

The Herald

Castlehill Parish Church
Spring 2022



Editorial

Firstly, thank you to Wellwood for his time while passing over the role of editor to myself. In tribute to Wellwood, the image on the cover of this magazine has come from him. Congratulations on 10 years service, we'll see if I can last as long! It seems appropriate for this to happen in Spring, at a time when new beginnings are all around us, a time to look to the future.

As you will see in the magazine, the church and the surrounding area are also looking to the future. The youth church has restarted during each Sunday service, many of the groups in the church have managed to meet again in person and there is a new head teacher in one of the schools in the parish, Belmont Academy. All of this is pointing towards a bright future for the church.

On a personal note, I'll be spending Easter Sunday at my brother Gregor's wedding. Another new beginning for him, his fiancée Kerrie and the rest of our family. Their wedding will be conducted by Paul.

Thanks to all who have contributed to this, my first magazine, I very much appreciate it. I look forward to working with you all as Editor of the Herald. I hope you all have a happy Easter and lovely Summer when it comes.

Rachel Queen

Castlehill Parish Church, 1, Old Hillfoot Road, Ayr KA7 3LW

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Secretary	Mrs Sandra Wyllie, Office Tel. 286115 E-mail castlehillchurch44@gmail.com
Session Clerk	Mr. Douglas Owens, Tel. 442062
Church Website:	www.castlehillchurch.org
Charity Number	SCO01792

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.

From The Manse



Dear Friends

Two years into the Covid19 pandemic, we have for the last month experienced war again in Europe in a way no one would have wished. The war against Ukraine is unwarranted and clearly far from over. It is already having an impact globally and we know that could well get worse. The suffering inflicted by Russia on innocent civilians and the mass destruction of Ukrainian towns and cities is sickening. No argument can be made in favour of this war and we stand in solidarity with the Ukrainians, eager to be of help in whatever way we can to them. Already we have seen great generosity from our congregation towards our Lent offering for the people there.

If out of that gloomy opening paragraph there can be found hope, surely it is this: despite the pandemic, there has been in Scotland and elsewhere in Europe an urgent rallying to the support of over three million refugees from Ukraine and a generous contribution towards the growing needs in cash and kind from around the world. At Easter especially we remember that there are bad, evil, cruel people in the world. That is fact. The Easter message resounds emphatically that such people in every generation do not have the last word in any story. After suffering which was inhumane for Jesus, God emphasised that not even death could stand in the way of his love which brought the first resurrection. Since that first Easter, resurrection has been experienced many times over in many different ways. Despite all the uncertainty and anxiety of the present, our faith urges us to hold tight to the hope that in this situation in the 21st century, resurrection will result again. When and exactly how we don't yet know but it is to that hope we cling and look forward to the re-establishment of peace and the rebuilding of Ukraine and the re-homing of all its people. Our Hallelujahs will resound again — hold onto your Easter faith: nothing can separate us from the love of God in Jesus. As long as the war continues and even after, our prayers for Ukraine and her people will echo. Our help will be practical.

I hope this letter finds you well or recovering: I know a number of our congregation have succumbed - maybe again - to the virus: please know that though isolated you are never forgotten. We look forward to that time when in safety and comfort, we can resume more of our activities without worry. Till that time, may you all have a meaningful Easter and know God's blessing of peace in your hearts, your homes, in all we do separately and together.

Happy Easter!
Paul

New Head Teacher for Belmont Academy

Kevin Boyd is now the new head teacher at Belmont Academy in Ayr.

Kevin takes the helm at an exciting time, as the school continues to build on a positive inspection report under previous head teacher Tracy Stewart.

Kevin, who was head teacher at Strathaven Academy, has strong links with South Ayrshire having been a pupil at Ayr Academy. He later worked at Prestwick Academy for 15 years, undertaking a variety of roles from principal teacher of maths to acting head teacher.

Kevin said: "I look forward to working with all members of the Belmont Academy community to deliver positive outcomes for all young people. Belmont Academy is a fantastic school with many strengths, and I relish the opportunity to lead the community on its journey to excellence."

We welcome him to Belmont and look forward to continuing the close links between Castlehill and Belmont over the years ahead and wish him every blessing in his work with our young people.



HOLY WEEK SERVICES

SUNDAY 10 APRIL	PALM SUNDAY 11.00A.M.
MONDAY 11 APRIL	HOLY WEEK MONDAY 7PM
TUESDAY 12 APRIL	HOLY WEEK TUESDAY 7PM
WEDNESDAY 13 APRIL	HOLY WEEK WEDNESDAY 7PM
THURSDAY 14 APRIL	MAUNDY THURSDAY 7PM CASTLEHILL JOINT SERVICE ST LEONARD'S PREACHER: REV BRIAN HENDRIE
FRIDAY 15 APRIL	GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE 7PM ST LEONARD'S JOINT SERVICE: PREACHER PAUL RUSSELL
SUNDAY 17 APRIL	EASTER SUNDAY 11AM

All are welcome to share in our Easter Worship at any or all of these services.

TWO YEARS ANNIVERSARY OF THE PANDEMIC

It is now two years since we first went into lockdown and the only thing that is clear is that Covid 19 will be co-existing with us for some time yet. This passage was written by an American, Damien Barr, two years ago and still has some encouragement for us.

I heard that we are in the same boat.
But it's not that.
We are in the same storm, but not in the same boat.
Your ship can be shipwrecked
and mine might not be.
Or vice versa.
For some, self isolation is positive:
a moment of reflection, or reconnection.
Easy, in flip flops, with a whisky or tea.
For others, this is a desperate crisis.
For others, it is facing loneliness.
For some, peace, rest time, a holiday.
Yet for others, Torture:
How am I going to pay my bills?
Some were concerned about a brand of chocolate for Easter before.
Others were concerned about the bread for the weekend, or if the noodles would last for a few more days.
Some were in their "home office".
Others are looking through rubbish to survive.
Some want to go back to work because they are running out of money.
Others want to kill those who ignore the isolation regulations or recommendations
Some need to break the regulations to get money or food.
Others to escape.
Others criticise the government for the management of Covid.
Some have experienced the near-death of the virus, some have already lost someone from it, and some believe they are infallible in the face of it.
Some have faith in God and expect miracles during this pandemic. Others say the worst is yet to come.
So, friends, we are not in the same boat.
We are going through a time when our perceptions and needs are completely different. And each one will emerge, in his /her own way, from that storm.

“We are not all in the same boat, but we are all in the same storm”. Let’s remember to support each other and not judge. Please don’t suffer in silence. Reach out; there are lots of people willing to listen.

Finance

The church financial year ended on 31 December 2021. Members of the Congregational Board and Kirk Session are Trustees of our congregation and due to the coronavirus situation could not meet to approve the Annual Report and Financial Accounts. This was done instead when the seventeen page report was emailed to Trustees who could then give approval by email. Four copies of the report were signed by our session clerk, Douglas Owens, and me. They were passed to the Examiner for approval and then a copy went to the Accounts Inspection Committee of the Presbytery of Ayr and a copy also went to Church of Scotland headquarters in Edinburgh. Following approval by the Accounts Inspection Committee a copy will go to the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR).

From the previous year the amount given by Standing Orders and open plate increased and the amount given by Free Will Offering envelopes decreased.

We were able to claim Gift Aid refunds of £13,000.

Fabric expenditure during the year was £2,846 as we did not have any major repairs and costs for heating, electricity, manse council tax, insurance and cleaning the church and halls were £13,770.

If you are a tax payer and use a standing order or FWO envelopes or the Wee Kirks to give money to the church we could claim 25% of the amount given back from HMRC if you sign a Gift Aid Declaration form. Contact Margaret Devlin Tel. 01292 445118 for a form or it can be downloaded from the church website www.castlehillchurch.org under the publications section. Completed forms should be returned to Margaret.

Margaret Devlin

Castlehill Parish Church of Scotland Ayr

Statement of Financial Activities

Year ended 31 December 2021

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	2021 Restricted funds £	Total funds £	2020 Total funds £
Income and endowments					
Donations and legacies	4	77,057	35	77,092	307,899
Charitable activities	5	355	–	355	613
Other trading activities	6	14,630	–	14,630	11,034
Investment income	7	6,973	5	6,978	1,748
Total income		<u>99,015</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>99,055</u>	<u>321,294</u>
Expenditure					
Expenditure on charitable activities	8,9	106,983	34	107,017	136,522
Total expenditure		<u>106,983</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>107,017</u>	<u>136,522</u>
Net (losses)/gains on investments	11	(3,939)	28	(3,911)	10,347
Net (expenditure)/income		<u>(11,907)</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>(11,873)</u>	<u>195,119</u>
Other recognised gains and losses					
Net movement in funds		<u>(11,907)</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>(11,873)</u>	<u>195,119</u>
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		287,624	2,464	290,088	94,969
Total funds carried forward		<u>275,717</u>	<u>2,498</u>	<u>278,215</u>	<u>290,088</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

Easter Bunny Hunt

We seek them here

We seek them there

It's confirmed

Every bunny is accounted for in Castlehill woods according to the 36 families who took part in Castlehill Church Annual Bunny Hunt.

What a brilliant day was enjoyed by the 103 people who came along. The excitement of the children going out to find the bunnies and then coming back so animated made it all worthwhile for those who worked on the day.

An event like this couldn't happen without the hard work of those who helped. We had 21 willing volunteers helping with registration, craft table, kitchen, serving teas and eats let's not forget the guys outside supervising the car park and woods.

To those who provided crafts for sale thank you and Prime Cuts (Ayr) for supporting us with the slice sausage. Prime Cuts are one of our latest advertisers in our magazine.

Margaret Graham, Organiser



Prime Cuts Butchers

Unit 2

49 Maybole Road

Ayr

KA7 4SF

01292 443445

Youth Church

Our youth church has been meeting since the beginning of March. At present we have 7 leaders who will be working on a rota. We also are delighted that parents are joining us to work with the children.

Hopefully more leaders and parents will join us in the future. There is a full programme of weekly bible stories from The Lion Storyteller Bible for us to work through. If you are interested in joining us please contact Margaret Graham – 07880 555779 or maggie641.mg@gmail.com

Margaret Graham



Social Committee

We are having an afternoon tea to celebrate the Queens jubilee this will be held in the main hall on Thursday 9th of June at 2pm - 4pm, all are welcome.

We have not got any other events organised at the moment but we hope to have a few other events over the Winter one being a Christmas fayre, we will keep you updated on this.

Liz Reid



In 2022, Christian Aid is re-launching its 300,000 step challenge. CA will work in conjunction with the Kilt Walk as well as fundraising through the traditional Christian Aid Week in May.

Allan Jack

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World Day of Prayer

The medium of the art work is Embroidery, Appliqué and metal work. The images depict key words:

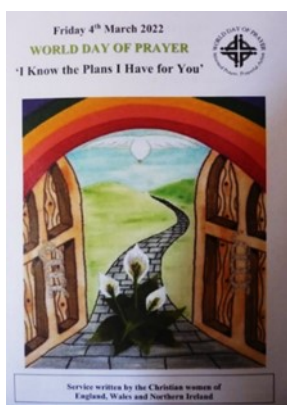
FREEDOM: an open door to a pathway across an endless open vista.

JUSTICE: broken chains.

GOD'S PEACE AND FORGIVENESS: the dove of peace and a peace lily breaking through the pavement.

OVER ALL: a rainbow which come to represent all these things from the story of Noah through to the modern day. It is a symbol of the overreaching love of God.

A service was held at Castlehill Church for the Churches in Ayr and the Guild hosted the meeting and provided the speakers.



Castlehill Foodbank

South Ayrshire
foodbank

In October 2021 it was decided we as a group should apply for some funding to purchase two cupboards for our own use. Further applications were made with no success. Then a letter dated 4th February 2022 was received from Ayr and Prestwick Lions Club enclosing a cheque for £250.00 towards purchasing the cupboards. This was followed by a text from South Ayrshire Foodbank authorising a further donation from them of £200 with a final donation being given by Castlehill Parish Church.

We would like to take this opportunity to say through this issue of the Herald how grateful and appreciative we are for this financial assistance towards our work. On Friday 18th March 2022 our Foodbank received delivery of two used cupboards specifically for our use as storage, below is a picture of the cupboards.

Since the New Year there has been a noticeable increase in people using our service, anything from six to eight enquiries every Friday when we are open between 10am and 12 Noon.

We also thank you, the members of our congregation, and others for your continued donations received on a Sunday morning and during the week. Pop in on a Friday morning if you would like to see what happens. In a future edition we will explain how the process works from your donations being made to the recipient being issued with a food box on a Friday morning.

Andrew Graham & Margaret Gerrard
Joint Foodbank Co-ordinators



Dear Friends in Castlehill

Although, since I returned from 5 years retirement from Perth in 1998, I have been a member in Kingcase Parish Church in Prestwick, I have really enjoyed worshipping in Castlehill every 3 or 4 weeks and meeting up with “old” friends and making new friends. I have found Paul’s services meaningful and helpful. He was the second of 5 members of Castlehill to become a minister, when I was with you. Two unfortunately have died and two have retired but Paul can still minister to me as well as to you!

Elsbeth, like Mure and Jane, grew up in Castlehill and enjoys worshipping with you and meeting old school friends at Church. We find a real sense of fellowship.

Thank you all and God bless you.

Sincerely and affectionately,

Michael (Dickie)

Have You Any Regrets

Most people have regrets of one kind or another – about something they have said or done, or not said or done, and are sorry they have hurt people in some way. We can of course apologise and say we are sorry and ask forgiveness. We can also confess and say “sorry” to God for any way in which we have gone against His ways and His love.

Perhaps folk in their seventies, eighties and nineties (like myself) are more conscious about regrets as our time on earth shortens and we have more time to think.

Throughout my own life I have experienced regret on quite a number of occasions at things I have said or thought, or have done. When I have owned up and said sorry and asked forgiveness it has usually ended up in better relationships. And when I have confessed to God I have experienced forgiveness and peace of heart and mind.

As a Parish Minister throughout 65 years I have regrets about mistakes I have made, and about things I have not managed to accomplish, but parishioners have been friendly and forgiving, and God has always been aware of my imperfections. But in the last few years I have been aware of the fact that I have not spoken or preached enough of the Holy Spirit and so have deprived my people of one of the greatest blessings in our lives.

Having been freed from the “hectic” life of Parish Ministry – always being on call except when out of the Manse on holiday (and occasionally even then!). I have recalled and become more conscious of the times when I was led by the Holy Spirit to do or say something I would never thought of doing or saying myself! For this reason, before I preached, conducted a Healing Service, or (as I still occasionally do) have a counselling conversation with someone. I pray that the Holy Spirit will make people quickly forget any wrong words I utter but let the person remember the helpful words which take root and bear fruit and so let the Holy Spirit guide them. The Holy Spirit is Jesus working in our lives today. If you have not already done so I pray that you will become conscious of His Presence and let Him into your inmost being and so experience the peace and joy and guidance He will bring you.

Michael Dickie

P.S. If you happen to be a person who was ever offended or hurt by anything I said or did, or omitted to say or do, I ask you to love and forgive me.

If there is one individual who can be said to have shaped the Church of Scotland of the 20th century, it is probably the minister and theologian Archibald Charteris (1835-1908).

Charteris, Moderator of the General Assembly in 1892, was instrumental in the founding of the Guild, restoring the office of Deaconess in the Church, and helping to establish the national social care initiative that would evolve into the Social Care Council (CrossReach).

And in amongst all that, he found time to start a magazine.

Charteris, and his Committee on Christian Life and Work, identified that there was a demand for a distinctively Scottish Christian magazine for ministers to circulate in their parishes, complaining that the many English publications were 'very nearly unintelligible to the untravelled Scot'.

The General Assembly of May 1878 was persuaded, and eight months later Life and Work was born – and it has been informing, uplifting, moving, connecting and occasionally enraging the Church of Scotland ever since.

Later editors would recall that the new publication faced scepticism and even ridicule from elements of the Church establishment but, distributed through the parish churches with a supplement for local news, Life and Work quickly became part of the furniture and - with the exception of a two-month break because of a printer's strike in 1959 – it has published monthly ever since.

Typically, Charteris handed over the editorship and moved on to his next project after a year, but by then he had established the template that in many ways remains to this day: news of the Church at local, national and international level, commentary on the key issues of the day from a Scottish Christian perspective, prayer, spiritual guidance and Bible study, interviews and profiles of key figures within the Church.

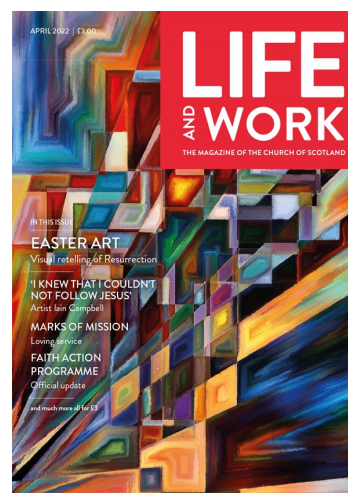
With the editor answerable only to the General Assembly for the content of the magazine, Life and Work has never been a conventional 'in-house' publication or the mouthpiece of the Church hierarchy. Instead, it has been positioned as a critical friend: always wanting the best for the organisation, but free to publish negative opinion or to stray outside the official line.

At the union with the United Free Church of Scotland in 1929, the churches' magazines merged too, becoming 'Life and Work: the Record of the Church of Scotland'. Colour started to appear on the covers of the 1950s, and the magazine eventually went full colour in 1996.

With the coming of the internet it moved online, firstly on Facebook and Twitter and then with the launch of www.lifeandwork.org, which offers up-to-date news, exclusive features and extracts from the magazine. You can now also read the whole magazine in digital form, on computer, tablet or smartphone.

But however you choose to read, Life and Work remains an essential news source and platform for discussion for the whole Church.

For all the postal and digital subscription options, including special offers for new subscribers, visit www.lifeandwork.org/subscribe, or speak to your church's Life and Work co-ordinator.



Heavenly Father and Lord Jesus,
Great is your faithfulness to us all

Prayer Group

We thank you for this new day and the gifts it will bring.

The loveliness of the Spring season as new life is shown through nature: in gardens, fields and by rivers constantly flowing and the sign of flowers coming through in small buds.

For the gift of our families where life is enjoyed: the birth of a new baby bringing joy to a home and watching as they grow into that person you would have them be.

For the fellowship of family and friends: the sharing and chatting about each others experiences as we walk our individual road of faith.

For the help offered and accepted when things go wrong. Support us to help people when they need it most: those in hospital unwell, being treated by the doctors and nurses to regain health after an operation, illness or end of life care. Be with them all.

For the bereaved who have lost a dear loved one. Help them to think of the life that person has had with the memories of special times enjoyed. Help them move forward to a new chapter in their lives.

We pray for the situations others find themselves in such as the war in Ukraine.
We pray for everyone who is helping in any way to support people escaping the war torn areas with the love and kindness of complete strangers.
Help them find peace in each other and a quick end to the war.

There are also many other spoken and unspoken prayers we offer you today for people we know.

Hear our prayers.
Amen

Prayer Issues:

April	Easter Services	On going Church of Scotland Discussions.
May	Youth Church	Future use of Church buildings.
June	Guiding - all sections	General Assembly Meeting and decisions.

Andrew Graham
Prayer Contact 261486

Fabric Report

We were very lucky and did not have a lot of damage from the storms at the start of the year, only some fascia boards at the back of the church and D.Yates came and repaired them the following week.

We are having a look around the inside of the buildings and we need to refresh some walls as there are a few scuff marks, the lounge needs a total paint job and J.McLurkin has offered to help with this as we are getting back to use this room

We are so grateful for all the help that Jim gives us with all the paint jobs in the church but we also need more help with the decor of the church inside and out.

We have had a problem with the drains at the car park and going to the north hall. There has been a lot of rain in the last few months and this is an ongoing issue that will be resolved soon.

We have had new smoke alarms fitted and also a full EICR check and PAC test done so all our safety checks are up to date.

We are very grateful for all your help and donations to keep the building safe and in good order.

The Fabric Team

Wee Kirks

Yes, it is that time again! You will be having a visit from your collector soon. They enjoyed being out meeting you all again in December and from the welcome they got - you seemed pleased to see them once more. Sadly, so many good causes require our monetary assistance and it is difficult to support them all but we do appreciate your continued help in giving to our Church. Anyone needing to arrange a collection can contact me on 737459. Take care.



Wellwood Grierson

Winter Winner!



You may remember the front cover for the Winter magazine was designed as part of a competition with entrants from Forehill Primary School. Here is the winner, Layla, pictured with her published winning entry. Congratulations Layla!

Attention Photographers!

For 2023 we intend producing a Castlehill Church Calendar. From December 2021 through to October 2022 we are asking you to submit photographs of our area. Let us know where the photograph was taken, date, your name and any other information you wish to give us.

We will select a picture for each month and calendars will be on sale during December 2022. A big thank you to those who have already supplied photographs. It will be no easy task selecting which ones will be used in the Castlehill 2023 Calendar.

Please send your submission to maggie641.mg@gmail.com

Margaret Graham
Publicity Group

Food Hygiene

Last year the Church of Scotland General Trustees welcomed members of congregations to undertake the REHIS Introduction to Food Hygiene course. This course is an accredited and industry accepted introductory food hygiene course.

The course provides participants with knowledge and skills to be able to handle and prepare low risk food safely.



Photo:

Back row – Margaret Gerrard, Linda Telfer, Marion Reid, Liz Boag

Front row - Margaret Graham, Martha Mullins, Catherine Holland

Missing is Marlene Forbes

Anyone interested in undertaking this course please contact Margaret Graham, maggie641.mg@gmail.com

Margaret Graham

Seniors Afternoon

Traditionally at Christmas we would have had Forehill School singing carols, but this was not to be this year. We had however, on 14th December, a Christmas

selection from Hugh and Friends from Maybole, ably conducted by our organist, Liz Kelly. It was an excellent afternoon and well attended.

On 8th February we had a different type of entertainment from the Ukulele band, with the opportunity for everyone to join in with lots of old favourites. A few of our friends were missing due to illness and other circumstances and our thoughts were with them all.

Meeting in the main hall is perhaps not so “cosy” as the North Hall but we will continue to do this for this year. On April 12th at 2.30pm we will be entertained again by Hugh and Friends with a new programme which I am sure will be an enjoyable one. We look forward to seeing everyone again. Remember it is not just for Church members but for all in the Parish and anywhere else really. Please feel free to bring along a friend.

Wellwood Grierson

Guild

We have had a very successful session, even with the problems of Covid 19. In the circumstances it is astonishing that we have had only two call-offs due to our scheduled speakers coming down with the virus. However, both have indicated that they would be willing to come during our 2022/23 session.



Our numbers have remained high with an average attendance of 35. Our AGM was on 23rd March and the committee was re-elected “en masse”.

Our new session will start on 5th October, and we look forward to welcoming returning and any new members.

We hope you all stay safe and well and enjoy the Summer sunshine.

Dorothy Jack, Secretary

The Boys' Brigade at Castlehill has continued our meetings with Covid mitigations. The Anchor Boys have continued to meet at their usual time on a Tuesday while the Junior and Company Sections have been meeting for a reduced time to allow both sections to use the Main Hall. We are very confident we will return to our normal hours when the new session starts in August, after two years of disruption.

We were delighted that one of our annual fundraising events was able to take place after having to be cancelled last year, our Burn's Lunch took place in February with limited numbers because of Covid restrictions. We were entertained by Matthew Doolan reciting the Address to a Haggis and brothers Callum and Fraser Murray with their talented acoustic guitar accompaniment to Caledonia and Auld Lang Syne. The biggest joy from the lunch was having our BB friends and church friends enjoying the chance to socialise in our hall, chatting over a delicious Bill O' Fayre, prepared by Margaret Graham.



After the current session Margaret Graham is stepping down from her roll as OIC Anchor Boys, her position will be filled by Craig McGeachin who is currently an officer in both the Anchor Boys and Junior Section. Margaret joined the staff of the Anchor Boys when her son was a member. It was during the vacancy between Michael Dickie and Ian Stirling, I addressed the congregation telling them, if we can't find volunteers to run our youth organisation we won't be able to find a new minister, Margaret was waiting in the vestibule to speak to me about volunteering. What an asset she has been ever since. Margaret will be staying on as an officer within the Anchor boys and as treasurer of the Company. I thank Margaret very much for her leadership of the Anchor Boys for more years than either of us care to remember. We also wish Craig all the best in his new role and thank him for stepping forward to take up his new position.

As part of our ongoing fundraising we are taking part in the Kilt Walk on Sunday 24th April. There are five officers, three parents and a few supporters of the 17th Ayr taking part in the 23 mile hike. Hopefully there will be good weather. Pictured to the left is the team from 17th Ayr at the finish line of the last Kilt Walk we participated in.

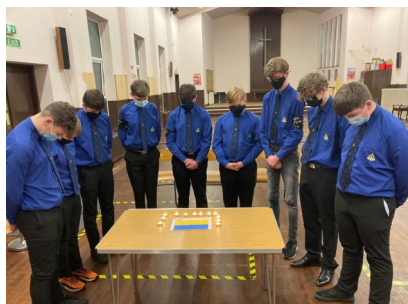


Our fifth trip to Romania has been planned for the 1st week in August. We still hold out hope that this will go ahead but it is very dependent on the outcome of the war in Ukraine. Our insurers confirmed if our trip to Romania was to be cancelled because of war we would not be covered for any costs already incurred. Fortunately, when war broke out, we had not yet booked our flights.

Our friends in Romania have been helping with some of the Ukrainian refugees. One of the two accommodation blocks, Bannatyne House, which is no longer required by the residents, has been given an upgrade and is now rented out as short term lets on Airbnb. This is the accommodation we have booked for our trip in August. The Foundation are using this accommodation for Ukrainian refugees who are transiting through Romania. They put each family group up for a couple of days to allow them to rest and get fed before they resume their journey, most are heading to Poland from the South of Ukraine. We made an offer to the director of the Foundation, Ibi, to forward her a good proportion of our fundraising so far to support their efforts with the refugees. She welcomed our offer and will regard it as a reserve fund if they exhaust what they have currently budgeted for the refugee support.



Our Boys took some time out on one of our Friday meetings to light a candle and share a prayer for Ukraine. The Boys' Brigade have published a prayer for Ukraine which we have undertaken to share every Friday until the war is over.



On Friday 25th March the Junior Section held a sponsored silence to raise money for the Ukrainian refugees, at the time of going to press they had raised £400, well done boys.

Ian Queen

Funerals

December

Janet Mitchell Holmston Crescent, Ayr

January

Jean Lee Windy Hall Nursing Home

Sheila Nicol Firbank, Ayr



A Life Worth Living

If this life is all we had
and our hopes were centred here
in a topsy turvy world full of crime
there'd be little point in living
with the threat of dying near –
everyday would be a waste of time

We can laugh and celebrate
through everything life brings -
loneliness and sorrow, joy or pain:
We have no fear of dying – death has
lost its sting
-If Heaven is our future,
we've everything to gain

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