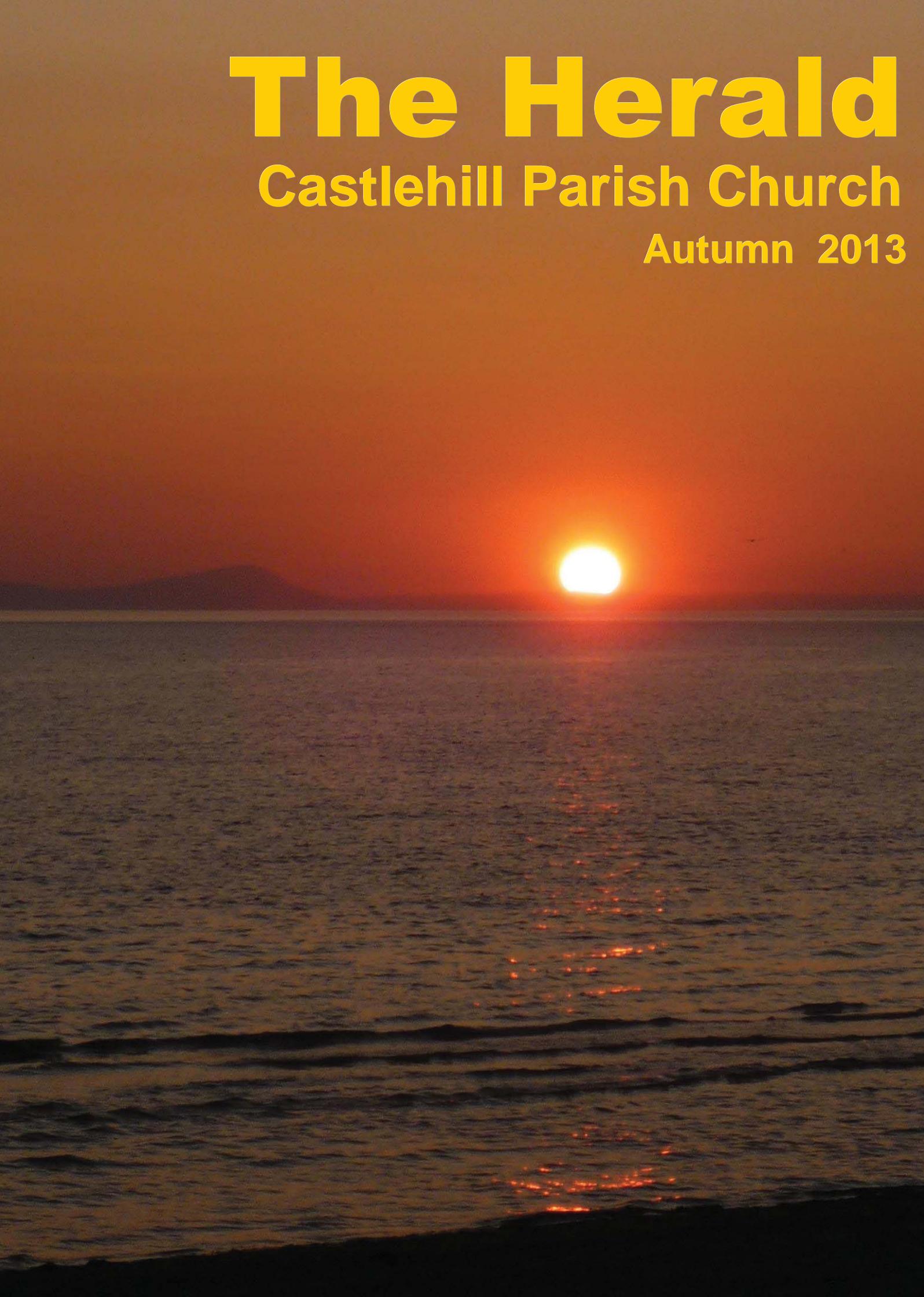


The Herald

Castlehill Parish Church

Autumn 2013



Editorial

Many of you will remember at school and Sunday school learning lots of verses from the Bible and also committing to memory the old Psalms. To this day a great number of our congregation can still be seen singing the psalms without referring to their hymn books. One passage of the bible that still sticks in my memory is 1st Corinthians, chapter 13, verse 1, well known to many. But it is still the original wording that I remember when it spoke of Faith, Hope and Charity. In the changes in the new authorised version, the word "Charity" was altered to "Love".

I often wonder when we are surrounded by so many Charities whether we would think of substituting the word Love in this context. In our magazine this autumn we have included an article on a charity, to give an idea of how some charities have started. We would hope to follow this in future editions by other articles. In no way is there a suggestion that we should support any of these charities, as we are all aware there is limit to what we can give in monetary terms, but what may be as important is to give to all deserving charities our prayers, which, if we truly believe, can be every bit as valuable.

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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 email address quoted.



From the Manse



Who do you say I am?

Once again this summer, I had the privilege of being chaplain to 140 18-25 year olds at the Church of Scotland National Youth Assembly in Dundee. We explored the theme of identity through music, drama, workshops and worship. It was inspiring to witness the passion and energy of these young adults as they explored their call to be the church today.

At Castlehill, we are blessed in our young people and in our youth leaders. We give thanks for their faithfulness and commitment. And we are reminded that, in every age and stage of life, God calls us beloved children and invites us to serve.

Perhaps we no longer have the energy of our youth but the family of God requires all ages to play their part, reaching out, supporting and loving one another. May you know your identity in the God of all the ages and be renewed in love and service, rediscovering the call of God on your life and responding with passion.

Blessings

Liz Crumlish

www.liz-vicarofdibley.blogspot.com



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Alternative Worship

Taize Services

Last Wednesday of the month (Sept - March) 7pm
A quiet, meditative service providing some midweek calm.

Service of Wholeness and Healing

Last Sunday of the month 9:45am
A service of prayer and communion.

Men's Breakfast

Last Saturday of the month (Sept - March) 9:30am
Enjoy a short time of worship followed by breakfast rolls.

Harvest Thanksgiving

Once again we will be collecting non-perishable foods for our Harvest Thanksgiving Service. Please bring items any time in September for dedication at our Harvest Service on **Sunday 6th October**



Where are they now ?

Continuing our series on former students who trained for ministry at Ayr:Castlehill

Rev Elizabeth Henderson

I have lots of good memories of Castlehill Church, the house at Glendale Place (if memories serves me right) and the people of the church who were so good to me when I was starting out on ministry. I particularly remember going home after Christmas to be summoned back to the house because the pipes had burst. I had never realized what damage water could do until I saw even everything a foot deep in water. I stayed with the minister of Ayr St. Quivox for several months whilst all was being repaired. My lasting memory is of the kindness of the people who gave me so much practical help at that time.

When I left Castlehill I was inducted to the parish of Granton on the North side of Edinburgh. I spent ten years there before I moved to my present

charge of Richmond Craigmillar which is also in Edinburgh but on the South East side. I have been here for the last fifteen years simply because I love working here. The parish is part of the Craigmillar area which is well known for its deprivation but the community was heavily influenced by its mining history and the people are very warm and community orientated. We have two fairly large projects in the church. One is a community café which also supports a food co-operative and nearly new stalls. These ventures were started to try to meet some of the needs of the local people. The second project is called Richmond's Hope and it was started ten years ago to help children who have suffered a significant bereavement in their lives. We now work with around 150 children a year. The project provides one to one support using therapeutic play to help the children to tell their worker about their loss. Some very sad stories but the children invariably write that it has been fun coming to Richmond's Hope on their evaluation sheets. We deal with some very difficult bereavements but are always amazed at the resilience of the children. The project now works throughout the city of Edinburgh and Midlothian.

On a personal note I guess the most significant thing that has happened to me was that I got married to the neighbouring minister, Jim Jack, four years ago. Jim is minister of Duddingston and we live in his manse which is in a lovely setting overlooking Duddingston Loch. We have two dogs, Murphy who is a golden retriever and Mac who is a Goldendoodle (a cross retriever poodle). I would like to send my very best wishes to everyone in Castlehill and wish you every blessing in the future.



What is a "Guild Lady" ?

I am quite sure that most people, if asked, would say that the picture they have in their head when asked the question - What is a Guild Lady? is one of frail elderly church ladies going to their weekly meeting for yet another boring talk from an equally elderly speaker. Well I hate to disillusion those people but nothing could be further from the truth here at Castlehill. Yes some of the ladies may be classed as "elderly" but they are the heart and soul of the Guild and probably the church too. All the ladies support each other extremely well in their usual quiet manner. They always seem to know who needs some moral support, some flowers or just a hug. Our meetings are informal and are not without a few laughs either. Our up and coming speakers are varied in age and so are the proposed talks ranging from Quarriers Homes to Bee Keeping. Come along and join in on Wednesday evenings starting on 2nd October with our Opening Social. We would love some "Guild Men" too so don't be shy!

With Best Wishes – The Guild Committee



Castlehill Church Bowling Club

On Wed. 10th July members & friends left the Church car park at 12.45, for the annual outing to Girvan Bowling Club.

On arrival at Girvan we received a warm welcome from Anne Cooper (President).

Moira Alexander and Margaret Gerrard then attended to all the entry money, which was £13 for bowlers and £9 for non-bowlers.

We then had tea, scones and biscuits, after which David Kerr (President) welcomed members, guests and especially newcomers to our outing.



The President outlined that we would play two trial ends, the bell would toll, and twelve ends would be played. We had five rinks of ten teams, after each three ends winners would move on.

The 31 bowlers and 5 non bowlers really enjoyed the sunshine and change to outdoor bowling.

With the bowling finished we retired to the clubhouse, where a lovely high tea was served by the ladies of Girvan Club.

After tea the president read out the scores and the winning team was Alf Britt, Moira Alexander & Wellwood Grierson (Skip) with a score of +12 shots

The first toucher of the jack was Betty Fraser. The Booby Prize Team was Lorna Maxwell, Idris Crumlish and Joan Macfie (Skip) – 15 shots. No wonder Joan was hanging her head in her hands !

David then thanked Moira and Margaret for taking the entry money, and everyone for coming and enjoying themselves. Idris Crumlish thanked David for organising the event. A real vote of thanks was given to Anne Cooper and all the ladies at Girvan.



***Bowling restarts Monday 16th September
Next Seniors afternoon is on Tuesday 8th October***



Loose change makes a difference

Some would say this is a magic bottle and they could be right as its contents have performed great things. Helping in Peru and lately raising over £200 for the Boy's Brigade to help with work in Romania. As a Church we are very grateful to members of the congregation for supporting the various causes. Thank you.

Wee Kirks

You will all have had a letter and leaflet on our Stewardship campaign. Perhaps one of the best examples of that is our **Wee Kirks** scheme. We have twelve dedicated collectors who visit those who have a wee kirk twice a year collecting the coins that have been put there. The visits are a link between the Church and many who are now unable to attend Church but still wish to contribute to the running of their Church. We have a prime example of giving of our talents, time and proportion of our wealth.



Some may not know what Wee Kirks are but they have been a feature of Castlehill Church for many years. They originated from an idea suggested by an elder in Dalmellington Church. The suggestion was taken up by Tom Blair and Robert Crockett, members of the Session at that time. The money collected was to help pay for the cost of the North Hall. When the Hall finances were completed, it was decided to carry on the idea to supplement Church funds. The first Wee Kirks were wooden ones and some are still in existence. Well over sixty thousand pounds has been collected in this way and the congregation's thanks should go out to the members who faithfully have popped their loose change into the Wee Kirks. There have been many dedicated collectors over the years that call and collect the cash and there are still some who have been doing this almost since its inception. It also takes the form of a pastoral visit for some of our older members who do not get out too much and many friendships have been struck up over the years. Currently the annual income is over £2,500 and should any of the contributors pay tax and register in the Gift Aid Scheme, the Church would be able to reclaim a further 23% from the Inland Revenue. The Gift Aid Scheme is confidential and details can be obtained from the office.

As a matter of interest a wee kirk holds approximately £6 of pennies, possibly £120 of 20 pence pieces, and so on if you wish. Let your collector know how much you can cram in. They may not be too happy because it is a problem getting it out again, but a nice problem to have.

This is a painless way of giving and can be of tremendous value to our Church. There is a spare one around for you.

Phone the office or direct to me on 01292747459

Wellwood Grierson

The Youth Church Outing this year was to Edinburgh Zoo on 8th June

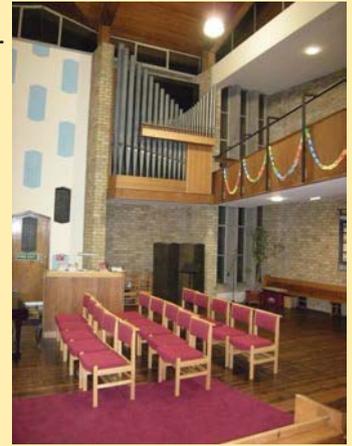


Pandas, Penguins, Rhinos and Picnics. A fun day in the sun.



A word from our organist...

It never ceases to amaze me how quickly time flies when you measure it against writing articles for the magazine. It seems no time at all since I was writing a piece for the Easter edition and we are now marching towards autumn at great pace. Autumn heralds the return of the 'extra-curricular' activities within the church and that of course means that choir practices will resume on 30 August at 7pm in the church hall. Every year I make a plea for new members and every year this plea falls on deaf ears. So this year, rather than ask for new members I simply express my sincere thanks to those faithful members who turn up every week and put their heart and soul into practice. After a hard week at work turning up to choir practice on a Friday night can be the last thing that you want to do but without fail the positive attitude and the rousing feeling that comes from singing uplifting songs with like minded folk never fails to raise your spirits. We are very fortunate that last year we gained two additional male voices which has improved the balance of the choir greatly. The choir continues to practice its diverse range of music and it is great when we get feedback from the congregation that they enjoyed a particular anthem.



The organ is now back up and running and phase one of the refurbishment is now completed. Phase two has not yet started but we hope that this will be underway in the near future. As the new pipes will be made off site there should be minimal disruption to the organ's use on a Sunday and once made, the new pipes will be installed quickly. It is my hope that as we begin to celebrate advent and Christmas we will be able to enjoy the full sound of the organ in all its restored glory!

I have recently played at St Andrews church in Dumfries to help them mark their 200 anniversary. It was a great privilege to be involved in the service and to interact with another congregation. When they asked me to take part in the service I thought that I would have had to practice many new hymns for the occasion as they do not use the CH series of hymnaries. After seeing the order of service I was amazed at how many hymns are the same across the branches of Christian faith irrespective of denomination. I found it inspirational to join with representatives from each of these different branches of the church and unite in praise through great hymns. Whilst the hymns may be the same the way organists play them can be very different and I think the congregation are still trying to get their breath back after I demonstrated just how fast some of these great tunes can be played!

Christopher



The Anvil of God's Word

*Last eve I paused beside the blacksmith's door
and heard the anvil ring the vesper chime
Then looking in I saw upon the floor old hammers
worn with beating years of time.*

*"How many anvils have you had" said I"
To wear and batter all these hammers so?"
"Just one" said he, and then with twinkling eye,
The anvil wears the hammers out you know"
"And so" I thought "the anvil of God's Word for ages
sceptic blows have beat upon,
Yet though the noise of falling blows was heard,
The anvil is unharmed, the hammers gone".*

John Clifford

Competition Results

The results of the last Herald competition about well known locations in Ayr were as follows: The Gaiety, The Auld Brig, Wallace Tower, The Town Hall, Brig O' Doon, Burns Cottage, Pirate Pete's, Court House, Burns Statue, Station Hotel, Burns Mausoleum, Loudon Hall.

Three correct entries were received and, after a draw, the winner was Margaret Devlin who received a £5 voucher.

Christianity in Saudi Arabia

One of our elders, Allan Jack has recently returned from a period spent working in Saudi Arabia and shares some of his experiences:

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is defined by the religion of Islam. As it is the country in which lie Makkah and Madinah, it is regarded as the Islamic 'Holy Land'. Its legal system is based on Sharia and ALL other religions are banned. There are no places of worship other than mosques allowed and holidays such as Christmas, Easter and New Year are ignored. The calendar is different (the Islamic lunar-based Hijra) which leads to great confusion until one gets used to it. Bibles can be confiscated at entry points to the Kingdom and a visible cross around one's neck can get one into trouble. The king is called "The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques" before any other title. Just to emphasise the point, the landing cards ask one to state one's religion – and 'atheist' is not accepted!

However, although all Saudis are Muslim, not everybody in Saudi Arabia is. The huge numbers of ex-pat workers include Christians, Hindus, Buddhists, atheists and maybe even Jedi Knights(!). For example, there are large numbers of Filipino workers who are all, nominally at least, Roman Catholics.

The typical Western ex-pat is the same as one would find anywhere. They vary from totally un-religious to lay preachers. Only within the confines of the Saudi Aramco compound are there 'official' ministers/priests. It's a hangover from the days when the oil company was run for and by Americans and there are both a full-time Catholic Priest and Anglican Minister.

If one does not live within that compound (Dhahran in the Eastern Province), any religious practice has to be clandestine. The promotion of any religion other than Islam is prohibited and Saudi Arabia has a nasty religious police force whose job it is to make sure that no such goings-on are taking place.

The Western ex-pat is usually housed in a compound where the day-to-day rules don't apply as long as the rule breaking doesn't become overt. The Saudi society regards the home as sacrosanct so if one decides to hold a prayer meeting/home church one can, but be careful who gets an invite. Folk love to gossip and if word gets back to an employer, a one-way air ticket could well be the result.

So where can one go for a 'normal' church service? If one is outside of the three major cities of Riyadh, Jeddah and Khobar/Dammam, one is out of luck. Any formal service is held within the grounds of embassies or consulates. As I was lately in Jeddah, let me confine my remarks to that city and, in particular, to the UK Consulate. Every week there were services in the Roman Catholic and Anglican traditions. The Anglican service was run by a lay preacher from within the local community (who was a professional photographer) and every so often the Bishop would visit from Cyprus. He had overall responsibility for the Middle East including Saudi. I never attended a Catholic service so I have no idea where the priest (I assume there was one) came from. That was on a need to know basis.

Christmas, Easter, Remembrance and Weddings were all celebrated in the consulate grounds. By far, Christmas was the biggest celebration and I MC'd the last two years' Carol Services. I also sang in the Hejaz Choir which always held a 'Festive Concert' in early December. This was all while the UK Consul General was a British Muslim from Bradford!

The UK Consulate has just recently been re-permitted to hold weddings. The withdrawal of that permission had been a sore point in the community for years. I have a story about a couple who married under Sharia but that's for another day.

To conclude, I have always thought that if I had not been a committed Christian, living in Saudi Arabia would have put me off all religions for ever. It was always a great comfort to me to come back and worship at Castlehill. It put me back on an even keel.

Allan Jack

Summer Holiday Club

This year's Holiday Club theme was "**Superheroes**". We shared stories of some of the superheroes in the Bible through stories, music and games. We learned about Gideon, Samson and Esther, about their courage and strength and how God called them to be leaders.

Liz Cairns, from Creation Station also came along and with Big Art helped the youngsters to create their own Superheroes.

Once again, we are very grateful to all the adults who helped out and to the young folk for coming along.



KIDZ PAGE

With all this lovely weather I bet you have been seeing more of Scotland, taking trips here and there. Have a look and see if you have been to the places in the Wordsearch below. (Of course, your teacher will tell you all these place names need to be written with a capital letter - it is just that it would make it too easy to find them in the Word Search if you did.)

Autumn Scramble

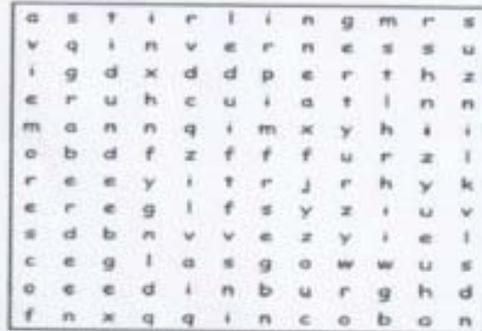
Can you unscramble the Autumn words below?

1. vhtsear -----
2. aveesi -----
3. cesowrrac -----
4. lowlye -----
5. binrefo -----
6. prae -----
7. aker -----
8. racon -----
9. isrqeulr -----
10. alppe -----
11. nagreo -----
12. lfal -----
13. rde -----
14. owbrn -----




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Scottish Place Names Word Search



edinburgh glasgow aberdeen inverness
 stirling perth dundee dumfries
 ayr oban fife aviemore



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Halloween Riddles

Work out the letter from each line of the rhyme. Write them on the lines below in order to solve the riddle.

My first is in giggle and also in laugh,
 My second is in third and is also in half,
 My third is in horror and also in bone,
 My fourth is in sun but never in moon,
 My fifth is in castle and also in knight,
 My whole walks through walls to give people a fright.
 What am I?



My first is in demon and also in dread,
 My second is in Hades and is also in head
 My third is in river and also in dive
 My fourth is in fifteen and also in five
 My fifth is in bluster and also in talk
 My whole has horns and carries a pitchfork.
 What am I?

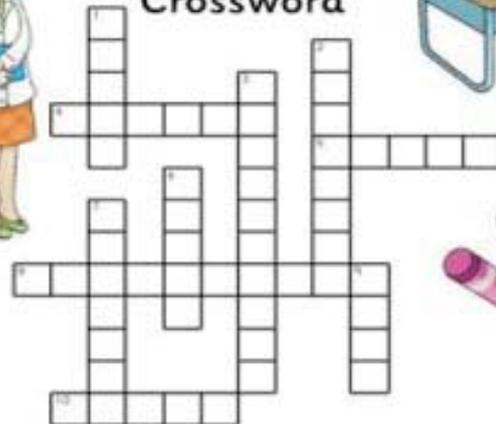


My first is in wicked and also in worst,
 My second is in starving and is also in thirst,
 My third is in treasure and also in trove,
 My fourth is in garlic and also in clove,
 My fifth is in healthy but never in well,
 My whole causes problems when I cast a bad spell.
 What am I?



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Back to School Crossword



Across

4. Do you need to sharpen yours?
5. Write or draw on this.
8. You write on this with chalk.
10. Please _____ your name on your work.

Down

1. Draw straight lines with this.
2. It has a keyboard and a screen.
3. Where you go to play at break (recess)
6. Read these at home or school.
7. They help you learn new things.
9. The teacher sits here.

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UNIFORMED ORGANISATIONS

There were opportunities this summer for the young people in Guides and in Boys Brigade to travel.
Girl Guides trip to Adelboden Switzerland



On 5th July after 2½ years of fundraising, 8 adults and 18 Guides excitedly met at Castlehill Church to commence their journey by coach and ferry to Adelboden Switzerland. After a 30 hour journey we arrived in Adelboden about mid afternoon on the Saturday. After settling into our Chalet, we went a walk up into the village to allow the girls to find their bearings.

DAY 1: Took a cable car up the Sillernbuhl mountain, where Liz had “Guides Own” the Guides time of worship. She had us thinking of “Help, Thanks, Wow,” 3 simple prayers as we blew bubbles and appreciated the beautiful scenery around us. We then did some walking, followed by a relaxing afternoon.

DAY 2: We went to the Toboggan run at Kandersteg which was great fun, followed by lunch at beautiful Oeschinen Lake, we then had a walk round the village and headed back to Adelboden, where we had the opportunity to try out some segway which again was great fun, followed by a pool party which some of the girls took part in.

Day 3: We went to the Woodcarver where his creations were amazing. We then walked through the Choloren Gorge and some of us walked back to the village, followed by time in Adelboden.

DAY 4: This was the highlight of the holiday. We visited the Jungfrau, the highest mountain in Europe at 11,333 ft. We went up on the mountain railway and when we reached the top, the views were fantastic. I will never forget the experience of sitting in the snow with the sun beating down on us eating our packed lunch. Some of the girls went sledging and then we investigated the ice sculptures.

DAY 5: We went into Interlaken shopping and needless to say no holiday would be complete without a visit to McDonalds for lunch. We then went for a lovely relaxing cruise on Lake Thun from Interlaken to Spiez and the scenery again was absolutely beautiful.

DAY 6: We visited our Guide Chalet in Adelboden, where we re-took our Guide Promise and had the traditional photos taken on the steps of the Chalet.

All too soon our week was up and we were ready to make the long journey home.

The girls were a great bunch and represented us well.

I was part of this experience 3 years ago and I can't thank Janette enough for asking me to be part of it again.

Janette has asked me to say a huge thank you to everyone in the congregation who supported us and helped us fundraise for this trip.

Linda McClurkin



Congratulations to Janette Rankin our District Commissioner for Castlehill & Doon who has taken on the appointment of County Commissioner for Ayrshire South. We wish Janette well in her new position.

BOYS BRIGADE TRIP TO ROMANIA



The Boys' Brigade enjoyed our second trip to Romania this Summer, from 30th July to 11th August. We have had an association with the Rhema Foundation in Targu Mures for a number of years. In 2010 we first decided to plan a trip to visit the Foundation and help in whatever way we could. It was a great success and we made a lot of friends with the residents and staff. I was anxious to return before all our older members left, so we decided to go back this year.

Our return trip was a different experience to our first because we knew what we were going to and we spent two nights in the Transylvanian Mountains; The big difference was with the residents with whom we felt a much closer bond this visit.

The day after we arrived we went by bus into the Transylvanian Mountains where the Foundation has a mountain lodge for breaks with the children. The

accommodation was basic but adequate, until the artesian well ran dry and the flushing of the facilities was by buckets of water drawn from the nearby river! We spent a morning at a Christian camp 15 minutes' walk away, where we enjoyed their facilities including the zip slide, 50 foot high climbing wall, volleyball court and archery. In the afternoon some of us enjoyed the refreshing waters of the river while others went on what was described as a "forest walk". A forest climb would describe it better, but after a few hundred feet of exhausting effort the views were incredible. The following day we travelled back to Targu Mures by train, an interesting experience of a bygone era.

The weather was incredibly warm during the whole trip with the temperature over thirty degrees Celsius every day, reaching forty on two of the days. The temperature restricted the length of time we could work each day. We managed to work about three hours in the morning with water breaks. Our task this year was centred on the large garden. Next year the Foundation will be hosting gipsy children for a week at a time over a six week period. Our task was to help prepare the garden before a contractor comes in to do some construction work. We removed fencing, slabs, boulders and moved the trampoline to a new sunken home and reinstated some of the garden ornaments. Sounds very easy when written in a sentence but the boys worked very hard in incredibly difficult conditions. The payback was our visits to the water park which is a fantastic facility costing only £1 to enter. We went to the park four times with the residents.



We also spent an afternoon at Hill Street, the gipsy community whom the Foundation support. We provided a feeding station to give all two hundred children a lunch of hot dogs and crisps. We visited the house which we paid for two years ago where Isabella now lives.

The day before we left the Foundation hosted a barbecue for everyone. We were delighted when two of the married girls joined us. Carla, who had a baby son, Norbert, last month and Ilda who will have given birth to a baby girl by the time this article is published.

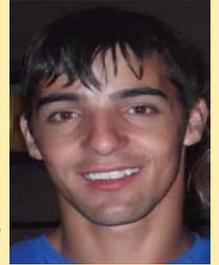
The two girls are amongst three who have been married in the last few years. The Foundation still keep a close interest in their wellbeing and the full time social worker works closely with them giving them a lot of support with their pregnancies and motherhood. The remaining Foundation residents will always need care. As time goes on their needs will change and the staff are committed to ensuring they all meet their full potential.

BOYS BRIGADE TRIP TO ROMANIA (CONT)

All the residents have varying degrees of abilities and are underdeveloped mentally and physically. Most of them know some English and their conversations are very humbling for us.



Mundra is a lively young lady who describes herself as crazy, she says "I like crazy, it's better than being intelligent" In the next breath she tells me that everyone will die, "I don't mind dying which is why I stopped taking my medication." Not long after she said this she took ill and decided to take her medication again.



Alin is a good looking intelligent young man who speaks very good English. On our last night when there was a storm coming he told me when it would arrive how long it would last. He also told me in great detail about cumulous nimbus clouds. He has taught himself how to play the keyboard. He will never be able to look after himself because he trusts everybody. He was taken in recently by someone who told him that they would buy him a new keyboard if he gave them his money - he gave them his money but no keyboard will ever appear.



Rafi is a young lady who up until two years ago had never been able to walk. At birth her mother had dislocated her hip joint so that she would make more money begging with a disabled baby. The Foundation were able to fund an operation in England to have her hip rectified. Rafi has a shoe which is built up by at least six inches. She walked with me to the waterpark the first time we went. We had to go the long way because her mobility wouldn't allow her to take the short cut over the railway line. We walked because she is too proud to use her motorised wheelchair.



Jonko is the most loveable individual, he was one of the two Romanians who visited Castlehill two years ago. The day we arrived someone in the town had asked if he wanted a drink. When Jonko sat down to enjoy his drink the individual disappeared with his bike. Jonko is a vulnerable individual with a number of health issues who has come close to death. He is desperate to return to Scotland and he is one of the reasons we will return to Romania. On our last night, hugging us while sobbing, all he wanted to know was when we were coming back.

These are a few of the residents, and their stories with whom we felt a greater connection on this visit and they are the reason we will not stop our support for the Foundation. Ibi and her team do an amazing job. We dip in for a short time and it is very easy to take praise for the little we do in the scheme of things and it is easy for the residents to have an affection for us because we don't have responsibility for them. Ibi and her team are their parents and have all the issues of any parent but they are a family of thirteen children. They deserve our prayers and whatever support we can give.

Prayers for others

When we pray for others we are asking God the Father to help them in their particular situations. We ask this in Jesus' name. We pray that we are asking in God's will, asking that God's radiating love and light will bring them courage and strength, releasing them from their deep distress and giving them healing. In his book "*Prayer – does it make any difference?*" Philip Yancey writes, "*I see intercession as an increase in my awareness. When I pray for another person I am praying for God to open my eyes so that I can see that person as God does and then enter into the stream of love that God already directs towards that person.....I bring these prayers to God because I know God wills the very same thing. What I desire in the people I pray for, God desires all the more.*"

Margaret Cairns. (for the Prayer Group)

Love Comes Softly

"Sometimes love isn't fireworks, sometimes love just comes softly" is a quote from a favourite film of mine and how I perceive my spirituality. Although I grew up in a Christian family God's love for me came softly as a whisper through my everyday life. For example I see it when someone helps an elderly person cross the street, scientists trying to find a cure for cancer, watching a movie, listening to a moving piece of music or when I'm outside on a beautiful day surrounded by His creation. Many young people today still have a stigma about Christianity and attending church. My personal belief is that the reason for this is due to the idea of faith being forced upon them, instead of being gently guided toward it as I was. In my experience, a spiritual moment does not always have to be found in church. His enduring promise can be discovered anywhere if we are open to it. The promise of God's love is not that he allows bad things to happen, it's his promise that he will be there with us when they do. Making sure we hear His voice of hope though the dark times. It is our Christian responsibility to ensure that God's message will be passed on to the next generation or it will be lost. It is my privilege to share His love and help give a glimpse of His enduring promise, through my writing and singing which are talents, I believe, He has given me.

Kirsty Wyllie

QUIZ TIME

Twenty things you should know... about Castlehill Church.

1. We all know where the church is but what is the church's postal address?
 2. Which version of the Bible are we currently using?
 3.and which hymnary?
 4. How many steps lead up to the pulpit?
 5. What shape are the windows on the front wall?
 6. What is carved on the christening font?
 7.and what words are sewn on the pulpit fall?
 8. What date is carved on a stone in the fellowship area?
(Do you know why?)
 9. Which country did the Guides visit this summer?
 10.and what about the BBs? Where did they go?
 11. What was the theme of the summer club this year?
 12. How many disabled parking places are there in the church car parks?
 13. Which regular church-goer has a personalised number-plate A13EAC?
 14. We all know our organist Christopher but what is his surname?
 15. Who rings the bells for us on a Sunday morning?
- Many activities take place in our church halls throughout the week. Can you unscramble the names of these activities?
16. AZBUM
 17. IJITA
 18. JIJLESONG
 19. On what day will Christmas be this year?
 20.and what is the date of the Winter Fair?



This is a quiz for the young people....and the young at heart.

Please hand your answers in to the office before 30th November and win a MAJOR PRIZE

The role of the rollkeeper

As rollkeeper at Castlehill church my role is to keep the roll of church members up to date.

The names of all members past and present are recorded in two large, black, leather-bound books, which have been used for this purpose since the church was built. One contains names from A to M, the other from Mac to Z (we have none of those but the pages are ready and waiting!)

Since this is a hand-written record, names are listed chronologically with new As, for example, being added on at the end of the A list. Appropriate dates and addresses are also recorded.

When a member leaves or passes away the name is simply ruled out though the record remains.

Baptisms are not recorded in the roll book, only full church members.

A computerised list of current members is also kept by the church secretary. Technology allows names on this list to be recorded in strict alphabetical order.

We work closely together to ensure that the roll is as accurate as possible but we rely on members, their families (and sometimes neighbours!) to give us the information we need.

Updates are passed on when necessary to office bearers who need them, for example those in charge of the Wee Kirk scheme, magazine distribution etc.

As of 31st July 2013 the roll of Castlehill church stood at 639.

It has been for almost five years ...and it still is... my pleasure and privilege to be rollkeeper at Castlehill.

Margaret Owens

P.S. Speaking of rolls, for those interested the rollkeeper's favourite roll is a granary bap with Lorne sausage and an egg on top!

Parish Registers

Funerals

March

James Fulton
Janetta Ireland

Belmont Drive
Meadowpark

April

Graham Allison
John Adams
Margaret Gordon
Alice McClinton
Janet Bell
Derek Leitch

Thorntoun Estate NH
Gorse Park
Fenwickland Avenue
Mount Oliphant
Lochlea Drive
Gorse Park

May

Elma Cowan
James Craig
Donald Carmichael
June Cain

Fern Brae
Chalmers Road
Dongola Road
Belmont Avenue

June

Elizabeth Clark
Tom Wilson
Jim Kelly
James Dick
George Anderson
Andrea Rafferty

Glendale Crescent
Belmont Crescent
Hawthorn Drive
Queens Nursing Home
Caledonia Road
Mount Oliphant Crescent

July

Margaret Tait
Donald Campbell
Margaret Jess
Jean Walton
Quinten Logan

Claremont Nursing Home
South Harbour Street
Burnbank Road
Cloverhill
Cumnock

August

Blaney Quinn
Jim Rae
Doreen Logan
John Brunton
John Agnew

Nursery Road
Millbrae Court
Glendale Crescent
Briar Grove
Oswald Place

TREES

*I think that I shall never see a poem as lovely as a tree
A tree whose hungry mouth is prest against the sweet earth's flowing breast
A tree that looks at God all day and lifts her leafy arms to pray
A tree that may in summer wear a nest of robins in her hair
Upon whose bosom snow has lain who intimately lives with rain
Poems are made by fools like me but only God can make a tree*



This poem was written by Joyce Kilmer who was actually Alfred Joyce Kilmer awarded the Croix De Guerre for bravery in the First World War

It was recorded as a song in 1939 by Paul Robeson and in 1952 by Mario Lanza

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Scottish Charities

Chest Heart and Stroke, Scotland

The charity was formed in 1899 by four business men who wished to combat the major conditions of TB, hypothermia and scarlet fever which were Scotland's main killers taking the lives of thousands of children and young adults in a way we can scarcely imagine today. By far the biggest threat came from TB, commonly known as consumption. It was against this back ground that the National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis (NAPT) was formed in 1899.

By 1948 the death rate from TB had been reduced significantly which allowed NAPT to broaden its scope to include other chronic chest diseases such as bronchitis, and addressing the rising concern over the impact of heart and circulatory disease. In recognition of these developments, the charity changed its name, becoming the Chest and Heart Association in 1959, and taking on Stroke in 1976.

In 1991 the name was changed to Chest Heart & Stroke Scotland (CHSS). This progression reflects the major changes in Scotland's health problems over the past century. Where once infectious diseases were the main killers, today we suffer from amongst the world's highest rates of heart disease, stroke and respiratory illness.

The aim today of CHSS is to improve the quality of life for people affected by chest, heart and stroke illness. We seek to achieve this in two main ways:

- By funding medical research into the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and social impact of chest, heart and stroke disease
- By supporting patients and carers, through our community stroke services, chest heart and stroke clubs, advice line, publications, personal support grants, and other community services

CHSS have just over 200 staff based throughout Scotland and 1200 volunteers in local communities. In 2012 CHSS won the Queens Diamond Jubilee Award for Volunteering, one of only three charities in Scotland to be awarded. CHSS are a wholly independent Scottish charity relying entirely on the continuous support of the Scottish public, community organisations, business, NHS Boards and local authorities to fund our services. A great deal more information on the services provided can be found at www.chss.org.uk

Every minute of every day 100,000 people in Scotland struggle to breathe as a result of chronic chest illness. Every 45 minutes someone in Scotland will have a heart attack. Every 45 minutes someone will have a stroke.

CHSS is Scotland's health charity and if you wish to give to us, give in memory, fundraise for us or volunteer for us please call us on 0300 1212 333.



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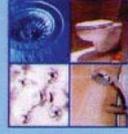
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