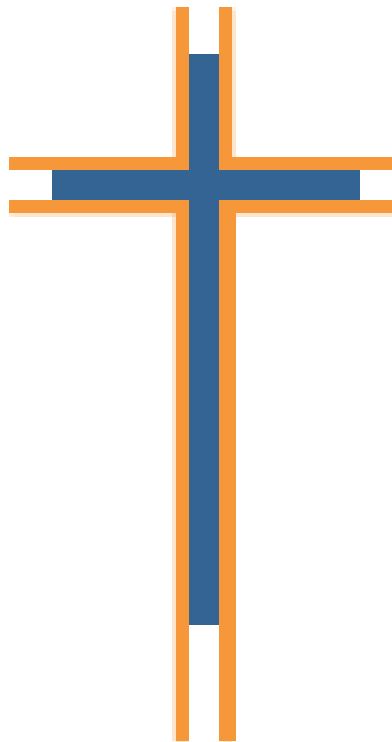


The Herald
Castlehill Parish Church
Spring 2024



Editorial

After looking through previous versions of the magazines we have decided to go back to basics with our front cover for this edition of the Herald. We have also included an article from a previous magazine within this one. The previous magazines are all on the Church website if you would like to have a look and reminisce.

It is lovely to see how many activities are thriving during the Winter months in the Church, with everyone getting ready for their summer outings—hopefully you can find something to participate in.

I hope you all have a lovely Summer when it comes.

Rachel Queen, Editor

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

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Secretary	Mr Alfred Reid, Office Tel. 01292 431143 E-mail castlehillchurch44@gmail.com
Session Clerk	Mr. Douglas Owens, Tel. 442062
Church Website:	www.castlehillchurch.org
Charity Number	SC001792

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

As we approach Holy week we find the world troubled by war. The sadness is there is never a time we are not troubled by war. The difference is now we ourselves are being transported into the heart of the conflicts, we are shown the horrors, and we hear the testimonies of those who suffer. When, two years ago we were actively supporting Ukrainian refugees we never thought this conflict would last for this length of time. Now we watch the horrors of what is happening in Palestine, wondering when will these horrors end?

The situation in the Middle East between Israel and Palestine is a complex confrontation marked by historical, political, and religious dimensions. As Christians we must advocate for peace and diplomacy. There are Christians living within both the Israeli and the Palestinian communities. Prayer for them is the strongest weapon they can use to end the conflict. We need to join them in prayers for diplomacy, peace and ultimately reconciliation.

If I can be excused, I would like to repeat a previous Easter message.

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. Our Hallelujahs will resound again — hold onto your Easter faith: nothing can separate us from the love of God in Jesus.

Lord, let us send the gift of peace

We pray for the gift of peace,
That hatred may turn to understanding,
Anger to compassion and horror to hope

May you experience the blessings and hope of Easter in your homes!

Peace be with you.

Paul

EASTER SERVICES

PALM SUNDAY 24TH MARCH

EASTER SUNDAY 31ST MARCH

You are invited to share breakfast on Easter Sunday morning in the main hall at 9.30am. Filled roll - sausage, bacon, tattie scone or egg. Any dietary needs please let us know. Easter service will be at 11am.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

If any services are arranged, we will announce them from the pulpit and will promote them through our Facebook page.

Finance

The Church' financial year ended on 31 December 2023. Members of the Congregational Board and Kirk Session are Trustees of our congregation.

The Annual Report and Financial Accounts, which had nineteen pages, 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 and then they were passed to the Examiner for approval. I am awaiting details of where to send a copy to the Accounts Inspection Committee of the Presbytery of South West Scotland. A copy 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 £13,537 and a VAT refund of £859 under the Listed Places of Worship Scheme.

Fabric expenditure during the year was £10,617.15 for general repairs and maintenance and included £4,182 for two extra speakers in the church. Costs for heating, electricity, manse council tax, insurance and cleaning the church and halls were £17,937. Our electricity and gas is supplied by a contract which the Church of Scotland has with an energy supplier. After a three year period the previous contract ended and it changed to a new supplier on 1 October. The charges have doubled due to increases during that time.

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

Moanin' Minnie

"Hello Jean, how are you today?"

"I'm fine Minnie, how about yersel? You look a bit shattered."

"Aye. Ah have jist been tae the Zumba at the Kirk Halls."

"Ah didna know they did that at the Kirk."

"Ye have nae idea whit goes on there. Ah got a leaflet the ither day, an you should see a' the activities. Mind you a didnae read it that close, or Ah wid have seen that the first session wis super active, well it wis tae me. If Ah read further on, there wis a class for older buddies and no near as strenuous"

"But you are no that auld Minnie" "A thocht that but Ah'm no sae sure noo."

"Is there onything else goin' on there?"

"Oh jings aye, Ah looked at the Bowlin' on Mondays but the folk goin' in looked a bit too professional tae me. Ah'm kinnie lookin at the Guild on a Wednesday, but it's a bit dark at nicht," Ah went tae the Thursday Warm Room. Noo there wis an eyeopener, They wir playin' cairds in the Kirk Hall. Ma faither wid have turned in his grave. Cairds in the Kirk, whit next. Ah'll tell ye tae, some looked gie keen as well, so Ah steered clear o' that.

Some o' the crafts looked interestin' an' Ah think Ah'll go back and have a go at them. Ah like the bit where ye can sit bye yersel and read or do whatever. Ah heard a lot o wee bits o'news, but maybe that wis private. Some folk wid ca' it gossip but of course that's no me!! Ye get a cup o' tea as weel so whits no to like and hey its free."

"Hiv ye got a copy o' that leaflet so Ah can have a look?" "Aye here ye are"

"Maybe Ah'll gie it a go. You'r no moanin much the day Minnie"

"Ah will be in a wee while, ma backs killin' me."

"Weel ye should have read the thing richt tae start wi. Ah notice the Rainbows are on on Mondays, maybe that wid suit ye better"

"Och, get lost Jean"

Attention Photographers

We are looking to update the banner photograph on the Church website, if you have a photograph which can be used for this purpose please send it to Margaret Graham, maggie641.mg@gmail.com, for consideration.

Our Girlguiding Units are still as busy as ever. They are mostly working on their badgework and unit meeting activities. We are looking forward to the light nights and better weather hopefully in order that we can get outdoors again.



We had our Thinking Day Service on 18th February for which we would like to thank Paul for organising a great service which the girls enjoyed participating in and our County Commissioner Fiona Robertson who attended the service enjoyed.



After the service the girls had a packed lunch in the hall and they then took part in crafts and games in the hall.

While at Castlehill we are quite healthy for Leaders at the moment, we would always welcome a few more as due to family and work commitments the Leaders are not always available every week. If you or anyone you know would like to volunteer to help, please visit our Girlguiding UK website where you will find details. Dalrymple Units form part of our Castlehill & Doon District and they in particular are in desperate need of help at this time so if you know anyone who would be willing to volunteer with that unit, please speak to myself, Rachel or any of the other Leaders.

Linda McClurkin & Rachel Richmond
Castlehill & Doon District



COLOURS

Our original Girlguiding colours were dedicated on 11th October 1956 and as you will appreciate they were becoming quite threadbare and a bit shabby.

It was decided that we would start to fundraise in order to replace our flags.

Before Christmas a coffee evening/quiz took place and with the proceeds of this plus what was left of the chocolate from our stall at the Christmas fayre we raised £228.63. There was an additional amount of donations in the sum of £170, making a total raised of £438.63. Once again we were amazed with the generosity of people and we would like to take this opportunity of thanking everyone who donated.

We have now purchased the Union Jack which was paraded for the first time at our Thinking Day Service in February and a thank you goes to Colin McLean for transferring the flag and



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securing the new one.

We are still in the process of sourcing a flag for our district flag and this is because there is difficulty with Girlguiding branding but we hope to be able to purchase one very soon, at which point we will arrange for dedication of both flags.

We would once again thank you for all the support that you give to Girlguiding at Castlehill.

Linda McClurkin & Rachel Richmond

Joint District Commissioners



The work of Christian Aid continues apace. Apart from the headline grabbing events in Eastern Europe and the Middle East, CA is still working in all regions of the world especially in sub-Saharan Africa. Christian Aid week this year is from the 12th to the 18th of May. Don't worry, donation envelopes will be available in plenty of time.

To enable us to replace items in our main kitchen we will be holding a donation fund raising soup lunch on the 1st Sunday of each month (September to March). Tea/coffee will be available as usual.



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You will probably remember the story from 2020 about Dougald Donnely and the missing colours. For those who don't know the story, here's a brief recap.

In March 2020, just before lockdown, a social worker in Glasgow contacted me to say a colleague had died and amongst his possessions they had found our original Company Colours. These had gone missing in 1997. What became of them was a complete mystery. Dougald had been a member of 17th Ayr BB in the sixties while a resident at St. Leonards home for boys. I met Dougald when he came to the church one Friday night. He told me the happiest memories of his childhood had been in Castlehill Church Hall at the BB. Dougald, who had mental health issues, took the colours to have a reminder of the happy times of his youth. The day the social worker contacted me was the day of Dougald's funeral, I was delighted to be able to attend. I found out so much more about his life.

One year after this I was again contacted by Hugh, the social worker. After Dougald's estate had been wound up there was a few hundred pounds left. The social workers decide the money should come to the 17th Ayr BB, since we meant so much to Dougald.

We have used this money to have the Colours framed and hopefully very soon they will be adorning a public space for all to see. Thanks to Margaret Graham for organising this.



We are again going to visit our Romanian cousins this summer. Nineteen of us are travelling to Targur Mures on Sunday 28th July returning on 4th August. For the first time we are travelling from Edinburgh to Bucharest. Our costs have escalated in the two years since we last visited. We are therefore having to do some serious fundraising. There is a team of us taking part in the Kilt Walk, a 23 mile challenge from Glasgow Green to Balloch. When the Just Giving page is live we will advertise in the intimations and on the church Facebook page. The other major fundraiser we are hosting is a Race Night. This will be in Kincaidston Community Hall on Saturday 1st June. Tickets will be available @ £5

Our Anchor Section (Primary 1-3) once again attended the Ayr Battalion Anchor Boys games afternoon at the Citadel in February. The Anchor Boys have an annual colouring in competition, the prizes for which were handed out at this event, three of our boys were presented with Commended Certificates, Jax Ferguson, Nathan Bell and Max Higgins. East Ayrshire Battalion are holding a similar competition which is open to all companies in the joint Ayrshire Battalions, our boys will be entering.



Our Junior Section has been having another good session with 19 boys enrolled. We are looking forward to welcoming 2 new boys who are due to move up from Anchors after the summer. We will also be losing six boys who will be due to move up to the Company Section. Following on from our sleep over in the Main Hall last year we plan to hold another one this summer.

On May 10th we will be holding our annual display and awards for the first time since 2019. It will be a delight to have all three sections in the same space, it acts as an incentive to the younger boys when they see the older boys and what can be achieved.

As we approach Easter I remind the Boys, without the crucifixion of Jesus, the Boys' Brigade wouldn't exist. Take time to reflect on the meaning of this event and celebrate the resurrection.

I wish you all a very Happy Easter.

Ian Queen

Coffee Shop

Congratulations to our coffee shop Christmas prize winner Margaret Gerrard, pictured below left with Paul. A big thank you to our entertainers at the coffee shop Burns celebration - a great time was had by all, pictured below right.



We have been quieter for the last two to three weeks which is quite unusual but we are sure that will change in the not too distant future.

An advisor from the council has been coming in regularly since the New Year and has helped several clients.

We would like to thank everyone for their continued support and their donations, be it goods or money, including the Boys Brigade.

The South Ayrshire Foodbank is very grateful for the collection from Castlehill Church as their donations from the supermarket donation points are down as everyone struggles with the cost of living.

Once again thank you as the service would not exist without generous people like yourselves.

Margaret Gerrard and Andrew Graham

Bowling Club



Another successful session is coming to an end. Although the numbers were slightly down due to a variety of reasons, the enthusiasm did not diminish. Competitions took place and it was decided that since some of the previous winners had only received their trophies at the end of the year, continuing them into next session would allow them to have them for the full year. This may be reviewed for next year later in the year.

A closing party was enjoyed on the 18th March after the A.G.M and hopefully an outing can again be arranged in the Summer at Girvan as usual.

Wellwood Grierson

Winter Activities Afternoons

The warm spaces has been very successful over the winter months. We have all enjoyed our activities and there is a lovely atmosphere in the hall. Our group are enjoying making new friends and learning new activities. We finish on 21st March and will resume in September. Please come along and enjoy the company there is nothing better than a good chat with friends over a cup of tea or coffee.

Liz Hardie, Lead



Fabric Report

We have now replaced the window and the lights in the Alan Bailey room and Jim has kindly offered to redecorate the room. We also have replaced a light and put a new fan in the gents toilet in the main building. We are going around and replacing all the old lights when they go out with new more efficient lights. We are also looking to replace bulbs in the sanctuary but sourcing the bulbs is taking time, We have some scaffolding on loan for this job. We are trying to keep up to date with repairs before we catch up on outdoor maintenance that needs to be done in better weather. There are books in place so if you see something that is needing attention please put a note in the book. We are grateful for the donation of a new kettle for the main kitchen thank you.

The Fabric Committee

Social Report

We had a Daffodil Tea on Saturday 16th of March in the main hall. This was a fundraiser for fabric, thank you to everyone for attending. Next event will be a Beetle Drive in September then it will be the Christmas Fayre, dates to be arranged.

The Social Committee

The Guild

“Whose we are and Whom we Serve”

Acts 27 verse 23



We are coming to the end of another successful session. Our numbers are still growing, which is encouraging.

We have had talks from Ken Nairn about Ayr, Brian McBride on Mission Aviation Fellowship and Christine Prout on Iona. We also managed a coffee evening to raise funds for our charity ‘Guide Dogs’, where we had an introduction to their Ambassador Dog ‘Hobi’. Finally, we had a video night on UNIDA, one of the Guild Project Partners and a gathering of the Guild held in Edinburgh.

Our Summer outing is an evening meal to the Chestnuts Hotel on 15th May.

This year, the World Day of Prayer was hosted by the Guild from Newton Wallacetown Church. The theme was ‘I beg you, bear with one another in love’ prepared by the World Day of Prayer Committee of Palestine where our Convenor, Marion Reid, took part.

We restart again on 2nd October, so please put the date in your diaries as everyone is welcome and we hope to have a syllabus of interesting speakers.

In the meantime, on behalf of the Committee, we hope that you all continue to keep well, stay safe and enjoy the Summer when it comes!

Dorothy Jack, Secretary



Continuing our articles of looking back to old magazines we found lots of interesting articles. One article from Spring 2011 caught our eye as it relates to the Zumba classes taking place in the church hall. It is amazing to think that 13 years later the classes are still going strong with the same instructor. Below is the article from 2011, perhaps it will inspire you to go along to one of the classes.

EVERYBODY'S DOING IT!

Yes, they really are! And Castlehill Church is up there with the best of them offering classes on a Wednesday morning in our excellent hall.

What is it that attracts mainly, but not exclusively, ladies to classes once, twice and even three times a week? What is being offered in venues all over Ayr - morning, noon and night? Why, it's Zumba, of course. An aerobic mixture of Latin, African and Oriental dance it is highly, but harmlessly, addictive. (Harmless as long as you don't suffer from a dicky ticker or dodgy knees –you need to know your limits!)

It's hard, -it really is - but somehow the buzz it gives makes it all worthwhile – that and the shrinking waistline and better-defined hips.

Like most classes involving movement, it's mainly ladies who are brave enough to try it out but, gents, I assure you, it is a perfectly macho activity in the States and you would be welcome at most classes here.

In Glasgow there are even enlightened companies providing classes in the lunch hour for their employees! Lyna was the first to bring Zumba to Ayr and, within a year, it became established all over town and now teachers have to hunt for suitable premises. Our hall is a good, big space with a stage and elevated platform making it easier to see the teacher.

The teacher at Castlehill is Kirsty and she is a qualified Pilates teacher who has followed a course in teaching Zumba. I saw some members of the congregation having good fun at her class. How many weeks is it to the summer holidays? Still time to shape up for beach!

Another item from previous magazines we have decided to bring back is a children's section. For those young in age and young at heart!

First up, time to test your brain on your Bible knowledge. The answers are on Page 14, but no peeking!

1. What was the name of Jesus' mother?
2. What was the name of the garden where Adam and Eve lived?
3. What food did Jesus feed 5,000 people?
4. What method did the Romans use to kill Jesus?
5. From which part of Adam's body did God create Eve?
6. Who, when accused of being with Jesus, lied and said that he did not know him, three times?
7. Which creature tricked Eve into eating the forbidden fruit?
8. At Christ's crucifixion what did the soldier place on his head?
9. What is the first line of the Lord's Prayer?
10. What relationship was Ruth to Naomi?

Palm Sunday Word Search

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

Branches

Clothes

Crowds

Donkey

Hosanna

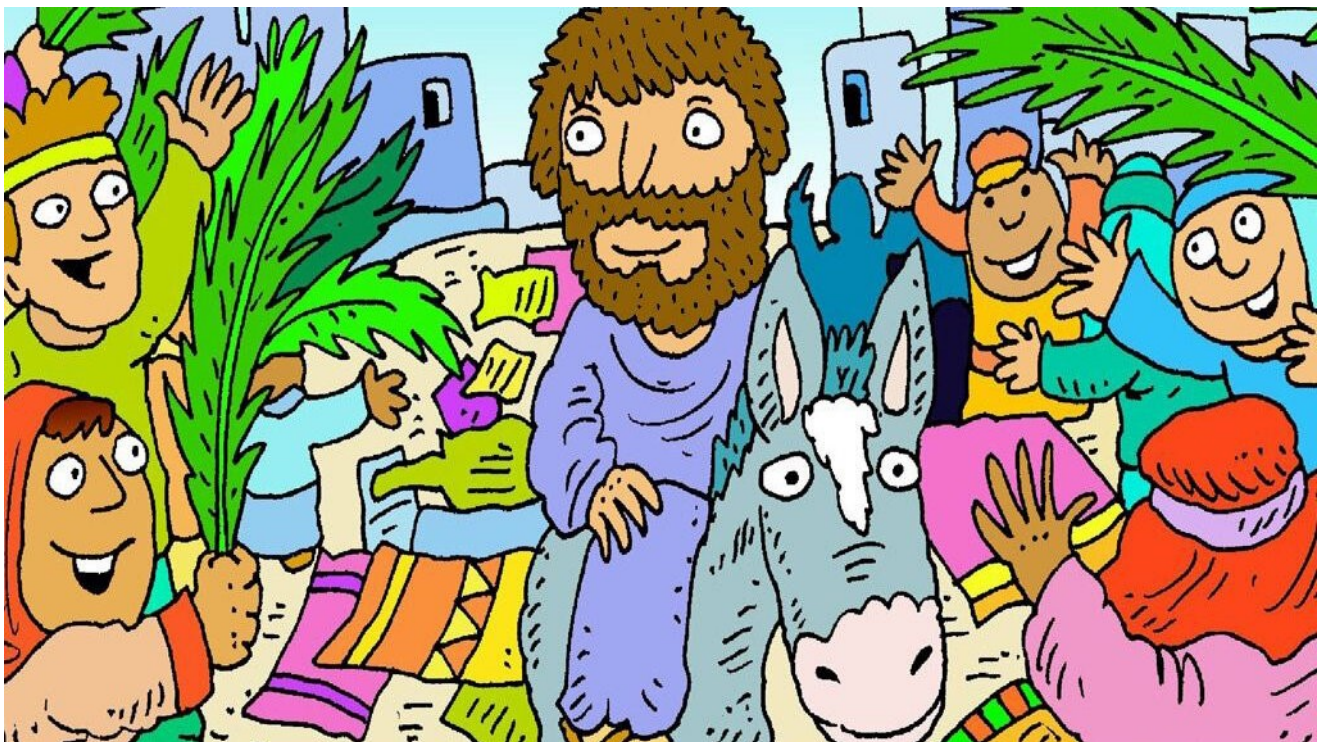
Jerusalem

Jesus

King

Palm

Triumph



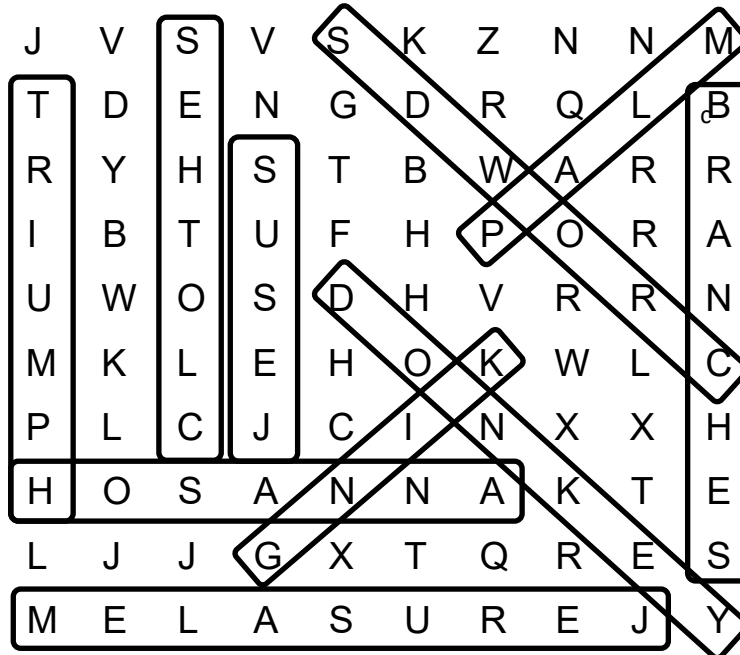
Answers

Quiz

Below are the answers to the quiz from page 12. We have provided the section of the bible where you can look and perhaps encourage you to look more deeply into the passages that interest you.

1. Mary (Matt 1:18)
2. Garden of Eden (Gen 2:8)
3. Loaves of bread and fishes (Matt 14:19)
4. Crucifixion (Mark 15:25)
5. Rib (Gen 3:1-6)
6. (Simon) Peter (Matt 26:69-74)
7. Serpent (Gen 3:1-6)
8. Crown of Thorns (Matt 27:29)
9. Our Father which art in heaven (Matt 6:9)
10. Daughter in law (Ruth 1:4)

Word Search



Funerals

November

Robert McIlwraith Laurel Bank, Ayr

Robert Jackson Hollow Park, Ayr

December

Marjorie Laird Whiteford View, Ayr

John Cowan Treebank Crescent, Ayr

Margaret Irving Creggan Bahn, Ayr

January

Nettie Bell Hillfoot Road, Ayr

February

Martha Mitchell Thistle Walk, Ayr

Walter White Willow Park, Ayr

Marlyn Dunlop Ladycross Place, Maybole

Our thanks goes to the following people for donating flowers to the church between January and April:

Morven Pettigrew, Dot McCormack, Mary Hendry, Pamela MacDougall, Frances Russell, Joanna Currie, Liz Reid, Liz Hardie, Christine Prout, Liz Hunter, Elise Henderson, Cathy Carmichael, Tommy and Sandra Chalmers, May Ferries, Ellen Walters, Catherine Holland and Margaret McCormack.

Thanks also to the flower arranging team and delivery team:

Frances Russell, Stella Nixon, Catherine Holland, Allison Smith, Margaret Gerrard, Lyn McDermott, May Harris, Margaret Grierson, Margaret Devlin, Liz Hunter, Moira Alexander and Elizabeth Reid.

There are still a few spaces available for anyone looking to donate flowers, please contact Stella Nixon for further information.



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