

The Herald

Castlehill Parish Church

Autumn 2014



Editorial

Nowadays when we have deliveries of flat packed furniture, or any electronic devices and many other items, there are no instructions. You are advised that these should be downloaded on to your computer or tablet. If you have the equipment and know how to do that, fine, but sometimes you have to find a friend first. It always states clearly that the instructions are simple and that by following them you will have no problems.!!

This of course is not something new. Moses was instructed to “download” the Ten Commandments on to a tablet and pass the instructions on to his people. They were simple and by following them they would have no problems. The trouble is we think we know better and do not follow the instructions implicitly. We sometimes miss a step, or alter it slightly to suit ourselves and we muddle along. Then Jesus comes along and gives us another commandment, “ to love one another “ another simple instruction that we find difficult to follow.

Let us make up our mind to follow the instructions and not place on them our own interpretation and only by asking God to help will we be able to do that.

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 email address quoted.



From the Manse

New Lectionary

As many of you will be aware, I have been involved for a few years now with a small but ever growing group of ministers and worship leaders who write worship materials for use week by week through the seasons. This started off as a collaborative project for use in our own congregations and, although they have a distinctly Scottish flavour, the resources are used throughout the world! Having completed a three year cycle of readings known as the Revised Common Lectionary, we have decided, this year to move to the Narrative Lectionary which, as the name might suggest, looks at some of the big stories in Scripture - From Noah to Abraham to Joseph, through the kings and the prophets, as well as gospel readings and explorations of the early church and the letters of Paul. Listening to all of these different voices in Scripture enriches our faith and enhances our discernment of the involvement of God in the world today. It has been fun to prepare these materials. I look forward to sharing them with you. And we are always happy to receive feedback that might help as we continue to apply ourselves to interpreting the word of God for God's people today.

Liz Crumlish

www.liz-vicarofdibley.blogspot.com



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Opportunities to Worship at Castlehill

Sundays at 11am

Taize Services

Last Wednesday of the month (September- March) 7pm

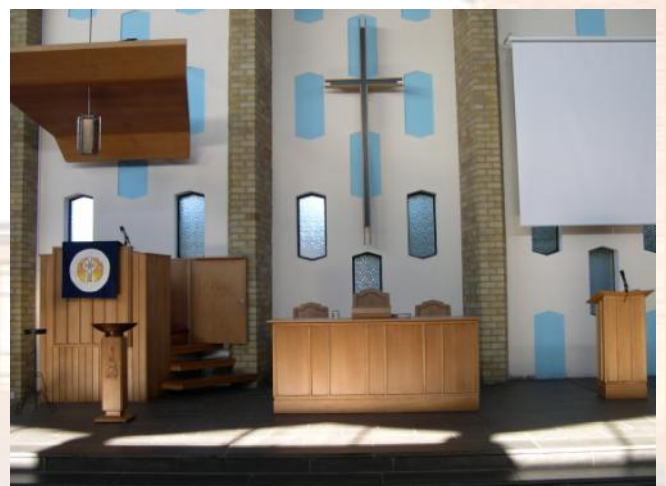
Service of Wholeness and Healing

Last Sunday of month, 9:45am

Men's Breakfast Worship

**Last Saturday of the month (September -March)
9:30am**

Communion is celebrated at morning worship on the first Sunday in September, December, March and June , with evening celebrations of the Sacrament being held at 6:30pm in September and March.



Ministry Team

For the next year there will be two additions to the Ministry Team at Castlehill:



Tom McLeod who began his journey exploring a call to ministry at Castlehill will be ordained as an Ordained Local Minister at Castlehill Church on 30th October. Tom will continue to work full time as well as serving around 10 hours a week at Castlehill.

Please join Ayr Presbytery at Castlehill on Thursday 30th October at 7pm for the service of Ordination.

Rev Kristina Hine is already ordained in the Presbyterian Church USA and is following a call to ministry in Scotland. Before she can take up an appointment, Kristina has to complete a "familiarization placement" under the supervision of a suitably qualified minister of the Church of Scotland. For the next year she will serve at Castlehill under the supervision of our minister.

Here are some biographical details about Kristina:



Rev. Kristina Hine is the daughter of an Air Force Major and a German mother, and a lifelong Presbyterian. While in high school in Las Vegas, NV, she affirmed her relationship with Jesus Christ at Calvin Crest camp and became more and more involved with church life. After graduating in 1996 from the University of Nevada, Reno with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education she became the Youth Director at First Presbyterian Church, Redlands. In 1999 she became a Young Adult Volunteer with the PCUSA and served in Belfast, Northern Ireland. She served as a Youth Leader at Fitzroy Presbyterian Church under the Rev. Ken Newell and at Mornington Community Center on the Ormeau Rd. While she was there, she felt the call to go into ministry. Upon her return, she began to study at San Francisco Theological Seminary in Southern California. In 2005/2006, she returned to Northern Ireland for an Internship at Greenisland Presbyterian Church with the Rev. Jim Stothers. In 2007, Kristina graduated with her Masters of Divinity and was Ordained into a position as a Hospice Chaplain with Pacific Hospice in San Bernardino, CA. From 2010 to 2012, she also served as the Pastor of Old World Community Church, a German Language church based in Huntington Beach, CA. Kristina loves to read, sing, cook and bake, watch movies, travel, and spend as much time as she can with her God-children, Aidan and Elise and newly born, Solace.

Seniors Afternoons

By the time this magazine is issued we will be looking forward to our first meeting on 14th October. We are fairly flexible when we talk about Seniors, as anyone who enjoys good company, good entertainment and a cup of tea and a blether is very welcome. Come along for 2.30p.m. and watch out for a syllabus or notices of the meetings in December, February and April.

See you there.

Wellwood Grierson.

A word from our organist...

Well folks, I can't quite believe it, but the organ refurbishment is now totally complete! It has been a long time coming, some four years since we had the first fund raising concert in November 2010, but it has been worth all the work when you hear the finished instrument. However, before I talk more about that some history on the organ:

The organ was built by Messrs Rushworth and Dreaper of Liverpool in 1964. Among other instruments built by this firm in Scotland are those in the Church of Holy Rude, Gordounston School Chapel and St Andrews Church Dumfries. The organ in Castlehill is one of Rushworth and Dreaper's "Cappella" models, of which a significant number were installed throughout the British Isles. Although installed in a specifically provided chamber the organ is remarkably compact despite the impressive appearance of the front pipes. There are 22 different speaking sounds within the organ, divided into four categories of Diapason, Flute, Brass and Salicional.



Since the organ was installed it has received one previous deep clean around 1980 and apart from this it has provided Castlehill with 50 years of hassle free glorious music. This time round as well as giving the pipes a good deep clean and re tuning the instrument the organ fitters added an extra stop called a "Mixture" and an extra rank of pipes. These pipes allow for a fuller, richer sound to be heard when the organ is being played without the need to use the brass stops for extra volume. When listening to the organ being played listen out for a high pitched sound and that is the new stop you are hearing.

Castlehill church organ has been at the corner stone of worship since it was installed back in 1964 and I have considered it a great privilege to play it for the past nine years. I hope that the newly refurbished instrument will continue to be one of the corner stones of worship for the next 50 years!

With best wishes

Christopher

Rainbow Care and Support Services

This is a family business started in 2005 by Alice Abbott, a Registered Nurse who has worked in the care industry for many years, providing a service for individuals in their own home. Care packages are tailored to suit individual needs and allow flexibility when those needs change. See the advert on the back page for contact details www.rainbowservices.co.uk

Walking the West Highland Way

On the 9th June 2014 six of us clambered aboard a minibus at Kingcase Church heading for Milngavie to begin the 95.6 mile adventure that is the West Highland Way...

It was a beautiful morning and we were in high spirits. This, paired with the short 12 mile first leg to Drymen could have tricked us into thinking this could be a dawdle. Wrong! The weather changed and we were soaked by the time we reached Drymen. Off to a flying start.

Day 2: Drymen to Rowardennan (15 miles). We woke to torrential rain. Prior to beginning this leg, the group decided to take the official alternative route which is longer, but avoids the Connic Hill. Three of us had conquered this leg whilst training for the WHW and the general consensus was that, with day 3 expected to be most testing; we'd prioritise the longer game plan and take the alternative route.

The section from Balmaha to Rowardennan is very steep and comprising of a great deal of forestry. This, coupled with torrential driving rain led me to have more than a moment of considering my madness - especially when, upon reaching the top of a hill gasping for breath and unable to see for the rain running down my face into my eyes, I attempted to consider the implications of this: the slippery descent and what that may mean for my already battered body. However, we all arrived safe and well at the Rowardennan Hotel and following a hasty dry off rewarded ourselves with a wee dram and, once again, life was restored.

Day 3: Rowardennan to Inverarnan (14 miles). This is believed to be the hardest section as you are forced to watch every step you take due to the combination of rocks underfoot, sheer drops and enormous rocks to climb. So much so that the guide books you read come with warnings that if you intend to take in the views etc. you must stop first.

The views! They were magnificent! I over use the apostrophe as there are no words to describe the feelings and emotions they evoke. Whilst watching Songs of Praise on Sunday I was struck by a description that seemed apt for reflecting this moment - "...prayer doesn't have to be words, it can be a place, (Paradise, Heaven) a state of bliss (Garden of Eden)..."

I was actually dreading this section as I have a genuine fear of heights that has on occasion resulted in me being frozen atop a mountain. Thankfully we had a great team and my companion Mary supported me through. In fact when we arrived - first, I might add! - at Inverarnan, I was in floods of tears - my emotions had taken over. Tears quickly turned to laughter and recognition of what we'd just undertaken, and achieved. It was wonderful.

Day 4: Inverarnan to Bridge of Orchy (19 miles). This was a long day but I enjoyed it. The scenery was awesome (quote from an American) and we met so many people along the way, in fact throughout the 7 days we met some characters and the camaraderie was great. When we arrived at Tyndrum we went into 'The Green Welly' for a wee cup of tea and a well-earned chunky KitKat - the simple pleasures.

Day 5: Bridge of Orchy to Kingshouse (12 miles). We woke up to a dreich wet day and set off at a fast pace. The midges were biting, especially when we stopped so we just kept on going. Rannoch Moor wasn't very exciting, in fact it was very dull and I couldn't wait to get to our lodgings.

Day 6: Kingshouse to Kinlochleven (9 miles). We stayed at 'Kingshouse Hotel' which was built in the 17th Century. It was used after the Battle of Culloden (1746) as barracks for King George III's troops. Deer came to the Hotel for scraps of food.

Three miles after Kingshouse the WHW starts its steep climb out of Glen Coe and onto the Road known as 'The Devils Staircase'. Well named. It was a beautiful day and very busy with walkers of all nationalities and ages. When we reached the 1800ft summit we were rewarded with stunning views of the mountains of Glen Coe behind us. The atmosphere was fantastic. The descent is slow due to loose gravel and very steep paths and when the village of Kinlochleven finally came into sight it felt wonderful.

Day 7: The final day!!! Everyone was in high spirits and good health (feet especially). The weather was lovely, if not a bit too warm for walking - but tough luck; did I mention this was the final day?! The route begins to climb almost immediately with flights of steep steps and rocky paths. We break for a brief 10 minutes after 8 miles then continue on. We navigate deep forests, climb... more climbing... and then steep declines. I found this day one of the hardest. We met a couple of men who, upon seeing more hills looming, were close to tears... However, the end was in sight and we couldn't wait. Finally we got to the end, had our photos taken, received our certificates... and all I wanted to do was cry.

On reflection, the walk was a true challenge but I thoroughly enjoyed it and would love to do it again. Whilst this adventure was embarked on by way of personally challenging ourselves, the support and kind gestures from Kingcase and Castlehill Church members, family and friends encouraged us to fundraise for McMillan Nurses Cancer Support. We proudly handed in a final donation of £2068 and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all donors profoundly.

Thanks again!

Sandra Dunn

Interesting Middle East Sites

Allan Jack

The region we know as the Middle East is known for many things – mainly at this time, war. However, as well as being the cradle of major religions, it has a fascinating historical and archaeological background. This is a 'teaser' piece to a talk I will be giving to The Guild on 22nd October. Watch out for the publicity 'blurb'!

In this article, I will try and describe 2 archaeological sites (one well known, the other not so) and a historical remnant which most, if not all, of you will have seen portrayed in a very famous movie.

Starting with the one all of you will have heard of, the 'Rose City' of Petra lies in the southern part of The Kingdom of Jordan. As a World Heritage Site, it is a well-known tourist trap but that doesn't take away from the spectacle that it is. There are indications that there was a Neolithic settlement there about 7000BC and during Moses' time, the Edomites lived around there. However the city really flourished under a historically important group of people of whom we know a bit more every year, the Nabateans. They appeared in about the 4th century BC but their civilisation was at its zenith between 100BC and 100AD. Petra stands at a crossroads of trade routes from the north, south, east and west and this made the inhabitants very wealthy. As an aside, there is a legend/myth that the Magi of the Christmas story bought their gold, frankincense and myrrh there. It was during this time that the carving of the great tombs was enacted. These are what is left of that civilisation and is exemplified by 'The Treasury' a great tomb facade made famous in 'Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade'. Just to be accurate, the tomb was never a treasury and there is very little depth (perhaps 5-6 metres) of room inside.

Petra is approached through the 'Siq', an over 2 km long gully which at its top end had agate to seal off the city from the outside world in times of danger.

The Nabateans were taken over by the Roman Empire and the Emperor Hadrian visited in 130AD. They added an amphitheatre to the site. Then the Byzantine Turks arrived but the site was gradually deserted after a series of earthquakes. They left behind some wonderful mosaics. The Crusaders in the 12th century also occupied the site.

However, Petra became a 'lost' city and a legend grew up about this fabulous place. This inspired a young Swiss, Johann Ludwig Burckhardt to go and look for it. He persuaded a group of locals to show him where it was and the rest, as they say, is history.

Petra (from the Greek, rock) has problems. Erosion is eating away at the details of the facades as some of the different coloured rocks are softer than others. From a distance, everything looks well but close up, it's difficult to decipher figures and carvings. So my advice is to visit Petra as soon as you can (if you are able).

The Nabatean sphere of influence ranged from Syria to Egypt and down into what is now Saudi Arabia. Their southern capital was at a place now known as Mada'in Saleh (MS), a site about 200kms north of Madinah. A protected historical site in Saudi Arabia, it lies beside an ancient town now known as Al Ula but is mentioned in the Bible as Dadan. Inselbergs of hard sandstone rock are carved with elaborate tombs containing shelves inside hewn from the rock to allow bodies to be laid out. Inscriptions in pre-Arabic script spell out who owned the tomb and what would happen to those who violated it. Features such as a 'Siq' and ritual sites confirm that the site belongs to the same civilisation as those at Petra. Nothing remains of the 'city' although it is being excavated but entry is prohibited. There is very little tourism as there are no tourist visas to Saudi Arabia and the Saudis aren't really interested as it's all pre-Islamic. However, it is an ex-pat 'rite of passage' to visit MS. One can't really say you've been to Saudi Arabia unless you've been to MS.

To compare and contrast the two 'cities', Petra is bigger and there's more to see with Roman and Byzantine overtones but MS has harder rocks, probably less rainfall so the details of the carvings are crisper. MS is more difficult to get to and you don't have stall holders trying to sell you souvenirs all the time.

Running through the MS site is the Hijaz Railway, made famous by the film 'Lawrence of Arabia' starring Peter O'Toole and Omar Sharif. MS was one of the main stations on the line which ran from Madinah to Amman in Jordan and onto Damascus in Syria. The name comes from the mountains of western Arabia, The Hijaz. It was built by the Ottoman Turks before WW1 and inaugurated on 1st Sept, 1908. Why was it built? Ostensibly to allow pilgrims easy access to the Islamic Holy Sites (there is evidence that there were plans to extend it to Makkah but it never happened), it certainly did enforce Ottoman rule in an area they found difficult to control. Built by conscripts, a young German engineer, Heinrich August Meissner oversaw the project.

T.E. Lawrence attacked the line on more than one occasion and it was abandoned after WW1 so it lasted only just over 10 years.

After Saudi Arabia came into being the track was torn up. The Saudi didn't want reminding that the Turks had ruled them.

It is another 'rite of passage' for ex-pats to drive along the old ballast of the line and collect souvenirs. I have a few in my garden shed.

The civilisations and empires that built Petra, MS and the Hijaz railway are no more but these remnants still survive and give pleasure to many visitors year after year.

Readership Training

As most of you know, I recently completed training as “Reader” within the Church of Scotland. The most obvious outcome of this is that I should be available to cover a Minister’s role in leading the congregation in worship on a Sunday morning when the minister is not available. There are other tasks that might be open to me e.g. to assist a Minister in their Pastoral Role within the church, or to look after a church for a short time during a vacancy (whilst leaving the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion to be attended to by an ordained minister). I am happy to await God’s guidance for next steps.



However, before any of the above can happen formally, Presbytery has to provide a service of “setting apart” – and thereafter I can be called upon to officiate as required. This “setting apart” service has been organised for **Thursday, 2nd October in Dundonald Parish Church**. I would be delighted to see you there if you wish to attend.

During my training, I completed two church placements – each of six months duration. I am indebted to the ministers and congregations of Mauchline & Sorn, and also of Ayr: Castlehill. ‘Training placements’ are so much more than the phrase suggests as I found great kindness and encouragement throughout my time with these congregations. I also found patience in abundance – especially from those who managed the sound systems!!! I know that God is at work in His people – as I met Him time and again, and give thanks for everyone I met; and I saw evidence of a desire to develop faith in Christ Jesus and to seek guidance from the Holy Spirit to serve in His name wherever possible.

In my academic training (completed by Distance Learning with Aberdeen University) I covered a range of studies, and this has whetted my appetite to do more. In case you are interested, my study modules included: What Does it Mean to be Human? – Learning from Disability; Homiletics; Sacramental Theology; Paul’s Letter to the Galatians; St Mark’s Gospel; Exodus; Christology; and Theology of the Reformers. Independently of this course, I also studied Old Testament Hebrew. I plan to continue with this, and also to work on New Testament Greek.

As you can see, this course provided me with some serious studying on a variety of topics – at the very least it has given me the tools to look carefully at God’s word and to bring His message to the people of today. The nicest surprise for me as a result of the studies is that William and I have also formed a friendship with one of my Teachers – Sasha, who took us through the book of Galatians. He is from Russia, and has now returned there with his wife and family – but although it was distance learning – there is no distance in Christ Jesus – we are all held in the palm of God’s hand. A good place to be.

My desire now is that I can be used in God’s service,
Love and prayers, Christine Stewart

Birthday Celebrations



We mistakenly reported in the last issue of The Herald that Mrs Irving had celebrated her 90th birthday - Here is her response:

In the interest of veracity
I'm only 89!
And harbour the capacity
To put this right in rhyme

(Written by Castlehill's McGonagall
Who's that? It's easy to see
It's our very own Margaret Irving
Spelt with a G and not an E!)

Bowling Club Summer Outing

Castlehill Church Bowling Club held their annual outing to Girvan Bowling Club on Wednesday 23rd July.

Everyone met at the Church car park, transport was organised by Mike Hardie, bowls by David Kerr and the cavalcade headed to Girvan. On arrival Moira Alexander (Treasurer) & Helen Lynch collected the dues, and tea and scones were provided by the ladies of Girvan Bowling Club. David Kerr (President) welcomed everyone to the "Castlehill Commonwealth Bowling games" especially newcomers and two very young people. The rules were read out, and then off to play 12 ends in total. With the sun shining & being very warm, hats were the order of the day, as everyone enjoyed the fun & freedom of the change to outdoor bowling.

With the games over, a lovely high tea was served up by the ladies at Girvan at 5p.m.



After tea the President invited the Club's 2 senior bowlers (who did not bowl at Girvan) Jean and Pat Paterson to present the prizes.

Historic dual mugs and coasters went to the winning team of Liz Hardie, George Neil and John McDermott (SKIP) with a score of +14 shots. The first toucher of the Jack went to newcomer Mhairi Wilson who received an Oor Wullie candy box. The booby prize went to Team 8, Nan McClymont, Joyce Richmond, Moira Alexander and George Johnstone (SKIP) with a score of -19 shots. They were given mini

way to the Jack in future! Prizes were also given to two junior bowlers Zara Crumlish and Robbie Wilson for playing very well.

The president thanked Jean & Pat for presenting the prizes and a very big thanks to Margaret Garth and the ladies of Girvan for their hospitality.

A thank you also to Moira, Helen and Mike for all their help. Mike Hardie then thanked David for organising the day which everyone enjoyed.



David Kerr

Afternoon Teas



Our Summer Afternoon Teas proved very popular and raised over £200 for each of our chosen charities: MacMillan Cancer, Broken Chains and Castlehill Fabric Fund. Look out for other opportunities in Autumn and Winter to get together for tea, coffee, home baking and fellowship,

An Attic Discovery

It measures three inches by four and its cover is a greeny colour. There is a crest on the front of the book but that is now difficult to decipher.

When a relation and I opened the book in a dusty attic in Largs we discovered it was a New Testament presented to forces "on active service".

The National Bible Society of Scotland gave this particular New Testament to Sargent Wilson AC (no relation) during the period 1914-15. At the foot of the page the following words from the Bible were printed-

"Be strong and of a good courage, for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest."

How then was this New Testament in my great uncle's attic?

On the page opposite was the answer. "To Pte. Wardrop WW, B Company (Army number given) from Sergeant Wilson AA. A specific date in 1917 was written.

I knew that my mother's Uncle Walter had been a stretcher bearer during the First World War and was gassed. He remained deaf for the rest of his life and was the first person I knew who had a hearing aid (but rarely used it). Perhaps that's why he remained such a quiet gentleman. The Testament showed that he was in the RAMC (Royal Medical Army Corps) so I'm using present day technology to find out more about him.



Walter remained a committed Christian throughout his life and his caring genes were passed to his daughter who became a nurse as did my mother, his niece.

The **only** thing in the attic from that dreadful war is the New Testament which is now in my possession. It obviously meant so much to Pte. Walter Wardrop.

M.Petticrew

Give Thanks

Writing this article has not been an easy task for me. I have not been in an inspirational mood and as a result my thoughts have not been up to the standard that my friends at Castlehill have come to enjoy reading! I have been so complacent about my writing that I expect to put pen to paper and it will happen just like that. When that is not the case I get frustrated and start to question my ability to write at all. As a way of trying to open my mind to any fragment of inspiration, I played some music. It was while listening to The Luckiest by Ben Folds that it came to me. One of the things that we do in the Autumn time is give thanks for the harvest and that got me asking the question; What else have I to be thankful for? My answer is quite simply, Jesus Christ. My faith in Him gives me all the strength and support I require. In other words, "Take a chill pill Kirsty! Let go and let me do the worrying for you." We should try to live everyday as if we have deliberately come back to this one day to enjoy it and give thanks.

"Give thanks with a grateful heart

Give thanks to the Holy One

Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son

And now let the weak say, "I am strong"

Let the poor say, "I am rich

Because of what the Lord has done for us"

Give thanks"

Kirsty Wyllie

Date for your diary - The Salvation Army Community Carol Concert will be held at Castlehill Church on Sunday 14th December.

The Harvest Mice by Anne Massie

When I was a little girl, I lived on a farm in Aberdeenshire with my mother, father and sisters. Margaret was two years older than I was and Ruth two years younger.

In the spring, through summer and until autumn, as the corn grew tall and coloured from green to yellow, we could see the small harvest mice clinging to the stalks as they nibbled the corn ears.

Their nests were built high up among the corn in spring and by the time autumn came and it was time to harvest, the young had grown big enough to run from the field as the binder trundled along cutting all before it. My father, who was a lay preacher, would tell us that the animals life cycle and our life cycle fitted neatly together to suit animals and man in God's

amazing plan. He did not grudge the little they ate because they were necessary in nature.

The day I want to tell you about happened when I was six years old. My mother took a "fly" cup up to the men in the field and we three girls helped to carry cups and milk and gingerbread to the men.

While everyone sat and ate we played among the stooks and watched as the 13 farm cats chased the mice into the ditches. It was then that we found an upturned nest with seven tiny pink baby mice. Their mother had fled and they were left, newly born and still blind. Ruth and I picked them up and ran with them to my father.

"Daddy," we said, "what will we do with these baby mice? You said they would all be grown up by now, but these aren't"

"Throw them to the cats," said father. "There is nothing else you can do."

We were quite shocked. We appealed to mother.

"Do what your father tells you and go home and wash your hands."

How hard hearted our parents were! What could we do for these baby mice? We decided to take them home and look after them but, as we didn't have any pockets to secrete them in, we decided to hide them in our socks. With two mice down each sock, we ran off home where we found a cardboard box, put in straw to bed the mice and, using shears made a couple of holes in the lid for air and food.

The corn loft had been swept clean for the new sacks and, in the darkest corner we could find, we hid our box with our orphans. For three days we crept up with bread and grain, poking the food through the holes and listening for the babies inside. On the fourth morning, my sister Margaret was waiting in the loft.

"What are you two up to?" she asked in her best eldest sister voice and we told her the secret.

"If you listen to the box," I said "You can hear them moving about." She picked up the box, took it to the window and peered in. "Yes," she said. "There are mice in here, but they are not your babies. The new ones are dead, but you have encouraged grown mice in here with all that food. Dad is going to be furious with you."

Sure enough, two large mice scampered round the box and the babies were nowhere to be seen. We carried the box outside and put the mice in the field.

"Baby mice can't live without their mother's milk," said my mother. "Mice living in the fields are good for nature but mice in your father's loft could rob us of our livelihood. Your disobedience could have cost us dear."

"I know you both meant to be kind," said dad, "but you must learn to obey your parents, even if you don't always understand why. That is what "Honour your father and mother, that your days may be long upon the land" means, so let this be a lesson to you.

It was a lesson that we had to learn many times before we grew up and now we say the same to our children.



Broken Chains

Broken Chains is the name given to a ministry carried out by a group of Christians from Ayrshire churches dedicated to sharing the love of Jesus in a practical and compassionate way. We work together to encourage and enable the broken and marginalized of society to rebuild their lives.

This is a plea, based on personal experience, identifying an increasing need for the Christian community in Ayrshire to reach out to a sector of our society that is often misunderstood and at times forgotten.

For most of my life I was happily involved in what can be described as a 'tidy' church context. It was comfortable; yet it was naive: it failed to see the real world. But, one evening I found myself listening to a sermon being preached on 'going after the lost'. The preacher named them: the homeless, the rejected, the alcoholic, the drug addict, the lonely, the mentally ill, the sick and many others. My eyes were opened that night and yet I didn't understand what I should do with all this new insight. What I did know was that in Matthew's Gospel Jesus says "Therefore go and make disciples of all....." And, that was the Challenge!

It was the start of a journey that brought me to Broken Chains (Ayr) and the start of a steep learning curve as I, and others from local churches of various denominations around Ayr, became involved and committed ourselves to this missional outreach based in Holy Trinity church hall, kindly granted to us for the work.

Involvement in this work brought more insights.

There are real practical challenges. For example, we at Broken Chains (Ayr) are so aware that many we work with would not feel comfortable in our local traditional churches, 'either as enquirers or as new believers. (at this early stage) And many in our churches, though sincere and very well disposed, would inevitably struggle to understand these behaviours. It seems that there are different cultural worlds.

In reality, this is slow, very long-term, evangelism. It involves practising love and acceptance in difficult situations. It means adjustment and attitude change without abandoning fundamental Christian beliefs and core values. It means learning to be selfless in the same way as Jesus humbled himself.

We cannot do it alone. We need God's enabling and we need your help; and we need the support of your Churches. That support can take different forms and be at different levels.

Broken Chains (Ayr) is a registered charity that is overseen by a representative Board of Christian Trustees and its work carried out by volunteers. All of them attend local churches.

We believe, and are asking humbly, that local churches, in the light of the Great Commission, should unite around us by taking some form of spiritual and practical ownership of Broken Chains. This can be done in various ways. For example, :-

- We seek volunteer helpers who have a heart for the broken and socially marginalized.
- We value prayer support for the work and for those engaged in it.
- We would appreciate churches, as well as individuals, identifying with us by featuring our work, communicating our activities and even providing an opportunity for us to make presentations about our work.
- We seek financial support from churches and individuals on a regular basis. Having a regular source of income eases the pressure on us and relieves us from insidious "obligations" (e.g. to conform to political correctness). We do receive some grant funding but secular support can constrain our Christian expression.

In making this appeal and asking you to respond we need to know that the local Christian community supports the work of Broken Chains (Ayr) recognising that we are one among many ministries working in Ayr and Ayrshire. This is a sector of society that many of us have little contact with, yet their needs are great. Please help us to embrace and care for those who feel on the outside.

Alex Roberts (Management Team Member and Support Worker) Broken Chains (Ayr)

BrokenChains-Ayr@live.co.uk

By Donating your loose change week by week in the bottle in the vestibule, over £300 has been donated to Broken Chains this year. Please continue to give.



Kidz Page - for the young at heart!



What are your plans for Halloween? Are you going to put on a scary costume and go out to trick or treat? Or are you going to a fancy dress party?

Your experience of Halloween may be a bit different from that of your parents or grandparents who, as “guisers”, went round to the neighbours in

groups, dressed as ghosts or skeletons, to sing a song, recite a poem or tell a joke and be rewarded with nuts, mandarins or apples or - yes, perhaps even coins.

In fact, in pre-Christian times, people were already doing just that during the pagan festival of Samhain when it was believed that, for one day, the dead could come back to visit their families. A place was even set at table for them! On the other hand, some spirits could be mean, so adults and children alike disguised themselves so as not to be recognised!

A whole series of American horror movies centred around Halloween came out in the late 1970's and 80's and since then Halloween has taken off as an immensely popular commercial event, with people spending lots of money on costumes and decorations. In the US, it is the second-largest commercial event after Christmas. And it's not just for children. Pubs and nightclubs do very well out of it as adults let off steam, too!

What does “Halloween” actually mean? Harry Potter fans will know that the last book in the series was called the “Deathly Hallows”, which were three magical objects. The owner of all three would be the Master of Death.

If you come to church and know your Bible, you will be familiar with the Lord's Prayer, in which we say “Our Father who art in heaven, **hallowed** be your name”, which is an old word for “holy”. A “hallow” was a holy person or a saint and “Hallowe'en” is the evening before “All Hallows” or “All Saints Day”, which in turn is the day before “All Souls Day”, making up a *triduum* or 3-day church celebration lasting from 31 October to 2 November.

It is not surprising if you haven't heard of these special days because we don't celebrate them in Scotland. However, on the European mainland, 1 and 2 November are very important indeed. In most Catholic countries all the shops are closed on 1 November. Many Christians go to church. All over Europe - in France, Spain, Germany, the Netherlands, Italy, Austria, the Czech Republic and Poland - people visit the graveyards where the members of their families who have passed away are buried. They clean the headstones, tidy the plots, place lots of flowers on the graves and light candles, tea lights or little lanterns so that the cemeteries really look very cheerful and pretty.

Little by little, the commercial form of Halloween is gaining ground in these countries, too. While Halloween is certainly fun, I think a special day when we all honour our dead in a cheerful way is a very good idea indeed. Maybe it will catch on here!

Denise Fisher



UNIFORMED ORGANISATIONS

GIRL GUIDES

It has been another busy time for Girlguiding. This year was the Brownies 100th birthday and there were various activities happening. We had our own District event in May, when one of our packs had a pack holiday weekend, with Brownies from all over the District coming out to a day event on the Saturday. Each unit had an activity to do using a decade from the 100 years and we finished with campfire songs.

Also in May, we had a County event at the Dam Park, again for the 100th birthday. There have been a lot of memories made for the Brownies over this centenary year, which hopefully will be talked about for a long time to come.

The Rainbows had their end of term trip to Troon. This started out as a lovely day and it started down on the sand with the girls making brilliant sandcastles. Unfortunately the dark clouds soon moved in and it soon turned to torrential rain. While huddled in a seafront shelter, some Brownie Leaders came along who were staying in Troon over the weekend and they very kindly invited the girls back to their hall, where games were played and ice cream was bought.



A few of the things that the Guides have been up to include badge work, ten pin bowling, had a night at Craig Tara taking part in various activities, visited the Chocolati Chocolate Factory and much more.

On 2nd July of this year Janette Rankin in her position as County Commissioner was invited to go to Dumfries House to represent Ayrshire South Girlguiding and she took a party of 3 Guiders, along with a selection of Senior Section, Brownies and Guides from Castlehill to the opening of the walled garden at Dumfries House.

Arriving just after 1.00p.m, we were directed to a good position in order to wait for the Royal party to arrive. It was a long wait of over 2 hours and the girls did really well, especially the young Brownies but it was well worth it. As the girls waved their flags and cheered, The Queen walked by really close to us and gave us a wave.

Prince Phillip spoke to our flag bearer Gillian McHarg.

The afternoon finished with a short refreshment and we headed home really excited that we had been privileged in representing Girlguiding.



BOYS BRIGADE

In the 17th Ayr we have started our 56th year. Our three sections have all started this session with more boys than last year which is always a source of pleasure for the staff.

In our last article for the Herald Magazine we were looking forward to Gavin Drysdale and Ian Queen carrying the Queen's Baton. From the photo you can tell that they both enjoyed themselves immensely. Both feel very honoured and were delighted with the support given by their families and friends. During the summer Gavin took part in an international sporting event at which he won four gold medals for race running and also improved on each of the four world records he set in Holland last year, congratulations Gavin!

We have already planned our year ahead and have some dates for your diaries. Our first main event is our annual dedication service which takes place on Sunday 26th October at which we will be presenting three Queens' Badges. Following our dedication service we will be hosting our annual soup and sweet lunch to which you are all very welcome.



In January we will be holding what has become our annual Burn's Lunch. This has proved to be very successful over the previous two years. This year, appropriately enough, it falls on 25th January.

We also have a fund raising event in March which is a race night being held in the Railway Club in Elba Street on 13th March.

Details of all these events will be publicised in good time for each of these one.

In November we have our annual weekend "camp" to Lapwing Lodge near Paisley. This is always a highlight in our year when we take all the Junior and Company Section boys away for a weekend. Each Section will also have their own competitions starting soon, hopefully we will be able to share some successes with you during "sharing the week" on Sunday morning.

Thank you for your ongoing support, your moral, financial and prayerful support is very much appreciated.

Answers to Lighthouse Quiz in last edition.

1. Ayr. [clue C]
2. Mull of Galloway. [clue F]
3. Bass Rock. [clue H]
4. Cloch at Gourock [clue E]
5. Lady Isle off Troon [clue B]
6. Corsewell near Stranraer [clue G]
7. Lismore near Oban [clue A]
8. Southernness [clue D]

Moira Alexander retires from Youth Church after 50 years!

On leaving Bible Class, I decided I would like to become a member of the church, which I did in 1964.

After joining I was given a list of all organisations in the church and asked which one would I volunteer for, so I chose Sunday School.

I remember attending several courses on Christian Education and teaching methods. These courses were held in the Church of Scotland offices and book room in Miller Road Ayr.

Starting off my teaching in the Old North Hall with 120 children and that was only primary 1-3! It was hectic to say the least, especially when it came to buying books and Bibles and Christmas time gifts!

Frank MacFarlane was the Sunday School superintendant at that time. He was a great leader and teacher.

I recall asking him one day for some new colouring pencils for our department, alas no, this was not to be, I was just given a pencil sharpener - what a man!

Memories, I have many! Such as, one little girl, on arriving home told her mother that she had been singing her favourite song in Sunday School JESUS BITS ARE SHINING. Another girl brought along her Noddy book and asked her teacher if she would read a story from her book as she was fed up hearing stories about this man called JESUS.

Sometimes we invited guests along to speak to the children. On one occasion we had a blind gentleman from Ayr visit us with his guide dog. He gave the children an insight of what it was like to live without sight.

Following his visit we all started collecting silver paper (remember that?!) for recycling and the proceeds went to fund the worthy good cause of 'Guide dogs for the blind'.

Special memories for me was one Palm Sunday we arranged to have a donkey from Castlehill stables brought along. My sister Joyce and I had gone to Culzean and collected palm branches which we then laid out at the church. The donkey plodded over the palm branches as we all sang 'Ride On Ride On In Majesty'. That was just wonderful.

Christmas was always very special, especially the Nativity with the children all dressed in their costumes and telling the Christmas story. I always had a wee tear or two when the children sang Away In A Manager.

Easter day was a real joy as we paraded into church showing off our beautiful Easter bonnets made out of paper plates and coloured tissue flowers even the boys had a flower pinned onto their shirts.

Memories I certainly have many...

Writing this I can't help but reflect on my time as a Sunday School teacher. As I sat sharing my memories with my sister she asked "what are you even giving it up for?!" This stumped me. I've truly loved every minute of it and this decision didn't come easy. When it comes down to it, I think that after 50 years I'll finally enjoy being able to sit in the congregation giving the Sermon's my full attention, and not having to watch out for chatty children!

Sunday school teaching has taught me a lot - I don't just know and understand the Bible a little, but I also have had the opportunity to watch the children of the church grow and develop, and sometimes these children returned with their own children! How wonderful that feels (that is of course once I've got over the reality check of feeling old!). I hope that maybe in some small way what I've taught and learned has been reciprocal and that those children I've taught and learned from have (at the very least) grown into adults with fond memories of the church.

Thanks to all the Sunday School teachers and children, past and present, for the friendships and the memories.



Youth Opportunities

Jonah and the Whale



The church vestibule has recently been graced with the presence of a whale made by the Primary 1s at Forehill Primary School. The P1s made the whale to help them tell the story of Jonah at their weekly Assembly. It was big enough for one of the children to fit inside!

Because of its size, the school could not store the work of art, so it was brought to the church and the pupils were excited to see it at their end of term service.

National Youth Assembly

For the last 3 years I have had the privilege of being on the team of Pastoral Staff at the Church of Scotland's National Youth Assembly and I've also served as chaplain to the Youth Delegates at the General Assembly.

It is wonderful to work with young people (aged 17-25) who are passionate about their faith and committed to the National Church. This year's Youth Assembly took place at Gartmore House near Aberfoyle. The theme was "In my Father's House"

I'm hoping to share some of the stories of these events with our own young people at Castlehill in the hope of encouraging them to become involved nationally too. Meantime, we give thanks for all our young people and the committed leaders who lead our Youth Church. **(Liz Crumlish)**

Teamwork Holiday Club

This summer's Holiday Club explored how the disciples were called by Jesus and how they worked alongside him as a team. Following on from the Commonwealth games, Teamwork was a



topical theme. With a great team of helpers and enthusiastic children, we journeyed with

Jesus and his disciples, fishing, mending nets, walking on water and feeding the hungry crowds - we had our own picnic to celebrate. And, once again, Creation Station came along to help us with some fishy crafts!



Parish Registers

Funerals

May

Raymond Lee
Catherine Peck
Jessie Wilson
Betty D'Amico
Fay Kellock
Bob Blane
Margaret Paton
Marjorie McNinch
Helen Gilmour

Cornhill
Southfield Park
Hillfoot Road
Lochlea Drive
Rozelle NH
Caledonia Road
Rozelle NH
Rozelle NH
Cumnor Hall

September

Peter Caddis
Ann Steven
Margaret McNeill

Heathfield House
Ferguson Avenue
Cumnor Hall

June

Billy Patterson
John Watson
Jean HEathcote
Jean Crombie
May Wallace

Maybole
Peggieshill Road
Leslie Crescent
Rozelle NH
Rozelle NH

July

Helen Brebner
John Dunlop
Jim Borland
Janet Rae

Glenconner Road
Burnbank Road
Glenpark Place
Cumnor Hall

August

Bill McEwan
William Sutherladn
Ernest Allen
Dennis Hayes
Isabella Temple
Joyce Clark
Kenneth McKenzie
Jean Black
Betty Dunlop

Holmston Road
Glendale Crescent
Mt Oliphant Place
Clarendon Drive
Dundonald NH
Anderson Creacent
Hayhill
South Lodge
Cunningham Crescent

Baptisms

11th May

Phoebe Lily Devine

8th June

Dan Crawford Forbes Strain

22nd June

Quinn John Henderson

24th August

Daisy Lucy Sarah Rae

21st September

Amber Ellen Hope Thomson

28th September

Daniel Scott Morrison

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From the Prayer Group

As we remember this troubled world of ours, we pray for so many people and so many things, but above all we long for peace.

A 12 year old Afghan student said that he knew "whenever peace comes, flowers will be planted instead of mines."

This prompted the following prayer/poem:

*When there is peace they will plant flowers instead of mines.
And they will explode in silence, and blow us quite off our feet.
Their colours will blind our eyes, their scent will sing in our nostrils.
Cling to our clothes and linger in the air.
Fragments will fall as petals and none shall be afraid to walk,
though beauty too shall require our gentleness when there is peace.*

May God help us to realise this, our dream, and that of the 12 year old Afghan student.

Church of Scotland Guild

Go Serve

We recently attended the Guild Annual Conference in Dundee. The theme for the day was "Go Serve"- tying in with this year's theme "A world to serve". The sight of the Caird Hall filled with mainly ladies, although there were a fair number of men as well, including the General Secretary- Iain Whyte, was extremely heartening. They listened to the speakers with great enthusiasm. The first speaker being the Moderator followed by the Rev. Dr. Margaret Fowler from Jamaica. Both spoke on reaching out and serving those on the edge of society. The Guild ladies I know will take this on board, they are always ready for a challenge. The help is not always hands on. In recent years over three million pounds has been raised for various projects that the Guild has supported some of which others were reluctant to help. The members of the Guild here at Castlehill are no exception and are always first in line to offer help and support to those who need it. We have been able to send money each year to our Head Office, and have donated something to all of the projects that have been chosen. Many people have said how much they appreciated the support of Guild ladies and I know they will rise to the challenge of continuing to assist people they know who are in need. They do indeed Go and Serve! We have just begun our new Session and look forward to welcoming both new and current members on Wednesday evenings at 7.30 p.m. Please come along and give it a try.

Best Wishes

Marion, Sandra and the Guild Committee

Christmas Fayre - Saturday 22nd November 10am - 1pm

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