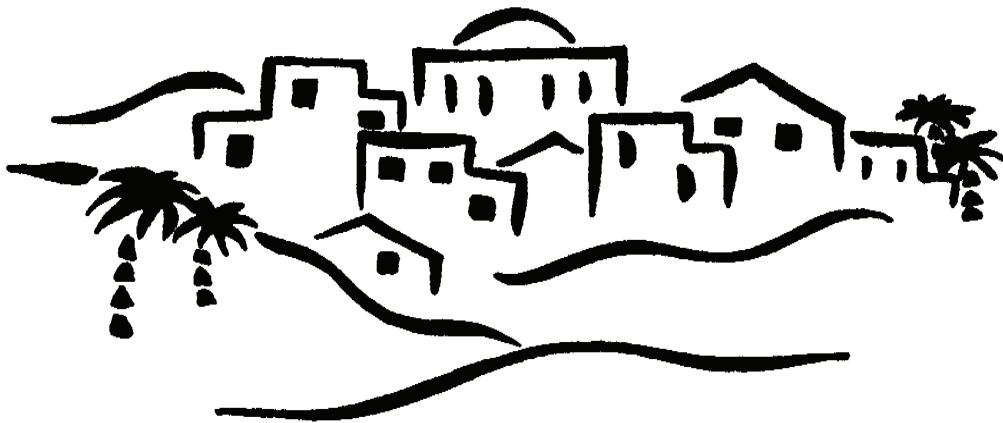
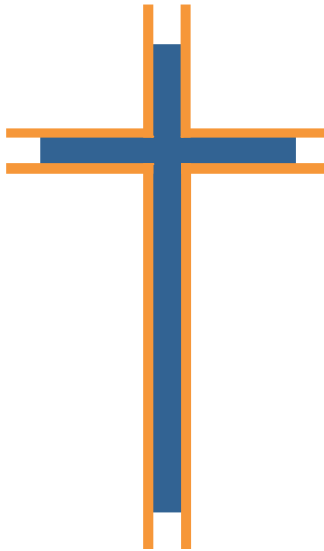


# CASTLEHILL PARISH CHURCH



The Herald  
Winter Edition 2007

# Church Office Bearers

**Minister**

Rev. Peter B Park  
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E-mail ~ minister@castlehillchurch.org

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Tel. 442062

**Property Convenor**

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Tel. 285903

**Treasurer**

Mr. Douglas Wilson  
Tel. 285230

**Freewill Offering Convener**

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Tel. 288613

**Asst. Beadle**

Mr. Andrew Graham  
Tel. 261486

**Roll Keeper**

Mr. Tom Petticrew  
Tel. 442069

**Flowers**

Mrs. Trudy McLeod  
Tel. 443213

**Contact Companions**

Mrs. Trudy McLeod 443213, Mrs. Margaret Cairns 265217

**Organist**

Contact Office

If you require telephone numbers of any names mentioned in the magazine,  
please contact the church office.

**Church Website ~ [www.castlehillchurch.org](http://www.castlehillchurch.org)**

Dear Friends

By the time you read this, Mari and I will have moved to Fraserburgh where I have taken up the post of parish minister at Fraserburgh Old.

We go with very mixed feelings; on the one hand a great sadness at leaving Castlehill and the many friendships we have made here, on the other, looking forward to the challenges and opportunities which the large charge and new ministry to which God has guided me will present.

We have many happy memories of our time with you such as the joy of being involved in the building extension work and the very successful stewardship campaign. We have also enjoyed being part of the fellowship; the guild, the bowls, the hand bells, coffee shop, social events and lots lots more. In addition to all these I have been privileged to stand alongside many of you in pastoral matters.

When I first worshipped in Castlehill as a visitor, I told Mari that it would be a pleasure to lead worship in the church and the past 4  $\frac{1}{2}$  years have confirmed my first impressions. In the main it has been a pleasure ministering here although as you would expect in a congregation and parish of this size and diversity there have been some bumpy times - and I can empathise with the Frank Sinatra lyrics "regrets, I've had a few .... but then again too few to mention".

However over the past four months it has become increasingly obvious, for reasons out-with the congregation and parish, that the time has come for God to move me on to pastures new - so we follow the call of Christ and go where he leads ... and continue our ministry with another flock of God's people ... and we go in faith and trust remembering the words of the Lord's prayer .... "thy will be done".

We wish you all every blessing as we bid farewell to 4  $\frac{1}{2}$  years of ministry here.

Our new address will be:-

4 Robbie's Road

Fraserburgh

AB43 7AF

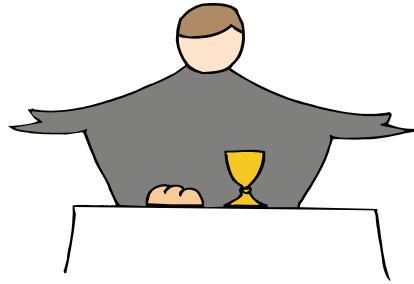
Tel. no. 01346 515332

Yours in Christ

Peter and Mari Park

**Matthew 22:1-15**

**"The kingdom of heaven is like a King who prepared a wedding banquet and sent out invitations...."**



**~ Sacrament of Communion ~**

**Sunday 2nd December at 11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.**



Could anyone wishing Home Communion please  
contact their Elder or the office.

***THE INTERIM MODERATOR and LOCUM***

The Rev Bill Hannah, minister - emeritus, Muirkirk, has been appointed as Interim Moderator and Locum in the vacancy.

Bill is a native of Ayr and was an elder in Cathcart Church. He began his career as a journalist with the Ayr Advertiser and was editor from 1962-66. His communications career took him into public relations with ICI and with Burroughs Corporation.

At the age of 48 he entered Trinity College to study for the ministry, graduated in 1986 and was assistant minister at Cadder Church, Bishopbriggs, ordained and inducted to Muirkirk in 1987 and retired from there in 2001.

Bill was Moderator of Ayr Presbytery in the 1999-2000 session and for nine years a member of the General Assembly Board of Communication and its convener for almost three years.

He is no stranger to the parish, his parents having lived at Cessnock Place.

Because of other pulpit supply commitments Bill's first visit to Castlehill will be for our Communion Services on 2nd December.

Bill's address and telephone number are as follows :-

8 Dovecote View, Kirkintilloch

0141 776 1337

## **WHAT HAPPENS NEXT FOR CASTLEHILL PARISH CHURCH?**

Those in the congregation on Sunday 21st October heard our minister, the Rev Peter Park, say "I have accepted a call to Fraserburgh Old and therefore Mari and I are leaving Castlehill."

On Tuesday 6th November the Presbytery of Ayr will note the decision of the Vacancy Procedure Committee to release Mr Park from his charge to enable his translation to Fraserburgh. A decision to allow Castlehill to call a minister, in terms of the Presbytery Plan, will also be noted.

At this meeting the Presbytery will note the appointment of an Interim Moderator and locum.

It shall be the duty of the Interim Moderator to preside at all meetings of the Kirk Session and to preside at all congregational meetings in connection with the vacancy. The Interim Moderator shall also act as an assessor to the Nominating Committee (previously known as the Vacancy Committee) and may be asked to act as Convener (non-voting). The locum shall take the Sunday services and provide some pastoral cover during the week.

A Vacancy Schedule shall be completed by the Congregational Board in consultation with representatives from the Presbytery and approved by the Vacancy Procedure Committee. The manse shall be inspected by the Presbytery Administration Committee and instructions given on any outstanding work.

The Vacancy Procedure Committee shall then appoint an Advisory Committee to meet with the Kirk Session to consider what kind of ministry would best suit the needs of the congregation.

It shall be the duty of the Kirk Session to proceed to make up the Electoral Register of the congregation, including those adherents who have claimed, in proper form, to be placed on the Register. Opportunity will be given for inspecting the Register and the Kirk Session will revise, number and adjust the Register before attesting it as the Electoral Register of Ayr Castlehill. As such it shall then be attested by the Presbytery Clerk.

Intimation shall be made that a meeting of the congregation is to be held to appoint a Nominating Committee. It is the task of this Committee to nominate one person to the congregation with a view to the election and appointment of a new minister.

To serve on this Committee, a person has to be proposed and seconded, and assurance given that the person is prepared to serve. The number on the Committee is determined in advance by the Vacancy Procedure Committee.

The Nominating Committee, thus chosen, will proceed by way of the monthly vacancy list, advertisement, recommendations and enquiries, to decide who will be heard and interviewed, in order that a nomination can be brought to the Congregation.

*Andrew Graham*  
*Presbytery Elder*



## Castlehill Carillon

Castlehill Carillon, the handbell ringers group, will continue meeting as before on a Sunday afternoon at 2.30p.m. We meet to enjoy exploring this ancient tradition and have fun, while hoping to improve our techniques! As we start a new era, we are keen to recruit new members (male or female); there is no necessity to read music as long as you can count to four the rest will follow. We are also considering a change of rehearsal day, so if you are interested please come along and we can discuss any other details together, or speak to any member of the group. Christmas is fast approaching and that is a great time to enjoy ringing with melodies you already know!

## Seniors Afternoons

On 9<sup>th</sup> October we had our first winter meeting. Over 50 turned out to listen to Mr Joe Baird from Kilmarnock singing composition of his own words and music in form of hymns and songs. He also read some of his own poetry and Elizabeth Hardie accompanied him in a few duets. It was something different in the way of entertainment, listening to music and poetry written and presented by the author. It was encouraging to have such a good turn out and new friends are cordially invited. A syllabus is available at the office and the next meeting will be in the Main Hall at 10.15a.m. on the 11<sup>th</sup> December when we will have our Christmas Party.



## The peomnehal pweor of the hmuan mnid

Aoccdrnig to a rseecharer at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it deosn't mttae  
in waht oredr the ltteers in a wrod are, the olny iprmoatnt tihng is  
taht the frist and lsat ltteer be in the rghit pclae. The rset can be a  
taotl mses and you can sitll raed it wouthit porbelm. This is bcuseae  
the human mind deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as  
a wlohe.

Prtety amzanig, huh ?!



### *Flower Rota*

*Once again we are fast approaching the close of  
another year, and in looking ahead to 2008*

*we must at this point ensure that all arrangements are in place.*

*We are most grateful to all members of the congregation who  
donate flowers, contribute to the fund (which helps cover the  
necessary extras), to the dedicated team of arrangers and to the  
ladies who deliver the flowers to the housebound and to those  
unable to be in Church with us due to illness or infirmity.*

*In order to maintain an efficient record of weekly donors, prior  
to the rotas being distributed, a list for 2008 will be posted on the  
notice board in the Fellowship Area during December. If you  
wish an alteration to this, please contact me as soon as possible at  
the telephone number below.*

*As a 'Church Family', we also like to mark special occasions, and  
important anniversaries. However this can only be possible with  
your assistance. If you know of a member in this category please  
let us know either by contacting the office or myself  
(all details will be confidential).*

*Grateful thanks to you all for your assistance and generosity*

*Trudy McLeod  
Flower Convener  
Tel. 443213*



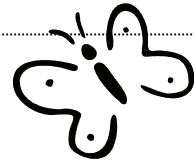
## Guild News

As you read this we will be almost half way through our Session and we shall shortly be going on our annual visit to the Panto at the Gaiety which is preceded as usual with High Tea. We have plenty of space for new members of any age, male or female. Please feel free to come along one night to 'try us out'. We meet on Wednesday evenings in the North Hall at 7.30 p.m.

For further information please contact  
Mrs. Margaret Cairns 265217 or the Church Office 267332

We wish everyone a joyous Christmas and peaceful 2008

Dear Mr. Park,



### Guild Autumn Rally

On behalf of Ayr Presbyterial Council I would like to thank you and your Kirk Session for the use of your lovely Church and halls for our Autumn Rally. The warm welcome and comfortable surroundings added greatly to the success of the evening. Please pass on our thanks to Mrs. Marion Reid for her welcome to us and leading us in prayer. We were sorry you couldn't be there. Please once again accept our thanks and our best wishes for the future of Castlehill Church.

Yours Sincerely

*Eleanor Gault*  
*Secretary*

=====  
||| Congratulations go to Rev. Paul Russell who takes up the position of |||  
||| this year's Presbytery Moderator. |||

		Paul, who is now a member of the hospital chaplaincy team,		
		is a well known face here at Castlehill having spent his childhood		
		attending here with his family. We wish him every success in his new		
		post and also every blessing as he carries out his moderatorial duties.		



## Summer Social Events

At the end of July we had a successful Barbeque at Pine Brae on probably the only dry warm night during that month. Over 50 members of the congregation and friends were there and had an enjoyable evening. Thanks are due to all who attended and who helped to organise the evening.

A short walk of around four miles was organised along the banks of the Doon through Bellisle and Rozelle Parks and back to the starting point at the Burns Centre. This was on 30th September and just over two dozen members of the Church joined, enjoying a pleasant walk in warm autumn sunshine. The cups of tea and coffee at the end were very acceptable.

### Bowling Club

On 25<sup>th</sup> July we had our annual outing to Girvan Bowling Club. Over 30 members and friends had a great day out with weather much better than last year. The first player to touch the jack was Marion Reid and was a prize winner on her first bowling experience. The winning rink was made up of Jean Paterson, Bill Corbett and Wellwood Grierson. The rink with the lowest score preferred to remain anonymous.

The new session has started with 34 members and there is some space for a limited number of new people to come along. It is encouraging to have such continuing interest.

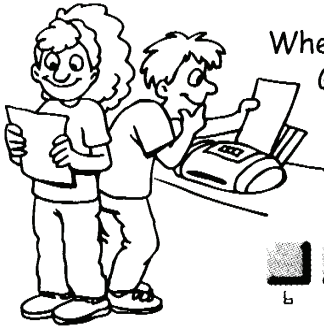
Wellwood Grierson



# CHILDREN'S

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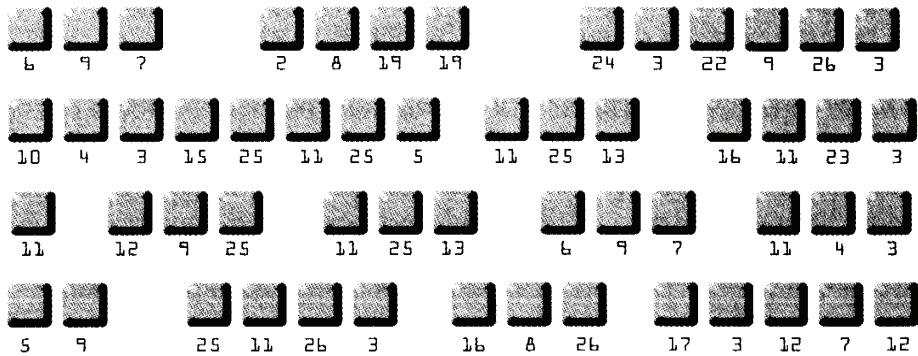
## MARY AND GABRIEL



When Elizabeth was six months pregnant, God sent the angel Gabriel to a village in Galilee. He went to a young woman called Mary and said, "Greetings, favoured woman! The Lord is with you." Mary was confused. She didn't know what he meant.

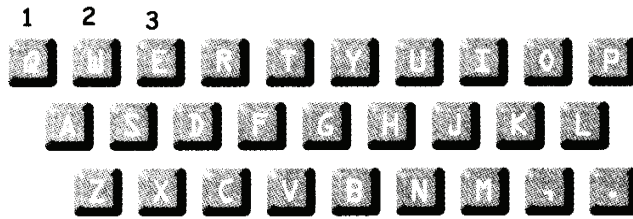


**Luke 1: 26-38**



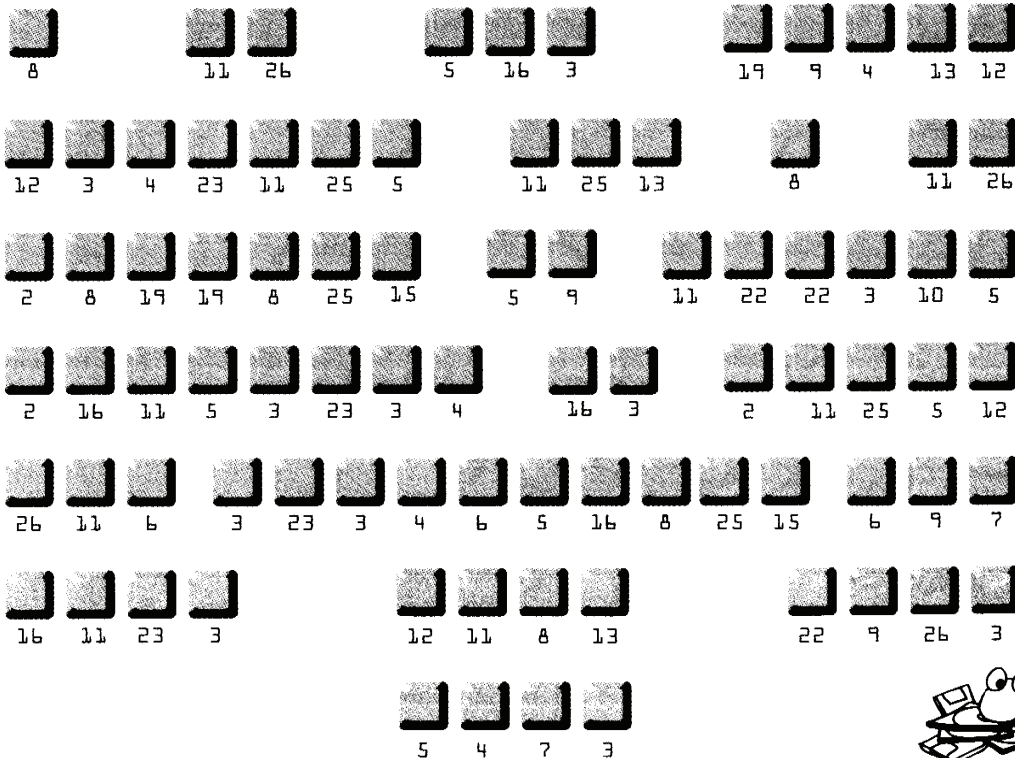
Use the keyboard to work out what he said next. Q=1, W=2 and E=3. Work out the rest before you start the puzzle.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_



Gabriel told Mary that her son would be great, and would be called the Son of the Most High. Jesus would reign over Israel and his kingdom would never end. It was puzzling for Mary.

She was to have a baby by the Holy Spirit! But she was a woman of faith. Use the keyboard to work out what she said.



Answer: \_\_\_\_\_





# The baby is coming!

Reese loves going to *Tumbletots* every Tuesday afternoon, running around, climbing and jumping. Krista goes too.

One day, Krista told him something very exciting.

"My mum's going to have a baby," she whispered. "That's why she's so fat."

Reese couldn't wait to tell his mum.

"Krista's mum is having a baby," he told her while they were having tea.

Mum smiled. "A long time ago," she said, "a man called Isaiah told people some important news, just like you've done. He said, 'A young woman will have a special baby. He will be called Immanuel.'"

"That's a funny name!" giggled Reese.

"It means 'God is with us'," Mum said. "The people had to wait hundreds of years. Then, like Isaiah said, a baby came from God. The baby was Jesus. We're getting ready to remember Jesus' birth, soon. Christmas is coming!"



## Pray

Jesus, help me get ready to remember your birth.

C  
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C O R N E R



## *The Christmas Spider*

Long, long ago, on one Christmas Eve, the spiders were banished from homes while the houses were cleaned for Christmas and their webs were broken. They just managed to survive and had to move to the farthest corner of the attic for the time being. However, some of the young spiders longed to see the decorated Christmas trees and the little Christ child that came to bless the homes in the midnight. The elders tried to make them understand that they were not allowed inside the rooms but the young spiders were quite curious and adamant. Finally, the oldest and wisest spider came up with a solution and suggested that in the night, when everybody went to bed, perhaps they could creep out of their corners and get a closer look of the magical Christmas tree.

Even the adult spiders felt the thrill of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for them and in midnight, when the house of a noble family was dark and silent and everybody was fast asleep, spiders crept out of their hiding place and slowly reached the Christmas tree. They were so captivated by the ethereal beauty that they spent all night in the tree, crawling up and down and examining its beautiful ornaments. They could not curb their urge to weave pretty and delicate spider webs all over the tree as they danced on its branches. In the wee hours of the morning, the little Christ child came to bless the house. He was surprised to find little spiders and their webs on the tree.

He knew that every creature was made by God and yet he knew how the mother who had worked hard all day to make everything perfect would be dismayed to find the spider webs on its tree. Thus, with a heart full of love and a lovely bewitching smile on his lips, the Christ child gently touched the spider webs and set them sparkling and shining in silver and golden colours that made the Christmas tree look even more beautiful than before. It is said that this is how tinsel was introduced to decorate Christmas trees. Some people also hang a plastic spider in remembrance of the devoted little spiders who worked hard that Christmas Eve.



## Property Report

You would no doubt note that over the summer months the Sanctuary has been painted and also the outside of the main hall. This has certainly brightened up the buildings and was long overdue.

The new notice on the end of the main hall wall proclaiming that we are indeed Castlehill Church has drawn favourable comment. Some paint work in the inside of the building in the Ladies Toilets and passageway is also under review as is the redecoration of the inside of the main hall. This however is a major job and will prove to be costly. However with careful budgeting we can look at this over the next 18 months.

Wellwood Grierson

### *Pastor's Business Card*

*A new pastor was visiting in the homes of his parishioners.*

*At one house it seemed obvious that someone was at home,  
but no answer came to his repeated knocks at the door.*

*Therefore, he took out a business card and wrote  
"Revelation 3:20" on the back of it and stuck it in the door.*

*When the offering was processed the following Sunday,  
he found that his card had been returned.*

*Added to it was this cryptic message, "Genesis 3:10."*

*Reaching for his Bible to check out the citation,  
he broke up in gales of laughter*

*Revelation 3:20 begins "Behold, I stand at the door and knock."*

*Genesis 3:10 reads,*

*"I heard your voice in the garden and I was afraid for I was naked."  
Remember when the funniest jokes were the clean ones? They still are!*

*"A cheerful heart is good medicine" (Prov. 17:22)*





## The Boys' Brigade

**“The advancement of Christ’s kingdom amongst boys”**

The Boys Brigade at Castlehill have entered our 48<sup>th</sup> year. We have had cause for celebration and for sad reflection. We have celebrated Stuart Cant gaining his Queen’s Badge while David Moore, Greg Paterson and Ewan Smith all gained their President’s Badge. However, the boys and officers were saddened by the tragic death of Andrew Young, a former member of the Company. We were also saddened by the death of one of our former Captains, Mr Jim Bloomer, Captain from 1969 – 1979.

He was the biggest influence on my BB career and is the reason  
I became an officer.

In November we are having a weekend away at a Scout Lodge in the  
Gleniffer Braes near Paisley,  
this is always one of the highlights of our BB year.

The amalgamation of the three companies in the South of Ayr has fallen through with the collapse of the 4<sup>th</sup> Ayr (St Andrews). It has resulted in a formal cooperation between the 1<sup>st</sup> Ayr (St. Leonards and St. Columbas) and the 17<sup>th</sup> Ayr.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Ayr have not had a Company Section for a number of years which resulted in their Junior Section boys having no progression to Company Section. They are now being encouraged to join the 17<sup>th</sup> Ayr Company Section and so far five boys have. Our numbers are as healthy as they have been for a number of years. The Company Section has gone from 8 boys two years ago to 22 boys this year. The total number of boys between the three sections is over 50, which is cause for celebration. In this day and age a uniformed Christian organisation for boys is bringing over 50 boys a week to the Christian message.

As we head towards our own 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary we are in an enviable position within the Boys’ Brigade of having a growing Company but we could equally be in the unenviable position of not making it to our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary because of lack of leaders.

We have only four enrolled officers between the three sections and rely on helpers to maintain our adult to child ratio. To secure our future we desperately need more help. I am making an open plea to members for help, either your own direct help or put someone in touch with me who is willing to help.

Ian Queen (Captain)

286617

## *Meditation*



Find a quiet place and time and allow the words of Jesus  
to sink into your soul

### **Luke 12: 22-34**

#### **Verses 22-31**

Jesus suggests that worrying is very unproductive! How does that bear out in your life?

He also encourages us to look around the natural world and see how the birds and flowers are cared for and display such beauty – without needing bank accounts! His argument is ‘how much more will God care for you!’ Are you confident of God’s care for you?

Consider to what extent your life has become focused primarily on material things and the extent to which that leads you to needless worrying.

#### **Verses 31-34**

Where is your treasure?

On what do you spend your time, money and energy?

What does it mean for you to put the Kingdom of God first?

What do you invest in that has eternal value.

The opposite of worry is trust. Trust in God then leads to generosity

#### **Prayer**

Lord, help me to trust you for all my needs.

Make my heart generous towards others in every way.

*Amen*



### **Property Convener**

A big thank you goes to Wellwood Grierson as his promised year as Property convener is almost up and we are now looking for someone ‘to fill his shoes’.

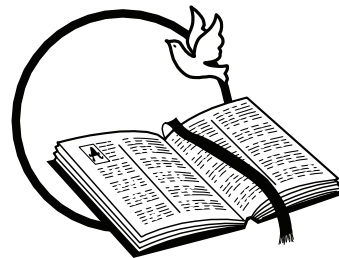
Could any one interested please contact the office



## *Spiritual Food*

Nowadays we are bombarded with advice on our daily diets, to eat the right fats, not to clog up our arteries, drink semi skimmed or skimmed milk, and you'd think that yoghurts were the new foods of the century. Now we are being encouraged to drink 'smoothies' which is the latest fad. Although all these foods have been here for centuries it's just another gimmick of dishing them up. If we don't eat 5 fruits or vegetables a day our physical health will be impaired. All very good advice indeed but in all the dire warnings and advice for our health and well-being, we must remember we are made of body and spirit and take heed of the Fruit of the Spirit listed in Gal. 5. v 22. which is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self control. Not only when we refer to them for others, we too will reap the benefits and really will be 'whole'.

The Spirit lives to set us free  
Walk, walk in the light  
He binds us all in unity  
Walk, walk in the light



Walk, in the light  
Walk, in the light  
Walk, in the light  
Walk, in the light of the Lord

*Margaret MacCormick, Prayer Promoter*



If you know of anyone who would like a tape of our Sunday services. Please contact the office.

If anyone is interested in taking on the Editorship of the magazine ,  
could they please contact the office.



The Spring 2008 Newsletter will be issued in mid February.  
If anyone has any articles, they should be handed into  
the office by Mid January

#### 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 a team member to let them know a visit is required.

Contact Nos. of team are as follows :

Church Office	Sandra Wyllie	267332
Biggart Hospital	Margaret MacCormick	263949
	Margaret Grierson	285903
Ailsa Hospital	Andrew Graham	261486
Ayr Hospital	Pat Colquhoun	267749

All information will be strictly confidential.



Our Church magazine is now available on our website  
([www.castlehillchurch.org](http://www.castlehillchurch.org)).

It is also available to be sent by email. Anyone wishing the  
magazine to be sent to themselves or indeed friends and family,  
please let the office know.



### Funerals

August

Mrs. Margaret Yair  
56 Mount Oliphant Crescent  
Mrs. Mary McGarvie  
29 Rowan Crescent

September

Mrs. Ethel Stuart  
Burnfoot Nursing Home  
(Formerly Cunningham Crescent)  
Mrs. Nan Robb  
3 Laurelbank

October

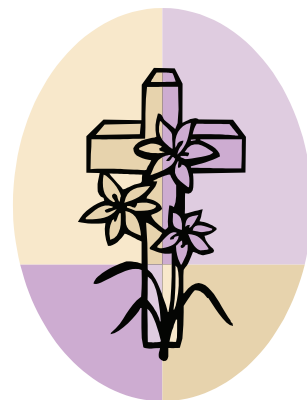
Mr. Tom Steele  
4 Campion Court  
Mrs. Anne McMillan  
5 Orchard Ave

### Weddings

22nd September 2007  
Diane Gulbis  
And  
Richard Devine  
8b Low Road

### Blessings

14th October 2007  
Heidi Walker  
4 Belmont Drive Ayr



# *Regular Weekly Events*

## *Sunday*

Youth Church

Bell Ringers

Morning Service

Creche

Bowling Club

## *Monday*

Tiny Tots

Highland  
Dancing

Brownies

Guides

## *Tuesday*

Guides

Coffee  
Shop

Line Dancing

Rainbows

Brownies

Anchor Boys

Child Minders  
Group

## *Wednesday*

Music Makers

Line Dancing

Guild

Bowling Club

## *Thursday*

Seniors  
Keep Fit

Weightwatchers

Tai Ji

Board & Session

## *Friday*

Enjoy-a-ball

Boys  
Brigade

Hazelbank  
Mothers & Toddlers

## *Saturday*

Weightwatchers

*For current meeting  
times of the various  
organisations  
please contact the office*

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If so then please contact Liz Reid or the church office  
who will make the necessary arrangements.

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or

 Lesley - 01292 263464

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## Frank O'Lone

*Roofing*

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Mobile: 0771 139 1967