

THE ANCHOR

The magazine of Kiltarlity and Kirkhill Churches



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

Sept 2016



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Hi Everyone!

*A very warm welcome to our autumn edition
of the "Anchor"*



We have been blessed with some really warm and sunny late summer weather these last weeks, so I feel a bit reluctant to proclaim that autumn has arrived! On the other hand it does seem a long time since early July when Kate and I were in Italy

with our older son. Compared with holidaying in the UK, going abroad for your holidays usually means focusing a bit more on signs, especially if you are driving. But even when signs are in a language we can



understand they can sometimes be unintentionally humorous (see photo above), or confusing if a mistake has been made (as in this one on the right).

Occasionally what is written on the sign can be clear enough but the meaning is not clear as in the photo of the road signs on the next page.



Over the next few months our churches have been asked by Inverness Presbytery to put together our five year action plan. We are busy getting started on this task and plan to hold congregational meetings in Kirkhill 2.15pm-4.30pm Sunday 9th



October, and at the Kiltarlity village hall from 11.30am on Sunday 30th October.

These meetings are an opportunity for our congregations to get together and contribute to the plans. The lessons from these

road signs is that we need to be as clear as we can be about setting our objectives. We don't want to be vague and ambiguous and we want to reflect as best we can what God is saying to us at this time. One of the scriptures I have been reflecting on a lot recently is Proverbs 29: 18. In the Authorised version (aka the King James Version) of the bible, this passage reads: "*Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he*". The word "perish" here in today's terms would mean something like - "losing it." Or "to lose the plot!" In the English Standard Version of the Bible, the word "vision" is rendered - "*Prophetic Vision (or revelation)*." I think this is more than just semantics and believe God is saying something important to us here.....

Our plans must be guided by His vision - the specific things that He says we should be doing in these next years. We could try

to do things on our own, but I'm sure it wouldn't be long until we "lose the plot"! So we need to connect with God's plans for our communities and parishes.

I would encourage you to pray, and if you are able, join with others in prayer on Monday nights in Kirkhill Church at 7.30pm. This prayer time is for both churches, and it would be great to see both represented. Also come to the congregational meetings and share what God has placed on your heart for our churches, not just for the next 5 years, but for the next 10, or 20. This is about more than just maintaining what we do now. It's asking how best the church engages with our communities, so that we are thriving in 20 years time. As we are challenged by Psalm 78: 4, let's all be part of:

*"telling the next generation
the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord"*

Jonathan

Garden party

August the 5th dawned dull and cold. However, as always, many peoples' prayers were answered and by 2pm the weather had greatly improved and the 70 or so folks who attended the garden party were able to enjoy afternoon tea outside in the garden, and enjoy God's wonderful handiwork. Inside, in the lounge John Angus held an "exclusive" tea party with some honoured guests!

As always, friends came up trumps and there was a superb array of home baking to rival any "bake off" on BBC 1.



There was a vast age range of attendees too, from tiny babes in arms, (including Shona's twin nephews)... to "glamour" grannies. It was a real joy to see so many people relaxing and enjoying each other's company. Iain and I had worked hard to spruce up the garden, but it was all worth it to see people enjoying themselves and we really appreciated that so many had made the effort to attend.

The sum of £785 was collected to go towards a Youth Worker. Then a VERY generous benefactor gave a cheque for £1000!

I would like to thank all those who baked delicious food, and also thank the cheery ladies who spent hours in the kitchen washing dishes and serving food.

A special thanks must go to Mary, Maris, Frances and Eileen and to MANY others, without you we could not have managed.

It is such a joy and blessing to spend time chatting to each other in an informal way, friendship is indeed a blessing.

Avril Marr

Kirkhill - Kirk coffee morning

Our Kirk Coffee Morning continues to welcome folks from our community and beyond, which is really encouraging.

On 15th May we made a donation of £200 to the Kirk, for the Young Life Project.

To Cafe Church Sunday we donated the tea, coffee and biscuits.

On 24th May we gave a donation of £100 to Kirkhill Primary School, to help improve the Nursery garden, thus encouraging outdoor learning for the pre school bairns.

On 7th June we had a most enjoyable 4th birthday afternoon tea at Kincaig Castle Hotel, 39 folks joining together there, in Fellowship.

On 21st August our water heater in the Kirk kitchen got very tired and needed replacing. Ruairaidh kindly sourced the replacement; this costing £360 but Ruairaidh very kindly fitted it free of charge.

All the above would not be possible without YOUR generous donations Tuesday by Tuesday and for this we are very grateful.

On 30th August we had a visitor from South Africa join us for coffee. When leaving she said she was most heartened by the welcome and fellowship she had encountered in our Kirk.

We would like to thank members of the congregation who weekly, on a Sunday, clear the chairs back in readiness for the Tuesday coffee mornings. Thanks also go to Iain Mortimer and to John Hamilton who replace the same chairs for the following Sunday services AND Hoover up any crumbs!!

Macmillan coffee morning

From the Tuesday 27th September morning, all donations will have gone to Macmillan Cancer Care.

As well as our coffee and teas etc Ann and Mary hosted a sales table with lots of goodies for sale and thanks must go to all who came along and supported this worthy cause.



Thank you all for your continued support.

Maris, Winnie, Margaret and Mary.

Church flowers Kirkhill

Mary Donaldson writes, "Jonathan has asked me to take over the Church Flowers and I have agreed to give it a go! (*and much appreciated! ed.*) I will however need help, especially for the,

Christmas and Easter services. I am therefore seeking volunteers. Would anyone willing to help please get in touch with me either at the church, or by telephone. My number is 01463 831528. Donations of money should be given to myself.

Thank you, Mary Donaldson.

Church flowers Kiltarlity

Kiltarlity Church Flower Rota, for 3 months October - December 2016

Date	Person	Date	Person
2 nd Oct	Ethna Ferguson	13 th Nov	Jackie Wilton
9 th Oct	Ethna Ferguson	20 th Nov	Jackie Wilton
16 th Oct	Ruth MacKenzie	27 th Nov	Barbara Wilton
23 rd Oct	Ruth Mackenzie	4 th Dec	Ellenor Thomas
30 th Oct	Louise Watson	11 th Dec	Ellenor Thomas
6 th Nov	Louise Watson	18/25 th Dec	Marie Harvey

Enquiries please to Marie Harvey, telephone 01463 741328, email marie.harvey6@btinternet.com

Or to Barbara Wilton, telephone 01463 741352

The Guild

The programme for the new session of the GUILD will shortly be printed and I want to remind everyone that a warm welcome awaits all who would like to come along, both men and women, on the second Wednesday of each month October 2016 through to March 2017. Even if only ONE speaker appeals to you do come along and join us.



The annual fee (for all 6 meetings) and set by the Church of Scotland, is £10, or £2 per meeting.

The Theme for this session 2016 / 17 is "Go in Joy". What IS Joy? Is it pleasure, happiness, feeling glad, contentment, or the Joy of knowing inner peace? Perhaps you may find some or all of these at the Guild.

The first meeting of 2016 - 17 is:

Wednesday 16th October, Rev Ian Manson minister of Beaully Church of Scotland is joining us to give what I am sure will be a most interesting presentation.

We look forward to greeting you then

Jeanette McLellan

A note from our organist Tonya

Tonya will be hosting a recital on Saturday 15th October 2016 at 11.30 am in the St Wulfram's Church, Grantham, Lincolnshire. The programme will incorporate music by Mozart, Beethoven, Debussy and Bach. Should any of our congregation and / or friends have relatives / friends in that area, or visiting Grantham, do please let them know of this concert and encourage them to attend.

Tonya reports also that she is waiting to hear from Leeds University whether or not she has been awarded a place on their postgraduate piano performance programme. She has been



required to submit an essay through which to prove she is able to efficiently communicate and write in English, and she is expecting to hear from the University very soon. Tonya

assures us that she will advise us of whatever news she receives and will keep us updated through the medium of the Anchor magazine. I am sure everyone in both churches wishes Tonya

well both with her forthcoming recital, and her application to University.

Since compiling this note Tonya has written to tell us that her application for a "place" on her chosen course of study has been successful, we wish her much success and happiness through her next 2 years. WELL DONE Tonya!

WANTED new home for Kiltarlity Keyboard. If any member or friend of the congregation is interested in acquiring the keyboard, please, in the first instance and for more information contact Ian Morrison, Treasurer, on 01463 782727. (or speak to one of the elders at any of Sunday service) There will be no charge for this instrument, but a donation to Kiltarlity Church Funds would be much appreciated.

Blythwood Care Highland Foodbank ...Harvest 2016

Harvest is a time of the year when we remember God's goodness to us, and also reflect on our responsibility to express his love to those in our communities and in our world who are in need.

Highland Foodbank thank all who have donated food through collection points within each of our two churches, and are truly grateful for all donations received in response to requests for specific items of need.

Highland Foodbank would draw readers' attention to the continuing need for ongoing provision and support. Through the past year the level of need has remained high, indeed 5603 persons throughout Highland have received help and support in this way.

Highland Foodbank has been able to provide this support and help only because of the continuing generosity of the public. Whatever our church's previous involvement has been Lorna Dempster (project coordinator Inverness and Nairn) has written to the churches requesting that support be given at Harvest this year, this ensuring that a difference IS made in



peoples' lives in the weeks and months ahead.

Foodbank has a "shopping list" of items required for distribution and to ensure that these are received 6 items have

been assigned to each participating church, the lists inclusive of much needed toiletries.

In addition, donations of used or new "bags for life" and tin openers would be very welcome and much appreciated.

A copy of the lists (already on display within each of Kiltarlity and Kirkhill Churches) is added to this request note, please do help!

Harvest Appeal October 2016

Kirkhill	Kiltarlity
Jars of pasta sauce	Tins of corned beef
Long life fruit juice	Tins of fruit
Oatcakes	Packets of biscuits
Tins of tomatoes	Jars of coffee
UHT semi skimmed milk	Tins of rice pudding
Toothpaste	Shampoo

Any enquiries please, initially, to Elizabeth Fraser, Kiltarlity Church, or Margaret Birkbeck, Kirkhill Church

Farewell from Alasdair and Eileen

The beautiful drive along the Beaulieu Firth from Inverness to Kirkhill is remarked upon by all who visit us from the south, but what else will we miss after we leave here shortly?

Seven years has been time to become part of a community - both the village and the church and therefore it will be people we miss most. People who have welcomed us and displayed outstanding hospitality, the like of which is rarely found; people who have encouraged us to get involved - mostly in the Community Centre and the school; people with whom we have worked and prayed in the church, in Holiday Club teams, in Young Life planning meetings and at Third Sunday; and people

we have got to know at a deeper level, sharing their burdens and joys.

The privilege of being able to share God's Word in different ways is awesome, and to know that children love the stories they've heard at Open the Book, Sunday Club and Holiday Clubs is so well worth the work that goes in to planning these events. But we pray that the Word will take root in their lives and grow so that in time they will come to faith in Jesus.

Being able to use the gifts God has given us - in lots of practical ways in the Community Centre, in music, doing Christianity Explored and Alpha, in involvement in various committees and housegroups, in catering and administration - has made our time here challenging and worthwhile.

We won't stop doing that and look to God to give us opportunity to serve Him wherever we go, but we will miss you!

Alasdair and Eileen

It is with sadness that both church families say farewell to Alasdair and Eileen. Each of them has been a stalwart both together and in his / her own right, particularly within the church and parish of Kirkhill, but also within the church of Kiltarlity. Alasdair and Eileen have worked tirelessly, with devotion and dedication throughout the 7 years they have been resident in Kirkhill, working within and for the churches, with and for the Open the Book project in both Kirkhill and Tomnacross schools, with and for the Young Life project, Holiday Clubs, Alpha meetings, 3rd Sunday Praise (to name but a

few) and at all times through Faith encouraging others, many of those unchurched, to join our church families. Congregations of both churches thank Alasdair and Eileen and wish them well in their new surroundings and in their new chosen church near Aberdeen.

Farewell to you both, from us all.

Editors

A quiz for the family

Theme : "O worship the Lord in the Beauty of Holiness"

Try to fill in the blanks (*answers provided on request!, but clue number of dots signifies number of letters in missing words!*)

THIS .. THAT

STAN'S PARTNER ...

LOUD NOISE ...

MUIR of ...

PLANT

PART OF THE HUMAN BODY ...

FLYING COMPANY (initials) ...

SPIT OF LAND

A SEA GOING VESSEL

WITH A RULER DRAW A STRAIGHT

Word, Works and Wonders

Eileen and I have been getting ready to move house to live nearer some of our family in the Aberdeen area. We have been going through our effects with a view to disposing of unwanted items and packing those that we will take with us. In the process I came across an article I had written years ago, but forgotten about, concerning the Kingdom of God, and it might be of particular interest to some readers of the Anchor just now, since we have been receiving teaching about aspects of the Kingdom of God at our Sunday services recently.

I wrote the article in 2002 following a discussion held by the Elders of the church in Troon where Eileen and I were members. It is my summary of the discussion which signalled a change in thinking for some who had been taught previously not to consider God's Kingdom a present reality. This was significant because it had an effect on the expectations and activities of the church. I offer it to you in the hope that it may be of help to any who are going through a similar change in their thinking.

The Kingdom of God - Elders' Discussion, Seagate Church Troon, June 2002

We affirmed our understanding of the present reality of the Kingdom of God - this in spite of what many of us had been taught to believe in the past.

We recognised that the Kingdom exists now, although only partially evident.

We anticipate that the Kingdom will be fully evident in the future following the return of Christ.

We could see evidence of God's Kingdom from the beginning of Creation and continuing throughout Old Testament history.

We understood the concept of God's Kingdom in two senses: -

- the exercise of God's authority, especially in human affairs, and
- the realm to which those who accept God's sovereignty belong.

The church is within the Kingdom and is its main vehicle.

Jesus taught about the Kingdom and His teaching is relevant to the church today.

Jesus demonstrated the Kingdom in action, as did the early church.

Kingdom activities were recognised to include: -

- preaching/teaching/witnessing (Word)
- caring for the needs of others and all activities of benefit to the community at large (Works), and
- the miraculous interventions of God (Wonders).

As a church we felt that we had understood our responsibility to the preaching of the Word, and that we conscientiously sought to fulfil that task.

In the past we had not set a priority on 'Works' and for a number of reasons had been wary of such activity being part of

church activity (e.g. faith not works, social gospel, need for 'evangelism' to make activity valid). We now understand that 'Works' bring glory to God and help to promote the qualities of the Kingdom in today's world.

We recognised that the miraculous interventions of God, 'Wonders', are seen in the use of the gifts of His Spirit and in other supernatural events. We now understood that this aspect of Kingdom activity is still relevant today, but there are a variety of personal expectations and involvement, which are influenced by our personal experiences and appreciation of what God is doing in different individuals. We emphasised the need to have full respect for one another in this matter.

Alasdair Morrison

Kiltarlity Church Sunday Club

It is with great excitement and delight that many more volunteer leaders have come forward to dedicate their time and talents to assisting, on a rota basis, the weekly running and teaching of the children attending Sunday Club.

Here are the key dates for the term September - December 2016.

25th September Harvest Thanksgiving Service, an all-age service held jointly with Kirkhill, but in **Kiltarlity Church at 11.00 am**. Sunday Club will present a short sketch during the service. Staff of Sunday Club have changed the format for the presentation of offerings and are asking all children to bring a donation for the food bank instead of fresh produce. (by the

time this edition of The Anchor is published this service will have taken place, editors do hope it bore much fruit!)

9th – 23rd October (inclusive) – half term. No Sunday Club, but there will be entertainment bags available for children who attend services. Parents / friends are asked to contact any member of the Sunday Club Team (see below) for details

20th November the excitement builds as **rehearsals** start for the annual Christmas Nativity Play

18th December all age worship service with presentation by the Sunday Club children of their Nativity Play.

25th December – 8th January (inclusive) Christmas Holidays

The Sunday Club Team really look forward to welcoming YOUR children to Sunday Club.

Sunday Club Team : Linda MacKenzie, Maggie Third, Gena MacLean, Margo MacLennan, Ellenor Thomas, Anneliese Garvie

Open the Book

Open the Book, the presentation of Bible Stories for young children through story telling and animated drama will recommence at Tomnacross School (Kiltarlity) on Monday 31st October, and will run continuously each Monday till Christmas 2016. Arrangements have been made with the school for this term's input, school staff assuring team members of the warm

welcome they have received and enjoyed through the past 5 school sessions.

If anyone from the Church Family would like to join the Team, please speak initially, and for further details re rota / Monday timings etc to Ellenor, your commitment will be very much appreciated.

Norman and Carol Grant

It was with the greatest of pleasure and delight that congregation learned, on 28th August, of the celebration on that very Sunday of Norman and Carol's DIAMOND WEDDING anniversary, what a wonderful achievement and well worthy of the sincere congratulations they received from all present at the service in form of intimation, cards, fellowship and opportunity over a cuppa to chat with Norman. We wish Norman

and Carol many more years of happiness together.

Congratulations also went on that same date, and via Norman, to Carol. She celebrated her 80th Birthday too. Well done Carol, a retrospective (through the medium of The Anchor) congratulations to you, and very many happy returns.



Young Life project

After many months and much hard work it is truly delightful to intimate that a YOUNG LIFE PROJECT worker has now been appointed to work with the teenagers of our parishes. Richard Dahl is from Oregon USA, he comes to our parishes with a wealth of experience of the task he is about to undertake. He and his wife and young family will commence their work in approximately 6 months in the spring of 2017. It is hoped that the work of the Young Life committee will continue and as a committee monthly meetings be held as before, for the duty of the committee now transfers from "finding" a suitable candidate, to supporting him in his new environment and role. DO please continue to remember Richard, his wife and family and their work, in prayer.



Final word

Editors of The Anchor thank all who have contributed to this issue. It is great to receive such enthusiastic and worthwhile articles, do keep them coming. (next issue will be for Christmas!)

(Editors are Frances Grant, Kirkhill; Ellenor Thomas and Sheila Moir, Kiltarlity.)

Also, the editors would draw your attention to the Churches' web site, where each issue of The Anchor is published. Please check our website (www.kiltarlityandkirkhill.org.uk) and Facebook



page (www.facebook.com/kiltarlitykirkhillchurches/) if you are able, for regular updates on activities past and future in both parishes.

Most notices will also appear on the notice boards in both churches, please read and update yourselves regularly.