm on the last Tuesday of the month. If you see something of interest in our programme, please come along. You will be most welcome.

April	28th	Speaker Rev Albert Bogle Speaking on his year as Moderator of the Church of Scotland.
May	26th	Fun Night
June	30th	Val Brown speaking on her trip to Israel with Christian Aid.
July	28th	Flower Arranging with Adela
August	25th	Musical Evening with Jane and John Curror

Ray McNiven

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The Guild



We would like to thank everyone who came along on Tuesday last for the Daffodil Tea. The sum of £250 was raised. We were well entertained by Sounds International and thank them for their contribution to what was a great evening, particularly to the young saxophonist and accompanist Richard. We appreciate the support from the congregation. It was good to see so many people attending.

Grace Scott

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I wish to thank the Church for the beautiful flowers and to the members of the congregation who sent get-well cards and who took the time to telephone. I also wish to thank the Reverend Jack Drummond for his friendly visit. All these things have been very much appreciated.



Cathie Allan

231st Glasgow Company Boys' Brigade Junior Section and Sparks



March has been a good month for our Junior Section and Sparks when they have enjoyed taking part in many different activities.

The football team continue to play this season and although they have not been particularly successful in the league and cup competitions they have enjoyed taking part. On Saturday 28th of February we enjoyed taking part in the district 5 aside competition. The team consisted of Aiden, Finlay, Jack, Harrison, Liam, Luke and Levi and they tried their hardest in all of their games. By the time we had finished the day we had won one, lost three and had one draw.

In more successful news the boys took part in the Glasgow Battalion Figure Marching competition on Saturday 14th of March. Our marching team consisted of Alex, Dylan, Andrew, Levi, Luke, Alex, Matthew and Joshua who were attempting to retain the trophy that they won last year. After a close competition we won first place by half a point! Well done to all the boys who took part. Now we can look forward to trying to win 'Three in a row' next year.

Our Sparks have enjoyed doing different activities and games on Friday nights and are making good progress towards our BB display items. During February the boys enjoyed making pancakes and learning about the start of Lent and 'pancake day'. We also enjoyed making Mothers Day cards for their mums on the Friday closest to Mothering Sunday. The competition to see who will be the best 'Spark at Marching is also heating up with the boys practising hard during their Knockout Marching competitions.

The final few weeks of March will be spent focusing on items for the BB display which will be held in the Church hall on Friday the 15th of May. We are also looking forward to our annual Millport trip which will be taking place the day after the display, Saturday 16th.

Scott Russell (07917801622)

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You can order a subscription from your local church distributor (Sheila Mackintosh) and take out an individual, postal subscription by email or post.

The individual rate for UK residents is £24, including postage and packing.

**LIFE
AND
WORK**
THE MAGAZINE OF THE
CHURCH OF SCOTLAND



Changes to the Gift Aid Small Donation Scheme could add up to an extra £700,000 in income for churches across Scotland, following new rules introduced in the budget.

Since April 2013, the Gift Aid scheme allows churches to claim tax repayments on small donations of under £20. Initially churches could make claims on up to £5,000 of small donations. Now that limit has been raised to £8,000.

Rev Alan Gibson, who is Head of Stewardship, says, "The change means that each church should be able to claim a minimum of £2,000 a year in Gift Aid repayments, just for loose cash in collection offering plates. Receiving the full benefit of the Gift Aid scheme does depend on individual churches exercising good stewardship and claiming the maximum amount available. Some churches with additional buildings are currently claiming as much as £3,750 annually."

If everyone makes full use of the scheme the budget change could mean an additional £700,000 of income for churches across Scotland, he says.

"That's a sizeable sum, which can be put to good use across the Church and the many projects and community activities it supports."



I would like to thank the Church for the lovely flowers and for the visits by the Rev Jack Drummond in recent times, which have helped me greatly.

Christine Black

I would like to thank everyone who helped with or attended the Coffee Afternoon on Thursday 5th March in aid of the Tribute Fund in the name of Margaret Taylor, for The Prince & Princess of Wales Hospice. The sum of £900 was raised.

Evelyn Graham

The Difference in Generations

Most of our generation of 50+ was HOME SCHOOLED in many ways.

1. My mother taught me TO APPRECIATE A JOB WELL DONE .

"If you're going to kill each other, do it outside. I have just finished cleaning."

2. My mother taught me RELIGION.

"You better pray that will come out of the carpet."

3. My father taught me about TIME TRAVEL.

"If you don't straighten up, I'm going to knock you into the middle of next week!"

4. My father taught me LOGIC.

"Because I said so, that's why."

5. My mother taught me MORE LOGIC .

"If you fall out of that swing and break your neck, you're not going to the store with me."

6. My mother taught me FORESIGHT.

"Make sure you wear clean underwear, in case you're in an accident."

7. My father taught me IRONY.

"Keep crying, and I'll give you something to cry about."

8. My mother taught me about the science of OSMOSIS .

"Shut your mouth and eat your supper."

9. My mother taught me about CONTORTIONISM.

"Just you look at that dirt on the back of your neck!"

10. My mother taught me about STAMINA.

"You'll sit there until all that spinach is gone."

11. My mother taught me about WEATHER.

"This room of yours looks as if a tornado went through it."

12. My mother taught me about HYPOCRISY.

"If I told you once, I've told you a million times, don't exaggerate!"

13. My father taught me the CIRCLE OF LIFE.

"I brought you into this world, and I can take you out..."

14. My mother taught me about BEHAVIOUR MODIFICATION .



Thanks once again to everyone who attended, helped or baked for the Christian Aid Art Exhibition in the Clarkston Halls on Saturday 14th March. 64 paintings were sold at a total value of £8,810. Christian Aid will receive one third of this money.

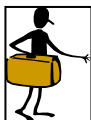
Christian Aid Week is from Sunday 10th May until Saturday 16th May. Helpers are needed to deliver and/or collect envelopes throughout the Parish.

If you can help in any way, please give your name to Sandra Cowie, or telephone her at 585 7188.

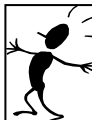
Sandra Cowie.

COMMUNION ROLL CHANGES

Change of Address: *We hope you are happy in your new abode.*

		From:	To:
	Mr Peter Searil	108 Stamperland Hill	13 Ailsa Avenue, Giffnock

New Members: **"Welcome !"** to:-

Mrs Hilda Kean Mrs Mary Black	14 Strathtay Avenue 25 Strathtay Avenue	
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Bill Paterson, Roll Keeper

Marriage

I think one of the greatest things about marriage is that, as both husband and father, I can say anything I want to around the house. Of course, no one pays the least bit of attention.





The months of March/April have again been busy for the Company with Boys involved in various activities.

Firstly, the Company made a welcome return to the Battalion Company Drill competition. This is a very challenging discipline, however I'm delighted to say that the squad performed admirably, scoring over 70%, securing a 2nd place spot – Well done to all those involved.

The Boys have also completed their Christian Faith coursework with the papers now in for marking and hopefully no resits required!!

Sticking with classwork, I'm delighted to say that all Recruits are on the verge of completing their Compass Badge activities and I expect to be able to present the Badges by the end of the month, well done Recruits!

The football team have had a somewhat disappointing season in the league, however that has not been the case in the Cup, with the boys reaching the final again, to be played on the 28th April. All supporters welcome to cheer the team. Best of luck. A review will be in the May edition of Focus.

Sgts. Jack Smart and Jack Carline are entering the final stages of completion for the Queens Badge. At the time of writing, the boys will be heading to Auchengillan for the weekend completion course in which we wish them well, and congratulate them for their hard work over the course of the session.

Looking forward, the Company is focusing on our weekend camp at Lochgoilhead from 10th to 12th April. We are heading to Ardroy outdoor centre once again, off the back of our last successful trip a couple of years ago. The boys will be taking part in a number of activities ranging from Caving, Gorge Walking & Raft Building. Both boys and Officers are looking forward to the weekend. A full review will follow!

This year, due to hall availability, our Annual Inspection will be on the 22nd May in the Clarkston Halls. Whilst this is a holiday weekend, I do hope the vast majority of boys and supporters will be able to attend for the usual excellent night.

Diary:

3rd April – Camp Preparation Night – No Uniform, Only Boys going to Camp are required to attend. 8pm-9pm

10th April – Camp, Ardroy Outdoor Centre

17th April – No Parade Night, due to School Holidays

24th April – Parade Night, Uniform without haversack.

All enquiries, Peter Dale (Captain) 07506681531

The White Lily
A Short Story for Easter
Jane Tyson Clement

Adapted from Frances Jenkins Olcott
 Illustrated by Hannah Marsden



Once long ago, near a village far away, there lived an old peasant known as Ivan. He had a little hut, a small garden, a dog named Rubles, and a six-year-old nephew, Peter, who was an orphan. Ivan was not a bad man, as he did not murder, did not steal, told no lies, and did not meddle in other people's business. But on the other hand he couldn't be called a good man either. He was cross and dirty. He seldom spoke, and then only grudgingly and unpleasantly. He paid no attention to his neighbours, never showed them kindness, and refused any small courtesy or friendliness they offered him. Eventually they paid no attention to him either and let him go his own way. As for Rubles the dog, he was afraid of his master and never went near him. He would follow him at a distance to the village and back, would bark at all strangers as watchdogs should do, and he would drive off the foxes that tried to molest the hens. So Ivan kept the dog and left scraps for him, but never stroked or praised him.

Peter was a silent little boy, since he was never spoken to except in anger. He had no friends, for the village children feared his uncle too much to come near him, and Peter was too shy to speak to anyone. So he ran wild in the woods and made up his own lonely games. He feared his uncle Ivan, who had never beaten him hard but had laid a stick to him now and then, and who spoke to him so fiercely that Peter was quite cowed and frightened.

All this was bad enough, but added to it was filth and ugliness. The little cottage was brown and bleak, the windows (there were two quite nice ones) grimy and stained, the wooden rafters sooty, and all the walls and corners full of cobwebs. On the floor were the scraps and leavings of many meals, and the mud dragged in from many rainy months. The hearth was black, the pots and kettles dingy, the big bed for Ivan and the trundle bed for Peter tumbled and unmade, the table littered and smeared, and the chairs half-broken. It was all a sorry sight, and no better outdoors, for the doorsill was tumble-down, weeds grew everywhere, the vegetables came up as best they might, and not a flower was to be seen.

The living things themselves were even worse. Rubles was thin and dirty and full of burrs. Poor Peter wore rags, his hair grew long and was tangled with straw from his bed, and he was so filthy one could scarcely see the boy beneath. As for Ivan, he was huge. His black hair and beard were unkempt, and he looked quite terrifying. His clothes were as black with age and no washings of his hair. He was so unpleasant to look at that all he met turned their heads away, wrinkled their noses, and passed him as quickly as possible.

One bleak March day, when it seemed as if all had been waiting for spring for many weeks, Ivan had to go to the village to fetch some beans. As he trudged along the road, homeward bound again, in the distance he saw a man coming toward him. Ivan was ready as usual to pass him by without a glance, but when he drew nearer, out of the tail of his eye Ivan noticed he was a stranger, and in spite of himself Ivan looked full at him. Then he could not look away. The stranger was young, tall and spare, in rough peasant dress, with a shepherd's

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staff. On one arm he carried a sheaf of white lilies, like the day lilies that grew wild in the fields, only so fair and glowing that they dazzled the eye. Ivan stopped in his tracks, and with a smile the stranger stopped also. While Ivan stared, the stranger looked him over slowly, from his broken boots to his lined and dirty face. Then he spoke:

“Good day, friend.”

When there was only silence, with Ivan staring, the stranger spoke again.

“What is it you see?”

Ivan lifted his eyes then to the man’s face. The light there was like the lilies, and he looked at them again.

“Those flowers . . . I never saw any so fair.”

“One of them is yours,” said the stranger.

“Mine?” said Ivan.

The stranger took one of them and offered it to Ivan, who with astonishment and unbelief exclaimed, “What do you want for it? I am a poor man.”

“I want nothing in return, only that you should keep the flower clean and pure.”

Ivan wiped his dirty hands on his coat and reached for the lily. His fingers closed around the stem, and he stood in the road staring at it for a long while, not knowing what to do with the precious thing now that he had it. When he looked up at last, the stranger had passed into the distance again. Carefully Ivan carried the lily home.

Once inside the door he stood doubtfully in the middle of the floor, looking all around at the filth and disorder and not knowing where to put the white shining lily. Peter had been sitting dejectedly by the dead fire, but now he stood up slowly, gazing at his uncle in amazement. At last he found his voice and said to him, “Where did you find it?”

And in a hushed tone Ivan answered, “A stranger gave it to me, for nothing, and told me only to keep it clean and pure. . . . What am I to do with it?”

In an eager voice Peter answered, “We must find something to hold it! On that high shelf you put an empty wine bottle last Easter. That would do.”

“Then you must hold it while I fetch the bottle down. But your hands are too dirty! Draw water from the well and wash first!”

This Peter rushed to do, coming back at last with clean hands. Ivan carefully gave him the flower, but cried out when Peter put it to his face to smell it. “Wait! Your face is too dirty!” Ivan seized a rag and rushed outside to the well, where he drew a bucket of water and washed the rag first, and then came in and awkwardly scrubbed Peter’s face. When he was through he stepped back, unbelieving, as the boy with care smelled the white flower. He thought he had never seen that boy before.

Then he remembered the bottle and clambered up to get it. But it was dirty, too, and clogged with cobwebs. So out to the well it went, and came in clean and shining, filled with clear water. He set the lily in it and placed it on the window sill. Then they both looked at it. Its glow lit the dim and dingy room, and as they looked at it a wonder rose in Ivan at all the filth around him. "This fair lily cannot live in such a place!" he said aloud. "I must clean it."

"Can I help?" asked Peter.

It was a hard task and took more than one day. Windows were washed, walls and floors swept and scrubbed, pots and kettles scoured, and chairs mended. The table was washed, the beds aired and beaten and put in order, and the hearth polished till the long-neglected tiles gleamed in the firelight and the pots and kettles winked back. The unaccustomed daylight flooded in the windows and the dark rafters shone in the shadows. All the while the lily glowed on the window sill. When they were done, they looked about them in wonder and pleasure that the little house could be so fair. And then they saw each other.

"We don't belong in a house like this!" said Ivan. "Next we scrub ourselves."

By now he and the boy were friends, having worked so well together. So they scrubbed themselves, and Ivan went to the village to buy decent clothes for them both. He noticed Rubles following him at a distance. When he came home he thought to himself, "That dog is a sight, dirty and full of burrs. He doesn't belong to this house. He must be cleaned." But when he went to get him, the dog slunk away out of reach and feared to come to him. Ivan put gentleness into his tone, but it took nearly a day to win the dog, until with Peter's help he could brush him and wash him. After soft words and a good supper, Rubles no longer cowered and whined, but gazed at Ivan with a wondering love in his eyes, and beat his tail on the floor, and licked Ivan's hand. And Ivan felt a strange glow in his heart.

So all was well within. But without? What of the broken sill and the brown tumbled garden thick with last year's weeds? "A house like this cannot live in a garden like that," said Ivan in a cheerful voice. "We must clean it up." So they went to work, while Rubles sat on his haunches to look at them. And a neighbour passing by stopped to watch, perplexed and astounded and scarcely recognizing the two who worked.

"What are you staring at, neighbour?" called Ivan. "Come in to see our lily. But first go fetch your good wife."

And this the neighbour did, in haste and astonishment, eager to be friendly at last to the old man and his little boy.

For seven days the lily glowed and gleamed on the windowsill, and all the life around it was transformed. Then on the seventh day it vanished. There was no trace of it to be found, though Ivan and Peter searched for it everywhere. But when Ivan looked at Peter's face he thought, "The lily glows there still." When they saw the clean pure house, and spoke with love to each other, and greeted their neighbours, and tended the growing things in the new garden, each thought to himself, "The lily still lives, though we see it no longer."

End.

Dates for Focus Magazine

Issue	Copy Input on or before	Electronic Input on or before	Collection Date for Distribution
May	12th April	15th April	26th April
June	17th May	20th May	31st May

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Pastoral Care.

We are hoping to extend the services that we can offer you, and are beginning with Exchange of Library books. One of our team Kay Baird, works in Clarkston Library and is happy to set this up for you should you wish to exchange a book and cannot get to the Library yourself, or, if you would like to become a member of the Library she can assist you to do this.



Pastoral Care

Your Pastoral Care Team are here for you. If you need ;

- **Transport to Church**
- **Doctors Appointment**
- **Could do with a chat**
- Hospital**
- Shopping**
- Have a prayer request**

Please contact Grace Scott, 0141 637 2226

Please get in touch with us if you would like to know more about this.

Grace Scott, On behalf of the Pastoral Care Group,

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Anniversary

Best Wishes and love to David and Lynsey McKee on their third wedding anniversary

From Mum (Mags)

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Buzz into the Spring FAIR



**Come and join our celebration
It's a very special day.
Come and join our celebration
SPRING FAIR
on the 9th of May.**

**This year we're celebrating the
75th birthday of our church!!**

**We plan to have all the usual stalls —
All Day Tea Room, Cake and Candy
Stall, Bottle Stall, CDs and DVDs, Toys,
Bouncy Castle, Silent Auction, Music,
Bric-a-Brac, Bar-be-que, Face Painting,
Model Railway, Games, Puzzles, Quizzes,
and more**



**There could be a Stamperland Cup Cake
Challenge—would you be up for that?**

**We will only have a successful Spring Fair if everyone works
hard. We need donations for all stalls, we need helpers be-
fore, during and after the event on Saturday 9th May. Please
do think how you can assist—and tell one of the Fund Raising
Committee or any office bearer.**

**We'll be providing more information in the coming weeks in the Sun-
day intimation sheet and also on the church website and Facebook
pages.**