

The Herald

Castlehill Parish Church

Autumn 2012



Editorial

Most of you will remember a popular song by Hot Chocolate called “ I Believe in Miracles “ But the question is do we really believe in the miracles as related in the Bible? Do we view them as we would a stage magician, looking for smoke and mirrors, or some sleight of hand by which we are deceived? It is easy to question the validity of the miracles which Jesus performed, or even those in the Old Testament by looking for logical explanations. As of the “Manna from Heaven”, which botanists agree is a secretion from the tamarisk trees. In the sun, the manna melted {if the ants did not get at it first}, so it had to be gathered at first light as the Israelites were instructed. But to try to dissect all miracles is not at all easy and the question is raised “Why should we”? Most of us do not understand the workings of a television, but we accept the messages it conveys. Let us ponder the miracles of the New Testament and take from them the message that has meaning for us.

Wellwood Grierson.

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Charity Number	SCO01792

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



God is dog spelt backwards

Over the summer, the manse family has been supplemented by a puppy. Ruca is a border collie, now 5 months old and growing fast. We have stayed close to home this summer with her, enjoying the many walks and beautiful places we have on our doorstep. I have appreciated, in particular, her exuberant welcome as I pop in and out of the manse during the day between visits and meetings. I can see that on days when life seems heavy her unconditional love will lighten the load and, when there doesn't seem to be enough hours in the day, attending to her needs will offer a welcome respite. Ruca has provided and will continue to be a forceful reminder of the unconditional love that God extends to us and the welcome that always awaits us from the God who is love. God IS dog spelt backwards.

Blessings

Liz Crumlish

www.liz-vicarofdibley.blogspot.com



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Forthcoming services

Sunday 2nd September - 11am and 6:30pm - Sacrament of Holy Communion

Sunday 7th October - Harvest Celebration

Sunday 28th October - Worship led by Dalmellington Silver Band

Sunday 11th November - Remembrance Sunday 10:50am

Taize Worship - last Wednesday of the month September to March, 7pm

Service of Wholeness and Healing - last Sunday of month, 9:45am

Men's breakfast service - last Saturday of month, September to March, 9:30am



Where are they now?

Continuing our series on former student ministers who served at Castlehill.: Rev Iain Macritchie

Thank you for the invitation to write for your magazine as my time at Castlehill was a special one for me.

It is 25 years ago, almost to the day, since I left Ayr, Castlehill Church to take up post in my first charge of Stirling, Viewfield. I have so many happy memories of my time in Ayr and was delighted to receive an invitation to write a 'Where are they now?' column for your parish magazine.

My ordination and induction was the last time I saw many of you and I was delighted that so many from Castlehill Church took the time to travel to Stirling for the service. I spent just over five years in that charge (my only charge to date!) before taking leave of them to start research at Aberdeen University. While there, I was also the Parish Assistant to Beechgrove Church in Aberdeen, right next to the Beechgrove garden. After my first year of research, I won a scholarship to do a Masters degree in New York, but before going there, I married Morag Beautyman, sister of Paul (another former Castlehill probationer minister!) Morag and I spent a very happy 'extended honeymoon' in the Big Apple. I returned to Aberdeen in 1994 and graduated with my PhD in 1997, slightly later than planned due to the arrival of our daughter, Eilidh, in January 1996. I was locum minister in Port Lethan and in Dyce towards the end of my research, before being appointed 'Inverness Hospitals' Chaplain' in January 1998. Our son Calum was born in March of the same year. Inverness has been our home now for over 14 years.

I have thoroughly enjoyed Hospital Chaplaincy. I worked from 1998 to 2009 as Senior Chaplain at Raigmore Hospital, then as Lead Chaplain to NHS Highland. From 2010 to the present, I have worked as a Mental Healthcare and Learning Disability Chaplain in Inverness, based at New Craigs Hospital and the Royal Northern Infirmary. All of this has given me a diverse experience of healthcare chaplaincy during a time of tremendous change for this area of work. I feel hugely privileged to be allowed to come alongside people in some of the darkest and most challenging moments of their lives.



Increasingly, the area of work in which I am involved is being called 'Spiritual Care', which I like to think of as caring for the human spirit. I am hugely encouraged by how resilient this spirit is, even in the most difficult times, and especially when people discover the resources of faith available to them, sometimes that they never knew they had. I am constantly encouraged by people's requests for prayer and by prayers answered. In all of my present work, I think of some of the very important things I learned when I was in Ayr, Castlehill. I remember Michael Dickie's gentle and encouraging mentorship. I remember his particular gift of prayer. I remember the policy of trying to visit everyone from the parish who was in

hospital, whether church member or not (and what good training that is for my present calling!) I remember my first attempts at preaching and the patience and encouragement of the congregation. And I hope I am a better minister because of these things. I try to be a good mentor to students the Church sends my way. I try to be faithful in prayer, whether my own private ones, the ones I pray with patients every day or the ones said daily for the work of the hospital in the hospital chapel. I visit all and any who ask for a visit, regardless of their faith background. I am constantly working on my preaching so that my sermons touch on the questions raised in the pastoral work of the preceding week.

I regard what happened to me while I was at Ayr, Castlehill Church as the beginning of a process of the formation of a minister which is not finished yet. Maybe, at the end of the day, and on this side of heaven, that is what we all are; God's work in progress. And that calls for an attitude of great patience and encouragement towards each other as God isn't finished with us yet!

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From Mandy Hickman, Ordained Local Minister in Training

Well I'm afraid it's that time, time to say goodbye!

When this publication of the Herald is ready for circulation I will be almost finished my year at Castlehill. Is that cheering I hear?! I started my last article with 'where has time gone?' And I feel that again, the months have just zoomed by.

When I was thinking over my time at Castlehill, I remembered something a friend often says when reflecting on holidays, days out and events, ***"what were your best bits?"*** So, here are my best bits...

Being part of youth church finding God amidst the glitter and glue.

Being privileged to share in your news and your stories week after week.

Being a part of the prayer group that offers up daily prayers for our community and our wider world.

Being able to stop mid-service for a cuppa and chat with Ada and Aggie.

Being part of this parish sharing in the tears and the laughter.

Being part of that very colourful and noisy Pentecost service- balloons in church- the Holy Spirit so much in our presence!

Being granted that wonderful experience of being part of and witnessing the fourteen young people from Castlehill's Youth Church come forward and take their profession of faith.

Being with the children, young people, leaders and families at the Farm Park outing in Ayr and marvelling in God's creation.

Being able to learn with you over the summer as we try new ventures and new hymns, together going forward in faith

My best bit - BEING – here at Castlehill and sharing with you in worship, in fellowship, in faith, a Community in Christ.

I wish you every blessing as you continue your faith journey together.

God Bless

Mandy

Trainee OLM



From Douglas Moore

Well, it is a month or two since I left Castlehill. It was not an easy decision to leave because I have enjoyed sharing with you, working with you and have met and made friends at Castlehill.

After a rummage through a drawer the other day, I came across an old tie from what was the Auxiliary Ministers Association.

The logo on the tie of the Auxiliary Ministers Association (the ladies have a scarf), is one of a cross and at the foot of the cross is a plough. Some of you may be wondering why a minister needs a tie/scarf, as we often wear a "dog collar", but sometimes we are let off the leash!

The idea for the logo came from the end of chapter 9 in Luke's gospel. There it refers to a plough. A man has just asked Jesus to go and see his family before setting out.

Willie Barclay comments, "No ploughman has ever ploughed a straight furrow looking back over his shoulder. There are some whose hearts are in the past. They walk forever looking backwards and thinking wistfully of the good old days."

He then goes on to tell of the story of an old man who was suffering sunstroke, which was making him a bit irritable.

After a while, the wee boy turned to his grandfather and said, "Granddad, I hope you never suffer from a sunset!"

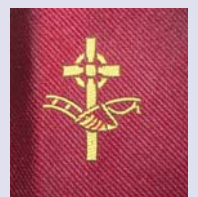
As Christians, we go on towards the dawn, not the sunset. To do this we should move forwards, not backwards.

There is something there for all of us, whether it is in our cherished forms of worship, careers or where we stay. If it is the time to move on, then go heading towards the dawn.

May I take this opportunity to say farewell to all those that I wasn't able to say cheerio to in person and a thank you for the lovely gardening gifts.

So I move on forwards to pastures new with many warm memories of my time at Castlehill. I consider my time with you to have been a great privilege. Thank you one and all.

Douglas Moore



GIRL GUIDING AT CASTLEHILL

MONDAY NIGHT BROWNIES

Pack Holiday



We held our annual Pack Holiday on weekend 25th to 27th May.

We said our prayers for hot weather and they were certainly answered with a heat wave.

Our theme for the weekend was the Olympics, which incorporated our County Challenge and Jubilee.

Amongst our activities were:-

We decorated Nether Auchendrane with Union jacks and posters relating to London and the Olympics. We made banners for an opening procession and Olympic torches, we had a mini Olympics, with various races and relays. Points were accumulated over the weekend and medals presented. Although we had intended having more sports, it was far too hot and the girls ended up having water balloons and water fights and they enjoyed this just as much.

For the Jubilee we had a princess party on the Saturday night and the girls got dressed in party dresses for this and they all got their hair done by our hairdressing Guider. This was combined with an 8th birthday party for one of the girls who had her birthday at pack holiday.

A good time was had by all and we look forward to next year!

GUIDE COFFE MORNING: SWITZERLAND FUNDS

We would like to thank everyone who supported our coffee morning in June.

The amazing sum of £695 was raised and we can't thank everyone enough for their support.

Linda McClurkin
Church contact for Girlguiding

THE BOYS BRIGADE

The last year was a very good year for the 17th Ayr. Having had such a successful trip to Romania it was fantastic to welcome the director of the foundation, Ibi, along with two of her charges, Jonko and Alesandra to our dedication service last October. Anyone who was in the church that day will know how emotional it was. It is our plan to return to Romania next Summer and continue our association and work with the Romanian Foundation. The congregation can expect some more fund raising in the coming months.

It was with a great deal of sadness we heard about the death of one of our friends in Romania. One of the "orphans" who was in the care of the Foundation passed away on Saturday 28th July, Cordruta, one of the children with greater health issues finally succumbed to her health complications. In her email to me Ibi reported very touchingly, "The kids were extraordinary, they took care of her in the hospital, looking after her needs while she was hospitalised, as of their own sister, showing her how much she is appreciated and loved." Ibi and her team of carers need out prayers to give them the strength to cope with their daily challenge.



At our annual display in May, Harry Cant stood down from his position as OIC Junior Section. His term in office as President of Ayr Battalion also ended at the start of the Summer. Harry has been an integral part of the BB team at Castlehill since he, Fiona and the family moved to Ayr fifteen years ago. We are very grateful for all that Harry has contributed to the 17th Ayr during his tenure and his wife, Fiona, deserves our thanks too for all her support and her catering expertise!

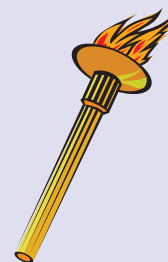
In our last BB year the Company Section took part in all available competitions and were placed in each of them. 1st in Basketball and Football, 2nd in Bible Quiz, Volleyball and Squad Drill, 3rd in Swimming and Cross Country.

Our new session starts on 31st August when we hold our annual enrolment barbecue from 6.30 til 8pm. We welcome all boys from P2 upwards.

Kids' Page (for young and old!)

Olympic sports

A mouse in her room woke Miss Dowd
She was frightened, it must be allowed,
Soon a happy thought hit her
To scare off the critter
She sat up in bed and meowed

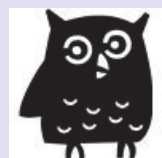
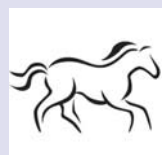
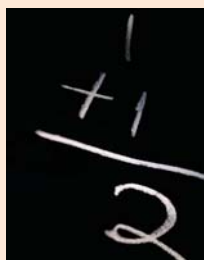


What do I like to eat?
Draw lines to connect the
creature with its food.

Unjumble the letters to find ten Olympic sports.



School days



Are here again!



Is Algebra fruitless
endeavour?
It seems they've been
trying for ever
To find x, y, and z
And it's quite clear to
me:
If they've not found
them yet then they'll
never.
Graham Lester



A proud tightrope walker named Jenny
Said, "Nets? I refuse to use any,"
But, making a wave,
She tumbled and gave
One breathless performance too many.
Graham Lester

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Jane Haining- "In the Service of Humanity"

Honoured in Israel, honoured by the British Government, remembered in Budapest, Hungary and both honoured and cherished with fondness by the community of Dunscore, her birthplace.

Who then was Jane Haining? Born in Dunscore died in Auschwitz 1944 but what a life of service!

A Church of Scotland missionary (one of the Woman's Guild own) she was educated at the local primary school and Dumfries Academy. With her older sister she became a boarder in the town and after six years as a pupil left as Modern Dux with a record of forty one prizes to her name. You can still see her name on the Dux board today and is listed outside the Academy as one of its famous pupils.

After school she pursued a business course at the Athenaeum, Glasgow and for ten years was a diligent secretary at J.P.Coates, in Paisley. She became a member of Queen's Park Church where she was a Sunday School teacher and able pianist.

After attending a meeting in Glasgow about the plight of Jews in Europe she saw an advert in "Life and Work" and was appointed to the Church of Scotland school in Budapest as Matron of the Girl's Home of the Jewish Mission. Perhaps her own early experience of living away from home led her to make a decision to care for both wanted and unwanted Jewish girls. Holidays were a source of fun and pleasure for all in the Home.

A former pupil described her as "firm but fair and someone who stood no nonsense".

She cared for the girls throughout the 30s but dangerous times were looming! Hitler annexed Austria in 1938 and 10,000 Jewish refugees flooded into Budapest every day.

On several occasions the Church requested her to return to safety in Scotland but her reply was both simple and direct, **"If these children need me in days of sunshine, how much more do they need me in days of darkness."**

Food was scarce but Jane made sure that the school kitchen could feed many refugees. When she saw a German soldier tucking into food there she let him know that he was not welcome. It is thought that this was one reason for her arrest by the Gestapo in 1944. (She was charged with eight offences).

My mother, a young Guild President in the nearby village of Hollywood, recalled how all Guildswomen in Scotland were concerned for her welfare as there was suddenly no word about her. They were asked to pray for her safety. It was only when some of Jane's belongings were returned to the School by the Gestapo later that it was realised she had been sent to Auschwitz 1944. The Jewish Council of the Guild had lost its missionary in the most cruel and degrading of circumstances.

In 2010 the British Government honoured "10 Heroes of the Holocaust" and Jane was one of them. The specially minted medal inscribed, "In the service of Humanity" is now placed in Dunscore Church for safekeeping and I was delighted to attend the special service held there in June of this year.



Dunscore School keeps her memory alive with the award of Jane Haining Citizen Award to a Primary 7 pupil.

So why not follow "The Jane Haining Trail" in this beautiful part of Dumfriesshire near Moniaive? Visit the impressive Church or stand beside the simple cairn with her memorable words inscribed on it.

Jane deserves to be better known in her own country and **you** live near enough to visit Dunscore. Make that journey and keep the memory of a brave and caring Scotsman woman alive!

If you are indoors just click onto the Internet to find out more about Scotland's Hero of the Holocaust.

M.Petticrew



Being a Young Christian

I have found that being a young Christian is not always easy since there is somehow an invisible "cloak of shame" over the word and it might not been seen as "Cool".

It can be very daunting to be known as a Christian. For example, at School, there was the odd "bible basher", "holy freak" and my favourite, "You can't do that, you go to Church" thrown my way. My answer to this was just to be myself and to be surrounded by good friends who understood me.

One way in which I believe we could make more young people open minded towards being a 21st Century Christian is to be more relaxed in our styles of worship and our choice of music in our services, and through interaction with all members of the church community, both young and old, our own Christian journey can then be defined in how we act and live out our lives with each other.

For me, being a Christian is allowing the Lord to encourage and enhance my life through prayer and worship. I especially love praising God with music and have done this my whole life, most especially with my friends at Castlehill. Over the years my faith has evolved and has grown stronger. I am proud to call myself a Christian and to call our Lord Jesus Christ my Saviour.

Kirsty Wyllie



Castlehill Youth Church

Fun at the Farm Park - This year's Youth Church Outing



The Youth Church Outing was followed by the Promotion Service during which we celebrated the huge part the young people and their leaders play in the life of Castlehill.



14 of our young people made their Profession of Faith and became communicant members of the church. (Their names are listed on Page 12.)



Our New Communicants with their leaders, Margaret Houston and Marion Turnbull.

Snippets

Men's Breakfast Club

The Men's Breakfast Club enjoyed an end of session visit to the Glasgow Transport Museum on 31st March. There were a few nostalgic glances at old car models once owned and loved.

The Breakfast Club meets on the last Saturday of the month from September to March. The men enjoy a short service of worship followed by fellowship over breakfast. Meetings will resume on Saturday 29th September at 9:30am.



Seniors' Afternoons

There was excellent entertainment from Marie McWilliams on her guitar, singing well know songs and some of her own compositions. Marie is one of Youth Church Leaders and it is great to have one "of our own" to provide an afternoon's enjoyment.

The first meeting of the new session will be on Tuesday 9th October at 2.30 p.m.

Jubilee Cream Tea



There was a good attendance at a Jubilee Tea on 3rd June, when almost £100 was raised in donations. A lot of trouble was taken to dress up and there were lots of fancy hats.

Douglas Moore

After three and a half years Douglas decided it was time to move on. He will be missed by us all and particularly by those whom he visited regularly. He was involved in most things in the Church and we all wish him the very best in his Church journey. His last service was at the June Communion and at the end of the service he was given a presentation from the Kirk Session.



Prayer Chain

As we are all aware, there are many ways to pray for others, but the one constant is that we pray in the name of Jesus Christ. He is the channel and through his power and love prayers are uplifted to God the Father who alone knows all our circumstances.

The "Prayer Chain" is only one group of people asking through Christ for those who request prayers in their lives. The group receives requests from people both known and unknown to them and they ask Our Lord Jesus for healing of body, mind and spirit at their point of need. Sometimes the prayers are specific and sometimes not. All names are confidential and are kept within the group.

We are well supported in the group by the Reverend Liz Crumlish and Mandy Hickman.

As well as the Prayer Chain there is an opportunity for prayers for others at the 9.45 am service held on the last Sunday of each month, prior to the 11.00am worship. This is a quiet meditative service where those wishing to take Communion cor to be anointed an do so.

Blessing; "The guarding of the God of life be on us; the guarding of the loving God be on us; the guarding of the Holy Spirit be on us, to aid us and enfold us each day and night of our lives. Amen."

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Church Bowling Club

The annual outing to Girvan Bowling Club took place on Wednesday 11th July 2012. forty five members and friends left the church car park at 12.45 and were joined at Girvan by our minister Liz, Idris and Zara and blessed with a most beautiful afternoon.

On arrival we had tea and coffee, scones and biscuits, while everyone visited the treasury corner, organised by our treasurer Helen Lynch ably assisted by Moira Alexander to pay their dues of £13 for Bowlers and £9 for non bowlers.

The president David Kerr welcomed everyone especially those there for the first time and read out the rules for the bowling and handed team cards to the skips.

Two trial ends were played, the bell was rung and play began in earnest. Each rink played three ends, with winners moving on and losers staying put. After twelve ends the bowls were gathered in and everyone returned to the clubhouse.

At 5.15pm high tea was beautifully served by Anne Cooper and the ladies of Girvan Club.

After tea the president spoke of the origin of Castlehill Church Bowling club and how there was a men's guild which held meetings, outings and games nights (including bowls) from 1958 till 1995. By this time numbers were very low, so the Guild closed, but held a meeting to form a Bowling Club in the Church in 1996.

The first winner of the men's singles was Wellwood Grierson and by 2002 he became president and has spent ten years in that position until this year. Wellwood was asked to come forward to accept a gift from the Bowling Club, in appreciation of his hard work over the years. The gift of a Renee McIntosh photo frame and Dobbies tokens was presented by the treasurer Helen Lynch. Wellwood in his humorous style duly thanked the club and wished them success in the future.

David Kerr then announced the winning rink of Kathy McCreadie- Harry Lorrimer – David Kerr (skip) with a score of 29 shots for 3 against. This was greeted by roars of laughter and shouts of fix! The winner of the first touch of the jack was Jim Roy. The booby prize went to Team 1 – Bob Forrester- Trudy McLeod – Linda Telfer – Lynn McDermott (skip) with a score of 2shots for 25 against.

The president then thanked everyone for coming and the ladies of Girvan Club for a lovely high tea. Mike Hardie – vice president gave a vote of thanks to David Kerr and Helen Lynch for organising the afternoon.

David Kerr
President



Church of Scotland Guild

The Church of Scotland Guild is in the midst of celebrating 125 years. Here at Castlehill the Guild was formed in the 1950's coinciding with the building of Castlehill Church. during which time the Guild has been an integral part of Church life. Office-bearers have changed, costs have gone up – The enrolment fee in 1970 was three shillings changing to 20p the following year with decimalisation. Last year we had to give £8 per member to head office. Our numbers have remained healthy, with a current membership of just over 50. What hasn't changed throughout the years are the issues of getting different speakers, allocation of our funds, and the many and varied discussions on catering.

The most important thing not to have changed is the dedication of all the members throughout the years, dedication to the church to each other and indeed the wider community. To this end, many charities and Guild projects have benefited with donations, numerous visits have been made to those who have been ill or bereaved, countless cards and flowers have been delivered, and immeasurable prayers have been said. As we look forward to another session of meetings with speakers from our new set of projects, talks from all walks of life – from Hesselhead wildlife centre to Marie Curie Nurses, and starting our new session off will be our own local Blue Grass Gospel band on Wednesday 3rd October

The Guild members, I'm sure, are ready to embrace the new three year strategy with their usual composure and commitment. They have after all been living it and acting on it in abundance for the past 50 plus years - "A Faith To Proclaim".



World Mission Stamp Appeal 2012

For many years Castlehill Church has been very faithful in collecting used stamps, helping to raise funds for the World Mission Stamp Appeals. In 2011 the amount raised was £3741.50 for the Mount Olivet Boys Home in Jamaica. This year it is hoped we can help to increase that even more. The 2012 project is to raise money for the Middle East Council of Churches through the Joint Christian Committee for Social Services in Lebanon. In particular the support will be for teaching agricultural skills to Palestinian Refugees.



JCC Agricultural Training Centre

The ancient city of Tyre in Southern Lebanon is surrounded by three camps which are home to around 45,000 Palestinian refugees. Many of these Palestinian families who were expelled in 1948 came from farming communities. On the edge of the city the Joint Christian Committee for Social Services in Lebanon (JCC) has set up a small farm. The refugees are learning agricultural skills thanks to a project which began more than a decade ago, this also allows them to maintain their cultural heritage. Since the year 2000 the JCC has organised courses for males and females aged between 14 and 35. The majority of people in Southern Lebanon live off the land around them and JCC has been using its 4,000 sq. m. plot of land there to improve the lives of Palestinian refugees who are excluded from 70 professions due to their status. The courses run for 4 months, twice a year, with between 12 and 15 participants. They have generally focussed on tasks such as planting vegetables and caring for fruit trees. Occasionally flower arranging, soap making, bee keeping and health lectures have been added to the curriculum, however the JCC would like to extend the scope of the farm project by offering the refugees the chance to learn to care for chickens. They are now developing a building which was formerly used as a chicken coop. It has been cleared and structurally strengthened but the JCC now needs further financial support in order to make the building functional and to buy the chickens.

Can we count on your support by your contribution of stamps and to keep helping others less fortunate than ourselves? Don't throw away your envelope with stamps into the waste paper basket. Please retrieve it and put it in the basket in the vestibule of the church. Even one stamp can help improve life for others.

The World Mission committee send their grateful thanks to all who have supported so well in the past and I hope will continue to do so in the future. It is through you that vital funds are still able to be raised to help our partners worldwide.

Lastly, please remember to leave a border of $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ inch round the stamps or they will not be of much value.

Yours in Christ

Margaret MacCormick



COMPETITION TIME

Can you name these Churches in Ayr?



Hand in your answers in a sealed envelope to the Church office before 7th October 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. Results will be in the next magazine

Competition Results from last magazine

The photographs were as follows:

1. Light above the pulpit. 2. Organ Pipe. 3 Organ pedals.
4. Cross above the entrance to the Sanctuary. 5. B.B.Queen's badge board.
6. Cradle Roll 7. Wheel on wheelchair. 8. Tapestry behind choir seats.
9. Bell Rope.

The winner drawn from correct entries was Bob Forrester who won a £5 Voucher. Thanks to all who entered,

Parish Register

Funerals

March

Hugh Mitchell	Thistle Walk
John Crossley	Peggieshill Road
Janet Andrew	Mount Oliphant Crescent
Danny Wilson	Glendale Crescent

April

Gary Nelson	Belmont Road
Donald Fisher	Kincaidston
Edward Wasson	Glencairn Road
Lynne Frew	Redford Nursing Home

May

Jeanette Logan	Caledonia Road
Robert Patterson	Forehill Road
Margaret Mitchell	Gorsepark

June

Sarah Thomson	Bellevue Nursing Home
Mary Igoe	Orchard Avenue
Myra Halliday	Cunningham Crescent
Nora Reid	Ellisland Square
Edward McQuat	Burnbank Road

New members by Profession of Faith

Fiona Louise Bowman
Rachel Lavalette Cassidy
Zara Elizabeth Crumlish
Eilidh Martha Elizabeth Beatha Galbraith
David Robert George Houston
Gregor Peter William Jarrott
Rebecca Marna Connor Jarrott

July

Ellen Waddell	Newton Park
Graham Smith	Dalblair Road
James Abbot	Meadowpark Drive

Baptisms

11 th March	Tyler Andrew Peddie
25 th March	Lily Carly Freeburn
25 th March	Zach James Gordon
1 st April	Paige Marion Hendron Dunlop
8 th April	Neave Melissa Jane Reynolds
22 nd April	Caitlin Annie Phoebe McEwan
29 th April	Megan Givens
13 th May	Alicia Margaret Anne Taylor
13 th May	Ruben Stewart

Wedding

1st August Gillian Alexander and Stephen Lauchlan

Abbie MacNee
Shannon MacNee
Colin John Alexander Moore
David Stephen Moore
Amy Turnbull
Ross Thomas Wallace
Ruairi James Wallace

Dates for your diary

Wednesday 5th September 7.30 p.m. - Beetle Drive.

Saturday 13th October. 7.30 p.m. Blue Grass Gospel concert The Ballinger Family Blue Grass Band from U.S.A. Tickets will be available at £7.50 from the minister and session members. There will be refreshments afterwards. The Band is performing at Moniaive Michaelmas Festival 28th to 30th September. This will be an opportunity to hear original Blue Grass music.

Sunday 28th October 11am Dalmellington Silver Band

The band will lead our morning worship

Saturday 10th November. 10.00 a.m. Church Fayre In aid of Church Funds. There will be all the usual stalls and everyone is invited to come along and give their support.

Organisations and Activities: Bowling starts 17th September Seniors Afternoon 9th October
 Opening Meeting of the Guild Wednesday 3rd October. Coffee Shop opens for business again on 28th August.

See weekly intimations in Orders of Service for further details of all these activities and more.



Harvest Appeal

The Kirk Session has agreed that the focus of our Harvest Appeal this year will be the South Ayrshire Food Bank which provides emergency food and support to local people in crisis. During the month of September there will be collection boxes for non perishable foods which we will dedicate at our Harvest Service on 7th October before passing on to the Food Bank. Please bring along any Sunday in September: UHT Milk, Fruit Juice, Soup, Tinned Fruit or Vegetables, Sugar, Cereals, Tea or Coffee, Rice Pudding, Tinned meat or fish, Pasta sauces, Dried Rice or Pasta, Biscuits. All of these items should be non perishable.

More information is available at www.southayrshire.foodbank.org.uk



A duff note from the organ

Since my last contribution to the magazine we have made good progress on the Organ refurbishment front. Although the total funds required have not been fully realised the Congregational Board has agreed to authorise the works and fund the deficit until more fundraising is done. The Organ builders are unable to start the refurbishment works until the New Year however, by late January 2013 the work should have started. Although we have raised over £7,000 we need £15,000 in total to do all the works so keep your ears peeled for more choir fundraising over the next few months.

As we head into the autumn the choir resumes its Friday night practices. This year we will be meeting fortnightly at 7pm in the church hall. Each year I make a plea for new choir members and make some comment about 'X Factor' style auditions, and each year nobody responds. Without new choir members the choir will simply disappear and there will be no one in the seats next to the organ. (This means there is less of a sound shield between the congregation and the organ!) The choir sings a wide variety of music and the principal goal of our practices is to have fun. We need new members of all ages and will welcome anybody who wishes to come along.

Over the summer I was privileged to go and watch a praise concert by the modern hymn writers Keith and Kristen Getty. This was a marvellous experience and the new hymns which they had composed for the occasion were truly inspirational. (There was also a rather talented violinist Minister in the orchestra...) Since then Liz and I have been using a new hymn each week during worship. The feedback I have received has been positive and I hope that everyone enjoys singing these new hymns as much as I enjoy playing them.

Wishing everyone the very best for the coming months,
Christopher.



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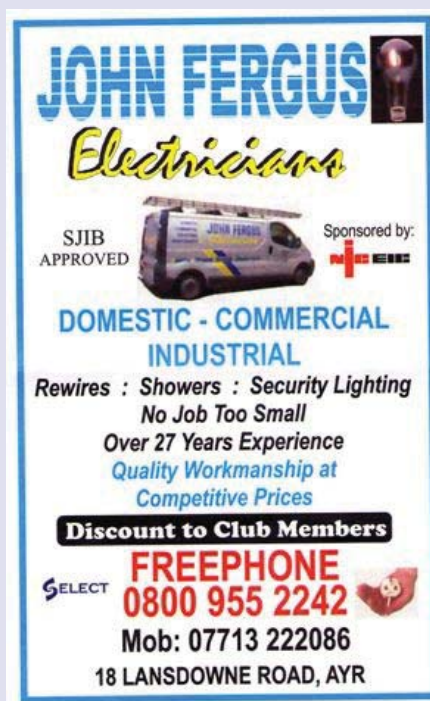
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