

Tomnacross Tidings



Kiltarlity Church of Scotland

Regular Worship 11.15am - everyone welcome

January Diary

- 4th Revd Stewart Frizzell
- 11th Revd Stewart Frizzell
- 18th Revd Doug McRoberts, (retired - St Andrew's Church, Malta)
- 18th Service for Christian Unity - 3pm Inshes Church
- 25th Revd Bruce Ritchie
- 28th *Deacon's Court & Kirk Session 7.30pm*

Mondays at 12.50pm Tomnacross Primary School - *'Open the Book'*

February Diary

- 1st Revd Peter Donald - joint service with Kirkhill at Kiltarlity 11.15am.

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year, 'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.' And he replied 'Go into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.'

M. Louise Haskins 1875-1975

Quoted by King George VI on 1st January 1940

Submitted by Annabel Fraser.

Dear Friends, this humble offering is the work of two somewhat reluctant editors - we hope you enjoy it! Please don't hesitate to give us regular feedback - positive or negative - as this is your newsletter. Items for inclusion can be submitted to us at any time and in any format - email is good, but the back of an envelope will do.....

Looking forward to contributions, comments and even complaints,

Ellenor and Sheila.

FROM THE INTERIM MODERATOR, Revd Peter Donald

First and foremost greetings for a happy new year! I greatly enjoyed my time with the children and families associated with the primary school around the celebration of Christmas. Well done and thank you to all who decorated the church and also helped with the leading of worship over that time.

We are in new territory here with "Tomnacross Tidings", and we thank Ellenor Thomas and Sheila Moir for stepping up to help with its production. I hope with me you rather like the title. It echoes the song of the angels as they came to the shepherds on the hillside around the time of Jesus' birth. It insists therefore that the news of Jesus among us brings joy. I hope we will invite and encourage new people to be part of the church through this new year, so that they may find joy in the fellowship, amongst the people and between the people and God.

In Scottish church history there was a time when Christmas was

frowned upon. Excessive revelries (not so much consumerism in those days!) jarred with what could be sometimes rather severe Calvinism. They had a point to this extent – namely, that the sharing of joy, the insistence upon hope, the encouragement to be loving and above all the summons to live at peace with ourselves and with our neighbours and with God is far bigger than a one-day blowout. But then, thinking of how everyone from the Queen down reflected on the one-day truce of 1914 this Christmas, the gloom and doom way to read that would be to note how short-lived it was, and how killing resumed and how truces are rather pathetic when there is so much continuing greed and aggression in the world in which we live. I would not give in to that dark way of looking! We are asked to lay hold, in faith, of the vision of salvation; to walk in the light! Even if everyone else thinks a different world is not possible, even if everyone in your family apart from you has no interest in attending to the Word of God, even if it seems so much more demanding that we persevere with love rather than giving in to polarising and ostracising or just not talking and not caring, the light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it, will not overcome it. You meet with Christ and (like the wise men, who had no clue when they started of what was going to happen) you do not go back on the same way. So we rejoice and so life will become rich and full as we follow Christ.

I invite you to journey so as to deepen your faith every day that we are given. May Christ hold you and transform you.

Peter

PARISH NEWS

Mrs Mary Urquhart, Mossbank, died on 19 December

CONTACT DETAILS Interim Moderator:

The Revd Peter Donald, 230537, email peter.donald7@btinternet.com

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

Every year, between 18th and 25th January, across the world there is a coming together of churches to pray for unity and in doing so, to be fully face to face with one another. Alas here in Scotland, and especially in the Highlands, there has been far too little of this. Therefore I'm delighted that others besides myself have taken up the cause, and arranged a special service on the afternoon of Sunday 18th January, at 3 pm in Inshes Church, Inverness (near the Retail Park) for people from the different churches to come together for prayer and praise and attending to the Word of God. I do hope that the different Kiltarlity churches will be represented!

TO THINK ABOUT MINISTRY

The first Vocations Champions recruited by the Church of Scotland are beginning their work after being inducted into their new roles. Amongst these is the Revd Alison Burnside, for Inverness, Abernethy and Moray. The initiative will raise the profile of ministry and service in the Church, and ultimately aims to increase the numbers applying for ministry.

As Alan Kimmitt, another of the champions, puts it: "I think a lot of people already might have some inner voice prompting a move, and what we'd like to do is set up networks so if people are experiencing that call they can come and explore that with us and find out more. For me, success will be helping people to find their first steps, wherever that leads them, so that they find a way to start the journey." One of the Vocations Champions' first tasks will be helping promote the first ever Volunteering Vocations gap year scheme for 18 – 25-year-olds. It's designed to encourage young people to consider long term service in the Church through completing a year's work experience in the community. (from the CoS website: www.churchofscotland.org.uk)

THE KILTARLITY ORGAN - submitted by Ellenor Thomas

Printed in the Banff-shire Advertiser on the 16th July, year 1903 was the following "The day when instrumental music in churches was considered a sacrilege has long since passed away".

Shortly after that date and publication, the German Company Messrs Walcker & Co set to work.

35 organs were designed and constructed in their factory at Cannstatt, near Stuttgart, for export to and installation in Scotland. Of these original 35 only 5 remain, and it is Kiltarlity's proud boast that the organ in the Church of Scotland here is one of these 35!

The Kiltarlity organ was installed in the church by Messrs Walcker, following the very generous gift of this instrument by Mr Henry Phipps, (the same Mr Henry Phipps who funded the construction of the Phipps Hall, in Beaulieu in the year 1903). The installation of the organ was to commemorate the marriage of his daughter and was installed in the parish church in the year 1904.

The Walcker family firm, was established in 1780, in the town of Stuttgart, where production of the Dulsanell organ commenced. Mr Gerhart Walcker is proud to describe himself as the 7th generation of the Walcker family to own and manage the company which, although no longer building new instruments, travels world wide and is in regular communication with those owning existing instruments. Their travels take them far afield, to continents such as Australia, Nth and Sth America, Africa, Asia and Europe. Their present day work involves inspecting, renovating, refurbishing and tuning their instruments as required. Even as this article is being written their work has taken them to France.

On 11th November 2014 it was the privilege of 2 members of the Kirk Session to meet Mr Walcker and his son. The company, had not known of the existence of the organ in Kiltarlity till contact was made with them by the treasurer, and to reach Kiltarlity from Stuttgart, the visitors had made the round trip of 3,800 kms, en route meeting with church officials, playing the instruments, maintaining and tuning as required, in Tomintoul, Motherwell, Kingussie, Inveravon and Burghead.

The Kiltarlity organ, a Walcker – Dulsanell Class A.1 was built in the company factory / plant in Ludwigsburg, in 1904. It is a “one manual organ with pedal stop on manual”. It is housed in an oak case, and boasts 24 pipes. The organ was constructed in the German- Romantic style Class A.1. Organs were designed and built in French, British and German-Romantic styles, but at the beginning of World War 1 this late Romantic organ period stopped. The Symphonic organ is a much larger instrument, and the largest in the world, also built by the Walcker company, had 200 stops, and over 1,000 pipes. It was built in Nuremberg, in the 1930’s, for a state congress hall but sadly was destroyed by aerial bombing during World War 2.

The considered opinion of both gentlemen was that the Kiltarlity organ is in excellent condition, requiring minimal work which should be carried out during their next visit to this country, summer 2015.

Dulsanell organs were built on enduring principles, “to remain in tune! They do not contain sensational stops, or useless mechanical contrivances. Cast metal was used for all pipes, including reeds, at all times the best and most suitable materials available being utilised. The instruments have been noted for their artistic designs, purity of tone, excellence of construction, ‘gold medal’ standard in every sense of the word.”

35 distinctions were awarded to the company E.F. Walcker & Co. The Walcker firm has the honourable record of having supplied over 2000 organs for installation world wide.

Kiltarlity therefore is very proud to own one of those magnificent instruments and hope that through continued regular tuning and maintenance the pipe organ may continue to accompany hymn and psalm singing, and perhaps more too, for many decades to come.

It will be of interest to readers that Mr George Fraser of Tomnacross Farm, in Kiltarlity recalls that as a boy he operated the bellows to enable the playing of the organ, the organist at the time being his own mother Mrs Linda Fraser, also of Tomnacross. George recalls sitting on his own little seat behind the organ pipes! George’s hidden place was in time filled by Mr Jackie Henton, of Loaneckheim, Kiltarlity. Following Jackie, the organ was “pumped” by Donald Fraser-Lee, and later by his brother James, these 2 “lads” working behind the scenes whilst Mrs Joy Stewart was organist. The organ was electrified around 60 years ago - the need to ensure a constant, uniform flow of air removed from human hands!



Tonya Clement, present organist, with Mr George Fraser

OPEN THE BOOK

This VERY effective means of communicating Bible stories to children has been locally in operation for some years now, initially in Kirkhill Primary school, but through the past three years introduced to pupils in Tomnacross.

It involves a small team of available volunteers attending the school weekly on Mondays at 12.50pm for about an hour. The stories are narrated from a prescribed script from the Lion Children's Bible, and are also enacted for the young audience. Often children are enlisted to play parts - this is loved by all and is very popular.

Volunteers to support the present team are always needed, and should any reader of this article be interested, please speak to Ellenor Thomas (782289) at any time. The bigger the pool of volunteers, the less time would be required of any individual. This is a VERY well presented programme, loved by pupils and staff alike within the school, and also by the present team of volunteers.

WATCHNIGHT SERVICE 2014

The Watchnight Service, which was led by elders, was well attended by members of the congregations of both the Church of Scotland and the Free Church, as well as many villagers and visitors. Traditional carols were sung and the familiar story of the Nativity read by members of both churches. Mr David Macleary addressed the congregation most eloquently. Thanks must be expressed to all who participated and who attended, making it a memorable evening. In what has become a tradition in our Church mince pies were served after the service, allowing much opportunity for lively chat and fellowship.

HIGHLAND FOODBANK - HARVEST 2014

Elizabeth Fraser recently had a very nice letter from Lorna Dempster, project Co-ordinator for the Highland Foodbank. We quote from part of it....

'We would like to thank Kiltarlity Church of Scotland for the generous donations of food so far this year totalling 147kgs, either following our Harvest Appeal or through on-going donations throughout the year, or indeed both. We have been absolutely overwhelmed by the fantastic response from churches such as yours. Thanks to this generosity we are now in a position where we are confident that we have enough food to meet the demands likely to be made of us in the coming months.

'The nine years of operating Foodbank have confirmed to us that there is a genuine need within our communities, and that many people are struggling to put food on the table. But it's only through the generosity of churches like yours that we are able to continue to meet the needs of thousands of people facing financial crisis annually. So, once again, thank you!'

Well done everyone for supporting this, and well done Elizabeth for taking care of all the donations.

FLOWER LIST

Thanks to all who 'did' the flowers in 2014. The new list is on the noticeboard in the Church hall. Please fill in the blank spaces and don't leave it all to the 'regulars'. You know, New Men have been known to flower arrange.....

For the young at heart - 'Frozen' word search

S P Q F S M X C V E I K N R O G
 F A L O F T V O J R R B E I G M
 L K S T Y I S L W I E E C V S R
 Y S F L H P X D S P L E A D L E
 J R R X A M F T U T L N L P L I
 W E S E L T O N S N E K A O O N
 S H C Q T F S A A Z D Q P R R D
 F V I S F S C Y O K N Y E E T E
 Q U E E N C I R R I E T C T Z E
 S K A N N A F S G C R A I N C R
 M T A M O D G N I K A W F I C E
 H R O E K T R E K U D S G W I E
 H G K R F I L V K Q N B S S G Z
 V Q F G M S L L Y A B L S U A Q
 Y X Z Z A E J Q H L E R Q V M K
 G S N O W M A N F D R O J F D H

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| ANNA | HANS | SISTERS |
| ARENDELLE | ICE PALACE | SLED |
| CASTLE | KINGDOM | SNOWMAN |
| COLD | KRISTOFF | STORM |
| CRYSTALS | MAGIC | SVEN |
| DUKE | OAKEN | TROLLS |
| ELSA | OLAF | WESELTON |
| FJORD | QUEEN | WINTER |
| FROZEN | REINDEER | |

AND FINALLY.....

On behalf of the Kirk Session, the editors of this publication hope everyone enjoyed a very peaceful and happy Christmas, and wish all readers a very happy and healthy New Year, now and throughout 2015.

