



The Herald

Castlehill Parish Church

Autumn 2019

Dumfries House

Editorial

Our cover this autumn shows a tranquil and peaceful scene. Inside however we find anticipation and sadness, challenges in seeking our place in the Community. Pride in the achievements of our youth organisations, but perhaps with so many young people involved in so many organisations and in our local community, so few are finding their way into the Church itself.

Evidence of the hard work of many of our congregation members is shown in the successful running of the many activities, from which we benefit. We look forward to the start of a new ministry with Paul Russell, and with sadness we say goodbye to Christine Stewart, who for almost four years has proved to be a trusted custodian of our Church and a good friend to many.

Let us ask for God's help in continuing working in our Church for the advancement of His Kingdom.

Wellwood Grierson Editor

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Have your say

If you have any comments to make on the Magazine, please feel free to do so by letter or email to herald@castlehillchurch.org We are always pleased to consider any articles for the Magazine from members of the congregation. These can also be sent to the same email address.

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From the Manse



Dear Friends

It is a great privilege and pleasure for me to be called to be your minister at Castlehill and I stand now on the threshold of an exciting and challenging time when I look forward to being involved in Church and community life and to getting to know you better. It is my preference to be informal in contact and I would be very happy if you feel able to call me Paul. It always seems appropriate to me to use Christian names in our fellowship but I shall, of course, respect individual preference on that!

Can I first of all pay tribute to the sterling work done over a lengthy vacancy by your locum, Christine Stewart, and the wise guidance given by the Interim Moderator, Rev John Paterson. While they will be thanked publicly at other times, I would like to record thanks here for the careful preparation they made for the completion of the vacancy. They have helped make my start more straightforward and I am grateful to them.

We shall move into the manse on 23rd September and can I emphasise how grateful we are for the work that has been done by a number of people to prepare the house for us. In particular can I single out Liz Reid and Margaret Devlin for their ready willingness to be available and to answer our many questions and then arrange the work.

I thoroughly enjoyed my sojourn in Chaplaincy but I now relish returning to the parish and being able to work with you all in being the Church for our community. I have already made contact with four of the schools and look forward to developing positive relationships with them and other areas of community life. I have begun to make contact with congregational organisations and that will continue on a regular basis. If I haven't made contact with your organisation by the middle of October, please get in touch! I aim to be as visible and accessible as possible as your minister. I have been impressed by how well you have kept congregational life going over a four year vacancy. I sincerely hope you will continue to work with me and that together we can decide how we can best advance the Kingdom of God for the Castlehill area for the years ahead and enjoy doing that as a shared commitment.

I'm not one for imposing change and at this time of uncertainty for the Church at large, I think it is all the more important that as many as possible are involved in the planning stage of what we do locally. So I am going to finish with a straightforward plea for two things: optimism — under God, the best is yet to be, and communication — talk to me and pass on information whenever you can!

Meantime, may you all know God's richest blessings as we begin this new stage of ministry at Castlehill together. May the words we use most often in talking about what is to be done begin with just that: WE!

Every best wish.

Paul

Seniors Afternoons

Our new season starts on 15th October with a visit from "Hugh and Friends" from Maybole. We enjoyed their last visit and no doubt we shall do so again. The Christmas party will be at 2.00pm on 9th

December and we will hope to be entertained by Forehill School. Announcements will be in the Order of Service nearer the time, so look out for those. Everyone is welcome to come along, whether a Church member or not. We start at 2.30 pm, finishing around 4.00 pm. Lifts can be arranged for those who are not mobile by phoning me on 01292 737459

Wellwood Grierson



Rainbow Services offers more than simply the delivery of Care Services. If you are looking for a service that lets you or loved one keep on enjoying life at home why not look at our website:- www.rainbowcareservices.co.uk or give us a call on T:-01292 294180.

NOTIFICATION OF ILLNESS AND HOSPITALISATION

It is essential that early and regular communication of any ill at home or in hospital is passed on. No facility exists at the hospitals or hospice to check if there are members in hospital unless we know the name of the person. If you hear of someone who is ill at home or who is expecting to go into hospital or is already in hospital, please notify me as soon as possible so that a visit can be arranged. I can find out which ward or hospital someone is in if I know a name but if you already know that information, that is an additional bonus! There will be a sheet available each Sunday in the vestibule where names can be added as well.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR BAPTISMS AND MARRIAGES

I am very happy to arrange dates for baptisms to suit families, as far as possible, so if you would like to discuss baptism, please get in touch as soon as you can so that I can arrange to meet with you.

It is helpful when you are arranging a marriage if you give me advance notice of even an approximate date so that it can be entered into the diary and we can meet for the first time early on to discuss preferences and arrangements. I am very willing to conduct marriage services in other venues than the Church, such as hotels but early notification is again useful. I shall make sheets available in the Church vestibule for people to leave notification of baptism/marriage requests as well.

WHEN SOMEONE DIES....

I consider pastoral care of the family to be of particular significance and I would be very grateful if bereaved families or individuals could contact me directly as soon as possible, so that I can visit early on to provide support and discuss arrangements with you. At certain times of the year, there can be a great demand on funeral directors' availability and it helps me and them if you contact me first so that you can let them know when might be suitable for all involved. I aim to make pastoral support a priority and would really welcome hearing of bereavements from every source — it is better to hear several times than to hear late. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any information.

CARE TO CHAT AT CASTLEHILL?

Life can often prove demanding and difficult. In my time as Chaplain, I was involved in supporting people in the community who were facing difficulties or who needed to talk about issues in confidence. It has been my experience that having the opportunity to talk can sometimes save a difficult issue becoming worse. I am happy to make myself available to any who are finding life is an uphill struggle if you make direct contact with me. As that old advert says, it's good to talk and I am very willing to offer support by listening at an arranged time with the guarantee of confidentiality. Please get in touch by phone or email directly if you would like to meet for such a chat.

Moving into the future

Cast your mind back to a previous article of mine entitled, "We are the Church" where I refer to the final episode of the BBC Television series The Musketeers. We see the Musketeers under threat and their Garrison bombed. This looks like the end of the Musketeers and we see a young cadet feeling defeated. He doesn't know how to carry on after such a horrific event. But the captain tells him that the Garrison was only ever 'a place' and that we are 'the Garrison'.



It seems I was ahead of the game and not alone in my thinking because this is echoed by what the Rev Dr Robert Anderson wrote in a recent letter which was published in the recent edition of the Presbytery newsletter. He wrote, "The Church of Scotland is its people and not its institutions". Churches should be making people feel welcome and that they belong, to come as they are and be accepted. Churches should be encouraging people to share their talents, experience and beliefs for their advancement. I believe that this is proving to be difficult because, as the Rev Dr Robert Anderson so eloquently put, "The Church of Scotland has no clear identity or purpose. It has made a significant contribution to Scotland and far beyond, but it's not set in the future. It needs proper reformation."

I think that this is why people of my generation are feeling disconnected from the church because they want to see it move forward into the future. As Castlehill begins a new chapter with Paul Russell. Let's move forward together to create a new church for the future.

Kirsty Wyllie

FROM YOUR LOCUM

Going, Going, Gone



From almost 4 years ago:

Dear parishioners of Castlehill Church,

Let me start by saying to you all that I feel very privileged and blessed to have been chosen to 'fill the gap' while you wait for a new minister. The first few months have flown by – and I guess the rest will follow suit.

From 3 years ago:

In this, your 60th anniversary year – and my first anniversary with you - how many of you are finding out that you can perform those tasks necessary for the well-being of your church? Tasks that you never thought you would be doing, especially in the absence of a minister. You are really blessed with the gifts that I have seen in evidence, so keep heart. Amen, and may God bless you all. Love and prayers, Christine Stewart

From 2 years ago:

"But pray for a purpose to make life worth living;
And pray for the joy of unselfish giving;
For great is your gladness and rich your reward,
When you make your life's purpose the choice of the Lord."

From 1 year ago:

You might think I am a bit like the 'bad penny' that keeps turning up... It is now at the start of the fourth year of my service as Locum 'Minister', and I for one did not foresee this happening. We all must trust in God that his plans for Castlehill Church are always good and always unfolding.

And now, after exactly 4 years, it is time for me to go. I leave with mixed emotions for I know you are bound to me forever and eternity in the love of Christ Jesus our Lord. I have been deeply moved by the love and generosity shown to me and I thank you most sincerely. I pray for your new term of ministry and trust that God will bless Reverend Paul Russell with gifts and strength from his abundant storehouse and may you become a powerhouse of His ministry in the Castlehill Parish and beyond. And don't forget to laugh now and again – try a pencil between the teeth to make you smile...and I will never hear 'Old MacDonald had a farm' without a big grin on my face...

You may never understand just how much you have been woven into the fabric of my life, but all I feel I can say in closing is to re-echo my prayer via the apostle Paul recorded in Ephesians 3:

"¹⁴ For this reason I kneel before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family ⁱⁿ in heaven and on earth derives its name. ¹⁶ I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸ may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God."

Don't be shy to speak to me if our paths should cross. For now, I close with love and prayers, and William also sends his greetings. **Christine Stewart xx**

Finance—Annual Fabric Appeal 2019

The maintenance and repair of the church buildings is ongoing and from January to August has cost £6,546. During the same period gas and electricity costs were £3,977.30 which was £1,017.87 less than this time last year and could indicate the more efficient heating boilers have made a difference.

We are fortunate in having a Property Group which works tirelessly to keep the buildings in good order. They do small maintenance jobs themselves but larger projects need to be done by tradesman. If you are able to make a donation to the Fabric Appeal to ensure the buildings are well maintained this would be gratefully received.

Congregational Board

Margaret Devlin

FROM THE INTERIM MODERATOR

Four years almost to the day, of becoming the Interim Moderator at Castlehill Church, I write his last letter. It has been a privilege to serve you and to get to know some of you in the church. My gratitude to Christine Stewart and the late Reverend Bill Johnston must be placed on record as they together ensured the smooth running, and continued witness of the congregation during the period of vacancy. The Kirk Session and Congregational Board have been working closely together, and extremely hard, to maintain the missional aspect of Castlehill Church in the congregation and in the wider community. The congregation is in good health and in good hands and for this we thank God for all his blessings. With Rev Paul Russell at helm, I know that the church will begin a new chapter and move forward exploring new ways of being church, reaching out, sharing the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

I notice young and old preparing each weekend to go and support what is important to them. It is the shirts that give away their allegiance to one team or another. However from time to time, due to inclement weather, the all important shirt is covered up by warmer, waterproof jackets, hiding the team being supported. Imagine the disappointment of the individuals as no one in the football park will know which team is being supported. Only when something positive happens and the cheers are given will others know the loyalty of the anonymous supporters as it is placed out in the open.

The apostle Paul had a loyalty that was most definitely out in the open – a loyalty to Jesus Christ. He wrote to the believers in Rome, ‘I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ’, (Rom 1:16). He knew that the gospel was ‘the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes’ because Jesus dramatically changed his life and its direction. In his preaching and witnessing he proclaimed Jesus, the One to whom he had given his whole life’. (Acts 9)

The believers in Rome were also known for their allegiance to Christ. Paul said of them, ‘Your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world’. (Rom 1:8)

Is your loyalty to Jesus out in the open or hidden by things of this world? I trust that as you move forward as a community of faith and a witnessing congregation God will continue to bless each of you as individuals and a congregation as a whole. May God’s richest blessings be with you all as you, together, begin a new chapter.

Blessings in Christ,

John Paterson

Jessie Baird

One of our members, Jessie Baird was 100 years old on 6th August. She had a lovely day with the family, celebrating with a lunch at the Balgarth and a party at home in the evening.

Jessie was born in Alloway, the eldest of seven children, three girls and four boys. She attended Alloway school and Church, where she sang in the Church choir. Jessie and her husband along with her three children, 2 boys and one girl, moved into Lochlea Drive in 1952 and started worshipping in the Barn Church and subsequently in the Hall Church and the Church that we now use today.

She enjoyed being involved in Church life delivering Church Magazines and attending the Guild. She was usually to be found working at the Baking stall at Sales of Work and Coffee Mornings. She vividly remembers serving Mrs Wilson at the stall and thought she was a lovely lady. [Mrs Wilson being of the family that donated the ground on which the Church is built.]

Jessie spent many years doing volunteer work in the Age Concern shop and worked there until she was around 90 years old! forging several friendships which still endure today. Jessie enjoys visits from her children and grandchildren, and wider family and likes to know all their news. Although she is no longer able to attend Church she still keeps up to date with what is going on and has her “Wee Kirk” for her pennies.

We congratulate Jessie on the occasion of her 100th Birthday.

Sandra Wyllie



Forehill, Holmston & Masonhill Community Council



Here are a few pictures from FHMCC's first ever Community Fun Day and how the sun shone for us on the day. After a quiet start the day got busier and busier. We had Uncle Billy children's entertainer, Animal Man's Petting Zoo and a variety of games on the grass for the kids while the Fire Engine and Youth Bus were very popular with all age groups.

In the main hall there was Kieran's Dapper Thistle Crafts, Jennifer's Jools, Lynn's beautiful bags, Margaret with her lovely

home made cards, and scrumptious home baking by Baby Bird Cakes. And for those folks with green thumbs, Caroline's plants proved very popular. There were competition tables dotted round the hall, a very well stocked tuck shop and loads of balloons to keep the wee one's happy. We also had a great set of live music from Euan and Jack which was very popular with everyone.



Everyone enjoyed the food village with hamburgers, cheeseburgers and hot dogs on offer while inside teas, coffees and biscuits were available, and a wee bit of shade too from the sun. Michael Mancini's Ice Creams were a delicious way to cool down in the brilliant sunshine.

We would like to thank the Fire Brigade and SAC's Youth Bus for coming along and making the day extra special. Thanks also to our stall holders for bringing their lovely arts and crafts for us to enjoy. A big thank you to our sponsors, National Lottery Awards for Scotland, Ayr South and Croydon Locality



Decides, Spar at Holmston and Forehill and Morrisons Store for their funding and donations. And thank you to Castlehill Church for providing a fantastic venue for the day and Margaret, Margaret and Sandra for all their help.

And last but by no means least, thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers, Community Councillors, local Residents, friends and family who gave their time to help make our first ever Community Fun Day such a huge success and to all our residents who came along, enjoyed the day and, we hope, went home happy.

17th A & B Ayr Rainbows

We have had another busy term in Rainbows and the girls have had lots of fun. We started the term by completing a lot of fun activities that will go towards our Theme award badges in know myself and be well. By working towards these badges, we have had lots of fun but learned new skills in working as a team, how to be kind towards each other and learned a lot of interesting facts about how to look after our bodies and keep fit and healthy.

As well as working towards badges within unit time a lot of the girls have also worked hard at home completing interest badges. The interest badge count towards getting a theme award and the girls must complete different tasks in their own time to get the badge. Many girls have completed interest badges in construction, animal lover, storytelling, fruit and veg and helper.

This year has been a very busy year and we welcomed lots of new rainbows into our units. The girls put a lot of effort into learning their promise, and this was shown at the end of year event at the low green where parents were able to come along and watch.

We finished this year with our annual Rainbow sleepover where the girls stayed at Blair activity centre in little wigwams. The leader team were very proud of the girls for this achievement and we all had lots of fun. We really enjoyed completing the low ropes course, playing games outside, designing our own bags and of course the toasted marshmallows around the campfire. At the end of the camp we said good bye to 10 of our girls who will now be moving on to Brownies, although we will miss them we wish them all the luck in the world for their new adventure in Brownies.

Linda McClurkin

Castlehill Bowling Club



With the weather forecast, wind and rain, for Wednesday 17th July 34 bowlers and 8 non bowlers travelled to Girvan Bowling Club for our annual outing. On arrival as usual we had a cup of tea or coffee with excellent scones and biscuits.

President David Kerr welcomed everybody, Club Members and friends and including guests from St Leonards Church , St Quivox Church and from the Auld Kirk and reminded us all of absent friends and those who had had to call off for various reasons.

David explained the order of play and the rules, playing two trial ends and starting the real play after the bell had been rung. There was light rain, but not dampened spirits, the annual photo taken in a sheltered spot, and on to the green. After three ends the winners moved on, this we managed twice. But after the 6th end it was decided to call it a day. The light rain had become heavy, the bowls were slippery, the wind was rising and worse still WE were becoming quite wet, so back to the club house, a bit early for tea.

Liz and Michael Hardie produced a general knowledge quiz, and each table entered the competition. Team captains Alan Jack and Andrew Templeton led their teams to the highest scores and even after two playoff questions they could not be separated. Our thanks to Liz and Michael for organising the quiz. After an excellent tea David Kerr presented the prizes. First person to hit the jack, Joan Macfie, receiving a pocket book. The Booby team, who shall remain anonymous, receiving rubber balls [for practice] and then the winning rink of Liz Hunter, Andrew Cree, Joan Macfie and John McDermott getting prizes of Sun Butterflies.

David thanked Moira Alexander and Liz Hunter for dealing with the finances, George Neil for dealing with the score cards, and the ladies of Girvan Bowling Club for the excellent tea. Their President was presented with flowers and Chocolates, and she in turn thanked us for coming again the Club and wished us a safe journey home, Andrew Cree from the Auld Kirk spoke on behalf of the guests thanking us for inviting them along. Another enjoyable outing despite the weather.

David Kerr President

Apology

In the last magazine under the Bowling Club Winners, the ladies pairs runners up should have been shown as Dorothy Jack with her partner Margaret Gerrard and not Moira Alexander. We apologise for the error. Editor

All Aboard

Navigating life together

seeks to purchase and use a boat to promote wellbeing, personal development and civic responsibility to the young people of this canal-side community and across the city of Edinburgh. The five year project will build on a model of gathering, sharing, doing and celebrating to develop activities and opportunities that focus on young people while nurturing cohesion in the community.

Polwarth Parish Church enjoys a unique location on the banks of the Union Canal opposite Harrison Park and is affectionately referred to as **The Kirk On The Canal**.

It has long been the community centre for Polwarth hosting concerts, parties, celebrations and exhibitions as well as services of worship, weddings, baptisms and funerals. More recently **The Kirk On The Canal**'s tranquil interior with permanent labyrinth and its hospitable gardens have offered to the community a space for reflection and a source of wellbeing to busy lives through a programme of events including Capacitar sessions, contemplative workshops and themed labyrinth walks.



The congregation entered a partnership with *Scottish Waterways Trust* in 2012 which saw the congregation adopt the canal bank adjacent to the Kirk. Work began to create a canal-side garden with patio

through an innovative partnership with *Scottish Canals*, *The Armed Forces Community Covenant Grant Scheme* and the dedicated work of a group of armed forces' veterans.

The garden quickly became a place of peace enjoyed by many in the community.



The ultimate aim was to have a canal boat which would allow this unique **Kirk On The Canal** to engage with its community in new ways. We will offer opportunities and experiences that promote wholeness and wellbeing and nurture community cohesion while celebrating the natural and cultural heritage of the 200 year old canal. The aim is for Polwarth buildings, gardens, and canal boat to be a hub for community led activities which introduce Christ the Healer to the city of Edinburgh.

The **Polwarth Pontoon** was officially opened at the **Edinburgh's Canal Festival and Raft Race** on 16th June 2018. Over 100 people from the community gathered to celebrate this exciting development. The **Polwarth Pontoon** has tie-up spaces for three narrowboats; two will be used by guests, who may tie up for a short stay, while the third space is reserved for a boat owned and run by **The Kirk On The Canal** and partners

All Aboard

Navigating life together

What Difference will Make?



During June 2019 with a grant from GO FOR IT we ran a programme of events, activities and community consultations to answer that question.

Using the Re-Union Canal Boats vessel Lochrin Belle we welcomed several groups of children from secondary schools across Edinburgh for floating Science Workshops. **Most had never been on a boat and none of them had been in a church.** We hosted the Polwarth Pop Up café on the barge and we invited the Canal Shed to enjoy a boat trip. The pilot concluded with a congregational boat trip held after the morning service of worship on Sunday 23rd June. All of these events and activities allowed us to gather the thoughts of all ages in our community as to the benefits of improved access to the blue space of the Union Canal on wellbeing and community cohesion.



NEED: people of all ages in the community experience stress, loneliness, isolation

Outcome: Increase intergenerational community cohesion between isolated older people and stressed younger people and families

Pray and spread the word

The previous page and above is an extract from details of a project undertaken by Polwarth Parish Church. You may ask why we have included this in our magazine. Apart from being an interesting article There are some worth while aspects which we should consider. The location of the Church lends itself to the project and the surroundings of the building allow lots of things to happen.

Not every Church is so blessed with those features, and this could be said of Castlehill. But the underlying message is that we all have something unique that we should exploit and with lots of hard work things can happen. The most telling phrase, to me, in their story is under the heading “WHAT DIFFERENCE WILL “ALL ABOARD” MAKE” is “**Most had never been on a boat and none of them had been to Church”**

What could we do in Castlehill Church? and will we make the effort?

Editor

And....

Do you often wonder about WHY does Castlehill Church not do such and such in the community?

Unless we get suggestions, we can't look at the feasibility of progressing with a project. Like me when I looked at our Kirk Session Local Church Review and Messy Church was one of the items for us to progress during 2015-2020.

Not having been involved in Messy Church when Liz Crumlish ran it I started looking at the background of what Messy Church really meant to a community. I considered whether what was needed; who could I involve and where could we source funding without ‘dipping’ into our church finances. I found lots of information especially through The Bible Reading Fellowship. I checked out local churches who were running Messy Church events. Reported to Kirk Session and was granted permission to submit a grant application to Church of Scotland “Go For It” (knocked back the first time; attended a training day and successful with the second submission).

It's now a year since we received funding for a Pilot of Messy Church at Castlehill and I am working on our submission to report the outcomes of our year. I'll report on the outcomes in our next edition.

So, have you an idea of an activity or project we at Castlehill Church could consider.?

Margaret Graham

Fabric Report



In each magazine we always have a report on the “Fabric” of the Church or as headed up “Property”, but do we really think about what that means?

Here is the current update: We have had a few broken windows and the glass in the front doorway was shattered by a stone. We have a problem with the under fascia boards at the side of the church which is being looked at and will soon be repaired. We are looking at the décor of the church and this will be discussed with the fabric team over the next few months.

In the meantime if you see something broken or needing attention, please let one of the team know and it will be sorted. Thanks for your support.

And what was done over the past few months?

The repair to the Main Hall floor was completed.

The defibrillator is on the wall outside the minister’s room and signs in various places about it.

Sixty new chairs are in the North Hall and the remainder are in the Lounge meantime.

A “clean up” was done by volunteers and the dunny, under the kitchen, was tidied and under the stage was cleared.

The fascia boards have been replaced at a cost of £1853 which included £265 for scaffolding. There was extra work to do as the roof lining had not been sealed previously and it was now water tight.

G Brown, Decorators were contacted about the exterior wall of the Main Hall. This work needs to be done before the winter and he will quote to paint it.

A tidy up of the car park and surrounding area was done in June.

The costs have been kept to a minimum through the hard work of many volunteers, but some of the future work will have to be financed through Church Funds.

Many of you will have received a Fabric Appeal envelope, requesting your help. If you are able, think of what has to be done to keep YOUR Church in good condition. You can donate or even volunteer to use your talents.

Liz Reid

CASTLEHILL CHURCH
Christmas
Past and present
CHRISTMAS FLOWERS &
DECORATIONS SHOW
5TH & 6TH DECEMBER
10-12 , 2-4PM £3
ENTRANCE

Social Committee

And what events can we look forward to over the next few months

We are having the Aeolian male voice choir on **25th October** This should be a great night and tea and coffee will be served. Tickets will be available in September, updates will be in the order of service .The B.B. will have a soup and sweet lunch on 27th October Tickets £5

We would like to thank everyone who came to the summer tea. We raised £400 but most of all everyone had a lovely afternoon

On this page you will see something of what Christmas will bring. A bit early? But time passes quickly and you have to plan!!

Liz Reid



The picture on the left is the start of the adventure. The Kilt walk undertaken by the 17th Boys Brigade and friends, through sponsor ship, raised over £7,000. This enabled the Company to go on a fourth visit to Romania to the Rhema Foundation, a charity formed to support abandoned babies. These in the main were Gypsy children who had HIV. Not only helping to finance the visit but to take and ultimately send basic items to improve their lives.

This other photograph on the right is one of the Company with the residents, who were again delighted to welcome them on their return visit.



To give an idea of the value of our Company's support, this picture above left is typical of the conditions under which they live, and what a difference their help can make.

How the Boys viewed their visit

Having visited previously in 2017, I was delighted to have the opportunity to make the trip to Romania and visit the Rhema Foundation for the 2nd time. I couldn't wait to return.

One of the main reasons the boys' brigade continues to visit the foundation is to spend time with the residents. Over the years, a special bond has been created between the residents and the company, so much so, we now consider each other to be like family. All the residents are dependent on the foundation to support them and unfortunately have very little or no contact with their family. Also, during our last trip, we learned that we are the only organisation to have visited multiple times. With this in mind, we try and spend as much time as possible with them during our trip. The disco and karaoke on the final night was a definite highlight.

As well as spending time with the residents, we worked with children from local communities and helped to run the foundation's day-care sessions. Most of the children that attend the sessions come from gypsy backgrounds. These day-care sessions are vital as they not only provide a safe space to play, they also ensure the children receive an education they otherwise likely wouldn't get due to the low status of gypsies in Romania. It was great to see the kids running around and having fun. They fully embraced themselves in the activities and challenges we provided, it didn't matter whether it was making sculptures out of play dough or singing (and doing the actions) to "Baby Shark". They even made sure they outdid us each time!

The first time I went to Romania, I really realised the importance of the work the Rhema Foundation does and going for a second time only reinforced this. Their work really is invaluable. The foundation has helped changed so many lives.

It was an incredible week. I am already looking forward to when I next visit, hopefully in 2021.

Gavin Drysdale

Going to Romania has been one of the most rewarding, thought provoking and fun experiences of my life. Having gone twice now, I can honestly say that it gets better with every visit! Whether it is the welcoming community of the Rhema foundation, when you first arrive or whether it is being able to provide fun activities for the gypsy children, who sadly do not have the same opportunities for fun and nourishment that we take for granted. Romania is truly eye-opening and an experience which is more than memorable, so much so that it makes me sad to leave when our week is over. Therefore, after each visit I keep wanting to return and I very much look forward to our visit in 2021!

Andrew Miller

When first hearing about Romania you expect the conditions to be awful but actually Târgu Mureş is a very much established, westernised town. The residents we stay with all have smiles on their faces and welcomed us to their home. Every morning, afternoon and evening they helped serve us our meals and we would catch up from our two year break.

Going to Romania is an experience like no other, seeing the smiles you get from setting up activities for the gypsy children is very rewarding because they don't experience such events until we arrive with open arms. Being my second time to Romania I expected what conditions we would see when visiting Livezeni but it was strange seeing rubble from destroyed houses next to freshly built ones with new windows. I feel that it's a great thing going to another country and seeing old faces. I have really enjoyed Romania thoroughly once again and I hope to go back in the next 2 years to see everyone again.

Stewart Veitch

Romania was an amazing experience. The most enjoyable of moments was spending time interacting with the children from the gypsy, Romanian and Hungarian community. The children ranged from the ages of 6-17 years old and all of them were excited and enthusiastic to interact with us. From painting to football there were lots for the kids to enjoy and many opportunities for us to socialise with the children. I look forward to visiting again in 2021 and seeing the children and the residents of the foundation again.

John Houston

17th Ayr B.B 60th Celebrations



Former boys and officers at the Friday night display and awards. An excellent evening enjoyed by parents and members of the congregation



The two Queens Badge winners, Gavin Drysdale and John Houston with Captain Ian Queen and colour party, presented at the Church Service



The Queens Men

Top photo 1976, the other the present day. Left to right - Graeme Bloomer, Colin P. Blair Billy Otterson, Ian Queen



On Saturday 20th July a group of Boys from Coyton and Castlehill set off together for a week at the BB Residential Activity Centre at Kirkham near Blackpool. After arrival and settling in some time was spent in the sports hall to try to tire the lads out a bit! On Sunday they enjoyed sessions of wall climbing and Archery then into Lytham St Annes for time on the beach. The week was a rapid succession of activity and excursions each day with visits to the Sea life centre, Madame Tussauds, Blackpool Zoo and Splashworld in Southport for swimming. On the Thursday our big outing was to Cadbury World in Birmingham, unfortunately it was also the hottest day of the week!!

On Friday it was a day of winding down and we went into Lytham St Annes where time on the beach, putting and crazy golf were the order of the day.

All in all, a week which I think the Boys enjoyed and added to their memories of Brigade adventures."

Douglas Wilson

Comings

&

Goings



It is with a great sense of anticipation that we welcome Paul Russell as our new minister. An excellent turn out for his induction on 5th September bodes well for his new challenge. We all wish him well and it is up to everyone in our congregation, not just the office bearers, to give him every support and ensure that his stay with us is enjoyable and meaningful.



After almost four years it is with a sense of sadness that we say goodbye to Christine Stewart. As someone who technically was due to do only two days each week, she always ignored that and participated in every aspect of our Church's life. She has endeared herself to this congregation and in saying thank you we extend to her all our good wishes for the future.

The Guild

The Guild (formerly the Woman's Guild) has been an integral part of Castlehill Church since its inception. This coming 2019/2020



session promises to be as exciting and informative as any previous.

Our session starts on 2nd October with Kincase Praise Band as our opening social entertainment followed by a range of speakers and subjects to include travel, environmental, food and drink (ice cream !!), religion and arts and crafts.

We will always welcome new members.

So, if you find yourself at a loose end on a Wednesday evening during our dark and dank winter, feel free to come to the North Hall about 7.30 p.m. and, hopefully, enjoy our syllabus. You will even get a cup of tea.

Dorothy Jack, Secretary

Girl Guiding

Both units have been enjoying the new programme with lots of activities from building bridges, pitching tents, and developing their skills. Brownies have had a week end at South Newton, and the guides attended the County Camp at Nether Auchendrane. Brownies had a night at Ayr beach park while the guides enjoyed pizza and ice cream at Prestwick beach. Numbers are good in Brownies and steady at guides. All girls learning new skills and developing their own abilities. Rangers have been completing UMA's and 3 have completed their young leaders qualification, Kara Lindsay also attended Charnwood International Camp as part of the INTOPS events this year. On Saturday 31st August, the Guides attended "The Tartan Gig". This is a concert arranged at the Hydro in Glasgow by Girlguiding UK. There was a terrific atmosphere from thousands of girls all over Scotland and we were entertained by many top musicians including James Arthur, Lewis Capaldi, the Vamps, together with a few other artists. **The girls absolutely loved it.**

Tuesday Night Guides and Brownies

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Janette Rankin

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Christenings

Evan Lyle, Prestwick 26th May



Funerals

May

Alex Thomson Glendale Place
Irene Crawford Woodlands Crescent

June

Agnes Scott Biggart Hospital

July

Jean Currie Hillfoot Crescent
Graham Smith c/o Cloverhill
Jack Christie Templeton House

August

Dorothy Stuart Belmont road
Archie Berrie Holmston Gardens

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free
I'm following paths God made for me
I took his hand I heard Him call
Then turned and bid farewell to all.
I could not stay another day
to laugh, to love, to sing, to play.
Task left undone must stay that way.
I found my peace at close of day.
And if my parting left a void,
then fill it with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,
Ah yes, these things I too will miss.
Be not burdened, deep with sorrow
I wish you sunshine of tomorrow.
My life's been full, I've savoured much,
good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.
Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,
don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your heart and share with me,
God wants me now, He set me free

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facebook

It may seem that it has been around for ever but Facebook has been going for just 14 years. For those of you using Social Media, the Facebook page is a valuable resource helping to keep people informed about what is coming up in the life of the Church. It is updated regularly by Margaret Graham assisted by Allan Jack and is often the first contact point for folk outside the church enquiring about different events.



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