



Kiltarlity and WARDLAW Churches

The Parishioner



SPRING AND NEW LIFE

The first signs of spring, with flowers pushing through the damp soil are very exciting to see. Spring reminds us of the eternal cycle of death and rebirth and renewed life. Spring is the re-emergence of life. It indicates a balance of growth and decay; youth and maturity, innocence and experience. The beautiful crocuses and daffodils symbolise new life. Spring also indicates the end of winter which is always symbolised with darkness and hibernation.

God did not only create heaven and earth, He also organised all life on earth in seasons (Genesis 1:3-5). Spring, with all its new life in nature, reveals the majesty of the Creator and source of all life (Psalms 36:9) in the most magnificent flower colours. The new life of spring opens the curtains on the providence and care of God for his creation and creatures. That is why the psalmist wrote:

“All creatures look to you to give them their food at the proper time.” (Psalms 104:27)

“He makes grass grow for the cattle, and plants for people to cultivate — bringing forth food from the earth.” (Psalms 104:14)

“When you send your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the ground.” (Psalms 104:30).

Human life also has its seasons of spring, summer, autumn and winter. All of us have our winter seasons with its darkness, lack of spiritual growth and distance from God, but we also have our spring seasons characterised by new spiritual life and growth.

By dying on a cross for our sins and by giving us his Spirit to renew us, Jesus Christ leads us out of the season of winter with its darkness and sin to a season of spring and a new beginning so that we, too, can rise from the dead. The apostle John put it this way: ***“And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new !”*** (Revelation 21:5). If we believe in God and his forgiveness we experience this season of spring in our spiritual lives. That is why Paul writes:

“Don’t copy the behaviour and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.” (Romans 12:2)

“Don’t lie to one another. You’re done with that old life. It’s like a filthy set of ill-fitting clothes you’ve stripped off and put in the fire. Now you’re dressed in a new wardrobe. Every item of your new way of life is custom-made by the Creator, with his label on it. All the old fashions are now obsolete.” (Colossians 3:9-11)

What is happening in your life ? Is the spring of 2011, with its new life and growth, a reflection of your spiritual life ?

Kobus

Please note the Biblical quotes in the article are from the NIV and *The Message*.

Stamp appeal 2011: Mount Olivet Boys' Home

The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands and the Government of Jamaica have joined forces through the Mount Olivet Boys' Home to provide a place of hope for young boys who have been abused or neglected.



Located in rural Jamaica, Mount Olivet is home for around 30 boys with an average age of 12 from urban and socially deprived areas of Jamaica. Mount Olivet offers love and support which will enable these boys to lead meaningful and productive lives. Through the Home they have access to spiritual nurture, medical care, emotional support, vocational training and recreation. The Home has a lab with 11 computers and the boys also engage in farming and livestock rearing. Mount Olivet is self-sufficient in egg and chicken meat production. Despite these achievements and local help, it has become increasingly difficult to meet not only routine costs, but to undertake developmental work.

You can help our partner church in Jamaica to keep the boys safe, become self-sufficient in agricultural and livestock production, provide them with computer and farming skills, psychological and developmental support and in repairing buildings to required health and safety standards.



You can do this by simply collecting your used stamps which are sold to raise money. Please leave your used stamps in the boxes at each Church entrance. Or contact Margaret Birkbeck – 831 518 – who will arrange for the used stamps to be sent onto the Keith Scott of Wishaw, the Church of Scotland representative for this appeal.

The Mount Olivet Boys' Home is staffed by 'house parents', who have been positively assessed in various areas including child safety, providing guidance and stability and a stimulating environment. A Child Psychiatrist meets regularly with the boys diagnosed with mental health conditions and all residents benefit from other counselling. Mount Olivet is self-sufficient in the production of eggs and chickens and sells surplus eggs to the community. The home has land and manpower to produce crops, and has a small number of livestock for breeding purposes. A computer lab was introduced in 2004 with 11 computers.

The Mount Olivet Boys' Home is committed to :

- Preparing the boys for post-institutional life.
- Strengthening medical care including psychiatric and emotional support.
- Providing comfortable living conditions.
- Facilitating academic and vocational development.
- Offering spiritual nurture and assistance with personal development.
- Staff training.
- Facilitating recreation and positive socialisation.



The final total raised for the **2010 World Mission Stamp Appeal** is a tremendous **£2,409**. Many thanks to everyone who contributed ! This money supported the Girls' Hostel at St Columba's in Sialkot, Pakistan, a hostel that accommodates up to 400 girls while they study at the St Columba Religious Training Centre, and is run by our partner church, the Church of Pakistan. The girls come from poor Christian communities in rural Punjab where there are limited opportunities for education.

Memory Verse
Luke 24 : 34
The Lord is risen
indeed !

KINDERHOEKIE

by Louisa

JESUS IS ALIVE! (read Luke 23:13- 24:35) Good News Bible

Some people did not like Jesus and wanted to get rid of him. On Friday, Jesus died.

Jesus' friends were very sad. They lovingly put his body in a cave and rolled a big stone in front.

On Sunday morning, Mary and her friends went to the cave. They saw that the big stone had moved! They went into the cave.

It was empty! What a surprise! Where was Jesus' body?

Suddenly two angels appeared. The women were afraid but the angles told them, "Jesus is not here. Jesus isn't dead. He's alive again!"

Mary and her friends were amazed. They ran back to tell Jesus' friends the good news: "Jesus is alive again!"

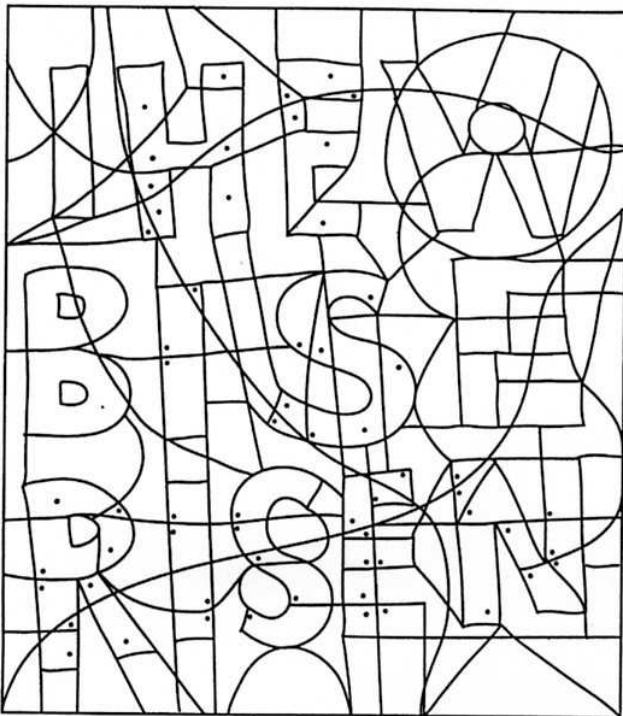
"That can't be true." Peter and the others said. But Peter went to see for himself. He saw that the stone had been moved. He saw that the cave was empty. Later on, he saw Jesus! Then he knew is was really true. Jesus is alive!

From: The Big Bible Storybook – Scripture Union

RISEN AGAIN!

Three days after Jesus was buried, two women went to the tomb. There was a violent earthquake. An angel came down and shone like lightning. What did he tell the women?

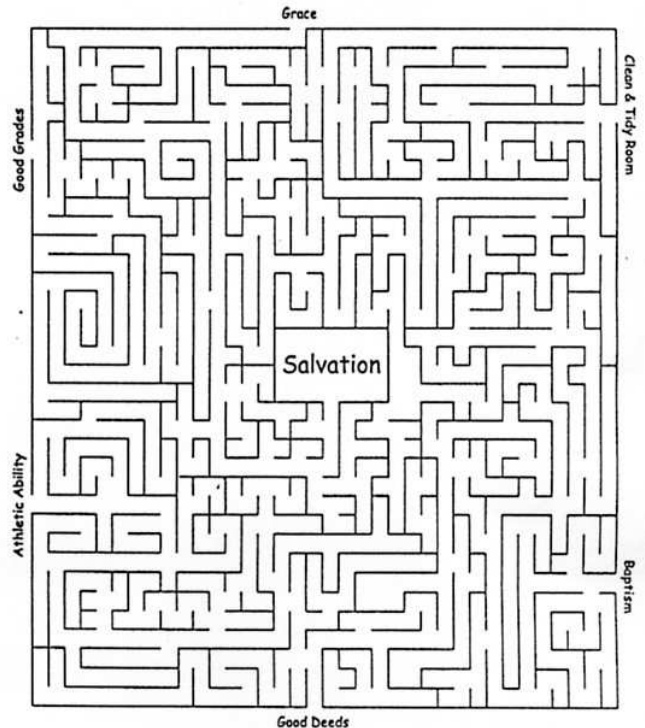
Color in the areas with dots to see what the angel said.



SALVATION

Jesus died on the cross so we could be forgiven of our sins. Salvation is a free gift given to us by God.

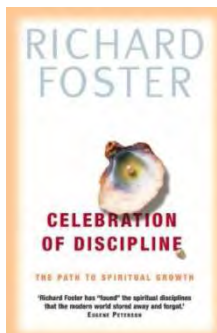
Read Ephesians 2:8-9 to see how we are saved. Then find the true path to salvation in the maze.



Memory Verse

Luke 24:34

The Lord is risen indeed !



This month I want to recommend Richard Foster's book **Celebration of Discipline: The path to spiritual growth**. In this popular book Foster spells out the fundamental need of a personal, intimate relationship with God. However, this book is more than simply a devotional. It goes beyond the 'why' of the disciplines, but gives some practical advice on 'how'. Many believers do not know how to "meditate", "fast" or "pray" without simply mouthing the words from time to time. Buy this book if you are interested in a deeper, personal, life-changing experience with God. Available in paperback from www.amazon.co.uk for £9.99.

EASTER - the most joyful day of the year

Easter is the most joyful day of the year for Christians. Christ has died for our sins. We are forgiven. Christ has risen ! We are redeemed ! We can look forward to an eternity in his joy ! Hallelujah !

The Good News of Jesus Christ is a message is so simple that you can explain it to someone in a few minutes. It is so profound that for the rest of their lives they will be still be 'growing' in their Christian walk with God.

Why does the date move around so much ? Because the date of Passover moves around, and according to the biblical account, Easter is tied to the Passover. Passover celebrates the Israelites' exodus from Egypt and it lasts for seven days, from the middle of the Hebrew month of Nisan, which equates to late March or early April.

Sir Isaac Newton was one of the first to use the Hebrew lunar calendar to come up with firm dates for Good Friday: Friday 7 April 30 AD or Friday 3 April, 33 AD, with Easter Day falling two days later. Modern scholars continue to think these the most likely.

Most people will tell you that Easter falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring Equinox, which is broadly true. But the precise calculations are complicated and involve something called an 'ecclesiastical full moon', which is not the same as the moon in the sky. The earliest possible date for Easter in the West is 22 March, which last fell in 1818 and won't fall again until 2285. The latest is 25 April, which last happened in 1943 and is next due in 2038. Easter Sunday this year is 24 April.

Why the name, 'Easter' ? In almost every European language, the festival's name comes from 'Pesach', the Hebrew word for Passover. The Germanic word 'Easter', however, seems to come from Eostre, a Saxon fertility goddess mentioned by the Venerable Bede. He thought that the Saxons worshipped her in 'Eostur month,' but may have confused her with the classical dawn goddesses like Eos and Aurora, whose names mean 'shining in the east.' So Easter might have meant simply 'beginning month' – a good time for starting up again after a long winter.

Finally, why Easter eggs ? On one hand, they are an ancient symbol of birth in most European cultures. On the other hand, hens start laying regularly again each Spring. Since eggs were forbidden during Lent, it's easy to see how decorating and eating them became a practical way to celebrate Easter.

The Parishioner Newsletter Issue 38 - April 2011 SOUPER SUNDAY AT KIRK HILL

This year's Souper Sunday at Kirkhill was held on Sunday, 20 March. This elder-led service was again held in Kirkhill Community Centre, and took the theme of "He will bring lasting justice to all" from Isaiah 42:3. The service was in aid of the Church of Scotland HIV Programme. Prayers and readings reminded us of the hope we have in Christ Jesus, The Light of the World. Reflections invited us to remember that as followers of Christ, we are not alone. The role of followers of Christ was further explored, to help us realise that, as churches acting together, we can help to achieve justice for all, including those living with HIV. A short, but informative, Church of Scotland DVD was shown, illustrating how HIV is being tackled in Malawi.



After the service, a very speedy rearrangement of tables and chairs was carried out. About 35 people stayed on for a very enjoyable and convivial soup and sandwich lunch, followed by tea and some home baking. Hardly iron rations, particularly since no less than 4 varieties of soup were on offer! Donation envelopes were distributed and the total of donations received amounted to £232, the majority of which were Gift Aided, adding another 25% to the value of these donations.

Many thanks to all who helped with the service and the lunch, and also with arranging and de-rigging the hall.



All Fools' Day - 1st April

In years gone by, the rules surrounding April Fool were this: between midnight and noon on 1 April, everyone is 'fair game' to be made a fool of. It is the morning of the practical joke. But the aim is not just to discomfort the victim: he must be tricked into taking action himself, sent on a 'fool's errand'.

And so children would be sent to the dairy for a pint of dove's milk, or to the bookseller for *The Life of Eve's Mother*. Practical jokes on a bigger scale were played: in 1860 a vast number of people received an official looking invitation to the Tower of London that read: 'Admit the Bearer and Friends to view the Annual Ceremony of Washing the White Lions.' Precisely the same trick had been played in 1698.

Then, on the stroke of noon, tradition decrees, April Fools is finished. If anyone attempts devilry thereafter, even while the clock is still striking, it recoils on his own head. A child would then race through the sing-song formula: 'April-Fool-Day's-past-and-gone-you're-the-fool-and-I-am-none!'

Roll Away the Stone

On General Assembly Sunday, 22 May 2011 from 1:00 p.m. till 6:00 p.m., the Church will take over a large area of Princes Street Gardens in Edinburgh for a time of *Celebration, Inspiration and Discovery*.

"Significance comes from the Cross and resurrection life flows from the Tomb." So celebration, inspiration and discovery will begin with reflections around a huge cross in the garden area near the Ross Bandstand. Meantime at the Bandstand itself, in the picturesque avenue and fountain areas, and in St Cuthbert's Church at the west end of the Gardens there will be space for worship, praise and singing amongst a whole range of other things to see and do.

What's happening ?

The day will include:



- Easter Play Scenes
- Storytelling
- Massed Choirs
- Church Stories
- Fischy Music
- 5-a-side football
- Interviews
- Youth and Kids
- Picnic
- Comedy
- Puppets
- Discussion
- Bands
- Orchestra

What's It About ?

CELEBRATION

- ☀ A time to pause and see all that God is doing in our midst and to celebrate it !

INSPIRATION

- ☀ Learning how to engage with God and His people in new and exciting ways.

DISCOVERY

- ☀ Opening our eyes to different things being done by other churches and agencies

Memory Verse

Luke 24:34 - The Lord is risen indeed !

Pitter pattering around the parish

- ❖ It was agreed at the Kirkhill Deacons' Court on 8 March 2011 to remove part of two pews from the front of the Church near the organ. This is to allow members a safer passage into the kitchen area.
- ❖ The purchase of 100 new Mission Praise hardback books was also approved at the Kirkhill Deacons' Court meeting. These books will replace the Junior Praise books presently in use. The Mission Praise books contain over 1,250 hymns and songs, which will be used in alongside the red CH3 hymn books at the Sunday services.
- ❖ With the acquisition of copies of Mission Praise for Wardlaw Church comes the opportunity for the congregation to include many new hymns into its regular worship. Arrangements are being made for those who wish to become familiar with some of this new material to meet for a time of praise on Sunday evenings. Initially you are invited to gather at the home of Alasdair and Eileen Morrison, 18 Mansefield Park, Kirkhill, on Sunday evenings, meeting at 7:30 p.m. The first of these 'Songs on Sunday' events will be held on Sunday 3rd April.
- ❖ Wardlaw Church have purchased a second hand colour copier from the Resources Centre at Crown Church in Inverness for the use by the Sunday School, Open the Book team, and for the production of posters and flyers. The copier is sited in the Manse, and if you wish to use the equipment, please arrange a mutual agreed date and time with Kobus or Louisa
- ❖ Kobus will be taking a week's leave from 4 April. Rev. Archie Chisholm will be preaching on Sunday, 10 April to cover Kobus's absence.
- ❖ The Kirkhill Deacons' Court and Kirk Session meet at Wardlaw Church on Tuesday, 19 April 2011 at 7:30 p.m.
- ❖ The Gentlemen's Social meal and drink event will be held after Easter in April. The date and venue will be announced at a Sunday Service intimation in April, or speak to Alasdair Morrison on 831 185 or James Byham on 831 143 for further details.

Kiltarlity Camera Club

The recently formed Kiltarlity Camera Club has got off to a "flying start." Meetings are held, in Kiltarlity Village Hall, on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month, at 7:30 p.m. It is anticipated that one of these monthly meets will be dedicated to "showing" of photographs (from a previously agreed topic), the other meeting to discuss and practice on a "how to" basis.

It is hoped that with the better weather and longer days approaching, on occasion it may be possible to have outings, with a view to putting skills into practice !! Membership of the club is open to all who have an interest in photography, from beginners to professionals. No matter what your skills or interests are you will be made most welcome.

April meetings : Tuesday 5th April, subject : a flower / flowers
 Tuesday 19th April, a study in still life

Ellenor Thomas (Secretary)

Adopt-A-Child Charity

Alternative Gift for Easter.

Easter is just a few weeks away and everyone is thinking about Easter eggs as gifts for friends and family. What a lovely gift chocolate is, but remember the saying "A moment in the mouth, a month on the hips !"

Why not give someone special to you an Alternate Gift to change the life of a child in Albania or Guatemala. For the price of a small Easter egg you can help save a child's life with medical treatment or dental care – cost is £5. At this time as we remember that Jesus died for us, why not buy a bible or discipleship materials so a child may know of Jesus' love for them. No price can be put on the opportunity to have eternal life. We will send you a striking black and white card depicting a photo of a Guatemalan child, with a colourful Easter egg-decorated gift slip to pass on to your loved ones.

Telephone or email Janis Wilby at 01463 792 600 / aacuk@lwintl.org for a simple form and details of the full range of alternative gifts. Janis usual office hours are Monday, Tuesday and Thursday mornings 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

You can also speak to Kay Munro (831 237) who is our Church representative, and she would be very happy to give you further background information to this worthwhile charity.

The History of the Adopt-A-Child charity.

Mack and Peggy McKeown founded Living Water Ministries in 1978 and Adopt-A-child was actually born in 1983 when they began feeding children in the poorest regions of Guatemala and asking sponsors to partner with them. Mack went home to be with the Lord in 1990, and Peggy continued until 1992 when Ron and Pat Kelly became the directors. The vision to reach one more child, one more village, and one more country expanded in 1995 to include Albania.

The Vision of the Adopt-A-Child charity.

The vision of Living Water International's Adopt-A-Child sponsorship program is "changing the world one child at a time." The MISSION is to reach whole families for Christ by ministering to their children. The charity does this through a demonstration of God's love - by providing nourishing meals, medical and dental care, and genuine friendship. As a relationship builds and confidence is established, natural opportunities for evangelism occur.

Sponsorship.

Sponsors from all over the world send the charity the equivalent of just under £19 a month, or £225 a year, to cover the bi-weekly nutritional meals as well as the medical, dental, and spiritual care that they provide for their sponsored children. Many sponsors also correspond regularly with their children and send them extra gifts for birthdays and Christmas.

Contact details

The UK and Ireland office of the charity is based in Inverness and services the whole of the UK and the Republic of Ireland as well as other European countries. The admin staff – Jenny Dougal / Fiona Mackay / Janis Wilby / Alison Ramsay - are there to help sponsors / churches / church contacts / groups / individuals / throughout these countries. Don't hesitate to contact any of them at the office phone – 01463 792 600 or email aacuk@lwintl.org



Heidi and Tony Hercus

are proud to announce the
arrival of **Jack Hamish** on
Wednesday,

23 March at Raigmore Hospital in Inverness



Jack weighed in at 10lbs, and was delivered by caesarean section. Heidi and Jack will remain in hospital for the next 10 days to allow Heidi to recover.

Hamish is Willis and Pat Jones's fifth grandchild, and grandfather and grandmother are both doing fine.

KIRK HILL FUN QUIZ NIGHT



Twelve teams battle it out

The second Kirkhill quiz night was held at the Kirkhill Community Hall on the evening of Friday 4 March. This time we attracted 12 teams, and competition was fierce. Teams from Kirkhill were much in evidence, and it was good to welcome competitors from Beaulay and Muir of Ord. The outright winners were the Chisholm family from Kirkhill a.k.a. the Clueless Team - Aldra, Archie, Joanne and Duncan - who won a £50 voucher to spend at the Old North Inn at Inchmore. There was a tie for second place between John Angus's A Team and the Inquisitors. A tie break was needed to break the deadlock, with the Inquisitors coming out best and winning the splendid prize of four chocolate Easter Eggs. Thanks to all the other teams who took part, adopting team names such as Aches and Pains, Mental Block, Scrambled Eggheads, Simple Minds, Smokey and the Bandit, Tarradale Terrors, Does Grey matter?, The Noisies and The Bothwellers. Beribboned wooden spoons were awarded to the last placed team, Does Grey Matter?, for their valiant effort as a team of just two, facing teams of four. A total of £187.44 was banked into the Refurbishment account as a result of quiz entry fees and donations. Many thanks to all who helped on the night to make this an enjoyable occasion.



The worthy winning team alias "Clueless"

The Guild



The **Church of Scotland Guild** or simply **The Guild** (formerly known as the **Woman's Guild**), is a movement within the Church of Scotland.

Historically it was, and often in practice it is, an exclusively woman's movement. It has groups, organised at a congregational level, in most of the parishes of Scotland. The aim of the movement is "to invite and encourage both woman and men to commit their lives to Jesus Christ and to enable them to express their faith in worship, prayer, and action". The associated motto is "Whose I am, and whom I serve".

The 'Woman's Guild' was founded in 1887 by the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland on the initiative of A. H. Charteris. Charteris acknowledged women were already involved in Christian service but that there "was a need to develop and organize them as an official working unity within the church."

Within ten years, there were 29,000 members in 400 branches. This reached a peak in the 1950s of over 160,000 members. By the centenary of 1987, this had halved to 80,000. Also from the 1950s, Young Mothers' groups were formed, which eventual evolved into the Young Woman's Groups section of the Guild. This section shared the same basic aims.

Today the guild has about 35,000 members and is one of Scotland's largest voluntary organisations.

In 1997, following a major review, the Guild adopted its current constitution. The new constitution changed the name 'Woman's Guild' to 'Church of Scotland Guild' - and opened up groups to men as well as women.

Guild announces new national convener

At the February meeting of the Church of Scotland Guild's National Executive committee, it was announced that **Alison Angus**, from Lochcarron and Skye, is to be the incoming national convener of the Guild.

Alison was born and educated in Glasgow and trained as a teacher at Jordanhill College. She lived for many years in Aberdeen, and was ordained as an elder in Cults. Married with three daughters and five grandchildren, Alison moved to Lochcarron with her husband when she took early retirement as Head of Geography at Dyce Academy. Alison has an interest in hill walking and sailing, passing her interests in outdoor pursuits on to young people via her church youth work and Scripture Union.

Commenting on her appointment, Alison said: "I am deeply touched and humbled by the trust being placed in me by the Guild and shall seek, with God's help, to serve it faithfully. The Guild is an inspiration to all in the church and I feel greatly honoured and privileged to have been invited to serve it in this way."

At the same meeting, **Mary Ford** from Glasgow North was elected as national vice convener. Mary was born and brought up in Glasgow. Married to Alan, minister at Springburn, they have two daughters and two grandchildren. Mary was a bank teller until taking early retirement and now works part-time for Crossreach in the Glasgow Day Opportunities service. Mary likes reading, walking and visits to the gym. She also likes to keep up with family and friends on Facebook.

Alison and Mary will take up their posts following the General Assembly in May 2011.

Kirkhill Parish Annual Accounts - 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2010

The annual accounts for the Church are available in the Church entrance for anyone to take home and study at their leisure. The accounts have to be prepared to rules and regulations laid down by the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR). This format does not produce the most user friendly set of accounts. In an effort to set out the accounts in a more user friendly format, the table below brings you the highlights of the account, but are not the "official" record of the accounts of the Church. You will note that there are notations in the table below referring you back to the official version of the accounts available at the Church door. If you have any queries about the account, please speak direct to John Finlayson who would be able to clarify any query you may have.

Account highlights				
Receipts	2010	2009	Difference	% Inc. / (Dec)
Offerings - open plate	£8,531	£7,698	£833	10%
FWO Scheme / Gift Aid / Tax recovered on Gift Aid	£12,398	£9,626	£2,772	22%
Other offerings	£1,770	£2,068	(£298)	(17%)
Flowers / Guild / Sunday School	£730	£1,005	(£275)	(38%)
Total donations - see page 5 of accounts	£23,429	£20,397	£3,032	13%
Refurbishment fund	£5,847	£1,259	£4,588	78%
Bank interest / Investment income	£54	£56	(£2)	(4%)
Grant - General Trustees	£687	£4,313	(£3,626)	(528%)
Total receipts - see page 2 of accounts	£30,017	£26,025	£3,992	13%

Payments	2010	2009	Difference	% Inc. / (Dec)
Ministries and Mission allocations.	£4,005	£2,573	(£1,432)	36%
Minister's expenses.	£751	£479	(£272)	36%
Locum Minister's costs.	£3,255	£4,160	£905	(28%)
Other staffing costs / pulpit supply.	£1,970	£1,648	(£322)	16%
Insurance.	£1,468	£1,432	(£36)	2%
Oil and electric costs - Kirkhill share only.	£2,701	£1,498	(£1,203)	45%
New sound system.	£3,635		(£3,635)	
Vacancy costs.	£773		(£773)	
The Parishioner costs. **	£401	£365	(£37)	9%
Flowers / Guild / Sunday School.	£867	£1,081	£214	(25%)
Refurbishment / Manse repairs (Kirkhill share only).	£9,531	£4,313	(£5,218)	55%
Fabric repairs and maintenance.	£1,858	£1,132	(£726)	39%
Other costs.	£5,053	£2,974	(£2,078)	41%
Total payments - see page 5 of accounts	£36,268	£21,655	(£14,613)	40%

Excess / (loss) of receipts over payments	(£6,251)	£4,370	(£10,621)	170%
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*** The Parishioner costs are Kirkhill costs only. The 2009 costs covered August to December only, plus a shared cost of a duplex black and white printer (£138).*

It is the Reserves Policy of the trustees to hold unrestricted General Funds reserves of at least six months expenditure. At the 31 December 2010, the Church held unrestricted reserves of £29,674 of which £13,582 are in the General Fund which equates to approximately six months expenditure. The balance of £16,092 has been designated for the purposes detailed in note 2 - see page 4 of the accounts.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The World Day of Prayer was held on the morning of Friday, 4 March at Wardlaw Church, Kirkhill. This year the order of service was written by Christian women of the Republic of Chile. A large part of Chile is mountainous, indeed, mountains with perpetual snow extend the length of the country. Desert areas exist in the north; the south has prairie grasslands or steppes, with the extreme south containing polar landscapes.

The country suffered under a highly repressive dictatorship for 17 years from 1973, which has left a legacy of unhealed wounds, conflict and disquiet. Churches have been important agents in mediation processes. In February 2010, a massive earthquake off the coast of Chile caused widespread damage, with the resultant tsunami devastating several coastal towns. There were 486 fatalities and approximately 500,000 homes were damaged.

The theme of this year's service was "How many Loaves have you?", an invitation to think about our many gifts and talents, and to be prepared to use and share them to bring about God's kingdom here on earth. Our small service at Kirkhill was appreciated by all who attended, with the offering of £100 going towards supporting Christian organisations with projects in Chile.

See also the comments contained in the Guild update in this issue of *The Parishioner*.

Memory Verse

Luke 24:34 - The Lord is risen indeed !

GUILD UPDATE

After a season of varied and interesting gatherings, the Guild's last meeting was the Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, 1 March, which was followed by an afternoon tea with sandwiches and home baking.

Margaret Birkbeck has stepped down as Convenor and Secretary, after a good number of years' service and a great deal of hard work. Guild members are very appreciative of all that Margaret has done for the Guild. The risk of the Guild having to cease was lessened by an offer by Carol Grant of Kiltarlity to take on secretarial duties, which was much appreciated. However, the Guild does still lack a Convener. The somewhat streamlined committee of Carol, with Elizabeth MacRae and Rosemary Mortimer are in the initial stages of putting together a programme for 2011 / 12, and have received some offers of help from several members with regard to domestic arrangements and taking part in meetings. It is hoped to issue a programme of planned meetings in late summer.

Some doubt exists with regard to holding the World Day of Prayer in 2012 and beyond, due to the seemingly excessive cost levels of producing materials for the service. A query has been lodged to the WDP Committee on this matter, and we await the outcome of this.

The Parishioner Newsletter – March 2011

A complaint has been received with regard to the item entitled "Advice from a Retired Husband" which was printed in the March edition of the Parishioner. It was felt that this item was in poor taste and inappropriate for publication in a church newsletter.

The editors of the Parishioner would like to apologise unreservedly for any offence caused by this item. It has never been the intention to publish any item that might cause distress or offence to anyone in the wide circulation of the newsletter. In over 3 years of publishing the Parishioner, this is the first comment of this nature that has been received.

It is only by receiving constructive feedback and articles from our readers that we can improve the content of the newsletter, and communicate better with our Church community, local community and beyond.

Iain and Rosemary Mortimer

A quote for Easter

All the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that ever were built, and all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of mankind on this earth as powerfully as has that one solitary life. *Anon*

Inner Peace: this is so true.....

If you can start the day without caffeine,

If you can always be cheerful, ignoring aches and pains,

If you can resist complaining and boring people with your troubles,

If you can eat the same food every day and be grateful for it,

If you can understand when your loved ones are too busy to give you any time,

If you can take criticism and blame without resentment ,

If you can conquer tension without medical help,

If you can relax without liquor,

If you can sleep without the aid of drugs,

(*The answer is overleaf*)

Then you are probably The Family Dog !



And you thought I was going to get all spiritual !

Thanks to Mary Bell

Visiting the Sick Patient

You don't actually want to be there. Nobody would *choose* to spend a week or a fortnight in hospital. Yet sooner or later most of us will, and when we do we shall be 'visited'. Family and friends, and possibly the dutiful Minister, will come and sit at our bedside. It's nice to see them, of course, but in a way they are like messengers from another world.

In hospital - and it's no criticism to say this - everything is strange and alien. You are woken very early. Meals come and go. Pills are administered. Our most intimate functions are no longer private. There's the strange ritual of the doctor's rounds. And at night, when you are used to peace and quiet, there is none. Your fellow patients cough, or snore, or push the buzzer for the nurse. The staff flit to and fro. Lights go on and off. Although you seem to have spent half of the day dozing, by some strange contradiction you can't get to sleep at night.

Into this alien world come your visitors. Some come bearing gifts - grapes, perhaps, or if you're lucky, chocolate or a newspaper. Some sit and look sympathetically at us, sighing slightly and asking with heavy emphasis how we are. Some ask about our symptoms, or when we expect to go home. And some, the very worst, insist on telling us about their own experience of just the same problem, or even about someone they know who died of it.

Truthfully, patients in hospital don't particularly want sympathy, or a cross-examination about their illness and its treatment. What they principally want from their visitors is a whiff of normality, a reminder that there is a world outside, of which they are still a part. They want to know all the gossip, to feel connected to the familiar world of home and church and club.

The beloved is permitted to hold one's hand and even look anxious (we rather like that). For the rest, come in, sit down, regale us with a few stories and then - after about forty minutes maximum - please go. That's really the secret of being a good hospital visitor.

Elections to the Scottish Parliament take place on 5 May 2011. Church Leaders and representatives of Christian organisations across Scotland have come together ahead of these elections to challenge candidates and voters alike to remember that elections are community events in which “my” vote is not only for me but also an opportunity for each of us to express the needs of the whole community. Let us look beyond the selfish and fearful parts of ourselves and aspire to build a society where everyone has equal access to opportunities and can live with dignity.

A fair and just society must place the value of every human life at the centre of its thinking. This is only possible in a society which respects human life at every stage and supports the family in which life is born and nurtured. Families have a right and a need for sufficient material wellbeing to flourish; the right to sustainable work is an essential part of satisfying this need. Human choices are not value free; when making far reaching choices about the future of our economy we must understand the moral consequences of our decisions before we act. In our roles as consumers, workers, employers, investors and shareholders we must strive to create fair economic mechanisms that, while acknowledging that profit is a valid form of economic activity, place human outcomes above the need for ever greater financial rewards. Our current levels of consumption cannot be sustained. As a society we must aspire to a future in which, as a society, we live within our means and learn from the past.

There is a deep need for those with political authority to be a part of the communities which they serve and to act in the best interests of that community as a whole. Politicians must be accountable for the morality of their decisions and when we hold them accountable we must remember that we serve each other and not our own self interest. While many politicians work tirelessly in their communities there remains considerable scepticism in relation to political institutions and politicians. An awareness of human failings should not tempt us to abandon the political system. Dissatisfaction with politics should prompt Christians to be more involved in shaping political life so that it better serves the whole of society.

For generations Christians have served society and been at the heart of civil and political life, a tradition we are committed to continuing. Motivated by faith, Christians are particularly aware of the need, found at the heart of the Gospel message, for a just social order where the government and economy function properly in contributing to social harmony. Electing a government that is capable of doing this in a way compatible with the dignity of each human person is therefore a task of utmost importance. It is up to us to respond to the needs of our communities, to be informed about the decisions that will be taken after this election, and fulfil our duty to vote.

Churches and Christian organisations have produced a shared election resources website: www.churchesvote.org to inform potential voters about Parliamentary and election processes; to collate information about party policies and inspire Christians of all political persuasions to participate in the debate.

The website is a joint initiative between the Scottish Churches Parliamentary Office, Catholic Parliamentary Office, CARE for Scotland, Evangelical Alliance and Christians Count.

It is supported by the Baptist Union of Scotland, CARE for Scotland, Christians Count, Church of Scotland, Congregational Federation, Destiny Church Network, Evangelical Alliance, Free Church of Scotland, Methodist Church in Scotland, Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), Roman Catholic Church, The Salvation Army, Scottish Episcopal Church, United Free Church of Scotland and United Reformed Church.



This letter has been sent to both Margaret Birkbeck in Kirkhill and Elizabeth Fraser in Kiltarlity requesting our Churches to contribute to their April appeal.

Blythwood Care
Highland Deephaven
Evanton
Ross-shire
IV16 9XJ

E-mail: foodbank@blythwood.org
Website: www.blythwood.org

Highland Food Bank ☎ 07875 332696
Blythwood Depot ☎ 01349 830 777

Thursday 17th February 2011

HIGHLAND FOODBANK - APRIL APPEAL

For a number of years we have held a Foodbank Church Appeal during the month of April, seeking help from churches in the many parts of the Highlands where we distribute emergency supplies of non-perishable food to people in crisis. We are so grateful for the growing response to the Appeal over the years that we've decided repeat it again in 2011.

You may have seen in our recent newsletter that in 2010 we helped over 4000 people with the result that food is rapidly being depleted and we need to move quickly to build up supplies of the items we particularly require.

Would you be able to support the Highland Food Bank again during April ?

**If you can, can you please donate any of the following items,
or would you be able to give a financial contribution.**

KIRKHILL	KILTARLITY
Packets of crackers	Breakfast cereals
Tinned corned beef	Tinned corned beef
Tinned custard	Tinned mince
Tinned potatoes	Tinned beans
Rice	

Items can be left in both Church entrances - many thanks.

Margaret Birkbeck - 831 518 Elizabeth Fraser - 783 080

Memory Verse
Luke 24:34 - The Lord is risen indeed!

Mothering Sunday is 3 April - 4th Sunday in Lent

There is an old Jewish saying: "*God could not be everywhere, and therefore He made mothers.*" Mother Church, Mother Earth, Mother of the Gods - our human mothers - all of them have been part of the celebration of 'Mothering Sunday' - as the fourth Sunday in Lent is affectionately known. It has been celebrated in the UK since at least the 16th century.

In Roman times, great festivals were held every Spring to honour Cybele, Mother of all the Gods. Other pagan festivals in honour of Mother Earth were also celebrated. With the arrival of Christianity, the festival became one honouring Mother Church.

During the Middle Ages, young people apprenticed to craftsmen or working as 'live-in' servants were allowed only one holiday a year on which to visit their families - which is how 'Mothering Sunday' got its name. This special day became a day of family rejoicing, and the Lenten fast was broken. In some places the day was called Simnel Day, because of the sweet cakes called simnel cakes traditionally eaten on that day.

In recent years the holiday has changed and in many ways now resembles the American Mothers' Day, with families going out to Sunday lunch and generally making a fuss of their mother on the day.

Palm Sunday is 17 April - Jesus at the gates of Jerusalem

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday, when the Church remembers how Jesus arrived at the gates of Jerusalem just a few days before the Passover was due to be held. He was the Messiah come to his own people in their capital city, and yet he came in humility, riding on a young donkey, not in triumph, riding on a war-horse.

As Jesus entered the city, the crowds gave him a rapturous welcome, throwing palm fronds into his path. They knew his reputation as a healer, and welcomed him. But sadly the welcome was short-lived and shallow, for Jerusalem would soon reject her Messiah, and put him to death. On this day churches worldwide will distribute little crosses made from palm fronds in memory of Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem.

Holy Week events

Sunday, 17 April, a Palm Sunday service will be held at Wardlaw Church, Kirkhill at 10:30 a.m., followed by a service at Kiltarlity Church starting at 12 noon.

Good Friday, 22 April, a Church service will be held at Wardlaw Church, Kirkhill starting at 7:30 p.m. Good Friday is the day on which Jesus died on the cross. It is the most solemn day in the Christian year. Both congregations and communities are invited to attend this service.

Easter Sunday, 24 April, Kiltarlity and Wardlaw Churches hold a joint Easter Sunday Service at Kiltarlity Church, with Communion, at 12 noon. Everyone is most welcome to this service which celebrates the most joyful day of the year.

Ministries and Mission Contributions

The Rev. Gordon D Jamieson, Head of Stewardship at the Church of Scotland Stewardship and Finance Department based at 121 George Street, Edinburgh has sent the following information to be made available to both congregations.

Thank you for supporting the worship, mission and service of the Church through the money you give in your offering. It is important that you know what happens to this money. The information below tells you about our Ministries and Mission Contribution - the money your Congregational Treasurers send to the Church Offices in Edinburgh. Please note that the cost of the minister is not what he is paid. This cost is the total for stipend and employer's national insurance and pension contributions, and is based on a minister with ten years' service.

Kiltarlity and Kirkhill Contribution is **£20,250**

Parish Ministry (86%)

The cost of the ministry in your parish is :	£39,600	
Less the support you receive from other congregations towards the cost of your ministry is :	(£22,185)	£17,415
Mission and Renewal (6%)		£ 1,215

This supports the Church's work in resourcing congregations for Christian education and outreach, in caring for the vulnerable in society, in partnership with Churches in some of the poorest parts of the world, and in providing a Christian perspective on the social, political and moral issues of today.

Support and Services for Councils and Congregations (8%) £ 1,620

This provides financial, legal, procedural, safeguarding and other services, and meets the cost of the General Assembly and the Moderator.

Total £20,250

Please note that Ministries and Mission Contributions only provide part of the total funding required for the work of the Church listed above. A fuller picture is given in the leaflet *2011 Ministries and Mission*, which is available free to all congregations.

We hope that this helps you to understand Ministries and Mission Contributions and shows you are enabling the sharing of the gospel through the money our congregation sends through the Church Offices to all parts of Scotland and beyond.

Gordon D. Jamieson
Head of Stewardship

Plot sale planning update

As you may have seen in the Inverness Courier on 15 March, the Highland Council Planners, under their delegated powers, refused the planning application connected to the plot of land behind the Wardlaw Church. Our architects, Thomas Munro & Co. have lodged an appeal on our behalf against this decision on the 10 March. The refusal decision has been passed to four local councillors – Helen Carmichael / Margaret Davidson / Drew Hendry / Hamish Wood – for their review. Jack Shiels, on our behalf, have approached Helen Carmichael, to put forward our case. So please watch this space

WEDNESDAY EVENING PRAYER MEETINGS

The Evening Prayer meetings for April will take place on 13th and 27th April 2011 in Wardlaw Church. The short service begins at 7:00 p.m. and finishes by 7:30 p.m. Prayers are both free and fixed. Pray for individuals and their needs, the church, world issues, and whatever is on the minds and hearts of those present. Everyone is most welcome to join us for this time of prayer.

A Prayer for Peace

O God, you are the source of life and peace.

Praised be your name forever.

We know it is you who turn our minds to thoughts of peace.

Hear our prayer in this time of crisis.

Your power changes hearts.

Muslims, Christians and Jews remember, and profoundly affirm, that they are followers of the one God, Children of Abraham, brothers and sisters;

enemies begin to speak to one another; those who were estranged join hands in

friendship; nations seek the way of peace together.

Strengthen our resolve to give witness to these

truths by the way we live.

Give to us:

Understanding that puts an end to strife;

Mercy that quenches hatred, and Forgiveness that overcomes vengeance.

Empower all people to live in your law of love

Amen

21 April is Maundy Thursday – time to wash feet

Maundy Thursday is famous for two things. The first is one of the final acts that Jesus did before his death: the washing of his own disciples' feet. (see John 13) Jesus washed his disciples' feet for a purpose: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." His disciples were to love through service, not domination, of one another.

In Latin, the opening phrase of this sentence is 'mandatum novum do vobis.' The word 'mundy' is thus a corruption of the Latin 'mandatum' (or command). The ceremony of the 'washing of the feet' of members of the congregation came to be an important part of the liturgy (regular worship) of the medieval church, symbolising the humility of the clergy, in obedience to the example of Christ.

But Thursday was also important because it was on that night that Jesus first introduced the Lord's Supper, or what we nowadays call Holy Communion. Jesus and his close friends had met in a secret upper room to share the Passover meal together - for the last time. And there Jesus transformed the Passover into the Lord's Supper, saying, 'this is my body' and 'this is my blood' as he, the Lamb of God, prepared to die for the sins of the whole world. John's gospel makes it clear that the Last Supper took place the evening BEFORE the regular Passover meal, and that later Jesus died at the same time that the Passover lambs were killed.



Rev. Dr. Kobus Smit 831 662
Maris Elkin 831 590

E-mail: kobus.smit1951@gmail.com
David Garvie 741 038

Kirkhill Sunday School – Margaret Birkbeck 831 518 / Flora Morrison 831 373
Kiltarlity Sunday School – Linda MacKenzie 741 313 / Anneliese Garvie 741 038

The Guild – Margaret Birkbeck 831 518

The Parishioner – Iain and Rosemary Mortimer 782 648

E-mail – iain.mortimer1@btinternet.com



Diary dates for APRIL 2011

- 3 April Worship at WARDLAW at 10:30 a.m. and KILTARLITY at 12 noon.
- 10 April Worship at WARDLAW at 10:30 a.m. and KILTARLITY at 12 noon.
- 13 April Prayer meeting at Wardlaw Church at 7:00 p.m.
- 17 April PALM SUNDAY - Worship at WARDLAW at 10:30 a.m. and KILTARLITY at 12 noon.
- 19 April Kirkhill Deacons' Court and Kirk Session at Wardlaw Church at 7:30 p.m.
- 22 April Good Friday service at WARDLAW Church at 7:30 p.m.
- 24 April EASTER SUNDAY joint service at KILTARLITY at 12 noon.
- 27 April Prayer meeting at Wardlaw Church at 7:00 p.m.
- 1 May Worship at WARDLAW at 10:30 a.m. and KILTARLITY at 12 noon.

MEMORY VERSE

The Twenty and the Five

A well-worn five pound note and a similarly distressed twenty-pound note arrived at the Bank of Scotland to be retired. As they moved along the conveyor belt to be burned, they struck up a conversation. The twenty-pound note reminisced about its travels all over the country. "I've had a pretty good life. I've been to Las Vegas and Monte Carlo, the finest restaurants in Paris, performances on Broadway, and even a cruise to the Caribbean."

"Wow !" said the five-pound note, "You've really had an exciting life !" "So tell me," says the twenty, "Where have you been throughout your lifetime ?" The five pound note replies, "Oh, I've been to the Methodist Church, the Baptist Church, and the Church of Scotland." The twenty-pound note interrupts, "What's a church ?"

The May 2011 issue of *The Parishioner* will be published on Sunday, 1 May 2011