



KILTARLITY AND WARDLAW CHURCHES
The Parishioner



The Lord is raised !

We have journeyed the long road of Lent over 6 weeks. Friday we stood at the foot of the cross and Easter Sunday we stood at an open grave and we celebrated Jesus' resurrection. He has conquered death and hell ! He has risen ! He lives and He rules on the right hand of God ! The ransom for our sins is accepted ! We are forgiven ! We are His !

That is the great news of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Like the disciples and the followers of Jesus during his earthly ministry we also struggle to believe in Him. We struggle to believe that He has risen and that He lives. We struggle even more to believe that He rules and that He is in control of this world which has so many problems and injustices, and so much suffering.

The wonder of God's love is that, although we as His church struggle to believe, He still trusts us with the great commission: "**Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation**" (Mark 16)

It is no secret that the Church of Scotland, like most mainstream churches around the globe, struggles to keep the ship afloat whilst it is in very deep stormy waters. The light (witness) of the church in the Western world is becoming dimmer and dimmer with hundreds of people leaving the church each week. As sincere believers we can make a difference in these two parishes and Inverness with regard to this situation. We do not want the church to collapse and be buried under secularism. We want to testify about the resurrected Lord, but we also want to leave a church and a spiritual will (heritage) for our children and grandchildren.

Faith in the resurrected Lord is not only words, but also a deed. Faith is in many ways like learning to walk - to learn to walk you have to practice. You have to put one leg before the other and you must be willing to fall and then stand up again. Part of our struggle to believe is probably due to the fact that we have skewed views on faith - we regard faith as something personal and private and nothing to do with my neighbour or family. We think that you do not have to do anything. It is just a belief. If that is the case, we will never learn to put our faith in practice, the consequence of which will be that we will never grow in faith. If we want to spread the light of the gospel to the ends of the earth (like our forefathers) and if we want to save Scotland for Christ, we must put our faith into practice. We must start talking about our faith in Christ. We must start serving each other by making another's burden our burden. The moment we start testifying about what we believe and do and what we are convinced of, we will grow in faith and commitment to the cause of the resurrected Lord. Then people will become aware that He lives !

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUPS

Small groups have proved themselves as places where believers can grow spiritually, developing a boldness to bear witness to the resurrected Lord. We are aware of a need to talk about the Bible amongst some of our members. Therefore, we plan to meet this month at the Wardlaw Manse to discuss the practical details and our plan of action. If you are interested just listen for the intimations regarding this. It would be great if we could start a group in each church.

Kobus

Happy 400th Birthday, King James Bible !

On 2nd May it will be exactly 400 years since the King James Version of the Bible was first published. The Authorised Version, as it is also known, has sold more than one billion copies since it was first published in 1611. It is arguable that there has been no more important single publication, as its impact on culture and language over the last 400 years has been huge around the world. Not only has it inspired great art, music and literature, but it has changed lives and shaped whole societies.

The Duke of Rothesay has described the King James Bible as 'part of the very architecture of our culture'. And in a foreword to the special 400th anniversary edition, recently published by Bible Society, The Duke of Rothesay writes: 'I have always given a high priority to the spiritual roots of our society. I do believe that the survival of civilised values, as we have inherited them from our ancestors, depends on the corresponding survival in our hearts of that profound sense of the sacred.'

Bible Society's new edition remains faithful to the original, but the text is easier to read, the layout has been revised, and a glossary explains some of those hard-to-understand phrases.

It also contains a concordance, a full index to names, and a summary of the best-known Bible stories. The new anniversary edition of the King James Version is available at www.bibleresources.org.uk/kjv priced at £14.99 plus postage and packing.

The Bible in our Community

I saw a Bible in a charity shop the other day. It was a thick-as-a-brick Family Bible, a bargain at only £4.50. It was in immaculate condition with each page corner still as chiseled and gold-edged as the day it was printed. No sticky fingers had sullied these pages. No disrespectful hand had broken its spine.

But oh dear, it was a tragic sight.

That book had never had verses highlighted, Post-it notes stuck in its margins or dates penciled alongside passages in it. It hadn't been opened. It hadn't been read ! It was a parable in miniature: was that Bible better kept safe as a collector's item, or brought into the hurly-burly of life to risk being creased or battered ?

Is God's word supposed to be kept untouched by the grubbiness of daily life or, like the Word himself, should it be part of our everyday existence, working in our communities like yeast in dough ? Jesus wasn't afraid to risk mixing with people with infectious diseases and infectious lifestyles; he knew he could bring only healing and wholeness. His word, surely, is also meant to bring healing and wholeness, not kept on a shelf ?

What might it mean, to bring the Bible out into the communities we live and work in ? For some it might mean finding ways to open up the Bible as a family and allow its challenge and comfort to get to work in family life.

For others, it might mean thinking about what the Bible says in a different way: not just 'How can the passage I'm reading help me through today ?' but 'What might God need me to bring to my office, school, factory floor or hospital through this passage ? Who might I need to bring this message to today ?' and having our eyes and ears open to recognise opportunities to share some appropriate and timely story, thought or opinion that has been shaped by God's story.

The main way the Bible will be shared is not through writing its words on billboards but by 'gossiping' it as good news and living it out. This is how our communities can be healed.



Easter Day 2011 joint service at Kiltarlity Church



The service commenced with the Celestial Choir singing "Were you there" (an American folk hymn) and "All in the April Evening" (Katherine Tynan / Hugh S. Robertson). Thanks to the Celestial Choir for their contribution to the Easter service. Mary Robb, the choir master, has done a masterful job with the Celestial Choir. They were all amateurs who want to help lead the congregation in worshipful praise. The

members of the choir come from both the Wardlaw and Kiltarlity churches. The Choristers were: Sarah Cameron, Wilma Williamson, Mary Bell, Jane Byham, Ethna Ferguson, Avril Marr, Laura Guthrie, Maureen Matheson, Margot McLennan, Liz Robertson, Marie Harvey, Vivien Reed, Margaret Williams, Jock Fraser, George Fraser, Ron MacLean, John McLellan and Ian Morrison. Thanks also to the multi-talented Jock Fraser in his role of playing the organ during the hymn singing.



A big thank you for the beautiful Easter flower arrangements at Kiltarlity Church goes to Margo MacLennan, Barbara Wilton and Marie Harvey.



Photographs from Marie Harvey and Rosemary Mortimer

Musings on modern life...

People want the front of the bus, the back of the church, and the centre of attention.

Tact: the ability to shut your mouth before someone else wants to.

If it's true that we are here to help others, then what exactly are the others here for ?

My inferiority complex is not as good as yours.

I am in shape. Round is a shape.

I'm not afraid of heights - afraid of widths.

Indecision is the key to flexibility.

Life is a journey that no one makes alone. The more people you touch along the way, the more meaningful and rewarding your time *anon*



Christian Aid was created by the churches in Britain and Ireland and churches remain our key supporters. We are the overseas development agency of 41 denominations in Britain and Ireland. This means that we work very closely with the churches and their leaders. We work with church networks in Britain and Ireland, in Europe and around the world. Many of our overseas partners are Christian churches or organisations.

However, Christian Aid does not just help other Christians. We work with people of all faiths and none. Similarly, while many of our staff are Christians from different denominations, other staff come from other faiths or none. We do not try to convert anyone to Christianity, nor do we promote one Christian church or denomination over another. Our common task is overcoming poverty.

We don't carry out development work overseas ourselves, nor do we send supplies abroad. We believe that the people best equipped to address poverty are those with local knowledge and experience. Working in partnership is central to Christian Aid's approach because we want to empower poor communities to help themselves. We currently work with approximately 600 locally based partner organisations in 45 countries. These partners work with entire communities, giving the support needed to bring an end to poverty.

Facts about Nicaragua

Nicaragua is a country in Central America, the same size as England, with a population of 5.5 million. Nicaragua's volatile political history has stunted its economic growth and placed it as the second poorest country in the western hemisphere after Haiti.

Almost half of the population live below the poverty line. It has a low gross domestic product, a very large external debt and high inflation.

A quarter of the population is undernourished and a fifth has no clean drinking water.

The country is repeatedly battered by hurricanes, storms, heavy rains, volcanic eruptions and floods. Hurricane Mitch in 1998 disrupted the country's economic progress, destroying 15 per cent of the country's coffee plantations. Similarly, Hurricane Stan in 2005 affected most of the country.

Nicaragua's economy relies on agriculture, exporting sugar cane, bananas and coffee. Coffee is the country's most important crop and Nicaragua is the 13th biggest coffee-producing country in the world.

The majority of Nicaraguan coffee is grown in the region of Jinotega, which is located in the highlands of Nicaragua, north of the capital Managua. The region has 257,933 inhabitants. Coffee production is the main economic activity in this region, which produces two-thirds of Nicaragua's coffee.

Soppexcca is the Society for Small Producers, Exporters, Marketers and Buyers of Coffee. It is a collective of small coffee-farming cooperatives in Jinotega, the region known as Nicaragua's coffee capital.

Soppexcca was chosen to be the focus partner of Christian Aid Week 2011 because it works in a way which benefits entire communities, strengthening them as a whole. Soppexcca's work with the people of Jinotega – particularly people in Los Alpes – demonstrates how sustained support over a period of years can transform communities in such a way that the change is driven by the members of the community themselves.

Soppexcca supports 650 small coffee farmers organised in 18 cooperatives in 22 communities. Around 4,000 people benefit directly from Soppexcca's work, including the cooperative members and their families.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK is 15-21 MAY 2011

GREATER LOVE

The violent grinding of brakes suddenly applied, and the harsh creaking of skidding wheels gradually died away as the big car came to a stop. Eddie quickly picked himself up from the pavement where he had been thrown, and looked around wildly.

Agnes ! Where was his little sister he had been holding by the hand when they had started to cross the road ? The next moment he saw her under the big car that had run them down, her eyes closed, and a dark stain slowly spreading across her white face. With one bound the boy was under the car, trying to lift the child.

"You'd better not try, son," said a man gently. "Someone has gone to telephone for an ambulance." "She's not ... dead, is she mister ?" Eddie begged in a husky voice. The man stooped and felt the limp little pulse. "No, my boy," he said slowly. A policeman came up, dispersed the gathering crowd, and carried the unconscious girl into a nearby shop. Eddie's folded coat made a pillow for her head until the ambulance arrived. Eddie was permitted to ride in the ambulance with her to the hospital. Something about the sturdy, shabbily dressed boy, who could not be more than ten years old, and his devotion to his little sister, strangely touched the hearts of the hardened hospital people.

"We must operate at once," said the surgeon after a brief preliminary examination. "She has been injured internally, and has lost a great deal of blood." He turned to Eddie who, inarticulate with grief, stood dumbly by. "Where do you live ?" Eddie told him that their father was dead, and that his mother did day work – he did not know where. "We can't wait to find her," said the surgeon, "because by that time it might be too late."

Eddie waited in the waiting room while the surgeons worked over Agnes. After what seemed an eternity a nurse sought him out. "Eddie," she said kindly, "your sister is very bad, and the doctor wants to make a transfusion. Do you know what that is ?" Eddie shook his head. "She has lost so much blood she cannot live unless someone gives her some blood. Will you do it for her ?"

Eddie's wan face grew paler, and he gripped the knobs of the chair so hard that his knuckles became white. For a moment he hesitated; then gulping back tears, he nodded his head and stood up. "That's a good lad," said the nurse. She patted his head, and led the way to the lift which whisked them to the operating room. No one

spoke to Eddie except the nurse who directed him in a low voice how to prepare for the ordeal. The boy bit his quivering lip and silently obeyed.

"Are you ready ?" asked a man swathed in white from head to foot, turning from the table over which he had been bending. For the first time Eddie noticed who it was lying there so still. Little Agnes ! And he was going to make her well. He stepped forward quickly.

Two hours later the surgeon looked up with a smile into the faces of the young trainee doctors and nurses who were engrossed in watching the great man's work. "Fine," he said, "I think she'll pull through." After the transfusion Eddie had been told to lie quietly on a bed in the corner of the room. In the excitement of the delicate operation he had been entirely forgotten. "It was wonderful, Doctor !" exclaimed one of the young doctors. "A miracle !" Nothing, he felt in his enthusiastic recognition of the marvels of surgery, could be great than the miracles of science.

"I am well satisfied," said the surgeon with conscious pride. There was a tug at his sleeve, but he did not notice. In a little while there was another tug – this time more peremptory – and the great surgeon glanced down to see a ragged, pale faced boy looking steadily up into his face. "Say, Doctor," said a husky voice, "When do I die ?" The doctors laughed and the great surgeon smiled. "Why, what do you mean, my boy ?" he asked kindly. "I thought ... When they took a person's blood ... he died," muttered Eddie. The smiles faded from the lips of the doctors and nurses, and the young doctor who had thought there was nothing greater than the miracle of science, caught his breath suddenly.

GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN THAN THIS, THAT HE LAY DOWN HIS LIFE !

This ragged lad had climbed to the very height of nobility and sacrifice, and showed them a glimpse of the greatest miracle of all – a selfless LOVE ! But Eddie must never know this. The lesson was too poignantly beautiful to be wasted. The great surgeon motioned the others for silence. "I think after all you will get well, Eddie," he said gruffly. "You and little Agnes."

Eddie understood what Jesus did by offering His life on a cross for us so that we can have life eternal. May the Lord help us to be servants of each other.

Thanks to Louisa Smit for this story.

ALL IN THE MONTH OF MAY It was....

300 years ago: on 7th May 1711 that David Hume, Scottish philosopher, historian and economist, was born.

175 years ago: on 24th May 1836 that Joseph Rowntree, British philanthropist, social reformer, businessman and chocolatier was born.

150 years ago: on 13th May 1861 that Britain proclaimed its neutrality in the American Civil War.

125 years ago: on 8th May 1886 that Coca-Cola first went on sale, in Atlanta, Georgia.

Also 125 years ago: on 26th May, 1886 that Al Jolson, American singer, comedian and actor, best known for his role in 'The Jazz Singer', was born.

100 years ago: on 17th May 1911 that Maureen Paula O'Sullivan, Irish-born American actress was born. She played Jane in the 'Tarzan' movies.

Also 100 years ago: on 18th May 1911 that Gustav Mahler, Austrian composer, died.

Also 100 years ago: on 29th May 1911, that Sir W S Gilbert, British playwright and humourist, best known for his comic operas produced in collaboration with Sir Arthur Sullivan, died.

90 years ago: on 5th May 1921, that Chanel No. 5 perfume was launched.

80 years ago: on 1st May 1931, that The Empire State Building in New York City was officially opened.

70 years ago: on 6th May 1941 that Joseph Stalin became Premier of the Soviet Union.

Also 70 years ago: on 9th May 1941 that the British Royal Navy captured the German submarine U-110 in the North Atlantic. On board they found the latest model of Enigma machine, codebooks and documents which enabled British code breakers to decipher coded German messages.

Also 70 years ago: on 10th May 1941 that the last major attack on London during the Blitz caused heavy damage to many important buildings, including the Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey, St James's Palace and Lambeth Palace, the British Museum and several railway stations and hospitals. More than 1,300 people were killed.

65 years ago: on 7th May 1946 that Sony, the Japanese consumer electronics company, was founded.

60 years ago: on 3rd May 1951 that The Festival of Britain and the Royal Festival Hall in London opened.

Also 60 years ago: on 25th May 1951 that British spies Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean fled to Moscow.

50 years ago: on 28th May 1961 that Amnesty International was founded in London.

30 years ago: on 5th May 1981 that Bobby Sands, Irish IRA member and politician, died at the Maze Prison in Northern Ireland after a 66-day hunger strike.

Also 30 years ago: on 22nd May 1981 that Peter Sutcliffe, the 'Yorkshire Ripper' was sentenced to life imprisonment.

20 years ago: on 14th May 1991 that Nelson Mandela's wife Winnie was sentenced to six years in jail for her part in the kidnapping and beating of four youths. (Later reduced to a fine.)

15 years ago: on 30th May 1996 that the Duke and Duchess of York (Prince Andrew and Sarah Ferguson) were divorced.

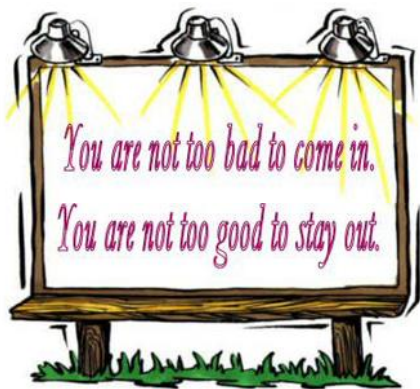
10 years ago: on 7th May 2001 that the Great Train Robber Ronnie Biggs returned to Britain from Brazil, having been a fugitive for 36 years. He was immediately arrested and sent to prison to complete his sentence.

Also 10 years ago: on 11th May 2001 that Douglas Adams, British comic writer best known for 'The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy', died.

Pitter pattering around the parish

- There is a Communion Preparatory Service at Wardlaw Church on Friday, 6th May at 7:30 p.m. The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated at Wardlaw Church on Sunday, 8th May at 10:30 a.m., and a Communion Thanksgiving Service will be held in the evening at the Church starting at 6:30 p.m.
- Kiltarlity Church's Souper Sunday will be held on Sunday, 8th May. Kobus will lead the service as normal starting at 12 noon and a soup and sandwich lunch will follow after the service at 1:00 p.m.
- The Kirkhill Kirk Session will meet on Wednesday, 11th May at Wardlaw Church at 7:35 p.m. after the prayer meeting.
- The Kiltarlity Deacons' Court and Kirk Session will meet on Tuesday, 17th May at Kiltarlity Church at 7:30 p.m.
- The monthly Men's Social evening will be held on Friday, 27th May at the Old North Inn starting at 7:00 p.m. All men from both Churches are most welcome to come along and enjoy the fellowship over a drink and a meal. For further details, and to confirm your place, contact either Alistair Morrison (831 185) or James Byham (831 143).
- On Sunday, 29th May the Wardlaw Church service will be held at the Kirkhill Community Centre as part of the Kirkhill Gala celebrations. The service will be a family service and will start at 10:30 p.m.
- Colin Cameron, son of Sarah, is now at home recovering from a laryngectomy operation - the removal of his voice box. We wish him strength and spirit in learning to speak again once the operation sores have healed.
- Good news also with Jeanette McLellan home from the Aberdeen Royal Hospital within a week of her triple heart bypass operation after being flown by helicopter from Raigmore Hospital in Inverness for the operation. Jeanette attended the joint Easter service at Kiltarlity and continues to make a good recovery, with the help of John, from this major surgery.
- Please keep Mamie Morrison, mother of Alasdair Morrison, in your thoughts and prayers as she recovers in the RNI from a second hip operation on the same hip in the last twelve months.
- The "Songs of Praise" session at Alasdair and Eileen's home, will take place every Sunday evening throughout May. Mary and Alasdair will lead the singing from the new Mission Praise books Wardlaw Church have recently purchased. Everyone is most welcome to come along to the Morrison's home on Mansefield Park at 7:30 p.m. to join in and learn new hymns.
- If you are interested in becoming a member of either congregation, please speak to Rev. Dr. Kobus Smit (831 662). One may join the Church of Scotland in one of three ways. i) Profession of Faith (and Baptism, if not baptised previously); ii) By transfer from the membership of another congregation; or iii) Resolution of the Kirk Session.
- Those happy wanderers have returned home from exotic sojourns abroad: Malcolm and Julie Fraser have been on an around the world cruise. It's great to have you back with us.
- Wardlaw Church have received a letter of thanks from the Church of Scotland HIV Programme organisers for the donation of £252 following the Souper Sunday event that was held in the Kirkhill Community Centre on 20th March. The CoS HIV Programme has received £53,000 in Souper Sunday donations since January.
- Thank you to all members of the both congregations who gave generously to the Highland Bank April Appeal. Donations, financial or food wise, can be made at any time of year to this local charity via both Churches.
- Gavin Moir, age 31, son of Charlie and Sheila Moir, Kiltarlity died at his home in Elgin on Thursday, 21st April. Gavin was a maths teacher at Elgin Academy. May the comfort of God help you during this difficult time and all your Church friends are thinking of you during this challenging time.
- Florence Cowie of Croft Road, Kiltarlity, died at the Ross Memorial Hospital in Dingwall on Wednesday, 27 April. Funeral service at Kiltarlity Church on Friday, 6th May at 2:00 p.m. with interment thereafter in Tomnacross Cemetery. We wish all the family and friends, hope in the midst of sorrow, comfort in the midst of pain and heartfelt sympathy from everyone in the two Church families for their loss.

The Parishioner Newsletter Issue 39 - May 2011
The Church of Scotland General Assembly 2011



The 2011 General Assembly will open on Saturday, 21st May until Friday, 27th May. The Rev. David Arnott is the Moderator-Designate for this year's General Assembly. Rev David Arnott was the chaplain at Her Majesty's Prison Barlinnie in Glasgow and will preside over the 2011 General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. A regular presenter on BBC Radio Scotland's Thought for the Day for more than 35 years he has also contributed to Radio 4's Prayer for the Day, Scottish Television and Grampian Television.

David Arnott was born in Dunfermline, Fife, and attended Burntisland Primary School and Lochgelly West Primary School before going to George Watson's College in Edinburgh. After a scholarship year at Hamilton College in Clinton, New York, he was taught at the University of St Andrews and the University of Edinburgh, graduating in MA French and Spanish and a Bachelor of Divinity (Honours) New Testament. Rev. Arnott and his wife Rosemary have three grown-up children and six grandchildren. He enjoys cooking, golf and photography and is passionate about Peebles Rugby Club.

The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland is chaired by the Moderator. He or she leads daily worship, keeps order, rules on points of order and signs documents on behalf of the General Assembly. The role is an honorary one and is held for 12 months. During the Moderatorial year he or she generally travels as Church representative in Scotland, Ireland and other parts of the United Kingdom, as well as travelling overseas in an ambassadorial capacity.

The retiring Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland is the Right Reverend John Christie.

The General Assembly, which meets each year in Edinburgh, has the authority to make laws determining how the Church of Scotland operates. It also is the highest court of the Church (the other courts being the kirk session and the presbytery) in which cases can be heard in matters of litigation.

What the Bible really means....

A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means !" His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean, you 'know' what the Bible means ? The son replied, "I do know !" "Okay," said his father. "What does the Bible mean ? "That's easy, Daddy..." the young boy replied excitedly, "It stands for '**B**asic **I**nformation **B**efore **L**eaving **E**arth."

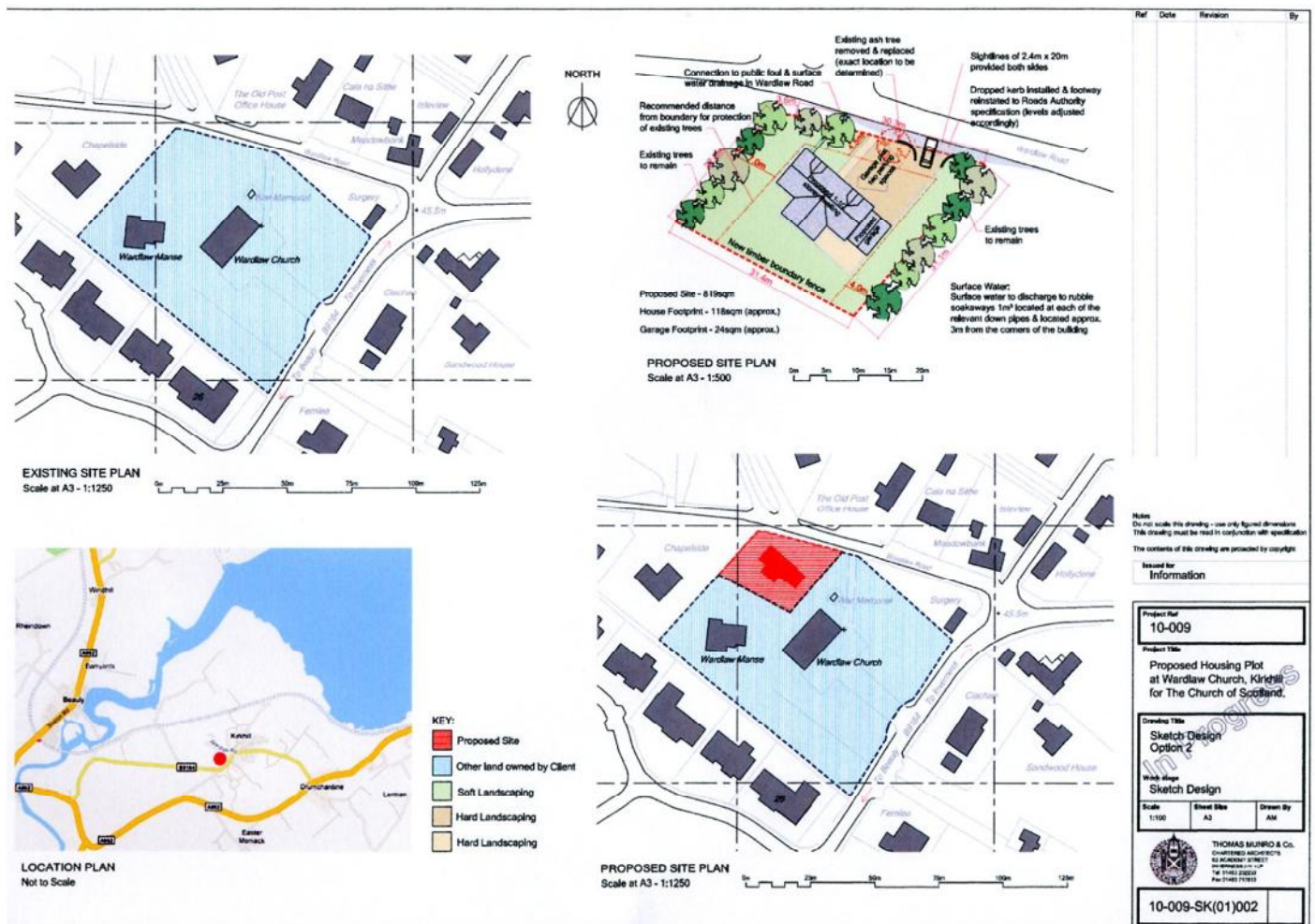
**There was a very gracious lady who was posting an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country... "Is there anything breakable in here ?" asked the postal clerk.
"Only the Ten Commandments," answered the lady.**

breaking NEWS

On Thursday, 28 April at a meeting of the Highland Planning Review Body, the delegated decision of the Highland Planning Officer to refuse the application to build a property on a site behind Wardlaw Church was reversed. The trustees of Wardlaw Church now have outline planning permission for a 1½ storey property on the site outlined below on the plan. This is very welcome news and the next stages in bringing the refurbishment plans to reality can start again in earnest.

Neil Wilson, the Convenor of the Refurbishment Committee, has stepped down from this role of Convenor due to his work priorities, over the next 2 years at least, being focussed in Orkney and he will have limited time at home in Kirkhill. We owe Neil a deep debt of gratitude for all the hard work and time that he has put into this project to get the refurbishment programme its present stage. We also thank Emily and Jamie for their support to Neil during this time.

The Steering Committee is due to meet on May 2nd to plan the next steps, which will include the appointment of a new Convenor, where we are now, and fund raising ideas / plans. Although the plot sale will raise a substantial amount towards the refurbishment cost of circa £120k, the shortfall presently is estimated to be £20k to £30k, so activities / events will need to be organised this summer to raise those funds. Any fund raising ideas / events will be most welcomed, please share them with Moira McDonald or any Elder. If you wish to make a refurbishment donation direct, please speak to John Finlayson, our Treasurer.



Presentation to Ellenor Thomas



To mark her retiral from TCC (Tomnacross Church Club) after fourteen strenuous years, Kiltarlity congregation made a surprise presentation to Ellenor on 27th March. Ellenor had just completed delivering the children's address when Ian Morrison caught her on the hop by giving a short address on behalf of TCC, office-bearers and all those attending our church at Tomnacross. In acknowledging Ellenor's huge contribution to the life of our parish Ian made affectionate reference too to Glen, our former Session Clerk as he approaches his 80th birthday at Redwoods Home in Alness and regretted his inability to share this happy occasion with us. Both he and Ellenor have been outstanding members of our fellowship over

many many years and devoted a great deal of their time and energy towards our work and worship. Our TCC "graduates" are a source of great credit to all that Ellenor has done since she founded the group in 1996 to foster the spiritual and social development of our youngsters. Testament to this are the numerous photographs we have seen of her and her troops on horseback at "Teenranch," on sledges, on terrifying treetop walkways at Fairburn Activities Centre, at Rollerbowl, Eden Court Theatre, in canoes, on skis, and on mountain tops. We know that she and past TCC members will treasure these memories. Ellenor is not of course hanging up her boots quite yet but has moved on to the calmer waters of our Kirk Session where she continues to play her part. Her mantle at TCC has been assumed by Anneliese and Maggie and our good wishes and prayers are with them as they carry on her good work. Ian Morrison handed over an engraved rose bowl as a token of the appreciation, respect and love of everyone concerned and Ellenor replied appropriately. The engraving on the rose bowl read :

"To Ellenor from TCC and a grateful congregation in fond appreciation of your role in establishing and serving TCC as part of our worship and witness - 1996 - 2011"



Message to **Glen Thomas**, who celebrated his 80th birthday on Saturday, 30 April.

Very best wishes from all your friends in Kiltarlity and Kirkhill !



A glimpse in the past

Minutes of Meeting of the Vacancy Committee of the Kirkhill United Free Church, held in the Church Hall, on Thursday, 29th October 1925 at 7.30 p.m.

Rev. Lewis A. Sutherland, Moderator, presided over a very good attendance of the members of the Vacancy Committee, and he opened the proceedings with prayer.

The minutes of the meeting of Vacancy Committee held on 1st Oct. were read, approved, and signed by the Moderator. The Moderator intimated

that the Rev. D. MacArthur, Lochs, Lewis could not come to assist at the November Communion. He then detailed the following arrangements in connection with the Communion:-

Thursday:- Gaelic at 11 a.m.
English at 12 noon.
Rev. Lewis A. Sutherland
Collection in aid of Northern Infirmary, Inverness.

Saturday: 12 noon.
Rev. A. Murray, Beauly.

Sabbath: Gaelic Communion at 11 am
Dr. Allan Cameron,
English Communion, 1 p.m.
Rev. L. A. Sutherland
Evening Service at 6 p.m.
Dr. Allan Cameron.

Monday: 12 noon.
Rev. L. A. Sutherland

The Moderator intimated that he had made enquiries regarding the number of Gaelic-speaking Divinity students in their last year, ^{eligible} available for a call from congregations, and no student of this class seems to be available.

The Committee considered the claims of Mr Alasdair J. Macdonald, Abriachan, who preached for the congregation on the 25th Nov. October, and Messrs Alex. Ross, Alexander Macdonald and Donald

These are three pages from an old minute book of the Kirkhill United Free Church from 1925. You will note that there are 7 Holy Communion services spread out between Thursday and Monday. The book also notes that there were 5 applications for the vacancy. The Moderator "was instructed to wire the findings of the Committee to Mr MacDonald" at the end of this meeting re: his acceptance of the call.

In 1942 there were 15 members of the Vacancy Committee who had to consider 18 applications. In 1946 there were 17 members of the Vacancy Committee who had 12 applications to review. The book also reveals that the 1946 Vacancy Committee made a decision to only consider applications "between the ages of thirty and fifty." The Vacancy Committee in 1953 had 15 members and 14 applications. In 1966 the Vacancy Committee was made up of 13 members and had 9 applications. The Vacancy Committees from 1942 included ladies in their membership.

God in the Arts - 'I am the Good Shepherd'

There is a remarkable story about a shepherd in the Yorkshire Dales many years ago. During a particular severe winter, he went out to search for his sheep. Sadly he never returned, and a search party discovered his dead body beneath many feet of snow. His neighbours were stunned and upset by his death, but they were also puzzled. The shepherd had been clasping the third finger of his left hand. Nobody could explain this, until a schoolmistress recalled a lesson she had taught her children. She would make them recite 'The Lord is my shepherd', and at each word she would point to a finger of her hand, beginning with the thumb. (Thumb) The (Index) Lord (Middle) is (Ring) my (Little) Shepherd. The mystery was solved, for as the man lay dying in the dreadful wind and cold, he was affirming his faith that God was his shepherd, and so he had nothing to fear.

The image of the Good Shepherd has been a powerful and pervasive picture from the earliest days of Christianity in expressing that very faith. It has been found in the catacombs, and was often carved on sarcophagi. Just as Crimond is popular at funerals today, so that image of the shepherd marked out funeral rites in the first centuries of Christian life. It is the image to focus on in May : a marble statue of Jesus the Good Shepherd, which may have been part of a tomb decoration. It was discovered in the catacomb of Domitilla and dates from the late 3rd century. The statue is now in one of the Vatican museums.



Jesus is portrayed as a beardless young man with a sleeveless tunic and bag. The influence on the sculpture is very much classical, and the artist was borrowing his portrayal from depictions of Orpheus, who in ancient legend tamed animals and restored the dead to life. But the sculptor was also affirming his own faith that Jesus had conquered death, and so life for all who followed Christ was always new and ageless.

In the sculpture Jesus has found the lost sheep and is bearing him back to the flock. But he is not just the one who seeks the lost: he will lay down his own life and ward off all danger for the sheep, both as the door to the sheepfold and as the one who is crucified.

In these weeks after Easter we can reflect on what our Lord has gained for us by his death and resurrection. The image of the Good Shepherd here in this sculpture and in scripture lays it before us vividly. Jesus protects his sheep; he cares for them; he loves them; he believes in them; and above all he never lets them down. Substitute 'us' for 'them' and we will know something of the power of this image and the joy of eternal life, which Easter celebrates.

The author of this article is the Rev. Michael Burgess, and the sculpture is in the Museo Pio Cristiano, Vatican.

Three elderly ministers, all hard of hearing, were playing golf one sunny spring morning. The Methodist minister observed, "Windy, isn't it?" "No", the Catholic priest said, "It's Thursday." The Church of Scotland Minister agreed: "So am I ! Let's go and have a dram."

New proposal on Gift Aid declarations

The Church of Scotland, as well as other churches, has warmly welcomed the recent Budget proposal on gift aid. The Government has announced that from April 2013 charities and community amateur sports clubs will not need to obtain gift aid declarations for small donations of £10 or less up to an annual maximum of £5,000. Being able to make Gift Aid claims on loose collections will be valuable in itself - but perhaps even more valuable is the time that it will save hard-pressed church treasurers. The present system, with Gift Aid envelopes and the associated record-keeping, is incredibly time-consuming.

The budget also stated that the Government will support the voluntary sector by reducing bureaucracy for charities through the introduction of a new system of online filing which will bring Gift Aid into the 21st century.

When the basic rate of income tax fell from 22% to 20% on 6 April 2008 this potentially reduced the amount of tax relief a charity could claim on Gift Aided donations by individuals. This was been remedied by the availability of transitional relief which is paid by HMRC in addition to Gift Aid reclaims. This relief expired on 5 April 2011. Between 6 April 2008 and 5 April 2011 a donation of £100 from an individual taxpayer to charity was worth £128.21 after Gift Aid including the transitional relief. **As from 6 April 2011, a donation of £100 will now be worth £125.**

How to make a donation using Gift Aid

In order to make a Gift Aid donation you'll need to make a Gift Aid declaration. You need to complete a simple form - one form can cover every gift made to the same charity for whatever period you choose, and can cover gifts you have already made and / or gifts you may make in the future. These forms are available from either of the Church Treasurers – Ian Morrison or John Finlayson.

A Gift Aid declaration must include:

- your full name
- your home address
- the name of the charity, i.e. Kiltarlity or Kirkhill Churches.
- details of your donation, and it should say that it's a Gift Aid donation.



Our congratulations and good wishes to Mrs Mary Fraser, Camaultmuir, Kiltarlity who celebrated her 90th birthday in March.

Mary and her husband Donnie managed their farm at The Glebe, Kiltarlity for many years. In the 90s Mary moved to her new bungalow at Camaultmuir. There she has spent considerable time creating and tending to her garden. Mary derives much pleasure from her garden which is a joy to behold all year round.

Mary is pictured at home with 3 generations of her family, daughter Margaret Girvan, granddaughter Sandra and Jamie her great grandson.

Visiting the Sick – part two: The Visitor

Hospitals can be intimidating places. If you go to visit someone on a ward, what are some key things to bear in mind? After considering 'The Patient' in last month's article, we look at 'The Visitor' this month.

Your next-door neighbour is in hospital. You get on well and you feel you ought to make the effort to visit them. You can't say the prospect fills you with joyful anticipation - by and large, you believe in avoiding hospitals as much as you can. But at the same time it doesn't fill you with horror, because you've got to know Jane very well and you're fairly sure she'll be glad to see you.



So far, so good. But you're a novice at this visiting business. Should you take something, and if so, what? It's always grapes on television, but you don't know if she even likes grapes. A book, perhaps, or a magazine? And when you get there, will it smell of antiseptic, be embarrassing, awkward or even scary? What will you talk about (there's no shortage of subject matter over the garden fence, but this is a bit different)?

So you ask Emma, who you meet in the supermarket, because you know she does a lot of voluntary work, including hospital visiting. She's quite reassuring. 'If you know her well and you like each other, honestly, there's no problem', she says. Just be natural, is her advice, exactly like you are when you meet over the garden fence, or walk together to the shops. After all, she points out, we're both exactly the same people, at home or in hospital. The only difference is that someone's changed the scenery for a few days. Don't major on her medical problem, she advises - that's the concern of the doctors and nurses.

What I would bring, she points out, is a breath of ordinary life back home into the hospital ward. Tell her how old Mrs Wilkinson lost her washing when it blew away in the gale last week, or how John's dog had a scrap with Marjorie's cat.

And when you sense it's right, she says, wish her well and go. Few visits are too short, but many are too long - and apparently that's mainly because people simply don't know how to bring it to an end! Perhaps it would be worth practicing that.

Thanks to David Winter former Head of BBC Religious Broadcasting for last month's and this month's articles

May 31 - Mary, the Blessed Virgin, visits Elizabeth

Mary – the virgin mother of Jesus. For centuries the eastern and western churches have considered her pre-eminent among all the saints.

In the gospels, Mary makes her first appearance as a teenager. Nothing is known of her childhood, and what we do know of her is found mostly in Matthew 1 – 2 and in Luke 1 – 2. If you read both accounts, you'll notice that Luke's account seems to give the story from Mary's standpoint, whereas Matthew concentrates more on Joseph's side of things. In both accounts the virginal conception of Christ is clearly stated. Mary's quiet devotion to God and her total acceptance of his will shine forth.

Her visit to Elizabeth, when both were pregnant, is a moving and poignant account of two humble, ordinary women, suddenly caught up in a great event which would shape world history. Their trusting faith in God and acceptance of his will, shine through.

After Jesus is born, Mary fades into the background, and makes few appearances: when the family visits Jerusalem and she loses her son on the way home; when she urges him to help the wedding party in Cana with its wine problem; and when Jesus gives her into the keeping of the beloved disciple when he is dying on the cross. Mary's last appearance is in Acts chapter one, just before Pentecost.

Mary obviously joined the early Church, but her role was never one of teaching and preaching, and indeed she remained so much in the background that nothing more about her is known for certain. Both Ephesus and Jerusalem have claimed to be the place of her death.

Mary, chosen to be the mother of Jesus Christ, one who is both God and Man, holds a unique place in the history of mankind. Down the centuries that have followed, the Church has paid special honour to Mary – and well deserved it is. "All generations shall call me blessed..."

WEDNESDAY EVENING PRAYER MEETINGS

The Evening Prayer meetings for May will take place on 11th and 25th May 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.

COLIN MORRISON

Colin Morrison, as part of 45 Commando Royal Marines, has recently deployed to Afghanistan for a 6 month tour and is now operating from a patrol base in Nad-e Ali. This is a first posting for Colin and a new experience for the whole family. So far, he is finding life busy, hot and very interesting. Flora asks for your continued prayers for God's protection around all members of our forces serving in Afghanistan and, also, for their families. Knowing friends and family are praying is a great comfort and blessing.

Colin is the son of Flora and Doug Morrison who stay at Lentran.

Extract from News item from www.royalnavy.mod.uk – 22 April 2011 follows:

Royal Marines serving in Afghanistan have taken time out from working alongside their Afghan colleagues to teach them how to play rugby.

Marines from 45 Commando are working alongside soldiers from the Afghan National Army to provide security in the Nad-e Ali South area of Helmand. The Marines and ANA share a Forward Operating Base, carry out patrols together and meet with local people living nearby.



Captain Stuart Macrimmon is the Adjutant of 45 Commando: *"We work really long days, often in the blazing sun, so it can be really tiring and quite stressful. On the rare occasions we have a bit of spare time, the lads like to have a kick about or throw the ball around but we noticed the Afghans were a bit reluctant to join in - think they were just confused about the rules."*

So, Capt. Macrimmon and some of the Marines decided to train up the Afghans so they could take part. There was no shortage of volunteers from the ANA and over the last few weeks since 45 Cdo arrived, the ANA have been getting to grips with the basics of passing, line outs and scrums.

KOBUS'S RECOMMENDED BOOK

This month I want to recommend Richard Foster's book ***Devotional Classics: Selected Readings for the Individual and Group***. This is an excellent book for a couple of reasons. Firstly, it is a wonderful collection of 52 different devotional Christian writers from the second century up to today. Secondly, for anyone interested in developing spiritual disciplines the exercises at the end of each chapter are excellent launching pads.

Philip the apostle

Is there someone in church whom you respect for their spirituality and common sense combined – someone you feel easy about approaching to ask questions ? That person's patron saint should be Philip.

Philip came from Bethsaida, and was a disciple of Jesus from early on. He knew how to lead others to Jesus – he brought Nathanael (or Bartholomew) to him in a calm, kindly way. He knew how to do some financial forecasting: at the feeding of the 5,000 it was he who pointed out that without divine help, even 200 pennyworth of bread wasn't going to feed that crowd. He was the one whom the Greeks approached when they wanted to ask Jesus to show them the Father, but didn't quite have the nerve to approach Jesus directly. People had confidence in Philip's spirituality, common sense and kindness. Such a person is a gift to any church ! In art, the Apostle Philip has been represented either with a cross, or with loaves of bread.

Matthias the Apostle

Have you ever happened to be in the right place at the right time, with certain qualifications, and suddenly realise that God is singling you out for a special task ? If so, Matthias is a good patron saint for you !

In Acts 1 (15 – 26) the apostles had a task to do: Judas had committed suicide, and a new apostle needed to be chosen. He had to have been a follower of Christ from the Baptism to the Ascension, and also a witness of the Resurrection in order to qualify. In the event, the choice fell to one of two: Joseph Barsabas and Matthias. Lots were drawn, and Matthias was chosen. How confident he must have felt in his calling: what encouragement that would be when the going got rough in later years! Matthias is thought to have ministered in Cappadocia and even Ethiopia. His emblem is usually an axe or halberd, regarded as the instrument of his martyrdom. His supposed relics were transferred from Jerusalem to Rome by the empress Helen.

David of Scotland

If you like Scotland, you'll appreciate St David of Scotland, who lived c.1085 – 1153.

David became king of Scotland in 1124, and devoted himself to improving his country. This included a feudal system of land tenure in place of the Celtic tribal one; an Anglo-Norman judicial system, and the development of towns such as Edinburgh, Berwick and Perth.

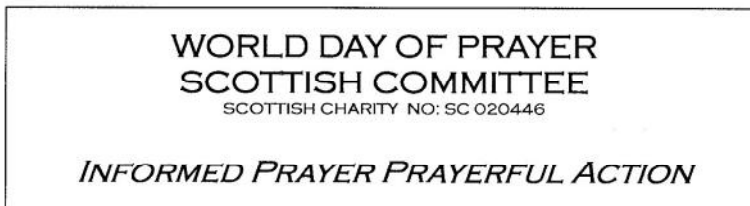
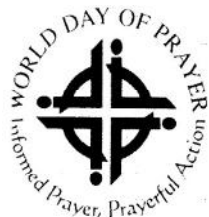
Above all, David re-organised the Church in Scotland. Contact with Rome was close, but he opposed Canterbury's primatial claims. David founded several bishoprics, including those of Dunblane and Aberdeen. David was loved for his justice in administration, his accessibility to all, and his intense interest in gardens and orchards and buildings.

He was generous in alms-giving, and a devout Christian. When dying, and ordered to rest by his doctors, he said: "Allow me rather to think about the things of God, so that my soul may be strengthened...when I stand before God's judgment seat, none of you shall answer for me...." David died on 24 May and centuries later his name was inserted in the calendar of the Prayer-book for Scotland. His historical importance is that he founded the Scotland which defied Edward I.

The Parishioner Newsletter Issue 39 - May 2011
WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

After reviewing the accounts of the charitable organisation responsible for organising the World Day of Prayer it was noted that the costs of £31,319 represented 45% of all the revenue raised (£69,584). This cost includes administration, printing and postage. This would appear excessive, as that only leaves 55% of the money collected going to Christian charities. We are not entirely certain that this is good stewardship of donations collected at the services

We have obtained a full copy of the accounts and note that the printing of the orders of service and postage (£15,965), and the production of calendars (£5,232) are the two most expensive costs, and accounts for 68% of the total costs. Please find below a response to Margaret Birkbeck from the WDP Scottish Committee to the concerns on the level of these costs.



22nd April, 2011

Dear Mrs Birkbeck,

Thank you for your note in your report expressing concern about the proportion of the income of the Scottish Committee of The World Day of Prayer which is spent on printing and administration, compared to the proportion which goes towards the 'good causes' which we support. This is understandable and there are many of us, myself included, who look at charities which we want to support, and note the level of management expenses, before donating.

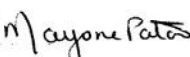
The Scottish World Day of Prayer Committee, however, does not exist in order to raise funds for charitable causes. It exists, primarily, to organise and resource the services held throughout the country on the first Friday of March each year. To quote part of the constitution: the objectives are *inter alia*:

- * to organise and arrange for the observance of the World Day of Prayer each year;
 - * to receive the basic world Order of Service and adapt it as necessary and issue it together with other material relevant to the ensuing Day of Prayer
 - * to assist financially or otherwise in the publication and issue of the scriptures and various forms of Christian literature designed to advance the Christian faith and way of life throughout the world.
- The first call on the offerings which are sent in annually is to meet the expenses of producing and distributing the literature and resources for the following year. Fortunately, the amount received more than covers the outgoings, and is therefore given away to the charities which we mainly support, these being Feed the Minds and The Scottish Bible Society, on condition that they have a project in the writing country of that year.

We do all we can to keep expenses to a minimum. Our committee members, all of whom give their services entirely voluntarily, are well aware that the amount of our charitable giving has reduced. We will do our best to give more, but this can only happen if congregational donations continue to be received at their existing level. There will be a large increase in the cost of postage in 2011/2012 but that is outwith our control. I should perhaps mention that the offerings taken at services constitute our entire income. We do not receive financial assistance from any other source. You could help by ordering and selling WDP Calendars and bookmarks.

I hope that this answers your question. If there's anything else that you would like to know, please get back in touch, because we are anxious that local committees, such as your own, understand the activity behind the figures.

With sincere thanks for all the assistance which you give us,


Marjorie V. Paton (Secretary)

We would like your opinion about whether we should continue to hold a World Day of Prayer service at Wardlaw Church, Kirkhill in the future.

Your comments would be appreciated, by 28th May, to
Rosemary – 782 648, or Margaret – 831 518

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK is 15-21 MAY 2011

The story in Nicaragua



Gustavo Adolfo Talavera and the other members of his cooperative in Los Alpes, Jinotega, have worked with Soppexcca (Christian Aid partner) for the past 12 years. The cooperative puts some of the proceeds from their coffee sales into a community fund, which has enabled them to build a school and a health centre.

Gustavo was determined to work to establish the school, so that the children of his community could be educated. 'I did not have the opportunity to go to school and so I tell my children to study and do what I couldn't. I have fought for this community for years.' Before the school was built, lessons were held in Gustavo's front yard, which meant that the children got wet when it rained. The new school is well-equipped and has 110 pupils and three teachers.



Fair wages, clean water to drink and toilet breaks may not seem much to ask, but in many coffee factories in Nicaragua, such basic human rights aren't honoured. Soppexcca's processing plant tells a different story, explains one worker there. Damaris Sujey says: 'We are all treated with such respect and kindness.'

The music training provided by Soppexcca has encouraged a group of young people to use their skills to form a brass band. Soppexcca has provided funding for the band to travel to various cities in Nicaragua to perform.



All photos: Tom Pilston / Christian Aid



Warning - Hacker's Victim



Rev. Dr. Kobus Smit became the victim of a cyber space crime on Monday, 25 April. A hacker had gained access to Kobus's gmail account, and sent an e-mail to all his addresses in his gmail address book, purporting to come from Kobus, requesting £1,500 be sent, via Western Union, immediately to an address in Utama Petaling, Malaysia. It, of course, was completely false, and if you received the e-mail Kobus wishes to apologise if it caused you any distress. Kobus has reported the matter to the local police.



If you received the e-mail your own e-mail address is not exposed to risk from this action. However, it may be wise to review your own e-mail account password and ensure that it is a strong and unique one. The hacker also deleted Kobus's gmail e-mail address – kobus.smit1951@gmail.com – which is proving difficult for Kobus to contact everyone to make them aware that it was a scam, and they should ignore it. Kobus has opened a new gmail account – smitk51@gmail.com.



Financial Food for thought

Following the publication of the Kirkhill Church 2010 accounts last month it was noted that Wardlaw Church cost £99.34 per day to operate, but the receipts collected only amounted to £82.23 per day. The shortfall was made up from the surplus accrued in previous years, something that cannot be sustained.

Kiltarlity Church 2010 Accounts show a cost of £92.86 per day to operate, but the receipts received were a healthy £99.18 per day.

The average Scottish household spends £430 per year on food and drink that is thrown out !



If we stopped wasting all this food, we could prevent the equivalent of 1.6 million tonnes of carbon dioxide each year in Scotland. This is the same as taking 1 in 4 cars off the road.

When the food waste gets to the landfill site it gives off methane as it decomposes. Methane is a powerful green house gas, so reducing your food waste is a great way to contribute to fighting climate change as well as saving yourself money. So Rowan (Ross-shire Waste Action Network) is encouraging households to reduce the amount of food they throw out. A project to help people tackle climate change by cutting food waste will be launched this month in Beaully and the Strathpeffer areas.

Although composting or feeding pets your food waste stops it going into your bin, it is still better not to have the waste in the first place, given the amount of resources used to grow and transport food to your home.

Reduce your food waste

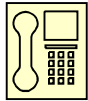
- Check the fridge and cupboards before you shop – eat what you've already got !
- Only buy and cook as much as you can eat.
- Freeze leftovers.
- Check 'use by' dates regularly.
- Measure out food before you cook.
- Buy loose fruit and vegetables - buy just what you need and save packaging too.



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

E-mail: smitk51@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



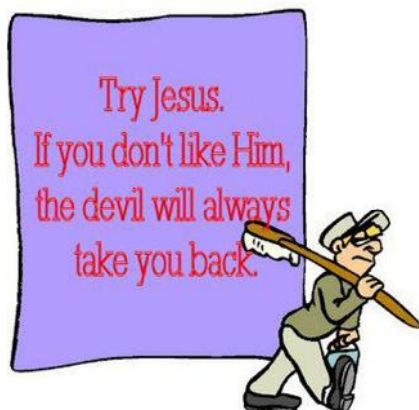
The Guild – Margaret Birkbeck 831 518
The Parishioner – Iain and Rosemary Mortimer 782 648



E-mail – iain.mortimer1@btinternet.com

Diary dates for MAY 2011

- 1 May Worship at **WARDLAW** at 10:30 a.m. and **KILTARLITY** at 12 noon.
- 6 May Communion Preparatory Service at **WARDLAW** at 7:30 p.m.
- 8 May Sacrament of Holy Communion at **WARDLAW** at 10:30 a.m. and normal service at **KILTARLITY** at 12 noon.
- 8 May Souper Sunday at Kiltarlity Church at 1:00 p.m.
- 8 May Communion Thanksgiving Service at **WARDLAW** at 6:30 p.m.
- 11 May Prayer meeting at Wardlaw Church at 7:00 p.m.
- 11 May Kirkhill Kirk Session meeting at Wardlaw Church at 7:35 p.m.
- 15 May Worship at **WARDLAW** at 10:30 a.m. and **KILTARLITY** at 12 noon.
- 17 May Kiltarlity Deacons' Court and Kirk Session at Kiltarlity Church at 7:30 p.m.
- 22 May Worship at **WARDLAW** at 10:30 a.m. and **KILTARLITY** at 12 noon.
- 25 May Prayer meeting at Wardlaw Church at 7:00 p.m.
- 27 May Men's Social evening at Old North Inn at 7:00 p.m.
- 29 May Family worship at **KIRKHILL COMMUNITY CENTRE** at 10:30 a.m. and normal service at **KILTARLITY** at 12 noon.



The June 2011 issue of The Parishioner will be published on Sunday, 29 May 2011