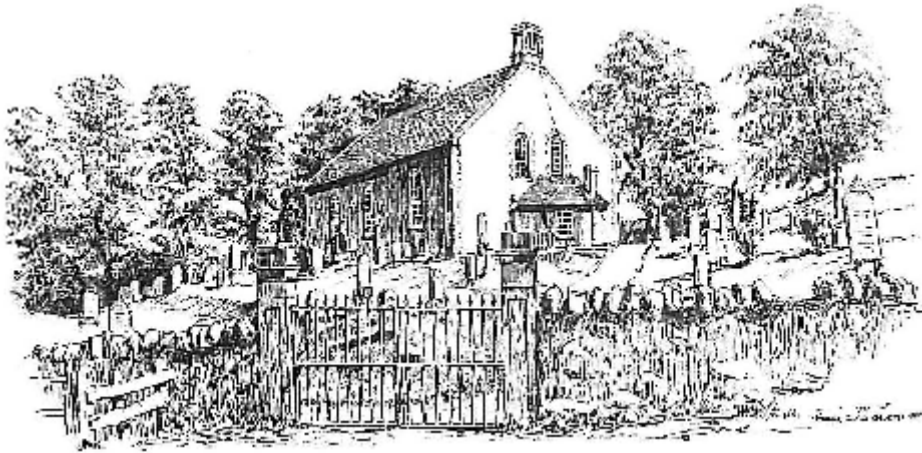


# Tomnacross Tidings



## **Kiltarlity Church of Scotland**

Regular Worship 11.15 am - everyone welcome

### June 2015 Diary

7th, 14th, 21st, 28th - Rev Jonathan Humphrey

21st Third Sunday Praise - Wardlaw Church 6.00

28th Tea/coffee after the service - any volunteers?

### Flower Rota for June 2015

7th Mrs Ruth MacKenzie

14th Mrs Gena MacLean

21st Mrs Gena MacLean

28th Miss Jackie Wilton

After a recent and very sociable joint Kirk Session meeting with all points of view discussed openly, it was agreed that for a six month trial period, services in Kiltarlity will begin at 11.30 am prompt.

This will start on 19th July.

From our minister.....

In the church “calendar” we are in the season of Pentecost and taking time to look at the impact of the out-pouring of the Holy Spirit on the early believers (see Acts 2). It has always struck me that something new and wonderful was created through the gift of the Holy Spirit— namely vibrant and ever expanding Christian community. This community “devoted themselves to the apostles teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers” (Acts 2: 42).

For me this passage suggests that in the life of our congregations, devotion to fellowship is as important as listening to teaching (i.e. a sermon) or breaking bread and praying together. Jesus spent time with people and with his disciples building fellowship, comforting, challenging and encouraging. A large part of ministry, and the call on all of us as the people of God, is to build relationships and to encourage everyone to find faith and grow in it. Growing in our faith requires that we are deliberate in safeguarding our relationship with Jesus. The more we get to know Him, the more we are transformed into his likeness. This is about raising the “relationship bar” on all fronts, with God and each other. The first Christians were:

“together and had all things in common. And they were selling possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all as they had need. And day by day attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favour with all the people. ” (Acts 2: 44-47).

This is a challenging blueprint for us all. But I am becoming more and more convinced that as we “do what's in the book (the Bible)” particularly in the area of relationships and giving, we will see the revival that we all seek and pray for.

Pentecost was not a one-off! We are supposed to be living daily in the continued outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

God’s word to us is quite clear – “awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles” (Acts 2: 42). Of course wonders and signs are the work of God through the Holy Spirit, but there is a call on us as well to partner with what He is doing and be a community that is different – that changes the spiritual atmosphere around us. I long for the day, and I pray that it is coming soon, where people can come amongst us in Kirkhill and Kiltarlity and say like Jacob did at Bethel “surely the Lord is in this place – and I did not know it” (Genesis 28: 16).

*Jonathan*

## Report from the General Assembly

On Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> May 2015 the Church of Scotland voted in favour of allowing people in same sex civil partnerships to be called as Ministers and Deacons. The historic decision was made by the General Assembly on the Mound in Edinburgh, where the motion was passed by 309 votes in favour and 182 against. The outcome is the culmination of years of deliberation within the Church. The motion has faced a series of debates and votes before the final

decision was reached. This included 31 of the Church's presbyteries endorsing the move, to 14 who opposed it. This means the Church has adopted a position which maintains a traditional view of marriage between a man and woman, but allows individual congregations to 'opt out' if they wish to appoint a Minister or a Deacon in a same sex civil partnership.

Later in a speech, the outgoing Moderator Very Rev John Chalmers said : "There's something else that we have to learn as a Church and that is the power of harmony. Of course we need the freedom across the Church to shape the life and worship of the Church according to local needs and local gifts ( and we have seen wonderful examples of this – from Soul Space at Johnstone High Parish to the Shed in Stornoway ) but we cannot go on suffering the pain of internal attacks which are designed to undermine the work or the place of others. It's time to play for the team. And let me be very clear here – I am not speaking to one side or another of the theological spectrum. I am speaking to both ends and middle. It is time to stop calling each other names, time to shun the idea that we should define ourselves by our differences and instead define ourselves by what we hold in common - our baptism into Christ, our dependence on God's grace, our will to serve the poor and so on."

Following the historic vote on Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> May 2015, it means congregations may now opt out of traditional church teaching on marriage to call a Minister or Deacon in a same sex civil partnership, but that provision does not extend to any Ministers entering into same sex marriages until the final vote has been taken. Special provisions have been agreed which protect any Minister or Deacon ordained before May 31<sup>st</sup> 2009 who is now in a same sex marriage.

The General Assembly faced two votes during a debate lasting more than 3 hours. Very Rev Prof Iain Torrance, who is convener of the Church's Theological Forum, described the proposal as a legal procedure which extended the provision of same sex civil partnerships to same sex marriages. He said the measure would not change the Church's traditional stance on marriage, nor amount to a recognition of the validity of same sex marriage.

Very Rev Albert Bogle then moved a countermotion which sought to defer any decision until the Theological Forum submitted a report on same sex marriage to the Assembly in 2017. However commissioners voted for the proposal and against his countermotion by a narrow margin of 213 in favour to 205 against. Commissioners then voted in favour of sending the proposal to presbyteries under the Barrier Act, by 215 votes for to 195 against.

Commenting on the Assembly's decision, Very Rev David Arnott, who is Coordinator of the Principal Clerk's Office said: "The General Assembly understood this to be a logical extension of the benefits which accrue to those in civil partnership. Very Rev Prof Iain Torrance assured the Assembly the Theological Forum will bring a report on same sex marriage to a future Assembly, which we will look forward to. Out of a pastoral concern for the whole Church the General Assembly decided to pass this Overture to the presbyteries who will report to the Assembly in May 2016."

If a majority of Presbyteries give their approval, the matter will return to the Assembly in 2016 where the final decision will be taken on this matter. Any wider consideration of the theological understanding of same sex marriage will not take place until the Theological Forum presents its report at a future date.

## 2 Ministers Support Kiltarlity Gala

Twasa a gei dreich day, that Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2015. Yet the weather did not dampen the camaradie or friendship experienced and enjoyed by both committee, organisers and participants alike.

Indeed, from 9.00 am when an attempt was made to erect the stalls, tents etc in their selected “spots” everyone lent the proverbial hand of friendship and support in assisting when and where required, even when the vagaries of the weather threatened, indeed more than threatened, blew the partially built supports awry!

Nevertheless the “job” resited and completed , all present were treated by the ladies “on the teas” to a very welcome cuppa (or two!)

All was thus ready for the official opening at 2.00pm, a planned parade of the Gala Queen and her retinue being led around the pitch by piper Adam Dyer from Dingwall British Legion.



Many activities were available to amuse the young, and perhaps the not so young, these inclusive of “bucking bronco”and “bouncy pirate castle”, always a favourite pastime. Perhaps Joe and Anna ( from Kiltarlity Free Church) encouraged their young ones to

participate and enjoy. Perhaps they too recall many “fun” days when they were younger! Alongside the young people playing music with which to entertain the crowd, Tomnacross Nursery staff and friends painted faces and offered tattoos to the bold and brave young ones present. From this source many “strange” yet colourful figures emerged. Camera Club members were “on hand” to photograph the results, and despite the weather did manage one or two reasonable shots!

Indoors, and sheltering (temporarily) from the deluge it was possible to support WRI with their ubiquitous and ever welcome “teas”, also enjoyed by all present, and no doubt the envy of many not present! Opposite the “tea” dept, goodies to match those readily consumed were available for purchase!



The highlight of the afternoon was the appearance of “The Scone of Destiny”, not to be sat upon, but to be very much admired. This was escorted around the pitch, in the most unpleasant weather imaginable, by a bevy of 4 beauties ( and their manager), and at various stances a dance was performed and the beauty of the scone revered.

As ever a competition had been arranged ..... ladies of the parish, and beyond, had been encouraged to “bake”, ..... a scone ..... hardly of the dimensions of the “Scone of Destiny”, but equally praise worthy in the eyes of the beholders. The ladies of the latter, invited to be judge and jury, and after much deliberation and tasting awarded the prize to Mrs Sheila Moir, well done Sheila.

The Gala would not be the Gala without a raffle, stalwart and determined wielders of the tickets continually circulating the assembled crowd and imploring all to subscribe.

When Jonathan and Kate, after many hours of travel up the A9, arrived on site, an invitation was extended to Jonathan to “draw the raffle”. This he did with great aplomb, and prizes were awarded including the much coveted Belladrum tickets.

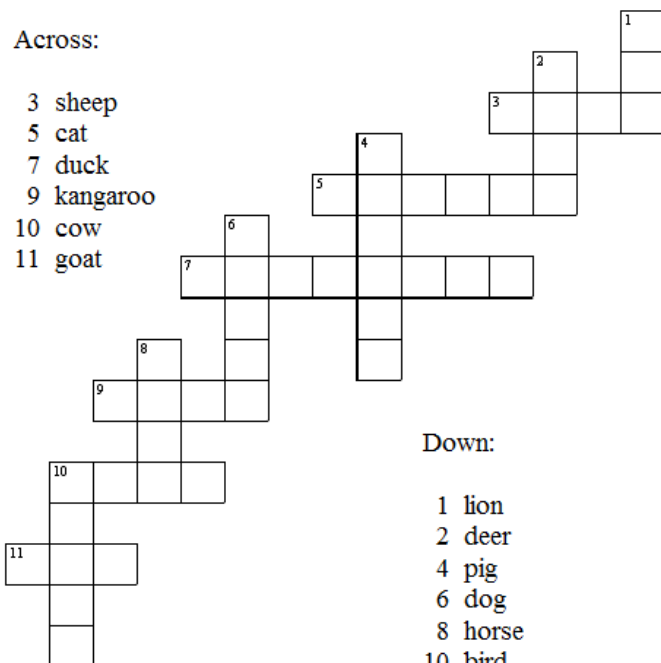
Many more and varied activities and stalls of interest abounded, but available space in the newsletter precludes the inclusion of all, apologies for any glaring omissions and a promise to “do better” next year ..... 2016 awaits!

## Puzzle Corner

### Animal Babies

Across:

- 3 sheep
- 5 cat
- 7 duck
- 9 kangaroo
- 10 cow
- 11 goat



Down:

- 1 lion
- 2 deer
- 4 pig
- 6 dog
- 8 horse
- 10 bird

### Lost Horse Maze

Can you help the lost horse find his way back to the barn?

