

The Herald

Castlehill Parish Church

Spring 2010



Welcome to your Spring edition of The "Herald".

The success of the magazine depends both on contributions from the congregation and revenue from advertisers. If you have any articles you would like included in the next edition, or later editions then please e-mail them to me at herald@castlehillchurch.org or post them to the Church office in an envelope marked "Herald Editor". As we only have space for 12 pages, it may be that some of your articles will be carried forward to the next edition.

Thank you once again for your contributions.

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From the Manse



Hope Springs Eternal

It never fails! Even after one of the harshest winters we've known for some time, there are signs of Spring all around. Green shoots in the garden, buds on the trees, even fluffy ducklings and lambs. Nature can't help but move on.

It takes us a bit longer. We'd rather wait and see before we embrace Spring wholeheartedly. We'd rather hibernate just a bit longer. Let things really warm up before we believe that Spring really has sprung. And who can blame us? We just want to be sure. Even though Spring always follows Winter and nature moves on, surprising us with warmth and beauty, we hold back just to make certain.



As we move through the season of Lent, which will culminate with Holy Week and then with Easter itself, it's with that same reticence. We know that it ends well. That the triumph of the resurrection follows the blackness of Good Friday. But, here too we hold back. Preferring to wait and see. As if the God of all life would ever let us down.

The good news is that Christ is Risen! So, even as we journey reflectively through Lent, even as we share in Christ's passion in Holy Week, we know that despair gives way to joy. Death moves on into new life. May the new life of Easter transform your living and bring you hope.

Blessings

Liz Crumlish



Lent, Holy Week and Easter

Throughout Lent, there will be midweek services on Wednesday evenings at 7pm. These are short, reflective acts of worship designed to create some space in your busy week. Starting Wednesday 17th February.

During Holy Week, (29th March – 2nd April) there will be a service each night at 7pm, with the celebration of communion on Maunday Thursday.

On Easter Sunday we celebrate together at 11am. This service will also include a family celebration of Communion.

On Easter Sunday evening we will be celebrating with the Salvation Army in Castlehill Church at 5.30p.m.

Labyrinth

Labyrinths have been used by Christians down through the ages as an aid to prayer and pilgrimage.

During Lent, there will be a Labyrinth set up in the sanctuary. You are welcome to use it after midweek or Sunday worship.



Christianity Explored

A small group of enthusiastic individuals are currently half way through a 10 week course on the exploration of faith. The course is open to anyone interested in talking with others about Christianity. It is based on the gospel of Mark.

The course meets in the North Hall and starts with a time of fellowship where we share a meal of soup and sandwiches. Then we come together to discuss key issues at the heart of our faith. It is open to all whether you have been in the church for a long time or are new to our community as well as those interested in exploring church membership. Attendance every week is not essential. Even if you can only manage along for one week you will be made most welcome.

We are also planning an away day in April . An invitation will be extended to anyone who wants to come along on that day and join us in a day of fellowship and enjoyment . Look out for more details in the weeks ahead.

Peru Visit

At morning worship on 7th February, one of our young folk, Ewan Smith, shared with us a presentation on his trip to Peru last summer. Ewan worked with The Vine Trust who help street children in Peru and his love for and passion about the work were very evident.

Ewan is returning to Peru this summer to teach English. We wish him well and look forward to an update. You can help Ewan with the work he is undertaking by placing any loose change you may have in the collecting jar which you will find in the church vestibule.

Easter Bunny Hunt



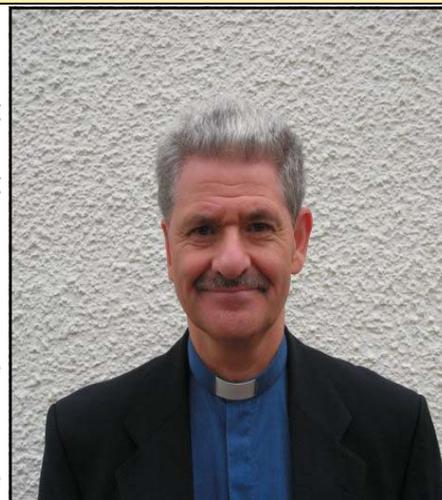
On Saturday 27th March, there will be an Easter Bunny Hunt for all the family. Meet at the church hall at 11am, suitably dressed! Find the bunnies in Castlehill Woods and then return to the church hall where there will be hot filled rolls and drinks for sale as well as children's activities.

If finding lost bunnies does not appeal to you, then simply come along and enjoy your breakfast with us.

A Short thought from Douglas Moore, Auxiliary Minister

Do you ever wake up in the middle of the night worrying about something or your mind full of unanswered questions? Do you find that no matter how much you think about something, you still cannot get your head round it and you are left wondering what it's all about?

Billy Connolly, doing a spoof of Late Call under the guise of Cannon O'Fodder, once asked us to consider that, "Life is like an ashtray, full of little doubts!" Of course it was meant to be funny but it does have a serious side to it.



In our walk of faith, doubt is often seemed to be a negative attribute or something that needs "fixing." Some folk try to ignore doubt and put a brave face on it, but that's like sweeping things under the carpet in a way.

We've all been given brains to think and use. Part of that thinking process is to question things and try to get an understanding. Some things we understand immediately, others it takes a period of time to get the picture as it were. For some, they call that waiting period a time of doubt.

Sometimes we say to ourselves, "If only I was there to see Jesus perform the miracles or hear his teaching for myself, then I wouldn't find faith so difficult. I just have these nagging doubts about things." Well if that's the case, consider this bit of scripture from Matthew's Gospel ch28 v17. "When they saw him, they worshipped him: **but some doubted.**" Some doubted when they saw him raised from the dead. They were by no means the only ones to doubt. Moses, David, Peter, Thomas, and Paul, to name but a few, all had doubts at some stage in their walk of faith. All considered spiritual giants, yet were beset by doubt at various stages in their life. So if you're struggling over an issue just now, then take heart, because you are in good company!

I think that acknowledging and tackling doubt shows that a person is serious about their faith. Now if you happen to be enjoying a doubt free faith at the moment, then rejoice and give thanks. I wouldn't want you to think that you were missing out on something! I think however, that from time to time we all question and doubt and that is part of life in general and also our spiritual life.

Having doubts or questions does not make us second-class Christians. Far from it! In the very last sentence of Matthew's Gospel Jesus tells us, "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." It's not conditional. It's always. So when we're happy, when we're sad, when we're confident in our faith, and when we doubt, Jesus is with us. Why? Because he loves each and every one of us without a catch or get out clause. He doesn't force us or put us under pressure to come to a place of understanding or faith. He was there before time began and will be there after time, as we know it is gone; so you see, He has all the time in the world.

We should serve Him, as we are able, whether we have doubts or not. So let us travel on our journey of faith and discovery together. We go with whatever faith we have, we travel on despite and perhaps because of our doubts, and may we be ever mindful that the God of peace is with us **every** step of the way.

Every blessing on you and yours this springtime.

Douglas

Castlehill Bowling Club

Another busy season is well under way and the competitions are proceeding as usual. The membership is as enthusiastic as it has always been and on occasion there are more folks than mats to hold them. On 22nd February we had a mini party for Pat Patterson on a major event in his life, his 90th birthday. This proves that bowling can keep you fit and nobody but nobody lets him win! We have one or two octogenarians as well so you are never too old to learn.

Wellwood Grierson

Castlehill Church Seniors

On 9th February the Seniors Club met for the first time in 2010 in the North Hall. We had a very enjoyable afternoon with entertainment provided by Mr. Peter Christie from Troon. He recalled the music of the 1940s,50s,60s, 70s and the 80s. Everyone joined in the fun by taking part in a good old sing –a-long and as you can see from the photos we even had our own “Dancing Girls” - Well done ladies. This along with a tea, which was of the usual high standards provided by the ladies of the Coffee Shop, was much appreciated by the members.

If you wish a good afternoon’s entertainment and a bit of a chat come along to the next meeting on Tuesday 13th April. You do not need to be a Church Member, just come along, and if you require a lift let us know and we will do our best to provide transport.

Wellwood Grierson



Souper Sunday

On Sunday 10 January Castlehill Parish Church was one of many around Scotland who participated in the Church of Scotland’s fundraising event called “Souper Sunday”. This event was organised to bring attention to the Church of Scotlands HIV/AIDS project and give congregations the chance to support the work of the project.

The service in the Church was taken by members of the Kirk Session and this was followed by a lunch of soup and bread in the North Hall. There was an opportunity for those who participated to make a donation to the Church of Scotland HIV/AIDS Project. We raised the wonderful sum of over £400 and with the gift aid pledges I would hope that our final total may well be over £500.

Many thanks to all those who participated in the service and a very big thank you to the ladies who prepared and served up the soup. The view of those who attended was that it was a great success and they wondered if we could do it more often. Always a good sign when the attendees ask for more.

The Grand old Duke of York

Many times we have sung this rhyme or danced to it at parties, or social occasions, a good starter for getting people to mix or get to know each other. This ditty was written about a real person many years ago, and the words portray him as a ditherer. He was depicted in the words "He marched his men to the top of the hill, then he marched them down again. When they were up they were up, and when they were down they were down, and when they were only half way up they were neither up nor down." The facts are he was known as Richard Plantagenet, and was defeated at the Battle of Wakefield. He took his army up to the Castle to make a defensive position against the Lancastrians. Then he left his stronghold, believing the Yorkshire Army would arrive to relieve the siege, but they were outnumbered and killed. A sorry tale indeed.

How are you in "God's Army", Are you halfway up or down? What takes priority in your life? Is it sport, or any other leisure activities? Eric Liddle was a wonderful example to follow when he refused to race on a Sunday for the Olympic Games, as it went against his faith. It takes a lot of commitment to give up anything that gives us great pleasure, when they clash with our beliefs and faiths, but we must never forget "but first love, the love of God" for He is always on our side.

I may never march with the infantry
Ride with the cavalry
Shoot with the artillery
I may never zoom o'er the enemy
I'm in the Lord's army
I'm in the Lord's army

Margaret MacCormick
Prayer Promoter

Christian Aid Envelopes

Poverty – Let's End It: Christian Aid Week 9-15 May 2010

'Yes, poverty can be ended. It is about working together and it's about bringing the best out of individuals and into the community. Yes, poverty can be ended.'

Rev Nan Wyn Powell-Davies, minister and Christian Aid supporter

Christian Aid Week is a wonderful opportunity for the church to unite in the fight to end the scandal of poverty. In May this year, around 300,000 people, working with 22,000 churches, will reach out into their local communities by organising events, door-to-door collections and church services, driven by a passion to put an end to the injustice that keeps billions of our neighbours around the world living in poverty. And our community is no exception – many of us will be living out our faith by taking part in fundraising events in our area. The commitment and energy of those taking part is fantastic, but the impact of their hard work can be multiplied with your support.

With the help of Christian Aid and its partners around the world thousands of lives have been changed for the better. Christian Aid Week demonstrates our solidarity in standing alongside some of the poorest people around the world.

Please be a part of it this April/May by using the Christian Aid envelope which is included in this Newsletter. Please return these to the church or the office by **Sunday 2nd May**.

Thank You



In October we collected £1268.58p from our Wee Kirk owners. This was as good as we have had for a while. From last year's collections we were able to reclaim tax on £1365 which is excellent news for the Church finances.

My thanks are due to all who save up their pennies and to those who willingly collect from each house. The next visit will be at the end of March or beginning of April.

Wellwood Grierson

The History of Aprons

Many Scots of a certain generation, when asked about aprons will reply: "Ma Maw ca'd it a 'peeny'-the original name of aprons. I don't think today's kids know what an apron is!

The principal use of Grandma's apron was to protect the dress underneath because she only had a few. Possibly she had only two. One for weekdays (workdays) and one reserved for wearing only on Sundays. It was easier to wash aprons than dresses as they had less material and along with that, the apron served as a potholder for removing those pans from the oven/fire.



It was wonderful for drying children's tears and, on occasion, was even used for cleaning out dirty ears! For those living in the country it was used for carrying eggs from the chicken coop, fussy chicks and sometimes half-hatched eggs to be finished in the warming oven. Kindling wood was brought into the kitchen in the apron. From the garden it carried all sorts of vegetables. After the peas had been shelled, it carried out the hulls.

In the autumn the apron was used to bring in apples which had fallen from the trees. When dinner was ready Grandma walked out onto the porch, waved her apron and the men know it was time to come in from the fields for dinner.

The apron was also useful for carrying the polishing tin and dusters through to the bedroom to put a shine on the old dressing table and wardrobe. When company came, those aprons were ideal hiding places for shy kids. And when the weather was cold Grandma wrapped it around her arms.

Those big, old aprons wiped many a perspiring brow bent over the hot wood stove, or the cooking pots on the iron stands over the fire. When unexpected company arrived at the door, it was surprising how much furniture that old apron could dust in a matter of seconds.

It's questionable whether anything has been-or ever will be- invented which could possibly replace that 'old-time apron' which served so many purposes. They would go crazy now trying to figure out how many germs were on that apron.

I don't think I ever caught anything from an apron –except**LOVE.**



The Rainbow People

In the beginning the world was very still and quiet. The ground seemed to be covered with dull-coloured rocks and stones. But, if you took a closer look you could see that they were not stones, but were tiny little people who were not moving at all.

One day a wind blew over the land. It warmed the people and filled them with life and with love. They began to move; to look at each other to touch each; to speak to each other; to care about each other.

As they explored their world they found coloured ribbons lying on the ground. They were excited and ran about collecting them up. Some chose blue, some

red, some green, some yellow. They enjoyed tying the ribbons round each other and laughing at the bright colours.

Suddenly another wind blew. This time it made them shiver with cold. They looked at each other, realised they were different ... and stopped trusting each other.

The reds gathered in one corner;
The blues gathered in another corner;
The greens gathered in yet another corner;
While the yellows gathered and ran into another corner.

They forgot that they had been friends and had cared for each other. The other colours just seemed different and strange. They built walls to separate themselves and kept the others out. But they found that:

The reds had water but no food.
The blues had food but no water.
The greens had twigs to make fire but no shelter.
The yellows had shelter but nothing to keep them warm.

Suddenly a stranger appeared and stood in the centre of the land. He looked at the people and the walls separating them in amazement, and said loudly 'Come out everybody. What are you afraid of? Let's talk to each other.'

The people peeped out at him and slowly some came out of their corners into the centre. The stranger said, 'Now, just tell one another what you have got to give and what you need to be given.'

The blues said, 'We have plenty of food to give but no water.'
The reds said, 'We have plenty of water to give but we have no food.'
The greens said, 'We have plenty of wood for a fire but we need shelter.'
The yellows said, 'We have plenty of shelter but we need warmth.'

The stranger said, 'Why don't you put together what you have and share it? Then you can all have enough to eat, drink, keep warm and have shelter.'

They talked and the feeling of love returned. They remembered that they had been friends. They knocked down the walls and welcomed each other as old friends. When they realised that the colours had divided them they wanted to throw them away. But they knew they would miss the richness of the bright colours. So, instead, they mixed the colours to make a beautiful ribbon. They called themselves the Rainbow People. The rainbow ribbon became their symbol of peace.

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Parish Registers

Funerals

November

William Wilson	Forest Way
Margaret Sloss	Primrose Park
Annie Macallister	Forehill Road
Robert Mossie	Hillfoot Road
John Smith	Caledonia Road
Grace Edgar	Orchard Ave
John Muir	Peggieshill Road
Walter Climie	Hamilton Court
Alexander Connell	Maple Drive

December

Isobel Williams	Glencairn Road
Hugh McQuiston	Larchwood Road
Mary Woodward	Redford Nursing Home
Jim Hood	Alderbank
Isabel Jones	c/o Souter Place
William Hamilton	Belmont Crescent

January

Betty McClure	Woodlands Crescent
Agnes Allan	Sorrel Drive
John Cunningham	Rockrose Park
Thelma Ormond	Meadowpark Drive
Isobel Gibb	Laurel Bank
William McKay	Fenwickland Ave
John Cree	Woodlands Crescent
James Main	Temple House, Mossblown
John Lewis	Mossgeil Road



Caption Competition

Any ideas on a caption for the following picture? if so why not e-mail them along with your name and contact number to herald@castlehillchurch.org.

Alternatively you could place your caption, name and contact details in an envelope addressed to the Editor, The Herald, Castlehill Church and hand them into the Office any weekday from 0900—1230.

All entries must be in by 30 April 2010



The winning caption will receive a £5 book voucher.

If you have any pictures we could use in future edition please send us them at herald@castlehill.org

Girl Guiding



This is a very special year for Girl Guiding – their centenary year. Throughout Scotland, there are several events being organised to help celebrate this landmark. South Ayrshire launched their celebrations in September with hundreds of girls parading through town and then enjoying a fun event in the Citadel. South Ayrshire Council are hosting a civic reception to honour many of the volunteers who give of their time and energy to allow so many young people to become involved in this worthwhile youth organisation.

Castlehill Church boasts a proud history of Guiding:

The 17th Ayr (Forehill) Pack was registered on 2nd April 1953 with Mrs. Allan as Brown Owl. Someone held meetings for the younger girls for a time, they were called Browniekins, but unfortunately there are no official records of this pack.

Other Guiders from the Auld Kirk started the 17th Ayr (Forehill) Guide Company which was registered in November 1953. In November 1955, Miss Elspeth Crawford went to Forehill as Guide Captain and re-started the Guide Company which had stopped meeting.

The Guides and Brownies left Kirk House, Forehill and moved to the new hall calling themselves now 17th Ayr (Castlehill). The Guide Company prospered and had about 43 members for a number of years. When its members increased to 55, it split into 2 companies 17th A and 17th B. Over the next few years 17th C and 17th D Brownies and 1st Kincaidston formed. Ultimately the number of packs grew from just one to seven packs with six meeting at the church and one at Kincaidston.

A Ranger Unit was formed in 1977 and met until 1985. A Rainbow Unit was formed in 1996. The District has been extended with the inclusion of Bellsbank and Dalrymple Brownies.

In 2010 the spirit of guiding is still going strong with 1 Rainbow unit, 2 Brownie units and 2 Guide units meeting in the hall with Brownie Packs in Kincaidston, Bellsbank and Dalrymple. For 57 years many girls have enjoyed fun and friendship as members of the Guide Association in Castlehill Parish.

On 22nd February, the Castlehill and Doon District celebrated with a Thinking Day celebration in Castlehill church. Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Guiders, Trefoil Guild, invited guests, families and friends enjoyed a lively service led by the minister, Rev Liz Crumlish before taking the opportunity to review many items of memorabilia. For many, this was a walk down memory lane. There are still some events to come in this busy year, not least a trip to Switzerland to meet up with Guides from all over the world.



Ayre Music

Congratulations to Ayre Music Makers who recently presented a wonderful concert in the church which was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. They raised the marvellous total of over £1400 for Cancer Research. Well done to all who participated or attended.



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