



The Herald
Castlehill Parish Church
Spring 2025

Editorial

It is hard to believe we are already in April, the brighter mornings and evening are very much welcome. In the magazine there are contributions from all the regular contributors as well as some new articles. We always welcome new articles from members of the congregation, if you would like to have an article included please contact a member of the Publicity Committee.

There are a number of groups having summer outings coming up, available to all members of the congregation. Please get in touch with the appropriate group if you would like to attend one of the outings or social events.

Rachel Queen, Editor

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

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Charity Number	SC001792

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

"When is Easter?" is a common question which many ask each year because the date for Easter changes from year to year. This year, for some younger people, there will be in that question a hint of confusion, because I have school Easter services on 2nd, 3rd and 4th April but Easter Sunday is not until 20th April. Really, it is not a big issue, as from the beginning of Lent, through Holy Week to Easter Sunday we should be thinking of Easter anyway. Many like to think of EVERY SUNDAY as like a "little Easter Sunday" because the resurrection was not limited to the first Easter Sunday. Resurrection is something we experience in small and different ways if we have eyes to see it all the time.



But before we jump to Easter Sunday, let's think of some of the activities on the journey to Easter and realise that they too still speak to our twenty first century if we have ears to hear. Take the challenge Jesus had with the powers that be and think what that might mean for us in today's troubled world. This reflection looks to Jesus on the start of Holy Week and then looks now:

Welcome to the confrontational world of the activists.

Like Jesus' "My house shall be called,
the house of prayer for all the nations,
but you have made it a den of thieves."

They stood up for righteousness, in hostile places.

Truth-tellers.

Justice-carriers.

Risk-takers.

Torch-bearers.

Fighting endlessly and fearlessly for social justice.

Standing with the oppressed,
the marginalised and the hated,
often ostracized from the rest of the world.

Paying the price for their personal quest.

Florence Nightingale:

a lone female, social reformist voice,
using statistics to reduce human suffering
and to pioneer modern nursing care.

Rev Chad Varah:

who confronted the taboo of suicide
and founded The Samaritans.

Rev Les Isaac:

who tackled the problem of antisocial behaviours
and drunkenness to set up the Street Pastors.

Mother Teresa:

who advocated for poor and homeless people, to
establish the Order of the Missionaries of Charity.

To name but a few....

Jesus confronted wrongdoings boldly,
and challenged the political
and religious system of the day.

As did many activists of past and present.

Easter is a significant time in our Church calendar: let's go into it this year with commitment and confidence, looking for the hope of Easter to come alive for us in the present tense.

May you and yours know every blessing this Easter. Paul

Holy Week Services:

Sunday 13th April 6pm

Monday 14th April 7pm

Tuesday 15th April 7pm

Wednesday 16th April 7pm

Thursday 17th April 7pm—Maundy Thursday communion at St Leonard's

Friday 18th April 7pm—Good Friday service at Castlehill, welcoming our friends from St Leonard's

If you can, celebrate Easter in worship in our Holy Week Services.

On Easter Sunday, join us for an Easter breakfast at 9.30am at the Main Hall.

Finance

The church financial year ended on 31 December 2024. Members of the Congregational Board and Kirk Session are Trustees of our congregation.

The Annual Report and Financial Accounts, which had seventeen pages, was emailed to Trustees who could then give approval by email. Four copies of the report were signed by Ian Queen and myself and then they were passed to the Examiner for approval. A copy was sent to the Presbytery of South West Scotland for the Accounts Review Team and following approval by them a copy will go to the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR). A copy was sent to Church of Scotland headquarters in Edinburgh.

From the previous year the amount given by Standing Orders and Free Will Offering envelopes decreased and the amount given by Open Plate increased.

We were able to claim Gift Aid refunds of £13,499 and a VAT refund of £514 under the Listed Places of Worship Scheme.

Fabric expenditure during the year was £9,506 for general repairs and maintenance. Costs for heating, electricity, manse council tax, insurance and cleaning the church and halls were £30,746.

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

Meet the Teams

Do you ever turn up to church on a Sunday and know the faces of the people greeting you but not their names? Below we have introduced Teams 1 and 2, if you've learnt a new name go up and introduce yourself to them—chance are they don't know your name either!

Team 1:



Linda McLurkin



Liz Reid



Margaret Devlin



Angela Smith

Team 2:



Allan Jack



Margaret Morgan



Margaret Graham



John McPherson

Fabric Report

We have a few repairs completed to the roof from slipped slates to replacing the gutters and the roof at the office refelted and the fascia board resealed. The water heater in the kitchen is waiting for new parts, because of the age of it getting parts is not easy. We have had all the electrical equipment used in church PAT tested this is carried out annually. We are looking to do some outside painting now we have better weather, the windows at the front need varnished and a few areas need painting, we are looking for volunteers to help with this task. Please contact Liz Reid if you are able to assist.

The Fabric Committee

Winter Activities Afternoons

Warm Spaces has had a successful session where the activities have been thoroughly enjoyed by our members. Friendships have been formed through common interests be it crafts, crochet or games. We have welcomed new members and on average 30 people attend regularly. As part of our inter-generational partnership we have strong links with our local nursery and have a calendar of visits. We have also recently enjoyed taking part in a bingo afternoon led by pupils of Belmont Academy. Thanks must go to all our members who contribute in any way to our successful Thursday afternoons. Our last afternoon will be on Thursday April 3rd when we will finish for the summer. I look forward to welcoming members and new friends in September when we resume.

Liz Hardie Lead

GIRLGUIDING

Long Service Awards



At Castlehill, we have a lot of very loyal and hardworking volunteers and in the past couple of months this has been recognised by Girlguiding UK.

In January Christine McLean of Monday night Guides received her 40 year service award. Also in January Rhian Nilsson of Monday night Guides received her 5 year service award.

In March Angela Lindsay of Monday night Guides received her 30 year service award and Rebecca Crawford of Tuesday night Brownies received her 5 year service award.

A big thank you to these ladies for all the time they put in and also to all the other volunteers who work hard in our district.



Thinking Day Service

Our Annual Thinking Day Service took place on 23rd February with a good attendance of girls. Our colour party consisted of some of the older Rangers from Monday night and very young new Guides from Tuesday night Guides. 5 of the Guides also took part in sketches.



Thanks to all the girls who took part it was very much appreciated and they did us proud. All the girls renewed their promise and some new Rainbows took their promise for the first time. They were awarded with their Certificates and badges.



Thanks to Paul for a really good service which the girls enjoyed being part of.



Prime Cuts Butcher

Unit 2
49 Maybole Road
Ayr
KA7 4SF
01292 443445

Monday Night Brownies

60th Birthday celebration

Our Brownie Pack recently celebrated our 60th Birthday. The Pack was registered on 11th March 1965.



In 1979 I went along to help Mrs Nettie Swiatek at the Pack and I took over as Brown Owl with in 1982 and have been there ever since.

There have been numerous Leaders who have worked with me over the past 43 years including Mary Tindall, Irene Ireland, Rachel Richmond and a lot of young leaders who were previous Brownies who have come back to help.

We have had a great number of Pack Holidays for which I have had the support of a great team.

Most of all there would be no unit without all the girls who have passed through the doors. If they have had as much satisfaction as I have had. Job done.

I would just like to thank everyone who has been part of 17th E Castlehill Brownies and to everyone who has supported the unit and myself in any way.

Linda McLurkin



I hope you have survived the winter storm unharmed. Our Foodbank was cancelled on the 24th January 2025 for the safety of our volunteers and clients.

We would like to thank everyone who donates goods and money, be it regularly or a one off. We also say thank you once again to Forehill School who donated their Christmas Church Service collection (£208.80). These donations enable the Foodbank to carry out helping those in need.

The South Ayrshire Foodbank held the first of their collection drives at Asda on Saturday 1st March where some of our volunteers helped out.

Wishing you all a Happy Easter.

Margaret Gerrard

Winter Cover Competition

Margaret Graham presented the winner of our Winter cover picture competition with their prize and a copy of the magazine to share with their family. Thank you to all at Forehill Primary that for participated.



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Anchor Boys

Our Anchor Section attended the Annual Battalion Games Afternoon on 15th February. This year it was held at Queen Margaret Academy with 80+ boys in attendance. 17th Ayr had fourteen boys attending along with Marion Reid, Colin Reid, Fraser Murray, Finlay Wright and Margaret Graham.



Colouring in competition picture – shows 2 of our boys Jax and Leo receiving the certificate from Ayr Battalion Chairperson Gillian Hay.

Margaret Graham



Junior Section

We are enjoying another busy and varied session with the 10 boys we have registered. During the session the boys have enjoyed many activities including a Scottish night, learning about Braille and also visiting the new Ayr Police Station as well as Ayr Army Reserve Centre. The visits are part of the Community work the boys do and also help to show people that the BB is still going strong.

At the Police station, we were shown around by PC Blair McGarva, along with some young volunteers. The boys loved hearing about what it is like being a police officer, seeing the CCTV cameras and especially getting to sit on a lot of comfy chairs throughout the station! They got to try on a few items of uniform, including handcuffs and getting to try out the baton!



On Friday 21.3.25, we visited the Ayr Army Reserve Centre. This was an excellent visit which the boys thoroughly enjoyed. They learned all about the different weapons that are used and got to try on some of the body armour used by the soldiers in the field. We then got to sit in the different trucks that are used and even got the chance to try out the night vision telescope – which was really cool! The 2 soldiers, Tommy and James were fantastic and kept the boys engaged throughout the visit.

Still to come before Display Night, we have our Junior International Games night on 4.4.25, where the boys take part in 6 different activities, where they are required to work as part of team. These activities are a mix of physical and mental games, with our scores being submitted to BBHQ to go against companies from all around the World!

On Saturday 26.4.25, we are having a tour around the famous Somerset Park football stadium and then we are lucky enough to be given free tickets to stay and watch the Ayr United v Queens Park game – to say that the boys are excited about this would be understatement!

Our annual Bump Up night will take place on Friday 2nd May, where we have 4 boys moving from Juniors up to Company Section. We are also looking forward to welcoming 6 Anchor Boys moving to Juniors on that same night.

The week after our Display Night on 23rd & 24th May, we will be hosting our 3rd Sleepover Event in the Church Hall. This is a hugely popular event and allows the boys the chance to see

a glimpse of what our “big camp” is like in November.

I would like to take this opportunity to offer a huge thanks to Sharon and Marion Reid who help to ensure that our weekly meeting nights and activities can run. They put in a huge amount of work each week and this helps so much in making my role that bit easier.

Colin Reid

Company Section



Since the last magazine we have been to the Well Road Centre in Moffat for a weekend “camp”. Both the Junior Section and Company Section attended. We enjoyed a treasure hunt round the town on Saturday morning. Following lunch the boys had a games afternoon which they loved. Throughout the weekend we held a team competition to create a sculpture using kitchen utensils.

The boys love cooking, for our Christmas event we baked festive sausage rolls. They loved the process and the sausage rolls turned out very successfully.



In January we held our annual Burns Lunch. As always William and Margaret Graham put on an excellent Bill O’ Fayre. We were entertained by Jacob from the Junior Section and Samuel from the Company Section who both gave us some Burns poetry. We raised much needed funds to help deliver our programme to our three sections.

We have seven young men gaining their Kings Badges this year, the first Kings Badges to be presented at 17th Ayr. These will be presented in October at our dedication service. It is quite an achievement to get seven boys to the pinnacle of their BB career.

A date for your diary, our annual display and awards ceremony will take place on Friday 16th May.

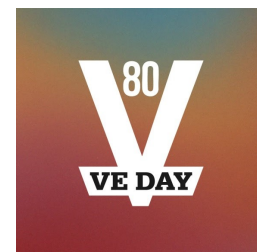
My thanks to Graeme Watt who is always on hand and to Colin Reid and Sharon Reid who join me after the Junior Section have finished, their support is much appreciated.

Ian Queen

We will be celebrating VE Day at Castlehill on Thursday 8th May 2-4pm.

Tickets will be available from the church office.

Share your letter to loved ones
(photocopy only need for display purposes)



Were your relatives part of the VE and VJ Day generation? If so we’d love to hear from you!

During the Second World War, letter writing helped to ease the pain of separation between soldiers and other displaced people, and their loved ones.

Receiving letters from family and friends was also vital for morale, keeping men and women connected to the homes they had left behind. Letters written to family and friends are today a fascinating source of information about everyday life in wartime Britain.

Do you have letters or postcards sent by your family members during the Second World War to their loved ones? This could include soldiers on the front line; men, women and children on the home front; or relatives who contributed to Britain’s war effort from Britain and Commonwealth countries.

THOUGHT AND PRAYER

This is the time of year we celebrate the start of Lent journeying towards, Passion Sunday, Holy Week, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter and the Crucifixion of Our Lord Jesus on the Cross at Calvary.

The World Day of Prayer originally the Women's World Day of Prayer was on Friday 7th March 2025. This year's theme was from The Cook Islands "I Made You Wonderful" Psalm 139 v14.

The World Day of Prayer is an international, ecumenical, prayer movement initiated and carried forward by Christian women in more than 180 countries and over 1000 languages. Every year Christians of many traditions and all ages, celebrate a common day of prayer on the first Friday in March. Services are held all around the world, beginning in Tonga and New Zealand in the east and continuing throughout the day to Samoa and Alaska in the west. We bring the needs of the world, and of the writing country in particular, before Almighty God knowing that He will hear and answer us, as we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. God invites us to have a prayer relationship with Himself, but He also expects us to have concerned relationships with our neighbours, throughout the world. Prayer must be accompanied by action, as God moves our hearts and directs our thoughts. Many thanks to all the organisers who organised, participated or attended services written by the Christian Women of the writing country. We really appreciate your contribution.

" Lord Jesus

Each new day you give us each new life and guide the actions taken during the day. Meeting others friends, families having conversations with complete strangers, knowing the words used may help that person or uplift their own spirits to go forward.

Every day the media tells what is happening around the world, in Gaza, Ukraine, USA, places all over. The bad and the good though mostly the worst comes across quicker. Many no longer want to watch television or modern technology rather switching these formats off, but all are part of the world you gave us. In amongst which a great deal of people are constantly doing good work in helping others whether in large or small ways of kindness through the various charity organisations helping improve situations.

We think of those around us dealing with health problems or sudden illness, the bereaved grieving a family member or close friend. Please be with them individually, together with those around them at this time of support, shared memories in finding their way forward. The person needing a bit of help not wanting to Ask.

Help us each day in every situation to share the love you offer us freely teaching kindness and love on the our forward journey.

We ask in your name Lord Jesus. Amen"

Andrew Graham: 01292 261486



You will never be asked
for any monies to watch
the stream of any
service at Castlehill
Church.

**If you are asked it will be a
SCAM.**

Moanin' Minnie

"Hello Minnie, Haven't seen ye fur a while, whit hiv ye been up to?"

"Oh! Hello Jean, how are you?"

MISTAKE!!

"Weel did Ah tell ye aboot ma cataract operation? Maybe no', that wis a few weeks ago. Ah wis up in the hospital, jist fur a day"..... *AH KNOW . AH KNOW.....*"It wis fine up there, they are awfu nice an".....*THE WEE_NURSE FAE TARBOLTON.....*"There wis this wee nurse fae Tarbolton" "Ah ken Jean, ye telt me"

"Did Ah? well Ah hinna mind" " Aye Jean by noo Ah ken every vein in yer ee"

"Oh weel, whit about you then Minnie?"

"Ah've been away for a while but Ah' never said aboot a wee run doon tae Girvan in the summer"

Tae Girvan, whit wis that fur?"

"Ah heard that the Boolin' Club wis hiven an outin' so thocht Ah wid hae a wee nosey. So Ah walked up tae the Boolin' Green and took a seat away fae the action. My ye should hae seen the bools, they micht a' been dropped fae a plane, they wir everywhere. Ah think they wir amin' for a wee white ba'. But mind you they were enjoyin' themsels an 'that wis the main thing."

"Did ye ken ony o' them?"

"Oh aye a few, Yin or twa looked ower and Ah heard yin sayin, "Ah think a ken her, she is at the Kirk sometimes"
"Sometimes!!!! Ahm there jist aboot every week"

"Ye should hae seen the tea they had, Ah had a wee peek in the windae, wish Ah had been wae them!"

"Then a got tae thinkin' gaun back in the bus, Ah didna ken some o' their names either."

"Weel, Minnie ye canna ken everybody"

"No but Ah mind a wee while ago aboot the the wifie in front o' me in the Kirk. She wis a wee stoot body,"

"Hey Minnie ye canna say things like that"

"Weel its better than sayin; she wis fat. Onywy every Sunday when the meenister asked us tae pass the peace.."

"Whit dae ye mean Minnie, dae ye hae sandwiches in the Kirk?"

"No no Jean it is no that kind o' piece it means ye say Peace be with ye, or somethin like that. Some say hello or nice tae see ye, it disnae matter as long as ye speak tae them and shack there haund. Ah did it fur ages wae this wee wummin. Then yin Sunday a said to somyin comin oot, Ah didna recognise the name o' that body the Meenister said had passed away." Shairly ye knew her, that is the wee wummin that sat in front o' ye.."

"I wis fair dumfooned, Ah should hae kent her better. Fae noo on Ah'm goin tae ask folk their name"

"But that soonds a bit nosey, Minnie"

" Better that than no kennin wha sits beside ye in the Kirk." "Weel Jean a maun go. Hope yer operation is a success"

Publicity Committee

The Publicity Committee have had a number of changes over the last few months. Wellwood Grierson and Sheelagh Whitton have decided to step back from the Publicity Committee. Thanks to Wellwood and Sheelagh for your work and dedication over the last number of years.

We now welcome new members to the Publicity Committee, Lesley Anderson, Pamela Turner and Manne Watt. Thank you to Lesley, Pamela and Manne for responding to our request for volunteers for the committee. We look forward to working with you over the coming years.

HOPEWELLBEING LISTENING AND COUNSELLING SERVICE

“Suddenly a strong wind blew up, and the waves began to spill over into the boat, so that it was about to fill with water.....Jesus stood up and commanded the wind, ‘Be still’. The wind died down, and there was a great calm’.

In the Beginning

The HOPEWELLBEING Charity had been operating a small Counselling Service within the wider work it offered in support of the people of South Ayrshire, since its’ beginnings in 2021. We had always wanted to expand the work so when an opportunity presented itself in late 2023, a group of recent graduates from the COSCA Certificate course at Ayr College expressed an interest in using their newly-learned skills to support others; this led to a meeting that resulted in the HOPEWELLBEING Listening and Counselling Service expanding beyond the original boundaries that until then had been possible.

The Project Begins

We weren’t to know fully how the work would develop or if it would develop at all, but as an article of faith and organisation we set off on what was a year of learning and progress.....

No Problems, Only Solutions

There is a prayer attributed to Sir Francis Drake which speaks as follows :

“When thou givest to thy servants to endeavour any great matter,
Grant us to know it is not the beginning but the continuing of the same
Until the end, until it be thoroughly finished, which yieldeth the true glory”.

So a mini-disaster struck early in 2024 that set our endeavour back when the premises we used for all of our work became unusable, due to flooding and other damaging factors. What were we going to do both for the other work that HOPEWELLBEING carried on, but also for this newly-promoted and advertised venture ?

Castlehill Church

At Castlehill Church you have shown us great kindness and welcomed us into your buildings, gifting us the use of three rooms wherein we can conduct private support on a one-to-one basis to those who come to us with their struggles. It has been a profoundly moving gesture you have offered, and on an average week we provide more than twenty sessions to members of the public at Castlehill Church. We remain grateful to Alfred the church secretary, and the Minister, Paul Russell, for their continuing support of our work and it is no exaggeration to say that without your help (and that at St.Andrews) we might not have been able to sustain the work we inaugurated.

The Work Develops

During 2024 the membership of the team was broadened and so the service we were able to offer to the public has expanded. Our team during the last year and to date, brings together individuals of diverse backgrounds having a range of skills and experience : we have had volunteers with Cosca Qualifications, some with experience in offering Bereavement and Suicide support, Trainee Counsellors (ten to date with others seeking to come on board), and some fully-qualified and experienced counsellors. Due to this range of skills, experiences and qualifications that we have been able to harness, we are able to offer individuals the support that hopefully matches their need; within the group we provide Person- Centred and Integrative Counselling, Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) and Skilled,Compassionate Listening.

Today as I write this we are now supporting members of the public in Castlehill Church, St.Andrews Church and at Maybole Health Centre. Members of South Ayrshire public are referred to us by various health workers such as GPs, Mental Health Team and Community Links Practitioners; Church groups, others and sometimes self-referrals come our way. People arrive with a variety of hurts or struggles, such as bereavement, relationship breakdowns, anxiety, stress and distress; some have carried hurts or sadness for many years. Due to the facilities you have provided us with, people can receive confidential, one -to -one support in a safe space to explore their experience

and to find sometimes a healing, sometimes the personal resources to respond to their situation. As our title suggests, in our humble way we are trying to offer the possibility that hope and wellbeing can be present. We remember the episode when Jesus calmed the storm; we in HOPEWELLBEING, and with your support, are enabled to play our small part in his footsteps, helping to calm the storms that people who come to us have encountered.

Looking to the Future

Having worked with a volunteer administrator during this last year, we were able to achieve some funding from the Health Board to allow us to employ a part-time administrator from now, which we very much appreciate. As a charity we depend largely on the money we can raise or which people contribute; we invite those who use our service to give a donation of whatever they can afford but emphasise that we do not make it a pre-requisite, and we would never turn someone away on financial grounds. The number of people seeking support continues to rise, and unfortunately we can't see everyone as quickly as we would like to; but if we are able to increase the numbers on our team with suitable volunteers then we could achieve more.

In the long run our vision is to afford our own property, tailor-made for the activities we offer in our act of service to our communities. Until then we remain indebted to Castlehill Church, and others, for the helping hand that has allowed us to continue and develop our contribution. Much of the work that congregations do is quietly given and without ostentation, but as Jesus remarks in a comment in the Gospels, 'Blessed are those who give a cup of water to these little ones'; if we have been able to play our part in that gift of love, you have helped us enable it, and for that we thank the congregation of Castlehill, for being an example of what the theologian Jurgen Moltmann called The Open Church.

Alex Welsh and Elaine Hough

On behalf of HOPEWELLBEING Listening and Counselling Service

The Guild

"Whose we are and Whom we Serve"



We are coming to the end of another successful session. The lighter nights and warm weather will soon be with us.

We have two outings arranged for the summer. A visit to the 'Coo Shed' and a bus trip to The Burrell Collection.

Our speakers have been enthusiastic, entertaining and taken us around the world on their many trips. We finish on 9th April so we still have to hear from a number of speakers i.e. Scam Awareness, a book on "Scotland Beneath the Surface", Enable (our charity for the year) and entertainment by Cantanti.

The Guild projects for the next two years are:-

1. Bear Necessities for Bulgaria will provide church services, training, a soup lunch and medical outreach for residents in the town of Sliven in Bulgaria.
 2. Crossroads to support families at Sunflower Garden in Edinburgh and Daisy Chain in Glasgow.
 3. Release International, Operation Hope Egypt, to provide basic living needs, pastoral support and income generation to Christians living in Upper Egypt.
and
 4. Scottish Bible Society to provide bibles to children across Scotland.
- You will hear more about them at a future date.

We hope you all have a Happy Easter.

Dorothy Jack, Secretary

THE BURRELL COLLECTION

The Guild are arranging a bus trip to The Burrell Collection on Wednesday, 9th July. We still have some seats available on the bus so if you would like to come along contact the church office with your name and contact number and someone will get back to you with further details.

Bowling Club



The Annual General meeting took place on 24th March and 25 members were in attendance. The office bearers appointed for the next session were, George Neill continuing as President, Vice President Jim Fergusson, Moira Alexander and Wellwood Grierson carrying on as Treasurer and Secretary.

The President, George Neil thanked everyone for their help through the year and also for continued good attendances, around 18/20 each week, throughout the session. He also mentioned several new members who had started and enjoyed being part of the Club. Competitions were under way for the rest of the year and Christine Telfer received the trophy for the best points total for the past year.

An enjoyable tea was had at the end of a fun game, with its usual hilarity.

Everyone was invited to meet again on Monday 1st September for the start of the new season. There will be the usual outing to Girvan in Mid-July, date to be confirmed and guests will be made welcome as usual.

Wellwood Grierson

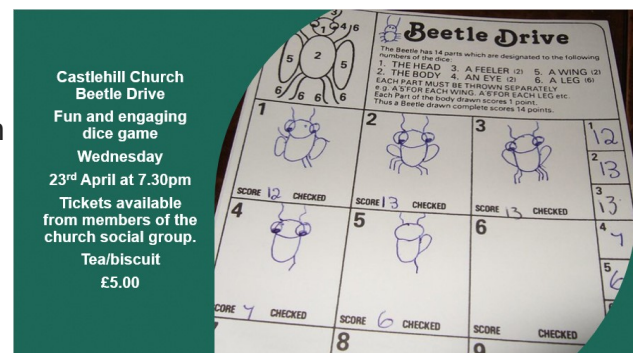
Social Report

The first event for your diary is a Beetle drive on the 23d of April 7.30pm in the North hall.

We are also hosting another beetle drive on the 27th of August.

We are putting on a variety show on Saturday 27th of November we will be selling tickets for this event and will provide more information nearer the time.

We hope you can come to these events all money raised is for the fabric of the church.



The Social Committee



What a Difference a Flower Makes



Each Sunday the Church is adorned with a display of flowers. They are often admired, but do we know how they get there? A dedicated team arrange the flowers taking turns each Sunday. They are donated by a variety of people in the Church, remembering loved ones or events. Almost every Sunday has been taken up. Volunteers deliver them each Sunday to deserving households, who have suffered loss, or been in hospital or have special birthdays.

Some of the recipients who live alone are delighted to have a visit and a chat and hear what is going on in their Church

There is a plate in the vestibule of the Church for donations, which provide funds for wrapping paper, and additional flowers if they are required. Maybe you would like to assist in this important aspect of our Church Service, either in arranging the flowers, or delivering them. If so. you can contact any of the team or through the office.

Funerals

November

Jean Gallacher

Peggieshill Road, Ayr

January

Iris Edgar

Templeton House, Ayr

Our thanks goes to the following people for donating flowers to the church between January and April:

Morven Petticrew, Dot McCormack, Mary Hendry. Pamela MacDougall, Frances Russell, Isobel Mullen, Liz Reid, Liz Hardie, Christine Prout, Liz Hunter, Elise Henderson, Cathy Carmichael, Tommy & Sandra Chalmers, May Ferris, Angela Smith, Marilyn Kerr, Catherine Holland and Margaret McCormack.

Thanks also to the flower arranging team and delivery team:

Frances Russell, Stella Nixon, Catherine Holland, Allison Smith, Margaret Gerrard, Lyn McDermott, May Harris, Margaret Grierson, Margaret Devlin, Liz Hunter, Moira Alexander and Elizabeth Reid.

There are still a few spaces available for anyone looking to donate flowers, please contact Stella Nixon for further information.



We often receive thank you cards when members of the congregation receive flowers from the church, below is a note of some of the kind messages received.

Hi Ladies, Thank you for the flowers last week. I had been admiring the colours during the service so what a delight to receive them. Thanks again Liz

With very warm wishes especially for you. This is a special note to say 'Thank you' for the lovely flowers. Jean

Thank you so much I really appreciated the church flowers, it is so nice to think that my church family are supporting me. Marlene

The Cooperative funeral care

Our caring staff are here to listen and advise you, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Ayr 7 Crown Street

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