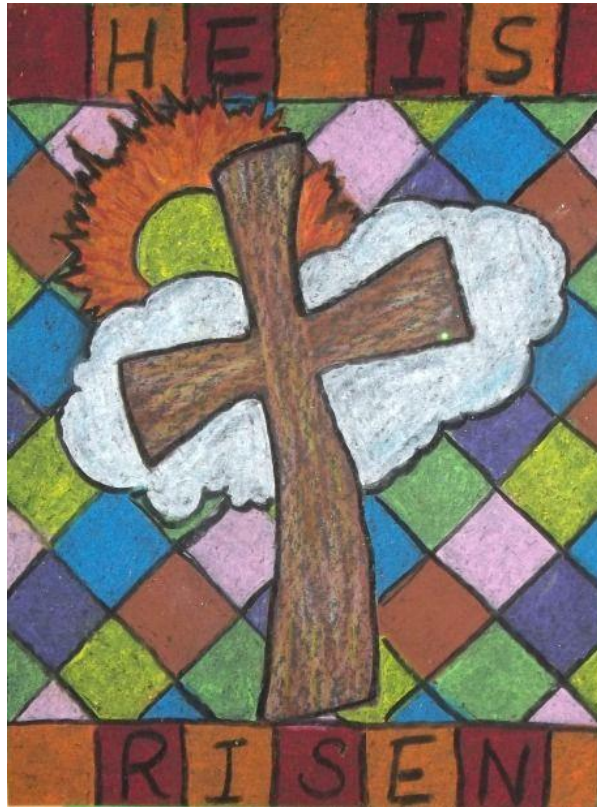


# THE ANCHOR

The magazine of Kiltarlity and Kirkhill  
Churches

## Easter 2018



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

[www.kiltarlityandkirkhill.org.uk](http://www.kiltarlityandkirkhill.org.uk)



## An Easter Message from our Minister

Over the past few months we have been focusing our attention on recovering our awe of God. The logo of the Church of Scotland is the burning bush that drew Moses aside in awe to hear God's voice and the call of God on his life (Exodus 3). The dictionary definition of awe is "a feeling of reverential respect mixed with fear or wonder." Moses experienced this feeling in the presence of God, and I find it amazing that the early founders of the Church of Scotland recognised that this awe of God should be part of the church's spiritual DNA. This was the case too in the early church. We learn from the book of Acts that when the church met together in fellowship, "Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles" (Acts 2: 43).

In the first few chapters of the book of Exodus, where we find the account of the burning bush, we also read the story of God's mighty (awesome) acts against an Egyptian Pharaoh who stubbornly refused to set God's people free from slavery. The early church experienced this freedom too, not from physical enemies as such, but freedom from a way of living that cut them off from having a relationship with God.

In the encounter with the bush, Moses took off his sandals because God told him he was on holy ground (Exodus 3:5). It is God's presence not the place or the bush that was holy or awesome. When we are able to take time like Moses to regain our sense of awe, we can experience God's presence too. Easter affords most of us a little extra time, a holiday, a day off, to ponder what God has done.

For me Easter means being in awe of what God has done in sending His Son to die on the cross. Jesus left his Father's side to come and make a way for us to be reconciled and reconnected with God the Father - to experience what Moses experienced; the heart thumping, leg shaking, combination of exhilaration and fear, of being in God's presence. To be drenched in his love and acceptance that comes through the Holy Spirit (Romans 5: 5). Moses decided to "turn-aside to see this great sight". I would encourage us all to take time over these next few weeks, to ask God to enable us to experience His presence and recapture our awe of Him. I look forward to hearing your stories!

With blessings for a joy-filled Easter, Jonathan

Christian Aid Update

Mothers in Malawi Project



Our involvement as part of Inverness Christian Aid continues and to date over £7500 has been raised, well exceeding our target

of £5000. Our two churches have chipped in £1250 so thanks to all who have contributed and especially to Tonya for the large part she has played in our efforts. The project ends in October and ICA's grand finale was a musical evening in Inverness Cathedral on 15th. March .Malawi [formerly Nyasaland] is a long narrow landlocked country about 1 and 1/2 times the size of Scotland but with a population of 17M. It has had a long connection with Scotland since the days of David Livingstone 150 years ago. The aims of the Malawi project are to engender increased awareness of maternal health issues - this set against that country's horrific mortality ratio of 500 mothers per 100,000 births. For the last two years Christian Aid Scotland and its partners have been helping communities in Balaka, South Malawi get involved in demanding and planning for what they need and in increasing maternal health services at the local hospital. Attitudes to maternal and neonatal health in Balaka are changing for the better and people there are beginning to see and believe they have an opportunity to improve things by speaking up and insisting on action. Knowledge and skills have improved, the number of health personnel has increased and a swell in local support has had an impact on district decision making. That notwithstanding the health service remains under-resourced and targets for skilled deliveries and infant immunisation are not being met. In 2016 drought followed by disastrous flooding destroyed the harvest in Balaka leading to people [especially mothers and children] becoming dangerously malnourished and starting to leave the area. This put under threat the progress made with health services and their governance but CAS were

able to provide short term relief to help stop this migration. Scotland has helped set the standards for overseas aid - the UK is fortunate to be one of the richest countries in the world whilst Malawi remains one of the poorest. Even in times of national stringency we must still care about behaving honourably towards our neighbours in need. The Scottish Government is contributing to this community partnership with matched funding of up to £600,000. Thanks to their and your support CA is confident that the community in Balaka will continue to demand good health care for women and young children well beyond the end of our project. Visit [christianaid.org.uk/scotland](http://christianaid.org.uk/scotland)

### Quizzing in Kiltarlity

Several church members have been taking part in the Quiz Nights at Brockie's Bar on Thursdays in the village. Sandra and Deirdre, the Home Group (under the team name 'The Burning Bushes') and a few other stalwarts. It is a great night out amongst convivial company, but also it is a form of outreach with no pressure to the community! Teams are 3 to 6 players and the cost is £2 per person - this goes into a kitty which then goes to the winning team. So far, success has been mixed.....



## Indifference

When Jesus came to Golgotha, they hanged Him on a tree,  
They drove great nails through hands and feet, and made a  
Calvary;

They crowned Him with a crown of thorns, red were His wounds  
and deep,

For those were crude and cruel days, and human flesh was  
cheap.

When Jesus came to Birmingham, they simply passed Him by.

They would not hurt a hair of Him, they only let Him die;

For men had grown more tender, and they would not give Him  
pain,

They only just passed down the street, and left Him in the rain.

Still Jesus cried, 'Forgive them, for they know not what they  
do' ,

And still it rained the winter rain that drenched Him through  
and through;

The crowds went home and left the streets without a soul to  
see,

And Jesus crouched against a wall, and cried for Calvary.

*Geoffrey Stoddard Kennedy wrote this in 1920 - nothing seems  
to changed in the last 98 years!*



## Some photos from Kirkhill

Simon Fraser is in the tractor, and Ian Dearing in the bucket fixing the bell rope back again!



Angie's first "preach" .

## Highland Hospice

The hospice is looking to recruit more volunteers to assist with in-patient driving and be-friending, both of these "jobs" are so very worth-while.

If you have a few hours to spare, give Emily Partick a phone at the hospice for an informal chat - tel 01463 243132.

## Kirkhill Coffee Morning.

On the 6th February, we welcomed 35 folks back to coffee morning after the festive break.

Everyone enjoyed the fellowship, catching up with each other's news - the craic was good!

However, everyone at the Coffee Morning was saddened to learn that Winnie died on the 3rd March.

Winnie will be sorely missed, always welcoming everyone with a smile and a cuddle, and always willing to help out as part of the Coffee Morning team.

We will all miss you big time, Winnie.

The Kirk Coffee Morning Team.



Here is a quick summary of what Young Life and the Dahl family have been up to over the past 6 months and will continue to be involved with:

- Moved into the Kiltarlity village
- Had a child
- Attended lunch events at Charleston Academy
- Given presentations at Kirkhill and Tomnacross Primary School Assemblies
- Been a part of "Open the Book" at Tomnacross Primary



- Taught Religious and Moral Education Classes at:
  - Tomnacross Primary
  - Kirkhill Primary
  - Charleston Academy
- Been active leaders in the HighLife Kiltarlity Youth Club
- Handed out hot chocolate to Charleston Academy students at the Kiltarlity village bus stop
- Given presentations at Kirkhill/Kiltarlity Church of Scotland and Kiltarlity Free Church
- Helped facilitate "Messy Church" at the Kirkhill Church of Scotland
- Coached Charleston Academy basketball team
- Attended several community events and have hosted a few at our house
- Gone through several Young Life trainings and received seminary credit

Currently we are working to:

- sign kids up for summer camp
- recruit volunteer leaders (adult Christians)
- continue adjusting to a new lifestyle as a family

Please give thanks and pray for the bullet points listed above.

Thank you so much for your support, we look forward to continue partnership with the Kirkhill/Kiltarlity Church of Scotland!

Blessings,

Richard, Kate, Adelyn, & Paxton Dahl



There is a new Craft Group at Kirkhill - open to all adults in the community.....

..... and at Kiltarlity, with some support from the wider community, we have been knitting blanket squares to sew up for Highlands Support Refugees. If you are interested in knitting, here is the Peggy Square pattern.

### Peggy Squares

Use no.8 (4mm) knitting needles and double knitting yarn.

#### Abbreviations

K - knit, tog - together, pssso - pass slip stitch over, sts - stitches

Cast on 63 sts.

1<sup>st</sup> row: k30, slip1, k2 tog, pssso, k30.

2<sup>nd</sup> and every alternate row: k.

3<sup>rd</sup> row: k29, slip1, k2 tog, pssso, k29.

5<sup>rd</sup> row: k28, slip1, k2 tog, pssso, k28.

7<sup>th</sup> row: k27, slip1, k2 tog, pssso, k27.

Continue until 3sts remain, remembering to knit the last even numbered row.

Next row: k1, k2 tog, pssso.

Fasten off and leave tail of yarn (15ins or so) for sewing up squares.



## The Highlands Supports Refugees

"Last year was the deadliest for migrants attempting to cross the Mediterranean, with at least 5,079 dying or going missing during their journey, according to the [UN International Organisation for Migration \(IOM\)](#)." [*The Independent* - 13 November 2017]

Even though we see less around in the media about refugees, the work that The Highlands Support Refugees does is still very valid and needed. The Highlands Supports Refugees has been collecting, sorting and transporting aid since September 2015 to mainland Europe, Greek Isles, Lebanon and Syria, in an attempt to support those affected by the on-going humanitarian crisis.

The most recent aid sent was in November when another large 40ft container of aid was sent to Chios in Greece ready for the winter. It was hugely appreciated as the videos of the container arriving showed. The next shipment will likely be summer clothes. There are also some shipments which go out with other organisations as transporting aid is expensive so joining together with others makes sense.

In addition to collecting and transporting aid THSR has worked with local communities here resettling refugees, most recently the Syrian families who arrived in Dingwall earlier this year. This includes collecting furniture and other household items to make the homes welcoming. THSR also engages with local schools, churches and clubs, helping to educate people on the refugee crisis.

The collecting, packing and sorting of clothes and other items is ongoing at the Canon Bridge depot. The Highlands Support Refugees has no paid staff and operates purely through volunteers. As well as donating time to help at the depot, donations of money are very much appreciated as without funds it is impossible to send out all the items collected. THSR has very few overheads which means that every penny raised goes directly to the cause.

Thank you for all your support; it is much appreciated whether it is knitting, donations of clothes or other fundraising. 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/>

I think a number of people have mentioned that they don't use Facebook. The website now has the details of the coming week's opening hours for the depot. These vary from week to week but almost always there is a session on a Friday morning and on a Wednesday evening. If you'd like to go along and help sort you'd be very welcome - and there's always tea and coffee on offer! Alternatively if you have an idea for fundraising, donations and fundraising efforts are very much appreciated. You can download their fundraising pack from their website or contact them if you want more information.

There is also now a corner of the hall in Kiltarlity church with space for leaving donations which I periodically collect and take

along to the depot, or you are very welcome to drop them off at my house and I will take them along.

Here is a list of what is currently being collected:

Mens' clothes and shoes (small/medium sizes)

Ladies' clothes and shoes (no ballgowns/stilletos, 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.)

Anneliese Garvie

## Financial Reports / Churches AGM

Annual Stated Meetings have been held in both Churches. Annual accounts and deliveries were all accepted. Copies of the reports and annual accounts are always available for your perusal. Please speak to either of the treasurers or any office bearer should you wish to have a sight of these.



## Flowers



Mary (Kirkhill) and Marie and Barbara (Kiltarlity) thank all members of congregation (and friends) for ongoing support with contributions towards and / or floral displays which enhance our churches week by week. Such floral displays are the subject of much admiration. Volunteers are always required to continue to decorate each of the churches week by week. Please speak to either of the above ladies should you wish to help.

## Presbytery Plan

Inverness Presbytery met on 6th February to debate and approve the Presbytery Plan. Kiltarlity and Kirkhill were represented at this meeting by Jonathan, the Presbytery elders (Louise Monaghan and Hamish MacLennan) and the following elders: David Garvie, Les Bradley, Ian Morrison, Simon Fraser, Avril Marr and Iain Marr.

## **Background**

The Presbytery Plan is where Presbytery outline their plans for charges and congregations for the next 10 years, specifically number of ministers, number of buildings, unions/linkages, etc. It sets Presbytery's 'vision' for what each parish and congregation should look like, e.g. should a linkage become a union; should two separate charges be linked/united; are the current buildings fit for purpose or should any be closed; has each parish got the



right number of ministers, etc. The Plan is nominally for 10 years, but it is reviewed every year and changes can be made so that it stays up to date.

The background of trends in the Church of Scotland nationally that informed the Presbytery Plan includes the following:

- \* Income to the Church has declined (although not in Kiltarlity Church)
- \* Church membership has declined (also not in our churches)
- \* The number of ministers is expected to decrease by a further 20% in the next 5 years

In response to requests from the General Trustees, Inverness Presbytery has been asked to reduce the number of church buildings as at the national level there are too many buildings for the church to sustain. The Church of Scotland also has a policy of planting churches in new and developing areas of population (e.g. St Columba New Charge and Tornagrain - and the General Trustees have indicated that a new church in Tornagrain can only go ahead if charges and buildings are reduced elsewhere).

### **What does this mean for Kiltarlity and Kirkhill?**

The Presbytery Plan was approved on 6th February, and the decisions that affected Kiltarlity and Kirkhill are as follows:

- The linkage of Kiltarlity and Kirkhill will become a Union. This means a joint Kirk Session, etc and one combined parish
- The two congregations need to decide between ourselves which building or buildings would better suit the on-going worship and missional activity of the united charge
- There will continue to be a full-time minister to look after the united parishes of Kiltarlity and Kirkhill but this will be on Reviewable Tenure (i.e. not a permanent post)

Nothing will change until there is a vacancy (or unless the minister agrees to the change), but if a decision has not been made about buildings by that time then Presbytery will make its own mind up and the vacancy will be "sisted". This means that if we have a vacancy, Presbytery will not allow us to start the process of finding a new minister until a decision on buildings has been made. Ultimately this decision will be made by Presbytery, but it would be in consultation with our Kirk Sessions and congregations.

The good news is that the Plan no longer states that either church building must close. Previous versions had included the closure of Kiltarlity Church, but after much persuasion and lobbying by Jonathan and the Kirk Session this was changed. There are effectively now 4 possible outcomes, namely: neither church building will close; both church buildings will close; one or other building will close. Presbytery have left it to the two congregations to do proper analysis of the options and to present a recommendation to Presbytery.

## What Next?

It is now up to the two congregations to look at the pros and cons and the impact/consequences of the various options. **There is no reason why both church buildings cannot remain open if we are able to demonstrate this is the best option.** It is up to us to prepare a compelling case for why the mission and outreach within Kiltarlity and Kirkhill is best served by continuing to use both buildings. The most important thing right now is for us to make as much use of both buildings as we can in order to demonstrate they are both essential. So initiatives like Kiltarlity's Friday Club, concerts, Messy Church, Ladies' Nights, etc all help to demonstrate that the buildings are an essential part of our mission and outreach.

A working group of 3 people from each congregation will be set up to explore options and to create a recommendation to be taken to Presbytery. There is no defined timeframe for this - we will take our time and ensure we create a well thought through recommendation that is good for both congregations. If you have any questions or would like to give feedback, then please contact **Jonathan, David or Frances.**



# Inverness Presbytery

## Home Group Meetings

Home Group Meetings have commenced and are ongoing at the home of Duncan and Elspeth Colburn, Kiltarlity.

Meetings are held monthly, attended at present by a core of 9 persons. Numbers attending meetings to date have averaged 5-8, a most encouraging start. Any persons interested in joining the group will be made most welcome.

To present studies have been based on the booklet "Cover to Cover Bible Study" and are concerned with study of The Prodigal Son. The booklet encourages the breakdown of the story into small pieces thus enabling exploration of the text in more depth and in addition how the teachings reflect the story in participants' own lives.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March, at 7.00 pm. Interested newcomers should not be deterred by the specific study having started, do come along and join in.



## From Tonya Clement, organist at K&K

'Some of you may have heard that I have resigned from the organist position at the K&K - I will be finishing my notice in mid May. I wanted to say that it will be sad for me to go as the past nearly 4 years I felt welcomed and appreciated in both congregations! I have grown new musical wings too and now they carry me further in my career.

But I am not saying a farewell to you all yet - you will sure see me back as a supply organist and when I come back to K&K with various music concerts (not necessarily all performed by myself!) that will benefit the church's mission - I hope to see many of you coming along. I wanted to thank everyone from both churches for making me feel at home at K&K. I will miss seeing all of you regularly!

At last, I wanted to let you know that am playing a concert for At One With Music in Inverness on 27th of April (Fri) at 1pm. It's will be held in the Spectrum Centre - right by the Rose Street Car park. If you have some time spare, please come along to hear some Mozart, Chopin, Rachmaninov and Lutoslawski. Admission is £6 for adults and £1 for children.



## Our Journey Through the Church



From an early age, we each were taken weekly to Church - John by his parents in Glasgow, Jeanette by her guardians in Motherwell. The accepted journey for each was the progression through Sunday School to Bible Class then Youth Fellowship when it was time to commit to Church membership. John also sang in his Choir and Jeanette taught in the Sunday School. After we had married, our Church journeys took us in various southerly directions due to John's work, first to Northampton and later to Berkshire, and thus to the Church of England. While there were some differences, the basic elements of worship were familiar and reassuring, and the sung services were beautiful.

Another move to Wales led us, quite by chance to St. Andrews United Reformed Church - the Scottish Church in Cardiff - or was it by chance. As we entered to a warm welcome, we were handed the familiar blue hymn books of our early years! Home from home indeed. Here it was where John again sang in the choir and was ordained as an Elder.



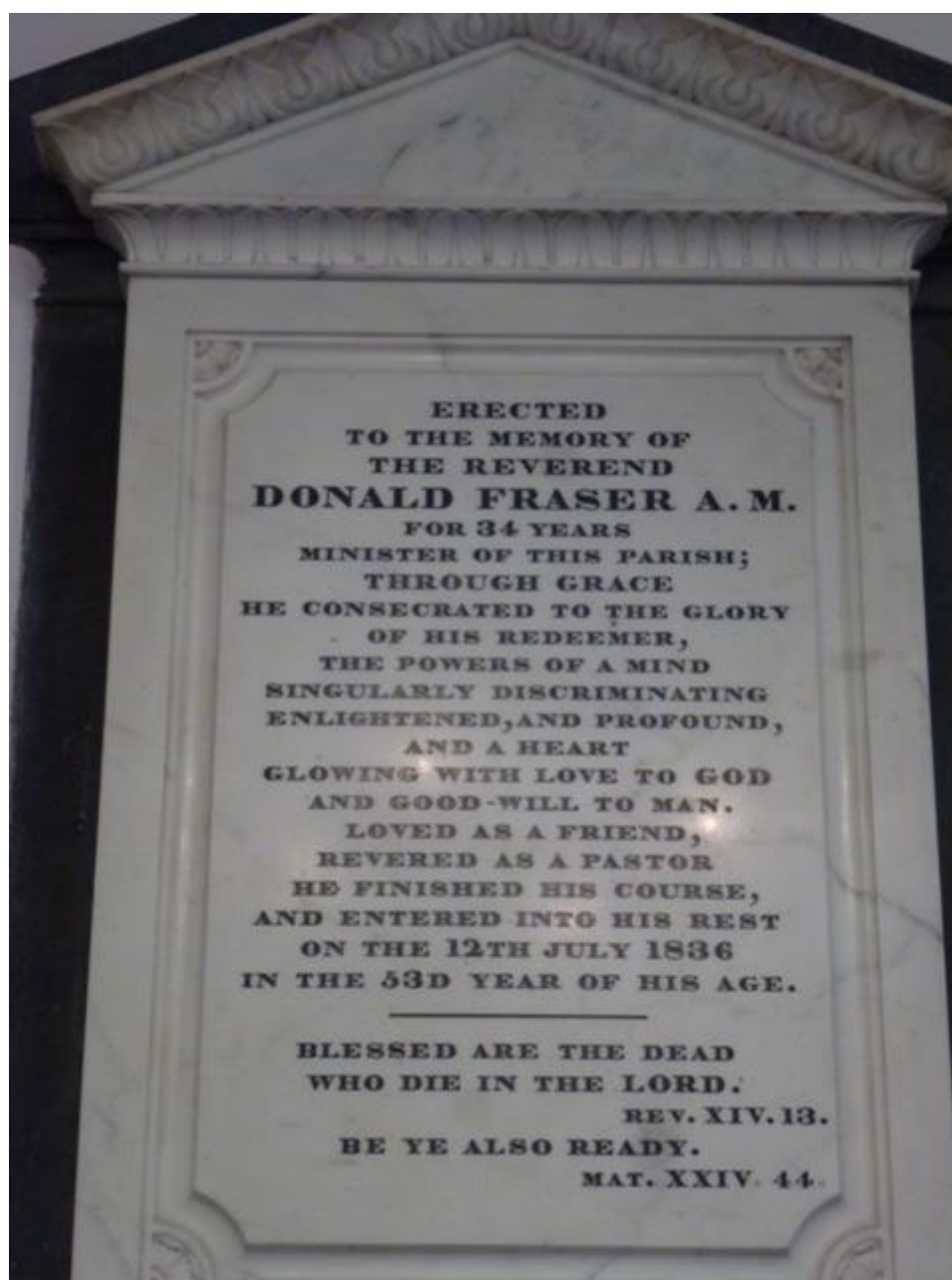
We returned to Scotland after visiting our relatives and chose to live in Kirkhill. As in Cardiff, the welcome was warm and we found so many connections to members of the Congregation, that we were instantly at home in Wardlaw Church. Regular worship has been supplemented by involvement in Door Duty, Eldership and Open the Book for John, Guild for Jeanette and recently helping at Messy Church. Good gracious, are we entering our second childhood! Well, if so, it is heartening to be among the children who are the future of the Church.

We have been fortunate to worship in many countries of the world, but even when not fully understanding the language of the service, to be part of the world-wide family of God, in His house, brings its own understanding. And as for not understanding the language, the Mayor of the city of Cardiff held in St David's Hall an Annual Charity GYMANFU GANU, (a Welsh hymn-singing festival). We had the temerity to join in the 4-part harmonies-all in Welsh - well perhaps Scots Welsh!! Does it matter if you speak the language to sing in praise -not one bit.

John and Jeanette McLellan



## A Link to the Past



You may, like me, have looked at the four marble plaques in Kirkhill Church and wondered about these ancient men of God, who were so highly respected and loved by their congregations that they erected these plaques to honour them. Recently, when we had a joint service in Kiltarlity, Iain felt he should go down

to the church at Kirkhill just in case someone came along, not knowing about the change . At ten am a young man turned up . He was the great, great, great, great, great grandson of Donald Fraser, born in 1783 , who was minister at Kirkhill from 1802 till 1836, 34 years ! He had started his ministry here aged just nineteen.

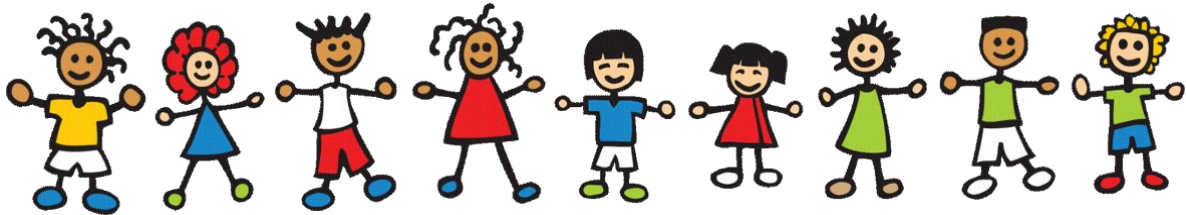
One of the four marble plaques is dedicated to him and it is evident he was a wonderful man of God , greatly loved , revered and respected by his parishioners , how I would love to have met him. Do look at the dedication on the plaque next time you are in Kirkhill.

This young man who had turned up at church was from America and had come all that way to find out about his ancestors at his father's request, and to see where they had lived and worked all those years ago. Iain was able to show him around the church, also the plaque and the painting in the vestry, and to give him a copy of Charlie Gair's book on Kirkhill Church. He then came to Kiltarlity to the Cafe Church and met some of the members of both churches and came on to our home for tea and was taken into the train station and safely seen on his way back home with lots of photos and momentos.

I tell this story because it shows how we need to listen to the prompting of the Holy Spirit to act. If not, this young man called Wayne, would have turned up at a locked church and not been able to meet members of his forebears' church and get the information which will mean so much to his family back home. What an amazing story of being in the right place at the right

time and a wonderful God who has kept the testimony of the church down through the ages here at Kirkhill!

Avril Marr.



The Friday Club at Kiltarlity Church is on-going, and with increasing numbers of children attending, we are encouraged to see our old church building put to good use. We have a weekly craft session, and were responsible lately for the plague of frogs (isn't the story of Moses great?) found round the church at the joint service. We have drawing materials at hand, books, puzzles, Lego and more, and play games inside and out. The team of Gena, Margo, Sheila and Ellenor sometimes wonder what the Kirk Session of a hundred years ago would have thought of all the fun and games! It is good to see children enjoying themselves and especially good to hear children's voices in the church - though sometimes rather loud.....

**And lastly.....**

The editors wish you all a very joyful Easter. God bless,

Frances, Ellenor and Sheila.