

# THE ANCHOR

The magazine of Kiltarlity and Kirkhill Churches

## Summer 2018



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

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

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## From our Minister.....

Reading though Mark's gospel over the last few weeks has reminded me that Jesus had a rhythm of work and rest. He was not always involved in full-on ministry to the people, but took time out for rest and prayer on his own and with his disciples. Mark tells us that after the news that John the Baptist had been killed by Herod, Jesus said to his disciples *"let's go off by ourselves to a quiet place and rest awhile"* (Mark 6: 30). He said this because there were so many people coming and going that they didn't even have time to eat! (v31). There were also times where Jesus didn't want anyone to know he was in a region because *"he wanted to spend more times with his disciples and teach them"* (Mark 9: 30).

Times on our own in prayer or with family and close friends are important for recharging and re-energising. These times also allow us space to process the impact of difficult situations or events, or mull over tricky decisions. For Jesus the death of his friend John signalled the immediate need for time away for processing and prayer (Matthew 14: 13), although he had to wait until after 5000+ people had been taught, fed and watered!

The summer season affords time for many of us to leave routines and busyness and enjoy some "Holy-days". This will look different for each one of us, but I would recommend that we all set aside some time for reflection and prayer if we can. I have a friend who goes away for a few days retreat every month

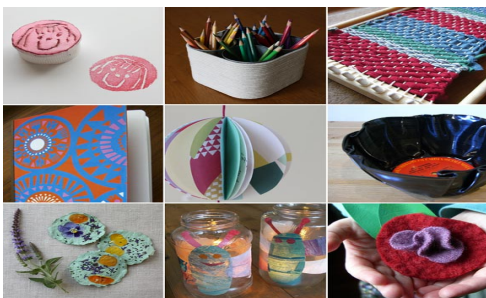
and has seen the fruit in his own life in terms of the long-term sustainability of his faith life and ministry.

Over the next couple of months, we will be looking at what it means, "to run with perseverance the race marked out for us" (Hebrews 12: 1), and some pointers in scripture about how we go about this "running". It doesn't matter if we have a recognised or paid "Ministry" in the church or not, everyone has a ministry of some description and we are all *"God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."* **Doing good works requires that we take good rest**, and I pray that each one of us will find time to rest and recreate this summer.

With every blessing for a restful summer at Jesus' pace!

Jonathan

## Craft and enjoy a Cuppa



We meet on the second Saturday of the month, here at Kirkhill 10-30am.

Currently we are creating prayer shawls, and we encourage all crafty folk to come along! Hope to see you here.



In consideration of the current 5 year plan applicable to Kiltarlity Church, the weekly delivery and presentation of the Open the Book programme in Tomnacross Primary School falls into the category of Mission and Outreach.

Through the weekly presentation we, members of the dedicated team of volunteers, aim to reach out to the younger children of the school. This we have been successful in doing through the past 5 school sessions, always being made most welcome by staff and pupils alike. Staff members and pupils have this session been encouraged to actively participate in the delivery of many of the stories, all being enthusiastic helpers when requested to play a role. Though the programme is primarily designed to appeal to the younger pupils, in Tomnacross pupils comprising p1-5 are included and often older children too, should they be available and willing to help.

Open the Book thus offers our team of dedicated, enthusiastic and faithful believers in this philosophy an opportunity to reach out to the children of our parish, and weekly, little by little and drip by drip encourage each of them to become aware of, and perhaps in years to come, recall the stories and believe in them.

The stories we read and enact are published in the Lion Storytellers' Bible - the children are encouraged to consider this book to be their Bible. The school has a copy of the Bible to which reference may be made as appropriate and required, perhaps to reinforce the story of the week. This session in particular, we have been encouraged by staff of Tomnacross to endeavour to link our story with the school's policy on religious education, the emphasis being on morals. It has been suggested already that this approach be repeated through session 2018-19. The hope is that weekly visits to the school will recommence early September 2018, and continue through the entire session to June 2019.

The Open the Book team presently comprises 3 or 4 reliable and enthusiastic members. Not everyone is able to participate each week, but come along as often as possible and as available. New team members are always required to fill the odd gap so if anyone reading this article feels called to or able to help, please get in touch with Ellenor or Sheila. New input is VERY welcome.



Well done to the flower ladies! and thanks to all involved. Also thanks to those who do all the necessary little jobs round the church, and to those who do teas and coffee after the services.

## HIGHLAND FOOD BANK

Elizabeth Fraser

Lorna Demspster has written to thank Kiltarlity Church of Scotland supporters for very kind donations of food so far this year. In particular she thanks members of our church for the specific items in short supply during April and May.

Between January and April this year Foodbank has helped 1319 people in Inverness and Nairn alone and Lorna writes that this was only possible thanks to the amazing generosity of the people within local churches.



Foodbank organisers are also very grateful for donations of "Bags for Life". Ongoing donations of these bags would be much appreciated, they do not require to be new, but are vital for people to take away their shopping from Foodbank.

### A word of appreciation.....

We must thank Les Bradley and Ian Clyne for leading worship in each of their churches on 10th June when Jonathan was in Skye taking a promised communion. And we also extend our thanks to Margo MacLennan and Angie Cosens for leading our services on the 24<sup>th</sup> when the Streep Pastors were visiting. The members of both congregations enjoyed the services very much. We are very lucky to have such interesting and talented leaders.

The Dahl family has been in the Scottish Highlands community for 10 months. During this time Richard has gotten to know enough kids and parents to start what Young Life International calls "club". Club is a weekly event for teens in the community that allows the most disinterested youth to discover and safely question who God really is. Club will begin in August when school is back in session. Before that Richard will be taking some village teens to a Young Life International summer camp.

Both camp and club will introduce kids to Jesus Christ. Please pray that these events will just be the start of long term discipleship that helps Scottish Highland teens to grow their faith.

In addition to that Kate is helping with the village toddler club that meets once a week. Through this she is getting to know lots of parents in the community. Please pray that this would be the beginning of long term relationships that lead to discipleship of kids and parents in the village.

Thank you for your continued support and collaboration with Young Life International.





## Messy Church Report

Messy Church has now been running for a whole year - so a big thanks to everyone from both Kirkhill and Kiltarlity Churches who have helped in so many ways to make it happen. Currently taking place in Kirkhill Church on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month (apart from July & August) from 4 - 6pm.

Over the last 5 months we have been running a mini series under the heading of 'A Walk through the Old Testament'. We started with the Creation story, followed by Noah, Abraham & Sarah, Joseph & finally ending up with Moses.

Every month the children and families have crafted everything from pipe cleaner bugs, a giant cardboard Ark, family trees, bubble dream pictures through to Egyptian headdresses. They have played games based, around the monthly theme, sung praise songs, listened to the stories and learnt more about our amazing God and the people of the Old Testament. A big part to Messy Church is sitting down and having a meal together at the end of every session, whether it be soup, sandwiches, baking or BBQ's. It's a time for everyone, to chat, get to know each other & build relationships.

Messy Church is open to everyone from 0 to 100 plus, so 'come and see' - you'll be warmly welcomed!

Penny Hepburn





Messy Church is the name given to an international movement started in 2004 and now has over 3800 Messy Churches registered worldwide. It is one of the fastest growing 'fresh expressions' of church in the UK.



### Fund-raising Group

By now, everyone will have heard that in Kirkhill church, the Bellcote requires a repair to be done, and, of course, we require to fund raise. **Avril & Iain Marr are to host a Garden Open Afternoon with teas, on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> August.** This has always being an outstanding event, and we're sure everyone is looking forward to going along.

Frances is planning a sponsored 'Not to Speak, or Drink Coffee' on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> August from 9-00am—5-00pm. Lookout for sponsor form to sign up.

There will be many other events happening - you can keep up with them on the church web site or notice board!

The fundraisers.

## Ladies Nights and Fun Nights ☺

Kate Humphrey

I have been arranging evenings in our churches roughly once a term with the purpose of getting together, from both churches, to do fun things that are easy to invite friends along to. (I should say there is no "rule" about it being for women only and any men that come along are very warmly welcomed in!)

The Vine Trust evening in Kiltarlity was followed in Kirkhill by the Mama Hope evening in February and we had lots of fun - some shopping more than others! It was great to see so many along, chatting and laughing, and enjoying the numerous goodies on offer. In May we met in Kiltarlity for a taster night "Wellbeing Choir" which had an action progressive song, a pretty round about friends and some other old favourites. I'm very grateful to Frances Grant and Elizabeth Fraser for all their help and enthusiasm for making these evenings happen.



Our next Fun Evening is planned for October in Kiltarlity around the theme of the Blytheswood Christmas Boxes. So... thumbs up warning.. save a shoe box if you are out buying shoes over the summer! Everyone can help buy items to go in the boxes; toothpaste, toothbrush, hat, scarf, gloves, socks etc. We will give a list nearer the time and will leave a box in both churches for you to place the items in. Wrapping is always much more fun to do together with friends and a blether!

## KIRKHILL KIRK COFFEE MORNING ( article from Maris, Margaret and Mary)

Our Kirk Coffee Morning began life on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2012, so on the 12<sup>th</sup> June 2018 we celebrated our 6<sup>th</sup> birthday by being driven by coach to Culloden House Hotel to enjoy afternoon tea.

34 friends attended, and, while enjoying our delicious goodies, a member of staff gave us a brief but informative rundown on the history of Culloden House, reminding us that Bonnie Prince Charlie had stayed there just before the Battle of Culloden.

After our afternoon tea, when the sun was shining, most of us had a beautiful walk through the walled garden - lovely finish to a most enjoyable afternoon.



**Friday Club** in Kiltarlity Church has finished for the summer. We began after the October school holidays last year and will be starting again on the first Friday when the schools go back in August. Both leaders and children have had a great time, with the occasional extra helper - a certain minister - who was a dab hand at the hot glue gun (only minor burns.....)





We have to thank Tonya for all her work for both our churches with her lovely music. We will miss her, but hope to see

her occasionally at church as a welcome guest organist.

Thanks also to Laura and Leona for playing in church. We are grateful to have two such talented musicians in our midst. Laura has already taught herself to play the organ in Kiltarlity!

## Gala Days

Both Kirkhill and Kiltarlity villages have held their galas, with Kirkhill definitely getting the best weather (again.....). Our churches were present at both events, and we had our own tent at the Kiltarlity Gala. We are very grateful for everyone who volunteered to give out fliers with information about our churches and "Jesus loves you" balloons to passing children. Jonathan and Richard where also roped in to organise the wheelbarrow, egg and spoon and sack races!



At Kirkhill we had a Gala week service which included the crowning of our Gala Queen Jenni Simpson, and Princesses Morven Matheson & Emily Weir. The church was packed with parents and supporters and it was a

great opportunity to serve our community.