

# The Herald

Castlehill Parish Church

Spring 2009



Welcome to your Spring edition of The "Herald".

Thank you for your comments on the December issue. They were very positive and it is encouraging to receive such feedback.

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 March, or later editions then please e-mail them to me at [herald@castlehillchurch.org](mailto: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.

Tracey Wilson  
Editor

|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
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# From the Manse

Every year we complain that the chocolate Santa's are barely cleared from the shelves when chocolate bunnies and Easter eggs appear. This year, it's the same in the church.

No sooner have we celebrated Christmas and Epiphany than its time to look to Easter. Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent and our six weeks preparation for Easter, is on 25<sup>th</sup> February. Hopefully, by then, we'll be seeing more signs of Springtime around us, more signs of change and new life.

And its my prayer that the changes in the world of nature will be echoed in Castlehill church, that new shoots will appear and there will be signs of new life.

If winter has seemed, for you, to be unending, if you are feeling worn out and needing to rest a bit longer, then hopefully, spring will creep up on you, soothing those worry lines, gently warming those cold and aching joints until your energy for life returns and you begin to feel human again.

And know that the God who became human understands and waits patiently with you until you feel like joining the fray once more.

Use this season of Lent to explore and make friends with the wilderness places in your life so that you can emerge triumphant with our Lord at Easter.

Every blessing  
*Liz Crumlish*

## *Lent and Easter Worship*

Lent is a long season of preparation in the Christian church. Beginning on Ash Wednesday - this year 25<sup>th</sup> February - and culminating on Easter Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> April.

At Castlehill church we want to offer the whole community lots of fun and meaningful ways to get ready to celebrate Easter.

There are activities for adults, for children and for families together. Quiet times, times for space and reflection, times for meeting new folk and old friends and times for

worshipping and celebrating together. Hopefully, you'll find something that will interest you, as well as the opportunity to be part of all our ongoing activities.

Throughout Lent we will worship mid week on Wednesday evenings at 7pm. These will be quiet, reflective services, lasting about 30 minutes focussing on the themes of Lent.

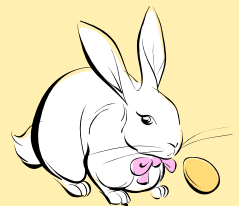
During Holy Week, a service will be held each evening at 7pm and communion will be celebrated at the service on Maunday Thursday.

On Easter Sunday we will celebrate with all ages together

in family worship.

And, for the children, there will be an Easter bunny hunt in the Castlehill estate on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April, meeting at the church at 11am.

Teas, coffees and light lunches will be available when the hungry hunters return to the church. All are welcome to come along for a snack, even if you don't have children who are taking part in the bunny hunt.



## *Lent and Holy Week Labyrinth*

Labyrinths have been used by Christians down through the ages as an aid to prayer and pilgrimage. All through Lent, after midweek worship, the church will be open for quiet reflection. There will be a Labyrinth set up, changing every week to help folk embark on a journey with Jesus.

It will also be available during holy week as we reflect on Jesus' journey to the cross.



# Clubs and Organisations

## *Castlehill Rainbow Guides*



Castlehill Rainbows got off to a good start in September with ten new Rainbows embarking on their guiding adventure. Rainbows now meet on a Wednesday evening in the Main Hall which allowed us to take on more girls as we had the space for games and activities. This helped reduce the waiting list considerably although it has been creeping back up which is a healthy sign for Guiding.

The first six weeks were spent working on Promise activities, games and crafts with the new girls taking their Promise on 8th October. This was a party night for the girls and the theme they chose this year was High School Musical. Our Leader Rachel taught the girls some Cheerleading dances and it was a fun night for all.

The following weeks the girls started work on their Roundabout badge where they made Rainbow Collages (which you may have spotted in the Main Hall), made bubbles (messy but fun), and other activities which ended with a Food Fun Night where the girls got to try out different Christmas foods. Many will now eat Mince Pies as they realise they are not made with Mince!!!

We have an exciting time ahead as Guiding approaches their Centenary year in September. The girls will be taking part in a Changing the World Challenge as part of the lead up to the

celebrations and as a unit we have chosen to support Wateraid in Nepal. This involves learning about Wateraid through fun activities finishing with a Singathon where the girls will learn new Sing for Change songs. We are also having an outing to Carnegie Library, a visit from Ayr Fire Station and a visit to the Farmpark in the months ahead which is part of their "Adventure Out" badge.

We have a new leader, Tracey Reilly, a Rainbow mum, who has been helping out on a regular basis and we are delighted she is happy to continue when her daughter moves on this year.

Anyone wishing information on Rainbows please do not hesitate to contact me at the number below.

*Marion Turnbull*  
*Leader in Charge*  
01292 285631

## *Bowling Club*

We had a successful Christmas Party at the halfway mark in our season. Some of the novelty bowling items hardly resembled bowling at all but were enjoyable none the less. A lovely variety of food was provided by the members, and enjoyed by all. By the time the magazine is out we will be well through our season and the competitions.

*Wellwood Grierson*



*Bowling Club Christmas Party*



The Boys' Brigade is continuing to enjoy their 50<sup>th</sup> year. The Anchor Boys had an extra treat at Christmas with Dunno the Clown entertaining the boys at their Christmas party.

The Junior Section have taken part in the swimming gala and the figure marching competitions with some individual and team success, their next competition is the mime and drama which is usually a successful one for us. The boys enjoyed a Christmas party in the hall with pizza and chips! And as has become a tradition the Junior Section held a Burn's Supper with lots of entertainment from the boys.

The Company Section have also had some individual and team success, they have taken part in the bible quiz and the swimming gala, next on the agenda is the 1<sup>st</sup> year drill followed by the volley ball and basketball day. As part of our community programme we have enjoyed a visit from the local community police officer, we have visited HMS Gannet and in March the

Fire Brigade are paying us a visit. The Company Section also enjoyed a Christmas party in the main hall with games and pizza.

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of Isa Otterson, wife of our founding Captain Bill Otterson. For many years, following the death of Bill, we were privileged with Isa's presence at our annual display, this continued until her health prevented her participation. She was always keen to attend to the point that one year she took a taxi to the church for the display, in itself not remarkable until you realise that she only lived 100 yards from the church in Old Hillfoot Road. Isa continued to get her annual invitation to the display by phone from me, I always looked forward to the call, the conversation always brought laughter from both of us, I will miss my call this year.

The celebrations for our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary are taking shape. We are having a weekend of celebration over the weekend of 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> May. On the 15<sup>th</sup> we

are having our 50<sup>th</sup> display at which we would like to see as many former members and Queen's Men as possible. On Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> we are having a ceilidh at the Rugby Club. This is a social event for anyone who has an association with our Boys' Brigade Company which means anyone who wants to attend. Tickets will be on sale nearer the event. We again want as many former members and Queen's Men to attend. The weekend of celebration will end with a church service on the 17<sup>th</sup> to which, again everyone connected to the Company is welcome.

I want to reach as many former members as possible to have as meaningful a celebration as possible. If you know any Old Boys of the Company please let me know their contact details or get them to contact me, my e-mail address is [ianqueen1@aol.com](mailto:ianqueen1@aol.com).

We continue to be very grateful for the goodwill shown to us by the congregation, every positive comment is our reward for what we do, I hope you will join us where you can during our celebrations.  
God bless,

*Ian Queen  
Captain*

### *Seniors Afternoons*

Just to confuse everybody we had our Christmas Party in the morning, but despite the change in time there was an excellent turn out. There were a number of absences through illness and we wish them all well and hope to see them at the next meeting.

The entertainment was provided by pupils from Ayr Academy under the direction of Liz Kelly. The singing and musical talents on view were excellent and a great credit to them all. Thanks are due to them for giving up their time to entertain us. We are also grateful to the ladies of the coffee mornings committee who provide all the food and to those who provide transport. An invitation is there to all in the parish to come along and enjoy the company and meet old friends.

*Wellwood Grierson.*

### *Castlehill Guild*

We have had another successful year with several interesting speakers especially Aileen Stewart who is a volunteer with the R.N.L.I at Troon. Our ladies enjoyed hearing about this service from a female perspective.

As you read this our session will be drawing to a close. This year our entertainment for our closing social is Ayr Amateur Opera Concert Party which always proves to be an excellent evening. Tickets will be on sale at the beginning of March. Everyone will be made most welcome.



## Castlehill Carillon

Here are Castlehill Carillon sounding a welcome to the congregation as they arrived for the early Christmas Eve service. We made a 'joyful noise' and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and set the scene for a Christmas Celebration.

Our group is small and we would love to welcome some new members to join us. As we have

said before, as long as you can count to four (sometimes even three is sufficient) you would soon pick up the rest. It is not even necessary that you should be able to read music, although this is a help.

We meet for practice on a Sunday afternoon from 2.30 to 4.00pm in the Fellowship area of the Church. Our main aim is that

we ring for fun and that we do have!

If you are interested please contact the Church office for further details or just pop in to have a go and get the feel of handling the bells. We look forward to seeing you there.

Happy ringing from the members of Castlehill Carillon.

## Sew Much Fun at Castlehill Church!

Stitchclub is an after-school club that teaches girls and boys ages 8 and over how to sew. Forget computer games - traditional skills are super trendy again! Stitchclub also runs cool TEENS sewing courses and ADULT beginners classes are due to start in the Spring. We also do fun Stitchclub birthday parties!

Juniors learn to sew, first by

hand and then on sewing machines making a huge variety of fantastic projects, from cushions to beach bags, rag dolls and sew much more! TEENS classes teach fashion and accessory making skills. We use colourful workbooks and follow a six week curriculum for each level. Our Adult beginners classes will be perfect for those looking to get creative!

Keva McDonald runs Stitchclub in various locations in South and East Ayrshire.

Castlehill Church Hall on Saturday Mornings  
 Juniors (8-11 years) @ 10.00am to 11.15am  
 Teens ( 12 years + ) @ 11.15am to 12.30pm  
 Booking is essential as there are only 8 places per class. To book your place or just to find out more info please contact Mrs Keva McDonald at Stitchclub on 07596 744341 or email Keva@stitchclub.co.uk. See lots more info at [www.stitchclub.co.uk](http://www.stitchclub.co.uk)

## Castlehill Church "Companions"

The "Companions" is a small group of members of the congregation who visit other members who are housebound to offer a friendly face, some conversation and companionship. These visits are outwith the elders' visits and generally take place every five or six weeks.

The group would welcome others who would be interested in this type of visiting so that we could extend the scheme to include as many housebound members as possible who would like a "companion" to visit them.

If you are interested please contact either Margaret Cairns (Tel. 265217) or Trudy McLeod (Tel.443213) for further information.

## *Greetings from Douglas Moore, Auxiliary Minister*

It certainly doesn't seem over a month since I arrived. They say time passes quickly when you are enjoying yourself, so there must be something in that saying right enough!

Seriously though, I have been made to feel very welcome. Standing at the door after a Sunday Service, it was very heartening that so many of you took the time and trouble to say hello and introduce yourselves. I am not going to claim to remember everyone or put a face to a name just yet, but that will come in time. A thank you also to those of you who can't get out and about for one reason or another. I've felt very welcome as you invited me into your homes.

Perhaps in this first article, I could tell you a little about myself. I am married with two teenage sons and stay in Prestwick. I have worked in Air Traffic Control for the past 36 years. My place of work is Atlantic House in Prestwick, which has the responsibility for handling flights in Scotland and surrounding areas. There is also another centre, which handles flights over the North Atlantic. My own particular roles are that of Flight Information Service Officer, which entails providing information to pilots for the safe conduct of their flight. In the main, these pilots are flying small aircraft, usually for pleasure purposes. My other job is supervising the support staff that assists the controllers in the operations room.

I am not a fulltime minister. I am an Auxiliary Minister. An Auxiliary Minister is someone who, after selection process and a prescribed period of training etc, is usually appointed to a church to work with the fulltime parish minister. This is done on a part time basis, with the Auxiliary Minister working a set number of hours a week. My first appointment was to Maybole in October 2003 for five years.

I must say that I'm looking forward to working with Liz Crumlish and sharing in the life and work of the congregation and in the surrounding area. There is certainly no shortage of work to be done and I look forward to sharing with you and getting to know you in the weeks and months to come.

With every blessing to you and yours.

*Douglas*



*Into the dark world  
a snowdrop comes,  
a blessing of hope and peace  
carrying within it a green heart:  
symbol of God's renewing love.  
Come to inhabit our darkness, Lord Christ,  
for dark and light are alike to you.  
May nature's white candles of hope  
remind us of your birth  
and lighten our journey  
through Lent and beyond.*

*Kate McIlhagga*

## *Homecoming 2009*

The Scottish Government has designated this year a year of homecoming when that great Scottish diaspora will be welcomed home.

In Castlehill Church we will be celebrating our wonderful heritage of Scottish spirituality, looking at Scottish folk religion and we'll sing some of our ancient Scottish psalms and paraphrases, as well as singing hymns to Scottish melodies, all of which have contributed to the people we are and the way we worship today.

We will also be taking even more care to welcome all those who come to Castlehill, from far or near. Look out for details of special events.



## *Parish Registers*

### **Baptisms**

Samuel James George Christian 23/11/2008

### **Funerals**

#### **November**

|                    |                            |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Mr. Robert Thomson | Annfieldglen Road          |
| Mrs. Jenny Keddens | Carrick House Nursing Home |
| Mrs. Mattie Blair  | Dalblair Court             |
| Mrs. Lottie Dunlop | Ellisland Square           |
| Mr. Kellock        | Masonhill Road             |
| Mrs. Jean Muir     | Ellisland Square           |

#### **December**

|                        |                    |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Mrs. Isabella Galloway | Ellisland Place    |
| Mr. Robert Bicker      | Dalmellington Road |
| Mr. Jack Anton         | Cunningham Place   |
| Mr. Sandy Archibald    | Whiteford View     |
| Mrs. Margaret Paterson | Biggart Hospital   |
| Mr. John Dunbar        | Glencairn Road     |
| Mrs. Jessie Couples    | Belmont Road       |
| Miss Carly Keenan      | Morton Ave         |
| Mr. William Dunlop     | Hayhill            |
| Mrs. Anne Legg         | Larchwood Road     |

#### **January**

|                      |                         |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Mr. William Kirkland | Burnbank Road           |
| Mrs. Sarah Guthrie   | Caledonia Road          |
| Mr. John Murray      | Nursery Road            |
| Mrs. Isa Otterson    | Hillfoot Road           |
| Mrs. Margo Carnegie  | Kincaidston Drive       |
| Mr. George Hendrie   | Mount Oliphant Crescent |

## *Midweek Worship*

During Lent, our midweek services will take the theme of journeying as we travel through Lent and, in Holy week, travel with Jesus on his road to the cross.

**Midweek services are on Wednesdays at 7pm.**

Ash Wednesday - Service of Imposition of Ashes 7pm.

### *Forthcoming Services*

Sundays - 11am

1st March - 1st in Lent  
8th March - 2nd in Lent  
15th March - 3rd in Lent  
22nd March - 4th in Lent  
(Mothering Sunday)  
29th March - 5th in Lent  
5th April - Palm Sunday

### *Holy Week*

Each night during Holy Week, there will be a short act of worship at 7pm in Castlehill Church.

On the Thursday evening, we celebrate communion together.

12th April - Easter Day  
11am - Family worship to celebrate Easter.

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## *Thanks*

Mrs Ettie Archibald would like to thank you for your support and prayers through Sandy's illness and since his death.

An offering was taken at the funeral service at Castlehill Church and £200 will be sent to the Ayrshire Cancer Support Group and to the Chest, Heart and Stroke Group in memory of Sandy.

## *New Church Representative*

We are pleased to advise that Cherry Young has agreed to be our new representative for Christian Aid.

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## *Thanks*

We'd like to thank Rev Crumlish, the Congregation and the Youth Church for the lovely service, warm welcome and lovely gifts we were given during Samuel's Baptism.

It was very special for the family to be able to have Samuel baptised in our family church, and many of our friends and family commented afterwards about how nice the service was and how welcoming everyone was.

I'm sure Samuel, and his sister Eve, will spend lots of happy Sunday mornings at Castlehill with their cousins, Jude and Poppy, whenever we visit Ayr.

Thanks again,

Carla, Scott, Eve and Samuel Christian



## Christmas Fayre 2008



I should like to express my thanks to all of you who supported our Christmas Fayre at the end of November, especially those who coordinated events. As you'll see from the treasurer's article it was a very helpful fundraiser. Many folk in our community also appreciated the fellowship on the day. It is hoped that this can become an annual event in Castlehill's calendar.

*Liz Crumlish*

Our Christmas Fayre was held on Saturday 29th November 2008 and was a great success, both from a fellowship and financial perspective.

The Fayre raised the sum of £2,219.35 towards our roof repairs.

Well done to all involved for their efforts.

*Douglas Wilson, Treasurer*

## MARCH

When we shorten the name of this month we write Mar. – All the answers to this quiz begin with the letters MAR, so which MAR is....

1. A breakfast jam made with oranges?
2. A long distance race?
3. Author of one of the Gospels?
4. A small ball of glass?
5. The 4<sup>th</sup> planet?
6. A wooden puppet?
7. Lazarus' sisters?
8. An alternative to butter?



Answers at the bottom of the next page.

## Jokes

**What cake can you eat in heaven?**

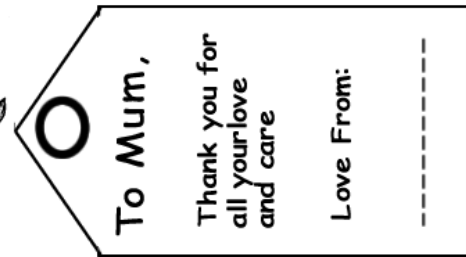
Angel cake.



**Why did the banana go out with a prune?**

Because he couldn't find a date.

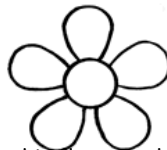
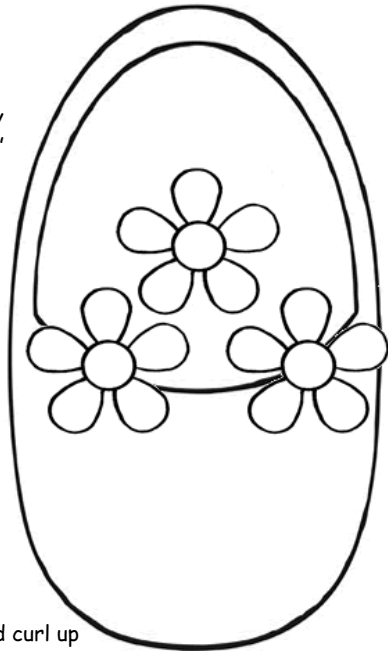
**My dad's a light eater. As soon as it's light he starts eating.**



Many Christians celebrate the 4th Sunday in Lent as **Mothering Sunday**.

Originally families would get together for a special service at their local church. Today we still celebrate Mothering Sunday as a family day, a time to say "thank you" to our mothers and all those who look after us.

To make a **Thank You** card cut around the basket, colour in then glue onto a folded blank card. Cut out the tag, glue to tag shaped card. Punch the hole and hang from the basket with ribbon.



Cut out this flower, colour and curl up petals. Stick on basket to give a 3D effect.

## Your Best Friend

While watching television, I became a little irritated, as we do, when hearing someone try to speak with a Scottish accent and failing miserably. All countries have a language of their own, and I dare say, we must sound as irritating to them, when we try to speak like them.

Reading through Judges Ch12 v1-6, it tells the story of when any of the men from Ephraim tried to get into the Gilead camp, the men of Gilead, challenged them to say the word Shibboleth, but they couldn't and said Sibboleth, because they couldn't pronounce words with sh. Just as English people have difficulty in saying "It's a braw bricht, moonlicht nicht the nicht!"

Lots of people say "I can't pray", or "Its the minister's job to pray", but when we pray we don't need to use flowery language, or put on a pious voice. You just need to speak normally as speaking to your best friend. He won't be irritated or annoyed, but will listen to every word. Just be sincere and don't pretend to be what you aren't. He will understand, and won't put you through a speech test like Shibboleth or Och aye the noo! As He made us He can see our hearts desires, and understand our language, so don't be afraid as He is Your Best Friend.

***I have a friend  
Oh such a friend  
I loved Him e'er I knew Him  
For I am His, and He is mine  
Forever and forever***

*Margaret MacCormick  
Prayer promoter*

## *The Cracked Pot*

A water bearer in India had two large pots, each hung on each end of a pole which he carried across his neck. One of the pots had a crack in it, and while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water at the end of the long walk from the stream to the master's house, the cracked pot arrived only half full.

For a full two years this went on daily, with the bearer delivering only one and a half pots full of water in his master's house. Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments, perfect to the end for which it was made. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that it was able to accomplish only half of what it had been made to do.

After two years of what it perceived to be a bitter failure, it spoke to the water bearer one day by the stream. "I am ashamed of myself, and I want to apologize to you."  
"Why?" asked the bearer. "What are you ashamed of?"

"I have been able, for these past two years, to deliver only half my load because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your master's house. Because of my flaws, you have to do all of this work, and you don't get full value from your efforts," the pot said.

The water bearer felt sorry for the old cracked pot, and in his compassion he said, "As we return to the master's house, I want you to notice the beautiful flowers along the path."

Indeed, as they went up the hill, the old cracked pot took notice of the sun warming the beautiful wild flowers on the side of the path, and this cheered it somewhat. But at the end of the trail, it still felt bad because it had leaked out half its load, and so again the Pot apologized to the bearer for its failure. The bearer said to the pot, "Did you notice that there were flowers only on your side of your path, but not on the other pot's side? That's because I have always known about your flaw, and I took advantage of it. I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back from the stream, you've watered them. For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate my master's table. Without you being just the way you are, he would not have this beauty to grace his house. "

Each of us has our own unique flaws. We're all cracked pots. But if we will allow it, the Creator will use our flaws to grace the Universe. In the Creator's great economy, nothing goes to waste. Don't be afraid of your flaws. Acknowledge them, and you too can be the cause of beauty. Know that in our weakness we find our strength.

## *Wee Kirks*

Thanks is again due to all who regularly save up their small change and pop it into their Wee Kirk. It may not seem a lot at the time



but again we collected over £1250 for the half year in October. I would like to say thank you to all the collectors who give up their time twice a year to go round and collect and making a social call at the same time. There are still some spare Wee Kirks available, no mortgage is required and you can be the proud possessor of the building above within days. Just contact me on 285903, or get one at the office.

## *Wellwood Grierson*

ANSWERS: 1. MARRIAGE 2. MARRIAGE  
3. MARK 4. MARKS 5. MARKS 6. MARRIAGE  
7. MARY AND MARTHA 8. MARRIAGE

## *Wesley Owen Bookstall*

Thank you to everyone who supported the bookstall last November. We made a total of £28.27, this includes 10% of the takings and donations. There will be another bookstall later in the year, more details will follow in the next magazine.


## *Fair Trade Shop*

A big thank you to everyone who supported the Fairtrade Shop, which ran for 3 weeks before Christmas. They made a profit of £1,500 which went to the Traidcraft Exchange. This organisation works with companies to help them achieve their full potential and to allow them to compete internationally with other companies and still produce fairly traded goods. The venture was such a success that it is hoped to have the shop open again before next Christmas.

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