

The Parish Record

Spring 2024

Magazine of
Skelmorlie & Wemyss Bay Church

*“For God hath not given us the
spirit of fear; but of power, and
of love, and of a sound mind”*

2 Timothy 1:7

Happy
EASTER

MESSAGE FROM OUR INTERIM MODERATOR



Dear Friends

In the west end of Greenock and Gourock, six Church of Scotland congregations work together under the name 'CONNECT – a new way of living faith and being church'. We try to provide opportunities and ways for people across the congregations to connect with God, to connect with each other and to connect with our community.

This season of Lent we are meeting together for Lent lunchtime services followed by lunch, we are having a mid week mid Lent evening event 'A Pause in the Pilgrimage'

and we have produced a Lent devotional booklet.

Not only in this season of Lent, but in the journey we now undertake together as Inverkip, Skelmorlie & Wemyss Bay Church we are trying to make connections as people in our congregations get to know each other better and seek to serve our villages and reach out to support others through our charity collections and more.

It is an exciting time for the congregation as we look forward in due course to electing a Nominating Committee and searching for a new minister. There are various procedural matters that have to be attended to, to enable this process to happen. The Kirk Session is working hard on these matters and on bringing structures and people together. Please offer them your support and prayers over the next weeks and months.

After Lent and Holy Week, we celebrate the life, light and hope in the dawn of Easter Sunday. May you know that life, light and hope in your hearts

With best wishes

Karen

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTORAL ASSISTANT



What an exciting 2024 it's been already - starting the year as one united church and with our Service of Union a great success. It was an honour to lead the prayers on the night on behalf of the Worship Team and mention all the work that has gone into the years of linkage.

I am forever telling my patients to make time to do things other than work so this year I am going to follow my own advice! With that in mind, in January Sarah and I travelled to London, exploring Eton and going to the theatre in Richmond. We enjoyed Sunday brunch in Royal Windsor after attending a service at the United Reformed Church there. The congregation there have been through a union of several churches and all agreed we were very blessed to have 2 churches so close by joining together and they promised to keep us in prayer going forward.

In February it was off to Belfast, Bangor and Derry-Londonderry for more sightseeing. I had planned to write a sermon on the ferry but one thing led to another and somehow booked myself into the onboard Spa instead. Folks, this is now officially the only way to travel anywhere!

Closer to home, we enjoyed a fantastic night of worship seeing Northern Ireland's own Christian band The Rend Collective at the O2 Academy in Edinburgh. God was really glorified as a huge crowd of good natured Scots cheered, sang in fine voice (many with a tear of emotion in the eye), all looking out for one another and with a common interest. The whole thing put us in mind of the Six Nations which is also keeping us entertained at the moment!



Throughout the tournament in our house there have been moments of hoarseness – particularly when it comes to referee's decisions (!) but thankfully for Scotland rugby fans the Bible teaches us to remain the same despite our circumstances. Whether we feel like we 'win' or 'lose' in life God has the ultimate victory. **"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world"** John 16:33

EASTER SERVICES

Palm Sunday

- **Sunday 24th March**
Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay Church 11.30am

Holy Week

- **Monday 25th March**
Joint Passover meal at Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay 7.00pm
- **Tuesday 26th March**
Worship at Inverkip Church 7.00pm
- **Wednesday 27th March**
Worship at Inverkip Church 7.00pm
- **Thursday 28th March Maundy Thursday Communion.**
Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay Church 7.00pm
- **Friday 29th March**
Good Friday Service, Inverkip Church 7.00pm

Easter Sunday

- **Sunday 31st March**
*Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay Church Sunrise Service
at Meigle Beach 7.00am followed by breakfast in the Church.*
Easter Service at Inverkip Church 10.00am
Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay Church 11.30am



Gods Hand

First morning dew
Silver pearls on the lawn
Gold rising sun
Welcoming dawn

White cotton clouds
Grey heavy rain
Warm sun beating down
To help swell the grain

Snowflakes so pretty
Each one unique
The sun and the moon
Marking days of the week

Sweet flower meadows
Scorched desert terrain
Tides all affected
By moons wax and wane

White winter moon
Reflecting its light
On star sprinkled sequins
Black velvet night

Salty deep oceans
Stormy or calm
Fresh snow capped mountains
Flat plains vast span

The smallest of atoms
The tallest of trees
Dawn chorus of birds
Humming of bees

Catch sight of a rainbow
Sweet scent from a rose
Return of the swallow
Soft grass through your toes

From cyclones to pine cones
To the nautilus shell
Divine sequence is shown
I'm sure, I can tell

All of these wonders
On Earth are to show
That God had a hand
In their making
I know

SESSION CLERK

This year is fairly flying by. Starting off with our Service of Union on January 16th. Wasn't it a wonderful happy service? For those of you who were unable to attend you can still view the service on YouTube.



It may appear that things are going at snail's pace, particularly in calling a minister, but believe me there is lots of activity going on behind the scenes. A list of groups has been drawn up and shortly the members of these groups will meet and elect a convener bringing the two churches and congregations ever closer.

“Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.” — James Baldwin.

No one likes change but change allows us to try new things and demonstrates a willingness and opportunity to do things differently. With Gods guidance we will get there - stronger together than apart.

Thank you all for your continued support and if you have any brilliant ideas I would love to hear from you.

Rita

CHURCH MAGAZINE

This will probably be the last magazine in its present form solely for Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay. We will shortly be working on a new publication for our united Church.

SERVICE OF UNION



OUTREACH REPORT

A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.

Proverbs 11:25

Our Christmas Fayre took place in the Skelmorlie Church Hall on the morning of Saturday 18th November, raising £746. Thanks go to all who attended the event, ran stalls, serviced tables, heated mince pies and fulfilled other kitchen duties..

Skelmorlie Primary School P3/4 class submitted their Christmas card designs for our annual competition the following week and the winning images were used throughout Advent in our AV presentations and adorned the rear of the Church. Skelmorlie Primary School's Christmas Service was lead by our Pastoral Assistant Lynsey Graham on the second last day of term and it was a joyous, packed occasion which like our Watch night Service benefited Children's Hospices Across Scotland (CHAS). The total sum raised from both events for this vital children's charity was £368.

In addition, Glasgow City Mission's winter emergency accommodation for the homeless benefited from our retiring offerings during December.

It was lovely to hear members of our congregation (persuaded by our organist Siona Leitch) , singing Christmas carols at Wemyss Bay Station on the afternoon of Saturday 16th December; the busiest retail day of the year. This surely reminds many of the true nature of Christmas.

Our first speaker of 2024 was Rebecca Little of our AV team, who is also a trustee of the well established, Presbytery initiative called the Inverclyde Family Contact Centre (IFCC) which is based in Jamaica Street in Greenock. The aim of the centre is to work with the family court system and bring young children back into contact with estranged family members, following a separation. There are very few of these facilities about and families regularly travel from Glasgow and further afield to spend precious time with family members. Rebecca appealed for additional volunteers to help out at one of their three contact sessions, which are held on Wednesday afternoons, Saturday

mornings and Saturday afternoons. The IFCC contact number is 07890 520196, if you wish to register your interest.

Looking forward to the Spring, we have a social outing (with optional meal at the Willowbank Hotel) to see the matinee performance of Largs Operatic Society's production of Rogers and Hammerstein's 'Carousel' on Saturday 16th March.

Our ecumenical Passover meal will be held in Skelmorlie Hall on **Monday 25th March at 7pm**. Spaces are limited for this sit down meal with reflection, so if you would like to attend please contact Morag Cowe on 07890 487989 or Rita Carmichael on 07885 869101 or 529289 to secure your place.



The Fiddlers who rehearse in our Skelmorlie hall on Saturday mornings, will be doing an afternoon concert for us from **2- 4 pm on Saturday 27th April** ahead of their Beacon theatre performance. The concert interval will be extended to provide all with a scrumptious afternoon tea.

Sunday 19th of May will be our Christian Aid service and this year's theme will be 'Seven days for lasting change'. More detail on this special day will follow.

Caroline Scott
Outreach Team.

Read All About It - John chapters 19 & 20

Read all about it! Read all about it! Special edition out today!

An innocent man condemned to die. The angry crowd scream, 'Crucify!' while a murderer they release. But why? They lie. What can they say?

What wrong has this man done? He said he was the Son of God.

It's blasphemy! Send him away! But Pilate has no peace.

Read all about it! Read all about it! The soldiers have their fun with this one.

What's his name? Jesus Christ- I wouldn't chose to be in his shoes.

See 'Blind Man's Buff' that's a good game. Let's kick and beat him down.

Hey! Tell us man, who just walked by? Who spat, who hit you? Prophecy!

Now mind and wear your special crown!

The army officer has news of the man they claim is the King of the Jews, the healer from Galilee. At this crucifixion place he's seen plenty die.

They scream and cry- oh yes, the bloody mess is there for all to see.

But he's no ordinary one. We heard him pray, 'Father forgive them.'

How can he say that after what we've done?

Look up at his bleeding face-see pain and sorrow,

and such love as never seen before.

If he's God's Son why did he send him to die this way,

nailed to a cross of wood?

A good life, no more, a perfect death. With his last breath he cries,

'It is finished!' and he dies. Is this the end?

How can he save the human race?

Amazing news! What joy! The thrill of seeing him once more!

But are you sure? And how and why? We saw Him die.

Calm down! Sit still and tell us all again. He can't be!

Well come and see the open grave, the folded linen on the shelf.

Yes, Jesus is alive!

Very early on that day Mary had come to the empty cave,

but who had rolled away the heavy stone?

No-one could do it on his own. Where's the body?

D'you think some thief has taken it away?

It must be grief that's making you talk nonsense- it's insane!

Oh yes, she'd seen Him! The risen Master came.

It was no gardener calling her by name.

He is alive for you and me! Read it for yourself and see-

Read all about it!

By Christine Cresswell

FINANCIAL REVIEW

2023 will of course be the final year where there are accounts for Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay Parish Church. This year's accounts will be for the united congregation of Inverkip, Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay.

At the beginning of 2023, the Kirk Session agreed a budget which showed the costs of running the church being met from our ordinary income, except that the Pastoral Assistant post would be funded from reserves. The end of the year position was more or less in line with this forecast. The 2023 draft accounts, prepared on a Receipts and Payments (cash) basis, show a deficit for the year of £2,434. However, excluding one major non-cash item, the "real" deficit for the 2023 was around £6800.

While this is not a major concern given the level of reserves held by the Church, our costs continue to rise significantly. In particular, our cost of electricity, which is used to heat and light the church and hall has DOUBLED, as we had benefited from a long term Church of Scotland fixed price deal that came to an end in September 2023.

Our principal source of income is member offerings and donations. Total offerings and donations for 2023 were £41,003 excluding Gift Aid tax refunded, down £5,583 or 12%, from 2022. The session is very aware that everyone is suffering from major increases to their cost of living, but would ask members to consider whether they need to increase their giving to the church to keep up with inflation – only if you can afford it! During 2023, we also raised over £6500 for other charities. These ranged from local initiatives like Gillian's Saltire Appeal and Ardgowan Hospice, to the major international work of Christian Aid.

We thank our members and community for their sustained generous support financially. We also need to thank those who give so willingly of their time and talents in many different areas. Without these efforts, our costs would be much higher and the work of the Church of Scotland in Inverkip, Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay would be much more difficult to sustain. John Scott

CALLING ALL KNITTERS



Do you have some free time?
If so, please consider doing some
knitting for a very worthwhile
cause.

After our huge success last year
knitting items to add to the
Blythswood Shoe Boxes appeal
we would like to continue with
this venture for 2024 boxes.

We are looking for hats, scarves,
mittens and other knitted items to add to the shoe boxes.
No wool or needles? No problem. Supplies can be obtained in the boxes
at the back of the hall.

This project will continue until early October....so get knitting folk.
Many thanks Margaret Spence

PASTORAL CARE

The Pastoral Care Team visit church members who are unable to attend the
Sunday Church service.

Currently twenty individuals are visited, usually three or four weekly. We have
eight members in the team who support Lynsey, the Church Pastoral Care
Assistant, as much as possible.

If there is anyone who you think may benefit from a visit, do let the Pastoral
Care Team know.

Brian Spence

SOUL SEARCHING



Soul searching returned after the Christmas break on 8th February. Outside the weather was dreich but there were a few hardy souls that made it and we enjoyed a wonderful evening of Scottish poems and songs in celebration of both our faith and culture.

After sharing fellowship/welcome from Morag, Ian read “To a Mouse” by Robert Burns and then Graham read the parable of the rich fool from Luke’s gospel. Lynsey’s reflection tied the two together so well and then Jennifer beautifully sang “A man’s a man for a that” with the group joining in for last verse. Of course we had to end the evening with “Auld Lang Syne” but spoilsport Morag wouldn’t let us run in and out of the circle lol. Probably for the best!

A special thanks to the Stewardship Committee for giving us inspiration for this month’s theme and sharing their devotional. And to Keith on sound and screen.

Our next meeting is on 14th March at Inverkip church hall. Hopefully the weather will be kinder to us. All welcome! We promise it will be a fun evening and is suitable for all ages.

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

- 14th March. Inverkip
- 11th April Skelmorlie, Wemyss Bay
- 9th May. Inverkip
- 13th June. Skelmorlie, Wemyss Bay. -
This is the last Soul Searching
before we break for the summer.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2024



This ecumenical service was held in the snug, white sanctuary of St. Patrick's and St. Joseph's church on the cold evening of Friday 1st March. This annual event is led by our local Christian women. I always marvel at how this unique, thoughtful, and reflective service comes together on the night without even a rehearsal; speaking parts are simply allocated in advance by the organising church, the church organist practises any unusual hymns, and the Spirit comes.

The service theme this year was taken from Ephesians 4:13

"I beg you ...bear with one another in love"

There is always a commissioned piece of artwork on the front of the order of service. This year it showed three Palestinian women in traditional green national dress with white head dresses, kneeling in prayer beneath an olive tree. The reverse of the order of service was a map of Palestine: West Bank and Gaza.

The prayer service was written more than a year ago by an ecumenical group of Palestinian Christian women of the Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox traditions. Little did they know at the time of writing, what terrible events would unfold in their country in the closing months of 2023. Consequently, all churches in the world day of prayer movement had been emailed an additional prayer for peace by the organising committee. The order of service contained three stories of Palestinian women of different traditions, who had sought to live their lives 'bearing in love' in this troubled land.

The intercessory prayer response of

"Lead us into a life worthy of our calling"

was spoken seven times; its spiritual weight increasing with each repetition.

At the close of the service offerings were made and a candle passed to Inverkip, Skelmorlie & Wemyss Bay Church of Scotland, who will host next year's world day of prayer service written by the Christian women of the Cook Islands. Their theme being

"I made you wonderful."

WHAT IS CHRISTIAN UNITY?

As a number of you know, I spend quite a bit of time with my daughter in Fuerteventura. While I am there, I attend the services and Bible study of the local Anglican Chaplaincy. I am intrigued with the unity and fellowship between the members of this group, as they come from a wide range of denominational backgrounds, but display a real brotherhood and sisterhood between each other. Since I am writing from there at the moment, and mindful of the process we are currently working through back home, I thought it would be useful to look at what the Bible says about unity.

In Psalm 133: 1 we read: *How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!* There's probably not a better starting point than this, but where does the idea of unity with each other and with God come from? Going back further to the book of Deuteronomy (10: 12) we have an example of one of the many times God told the Children of Israel about how to live in unity with Him: *So if you faithfully obey the commands I am giving you today—to love the Lord your God and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.....* that they would be blessed, but if they didn't, the opposite would result. Jesus said something very similar in John 15: 10: *If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love.* It is still if, but Jesus doesn't give an alternative, thus for Jesus' followers, the expectation was complete, there could be no buts.

God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, expect us to follow the commands laid out in the Bible and by doing that, we will be in unity with them, and also with each other. I know there are times when we do disagree with each other, have different ideas about how to manage the church, our family relationships, our dealings with people we necessarily have contact with.

As I read on the Biblestudytools.com website: *Life is messy, relationships are messy. Times of stress can strain relationships and we end up hurting each other and destroying the unity we have worked hard for. Satan's goal is to destroy our unity. Let's fight together toward living in peace and harmony. God has given us the ability to be patient, kind, and loving through actions and words.* We do need to be aware that Satan's goal is to destroy our unity. Keeping unity is a spiritual battle; we don't have to try and get it right by ourselves; Paul wrote to the church in Ephesus: (4:3) *Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.* The New Testament writers give us many excellent examples and tips to help us:

Paul wrote to the Philippians (2: 1-4) *Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ² then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. ³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above*

yourselves, ⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

Keeping unity was of great importance to Paul, since for his fledgling churches to have division within their numbers, meant that Satan was getting a foothold and consequently diluting the Holy Spirit's power in these churches. He wrote to the church in Colossae: (3: 13) *Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.*

John then wrote sometime later: (1 John 4: 12) *No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.* And Peter wrote: (1 Peter 3: 8) *Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble.* I feel I need write no more, do look the passages up and see the wider context. Unity is something that God expects from us as Christians.

Phil Theaker.

A FLIGHT TO REMEMBER

I was recently sitting on a long haul flight browsing through the list of films to help me get the time in. It was no real surprise to me that all the latest releases were sci-fi, animations or violent crime.

It got me thinking back to the days when going to the cinema was a night to remember and the films were great and have survived to this day.

I remember that the BB Christmas outing was to the Gaumont in Glasgow to see the CinemaScope epic. Do you remember Ben Hur, The Towering Inferno, Zulu, Dr Zhivago, Khartoum, Lawrence of Arabia, Bridge on the river Kwai, and Exodus. This is only some of them and I am sure you will have your own favourites.

And so I went to the Classic section and I found the real reason we went to the cinema. So I settled down to while away the hours with "The man who would be King" with Sean Connery and Michael Caine followed by "Spartacus" with Kirk Douglas. Sadly they don't make them like that anymore. I am Spartacus I am Spartacus I am Spartacus! Oops! coming in to land.

John Nugent



DOOR DUTY				READER		
Mar	17	Anne Doull	Brian Spence		17	Lesley Gurton
	24	Anne Organ	Wilma Craig		24	John Nugent
	31	Jean McAnna	Betty Bichard		31	Graham Harron
Apr	7	Frances Nicol	Liz Grant	Apr	7	Ella Wright
	14	Sheila McIntosh	Barbara Dunn		14	Morag Mackintosh
	21	Rita Hollywood	Ella Wright		21	Caroline Scott
	28	Jean Stewart	Gwen Mackenzie		28	Shona Pew
May	5	Iain Jackson	Sheila Kerr	May	5	Erika Diffenthal
	12	Muriel O'May	Martha Wakefield		12	Frances Nicol
	19	Jean McAnna	Gladys Black		19	John Nugent
	26	John Nugent	Morag Mackintosh		26	Graham Harron
Jun	2	Anne Doull	Brian Spence	Jun	2	Ella Wright
	9	Anne Organ	Wilma Craig		9	Morag Mackintosh
	16	Jean McAnna	Betty Bichard		16	Rita Carmichael
	23	Frances Nicol	Liz Grant		23	Shona Pew
	30	Sheila McIntosh	Barbara Dunn		30	Erika Diffenthal

SHOULD YOU BE UNABLE TO DO YOUR DUTY ON YOUR ALLOCATED DATE IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU ARRANGE A SUBSTITUTE

TEA ROTA

Mar	17	Janet Hope	Morag Mackintosh	Rita Hollywood
	24	Margaret Spence	Irene Dick	Caroline Brown
	31	Barbara Dunn	Sheila McIntosh	Wilma Craig
Apr	7	Gwen Mackenzie	Frances Nicol	Mary Dunlop
	14	Gloria MacDonald	Rosemary Johnston	Iain Jackson
	21	Betty Bichard	Alice Smith	Mary McGinn
	28	Mairi Spiers	Liz Grant	Lesley Gurton
May	5	Margaret Spence	Irene Dick	Caroline Brown
	12	Betty Bichard	Alice Smith	Mary McGinn
	19	Gloria MacDonald	Rosemary Johnston	Iain Jackson
	26	Mairi Spiers	Liz Grant	Lesley Gurton
Jun	2	Caroline Scott	Jean McAnna	Sheila Kerr
	9	Janet Hope	Morag Mackintosh	Rita Hollywood
	16	Anne Organ	Gladys Black	Lyn Wilson
	23	Gwen Mackenzie	Frances Nicol	Mary Dunlop
	30	Gloria MacDonald	Rosemary Johnston	Iain Jackson

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PROPERTY REPORT FEBRUARY 2024

Manse

Regular checks of the manse continue. Presbytery representatives have recently visited the Manse and were impressed by the layout while noticing several issues such as the localised leak in the roof and slippery growth on the decking

Church Building

Rebecca Cadie (Conservation Architect) has delivered her report with a possible scheme of work to address damp issues and these will require to be considered and costed by the newly expanded Property group. The ventilators which have been fitted in the window recesses in the Sanctuary appear to work well.

A steeplejack has climbed up the inside of the tower but hasn't yet come back with recommendations for aluminium ladders to replace the original wooden ones. He was satisfied with the bell mounts and that the high level door was not going to fall off.

One of the cisterns and a bowl in the ladies toilets needs replaced will be fixed as soon as possible.

The roof leak above the Chancel requires extensive scaffolding before the roofer can replace the worn out lead skew. The first quote was £3500 + due to the complexity of scaffolding that is required. We are currently trying to get another quote.

Sound and Screen

Sunday broadcasts on Youtube continue. The PC which is used to stream services will have to be replaced in the near future.

Car Park

One of the arms of the barrier became partially detached during a storm and has been fixed.

Morland wall

The Church of Scotland Insurance Department have finally settled our claim for the damage caused by vandalism subsequent to the Council vehicle crash. The stonemason will start work in May.

David Johnston

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

The beginning of 2024 season saw us welcoming our regulars to a musical afternoon with our friends Siona on piano, Phil with his guitar and Keith with his music system being the stars of the afternoon. It is always a pleasure to hear the chatter of folk, catching up and sharing news as they gather round the tea tables it is our hope that is what Friendship Circle provides, a meeting place to share thoughts and sing and laugh with others. Do you know anyone who could benefit from our Friendship do invite them to come along, a warm welcome awaits.

Our next meeting with Rita back in charge and John returned from his Mauritius holiday took the form of a quiz conducted in John's Inimitable style and was won by a team which had two visitors in it, it was good to welcome three visitors to that meeting and we hope that they will return and of course our regulars.

James our Tai Chi Master visited us for our third meeting and as usual we all felt the benefit of his calm and soothing exercises.

A varied programme awaits and we look forward to seeing old and new friends.

Anne Organ

“Mums are like buttons they hold things together”

Football supporter decided to stop attending matches. In so doing he gave the following reasons:

Every time I went they asked me for money.

The people I sat beside didn't speak to me.

The seats were too hard.

The manager never came to see me.

Other supporters were hypocrites, criticising their own team.

Some games went to overtime and I was late home.

The band played numbers I'd never heard before.

The games are scheduled for times when I have other things to do. My parents took me to too many games when I was growing up. Since I read a book on sports I feel I know more than the coaches anyway.

And he added: I don't want to take my children because I want them to choose for themselves what sport they like best.

PRAYING FOR OUR FUTURE

Heavenly Father, orchestrator of our future, we thank you for the success of our recent Service of Union. We thank you that we are now officially one parish, one congregation, although we have two places of worship. We ask that as the weeks pass, the importance of this service may stay in our minds a long time as we continue to plan for our future.

Forgiving Father, we know that we have not always done things your way in the past. We ask that you would forgive us and help us to seek your guidance as we move forward. We know your ways are best, but we struggle to follow them sometimes, thinking that we know better or are more comfortable sticking to what we know. We are part of Your Son's Body, the Church, help us to work with Him and in the power of the Holy Spirit to bring about your plans for this beautiful area in which we live.

Lord Jesus, we thank you that the enlarged and united Session has already been meeting and is progressing through the list of tasks that have to be completed before moving on to establishing the Nominating Committee. We ask that you would guide each elder as they clarify their own thoughts as to what their role should be. We ask that they may strive to be true to your Word, yet realistic at this time of great social upheaval.

Holy Spirit, we ask that as we consider whom we believe would be best to represent us on the Nominating Committee, that you would guide us to select wise and faithful members of the congregation to represent us at this time and pray that you would bless them. We also ask that you would guide each one of us, recognising that each of us have our role to play. We pray all these things in Jesus' Name, Amen.



The Church of Scotland

STAMP APPEAL 2023-2024

**Firmly Planted
- collect your
stamps to support
Malawi project.**

Help the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP) improve nutrition, improve agricultural productivity, create youth employment and mitigate the impact of the climate crisis.

The CCAP project, Firmly Planted aims to establish self-sustaining tree nurseries to nurture and protect the environment and protect livelihoods for households and communities.



HOW TO CONTRIBUTE:

Post your stamps to Stamp Appeal 2023, PO Box 9191, Wishaw, Lanarkshire, ML2 0YB
For other options and more information visit: www.churchofscotland.org.uk/stamps

Scottish Charity Number: SC011353

www.churchofscotland.org.uk

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thank you

TO ALL OUR READERS
AND CONTRIBUTORS

EDITORIAL

Rita Carmichael: email rita.carmichael@btinternet.com Telephone 529289

If you have any special celebrations please let us know.



www.iswb.org.uk

Facebook : Inverkip, Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay Church

Church Service: On YouTube, search for “Inverkip and Skelmorlie” and make it a favourite or bookmark.

Interim Moderator : Karen Harbison 721048

Property : David Johnston 520775

www.ISWB.org.uk

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