

The Herald

Castlehill Parish Church

Autumn 2016

Diamond Jubilee Edition



Barn Church

Editorial

Nostalgia can be a two edged sword. It is great to look back and remember how it used to be, bringing back memories of past events and friends and acquaintances. But there is a danger that we compare the present with the past, wishing for the "good old days". Were they really that good or do they seem so now as perhaps fading pictures?

With this magazine we go back in time when Churches were full, when everything seemed to revolve around the Church activities, and it is good to have those memories, but let us dwell on them only as memories. In the Bible we have warnings of looking back. God warned Lot's wife not to look back and she suffered the consequences. In Luke Ch. 9 v. 62 Jesus said "No one who puts his hand to the plough and looks back is fit for service in the Kingdom of God"

It is wonderful to have so many good memories, but they should not be allowed to influence the present or the future. The future is for God to plan and for us to fulfil. May the Church's Jubilee Celebrations be the start of a rejuvenation amongst us all and not a glorification of a past that cannot be repeated?

Wellwood Grierson

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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 Your Locum 'minister'...



How are you today? I hope you are quite well and in good spirits while you are reading this. However, in case you have been going through a bleak time for some reason (and I know that many of you have) I thought I'd share this wee story to illustrate how faith can lead us to an understanding of God's care for us. A friend of mine who was having difficulty coping, went for prayer healing to a venue in Glasgow called *The Healing Rooms*. Here, volunteers make themselves available to meet and pray with people who feel that would help them in some way. In prayer, the volunteer quoted words from The Bible, which we know to be the inspired Word of God. These words were: *He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart.* These comforting words are found in Isaiah 40:11. Later her daily Bible reading turned her to these same words, yet still she felt alone and unable to cope. A few days later she phoned the UCB Prayer-line and finally 'got the message' when the person at the other end of the phone said to her, "I believe God wants me to share a verse with you to illustrate how much he cares and to prove that you are not alone in dealing with these situations." She read Isaiah 40:11. All of this affirmed her faith and enabled her to have a change of heart and attitude, bringing a song of praise in place of despair.

When my grandson was in P1 he told me, "I didn't learn anything today, Nanny. They made me do the same letters all over again and I can do them already." Well, he could do them after a fashion, but how well? This reminded me that God only ever gives us tasks that he knows we can handle – if he expects something of us, he ensures that His grace is SUFFICIENT to meet the need of the moment. Well, it is true that I have been reminded of this over and over again in the last year.

Then there is the wee boy who came out after the first day or two and said, "*I'm not going back there. I can't read and I can't write and they won't let me talk.*" This is another example of our attitude to God at times. We are not patient enough to let Him teach us or show us His love. And sometimes we want to do tasks that are different from those God would have us to do, but then He knows what we are most able to do. If everyone in God's family did the tasks He would give us, there would be a sense of completeness and perfection not seen in any other organisation.

In this, your 60th anniversary year – and my first anniversary with you - how many of you are finding out that you can perform those tasks necessary for the well-being of your church? Tasks that you never thought you would be doing, especially in the absence of a minister. You are really blessed with the gifts that I have seen in evidence, so keep heart. I know you need to be settled with a full-time minister, but God simply will not expect anything of any one of us that he won't give us the grace to handle.

Amen, and may God bless you all. Love and prayers, Christine Stewart

A Word of Thanks

As in all the editions of The Herald magazine we are grateful to all those who contribute in the way of reports and articles. In this edition we are indebted to Liz and Michael Hardie, Margaret Gerrard and Liz Reid, for compiling the article on the History of the Church. This was not an easy task sifting through photographs and papers to make such a comprehensive potted history.



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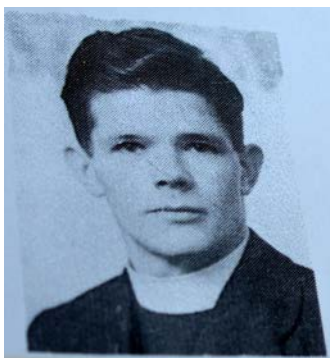
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Laying the Foundations of Faith

Castlehill Parish Church has a unique history which we are celebrating. The congregation originally worshipped in a barn, until a new building was ready. Our church was only built due to the vision, determination and hard work of the congregation, and strong leadership displayed by Rev. David Munro the minister at the time, who was the driving force behind the church plans.



Rev.D.P.Munro

Our History

After the Second World War housing estates began to grow and areas, such as Belmont and Castlehill came into existence. The local council provided schools and shops for the people, but they did not provide a place for the community to worship. The Church of Scotland had to consider ways in which the spiritual needs of the people could be met. In Ayr the Kirk Session of the Auld Kirk looked southward to the parts of the parish which was being built.

They looked particularly at the Leslie Crescent area where many new homes were being erected. They looked at the farmhouse and barn at Forehill Farm as a possible site and were particularly interested in the barn, which was beside the house. This is now the site of the Church of the Latter Day Saints.



Following a great deal of work by many people the barn was converted into what is known as the Barn Church and services began to be held. Mr John Wilson is an original barn member. His son Gordon was christened in the Barn Church in 1956 by Rev David Munro.

A notice was displayed to tell the community that a new church was in existence but not as an established church building but in a barn.



John Wilson

No words can describe the early years of the life of our church better than those of the minister at the time. Below is an article written by Rev. Munro on the first two years of Castlehill Church

"What a contrast there was between the first two services I attended after my coming to Ayr! The first was in the Church of the Auld Kirk, so rich in history, and so lovely in architecture. The second, on the following Sunday, was in a converted barn-a very plain and in many ways unattractive building but one which was to prove to be invaluable as the weeks and months went by-in the heart of the new housing and where my work was to be.

But although there was this difference, the spirit of the two services was the same. The first was the induction of the first minister of Castlehill and with that the erection of the new charge, and the second was the first gathering for worship of a small group of people who would become the first members of the new congregation

And now, looking back, there is another contrast- between that first service and the one in the same building a few weeks ago, when Communion was being celebrated and at the morning service even the passageway was blocked with chairs and ten people had to be asked to come back in the afternoon! But then, almost two years have passed between these two events, and it is of what has happened in this time that I write. For how wonderful, how exciting , and how humbling, these two years have been. They have seen what was begun in faith grow into a lively, active congregation with a growing sense of fellowship and an increasing understanding of its responsibility to the parish.

Four months after the congregation was erected, we carried through visitations of friendship to the parish, and for this got the help from the members of other Churches in the town. The interest and response was immediate : when the people realised that their visitors were from the Church, invariably their reply was,

“We knew you would be coming!” “We have been waiting for you to call!” “We are glad to see you!” This was the opportunity of which we hear so much in connection with the Church Extension; this was the eagerness for a new beginning. So great in fact was the response that we are still working on the follow-up, and it is doubtful if this will be fully completed before the time comes for another such visitation.

The immediate effects of this visitation were increased attendance at Church, Baptismal services for children and adults, and classes for First Communicants. Each of these could be a story in itself, but the most moving experience of all was the service of Baptism for adults. This was held on the Thursday evening of Holy Week last year after the last meeting of the First Communicants Class before confirmation service. Altogether 20 adults were baptised – and their ages varied from those in the morning of their lives to those in the evening. What a stillness there was as each came forward! And what joy there was on their faces as by the ancient rite of Baptism they were admitted to the fellowship of Christ’s Church! “

Further up Castlehill Road from the barn was a piece of land owned by Mr Leslie Wilson. This was of interest to those involved at the time. The barn church congregation had a new challenge to build a new church, which would hold the growing number of families in the community. The original members of the Kirk session in 1956 came from a number of churches in the parish of Ayr.



CASTLEHILL CHURCH – ORIGINAL KIRK SESSION 1956

Back Row (l. to r.)—W. Swanson (Alloway), J. McEwan (St. Andrew's), J. McCreath (Auld Kirk), J. Thomson (Sandgate), J. Gerrand (Castlehill), J. Kennedy (Cathcart), D. Brown (Cathcart).
Front Row (l. to r.)—J. S. Brown (Auld Kirk), J. Gray (Auld Kirk), C. McInnes (Trinity), T. Blair (Castlehill), The Rev. D. P. Munro, J. McQuaker (Newton Old) (Session Clerk), W. Linn (Castlehill), P. McRobert (St. Leonard's), T. Limond (St. Leonard's).

Absent—J. K. Milroy (St. Andrew's), J. McKillops (Wallacetown), A. Larner (Wallacetown), D. McInnes (St. James).

They made the decision to build the Hall Church. Johnny Wilson told us that the congregation while worshipping in the Barn Church supported the building of the proposed new Hall Church by buying a brick which cost 6d

On the 14th of January 1957 Rev. David Munro cut the first turf for the Hall Church.



By April a skeleton of the building was to be seen



On July 15th 1957 there was a special service held for the laying of the commemorative stone above the doorway by Leslie H. Wilson



The Congregation turned out in large numbers to view this historic occasion

The following year on the 10th of September 1958 the opening and dedication service for the Hall Church was held. Ellis and Ian Henderson were married in the Hall Church. Every Saturday the congregation prepared the hall for Sunday service with the congregation facing the cross at the chancel end. It was then returned to a hall space for various community activities. At this time it was felt that a distinction had to be made when the hall was being utilised for community events and worship. A member of the congregation suggested that the cross should be covered during the week and only on view on Sunday however, the Session felt that all activities held in the hall would not disrespect the cross which to this day remains uncovered for all to see.



A packed Sunday Service In the Hall Church

During this time the minister and his family were staying in a temporary manse at 196 Caledonian Road. In due course it was decided to build a permanent manse on the grounds.

The vision for the church was as follows

‘As we are aware a church is not only a building but the congregation and the groups that belong to it. Where church fellowship is developed and people of all ages are able to grow in faith together’

This was the case as the congregation were busy trying to encourage more people to belong to the fellowship of the church. Organisations were started such as the Women’s Guild, Men’s Guild, Sunday School, Drama Club, Boys Brigade, Brownies and Girl Guides. All of which were well supported by the local community. At this time the church was the centre of the community. Two morning services were held and an evening service was also planned. This enabled all worshippers to be accommodated in the Hall Church

Within our present congregation Miss Moira Alexander and Mrs May Harris were Sunday School members and Mrs Ellis Henderson was a Brown Owl, a Sunday School Teacher and a member of the choir. Mrs Myrtle Burden who was Miss Campbell at that time, was a Sunday School teacher from the Auld Kirk.

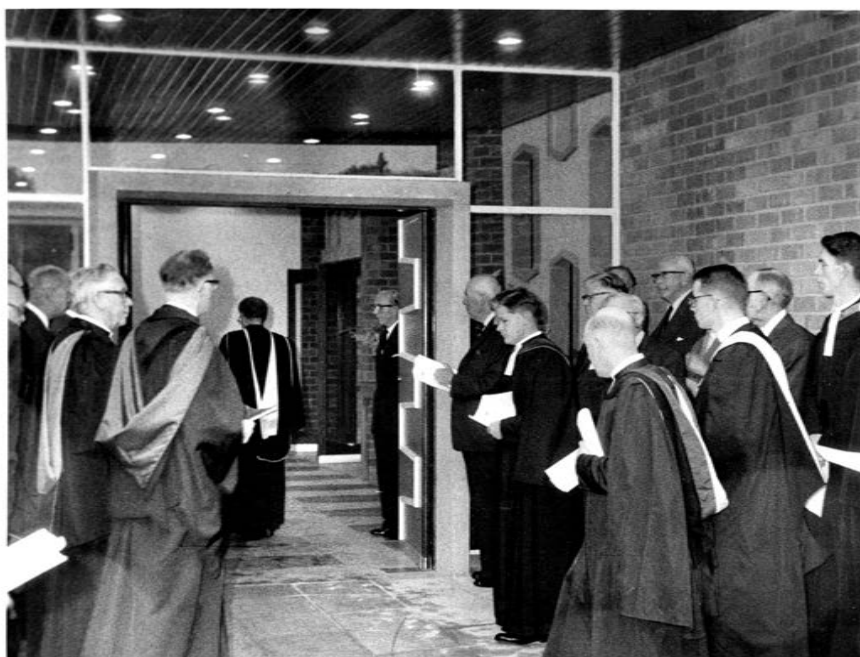
In those early days there were around 350/400 children in the Sunday School. This required 34 teachers and the 27 Bible Class students had 9 teachers. For Sunday School trips at least six double decker buses were needed to take all the children. From the photo on the next page we can see that this was a formidable task.



Castlehill Hall Church continued to grow and the next challenge was to build a new church. This would be built on the land between the Hall Church and the manse

In November 1962 the work on the permanent church began.

In a short space of time the steel started to arrive on site for the new building. The new church was underway and finally on the 9th of September 1964 Castlehill Parish Church opened its doors to the faithful.



Entering the New Church Building

A prominent feature of our church is our cross on the bell tower.

It has particular significance as it can be seen from a great distance. It is seen as a symbol not just of God's Love for people, but it sits on a crown of thorns, to remind us of the suffering of the Lord. The building and the congregation exist to hold up the cross of Christ to the world.

To the best of our knowledge Jim and Mary Roy were one of the first couples to be married in Castlehill Parish Church.



**80 year old Mr. A.J. Rae of
38 Meadowpark**



The Cross on the Bell Tower

It quickly became clear with the increase and popularity of the groups that the hall accommodations were not adequate. A decision was taken that an additional space was needed

The planned extension became known as the north hall, much of the internal work was carried out by the members and the minister. One of the members involved was 80 years of age at the time.

In the lifetime of Castlehill Church we have had five ministers –

Rev David Munro, Rev Michael Dickie, Rev Ian Stirling, Rev Peter Park and Rev Elizabeth Crumlish. All with their own different forms of ministry and leadership, but all contributed greatly, as they led us in our journey of faith.

Society and attitudes have changed over the years. In the past, Sunday was regarded as a day of rest and the Lord's day. However, it has now become a normal working day. On this day people go to work, shops are open for business and children and families go to a variety of activities instead of all family members attending church together.

In some ways the challenge today is even greater than in the early days, as churches are closing or amalgamating and the congregations are getting smaller.

Castlehill Church is proud of its achievements.

As a congregation we continue to grow in faith and fellowship together.

This fellowship is all too apparent today, not only in our Sunday Worship but in social gatherings throughout the year.

When the Church Organisations have closed for the summer months there are still opportunities to get together and as we can see there is no shortage of occasions for that.. With afternoon teas, Bowling Club Outings or Christmas Fayres, the support of the congregation is unfailing. The community spirit engendered in the first stages of our Church still continues.



Hunting for bargains at the Christmas Fayre last year



Serious business at the Bowling Outing at Girvan

Jubilee Celebrations

Throughout the summer various events have been held to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee

The youth of the Church had an outing to Glasgow to the transport museum, two busloads carried the excited youngsters, and they had a most enjoyable time.

Posh afternoon teas were held in July and August, which raised an amazing £572. Following on the successful outing to Roslyn Chapel earlier this year, there was another trip, arranged by Jim Roy, this time to Mount Stuart at Rothesay, again a memorable experience.

Castlehill Church Bowling Club.

Continuing in the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations the Bowling Club held an open tournament on 26th and 27th May. Invitations were sent out to 10 other Churches and 48 ladies and gents competed on the Thursday in individual round robin groups, the 16 winners and best runners up competing in knock-out rounds on the Friday.

Each day we had a break for a rest and a welcome tea, coffee and goodies, provided by the ladies of the Club. The ladies' semi-finalists Margaret Grierson against Rita Macey Lilley and Jean Hunt against Moira Alexander resulted in a close final between Margaret and Jean with Jean Hunt emerging as the winner.



The Gents semi-finals between Harry Lorimer and Wellwood Grierson and David Yates and Andrew Templeton resulted in a hard fought final between David and Wellwood, with Wellwood Grierson being the winner with the last bowl.

The trophies were presented by Irene Storrie after which the President, David Kerr thanked all those who had taken part and helped with the teas and setting up the tournament



The Organisations: How they all began.

17th Ayr Units

Details provided by Miss Elspeth Crawford -One time Registration Secretary -Girlguiding Ayrshire South

A few years after the end of the 1939-45 war a tremendous amount of house building started in the parish of Ayr Auld Kirk. At Forehill a farmhouse and barn were acquired, the site of which was between Lochlea Drive and Mount Oliphant shops where the Mormon church is now. The barn was adapted for church services and meetings of youth organisations.

A meeting was called with a view to starting Brownies. The late Gladys Allan said 72 Brownies turned up, many of which were too young to join. 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 there was no official record of this.

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. In 1956, the Rev. David P Munro was appointed to this "church extension" charge. The Castlehill Guide Colours were dedicated on 11th October 1956 and these are the original colours which still hang in the Church today.

A few years later the hall church and manse were built at Castlehill Roundabout/Hillfoot Road.

The Guides and Brownies left Kirk House, Forehill and moved to the new hall calling themselves now 17th Ayr (Castlehill). House building continued over towards Holmston Road and the Belmont Area, South Belmont, East of Dalmellington Road, Masonhill and Kincaidston. The Parish boundaries were re-drawn and there were many children in the Castlehill Parish.

The Guide Company prospered and had about 43 members for a number of years. When members increased to 55, it split into 2 companies 17th A and 17th B. Over the next few years 17th C, 17th D and 17th E Brownies and 1st Kincaidston formed and packs grew from 1 to 7 packs meeting at the church and 1 at Kincaidston.

A Rainbow Unit was formed in 1977.

Unfortunately Kincaidston closed in 2015 due to lack of Leaders. In 2016 the spirit of guiding is still going strong with 1 Rainbow Unit, 2 Brownie Units and 2 Guide Units meeting in the Church Halls. There is also the addition of 2 Senior Section Units. For 63 years many girls have enjoyed fun and friendship as members of the Guide Association at Castlehill Church and are proud to be part of the Castlehill Family.



**Castlehill
Thinking Day at the
Auld Kirk 1960**

**WERE YOU ONE OF
THESE GIRLS ?**

Castlehill Boys' Brigade

On the 23rd of September 1959 the 17th Ayr Boys' Brigade was formed. The first staff meeting took place on this date at 7:30 pm in the Lesser Hall of Castlehill Church. In attendance were the Minister, Rev. D.P. Munro, the founding Captain William P. Otterson, John Martin, Ian Watt, Alastair Anderson and Donald McAuley.



**Founding
Captain Bill
Otterson**

Captains

Bill Otterson, the founding Captain, held the position for ten years before handing over to Jim Bloomer. He, in turn, held the position for ten years before demitting in 1979 to be replaced by Bill Otterson's son-in-law, Jim Kay. Jim held the post for three years. Thereafter over the following twelve years there was a steady turnover of Captains with a two year vacancy from 1989-90. The Captains were: Andrew Graham, David Lynch, Allan Boyle, David Carson, Bill Johnston, Billy Porterfield, David Carson again until 1995 when our current Captain Ian Queen took over.

Camps and Trips

The 17th Ayr have always been adventurous, from the First camp at Kirkcudbright in 1961 to our trips to Romania in recent years. Camps have been to all corners of the UK including Northern Ireland, Isle of Wight, Jersey and twice to the Isle of Man. The Isle of Man camp in 1973 found the 17th Ayr caught up in the worst peace time fire since 1929. Our last evening was to be spent in the Summerland leisure complex having a meal and using the leisure facilities. Fortunately it rained during the day which delayed the taking down of the canvas. This in turn meant we weren't in the leisure facility when it caught fire taking the lives of 50 people.

In 1969 the Company acquired a disused guards van which was transported to Knockdon Farm near Loch Bradon. This was the base for many weekend adventures and expeditions into the Galloway Hills. The van is still in situ but has fallen into disrepair. Our regular "camp" is now our weekends at hostels which is the highlight for most boys.

Our association with the Rema Foundation in Romania goes back more than ten years. We started by filling black sacks with old clothes to raise money for the charity then raised money from our weekly tuck shop. Finally we took the plunge and visited the orphanage in 2011, returning in 2013. We plan our third visit in 2017.

Our Colours

At every formal occasion we parade our colours. They are a very significant part of our BB Company. The colours were bought for the Company by donations from parents and the congregation. They were dedicated on Sunday 18th May 1969 at a service to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the 17th Ayr. The colours consist of two "flags", the Queen's Colour and the Company Colour. The Queen's Colour is the Union Jack with the BB badge in the middle which is common to all Company's Queen's Colour. The Company Colour is designed for the 17th Ayr. One of the golden panels represents the field on which the church was constructed with the other golden panel representing the purity of the faith of the Boys' Brigade. It is taken from a quote from Peter 1:7 "These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honour on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world". The colours which hang in the church today are not the originals but exact replicas which replaced the original set stolen from the church on 29th August 1993. This act was instrumental in the church no longer being left unlocked during the day.

The 17th Ayr is an integral part of Castlehill church. The Company has shared 57 of the 60 years of Castlehill's journey. As part of the family of Castlehill we have always celebrated our respective achievements and mile stones together. None more so than the Queen's Badge awards which we present at the annual dedication service. We share these presentations in the sanctuary because the congregation invests a lot into the achievement of the boys. Your donations, your prayers and your support contribute to the 17th Ayr fulfilling the object of the Boys' Brigade:

The advancement of Christ's Kingdom among Boys and the promotion of habits of Obedience, Reverence, Discipline, Self-respect and all that tends towards true Christian Manliness.

We look forward to continuing our journey together for many years to come.
Happy 60th Castlehill!



Castlehill Church of Scotland Guild

"Diamonds in the Rough"

The phrase, "diamonds in the rough" sprang to mind when thinking about this article and it portrays the Guild ladies very well. They are always on hand to help no matter whether it is to make cups of tea, do some home baking, or visit people who are unwell. Since the Guild began in the late 1950's to the present day, the members have helped numerous charities including McMillan Nurses, The Well, The Kiama Trust, Riding for the Disabled, Mathieson House, Salvation Army, Hearing Dogs for the Deaf, Mary's Meal, Marie Curie, Seascope, Night Stop and Ayrshire Cancer Support. They have given of their time and talents unselfishly. Many people and organisations have been touched with their kindness. The members both past and present have been very faithful to the Guild both by their weekly attendance and their commitment to the church family and also being there for people who need help and encouragement. We all hope that this continues for many years to come. They are all true "Diamonds in the Rough"

The Guild Committee

Wee Kirks

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 idea was taken up by Tom Blair and Robert Crockett, members of the Kirk Session at that time.

The wee Kirks were handed out to members of the congregation who were asked to put their loose change into them. The money collected was to help to pay for the North Hall. When the hall finances were completed it was decided to carry on collecting to supplement Church funds.



The first Wee Kirks were wooden ones, of which there are only about three in existence. They were replaced by the current model. The statistics make interesting reading. There are over 100 Wee Kirks out in the congregation, we have twelve collectors who make a call twice each year. Some have been around since its inception, in particular Mary Hendry who has been a faithful collector for over 35 years, but she has now decided to hand "her" district over to someone else. We thank Mary for her dedication over the years. Probably more than £70,000 has been collected from the scheme since it began. As a matter of interest each Wee Kirk can hold approximately £6 of pennies, over £100 of 20 pence pieces, and about £300 of pound coins. The collector might not be too happy with that, as it is difficult to get the coins out, but would be pleased to make the effort!

The money collected is only a by-product as the visits provide a pastoral link to many who are house-bound and do not have day to day contact with the Church and many friendships have been formed through the years.

This is a fairly painless way of giving, is of much value to the Church and as we have your name and address and if you happen to pay tax, we can reclaim 25% of your donation from the Inland Revenue.

There is always a Wee Kirk for rent, just contact the office.

Castlehill Church Men's Guild/Bowling Club.

At a committee meeting on Monday 6th October it was decided to form a Men's Guild. Among other matters discussed, including possible speakers and entertainment, it was decided to look into the purchase of equipment to have a carpet bowling facility.

The Guild continued to meet with regular programmes until it closed in October 1995, due to lack of numbers. In January the following year it was decided to ask if anyone was interested in forming a Bowling Club to be held in the afternoon. Very quickly 20 signatures were given in support and on 17th January 1996 at a meeting chaired by Edgar Grierson, it was decided to start the club the following week, the club to be known as Castlehill Bowling Club. Edgar agreed to be its first President. He presented a trophy in form of a Quaich for competition in the Ladies Pairs. Edgar was president until his death on 5th March 2003.

Wellwood Grierson, Vice president, succeeded as President until 2011, when the present President David Kerr took office. The club has gone from strength to strength with over 40 members, meeting on Monday and Wednesday afternoons.

The first subscription was £2 for the year with 30p for tea and biscuits. That has now risen to the dizzy heights of £5 with £1 for tea.

We are proud of our Club, its origins and success and to the dedication and hard work put in through the years by subsequent committees and members.

Seniors Afternoons

It is difficult to find out when the Seniors Afternoons started. It would seem that it evolved from the Action Group formed by members of the Kirk Session in the 70s/80's. They took Church members who were housebound or unable to move about freely on trips to various places, using their own transport. It is recalled that Edgar Grierson who was one of the drivers was told that the last driver his passengers had, had a much better selection of sweets than he had.!

From this an afternoon's entertainment and a cup of tea developed for seniors in the Church and the Parish. The earliest information we have of those who were involved were Bill Jackson and Andrew Irving. At some stage Syd Todd, a Reader in our Church, took over for a time. Due to Syd's illness Wellwood Grierson was asked to stand in on a temporary basis. This was in October 2001 and he is still "standing in"

It has continued to prove to be a successful event, and through all that time the "teas" have been provided by the Coffee Shop ladies.

The Coffee Shop

It is often said that an army marches on its stomach. I am convinced that Churches, while based on the teachings in the Bible, also survive through teas and coffees. Castlehill is no exception. Our Tuesday morning Coffee Shop is almost as old as the Church, started by May Bell, Ann Hamilton Nancy Queen and Joan Carson. The teams now serve coffees and teas every Tuesday morning from 10.00 to 12.00 throughout the winter months. They have themed mornings for Easter, St. Valentine's Day, Halloween and St. Andrew's Day.



They provide for the four seniors afternoons including their Christmas Party. The money collected goes into the Church Funds, but more than that they provide fellowship and a warm welcome for whoever may come along. It starts again in September, come along you will enjoy yourself.



A filled Main Hall enjoying the latest afternoon tea



The Ladies who provide the Afternoon Teas

Roots



We are told in Jeremiah 17:8, "They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit" and I am drawn to this particular part of scripture because over the past sixty years many people have chosen to put down roots in Castlehill, but why choose to plant roots in the first place? The answer is to build a home. We all want to feel that connection, as if we belong and I can think of no better place to have planted my own roots than Castlehill and becoming part of the welcoming atmosphere that our church has had for sixty years and counting. As we wait for a new minister and begin a new chapter we will continue to walk together, constantly expanding our roots and growing as a church, knowing that God is with us and feeling safe in the understanding that he has seen what lies ahead.

Kirsty Wyllie

Bowling Club Annual Outing to Girvan

On 20th July despite thunderstorms and rain in the morning, the Club set out for its annual outing. But true to form it turned out a fine afternoon and the members and friends from the Auld Kirk and St Quivox enjoyed a great afternoon's bowling. After the rain it was hard work to get the bowls up, but even the "non-bowlers", with the encouragement of the others enjoyed an entertaining day out.

After an excellent high tea President David Kerr invited Christine Stewart to present the prizes. The first "toucher" went to Elizabeth Graham. The winning team with a score of plus 13 was Janie McCrossan, Sam Storrie and David Kerr. The booby prize went to Elise Henderson, George Landsburgh and Liz Hunter, who were "a good few shots " down.

David Kerr thanked Moira, Liz and Mike who had helped to make it another successful day, and to Christine for presenting the prizes and a particular thanks to the ladies of the Girvan Bowling Club for providing the teas and they were presented with flowers and chocolates.

Taken from the Magazine 10 years ago

"She who minds her words preserves her life; She who talks too much comes to grief." (Proverbs 13,3)

Mildred, the church gossip, self-appointed monitor of the church's morals, kept sticking her nose into other people's business. Several members did not approve of her extra curricular activities, but feared her enough to maintain their silence. She made a mistake, however, when she accused Henry, a new member, of being an alcoholic after she saw his old pickup truck parked in front of the town's only bar one afternoon. She emphatically told Henry and several others that everyone seeing it there would know what he was doing.

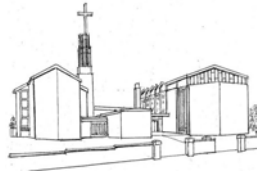
Henry, a man of few words, stared at her for a moment and just turned and walked away. He didn't explain, defend, or deny. He said nothing.

Later that evening, Henry quietly parked his pickup in front of Mildred's house . . . walked home . . . and left it there all night.

"A clever man has the wit to find the right way." (Proverbs 14,8)

The draughtsman behind the Jubilee mugs

By now you will all have had a chance to see the new Castlehill Church Diamond Jubilee mugs. Did it occur to you to wonder who had produced the fine graphic of our church which appears on the side of the mug? The man behind the professional drafting was our own John Doig, a retired architect.



The gentle lilt in his voice still betrays his origins in the Isle of Lewis, although his mother was French and his father Glaswegian. John regrets that his mother, from Valenciennes, did not speak French to him but he has made up for that by studying the language in his spare time, along with Gaelic.

His father was Medical Officer in Lewis and was awarded an MBE for his work in eradicating tuberculosis from the island. He also researched various vaccines for the disease and pioneered the BCG that is used in our schools today.

John was educated at the Nicolson Institute in Stornoway and went on to the School of Architecture at Aberdeen University, which in those days was appended to the prestigious Gray's School of Art, established in 1885. It was while he was at Aberdeen University that he met his wife to be. They had three sons and, although John had started as an architect in the Highlands, enjoyed working for London County Council and then in Edinburgh for Sir Robert Matthew, the couple decided to bring up their family in Ayr. John's wife taught Primary 1 in Dalmellington and at Alloway and the three sons attended local schools.

As an architect John had learned to draw up meticulous plans according to specifications and to make perspective views in watercolours - work which nowadays would all be done by computer graphics. It was therefore not surprising that he developed a love of painting, in particular revelling in the spontaneity which watercolours afforded him. His work was entered into competitions run by the Scottish Society of Architect Artists. He twice won first prize in Edinburgh, one for a still-life watercolour and another for an acrylic of an old barn he had seen at Dunduff Farm at Dunure. On one occasion his work was even exhibited in Paris.

While working for Robert Matthew, Johnson-Marshall & Partners Architects in Edinburgh in 1966-1967, John was part of a team which designed Stirling University, Phase 1 (Pathfoot) Buildings, an award-winning project. Much closer to home, John did the drawings for the planning application to adapt our own Church for disabled access and to create the Welcome Area. John was an active member of the Church, a regular in the choir and had an early part to play in the Prayer Group.

Although none of his three sons followed in his professional footsteps, John shyly announced that his grandson has applied to study architecture at university. A fact of which he is rather proud!



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From the Interim Moderator

Dear Friends,

In this year of Jubilee and in vacancy, there is an even greater need to seek God's guidance in all we seek to do to advance the Kingdom Jesus ushered in. I believe that the congregational officer bearers with the prayerful support of congregational members are doing just that and I thank you for it.

Have you ever wondered how an aeroplane pilot knows how to get from point A to point B? Most likely a VOR will be used. This is short for VHF Omni-directional Radio Range, a navigational system invented in the early 1950s. It still guides many aircraft to their destination today. The pilot sets the course of the aircraft on the dial. If the aircraft drifts from that set course, the instrument shows that pilot that the plane is deviating so it can be corrected to align the aircraft to the set course again.

The nation of Israel in Isaiah's day badly needed a reliable VOR system. And God wanted to be that for them. But, despite God's warning, they decided to align with Egypt (Isa 30:1-2). God graciously promised that one day, however, He would be their navigator: 'Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, 'This is the way, walk in it.' Whenever you turn to the right hand or whenever you turn to the left' (Isa 30:21)

Today Christians have an internal navigational system. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit, who lives in us to 'guide (us) into all truth' (John 16:13). If you need direction as to where to set the course of your life, don't rely on your own way. Use God's VOR system. He will surely lead you in the right direction.

Celebrating our 60th anniversary gives time to look back, recognise and give thanks for all those who in years gone past listened to God's direction and kept Castlehill on a right path. It also affords us the opportunity to commit ourselves to listen to God's direction that we might continue to follow that path and build upon the foundations laid with prayer and faithfulness.

Yours in Christ,

John Paterson

Interim Moderator

The next social event will be the Jubilee Dinner to be held in the Main Hall on Saturday 8th October at 7.00 pm. All our previous Ministers have been invited and there will be a display of photographs, articles and stories depicting the past 60 years of our Church. There will be time to chat and reminisce and tickets at £20 each for a full dinner, provided by outside caterers, are now available from Margaret Graham. Numbers will be limited to 90 so it would be advisable to obtain a ticket as soon as possible.

On the Sunday morning there will be a special service in the Church, at which it is hoped to have our previous ministers in attendance and there will be an opportunity to share tea/coffee and biscuits in the Main Hall and have a look at the display.

Funerals

March

Mrs. J. Anderson Glenfairn Nursing Home

May

Mrs. J. Blyth Hillfoot Road

Mrs. A. McMinn Holmston Drive

Mrs. P. Dunn Highfield Road

Mr. H.Christie Dalblair Court

August

Mrs. I. Wilson Belmont Road

Mrs. J. Smith Belmont Place West

Mrs. M. Thomson Treebank Crescent

Mrs. M. Allan Mount Oliphant Crescent

Mr. D. Ovenstone Cunningham Place

Baptisms

Pippa Louise Swan 21.8.16



I got up early one morning
And rushed right into the day
I had so much to accomplish
That I didn't have time to pray
Problems just tumbled about me
And heavier came each task
Why doesn't God help me?
I wondered
He answered" You didn't ask"

I want to see the joy and beauty
But the day toiled on grey and bleak
I wondered why God didn't show me
He said but you didn't seek

I tried to come into God's presence
I used all my keys at the lock
God gently and lovingly chided
My child you didn't knock

I woke up early this morning
And paused before entering the day
I had so much to accomplish
That I had to take time
To pray.

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