# The Herald

Castlehill Parish Church

Winter 2012



#### Editorial

There was a great craze a few years ago when everyone had a sticker on the rear window of their car. A common one was AWAYANDBILEYOURHEID, which I am sure would have caused a few accidents trying to read it.

Another which has persisted is "A dog is not just for Christmas", but it was interesting to see one the other day "Jesus is not just for Christmas". For many however it is only at Christmas that they come in contact with Him. Let this not be an isolated occasion and make sure He is not thrown out with the wrapping paper.

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 the Manse



#### Season of Saints

I love autumn. Even in the cold and the wet, we can appreciate the beauty and the changing colours of the season. In the church, it is a time when we call to mind the Saints who have gone before us - and those who still lead us in faith today. A season of remembering. I recently preached at the 138th anniversary of the Mission Hall in which I grew up. The local newspaper, on intimating the anniversary service said that I was "coming home to preach". It certainly felt like a homecoming, meeting old friends - and new, reminiscing and giving thanks for those who nurtured me in faith. It is wonderful to celebrate the Communion of Saints - that great cloud of witnesses who surround us always. It is important too that we take seriously our calling today to show the way of love and continue to encourage one another to grow in faith. We are called to be the saints of today.



Liz Crumlish www.liz-vicarofdibley.blogspot.com



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## Advent and Christmas Worship Sundays

Sunday 2nd December - Communion -11am and 6:30pm Sunday 9th December - Salvation Army Carol Service - 4pm Sunday 23rd December - Children's Nativity Presentation - 11am Sunday 30th December - Lesson and Carols



#### Midweek

Wednesday 28th November - 7pm - Taize Service
Wednesday 5th December - 7pm - Quiet Christmas Service - for those missing loved ones
Wednesday 12th, 19th December - 7pm - Midweek worship for Advent

#### **Christmas Eve**

7pm - Family worship 11:30pm - Watchnight Service

Christmas Day - All age worship - 11am

## Where are they now?

#### Continuing our series on former student ministers who served at Castlehill.: Rev Dr Angus Kerr

Castlehill Parish Church will for ever be a very special place for me (or should I say for us) since my wife was also a member of Castlehill Parish Church and we were married there on 28 April 1984. I can hardly believe how quickly the time seems to have passed since Catherine and I have been married 28 years and I celebrate 30 years of Ordination...again this took place in Castlehill...on 20 April 2013. It seems that pivotal things in my life took place there!!

It is a special place to me and often as we travel down to Ayrshire we pass the church and remember all that happened there. In fact, we even managed to creep in and worship at the Church on the actual day of our Twenty fifth wedding anniversary and escaped unnoticed. I will be for ever grateful to The Revd Michael Dickie for the caring spiritual direction which he gave me. To be honest, I never felt like an Assistant Minister and as far as he was concerned were colleagues and that meant a great deal to me. Time in schools and working with Mr Dickie helped form me into how I perceived ministry. I always admired the way he smiled through my



children's addresses as I did things that were a bit mad and I am sure made him cringe. Yet not once did he ever rebuke me. Strangely, I find myself doing the same thing now with younger clergy and my wife constantly reminds me as I get ready to react that I was once like that! Remember?

On leaving Castlehill I went to serve with the Royal army Chaplains Department . After a time at the Royal Military Academy ,Sandhurst and three years serving with The King's Own Scottish Borderers serving in Ireland and living in Colchester taught me the importance of being alongside people at all sorts of times in their lives. I thoroughly enjoyed army life and it was during that time that our son Cameron was born. He is now 27 and is a joiner to trade living in Australia. The army life taught loyalty, integrity, working together and some of those strong bonds made with people met during that time are as strong today. It is a special ministry and one which helped form another part of my character as a Minister. I urge you to never underestimate the work done by our Chaplains in all three branches of the Armed Forces.

Then a return to parish life...and for seven years I served as Minister in Kirkcaldy at Viewforth. During our time there Laura our daughter was born. In fact, she was born on the very night of my Induction!! Laura is now 24 and is a Staff Nurse at Ninewells Hospital, Dundee. I became a part time hospital chaplain and looked after four wards in the Victoria hospital. I still kept links with the Army as Chaplain to The Army Cadets and in 1994 went with a group of cadets and officers to The Menin Gate to take the salute and spent two weeks on battlefield tours.

After seven years I was called to a very different type of parish In Newton Mearns, Glasgow. A suburban parish with many people working in the city and a huge parish area. The church building was set at the main shopping centre on Ayr Road and for fifteen years I served there working to bring community and Church together. Boundaries were crossed and there came to be a good working relationship with The Roman Catholic Church and the local Rabbi. I worked closely with the Provost of East Renfrewshire and for many years was the unofficial Chaplain to several Provosts along with my Roman Catholic colleague. Yet the Army bug never left and I was a Territorial Army Chaplain which led me to be "called up" to serve in Bosnia in 2000 and that was an experience which left its own mark.

In 2000 I was also chosen to study for a Doctorate at Princeton Theological Seminary, a place I knew well from my student days when I had also studied there. I completed my Doctorate in 2005 and I am very proud of that achievement.

Then in 2008 after fifteen years in Newton Mearns I looked for a change in type of ministry and was Presbytery Clerk of Glasgow in succession to The Very Revd Dr David Lunan. I enjoyed working with my colleagues and with the agencies of the Church and all sorts of groups within the City of Glasgow --from Council to University and all other denominations.

And now another step on the journey awaits...at the beginning of the year I will return to the parish and if all goes well with the voting when I preach on 4 November 2012 as sole nominee I will go to another Presbytery.

The journey has been interesting...and where you set off from in any journey is as important as where you end up. To those who recall that young man who started off at Castlehill and who help him on his way..."thank you"...you prepared him well. And now the journey continues.

I had a dear friend who said to me on the night of my ordination... "There are many ways to God, my son. I hope your journey will not be too difficult"

Sometimes it has been hard but there have been those who have helped me through and to those of you who helped equip me for that journey in the first place...I owe an immense debt!

## From Mandy Hickman, Ordained Local Minister in Training

Hello again!

Yes you did read it right in the last edition of the Herald when I wrote that that my time at Castlehill was almost at an end. Due to ill health and an unforeseen stay in hospital I have not been able to fully complete my time sharing in fellowship and worship with you all at Castlehill.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a very big THANK YOU for all your prayers, your concern, cards, gifts and flowers. All of which gave me comfort and reassurance during my spell in hospital and subsequent recovery at home of God's hand at work through your care and compassion. Thank you also to the folks who visited me in hospital and made the trek up to Largs to deliver flowers it was very much appreciated.



I thought I would share with you some insight into what I learned during my time in hospital:

Nurses do not make good patients

Compulsory bedrest is not as much fun as you would think - for all of us who long for duvet days! Patience – I'm not very good at that!

But most importantly that God never fails you and is apparent often in the smallest of acts, words spoken or simply in the quiet.

I have now passed my final review and will be ordained in the near future when my health permits as an OLM returning to work within the Ardrossan Presbytery.

Although you've not quite got rid of me yet I will be back at Castlehill for a short time before I head off to pastures new!

After all I would hate to go without saying good bye!

Wishing you every blessing as you continue your faith journey together.

God Bless Mandy Trainee OLM

#### **Situations Vacant**

Castlehill Church is currently looking for someone willing to serve as Treasurer.

This involves: Preparation of end of year accounts, advising office bearers on spending and working with finance committee to prepare policies and budgets in accordance with OSCR.

Please speak to the minister if you are willing or able to serve in this capacity.

This post will be vacant at the end of the year.





#### GIRL GUIDING AT CASTLEHILL

#### **CASTLEHILL GUIDES**

Often we wonder if Guide Badges serve any purpose. Here is one which does. Two girls, Catriona McPherson and Caitlan Jackson at Castlehill Guides, have been working towards their Community Challenge Badge. For part of this the girls decided to [plant 50bulbs and to help keep the Church grounds clear of rubbish by doing a rubbish pick up every Tuesday for 6 weeks. The girls have enjoyed doing this and have found everything from paper to empty wine bottles and cans. As you can see below they are enjoying themselves in the process. Well done girls.



The girls are going to Switzerland in July next year, so please remember to support any fund raising events they may have before then.

Linda McClurkin Church contact for Girlguiding

#### THE BOYS BRIGADE

The Boys' Brigade have started this session on a very positive note. We have good numbers in the Anchor Boys, Junior Section and Company Section. Following Harry Cant's retirement from OIC Junior Section we welcome Colin Reid to the position. Colin has been an officer of the company for twelve years and is a Queen's Man of the Company.

The Company Section won the first competition of the session by beating Troon in the final of the football competition, the fourth year in a row we have beaten Troon in the final, the first time we didn't have to go to extra time and penalties!

The Company Section are planning a return trip to Romania next summer. I am anxious to return while our older boys have the opportunity to reacquaint themselves with the resident with whom they bonded last year. We are in contact with Romania on a regular basis, many of our boys are friends with the Romanians on Facebook.

After the sad news of the death of Cordruta in August our emotions were the opposite in October when we heard the news that one of the girls, Adela, who married two years ago, gave birth to a son, David. We have fund raising organised for the coming months, the first was the soup and sweet lunch following our dedication service where we raised £550. We are very grateful for all the support offered to us by the congregation, not just financially but the very positive encouragement which is given to us is so very gratefully received, thank you all very much.



# Kids' Page (for young and old!)

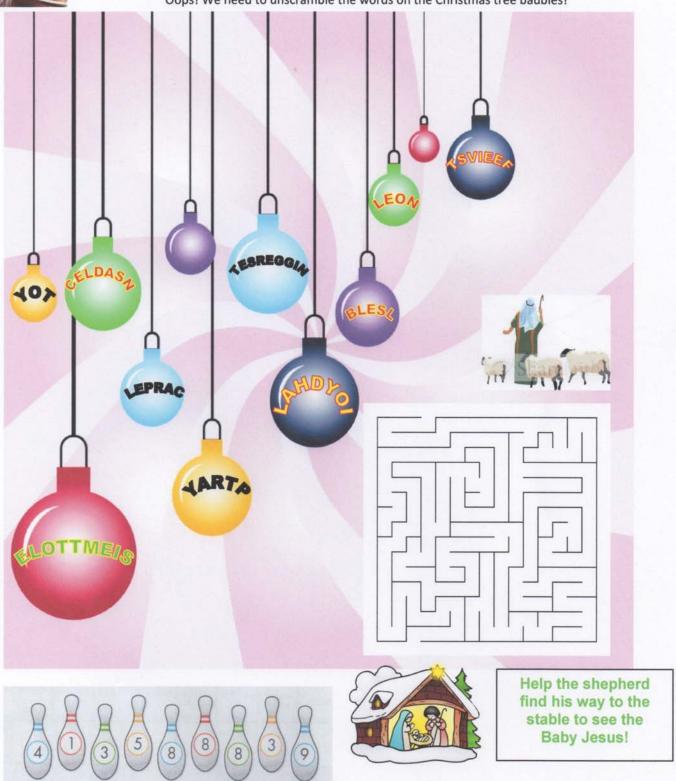


Why should husbands make the early morning tea for their wives?

Because the Bible says He Brews

What is Santa's favourite pizza?
One that's deep pan, crisp and even.

Oops! We need to unscramble the words on the Christmas tree baubles!



Are you good at ten pin bowling? Let's see if you are good at arithmetic, too. Which set of three neighbouring pins adds up to 20?

## Stewardship

In the New Testament we are asked repeatedly to become stewards for the Lord, both for his people and that which God has made. We are all fairly happy with that, knowing that a steward is someone who looks after things in general. Stewardship follows on that it is one who discharges his duties and responsibilities during his tenure of office, or put another way, during ones life time.

However if we add CAMPAIGN to the word it suddenly becomes something we are not so happy about. It gives rise to "There they go asking for money again". We seem to conveniently forget the bit about what a steward does.

Our last Campaign, which was well received and very successful, was in 2005. Yes seven years ago. We visited every member with as much information as we could gather together. It was a huge task, undertaken by almost 60 willing volunteers, and there were various presentations, well attended by the congregation, but these were only some of the ways that can be used in approaching stewardship.

The Church of Scotland has asked that every parish Church involve itself in a stewardship campaign in 2013 and our Minister and the Session will be following this through next year. This does not necessarily mean only asking for more money but more involvement and working toward increasing our congregation and our work in the community.

## **Nativity**

It sits in a box carefully wrapped in tissue paper for most of the year with a bag of silica gel beside to keep it from going damp. When the box is opened in November it is checked to see that it's intact prior to display.

Measuring 6 x 4.5 x 3 cm. it is a work of art from the island of Bonaire in the Caribbean.

What then is it?

At this time of year when many will display nativity scenes in their homes, some made of olive wood from the Holy Land, **this** particular Nativity Scene I have is made **of SALT**.

Bonaire a small island, one of the Dutch Antilles, is now considered to be an

ideal place for snorkelling and sea diving. (Today the Dutch influence is still shown in the architecture of small Main Street shops and houses. It is an ideal island to relax and enjoy nature especially seeing the large number of flamingos in the old saltpans-now a protected area.)

In bygone years however sailing ships would load vast quantities of salt there before sailing on. The salt was made by collecting sea water into shallow pools and the hot sun evaporated it.

In a small square close to the church I spotted a craft fair with some of the islanders selling their wares.

Pottery, jewellery and water colour views of the island were on display under attractive shady awnings .While sauntering around I saw a lady examining what turned out to blocks of salt and she told me when on holiday she looked for unusual memories of places visited. She had just found what she was looking for!

The Methodist church of which she was a member has an annual display of Nativity Scenes\_and she was purchasing one for the year's display. After much deliberation she selected one and then it was my turn to look carefully at the small stall.

In conversation with the craftsman I found out that it took hours of meticulous work to fashion just one nativity scene from each block of salt. He showed me with pride his only tool, a small knife.

That visit to the craft stall was the highlight of my holiday. The cost of the novel nativity scene was worth much more than any other gift from a tourist shop. Skill, ingenuity and patience had transformed a simple block of salt into a meaningful thing of beauty.

So every Christmas since 2008 my special memento from Bonaire is removed from its box carefully. It is a reminder of the Methodist lady who displays her nativity scene in her church, that quiet craftsman on that Caribbean island and the words from the New Testament, "Have the salt of friendship among yourselves." And do you know who is reputed to have created the first nativity scene? St. Francis of Assisi. Clicking onto the internet will tell you more.

M.Petticrew



## **Castlehill Youth Church**



The congregation at Castlehill Parish Church was treated on Sunday morning to a local version of the popular musical, "Joseph and His Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat". The performance was given by members of the church youth group choir who are pictured sahove with the adult leaders who helped them prepare for the big day.

Do you recognise yourself or anyone else in this Sunday School photo?

Taken on 19th April 1981

Castlehill Tuition Centre. at the church hall. Tuition in Maths & English. Contact: Agnes Dale for details 07940 192 047.

### Seniors' Afternoons

Another successful seniors' afternoon was held on 9<sup>th</sup> October. The entertainment was by Ronnie Russell, who amused the audience with his humorous stories illustrated by cartoon drawings. The attendance was slightly down due to illness of some of the regulars, but there was still an appreciative audience.

The next meeting will be on the 11<sup>th</sup> December in the Main Hall at 10.15 a.m. when we will have a Christmas celebration. Please come along and bring a friend.

Transport may be available for those who wish to come along. Contact the office or Wellwood Grierson at 285903.



#### A favourite Christmas Flower

The beautiful poinsettia plant has a small, star shaped flower in the middle. This flower is a symbol of the Star of Bethlehem, which led the three wise men to Jesus on the night of his birth. The resemblance to the star started the Christmas flower tradition in Mexico in the 18<sup>th</sup> century



## **Community Council**

Forehill, Holmston and Masonhill Community Council is a comparatively new Community Council that is now making a vigorous attempt to be a service to the local community. Community Council's members are all volunteers, with folk just like you. The broad purpose of a Community Council is to ascertain, co - ordinate and express the wider views of the entire community within our boundaries. The Community Council will seek to represent, and include, all sections of our community regardless of age, gender, ability, ethnic origin, political or religious beliefs or sexual orientation.

The community Council meets on the last Tuesday of each month in Kyle Academy at 7pm.

We're keen that folk in this community come along, if not to be a member of the Community Council, then just to see what's going on.

**S**ome of the things under discussion:

Cycle track at Kyle academy.

Notification from Ayrshire Housing of possible new houses in Glenconner Road.

Police reports issued with average police statistics for Ayr East area.

Parking issues and building works ongoing in Forehill area.

The erection of dog bins and metal bins.

If any of this catches your interest please come along to the next meeting in Kyle Academy, at 7.00pm on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2012 or contact our Secretary, John McGuire on 07921083325.





## The Choir

It's hard to believe that we are nearly at Christmas once again. When the Choir began rehearsing Christmas materials at the beginning of October it seemed ludicrously early but it is amazing how quickly the Friday night practices disappear and before you know where you are December is upon us. I really enjoy dusting off the Christmas music books about November time and begin to practice those Christmas classics such as O Holy Night. I generally try and time this with making the Christmas cake to fill the house with the smells of spices that everyone associates with the festive season. Each year I am always amazed that no matter how many times the Christmas story is told there is always something new to be taken from it and I like to think the same can be said for festive music. Although we sing the same great Christmas carols each year it is always enjoyable to find slight variations in harmony or alternative tunes to avoid complacency or habit taking over from the message contained within these great tunes. So keep your ears open for dodgy chords and alternative variations on classics as the festive season approaches!



This Christmas will be particularly special as it will be the last one with the organ in its current state. Forth Pipe Organs have confirmed that the renovation works on the organ will commence in early 2013. This will involve some fairly substantial work in removing the old pipes and building frames to accommodate the extra pipes that are to be added. The organ will be out of action for about three months but the inconvenience will be well worth it once the renovations are complete. Through our fundraising and determination to undertake the renovation we are securing the organ's future for another 50 years. We are very fortunate to have the beautiful piano in the sanctuary which should mean that there will be no disruption to worship on a Sunday morning. I am sure that no one will need any reassurance that I can be heard on whatever keyboard instrument is in front of me!!

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and my very best wishes for 2013!

Christopher

#### Church of Scotland Guild

"He came down that we may have love He came down that we may peace He came down that we may have joy Hallelujah for evermore"

We wish everyone a happy Christmas and peaceful 2013.

From The Guild Committee



## **Prayer Group**

All of us have hymns that have a special meaning for us. Each member of the prayer group has given us a line from a hymn that has given them strength, peace, courage and joy at times in their lives, so we share them with you all.

#### **Liz Crumlish**

Change and decay in all around I see but thou who changest not Abide with me.

#### **Margaret Cairns**

Be thou my vision O Lord of my heart

#### **Margaret Grierson**

Look forward in faith, all time is in God's hand

#### **Rosemary Ash**

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine

#### Elizabeth Graham

To God be the glory, great things he has done

#### **Tommy Chalmers**

I heard the voice of Jesus say, Come unto me and rest

#### **Margaret McCormick**

O love that wilt not let me go.

#### **Linda Telfer**

Here I am, Lord

#### **Dot McCormack**

Father I place into your hands my friends and family

#### **John Doig**

Lord. You have come to the lakeside

#### Joyce Henderson

O for a thousand tongues to sing

#### **Betty Dunlop**

I need thee every hour, every hour I need thee

#### Sheila McKenzie

When through the woods and forest glades I wander

#### Sandra Wyllie

The Lord is my light, my light and my salvation.



Through our Lord Jesus Christ we leave all of Castlehill Congregation in God's loving care

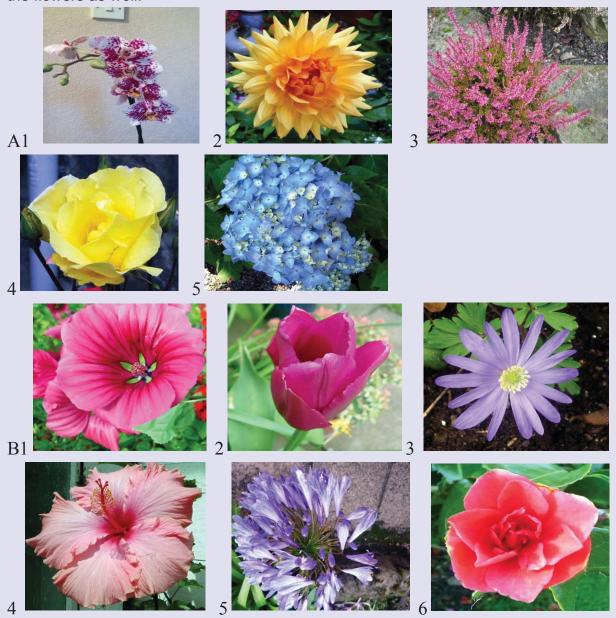




#### **COMPETITION TIME**

The intention was to have photos of flowers mentioned in the Bible and to guess what they were. To my dismay there are only three flowers mentioned, so there would have been little to do.

HOWEVER here are two groups of flowers the first when arranging the initial letters will give the name of a ruler mentioned in the Bible and the second group, after arranging the first letters will be the name of a dear friend of Jesus. Remember you will have to name the flowers as well.



Hand in your answers in a sealed envelope to the Church Office before 7<sup>th</sup> January 2013, with your name and address. In the event of a tie a winning answer will be drawn and the prize, a £5 voucher will be awarded.

**Last Competition Results**, "Churches in Ayr" were as follows:1. St. Margaret's Cathedral,2 St. Leonards,3 Newton & Wallacetown.4 St Andrews, 5 Holy Trinity ,6 St. Columba, 7 St. Pauls, 8 Auld Kirk, 9 St. James.

The winner was Mrs Morven Petticrew.

## **Parish Register**

#### **Funerals**

**August** 

John Reid David Rae Hugh Finlay Rowan Crescent Peggieshill Road Primrose Park

September

Tom Kay James Kelly Tom Sweeney Cunningham Place Glenconner Road Caledonia Road

October

Jack Hogg Margaret Black Anna Tennant Margaret Kennedy Richard Marks May Limpitlaw Jessie Gallacher Caledonia Road Belmont Road Southfield Park Southfield Park Roman Road Prestwick Peggieshill Road November

Margaret Hutchison Christina McLanaghan Elspeth Farrell Mary Slater Holmston Drive Woodpark Birch Road Cumnor Hall

Weddings

29th September Kirsty McIlwraith

Kirsty Mcllwraith Douglas Rae

10th November

Cheryl Louise Reid William Boyd Graham

## **Help Wanted**

The Fabric Group has resumed its meetings on the first Tuesday of the month.

They meet in The Lounge of the church at 7:00pm to plan and carry out regular maintenance of the church and grounds. If you feel you have gifts to offer, whether you are time served, a keen DIYer or a willing labourer, please join them. As you can imagine there is always plenty to do.



## **Autumn Highlights**



In the lead up to our Harvest Service at the beginning of October we collected non perishable foods for the South Ayrshire Food Bank. These were gratefully received by representatives of the Food Bank who participated in the service and told us of the need for such relief that exists on our own doorstep.

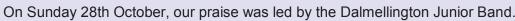


A concert by Ayre Music Makers at Castlehill Church raised £800 for the Ayrshire Hospice.

The Soup and Sweet Lunch after the BB Dedication Service at the beginning of November raised over £500 for their Romanian Fund.



The Ballinger Family Band from Tennessee brought a wonderful evening's entertainment which was supported by folks from all airts and pairts and raised over £200 for the organ fund.







Castlehill Church Christmas Fayre raised £1800 on 10th November.

## The **Cooperative** funeral care

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Prestwick 1 St Quivox Road
01292 476 604
Maybole 39 Cassillis Road
01655 882 127









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