

## Editorial

By the time you have this magazine Easter will be upon us. As we journeyed through Lent there seemed to be so many questions we would like to have had answered. So much we really do not fully understand. Jesus was at great pains to tell his disciples and others not to broadcast what he had done, but yet his Crucifixion was so public, high on a hill. You would have thought his Resurrection would have been an opportunity to climb on to another high hill and proclaim to the world that he had risen, but he preferred to show himself only to a few. Perhaps this was a rallying call to his followers to go out and proclaim the gospel in his name and it is now up to US to shout the good news of the Resurrection. The ball is firmly in our court, what are we going to do with it?

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



#### Immanuel - God STILL with us

As we journey through the Christian seasons this year, through Advent onto Christmas and then Epiphany onto Lent, I have been very conscious of the movement from the crib to the cross. God's revealing presence leaving the stable, touching lives all the way to the cross.

Epiphany took on a new dimension when I travelled to New Orleans, where they begin Mardi Gras celebrations on 6th January (the feast of the Epiphany) right through until Ash Wednesday arrives and Lent begins. We tend to overlook the length and importance of Epiphany, a season of revealing light, a season when God lets us in on the wonder of the gift that was given in Bethlehem when God became one of us. The baby whose birth we celebrated just a short time ago, is the man with whom we now tarry in the wilderness of Lent, the man whose passion and death we will remember before emerging into the joy of Easter. God with us through birth, through life and death and through Resurrection.

The Chrismon tree that the young folks decorated during advent and on whose branches we hung stars with the names of all those we were missing at Christmas time has already been transformed into a cross that will grace our sanctuary through Lent and Easter, a tangible reminder of that journey from crib to cross, a reminder that God **IS** in all of life. May you discover God in many guises as you journey through Lent and may you experience the Risen Christ this Easter.

Blessings Liz Crumlish www.liz-vicarofdibley.blogspot.com



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#### **Lent and Easter Activities**

Lenten midweek services:

7pm Wednesdays 29th February, 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th March

Service each night during Holy Week - 2nd - 6th April - 7pm

Easter Sunday - All age worship - 11am

Other Lent and Easter Activities

Lenten Spirituality Workshops

Wednesdays 29th Feb, 7th, 14th, 21st March: 10:30 – 12

During Holy Week, there will be a Labyrinth in the church hall which you are welcome to explore.

Monday 2nd-Friday 6th April 10am -12



# Where are they now?

Continuing our series on former student ministers who served at Castlehill.: Rev Paul Beautyman

Thank you for the invitation to write for your magazine as my time at Castlehill was a special one for me. New out of university you were my first church I served in. With you I learned much, under the gentle guidance of Michael Dickie and the generous support of many of you. Leading worship and preaching was a pleasure (I hope it was for you too!) and I also remember helping organise an Easter holiday club. Memories come quickly too of working in the primary school and in Belmont High where I helped coach the rugby team. After years of shared university flats it was a real luxury to live by myself in the wee house in Glendale Crescent.



In the summer of 1993 I left Castlehill to work with the Board of National Mission as its Missions' Coordinator. One of a team of advisors, I was based at St. Ninian's Centre in Crieff. There were two main sections to the job – running youth weekends for Bible classes and youth clubs at the Centre and travelling around Scotland helping churches set up summer missions. The job was split in 1998 and I moved to Glasgow to develop high school and sports missions as well as setting up a training programme for leaders.

In September 2001 I left that post to study community education at Jordanhill College. That was a great year and by the end of it I moved to Edinburgh in October 2002. There I worked in Gilmerton as part of the New Charge Development scheme of the Church of Scotland, effectively its church planting programme. That was a demanding and amazing time as I worked to set up a new church for young people and their families. We enjoyed some successes, some failures and I loved my time working with young people in schools and clubs. We worked in close partnership with neighbouring churches in South Edinburgh as well as a range of Christian youth agencies to help run school chaplaincy, summer camps and missions. By the end we had re-opened the old church building as an arts and worship centre, christened it 'The Hub' and had great adventures in the worlds of school, sport and music. God was certainly moving amidst all the struggles and successes.

By 2009 I believed God was telling me it was time to move on so I ended up moving to Dunoon where I now live. My new role is to work for the presbytery of Argyll as an advisor in childrens' and youth work, helping the churches take their next steps. I have a colleague on Islay and between us we cover this beautiful part of Scotland. These are still early days but already we are seeing signs of growth.

I was married in 1998 to Pauline Neilson and we now have two children, Skye (aged 8) and Aidan (aged 4). They are great children and we enjoy living here in Dunoon. Skye enjoys playing fiddle and Highland dancing while Aidan goes to a Gaelic speaking nursery and also goes to Highland dancing classes. They are full of life and I love being with them. Pauline looks after them, makes crafts under the heading 'Seadrift' and also runs craft workshops with a friend called 'Blue Sky'. God is good.

I wish you well and look forward to hearing from you. God bless, Paul Beautyman





# From Douglas Moore, Auxiliary Minister

It is said that things don't really change, but perhaps the way we go about them does. For example, in times gone by, a new baby, especially a first child, became the focus of attention and this has not changed.

What may have changed is that in the past, a door would be kept ajar so as to hear the slightest sound from the precious bundle in the nursery.

Nowadays, a sound monitor may be used, allowing the parents to roam the house freely, yet not miss even the slightest snuffle from the cot.

If God is a better parent than the best earthly parent, He must hear our smallest whisper. This can be a hard thing to get our heads round if nothing changes when we pray!

Perhaps though, we think that prayer is persuading God to bless our plans and ideas; when

it is actually about asking Him to show us what He wants us to do. I'm sure we can all recall times in our lives when we've prayed that God would do a certain thing, only to be disappointed when it didn't happen. Sometimes though, we can look back and see that if we had got what we had asked for, it would not have been good at all.

Of course our hopes and desires are important to our loving Father. He loves and cares for each one of us and desires to give the best for us. But what is best for us may not be what we want! The crux of the matter is that we should ask God how he wants us to pray before we get down to actual prayer itself.

You see, what God wants for us is the very best. God is not hindered by our limited perspective; He knows what to give for our ultimate good.

Just like a good parent will not necessarily give a sweetie to a child immediately, because they know it is near a meal time and it is better for the child to have balanced nutrition. A sweet gives immediate pleasure but ultimately lacks substance.

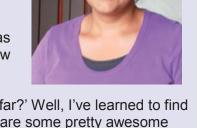
So that raises the question. Should we just leave God to do what He wants and not bother our shirts to pray at all? Well one of the mysteries of prayer is that God wants to hear our voice. He is a loving caring God and delights to hear us when we speak to Him in prayer. When we pray to God, it develops our relationship with Him. And the funny thing is that when we develop our prayer relationship with Him, we are more likely to ask for the good things that he wants to give us. May God bless each one of us as we draw near to Him in prayer. Douglas.

# And from Mandy Hickman, Ordained Local Minister in Training

Where has time gone? I can't believe as I write this article for the Herald that it is almost March. As the saying goes, 'How time flies when you are having fun.' And it most certainly has.

Since I joined you in October I have been privileged to share in worship and fellowship with you, from our times on a Sunday to some of the many events and organisations that take place within your church halls and beyond.

I had the opportunity to spend time with the Youth Church during November and as well as having fun with the glitter and the glue it was great to be able to get to know our children and young people. Not forgetting the leaders who very creatively and enthusiastically deliver God's word each week to our young folks.



Some of you might be asking, 'So, what have you learned in your time with us so far?' Well, I've learned to find my way round all the church halls, it's like a wee Tardis! I have learned that there are some pretty awesome bakers among you. I've learned to negotiate my way round the kitchen especially when cooking for the Men's Breakfast!

On a serious note I have learned and experienced the great capacity there is within Castlehill for fellowship, from the warm welcome extended to those who may be visitors or new to the church, to the concern shown for those who cannot attend for whatever reason on a Sunday. I have learned the importance placed on prayer within Castlehill that extends to more than the prayers on a Sunday. I have also learned the importance placed within worship on reflection. That time of silence where we can be still and take time to process the words we have just heard. Take time to be still and to be aware of God's presence. I have learned that this doesn't have to be exclusive to a Sunday but how beneficial it can be to our spiritual wellbeing to make time in our daily lives for God to be aware of his presence to hear that still small voice.

#### GIRL GUIDING AT CASTLEHILL

Girlguiding at Castlehill continues to have healthy units and we are really pleased that the Kincaidston Brownies have started up again with 17 Brownies.

Janette Rankin has agreed to take on the role as District Commissioner following on Sharon's resignation. We thank Sharon for her work over the past couple of years and wish Janette all the best in her new position.

We had our annual Thinking Day Service on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February with the girls from various units taking part.



BP Awards were presented to:-Ashleigh Read, Samantha Kerr, Kathrine Lee and Heather Kyle and we congratulate the girls on all their hard work

The Tuesday night Guides are planning another trip to Switzerland to give more girls the opportunity of visiting our centre in Adelboden and have started fundraising again for this.

A soup lunch was held after the service on the 19<sup>th</sup> and we raised the fantastic amount of £400 and want to thank everyone who supported this.

The next fundraising event for this will be a coffee morning on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> June.

The girls will be taking part in the County Challenge which takes the form of an Olympic theme, there are various challenges set for them in their units and this will culminate in a large event at the Dam Park at the end of May.

If anyone would like any more information regarding Rainbows, Brownies or Guides, you can contact me on 287048

Linda McClurkin

Church contact for Girlquiding





#### **Baden Powell Award**

The highest award a Guide can achieve is the Baden Powell Award. Over the last few years we have had the pleasure of seeing a number of girls being presented

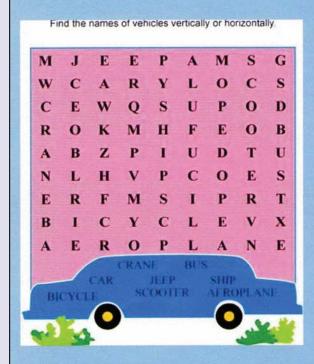
with this award during our church services.

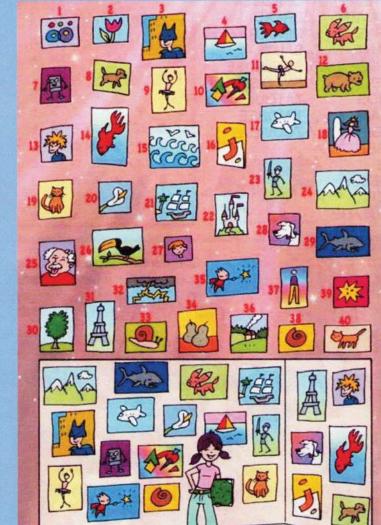
This prompted Margaret Hayter, one of our housebound members to look out her Baden Powell badge (pictured). Margaret was presented with this award around 70 years ago! Thank you Margaret for sharing.



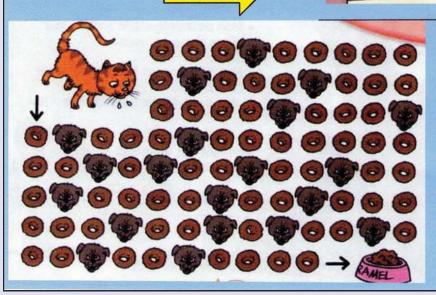
Why don't you ask a grown-up to help you with this page? They might enjoy it!...Or maybe you need to give them a hand with it!

# Kids' Page (for young and old!)





What a lot of paintings! Which of the ones above does Liz NOT have on her walls? Maybe she would like to buy them. Write down the numbers here:



Uh oh! Caramel, the cat, is hungry and is trying to get to her bowl of food but there's a fierce dog at nearly every turn! Can you find a safe way for her to go?

# Youth Church Christmas fun!















#### Castlehill Youth Church

Have you ever wondered what the children do after they leave the service?

Well.....

This year The Youth Church is using Spill The Beans for their teaching material. This material has been put together by a group of Scottish ministers, one of whom is our own minister. Both the teachers and the children really like it as there are lots of interesting suggestions for stories and crafts etc. for all the different age groups. It follows the same theme as the sermon in church to reinforce the message we are trying to get across



#### The Busy Bees (0 -5)

Frances, May and Dawn keep this group busy with a mixture of Bible stories, singing, craft and play. It's wonderful to see so many young children beginning to learn about Christianity through stories and play.

#### Primary 1 - 3

Moira and Marion are responsible for this happy group of children. Again they have fun learning about Christianity from a mixture of stories, song, craft and play, but with a little more structure.

#### Primary 4 - 6

Karen, Marie and Claire encourage this group to enjoy exploring their beliefs through stories, quizzes, games and drama. They have fun finding out more about religion

#### B.C.s

Well, what can I say about our wonderful group of 11 – 18 year olds? Margaret and Marion do a fantastic job in The Lounge (the B.C's own room which they helped to design). It is a pleasure to visit this group and see such camaraderie and good friendships being formed. They discuss all sorts of moral issues and continue to explore their own faith through discussion, stories and craft. We in Castlehill are very fortunate to have such a vibrant and growing Youth Church which is thanks to the teachers who come along faithfully every week having prepared fun and interesting things for the children to do.

Marlene Forbes

#### Fun at the Science Centre - Last year's Youth Church Outing





# **Snippets**

# **Castlehill Seniors Group**

The seniors Group had two successful meetings, one for our Christmas party when we were entertained by the children of Forehill School, who were excellent, and one in February. The entertainment was from 16 members of the Ayre Music Makers and their programme was appreciated by an excellent attendance. The St. Valentine's theme was prominent throughout the afternoon.

The next meeting is on 10th April and a warm welcome is extended to anyone in the Parish who wishes to come and lifts can be arranged.



# Castlehill Bowling Club

We have been fortunate to welcome some new members and our membership is now almost full. Most of the competitions are now complete and our congratulations are due to the following: Ladies Singles winner, Jean Hunt. Gents Singles winner, Wellwood Grierson. Ladies Pairs winners Mary Smith and Joan Macfie. Gents Pairs winners Pat Paterson and Wellwood Grierson. Mixed Pair winners, Pat Paterson and Linda Telfer.

The points league winners have not yet been decided Our Annual General Meeting has been changed to Monday 26<sup>th</sup> March and we look forward to a good attendance and some fun games.

# Saturday Men's Breakfast Club

Though attendances have been small we have enjoyed some interesting mornings. Our next meeting takes the form of a visit to the Transport Museum in Glasgow on 31<sup>st</sup> March. Think about coming along, you will enjoy it.

#### You have to smile.

Perhaps we should ask Noah to be in charge of our Church finances as he kept all his stock when everyone else went into liquidation.

# **Family Bunny Hunt**

Saturday 24th March 11am - 1pm Meet at church for directions, go and find the bunnies in Castlehill woods then return for brunch. Cost: £2







### Church Flowers

The symbolism of decorating our sanctuaries with flowers or flowering plants is one which goes back many years through the annals of worship.

To visit the smallest Kirk or the grandest Cathedral it is always a pleasure to see there a large professional arrangement or a humble floral posy which we know has been placed there with loving thoughts and has special meaning for someone. Each church has its own method of organising the provision of flowers to suit the ever changing seasons and the wishes of its members.





In Castlehill we are fortunate that the generosity of our members wishing to commemorate special occasions, allows us to have beautiful displays of flowers throughout the year.

However flowers require loving care (like ourselves) before they appear in public! We have a small dedicated team who willingly give of their time and expertise on a regular basis to ensure that the carefully selected blooms do not disappoint. After Sunday worship the flowers are wrapped and delivered to members of our congregation as a token of 'caring' from us to celebrate a special occasion be it a happy or a sad date, in their family's life. We know that these gifts are much appreciated - especially by the housebound who are unable to join us at worship in the church,

and welcome a visit and a friendly chat. Later by means of the tapes delivered by another group of volunteers they can listen to the service and visualise the familiar interior of the Church where their flowers were placed.

This was very apparent when we held a spring flower show in the Church in March 2005 and some of these photographs will subscribe to that.

If you feel able to assist with any of these duties please do not feel shy to offer your help, even if it is only on an occasional basis. Even to be there to fetch and carry for the arranger to sweep up or just to watch; then at some later time to have a go yourself. We all had to start at some point and would be glad to help or advise if required.

Below is an example of our teams.

Arrangers :- At present there are five but would appreciate the help of at least two more to

spread the duties over the year, allowing for holidays and illness.

Deliverers:- 10/12 working on a weekly rota.

Donors:- These are comprised of individuals and various groups supplemented by

donations. Over the years since the original organisers Liz Wardrop and Ella Grierson retired there have been few changes. We are grateful to those who are continuing the traditions but more assistance would be most welcome.





#### Castlehill Roll

At the end of 2011 the roll of Castlehill Church stood at 632 members.

During the year 17 people had been removed from the roll-15 by death and 2 by certificate, both of whom had moved from the parish. This is about average for the year in Castlehill.

The good news was that 13 new members joined us, a significant number in this day and age. So far during 2012, 5 people have been removed from the roll-4 by death and 1 by transfer to a church in Glasgow.

We are, however, delighted to welcome to our church Mr. and Mrs. Innes, Mrs. Forsyth, Mrs. Phillips and Mr.and Mrs. Fergusson, all of whom have joined us this year.

As of today 26/02/2012 the roll of Castlehill Church stands at 633 members.

Margaret Owens, Rollkeeper

## **Financial Review**

The principal source of income for the Church remains the offering from the members. In 2011 this amounted to £74,012, almost equal to 2010. The offering in 2011 comprised 49% standing orders, 43% weekly envelopes, 2% annual cheque and 6% open plate. There were 159 active Gift Aid Donors and gift aid received, including top up relief amounted to £12,730 on the general fund. This was considerably less than previous years due to the removal of top up relief from 6<sup>th</sup> April. A financial appeal for the fabric fund was held in September 2011 and this raised £4,368 in donations and a further £830 in Gift Aid. The organ fund received donations including Gift Aid of £4,847 and now stands at £6,817.

Douglas Wilson, Treasurer.

# New Colleague

It was a great privilege, recently, to offer words of welcome on behalf of local churches to the Reverend Linda Godfrey after a service of ordination and induction at St Leonard's linked with Dalrymple Parish Churches. I hope and pray that she will be as happy as I am working with folks in Ayr.



#### **Celebrations**



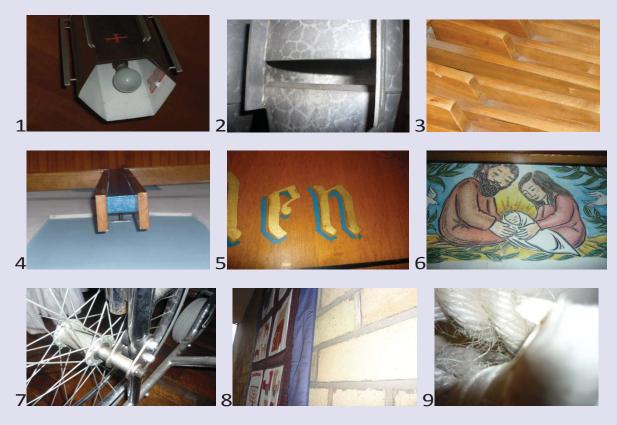
Thanks to everyone who helped me celebrate my 50th birthday, those who sent good wishes and those who came along to party. It was good to share with my Castlehill family.

£900 was raised for Yorkhill Hospital and the Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia Association UK.

Liz Crumlish

#### **COMPETITION TIME**

What are these and where are they in our Church?



Hand in your answers in a sealed envelope to the Church Office before 30<sup>th</sup> April with your name and address. In the event of a tie a winning answer will be drawn and the prize, a £5 book token will be awarded.

Results will be in the next magazine.





# Parish Register

#### **Funerals**

#### November

Francis Campbell, Gorse Park Jean Haddow, Airlie House Freda Lumsden, Caledonia Road

#### December

Martha Milby, Inverness (formerly Armour Drive) Norman McLean, Stonecrop Place

#### January

Ena Scouler, Willow Park
John Kenny, Leslie Crescent
Marion McKie, Glencairn Road
Jeff Lawrie, Trefoil Place
Rita Boyce, Burnbank Road
Allan McBride, Heathfield Nursing Home
Margaret Brooker, South Lodge
Peter McInally, Craigie Way
Samuel Cowan Fern Brae
Margaret McSorland, Kyle Court

#### **February**

Janet Walker, Overmills Road James McLaughlin, Maybole Road Christopher Peacock Hillfoot Road John Mitchell, Gorse Park

#### March

Helen Wallace, Mossgeil Road John Telfer, Anderson Crescent

# **Baptisms**

Oriana Thomson Lee William Charles Galloway Zach Louis Thomas Miller 20<sup>th</sup> November 2011 26<sup>th</sup> February 2012 26<sup>th</sup> February 2012

# People of Faith

#### The Blessings of God

A poor highland woman, unable to read or write, derived great compensation from observing nature. She noted how the frail petals of the flax or lint-bell unfolded in the sunshine and closed when its rays were withdrawn

Ignorant of many things she may well have been, but one gift was hers indeed – the capacity to understand, accept and love the blessings of God, from the 'inestimable gift' of his Son to the least flower that bloomed in her path.

On applying to her minister to be admitted to the Lord's Supper, her ignorance of basic doctrines was so palpable that she was deemed unfit to become a communicant.



The minister told her as kindly as he could. She simply said "Aweel, sir aweel. But I ken ae thing – as the lint-bell opens in the sun, so does my heart to the Lord Jesus

# Church signs from around the world

- 1) A man's character is like a fence. It cannot be strengthened by whitewash
- 2) K-Mart isn't the only saving place!
- 3) Preach the gospel at all times. Use words if necessary
- 4) Delay is preferable to error
- 5) Prevent truth decay. Brush up on your bible
- 6) It's hard to stumble when you're down on your knees
- 7) What part of THOU SHALT NOT don't you understand?
- 8) A clear conscience makes a soft pillow
- 9) The wages of sin is death. Repent before payday
- 10) Can't sleep? Try counting your blessings
- 11) Forbidden fruit creates many jams
- 12) Christians, keep the faith... But not from others!

# From our prayer coordinator

#### Lent, Easter, Love and Light

We move through Lent, a time of reflection on the meaning of Christ's life and death on the cross, and how that affects us spiritually. We look to Easter for renewal and healing within ourselves, and we try to understand the unconditional love and forgiveness given to us no matter where we are on our Christian journey of faith.

In his book, "His Healing Touch", Father Michael Buckley says that "the Christian life is a circle of healing love joining us with God the Father and each other, the centre of which is Christ the wounded healer, and the healing force is the Spirit of Love which heals us and makes us one." Therefore, as we approach Easter let the light and love from God shine and flow through Jesus Christ into our lives and the lives of those around us, giving us inner calm, peace and joy at our point of need.

Margaret Cairns, Prayer Chain.

# **Study Leave**

At the end of January, I travelled to New Orleans to meet up with 42 other women ministers aboard a cruise ship headed for the Caribbean. Together, we prepared preaching materials for the Sundays after Pentecost, ably assisted by Jenee Woodward, host of The Text This Week, a valuable online preaching resource. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet up with other women preachers and share resources and experience. Tanya Webster, of Ardrossan: Park church and I were the only Scottish ministers on the course, the others hailing from America and Canada. I



look forward, over the next few months to sharing some of the things we learned and created together.

Liz Crumlish

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