



Kiltarlity and WARDLAW Churches

The Parishioner



WHERE ARE WE HEADING ?

We have just entered the New Year of a new decade, so I imagine you will be wanting to know where we are heading.

If the church of Jesus Christ wants to make a difference in this modern world it has to understand its calling and mission. The assumption is often that the church's calling in this world is very clear to all its members, but this is unfortunately not the case. If it was the case, the number of Christians around the globe would be far more than a third of the world's population. If the church really understood its calling and lived up to its calling, it would not be divided into more than a thousand denominations world-wide. Furthermore the mainstream churches would not be in such a terrible state - just trying to survive and keep their heads above water. If the Church of Scotland really understood its calling today, its future would not be threatened by a drastic decline in membership and a shortage in money – a threat so great that some people fear closure in twenty years' time. Secularisation hits the church very hard at present. This is especially so in this manmade world, with all its wealth, luxury and security, in which mankind is feeling more and more at home. The more the calling of the church becomes vague, the more the church becomes irrelevant in our modern society.

The church is called to bring to this world the message of hope and salvation in Jesus Christ, both verbally and non-verbally. But the church can only be true to this calling if Jesus Christ is worshipped as Lord and God of the church and if the church lives in deep commitment to and dependence on the God who calls it. In order to honour and serve Him as Lord and God, the church must be willing to listen to and obey his Word. My calling is to reveal and explain God's Word for both Kirkhill and Kiltarlity congregations for this decade, so that we can understand our calling in the parishes in which we live. Therefore, it is very important that we all start reading the Bible in earnest so as to establish a connection between our scripture reading at home and at the pulpit.

The Word of God is mighty to change us and to shape us into living witnesses and servants of the resurrected Lord so that we can spread the "*pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing*" (2 Corinthians 2:15). God takes '*no pleasure in the death of anyone*' (Ezekiel 18:32). Therefore, He offered his Son on a cross so that all people on earth can be saved and have real life (John 3:16). My heart bleeds for all the lost sheep on the hills of Scotland. That's why "*I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile*" (Romans 1:16). Please pray that God will give me every day more boldness to preach this gospel.

Kobus

Do not take things at face value

Two cars were waiting at a red traffic light. The lights turned green, but the elderly lady in the first car didn't notice the green light. Meanwhile the man in the car behind her is watching traffic pass around them. The man begins pounding on the steering wheel, and yelling at the women to move. The women does not move. The man is going ballistic inside his car, ranting and raving at the women, shaking his fist as the light turns to yellow.

Now he begins to blow his car horn, make rude gestures, and scream obscenities out the window. The elderly lady, hearing the commotion, looks up, sees the yellow light and accelerates through the crossing just as the light turn's red.

The man is beside himself, screaming in frustration as he misses his chance to get through the crossing. As he sits fuming, he hears a tap on his side window and looks up to see a very serious looking policeman standing by his car door.

The police officer tells him to turn the ignition off and keep both hands in his view at all times. The man complies, speechless at what is happening. After he turns the ignition off, the police officer orders him to get out of the car and raise his hands in the air. When he gets out of the car, he is told to turn and place his hands on the roof of the car, and when he does, he is quickly handcuffed and taken and put into the back of the police car.

The man is too bewildered by the chain of events to ask any questions, and is driven to the police station, where he is fingerprinted, photographed, searched, charged and placed in a cell. After a couple of hours, a police officer approaches the cell and opens the cell door. He is escorted back to the charge desk where the arresting officer is waiting for him with his personal effects. As he hands over the bag containing his personal items, the officer says " I'm really sorry for this mistake. But you see, I pulled up behind your car while you were blowing your horn, cussing like a blue streak, and mouthing off at that little old lady in the car in front of you. Then I noticed the "God Loves You" license plate holder, the "What Would Jesus Do" and "Follow Me to Sunday School" bumper stickers and the chrome plated Christian fish emblem on the boot, so naturally I assumed you had stolen the car."

Thanks to Louisa for this story

This is a wondrous fable

His name was Hugh Fleming, and he was a poor Scottish farmer. One day, while trying to make a living for his family, he heard a cry for help coming from a nearby bog. He dropped his tools and ran to the bog. There, mired to his waist in black muck, was a terrified boy, screaming and struggling to free himself. Farmer Fleming saved the lad from what could have been a slow and terrifying death.

The next day, a fancy carriage pulled up to the Scotsman's sparse surroundings. An elegantly dressed nobleman stepped out and introduced himself as the father of the boy Farmer Fleming had saved.

"I want to repay you," said the nobleman. "You saved my son's life."
"No, I can't accept payment for what I did," the Scottish farmer replied waving off the offer. At that moment, the farmer's own son came to the door of the family hovel.
"Is that your son?" the nobleman asked.

"Yes," the farmer replied proudly.

"I'll make you a deal. Let me provide him with the level of education my own son will enjoy. If the lad is anything like his father, he'll no doubt grow to be a man we both will be proud of." And that he did. Farmer Fleming's son attended the very best schools and in time, graduated from St. Mary's Hospital Medical School in London, and went on to become known throughout the world as the noted Sir Alexander Fleming, the discoverer of penicillin. Years afterward, the same nobleman's son who was saved from the bog was stricken with pneumonia.

What saved his life this time? Penicillin. The name of the nobleman?
Lord Randolph Churchill. His son's name? Sir Winston Churchill.

The facts are that the Churchills and Hugh Fleming never met, and Winston did not fall into a Scottish bog. Winston Churchill was saved by Lord Moran, using sulphonamides, since he had no experience with penicillin, when Churchill fell ill in Carthage in Tunisia in 1943. The *Daily Telegraph* and the *Morning Post* on 21 December 1943 wrote that he had been saved by penicillin. He was saved by the new sulphonamide drug, Sulphapyridine, known at the time under the research code M&B 693, discovered and produced by May & Baker Ltd, Dagenham, Essex – a subsidiary of the French group Rhône-Poulenc. In a subsequent radio broadcast, Churchill referred to the new drug as "*This admirable M&B*" It is highly probable that the correct information about the sulphonamide did not reach the newspapers because, since the original sulphonamide antibacterial, Prontosil, had been a discovery by the German laboratory Bayer and Britain was at war with Germany at the time, it was thought better to raise British morale by associating Churchill's cure with the British discovery, penicillin.

Pitter pattering around the parish

- There will be meetings of the Kiltarlity Deacons' Court and Kirk Session on Wednesday, 9 February starting at 7:30 p.m. Please note the change of date for these meetings from Tuesday 8th to Wednesday 9th.
- Kirkhill Men's Night - All gentlemen are invited for a meal and fellowship at the Old North Inn on Friday, 18 February at 7:00 p.m. Please let Alasdair (831 185) or James (831 143) know if you are able to come.
- David Reid, the Treasurer of Christian Aid in Inverness, has written to thank the Wardlaw Church congregation, for their generous donation of £227.30, which was the offering from the Christmas Watchnight Service. This donation will shortly be sent off, along with offerings from other churches, to Christian Aid Scotland.
- Hugh Fraser has now been discharged from Raigmore and returned home on Thursday (27th). Hugh you heal and rest, we wish you to know that you and Jean are in our thoughts and prayers.
- Henry Bell had a triple heart bypass operation at Aberdeen Royal Hospital on Tuesday, 18 January, and was sitting up in bed within 48 hours, and making a speedy recovery from his five hour operation. Henry returned home to Westbank 7 days after his operation, and is resting and recovering under the supervision of his family. We send our best wishes and prayers to Henry and Mary.
- Don West, husband of Margaret West of Wardlaw Church, has had a heart pacemaker successfully fitted at Raigmore Hospital on 12 January, and is back at home making an excellent recovery. We send happy thoughts to both Don and Margaret and wish Don a return to full fitness.
- Kiltarlity Church will be holding a Holy Communion Preparatory Service on Thursday, 3 March starting at 7:30 p.m. A Holy Communion service will be held on the following Sunday, 6 March starting at the normal time of 12 noon.
- A fun quiz night will be held at the Kirkhill Community Centre on Friday, 4 March starting at 7:30 p.m. The format will follow the fun quiz previously held in May 2010. Questions will cover movies, sports, science and nature, history, art and literature, music, entertainment, people, geography, language, food and drink. Teams can consist of between 2 and 4 members - £5 per team member, which includes tea / coffee and biscuits. All profits to aid the Wardlaw Church Refurbishment Fund.
- A Souper Sunday service for Wardlaw Church will be held on Sunday, 20 March at the normal start time of 10:30 a.m. For this particular Sunday, the special worship service will be held at Kirkhill Community Centre, and will be conducted by the Kirkhill Elders, with, for once, Kobus and Louisa present purely as interested members of the congregation. The service will take the theme "*He will bring lasting justice to all.*" (Isaiah 42:3). After the service, a speedy reorganisation of chairs will be carried out, and a lunch of soup and sandwiches will be served. Anyone who is willing to contribute / assist in producing soup and sandwiches, can they please speak to Maris Elkin as soon as possible. At last year's event in April, the majority of the congregation stayed on for the lunch, which proved to be a very enjoyable gathering.

MEMORY VERSE - Matthew 4:19
Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men

February 14 - St Valentine's Day

There are two confusing things about this day of romance and anonymous love-cards strewn with lace, cupids and ribbon: firstly, there seems to have been two different Valentines in the 4th century - one a priest martyred on the Flaminian Way, under the emperor Claudius, the other a bishop of Terni martyred at Rome. And neither seems to have had any clear connection with lovers or courting couples.

So why has Valentine become the patron saint of romantic love? By Chaucer's time the link was assumed to be because on these saints' day -14 February - the birds are supposed to pair. Or perhaps the custom of seeking a partner on St Valentine's Day is a surviving scrap of the old Roman Lupercalia festival, which took place in the middle of February. One of the Roman gods honoured during this Festival was Pan, the god of nature. Another was Juno, the goddess of women and marriage. During the Lupercalia it was a popular custom for young men to draw the name of a young unmarried woman from a name-box. The two would then be partners or 'sweethearts' during the time of the celebrations. Even modern Valentine decorations bear an ancient symbol of love - Roman cupids with their bows and love-arrows.

There are no churches in Scotland and England dedicated to Valentine, but since 1835 his relics have been claimed by the Carmelite church in Dublin.

The very first Valentine card - a legend

The Roman Emperor Claudius II needed soldiers. He suspected that marriage made men want to stay at home instead of fighting wars, so he outlawed marriage.

A kind-hearted young priest named Valentine felt sorry for all the couples who wanted to marry, but couldn't. So secretly he married as many couples as he could - until the Emperor found out and condemned him to death. While he was in prison waiting execution, Valentine showed love and compassion to everyone around him, including his jailer. The jailer had a young daughter who was blind, but through Valentine's prayers, she was healed. Just before his death in Rome on 14 February, he wrote her a farewell message signed 'From your Valentine.'

So the very first Valentine card was not between lovers, but between a priest about to die, and a little girl, healed through his prayers.

Signs and Symbols: Love you!

A Minister once horrified a stranger whilst travelling up twelve floors with her in an Edinburgh office block lift by saying, 'How lovely to meet a fellow Christian'. 'What do you mean?' she replied, bewildered. 'Well you're wearing a crucifix so I assumed you must be a Christian.' 'Oh, this,' lifting a large gold necklace she was wearing, 'this was my Grandmother's - I wondered what it was.' So often we just take for granted that people know what we know about the Christian faith, and of course, in that case she clearly didn't.

As our thoughts turn to 'Love' in the month of February and St Valentine's Day, what symbol might you choose to express your love for someone? Perhaps a heart, a lipstick kiss, or even a hug? What colour would you choose for love? It is usually red - to remind us of our life-blood. In fact, if you see stained glass in a church, the chances are that where red glass predominates the message is of sacrifice and ultimately of 'love'.

Jesus, it is often said, showed his love by opening his arms wide upon the cross; and so the cross is our supreme symbol of God's love for each of us. A cross (no figure suspended) because Jesus is no longer held there, but rather has overcome death and is alive again. A crucifix (with a suspended figure) because here is Jesus paying the ultimate sacrifice for love of each one of us.

Burns Night at Brockie's Lodge



A total of 72 people met for an enjoyable evening on Saturday 22 January, to celebrate the birth of Robert Burns. It was good to see that several parties had brought along guests from outwith the churches.

Robbie Sheriffs and his team produced an excellent meal, with the tables being very attractively laid out. Chairman Iain Mortimer gave a short welcome, after which Kobus bravely recited the Selkirk Grace. Robbie emerged from the kitchen with the haggis, preceded by Craig MacRitchie playing the pipes. Maureen Matheson tackled both the haggis and the Address to the Haggis with consummate skill. After an enjoyable meal, Mary Robb got proceedings underway with some group singing, with everyone in good voice. Due to illness, Ellenor Thomas was

regrettably unable to give her planned recitation, and Margaret Ewart stood in at a moment's notice to giving a moving sung rendition of "John Anderson, My Jo". Hamish MacDonald gave a memorable "Immortal Memory" tribute, demystifying the Burns legend, and, speaking without notes, held the audience's attention throughout. His love of Burns' work was very evident, quoting favourite verses with ease and clarity. Iain Marr and Fergus Ewart followed with masterfully dramatic recitations of "To a Mouse" and "Holy Willie's Prayer" respectively. The Jones partnership – Willis and Pat – were welcomed with affection, and entertained us all with the "Toast to the Lasses" and "The Reply". After some further group singing, the evening came to a close with Iain Mortimer's Vote of Thanks, and a spirited singing of Auld Lang Syne by all present.



Photographs from Marie Harvey and Rosemary Mortimer. Narrative by Rosemary Mortimer

Are the elderly in our churches unappreciated?

Many churchgoers aged 60 or more are still active in leading or helping with church events or organisations, and there are many churches where the large majority of attenders are 60 or over, and are very busy in keeping the church going.

Those now in their 60s were part of the “baby boom” generation. The sexual revolution occurred while they were growing up, and became part of the nation’s way of life. They grew up with Rock ‘n’ Roll. Christians took their young families to Spring Harvest in their thousands in the 1980s, and brought a huge wave of charismatic life to churches of all denominations, both in the UK and elsewhere. Their dislike of institutional life probably began then. Spirituality for many of them is a “journey”, not a decision.

They were born *before* the general availability of television, frozen foods, Xerox, contact lenses, the pill, credit cards, laser beams, ball-point pens, dishwashers, air conditioners, FM radios, yogurt, guys wearing earrings, “software”, Pizza Hut, McDonald’s and instant coffee ! They will begin to retire in the next decade but “final-pay” pensions will not be common, so they will have less money.

They know of a high level of Christian activity and many long to see such again. Could that vision still help ignite a new, much younger, generation?

BOOKS RECOMMENDED by KOBUS

During my holiday I read a book by

Pam Rosewell Moore: Life lessons from the hiding place: Discovering the heart of Corrie ten Boom. This book made me aware of:

- * the power of hospitality in our witness to strangers;
- * the influence of a godly father and mother on their children;
- * how our trials and tribulations can open up new horizons in God’s kingdom;
- * the power of forgiveness in our witness.
- * God’s amazing guidance, protection and care for his children.

This book can be ordered online from www.Amazon.co.uk from as little as £2.55.

LIFE and WORK MAGAZINE

The 2011 subscription is **£18.50 for 12 copies**, and this is the first price increase in the last 5 years. Our churches would certainly be the poorer without this very readable and informative magazine. Subscription to this magazine helps to secure a future for *Life and Work*.

Please pay your annual subscription, as soon as possible, to either Moira McDonald or John Finlayson for Wardlaw Church, or Eileen Maclean for Kiltarlity Church.

The Kirkhill Guild continues their 2010 / 11 season on Tuesday, 1 February 2011 at the Wardlaw Church, starting at 2:30 p.m. This month's meeting will be a musical afternoon with Mary Robb.

Everyone, male or female, from both congregations is most welcome to attend. If transport is required to attend any meeting, please contact any Committee member.

A kind letter of thanks has been received from Mary's Meals for the donation of £80 which was sent just before Christmas.

If you wish to view examples of photographs in Kobus's portfolio, you can log onto :

<http://kobusmitphotography.blogspot.com>

WHY ORGANS ?

There were organs in Scotland before the Reformation, but it was only in 1864 (Church of Scotland), 1872 (United Presbyterian Church) and 1883 (Free Church) that the return of organs received the blessing of Assemblies. Now churches would consider a life without an organ colourless and its worship drab.

There are many "sides" to an organ. It can have a pleasing aesthetic appearance and contribute to the look of the church; it may be valued for the craftsmanship that has gone into it; its sound may be particularly appealing. Above all, the organ holds its place because of its suitability for leading congregational singing. A pipe organ is generally of a size and tonal design to "envelope", surround and support the congregation. The additional "reach down-wards" that the organ pedals allow, with their deep reverberations, gives almost a physical foundation for the singers, while the high notes "lead from the top". The fact that each note, unlike those on a piano, controls several pipes from lower to higher pitches gives the organ a penetrative power which has an enlivening effect on singing. Bellows store wind so that the pipes sounding at the holding of one chord (as many as 80 or so in a middle-sized instrument) are powerful enough to fill the building.

Then there is the matter of variety. An organ may have two "manuals" and a pedal section, each controlling its own range of pipes. To accompany singing is not just to play the notes but interpret the words and bring out both the sense and the beauty of the hymn. The two manuals, as well as being capable of variety within themselves, deliver different colours of sound, enhanced by the second manual's pipes being in a box which can be opened and closed (the 'swell'). The pedal department can be used gently or forcefully, or it can be left silent for a verse. This flexibility, in good hands, can mean that people as they sing are constantly being awakened, alerted and assisted in their interpretation of the words they are singing, to the enhancement of the worship.

Thanks to John R Hume, OBE

MEMORY VERSE - Matthew 4:19

Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men

Poor old February !

Thirty days hath September,
April, June, and November.
All the rest have thirty-one
Save for February, and it alone,
Short-changed when they gave out the dates,
Whose days are only twenty-eight!
Though, to be completely sure
In leap years it just gets one more.

It puzzles me, why should this be?
That some months have an extra three
Days more than poor old February!
May? Now that I understand;
Sometimes its days can be quite grand
And August too, when we get tanned!
July, when we can drink cold beer,
December, full of Christmas cheer!

These months, indeed, should not be short;
But don't you think perhaps they ought
To pick a month that's much too long
And bolster Feb – would that be wrong?
January, month of cold and frost
Improved if just one day were lost!
Or March is not so very great
To feel the loss of just one date!

The boffins and the scientists say
February can't be as long as May -
The equinox needs a certain day!
But February is just that special time
When the grip of winter rime,
Weakens with the Spring's first sign!
So, hearken to my heartfelt plea
For a longer February!

Bv Niael Beeton

No compromise

A soon to be married couple were visiting the Minister to discuss their forthcoming marriage. The woman said they intended to have three children, while the young man demurred, saying two would be enough for him. They discussed this discrepancy for a few minutes and the Minister suggested they would need great sensitivity with each other in order to reach a solution. There was silence for a moment and then the young man said stubbornly: "Well, after our second child, I'll just have a vasectomy." Without a second's hesitation, the bride-to-be shot back: "Well, I hope you'll love the third one like it's your own !"

MEMORY VERSE - Matthew 4:19 - Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men

Wardlaw Church Sunday School News

Many thanks to the person, or persons, who have donated books to the Sunday School library over the past few weeks. It is a very welcome addition to our bookshelf.

Sunday School will meet every Sunday throughout February, including the half-term dates 13 and 20 February.

Wardlaw Church Scripture reading

Would you be happy to read a scripture passage at a Sunday Service ?

Kobus is looking for volunteers who would be prepared to read a selected scripture passage as part of the Sunday Service at Wardlaw Church. Kobus would select the passage to be read, and contact the volunteer no later than the Friday before the Sunday service to agree the details.

If you are interested, can you please give your name to Iain Mortimer as soon as possible, and he will make a list for Kobus to refer to.

The Bagpiper

As a bagpiper, I play many gigs. Recently I was asked by a funeral director to play at a graveside service for a homeless man. He had no family or friends, so the service was to be at a paupers cemetery in the Western Isles. As I was not familiar with the Western Isles, I got lost and, being a typical man, I didn't stop for directions.

I finally arrived over an hour late and saw that the funeral director had evidently gone and the hearse was nowhere in sight. There were only the diggers and crew left and they were eating lunch. I felt badly and apologized to the men for being late. I went to the side of the grave and looked down and the vault lid was already in place and earth covered most of it. I didn't know what else to do, so I started to play. The workers put down their lunches and began to gather around. I played out my heart and soul for this man with no family and friends. I played like I've never played before for this poor, homeless man. And as I played 'Amazing Grace,' the workers began to weep. They wept, I wept, and we all wept together. When I finished I packed up my bagpipes and started for my car. Though my head hung low, my heart was full.

As I opened the door to my car, I heard one of the workers say, "I ain't never seen nothin' like that before, and I've been putting in septic tanks for twenty years."

Apparently I was still lost...

Thanks to Suzie Dobson for this story

Hymn Story – Amazing Grace

John Newton crammed a lot of living into his 82 years. His mother died when he was six years old, and he joined his father at sea when he was eleven. He served his apprenticeship as a sailor, and rose through the ranks until he became the captain of a slave ship. He abandoned the religious training that he had experienced as a child, and revelled in the dissolute life of a slave trader. He was noted for his profanity and his cruelty.

But one stormy night, when his ship was in danger of sinking and he was in danger of dying, Newton had a real change of heart. It might have been his religious training at his mother's knee surfacing after all those years — or it might have been his love for Mary Catlett, a Christian woman whom he later married — or it might have been his reading of the book, *Imitation of Christ*, by William Law — or it might have been all three. In any event, Newton had a real conversion experience.

For awhile, Newton continued on his slave ship, but he began to treat both the slaves and his crew with a good deal more compassion. Finally, convinced that the slave trade was wrong, he left his ship and took a job onshore.

He then felt a call to the ministry, and was ordained at age forty and assigned to a church at Olney, England. He continued in ministry through the rest of his long life, even after failing eyesight made it impossible for him to read.

This hymn, *Amazing Grace*, is in a sense Newton's own story. It was amazing grace that saved him, and it was amazing grace that was the focus of his preaching. But *Amazing Grace* is the story of every Christian. It is amazing grace that saves us — nothing else — no works of our hands or gifts of our wealth. It was amazing that God would love and save John Newton, but it is amazing that God would love and save any of us. It is indeed a sweet sound to hear about it, but it is so amazing that it is hard to believe. Believe it, because it is true.

WEDNESDAY EVENING PRAYER MEETINGS

The fortnightly Evening Prayer meetings will take place on 9th and 23rd February 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.

Lord, bless me with your peace.
Centre me in your love
that I may be secure in whose I am.
Still my raging mind
that I may be free to focus on what really matters.
Quieten my prodigal tongue
that I may be careful in the words I choose.
Calm my body
that I may be rested and ready to journey.
Open my heart
that I may be responsive to those who need me.
Make me a well of your peace.

Lord, bless me with your peace.
And may that peace
become hospitality for others.
May I offer serenity and security
to those who crave shelter from the storm.
May I be a discerning listener
to those who need to talk.
May I be a reconciling presence
to those who have their differences.
May the peace you have gifted me
spill over into those I meet.
Make me a channel of your peace.

Lord, bless me with your peace.
But may that peace
galvanise me to fight for world peace.
Take my mind and make it think
how I can help others live with dignity.
Take my tongue and make it speak
for those who have no voice or power.
Take my body and send me out
to work against injustice and abuse.
Take my heart and make it bleed
for those who are broken by poverty.
Make me an instrument of your peace. **Amen**

MEMORY VERSE - Matthew 4:19

Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men

Here are some thoughts for each day in February.

Tuesday, 1 February - Don't let your worries get the best of you; remember, Moses started out as a basket case.

Wednesday, 2 February - Some people are kind, polite, and sweet-spirited until you try to sit in their pews.

Thursday, 3 February - Many folks want to serve God, but only as advisors.

Friday, 4 February - It is easier to preach ten sermons than it is to live one.

Saturday, 5 February - The good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose, but the midges come close.

Sunday, 6 February - When you get to your wit's end, you'll find God lives there.

Monday, 7 February - People are funny; they want the front of the bus, the middle of the road, and the back of the church.

Tuesday, 8 February - Opportunity may knock once, but temptation bangs on your front door forever.

Wednesday, 9 February - Quit griping about your church; if it was perfect, you couldn't belong.

Thursday, 10 February - If the church wants a better Minister, it only needs to pray for the one it has.

Friday, 11 February - God Himself does not propose to judge a man until he is dead. So why should you?

Saturday, 12 February - Some minds are like concrete - thoroughly mixed up and permanently set.

Sunday, 13 February - Peace starts with a smile.

Monday, 14 February - I don't know why some people change churches; what difference does it make which one you stay home from?

Tuesday, 15 February - We were called to be witnesses, not lawyers or judges.

Wednesday, 16 February - Be ye fishers of men. You catch them - He'll clean them.

Thursday, 17 February - Don't wait for 6 strong men to take you to church.

Friday, 18 February - Forbidden fruits create many jams.

Saturday, 19 February - God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called.

Sunday, 20 February - Coincidence is when God chooses to remain anonymous.

Monday, 21 February - God loves everyone, but probably prefers 'fruits of the spirit' over 'religious nuts!'

Tuesday, 22 February - God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage.

Wednesday, 23 February - He who angers you, controls you!

Thursday, 24 February - Don't give God instructions -- just report for duty!

Friday, 25 February - The task ahead of us is never as great as the Power behind us.

Saturday, 26 February - The Will of God never takes you to where the Grace of God will not protect you.

Sunday, 27 February - We don't change the message, the message changes us.

Monday, 28 February - The best mathematical equation I have ever seen: 1 cross + 3 nails = 4 given.

Thanks to Harry Mooring of Leeds for this contribution

Someone once said:

What goes around comes around.
Work like you don't need the money.
Love like you've never been hurt.
Dance like nobody's watching.
Sing like nobody's listening.
Live like its Heaven on Earth.

AN IRISH FRIENDSHIP WISH:

May there always be work for your hands
to do;
May your purse always hold a coin or two;
May the sun always shine on your
windowpane;
May a rainbow be certain to follow each
rain;
May the hand of a friend always be near
you;
May God fill your heart with gladness to
cheer you.

The Presentation of Christ in the Temple / Candlemas

In bygone centuries, Christians said their last farewells to the Christmas season on Candlemas, 2 February. This is exactly 40 days after Christmas Day itself.

In New Testament times 40 days old was an important age for a baby boy: it was when they made their first 'public appearance'. Mary, like all good Jewish mothers, went to the Temple with Jesus, her first male child - to "present him to the Lord". At the same time, she, as a new mother, was 'purified'. Thus we have the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

So where does the Candlemas bit come in? Jesus is described in the New Testament as the Light of the World, and early Christians developed the tradition of lighting many candles in celebration of this day. The Church also fell into the custom of blessing the year's supply of candles for the church on this day - hence the name, Candlemas.

The story of how Candlemas began can be found in Luke 2:22-40. Simeon's great declaration of faith and recognition of who Jesus was is of course found in the Nunc Dimittis, which is embedded in the Office of Evening Prayer in the West. But in medieval times, the Nunc Dimittis was mostly used just on this day, during the distribution of candles before the Eucharist. Only gradually did it win a place in the daily prayer life of the Church.

MEMORY VERSE - Matthew 4:19 - Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men

ONLY THE ENGLISH COULD HAVE INVENTED THIS LANGUAGE

We'll begin with a box, and the plural is boxes,
But the plural of ox becomes oxen, not oxes.
One fowl is a goose, but two are called geese,
Yet the plural of moose should never be meese.
You may find a lone mouse or a nest full of
mice,
Yet the plural of house is houses, not hice.

If the plural of man is always called men,
Then shouldn't the plural of pan be called pen?
If I speak of my foot and show you my feet,
And I give you a boot, would a pair be called
beet?

If one is a tooth and a whole set are teeth,
Why shouldn't the plural of booth be called
beeth?

Then one may be that, and three would be
those,

Yet hat in the plural would never be hose,
And the plural of cat is cats, not cose.
We speak of a brother and also of brethren,
But though we say mother, we never say
methren.

Then the masculine pronouns are he, his and
him,

But imagine the feminine: she, shis and shim!

Let's face it - English is a crazy language.

There is no egg in eggplant nor ham in
hamburger;

neither apple nor pine in pineapple.

English muffins weren't invented in England ..

We take English for granted, but if we explore its
paradoxes,

we find that quicksand can work slowly, boxing
rings are square,

and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it
a pig.

And why is it that writers write but fingers don't
fing,
grocers don't groce and hammers don't ham?
Doesn't it seem crazy that you can make amends
but not one amend.

If you have a bunch of odds and ends
and get rid of all but one of them, what do you
call it?

If teachers taught, why didn't preachers praught?
If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a
humanitarian eat?
Sometimes I think all the folks who grew up
speaking English
should be committed to an asylum for the
verbally insane.

In what other language do people recite at a play
and play at a recital?

We ship by truck but send cargo by ship.

We have noses that run and feet that smell.

We park in a driveway and drive in a parkway.

And how can a slim chance and a fat chance be
the same,

while a wise man and a wise guy are opposites?

You have to marvel at the unique lunacy of a
language

in which your house can burn up as it burns
down,

in which you fill in a form by filling it out,
and in which an alarm goes off by going on.

And, in closing, if Father is Pop, how come
Mother's not Mop?

I WOULD LIKE TO ADD THAT IF PEOPLE FROM POLAND ARE CALLED POLES THEN
PEOPLE FROM HOLLAND SHOULD BE HOLES AND THE GERMANS GERMS !!!

Write your own Bible

For centuries, the only way of making a copy of the Bible was to do it by hand. Men and women copied Scripture one verse at a time. It was backbreaking work sitting on a stool hunched over a tiny desk day after day, but also a labour of love. It could take up to five years to produce a single Bible, and if a mistake was made then the whole page would have to be recopied. Then in the fifteenth century the printing press arrived and what took years could be achieved in a fraction of the time.

But now across the world people are rediscovering the power and impact of the handwritten word.

The physical act of writing gives the person time and space to think about the words that they are committing to paper and to reflect on what place the Scriptures have in their lives. It is a way of making God's word speak afresh to that person.

In one handwritten Bible project in Portugal the main organiser, Alfredo, decided that he ought to do some of the writing himself. Worn out by all the activity, he sat at the table and picked up the pen. He read the words which he was supposed to copy out – "Come to me all who are weary and I will give you rest" – and burst into tears. Alfredo looked up at the woman supervising the writing and she simply said, "It's OK, it happens all the time."

God's army

Duncan was in front of me coming out of church one day, and the Minister was standing at the door, as he always is, to shake hands. Suddenly he grabbed Duncan by the hand and pulled him aside. The Minister said sternly "Duncan, you need to join the Army of the Lord !"

Duncan replied, "I'm already in the Army of the Lord, Minister." The Minister retorted: "Then how come I don't see you except at Christmas and Easter ?" Duncan replied in a whisper: "Well, I'm in the secret service."

MEMORY VERSE - Matthew 4:19 - Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men



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Diary dates for FEBRUARY 2011

- 1 February Kirkhill Guild meeting at Wardlaw Church at 2:30 p.m.
- 6 February Worship at WARDLAW at 10:30 a.m. and KILTARLITY at 12 noon.
- 9 February Prayer meeting at Wardlaw Church at 7:00 p.m.
- 9 February Kiltarlity Deacons' Court / Kirk Session at Kiltarlity Church at 7:30 p.m.
- 13 February Worship at WARDLAW at 10:30 a.m. and KILTARLITY at 12 noon.
- 18 February Men's Night at the Old North Inn at 7:00 p.m.
- 20 February Worship at WARDLAW at 10:30 a.m. and KILTARLITY at 12 noon.
- 23 February Prayer meeting at Wardlaw Church at 7:00 p.m.
- 27 February Worship at WARDLAW at 10:30 a.m. and KILTARLITY at 12 noon.

Can you fill in the boxes ?

Memory Verse is from

THANK YOU

We thank Rev. Archie Chisholm and Rev. Stuart Frizzell for their leadership of our Sunday worship at the beginning of the New Year whilst Kobus and Louisa were visiting family and friends in South Africa.

Welcome back to Kobus and Louisa

The March 2011 issue of *The Parishioner* will be published on Sunday, 27 February 2011