

Castlehill Parish Church

# The Herald

Winter 2008



Welcome to your new look "Herald". I hope you like the new layout and colours and I would be pleased to receive any feed back you may have to help plan for future editions.

The success of the magazine depends both on contributions from the congregation and revenue from advertisers. If you have any articles you would like included in the March, or later editions then please e-mail them to me at [herald@castlehillchurch.org](mailto:herald@castlehillchurch.org) or post them to the Church office in an envelope marked "Herald Editor"

Best wishes for the festive season,

Tracey Wilson  
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# From the manse

We've just returned from a week in Corfu where we encountered and soaked up sun, sea and sand. A glorious respite from the cold chill of this Scottish autumn and winter.



In no time we will be celebrating Christmas, a festival that brings some warmth and cheer into the middle of winter. That, in itself would be worthwhile celebrating in these climes. But, in the church, we celebrate so much more. We hail the advent of a baby whose birth ushered in a whole new order, a whole new world. We celebrate a love that warms the coldest heart.

What we celebrate as Christians is not merely a mid winter festival that spreads warmth for a season but the birth of a king who changes our lives forever.

Much as I enjoyed my winter break, I was glad to return to Castlehill to embark once more on the adventure that is ministry in this place. Its an adventure in which we are all involved as we observe advent, preparing ourselves to celebrate again the birth of Christ. That baby who brought warmth and light into the world 2000 years ago, journeys with us through all our seasons, through every adventure. That baby lights a way for us through every darkness that we may encounter.

May you know Christ's love, Christ's warmth, Christ's light in every corner of your life this advent and Christmas.

Every blessing

*Liz Crumlish*

## *Sacrament of Holy Communion*

Our next celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion will be on Sunday 7th December at 11.00am and 6.30pm

### **Advent Worship**

Advent begins on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November. We celebrate Advent Sunday with all age family worship.

In the evening there will be a quieter, more reflective service using an order produced by Christian Aid when we will be joined by other churches in the area. Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November, 6:30pm.

In addition to our normal Sunday worship, midweek services will be held throughout advent to help us get ready to celebrate Christmas. These will be short (30 min), quiet services, offering a brief respite from the busyness of the season.

**Wednesdays- 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> December, 7pm.**

### **Nativity Presentation**

The young folk in the church will bring us their retelling of the Christmas story on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December during morning worship.

### **Christmas Eve**

We celebrate with families in worship at 7pm and then a quiet candle lit service at 11:30 pm.

### **Christmas Day**

A celebration at 11am.

Whatever age you are, please bring one of the gifts you have received.

### **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December**

A service of readings and carols

## *Christmas Fayre*

A Christmas Fayre will be held on **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November, 10am until 1pm.** Lots of different church organisations will be joining in to help raise funds to replace the church roof. Your support will be welcome.





### *The Weight of a Snowflake*

*"Tell me the weight of a snowflake" a coal tit asked a wild dove.*

*"Nothing more than nothing," was the answer.*

*"In that case, I must tell you a marvellous story," the coal tit said.*

*"I sat on the branch of a fir tree, close to its trunk, when it began to snow - not heavily, not in a raging blizzard, no, just like in a dream, without a sound and without any violence.*

*Since I did not have anything better to do, I counted the snowflakes settling on the twigs and needles on my branch.*

*Their number was exactly 3,741,952.*

*When the 3,741,953rd dropped onto the branch - nothing more than nothing, as you say - the branch broke off."*

*Having said that, the coal tit flew away.*

*The dove, since Noah's time an authority on the matter, thought about the story for a while, and finally said to herself, "Perhaps there is only one person's voice lacking for peace to come to the world."*

*From "New Fables, Thus spoke the Marabou" by Kurt Kauter.*

## *Church Roof*

We initially felt that to replace the church roof would be a worthy undertaking if we were to receive funding from the General Trustees. As the project has progressed however we have discovered that it is much more urgent than we thought. Three contractors have examined the roof in detail and their consensus is that if the roof is not totally stripped and recovered in the near future then we will incur serious damage to the timber ceiling of the sanctuary. To repair the ceiling would be prohibitively expensive – it cost £10,000 to replace the small area of timber flooring in front of the choir area, and we therefore have no option but to proceed with replacing the roof covering.

The estimated cost is £30,000 and the General Trustees have offered us a grant of £5,000 and a loan of £20,000. The congregational board will decide how to proceed over the next few months.

***Douglas Wilson, Treasurer***



**Tom Callaghan  
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## *Seniors Afternoon.*

The new season started on 14<sup>th</sup> October with entertainment by Joyce Carson and Stuart Mennie, both members of our Church. Around sixty attended everyone enjoyed the music and the cream tea provided by the Coffee Shop Ladies.

We are always pleased to see newcomers who do not necessarily need to be Church Members. Some lifts are available for those who do not get about too well and these should be arranged through the office or myself.

The next meeting will be the Christmas Party on December 9<sup>th</sup> at 10.15 in the Main Hall and we look forward to seeing as many there as possible.

*Wellwood Grierson.*

## *Bowling Club*

A successful start has been made to the new season with four new members. Attendances have been good and the competitions are already underway. We meet on Monday and Wednesday afternoons at 2.00 p.m. in the Main Hall.

*Wellwood Grierson*

## *Guild News*

We are almost half way through our Session for this winter, but there is still more to come including a visit by our friend the Reverend Bill Hannah, who is going to entertain us with stories from his "Orient Express" trip. We also have various local speakers who will be talking on the history of Culzean, history of Alloway village life and the R.N.L.I. at Troon. A warm welcome awaits anyone who wishes to come along and join us on a Wednesday evening in the North Hall at 7.30 p.m.

*Sandra Wyllie, Secretary*

## *Used Stamps*

Once more we are coming to the Festive Season, may I remind you to save your used stamps with a good border of at least ¼ inch around them.

The basket for collection is in the vestibule on the bookcase.

Again many thanks for all contributions.

*Margaret MacCormick*



## Alternative worship

For some time now, I have been interested in alternative forms of worship – creating opportunities for folk to encounter God in different ways, at different times, in different places.

Not all of these forms of worship are “new-fangled”. In fact some of them are very old and retrace some of our Christian roots. One such form comes from Taize.

On the last Wednesday of each month there will be a midweek service, loosely following the Taize pattern.



What follows is a brief attempt to summarise this form of worship but the best thing would be to come along and experience it for yourself.

The Taize community began in 1940 when Brother Roger left Switzerland to go and live in France, his mother's country.

During the second world war he welcomed refugees to Taize. Brother Roger went off alone to pray and encouraged others to pray in their rooms

to minimise the risk of giving offence to others or of being discovered by the occupying forces. They were forced to evacuate in 1942.

After the war, other brothers began to join Roger in the Taize community. Throughout the years they have been joined by pilgrims from all over the world.

Three times a day, everything on the hill of Taizé stops: the work, the Bible studies, the discussions. The bells call everyone to church for prayer. Hundreds or even thousands of people from all over the world pray and sing together with the brothers of the community. Scripture is read in several languages. In the middle of each common prayer, there is a long period of silence, a unique moment for meeting with God.

A moment of silence, even very short, is like a holy stop, a sabbatical rest, a truce of worries.

Singing is one of the most essential elements of worship. Short songs, repeated again and again, give it a meditative character.

In Taize worship we are encouraged to encounter God with all our senses, so often candles and images are used to allow us to focus.

As I mentioned it is hard to describe the experience, the best thing would be to come along – **the last Wednesday of every month, 7pm.**

*Liz Crumlish*

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## *The story so far...*



They say that a change is as good as a rest. Certainly the change from ministry in Inverkip to ministry in Castlehill has brought a whole new impetus not just for me but for the whole family.

We feel at home in the church, in the manse and in the community.

I am particularly enjoying the freedom to visit people at home, getting to know families as well as those who can no longer get along to worship.

There has been a warm welcome in the local schools: Kyle, Belmont, Forehill, Kincaidston and Southpark/Craigpark. I look forward to developing these links.

## *Fabric Report*

We have continued to attend to the small fabric repairs needed to keep the church running smoothly but our main focus must now switch to the belltower and the church roof. The roof has already been mentioned in this Herald and hopefully a solution will be arrived at shortly. The bell tower has been disappointing in that despite our spending over £7,000 on repairs we still have a serious leak. We have finally determined that it is the brick itself that is leaking due to age and we are exploring means of waterproofing them.

*David Lynch, Property Convenor*

Church office bearers have been sharing and celebrating the history of Castlehill church and looking forward to the future. Each month, as well as getting through the business we spend time in fellowship and planning. In February we will spend a day away together to continue the process of discerning God's will for the direction Castlehill should take.

I love to hear the stories of Castlehill church and community being built and growing up together, the church providing a focal point for a developing neighbourhood. Today, we are engaged in that same mission. We have a history of which we can be proud and on which we can build so that God's kingdom continues to grow and this community continues to be served by the church in this place.

Just as Castlehill church 50 years ago required all kinds of skills, from masons to joiners to tea makers, so today we need whatever skills you have to offer. The community we serve may be vastly different from that served in the past but it's the same love of God that we have to offer and that embraces us in all that we do for the kingdom. Lets not be afraid to respond to God's call to do a new thing. A change is as good as a rest!

*Liz Crumlish*

## *Moderator Designate*



One of Castlehill's former assistants Rev William C Hewitt, has just been named moderator designate of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. Bill is currently minister of Westburn church in Greenock. The folks of Castlehill recently had the opportunity to renew their acquaintance with Bill when he preached in our new minister, Rev Liz Crumlish. We wish him well in his year of office which begins in May 2009.



## Funerals

### August

Mr. R. Dickson, 23 Peggieshill Road  
Mr. Robert Bonar, Annfieldglen Road  
Mrs. Jean Donaldson, 21 Larghill Lane  
Mrs. Janet McKnight, 29 Holmston Drive  
Mrs. Elizabeth Johnston, 10c Woodpark

### September

Miss Helen Chapman, 9c Glendale Crescent  
Miss Margaret Lyon, 109 St. Leonard's Road  
Mrs. Ethel Henderson, 32 Anderson Crescent  
Mr. William Holmes, Forrest Way

### October

Mr. John Reid, 21 Morton Road  
Mr. Henry Galloway, 56 Sorrell Drive  
Mrs. Elsie Morrison, Clairmont Nursing Home  
(Formerly 8 Morton Road)  
Mr. John Fleck 21 Chestnut Road

## Reminiscences

Where I was brought up in Glasgow, there were many churches fairly near, and all within walking distance. No need for buses or tramcars. We also had other places of worship, such as the Salvation Army or the Gospel Hall, which was a stone's throw away, so of course, we went there too, as well as our Sunday Schools. At the Gospel Hall there were no hymn books or fancy power points as we have now, but a large book with the hymns printed in big letters which rested on an easel. How we all enjoyed singing out the old hymns, though not always with the right words. I used to think the last line of "Who would true valour see", was To be a Pill Grim, or the chorus of another old favourite was 'His love is more than tongue can tell'. My interpretation was tuncantell, all one word. One Pastor was called Mr. Dobbie, and a friend of mine used to sing 'Trust in Dobbie' instead of Trust and obey, and in her innocence

## Prayer Chain

If you would like us to help you in times of need, please contact Margaret MacCormick on 01292 263949

## Parish Registers

### Baptisms

*Darcy Annie Strain, Daughter  
of Lesley Anderson and Kevin  
Strain, 31<sup>st</sup> August 2008*

### New Members

*Mrs. Annette Reddicks  
Mr. George Wright  
Mrs. Carole Wright*

really believed that was right.

It's nice to look back and smile at old memories, but I think we are not much better, for we can sing old hymns parrot fashion because of familiarity, until one day it suddenly hits you what the words really mean. Old or new hymns, we should think of what we are singing, and not just the tune. After all, this is one way we worship our Heavenly Father, and we should give Him our fullest attention as we expect of Him.

Tell me the stories of Jesus I love to hear.  
Things I would ask him to tell me if He were here.  
Scenes by the wayside, tales of the sea.  
Stories of Jesus tell them to me.

**Margaret MacCormick, Prayer Promoter**



## *Church Flowers*

As this is the final Herald of the year, I am delighted to be able to express thanks to the many members of the congregation who so generously donate to the Flower Fund and to those who have chosen to provide flowers on specific dates to commemorate a special occasion in their family's life.

Your generosity gives pleasure to so many of our congregation and the flowers beautify the sanctuary before being delivered to members who are unwell, celebrating a special birthday, or families who have had a bereavement. We know that these tokens are much appreciated as we receive many cards and 'phone calls of thanks from the recipients.

Thanks are also due to the dedicated team of ladies who arrange the flowers over the year. The variety of colour, shape and styles used is always a delight -thank you all for using your talent to benefit us in this way. There is

also the team who cheerfully deliver the flowers to our member's homes or to nursing homes and hospitals-thank you all for helping to bring pleasure to so many people.

The Flower Rota for 2009 is now in preparation; again I would ask you to check the DRAFT COPY on the notice board in the Fellowship area. If you wish to make any alterations, please contact me either on the number on the Rota sheet or leave a message at the office. As always, as the years progress alterations have to be made to fit in with the advance of the calendar dates, but I am sure you understand this! If you prefer to share a date please do not hesitate to say so; there are a few available dates.

Once again our thanks to so many people, your help is much appreciated.

**Trudy McLeod (Flower Convener)**

## *Pastoral Care - Hospital Visiting*

A team of hospital visitors are available to visit members of the congregation who are admitted to hospital. Ensuring that someone who needs a visit gets one, depends on the team being informed as soon as possible after the person has been admitted to hospital.

It would be appreciated if a family member or a close friend would contact the church office to let them know a visit is required.



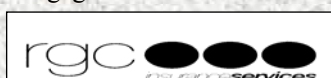
## *New Church Representatives*

We are pleased to advise that we now have representatives for the following groups:

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## FOR YOUNGER READERS



Poems and Promises to cut out and collect.

### A Shining Time

The moon, the starlit sparkles of frost,  
Dressed-up trees with lights,  
City streets and superstores  
On December, shop-late nights,  
Schools and homes, trimmed and bright,  
Windows of tinsel and lace,  
The birth of wonder, joy and hope  
Shining from the face of a child,  
Shining from his face.

Christmas is a shining time.

Sol says: "Not all  
Christmas gifts come  
wrapped in shiny paper.  
The best one of all was  
wrapped in skin!"

A child has been born- for us! The gift of a son - for us!  
Isaiah 9:6a(The Message)

Poem by Daphne Kitching, Picture by Elaine Hill, Coloured by .....



Mouse says  
"Please Colour me in  
like the picture at the  
top of the page!"

As the shepherds were guarding their flocks an angel appeared and said to them "Don't be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy for everyone. The saviour who is the Messiah, the Lord has been born tonight in Bethlehem"

The three cards show the angels giving the good news to the shepherds. Can you spot the differences between them?



We are entering our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year at the 17<sup>th</sup> and are looking forward to a lively year of celebration. We started off with a very lively dedication service at which we presented the 57<sup>th</sup> Queen's Badge in the Company's history. We had the honour of welcoming John Neil OBE to be part of our presentation party. In 2003 John was Brigade President and is now Brigade Honorary President for UK and Republic of Ireland.

We are fortunate to have a group of helpers and parents who have formed a committee to raise funds to help celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The celebrations are going to concentrate on a weekend in May which will include our annual display, a dinner dance and a church service. The fund raising got under way with our soup and sweet lunch, after the dedication service, which raised just under £400. This was followed by a Party Lites candle party. Other events will be taking place throughout the year, details will be announced as they become available.

One of the highlights of the year will be Castlehill church hosting the Ayr Battalion

annual church parade.

We are very fortunate in the numbers of boys we have attending on a weekly basis, across the three sections we have approximately 75 boys. The Anchor Section enjoyed a Halloween party with all the traditional games, with jammy donuts replacing treacle scones!

The Junior Section and Company Section have enjoyed their annual weekend 'camp' at New Lanark youth hostel with a variety of activities. This is always the highlight of our year.

We want to build up a data base of former members and friends of the Company to use for communicating information. If you or someone you know would like to receive communication regarding our activities please send an e-mail to [ianqueen1@aol.com](mailto:ianqueen1@aol.com).

*Ian Queen, Captain*



## *A Christmas Sudoku*

Here is a special Sudoku puzzle for Christmas. Not using numbers as they usually do, but letters instead. The principle is the same. What do you have to do? You have to find all the letters of the phrase we're looking for in each of the 3x3 squares, plus all these letters will also be found in each row and each column. All you have to do is work out where they go. Don't guess, you can get into a right mess! Try and work it out.

To get you started, some of the letters are already filled in. Have fun! This puzzle is rated 'Medium Difficulty'.

The letters you need to place form the words that remind us of the birth of the King of kings:

**KING COMES**

I	E							K
			E		K			G
		G		M		N		
	I			C			O	
		N	K		S	M		
	K			E			C	
		K		O		E		
C			I		N			
S							K	O

## *Come Christmas!*

*No one is ever really ready for Christmas.*

*If we were really all prepared:*

*If every gift we had contemplated had been obtained;*

*If every present was beautifully beribboned;*

*If all the goodies our friends deserve were baked and cooled, and stored just so;*

*If each and every person we love was gathered for our celebration;*

*If we never snapped at someone we care about, nor stopped short of being all that we could be;*

*If our minds were 100 per cent loving and our hearts were 100 per cent generous;*

*They truly would be ready*

*-- and truly we would not need Christmas quite so much.*

*So come, Christmas, most needed of seasons.*

*Come with the reminder that love does not depend on  
Perfection but on willingness to risk connection.*

*Come into the unready manger of our hearts*

*That we may feel the warmth of new life*

*And give flesh to the promise of hope*

*That cries to bring healing into our world.*

*Come Christmas!*

*Come, Love,*

*Come, Hope.*

*Be born in our unready hearts*

*On this silent and holy night*

*By M. Maureen Killoran*



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