



Kiltarlity and Wardlaw Churches
The Parishioner



Message from Rev. Peter Donald,
our Interim Moderator.

Dear friends,

Easter has been and gone – **if it's just a day in the calendar. But it isn't.** Though in respect of chocolate consumption it may be **as well that it's one day a year, in faith we are Easter people !** We are to be Easter people through and through.

There are lots of ways I might develop that thought, but to sit on and think through John chapter 14 is as good as any. **That's a famous chapter** in the Bible – where Jesus talks about **being the way, the truth and the life; where Jesus, in John's gospel, first promises the help of the Holy Spirit; and where Jesus, in dialogue with his friends, offers words of comfort and hope to sustain them through the bereavement that would be theirs. It's a chapter we regularly read** from at funerals, and yet Jesus is equally concerned for how his followers should live their lives here and now.

Easter people are encouraged not to "let their hearts be troubled." This is not someone telling us **"there, there," don't worry, when plainly there are all sorts of reasons to worry, both about our own wellbeing and about what goes wrong in our world.** Rather, it is an insistence that whatever burdens us is carried by God. Carried by God, carried by Jesus indeed, for in his humanity he was ready to confront and win through anything that the world could throw at him. To anyone who said, you do not belong here, he would say, I belong to God, now and always. This is a source of strength to us, as we trust in him.

Easter people are those who have been taught that there is a way and that there is a truth and that there is a life. For we are not to be people who have no sense of direction or purpose. We are not to be people who, assailed by uncertainties, commit to nothing. We are not to settle for something less than life in its fullness, however much as we are seduced to be taken up with what goes on, further than satisfying our needs on the surface. Jesus lived and died in a faith that God was to be worshipped, God was to be obeyed; God was and is the giver of life eternal. Easter people take this on because Jesus was right – and even when we ourselves fail in following through, he is there to keep picking us up, to keep leading us on.

As Easter people, the Holy Spirit is for us. Just as Jesus lived and died for his friends, his Spirit lives to inspire us. The Holy Spirit opens our minds to the love of God. Understanding how we are forgiven, we know that it is for us to be forgiving. Understanding that there is a spiritual battle for which we need help and protection and power, we rejoice that we are not alone, and never will be. Thankful for a peace beyond our understanding, it is for us to be peacemakers. In opposition to the work of the Holy Spirit is all that fuels tension and opposition and the failing of love. We are not to be on that side: be filled with the Holy Spirit !

With every good wish

Peter

Church of Scotland chooses new Moderator Designate



On 2nd April 2014 the Committee to Nominate the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland met in extraordinary circumstances and named the Rev John Chalmers as Moderator Designate to take office at the 2014 General Assembly. He will take the place of the Rev Dr Angus Morrison who earlier had to stand down due to ill health.

The Rev John Chalmers, who is the longstanding Principal Clerk to the General Assembly, is well placed to take on the role of Moderator at short notice. Mr Chalmers said; “It is an unexpected privilege and a real honour to be entrusted with this role at this time. If the Assembly supports my nomination, I will seek above all else to hold the people of the Church of Scotland together in peace and unity.”

Addressing the urgent challenges that face the Church, the new Moderator Designate went on to say: “My focus will be on those things that unite us. Within the Church we have to learn to live with our differences. We have an urgent need to recruit women and men to train to be ministers and it’s time to let society know that there is something very meaningful about living the life of faith.” He said: “Women and men of Christian faith have motives, values and a sense of meaning that should be among the life choices which are seriously discussed in the public square.” Referring to the challenges beyond the Church he said “The Church has to be an instrument of healing and reconciliation in post-referendum Scotland.” He promised to “champion the right of the most disadvantaged both at home and abroad.” “I will want to tell the story of a Church which cares about the values by which Scotland lives, which cares about the conditions in which people live and which puts its money where its faith is, in the work it does amongst the most vulnerable and marginalised.”

Mr Chalmers, 61, whose older sister June had Down’s Syndrome, has spent most of his life supporting the work of Enable; for twenty years he was a member of the Board of Donaldson’s, the National School for the Deaf and in his Moderatorial year he hopes to visit many special needs facilities because he believes that some of the greatest works of service are done by people who do not get enough affirmation or public recognition. In 2011 his youngest son John-James was injured in Afghanistan while serving with the Royal Marines. Mr Chalmers says at that time they experienced the Church as a healing and supportive community. In a society in which so many people are friendless and lonely, Mr Chalmers hopes that in his role as Moderator he will be able to encourage people to find faith, friendship and the spirit of Christ in the community of the local Church.

John, who was born in Bothwell, South Lanarkshire and attended Marr College in Troon, now lives with his wife Liz in Dunfermline, Fife. The couple, who have three children and three grandchildren, have been immersed in Church work most of their lives. Mr Chalmers began by studying chemical engineering at Strathclyde University before transferring to Glasgow University to embark on a degree in divinity. During the early eighties he was a Minister in Renton Trinity Parish in West Dunbartonshire. From 1986 - 1995 he was the Minister at Palmerston Place Church in the West End of Edinburgh. These contrasting parishes gave him a breadth of understanding of the challenges facing the Church.

Classified Ad: Wedding dress for sale. Worn once by mistake. Call Stephanie.

Food bank figures provoke dismay from Church of Scotland

A Church of Scotland minister has expressed dismay at figures released in the middle of April by food bank charity The Trussell Trust, which highlight the scale of the issue across the UK. The charity said it handed out 913,000 food parcels in the last year, up from 347,000 the year before.

Rev Melvyn Wood, whose Church in Glasgow is a member of The Trussell Trust – the UK's biggest food bank charity – said: "These are alarming figures which point to a failure in governance. "Food banks have become all too common across Scotland. There are 13 in the Presbytery of Glasgow alone. The Church of Scotland has historically been there to support people in need when the state has failed. This is the latest example. These figures suggest yet again that there is an increase in the divergence between rich and poor across the UK.

It should be emphasised that food poverty is about justice, not just charity. There are perceptions out there that those using food banks are seeking charity too easily. This is not the case, people are using them out of real need. Food banks have become a last resort where their use hinges on whether a family can eat or not."

The Church of Scotland is supporting food banks across the country. In the Falkirk area alone, since December 2013, the Church distributed 49 tonnes of food to 5,500 households.

How does the Foodbank work ?

Food is donated - All food given out by Foodbanks is donated. Often this is from schools, churches, businesses, individuals, or through supermarket collections. Supermarket collections help Foodbanks engage the public.

Food is sorted and stored - At the warehouse, volunteers weigh and sort the donated food according to type and 'best before date.' They also check it is undamaged and suitable for use before packing it into boxes for storage.

Frontline professionals identify people in need - Professionals from statutory and voluntary organisations such as doctors, health visitors, social workers, Citizens Advice Bureau staff, welfare officers, the police and probation officers, identify people in crisis and issue them with a Foodbank voucher.

Clients receive emergency food - Clients bring their voucher to a Foodbank centre where it can be exchanged for three days' supply of emergency food. The list of foods in each parcel has been designed by dieticians to provide recipients with nutritionally balanced food.

Clients are signposted to further support - Whilst their food is being packed, Foodbank volunteers will sit and chat with clients over a cup of tea or hot meal. This enables them to hear their stories and signpost them to agencies who can offer additional help and begin to resolve any underlying problems.



The Highland Foodbank is a project of Blythswood Care and is part of the Trussell Trust's UK-wide network of Foodbanks.

Once again Kiltarlity and Wardlaw Churches are amazed at the very generous support given to the HFB, in cash and kind, during our Easter appeal. A huge thank you to everyone who has contributed.

You can give at any time during the year to the Foodbank by leaving donations in the box at the entrance to both churches. We would also like to thank those who have already been doing that faithfully over the last year.

To God be the Glory

Words by Fanny Crosby (Frances van Alstyne) (1820-1915)

Tune : 'To God be the Glory' by W.H. Doane (1832-1915)

It is evening in a Gloucestershire village in 1953, and although it is bedtime for a seven-year-old boy, he is sitting up, eating a biscuit and enjoying the rare treat of being allowed to hear the radio. The announcer (was it the famous John Snagge ?) is saying 'Now we go over to the White City, where Dr Billy Graham is speaking.' Before the American evangelist speaks, every person in the stadium stands to sing Fanny Crosby's hymn, "To God be the glory."

And this is how Nigel Swinford, musician and broadcaster, remembers the moment when his Christian faith took off : *"I know I was only seven, but at that moment I was convinced that this was the way I wanted to go, the Rubicon I wanted to cross. I was converted at the age of seven, listening to the BBC that night. I knew that I could move on, like thousands upon thousands of people, almost like the whole country.*

It wasn't all emotion, and it wasn't even a comfortable experience to hear Billy Graham. I've been rereading Martin Luther recently, who said, 'The first duty of a preacher of the gospel is to show man his sin.' You need to understand the down side to experience the up. That's what you get with Billy Graham and with Moody and Sankey hymns, and it always leads onto the release from sin, the redemption which comes and, I think, sends you onto Cloud Nine.

You might think I had an unpromising start, as I was brought up in the Brethren and it was profoundly unmusical. To begin our singing, a little man would blow an equally little whistle to set the note to start us off; it always seemed that the man with the most objectionable voice was leading us !

Although anything to do with the arts was out, the preacher was always banging on about the Old Testament tabernacle. He told us that we would have seen curtains of blue, scarlet and purple; blue for heaven, scarlet for the earth, which a painter could mix together, to make purple. 'That's Christ,' he said, 'dressed in a purple robe, and he is here for you.' But these sermons caught my imagination and I thought, 'How can I make something of myself out of this ?' and in the end, it happened through music."

Nigel Swinford is the Artistic Director and Founder of the New English Orchestra. He was born in the little Gloucestershire town of Tetbury and grew up with two abiding interests: music and Christianity. He studied piano playing at the Royal Academy of Music, but whilst working at the Bach, Chopin and Prokofiev repertoire beloved of concert pianists, he retained a great enthusiasm for the delights of boogie and jazz. This eclectic musical taste paid rich dividends later on when he became Head of Composition in a team at Salford College which forged the first honours degree in Band Musicianship in Europe. The course still thrives today at Salford University. Nigel's combined interest in music and Christianity continues to flourish in his BBC work, where he operates both as a musical director and as a presenter in Radio 4's Daily Service.

Nigel is chiefly known, however, for his work with the NEO as a composer, conductor, continuo player and visionary. His particular objective has always been for the Orchestra to make a specifically Christian contribution to the world of the Arts and Music in the continent of Europe.

Sitting in Swinford's den in his home on the hills above Oldham, you are surrounded by organ, computer and piano. And also by an overflowing archive, reflecting his fascination with revivalist music, especially the nineteenth-century partnership of preacher and musician, Dwight L. Moody and Ira D. Sankey; and that other extraordinary American, Fanny Crosby, the blind teacher and hymn-writer.

/Contd.

As he looks her up in his much-thumbed copy of Sacred Songs and Solos compiled by Sankey, Nigel explains why he thinks 'To God be the glory' is one of Fanny Crosby's best: "It's typical of a Crosby hymn, full of content, telling you a story so well that you could say it in rhyme, even if you couldn't sing it. There's nothing too florid, but after each verse, there's an easily remembered chorus for you to respond to the story."

To God be the glory, great things he hath done !
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life atonement for sin,
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.

*Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the earth hear his voice !
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the people rejoice !
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son;
and give him the glory – great things he hath done !*

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
to every believer the promise of God !
The vilest offender who truly believes,
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
but purer and higher and greater will be
our wonder, our rapture, when Jesus we see.

Swinford admires the way so many revivalist hymns picked up on tunes of the day. 'The banner to the Cross,' for example, has an echo of the Gilbert and Sullivan police duo, 'We run them in, we run them in,' and the tune for 'There's a royal banner' has more than a hint of Offenbach. "Their arrangements were there to attract people on the streets and they were entertaining, even humorous. The humour was essential to the plot for the revivalists from the USA. If you missed it, you somehow missed the theology."

Listening to Swinford singing at the piano, it is impossible not to be infected with his enthusiasm for the mixture of humorous style and serious purpose in all these hymns, like 'To God be the glory' and, equally well known for its use by Billy Graham, 'Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine !' Fanny Crosby's hymns do not tell each Christian what they must do for God, but what God has done for them. "It is a cause for celebration," Swinford calls, reaching for the loud pedal on his piano.



Frances Jane van Alstyne née Crosby, more commonly known as Fanny Crosby, was an American mission worker, poet, lyricist, and composer. A lifelong Methodist, she was one of the most prolific hymnists in history, writing over 8,000 hymns and gospel songs, with over 100 million copies printed. This is despite her being blind from shortly after birth. Crosby is also known for her preaching, teaching, and her rescue mission work. By the end of the 19th century, she was "a household name." Some of Crosby's best-known songs include "Blessed Assurance," "Pass Me Not, O Gentle Saviour," "Jesus Is Tenderly Calling You Home," "Praise Him, Praise Him," and "Rescue the Perishing."

Thanks to John McLellan for this contribution

- Q. How far will a blind dog walk into a forest ?
Q. What starts with a T, ends with a T, and has "T" in it ?
Q. What English word has three consecutive double letters ?

Answers at bottom of page 22

Holy Alphabet

Although things are not perfect
Because of trial or pain,
Continue in thanksgiving
Do not begin to blame.
Even when the times are hard
Fierce winds are bound to blow,
God is forever able
Hold on to what you know.
Imagine life without His love
Joy would cease to be,
Keep thanking Him for all the things
Love imparts to thee.
Move out of "Camp Complaining"
No weapon that is known
On earth can yield the power
Praise can do alone.
Quit looking at the future
Redeem the time at hand,
Start every day with worship
To "thank" is a command.
Until we see Him coming
Victorious in the sky,
We'll run the race with gratitude
Xalting God most high.
Yes, there'll be good times and yes
some will be bad, but..
Zion waits in glory...where none are
ever sad!

Thanks to Ness Bank Church March Newsletter

'OLD' IS WHEN....

Your wife / husband says 'Let's go upstairs and make love' and you answer: 'Pick one, I can't do both!'

'OLD' IS WHEN...

Your friends compliment you on your new alligator shoes and you're barefoot !

'OLD' IS WHEN...

A sexy women or man catches your fancy and your pacemaker opens the garage door !

'OLD' IS WHEN...

You are cautioned to slow down by the doctor instead of by the police.

'OLD' IS WHEN...

'Getting lucky' means you find your car in the car park.

'OLD' IS WHEN...

An 'all-nighter' means not getting up to use the bathroom.

Thanks to Phil Tipper from Mull for this insight

Thanks to Duncan Colburn for this diagram

MY LIFE BROKEN DOWN INTO SEGMENTS



Angus was driving down the street worried because he had an important meeting and couldn't find a parking place. So, looking up toward heaven, he said "Lord, take pity on me. If you find me a parking place I will go to Church every Sunday for the rest of my life and give up whisky." A moment later, miraculously, a parking place appeared. Angus looked up again and said, "Never mind. I found one."



Mary Robb is regretfully leaving the post of Wardlaw Church organist and choir leader. Rev. Willis Jones obtained Mary's agreement in 2008 to play for a little over 6 months for us, and she is still there now some 6 years later. Mary feels that she needs to cut down on her commitments, and enjoy life at a slightly slower pace. Mary has thought long and hard about how her decision would affect the congregation at Kirkhill, and herself, and it was with great difficulty that she has made her decision. Mary's well-being is paramount to us all, and no one in the Church family would want Mary to 'struggle on' just for our sakes. Her input into Kirkhill's worship services, and other musical events, has been immense over the years, and her departure will leave a large gap for Kirkhill to try to fill.

Please come along to the service on the 4th May at 10 o'clock to give Mary a rousing send-off – bring your

own tissues. A light lunch is planned following Mary's last performance in the Guild Room and a presentation will be made to Mary in recognition to her outstanding contribution to the worship services both here at Kirkhill and at the Kiltarlity as 'Jock's understudy.' She has served both Church families very faithfully over the past 6 years.

Vacancy News

There is no further update in the search for a new Minister to report on over the past month. Any information about potential candidates would be welcomed. We remain hopeful and trust in the Lord that He will provide in His time.

The committee would like to thank all who have expressed their appreciation for the work they have been doing and value the ongoing prayer support of the congregations.

Members of the Nominating Committee are :

Angie Cosens – 782 141	David Garvie – 741 038	Iain Marr - 831 609
Moira McDonald – 831 333	Sheila Moir – 741 618	Alasdair Morrison – 831 185
Ellenor Thomas – 741 330	Neil Watson – 741 876	Iain J. Mortimer – 782 648

Andrew was watching his father, a Minister, write a sermon. 'How do you know what to say ?' Andrew asked. 'Why, God tells me,' the father replied. 'Oh, then why do you keep crossing things out ?'

tent MISSION KILTARLITY

is organised by



and supported by local Churches

Further details are available from

Donnie Macleod

01463 - 238160

highlands@faithmission.org

www.faithmission.org

For God so loved the world
that he gave his only begotten Son
that whoever believes in him
shall not perish
but have everlasting life
JOHN 3 : 16

Faith Mission & Ministry Training Home (known as The Faith Mission) is a charity registered in Scotland No. SC009119

Your invitation to the

tent MISSION



KILTARLITY

DISCOVERING JESUS

Hope for today
Life for ever



tent MISSION

SUNDAY 4th - SUNDAY 18th May

TENT MEETINGS

in KILTARLITY VILLAGE

Sunday 4th - Sunday 18th

WEEKNIGHTS AT 7.30pm

SUNDAY NIGHTS AT 6.00pm

(no meetings on Saturdays)

Meetings last about one hour and include...
stories of changed lives
Bible messages for today



COFFEE MORNINGS

Wednesday 7th & Wednesday 14th at 10.30am



The tent is heated and equipped
for your comfort

During the Tent Mission
the team will be visiting homes
in the area

Everyone welcome

kidzone

in the tent

Monday 12th to Friday 16th

3.45 - 5.00pm

games

Bible story

quizzes

songs

prizes

memory verses



Kidzone is for primary age children.
All children must be registered.

PARISH NOTICE BOARD

- Our grateful thanks to Rev. Morven Archer, Rev. Bruce Ritchie and Rev. Trevor Hunt for leading our worship services in April.
- Rev. Bruce Ritchie returns to take our first Sunday service in May and also our last one in May – 25th. Rev. Stewart Frizzell will lead the service on the 11th May, with Wardlaw Church celebrating a Communion Service on that day. The services on the 18th May will be taken by the Elders and members of the congregation at both Churches. Mr. Stewart Robertson will be with us on the first Sunday in June.
- Wardlaw Church will be having a 'Brunch Sunday' on 18th May 2014. This will be a service taken by the Elders and members of the congregation, and will have the theme 'Thy Kingdom come.' Following the service, a 'brunch' breakfast of 'bacon butties' will be served. The service is in aid of the Church of Scotland HIV programme and a collection in aid of this programme will be taken at fellowship time following the brunch.
- At the Kirkhill Deacons' Court on 22nd April 2014 Louise Monaghan offered her resignation as the Kirkhill Church Treasurer because of her ever increasing 'paid job' work commitments. The Court expressed their very grateful thanks to Louise for all her hard work, long hours, and dedication to the role of Church Treasurer, a position she has held since September 2011. Malcom Macrae's name was proposed, and accepted by all members of the Court, to be the new Kirkhill Church Treasurer. A hand-over period between Louise and Malcolm will take place over the next few weeks. The Court is indebted that Malcolm has stepped forward to take on this role on after many years acting as the Church auditor.
- The First Sunday Praise service at Kiltarlity Free Church is on 4th May, starting at 6:00 p.m. This service will take place in the tent, which is heated and equipped for your comfort – see page 8.
- There is a weekly prayer meeting every Wednesday evening in the Guild Room at Wardlaw Church, starting at 7 o'clock. Prayers are both free and fixed, spoken out loud or silently. The short service lasts only 30 minutes. Everyone is most welcome to join us for this time of prayer.
- A spring clean of Kiltarlity Church has recently been carried out and thanks go to the ladies who completed this task. A contact has been made with Community Payback for the decoration of the Upper Hall (Sunday School Room) at Kiltarlity Church to be carried out during the school summer holidays.
- The TCC Youth Fellowship in Kiltarlity meets on Sunday, 25th May at 7:00 p.m. at the Free Church in Kiltarlity. All those in S1 upwards are very welcome to come along for fun, food and fellowship.
- The Kirkhill Kirk Session meets on Tuesday, 27th May 2014 in the Guild Room at Wardlaw Church at 7:30 p.m. Anyone is welcome to come along and witness this meeting.
- Many thanks to Kenny MacColl for repairing the side gate into Wardlaw Church from Wardlaw Road and sourcing a refurbished handle and lock for the gate. Ian Dearing has painted the gate. Kenny also arranged for the two front gates to be hung correctly from new metal posts and painted. The cost of this project has been funded from the surplus from the 'Haggis Supper with a Flavour of Burns' held on 1st February this year, and the VAT element of the invoice was paid from the Tuesday Coffee morning donations.
- We are still seeking organist names to lead and develop music in worship at Wardlaw Church. Remuneration is in line with recommended scales. We are looking to create a rota of organists who we are able to call upon to play at our Sunday morning service starting at 10 o'clock. All enquiries in the first instance to Iain J. Mortimer at iain.mortimer1@btinternet.com or 07833 188 939
- The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland opens on Saturday, 17th May and closes on Friday, 23rd May 2014 and is held in Edinburgh.

Moderator at Prime Minister's Easter reception in Number 10.



The Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, Rt Rev Lorna Hood, met the Prime Minister, David Cameron, on 10th April 2014 in Downing Street when she was a guest at his annual Easter reception for people with Christian faith. Mrs Hood was accompanied by the Moderator Designate, Rev John Chalmers, who is currently Principal Clerk of the Church of Scotland. They were the sole representatives from Scotland. Mrs Hood

said: "We were honoured to be the only

people from Scotland in attendance. We enjoyed an interesting conversation about the challenges facing the Church of Scotland, and Scotland as a whole. Mr Cameron's speech was inspiring when he talked about the support given to him and his family by their parish priest and said we should be proud to be a Christian country."

The Prime Minister introduced this annual Easter event, which has been running for four years, after spotting the religious festivals of Eid and Diwali were granted a reception without any Christian equivalent.

A lady goes to the bar on a cruise ship and orders a Scotch with two drops of water. As the bartender gives her the drink she says 'I'm on this cruise to celebrate my 80th birthday and it's today.' The bartender says 'Well, since it's your birthday, I'll buy you a drink. In fact, this one is on me.'

As the woman finishes her drink, the woman to her right says 'I would like to buy you a drink, too.' The old woman says 'Thank you. Bartender, I want a Scotch with two drops of water.' 'Coming up' says the bartender.

As she finishes that drink, the man to her left says 'I would like to buy you one, too.' The old woman says 'Thank you. Bartender, I want another Scotch with two drops of water.' 'Coming right up' the bartender says.

As he gives her the drink, he says 'Ma'am, I'm dying of curiosity. Why the Scotch with only two drops of water?' The old woman replies 'Sonny, when you're my age, you've learned how to hold your liquor... holding your water, however, is a whole other issue.'

On 6th May 1999 the first general elections for the Scottish Parliament and National Assembly for Wales took place.

Donald Dewar became First Minister of Scotland and

Alun Michael became First Secretary for Wales.



Photos by Avril Marr

On the left are John and Marjory Hamilton, Rev. Willis Jones, Iain Marr and Donald and Liz Kennedy. On the right are Keith and Mary McClelland, Mary Robb, John and Jeanette McLellan and Maris Elkin.

The Wardlaw Church Open the Book team are very grateful to everyone for their support, on 13th April, both at the Church and at Avril's birthday lunch. The pictures show a few of the people who attended the birthday lunch. Iain and Avril had tables set out throughout their home – entrance hall, conservatory, dining room, kitchen and studio. The team also wish to thank Avril and Iain for their first class hospitality and for allowing their home to be used for this event. The team presented copies of 'The Lion Storyteller Bible' to all the P3 pupils at Kirkhill Primary School, at the last assembly before the Easter break. We are very grateful to the head teacher, Cris Ford, for allowing the Open the Book team into the school assembly with this outreach programme. This was the fifth year the team have attended school assemblies. At Avril's Birthday lunch a total of £280 was raised to cover the costs of 'The Lion Storyteller Bible' given to all the P3 pupils.

The Open the Book team at Tomnacross were in action for the first time at the school Easter service, held at Kiltarlity Church on 4th April. This was quite an exciting venture for the Kiltarlity team as they normally only act out the Bible stories for and with the children within the school itself. This time they had an audience of the whole school, Nursery, staff, parents and friends, and were part of a really delightful Easter service led by Rev. Peter Donald. There were songs, poems and prayers, plus Nursery, P1 and P2 festival pieces. Our story, 'A Happy Day,' from the 'Lion Storyteller Bible,' depicted the events of the Resurrection, and our actors were joined by one of the pupils, Catriona Garvie. Joe Barnard, from Kiltarlity Free Church, played Jesus. After the story was told, Joe explained a bit about Open the Book to the parents and friends. Joe presented a copy of the 'Lion Storyteller Bible' to each of the younger classes for their class libraries.



The Editor offers his grateful thanks to Margaret Birkbeck for proof-reading this edition.

While walking along the pavement in front of his church, our Minister heard the intoning of a prayer that nearly made his collar wilt. Apparently, his 5-year-old son and his playmates had found a dead robin. Feeling that proper burial should be performed, they had secured a small box and cotton wool, they then dug a hole and made ready for the disposal of the deceased.

The Minister's son was chosen to say the appropriate prayers and with dignity intoned his version of what he thought his father always said: "Glory be unto the Father, and unto the Son, and into the hole he goes."

Thanks to Nicky Guthrie for this contribution

Beauly Care Project - Senior Citizen's Afternoon Teas in 2014

Kiltarlity and Kilmorack dates are Tuesdays and Kirkhill dates are a Thursday

2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. – cost £1

Month	Kiltarlity Community Centre Elsbeth Colburn 741 627	Kilmorack Hall Frances Grant 782 496	Kirkhill Community Centre Flora Morrison 831 373
May	13 th	20 th	29 th
June	10 th	17 th	26 th
July	8 th	15 th	31 st
August	12 th	19 th	28 th
September	9 th	16 th	25 th
October	14 th	21 st	30 th
November	11 th	18 th	27 th
Special Christmas Afternoon Tea at Kilmorack Hall on 16th December 2014			

Hospital regulations require a wheel chair for patients being discharged. However, while working as a student nurse, I found one elderly gentleman already dressed and sitting on the bed with a suitcase at his feet, who insisted he'd didn't need my help to leave the hospital.

After a chat about rules being rules, he reluctantly let me wheel him to the lift. On the way down I asked him if his wife was meeting him.

'I don't know,' he said. 'She's still upstairs in the bathroom changing out of her hospital gown.'

Members of our Church family and others to be remembered in your prayers

Graham Elkin continues his roller coaster of a recovery journey. Every day Maris is totally unsure about how she will find him when she visits. Will he be awake, drowsy or asleep, will he want to speak to her, or will he be singing hymns to the rest of the patients and staff? All very emotional and very tiring for Maris. Please continue to remember Graham and Maris in your prayers and thoughts at this difficult time in his recovery programme.

Nicky Guthrie is still having a course of treatment for the cancer in her tonsils. You will understand that whilst undergoing that treatment, Nicky cannot be very vocal, so communication is best by e-mail or letter so please avoid the telephone. Nicky continues to be extremely positive about her condition. Nicky is extremely grateful for all the messages, thoughts and prayers she has received, and they have been a great comfort to her, and her family, over the past few weeks. Please keep Nicky, **Catherine** and **Laura** in your thoughts and prayers at this very demanding time for them.

We also need to remember in our thoughts and prayers **Karen Wylie**, Andrew and the rest of their family, and **Alison** and Allan MacKenzie.

Betty Freel had a short stay in Raigmore Hospital at the beginning of April for a scheduled small operation, but is now back at Sunday worship and the Tuesday Coffee Morning, along with **Bill**. May **Betty's health** continue to improve as the winter fades into spring and summer.

In the hymn book shelf of the chairs in Wardlaw Church there is a prayer request card. Please use this card to request a prayer for yourself, and / or your family or friends, and post the card in the box above the table in the entrance hall. All requests are confidential and the prayers will be said at a Wednesday evening prayer meeting during the month.

James Monaghan sadly passed away following open heart surgery at an Edinburgh hospital on Thursday evening, 27th March 2014. The funeral service was held on Saturday, 5th April in Drumnadrochit Church of Scotland, followed by interment at Old Kilmore Burial Ground. Rev. Morven Archer officiated at the service. We send our most heartfelt sympathies to Louise, Siobhan-Kirsty, Barry, Kerry, David, Amanda and the rest of the Monaghan family for their loss. May their memories give them peace and comfort at this difficult time.

Walter MacFarlane passed away peacefully, with **Mairi** at his bedside, on the afternoon of Easter Sunday, 20th April at Mandaville Care Home. Walter, a much respected and long serving Elder at Wardlaw Church, had been housebound for the last 10 years, but remained very much in touch with all Church matters by receiving a recording of every Sunday service, reading *The Parishioner*, and receiving visitors who called at his and Mairi's home in Newton Park.

His funeral service will take place at Wardlaw Church on Monday, 28th April at 1:45 p.m., with Rev. Stewart Frizzell conducting the service and thereafter to Wardlaw Cemetery. Our hearts are saddened by the loss of Walter and our thoughts and prayers are with Mairi and the rest of the MacFarlane family during this difficult time.

The great birthday robbery

by stats watcher Anthony Reuben



How many people in the UK, still alive, celebrated their birthday on Sunday, 30th March by the way ? That's not an easy figure to come by. You can get official figures for live births on a particular day, but they don't go back far enough to cover all the people who are alive today.

If you ask the Office for National Statistics nicely they will give you figures for the number of live births per month going back to 1963. The figure for March is average or slightly below average going back to 1990. Before that, it was more popular,

and every year from 1963 to 1976, March was the most common month to be born in.

All of this averages out over the 50 years, though, and if you look at these proportions together with the latest population estimates, you get to the figure of a little over 150,000 for England and Wales. You can add to that about another 15,000 in Scotland and 5,000 in Northern Ireland.

If you were one of them, happy birthday ! But also commiserations, because the switch to daylight saving time robbed you of 4.2% of your birthday.

Last year, I lost an hour of my birthday, as I had in 2002, 1996, 1991 and 1985, but I decided I wasn't standing for it. Some said the right response would be to save it up, so I could declare an hour of birthday at some other point in the year when I really needed it. My son suggested I should take it a minute at a time for the rest of the year, so I'd have 60 opportunities to ask people to do things and they'd have to because it was my birthday.

Eventually, I decided that it would make the most sense to get my hour of birthday back on the day that the lost hour was officially returned - the day when British Summer Time ended.

So, on 27 October 2013 I declared that it would be my birthday from 13:00 until 14:00 and took my family to a cafe for lunch and then to an ice cream shop for pudding. Honour was satisfied. I hope all you 30 March birthdays will do the same thing on 26 October this year. Perhaps you could throw a party - there are more than 170,000 people you could invite.

When you plan your garden this Spring

Plant three rows of peas:

Peace of mind
Peace of heart
Peace of soul.

Plant four rows of squash:

Squash gossip
Squash indifference
Squash grumbling
Squash selfishness.

Plant four rows of lettuce:

Lettuce be faithful
Lettuce be kind
Lettuce be happy
Lettuce really love one another.

No garden should be without turnips:

Turnip for service when needed
Turnip to help one another
Turnip the music and dance.

Water freely with patience and

Cultivate with love.

There is much fruit in your garden.

Because you reap what you sow.

To conclude our garden

We must have thyme:

Thyme for fun

Thyme for rest

Thyme for ourselves.

Come early for a good seat in the back of the Church.

Please continue to come and put the world to rights at our coffee mornings, held each Tuesday from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon in the Wardlaw Church Guild Room. The home baking is truly excellent, and you will receive a warm welcome every time.

Maris and Mary wish to thank all those who have volunteered to help at this weekly event and the rota is pinned up in the kitchen. Anne Lyle has joined the rota again as she was missing the Tuesday craic.

Tuesday mornings at the Church have become a very popular event and attracts folks from Inverness to Beaulieu. This is not just for "Church" people, but for everyone who wants to come and meet friends in a cosy environment. You are more than welcome to come along and bring your neighbours and friends. There is no fixed charge for the refreshments, but a donation towards the cost will be most welcome.



Third Sunday Praise at Wardlaw Church, Kirkhill

From its beginning Third Sunday Praise at Wardlaw Church has been greatly blessed by the contribution of Mary Robb as the regular pianist. Following her retirement, however, there is uncertainty about whether it will continue in the short term. If possible there will be a praise event on Sunday, 18th May at 6:00 p.m., but confirmation of this will be made in the Church intimations nearer the time.

Bible Songs !

Noah: "Raindrops Keep Falling on My Head"

Adam and Eve: "Strangers in Paradise"

Lazarus: "The Second Time Around"

Esther: "I Feel Pretty"

Job: "I've Got a Right to Sing the Blues"

Moses: "The Wanderer"

Jezebel: "The Lady is a Tramp"

The Three Kings: "When You Wish Upon a Star"

Jonah: "Got a Whale of a Tale"

Thanks to Ness Bank Church March Newsletter

He didn't like the casserole
And he didn't like my cake,
He said my biscuits were too hard
Not like his mother used to make.
I didn't perk the coffee right
He didn't like the stew,
I didn't mend his socks
The way his mother used to do.
I pondered for an answer
I was looking for a clue.
Then I turned around and
smacked him one
Like his mother used to do.

A women's poem thanks to Duncan Colburn

**Thursday, at 5pm, there will be a meeting of the Little Mothers Club.
All ladies wishing to be Little Mothers, please meet with the Minister in his office.**

Notice in a church car park. Trespassers will be baptised.

God invented whisky to keep the Irish from ruling the world.

**The Irish gave the bagpipes to the Scots as a joke,
but the Scots haven't seen the joke yet.**

Coffee on the Wall

I sat with my friend in a well-known coffee shop in a neighbouring town of Venice, Italy, the city of lights and water. As we enjoyed our coffee, a man entered and sat at an empty table beside us. He called the waiter and placed his order saying, "Two cups of coffee, one of them there on the wall." We heard this order with interest and observed that he was served with one cup of coffee but he paid for two. When he left, the waiter put a piece of paper on the wall saying "A Cup of Coffee".

While we were still there, two other men entered and ordered three cups of coffee, two on the table and one on the wall. They had two cups of coffee but paid for three and left. This time also, the waiter did the same; he put a piece of paper on the wall saying, "A Cup of Coffee." It was something unique and perplexing for us. We finished our coffee, paid the bill and left.

After a few days, we had a chance to go to this coffee shop again. While we were enjoying our coffee, a man poorly dressed entered. As he seated himself, he looked at the wall and said, "One cup of coffee from the wall." The waiter served coffee to this man with the customary respect and dignity. The man had his coffee and left without paying. We were amazed to watch all this, as the waiter took off a piece of paper from the wall and threw it in the waste bin.

Now it was no surprise for us – the matter was very clear. The great respect for the needy shown by the inhabitants of this town made our eyes well up in tears. Ponder upon the need of what this man wanted. He enters the coffee shop without having to lower his self-esteem... he has no need to ask for a free cup of coffee... without asking or knowing about the one who is giving this cup of coffee to him... he only looked at the wall, placed an order for himself, enjoyed his coffee and left.

A truly beautiful thought. Probably the most beautiful wall you may ever see anywhere !

Channel Tunnel – 20 years old this month on 6th May

Many of us were scared of the Channel Tunnel when it opened twenty years ago this month. How could it be safe ? The water pressure on the tunnel had to be enormous. Wouldn't it be an obvious target for somebody ? It seems we were wrong. There have been a few emergencies, but no floods. Nobody's had a go at it - as far as we know. Instead, it's given us a quick and comfortable route to our neighbours in the rest of Europe and beyond. It's easy, now, to experience life in France, Belgium, Germany, wherever, knowing we can get back to what we know with ease.

Lots of people find the idea of ecumenism just as scary. The idea of unity scares many Christians when ecumenism is mentioned. We don't want our Church swallowed up by another that we've always seen as *the* other. We know we separated for good reasons and expect they still exist. I guess that's human nature. In fact, ecumenism has changed over the years. It's no longer about the search for unattainable total unity. It's about all those things we agree on as Churches. It's about reading the same Gospel, trusting in the same Jesus Christ, sharing the **same baptism. And it's about working together.**

Like the Channel Tunnel, it works and it brings people together. The Church of England, for example, works with the Lutherans in Scandinavia and the Baltic, as well as with German Churches. Since 1990, all the mainstream denominations have joined in Churches Together in Britain and Ireland. In many places, the Anglicans and Methodists run a Fresh Expression of church for local kids and are joined by Roman Catholics and Baptists doing RE in schools and running holiday clubs.

As we live out Jesus' command, working together can be *our* Channel Tunnel to knowing our fellow Christians better.

Wardlaw Church at Easter 2014

The weather was bright, warm and sunny for our Easter Sunday services. Rev. Morven Archer changed things around from the normal expectation of an Easter Sunday service. The Kirkhill Choir, under the leadership of Mary Robb with Alison MacKenzie on piano sang 'Ave verum' and during the offering sang 'I walked into the garden.' There were six Easter hymns and instead of a sermon, we heard a story from three disciples, Peter, John and James of their thoughts on the day that our Lord rose from the tomb, and Mary Magdalene's story,

read by two different voices. These two meditations were followed by Morven giving a talk about the Easter story. Morven 'volunteered' the children attending Church to distribute Easter Eggs to the entire congregation and the children were given a small box of Smarties (following the theme of our Easter card) for this action.

We wish to thank Alasdair Morrison (Peter), John Hamilton (John), Hamish MacDonald (James), Eileen Morrison and Margaret Birkbeck for the Mary Magdalene's meditation and Margaret Shiels for the scripture reading. On the chancel was a daffodil cross and all the windows had daffodil arrangements and we are most grateful to Anne Lyle and Mary McClelland for all their hard work on Saturday creating these stunning arrangements for everyone to enjoy on Easter Sunday. The feedback during the fellowship time after the service was that Morven should be congratulated for introducing this refreshing new style into our Easter worship.

'He has Risen' was the focus of praise at Third Sunday Praise in the evening. The Communion table was placed on the Kirk floor, and the chairs arranged in a semi-circle around the table. Communion was celebrated as part of the event, conducted by Rev. Peter Donald. Mary Robb (piano) and Alasdair Morrison (guitar) provided the music. Shona McDonald gave a solo performance of 'Gethsemane' and 'You chose the cross' and provided vocal support to all the other Easter hymns. Avril Marr read four passages from Luke, Isaiah and John. People from a variety of church backgrounds appreciated this opportunity to worship together and enjoy the tea, coffee and home baking provided afterwards.

At these two Easter services we celebrated the truth of the Resurrection of Jesus – the foundation of our Christian faith.

Photos by Keith McClelland

World War One: The labour camp for peace protesters

Some World War One conscientious objectors were sent to work camps. The conditions at one facility in Aberdeenshire saw it closed down months after a young man died from pneumonia. By the second year of the war, the initial flood of volunteers had slowed to the point where Britain was forced to introduce conscription for the first time in its history. The Military Service Act, which came into force in March 1916, allowed for objectors to be exempted from service on religious, moral and political grounds, but their appeals were judged by a military tribunal.

Thousands of objectors were sent to do "work of national importance", such as farming, and many more performed non-combat duties, such as working as ambulance men or stretcher-bearers in war zones. Others were forced into the army, and when they refused orders, they were sent to prison.

There was much public criticism over able men sitting in jail when they could be doing useful labour. So a project was devised under which the men would break rocks in the north of Scotland for use in road construction. Some were sent to a camp in Ballachulish in the Highlands. The men faced tough work and poor conditions, but at least they were housed in huts. Other conscripts were sent to the camp at Dyce, situated on a windswept hillside, which is now used as a long-stay car park for Aberdeen airport. They lived in army surplus tents that leaked in the rain and worked smashing granite in the nearby quarry.

Aberdeen University historians Joyce Walker says about 250 men, most of them sent up from England, were taken to the work camp. She says: "They were scholars or academics, students, teachers, shopkeepers, labourers, the whole range of human endeavour. They were mainly well-educated and articulate men. They had all been in prison and saw this as a means to a slightly better life."

The public mood was not sympathetic to conscientious objectors (COs), with many considering them traitors and cowards whose presence was an insult to the north-east men who had left to fight on the front. Local newspaper the Aberdeen Journal wrote a virulent editorial attack on them in September 1916, soon after the camp opened. It said: "A conscientious objector in war-time is a degenerate or worse, who is out of harmony with the people of the nation which protects him in peace-time and defends him in war-time."

According to Ms Walker, the living conditions for COs at the Dyce camp were extremely poor. She says: "They were in army surplus tents and the story goes that the surplus was from the Boer war. So they were old and very leaky tents. The men slept on straw palisades (mattresses) on the ground and they were not permitted to build up with stones or wood to get off the bare ground. So it was very cold and when it was wet, they were on a hill, so the water just ran straight down through their tents."

One of the men in the camp was 20-year-old Walter Roberts, from Bredbury near Stockport, a committed Christian and pacifist who objected to military service and who had refused military service. Roberts had already been weakened by months in prison when he was sent to the camp. He died from pneumonia on 8th September 1916, five days after his arrival. Ms Walker says the death of Walter Roberts upset the rest of the camp and they wrote to the authorities to complain about the conditions. A Home Office delegation, including some MPs, was rapidly dispatched to Dyce and shown around the camp by the inmates. Ms Walker says: "Their opinion was that the camp was OK as long as efforts were made to move the men from the tents into barns and lofts and outhouses and disused Cotter houses, anything that was dry or drier than the tented village." She adds: "Coincidentally, or perhaps not, on the same day, Ramsay Macdonald, the Labour MP, was on his way south after being on holiday. He stopped off and came up to the camp to have a look for himself and his view of the camp was very different to that of the Home Office delegation. He thought it was shocking." Ms Walker adds: "A month later, on 19th October, there was a big debate in parliament about it and at the end of the debate the chairman of the Home Office committee that had come up, a chap called William Brace MP, announced suddenly that the camp was closing. The camp closed at the end of October."

Source of this article is BBC News



Highland Theological College UHI

20th Anniversary Service

In the **spring of 1994** a few men got together to discuss whether there could be a **theological college** as part of the new **university** that was being discussed for the Highlands and Islands. Amazingly by **September** that same year Highland Theological Institute was teaching its first group of students! In 20 years **scores of theology graduates** have gone out from the College to preach the Word and teach in colleges and seminaries. We thank God for his faithfulness! Join with us as we **celebrate 20 years** of Faith and Scholarship.



Friday 2nd May, 7.30pm
East Church, Inverness
All welcome!

Rev. Dr. Sinclair Ferguson will preach

1994 – 2014: 20 years of
Faith and Scholarship

Kirkhill Primary
St. Mary's Road
Kirkhill
Inverness
IV57NX

Dear Senior Citizen

01463831543

We are having a Daffodil Tea in School on Wednesday 7th May at 2:00pm. There will be light entertainment followed by tea and Coffee!

We do hope that we see you there and please feel free to invite any friends who might enjoy the afternoon.

Kind Regards,

The Staff and Pupils of Kirkhill Primary School.



R.S.V.P 831543

The Haircut

A teenage boy had just passed his driving test and inquired of his father as to when they could discuss his use of the car.

His father said he'd make a deal with his son: 'You bring your grades up from a C to a B average, study your Bible, and get your hair cut. Then we'll talk about the car.'

The boy thought about that for a moment, decided he'd settle for the offer, and they agreed on it. After about six weeks his father said, 'Son, you've brought your grades up and I've observed that you have been studying your Bible, but I'm disappointed you haven't had your hair cut.'

The boy said, 'You know, Dad, I've been thinking about that, and I've noticed in my studies of the Bible that Samson had long hair, John the Baptist had long hair, Moses had long hair ~ and there's even strong evidence that Jesus had long hair.'

You're going to love the Dad's reply:

"Did you also notice that they all walked everywhere?"

The Dreaded Driving Test

Sitting in a waiting room
Nerves a shredded mess
Waiting for the call of doom!
The dreaded driving test!

Then you're in the driving seat
Can't back out now – too late!
Just getting moving's quite a feat
Why must that gearbox grate?

"Please make it face the other way,
"By using reverse gears
"Then stop it quickly when I say
"And please dry up those tears!"

The whole thing passes in a blur
Although you've done your best
And then he says that "I concur
"That you have passed your test!"

By Nigel Beeton

Wardlaw Church contact
Maris Elkin 831 590



Kiltarlity Church contact
David Garvie 741 038

Interim Moderator – Rev. Peter Donald 230 537 peter.donald7@btinternet.com
Kirkhill Sunday School – Margaret Birkbeck 831 518 / Flora Morrison 831 373
Kiltarlity Sunday School – Linda MacKenzie 741 313 / Anneliese Garvie 741 038
The Parishioner editor – Iain J. Mortimer 782 648
E-mail – iain.mortimer1@btinternet.com

David of Scotland - loved for his justice and accessibility

If you like Scotland, you'll appreciate St David of Scotland, who lived c.1085 – 1153. David became king of Scotland in 1124, and devoted himself to improving his country. This included a feudal system of land tenure in place of the Celtic tribal one; an Anglo-Norman judicial system, and the development of towns such as Edinburgh, Berwick and Perth.

Above all, David re-organised the Church in Scotland. Contact with Rome was close, but he opposed Canterbury's primatial claims. David founded several bishoprics, including those of Dunblane and Aberdeen. David was loved for his justice in administration, his accessibility to all, and his intense interest in gardens and orchards and buildings.

He was generous in alms-giving, and a devout Christian. When dying, and ordered to rest by his doctors, he said: "Allow me rather to think about the things of God, so that my soul may be strengthened...when I stand before God's judgement seat, none of you shall answer for me..." David died on 24th May 1153 and centuries later his name was inserted in the calendar of the Prayer-book for Scotland. His historical importance is that he founded the Scotland which defied Edward I.

Ascension Day – 29th May

Surely the most tender, moving 'farewell' in history took place on Ascension Day. Luke records the story with great poignancy: "When Jesus had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands - and blessed them." As Christmas began the story of Jesus' life on earth, so Ascension Day completes it, with his return to his Father in heaven. Jesus' last act on earth was to bless his disciples. He and they had a bond as close as could be: they had just lived through three tumultuous years of public ministry and miracles – persecution and death – and resurrection! Just as we part from our nearest and dearest by still looking at them with love and memories in our eyes, so exactly did Jesus: "While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven." (Luke 24 : 50 and 51) He was not forsaking them, but merely going on ahead to a kingdom which would also be theirs one day: "I am ascending to my Father and to your Father, to my God and your God..." (John 20 : 17)

The disciples were surely the most favoured folk in history. Imagine being one of the last few people on earth to be face to face with Jesus, and have him look on you with love. No wonder then that Luke goes on: "they worshipped him - and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God." (Luke 24 : 52 and 53)

No wonder they praised God ! They knew they would see Jesus again one day ! "I am going to prepare a place for you... I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am." (John 14 : 2 and 3) In the meantime, Jesus had work for them to do: to take the Gospel to every nation on earth.

Christian Aid Week 2014: give people a future without fear



Christian Aid works to expose the scandal of poverty, to help in practical ways to root it out from the world and to challenge the systems that keep people poor and marginalised. We deploy our resources where there is greatest need, regardless of race or religion, in 45 countries across Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. Their international programmes reach more than 7 million beneficiaries and they have more than 1 million active supporters in Britain and Ireland.

Experts in international development. Christian Aid has been fighting poverty for more than 60 years and is the UK's largest international humanitarian and development grant-giving Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO). They receive substantial funding from the UK's Department for International Development, the European Commission, Irish Aid, the Scottish Government, the United States Agency for International Development and the United Nations among others, and engage regularly with these institutions and others on development and humanitarian issues.

A pioneer of Fairtrade. Christian Aid has been campaigning for Fairtrade since 1992. That's when they helped set up the Fairtrade Foundation and began encouraging supermarkets to stock products that promise their growers a decent deal.

Partnership approach. With nearly 600 partner organisations around the world, Christian Aid is the largest UK NGO to conduct all programme work, including emergency response, exclusively through partners. Their distinct approach recognises that for needs to be met and change to be lasting, the development process must be locally owned and managed.

Global reach and influence. Christian Aid relationships with local NGOs, churches and secular groups enable them to reach and mobilise poor communities around the world, which are otherwise inaccessible. Christian Aid's global reach is magnified by their membership of the ACT Alliance, a partnership of more than 100 ecumenical agencies, operating in 140 countries.

An inspiring story from South Sudan.

South Sudan remains devastated by war. Many communities are suffering greatly from a lack of access to basic healthcare, education for their children, and at times, food to eat. This story conveys the worry and anxiety of returning to nothing and beginning life again.

Apada is a camp in South Sudan with a settled community of 40,000 people and continues to grow as others return to the country. Many of these people have suffered terribly. **Margaret Nanjok Deng's story is stark and shocking.** It shows the damage war and poverty causes.



Margaret fled to northern Sudan during the war. With peace in South Sudan, she wanted to return with her children, so she sold her house and took the money with her to start afresh. But on the way, her convoy was ambushed. They were shot at. Terrified, they ran from their vehicles into the bush, leaving all their belongings behind. Margaret hid for almost two weeks, drinking only stagnant water. During this time, she saw terrible things. Margaret recalls: 'A child died and the people who stole our vehicles ran the child over. They also drove over the leg of a man we were travelling with. They tried to come and take our boys and girls for sex.' Around 700 petrified people sought refuge in a barracks in

northern Sudan. Margaret continues: 'We were rounded up, and we thought that we were going to be shot. We were crying and our bodies shivering. 'I prayed to God, I did not want to die. I said to myself, "Margaret, be brave". I stood up and prayed. I feared they were going to kill us.'

Margaret's prayers were heard: one of her leaders came and saved them. They were put on trucks and NGOs came to collect them, bringing them water, while local people gave them grains to eat. The NGOs took them to a port, and put them on a boat to the capital, Juba. Then from Juba, they were flown to Aweil, which is close to Apada. 'If the NGOs had not supported us, our lives would be very different,' said Margaret.

Diary dates for MAY 2014

- 29 April Coffee / tea / home baking Wardlaw Church between 10:00 a.m. and 12 noon.
30 April Prayer meeting at Wardlaw Church at 7:00 p.m.
4 May **Worship at WARDLAW at 10:00 a.m. and KILTARLITY at 11:15 a.m.**
Preacher is Rev. Bruce Ritchie
- 4 May First Sunday Praise at Kiltarlity Free Church, in the tent, starting at 6:00 p.m.
6 May Coffee / tea / home baking Wardlaw Church between 10:00 a.m. and 12 noon.
7 May Prayer meeting at Wardlaw Church at 7:00 p.m.
11 May **Communion Service to be celebrated at WARDLAW at 10:00 a.m.**
and a normal worship service at KILTARLITY at 11:15 a.m.
Preacher is Rev. Stewart Frizzell
- 13 May Coffee / tea / home baking Wardlaw Church between 10:00 a.m. and 12 noon.
14 May Prayer meeting at Wardlaw Church at 7:00 p.m.
18 May **Worship at WARDLAW at 10:00 a.m.** This service will be taken by Elders
and members of the congregation and will have the theme 'Thy Kingdom Come.'
There will be a 'Brunch' served in the Guild Room following the service.
18 May **Worship at KILTARLITY at 11:15 a.m.** This service will be taken by Elders
and members of the congregation.
- 20 May Coffee / tea / home baking Wardlaw Church between 10:00 a.m. and 12 noon.
21 May Prayer meeting at Wardlaw Church at 7:00 p.m.
25 May **Worship at WARDLAW at 10:00 a.m. and KILTARLITY at 11:15 a.m.**
Preacher is Rev. Bruce Ritchie
- 25 May TCC Youth Fellowship meets at Kiltarlity Free Church at 7:00 p.m.
27 May Coffee / tea / home baking Wardlaw Church between 10:00 a.m. and 12 noon.
27 May Kirkhill Kirk Session meeting at Wardlaw Church starting at 7:30 p.m.
28 May Prayer meeting at Wardlaw Church at 7:00 p.m.
1 June **Worship at WARDLAW at 10:00 a.m. and KILTARLITY at 11:15 a.m.**
Preacher is Mr Stewart Robertson

**Jonathan, the Minister's very young son asked his father, 'Daddy, I notice every Sunday morning when you first climb into the pulpit to give your sermon, you bow your head for a moment. What are you doing ?'
The father answered, 'I'm asking the Lord to give me a good sermon.'
Jonathan inquired, 'Then why doesn't he ?'**

From page 5

- Q. How far will a blind dog walk into a forest ? **A. Half way in - then they would be walking out**
Q. What starts with a T, ends with a T, and has "T" in it ? **A. Teapot**
Q. What English word has three consecutive double letters ? **A. Mississippi or bookkeeper**

Thanks to Mary McClelland for this contribution

The June 2014 issue of The Parishioner will be published on Sunday, 1st June 2014