

## BIGGAR KIRK OFFICE BEARERS

<b>Interim Moderator/ Locum Deacon</b>	Rev David Easton 308459 Miss Ann Lyall 229443 (ann.lyall@btinternet.com)
<b>Session Clerk</b>	Mr Michael Chad 220446
<b>Presbytery Elder</b>	Mrs Patricia Saulnier 221377
<b>Property Convenor</b>	Mr Alastair Fyfe 220132
<b>Treasurer</b>	Mrs Elizabeth Cochrane 810262 (elizabeth.cochrane3@btinternet.com)
<b>Safeguarding Co-ordinator</b>	Mrs Caroline Deerin 220224
<b>Organist and Choir Mistress</b>	Mrs Margaret Filshie 220119
<b>Gift Aid</b>	Mrs Anna Boyd 220068
<b>Weekly Freewill Offering</b>	Mrs Janette Rae 221241
<b>Coin Boxes</b>	Mrs Anna Boyd 220068
<b>Christian Aid</b>	Mrs Alison Campbell 220655
<b>Church Officer/ Beadle</b>	Mr Peter Brotherstone 220097
<b>Church and St. Mary's Hall Administrator</b>	Mrs Elaine Fyfe 07532-266505 (st.maryskirk09@hotmail.co.uk)
<b>Roll Changes</b>	Church Administrator 07532-266505
<b>'News and Views' Editor</b>	Church Administrator 07532-266505
<b>Pastoral Group</b>	Mrs Jean Shearer 221505
<b>Biggar Kirk Guild (President)</b>	Mrs Ruth Bryden 221005
<b>(Vice-President)</b>	Mrs Jean Shearer 221505
<b>(Secretary)</b>	Mrs Margaret Lawson 220342
<b>Sunday Club/ Holiday Club</b>	Mrs Anne Smart 830445
<b>Flower Guild</b>	Mrs Jean Paul 221036

Published by: Biggar Kirk  
Typeset and Compiled by: Church Administrator  
Printed by: Greyfriars Parish Church, Lanark  
Biggar Parish Church of Scotland  
is a Charity Registered in Scotland: SC000333

"News and Views" and other Church information on-line: [www.biggarkirk.btck.co.uk](http://www.biggarkirk.btck.co.uk)



Biggar Kirk



### Pastoral Letter

I recently came across a survey into the reasons why church attendance in the UK is in decline. 14,000 people responded to the following questions:

- If you attend church regularly, what are the main things which encourage you to attend?
- If your attendance is merely out of a sense of duty, what could be changed to make the services more appealing?
- If you used to be a church-goer, but now attend infrequently, what were the main reasons which led to this? What could be changed in order for you to attend again regularly?
- If you have never been a church-goer, what could be done to encourage you to begin?
- The traditional custom of 'clergy visiting' has steadily declined in spite of the maxim 'a house-going minister makes a church-going people'. Do you think the demise of pastoral visitation is significant?

Some common criticisms and pleas were:

- too little thought given to the conduct and content of church services which are often uninspiring and do not connect with people's everyday lives
- the need to blend the traditional and contemporary in worship
- the weakening of the pastoral tie between clergy and people
- the failure to present robust reasons for believing, the impression often being given that there are no answers to difficult questions and that it is just 'a matter of faith'
- the lack of clear teaching about what Christians believe.

The techniques of consumer research and the yardstick of client satisfaction may not apply to the church as they do to other organisations. The church is not a business and the Spirit, as Jesus reminds us, is like the wind – he blows where he likes and often confounds our expectations. But that is not to say that the church cannot learn much from what people say. At a time when the membership of the Church of Scotland in 2011 dropped by a further 13,857 (the last year for which figures are available) any reasons for the unabated decline cannot be ignored.

I would be interested in your responses to the questions asked in the survey. Drop them in (anonymously if you prefer) to the church office in the Gillespie Centre.

Thanking you in anticipation,

David Easton  
Locum and Interim Moderator.



Our New Year started with an afternoon meeting at which Kathleen Rogers explained to our members the six Projects which the National Guild are hoping to sponsor over the next three years.

As a local Guild, we endeavour to support three out of the six projects, selecting which ones by a members vote. This year we will be supporting:

‘A Heart for Art’ - which provides art therapy for dementia sufferers’

Mary’s Meals’ - which works in Liberia to provide food and bring resources to school children.

‘The Julius Project’ - a Scottish Churches Housing Action charity which provides help for people setting up home after they have been homeless.

To help raise funds to support those projects and other local causes, the Guild held a Coffee Morning on Saturday 9th February in the Gillespie Centre when a total of £377.00 was raised. We thank everyone who donated or came along and supported us. Our next fundraising venture will be our: ‘Soup and Sandwich Lunch’ 12:00 noon - 2:00pm on Thursday 18th April at 21 Station Road, Biggar. Tickets cost £5.00 and will be on sale soon.

To round off the year, our members are looking forward to our Annual Outing on Wednesday 1st May when we will be visiting the newly opened Burn’s Centre in Alloway. However, more details regarding our outing will follow soon.  
*Ruth Bryden*

## Announcements



### Deaths

*Our congregation have had a number of bereavements during the months of November to February and we would ask that you remember the families and friends of:*

#### November

Marjorie Dempster  
Greenhills Care Home, Biggar  
Robert Tennant  
25 Langvout Court, Biggar

#### December

George Stobie  
9 Knocklea, Biggar

#### January

Elizabeth Hardie  
Aaron House, Penicuik  
Jack Stewart  
5 Rathmore Road, Biggar



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

BIGGAR KIRK



### Church Roll

#### Admission of New Members

#### By Certificate of Transference

Tilda Boyd  
Netherbrae Cottage  
Cormiston Road, Biggar  
Margo Hyslop  
20 Langvout Court, Biggar  
A.B. Forrest  
Glencaple,  
11 South Back Road, Biggar  
M. Forrest  
Glencaple,  
11 South Back Road, Biggar  
Ann Kay  
37 High Street, Biggar  
Ann Boreland  
Abbeyfield House,  
72 High Street, Biggar

#### By Profession of Faith

Martyne Greene  
West Lindsaylands Farm Cottage,  
Lindsaylands Road, Biggar  
Michele Greene  
West Lindsaylands Farm Cottage  
Lindsaylands Road, Biggar  
Helen McCrindle  
24 Moss Side Road, Biggar



## At Biggar Kirk

### February

24th 9:30am Holy Communion  
11:00am Thinking Day Service

### March

3rd 11:00am Morning Worship  
7:00pm Evening Service  
10th 11:00pm Morning Worship  
17th 11:00am Morning Worship  
24th 11:00am Palm Sunday Service  
25th - 29th

7:00pm Holy Week Evening  
Services

31st 7:15am Early Morning Service  
11:00am Easter Sunday  
Communion

### April

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

### May

5th 11:00am Morning Worship  
7:00pm Evening Service  
12th 11:00am Morning Worship  
2:00pm Afternoon Service  
19th 11:00am Morning Worship  
26th 9:30am Holy Communion  
11:00am Morning Worship



## Biggar Kirk Door and Offering Duties

### March - Group 'B'

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

### April - Group 'C'

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

### May - Group 'D'

Lorna MacDougall  
Janette Rae  
Peter Lyon  
Rhian Sharma  
Joan Urquhart

BIGGAR KIRK



## Office Bearer Resignations

Mrs Sadie Cameron  
Mrs Lynn Beaton



## RETREAT TO LINDISFARNE, HOLY ISLAND

Ann Lyall is planning a Retreat to Lindisfarne from Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> – Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April. This is an opportunity to take time out and reflect on life in the light of our Christian faith. There will be

shared times of reflection but also time to spend quietly on the beautiful and peaceful Holy Island. Basic accommodation is available in the Retreat House or there is an option to stay in a local hotel.

If you would like to know more please speak to Ann Lyall, Tel: 01899 229443



## CHRISTMAS 2012 RETIRING OFFERINGS



Thank you to everyone who gave so generously to the retiring offerings at our 'Christingle', Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services.

A total of £1,025.76 was raised with two cheques for £512.88 being sent to the Lodging House Mission, Glasgow and to 'New Beginnings', Carlisle.

## St. Mary's Hall Refurbishment

In an endeavour to fundraise on a regular basis for the St. Mary's Hall Refurbishment Plan a 'mug of soup' with bread session will be held on the first Sunday of each month, immediately after morning worship in St. Mary's Hall. This will be in addition to our usual Tea and Coffee session.

**Dates for your Diary:** The next 'mug of soup' sessions, at a cost of £1.00 per mug, will take place on Sundays, 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 7<sup>th</sup> April and 5<sup>th</sup> May.





## *The Altos Lament*



It's tough being an alto when you're singing in the choir  
The sopranos get the twiddly bits that people all admire;  
The basses boom like loud trombones, the tenors shout with glee,  
But the alto part is on two notes (or, if you're lucky, three).

And when we sing an anthem and we lift our hearts in praises  
The men get all the juicy bits and little telling phrases.  
Of course, the trebles sing the tune—they always come off best;  
The altos only get three notes and twenty-two bars rest.

We practice very hard each week from hymn book and from Psalter  
But when the conductor looks at us our voices start to falter;  
"Too high! Too loud! Too fast! - you held that note too long!"  
It doesn't matter what we do - it's certain to be wrong!

Oh! shed a tear for altos—they're the Martyres and they know it,  
In the ranks of choral singers they're considered very low.  
They are so very 'umble that a lot of folks forget 'em;  
How they'd love to be sopranos—but their vocal chords won't let 'em!

And when the final trumpet sounds and we are wafted higher,  
Sopranos, basses, tenors—they'll be in the Heavenly Choir.  
While they sing "Alleluia!" to celestial flats and sharps,  
The altos will be occupied with polishing the harps.

*Anon*

## **Holy Week** SERVICES **in Biggar Kirk**

**Theme -**

***"Were you there when they crucified my Lord?"***

**24th March at 11:00am**

Palm Sunday Family Service  
(followed by Light Lunch in St. Mary's Hall)

**25th March at 7:00pm**

Simon of Cyrene - Rev David Easton

**26th March at 7:00pm**

The Crowd - Rev Harry Findlay

**27th March at 7:00pm**

The Women - Rev Rachel Dobie

**28th March at 7:00pm**

**Maundy Thursday**

The Two Thieves - Rev John Turnbull  
Holy Communion

**29th March at 7:00pm**

**Good Friday**

The Centurian - Rev Ronald Blakey

**31st March**

**Easter Sunday**

7:15am Early Morning Service on The Knock  
(Meet outside Gillespie Centre @ 7:00am -  
this service is followed by breakfast in St. Mary's Hall)

11:00am Easter Sunday Communion Service

## Church & Society Council



**Carbon Fast for Lent** - Fasting for Lent is a long-standing Christian spiritual discipline. The tradition of self-denial and reflection on the word of God in preparation for Easter is important for ourselves in our personal journey as well as a witness to our friends and family about what our faith means.

You may already have decided what you are giving up for Lent this year, but as well as personal challenges such as giving up alcohol or chocolate, you might like to consider a focus for your household too. Each year TearFund encourages us to have a Carbon Fast for Lent. By signing up you will be offered weekly challenges all of which give an opportunity to think about our household's impact on the planet.

There are practical ideas that are both impactful and inspirational. Simple actions might range from turning down the heating whilst wearing more jumpers; to avoiding buying imported food for a week; to sharing household items like ladders and lawnmowers with neighbours, rather than buying them; to praying for those whose lives have already been severely affected by deforestation and industrialised agriculture.

So why not take the opportunity to have a "carbon detox" during Lent and perhaps beyond! For more information and to sign up to the campaign visit : [www.tearfund.org/carbonfast](http://www.tearfund.org/carbonfast), new ideas for 2013 will be launched in February.

### **Eco-Congregation Scotland Annual Gathering & AGM 2013** -

This year's Eco-Congregation Scotland Annual Gathering will be held on Saturday 20th April at the Grassmarket Community Project, Greyfriars Church, Edinburgh and the theme for this year will be food – there will be workshops on a range of subjects from food security to local food production.

The event will be held in the new centre being built behind the churchyard which will give more space for additional workshops and group discussions. If you are interested in attending please contact Gordon Hudson, Manager, Eco-Congregation Scotland on 0131 240 2274 or at: [manager@ecocongregationscotland.org](mailto:manager@ecocongregationscotland.org).

**The Stop Destitution campaign seeks your voice** - The Stop Destitution campaign from the Scottish Refugee Council & Refugee Survival Trust aims to effect a change in the current law and is running a postcard campaign to highlight the reality for many Scottish based asylum seekers.

They don't want money. Instead they wish to engage your support – your voice – to help change the law and The Church of Scotland is supporting them. The campaign is asking for proper support, the right to work, a better system for decision making on asylum claims. To find out more email: [campaign@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto:campaign@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk) or visit the website: <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk>.

## A View from the Chancel



Regular readers will have seen the article in the last News and Views, regarding our church's financial position. To paraphrase a well-known politician, "as members of Biggar Kirk, we are all in this together". Money is always a sensitive topic, but one that will not easily go away, even if we would prefer to ignore it.

In the last issue, I suggested that you, as members of Biggar Church, are not given enough information about our financial position, and I promised to try to improve the information flow. I'm afraid that this is a slow process, but we **are** putting the building blocks in place. In November, Session approved a budget for 2013. The budget headings are now more meaningful than they were in the past, giving us a **firm foundation** for reporting progress back to you. This will begin to happen, both through News and Views, and through the intimations in the Order of Service.

### **The Problem**

Our Treasurer is now compiling the financial figures for 2012, which will show a significant shortfall of income over expenditure.

Much of our expenditure is fixed, so if we wish the church to continue operating as it always has done, we don't have a great deal of room for manoeuvre. We should be able to afford this, but we need to take action now. Congregational giving in 2012 was about £66,500. For 2013, to meet our budget, we need to increase this to £84,500. Yes, that's about 27%, just to avoid further loss.

It is encouraging to know that you, our members, are reading, and reacting to this information. It has been interesting to observe three different reactions:

1. Some members are understanding the issue, accepting the shared responsibility, and quietly increasing their regular giving.
2. Other members have said "I'm paying my share, and I'm not giving any more".
3. Yet others simply respond by saying "I'm not subsidising those who don't pay".

I wonder what Jesus would have said?

### The Opportunity

Let's remind ourselves again - as members of the Church of Scotland, each of us has promised *"to give a fitting proportion of my time, talents and money for the Church's work in the world."* We can't all afford to give much money but we have time and talents which can be used to good effect. Others find it difficult to give much time but are able to give more financially.

Either way, here is an **opportunity**. I learned many years ago that **the more you give** (time, talent, love, whatever) **the more you receive in return**, and often in unexpected ways.

In a recent sermon, David Easton, our interim minister, spoke of the power of prayer. He reminded us that praying is not easy, and that sometimes "doing" is easier than praying. Most importantly, he stressed that praying is an essential part of planning, **before** taking action.

So here's another personal message – why not take a little time to think about your giving, pray about it, then take action according to what your heart is telling you.

Again, thanks for taking time to read this, and may I wish you every blessing in 2013.

Anon

### Christian Aid Week 12th—18th May, 2013



#### What is the purpose of Christian Aid Week?

Christian Aid Week is seven amazing days of fundraising, prayer and action against global poverty. We ask our supporters to give their time, money and voices to make an impact in some of the world's poorest communities. The money raised in Christian Aid Week enables us to continue giving the tools to help people lift themselves out of poverty.

#### How much money was raised in Christian Aid Week 2012?

In 2012, more than £12m was raised in Christian Aid Week. Two-thirds of this income was raised through house-to-house collections. This money has helped to transform lives around the world, empowering poor communities to find solutions to the problems they face. Thank you so much for any part you played in making this happen.

### WE HAVE A NEW WEBSITE



The Church has a new website which we hope will be easier for people to view and to be kept up to date. Please take time to have a look at: [www.biggarkirk.btck.co.uk](http://www.biggarkirk.btck.co.uk)

If you have any constructive comments or views as to how it could be improved, please e-mail the Church Administrator at: [st.maryskirk09@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:st.maryskirk09@hotmail.co.uk)



### The Church of Scotland CrossReach - Social Care Scotland providing a caring future Scottish Charity SC011353



Dear Members of Biggar Kirk,

We wondered if you were aware we have our own Directory Enquiries 118 number? It's much cheaper than many of the other 118 numbers and costs 40p per call from a BT landline.

The exciting thing for us is that every time someone uses it, 9p comes to CrossReach! It's such a simple way to raise funds at no additional cost to the person making the call!

**118 599**

The Directory Enquiries  
Number of Choice!

#### Why?

- It is 75% cheaper than some other 118 services
- Each call costs just 40p (BT landline)
- 9p per call comes to CrossReach



'Wee Worship' is a pre-school group for children and their carers which aims to teach the children about God in a fun and interactive way through crafts, stories, songs and games. We meet during term time on the first Wednesday of every month between 11:45am and 12:45pm in St. Mary's Hall. This also allows for a social time together during which we eat our packed lunches.

The group has now been running successfully since September with a few mums being willing to take it in turns to lead a small part of the session. If you who would be interested in coming along to 'Wee Worship' or if you know of anyone else who would be interested, please contact Nicola Campbell on 01899 - 221942.

Mairi Maxfield





**Is coming to Biggar,  
from 15<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> April, 2013**

'Bibleworld Mobile' provided by 'The Scottish Bible Society' is an exciting and new way of sharing the Bible with children and adults.

It is a 45ft (13.761m) expanding mobile classroom which travels throughout Scotland visiting schools, communities and churches. There are six activity zones which engage visitors in a variety of ways:

- Aeroplane:** Exploring the Bible and faith in a global context
- Quiz Zone:** An interactive take on the meaning of cultural and Christian festivals
- Museum:** The history of literacy, printing and the Bible
- Library:** The literary styles and genres of the Bible
- Music Zone:** An exploration of faith expressed through music.
- Spaceship:** A time-travelling journey back to key historical events of the Christian faith.

#### **Volunteering:**

The Scottish Bible Society provide their own trained staff but local churches have been asked to provide extra volunteers to help during the week. If you would like more details or would be willing to volunteer during the Bible-world visit, please speak to either Anne Smart or Ann Lyall. As children will be involved, it will be necessary for all volunteers to be disclosure checked and the sooner we can do this the better. Thirteen local Primary schools will be visiting Bibleworld while it is here. This is a great opportunity to offer a good resource to our schools and share the message of the Bible with the wider community so a 'Big Thank You' to Biggar Kirk Session for initiating this visit. The other Churches within our area are kindly supporting the schools by covering transport costs.



**'Thinking Together' : A Citizen's Assembly:  
28<sup>th</sup> February, 10am – 4pm, Glasgow SECC**

What values are most important to you for the Future of Scotland? How can we make Scotland a better place to be? How do we put our values into practical action in our personal, family, community, & work life? To find out how you can get involved, look at the website: [www.sosayscotland.org/](http://www.sosayscotland.org/) or email: [makingithappenfolk@gmail.com](mailto:makingithappenfolk@gmail.com)

## **'Afternoon' Service of Worship**



Our 'Afternoon' Services of Worship continue at 2:00pm on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May in St Mary's Hall, North Back Road .

These services are particularly intended for those who for whatever reason are unable to attend Church on a Sunday morning. Worship lasts around 30 minutes and is followed by a cup of tea/ coffee and a chance to meet and chat with friends. A very warm welcome is extended to attend this service. The next afternoon service will be at 2:00pm on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September in St. Mary's Hall.

Remember: Transport is available, and if you would like a lift please contact: Mrs Nanette Stott Tel: 01899 221163.

If you or anyone you know would like to receive a Pastoral visit from the Church please speak to our Deacon, Ann Lyall, Tel: 01899 229443 or Jean Shearer, Tel: 01899 221505.



## **Unintentionally Funny Church Notices**

The sermon this morning: Jesus walks on the water.. The sermon tonight: searching for Jesus..

Ladies, don't forget the jumble sale. It's a chance to get rid of these things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands..

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I, I will not pass this way again', giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the Church. Music will follow.

To those who have children and don't know it – we have a Crèche downstairs.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24<sup>th</sup> in the Church. So ends a friendship which began in their schooldays.

1. S, A and W, the first letter of every word in the sentence.  
2. When you add two hours to eleven o'clock, you get one o'clock.  
3. This is the only number which includes all the digits arranged in alphabetical order.

## **Answers to Brain Teasers**

1. A.
2. B.
3. B.
4. D.
5. D.
6. B.
7. C.
8. A.
9. C.
10. C.

## **Answers to Adult's Quiz**

## A View from the Pew - 'How much is enough?'

It is now almost five years since we became embroiled in the world-wide economic crash. Whilst the diverse avenues of the media are constantly relating tales of deprivation/ hardship within our society I must confess that I have not observed any evidence of change in people's daily lives to the present day. Yes, certain items are more expensive, but through more aggressive trading there are large discounts to be found. I still see members of society smoking, having nights out, increasing consumption of alcohol according to statistics even if more is consumed within the home rather than public places, and we are still running our cars even if more prudently than previously, and still taking our much needed holidays and so life goes on!



We still have a National Welfare System that is the envy of the world but it is abused, so much so that it attracts migrants to our shores to seek these benefits from the system or to work within the "black economy" and consequently make no contribution to the nation. When the government of the day try to change this abuse or limit the annual % increase in benefits they are wide open to criticism. Of course, their abuse of expense claims does not exactly set a good example...

Scripture teaches us to be content with what we have! Read Hebrews 13 : 5 and 6. Surely the problem with society is that we think that we have become so self-sufficient we do not need God the creator of all the world. Our expectations have been encouraged way beyond our means, and if it is beyond our means, ways of credit to "have it now..." have been created. I realise that my reasoning is counterproductive to the economic philosophy and early economic recovery but what about the compensation of gaining biblical peace that transcends all human understanding. My children and grandchildren have far more of the world's material goods but I could not say that they are happy or content because they think they deserve more. They tell me that I am old fashioned, I do not understand, I am not with it, my response being: "Are you with it?" the reply being "Yes"...The only response to that is "then I am glad that I am without it".

If you wish to experience what real poverty is, travel to and live in some of the "Third World Countries" and see just how little they have. Their perceived value regarding life might be alien to ours, but they surely know what poverty is. If it were not for our large digital TV screens we would not even need to experience the emotional blackmail of some charities who pay their

## Heart and Soul, 2013 : Sunday 19th May, 2013 'Celebrating the Life of the Church' Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh

In recognition of the 1450th anniversary of Columba landing on Iona, Heart and Soul 2013 will be inspired by Celtic Christianity, with all the richness of its themes: hospitality, pilgrimage, journeying, deep peace – healing and wholeness, creation and its care, celebrating the good earth, contemplative prayer, Trinity, representing Christ to the world, inclusive community, Christ in the stranger's guise, rhythm of the seasons, prophecy, soul-friends, being 'on the edge'. And it's exciting that Sunday 19th May also coincides with Pentecost on the church calendar.

### Closing Worship - Iona Band



The climax of Heart and Soul is the closing worship and as Robin Mark's band was thoroughly enjoyed in 2012, we are delighted to announce that the Christian Celtic band Iona will be participating in the programme including supporting, Closing worship. So why not put the 19th May in your diary and join in 'a Celebration for the whole Church'.

### When I say, "I am a Christian" By Carol Wimmer

When I say, "I am a Christian"  
I'm not shouting, "I've been saved!"  
I'm whispering, "I get lost!"  
That's why I chose this way".  
When I say, "I am a Christian"  
I don't speak with human pride  
I'm confessing that I stumble -  
Needing God to be my guide  
When I say, "I am a Christian"  
I'm not trying to be strong  
I'm professing that I'm weak  
And pray for strength to carry on.  
When I say, "I am a Christian"  
I'm not bragging of success  
I'm admitting that I've failed  
And cannot ever pay the debt.

When I say, "I am a Christian"  
I don't think I know it all  
I submit to my confusion  
Asking humbly to be taught.  
When I say, "I am a Christian"  
I'm not claiming to be perfect  
My flaws are all too visible  
But God believes I'm worth it.  
When I say, "I am a Christian"  
I still feel the sting of pain  
I have my share of heartache,  
Which is why I seek His name.  
When I say, "I am a Christian"  
I do not wish to judge  
I have no authority...  
**I only know I'm loved.**



## Vacancy Update

### Biggar linked with Black Mount



At a meeting of the congregation on 20<sup>th</sup> January, the following persons were elected to serve to represent Biggar on the Nominating Committee: Bill Allen, Kirkpatrick Dobie, Moira Galbraith, Stewart Houston, Elizabeth McDonald, Ann Smart, Cameron Sutherland, and Joan Urquhart. At Black Mount those elected to represent the congregation were: Don Barrie, Gillian Coulter, and Jennifer Kerr.

Please remember them in your prayers as they set about the task of finding a minister to serve both congregations.

The Annual Kirk Quiz took place on Friday 1st February in St. Mary's Hall. An enjoyable (if mentally challenging) evening resulted in 'The Crown' team members (David Carvel, Ian Murray, Malcolm Muir and Randal McGregor) collecting the Kirk Quich with the 'Civic Society' team in second place by the narrowest margin of 1 point. The prize for the best team name went to the Biggar Museum Trust team for their own slant on the word: 'Arty-facts'.



The teams are thanked for their participation in the quiz and the raffle - all proceeds going to Church funds. Thanks are also due to Alastair Fyfe for setting and posing the questions, as well as to Elizabeth MacDonald, Nanette Stott and their band of helpers for organising the refreshments and raffle. If you didn't take part this time, you can always start sharpening your wits for next year : it's important to keep the "little grey cells" in working order! *Bill Gourlay*

advertising executives six figure salaries. Many of the third world governments sell the given charitable goods on the black market for their own gain (Mugabe lives in a palace that he has built himself in the temperate mountain area of Zimbabwe).

Have we moved so far from Christian teaching that we are beyond help?

Our locum minister has just commenced a series of sermons based on the Old Testament book of Nehemiah...listen carefully to these messages of hope and challenge. Nehemiah will transform your Christian experience and way of life. The eroded standards of our personal standards can be rebuilt just as the walls of Jerusalem were if that is what you desire for the transformation of your life's witness.

A cause alone is not enough...what are you going to do about CHANGE and the rebuilding of walls in your own lives???

*Anon*

## Children and Youth

### Sunday Club

We are so pleased with the number of new children who have recently joined the Sunday Club. There has been a significant change in the dynamics with the young class increasing from 3 or 4 pre-schoolers to around 8 with 1 or 2 P1's as well. This means that we really need to ask for 1 parent each week to volunteer and help as that is just too many little children for 1 adult to manage. With this in mind there will be a parent rota available in the hall after church if parents could please put their names against one date.



Also, we would like to increase the Sunday Club team so that Leaders could get to church once a month. All that is needed is two people to volunteer to do one Sunday a month. No planning needed as all preparation can be done by Anne and Mairi. This is such an important ministry in the church and is a lot of fun to do. Please speak to Anne or Mairi if you are interested.

### Biggar Youth Fellowship

The group, although very small in numbers, has continued to meet on Sunday evenings. A few of our older teenagers who have the added pressure of important exams are no longer able to come along. Unfortunately, this has reduced our numbers even further. After discussion with Ann, Alex and our small group of members it has been decided to disband BYF for the foreseeable future. Hopefully, we would like to be able to re-start at the beginning of the 2013/14 academic session if we are able to find a solution that works best for our young people themselves.

*Anne Smart*

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆  
**St. Mary's Hall**  
 ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆  
**Fundraising Committee**  
 ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Members of St. Mary's Hall Fundraising Committee hosted a stall at the Gillespie Centre Craft Fair on Saturday 24th November. The team would like to say a huge 'thank you' to those who helped out and to those who supported the team by buying from the stall. A total of £90.00 was raised towards the refurbishment of the hall.  
*Sadie Cameron*

**Calling ALL Children!**



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 PVG checked volunteers.

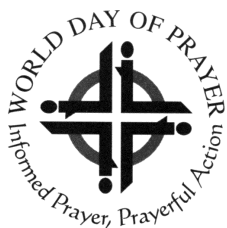
The Crèche and Sunday Club are for young people from 3-years to P7. They meet in St. Mary's Hall from 10:45am until the end of service. Most Sundays they join in the first part of the service at the Church and then go back to the hall for their own activities.



*'I was a stranger and  
 you welcomed me'*

The 2013 World Day of Prayer will take place on Friday 1st March. This year, the service has been prepared by the women of France and its theme is 'I was a stranger and you welcomed me'.

The Biggar World Day of Prayer service will take place at 2.00pm in St Mary's Hall, after which you are invited to stay and enjoy a cup of tea and a chat.



All of those young and old become  
 young once again at every gathering  
 of the Evergreen Club.

The 'Evergreen Club' is for ladies of 60-years plus who meet on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month in the Municipal Hall, Biggar. Currently we have a membership of 41.

During our meetings, we invite guests who speak on a variety of topics. So far this year we have had Hazel Glass, a Paramedic, Mary McLelland speaking about the local charity 'New Beginnings', Stewart Houston on the topic of 'Old Toys' and Dr. Carvel orating some interesting 'short stories'.

During each meeting we also have a competition, with the winner being awarded a small prize. Lately, our competition topics have included: Small Animal Ornament, Soft Toy, Black and White Photo and a Small Holiday Souvenir.

In 2013, we are looking forward to our summer outing when we will be travelling to Perth after having a 'stop off' at a local garden centre in Tayside.

Anyone interested in coming along would be made very welcome to our next meetings which are at 2:00pm on Mondays, 25th February, 11th March and 25th March, with our summer outing on 13th May.

*Margaret Mof-*



A Light Lunch will be served in St. Mary's Hall following the Palm Sunday service on Sunday 24th March.

Tickets cost £5.00 per person, with children FREE.

Please come along and enjoy this time of 'faith, food and fellowship'.





## World Mission Council : Livingstone's Legacy

A day conference to celebrate the bicentenary of the birth of David Livingstone and to reassess his legacy for Africa and Scotland today will be held at New College, Mound Place, Edinburgh, EH1 2LX from 10.00am - 4.30pm on Saturday 16th March 2013,

This is a jointly sponsored event by the University of Edinburgh and the Scottish Church History Society. The Keynote address: "Dr Livingstone, I Presume? The Legacy of David Livingstone in Church and Society" will be delivered by the Right Revd. James Tengatenga, Anglican bishop of Southern Malawi. Other speakers from the University of Edinburgh will include: Dr T. Jack Thompson, Prof. Brian Stanley, Dr Lesley Orr, and Dr Ken Ross. Cost: £10 or £5 for members of the Scottish Church History Society and concessions. Refreshments and a light lunch will be provided. Booking is essential and if anyone is interested in attending they should email: [j.reynolds@ed.ac.uk](mailto:j.reynolds@ed.ac.uk) or phone 0131 650 8948.

At the National Museum of Scotland, Chambers Street, Edinburgh, on Friday 15th March at 5.00 p.m. Professor John M. MacKenzie, Professor Emeritus of Imperial History, University of Lancaster, will lecture on "David Livingstone: Prophet or Patron Saint of Empire in Africa?". Tickets £6, £5 Concessions and Members are available from National Museums Scotland,

BIGGAR KIRK



## Monthly Giving

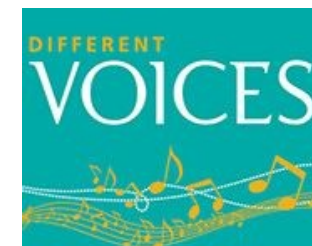
January  
2013

	January Budget	January Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Actual
Standing Orders	3500	3144	3500	3144
FWO	1042	1023	1042	1023
Open Plate	1296	643	1296	643
Donations	375	500	375	500
Gift Aid Refund (approx)	1000	1065	1000	1065
<b>Surplus/ Shortfall</b>		<b>838</b>		<b>838</b>

*You should each give, then, as you have decided, not with regret or out of a sense of duty; for God loves the one who gives gladly.*

[2 Corinthians 9:7]

## Different Voices: National Music Event 2013 From: 7:00pm Friday, 15 March until 6:00pm Saturday, 16 March St. Cuthbert's Church, Lothian Road, Edinburgh



Different Voices is a national music event bringing together internationally renowned musicians, composers and conductors to run a programme of workshops designed to enable the Church to develop a greater use of music in all of its life and work through worship, witness and learning.

Costs:

Standard rate for Friday evening 7pm to Saturday 6pm - £40 per person. Some financial support may be provided for those who need it.

Please e-mail below for details:

Also, a Saturday evening 'fringe' event, 7pm to 9pm, with internationally respected worship leader, Noel Richards: a concert where musicians can network, share, re-imagine and worship. £7.50 entry, includes refreshments. To book online please contact the Mission and Discipleship Council on 0131 225 5722, [enquiriesDV@cofscotland.org.uk](mailto:enquiriesDV@cofscotland.org.uk). Registration includes all workshops and lunch.

### Friday Alternative Evening Worship Event

Evening worship on Friday, 15th March 2013 (7pm-9pm)

### Saturday Different Voices Music Conference

#### Workshop 1

Choose one of the following: Contemporary - Noel Richards (enabling contemporary musicians); Classical - Paul Mealar (composition and mission); Children - Fischy Music; Community - John Bell (singing for everyone)

#### Workshop 2

Choose one of the following: Contemporary - New Scottish; Classical - John Kitchen; Children - National Youth Choir of Scotland; Community - Jane Bentley

#### Workshop 3

Choose one of the following: Contemporary - Origin Ministry (contemporary song writing); Classical - Ian McCrorie (getting the most from your choir); Children - Mairi Munro (music with toddlers); Community - Givin' it Laldie (community music and homeless opera)

### Saturday evening concert

Saturday, 16 March 2013, 7pm to 9pm - Cost: £7.50



## Children's Fun Page

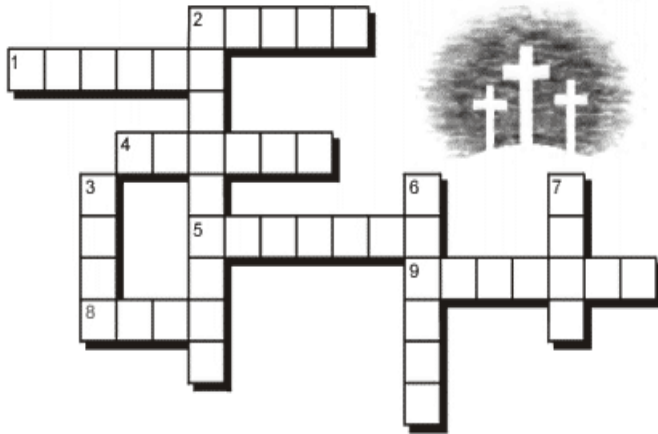
### The Crucifixion of Jesus Luke 23:26-49 (NIV)

#### Across:

1. Jesus called out, "\_\_\_\_\_ into your hands I commit my spirit." (vs.46)
2. Simon from Cyrene carried the \_\_\_\_\_ for Jesus. (vs.26)
4. The soldiers \_\_\_\_\_ him. (vs.36)
5. Jesus said, "Father \_\_\_\_\_ them, for they know not what they are doing. (vs.34)
8. The rulers said, "He saved others let him \_\_\_\_\_ himself. . . " (vs.35)
9. A Large number of people followed Jesus and \_\_\_\_\_ for him. (vs.27)

#### Down:

2. Jesus was \_\_\_\_\_ between two criminals (vs.32)
3. They divided up his clothes by casting \_\_\_\_\_ (vs.34)
6. At the 6th hour the curtain of the \_\_\_\_\_ was torn in two. (vs. 45)
7. There was a notice written above Jesus that read: This is the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jews. (vs.38)



**'Colour for Fun'**

## Adult's Fun Page

### Easter Quiz:

1. **Christ was led away to which high priest first?**  
A. Annas B. Vitellius C. Caiaphas D. Josephus
2. **What was inscribed above the cross?**  
A. Prince of the Jews B. King of the Jews C. Saviour of the Jews D. Captain of the Jews
3. **What was the name of the man who requested Jesus' body for burial?**  
A. Nicodemus B. Joseph C. Philip D. Jonathan
4. **What was the colour of the robe placed on Jesus?**  
A. Blue B. Red C. White D. Purple
5. **After Pilate found no guilt in Christ, for what reason did the Jews say that Jesus should die?**  
A. He claimed to be of heaven B. He said he would destroy the temple of God C. He claimed to be their King D. He had made himself the Son of God
6. **In what was Jesus wrapped before he was buried?**  
A. Goat skins B. Linen clothes C. Sheep skins D. Golden robes
7. **Jesus appeared to his disciples after the resurrection beside which sea?**  
A. Red Sea B. Sea of Joppa C. Sea of Tiberias D. Dead Sea
8. **Who carried the cross for Christ?**  
A. Simon of Cyrene B. Simon Peter C. Simon the Zealot D. Simeon
9. **Who rolled away the tomb stone?**  
A. Jesus B. God C. An Angel D. A Roman Centurion
10. **For how long did Jesus remain after his resurrection before he ascended into heaven?**  
A. 7 days B. 14 days C. 40 days D. 49 days

### Brain Teasers:

- 1.. Can you guess the next three letters in the following series and why?  
C Y G T N T L I F.....
2. When can you add two to eleven and get one as the correct answer?
3. The number 8,549,176,320 is a unique number. Can you tell what is so special about it?