

## BIGGAR KIRK OFFICE BEARERS

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## Biggar Kirk Parish Newsletter

### A Note from our Minister



Summer is all but over (if it ever came!), holidays are past, the children are back at school, and the evenings are drawing in. In the church, the ecclesiastical close season will soon end as another session of activity gets under way.

In the church we are always in danger of emphasising activities rather than purpose. The things we do together may lose their point through repetition.

The story is told of a missionary in Africa who once a year trekked to a remote village in the forest where he preached the gospel to the people. He always timed his visit to coincide with their annual festival at which they offered sacrifices to their gods. Each year it was the same – he preached, the villagers turned on him, beat him up, and chased him out. After some time, the missionary took ill and died, and it was a while before another missionary took his place. One day the elders of the village came to the mission station and explained to the new missionary that his predecessor had come to their village each year at festival time. "He preached, we beat him up, and he went home," they said. "His visit became part of our festival. No missionary ever comes to us now. Without the visit of the missionary our festival isn't the same. Will you please come and preach to us? Our festival is next week."

We can only guess what answer the missionary gave! But the point of the story is clear. The preaching of the gospel had become a ritual act which far from challenging their way of life had actually become part of their pagan rites.

The same may happen in the church. The things we do together, some of them core activities without which the church would not exist, easily become ends in themselves. Unless the Spirit of God is present to inject purpose and

thrust to activities which of necessity must be repeated week after week, and renew what is old and give fresh point to what is familiar, then we shall find that our life in the church becomes a closed circle of repetitive activity. The indifferent are lulled into spiritual stupor and the enthusiastic become frustrated and bored.

How dependent we are on the dynamic of the Holy Spirit to give immediacy to our worship, convicting power to our preaching, zeal to our service, and cutting edge to our witness. Without the Spirit, Sunday worship is a matter of "coming to church" rather than an encounter with God; the sermon a crafted and polished essay peppered with anecdotes to amuse instead of a serious engagement with the Scriptures; baptism a rite of passage when it should be a celebration of God's grace, and Communion an empty ritual. Only the Spirit can help us to see beyond the church to the Lord of the church so that what we drop into the offering bag on a Sunday is not just a matter of "supporting the church" but of gratitude to Christ for the blessings of the gospel, and the service we give in the church is about "doing all in the name of the Lord Jesus, as you give thanks through him to God the Father," (Colossians 3.17) and not just "doing our bit for the church".

It is salutary to remember that the Christian faith never spread so rapidly and with such dynamic effect as it did in New Testament times when it was without many of the structures and much of the paraphernalia which today we consider indispensable for the life of the church. The church grew in the power of the Spirit. Though much has changed since, we remain totally dependent on the Spirit's power. Without him our services and meetings, plans and projects, our efforts, and even our up-and-doing enthusiasm, are in vain. With him, who can tell what might be!

Come, Holy Spirit, come!  
Yours expectantly,

*David Easton*  
Locum and Interim Moderator.

## Vacancy Update



That part of the new Presbytery Plan which affects Biggar, namely that Biggar and Black Mount be linked, was approved by the Presbytery of Lanark at a meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> June. The decision has now been forwarded to the Ministries Council for approval.

## Congregational Register



### Deaths

*During the months of May, June and July we have had a number of bereavements and we would ask that you remember the families and friends of:*

**May**  
Helen Kerr  
**June**  
Kay Foster  
**July**  
Marion Frame  
Charles Thorpe



"I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live."  
[John 11 : 25]

### Sacrament of Baptism



**May**  
Amelia Grace Sykes (Dedication)  
**June**  
Gemma Hannah MacMillan  
Hannah Elizabeth Thomson

*'The Lord Bless You and Keep You'*

### Weddings

**May**  
Jodie Kirkbride to David Smith  
**June**  
Jennifer Pretswell to James Hartley  
Rowena MacDougall to Luke Hedges  
**July**  
Elspeth Fraser-Moodie to Malcolm Clarkson  
Sandra Nimmo to Arthur Barrie



"Love is patient, love is kind... It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres".  
1 Corinthians 13 : 4 and 7 (NIV)



## Worship Schedule

**September  
to  
November  
2012**

### September

- 2nd 11:00am Morning Worship
- 7:00pm Evening Service
- 9th 11:00am Morning Worship
- 16th 11:00am Morning Worship
- 23rd 11:00am Morning Worship
- 30th 9:30am Holy Communion
- 11:00am Morning Worship

### October

- 7th 11:00am Morning Worship
- 7:00pm Evening Service
- 14th 11:00am Morning Worship
- 21st 11:00am Morning Worship
- 28th 11:00am Holy Communion

### November

- 4th 11:00am Morning Worship
- 7:00pm Evening Service
- 11th 10:50am Remembrance Day
- 18th 11:00am Morning Worship
- 25th 9:30am Holy Communion

## Biggar Kirk: Door and Offering Duties

### September — Group 'A'

- Nanette Stott
- Alec Clarkson
- Bill Gourlay
- Elizabeth McDonald
- Lynn Beaton
- Margaret Weir

### October — Group 'B'

- Ella Coubrough
- Joyce Kelly
- Margaret Moffat
- Patricia Saulnier
- Cameron Sutherland
- Anna Boyd

### November - Group 'C'

- Caroline Deerin
- Alastair Fyfe
- Stella O'Brien
- Shona Thorpe
- Kathleen Roger

## Biggar Guild

The new season of the Guild begins with our Dedication service at 11:00am on 30th September in Biggar Kirk followed by our opening meeting at 7:30pm on Monday 1st October in St. Mary's Hall. The speaker for the evening will be our Deacon, Ann Lyall. The Guild Theme for this session is: 'A Faith to Proclaim' around which we have organised a wide and varied programme. We are always delighted to welcome new members. *Ruth Bryden, President*



## Church & Society Council News



### 'Making it at last': Prisoners' Week Scotland Begins 18th November, 2012

The Rt Rev Albert Bogle and Cardinal Keith O'Brien will take part in the launch of Prisoners' Week in Dunblane Cathedral. Is your congregation interested in supporting people coming out of prison? If so, our 'Faith in Throughcare' team would be interested in hearing from you. Over the past couple of years, the team have worked with churches in the north of Glasgow and wish to support others who share our concern about reducing the rates of re-offending in Scotland. To find out more, please contact Ian Johnston on: [ian@faithincommunityscotland.org](mailto:ian@faithincommunityscotland.org) or by calling: 0141 221 4576.

### First Symposium on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide



The UK Care Not Killing Alliance is honoured to host this first European symposium, which builds on several successful meetings in North America organised by the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition. The excellent facilities of the Edinburgh Conference Centre are the obvious place to hold this first European gathering, as in December 2010 the Scottish Parliament rejected by 85 votes to 16 the legislation in Scotland of euthanasia and assisted suicide.

But threats continue in Europe and beyond. In plenary sessions with audience involvement, experts from around the world will stimulate consideration of:

- The lessons from Nazi-ism
- The Benelux countries today
- A global perspective
- Scotland's successful resistance
- Their strategies and ours: What works? What doesn't?

If you're committed to opposing euthanasia and assisted suicide, come and join us! More details and booking form (you can apply for daily rates without accommodation) from: 'Care Not Killing', Tel: +44 (0)207 234 9680 or email: [administrator@carenotkilling.org.uk](mailto:administrator@carenotkilling.org.uk)



## Sunday 'Afternoon' Service of Worship

There will be another 'Afternoon' Service of Worship on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> September in St Mary's Hall, North Back Road at 2:00pm



This service is particularly intended for those unable to attend the Church on a Sunday morning. Worship will last around 30 minutes and will be followed by tea/ coffee and a chance to meet and chat with friends. We extend a very warm welcome to attend this service.

Transport is available and if you would like a lift to the hall please contact: Mrs Nanette Stott Tel: 01899 221163

**Date for your Diary:** The next Afternoon Service of Worship will take place at 2:00pm on Sunday 9th December in St. Mary's Hall.

### Pastoral Visit:

If you would like to receive a visitor from the Church please speak to our Deacon, Ann Lyall – Tel 01899 229443

## CrossReach Week: 26th – 31st August, 2012

**CROSSREACH**  
providing a caring future

CrossReach are delighted to announce that as part of CrossReach Week the Rt Rev Albert Bogle, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland has agreed to commit a week of his time to help celebrate the work of the charity. Some of the events organised to celebrate the week include:

Neil Forbes (Chef of the Year 2011) - will create a bespoke dining experience for some guests of the Moderator. He will also provide a 'master class' for up to 3 of CrossReach's young service users and create menus for 'non-chefs' in domestic kitchens to raise funds for CrossReach.

Ian Jamieson - Singer-Songwriter will perform along with Graeme Duffin (the 5th member of Wet, Wet, Wet) and the Rt. Rev. Albert Bogle, Moderator of the General Assembly as part of Edinburgh's 2012 Fringe Festival. During the performance, Ian will sing the song which he has specifically written and gifted to CrossReach, with all copyright funds being donated to the charity. Information about other events organised to celebrate CrossReach Week can be obtained on the CrossReach website: [www.crossreach.org.uk](http://www.crossreach.org.uk) or by telephoning: 0131 657 2000.

**From the smallest of babies through to the tallest of teenagers there is something in our church for you.**



*The Nursery allows infants to stay in Church with their parents. Toys are available in the North Transept for the children to play with under the supervision of Enhanced Disclosure checked volunteers.*

*The Crèche and Sunday Club are for young people from 3-years to P7. They meet in St. Mary's Hall from 10:45am until the end of service. Most Sundays they join in the first part of the service at the Church and then go back to the hall for their own activities.*



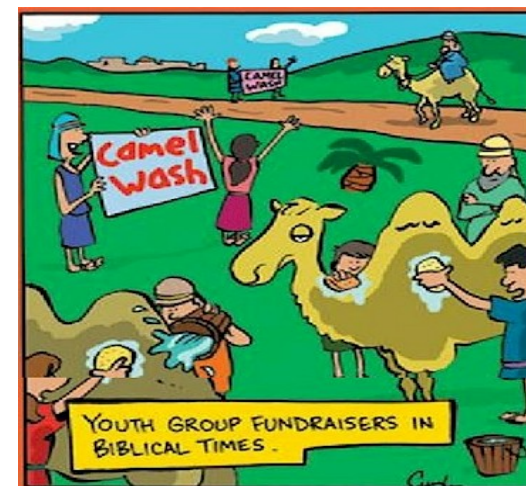
### B.Y.F.



*The teenagers (S1 to S6 plus) of our church family get together most Sunday evenings at 7:00pm until 8:30pm in St. Mary's Hall for their own Youth Fellowship where they like to chat about things which concern them and take part in activities they enjoy, e.g. crafts, baking, DVDs, music and outings.*

## Children's Quiz Answers

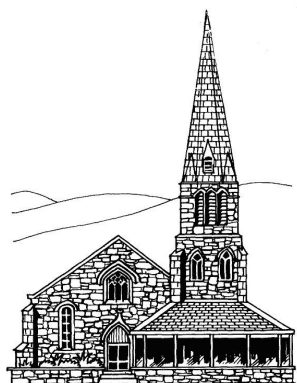
**Mystery 'Crossword'**  
Potato  
Word  
Missing Numbers  
15 36 64 92



I stayed with 2 host families who were unbelievably welcoming and hospitable. Their kindness was overwhelming. It was amazing how in such a short space of time, I grew very close to the youth where I was based. They were very friendly and we taught each other so many wonderful things, and had some unforgettable moments.

My local church had 3 services each week where they also ate with each other either before or after each service. The youth had a service every 2 weeks - there were about 30, 16-25 yr olds. It was amazing to be a part of their strong community for the short time I had with them and I was amazed at how well they really look after each other and are a part of each others lives. On the last few days, a few of us travelled to the city of Hsinchu for a debriefing session where we shared with the other delegates what we had been doing during our mission time. A highlight for me was the culture night which was on our last evening - the other girl from Scotland, Lynsey (Dundee), Phillip from Coventry and myself had everyone singing 'Auld Lang Syne'. I have had a truly amazing experience and I wouldn't hesitate to encourage anyone to join 'I Love Taiwan' for a truly wonderful mission experience. In fact, I know I would love to go back to the place where I know I have made some very good friends for life.

*Ailsa Fyfe*



**The Gillespie Centre,  
74 High Street, Biggar, ML12 6BJ  
Tel: 01899 220 994**

A warm welcome from the Cafe @ the Gillespie Centre Biggar. Centrally located in the picturesque market town. We serve simple food that is extraordinarily good. Every thing we serve on our menu is produced on site using the best local produce from our network of suppliers. Relax and enjoy a wide and varied choice

of exceptional home baking to freshly made hot or cold snacks, soup, sandwiches, Panini's, teas, coffees and soft drinks in a warm and friendly atmosphere. Family friendly, with toys and space for large and small groups. Easy access into the cafe with comfortable chairs looking out onto our bustling high street.

## My Week at the General Assembly

*by Ailsa Fyfe*

In June this year, I was asked to represent Lanark Presbytery as a youth delegate at the Church of Scotland's General Assembly. This was a totally new experience for me as I got to meet lots of people of my own age who all believed in the same faith. Although the Assembly started on the Saturday, all the youth delegates arrived on the Friday to let us settle into the Premier Inn where we were going to be staying for the week, meet each other and have our first dinner and evening worship together. During the week we spent so much time living, eating and worshipping together that we became a small family.

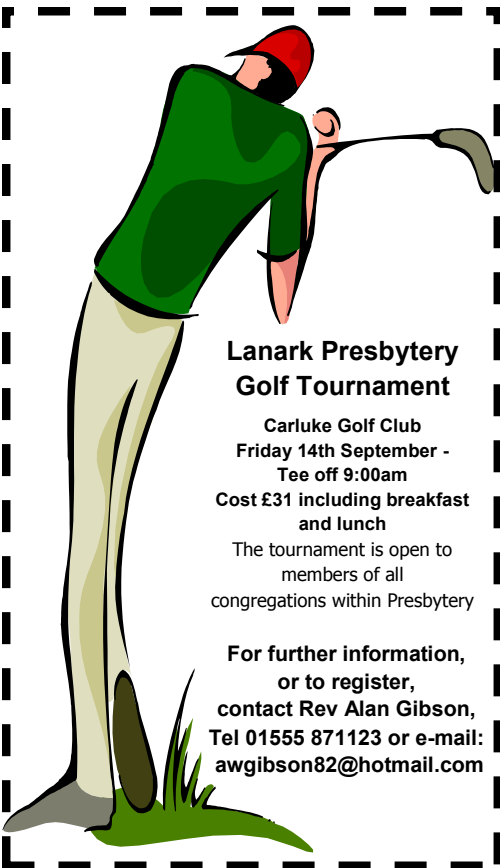


*The youth delegates,  
the Moderator, his wife and  
the Convenors.*

Each morning before the assembly started we would have breakfast and morning worship together. In preparation for the next day, we would spend each evening in small groups reading through/ discussing in depth the next day's reports. These sessions were good as they provided us with the opportunity to highlight any reports which particularly interested us, explain to each other any parts we found difficult to understand, highlight any parts we didn't agree with and decide as a group how we could go about changing this - and if someone wanted to put in a new section, we would make suggestions for writing and presenting it during the assembly. As a youth delegate to the Assembly we are able to get up and speak at any point to voice our opinions. However, we aren't allowed to vote. There were quite a few reports that I personally found interesting for different reasons, in particular the World Mission, Social Care and the Guild. One other I found fascinating was the 'People's Bible' who had visited Biggar - it was good hear where else it had been to and to see the finished result.

On Assembly Sunday I attended the morning service in St. Giles Cathedral which was led by this year's Moderator. Later, we went to the annual 'Heart and Soul' in Princes Street Gardens which was a truly great day and I was

honoured to be asked to help carry the Lanark Presbytery flag. On the Thursday evening, the Moderator invited all the youth delegates to the Palace of Holyrood House to see the retreating of the guard and speak to many guests and members of the Church of Scotland, as well as the Lord High Commissioner. Before we left, the youth delegates reciprocated by inviting the Moderator to a reception at the Scottish Storytelling Centre to hear what we had been doing and contributing to throughout the week. It was such an honour to meet the Moderator, Albert Bogle, who is a truly warm and friendly person. The one thing I loved the most about the week was taking part in the discussions – sometimes debates - and I found it so interesting to see and hear what the Church of Scotland does for everyone else in all corners of the world. My week at the Assembly has really boosted my faith in God. Thank you for offering me this wonderful opportunity.



**Lanark Presbytery  
Golf Tournament**

Carluke Golf Club  
Friday 14th September -  
Tee off 9:00am  
Cost £31 including breakfast  
and lunch

The tournament is open to  
members of all  
congregations within Presbytery

For further information,  
or to register,  
contact Rev Alan Gibson,  
Tel 01555 871123 or e-mail:  
awgibson82@hotmail.com

Daily Sudoku: Tue 31-Jul-2012  
Very hard

8	9	6	4	5	2	1	3	7
2	4	5	1	7	3	8	9	6
1	7	3	9	6	8	5	4	2
7	8	2	3	6	4	5	6	1
5	3	1	8	2	6	9	7	4
9	6	4	5	1	7	2	8	3
6	2	9	7	8	1	3	4	5
4	1	8	6	3	5	7	2	9
3	5	7	2	4	9	6	1	8

D	I	S	P	R	O	P	O	R	T	I	O	N
E	T	A	O	R	O	P	T	I	C	A	L	
O	B	E	T	S	R	H	A					
R	I	L	S	R	E	T	A	I	N	E	R	S
U	I	A	S	G								
M	I	N	C	E	P	I	E	T	U	R	K	E
G	L	T	W									
B	A	S	A	L	T	H	A	D	D	O	C	K
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## 'I love Taiwan' 2012 Mission: 27th June to 14th July, 2012



'I Love Taiwan' - on the Beach  
(my group won the photography competition with this photograph)

'I love Taiwan' is an annual event run by the Taiwan Presbyterian Church and is open to youngsters from all over the world. It focuses on ecumenism: where all the young people teach each other and we can learn through mission work. This year I had the amazing opportunity to take part thanks to the kindness of the World Mission Council and the Mission and Discipleship Council of the Church of Scotland.

I arrived in Taipei thoroughly tired after two 'very' long flights - but excited to get going. During my first 3 orientation days I took part in many activities along with the other delegates - about 60 of us (3 from the UK) - which included sharing songs and games from Scotland. At the end of our 3 days, we were told which mission we would be doing during our time in Taiwan. Along with Katherine from LA, California, I was told that my mission would be to teach English - then we were introduced to the rest of the members of our mission team who we would be working with - they all came from the local church where I was to be based. On our 4<sup>th</sup> day, we said our goodbyes and along with my small team I travelled to the local church where I would be based for the next 11 days.

Each day, the local youth members of the Church and myself would travel by moped to a new place: public parks, local churches, Sunday clubs, schools, orphanages and the local YMCA to teach English to various age groups. As many of them didn't speak good English and I didn't speak Mandarin (or Taiwanese in some areas) it was often difficult to communicate with each other but they were all keen learners and with a bit of hard work we were able to overcome the language barrier..

My local church were enthusiastic that I see as much of the local area as I could, so each evening I was treated to visiting lots of different places and leisure activities. They particularly enjoyed taking me to experience the traditional night market and getting me to eat all their traditional Taiwanese food.





## AN INVITATION TO 'THE MEN'S' ROOM

Once upon a time, in an ambitiously named Lanarkshire town, a few Christian men started thinking, 'It would be good to meet up with some other local Christian men, get to know each other better, get to know God better, and encourage each other in our day-to-day lives'....Time passed....Some of the Christian men's wives had grand plans and several of the men became dads for the first, second, third, or even fourth time ....More time passed....The Christian men's wives, now having problems sleeping and keeping their clothing 'posit-free', started planning a 'Busy Mums Bible Study to give them a regular time to learn more about each other, each other's children, and about God (since crèche can at times be a little too noisy to learn about God from the minister)....A little more time passed...The Busy Mums' friendships developed and more Busy Mums joined in...Time passed...The Busy Mums offered lunch to the congregation...More time passed... And it finally dawned on a few of these Christian men that no-one else was going to organise a group for them, they'd just have to get on with it themselves. So they started to meet, informally, on a week night...And have been now for a few months...And have actually been finding it quite encouraging to meet with other Christian blokes – no girls allowed – in a small group, for a bit of bible study, a bit of light banter, and are now seriously contemplating allowing a vet to take us on a fishing trip... ..It'd be great if some more guys joined with us to develop theirs are our Christian faith, to meet up for social events and to explore what more men could bring to the life of our church in Biggar. If you're interested, please contact Ian via email: [imaxfield@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:imaxfield@yahoo.co.uk) or on mobile: 07801 444715.

*Cameron Sutherland*



## Update

**2012 Christian Aid Week:** Thank you very much to everyone who helped with this year's Christian Aid week and to all who donated. Particular thanks to those involved in the door-to-door collection in yet another week of variable weather! In Biggar we managed to raise a total of £2,456.46 from both the door-to-door collection and our coffee morning which was held earlier on Saturday 12th May in the Gillespie Centre. Thank you very much.

*Alison Campbell*

**UK Aid:** The UK Government's Department for International Development (DFID) will match the first £5m pound for pound donated to Christian Aid Week, enabling us to help more people in poor communities around the world work their way out of poverty. Loretta Minghella, Director of Christian Aid, said: 'We are delighted DFID has awarded Christian Aid Week UK aid match funding. Christian Aid Week has been running for 55 years and this is the first time we have ever received this kind of match funding for it. 'It's a major boost to our fundraising efforts in an increasingly difficult economic climate. The potential extra £5million will make an enormous difference to our ability to help poor communities around the world live in dignity.'



### **Inverness - Saturday 6th October: 'Walk in solidarity with thousands of Dalit and tribal people in India'**

In October 2011, Christian Aid partner Ekta Parishad began a year-long series of land rights rallies and marches to mobilise marginalised Dalit and tribal people from across India to take part in a month-long march to lobby their government in October 2012. Access and rights to land in India are vital for rural communities to support themselves and have a livelihood, and could potentially lift hundreds of millions of Indians out of extreme poverty. This autumn in support of and to coincide with Ekta Parishad's main 100,000-strong march from Gwalior to Delhi, Christian Aid Scotland will be holding an event in Inverness on Saturday 6th October where we hope that you will join us and 'march for justice' around the churches in Inverness where you will be able to enjoy some exhibitions about Ekta Parishad along the way. To find out more or to register for the walk please e-mail: [amenzie@christian-aid.org](mailto:amenzie@christian-aid.org) or call 0141 2416138.



## Holiday Club 2012



This year's Holiday Club had a distinctly "Olympian" theme. We used the "On Your Marks" material supplied by Scripture Union to help us explore what it meant to be part of Jesus' team and have Him as our "Team Captain". As always the week involved a lot of energetic fun for the children who came: we had crafts, songs, drama, fitness routines, jokes, games, and a snack in the middle of the morning. The children also had the chance to watch a short DVD each day which showed some Christian athletes preparing for the 2012 games. The athletes all talked about the pride they felt at being part of Team GB, and discussed the commitment it took to be an athlete at that level, but they also talked about their Christian faith and what that meant to them. There was then an opportunity to explore a little further what it had meant for Jesus' first followers to be invited to be on Jesus' team and we heard some of the stories involving Jesus' disciples.

A highlight for me this year was each day hearing a different member of the Holiday Club team talk about their own Christian faith and how they had come to make that decision to be on Jesus' team. Many said how much they valued their "Church Family" and feeling part of a world-wide team. That team spirit was certainly present among all those who helped to make the week a success. People of all ages willingly gave their time and talents to try to ensure the children really enjoyed their time with us, and it was a really good feeling to work together and make it happen.

We sow this seed among the children not knowing how they will respond to the message, but it was certainly encouraging to hear many of the helpers talk about how their own faith had started when they heard about Jesus as a child or teenager. The children heard that Jesus invites and wants all to be part of His team. We may not be good enough to be part of Team GB – but we can all choose to be part of Jesus' team!

*Anne Smart*



## Adult Education

### Adult Education Group

The Education Group generally meets as two sub-groups: Young People and Adult Education. At present the Adult Group consists of: Bill Gourlay (Chairman), Trish Reith, Katherine Roger, John Turnbull, David Easton, Elaine Fyfe, Ellie Sutherland and Stewart Houston. Its interests include: House Groups, e.g. the Monday Bible Study and Busy Mums' Group); courses for adults (e.g. 'Exploring Christianity'); and reading and study material, such as those on display in the Gillespie Centre and St. Mary's Hall. This year, the group also organised the very successful 'Family Ceilidh'.

**Church Corner, Gillespie Centre:** As many of you will have noticed the layout and appearance of the Church literature and notices located in the Church Corner on the right of the inside door at the Gillespie Centre has been smartened up - for this we have to thank John Turnbull and Roy Millar. In the corner are a variety of materials, some for people to take away a copy of, others for reference only. Feel free to browse the next time you visit for a coffee.

**St. Mary's Hall Library:** The Adult Education Group looks after the small library in St. Mary's Hall. The books are displayed on the window ledge in the small hall. A new title is added every two months or so and the group members would be glad to receive recommendations about what to buy. Donations of second hand Christian books are welcome too. Please take time to browse and borrow. Just note your name and the title of the book borrowed on the sheet provided. There's no time limit on borrowing.

**Monday Bible Study Group:** This group has been around for a long time. Like any group its membership and approach has been through many changes. The current group takes its time exploring Bible verses and chapters. You may have noticed in intimations recently that we have been taking several weeks to explore Luke's gospel. That's because we feel it's important to take as much time as we need; so many new insights have been gained by being with one another, asking questions and listening. It's a refreshing start to the week. Ready for more viewpoints - challenges or affirmations - we look forward to some more new members, why not come and join us for a meeting to find out more?

*Bill Gourlay and Trish Reith*



## Biggar Kirk Fundraising Committee Renovation of St. Mary's Hall

The Kirk Session have already obtained grants towards this much needed project but we also require to raise money for this.

To this end, the fundraising team have arranged a 'Coffee Morning' from 10:00am until 12:00noon on Saturday 8th September in the Gillespie Centre.

We look forward to seeing you there for a coffee, to view our sales tables and have a friendly chat.  
*Sadie Cameron (Team Leader)*



## LIBBERTON & QUOTHQUAN CHURCH, LIBBERTON

Scottish Charities No: SC016304

### BI-CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

A variety of events have been organised to celebrate the Bi-centenary of the present Libberton and Quothquan Church building. Everyone is warmly invited to attend one or all of the events. Please see details below.

**Friday 24th August** - 10:00am to 8:00pm, and

**Saturday 25th August** - 10:00am to 6:00pm

'Through the Ages' Flower Festival

Admission: £5 including tea/ coffee and home baking.

### **Sunday 26th August**

Public Worship: 10:45am to 12:30pm

'Songs of Praise': 6:30pm to 7:30pm

The Church will also be open to the Public from 1:00pm to 6:00pm

## View from the chancel - Anonymous



For me, holiday time offers the opportunity to visit unfamiliar places, and learn a little about their history and customs. Wherever I am, I find myself attracted to places of worship – partly out of curiosity, to see how others worship, and partly to marvel at the skill and commitment which has, over many hundreds of years, created a focal point for the community, and a lasting monument to those who had the vision to create it.

In July we visited a small church in Barnard Castle, where we discovered that a labyrinth floor had recently been installed. This idea, which has been used for many centuries, is that the shape is a reflection of the journey that Christians take as they try to follow Jesus. On a completely different scale, is Lincoln Cathedral. Once the centre of the most powerful diocese in England, it is now the hub of a thriving worshipping community. Daily services bring the building to life, and the choral evensong is a wonderfully peaceful and spiritual experience. We also experienced a medieval mystery play in the grounds of the cathedral, which brought back memories of the millennium project here in Biggar church.

A couple of hours further south is Cambridge, which is of course brimming with well maintained historical buildings. I have always wanted to visit King's College chapel – a magnificent setting for the sacred music for which it is famous, but also unique in having the largest fan-vaulted ceiling in the world. What would be a major civil engineering challenge today must have needed immense skill to build 500 years ago, without the benefit of the machines, computer aided design, and project management methods which are now *de rigour*.

Back in Biggar, it has been good to see a steady stream of visitors who want to see and muse upon our own church and its history. The surroundings are a little more modest, but still inspire admiration for the faith, vision, and craftsmanship of those who put them together 500 years ago.

In today's high pressure, fast-moving world, it is good to simply stop, stare, and reflect on our spiritual heritage, and the buildings which illustrate it. And to cherish them for those who will follow us.

## Children's Fun Page

### Harvest Festival Word Search

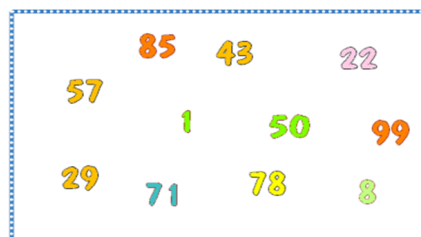
Using the words below can you complete the Word Search?

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

**BANGLADESH** **EDUCATION**  
**FAIRTRADE** **FAMILY**  
**FESTIVAL** **HARVEST**  
**RICE** **HUNGER**  
**INDIA** **ORGANIC**  
**POVERTY** **SHARE**  
**WHEAT** **TRAIDCRAFT**  
**VEGETABLES**

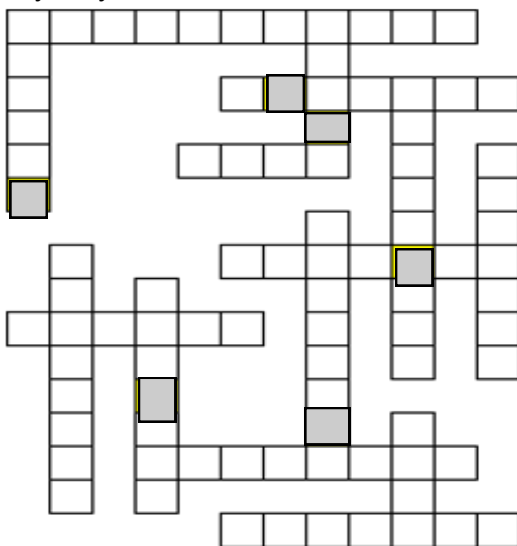
### Find the Numbers

There are eleven numbers in the box between 1 and 99. The numbers increase by seven. Can you work out which numbers are missing?



### MYSTERY- WORD

Can you enter the words correctly into the grid? The letters in the shaded boxes will spell out the name of the mystery word.



**4 letters**  
BEAN  
LEEK

**7 letters**  
LETTUCE  
PUMPKIN  
RHUBARB  
SPINACH  
CABBAGE

**11 letters**

**5 letters**  
ONION

**8 letters**  
BEETROOT  
CUCUMBER  
MUSHROOM

**9 letters**  
ASPARAGUS

## Adult's Fun Page

### Cryptic Crossword:

#### Down

- 1** The ornamentation, I hesitate to say, is fitting. (7)  
**2** Spearfish in installments? (9)  
**3** Disreputable chaps killed fowl. (5)  
**4** Image said to reveal undesirable feature. (8)  
**5** Bounders lead way back to sleeping quarters. (6)  
**6** Conspired to be captivated. (9)  
**7** There was little space in the satanic heresy. (5)  
**8** Outstanding lesson on youth leader. (6)  
**14** Oiled lips crushed egg-like object. (9)  
**16** Leading kids in central Kentucky are going out after lunch to score. (4, 1, 4)  
**17** Swedish success, but French disaster? (8)  
**18** Cause to be out of breath? Relax! (6)  
**20** They say he trembles before the eastern lords. (7)  
**21** Poor analog of final torments. (6)  
**23** Followed behind queen. (5)  
**24** Behold! Common soldier leading colonel to reason! (5)

#### Across

- 1** Vicious return to professional serve reveals the inequality. (13)  
**9** Church conceals torture instrument before king; it could be explosive. (7)  
**10** Visual quirk set in stone. (7)  
**11** Small courses, no fine trimmings. (5)  
**12** They hang on to legal fees. (9)  
**13** Mice pine forlornly for some Christmas fare. (5, 3)  
**15** The national bird. (6)  
**18** Hard rock with a blues tone? (6)  
**19** Once possessed ports where fish could be found. (8)  
**22** Titleholder led short woman to have a celebratory drink. (9)  
**24** Almost all the foliage has to go. (5)  
**25** Allow feathers to disappoint. (3, 4)  
**26** Record charge in this? (3, 4)  
**27** To initiate into communist units, they carry the vital gas. (3, 5, 5)

### SUDUKO

8			4	2				
		7				8	1	
	4	3						6
4				1	5		6	
	6		4	9				5
2						3	7	
	9	8				5		
			2	5				8

Daily SuDoku: Tue 31-Jul-2012

very hard

