

# The Parish Record

Spring 2022

Magazine of  
Skelmorlie & Wemyss Bay Parish Church

Finally, be strong in  
the Lord and in His  
mighty power

**Ephesians 6:10**

Photograph by the Late Colin Tucker

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR INTERIM MODERATOR



What is the old saying, “a moment on the lips, a lifetime on the hips?” Aye, all the dieters will be glad to see Easter over. But it seems to me the strangest thing, that we think of Easter as being “over”. If Easter is the celebration of the victory of God's love, shouldn't we celebrate that all the time? Especially when there are disasters and threats of wars in the news; Presbytery Plans being drawn up

to decide the future of our congregation and building; and all the changes and worries we experience in our lives.

Easter isn't just an event, it's a way of life, it's an attitude. Christians are Easter people, which means when we look at our problems, we don't think “Oh no! This is a disaster”, we think more along the lines of “Oh no, this is a disaster, BUT it's not beyond God to win through.”

You know...I wish that I could always look around: find myself reminded of the victory of Easter.

Oh! I can, the shops sell creme eggs all year round!

Happy Easter!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke underneath.

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTORAL ASSISTANT



I started officially as your Pastoral Assistant on 10<sup>th</sup> January and as I sit reflecting on the past few months, what a blessing it has been! Brian Spence took the time to introduce me to some members and I have been out on visits while the ongoing restrictions and extra precautions in place become second nature to us all. As an NHS worker I take daily Lateral Flow tests and I am starting to visit some of our Nursing Home residents which I'm really looking forward to! Three years ago I met Chris at the Worship Leaders Course and it's wonderful being able to see him going off to Glasgow University to study Theology and great

to be able to lead worship myself a couple of times here. I am also off to Glasgow University in March to study a short course on Eldership and Local Church Leadership.

In the February half term my daughter Sarah and I went to Wales where we enjoyed a hot tub lodge under the stars in what's known as a Dark Skies area. We visited the National Spaceguard Centre and the RSPB Red Kite feeding centre, which is based on a 160 acre working farm where hundreds of Red Kites come every day to feed.

At night in Wales you can see the stars so clearly and the only sound is the occasional bird of prey in the distance. We felt a deep sense of peace as we prayed for everyone and for God's guidance in the months ahead and asked that He will continue to provide wisdom and assistance in my new role, which did seem a little overwhelming at first.

Jesus tells us to take each day at a time and not be anxious about anything in life, but to seek first the kingdom of God and then all that we need will be provided.

God bless you Lynsey Graham

Look at the birds of the sky: they don't sow or reap or gather into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren't you worth more than they?

Can any of you add a single cubit to your height by worrying?..... But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you." (Matthew Ch 6 from V 25)

# BIBLE STUDY GROUP

*Quote by John Bell*

*'It would be a very small God who determined that only those with degrees in theology could understand the Bible and it would be a very shallow scripture if it only had one 'right' answer. God is mystery. Scripture is deep. It needs all of us to bring our intelligence, our experience and our imagination, not to find the right answer'*

## *BUT TO EXPLORE THE RICHES OF GOD'S WORD*

The Bible Study got going at the end of September 2021 with around 14 -15 coming along each week. ( I have 20 on list). With the Vacancy in mind we looked at the first half of ACTS and followed the lives of the disciples as they continued the work Jesus had started. As their confidence grew they became bold witnesses as they shared the Good News message.



At the beginning of December there was an Advent Reflection which included a variety of readings, writing prayers and craft activities-something for everyone to enjoy.

Our last meeting before Christmas was afternoon tea at The Clyde Kitchen.

Two Thousand and twenty-two found us

sharing memories of Bible Stories from our childhood before going on to look at some Jesus would have heard as a boy.

Focussing in on some of the lesser well known ones-Daniel, Esther, Ezra, Nehemiah, we were introduced to the time of the EXILE , a very significant period for the Jewish people recorded in the Bible. A condensed version of The Book of Lamentations gave a sense of the great loss, when the City of Jerusalem and Temple were destroyed by the invading Babylonians and many people taken away to live in exile. During LENT, time will be spent looking at the life and teachings of Jesus, before moving into an Easter Reflection, prior to the beginning of Holy Week – 10 April Palm Sunday-15 April Good Friday

After Easter we will look at some of the Resurrection Appearances before returning to the second half of the Book of Acts.

Why not come along and enjoy this informal time  
2pm Wed in the Hall, Skelmorlie Parish Church

Marion Stewart

# KNOW YOUR ELDER - GLADYS BLACK

**Q What was your first church?**

A Cardonald Parish Church Glasgow

**Q What is your first memory of church**

A Putting pennies in the collection plate at Sunday School

**Q How long have you been an Elder at SWB**

A Seventeen years

**Q What do you see as your roll as an Elder**

A Visiting the Parishioners

**Q What is your favourite part of being an Elder**

A Delivering the Parish Record

**Q How do you see the future of the Church**

A Although the attendance has dropped it's not about numbers

**Q How important is the building to you**

A It's a special place away from everyday activities

**Q What organisation did you belong to**

A The Brownies and Girl Guides

**Q What organisation did you most miss**

A The Brownies as it was full of excitement and games

**Q What's your favourite hymn**

A 'Make me a channel of your peace'

**Q What is your favourite reading**

A Philippians 4 'Don't worry about anything, but in all your prayers ask God for what you need, always asking him with a thankful heart

**Q What is your favourite part of Sunday service**

A The Sermon

**Q How did your family interact with life in the Church**

A My family did attend Sunday School

**Q Do you think we do enough to welcome visitors to the Church**

A I do and I've been a recipient of the welcome

**Q What is your favourite stained glass window**

A The centre one with Christ ascending

**Q Who or what has been your biggest inspiration in your life so far**

A My Gran

**Q Which four guests, from history or still living would make up your dream dinner party and why**

A Billy Graham, Maya Angelo, Elizabeth Taylor and Jesus. To ask them all the unanswered questions

**Q What is the temptation you wish you could resist**

A Kit Kat biscuits

**Q What is your pet hate which makes your hackles rise**

A Bad grammar

**Q Can you describe the happiest moment or memory you will cherish forever**

A The birth of my only Granddaughter



# SESSION SNIPPETS

- Arrangements are being made to have training given in the use of the Defibrillator which is located on the wall at the side of the hall. The training session is open to all who may be interested in the fairly simple operation of this potentially lifesaving equipment.
- Additional members are urgently required to assist in the work of the pastoral care team. Please speak to the Session Clerk, Brian Spence or our Pastoral Assistant, Lynsey.
- We are to host the annual Passover/Heder Service and meal on the Monday of Holy Week. Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April, when our friends from Inverkipp and St Joseph's and St Patrick's will join us. This has not been held for two years on account of COVID. Numbers are restricted to 20 members from each church.
- Approval has been given for "essential" repairs and renovation of the sandstone at various areas of the Sanctuary.
- Rebecca Little and Caroline Scott are now active at the Inverclyde Family Support Centre in Greenock, a facility supported by us since its inception some years ago.
- The Roll of members has been attested. As at the year end, the membership stands at 202

## ADOPT A BIT OF YOUR CHURCH

We all want a neat, tidy and welcoming Church.

Our paid cleaner can only cover the basics.

Some "tender loving care" could improve things quite a lot: one or two people collaborating to keeping an eye on each particular area and taking a little time now and again as needed, to keep it neat and orderly and free of rubbish.

Any need for maintenance, clearing storage areas etc. can be identified to the Property team.

A key can be signed-out to allow you to do this at any time that suits you. (Please don't work alone – have a friend for company and safety.)

Please sign up!

Any questions? See David Johnston

# FINANCIAL UPDATE

Our financial year ended on December 31<sup>st</sup> and members will have the opportunity to ask any questions about the accounts for 2021 at the Annual Business Meeting following the service on Sunday March 27<sup>th</sup>. The accounts have already been approved by the Kirk Session.

The accounts show a surplus for the year of £1,580. This was made possible mainly by a reduction in our Mission and Ministries contributions to the national Church of Scotland, due to the Covid19 pandemic and our ministry and pastoral assistant vacancies, part way through the year.

- Our main source of income is member offerings and donations. Total offerings and donations for 2021 were £47,919, up £3,710 or 8%, from 2020. This is encouraging, as due to the pandemic, the church remained closed for several months and our activities were restricted for the remainder of the year. We also saw a continuing reduction in the number of active members.
- Comparing with 2019, giving by standing order has been largely unaffected by the pandemic, but weekly freewill offering envelopes remain down 35%. Open plate offerings were obviously nil while the church was closed and have remained very low. It is impossible to tell whether those who watch our services online contribute financially to the Church.
- Donations collected for other charities through our retiring offerings have been hardest hit by the pandemic, down approximately 50% from 2019 levels in each of 2020 and 2021.
- Leasing of the manse for six months following the minister's retirement generated £9600 to the Consolidated Fabric Fund (which is not included in our surplus for the year). We are actively looking for another suitable short-term tenant.
- In total at year end, the Church held (directly and indirectly) cash and investments valued at just over £300,000.
- In 2022, we forecast withdrawing £10,000 from the Consolidated Fabric Fund to get us to roughly breakeven for the year, due mainly to repair work required on the church.
- Our Pastoral Assistant post has previously been funded 50% by Clyde Presbytery. From January 1<sup>st</sup>, the cost will be met fully by ourselves and Inverkip.

We are fortunate that due to the generosity of our members and the huge amount of voluntary work that is done for the church, which would otherwise cost many thousands, our congregation is in a relatively strong financial position. We need the continued support of all members to keep it that way.

*John Scott, Treasurer*

# SOUL SEARCHING

Since the last newsletter we've had some great services!

In December our theme was advent but there was no sign of Jesus, Mary and Joseph and the wee donkey. We started our service with a dramatic advent meditation in the dark (based on Isaiah who foretold Jesus' coming) and then we brought Jesus' light into our evening with songs, readings, reflection and Christmas carols. What a special evening!

In January Chris opened with a moving tribute to Bill Wright who we miss greatly. Then we explored New Year Resolutions and new beginnings in short readings and reflections from our worship leaders.

In February we tackled the 10 great commandments. Ian had big shoes to fill playing Moses as he tried to negotiate with the people of Israel to get their acceptance of the commandments. Needless to say, he didn't get the answers/acceptance that he expected!

It was a bit quieter in February. Hopefully the lighter nights will encourage more people to come back, or join us for the first time, at our next service on 27 March 2022 at Inverkip Church Hall.

Remember to join us from 6pm for some tea, coffee and fellowship before the service.

Jac, Lynsey, Morag, Ian, Siona, Muriel, Jennifer and Graham



On behalf of Inverclyde Women's Aid, we would like to thank you once again for your generous donation of clothing and gifts. The kindness you have shown will greatly support the work that we do to help women, children and young people affected by Domestic Abuse. We are truly overwhelmed by your donation.

Our staff would like to take this opportunity to wish you and the congregation of your church a safe and prosperous year in 2022.

Best Wishes

June McDermid on behalf of Inverclyde Women's Aid

In ancient times the thorn was seen as a curse and viewed negatively.  
The thorn was a symbol of sin.

## Ladybird

A little black beetle  
Was dancing along  
A spiked thorny branch  
Whilst singing a song.

When all out of nowhere  
A razor sharp knife  
Whizzed by her ear  
What a fright of her life.

The voice of a soldier  
Called out to his friend  
"Let's coil it and twist it  
How far can it bend?"

She held on real tight  
As the branch was cut down  
Plaited and fashioned  
Into a cruel crown.

This needle sharp crown  
Emplaced on the head  
Of a man they called Jesus  
A 'King' they all said.

Each thorn piercing deep  
Each barb tore his skull  
72 thorns  
His blood they would spill.

So little black beetle  
Was now crimson red  
With black dots all over  
Her back they had spread.

Each black stain was left  
Reminding us all  
Our sins are forgiven  
Each human shortfall.

Each thorn was our sin  
The Lord bore them all  
His crimson spilt blood  
Forgiveness for all.

If you only believe  
He died in your place  
The Lord God will bless you  
With his saving grace.

Remember this story  
And this little bug  
YOU'RE now crowned with glory  
And all of Gods love



# BILL WRIGHT

I first met Bill Wight in 1979 when he joined me in Sunday school taking over the leadership of what was a teenage bible class. I remember him visiting my house to chat about the task. From that meeting, I had the great privilege and pleasure to count him as a valued friend and confidante for over forty years and I miss him terribly. We had some great fun with a Sunday School of over 80 young people. Annual outings, presentations in church and the “Salty” talking hymnbook series, the Victorian Christmas and Pilate on Trial come to mind. The young people were very fond of Bill and responded well to his quiet teaching manner and his expert use of illustrative material.

Bill loved music and was a mainstay of “The Clyde Coast Strathspey and Reel Society” aka “The Fiddlers”. During the years, his ability as a thespian was expressed in his starring roles in the Attic Player productions. I remember his superb performance in “Gaslight” staged in the atmospheric drawing room of the Salvation Army’s “Balvonie” in Skelmorlie. I don’t think I will ever forget his hilarious portrayal as Herr Flick in “Allo Allo”. I was not the only one in what was the Seaview Café who’s sides were sore with laughter !

He was dux of both his primary and secondary schools and he brought that cleverness and creativeness to his work at IBM and latterly at the University of Glasgow and not least, in so many ways to the upkeep and general conduct of business of this church which he loved so dearly.

Bill will be remembered for his outstanding qualities. For his quiet disposition, for his love for Ella, Gavin and Carolyn and his adoring grandchildren Rebecca, Matthew, Hazel and Erica, for his ability to always see the good in people, for his diligence in the care for the fabric of our beautiful church, for his service as elder but most of all, for his steadfast faith in his Lord and Master.

I shall remember my good friend Bill with great and lasting affection. I am so glad to have had the pleasure of his presence in my life. I am sure that sentiment will be shared with all whose paths he crossed,

*“His lord said unto him well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.” (Matthew 25:23)*

Alan Grant

# THANK YOU

Gavin, Carolyn and I would like to thank all of you who attended Bill's Funeral. I believe there were over 200 people there. Thanks to those who helped with everything on the day of the funeral to ensure it ran very smoothly. Thanks to Alan Grant for organising everything, the car park attendants, those giving out the Orders of Service, the track and trace, the two exits on leaving, the beadle and of course, to Siona Leitch for playing the organ. Thanks also to all who helped with "Mission Control", the sound, the screen with the photos and words of the hymns, the readings and the cameras so that the service could be watched live by those who were unable to attend, both during and after the service. A special thanks go also to our very dear friends Archie Speirs and Bill Armstrong who conducted the service and made it very special for us.



"Mission Control" had been one of Bill's favourite projects since the start of lockdown. He and Keith Loxam started with a mobile phone and a camera tripod recording the services, editing them and putting them on YouTube. It was gradually built up with new cameras, new lights and a lot of hard work to reach the high standard it is today, which is envied by many other churches. Bill was in his element when he was working with this, even although there was some stress at times.

We would also like to thank you all for the many cards, letters, flowers, visits and the many things that kept us sustained through the very hard days and weeks until Bill's funeral and beyond. Your limitless prayers, many good deeds and love have helped us enormously to get through and deal with the continuous shock of Bill's very sudden passing.

Thank you all for everything you have done for us.

Ella Wright

# FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

A warm welcome awaited our Friends at the first meeting of the Friendship Circle for what seemed like a lifetime, but was in fact was only 18 months ! The first meeting was held on 21st September at 2:00pm in Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay Parish Church Hall and the intention was to carry through till our Christmas tea party. Unfortunately the new restrictions imposed at the end of November meant no Christmas tea party, however, small goodie boxes were delivered to our Friends.

We began the New Year with an afternoon of tea and chat and since then have been entertained to music and singing and with much enthusiasm practised for the BBC Church Choral Society auditions (I should add here, this was an event thought up and organised by our ever enthusiastic Master of Ceremonies) with some assistance. A Bingo afternoon was enjoyed by some and misunderstood by others leading to much laughter.

For the benefit of anyone who has not yet joined us on a Tuesday afternoon, the purpose is to meet up, enjoy tea/coffee and chat with others. We are fortunate in having an excellent Master of Ceremonies, (whose jokes are sometimes corny), and an enthusiastic Chairman, Rita, who welds us into a merry band of workers.

Entertainment is often provided but on the whole a great deal of chat seems to be the best formula. A programme has been arranged to take us through to the end of the session and hopefully there will be something for everyone.

The group is open to members of the Community so please invite a friend or friends along to join in the fun.

Should you have any queries please contact Rita on telephone 529289. Hope to see you there.

Anne Organ

## OBITUARIES

**William R Wright 11th January 2022**

**Anna Conway 14th January 2022**

**Moira Scott 29th January 2022**

**Kenneth Thomson 16th February 2022**

*Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. - Matthew 5:4*



## **DATE FOR YOUR DIARY** **1st MAY AFTER CHURCH**

**Garden Party at**  
**Dunholm 2 Montgomery**  
**Terrace Skelmorlie**

**Tickets now available**  
**All proceeds to Christian Aid**

## **THE FELLOWSHIP**

As the season for "The Fellowship" draws to a close this year, I can reflect on the 21 / 22 season. Well, for a start the 2021 season didn't happen for reasons that we all know. The short 2022 prospectus had some interesting guests that included photographs through the seasons, an illustrated talk on the Camino de Santiago walk and our annual bus tour to Port Glasgow as a tourist.

Our Annual General meeting took place at the end of March with the worrying matter of there now being only two of us (Jean Stewart and Myself) on the committee. This is due to the sad news we received in February that committee member and past President, Ken Thomson had died. At this point I would like to pay tribute to Ken. He was a loyal committee member for the Fellowship and supported us on all occasions and made sure that he contributed at the annual DIY Burns afternoon. Ken will be sadly missed.

The Fellowship is in urgent need now for members to attend for our survival.

I do hope the summer break will somehow give us all an energetic burst of enthusiasm and activity to help us present another season. It would be sad to see the demise of one of our oldest established activities.

Keith Loxam

## **CHURCH FLOWERS**

Flowers in the Sanctuary add so much to our worship. Unfortunately, for a number of reasons, the volunteers who do the weekly arranging have depleted. It is really not too onerous a task requiring just a little time every now and then. There are also a number of vacant weeks for donation of flowers. Your support in both would be deeply appreciated. Please contact Ann Grant (520987) if you are willing to help.

# SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING



In the late 1980s, the church hall was under used, so Rev. Bill Armstrong encouraged Margaret Cunningham to start a Scottish Country Dancing, there was already class, in Inverkip, started the previous year by Catriona Walker. The class in Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay Parish Church, was eventually started in September 1992 by Margaret who taught the dances and Helen Howie who played the music from tapes and C.Ds.

Margaret led the class for 13 years and when she retired in 2005 Helen took over and has been teacher and DJ for 17 years. No mean feat! Both ladies have served our class admirably. As well as weekly classes, they have held charity dances for Erskine Hospital and the Highland Light Infantry, plus the Church and many anniversary dances and party nights. Dancers would travel great distances to attend these events.

The focus at the moment is practising the required dances for the Annual Ball, hosted by the West Renfrewshire Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Society and held in Greenock Town Hall on 25<sup>th</sup> March. In the past we have even danced “on the radio” at one of these balls, when recordings were made for Robbie Shepherd’s radio programme, “Take the Floor!”

There are no “shrinking violets” at a Ball, as everyone is well prepared and, when the dance is announced, the floor fills immediately. Sets are counted off, the live band strikes up and we are off! A wonderful night of jigs, reels, and strathspeys – all on top of a delicious buffet meal. Generally, a programme consists of 16 dances and with 15,000 dances documented by RSCDC, there is plenty of choice. The titles of dances can be weird and wonderful. Some examples from this year are “The Whistling Wind” “Finnan Haddies” “Gang the Same Gate” “Good Hearted Glasgow” The Aviator” and a firm favourite “Mairi’s Wedding”.

Visions of kilts and long white dresses with tartan sashes, always spring to mind with Scottish country dancing, but this is no longer the rule. Men still enjoy sporting their kilts or tartan trews on special occasions but the ladies? – well anything goes now. So if you feel encouraged to come to a class please don't be put off by old fashioned ideas. Fun and laughter abound whenever dancers meet up, especially with our Inverkip and Largs friends and the suppers provided at party nights are pure magic.

We will celebrate our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a special party later this year.

Feel free to come along any Wednesday evening at 7.30pm or speak to Janet Hope – (01475 520316)



*Some well kent faces from 2002*



## **CELEBRATION**

On 16th April Jean McAnna celebrates a milestone birthday. Jean is involved in many aspects of Church life usually in the background without fuss or fanfare, volunteering and helping out wherever help is needed. We wish her a very Happy Birthday .

# EASTER FOOD FOR THOUGHT WHEN EATING HOT CROSS BUNS!



A little boy came home from school and told his big brother,

‘My teacher loves me and she put an X at all my sums!’

‘It doesn’t mean that!’ said his brother, ‘it means you got them wrong!’

‘That’s not right,’ replied the little boy, ‘because Mummy puts crosses on my cards to show she loves me.’

‘Yes, but a cross can also mean you got it wrong,’ explained his brother.

‘But they are both the same,’ insisted the little boy.

‘That’s right, but we do lots of things with crosses. When you can’t write you can sign your name with a cross. When you vote for someone, you use a cross against their name.

A crossroads on a map is marked with a cross. If there is a treasure map, you can use a cross to mark where the treasure is.’

AND SO WE ARE REMINDED THAT....

Jesus died on the Cross for all the wrong things we have done , BUT HE  
LOVES US.

He gives us a name - we are children of God.

We can vote for Jesus - decided to be on his side.

And follow His way when we have decisions to make at the crossroads of our  
live.

When we follow Jesus we have the greatest treasure in all the world!

# PROPERTY REPORT

## **Manse**

As yet, no tenant has been found for the Manse. We may have to advertise more widely as publicising its availability by word of mouth has not been successful.

John Scott successfully repaired the faulty garage door. Jim Templeton will re-fix all the loose coping stones on the walls around the house and McWade family have quoted for re-coating the external woodwork.

## **Church Building**

Door closers at the North end have been replaced. Defective pointing inway of the buttress behind the pulpit and the South stained glass windows should be repaired by a stonemason during March. Other stonework will be surveyed and remedied where there is a safety issue or to address water ingress. The quinquennial inspection of 2020 identified over £60,000 worth of work classified as “essential”. It would not really be feasible to carry out all of this.

When the weather improves, we intend to enlist volunteers to prepare and repaint railings and gates.

Before the end of March a surveyor, appointed by Presbytery, will carry out our Asset Management Buildings Audit to grade our Church with regard to suitability for Mission. This is part of the ongoing move to rationalise (reduce) the number of church buildings. It will be similar to a Quinquennial but will not include technical aspects.

## **Car Park**

Scottish Power Networks will replace part of the sub station in the Church car park shortly and the work may take up to two weeks. Inevitably there will be power cuts and groups using the building during this period need to be aware of this.

Thanks are due to John Scott for continually maintaining the electrical system, ably assisted by Caroline.

# OUR WONDERFUL BEADLES

Where would we be without our brilliant Beadles! Every Sunday, Graham and Andy add so much to the preparation and orderliness of our weekly worship not least in the support given to whoever is conducting the service. They carry out their duties with great diligence and reverence and we would like them to know of our sincere appreciation for the work they do so willingly and so well.

# SOUND AND VISION

You might be interested to know what the three people at the front left of the Church are doing every Sunday morning and often at events during the week.

The Black Box just three rows back from the font contains all amplifiers and apparatus to make the speakers and loop system work and control the up to 8 microphones that we can use. This is sound control. The laptop at the front left, controls all the words you see on the screen and any videos that we may be using during the service. This is put together on what we call “Easy Worship”. The PC at the right-hand side streams the video that you see on YouTube. As you can imagine, all this needs to be operated every single week and we have a rota that makes sure that there are constantly three people to bring sound and vision to the Service without fail. You will see Janet Hope, Fraser Galbraith and Iheanyi Obasi in addition to the “dream team” of Keith, Shona, Steven and Ros Barnes and Dave and Rebecca Little. David and Michael Johnston are still wearing the “L plates” with all of this.

We should also remember the part our dear friend Bill played in all this, starting during the early days of lockdown, where he filmed the Services on his mobile phone, to the amazing, sophisticated system we use today. What an amazing act of Mission.

It’s a tough call some weeks as obviously people will now be taking holidays or just are not available every week. So if you are a budding Spielberg or George Martin and would like to express your talents in Sound and Vision, come and join us, simply speak to David, Keith or any member of the team.

David Johnston

# REACHING OUT

*'We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.'*

Romans 8:28

As a congregation, we have been fulfilling God's purpose this winter with practical support for those less fortunate than ourselves. Your generosity has enabled Glasgow City Mission to **shelter** the city's homeless, **succour** families of the terminally ill at the children's' hospices across Scotland (CHAS), **care** for the socially vulnerable through our own Church of Scotland's CrossReach facilities, **feed** the hungry via the Inverclyde Foodbank, and **support** fragmented families in finding a way forward at the Inverclyde Family Contact Centre in Greenock.



The ecumenical World Day of Prayer service was held in our church, on the beautiful evening of Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March. The prayer service's theme was drawn from Jeremiah;

*'For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.'*  
Jeremiah 29:11

With the invasion of the Ukraine ongoing, participants and congregation were moved by how current, apt and poignant the **prayer** was. On that evening and at the following March communion service, your retiring offerings benefited the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) Ukrainian appeal.

During the Spring quarter, the church will be engaging with Alzheimer's Scotland, Erskine Hospital and of course Christian Aid. The Outreach Committee hope you enjoy listening to the charity guest speakers. We also look forward to welcoming you to a ticketed Garden Party on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May, following the church service. This will be held at nearby Dunholm on Montgomerie Terrace. All proceeds raised from this Jubilee Garden Party will benefit Christian Aid.

Tickets for the church Garden Party can be obtained from any member of the Outreach team; Caroline Scott, Margaret Spence, Jean Mc Anna, Sylvia Douglas and from our social convener Murial O'May, priced £10.

Caroline Scott

# PUNS FOR EDUCATED MINDS

1. The fattest knight at King Arthur's table was Sir Cumference.  
He acquired his size from too much pi.
  2. I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaska Island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian
  3. She was only a whiskey maker, but he loved her still.
  4. A rubber band pistol was confiscated from an algebra class,  
because it was a weapon of math disruption
  5. No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery
  6. A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering.
  7. A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in Linoleum  
Blown-apart
- 

## EDITORIAL TEAM

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If you have any special celebrations please let us know.

<http://www.swbchurch.co.uk>



Facebook : Skelmorlie & Wemyss Bay Parish Church

Church Service : On YouTube, search for "Inverkip and Skelmorlie" (make it a favourite or bookmark).

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[www.SWBchurch.com](http://www.SWBchurch.com)

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