

# The Herald

Castlehill Parish Church

Autumn 2011



## Editorial

Summer has now almost gone, and some will say “What Summer?” But there were a lot of good days, warm sunshine and pleasant evenings. How many Sundays could we not see the screen in the Church because of the sun? Perhaps we dwell too much on what was bad and forget the other times when the sun shone.

Does our preoccupation with the weather extend further into our lives that we can only view the sad and upsetting events in our world and miss what is good and uplifting. Surely the teachings of the Bible are full of messages of optimism and shy away from negative thoughts. The flood was a disaster, but it was followed by God’s promise in the rainbow. The sick pushed their way into Jesus’ path full of hope without a thought of rejection. Even the tragedy of the Crucifixion was a prelude to the promise of eternal life for us all. Let us resolve to remember the sunshine and forget about the rain.

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<b>Charity Number</b>	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](mailto: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



## Sharing the light

I took this picture of a lighthouse as we approached Nassau in the Bahamas on holiday this year. As well as being important to shipping, it is also a thing of beauty.

I recently watched a programme about the Stevensons who engineered many of the lighthouses around our coasts. Their efforts saved countless lives but also produced marvellous feats of engineering wrought through perseverance and determination.

*Jesus said: You are like light for the whole world*

As people of faith, we are called to beautify the world around us and to shed light in the darkest of situations, a calling that takes hard work and persistence, a work that will make a difference to many lives.

As the nights draw in may there be lots of light in your life.

Blessings

Liz Crumlish

[www.liz-vicarofdibley.blogspot.com](http://www.liz-vicarofdibley.blogspot.com)



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### Alternative Worship

On the last Sunday of every month, (except July, August and December) at 9:45am there is a Service of Wholeness and Healing.- a quiet reflective service of prayer and communion.

On the last Wednesday of the month, September to March at 7pm, there is a Taize Service

On the last Saturday of the month at 9:30 am, a breakfast service for men.

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### Jazz Band

On Sunday 23rd October, worship will be led by the Rae Bros New Orleans Jazz Band

### A new student for Castlehill

In October, we will be welcoming Mandy Hickman who is training for the Auxiliary Ministry. Mandy will complete her final placement, a year's probation, over the next year at Castlehill. We look forward to welcoming Mandy and enjoying her ministry among us..Mandy will introduce herself and her family in the next edition of The Herald



## Down memory lane...

Retiral of Rev Ian Bell

Best Wishes to Ian Bell on his retiral from Erskine Parish Church on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2011.

Ian gave up his television repairs business in 1985 to enter the ministry and after being assistant minister at various Ayr Churches he was ordained at St. Margaret's Greenock in May 1990. He then moved to Erskine Parish Church in 1998.

May also decided to become a minister and was Associate minister at Sherwood Greenlaw Church at Paisley before moving to her present charge at St. Andrew's Trinity in Johnstone. Ian and May were both elders at Castlehill and are well known to our congregation having been involved in various activities within the church.

Ian was a dedicated B.B. officer with the 17th Ayr. May along with Ann Hamilton started the Tuesday Coffee Shop assisted by Nancy Queen and Joan Carson and is delighted that it is still going strong. She also started the House Prayer Groups and was also involved with the Youth Group.

The Reverend Michael Dickie, who has been a great friend to them over the years, gave a lovely talk at Ian's retirement service.

We hope Ian has a happy, healthy retirement and wish him and May all the best for the future.



### And, from Michael Dickie -

I thought some of you who knew our former assistants; Iain Thomson and Ian Groves would be interested in my recent visit to Aberdeenshire. Marella Grigor, Joan Macfie and myself attended Iain Thomson's farewell service in Skene Church. He has been Minister there for 40 years since leaving Castlehill. Marella, Joan and I were greatly moved at the reception we received from his people and by the sincere and loving tributes paid to Iain by former assistants, fellow clergymen and from all age groups in the congregation. Iain himself paid grateful tribute to the support and encouragement he had received from the folk at Castlehill as he began his Ministry. I took the good wishes of those of you who knew him, for his retirement.

I also managed to visit Ian and Ann Groves in the West Church, Inverurie, and was greatly impressed at what they had accomplished. The Church building has been converted into a traidcraft shop and restaurant on the ground floor and the worship area is where the gallery/balcony was. The place is a hive of activity and you will be served a wonderful meal if you visit there. Ann is the manager of the shop and restaurant which are staffed by volunteers. Like Iain Thomson they send their kind regards to those of you who knew them.



**How many of these Session members can you identify?**

## A thought from Douglas Moore, Auxiliary Minister

When I was out for a walk recently, I came across a Jackdaw. The poor thing was dead, lying on its back with its feet in the air. There wasn't a mark on it. I thought that even if I threw it up into the air many times over, it would never fly again. It would never again perch on a branch or join in nature's hymn to the morning. You see the spark of life had gone. It got me thinking how tenuous and precious life is. God knew about and cared about that jackdaw. He loves and cares for us much more of course. We know we should love our neighbour as ourselves, but I sometimes think we tend to forget that God gave us the land and the creatures that live upon it to tend and manage. They are a gift from God, but in a desire for profit, we have somehow lost sight of that. There is an Indian proverb that is very wise.

**Only when the last tree has died and the last river been poisoned and the last fish been caught will we realise we cannot eat money.**

Cree Indian Proverb

Maybe we should begin to consider how our eggs are produced or cattle kept or how meat gets to our table. Maybe we should consider eating seasonal vegetables more and buying less vegetables and fruit that have been airlifted from the other side of the world.

Perhaps we should consider that there is probably enough food produced in the world for everyone to eat well, but politics and war get in the way. Perhaps if the world cut its arms bill and used the money to distribute food from areas of plenty to areas of need the world would be a better place.

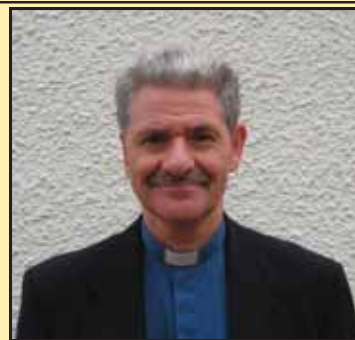
You see, loving and caring for the bounty of the earth is not an option for those on the fringe of society. God has given us stewardship of this wonderful world and expects us to tend and care for it as expressions of his love. We as Christians can make a difference and show others that how the earth, its plants, crops and animals is important and matters. If we don't then eventually our precious resources will disappear and it will be too late. Like the jackdaw I saw which could not be revived, there will be no going back for the earth's resources.

There is fine balance to all of this of course. It is all too easy to get caught up in a concern for ecology that we aren't able to enjoy the fruits of creation as we ought. The world is a wonderful place. We are the stewards of this wonderful world. Let us resolve to be more thoughtful in our use of the resources we have, so that they will be there for future generations as well.

As we love God, our neighbour and ourselves, let us also love and tend the resources that are in our keeping.

God bless you.

Douglas



## And from Tom McLeod, Auxiliary Minister in Training

Hi there,

In late 2008 I felt that God was challenging me to do more in the Church and so having investigated my options I chose to study to become an Auxiliary Minister. So in May 2009 I contacted Liz to see if she would be willing to have me as an "Explorer". Fortunately for me she said yes - a decision I am sure she now often regrets.

That meant my wife Linda and I started attending Castlehill. Right from the start we were made to feel very welcome and everyone was so helpful and kind. I quickly discovered the coffee club and the wonderful "Tattie scones"; I had a great time helping to run the "Christianity Explored" - and got many wonderful soup recipes; I renewed my love of the BB by helping out occasionally; I loved working with the elders on the Souper Sunday services; and there were many more highlights too many to mention but each one treasured.

In May 2010 I was nominated to attend selection conference and in June 2010 I went to Gartmore House, up by Aberfoyle and went through a 3 day assessment conference. Following a few nervous days I was accepted for the Auxiliary Ministry. That meant I had to undergo 3 years of University study and two 6 month supervised practical placements. I discovered that in the first year you only have to attend the University there is no placement.

So I asked Liz if could continue at Castlehill and once again I was grateful when she said yes. Lets face it I needed the practice. So for the last year I have been working closely with Liz and Douglas and I have gained a great deal of very worthwhile experience and a lot of support and guidance from them. I would like to take the time now to publicly thank them both for all their help and advice.

It has been a wonderful experience for me working here in Castlehill. However, it is now time for me to start year two of my course and that means that I need to move to a new placement. Thankfully one not too far from here: starting in August I will be placed with Rev. Alec Shuttleworth at Annbank linked with Tarbolton. And although I will be sad at leaving here I am looking forward to working with Alec.

But there is bad news for those of you who think you've seen the last of me! Linda and I have enjoyed our time at Castlehill so much and been made to feel so welcome by so many people that we have in fact placed our lines here at Castlehill and we are now members here.

So as Arnie would say "I'll be back!!!"

Finally I would just like to say a big thank you to everyone here at Castlehill but especially to Liz for making my time here so enjoyable and such a wonderful, positive experience.

I look forward to seeing you all again in the very near future but until then God bless you.

Tom McLeod

## FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

The Reformation took over a century to come to fruition and its eventual success was due not only to the great and good who figure in our history books, but also to the vast number of unnamed or rarely noticed men and women of the Church.

One of these lesser known individuals was William Aird. William Aird was born and lived in a small cottage at Burnmouth on the western outskirts of Newmilns, about a hundred yards down the Huggincraig Burn from Hardhill, the home of Murdoch Nisbet's family. A remarkable man, he worked as a stonemason until the age of 20. Round about that time, his wife started to teach him to read and write with the aid of a New Testament (it would be an interesting coincidence if she had had access to Murdoch Nisbet's version). Such was his enthusiasm and dedication that study became his main spare-time occupation. He taught himself Latin, the Greek of the New Testament and Hebrew, achieving so high a standard that he was invited to become a student at Glasgow University

On the completion of his Divinity course, he was admitted to the ministry (very important as at that period the new Reformed Church was seriously short of ministers) and in 1584 was called to serve at the West Kirk of Edinburgh (St Cuthbert's).

His ministry in Edinburgh took him into an entirely new level of political and religious troubles. He acquitted himself well throughout. Not long after his appointment he had to seek refuge in England, but he was soon back and his involvement in the everyday workings in his Kirk Session and the Presbytery of Edinburgh appears briefly in their records. Clearly a man of principle and ability, he stood out strongly against moves to allow ministers to vote in Parliament and was selected by the Presbytery to pronounce the words of excommunication on Francis Stewart, 5<sup>th</sup> Earl of Bothwell who had fallen out with both King James and the Presbytery. A story is told of how King James tried to bribe Aird in order to secure his vote to help prepare the way for an Episcopal form of church government. He sent the minister a purse full of gold, but although he was desperately poor at the time, Aird refused the bribe. The following morning an unknown admirer, aware of his straitened circumstances, left several bags of meal at the manse to support him and his family.

William Aird continued to minister to his Edinburgh congregation for almost 25 years. His son John studied for the ministry at Edinburgh University and, on graduation, acted for a time as assistant to his father before being called to Newton and later, Newbattle.

All in all, not bad for a stonemason from Newmilns!

Alastair Hendry

### Seniors

The final meeting of the seniors' afternoons was held on 12<sup>th</sup> April and we were entertained by Jim Colvin and his group. There was an excellent attendance of over 50. The next meeting will be on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October and we hope to see any new friends from within both the Church membership and the Parish.

Wellwood Grierson

### Guild News

An enjoyable afternoon was the outcome of a visit to Dumfries House. The ladies were impressed by the revamped interior of the Building and the painstaking work that had gone into the restoration work. They certainly look relaxed enough after their cups of coffee.


The new session will start on the 5th October at 7.30p.m. with our Opening Social. Thereafter we will meet weekly in the North Hall at 7.30p.m. We have a varied programme lined up for the first half of our Session including a talk on the history of the King's theatre and an evening about crystal therapy and of course our Christmas Supper. New members will be made most welcome.

Please contact Sandra Wyllie for details.

Best Wishes from Marion Reid (Convenor) and The Guild Committee.



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### Cosy Café

In the summer term, we hosted pupils from Belmont Academy each Tuesday lunchtime in the North Hall. The young folk came with their packed lunches and we made them hot or cold drinks and spent time getting to know them.

Cosy Café will begin again in September.  
Tuesday lunchtime - 1pm - 2pm.



# BOWLING

The 13<sup>th</sup> of July proved to be a wise choice as we picked a beautiful day for our annual outing. 45 Bowlers and friends spent a great afternoon of bowling, and a lovely meal provided by the Girvan Club. As usual there were winners and losers with Margaret Grierson, Helen Lynch and Douglas Moore emerging as worthy winners. The losers as usual shall remain anonymous. The prize for the first touching bowl was won by Liz Crumlish. So the clergy did well



## President's Report :

We had another successful year's bowling. The membership increased by two, Arthur Cole, Bob Forrester and despite the numbers we were able to accommodate almost everybody at each meeting apart from one or two days. While we are always happy to have newcomers come along we have to be mindful of the eventual numbers and ensure everyone gets a game.

The club was saddened by the death of Mary Roy, wife of Jim our past Vice President, but we also remember Mary as a member. Some of our members had indifferent health through the year but we give thanks that they have recovered.

My thanks are due again to my Vice President, David Kerr, not only for stepping in when I was absent but also for putting out the carpets with able help from many of the members. Also to the tea committee, probably the most important group of all, not just at occasions such as prize giving and Christmas, but every week.

My thanks to all the members for their support each week, for turning up in numbers and not being upset when I chased them to play ties.

The prize winners this year were as follows:

Gents Singles	Winner: Pat Patterson Runner Up: Jim Roy
Ladies Singles B.& B. Duncan Plate	Winner: Jean Hunt Runner Up: Mary Smith
Mixed Pairs [Ina Walker Trophy]	Winners: Jim Roy & Sheila McKenzie Runners Up: Jean Hunt & Isabella Kerr
Ladies Pairs [E.Grierson Quaich]	Winners: May Harris & Joan Macfie Runners Up: Betty Taylor & Helen Lynch
Gents Pairs [W.&M.Grierson Salver]	Winners: David Lynch & David Kerr Runners Up: Ian MacLeod & Pat Patterson
Wed. Points League [Kerr Rose bowl ]	Winner: Wellwood Grierson Runner Up: Jean Patterson
Mon. Points League	Winner: Jean Hunt
John Thomson Rose Bowl	Runner Up :Mary Patterson

## Election of Office Bearers:

President:	Wellwood Grierson
Vice President:	David Kerr
Treasurer:	Helen Lynch
Tea Conveners:	Jean Hunt and Joan Macfie

Dates for next year	Opening 19 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2011 Christmas Break 5 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2011 to 9 <sup>th</sup> Jany 2012 Closing date and A.G.M. 10 <sup>th</sup> April 2012
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# Brownies

## Monday night Pack



We have had a good year with our number staying steady.

As well as the badge work we carried out, we had a Halloween themed Pack Holiday in October out at Nether Auchendrane with the Leaders ending up more spooked out than the girls.

We had a lady who came and gave an interesting talk on hand hygiene which the Brownies found fun.

We went to the Fire Station which the girls really enjoyed. I can't praise the Firemen enough for this visit. They made us really welcome and were very patient with the excited girls.

We also had our District Challenge, which took a Seasons theme. The girls had to make a 3 D beach scene, make a flower collage and they had to make a Christmas Card and their hard work paid off as we were lucky enough to win the Shield.

We finished our year with an outing to the Farm Park, although the Leaders were absolutely freezing, the girls had a ball playing on the trampolines and also feeding the animals.

Brownies start again on 5th September and we look forward to another busy year.

Linda McClurkin

Brownie Leader

## Seaside Rock Holiday Club



Once again, the last week of the School summer holiday saw our halls filled with excited children and adult volunteers for our Holiday Club. Although we didn't have beach weather to match our theme, we all enjoyed singing seaside songs, playing beach games and learning about Peter, Jesus' disciple. A highlight of the week was a visit from local fire officers who brought their engine and allowed the children to explore that and to operate the hose. At the Sunday service we shared our week with the rest of the congregation. A huge thank you to all of our volunteers who so enthusiastically contribute to this summer outreach. We are already hatching plans for next year. It is not too late - or too early to become involved.

## Boys Brigade trip to Romania



Our Boys Brigade Company enjoyed a hugely successful trip to Romania, meeting and working with young people and staff in projects for whom they have been fund raising for some time. We give thanks for their safe return and look forward to hearing more about the trip in our services and in the next edition of *The Herald*.



# Kids' Page (for young and old!)

What does "Minimum" mean ?

What does "Maximum" mean ?

What's the difference between an American student and an British student ?

About 3000 miles !

What sleeps at the bottom of the sea ?

What kind of biscuit would you find at the south pole ?

A very small mother !

A very big mother !

A kipper !

A penguin !

Fit the words given below correctly in the grid.

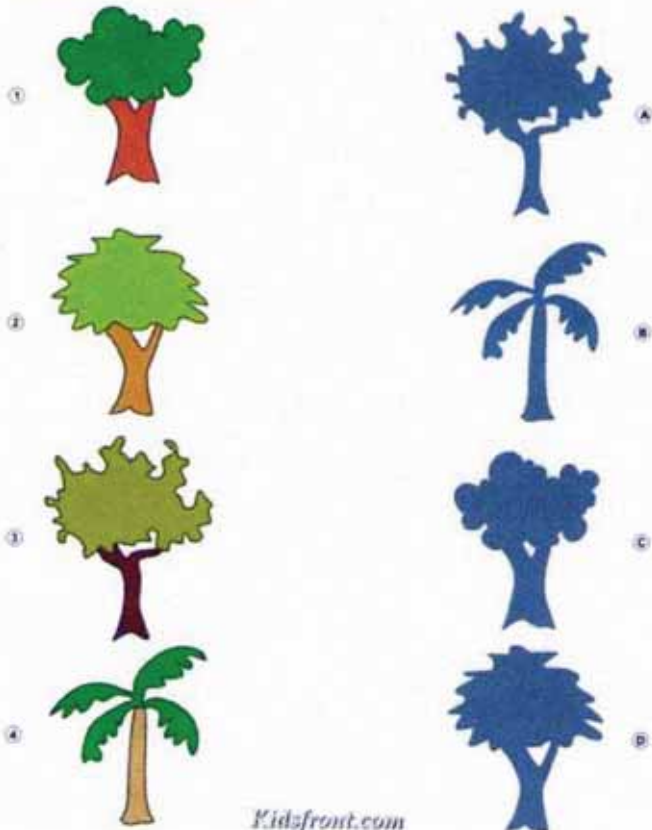


- TALL
- SALT
- HAMMER
- PLATE
- NEST
- HEN
- EAGLE
- APPLE
- MAT

Johnny is late for his school. Help him reach the school fast.



Match the trees with their shadows.



Rearrange the jumbled words.

- I R A C H \_\_\_\_\_
- L C P I E N \_\_\_\_\_
- E O R S H \_\_\_\_\_
- U N E Q E \_\_\_\_\_
- Y D R A I \_\_\_\_\_
- N T O T C O \_\_\_\_\_
- O M N A G \_\_\_\_\_
- Y D I A S \_\_\_\_\_
- E L P T A \_\_\_\_\_
- S L S G A \_\_\_\_\_



## Parish Registers

### Funerals

#### February

Ann Cashman

Primrose Park

#### March

Katy Wood  
Marie Graham  
Frank Anderson

Cornhill  
Lochlea Ave,  
Croftfoot Caravan Park

#### April

Jim Kyle,  
Jim Rankin  
Fred Cooper  
Ann Henderson

Rockrose Park  
Marigold Square  
Cessnock Place.  
Leslie Crescent

#### May

Robert Swan  
Jeanette Caddis  
Nancy McKenzie

Burnbank Road  
Dalmilling Drive  
Bentfield Drive

#### June

George Rae  
Nan Innes  
Margaret Richmond

Glencairn Road  
Clairemont Care Home  
Rozelle

#### July

Robert Henderson  
Nettie Wylie,  
Joyce Dempsey  
Helen Boyle  
Susan Murray  
Eddie Spence  
Jim Scott

Leslie Crescent  
Belmont Road  
Fenwickland Avenue  
Forehill Road  
The Mount, Belmont  
Thistle Walk  
Cunningham Place

### Baptisms

Sophie Theresa Nilsson 24<sup>th</sup> April  
Jamie Matthew Robert Yates 15<sup>th</sup> May  
Kayla Nicole Caitlin Currie 20<sup>th</sup> May  
Angelina Elizabeth Lillian Young 3<sup>rd</sup> July

### Weddings

Dawn Paton & Michael Harris 14<sup>th</sup> May  
Lorna Hyslop & Jason Bardon 28<sup>th</sup> May

## Property Report

Congratulations everyone, thanks to your donations, the bell tower has now been repaired and the interior walls re-plastered and re-decorated.

This year any monies raised will go towards replacement of the metal windows around the church buildings. These are in serious disrepair and need replacing with double glazed units.

We are hoping to do this over the next three years but we need your help to accomplish the target. Thank you once again for your support.

The Fabric Committee



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## Where are they now?

### Continuing our series on former student ministers who served at Castlehill.

#### Rev Elizabeth Watson

April 2011 saw me celebrating 30 years of my ordination that took place in Castlehill Church in 1981. Much as I enjoyed my time in Ayr I felt called to serve a rural parish where I could get to know nearly everyone in the parish. Little did I realise that would lead me to an island and a home where on a clear day, I can see Ayr. I did not move very far - across the Clyde to Arran and I have now celebrated 29 years of ministry with a small but dedicated and friendly congregation. I thought I would serve on Arran for about 8-10 years but have found the ministry here still to be very rewarding and challenging. Arran is an island to which many people come to retire, and every year we welcome new people into the fellowship of the Church and they bring new ideas and help us to grow in new directions. My ministry has altered and grown over the years as well and we are regularly blessed with new enthusiasm and challenges.



Whiling Bay and Kildonan Church is a united charge with one building serving the two parishes. The building saw its centenary in 2010 and we enjoyed many celebrations. Farming used to play a prominent part in island life, but tourism is probably our mainstay. For the Church, that means engaging with visitors and especially with the many young folk who come to camp with Scripture Union, Boys Brigade, Guides and Scouts. In the summer months, most Sundays see between 90-130 teenagers in Church and so our worship is quite different from our winter Sundays. In the winter, worship is fairly traditional.

I have loved living on the Isle of Arran and life has been exciting and full. Still single, I have served the Church at many different levels, I have been able to travel the world, (Galapagos Islands, The Panama Canal, Alaska, Vietnam, Borneo, Sri Lanka and many other places) I have run a Glasgow Marathon, and wouldn't change the last 29 years for anything. That is not to say everything has been wonderful - it hasn't. As everyone does, I have faced loss and disappointment, been hurt and angry, but through it all, I have known the love and support of many good people and above all, I have known God's power and comfort.

On 29th June 1980, a very inexperienced, young woman came to Castlehill Church and you all gave her the warmest of welcomes and great support and I will always treasure that. You gave me what I needed to set out on the next chapter of my life which began on 24th March 1982. I am so pleased to be able to send you my very best wishes. Castlehill Church will always have a special place in my heart.

With love to you all  
Elizabeth R L Watson

#### Prayer Chain

Prayer is not simply making requests to God. It is our way of communicating with God, of expressing our love. We can express our thoughts on all manner of daily happenings in our lives - a continuous ebb and flow between us and God. Everyone's prayer practice is individual and our life practice will change at times both in the way we pray and in the content of our prayer. Jesus is our channel for prayer. Through Jesus we are able to pray formally and informally, to show our love for God and our concerns for others and ourselves. We give God our praise and gratitude through prayer. In Castlehill Church there is a group of people who form a prayer chain. They will pray for the concerns of those who request it, prayers for healing of body, mind and spirit.

Any information given is confidential within the group. The members of the Prayer Chain are no different from any other members of the congregation but they are able to give time to prayer.

Contact for the prayer chain is Margaret Cairns - 01292265217  
Margaret Cairns

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