

# THE ANCHOR

The magazine of Kiltarlity and Kirkhill  
Churches

## Autumn

## 2018



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

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

SC: 003866; 014918

## From the Interim Moderator

I once sat in an assembly hall and listened as the Principal explained that "we are going through a time of transition." The person sitting next to me lent over and whispered: "he says that every year." The fact that I am writing this as the Interim Moderator for Kiltarlity and Kirkhill is evidence enough that we are going through a time of transition. Change can be unsettling but we can decide to make it an opportunity to refocus on whose we are and what we are for and determine to get on with it.



Sorry, I should have introduced myself. I am Seoras Mackenzie and am currently serving as Chaplain to 39 Engineer Regiment at Kinloss. My wife, Elizabeth, and I live in Inverness. We grew up there and despite having wandered far and wide with the Army; we seem to be stuck here for the moment.

Years ago someone told me that for some of us life is a bit like being a log in a river. You are carried along until you get jammed against a stone or washed up on the bank. After a time the water rises and carries you off again. Wherever you find yourself, in place or employment or health: the challenge is to seek to be of use in the Lord's service. Don't get too wrapped up in trying to figure out where the Lord wants you to be; just get on with being faithful where you are. If he wants you somewhere else

then the water will rise and off you'll go. Just don't hold on too tight to the bank.

Various people in the history of the Church have observed that we can have a tendency to be "idol factories". We can make idols out of anything and everything. Things and even people can be more precious to us than they ought to be. Yes, even people can mean more to us than the Living God. When we value or trust in anything or anyone more than we value and trust the Lord: then we have made an idol for ourselves and we place a weight of expectation on it or them, that only God can bear.

Jesus said "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Oh, if only we would. As we journey together in this time of vacancy: let's determine to put Jesus first in our lives and in His Church.

May you know God's richest blessing,

Seoras.

## **A brief introduction to Scott Burton, our new locum.**

1. Where am I from? What did I do before this?

Originally I am from Whitburn in West Lothian but we lived in Dalkeith for the last four years. Whilst studying at Heriot-Watt University I met Gill and we were married at the age of 22 - so this September we celebrated 13 years together. I

began studying Chemical Engineering but moved on to complete a degree in Youth Work, which led me to working for a church in Edinburgh and then the Scout Association across the south east of Scotland. During that time, God called me into ministry with the Church of Scotland and after three years training I completed my probation placement with Aberlady and Gullane Parish Churches at the end of August 2018.

## 2. What is your role at Kiltarlity and Kirkhill?

I am here as the part-time locum during the vacancy period. As a graduate candidate I am in the process of applying for my first charge and recently had some interviews - but until we know where God is calling us as a family, I am looking forward to serving the congregations and parishes through two days pastoral cover and leading worship on Sundays.



3. Where did you study and what made you want to train as a minister?

I studied full-time with Highland Theological College. Although it is based in Dingwall, I was able to attend lectures live with the use of modern technology and so I joined in from my study at home.

God called me into ministry around the age of 21 - initially at that time into youth work. Over time that path has eventually developed into a call for ministry in the Church of Scotland. Ultimately it was/is God's leading that has made me want to train as a minister - but I also want to because of my passion for God, His Church and those that do not yet know Him.

4. Do you have a favourite Hymn?

I probably have too many favourites to be honest - and I keep adding to my list after each placement! As I play the guitar and previously in the church band at Holy Trinity Westerhailes (our home church) I've built up a reasonable range of songs. At present I am enjoying some modern music written by a band called 'Third Day' as I find their songs uplifting and inspiring.

5. Who is coming with you to Kiltarlity and Kirkhill?

Both my wife, Gill, and my daughter, Hope, will be moving up in early October - and our dog Hector will move up with me in September. Hope is two years old and is full of life - and has lots of two-year old determination! Gill has a relatively new job with a medical IT company which she can do from a distance.

6. What do you enjoy doing?

Walking our dog, climbing (indoors mostly - although I am keen to get back out), reading novels, watching films and spending time with family and friends.

Scott.



## Summer Fun

This superb group of young people comes every week in Kirkhill to learn to be more like Jesus. (Unfortunately not all could be in photo). As you can see, we have a wide age range, from 18 months to 12 years old. Over the summer we have made the most of the good weather and played games outside, adapting old favourites with the parachute, beanbags and skittles to fit in with our themes of gifts and prayer, coming out of Gideon and Running the Race Well. There has been a great deal of running, hopping and laughing! It's been such an exciting couple of months witnessing them all growing in confidence to pray together and for their class friends at school.

We should remember that as we pray alongside them for the children in our community we need to be ready to welcome each one to our loving family. Only this week, one child who normally comes to Messy Church but not morning service, who was brought along by one of our regular families, said in the prayer time, "I want Jesus to be my friend."



This is what makes church. Disciples, at the stage they are at, making disciples. Don't be discouraged by the enemy that you are not able to draw your friends into the love of God. Our children can teach us much. Ask your heavenly Father to help you to love, encourage and invite a new friend along to experience the Love and acceptance of Jesus and the indwelling equipping of the Holy Spirit.

As I pass the reins over to our group of adult volunteers to teach our children I pray for each of them. Pauline, Louise, Markus and Angie have said they will share out the enormous privilege of laughing and learning and discipling our next generation. Pray for them too, and better still, offer to step in if they need an extra pair of hands!

With love to you all,

*Kate Humphrey.*

## HIGHLAND FOOD BANK HARVEST 2018

In a recent letter received from Highland Food Bank's Lorna Dempster .....

Foodbank staff thank most sincerely members and friends of Kiltarlity and Kirkhill Churches of Scotland for kindly responding to foodbank's bi monthly requests for food. This is greatly appreciated by all at Blythswood and particularly by those who use the foodbanks.



Harvest is a time of year when we remember God's goodness to us, and also reflect on our responsibility to express His love to those in our communities (and in our world) who are in need.

It had been found that this past year the level of need has remained high. During the last financial year just over 6000 people throughout Highland have been helped. This has been made possible as a result of the continuing generosity of the public, and especially the members and friends of the Churches donating food to the project.

Lorna asks that we (Kiltarlity and Kirkhill congregations) would again consider supporting Harvest. 6 products have been assigned to each participating church, these inclusive of much needed toiletries and household products.



She thanks, in advance, all who will contribute at this special time of year, both in "kind" as requested, and in financial giving also. Thank you for your contributions this way and through the retiring offering opportunity on the Sunday we celebrate Harvest Thanksgiving.



Here is a quick update from the Dahl family and Young Life in the Scottish Highlands.



Over the summer, Richard took 3 Highland teenagers to a week long camp. At camp, Richard and the boys enjoyed lots of fun activities that built strong relationships.

Through this, the teens heard the good news of Jesus Christ for the first time. After returning from camp, Richard continues to meet with the teens and share the Gospel.

Now that summer is over and school is back in session, Richard is hosting weekly events for teens in the Highlands. The best part about these events is the involvement of adult Christians in the community.





This shows non-Christian teens that the church community truly cares about them. Please pray that Christian adults in the Highlands would continue to invest in the lives of teenagers around them. Also pray that Richard can build up and support these adults.



Richard continues -

'Thank you so much for your support and all your prayers! We could not do this without you!

Kate is doing well and we just found out that we will be having a baby boy! Please pray for a healthy delivery for Kate and baby. Adelyn and Paxton are getting big, they are also very mobile and getting into everything. Family photos will be shared in the near future.

Blessings,

Richard, Kate, Adelyn, Paxton, and Baby Boy'.

## Union of K&K



The Union Committee has been working hard to bring about the official joining of our two churches, and to build a case to keep both our church buildings open. They must be commended for the incredible amount of effort they have already put into this for the benefit of us all. Please understand that the Union has to take place and the committee is doing it's very best to implement this in a way that will be beneficial to both congregations.

Your prayers are needed.



## Craft with a Cuppa at Kirkhill

The craft group has been on holiday and will start up again on 13th October. All very welcome.



## Church Friday Club

The Friday Club at Kiltarlity has started up again and continues to be rather popular. We now have as many children as we can manage and extra helpers are most welcome. One such helper last week was Scott, our new Locum, who was a star! He played guitar, led songs, chatted with the children and generally made friends. The children loved him. We are encouraging him to come often.....

Richard is also a regular and hugely popular. He helps to ferry the children across the road from school to church and stays for a while to say grace and chat before heading back to his own family lunch. We always have a craft session of some sort, and here we are painting stones on one of the last sunny Fridays.



## Kirkhill Church Bellcote

### Repair and Maintenance Works July 2018

Works were carried out to the Kirkhill Church bellcote in July following an earlier inspection indicating that significant re-pointing was required to preserve the integrity of the bellcote. Concerns had been raised regarding the stability of the structure which houses the church bell and bell ringing pulleys.



The work involved erection of scaffolding to provide a safe working platform, raking out of old broken material and re-pointing with lime mortar. Other works carried out included the replacement of bell carriage support timbers, painting of the bell carriage and renewal of bell pull chains and linkages.

The work was completed successfully and will put the church bell support structure in good fettle to withstand the vagaries of the highland weather.

The bell can now continue to ring out and reach church followers for many years to come.



## Kirkhill Fundraising Group



We had a wonderful afternoon at Iain & Avril's garden party, warm sunshine, great company & fellowship, and a beautiful afternoon tea. Many thanks to everybody - it was a special event. There are lots more ideas for future and we'll keep you informed.



The fundraising dinner was very successful with good company, blether and food, AND raising much needed money for the bell tower.

Our next fundraiser is a stall at the Christmas Fayre at Kirkhill Community centre on 17th November. Hope to see you there.

*The fundraisers.*

## Financial Report from Kirkhill

Back in May I advised the Kirk Session that the cost of repairing the bellcote could result in the church being unable to meet its M & M allocation by the end of October.

M & M is the share of mission & ministry costs that a church must meet each month. Kirkhill's share is £1,283.75 per month which equates to £15,405 per year. The money doesn't relate to the amount of stipend a minister is paid but instead makes a contribution towards the total cost of ministry and mission within the Church of Scotland. A church unable to meet its obligation would be considered to be in serious financial trouble!



However, with a lot of hard work and prayer, funds to the tune of £6,848 have been raised so far to cover the cost of the bellcote repairs. Therefore, I am pleased to report that we have sufficient

funds not only to meet our October M & M liability but also November's & December's too.

Fundraising continues and a grant to cover the cost of the VAT on the bellcote project has been applied for, so I am confident that we will have sufficient reserves to take us through 2019. An optimum position would be where our monthly income covered our monthly outgoings. If we take out the one-off costs and related income, the accounts show that we have a shortfall of £445 at the end of September. That equates to £50 a month. That shortfall has to be met from reserves.


The two means of giving regularly is by weekly envelope or by standing order. If you don't currently use either of those methods and would like to find out more about them, please speak to me in church or email me on [kirkhilltreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:kirkhilltreasurer@gmail.com).

*Louise Monaghan (Treasurer)*


## **Kiltarlity Church Flowers**

Once again Barbara and I warmly thank all the ladies who provide and arrange flowers in our church throughout the year. We appreciate your willingness and kindness.

### **Flower Rota from October through to December 2018**



07 October	Clair McLachlan
14 October	Marie Harvey
21/28 October	Sandra Johansen
04/11 November	Marie Harvey
18/25 November	Marjory Sandilands
02/09/16 December	Ellenor Thomas
23/30 December	Marie Harvey



Marie Harvey Flower Co-ordinator

Tel. 01463 74128 email - [marie.harvey6@btinternet.com](mailto:marie.harvey6@btinternet.com)

Barbara Wilton

Tel. 01463 741352



## **Church Flowers/Floral Displays & Work behind the scenes**

It is only as a result of all those who (behind the scenes and largely unknown) that our churches continue to look so welcoming and adorned week by week. Editors of YOUR magazine thank most sincerely all those "hidden" persons, yes men AND women, who week by week organise and / or prepare our church homes for YOU to admire. Thank you, whoever you are and wherever you are hiding, from everyone.



### **Tomnacross Primary School**

Delivery of stories through the medium of enactment (which the children thoroughly enjoy) has re-commenced for the session 2018-19.

Staff willingly and enthusiastically welcomed the Team back after the summer break. The weekly programme has been compiled until Christmas. The enthusiastic and dedicated team of 5/6 look forward to weekly visits and contact with both children and teachers. The pleasure the young children derive from these visits is tangible and so rewarding, especially when the children respond not only through attention, but also through willingness to participate and to recall previous 'lessons'

If anyone would like to come along and observe what is done, please let us know. No-one will be obliged to join us, just come and enjoy with Team, Staff and pupils!

*Ellenor Thomas*



## Kirkhill Guild Syllabus

October to March, meeting  
on Wednesdays

### 2018

October 10<sup>th</sup> Jill Murray, Cheshire House  
Volunteer Co-ordinator.

November 14<sup>th</sup> FirstWorld War Centenary - This meeting  
will start with a 2 minute silence gathered  
round the Cenotaph (weather permitting).

The Guild have invited a modern teenager to share her thoughts  
on this war, following a recent trip to the Belgium battlefields.  
Any local WW1 stories? Please share with the rest of the Guild.

December 12<sup>th</sup> Christmas Party with entertainment and  
festive food.

### 2019

January 9<sup>th</sup> Jim Hunter, historian and author.

February 13<sup>th</sup> Iain J Mortimer - The Big Five, a safari  
adventure.

March 13<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting.

You are most welcome to become a member of the Guild, or  
alternatively, please come to any of our meetings where the  
subject matter interests you, as a welcomed visitor - Annual  
Member's Fee - £11 (fees set by the Church of Scotland Guild).

## **Kiltarlity Home Group**

The Home Group is now fixed as the fourth Wednesday of the month and, for the present, will be at Sheila Moir's house.

For info, [sheilajmoir@btinternet.com](mailto:sheilajmoir@btinternet.com)

## **A Happy Day**

Here we have a lovely photo of Margaret and Don West cutting their Golden Wedding cake at Kirkhill. Blessings on them both.



## **And finally, a Fond Farewell.....**



By the time you read this message, Kate and I will already be in Dundee and I will be minister at Chalmers Ardlar Church, but I wanted to say a few things now in amongst the boxes that the removal men have stacked up in every room! We have such mixed emotions. We are excited and looking forward to the new challenge of Chalmers Ardlar and the sense that this really is a strong call of God and that He made it clear that we should move now.

But we are also very sad to leave a lovely area of the country, relatives and, of course, our church family and the many friends we have made in both congregations and in the wider community. We will miss you! We thank you all for your love and support over these past 3 and half years. At these times I find I come back to some advice I heard some time ago. In every circumstance ask the Lord how He wants to take you through it and what He wants you to learn about His character and His nature. It is in this process of getting to know God better that we also find out more about who *we are* in Him.

Kate and I are praying for you all, and will continue to pray, confident that God has great plans for K&K if the churches continue to keep Jesus and His Kingdom central, seek to grow in Him and reach out to those in our communities who don't yet know Him (Romans 8: 28-31). So, although we are moving on, so are you! The church is always changing and each of us is called to "run the race well" and to look forwards to the new things that God is doing. With Seoras Mackenzie as Interim Moderator, and Scott Burton coming as locum with his wife Gill and daughter Hope, a new chapter has begun and we look forward to hearing how you are getting on with the union between the churches and the search, in time for a new minister.

With our love

*Beannachd leibh*

Jonathan and Kate