



The Herald
Castlehill Parish Church
Autumn 2022

Editorial

Our front cover for this magazine is a medley of pictures of the Romanian children wearing the fancy dress costumes the congregation kindly donated. Thank you very much to everyone who donated a costume, the children loved them, as you'll see. You'll read more about the trip within the magazine.

The magazine is full of groups starting up again after the summer break—I hope you can find something you can get involved in.

As this magazine arrives with you the memory of the Queen's funeral will be fresh in your memory. We have watched the pomp and formality of the last few days and the overwhelming message from Royals and commoners about our late Monarch was what a caring, loyal person with a great sense of humour she was. Our prayers are now with King Charles III as he steps into the role he has prepared for all his life.

God save the King

Rachel Queen, Editor

Castlehill Parish Church, 1, Old Hillfoot Road, Ayr KA7 3LW

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|------------------------|--|
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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 same email address.

From The Manse



Dear Friends

We are now officially into autumn and the forecasts for that season, winter and beyond are decidedly gloomy according to our media: the cost of living crisis, higher than average inflation, alarmingly high energy bills looming large for individuals and businesses. We are about to experience a change in Prime Minister but no-one can be sure whether that will prove a source of any hope. I know that many people are already feeling isolated and anxious in the face of this situation.

We cannot change the economy and we recognise that there are multiple global causes for this situation which might make us feel powerless. Can I offer you this encouragement: Castlehill in co-operation with neighbouring churches, our community, our local council and others is going to do something practical about this dilemma which we hope will help all in our congregation and community: we are going to open our halls in the afternoons and on Tuesday mornings to provide a warm centre with activities, if you wish, or a quiet place to gather or some place to meet and chat with others so that you can avoid isolation and cold and save something on your energy bills. All are welcome. Details will follow about what is happening, when it starts and the daily timings.

At present we are working with others to develop a network of support within our community and we are applying for funding to ensure that we are able to pay our energy bills. This is a challenging effort but in Castlehill we respond well to challenges and to all efforts which reach out to help each other and all in our community. We shall spare no effort to try to make our church complex the warm centre of our parish where all are welcome to come along to share in what is taking place. Obviously we shall need many hands to make this work and we want to be as imaginative as possible and expand it if it proves helpful to others. If you can help even one day in any way, speak to me or to Liz Hardie who is gathering volunteers. We want to begin from our existing activities and develop a 24/7 programme that reaches out to all age groups. Our parent and toddler group, our youth organisations and the many other groups which use our halls will be involved. There is no age limit to suffering from poverty whether it is in lack of food or lack of energy for heating. We want to try and save as many as we can from having to make that dreadful choice of food or warmth.

Our Foodbank Hub will continue to operate on a Friday and we are looking with South Ayrshire Council and Foodbank to signpost people to sources of advice, guidance and support throughout the week. No matter how little you feel you can do to help, that is essential — your participation is valuable as welcomers or buddies at the gatherings. Please look out for more information as it becomes available and ask any questions you have.

This is all taking place at a challenging chapter in the Church of Scotland's history. Ayr Presbytery's Mission Plan has been approved locally but we have been told that there is a likelihood that more sacrifices will be asked of us by the National Committee. We shall not know their verdict until the end of this month and the final outcome has to be reached by the end of the year. At present we believe that our grouping has a future that is longer than five years and we shall continue to function as if that is the case. Not all local churches will continue, all are involved in change and you will be kept informed of the changes as they become clear. Do not be afraid: the Church which aims to remain faithful to its Lord, and a neighbour to its wider community has tasks ahead and will continue to function as Christ's Church no matter what changes are demanded of us.

Can I say a large thank you to all who helped at the Holiday Club in the summer and which we hope to hold again in the October holidays. Any new helpers will be made very welcome and given clear guidance of how they can help. Watch out for the intimations! I am glad to say that following the pandemic, although Covid is still amongst us, we shall be able to resume contact with our local schools and I look forward to working with them throughout the coming session.

This October marks the start of our new Presbytery: the Presbytery of the South West of Scotland. It is still something of a mystery how it will operate but we go forward in faith and hope and trust that it will prove a new way to encourage the congregations in its bounds. Again, you will be kept in touch with its development ahead.

Last Sunday saw us welcome back our former organist, Christopher Watt, to Castlehill. Christopher is now training to be a minister and the strength of his call and his capabilities were evident to us all. We look forward to following his career and are grateful that Castlehill has been blessed first by his music and now by his preaching. We wish Christopher and Erin every blessing.

As I write I am looking forward to a few weeks holiday and it is with some excitement and a sense of shared endeavour that I shall return to work our way through winter together.

May you and yours know God's richest blessings and hope at this time.

Paul

Dates for Bereavement Group Sessions for 2022

Six-week block running on alternate weeks

Tarbolton - Erskine Hall Times

Wednesday 28th September 1pm -2.30pm
Wednesday 12th October 1pm -2.30pm
Wednesday 26th October 1pm -2.30pm
Wednesday 9th November 1pm -2.30pm
Wednesday 23rd November 1pm -2.30pm
Wednesday 7th December 1pm-2.30pm

Castlehill Church Times

Thursday 6th October 7pm - 8.30pm
Thursday 20th October 7pm - 8.30pm
Thursday 3rd November 7pm - 8.30pm
Thursday 17th November 7pm - 8.30pm
Thursday 1st December 7pm - 8.30pm
Thursday 8th December 7pm - 8.30pm

Have you or someone you know been bereaved recently or even some time back?

In Scotland we are not always good about talking about our grief. If you would like an opportunity to understand grief better, and to talk a bit about your situation in a safe, confidential setting, this might be for you. There will be a brief presentation followed by a long cup of tea or coffee each afternoon or evening. If you would like to find out more, contact me for a chat and see if it might be for you.

Paul

More young people in the UK are turning to prayer compared with 20 years ago, with one in three 18-to 36-year-olds saying they had prayed within the past month, a survey has revealed.

The rise of mindfulness and spirituality in its many forms are thought to be behind the increase. Here, some young people share their perspectives on prayer — why they do it and what it offers them.

‘With the world crumbling, God gives me reason to hope’

Since getting pregnant, I’ve come back to prayer. I was raised Christian and have come back to it from time to time. But this time things feel different. With the world crumbling, God has given me a reason to hope and see beyond the hopelessness of our current political and financial landscape. It’s quite a scary time to be bringing a baby into the world with all the uncertainty – the financial situation and working out what kind of world he’s going to be born into is quite scary. Prayer has really helped me to take myself out of those world problems and see things in a broader context. **Tess Williams, 32, midwife, London**

‘My attitudes to spirituality have softened’

I was raised in a fundamentalist Christian family and given how extremely religious my upbringing was, I left the church when I moved out, feeling quite angry about how little say I had in the extremity of the religious rules I had been expected to follow. But over the years I’ve found my attitudes to spirituality have softened and I’ve spent the last few years building my own beliefs on my own terms. The main thing I get from praying is a sense of being part of a community of people existing on multiple levels. **Rob, 32, software developer, Glasgow**

‘I connected with faith after seeing priests on TikTok’

I used to go to church with the BB when I was six or seven but it was never regular – I didn’t really understand what was happening when I was that young. I wasn’t brought up in a religious family and I didn’t have a relationship with faith until recently, when I started seeing videos by ministers on TikTok. After I saw that and became interested, I could understand it a bit more. I wanted to connect with faith because I wasn’t happy with the way my life was going, and I wanted to be better to other people. Developing my spiritual health has made me feel happier. I pray because it’s a way I can speak to God and give him my worries or concerns. I’m not involved with a particular church – I’m just trying to find my place at the moment. **Thomas, 18, student, Wakefield**

‘I use prayer as a grounding technique’

Growing up, I would go to church with my parents but as I got older I had my own plans and stopped. I rediscovered faith after I went to university when I joined the Catholic society — it was good way of not feeling homesick. I live a busy life but I still use prayer as a grounding technique, just like some people may use meditation or apps like Headspace. Some weeks I may only pray to Saint Anthony of Padua, the patron saint of lost things, as I’ve done something like lose my bank card or my favourite pair of trousers. Other weeks I really make time in my day for more serious prayers. My partner’s grandparents died in the first six months of the year and this really increased how much I prayed. **Lucy Armstrong, 23, London**

Published in the Guardian with adaptations.

Moanin' Minnie

Its me again. Is it no great tae get a' these masks aff again. Mind you Ah had a job recognisin' some folks. A man alang fae me had grown a moustache an' a didnae ken him. Some folks looked a lot older as weel. Mind you maybe they thought the same aboot me.

An' see they are a' goin' back tae their usual seats again. It wis nice tae get mixed up wi' yin another. Mind you Ah wis jist sayin tae ma freend Jean, Ah couldnae get intae my seat the ither Sunday, Ah dinnae ken wha it wis sittin there but they were strangers tae me.

Still a wee bit tae go yet. Ah cannie be bothered wi a' these wee tubs o' milk and as for the tea bags and the coffee things whit a job ye hiv maken yer cuppa. An' see the mess some folks make, some o' the tea bags disintegrate if ye are no carefu. Bring back the tea pots. Of coorse maybe we are no supposed tae.

Its no' that Ahm monanin really but see the imitatations [maybe that's no the right word] the meenister reads oot on Sundays Ah can never mind the day he says or the time. An ye dinnae hae time tae write it doon, that is if ye had a pen anyway. Am Ah no gled that they are gonna start printin they things oot again.

Ah jist realised the ither Sunday the Meenister was talking aboot complainin and moanin and Ah'm sure he wis lookin at me, or maybe that wis the wummin behin me. Never mind ye ken me, Ah'll try ma best and he says I hiv tae think positive maist o' the week. That'll no be easy.

Till the next time look efter yersels.

Dalmellington Brass Band

Dalmellington Brass Band will visit Castlehill at 6.30p.m. on Sunday 25th September for an evening of well known old hymns and much loved music. This is open to everyone, in the congregation, community and beyond. Come along and enjoy the music from one of our best Scottish bands. There is no ticket but a donation can be made to cover band costs. Tea and coffee will be served.

PASS THE WORD AROUND: ALL ARE WELCOME!

Creggan Bahn

Visits have again started to Creggan Bahn Nursing Home. These are on the first Sunday of each month. Several members of the congregation are involved, chatting to the residents, and leading them in singing some well-known hymns. Anyone wishing to come along, and help are very welcome and a quick word with Paul Russell can make this happen.

The next meeting will be 2nd October

Concert for Ukraine

On 22nd June, along with Musicchoir and Ayrshire Fiddle Orchestra, Castlehill Church hosted a concert for Ukraine. It was an excellent evening and raised £2,300

Youth Church

We recommenced our youth church on Sunday 5th March with 6 primary school youngsters attending.

We have a weekly programme which covers stories in The Lion Storyteller Bible.

The youngsters love working on the activities which are linked to the story they have heard. The activities could be colouring-in, dot-to-dot, word search; maze and/or a craft activity. During our time in the main hall we also have a juice and snack.

We finished at the end of June with 10 youngsters on our register. They were presented with a bible story book during the church service before we went into the main hall to have an end of term party.

Many thanks to those who have volunteered to be on a rota to lead the youth church on a Sunday morning. We intend to recommence on Sunday 11th September.

Anyone interested in joining our group of volunteers please contact me on 07880 555779 or speak to me at the church.

Parents, do you have a child who would like to learn more about the stories in the bible? Please contact me on the number above to find out more. For pre-school children we do request that a family member attends with them for supervision purposes.



Margaret Graham

Ayrshire Cancer Support

The Congregation were delighted to see our Youth Church present a cheque to Megan from Ayrshire Cancer Support.

Thank you to all who 'bought' a brick for our Jubilee Celebrations Castle.



Prime Cuts Butchers

Unit 2
49 Maybole Road
Ayr
KA7 4SF
01292 443445

Monsters Stink

Holiday Club



Castlehill Parish Church was delighted to offer a 2 day Monsters Stink holiday club to primary school aged youngsters. The purpose of the holiday club was to explore the Christian faith through the 'monsters' we sometimes face in our everyday lives. These were disobedience (Garden of Eden) and bullying (David and Goliath).

Forty-six children took part over the two days. There were games, telling monster jokes, crafts, colouring-in, and singing.

We are delighted to say 18 adults volunteered to work at the holiday club together with 8 youngsters from our Boys Brigade and Girl Guiding.

Lunch was provided for everyone.

Parent comments:

1. Thank u so much my daughter had a ball she's looking forward tomorrow
2. My son was telling me all about it ! He was laughing loads explaining it !! Well done Mrs Graham
3. Thanks so much for the great work and effort that went into the last two days . My son had an absolute ball
4. Can you do this again please my kids thoroughly enjoyed being here.

Leaders:

1. The joy of the children participating in these activities within the halls was fabulous.
2. Wow I thoroughly enjoyed working with everyone.

We intend to hold a holiday club during the October school holidays in order to work on the remaining 2 stories in Monsters Stink

1. Afraid of getting lost – story of the lost sheep
2. Afraid of being alone – Jesus in Gethsemane

We are looking for volunteers for 17th, 18th and 19th October. Interested in knowing more and what you could be involved in contact me on 07880 555779

PARENTS: remember our Youth Church is on a Sunday morning 11-12noon. We cover a different bible story each week where we use crafts, colouring-in, dot-to-dot and/or word searches to help the youngsters remember the story. Contact me on the above number to find out more.

Margaret Graham



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What happens each week at the Foodbank distribution hub?

Sunday Morning.

You kindly leave a carrier bag of donations in the vestibule.

Tuesday or Thursday

Sunday's donations are collected when the South Ayrshire Foodbank van delivers that weeks replacement order of stock, received by one of the coordinators.

Friday morning open between 10am and 12 noon - Lesser Hall.

Our Teams comprise of one coordinator and four or five volunteers on a rota basis. They are there to distribute a food box for one, two, three, or four people. Some families require more than one box depending on its size.

When a person arrives, they are welcomed by our trained volunteers who will chat with them to help them to feel comfortable. They discuss any dietary needs a client may have and exchange their foodbank voucher for a parcel of emergency food. A typical food parcel contains a minimum of three days of nutritionally balanced, non-perishable, tinned and dried foods that have been donated by the local community. A typical food parcel includes: breakfast cereal, soup, pasta, rice, pasta sauce, baked beans, tinned meat, tinned vegetables, instant mash, UHT milk, tea, coffee, sugar, tinned dessert and biscuits.

At the end of the morning the stock is checked to see what has been issued and needs to be replaced. An order is phoned or messaged through to the Prestwick warehouse for delivery the following week.

January to July 2022 has seen us exchange 140 vouchers supplying 192 adults and 103 children, totaling nearly 300 people. Three new volunteers have joined the team after completing the South Ayrshire Foodbank application process.

Items needed: jam, biscuits, small coffee, tins of custard, tomatoes, hot meals, vegetables



This card was handed in by a person receiving a food box with the message saying:

"THANKS for ALL YOU do. Your help and support over the past few weeks. This has been such a big help".

Welcome to our new elders!

In July, we welcomed a number of new elders and admitted three others who had previously been ordained to active service at Castlehill. We look forward to them all contributing to the life of our congregation in the years ahead. Please support them in whatever way you can.

NEIL CLAXTON, BRIAN CHRISTIE, JACKIE CHRISTIE, MARGARET GERRARD, DOROTHY JACK, EILEEN MCKNIGHT, CHRISTINE MCLEAN, CHRISTINE PROUT, ELSPETH RAE, ANGELA SMITH, ELIZABETH HARDIE, ELIZABETH KELLY, ISOBEL MILLER

Paul Russell

Down Memory Lane

Seniors Afternoons

It is difficult to find out when the Seniors Afternoons started. It certainly did not start off as that. It would seem that it evolved from the Action Group formed by members of the Kirk Session in the 70s/80s. 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.! Well that is life isn't it.

It probably became difficult to find drivers who were willing to undertake this task and then new regulations came in which raised questions about insurance. Following this, an afternoon's entertainment and a cup of tea developed for seniors from 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 up until the spring of 2022 he was still "standing in" but decided after 21 years he would hand over to someone else.



Enjoying their tea

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. Lots of ladies have participated in this through the years and many will have memories of those who helped.

A few years ago, it was raised that perhaps we should change the name, as "seniors" sounded rather restrictive. After lengthy discussions no one could agree on an alternative title and so it stayed the same



The odd smooch

Obviously Covid had an effect, and we could not meet for almost two years, but we started up again in October 2021 welcoming previous members and a few new ones.

A wide range of entertainment has been enjoyed through the years. Who remembers the Sisters from the local Catholic Chapel, some of the earliest entertainers, who played the harp and sang? Sadly, ill health prevented them from continuing to come along.

We had school choirs from Ayr Academy, Holmston Primary school, [who actually walked to give their performance one Christmas]. Kincaidston school and Belmont Academy also entertained us. Forehill School have of course provided Christmas Carols over the past few years.



A bit more energetic

Do you remember Trudy McLeod and Ayr Music Makers, or the Castlehill Carillion [the "Bell ringers"], Effie Campbell and her entertainment Group, Best Friends from Cumnock [Bobby Kelly and Nancy] then when Nancy died Bobby came along with his daughter Christine?,

Jim Colvin and friends [including George Nicholl], The Ukulele bands, Hugh and Friends from Maybole, Willie Stewart and his daughter Kirsty, Alex Shuttleworth and his collection of banjos and ukuleles, what about Musical Memories from Alloway Church.? and

many more!

Hopefully the pictures will revive these memories and what we all got up to all those afternoons ago.

So many good memories of friends through the years. Hope they have brought more back to our readers.

Wellwood Grierson



Sitting back enjoying it

Finance

Regular expenditure by standing order and direct debit is £3221.04/month. This does not include gas and electricity charges which to date were £2,721 for gas and £1,817 for electricity.

Fabric expenditure to date was £2,687.30. There have not been any major repairs but a new cooker was bought for the main kitchen at a cost of £1,435.50. One of the cupboards was relocated and a stainless steel splash back was installed. That work was done by volunteers and we were very grateful for the time and materials they gave.

Our Property Group work hard to keep the buildings and grounds in good condition. They carry out tasks themselves where possible but many jobs need the expertise of tradesmen which comes at a cost. Clean up days are organised and anyone who is able to help would be made welcome.

Our Ministry & Mission payment was assessed as £2,309.83 /month for 12 payments. The Stewardship & Finance department agreed we could reduce this to £2000/month and so far we have paid the shortfall every 3 months.

If you are a tax payer and use a standing order or FWO envelopes or the Wee Kirks to give money to the church we could claim 25% of the amount given back from HMRC if you sign a Gift Aid Declaration form. Contact Margaret Devlin Tel. 01292 445118 for a form or it can be downloaded from the church website www.castlehillchurch.org under the publications section. Completed forms should be returned to Margaret.

Margaret Devlin

Attention Photographers!

For 2023 we intend producing a Castlehill Church Calendar. From December 2021 through to October 2022 we are asking you to submit photographs of our area. Let us know where the photograph was taken, date, your name and any other information you wish to give us.

We will select a picture for each month and calendars will be on sale during December 2022. A big thank you to those who have already supplied photographs. It will be no easy task selecting which ones will be used in the Castlehill 2023 Calendar.

Please send your submission to maggie641.mg@gmail.com by Sunday 16th October 2022.

Margaret Graham
Publicity Group

Fabric Report

We have had a tidy up over the summer and have freshened up a few places. The carpet in church has been repaired and cleaned. In the kitchen we have a new cooker and splashback, we still have to get a new sink and finish the worktop.

Outdoor we have new lights at the North hall area. We are having a clean-up morning on the 1st of October 10am-12noon, if you could come and help, even for a short time, this would be very helpful. We are getting the drains cleared so hopefully no flooding this year. We are always trying to keep the building in good condition but if you see anything that you think needs attention please let us know.

The Fabric Team

Social Committee

We are having a Christmas Event on the 26th of November. We will give you more details nearer the time but please put this date in your calendar.

Liz Reid

Jubilee Celebrations

To mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June we held an afternoon tea with Magic Malky and planted a willow tree in the church grounds.



Guild



How quickly summer has passed but hopefully you will all have found it enjoyable. The new session of the Guild starts on 5th October with entertainment from the Maybole Concert Party.

The theme for the Guild this coming year is "Wee Seeds, Big Trees". Our syllabus is packed with a selection of topics which should have something for everyone.

We meet on a Wednesday evening at 7.30 pm and anyone wishing to join us will be made most welcome. Why not give it a try!!!

Dorothy Jack, Secretary

Our fifth trip to Romania was billed as our tenth anniversary trip. We first visited the Rhema Foundation in August 2011. The tenth anniversary visit should have been in 2021 but we had to postpone because of Covid. For a time we thought the postponed visit would have to be further postponed because of the war in Ukraine. I can't tell you how thankful we are the war did not prevent our visit.



We left the church on Sunday 31st July at 8.30pm and journeyed overnight to Luton Airport. Our flight left at around 8.30 in the morning from Luton direct to Targu Mures, the town where the Foundation is based. Each time when we arrive on these visits there is an excited anticipation wondering how many of the residents would be there to meet us, each time they are all as excited as we are. It is like going to see close family who are such a distance away you don't get to see them very often.



We were a party of eleven boys and seven adults. Only three of the boys had been with us on a previous visit. The other eight were anxious about what lay ahead. Having spoken to the boys about their shared experience they all said it was better than they had anticipated. They highlighted the accommodation as being very good. The accommodation we stay in was formerly called Bannatyne House after Duncan Bannatyne who funded the building of it. The building is no longer needed by the Foundation. All the rooms have been upgraded to ensuite and are now let out on AirBnB. The name of the building has also changed, it is now called Capra Vecinului which is Romanian for Neighbour of the Goat. The building does have goats for neighbours.



The first two trips we made we had a Presbyterian belief that if we weren't breaking sweat, we were not contributing enough. This changed on our third trip when we were asked to help with the pre school children from the Gypsy community. This changed the essence of our trips. Our boys were now in a position of leadership, delivering arts, crafts and physical activities to the young Gypsies. A position very few had been in before. It brings the boys out of their comfort zone. The young Gypsy children become very attached to our boys, the language barrier is not a social barrier, our boys and the Gypsy children form a close bond for the short time they are with each other. This was demonstrated when we visited Hill Street, the community where the children live. When we got out our vehicles all the children who had been with us on the previous days came swarming down the hill to greet us. Each took the hand of a boy and led them up the hill to where they lived.

One of the highlights was when the UPS van pulled up to the foundation and delivered the parcel which held the dressing up costumes donated by the our congregation. Ibi was so grateful for your generosity, she was genuinely excited as she pulled the costumes from the parcel, there were seventy in total! A short time after the arrival of the costumes, the children had them on and were also very excited.



As always we have a good balance of work and play. Most days we spent a few hours at the Weekender water park.



We are so fortunate to have this facility only fifteen minutes' walk from the Foundation. The boys spent hours enjoying the many pools and flumes while the rest of us enjoyed relaxing in the sun, the weather could not have been better for the week we were there. We spent an afternoon walking through the Turda Gorge at the recommendation of Mihai, Ibi's son. It turned out to be a little more challenging than we had anticipated but we felt a sense of achievement afterwards. We also spent a few hours in one of Transylvania's salt mines, the Turda salt mine. One of the biggest salt mines in the world and one of the oldest, records show mining activity there since 1271. It is a fascinating place to visit, many locals spend time in

the mine to help with their respiratory conditions. The scale of it is such that there is a boating lake within it, a ferris wheel as well as crazy golf, ten pin bowling along with other activities. Rather than being a salt museum it is a recreational facility within a cavernous space about three times the size of St Pauls cathedral. In the evenings we spent time chatting and socialising with the residents, a good time to hear their stories and understand the challenges they face as they get older.

If our arrival is emotional, our departure is more so. I keep referring to the emotional attachment between us and the residents and it is very tangible, we have built a relationship with not only the residents but the staff also, over the last ten years. Our departure is a time of sadness, this time as much as any other. The success of our visit can be measured by the enthusiastic yes I got from the boys on our first meeting night of the new session when I asked, will you come back in two years' time?

When I made my presentation in the church recently I forgot to share one very important point. We had seven adults with us and the input from all made the trip the success it was. Two of the adults are former members, Craig and Jack who will not miss a trip. Officers, Colin Reid and Sharon Reid along with my wife and daughter, Wilma and Rachel complete the team, I want to acknowledge their contribution to making the trip such a success, thank you.

As I have said before, the congregation is a huge part of the story of our involvement with the Romanian charity. All your support is much appreciated, I hope we can count on you again when we start our planning for our next visit in 2024. Thank you in advance.

Ian Queen

The Passing of a Patron

Along with the rest of the country we were saddened to learn of the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II. Her death is felt greatly throughout the Boys' Brigade community because The Queen was our Patron. She follows on from her grandfather, uncle and father as our patron.

On Friday 9th September the 17th Ayr held a memorial service in the main hall at Castlehill Church for our Patron HM Queen Elizabeth II. We invited parents and members of the congregation to share in a short memorial service. We paraded our colours in to the hall, Ian Queen read out the obituary which had been published on the BB website. After a few words about the importance of the Queen in relation to the Queen's Badge and our Queen's colour Ian pointed out that the 85 Queen's Men on our Queen's Badge board will be the only Queen's Men the 17th Ayr will ever have. Everyone in the hall was then invited to light a candle in memory of the Queen, each boy, parent and congregation member lit a candle which was very touching. A prayer, written by the Boys' Brigade chaplain, was read out which closed our service.



Castlehill Bowling Club

An Extraordinary General Meeting of the Bowling Club was held on 24th August to consider starting up the Club again after the Covid pandemic. It was unanimously agreed that we start again on Monday 3rd October at 2.00pm This was with the provision that we can receive some help to lay and lift the carpets. Various solutions to this were discussed and agreed on. The new committee are George Neil, President, George Johnstone, Vice President, Moira Alexander, Treasurer and Wellwood Grierson, Secretary.

Everyone is welcome to come along and try their hand at bowling, it is good fun and the company is good. Watch out for a further invitation on Facebook nearer the time.



Food Hygiene

We are delighted that Linda and Mary undertook the REHIS Introduction to Food Hygiene Course during the summer. Congratulations ladies. Anyone interested in undertaking this course and finding out what it entails please contact Margaret Graham, 07880 555779 or speak to her at the church.



Rainbows

On the 18th of June, we went to Ayr Farm Park and had lots of fun in the outside area on the play equipment and going on the train ride, and zip wire, as well as feeding the outdoor animals and looking at all the indoor animals and playing inside in the soft play.

On the 30th/31st of July, we had a day camp and sleepover at Nether Auchendrane we had lots of fun playing on the play equipment and the large grass area. In the evening we had a campfire, sang campfire songs, and made delicious smores. Later in the night, the girls spent more time outside playing before going inside to watch a movie and having supper before bed. During the camp, the Rainbows did some badge work and at the end of the day, we presented the Rainbows with all their badges and certificates.

Ashleigh Maxton

GIRLGUIDING REPORT



All units are starting up again after the Summer break. After two years or so we are looking forward to getting back into the normal Unit meetings without the restrictions.

We are delighted to have taken on the post of District Commissioner on a joint basis, taking over from Carol. We would like to thank Carol for her work over the past few years and wish her well for the future.

Prior to the Summer holidays, each Unit had their presentation nights where the girls were awarded the interest badges they had earned and a lot of bronze and silver awards were presented. The Rangers completed their bronze awards and were the first unit in South Ayrshire to do so.

All units are back to residentials now. Monday night Guides had an overnight in Dailly, Christine and Angie would particularly like to thank Ronnie Turnbull from Dailly Church for all his assistance. The girls had an amazing time out walking, doing arts and crafts and karaoke and a great weekend was had by all.



Both Rainbow Units had a sleepover at Nether Auchendrane, our local campsite and again all the girls had an amazing time.

Monday night Brownies are having a residential at the end of October and Tuesday night Brownies and Guides are having residentials at Nether Auchendrane in November.

Monday night Guides took part in crab fishing and beachcombing, paddle boarding, axe throwing, forest skills and aerial tree climbing, swimming at Cumnock Outdoor pool

Tuesday night Brownies and Guides have been working on their Skill Builders UMAs, they enjoyed a night at the ten pin bowling, had a jubilee tea party, attended by the District Commissioner, County Commissioner and Paul the Minister.

Some of our Brownies are taking part in Girlguiding Wander the World Event at Blair Drummond Safari Park in September



Ashleigh Maxton and Rhiann Nillson have taken over the Rainbow Units on a Monday and Tuesday and we are grateful to Ashleigh and Rhiann for agreeing to keep the units running. Ashleigh and Rhiann have come up through Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers and we know they will be brilliant.

All our units are very healthy and Brownies and Rainbows are full to capacity.

We have welcomed new Leaders into the district and look forward to working with them.

All units very much appreciate the support we get from the Church.



Rachel Richmond and Linda McClurkin

District Commissioners

Weddings

Gregor Queen and Kerrie Munn

17th April 2022

Duncan MacGibbon and Gemma Crawford

5th July 2022

Funerals

April

Mary Smith Fenwickland Avenue, Ayr

Jean Gibb Belmont Avenue, Ayr

June

Helen Thomson Windyhall Care Home, Ayr

August

David Marshall Forehill Road, Ayr

Baptisms

Oliver Sloan 12th December 2021

Poppy Claxton 24th April 2022

Ellis Claxton 24th April 2022

Elsie Feeney 19th June 2022

Imogen Rae 19th June 2022

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