



Kiltarlity and Wardlaw Churches
The Parishioner



FROM THE INTERIM MODERATOR

Dear friends,

Easter is about lives being turned round. Last week I heard a former alcoholic tell something of his story in a way full of humour as well as clearly owning the scars that had been part of the journey. One of the jokes he told went like this.

“Is there any difference between praying in church and praying around a poker table?”

“No, of course not. You can pray anywhere. God is everywhere.”

“Wrong. There is a difference between praying in church and praying around a poker table.”

“How so?”

“In church people say their prayers. Around the poker table, they really mean them.”

So, the speaker continued, what really shapes our lives? What goes beyond just a form of words? Do I want to give up the drink or not? Very often we say that we believe in this or we don't agree with that, but whether that carries through into absolutely how we anchor ourselves is another matter. Another part of this story is how folk can get angry and aggressive against others for displaying the very traits that the folk carry within themselves and don't like but can't deal with. Or to go to the Bible, why was it that friends of Jesus who were truly, they thought, committed to him and his cause ran away when Jesus was arrested? What courage do we have with our convictions? Where will we allow them to take us?

Much ink has been spilled, and many a thought had, as to whether Jesus really did rise from the dead. People come up with alternative theories; some go as far as to brand the whole religious enterprise a hoax. But as the Gospels and letters of the New Testament report the resurrection, the most food for thought might lie in how the accounts don't harmonise – how, to be blunt, there was no grand plan to spin a yarn. Rather, these friends of Jesus were so taken by surprise. These friends of Jesus had nothing in their armoury to prepare them for this one human being, Jesus of Nazareth, being crucified and then returning again to eat with them, again to speak to them. If life does not end with death, if the love of God can stand strong despite everything that our human failings and mortality propel us towards, if forgiveness is not just a theory but our salvation (necessary for us always to be receiving, necessary for us always to be giving), what then? What plans have you made? What assumptions have you lived by? What grudges and separations have you settled into? What needs to change?

Jesus' friends were not at all the same once they were on the road of taking on resurrection faith. Exciting! Scary! Not boring.

With all good wishes

Peter

Jonathan Veira

26th April 2013



larger
than
life

THE TOUR

Jonathan Veira, a professional opera singer who can ably cross over to a full evening of popular music and chat will be joining us for his extremely popular one-man show – An Audience with Jonathan Veira, where he uses his voice and his skills as a musician on the piano and guitar together with his talents as a comedian and most of all communicator. This show goes from opera to pop and includes jazz standards and even country and western along the way – everyone finds a song that they love in this show. Jonathan's anecdotes and comments on life resonate with his guests which often result in great hilarity shared by all. Audiences of all ages across the whole of the UK and beyond have been given a night to remember, where the by word is 'laughter' and people leave feeling uplifted and often moved in a way there weren't expecting. Don't miss this fantastic show, a wonderful event to bring friends, family and neighbours along to!

At a glance

Date: 26th April 2013

Time: 7.30pm

Venue: Culduthel Christian Centre,
Culduthel Avenue, Inverness, IV2 6AS

Cost: £10 Adult || £6 OAP & U16
Tickets available from aLive website, CLC
Bookshop or 3C's Café

Have we learnt anything

From Britain

"The budget should be balanced, the Treasury should be refilled, public debt should be reduced, the arrogance of officialdom should be tempered and controlled, and the assistance to foreign lands should be curtailed, lest Rome will become bankrupt. People must again learn to work instead of living on public assistance." - Cicero , 55 BC

So, evidently we've learnt nothing at all over the past 2,068 years.

Have you ever wondered....

~ Why is it called lipstick if you can still move your lips ?

~ Why is it that night falls, but day breaks ?

~ Why is it that no word in the English language rhymes with month, orange, silver, or purple ?

~ Why is it that when you transport something by car, it's called a shipment, but when you transport something by ship, it's a cargo ?

Moderator attends Archbishop of Canterbury enthronement

The Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, Rt Rev Albert Bogle, attended the official enthronement of the new Archbishop of Canterbury on 21 March 2013.

Commenting, Mr Bogle said: "We are living in challenging times which require church leaders who will speak with clarity on Gospel issues. The Church of England shares with the Church of Scotland a passion to see the Gospel transform not only our local communities here at home but also abroad.

I'm delighted that both our national churches have a desire to work closer together on many aspects of fairness that affect all who live on these islands. There are a number of these issues I have already spoken with Archbishop Justin about, including the Church of Scotland's work on the purpose of economy. I know that future Moderators will wish to continue this dialogue. It is therefore a particular delight to be able to attend his enthronement knowing our Churches share a common goal."

Ian (Jock) Fraser



In January this year, for well understood family reasons Ian (Jock) Fraser retired as organist at Kiltarlity, a post he had held and faithfully discharged for thirty years. After the worship service on Sunday, 24th March the congregation showed its appreciation by presenting Jock with a long service certificate, a framed photograph of the church at Tomnacross and a cheque. The certificate was signed by the Moderator of the General Assembly, Rt. Rev. Albert Bogle and on behalf of the wider church gratefully acknowledged Jock's dedicated service over the last three decades.

Ian Morrison on behalf of the congregation, paid warm tribute to the immeasurable contribution Jock had made, not only to Sunday worship but to so many weddings, funerals and other church events. Serving under five ministers, Revs. Robin Gilmour, Campbell Mackinnon, Fraser Turner, Willis Jones and Kobus Smit, Jock had played a huge part in the life of the congregation. It might honestly be said that he practised whilst they preached and his repertoire over the years had brought great joy to everyone. In one particular month Ian Morrison remembered Jock playing as voluntaries "Dark Lochnagar," selections from "Evita" and "Les Miserables" and works made popular by Mozart, Handel, Jimmy Shand and Fergie Macdonald.

Kiltarlity had been fortunate to have had such an accomplished musician leading its praise and despite a busy and successful professional career Jock had never once failed to fulfil his duties with skill and devotion. For all this Jock was sincerely thanked and he, Lynn and the family assured of the congregations warmest wishes, prayers and affection.

Lucy from the Sunday School then presented Lynn with a bouquet of flowers and Jock made a moving but humorous speech, thanking the congregation for the gifts made and sentiments expressed. He recalled how in 1983 Robin Gilmour had persuaded him to cover for a few weeks Joy Stewart's absence through illness. One thing had led to another and thirty years later he now looked back on his time at the organ keyboard with great pleasure and pride. He had soon sussed out how to handle each particular Minister and keep him in order, each in a special way. We know full well that they all relied on his never failing ability to make praise a delight and his demission is a cause of great regret to everyone in the parish.

There will always be a warm welcome for Jock and Lynn at Tomnacross.

Thanks to Ian Morrison for the narrative and Ellenor Thomas for the photograph

The Church of Scotland - Kirkhill Parish Church
1 January 2012 to 31 December 2012

| Extract of the 2012 Account highlights | | | |
|---|----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Receipts | 2012 | 2011 | Difference |
| Offerings - open plate | £7,539 | £7,723 | (£184) |
| FWO Scheme / Gift Aid / Tax recovered on Gift Aid | £16,965 | £12,699 | £4,266 |
| Other offerings / donations | £5,075 | £4,014 | £1,061 |
| Flowers / Guild / Sunday School / Tuesday Coffee | £2,065 | £549 | £1,516 |
| <i>Sub-total :</i> | £31,644 | £24,985 | £6,659 |
| Bank interest / Investment income / Rental income | £1,714 | £175 | £1,539 |
| Grant - General Trustees | £755 | £753 | £2 |
| Receipts total : | £34,113 | £25,913 | £8,200 |

| Payments | 2012 | 2011 | Difference |
|--|----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Ministries & Mission allocations | £5,167 | £7,520 | £2,353 |
| Minister's expenses | £834 | £810 | (£24) |
| Other staffing costs | £1,787 | £1,956 | £169 |
| Pulpit supply | £2,047 | £225 | (£1,822) |
| Insurance | £1,429 | £1,482 | £53 |
| Oil and electric costs | £497 | £773 | £276 |
| Sale of land costs | £77 | £1,846 | £1,769 |
| Vacancy costs | £216 | | (£216) |
| Printing / Stationery / Licences / Promotional | £1,207 | £733 | (£474) |
| Hospitality / Cleaning / Garden / Equipment | £1,596 | £561 | (£1,035) |
| Flowers / Guild / Sunday School | £887 | £668 | (£219) |
| Manse repairs | £2,518 | £8,829 | £6,311 |
| Fabric repairs and maintenance | £2,990 | £967 | (£2,023) |
| Other costs | £3,302 | £1,692 | (£1,610) |
| Payments total : | £24,554 | £28,062 | £3,508 |

| | | | |
|--|---------------|-----------------|----------------|
| <i>Excess / (loss) of receipts over payments</i> | £9,559 | (£2,149) | £11,708 |
|--|---------------|-----------------|----------------|

Copies of the OSCAR prepared Receipts and Payments Account are available for you to take away at the Church door, or contact Louise Monaghan for a copy.

On 2nd April 1938 the Oxford v Cambridge University Boat Race was broadcast on television for the first time.

On 3rd April 1933 the first flight over Mount Everest took place when two British pilots, the Marquis of Clydesdale and Donald McIntyre, flew two biplanes over the summit.

On 21st April 1983 the one pound coin went into circulation in England and Wales.

PARISH NOTICE BOARD

- * We offer our thanks to Rev. Stewart Jeffrey, Rev. Tony Livesley, and Mrs Joyce Mitchell for leading our Sunday worship in March. We are very grateful to Rev. Bart Buell who led our joint service at Kiltarlity Church on Easter Sunday. The Kiltarlity Free Church joined us at this celebration service and the Celestial Choir sang three Easter anthems magnificently.
- * Our appreciation to Flora Morrison, Tracy Fraser-Lee, Lesley Courts and Avril Marr for the congregation vacancy prayer said during the intimations at Wardlaw Church each Sunday in March.
- * On the first Sunday in April we welcome our new Interim Moderator, Rev. Peter Donald, to lead our worship. Mrs Vivian Roden returns to lead our services on the 14th and 21st April. As part of the Wardlaw Church service on the 21st April, Alan Myles, a local representative of Scripture Union Scotland will give a short presentation as part of the service on the work the SU are involved with in the Highlands. A retiring offering on behalf of Scripture Union will be made at this service. Rev. Stewart Frizzell makes a welcome return on 28th April.
- * The Tuesday coffee / tea and home baking morning at Wardlaw Church is proving a great success, thanks to Mary, Anne, Maris, plus everyone who comes along to enjoy the refreshments and fellowship. Also a big thank you to all those who bring along home baking each week. 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. The Church sanctuary will also be open during this time for anyone who wishes to have some “private time” for prayer and thought.
- * There are a couple of Youth group meetings at Kiltarlity Free Church on the Sunday evenings of 14th and 28th April at 7:00 p.m. If you require any further information on these events please contact Anneliese Garvie (741 038, anneliese@garviefamily.com), or Joe Barnard (741 099, joebarnard@gmail.com).
- * On Wednesday, 20th March the funeral service for Robert (Bob) McNab of Ardmachdonie was held at Wardlaw Church. Rev. Peter Donald conducted the service at the Church and the interment was at Wardlaw Cemetery following the service.
- * Congratulations to Elaine Stuart and Bruce Buntain who were joined in marriage by Rev. Peter Donald at Wardlaw Church, Kirkhill on Saturday, 30th March. At the end of the service, Rev. Donald presented the couple with a Message Bible from the Wardlaw Church congregation to mark this special day in their lives.
- * The Kirkhill Annual General Meeting was held on the evening of Tuesday, 26th March at Wardlaw Church. Tea, coffee and home baking was available from 7:30 p.m., which gave those attending time to chat, read the agenda and the minutes from the 2011 meeting before the 2012 meeting started. Rev. Peter Donald opened the meeting with a reading from Luke 23 verses 32 to 43, very fitting for Holy Week. Reports were delivered by members of the congregation, Deacons and Elders. All the reports highlighted the many and varied activities carried out in 2012 and covered the Sunday School, Guild, Fabric (Manse, Church and house plot), Treasurer and Session. The meeting closed with a prayer from Rev. Peter Donald. Copies of the Trustees’ Report and the Annual Accounts are available from the table in the Church entrance. For legal reasons, the accounts are presented in a format dictated by the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCAR).

Must I keep moving or can I rest ?

There is a healthy tension at the heart of the Christian journey into Christ-likeness. It's the push and pull of staying or getting up and going. And the Bible speaks of both as part of the normal Christian life.

In 1 Corinthians 15:58 Paul seems to be spurring his readers on to do even more, *"Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters....always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain."*

But then we hear Jesus warning us in John 15:5, *"I am the vine; you are the branches.... apart from me you can do nothing."* Who wants to find they have moved on and achieved nothing ?

In the process of transformation (becoming like Jesus) there seems to be this healthy tension between 'doing' and 'abiding'.

Some churches seem to solve the tension by ticking the 'abiding' option. No one is challenged, the training of a new generation of leaders is half-hearted, and resources are safely banked. We create a pathway that leads nowhere much, and then happily walk up and down it each week. We just 'are' Christians.

Other churches rush helter-skelter in the opposite direction. Exhaustion and burnout are their trade-marks. They pile up meetings and programmes and use people until they are spiritually dry. There is no depth and no profound mystery and nowhere to rest and refresh the exhausted traveller.

Perhaps if the journey into Christ-likeness needs us to rest, as well as to get going, then we need to plan for both. We need to be prepared to roll up our sleeves, sacrifice comfort, and pour ourselves out in God's service. But we also need to take time to seek intimacy with him, and to be transformed by his spirit within us. We need to become an oasis of grace and love to the people we encounter.

Now that sounds like a balance well kept: going and yet staying is still an option.

The above article is adapted from the Langham Partnership blog. More information at: www.9aday.org.uk

That taxing time of year

A man, submitting information to his income tax preparer, was asked how many dependents he had.

"Eight," he replied unhappily.

The preparer asked, "Would you mind repeating that ?"

The man replied earnestly, "Not if I can help it."

They're Back ! Those wonderful Church Bulletins !

These sentences actually appeared in church bulletins or
were announced at church services

The Fasting and Prayer Conference includes meals.

Scouts are saving aluminium cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell ?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

Pot-luck supper Sunday at 5:00 p.m. - prayer and medication to follow.

The Minister would appreciate it if the ladies of the Congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.

The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7 p.m. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday : 'I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours.'

Thanks to Ian Dearing for finding these quotes

The Sovereign God

Seventy years ago this month the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising began in Poland. The Jews resisted the Nazis' efforts to transport those still left in the ghetto to the Treblinka extermination camp. The rebellion erupted on 19th April 1943 and ended when the poorly armed and supplied resistance was crushed by the Germans on 16th May. The event reminds us of another dark period of Jewish history when in 5th Century BC Persia they were threatened with extermination. The story of how God providentially rescued his people is recorded in book of Esther, remembered every year at the Festival of Purim.

Remarkably, neither God nor prayer is mentioned in the book of Esther ! Although God's name is absent in the book, his hand is seen everywhere. God may be invisible, but he is not absent. The story of Esther is one of the unseen providence of God. As Lord of the universe, God understands the future because he works everything according to his perfect plan (Romans 8:28-39). Even when things appear to be out of control or God seems far away, he is working invisibly to accomplish his will.

'It's easy to see God in the miraculous. It's not so easy to see him in the mundane. But that's where most of us live. This is all the more reason why we need to be sensitive to his voice, so we can be attentive to the subtle ways in which he works. Though God is invisible, he is invincible. That is the message of the Book of Esther. The invisible God who may appear to be absent is the invincible God who is working out his best plan.' (Charles Swindoll).

The book of Esther assures us that God is working behind the scenes of the ordinary circumstances of our daily lives. He takes the apparent random string of ordinary events or coincidences to achieve his purpose. As Mordecai reminds his cousin Esther, God often places us in the right place at the right time to stand for him:

'For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?' (Esther 4:14).

As the history of the Jewish people demonstrates, the Sovereign God is at work enabling his people to overcome impossible circumstances, while he works his gracious purpose.

An article by Paul Hardingham

Church of Scotland responds to referendum date announcement - 21 March 2013

The Church of Scotland has welcomed today's announcement of the date of the referendum on the future of Scotland as 18 September 2014.

Commenting, Rev Sally Foster-Fulton, Convener of the Church of Scotland's Church and Society Council said: "I welcome the clarity given on the date of the referendum, but what really matters now is how we use the time between now and then.

"The Church of Scotland is working with local congregations, planning and holding community meetings where individuals can consider the sort of Scotland they would like to take shape. I am excited about participating in them over the next year and a half. These are discussions and decisions that can frame the future vision - independence or not!"



GUILD NEWS

The final meeting of the Guild season took place on 6 March 2013, with a short Annual General meeting followed by a cheerful session of photographic memories.

After some discussion, it was agreed that the next Guild season commencing October 2013 would have meetings held on the second Wednesday of the month at the usual time of 2:30 p.m. Maris Elkin, Anne Lyle and Rosemary Mortimer agreed to continue as office bearers for the coming year as Treasurer, Project Co-ordinator and Secretary respectively.

Each person had been invited to bring along a photograph that meant something to them, or maybe evoked special memories. Rosemary Mortimer brought along two photographs of her entire school in Liverpool, dating from when she was 7 and 17 years old. Margaret Birkbeck produced a photograph taken during a family walk in British Columbia – a sign warning of “grizzly action” that brought about a rapid re-think of their intended route. Margaret Shiels showed a prized picture of the Bogroy Inn dating back to the 1930’s and spoke of tales surrounding her family’s connection with the inn. Mary Bell had found a photograph of school children drinking school milk, which prompted memories of milk crates dumped next to radiators with the resultant unpleasantly warm milk ! Jeanette McLellan had a photograph of her husband John laughing as she was being clothed in traditional Japanese costume – then produced a further picture of John being similarly attired ! Mary Urquhart had brought along a treasured picture of her family dating back to 1942, and spoke of her fond memories of the people shown. Mary McClelland had a photo montage of a sequence of events at her wedding to (professional photographer) Keith – three other photographers had declined to photograph the wedding, having come across Keith many times before, and the one who did take on the commission is shown sitting on the side-lines as Keith took over ! Anne Lyle produced a photograph of herself aged 8 – looking as if butter wouldn’t melt – but with tales of larking about in her childhood home of Brechin.

Many thanks to all who came to this meeting – here’s to the next time !

Rosemary Mortimer

The Boss

The bishop was complaining in a staff meeting that he wasn't getting any respect from the diocesan committees and staff. Later that morning he went out and got a small sign that read, "I'm the Boss", and then taped it to his office door. Later that day when he returned from lunch, he found that someone had taped a note to the sign that said. "Your wife called, she wants her sign back !"

The Church of Scotland - Kiltarlity Parish Church
1 January 2012 to 31 December 2012

| Extract of the 2012 Account highlights | | | |
|---|----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Receipts | 2012 | 2011 | Difference |
| Offerings - open plate | £2,229 | £3,028 | (£799) |
| FWO Scheme / Gift Aid | £13,417 | £12,974 | £443 |
| Tax recovered on Gift Aid | £3,805 | £3,352 | £453 |
| Other offering / donations | £345 | £288 | £57 |
| Sub-total : | £19,796 | £19,642 | £154 |
| Bank and deposit interest | £103 | £17 | £86 |
| Investment income | £954 | £954 | £0 |
| Receipts total : | £20,853 | £20,613 | £240 |

| Payments | 2012 | 2011 | Difference |
|--|----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Ministries & Mission allocations | £8,404 | £11,016 | £2,612 |
| Minister's expenses | £527 | £1,834 | £1,307 |
| Presbytery dues | £147 | £146 | (£1) |
| Other staffing costs / pulpit supply | £5,162 | £3,080 | (£2,082) |
| Insurance | £1,761 | £1,725 | (£36) |
| Oil and electric costs | £2,062 | £1,872 | (£190) |
| Professional fees | £180 | £1,659 | £1,479 |
| Vacancy costs | £150 | | (£150) |
| TCC / Sunday School | £279 | £242 | (£37) |
| Manse repairs | £1,685 | £8,362 | £6,677 |
| The Parishioner / Presentation to Rev. K. Smit | £262 | £136 | (£126) |
| Other costs | £973 | £2,437 | £1,464 |
| Payments total : | £21,592 | £32,509 | £10,917 |

| | | | |
|--|---------------|------------------|----------------|
| <i>Excess / (loss) of receipts over payments</i> | (£739) | (£11,896) | £11,157 |
|--|---------------|------------------|----------------|

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Welcome those weeds !

This Spring, gardeners should plant 'weeds' such as thistles, to help declining bee populations. So says the Royal Horticultural Society. It's 'Perfect for Pollinators' list now covers more than 400 plants.

The list can be downloaded at www.rhs.org.uk or write to Royal Horticultural Society, 80 Vincent Square, London, SW1P 2PE or ring them free on 0845 260 5000

HIGHLAND FOODBANK – Feel like volunteering ?

On Friday and Saturday, 5 and 6 July 2013, Highland Foodbank is carrying out a collection at Tesco Extra Inverness, Tesco Extra Inshes and Tesco Extra Dingwall. Volunteers are needed to take a two hour collecting slot at any of these stores, on either of the two days. If you would like to help with this, please contact Lorna Dempster, Highland Foodbank Project Co-ordinator on 07875 332 696 (voice call or text) or via foodbank@blythswood.org



Christian Care for
Body & Soul

HIGHLAND FOODBANK

As most of you are already aware, the Highland Foodbank provides emergency food and support to local people in crisis. Your generosity over the years has been greatly appreciated, but the need for Foodbanks seems to be increasing in these economically challenging times.

The Kiltarlity and Kirkhill representatives have therefore decided to have collections at both Churches during the month of April, and we are sure you will support this, as you feel able. The Foodbank is looking for any non-perishable item – for example:

- Tins of vegetables, fruit, meat or soup
- Tea, coffee, sugar
- Long-life milk, long-life fruit juice
- Rice, pasta, breakfast cereals, oatcakes/crackers

Please leave your donations in the Church entrances at any time.

Thank you for your on-going support.

Elizabeth Fraser and Margaret Birkbeck

The next Third Sunday Praise will be held on
Sunday, 21 April 2013, starting at 6:00 p.m.

This Wardlaw Church event will be a mixture of praise songs interspersed with short Bible readings and prayers. This event gives everyone a chance to learn and sing new hymns and songs.

People of all ages, from the youngest to the oldest, and from all Churches and none, will be made most welcome. There will be tea, coffee and home baking served at the end.

If you are able to play a musical instrument, and wish to share that skill, please speak to
Alasdair Morrison – 831 185.



A burglar broke into a house one night. He shined his flashlight around, looking for valuables when a voice in the dark said, "Jesus knows you..."

He nearly jumped out of his skin, clicked his flashlight off, and froze. When he heard nothing more, after a bit, he shook his head and continued.

Just as he pulled the stereo out so he could disconnect the wires, clear as a bell he heard:

"Jesus is watching you."

Freaked out, he shined his light around frantically, looking for the

source of the voice. Finally, in the corner of the room, his flashlight beam came to rest on a parrot.

"Did you say that?" he hissed at the parrot.

"Yep," the parrot confessed, then squawked, "I'm just trying to warn you that he is watching you."

The burglar relaxed. "Warn me, huh? Who in the world are you?"

"Moses," replied the bird.

"Moses?" the burglar laughed. "What kind of people would name a bird 'Moses'?"

"The same kind of people who would name a Rottweiler 'Jesus.'"

TEEN meets GOD: Laura's story

I was baptised as a baby, and as I grew up, I went to church with my dad. I went to Sunday school, and I would say and do the right thing. It didn't mean anything though, because I didn't have that intimate relationship with God that other people seemed to have. In my early teens, I was dragged along to a Christian event. It was a whole week long and I knew it was going to be such a bore. But I wanted my dad and church friends to be happy with me, so I said yes.

I stood at the back in the first meeting, feeling incredibly uncomfortable and out of place. The music started, and everyone started raising their hands in worship. I'd seen this before, but this time was different. I looked around at the faces of all these incredible young people passionate about Jesus, and I realised that I'd been living a religion instead of a relationship. A leader stopped the band mid-song and began to speak – saying that someone needed to know that God loved them so much, and wanted to come into a relationship with them tonight. I knew that was me!

Now I began to worship. I can't describe what I felt in that moment, but I was in the presence of God. I got down on my knees – I must have been there for about half an hour. With my face bowed to the floor, I began to pour out my heart to God. I asked him to forgive my sins and said I wanted to enter into a real relationship with him. As I left that meeting, I knew that Jesus had changed everything. I knew there was a God who loved me who I could pray to; that I could be honest with. From that moment onwards, I can honestly say I have never been the same. Just one touch of God's presence changed my life.

Laura is 18 and lives in Bradford. She is one of the contributors to a new book of stories, 'Jesus is Changing my Life,' published by LIFE Church UK.

Happy 40th Birthday, mobile phones !

Forty years ago this month an American inventor, Martin Cooper, made the world's first call on a mobile phone. They took a little while to catch on in Britain, but when they did it was like a pandemic. Nowadays you can't get on a train or a bus or walk down the street without seeing them in use - people apparently talking to themselves, but actually conversing with an invisible friend or colleague. Virtually everybody's got one, and of course Cooper's invention has sprouted many new varieties: iPhones, Tablets, Smartphones and so on.

The secret of their success, I reckon, is that they tap into an absolutely fundamental human need: to talk. The toddler can't wait to talk, and parents can't wait for those amazing first words. Trying to stop people talking is like trying to dam a mountain stream. A survey last year asked people to say what was the last thing they would give up in a recession, and the top answer was 'my mobile phone.' Texting, networking, keeping up with friends or just totally meaningless chatter ('Hello, I'm on the train'), we just can't stop talking.

Far from being an odd thing, this is actually entirely natural. Like the Creator in whose image we are made, we are communicating beings. The first specific activity of God in the Bible was to speak: 'God said, "Let there be light."' Jesus is called 'the Word.' Every moment of the human story is illuminated by speech.

When we ask 'What's in a word ?' the answer is, everything. We remember words long after they were spoken, for good or ill. Physical wounds heal, but the memory of an unkind or bitter word lingers for a life-time. At the same time, a few words of love or comfort or understanding will never be forgotten: 'I love you', 'Forgive me,' 'I'm home !', 'Don't cry, mummy's here.'

It can even be a single word, which simply changes everything: 'Sorry.' If that's what one word can do, then in the midst of all our chattering on Mr Cooper's invention perhaps we need to remember that words are precious jewels, to be enjoyed, but never to be carelessly or irresponsibly spoken.

PLEASE PRAY at this TIME of VACANCY

The power of prayer is awesome and we must not underestimate this power. We, the two Churches at Kirkhill and Kiltarlity, are just beginning on a journey to appoint a new Minister to lead us. God does have someone in mind for this role for us and we must learn to be patient and trust in Him to reveal to us who that person is when He, God, is ready.

Members and friends of both congregations are encouraged by the Kirk Sessions to pray for the Nominating Committee as they seek guidance in their search for a new Minister.

As we all know we can pray anywhere and anytime, so we trust you will take the opportunities available to you to bring before the Lord the issues which are in your heart.

Response to Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Bill Consultation - 20 March 2013

The Church of Scotland has submitted its response to the Scottish Government consultation on the Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Bill, and has re-iterated its views on same sex marriage.

Rev Alan Hamilton, Convener of the Church of Scotland's Legal Questions Committee said: "The Church of Scotland has made clear that we cannot support the Government's proposals on same sex marriage and religious civil partnerships. The Church has not departed from the traditional Christian position on same sex relationships although this is likely to be debated at this year's General Assembly.

The Church of Scotland recognises that the Scottish Government intends to introduce same-sex marriage. In these circumstances, the Church broadly welcomes the scheme which the Scottish Government proposes which is intended to ensure that no religious organisation or celebrant is forced to solemnise same sex marriages or register civil partnerships. However, we have drawn to the Government's attention a number of areas in which the proposed Scottish and UK legislation is inconsistent with the Government's stated intentions. Furthermore, much of the Government's proposed scheme will be contained in regulations and guidance which have not yet been published. The Church is also aware than even if enacted and issued, such legislation and guidance is subject to repeal and revocation and to potential challenge in the European Court of Human Rights.

We have also expressed our concern for registrars, teachers and other public servants. We have urged the Government to provide sufficient protections to ensure that no public servant loses his or her job or faces disadvantage because their religious beliefs mean that they are unable to support same sex marriage or civil partnerships. The Church awaits sight of updated guidance before commenting further on the wider implications for education.

The Church of Scotland remains committed to dialogue with the Scottish Government and to being a constructive voice in the national debate.

We are acutely aware that opinions differ among our own members and that many people are anxious and hurt in the current situation. We re-iterate that we believe homophobia to be sinful and we reaffirm our strong pastoral commitment to all people in Scotland, regardless of sexual orientation or beliefs."

Special day for atheists

An atheist complained to a Christian friend, "Christians have their special holidays, such as Christmas and Easter; and Jews celebrate their holidays, such as Passover and Yom Kippur; Muslims have their holidays. In fact, every religion has its holidays. But we atheists," he said, "have no recognised holidays. It's an unfair discrimination."

"Nonsense," his friend replied, "People have observed a special day in your honour for years." "I don't know what you're talking about," the atheist said, "When is this special day?" "April first."

Plot of land at rear of Wardlaw Church update

There is still no further definite news to report on this matter. The two enquires made in late February have not materialised into anything definite. One enquiry cannot proceed to the next stage of making an offer because of financial reasons. The other prospect is to build a property and run a bed and breakfast from the property. We are still waiting to hear back from the interested party on this enquiry. A Housing Trust, which had made an informal enquiry to build a small row of cottages on the site has now had a pre-application meeting with the Highland Council planners. It is now awaiting a written report from the Highland Planners on its proposal. Upon receipt of this report, the Housing Trust will decide whether to make a formal enquiry to the Church of Scotland Law Department to progress the project.

The plot continues to be advertised at the Highland Solicitors Property Centre in Inverness, and on their web-site, along with the Church of Scotland web-site.

However, if you know of anyone who is interested, ask them to contact Anne Steele at the Church of Scotland Law Department at 121 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 4YN Tel: 0131 240 2263 without delay.

**Ian Dearing is organising a clear-up of the plot on
Saturday, 6 April 2013, starting at 10 o'clock.**

If you are able, please come along for a couple of hours and lend a hand.

Sending comfort to Syrians

Hundreds of thousands of Scripture calendars and comics about the life of Jesus have been distributed in Syria's beleaguered cities by the Bible Society.

A Bible Society spokesman in Beirut explained: "When you face death, there are so very few things that are really important. During these last two years of troubles we have come to believe more and more in the message contained in the Word of God. God has got something very important to tell us Syrians at this very time."

He went on to say that the Bible Society volunteers, who also distribute food to families affected by the violence, "have told us that family after family have told them that the Scriptures meant much more to them than the food." To date, some 100,000 Scripture calendars and 150,000 comics have been distributed.

A gift to the Church in your Will

The work of the Church has been assisted greatly by many generous gifts in the Wills of members, adherents and supporters. If you wish to make a gift in your Will to support the work of the Church, it can support your local congregation or the work of a particular council or the work of the Church of Scotland in general. A gift to the Church in your Will is exempt from Inheritance Tax. The General Treasurer and the Solicitor of the Church are always willing to provide information about the work of the Church to anyone interested in making a gift in their Will. They can be contacted at The Church of Scotland, 121 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 4YN, telephone : 0131 225 5722.

FUN FAMILY QUIZ NIGHT



on FRIDAY, 19TH APRIL 2013 at

KILTARLITY VILLAGE HALL

Starting at 7 o'clock

Cost : £20 for a team of 4 - includes tea / coffee and home baking



FEAR NOT ! This is not the serious stuff of 'Eggheads' combat. It will be a light-hearted challenge with some brain tickling along the way. Teams could include P3 age to Grandparents.



All you need is a little knowledge, some inspired guesswork and an occasional dash of pure luck.

Search your family and friends to make up a team of up to 4 people.

If you can't make a full team, come along anyway and we'll sort you out.

Just bring along your own drinks and glasses to lubricate the brain cells.

Contact Louise Watson for further details on 741 876

Organised by Kiltarlity Church of Scotland - Charity No. SC014918

VACANCY - THE NEWS THIS MONTH IS

The Nominating Committee met with our new Interim Moderator, Rev. Peter Donald on 11 March at Kiltarlity Church to brief him on the vacancy situation.

The following article has appeared in the Parish News section of the April 2013 edition of Life and Work. The article helps to maintain awareness of our vacancy and involves no cost to the parishes. It was a similar type of article that attracted Rev. Edgar Ogston to enquire, and eventually move, to North West Lochaber.

NEW APPROACH

Two linked churches in the Highlands, at Kiltarlity and Kirkhill near Inverness, have turned to film-making to help them in their search for a new minister. Iain Mortimer, an elder at Kirkhill, explained: "We have recently been given authorisation to call a minister, and the congregations realised that something different was needed to get potential ministers to take an interest."

A 20-minute film has been made to show what the two rural churches and the attractive Beaully Firth area have to offer.

Church life is depicted, with footage including Harvest Thanksgiving, weddings at each of the churches, and a fundraising choral concert. A tour of the manse also features in the film, together with pictures of downtown Inverness and coverage of the Hogmanay celebrations there.

The film was masterminded by former commercial photographer, Keith McClelland, who moved to the Highlands in 2010.

The film can be viewed at www.kiltarlityandkirkhill.org.uk

BICENTENNIAL

2012 was a very busy year and Quothquan celebrated 200 years from the current year.

The event has been held from three for Cowell, the Rev. Cutler – and a General Asser Bogle, in June.

In August, it followed by a service; and in Quothquan

50 YEARS

When he was ordained as an elder he had

The Nomination Committee are seeking the assistance of any member of the congregation in the coming weeks. If you hear of, or witness, any suitable Minister that could be considered for our vacancy, please pass the details onto any member of the Nomination Committee. Please mention this to family and friends as they may have heard a good potential candidate. Thank you. Members of the Nominating Committee can be contacted on :

- | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 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 | Rosemary Mortimer – 782 648 |

Jesus' granny

The little boy came home from his first day at Sunday School and casually told his mother that the Sunday school teacher was Jesus' granny. Astonished, his mother asked: "Whatever makes you think that?"

"Well, it's pretty obvious," said her son. "She never stopped talking about him all morning. She told us Jesus is smarter and stronger and better-behaved than anyone else she knows. She even showed us a picture of him."

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

Graham Elkin still remains in Raigmore Hospital and has been a patient there now since 31 December 2012. Graham's condition deteriorated badly at the beginning of March, and he was transferred to the Intensive Care Unit on the evening of 2nd March. Graham has remained in the ICU throughout the month, and most of that time he has been asleep and not been able to communicate with Maris, the nurses or the doctors. Five consultants, from Raigmore, Aberdeen and Edinburgh, have been baffled to give a diagnosis into why Graham remains so ill. However, there is good news now because in the last few days of March, Graham is showing signs of recovery. Graham is awake and sat up in a "bed chair," and has had all the tubes and monitoring leads removed, bar an oxygen feed. Graham is also now eating solids normally. Graham is confused but is able to speak with Maris, Stewart (his brother) and the medical team who are looking after him. Maris is most grateful for all the goodwill messages and support from all the Church family she and Graham have received during this very stressful time. Maris is most grateful for the time Rev. Peter Donald and Rev. Bill Freel have spent visiting Graham in ICU in March. Graham and **Maris** still need your prayers at this time of illness.

Walter MacFarlane is in good spirits despite being housebound now for a few years. **Mairi** continues to be Walter's main nurse and support, but she is still troubled by her own back which affects her mobility and keeps her from attending Church. Please continue to remember both Walter and Mairi in your prayers.

We also need to remember the following in your prayers as they recover from illness; **Julie Fraser, Mary Morrison, Emma Knox, Sarah Cameron, Willie MacKenzie, Polly Melville, and Euan Fraser.**

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 the weekly Wednesday evening prayer meeting.

If you know anyone who is unwell, or is in need of a visit from a caring person, please let any Kirkhill or Kiltarlity Elder know immediately. The person who would benefit from a visit need not to be a member of our Church, or a regular attendee of any Church. We would like to let them know the Church cares about them, and Jesus loves them.



Diary dates for 2014

24 June - 700th Anniversary of Battle of Bannockburn

23 July - 3 August - Glasgow Commonwealth Games

28 July - 100th anniversary of the outbreak of WWI

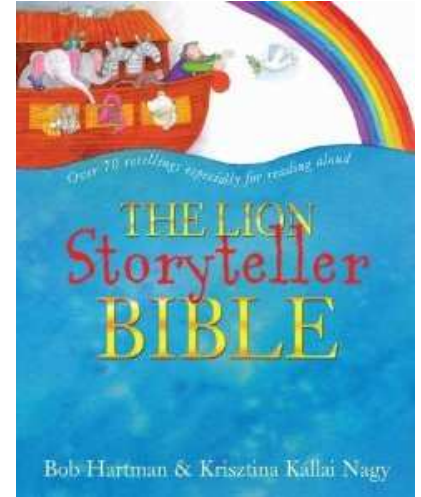
18 September - Referendum on Scottish Independence

26-28 September - Ryder Cup at Gleneagles



**Open the Book Coffee Morning on Saturday,
27 April 2013 at
Kirkhill Primary School between
10 o'clock and 12 noon**

Open the Book is a programme which teams from Kiltarlity and Wardlaw Churches have been delivering to Primary 1- 3 pupils at Kirkhill Primary since February 2010. We have recently begun the same programme for Primary 1-5 pupils at Tomnacross Primary School. Stories are read, dramatised and mimed and we use props and costumes to make the stories engaging and memorable for the children. The text we "open" each week for the enthusiastic and attentive children is the Lion Storyteller Bible. We also give the children a little while to reflect on the message from each story and pray with them.



We are holding a **Coffee Morning on 27th April at Kirkhill Primary School** to raise funds so that we can present the Primary 3 pupils at Kirkhill with their own copy of the Lion Storyteller Bible. These children have enjoyed 3 years of stories and a copy of this book will be a lasting legacy of what they have heard.



Everyone is welcome to come along to the Coffee Morning, starting at 10 o'clock, meet the team and enjoy some hot beverages and a chat. There will be tea, coffee, juice, home baking, a bucking bronco, an assault course and raffle to join in and enjoy. If you would like to do a little home baking it would be appreciated - just phone or speak to Flora Morrison.



If you are unable to attend this event, but wish to donate towards the purchase of the Lion Storyteller Bibles, please give your donation to either Louise Monaghan or Flora Morrison at any time.

We are fortunate in having an enthusiastic and committed group of volunteers but are always on the lookout for new recruits to join the team. If you enjoy working with children, believe telling these stories is important and can give an just over an hour each week on a Monday or Tuesday we would love to hear from you.

Further details from Flora Morrison - 831 373, or Ellenor Thomas - 741 330

Wardlaw Church contact
Maris Elkin 831 590



Kiltarlity Church contact
David Garvie 741 038

Interim Moderator – Rev. Dr. 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 – Iain and Rosemary Mortimer 782 648

E-mail – iain.mortimer1@btinternet.com

Diary dates for APRIL 2013

- 2 April Coffee / tea / home baking at Wardlaw Church at 10:00 a.m.
3 April Prayer meeting at Wardlaw Church at 7:00 p.m.
7 April **Worship at WARDLAW at 10:30 a.m. and KILTARLITY at 12 noon.**
Preacher is Rev. Peter Donald
- 7 April First Sunday Praise at Kiltarlity Free Church at 6:00 p.m.
9 April Coffee / tea / home baking at Wardlaw Church at 10:00 a.m.
10 April Prayer meeting at Wardlaw Church at 7:00 p.m.
14 April **Worship at WARDLAW at 10:30 a.m. and KILTARLITY at 12 noon.**
Preacher is Mrs Vivian Roden
- 14 April Kiltarlity Churches' Youth Group meet at Kiltarlity Free Church at 7:00 p.m.
16 April Coffee / tea / home baking at Wardlaw Church at 10:00 a.m.
17 April Prayer meeting at Wardlaw Church at 7:00 p.m.
19 April Kiltarlity Family Fun Quiz night at Kiltarlity Village Hall starting at 7:00 p.m.
21 April **Worship at WARDLAW at 10:30 a.m. and KILTARLITY at 12 noon.**
Preacher is Mrs Vivien Roden
- 21 April Third Sunday Praise event at Wardlaw Church at 6:00 p.m.
23 April Coffee / tea / home baking at Wardlaw Church at 10:00 a.m.
24 April Prayer meeting at Wardlaw Church at 7:00 p.m.
27 April "Open the Book" Coffee morning at Kirkhill Primary School from 10:00 a.m.
28 April **Worship at WARDLAW at 10:30 a.m. and KILTARLITY at 12 noon.**
Preacher is Rev. Stewart Frizzell
- 28 April Kiltarlity Churches' Youth Group meet at Kiltarlity Free Church at 7:00 p.m.
30 April Coffee / tea / home baking at Wardlaw Church at 10:00 a.m.

The May 2013 issue of The Parishioner will be published on Sunday, 29th April 2013