

THE ANCHOR

The magazine of Kiltarlity and Kirkhill
Churches

Easter 2017



Living in the love of Jesus in the rural Highlands

www.kiltarlityandkirkhill.org.uk

Hello again

And welcome to our Easter edition of the "Anchor"

I hope you enjoy reading through the articles in this issue, and I would like to thank our editors for all their hard work in collating, typing, and preparation. We have a bumper issue this time!

In the last week of March I entered my third year of ministry here at Kirkhill and Kiltarlity. Yes, really! It seems hard to believe that Kate and I have been here for over two years. It got me thinking about the time I was considering applying for the charge at K&K and read the following scripture on the Parish Profile from Paul's letter to the church in Ephesus.

For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. Ephesians 2: 10

This passage starts with the word "For" which means basically "because of what came before". And what came before in the first two chapters of Ephesians is the core of the Easter Message - our redemption by the blood of Christ shed on the cross; the forgiveness of sins (Eph 1: 7); God's great love for us demonstrated by making us "alive together with Christ" saving us by grace and raising us up with Christ (Eph 2: 5). Faith in this wonderful grace gift of God is what saves us, not the result of our works. We are saved **FOR** doing good works, not **By** doing good works. Also we are not just saved from the failings of our past, there is a hope that we are called to - to walk out the

glorious inheritance given to us in Jesus, drawing on His power to realise this inheritance (Ephesians 2: 18) namely the expansion of the Kingdom of God in our area, and the involvement of future generations in this work. As the Psalmist declares....

Our children will also serve him. Future generations will hear about the wonders of the Lord. His righteous acts will be told to those not yet born. They will hear about everything he has done. Psalm 22: 29-31

Over these past 6 months K&K have been working with Rev Bruce Ritchie and the Presbytery's Congregational Review Committee to complete our Local Church Review (LCR) and our specific plans and goals for the next 5 years. These plans are in the process of being approved by Presbytery and can now be downloaded from our website (paper copies will be made available soon). My hope and prayer is that this work will form the basis of the growth and renewal that our churches need in order to embark on the next stage of our life and witness.

In the coming months, as part of a teaching series entitled "Growing the Church, I will be extending an invitation for us all to consider how we might get involved in bringing our 5 year plans to fruition so that... *"we can do the good things he planned for us long ago"* and generations now and to come *"will hear about everything that He has done"*.

Wishing everyone every blessing for Easter 2017

Jonathan



Kiltarlity fun evening

On Thursday 23rd March, 21 of us met for a fun evening of creativity. There was lots of chat and mingling and laughter as we all had a go at painting some pottery led by Fiona Warren, of the Potter's house. Towards the end of all that fun I asked everyone to answer some questions so that we could best meet folks hopes and desires. These are the results below.

Question 1 I would like to meet...

- A once a year -0
- B once a term- 14
- C once a month- 7

Question 2 I would like to see included in these evenings... (you can circle one, two or all options!)

- A sewing together eg to make church banner &/or help repair items donated to Highlands Support Refugees- 15
- B a wellness choir- 11
- C talks with some application to our church family- 10

There were lots of offers to help which tells us folk would like to meet up and do things relating to our life as followers of Jesus, being family together, and inviting others to join us. Thanks to everyone who helped. Look out for an evening perhaps at end of May early June and we can blether whilst we repair items donated to HSR.

Look out your sewing tools!

Kate x



Reflection on the well
known and loved
Psalm 23



(Author unknown)
from Frances Grant

The Lord is my shepherdthat's relationships!
I shall not be in wantthat's supply!
He makes me lie down in green pasturesthat's rest!
He leads me beside quiet waters that's refreshment!
He restores my soulthat's healing!
He guides me in the paths of righteousnessthat's guidance
For His name's sakethat's purpose!
Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death
..... that's testing!
I will fear no evilthat's protection!
For you are with me that's faithfulness!
Your rod and staff, they comfort me that's discipline!
You prepare a table for me in the presence of my enemies
..... that's hope !
You anoint my head with oil that's consecration !
My cup overflows that's abundance !
Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life
..... that's blessing !
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord that's security!
Foreverthat's eternity.



The Guild

As a vital part of the Church of Scotland, the Guild welcomes both men and women of all ages from our local churches and wider community to any or all of our meetings.

Both members and visitors enjoy the fellowship of the meeting as well as the variety of speakers. A varied programme of topics,..... local , national and international provide stimulating and active participation.

The "YEAR of JOY" ! the theme for 2016/17 covered speakers on Ekwandeni, the Malawi Project, Prospects (our chosen Project), a Christmas Carol afternoon, our Joy afternoon with Jonathan and theme activities, the Ceilidh Quilt (truly amazing) and the AGM to round off the year.

We are a friendly group with lively minds taking advantage of the Fellowship that the Guild offers, and when suitable we invite other local community groups (K and E Guild), Kirkhill W.I.) to join us.

The Christian spirit which is its foundation enables us to support each other in good and difficult times, as well as giving aid to Guild projects and to the organisations which give their time in addressing us.

Membership has risen over the past four years from 8 to 15, so that is encouraging.

From Jeanette McLellan

Rev. Dr Willis A. Jones

28th May 1938

17th December 2016



The news of Willis' passing was a great surprise to many as we thought he was indestructible and would go on forever. Rev Dr Willis A Jones was a Minister of Distinction and loved by many. There are times when heart and mind stand still; when something happens to shake us out of our complacency such a time was when we learned of Willis' death. Most of us, in the parishes of Kiltarlity and Kirkhill, shared a great sense of loss and affection upon hearing the news.

Willis was born in Burning Mattress, Arkansas, U.S.A it is a village located near Hot Springs, for wherever there are hot springs there will always be a burning mattress! He was ordained within the Presbyterian Church in the United States. Having always been interested in our "mother church" in Scotland, he came to Iona to work with Dr George MacLeod. He fell in love with Scotland and became Assistant Minister at St Mungo's Parish Church, Alloa, and when that term was over he moved across the street to the West Church. He also served as Minister of Erskine Church, Dunfermline. Pat and Willis returned to the States where he became a minister in the Reformed Church in America (Dutch Presbyterians). He served a beautiful Revolutionary War Church called the Rhinebeck Reformed Church in New York; Third Reformed Church, Holland, Michigan (a university church); First Reformed Church, Hastings -on- Hudson; Wyckoff Reformed Church, New Jersey.

In 1992 he was invited to become minister of Currie Kirk, Edinburgh where he served for 8 years. Pat and he were then asked to go out to Oman in the Middle East where he was the senior Minister (Presbyterian Bishop) of the Protestant Church in Oman. After that contract expired Pat and Willis returned to work in the Crown Church, Inverness where they spent 5 glorious years. Willis and Pat also had the privilege of serving the Church of Scotland in Budapest while they were seeking a Minister (St Columba's).

Willis was married to Pat (for 54 years). Pat also went to theological college and became, what they called in the States, a Director of Christian Education as they did not ordain women into the Ministry at that time. Pat's major interest was drama (and still is), writing, teaching and speaking. Pat has become a "mistress of the manse" for a long time and always puts out the welcome mat for all. To her the manse is a "house of hospitality". They have four daughters: Kirsty, a Minister in the Reformed Church in America; Heidi, studying to become a Church of Scotland Minister, presently under the guidance of Rev. Peter Donald; Amy who works with autistic children and Wendy, an aerobics instructor.

Willis and Pat came among us at Kiltarlity and Kirkhill as a Locum Minister in February 2008 and ministered to us until August 2010. A Locum was paid for 3 days work - one day for Sunday service, and one day in each parish for pastoral duties. Willis worked 7 days a week in both parishes and communities from day 1. Willis served his Church and his God with devotion. He served all his parishioners and community with fervour, with dedication and with humour. His language was powerful, his ideas big and his horizons large. It has been said that words are the most powerful drug used by mankind. Willis's command of the

English language was quite extraordinary; a gift which when used as a preacher produced a kind of personal magnetism between the congregation and him - a unique and rare gift indeed. Week after week his worship services were faithful to the Scripture, relevant to the life and experience of the worshippers, simultaneously traditional and lively. Sermons were easily understood while at the same time instructive, provocative and challenging with frequent use of humour to emphasise essential points. Who ever can forget his summertime sermons based on those wonderfully eccentric characters such as Uncle Soy Swilly and Aunt Marigold; that man for all seasons D E White, MD; Mamma Ward and Jimmy Harper the Games Master? Did they ever really exist? Well ... does it matter? It has been said that watching Willis climb the steps and into the pulpit was a lot like watching a tightrope walker climb onto the platform as the drum roll begins.

Willis' fellow countryman, the late President Harry Truman, could have been describing Willis when he said "a leader is a man who has the ability to get other people to do what they don't want to do and like it". Another countryman, the late President Ronald Reagan said "to grasp and hold a vision is the very essence of successful leadership". Willis was the very epitome of these statements; he deepened the faith of the congregation with the many events he, and Pat, organised for the congregations, e.g. the Christmas and Easter plays, the Christmas Candlelight service, the Robbie Burns Suppers etc.

It is fair to say that, for Willis when something was not a passion he could be shamelessly cynical about it, but when he had a passion, and this was more often than not, he was formidable in advocating it and obstinate in stopping anything that did not fit with the vision he gave his Church. In the best

sense he was a man for the crowds, an inspirer, a persuader, with an unerring feel for the grand gesture, a man of great passions.

Willis was a best friend, a brother, a champion, a counsellor, a speaker, a person who thought about others first, and someone whom we loved dearly. Although Willis came from a small town in Arkansas and had pastored in small towns, he is not well defined as a small town fellow. I think he went to the places to where he was called because he could touch so many hearts by knowing about so many of the hearts that otherwise would have gone unnoticed. Willis was learned and devoted to people and to what they could do and give and who they were.

Willis by being devoted to each place where he lived and with each person whom he cared for, created thousands and thousands of ripples in ponds and lakes the world over. And the people who toss these pebbles will do it again and again and again. They will ripple the ponds with better loves, more confirmed aspirations for doing good, and communities more like "It's a Wonderful Life" because of his deeds and the people who were inspired and devoted to him.

There can be no finer way to sum up the life of Willis Jones than in words from the New Testament, crafted in the 4th chapter of 2nd Timothy "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith". Willis did not do funeral services, he called them "A Witness to the Resurrection", and so along with several hundreds of other people, with many of the Special K's, attended his Witness to the Resurrection at Crown Church, Inverness on 6th January this year. The torch Willis lit we now carry forward as others will also pass along ours in the sure knowledge that the great gift of life flows ever onward. May the best that was in Willis

be renewed in strength in us and may we give to others the love we can no longer show Willis. For the lives we now lead are his honour and his memorial. For Pat and her family, may they know God's peace and for Willis, may he rest in peace and rise in glory.

From Mary Bell and Avril Marr

Prayer :

I was a wave that crashed hard on the shore
In surging forth I almost broke the boat
We were not born for glory, but to serve
Lord, I am in your power help me grow.

You are the moon and wind; a perfect storm
It's not for calm and safety that I pray
But for your guiding hand my life is yours
Please let me flow towards you, not away.

From Laura Guthrie





*From
Anneliese Garvie*

As a follow-up to the presentation on The Highlands Support Refugees I thought it might be useful to give an update on THSR, especially as there has been so much positive action following the presentations in December. Firstly, thank you to everyone who followed up with donations of time, money, items, it really does go directly to where it is needed. In particular, the donation of the offerings from the Kiltarlity Christmas Eve service and the Kirkhill carols concert were very much appreciated, along with Tonya Clement's kind donation of the money raised from her organ/piano concert in January.

During the presentation I mentioned that a 40ft container of aid was about to be dispatched. It did in fact start its journey on 10th December and then arrived on the Turkish/Syrian border in early January. The aid has then been distributed to those who will take it over the border for distribution to those in need.

Since then there have been two further dispatches. In January 17 pallets (425 boxes equating to around 5,000 Kg) were sent to Yorkshire Aid to be included in their container which was sent to mainland Greece. This was full of warm clothing at a time when the temperatures were well below zero. Then on 14 March, another 125 boxes of warm clothing and blankets was

sent to Northern France for refugees who are living homeless there.

The sorting depot in Dingwall is now closed and a new depot has opened at The Lodge, Sellar Place, Conon Bridge. This is where all the donations are eventually delivered and where they are then sorted and packed for shipment to their destinations.

In the meantime thank you for all your support and if you would like to know more or donate to The Highlands Support Refugees, the best way of finding out what is going on is to go to their

Facebook page at

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/thehighlandssupportrefugees/>

They also have a website at:

<https://thehighlandssupportrefugees.com/>

The Facebook page also contains a number of posts on the refugee situation in Europe and beyond and is a good way of getting information on what is currently happening and other ways of helping.

This is just an extract from the Facebook page with more details for those who don't have access to Facebook. If you have any donations of clothes to make I'm always happy to take them along there when I go so I can pick things up from you at church.

"THSR is entirely run by volunteers - if you would like to get involved, there are many ways you can help:

+ Helping to sort and pack donations at our Conon Bridge depot, The Lodge, Sellar Place, IV7 8BU

+ Donating aid (please see list below - if donations can be bagged and labelled, that is a huge help!) [Also please separate into men/ women/ children as this helps with the sorting tremendously].

+ Fundraising - we always require more funds! Transporting aid across Europe and beyond is costly. (Please go to the website for how to make a monetary donation).

WHAT WE ARE CURRENTLY COLLECTING:

Men's clothes and shoes (small/medium sizes)

Ladies' clothes and shoes (no ball gowns/stilettos, please!)

Children and Babies' clothes and shoes

Underwear for everyone (preferably new, but we do accept good quality second-hand!)

Blankets

Sleeping bags

Tents and camping gear

Toiletries

Sanitary pads

Nappies



(No duvets, bedding, towels or nightwear at the moment, please!)

(We are currently working out the logistics of our next dispatch - this "wanted" list may change, but we shall keep it updated.)



Sir Francis Drake (1540 - 1596)
Motto: Great Things from Small



*Disturb us, Lord, when
We are too well pleased with ourselves,
When our dreams have come true
Because we have dreamed too little,
When we arrived safely
Because we sailed too close to the shore.*

*Disturb us, Lord, when
With the abundance of things we possess
We have lost our thirst
For the waters of life;
Having fallen in love with life,
We have ceased to dream of eternity
And in our efforts to build a new earth,
We have allowed our vision
Of the new Heaven to dim.*

*Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly,
To venture on wider seas
Where storms will show your mastery;
Where losing sight of land,
We shall find the stars.
We ask You to push back
The horizons of our hopes;*

*And to push into the future
In strength, courage, hope, and love.*

The above prayer has been attributed to Sir Francis Drake. Historians can't be sure but believe that the prayer has its origins in this letter to Sir Francis Walsingham - the language is of its time so you'll maybe need to read more than once to understand it!

There must be a begynnyng of any great matter, but the contenewing unto the end untyll it be thoroughly ffynished yeldes the trew glory. Yf Hanybull hda ffollowed his victoryes, it is thowght of many he had never byne take by Sepyo.

From Louise Monaghan

Profile

My journey in faith, I was born at Kilmorack almost 65years ago, youngest of 4 children to William (Willie) and Margaret Grant. I was educated at Teanassie primary and thereafter in Beaully Junior Secondary school. Then I trained in domestic science at Duncraig Castle College, Plockton.

I can remember going to Kilmorack church from the age of 3 years, (in those days all families walked to the Kirk.)

Nan Cameron better known as Nan the Toll, was my Sunday school teacher, Nan was a gentle lady, teaching us youngsters, followed by Rev Tom Lind (we were "the big ones" then). In Duncraig we had assembly every morning, when us students led the bible reading—large words were deliberated over the night before!!. After I qualified I worked in hotels, this making it

difficult to attend Sunday worship, though I tried when possible.

15 years ago I had a health scare requiring major surgery, operation scheduled for Friday 19th May. On the Thursday afternoon I was sitting in the hospital chapel thinking about myself, my life, my family, what was next for me. That was a big turning point in my faith for me ... I became comfortable with who I was, how I receive God's grace, listen to Him.

I came on occasions to Kirkhill Church where I always found a warm welcome. I came the Sunday Jonathan preached as sole nominee, and was impressed. I have continued to come since then, and became a member 18 months ago. This is a very welcoming church where friendships are formed. You'll never walk alone here, all our journeys in faith will be encouraged.

In my quiet moments I like to Scottish country & old time dance, read a good book with a cup of coffee.

Frances Grant

Diary dates from Tonya, our organist

Friday 19th May, 1 pm in Spectrum Centre, Inverness Mozart Piano Concerto in D Minor, orchestral part by Faye Monteith on a second piano, and Debussy

Friday 9th June, 7 pm in Inverness Cathedral with soprano Liz McLardy, fiddler and violinist Graham Mackenzie and more

Saturday 1st July 1 pm in St Magnus Cathedral, Kirkwall lunchtime recital of Debussy

Kiltarlity Flower Rota, April - June 2017

2 nd , 9 th , 16 th	April	Marie Harvey
23 rd , 30 th	April	Ellenor Thomas
7 th , 14 th	May	Margo MacLennan
21 st , 28 th	May	Sheena Ferguson
4 th , 11 th	June	Ethna Ferguson
18 th , 25 th	June	Gena MacLean

Thanks you to all the ladies who have now booked dates for arranging flowers in our church or who intend to purchase flowers for someone to arrange on their behalf. Thank you also to a lovely member of our congregation who this month kindly donated a sum of money towards our Easter flowers.

My gratitude (Marie) and thanks to Barbara and Jackie for covering "my" turn on flowers when I was recovering from my knee operation, and for looking after things in my absence.

Contacts : Marie Harvey, tel : 01463 741328 email
marie.harvey6@btinternet .com

Barbara Wilton, tel : 01463 741352



Thoughts on Cafe Church (Kirkhill)

We were asked to share a few words but we have found there are too many positive points to write them all here !! So here is the "short" version.

Firstly the atmosphere was happy, warm and relaxed, sitting around tables with tea / coffee and biscuits. This enabled conversation to flow naturally. It was great to feel part of a family and fantastic to have the children included in this family.



We sensed the Holy Spirit as Jonathan led the service in prayer and teaching and worship in songs / psalms was beautifully led by Shona and Tonya.

The questions we were asked were thought provoking and this led us to chat at a deeper level with other folks at our table. The structure of cafe church lends itself to enable this type of conversation to happen. It also gives opportunity to encourage and disciple each other.

Cafe Church for us is definitely a great way to worship God, by praying together, singing, learning together, having fellowship and enabling us to become disciples of Jesus.

Looking forward to the next one !

From Derek and Maureen MacDonald

Next Café Church - May 7th at Kirkhill.

Kiltarlity Annual Accounts 2016

The report and accounts were approved by the Kirk Session and Property & Finance Committee on 16th. March, presented to the congregation at our Stated Annual Meeting on 20th. March and are on the website. Offerings have increased to £20700 [28%] which is gratifying. Clearly, many folk have reviewed their givings and now might be a good time for all of us to have a look at the level of our contributions. Payment by weekly or monthly bankers order is an efficient way of paying and is becoming more popular. If you'd like to sign up for this just ask me for our bank details. Total income from our own resources came to £28000 set against expenditure of £32250 so once again we have had to draw on our reserves to the extent of £4000. This was largely accounted for by the cost of our organ refurbishment. There were also some other non-recurring costs but our prayer this year must be to make ends meet without significantly reducing our contingency funds.

Ian D. Morrison-treasurer

Footnote from the Editors :

I am sure you will all want to join with us in congratulating Jonathan and Kate for 2 years of active, meaningful and wonderful work with and for us. THANK YOU both from the bottom of all our hearts.

