

# THE ANCHOR

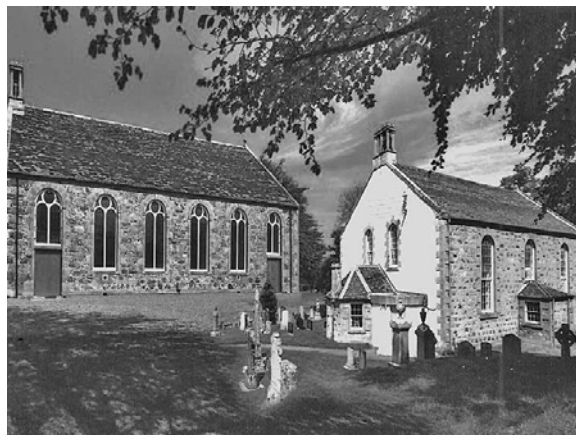
The magazine of Kiltarlity and Kirkhill Churches



*Living in the love of Jesus in the rural Highlands*

First Edition

DECEMBER 2015



A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS to ALL OUR READERS!



Minister's Letter

Firstly I'd like to welcome you to our new magazine, "The Anchor" – published jointly by Kirkhill and Kiltarlity Churches and to express my grateful thanks once again to Frances Grant, Sheila Moir and Ellenor Thomas our editorial team for putting together this first issue. Secondly I would like to wish all our readers, and all those in our congregations and communities, a very Happy Christmas and a New Year full of God's blessings! Kate and I are looking forward with great excitement to sharing Advent and Christmas with you all.

As we come to the turn of the year, I would like to keep you all up to date with the developing vision for our two churches. In September, Inverness Presbytery asked our Kirk Sessions to answer some questions about the present life of our congregations, where we would like to see things going in the next 10 years and how we propose to get there! We had a joint Session day in Wardlaw church on 27<sup>th</sup> September to begin a process of forming a shared vision for the future of our two congregations and identifying priorities in terms of worship, witness, service and mission. We don't doubt that God has a plan for us. In the book of the prophet Jeremiah He says:

*"For I know the plans I have for you.....They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. In those days when you pray, I will listen. If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me. I will be found by you"* Jeremiah 29: 11-14

God's plan is assured, but the promise rests on our obedience and willingness to partner with Him wholeheartedly in prayer and in seeking His presence – the reality of Jesus' love in our lives together. If I were to put together a pen picture of where the Kirk Sessions would like our congregations to be in 10 year's time, it might look something like this:

*God first in everything, every generation and all sorts of people engaged in the life of the church, people becoming disciples; leaders identified and developed; active engagement with our communities and the wider church at home and overseas, and numerical growth such that we outgrow our buildings.*

This is a bold vision to say the least and to have any hope of achieving it we need faith-filled prayers, a reliance on the Holy Spirit, and an openness to change. In the Old Testament when the Holy Spirit came upon individuals it was always so that they could achieve the seemingly impossible. We have a God who delights in enabling us to do impossible things so that He gets the glory. If that sounds a bit far-fetched to you then I might suggest that you have a read though Luke 1: 26-38 in preparation for our second Sunday of Advent service on the 6<sup>th</sup> of Dec. See the way that Mary responds to the promise of the Holy Spirit. I hope and pray that this Christmas and in the year ahead, we can all come together with Mary and declare corporately, “We are the Lord’s servants. May everything you have said about us come true.”

With every blessing for a joy-filled Christmas



Jonathan

## CHURCHES on FACEBOOK

Kiltarlity and Kirkhill Churches now have their own Facebook page! This will be used to keep YOU updated with news and reminders of what’s on, and when ... you will be able to access all the Christmas information as above too, if you should mislay your copy of The Anchor! You can even read “The Anchor” and download it too from this site. PLEASE “like” this page to make sure you keep updated about what’s happening here in our parishes. To access Facebook please go to [www.facebook.com/kiltarlitykirkhillchurches](http://www.facebook.com/kiltarlitykirkhillchurches) or just search Facebook for “Kiltarlity Church “or “Kirkhill Church”. Also ... don’t forget that the churches’ website is regularly updated and also has a calendar of events. To remind you ... the website address is [www.kiltarlityandkirkhill.org.uk](http://www.kiltarlityandkirkhill.org.uk)



Submitted by David Garvie

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY over CHRISTMAS and ADVENT

Date	Theme	Reading	Kirkhill – Wardlaw Church	Kiltarlity – Tomnacross Church
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> Nov	“Immanuel -The Spirit and Power of Elijah”	Luke 1: 1-25	10am	1130am
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> Dec	“Immanuel -The King is coming”	Luke 1: 26-38	10am	1130am
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Fundraising piano concert for Christian Aid (with refreshments)	-	7pm	-
Wed 9 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Guild – Mary Robb & the SWRI choir	-	2pm	
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec	“Immanuel – God is fulfilling his promise”	Luke 1: 39-56	10am	1130am
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Kirkhill Primary School Christmas Service	-	2pm <b>In the school</b>	-
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> Dec	“Immanuel – Salvation is coming” <b>family service</b>	Luke 1: 57-80	10am	1130am
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Carols by Candlelight “Immanuel the King has come” (Hot drinks and mince pies will be served)	Luke 2: 1-14	6pm <b>joint service</b>	
Tues 22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	Tomnacross, Teanassie & Dochgarroch Schools Carol Service	-	-	2pm <b>In the church</b>
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Watch night Service “Immanuel – come worship the King”	Luke 2: 8-15	1130pm	1130pm <b>led by the elders</b>
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Joyce Mitchell taking services		10am	1130am
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	“New Year – new covenant”		10am	1130am

## KILTARLITY'S NEW AV SYSTEM

Kiltarlity Church has now been “furnished” with a brand new AV system to assist with both weekly worship and for “special” occasions. The church now boasts 4 screens discreetly secured on 4 pillars and in such positions as to enable each and every worshipper



clear view of the displays, be these words of hymns, songs, or illustrations of the text through which the congregation is led. We hope that the system will be an enormous help for school services and Sunday by Sunday. Please bear with us while we explore how best to use the screens in a way that is beneficial to everyone.

Submitted by Ellenor Thomas and Jonathan Humphrey

### WORSHIP

I was singing one of my favourite worship songs in the car on my way to work and it suddenly dawned on me it might be good to share for our first issue of the Anchor. The song is called “Anchor” and the lyrics are below.

*In every season, in every change  
You are near  
In every sorrow,  
You are my strength  
You are near*

*My great Redeemer,  
My constant Friend  
You are near  
My faithful Father,  
You took me in  
You are near*

*A peace in the storm  
Your voice I will follow  
In weakness I rise  
Remembering You hold my world*

*I will remember Your promise forever  
My Strength, my Defender  
I can count on You  
You are my Savior, My Hope and my  
Shelter  
Your love is forever  
I can count on You*

Chorus:

*I'm holding on to hope  
I'm holding on to grace  
I'm fully letting go*





*I'm surrendered to Your ways  
The anchor for my soul  
Father You will never change  
I love You, I love You*

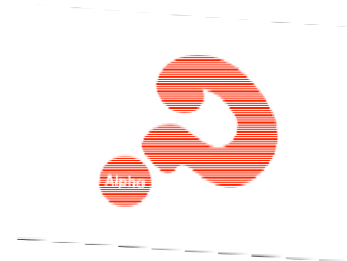
©Bethel Music from the album You Make Me Brave

Submitted by Kate Humphrey

## PRAYER MEETINGS

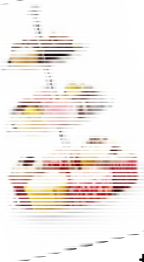
Wednesday 7pm, Wardlaw Church during the Winter months

**No meeting Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> or 30<sup>th</sup> Dec**



Please remember Lilian, Margaret, Lucy, Karen, Norman, Catherine-Anne and Alison in prayer

## LIFE GROUPS



Life groups meet in someone's house, have coffee and fellowship and are places where we encourage and support each other to grow as followers of Jesus. We are looking to start life groups in the New Year.

One group will be focusing on different kinds of prayer with a view to the possibility of joining the training for prayer ministry team at Clan Highlands & Islands, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2016. See Kate or Jonathan for details

## ALPHA COURSE

Alpha is for anyone who's curious. The talks are designed to encourage conversation and explore the basics of the Christian faith in a friendly, open and informal environment.

We meet Thursdays 9-11.30 am in Wardlaw Church.

**Remaining weekly sessions – Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>  
December 2015**

Holy Spirit Away Day 2 - Thursday Jan 14<sup>th</sup> 930am-4pm  
Wardlaw Church



## COFFEE AND CAKE

Every Tuesday 10am-12noon Wardlaw Church, Kirkhill

**No coffee mornings 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29th December, and 5th January.**

## OTHER CHRISTMAS "ACTIVITIES" in CHURCH

*Sunday 29th November marks the start of the first Sunday of Advent. As has been customary in years gone by on each of the 4 Advent Sundays, folk will be invited to come forward at the start of the service to light one of the Advent candles. In addition, others will read a brief passage of scripture and lead the congregation in a short prayer. The culmination of the lighting of the 4 candles will be held on Christmas Eve when the fourth and final candle will be lit, representing the "coming" of Christmas.*

## KIRKHILL (TUESDAY) COFFEE MORNINGS

Over the past 3 years the ladies have seen the coffee mornings grow from humble beginnings of 8 people in the Guild room, to now 40 + in the church sanctuary. Lovely crockery has been donated, round tables have been purchased and fetching tablecloths bought to compliment and enhance the ambience of the room. Baking!!! .... no words can describe the hands that produce, weekly, inspiring spreads to fill the many cake stands!

To date (2/11/15) monies raised through voluntary weekly donations have amounted to some **£8,560**. This accumulated and accumulating fund has been to date used to purchase :

*Planter pots and compost*

*Seat outside front door*

*Defibrillator and installation of same at Community Centre*

*Donation towards the ongoing work in school of Open the Book*

*Microphones in Church (inclusive of "drop down" ones)*

*Painting Church door*

*Centenary Candles*

*Church Bibles*

*Sunday School Prize Giving*

*Kirkhill Guild Celebration Birthday Cake*

*Window Cleaner (one off)*

*Hosting ..... MacMillan Coffee Morning x2, + Nepal Disaster Fund Coffee Morning raising £1,000 approx.*

The vision for the future of the coffee mornings is to: enjoy continued support from familiar faces, and to welcome new faces (all ages) and to encourage fellowship over a cuppa, with good chat AND a hot pancake.

What more could we wish for now that Winter is here!

FOOTNOTE ..... PLEASE NOTE, there will be no coffee mornings on the dates 22nd and 29th December, and on 5th January. Coffee mornings will resume after the Christmas (well earned) break on Tuesday 12th January 2016 when the Team will warmly welcome you back.

Reflections from Anne Lyle, Maris Elkin and Mary Bell

## PIANO CONCERT

Friday 4th December (see calendar of events above).... Our organist Tonya Clement will hold a concert in Kirkhill Church, at 7.00 pm. Tonya has planned and prepared an exciting evening with music performed by herself and other professional musicians. This purports to be a magical evening, do try to come along and support both Tonya, her friends and also the beneficiary of the proceeds of the event, the Christian Aid Project " Mothers in Malawi". Tickets are priced at a very modest £5.00 and can be purchased from Tonya herself or through any church officer. Following the recital there will be time for fellowship and reflection whilst enjoying a cuppa and home baking.

## THE GUILD



Congratulations to Kirkhill on attaining 120 years affiliation to Church of Scotland Guild.



Wednesday 9th December at 2pm.... Mary Robb (retired organist Kirkhill), along with her SWRI Choir will entertain the Guild to a programme of music, laughter and fun. This should put the audience “in the mood” for the Festive Season. Guild members, and friends, will have opportunity to exercise their vocal chords too, with a few seasonal songs.

Wednesday 13th January .... John Hamilton will show a DVD highlighting “A Brief History of the Lovat Frasers” back to 1066 and the weapons used during the Jacobite period.

Wednesday 10th February ... Adrienne Dempster from Blythswood Care will take her audience behind the scenes of operations at the Highland Food Bank. Both Kiltarlity and Kirkhill Churches have had a long association with both Blythswood Care and Highland Foodbank.

Guild meetings are open to both ladies and gentlemen from both the Kirkhill and Kiltarlity Communities and any persons interested in any of the above meeting are warmly invited to attend. Contact Jeannette MacLellan 831160 .

## HIGHLAND FOOD BANK .... TESCO COLLECTION

Highland Foodbank (Lorna Dempster) writes:

“Dear Foodbank Supporters,

We have our annual winter Foodbank Collection at Inshes Tesco in Inverness on THURSDAY 3rd, FRIDAY 4th and SATURDAY 5th December. We are looking for volunteers from your church(es) who might be able to spare an hour or two on either the Friday or Saturday between 12 noon and 5.00 pm. This involves handing out our shopping lists to customers entering the store, and thanking them for donations which they can then place in a specific trolley on their way out of the store.”

Do we have ANY persons from either congregation who would be willing to assist? If so, please initially contact Mrs Margaret Birkbeck, at [margaretbirkbeck@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:margaretbirkbeck@yahoo.co.uk) or direct to [lorna.dempster@blythswood.org](mailto:lorna.dempster@blythswood.org)

## T.C.C. - TOMNACROSS CHURCH CLUB

T.C.C. was inaugurated, with the blessing of the then Kirk Session, in October 1996. The group was borne out of a perceived need for “something” to be a follow-up to Sunday School. In those days there were some 30 youngsters attending Sunday School regularly, but despite this there was nothing to encourage further interest in Sunday worship routine after the age of approximately 10 years. It was



noted that by the time the children reached primary 7 (at around age 10) other activities and interests were occupying their time and interest on a Sunday morning. Invitations were issued to all the children who would reach that school class / age at the beginning of session 1996/97. Invitations were to a social event, this delightfully attended by 6/7 young persons and it was these same 6/7 youngsters who became the founder members of T.C.C.

The name Tomnacross Church Club (T.C.C.) was “dreamed up” and selected unanimously by the group, this immediately conferring “ownership” on the individuals themselves.


The group met, informally, as an extension of the Sunday School, in the church vestry, until October of the same year. By then the “club” had become established and formal application by letter was made to the Kirk Session who conferred permission and blessing on the emergent “club”

Meetings, thus titled to create a progression to a more mature level from “school”, were held during the time of morning worship and to coincide with the Sunday School, and were, weekly, preceded by attendance at the beginning of weekly worship.

To confer further ownership on the members “aims and objectives” were agreed, these being 3 fold..... a) to have fun and enjoy fellowship together as one, b) to study the Bible and learn more of Jesus and the way of life He represented, c) to assist and support Sunday School as required and requested. A secretary and a treasurer were appointed from the members and their duties outlined. Secretary was to liaise between leader and the group members to raise awareness of issues which might arise, positive and negative and the treasurer was to collate and record monies / offerings uplifted weekly. Annually, (sometimes 2xannually) the money collected was donated to local charities.

Members of T.C.C. were encouraged to read and discuss The Parables, The 10 Commandments (request from members themselves), The Lord’s Prayer, the Beatitudes, Books of the Bible etc etc etc. Speakers were invited, the most memorable of these being Rev Kenneth Macdonald from Killtearn who spoke emotionally and eloquently of the search for his missing daughter Alison. Rev MacDonald had brought with him, for members perusal, a copy of his book “Alison” this detailing his continuing search for her. On at least one Sunday per term members were encouraged to select a favourite hymn, to choose from that hymn a single verse and to discuss its meaning for them. This became quite a favourite study.

Many outings were enjoyed by T.C.C., these ranging from sponsored walks,



barbecues, “mile of pennies”, and the ever favourite trips annually to Teen Ranch near Dundee (every summer) and to Abernethy Christian Outdoor Centre at Nethy Bridge for a ski weekend every winter. Finance for each of these weekends away was raised 50% by the Kirk Session and 50% by the families concerned. Never did any individual fail to attend these “special” weekends away. Nor did any member fail to enjoy outings to Fairburn Outdoor Centre at Marybank, where together with members of the Kirk Session (!) great fun was had by all up and among the trees!! Sponsored walks ranged from local walks to Loch Neattie and to Achilty Forest, Loch an Eilean near Aviemore and to Speyside, all accompanied by Kirk Session members and, regularly, parents of the members themselves. Often on such walks young voices could be heard singing praises from the hill tops! The teenagers enjoyed meeting with their peers from Kirkhill, from Beaully and from Drumnadrochit, periodically challenging their fellow members from other congregations to quiz evenings, to fun / fancy dress occasions and even to nights challenging the Kirk Session on Matters of Opinion!

Initially, when in church, T.C.C. sat upstairs in the gallery .... till the congregation asked for their presence in the body of the Kirk, so that they could enjoy their company. Numbers by this time had grown considerably, siblings of the founder members having clamoured to be a “part” of the group, other unchurched youngsters hearing about the activities and success of T.C.C. also requesting to come along. At the peak of its numerical success 15 young people were enrolled, though by that time some of the older members were preparing to leave school and move on!

It was considered that success of T.C.C. was entirely dependent on commitment, enthusiasm, and dedication of both leaders and members, this all supplemented by support from Kirk Session and congregation.

Group members, supported by the Kirk Session, were encouraged to become involved in church worship too, and 3 times annually themselves planned, prepared and conducted Family Services. On one very memorable and extremely wintry Christmas Family Service date the young people excelled themselves by (some of them) walking through the snow some 2 miles to be present and conduct the service concerned.

It is hoped that the young members of that initial T.C.C. group will remember and reflect with pleasure on their experiences of T.C.C.

Perhaps this “note” written by Laura Evans (then Laura MacRitchie, granddaughter of Calum) sums up her own and hopefully others lasting reflections of wonderful Sundays and other days too, together .....

*TCC was a youth group that was started by Ellenor when I was at Charleston. As I went to Sunday School here it was a natural progression to be part of TCC. I still remember the meeting held in the Sunday School room for us teens to decide the name for the group. For some reason it did take quite a bit of discussion to decide on the name! However, the TCC group played a role in growing my Christian faith and was a time for fellowship for the youth of the church. It was great to come together in this way. I think it is really good when churches have groups to encourage and help teenagers build their faith.*

Submitted by Laura Evans

Though T.C.C.in its original format no longer exists, it is delightful to know of the planned introduction and development of “Young Life”, that through that wonderful medium and group work/interaction with our young people they may indeed be brought to an awareness, understanding and faith in Our Lord.

It is surely the case that by reflecting and looking back on experiences, often from the distant past, we CAN move forward. The theme on which the recent Cafe Church was based reinforces that.

Submitted by Ellenor Thomas

## CAFE CHURCH (2)

Churches is OUT (for a second time!)

Once again the Kiltarlity Village Hall was booked for the morning, once again it was all “hands on deck” to transform the hall into a “cafe”, all tables used, all tables “set” with cups, saucers, plates, napkins AND delightful floral displays .... all to tempt members of 3 congregations and villagers alike to partake of opportunity for fellowship both between each other and with The Lord.

Approximately 100 worshippers attended, encompassing all ages from babes in arms to the elderly. Such a wonderful atmosphere prevailed throughout the service, so delightful to share worship with fellow Christians, such delight to renew and for

some create new relationships, together.

Jonathan, from Church of Scotland and Joe from Free Church once more joined in Faith to encourage and lead worship based on a scripture reading from Deuteronomy Chapter 6, verses 1-9

The congregation was encouraged to reflect on the need to encourage “all age” worship and devotion, emphasis perhaps being on encouragement directed towards our “teens”, but at all times aware that it is through continued involvement with more “mature” churchgoers that meaningful learning will be effected.

Jesus himself went out and about meeting people of all ages in their homes and in their places of leisure. It is incumbent on our present Christians to follow His example and go out to find and meet with non-Christians and young persons wherever they may be.

Thus Cafe Church locally makes a memorable start to encouraging such meeting and worship outwith the conventional church building for, in the words of the well known childrens’ hymn “The Church is wherever God’s people are praising”.

2 short videos depicting “work” carried out by the YOUNG LIFE group nationally was shown early in the service. Throughout the videos young people presently participating in Young Life group events and occasions were interviewed. Each and every young person so presented did so enthusiastically and joyfully.

A committee has recently been set up locally in our own parishes, these encompassing Kiltarlity, Kirkhill and Beaully, to introduce “Young Life” to OUR Teens. It is without doubt that, through the medium of “The Anchor” all readers will be kept informed of progress of the formation of the group and its activities.

Cafe Church service, at tables, included the making available to everyone “menus” as one would expect “in a cafe”, but menus with a real difference, for these menus incorporated courses which gave food for thought, for example ... the “sweet” course asked the question “What would YOU want people to know about God”? Everyone will have responded in their own way, but, following the overall theme being YL (Young Life) surely all young people should learn about God as a caring God, a selfless God, a God who watches over and for all.

Submitted by Ellenor Thomas

KILTARLITY CHURCH OF SCOTLAND FLOWER  
CALENDAR 2016

A massive thank you to all the ladies who generously provided and arranged flowers in Kiltarlity Church throughout 2016. Your help is much appreciated.





The Flower Calendar for 2016 is now available on our Church Hall notice board. If you are able to take a turn in providing and/or arranging flowers, please enter your name and telephone number on the 2016 Flower Calendar against the date (s) of your choice.

New volunteers are most welcome.

Contacts : - Marie Harvey Tel. 741328 email :-  
marie.harvey6@btinternet.com or Barbara Wilton Tel. 741352.

#### **KIRKHILL FLOWERS**

Anne Lyle writes:

*You have all once again made my task of arranging the flowers in church so much easier with all your kind donations. Thank you so much.*

*The new flower calendar for 2016 will be at the front of the church around Christmas. I do hope you will be able to support it again. If we get enough donations towards the flowers it would be nice to give them out after the service to the ill, new babies etc in the area.*

*Thank you  
Anne*



FUN PAGE (for young, old and all interests alike)  
(for all cooks) .... CLOOTIE DUMPLING !! from  
Frances

4 cups SR Flour  
1 cup sugar  
2 teaspoons cinnamon  
2 teaspoons mixed spice  
5 ozs butter (melted)  
2 dessert spoons syrup  
1 ½ dessert spoons treacle  
3 eggs  
Approx ½ pint milk  
4 cups mixed fruit



Mix all dry ingredients together well, add butter, syrup, treacle, eggs, add milk gradually until mixture is fairly firm. Wet a muslin cloth, wring out, flour well, pour in mixture and tie firmly (allow space to expand). Place on a plate in a large pot of boiling water and boil for 3 1/2 hours. Peel off cloth, shake sugar on top and dry in warm oven.

## CONTACTS

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## MAGAZINE

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## WEBSITE

<http://www.kiltarlityandkirkhill.org.uk>

Unscramble the letters to find the words in our

# Christmas Anagram



bennorw \_\_\_\_\_

ghiinns arst \_\_\_\_\_

deehprss \_\_\_\_\_

aceefiknnrs \_\_\_\_\_

aiinttv \_\_\_\_\_

aegl \_\_\_\_\_

abelst \_\_\_\_\_

aegmnr \_\_\_\_\_

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ejssu \_\_\_\_\_

Answers on notice boards after Christmas.