

THE ANCHOR

The magazine of Kiltarlity and Kirkhill
Churches

Autumn

2019



Give thanks for God's goodness

Living in the love of Jesus in the rural Highlands

www.kiltarlityandkirkhill.org.uk

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From Seoras.....

Scottish Independence and Brexit have both been sighted as causing bitter division within communities and families. When it comes to things to fall out over, we are not limited to the big political questions of the day. Family disputes range over issues from money to unguarded conversation and behaviour at weddings and funerals, to... well the list is probably endless. The point is that there are people who are hurt and angry and not talking to each other and we need to do something about it.

Last week I received an Email containing a photograph of the lettering which has just been put on my Father's grave stone. Dad died in Jan 2018 and the lettering has only now been put on the stone. Seeing his name and the date of his death written on the stone stopped me in my tracks. It all seemed so real, which it is, and it made me think of good times and bad times and things I wish I'd said or not said. We weren't really a huggy family and knowing Dad was dying I had to work hard to get the words "I love you" to come out of my mouth. Not because I didn't love him but because we didn't tend to say these things out loud. I guess it was to do with generation and culture.

Jesus lived in a different generation and culture to us but his words are wise and relevant to anyone in any culture. In the gospel according to Matthew we read of Jesus saying:

If you are offering your gifts at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.

People matter and relationships matter and it's too easy to let divisions rumble on. We all have ragged edges and we can rub each other up the wrong way. Is there someone who needs to hear you say sorry? Someone who needs to hear the words "I love you"? Someone who has something against you? There are some important things that are actually less important. Leave them and go and put things right.



Open the Book weekly presentations have restarted in Kiltarlity. Children from nursery through to primary 4 have been encouraged by their teachers to come along and listen to and hopefully enjoy the team's enactments of Bible stories. The young ones are often included in the drama - this they enjoy immensely, with no shortage of volunteers each week. The team would love more adult volunteers to help too, with an assurance that the commitment is merely approximately 1 hour weekly, on Mondays, commencing at 1.00 pm. If any reader of The Anchor is interested in helping, even occasionally, with this very worthwhile activity do approach Ellenor, tel 01463782289, for additional information.

Ellenor Thomas



I have been asked to share with you a little about 'Messy Church'...

Messy Church for me is about meeting up once a month on a Sunday afternoon with others of all ages to have fun. Some of the people I know from the Kirkhill Church or other churches, some are friends or family and others might be total strangers. Over the months we all get to know each other and become a bit like a family having a family get together. Most of all we have fun, share about God's goodness and love and then enjoy a meal together. Messy church lets you be creative, be yourself and be part of a family where you meet and encounter Jesus or grow closer to him. Everyone helps out and uses whatever they are good at to make others feel happy and loved. You are very welcome to come along and you are never too young or too old to join us. If you feel you are just not up to coming, please pray for us and especially for the love of Jesus to reach deep into the hearts of everyone who comes along. Please give thanks for God's goodness and the work he is doing in the community. God bless you.

Pauline Gault.

Kirkhill Guild



Wardlaw Church Guild Syllabus 2019/2020

Our discussion topic for the next session is 'Our journey past, present and future. The meetings are open to all from Kirkhill, Kiltarlity and surrounding areas and a warm welcome awaits to anyone who cares to come along and enjoy an interesting talk in an informal setting! There is tea, coffee and time for fellowship at the end of every meeting. Our meetings are normally held on the 2nd Wednesday in the month from 2.30 - 4pm in Wardlaw Church, Kirkhill except the January 2020 meeting is to be held on the 3rd Wednesday.

We have the following delightful itinerary to tempt you!

13th November TARTAN PORRIDGE - Ian Dearing will reveal his experiences of the Scottish Prison Service.

11th December FESTIVE PARTY AND QUIZ - Come along and join in the fun!

15th January JIM HUNTER - A freelance historian and author, Dr James Hunter CBE will delight us with his knowledge of local history.

12th February POPPY SCOTLAND - A representative from Poppy Scotland will give a talk on their role in supporting thousands of ex-servicemen.

11th March AGM - A short meeting to discuss the successes of the previous year and plan for the next!

Songs of Praise

A very well-attended service held on a warm Sunday afternoon at the beginning of September hosted the Dingwall Gaelic Choir. Wonderful hymns sung with a great deal of enthusiasm helped to raise the rafters at Wardlaw Church as part of Guild Week. In addition, it was the first opportunity to use the newly gifted Grande Piano - such a splendid and generous donation which made it an even more special event! Everyone enjoyed the teas and biscuits afterwards and is hoping for a repeat performance next year!

News.....

It is lovely to know that the manse has been let - never good to see a house lying empty. We warmly welcome Alan MacKenzie to Kirkhill.

Leonora and Laura



In Psalm 92, the Psalmist declares "It is good to praise the Lord most high, and make music to His name." Right now, there are dahlias blooming in my garden and they are beautiful, they have so many more petals than is decent, but there they are

shouting, "Look at me and my exuberant colourful life!" They draw my mind to the One who made them and gave them as a gift to us, so much more excessively beautiful than they need to be (in my humble opinion). I feel much the same about music, it is imperative that we praise God, he deserves it and our souls need it, but we could speak it or declare it. However, God who is so abounding in love and rich in mercy blesses us with the gift of music, a universal language. He has given us this beautiful means of praising Him, singing truth to each other and reminding ourselves of the truth of His word. Music has the undeniable ability to inspire, move and comfort us. We use it to help us learn when we are young and often the songs of childhood are what remain in the minds of the elderly. Paul, in various letters that he wrote, encourages the singing and making of music for exactly these reasons. Kirkhill has recently been blessed with the gift of a Baby Grand Piano which we hope will enhance the music as part of our worship to our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. It is an incredible blessing to have this beautiful piano on which to make music, and it's also an extra privilege to play it, given that it was donated in memory of Alison MacKenzie. In an age where electronic piano substitutes are increasingly common, to have a real, high quality baby grand, with its unique sound, and with its workings visible when open, is quite something for people to experience - not just every now and then in concert far away on a stage, but up close week by week. It feels different to play, its sound quality is something else completely, and - being in the Highlands - it's great to

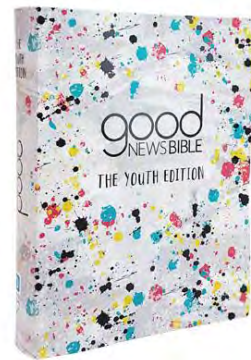
worship with something that is steadfast and reliable even when the power - and/or microphones - are not.



Leonora and Laura

Young Life Update from Richard

Thank you to everyone who has sponsored a youth Bible! They are being used by teens who have lunch at the Dahl house after school on Fridays.



Now that school is back in session, there is a Young Life club for Kirkhill & Kiltarlity students. Thank you to everyone who has provided food, helped with transporting young people, and other behind the scenes work!

There are around 20 young people attending the youth club and being introduced to Jesus Christ. This is a result of several Christians in the area investing in the lives of young people outside of the youth club. Great examples of this are the Gault & Meier families, they are always doing things like giving rides to youth rugby and welcoming students into their homes.

Thank you so much to Margo MacLennan and Laura Gunthrie! Last year, these ladies were in Tomnacross every

week working with P6/7 girls. The majority of girls who now attend the youth club were introduced to Young Life through Margo and Laura consistently (and faithfully) going to Tomnacross school. Margo and Laura will be back at the school this year and to keep building relationships with P7 girls.

Richard continues reaching out to young people by handing out hot chocolate at the Kiltarlity bus stop, helping with youth shinty, and volunteering in the schools. Kate is in constant communication with parents and building relationships with families.

Over the summer, 10 youth from the area attended Young Life summer camps. During this time, 3 teens gave their lives to Christ. Ray Gault played a huge part in this. Thank you so much to Ray for sacrificing a week of his time! Two of the teens who became Christians over the summer are regularly meeting with Richard to study the Bible and grow in their faith.

Finally, thank you so much to everyone who is involved with the Friday Club and Open The Book. You are building foundations of faith in Kirkhill and Kiltarlity youth. You are also forming relationships that will naturally transition into Young Life and the church. It is so great to be in ministry with you!

Please pray for Christians in this community to continue to build authentic relationships with young people. This is challenging and requires long term commitments.

Thank you!



The Anchor and Frances Grant

Did you know that it was Frances who gave this magazine its name? And it was she who initiated the combined efforts of both congregations to come together to produce it? As Editor, she kept a firm grip on everything that went in and out with clear vision and strong sense of direction. It goes without saying that she is sadly missed, especially these cosy editorial meetings in the Lovat Arms with coffee and shortbread - obviously to work out what we could put in the magazine, but followed by a good gossip. We still meet there, but the chat is more subdued. There are just three of us now; Angie Dunn and Ellenor Thomas who collect the articles and cajole contributors, and Sheila Moir who puts it together in its final format for submitting to the printers. Do remember we are all volunteers, and none of us have any real qualifications as regards publishing. If you feel a calling to help out, please approach one of us to see what's involved (although you'll never fill Frances' shoes!)

The Editorial team of the Anchor



Craft Work at Kiltarlity

This is the new pulpit fall completed by the Sunday and Friday Club children. It is an Autumn acrostic designed and worked out by the groups and adds a nice bit of seasonal colour to our church.



War Memorials

As we move towards Remembrance Sunday, do go and have a look at the War Memorials in our villages.

Kirkhill

Many of our older readers may remember that the war memorial that now stands in the grounds of Wardlaw Church was relocated there after being moved from its previous position just off the Beauly - Inverness road close to what is now known

as the Old North Inn. A bend in the road was to be straightened and it was agreed that the monument had to be moved.

The new location was to be adjacent to the east gable of the church and that is where it was duly rebuilt. Some years ago the beech trees which had been planted behind the monument began to outgrow the position and it was noted that they were beginning to brush against the top of the memorial and in windy weather were in danger of damaging it. As a result these trees had to be felled and a small group of church members decided that it would enhance the look of the monument if a small garden was planted around its base. Around ten tons of topsoil was delivered to the site and spread to allow the planting of decorative shrubs. An Inverness garden centre was opening at this time and they kindly donated various plants to start us off. They grew and developed into the present state.



Over the past few years the plot has been tended by various members. We made a bigger than usual effort (with some assistance from a Beaulieu British Legion official) when we were informed that this year we were to be included in a competition as a new entrant. I am delighted to let readers know that we have been awarded with the certificate of Best Kept War Memorial!

The church would now like to ask for volunteers to carry the mantle of caring for the monument and the small surrounding garden.

It is so VERY important that we all remember the sacrifices that were given for us by each and every one whose name is engraved upon these stones.

Ian Dearing

Kiltarlity

The War Memorial in Kiltarlity also won an award.

It stands proudly and centrally adjacent to the village Main Street, a testimonial to those brave young men from the village who valiantly gave their lives for their country. The memorial, fittingly, bears the inscription (from 1st Samuel 25, verse 10) " they were a wall unto us both by night and day"

The memorial is a decorated 15foot high granite Celtic cross at the top of which is engraved the word PAX, Latin for Peace. If only !



The memorial was unveiled by Lord Lovat on Saturday 7th October 1922, with the names of those who fell during the 2nd World War added subsequently.

Ellenor Thomas

Remembering in our Prayers.....

Malcolm Harvey and all those who are seriously unwell or under the weather, and those in our parishes and elsewhere who are bereaved, lonely or distressed.

Whenever you feel unloved, unimportant or insecure, remember to whom you belong. Eph 2:19-22

A Poem for Autumn



Looking out my window
In October's golden light
I see a beauty unsurpassed
A truly lovely sight

Leaves are saying soft good-
byes
As they come floating down
To make a nature's carpet
Of yellow, red and brown

Mountain tops , now turned to
white

Forewarn of winter chills
While trees, like golden
rivers

Wind their way up through
the hills

Throughout our world's
creation

You will ever find it thus
Kaleidoscopes of colour
In God's land, the artist's
brush.

By Alora M. Knight - born in
Wall, S.D. in 1920 and
graduated from Lodi High
School, California in 1939.

Some words to ponder -

To trust God in the light is nothing, but to trust Him in the
dark, that's Faith. CH Spurgeon

Until God opens the next door, praise Him in the hallway.

Some Seasonal Fun...

Does anyone watch the quiz programme 'Only Connect'? There is a section where you have to guess words or phrases with the vowels removed and random spacing put in. See how you get on with these categories - seasonal hymns, plus fruit and vegetables for our younger readers. Apologies for any mistakes, and no answers will be given. Try harder!

Hymns

FN TNFM RCYG DF LV

CMYTH NKF LPP LCM

WP LGHT HFL DSND S CTTR

FRT HBTY FTH RTH

THF LDSR LLW HT

LLC RTR SFRG DN DKNG

LLT HN GSBR GHTN DBTFL

GR TSTH YFT HFLN SS

LT SWT HGLD SMM ND

FNT NFMR CYG DFLV

Fruit and Vegetables

BR G N

BLC KC R RNT

P NP PL

C CM BR

B RC CL

G RPF RT

C LFL WR

WT RM LN

C LMN TN

P TT