

THE ANCHOR

The magazine of Kiltarlity and Kirkhill
Churches

Autumn 2017



Living in the love of Jesus in the rural Highlands

www.kiltarlityandkirkhill.org.uk

SC: 003866; 014918

Hello everyone

Welcome to our autumn edition of the "Anchor"!

I'm just looking out of the window of the cottage we have re-located to whilst work is being done on the manse, and giving thanks for the wonderful scenery and bales of hay in the fields. Churches all over are celebrating harvest thanksgiving. It is good to take time worshipping together to "*taste and see that the Lord is good*" (Psalm 34: 8), but our call as the people of God is also to respond to Jesus' words.

I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. Even now the one who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together." (John 4: 34-36)

We live in a time where despite the decline in church attendance, there is great interest in the spiritual dimension of life. We have exciting opportunities to build bridges with our local communities and share the gospel, for example through Open the Book in the schools (see article), the Alpha course, our new Messy Church and Young Life (see article). Our last two Messy Churches had many folks coming through the doors who don't, for whatever reason, come to our Sunday morning services. I am very grateful that in response to prayer over the last two years, some enthusiasm and training, we now have a team in place that can organise and run Messy Church in Kirkhill. This is just the start and we need to continually pray and look for opportunities for outreach and mission. Everyone can be

involved in some way; mission is not just for the real keenies or left to the preserve of the "professionals". We all bring something to the table in terms of gifts and passion (Romans 12) and in fact it is essential that the body is equipped and motivated if we are to see the Kingdom grow, and see the church grow. However, current growth areas such as, Messy Church, Café church, missional communities, home churches etc., coupled with decline in traditional forms of church, mean that the church of the future in Scotland is not likely to look the same as the one you are familiar with. Ex-Moderator of the Church of Scotland Albert Bogle wrote this month in "Life and Work" (October):

"Make no mistake. The Church has a glorious future. Denominations however have no divine right to keep on going. It is only when we remain open to the transforming and reforming presence of Christ among us that we can exist as a church. We must allow the Spirit of God to teach us how to navigate the storms of change, so that we are able to ride the waves of a changing culture and stay afloat."

I invite you to join with me in praying that we will be open to the Holy Spirit's leading in these months ahead as we deal with challenging issues such as our Presbytery Plan (see article), alongside engaging with exciting opportunities like Messy Church and the work of Richard Dahl and Young Life.

"Lets pray in the harvest"!

Jonathan (New address: 4 Courtyard Cottages, Lentrán, IV3 8RL. Phone 07979 607500



The Dahl family (minus youngest member Paxton)

Young Life Highlands

Greetings! My name is Richard Dhal. I am married to a gorgeous woman named Kate. We have two awesome children. Our daughter Adelyn is 2 years old and our son Paxton was born last month at Raigmore. We recently moved to Kiltarlity to work with an organisation called Young Life.

Young Life is a worldwide Christian charity organisation that currently exists in over 100 countries. Young Life is not a youth group for Christian teens; it exists to reach un-churched adolescents and families with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This is

done by building and maintaining long term relationships with youth and families.

Kate has 15 years of experience with Young Life. She primarily ministered to middle and upper class girls through the struggles of family issues, body image, self-harm and relationships. Her mentoring was scripturally based and introduced teens to a relationship with Jesus Christ.

I have 10 years of experience with Young Life. This is mainly in low income communities where adolescents were subjected to abuse, drugs, sexual misconduct, etc. I would go into houses where these things took place and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with struggling youth and families.

We are very excited to be part of Highlands community and be in fellowship with the Kiltarlity and Kirkhill Churches! Please feel free to contact me with any questions. My email is richard_c_dahl@yahoo.com and my cell number is 07592 537230.

Thank you!





OPEN the BOOK, Kiltarlity

Session 2017 - 18 has recommenced and members of Open the Book team are delighted to once again be warmly welcomed back to Tomnacross School and primaries 1-5. It is hoped that, this session, the Open the Book programme will, in some small way, mirror the school's own planned R.E curriculum, entitled 'Customs and Traditions' and Open the Book presentations and the school's own curriculum will complement one another. At all times team members have been, and with God's grace will continue to receive a warm and encouraging welcome each week. Team members gather for preparation and prayer at 1.15 pm each Monday and the story is presented, using narration and drama, at 1.30 pm. The entire session "lasts" approximately 30 minutes. If anyone in the congregation (or beyond) would enjoy the experience of sharing God's word with those young people please speak initially to Ellenor (782289). It would be great to have additional members of the team, and the commitment would be minimal, though the resultant satisfaction, vast.

Ellenor Thomas

OPEN the BOOK, Kirkhill

Avril, as leader of the Kirkhill group of Open the Book volunteers, writes:

We are delighted to be included once again in the curriculum of Kirkhill School "Open the Book" and have been given the date of January 2018 to start. The team love going to the school where we are given a warm welcome by the staff and pupils. It is such a joy and privilege to share the Bible stories with the children. The team are terrific and very faithful and committed. It consists of Mary Bell, John MacLellan, Mary Macdonald, Margaret Birkbeck, Barbara Cameron and myself. We would welcome anyone who feels God is calling them to be involved in this work. We value the prayers of the church members who uphold this wonderful mission. Last term we were able to give each child in primary 3 their own "Open the Book" Bible, due to the generosity of the ladies coffee morning team. Kirkhill is a very happy, busy and encompassing school with really dedicated staff and we are blessed to attend there.

Avril Marr



Ladies Night is rescheduled
for 15th February - hope to
see you there!

Blessings

Frances



Anna writes

"It is good to have the opportunity to thank you all for your prayers for the lovely young people that belong to our church family. SUNDAY Club is a great place each week from the youngest child to the oldest teen they are such an encouragement to be around. It's been great to have a new family join us at Sunday Club this year. We love to see new people coming along whether visiting on holiday, or from the local community, you are always welcome !

Anna MacCormick

THE GUILD

Wardlaw Church Guild



The theme and title of the programme for the session 2017-18 is 'Go in Love', and an exciting programme it is going to be.

On Wednesday 11th October the session commences with a talk entitled 'Antartic Adventure'. by Laura MacNeil. This will be followed on 8th November with Kerrie Marshall from 'Creativity in Care' and in December fun will be 'had all round' at the Christmas party where hats will be worn and mince pies eaten amidst fun and laughter shared by all.

YOU are most welcome to become a member of the Guild, or alternatively, please come to any of our meetings where the subject matter is of interest, as a welcome visitor.

Guild meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month, in Wardlaw Church, Kirkhill, from 2.30 till 4.00.

(Details of programme January - March in next edition of The Anchor)



Church Flowers Kiltarlity

Marie and Barbara warmly thank everyone who so willingly and beautifully arrange and display wonderful and eye catching floral displays Sunday by Sunday. The congregation delights in seeing the results of YOUR endeavours week by week.

The rota for October through to December is as follows :

1st October Marjory Sandilands
8th October / 15th October Ethna Ferguson
2nd October / 29th October Sandra Johansen
5th November / 12th November Barbara Wilton
19th November / 26th November Marie Harvey
3rd December / 10th December Ellenor Thomas
17th December / 24th December Marie Harvey
31st December Marie Harvey

Some snap shots from Kirkhill.....



Maris hard at work with church bells, Kirkhill



A Night Out with Kirkhill ladies



KILTARLITY Kirk Session / Property & Finance Committee update

Hamish Maclennan, Presbytery Elder and Clerk to Property & Finance Committee writes:

PRESBYTERY MEETING

I attended the latest meeting along with Jonathan. One of the items on the Agenda was the Presbytery Plan. I was well prepared for this item, it having been the subject of much discussion at the recent Kirk Session meeting, but alas at the outset of the Presbytery meeting it was intimated to the gathered assembly that the Plan could only be discussed in broad and general terms, this due to legal points which had been forthcoming to Presbytery officials only, prior to the meeting I attended.

The company was split into groups of 6, and within each group members were encouraged to discuss the overall plan in general terms. In my group there was agreement that the plan was perhaps the best that could be considered for implementation due to the major problem of lack of ministers coming forward for ordination and of course in addition due to numbers of

ordained ministers presently in post but shortly to be retiring. Concern was expressed regarding just how presbytery officials had come to make specific decisions / recommendations.

There is to be another meeting during which the Presbytery Plan will be discussed in detail, and to that meeting an invitation to attend will be extended to additional members of our congregations.

On Sunday 8th October there is to be a meeting, following the service, in connection with the Plan, and I earnestly request that as many of the congregation as possible attend in order that Presbytery representatives gain support against closure of our church.

CHURCH WATER SUPPLY

Some time ago it was agreed by the then Deacon's Court (now the Property & Finance Committee) that the present private water supply should be disconnected and a connection sought for direct mains water supply to be made available. As the church is classed as 'commercial', permission could not be granted to approach Scottish Water directly. I have therefore contacted 'Business Stream', one of the recognised providers. At date of publication of this newsletter I am trying to ensure retention of the existing pipe works going through the churchyard, thus to save expense. I am hoping for a favourable outcome to discussions shortly.

CHURCH ELECTRICAL SUPPLY

Following problems which arose during last winter, to do with the overhead supply to both the church and to the church neighbours at Tomnacross, the electricity board have agreed that the supply could be undergrounded. During the process of this procedure a track will be laid to provide much needed light for the footpath leading from the car park through the churchyard. This will incur no cost to the church.

KILTARLITY & KIRKHILL MANSE

It has come to light that there has been an ongoing problem with dampness penetrating the manse and emanating from beneath the ground floor. This problem has made it obligatory for Jonathan and Kate to vacate the premises in order that remedial work be carried out - their vacation of the manse possibly being until mid Dec 2017. Investigation and inspection of the problem by a structural engineer has been carried out and following advice received, together with a written report, a description of the work required has been issued to enable costs to be ascertained. It is hoped that the remedial works required will be commenced in the very near future. I have been made aware that a new solumn is required, rainwater drainage has to be renewed and a perforated drain installed close to the perimeter of the building. Being a linked charge, the cost will be shared 50 / 50 between Kirkhill & Kiltarlity.

Serenade for Violin and Harpsichord

featuring the outstanding young German violinist

Louis Vandory (born 1999)

Violin

Caroline Bergius

Harpsichord



photo: w.b.

Strathpeffer Pavilion

Works by:

Tartini, J.S. Bach, Fux, Schnittke and Vitali

Thursday 5th October 2017, 7.30 pm

Tickets on entry £12, 14 - 18 £6, under 14 free

Advance bookings as of 15.09.17 Tel: 01463 741223



Once again Lorna Dempster, Project Coordinator has expressed her thanks, on behalf of her committee and of course recipients, to the members and friends of Kiltarlity & Kirkhill Churches for so

kindly responding to bi monthly appeals for food for the Highland Food Bank. Such donations are greatly appreciated by all at Blythswood, and especially those persons who use the Foodbanks.

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

She is writing to ask if we would consider supporting the Highland Foodbank at Harvest this year, and thus help to make a small difference in people's lives in the weeks and months ahead.

She has assigned 6 products to each participating church, these including much needed toiletries. Posters and leaflet lists are available for your perusal on our church notice board.

Donations of new or used 'bags for life' would also be very welcome and much appreciated. For further information please speak to Mrs Elizabeth Fraser, Kiltarlity and Margaret Birkbeck, Kirkhill.

KIRKHILL KIRK COFFEE MORNINGS

Our Tuesday coffee mornings are still as popular as ever. If YOU have not managed to join us yet, do give us a try; you will be assured of a warm welcome.

A GREAT READ FROM A NAPKIN !!!

(re-arrange the letters to give an appropriate answer)

TWELVE PLUS ONE
CASH LOST IN ME
BEST IN PRAYER
LIES - LET'S RECOUNT
IS NO AMITY
ALAS NO MORE Z'S
DIRTY ROOM
THEY SEE
HERE COME DOTS

THE MORSE CODE
THE EYES
DORMITORY
SNOOZE ALARMS
ANIMOSITY
ELECTION RESULTS
PRESBYTERIAN
SLOT MACHINES
ELEVEN PLUS ONE