



KILTARLITY AND KIRKHILL CHURCHES

The Parishioner



THE VIEW FROM GOD'S LITTLE ACRE

Dear ghosts and ghoulies, hobgoblins and foul fiends, and all things that go bump in the night.....

In our reflections for the November edition, with Halloween ahead, Remembrance Day before us and Advent approaching us, I would bid you consider these words that are intended to describe Christians. A wee excursion into history - with Emperor Constantine, the Christian Faith was established as the religion of the Roman Empire. A year later, Emperor Julian came to the throne, and he wanted to turn back the clock and bring back the old gods that had been banished.... Why? Because the old gods were much more fun! Julian wrote of the Christians:

"Have you looked at these Christians closely? Hollow eyed, pale cheeked, flat breasted all; they brood their lives away, uninspired by ambition. The sun shines for them, but they do not see it; the earth offers them its fullness, but they desire it not; all their desire is to renounce, and to suffer, that they may come to die."

I suppose we have all met Christians who fitted Julian's cartoon, but I suspect the vast majority of the friends of Jesus would not feel that Julian had a very good grasp on what it is like to follow Christ. For unless there is something about our life together as a church that intrigues, provokes, or entices the "seeker", then all the evangelism in the world will fall on deaf ears. Churches need to be provocative, arresting places which make the casual visitor, the searcher, want to come back for more. In other words, a community of people that live by God's ways, that has learned to place humility (which doesn't mean thinking less of your self, but thinking of yourself less!), love, compassion, forgiveness and honesty right at the centre of our life together, will make people begin to think.

/Contd.

To put it differently, a church that lives out its life under the Kingdom of God cannot help but provoke questions, and when it does that, then is the time for evangelism - that is the time for the simple explanation of the good news of Jesus Christ. For it makes little difference what you believe, if what you believe makes no difference. Be a joyful provocateur ! As someone has reported "When the Father's house is filled with the Father's love, the prodigals will come home".

Yours aye,

Willis

No prizes for this but it will help to emphasise the importance of environmental awareness. The target words are listed below and may be found by reading forwards or backwards, up or down.

- | | | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| waste not want not | eco | walk | reduce | save |
| cycle | reuse | planet | organic | ecology |
| recycle | ethical | climate | nature | compost |
| carbon footprint | energy | conserve | fairtrade | biofuel |
| green | trees | buy local | | |

B	N	O	B	R	A	C	L	I	M	A	T	E	O	C	I
U	F	B	I	O	F	U	E	L	F	A	I	B	Y	T	W
Y	O	H	W	A	S	T	E	X	N	O	T	L	G	M	E
X	O	J	A	E	C	O	L	O	G	Y	R	F	R	A	D
L	T	U	N	Q	M	R	E	D	U	C	E	B	E	L	A
O	P	W	T	P	L	A	N	E	T	S	U	T	N	U	R
C	R	S	X	C	Y	C	L	E	V	R	S	E	E	R	T
A	I	A	N	T	R	E	L	C	Y	C	E	R	X	N	R
L	N	V	O	R	G	Z	F	O	R	G	A	N	I	C	I
I	T	E	T	Y	Z	N	A	T	U	R	E	C	D	T	A
C	O	N	S	E	R	V	E	J	K	E	K	L	A	W	F
X	U	L	A	C	I	H	T	E	R	Q	C	O	M	P	O
C	O	M	P	O	S	T	L	G	E	C	R	O	T	Z	F

Pitter patterring around the parish

- ☺ Rena Mackenzie is currently in Raigmore Hospital, and the congregation is keeping Rena and James in our prayers during these difficult days.
- ☺ Twenty four members of the two churches are busily learning their lines for the presentation of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" to be performed in the Kiltarlity Village Hall on Friday, 19 December. There will be more information in the December issue of the Parishioner.
- ☺ There will be a Service of Carols and Candles on Sunday, 21 December at 6:30 p.m. in the Kirkhill Church. This will be a service of Advent and Christmas music, a selection of solos and trios, with several pieces by the "Festival Choir" of the two churches, plus carols by the congregation. We are still recruiting members for this one-off musical evening. Singers are most welcome from either church. Crown Church, Inverness, has been invited to worship with us that evening as our guests. Mince pies and Wassail will be served as refreshments following the service.
- ☺ There is a slide presentation of Charlie Gair's photograph collection of Kirkhill Parish in Bygone Years in the Kirkhill Community Centre on **Wednesday 29 October at 7:30 p.m.** Admission is £5.00, including refreshments. Proceeds will go to the Kirkhill Church Development Fund. Some of the pictures from this collection have been used to produce packs of notelet cards, which will be on sale on the night, and at Kirkhill Church, priced at £2.00 for a pack of 8 notelets.

wedding

Simone Evitt and Stewart Belford were united in Holy Matrimony in Kirkhill Church on Saturday 25 October. Best wishes and congratulations are extended to these newly weds.

Special birthday greeting

Warmest birthday wishes to Mrs Mary Kennedy, a member of Kiltarlity Church who celebrated her 97th birthday on 20th October.

THE YEAR OF THE BIBLE

November finds us moving into the book of Numbers in the Old Testament. Despite the name, the book of Numbers is more than a census of the twelve tribes of Israel. Numbers covers the time of the wilderness wanderings, shows us how far short the Israelites fall when it comes to being righteous and faithful. Notice how many times they complain, commit mutiny, and break the laws that God has so recently given them. Even Aaron and Miriam are jealous of Moses (Chapter 12). There is judgement in this book: on foreign nations, on Israel, and on Moses himself. This is a reminder to us that God does not simply overlook sin and error. God does not allow the people of Israel to do as they please and to take their divine call lightly. As in other parts of the Bible, mercy triumphs over judgement.

Deuteronomy means “second law”. It is a kind of constitution for the nation of Israel in the Promised Land. The special themes in the book of Deuteronomy are first: the emphasis upon God’s love and Israel’s remarkable privilege in enjoying the covenant with God (4:32-40; 7:6-11). There is the statement of Israel’s faith (6:4-9) called the Shema, and still used in Jewish worship today. Finally, note that there are two ways to live life – one good and one evil, along with the appeal to “Choose life so that you and your descendants may live” (30: 11-20)

1 November	Numbers 12-14	Psalm 28,29	16 November	Deuteronomy 8,9	Acts 28
2 November	Numbers 15,16	Acts 18	17 November	Deuteronomy 10,11	Romans 1
3 November	Numbers 17-19	Acts 19	18 November	Deuteronomy 12-14	Romans 2
4 November	Numbers 20,21	Acts 20	19 November	Deuteronomy 15,16	Psalm 34
5 November	Numbers 22,23	Psalm 30	20 November	Deuteronomy 17,18	Romans 3
6 November	Numbers 24,25	Acts 21	21 November	Deuteronomy 19,20	Romans 4
7 November	Numbers 26,27	Acts 22	22 November	Deuteronomy 21,22	Psalm 35
8 November	Numbers 28,29	Psalm 31	23 November	Deuteronomy 23,24	Romans 5
9 November	Numbers 30,31	Acts 23	24 November	Deuteronomy 25,26	Romans 6
10 November	Numbers 32,33	Acts 24	25 November	Deuteronomy 27,28	Romans 7
11 November	Numbers 34,35	Acts 25	26 November	Deuteronomy 29,30	Psalm 36
12 November	Numbers 36 Deuteronomy 1	Psalm 32	27 November	Deuteronomy 31,32	Romans 8
13 November	Deuteronomy 2,3	Acts 26	28 November	Deuteronomy 33,34	Romans 9
14 November	Deuteronomy 4,5	Acts 27	29 November	Joshua 1-3	Psalm 37
15 November	Deuteronomy 6,7	Psalm 33	30 November	Joshua 4,5	Romans 10

Didache sessions on Thursday at the manse at 7.30 p.m. and on Saturday at Kiltarlity Church at 10.30 a.m. are continuing. If you have questions, problems, insights that you have gleaned from the Bible readings for the week, join us at either of these sessions to explore what the Bible, God's love letter to you, is saying. We'll see you there.

Each Sunday's theme in the prayers, readings, hymns and sermon will centre on what you have read during the week.

Once upon a time, in a village, a man appeared and announced to the villagers that he would buy mushrooms for £10 per box.

The villagers, seeing that there were many mushrooms around, went out to the forest and started collecting them.

The man bought thousands at £10 per box and, as supplies started to diminish, the villagers stopped their effort. He further announced that he would now buy at £20 for a box of mushrooms. This renewed the efforts of the villagers and they started collecting mushrooms again.

Soon the supply diminished even further and people started going back to their farms. The offer increased to £25 each, and the supply of mushrooms became so small that it was an effort to even find any mushrooms, let alone collect them !

The man now announced that he would buy mushrooms at £50 ! However, since he had to go to the Edinburgh on some business, his assistant would now buy on behalf of him.

In the absence of the man, the assistant told the villagers. "Look at all these mushrooms in the big cage that the man has collected. I will sell them to you at £35, and when the man returns from the city, you can sell them to him for £50 per box." The villagers rounded up all their savings and bought all the mushrooms.

They never saw the man nor his assistant again, they only had mushrooms everywhere !

Now you have a better understanding of how the stock market works.

?? What would YOU like to see published in the Parishioner ??

Anyone in the parish can contribute an article or suggest new features, e.g. a letters page, a monthly recipe, a monthly brain teaser, etc. Please give any feedback to Willis, or send your suggestions to :

iainandrosemary@btinternet.com or marie.harvey6@btinternet.com

“O COME LET US WORSHIP AND BOW DOWN”

Not only are we making our way through the Bible, but November provides us with special themes and opportunities for worship. The first Sunday in November has traditionally been observed by the church as “All Saints Sunday”. We Presbyterians have never been too wrapped up in the saints, but on this day we remember those whom we have loved and lost and are at home with God in His nearer presence. We shall have special prayers of thanksgiving on Sunday 2 November for the lives of the faithful departed.

Sunday 9 November will be observed as Remembrance Sunday in both Kirkhill and Kiltarlity. The service at Kirkhill will be moved up to the earlier time of 10:00 a.m. and will conclude with the service at the cenotaph. In Kiltarlity, the service is at the regular time, but we will gather at the cenotaph at 1:30 p.m. for the service of Remembrance.

Sunday 16 November will be the Sunday for the celebration of Holy Communion at Kirkhill. The Interim Moderator, the Rev. Reg Campbell will serve as the celebrant. The Preparatory service will be conducted on Friday 14 November at 7:30 p.m., with a Thanksgiving service on the Sunday evening at 6:30 p.m.

On Sunday 30 November, it is St. Andrew’s Day. It is also the first Sunday of Advent, and on each Sunday of Advent, we shall have a family light the candles of the Advent wreath. We shall also celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on that Sunday in Kirkhill as Charlie Joss will become a “child of the covenant”. Carrie Joss, the grand daughter of Robert Weir, is a daughter of Kirkhill Church.

It will be busy and exciting days in the special K’s!

WHAT A COMMUNITY OF MISFITS!!!

As we make our way through the continuing story of the Bible, one thing surfaces quite clearly.....what a variety of odd bods and misfits God chooses to be the conduits of His grace in the world:

Abraham: too old
Jacob: too insecure
Leah: too unattractive
Noah: a drunk
Joseph: abused
Moses: stuttered
Gideon: poor
Samson: co-dependent
Rahab: immoral
David: a ladies man
Elijah: suicidal

Jeremiah: depression
Jonah: reluctant
Naomi: only a widow
John the Baptist: eccentric
Peter: short fuse
Martha: chronic worrier
Paul: poor health
Timothy: timid
Thomas: doubting
Samaritan woman: failed marriages

If this is what God works with and through...there is always room for you!

Welcome home.

PAT'S CORNER

It is good to belong to the Church of Scotland Guild, and especially the Wardlaw Guild in Kirkhill, which also welcomes and enjoys its sisters from Tomnacross Church in Kiltarlity. It's great to be a member. However, I don't consider myself at home because I wear sensible shoes, or knit, or make a good cuppa. My sisters and I may do those kinds of fine things, but they just skim the surface. The National Guild of the Church of Scotland is considered a real cutting edge in the Scottish Charities Scheme, raising thousands of pounds through its local groups, for charities. The organisation has made a strong stand on ethical issues affecting our Churches. It has often been a voice for the voiceless.

The phrase "sense and sensibility" in the instance of the Guild should be changed to "inclusive and involved". As an agent for baptised change for the good, the Church of Scotland Guild has few rivals.

To take this closer to home, I would like to highlight our own Guild. We meet regularly on the first Tuesday of the month at 2.30 p.m. in the Guild Room, for song, prayer, a guest speaker, coffee and tea, and a very good blether. Newcomers are always welcome. We hope it is a place where "good neighbours become good friends".

In November, Guilds from all over Scotland will be celebrating the birthday of the Women's Guild as a movement in Scotland. The Guild is a very old lady, and still moving from strength to strength.

To honour the "old lady", we want to invite all of you in Kirkhill and Kiltarlity to a special event on Tuesday 4 November, from 2.30 to 4.00 p.m... This "open meeting" will feature an afternoon with Rev. Ian Hamilton of Nairn. Ian is well known in the area as a musician, radio presenter, writer, and frequent contributor to the People's Friend. Please come along, meet the Guild, and have some good fellowship.

This invitation comes from the membership of our local Guild: Mary Bell, Margaret Birkbeck, Sarah Cameron, Carol Grant, Mairi MacFarlane, Elizabeth MacRae, Cath MacRitchie, Louise Monaghan, Nancy Paterson, Rosemary Mortimer, Elma Rorison, Margaret Shiels, Margaret West, Wilma Williamson, Mary Urquhart and Pat Jones.

Cheers!

Pat

Kevin Mykoliw, beloved husband of Roslyn and the son in law of Alistair and Kay Munro, was buried in Wardlaw Cemetery following a celebration of his life in Kirkhill Church on Saturday 25 October. Kevin was killed in a tragic accident in Inverness, and his death will be mourned by many and his presence missed by all. Kevin is alive to God and treasured by us who await the time of our glad reunion with him in God's nearer presence.



"AND DO YOU, DEAN, PROMISE TO SHARE
THE TV REMOTE FOR AS LONG AS YOU
BOTH SHALL LIVE?"

SERVICES of WORSHIP for NOVEMBER 2008

KIRKHILL at 10:30 a.m.
(10:00 a.m. on 9 November)

KILTARLITY at 12 noon

2 November	Numbers 2,3	Acts 14 to Numbers 12,13,14	Psalm 28,29
9 November	Numbers 15,16	Acts 18 to Numbers 28,29	Psalm 31
16 November	Numbers 30,31	Acts 23 to Deuteronomy 6,7	Psalm 33
23 November	Deuteronomy 8,9	Acts 28 to Deuteronomy 21,22	Psalm 35
30 November	Deuteronomy 23,24	Romans 5 to Joshua 1,2,3	Psalm 37

Each Sunday's theme in the prayers, readings, hymns and sermon will centre on what you have read during the week – see the Year of the Bible

Communion Preparatory Service at Kirkhill Church on Friday, 14 November at 7:30 p.m.
The Sacrament of Holy Communion at Kirkhill Church on Sunday, 16 November at 10:30 a.m.
The Interim Moderator, the Rev. Reg Campbell will conduct the Holy Communion service.
Communion Thanksgiving service at Kirkhill Church on the Sunday, 16 November at 6:30 p.m.