

The Herald

Castlehill Parish Church

Winter 2009



Welcome to your Winter edition of The "Herald".

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 next edition, or later editions then please e-mail them to me at herald@castlehillchurch.org or post them to the Church office in an envelope marked "Herald Editor". As we only have space for 12 pages, it may be that some of your articles will be carried forward to the next edition.

Thank you once again for your contributions.

Tracey Wilson
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From the Manse



Unto us a child is born. Unto us a son is given.

Are you ready? That will be the question on everyone's lips soon. Are you ready for Christmas? Can we ever be ready. Can we ever be really prepared. I hope not.

I would like to be a bit more organised – get the cards out early and not miss anyone out. Get the shopping done and not have to brave the crowds. Have the services written so that I can be less anxious and frazzled.

But ready? I don't really want to achieve that. Because then there would be no room for surprises.

And what else is the birth of a child in the most unusual surroundings, a child who is God if not a huge surprise?

So, no, I don't want to be ready. I want to be surprised by Christmas. I don't want to celebrate the same old, same old. I want God to keep on surprising me as only God can.

Wishing you Christmas blessings and may the baby who is God bring you a Christmas full of surprises.

Liz Crumlish



Once again, we have a busy and varied programme of events for Advent and Christmas.

Sunday 29th November – All age worship for Advent
Wednesdays – 2nd, 9th, 16th 23rd December 7pm – Midweek worship
Come along and enjoy some quiet and space in the midst of the rush.

Sunday 6th December – Communion celebrated at 11am and 2pm
Salvation Army Carol Concert 6:30pm

Sunday 13th December 11am – Advent Worship
6:30pm – Quiet Christmas Service – a reflective service for those missing loved ones in this busy family time.

Sunday 20th December – Youth Church Nativity Presentation
Christmas Eve – Family worship - 7pm
Watchnight Service – 11:30pm – Please bring a torch
Christmas Day 11am – Morning Worship
Sunday 27th December 11am – Service of Readings and Carols



December Communion

On the evening of the 6th December, Castlehill Church will be hosting the Salvation Army Carol Concert, complete with 70-strong choir drawn from the local community and the Salvation Army brass band. You are all very welcome to attend this event which promises to be exciting.

This is our communion Sunday so, instead of having an evening service of communion, we are offering a service at 2pm for those who cannot attend the morning service.

I'm sure you will agree that it is worth making this change to accommodate the Carol Concert in our beautiful building.

Property Convenor

Members of the Congregational Board would like to record their thanks to David Lynch for his service as Property Convenor this past wee while, a role that has caused quite a few headaches recently, with manse refurbishment and sanctuary roof replacement on top of all the other routine maintenance. David has worked hard and with efficiency and accomplished much.

While he now takes a well earned rest, the Board is pleased to announce that this role will now be undertaken by Jim McClurkin.

Summer Services

Thanks to everyone who responded and gave feedback on the preferred time for Summer Services. There was a clear indication that folk would prefer one service so that everyone could worship together and, at the end of the summer, there was overwhelming support for an earlier service during the summer. The Kirk Session will take these views into account when determining the time of worship next summer.

Christianity Explored

Early in the new year, we will be offering a 10 week exploration of faith. This is a course for anyone interested in talking with others about Christianity. It is based on the gospel of Mark. We hope that folk will be willing to come together to enjoy fellowship and discuss issues at the heart of our faith. It is open to all whether you have been in the church for a long time or are new to our community as well as those interested in exploring church membership. Look out for details.



Hi,

My name is Margaret Shuttleworth, I am at present studying at Glasgow University having completed a four year degree course in Divinity. I am also a candidate in training for the Church of Scotland ministry. This is my first placement with you at Castlehill. I am sure some of the congregation have already met with me, having been in the church for three Sundays. I was also entertained by the Castlehill Church Seniors on the 13 of October which my daughter Amy and I enjoyed very much.

Since being in Castlehill I have felt the warmth of the people which shines through in their welcoming spirit. I am sure I will be blessed with the knowledge I gain from both Liz and Douglas your ministers and everyone I come in contact with. I feel especially blessed because it is so wonderful to be serving in such a beautiful Church and I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to everyone for their kindness shown to me.

Blessings
Margaret

Hi there,

I would like to introduce myself. I am Tom McLeod and up until recently I was Session Clerk at Coylton Parish Church. However, over the past few years I have had an increasing sense of call from God to take more of an active part in the ministry of his word. I believe God is calling me to use my skills to work with others to spread his word. In doing so I hope I can help others to experience the love and joy of knowing God the way I have been lucky enough to know Him. I therefore took the decision last February to go to an Enquirers conference held by the Ministries Council. There I learned of the many options open to me and after much thoughtful prayer I believe God is calling me to the role of Auxiliary Minister.



As a result I have entered a period of enquiry here at Castlehill Parish Church. I will be spending at least six months working with Liz, Douglas and Margaret. I will be trying to understand the work of a Parish Minister and to reflect on my own abilities and skills. I will be involved in worship, pastoral care and adult education. I am very excited at the prospect of working with you all and sharing in Gods work and Ministry at Castlehill.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the very warm and generous welcome that my family and I have received. The warmth and friendship extended to me as reinforced my belief that this is truly what God has planned for me. I pray that God continues to guide and bless me in my chosen path.

Every Blessing,
Tom McLeod

A Short thought from Douglas Moore, Auxiliary Minister

Mark 10 v13-16

Timeout!

In the above bible passage, Jesus was very busy. Learned people wanted to speak to him. People wanted cured of their illnesses. Ordinary folk, like you and me, had questions they wanted to ask of Him. He was busy!



The disciples were doing their best to keep things in some sort of order, trying desperately to avoid too many people around Jesus at once.

Imagine their thoughts when they saw people bringing forward their little children for a blessing. It was the natural thing to do, shooing away the children. After all, there must have been a lot of important people there. Jesus was indignant when He saw what was going on. So, the children were brought to him. No matter how busy He was, He made time to see everyone. You see, we are all important to God. When we come to Him, it is as though we are the only person in the whole world and we have His undivided attention.

Why does He do this? The answer lies in the fact that He loves each and every one of us with a love so great that we just cannot comprehend it. Yet it is so. We know this and can say this because He died for us on the cross and rose again victorious.

If you find that life is busy, then may I suggest you try to find a quiet moment and come to God in prayer? If you make time for Him, you can be sure He will make time for you.

May God bless you and keep you.

Douglas

Castlehill Bowling Club

During the summer we had another enjoyable day at Girvan. We were lucky with a fine warm and sunny day and we had an attendance of 46 between members and friends. The winning rink was Sandra Wylie, Jean Patterson and Harry Hunt, and the prize for the first "toucher" went to David Yates. The booby prize winners as usual will remain anonymous although there must have been a certain amount of strain in the Patterson household, when they returned home!

Our season is now under way and we have 4 new members, partly due to guests having enjoyed the Girvan outing and the fellowship on the day.

Wellwood Grierson

Castlehill Church Seniors

Our first meeting was on 13th October with a good attendance and entertainment by "Best Friends" from Cumnock.

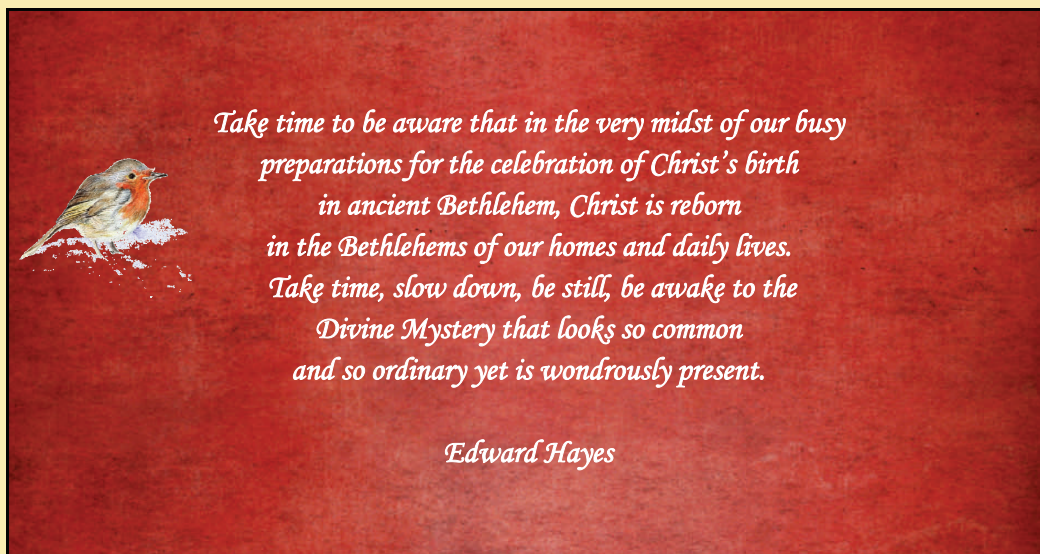
Our next meeting will be in the main hall on Tuesday 8th December at 10.15am for our Christmas Party when the members will be entertained by the choir from Holmston Primary School which we are sure will prove to be enjoyable. We welcome anyone from the Church or the Parish and lifts may be available for those who have difficulty in getting about. We look forward to seeing you there.

Wellwood Grierson.

"Angel" Voices

As we move into the Autumn, the choir has started its weekly practices again. Whilst we have a good number of long term faithful members, it would be good if we can boost our volume with additional singers. If you enjoy singing and would like to come and share fellowship & music on Friday evenings for an hour or so. Then please speak to me on a Sunday morning. There is no need to be able to lead music and there are no "X Factor" style auditions to subject any new members to. The Choir and I look forward to seeing you.

Christopher Watt
Organist



CHILL – Summer Holiday Club

For the last week of the school summer holidays, we transformed the church hall into Ancient Egypt and rocked around the pyramids with a bunch of primary school children, learning about Joseph and about God's love for all of us.

We had a great army of volunteers of all ages, all willing to pitch in with their particular skills, painting, crafting, keeping

registers, making juice, playing games. The mornings were a whole lot of fun.

Once the children left, the helpers were then treated to lunch prepared by another batch of volunteers.

On the Sunday we moved our Sunday service to the church hall so that the whole congregation

could also rock around the pyramids.

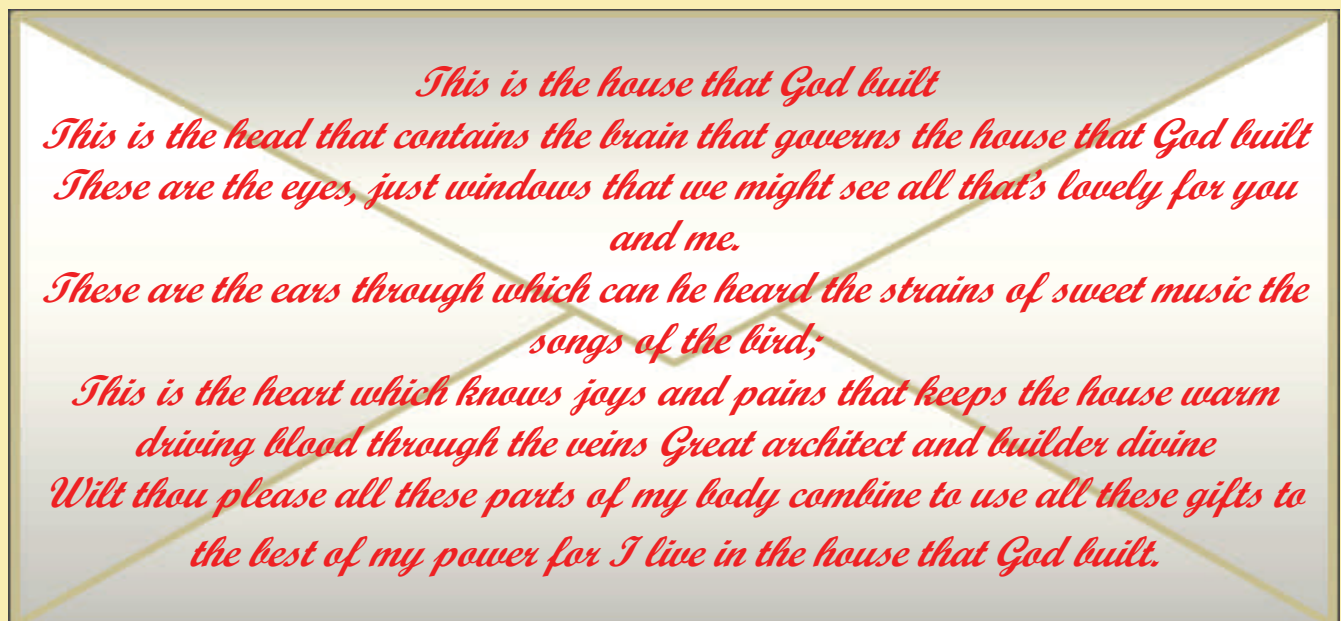
Thanks to all who supported this new venture, practically and prayerfully.

We look forward to building on this next year.



The House That God Built

The following poem was found in a loft when house clearing a relative's home. It is beautifully handwritten using red biro on the back of an envelope measuring 3 x 5 ½ inches. On the reverse side the postmark is Glasgow 17 x 1.67 and postage was 3d. The franking is of the " British Sailors Society". The poems origin is unknown.



Diary**10th June 2009****Day 1**

4 a.m. Isabella & I drove to Glenapp Church.

5 am Isabella left in car & I started walk uphill for 1 mile with fine views of Loch Ryan & the ferry. As I follow a track among sheep I can see Corsewall Lighthouse on Rhinns of Galloway & later Ireland & Mull of Kintyre. I head down rough road to Currarie Port at shore level, then climb uphill called Donald Bowie (not David). I traverse Dawnan hill above Ballantrae Bay pass through Langdale & Dawnan farms passing Kinnigar I arrive at old bridge on river Stinchar.

8am breakfast

8.20 am I leave & pass war memorial in Ballantrae go down onto shore for 2 miles past Bennane Cave home of hermit Henry Ewing Torbet (died 1983) Leaving sand and pebbles I follow old coast round Bennane Head above the cave of Sawney Bean & his family of cannibals 16th Century! I travel down road past memorial to Varyag & Russian sailors into Lendalfoot onto sand & rocks past Carleton Fishery over Pisbain burn and reach notorious Kennedy's Pass. I cross main road & climb up very steep quarry to the hills again.

At the top of hill it is 8 1/2 miles across sea to Ailsa Craig. I travel on up & down rough tracks and arrive in Girvan 12.30 (22 miles) I met Isabella & David Walton at harbour for lunch

1.20 David & I walk round harbour past golf course through Girvan Mains farm along shore over Dipple burn past Seaweed factory then to Turnberry. We find a way over Milton Burn go along shore then up & cross over Open Golf Course down past Mallin Court to Maidens. We have a break, then along the beach 400 yds to Culzean. I pay a Toll-past castle go down to Old Gashouse, over rocks along 6 mile Coray Bay. Next up & down ploughed fields (feeling tired now) until we reach Dunure Castle

8pm.- Met by Isabella

Diary**11th June 2009****Day 2**

6am Isabella drives me to Dunure. (On my own) I walk down round Harbour onto shore for 300 yds, then climb up rocks to high fields, then back down to shore at Fisherton Bay. Later I climb 60 steps go along old railway track past caravan park down onto shore again I go round Heads of Ayr on slippery rocks & wet seaweed past the Deils Dyke along shore round Greenan Castle & onto Swan Bridge at Doon

8.45 am After a drink I go along promenade do "the Lang Scots Mile" past Citadel over the bridge down Peebles street round the wharf to Bentfield house where I am welcomed & have coffee with my friends Dr. Percy & Mrs. Walker. Refreshed I walk walk along Prestwick front, then onto South sands & the long hike & detour over Paw burn & arrive in Troon 1pm for lunch with Isabella at sea front.

1.30 I say goodbye and head up Portland street all the way to village of Loans cross over motorway (bridge) & take path up through Dundonald woods & down & climb to Castle (great views) I then come all the way back to Troon along sand 6 mile to Irvine beach, past Magnum over river Irvine past Royal Academy round Bogside to Kilwinning. I go past "Todhill" (former home) call in, then to Stevenston Park along shore road & into Saltcoats Harbour

8.30pm Met by Isabella with Chips!- Hot bath at home.

Diary

12th June 2009

Day 3

7a.m. Isabella drives me to Saltcoats again I set off round Saltcoats coast then, on to Ardrossan up Montgomerie Street, past the Marina and up to North Shore road with good walking on pavement. By this time I was aware of a desperate nature call, so I approached the Rowan Tree Café & knocked on locked door as it was 8.30a.m. I pleaded my case & good lady let me in then waited and locked up after me(bless her).

Happy again I stride along to Seamill, go onto beach & follow shore to Portencross, where I call at Ardneil Farm & have coffee with Irene & Willie Jack. Leaving I go round past Hunterston Power Station, along cycle track & on to Fairley for picnic with Isabella 1p.m.

Later I pass Kelburn Park go under railway into the yacht haven & round to the Pencil in Largs. I must have been a stand out with my Dementia Shirt & blue hat passing along busy front, then past Nardinis & Barrfields to Goga burn.

Leaving Largs I take hilly road (7miles) up past Knock Castle 5p.m.(in for coffee here), then on to Upper Skelmorlie, through the village down Station Rd to shore road at Wemyss Bay & met by Isabella with a hug and a kiss

7.30p.m. Day 3 & end of walk.

£1600 was raised. Thanks to all Sponsors.

David Kerr



Parish Registers

Funerals

May

Margaret Cochrane Peggieshill Road
Thomas McKie Churchill Crescent

June

Linda Brown Southfield Park
Charles Hoggit Ellisland Square
Annie Poole Morrison Gardens
Isabella Willis Caledonia Road

July

Arnold O'Hara Hillfoot Crescent
Thomas McLellan Whitletts Road
Margaret Kerr Ailsa Hospital

August

Anna McCroskie Gavin Hamilton Court

September

Sarah Gates Rozelle Nursing Home
Mary Reid Hawthorn Drive
Ian McSwan Fenwickland Ave

October

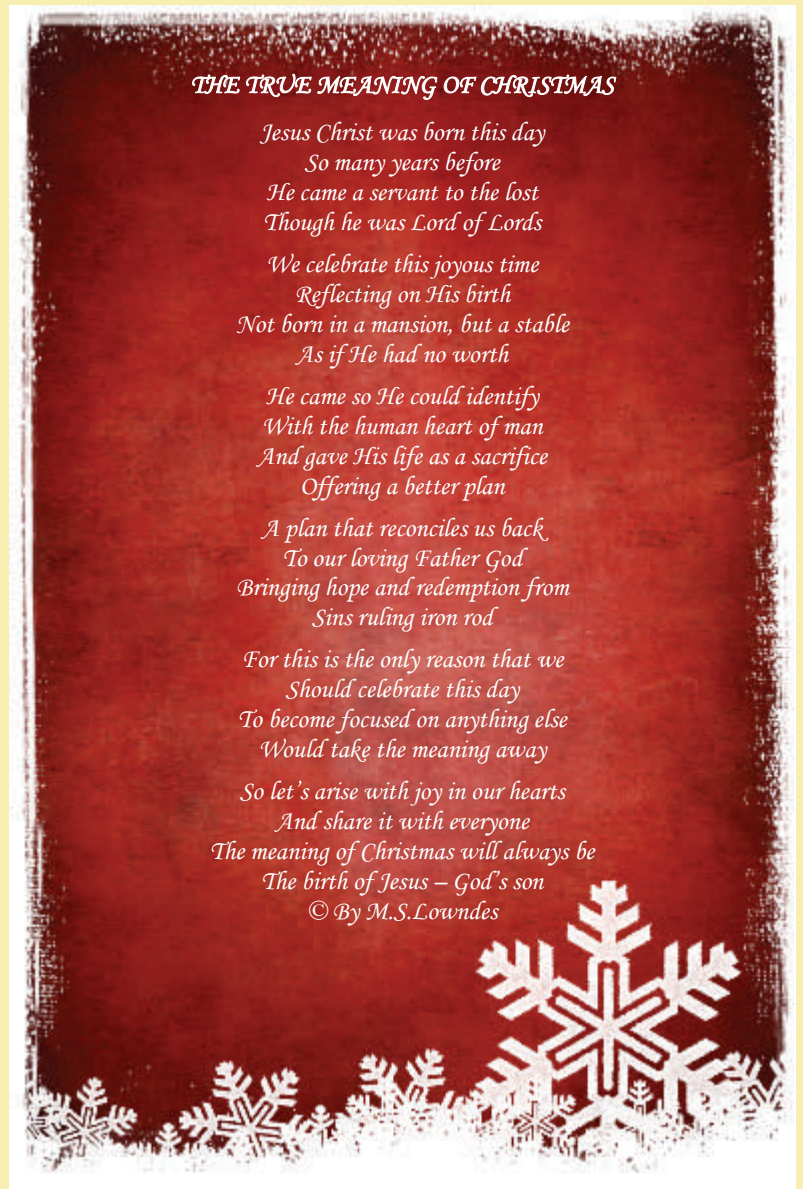
Robert Welsh Highfield Road
Stewart Gibson Hayhill
Kenneth Mitchell Fenwickland Ave
Alex McFarlane Glenconnor Road
Anna Stevenson Lochlea Drive
William Wilson Forest Way
Elise Mungall Gould Street



Douglas, Tracey and Danielle Wilson would like to thank everyone who offered support, prayers and good wishes during Douglas's recent kidney transplant operation.

This was very much appreciated.

Thank you again.



Flower Rota

At this time of year it is my pleasure to thank the many people who assist in furnishing our Church area with an ever changing variety of flowers and plants.

We are very fortunate that so many of our members wish to donate flowers for a particular Sunday or make a cash donation to help cover a vacant date, of which there are very few! Thank you to all those concerned for your continuing generosity.

Over the past months the variety of colours and arrangements which have cheered us have been greatly appreciated, and our thanks for this go to our willing team of skilled arrangers who give of their time so willingly.

Next, thanks are accorded to the faithful 'deliverers' who take these flowers to the elderly, housebound, bereaved and those celebrating a special event and bear with them greetings from our Church. This is very much appreciated by the recipients and their families.

We would be glad to have two more volunteers for the delivery team which would ease the rota and allow for a spare to cover holidays or illness, normally the duties are only five or six times per year, not too onerous!

There is also a vacancy for an extra in the arrangers team so if you would like to have a go please contact me, you don't have to be professional, we all had to start at some time, and help will be available.

Again many thanks to all who have assisted in any way.

Trudy Mcleod (Flower Convenor – 443213)



From Michael Dickie:

Freedom from drugs and alcohol – Can you help?

Recently my son in law was helped to stop smoking, give up drinking alcohol and stop taking heroin because he was treated by Maxie Richards in Bearsden, Glasgow.

Maxie uses Christian counselling and prayer and a system called NET – Neuro Electric Therapy which was invented by a church of Scotland medical missionary to India, Dr Meg Paterson.

Over the years, Maxie Richards has helped around one thousand addicts to recover normality and I have met and spoken with 4 or 5 of them personally. Some years ago, Maxie was named Scotswoman of the year.

On 15th august, I attended an open day at King's Court, Tighnabruaich, where recovering addicts can spend a year adjusting to normal life. This is for men only but – given finance – Maxie would like to open a similar community for women whom she also counsels. The Maxie Richards Foundation depends entirely on voluntary giving. There is no government support. Those of us attending the open day were deeply impressed by the warmth and friendliness shown by recovering addicts and by their families and staff and moved by the testimonies of the recovering addicts who spoke.

If any individual of organisation in the congregation is able to help financially, through a one off donation or through a small covenant, it can be sent to the Maxie Richards Foundation at 19, Dirleton Gate, Bearsden, Glasgow, G61 1NP. (Tel: 0141 942 6638)

Prayers of support are always welcome.



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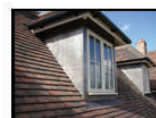
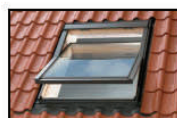
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