

THE ANCHOR

The magazine of Kiltarlity and Kirkhill
Churches



2017



Living in the love of Jesus in the rural Highlands

www.kiltarlityandkirkhill.org.uk

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Dear Friends



Welcome to our Christmas Edition of the Anchor!

I am especially grateful this year for the hard work that our editorial team have put in so that this edition is out in time for Christmas. Sheila was up to the small hours editing, and despite some time in Raigmore getting a hip replaced, Ellenor was heavily involved in gathering material. And last, but not least, Frances who keeps everything on the road and who answered the call this year to eldership whilst continuing to be our Session Clerk at Kirkhill. Thank you Frances. In fact, as you read through this issue you will see that there has been so much activity in our churches this year, and so many people getting involved and taking a lead where required.

Whilst it is great to see and hear about so much activity, I have been struck recently by the passage in Luke's gospel, *"Now Jesus himself was about thirty years old when he began his ministry. He was the son, so it was thought, of Joseph, the son of Heli."* (Luke 3: 23). Why did Jesus have to wait so long until he could start his ministry, get active, and follow the Father's lead in preaching, teaching and healing? The answer it seems is that he was born into "the system". In the Jewish religious culture/system, you became a Rabbi in your 30s and Jesus followed that pattern. He started in the system. But he didn't get stuck within that system, where salvation and access to God was regulated by an ever more complex set of oral and written rules and regulations which did nothing more than just highlight

sin, shame and weakness. Jesus came to transform, fulfill and draw a line under this old system, and to bring in the new system - the Kingdom of God (Mark 1) - a "system" based on grace and love, and the manifest presence of God amongst his people.

In his letter to the church in Colossae, Paul says that we, *"share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves"* (Colossians 1: 12-13). Living in the Kingdom, means we live in the joy, freedom and power of the Holy Spirit (Romans 14: 17), not by following a set menu of religious activities for the sake of it, or because that's just the way we have always done it.

Christmas is a good time to re-evaluate which system we are serving. What motivates me to service and the activities I get engaged in? whether that be the things I do around church, or in family or work setting. Is it a love for Jesus, and His Kingdom that moves me to action? My personal testimony in this vein relates to an extended family party we had recently. The amount of organisation and work required to feed and house 18 people for a weekend is significant and in the past the logistics of such an event would have dominated our thoughts and actions. This time, however it was different. We decided to pray and give God the weekend. We prayed for His help to organise us and for Him to shine through all the jobs that needed done. There was a wonderful atmosphere, the

organisation went well, but didn't dominate, and many conversations touched on matters of faith and the heart.

This Christmas, I would encourage us all to just take a moment to do a "Kingdom audit" on our activities and our thinking. Ask Jesus to highlight where our motivations might have got a bit misaligned and where we might unintentionally be serving the wrong system. Soak these next few weeks in prayer, and be prepared for some God moments and surprises!

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and every blessing for 2018.

Yours,

Jonathan

Concert at Kiltarlity Church



Kiltarlity Church has acquired a grand piano through the efforts of Tonia, our organist. She organised a small concert in the church on 8th December, partly to give her pupils a chance to perform, but also to demonstrate the instrument and tell the story of its repair and installation. It was a lovely evening with super performances on the piano and flute. Tonia rounded it off with a couple of terrific pieces on the organ - her rendition of 'Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer' was outstanding!

Young Life Update

The Dahl family is settling into the Kirkhill/Kiltarlity community. Thank you to everyone who has helped with this transition.

Richard has been getting to know lots of youth in the Highland villages. This is through handing out hot chocolate at the school bus stop, coaching basketball at Charleston Academy, and helping with multiple school classrooms and assemblies. Praise the Lord for these open doors!

By the Christmas holiday; Richard will be involved with events at Charleston Academy, Kirkhill Primary, and Tomnacross Primary.

The big need right now is leaders. Young Life leaders are Christian adults who:

- reach out to adolescents
- build long-term relationships with adolescents
- introduce adolescents to Jesus Christ
- disciple/mentor adolescents as they grow up

Please pray for Christian adults in the Kirkhill/Kiltarlity area to volunteer as Young Life leaders. The only way youth in this community will know the Gospel of Jesus Christ is if caring adults reach out to them (Matthew 9:37-38). If you are interested in being a Young Life leader, please contact Richard Dahl at the number or email below.

The Dahl family is healthy and strong. Paxton is now 3 months old, growing like a champ, and Adelyn happily calls Kiltarlity home and enjoys meeting new friends in the Highland villages. Kate and Richard are adjusting to a new home, job, career, country, children, etc... Please pray that the Dahl's would continue to adjust to this new lifestyle. Thank you for your prayers and financial gifts, we could not make this major life transition without you!



Finally, please let us know how we can be praying for you. Also, if you are able to Skype, FaceTime, or talk on the phone anytime in the near future; please let us know and we'll set up a time to do so.

Thank you so much to the Kirkhill and Kiltarlity Church of Scotland for your support and prayers!

Blessings,
Richard, Kate, Adelyn, & Paxton Dahl
phone: 07592 537230
email: richard_c_dahl@yahoo.co

(Richard is also a stalwart participant at Open the Book in Kiltarlity - the children love him!)



After 2 years of prayer, conversations and planning, Messy Church has finally arrived in Kirkhill!

The name Messy Church may conjure up an afternoon of plastering the church walls in paint and glue, however, whilst supervised crafts are a feature, it is more about creating an informal opportunity for families to come together to have fun, fellowship, worship and food, and to hear how GOD's Love can make a real difference in all of our lives.

We are now part of an international, interdenominational, branded movement which started in 2004 and now has over 3800 Messy Churches registered world wide. It is one of the fastest growing 'fresh expressions' of church in the UK.

We started off with a taster session. With an attendance of around 80 people, a mixture of children, parents and grandparents, it was a lively afternoon, based around the story of the Prodigal Son.

We crafted together, played games together, watched a dramatisation of the Prodigal Son (given by members of visiting teenagers from YWAM USA), worshipped together and topped the afternoon off with a fabulous BBQ.

Next session was September, with the theme based around us all being part of GOD's Holy Temple. Some of you may have seen part of the crafted end result in Kirkhill - a cardboard house, built and decorated by the children, representing GOD's temple. Again, as it was still warm outside, the afternoon finished with another wonderful BBQ.

October's theme was based around GOD's Love creating a light for us all in a dark world. After participating in light and dark activities, everyone sat round a very real looking, but artificial, campfire to hear Jonathan's talk. This was followed by campfire worship and appropriate campfire food.

November was based on the presence of the Holy Spirit. Much fun was had with activities exploring how to define the unseen physical presence of the Holy Spirit and our talk highlighted how it can have such a massive impact on our lives and be so present within us. Again we had a lively worship session with the children accompanying the singing with various percussion instruments, and then all sat down together for a lovely meal.

We look forward to December's session based on the Nativity. Everyone is warmly welcomed - young and old alike - for we are all children of GOD, and there are no shut doors in GOD's house.

If anyone is interested in helping with any of the sessions, either by running an activity, giving a hand in the kitchen, or providing home baking, we would love to hear from you. Just speak to **Kate, Pauline** or **Penny** at Kirkhill.



Among all your Christmas cards, have you received our Church one with all details of services? Please take note!

THE GUILD

'Go in Love' - the topic for 2017-18 - began with a wonderful account by Laura MacNeil of her 3 month placement in Antarctica. Illustrated by her excellent photographs, Laura took us through the many duties the small team had to perform - cooking, cleaning, keeping paths clear of snow, (this for the many visitors from visitors from visiting cruise ships with the benefit to the volunteers of a good meal and a hot shower), counting the penguins, stamping large numbers of postcards etc.

In November, Karrie Marshall, Director of Creativity in Care, showed how art, craft and musical activities give so much help and fun to those suffering from Alzheimer's, dementia and other disabilities - at the same time as a welcome respite for their carers. It was touching to see the joy gained by all these activities.

The Guild often tells us to build enjoyment for ourselves into our Syllabus, so in December we are having a Christmas party.

On Friday, 24th November, the Guilds of CofS took part in the Big Sing held in East Church, Inverness - a real treat for the Highlands. Over 500 members gave their all to singing an excellent choice of Hymns and Readings, to make a joyful and uplifting noise - close to raising the roof! Guild Week was celebrated on Sunday, 26th November, when Morning Service was conducted by the Guild - thank you, Jonathan, for your co-operation.

Jeanette McLellan



Alpha course in Kirkhill Church

The course commenced on 13th September, with a core of 16/18 folk attending, all keen to learn more, feel the holy spirit, and become Christian, or renew faith.

There was a welcoming meal on arrival, then watching the DVD, open discussion, and conclusion.

The away day was hosted by Avril and Iain where we were welcomed, experienced good fellowship, and for quite a few folk it was a day of transformation in their journey in faith. Now the course is finished, everyone wishes to continue in Bible study

soon. Lots of friendships were made and all desire to welcome the Lord into their heart and commit to faith.

All attending thank the cooks, AV desk team & Jonathan.

Blessings. Frances Grant.



LADIES NIGHT 15th February -
look out for poster and tickets.

KIRKHILL KIRK COFFEE MORNINGS



We have had another successful year, welcoming folks for fellowship, with our numbers reaching 40 some Tuesdays.

On the 3rd October we held our annual Macmillan Coffee Morning where we were able to send £532.21 to them, which included £100 donation from the coffee morning. Thanks to Anne and Mary who manned the stall and to all who helped and supplied baking.

The coffee morning paid for the plants for the tubs at the Kirk doors and we thank Margaret and David Birkbeck for faithfully tending them. All of this would not be possible without your generous donations and for this we are very grateful.

Primary 6 at Kirkhill school are taking part in an enterprise challenge for the month of November in order to raise funds which then become micro loans given to people in developing countries to start a business and work their way out of poverty.

Some of the bairns have made Christmas crafts and home baking and brought a stall to Tuesday coffee morning. The coffee morning donated £50 towards their challenge, encouraging the young folks in their quest of helping folk less fortunate than themselves.

MINCE PIE TUESDAY was on 12th December, for Highland Hospice

This is the second year the Highland Hospice has had a Christmas appeal. They are aiming to raise £7800 from the appeal which would cover the cost of running Christmas Day at the Hospice - a very worthwhile cause.

Thank you to all who help put out the tables on a Sunday after the service, Iain and John who put back the chairs etc and all who donate baking.

Our last coffee morning for the year was on 12th December, and we are having January off next year, so we will hopefully welcome everyone back on 6th February 2018.

We wish everyone a joyous Christmas and blessings in 2018,

Maris, Margaret, Winnie and Mary.

House Group

A new house group has just started in Kiltarlity. We have had one meeting, kindly hosted by Elspeth and Duncan Colburn, where we got to know each other better and our church and faith backgrounds. We plan to have regular sessions of discussions, exploring the Bible and all aspects of our beliefs.

Look out for notices of further meetings - all most welcome.

Church Friday Club



The Friday Club at Kiltarlity Church is now up and running and we are pleased to report it has been very successful so far. After lunch, we have many activities set up including craft, games, drawing, Lego, jigsaws. The children respond enthusiastically and this makes the afternoon good fun for us all.

We would like to set up a rota of helpers so if you are available for the occasional Friday afternoon, please get in touch with Sheila Moir.

Gena MacLean

New Elders!

We are delighted to see new Elders ordained in both churches. Firstly Frances Grant at Kirkhill on 19th November, and Les Bradley at Kiltarlity on 26th.

We all send our prayers and best wishes to both for their commitment to this lifelong service to our churches.

Well done!

Ladies Night at Kiltarlity

The recent ladies night at Kiltarlity was another super evening. We had a great talk by Mairi Fraser on the Vine Trust - a wonderful Scottish charity which brings people of any age together to build homes and orphanages, provide education and care, and bring medicine, dentistry and healthcare to desperate people in Peru and Tanzania. Our secondary schools in Inverness are participating in these ventures, with school pupils going out to work on projects and seeing first hand what life is really like for people in these very poor areas.

After this, there was (as always) tea and mince pies etc., and we were treated to a craft class by Mairi. It's amazing what can be done with a white sock and a bag of rice. Snowmen are now adorning mantelpieces round the village.....



Thanks go to the organisers and bakers, but especially to Mairi for treating us to such a good evening.

If you haven't been to one of these get-togethers, you are really missing out.




At Kiltarlity, the path from the car park to the church door has always been tricky at night - torches are essential to prevent tripping over a head stone - but owing to some hard work by our intrepid team under the leadership of Les Bradley, all is about to change. A new line of lights is being installed to illuminate the path to church. The great switch-on is eagerly awaited.

Let there be light!

Isn't it lovely to see Kiltarlity all lit up for Christmas? And aren't both churches looking beautiful for this special season. Thanks go to all those who help to put up decorations for our enjoyment, sometimes at some personal risk.....





Thursday 14th Dec: Carol Service with the
Salvation Army; Kiltarlity Village Hall - 7.00pm

Sunday 17th Dec: Kirkhill - 10.00am; Kiltarlity -
with Nativity Play - 11.30am

Sunday 17th Dec: Kirkhill Messy Church 4-6pm
with Kirkhill Primary School Nativity

Christmas

at Kirkhill and
Kiltarlity Churches

Friday 22nd Dec: Tomnacross School Carol
Service, Kiltarlity Church - 10.30am

Sunday 24th Dec: Family services Kirkhill -
10am; Kiltarlity - 11.30am

Sunday 24th Dec: Watchnight services Kirkhill -
11.30pm; Kiltarlity - 11.30pm

