

Killermont Parish Church

Killermont Parish Church (Church of Scotland)
- Scottish Charity (Charity Number SC009748)

Newsletter – September 2011

The Manse

My dear friends

On Sunday 14 August, we marked the start of the new Sunday Club year with a celebration. We rejoiced that God has given us such wonderful youngsters. We prayed for them and for their leaders and teachers. It was truly a good day to be part of the KPC family.

One of our hymns was ‘Do not be afraid for I have redeemed you.’ I chose it because I knew that we were all feeling deeply unsettled. The Norwegian massacres and the riots on our city streets, phone-tapping scandals and worldwide economic meltdown all conspired to remind us that, however hard we might try, we cannot insulate ourselves from evil in this world.

Please be in no doubt that there is evil in the world. And we are the reason for its existence. Our denial of God and our disobedience to his loving, generous and life-giving will, is nothing less than an invitation to evil to surge through our lives, into our communities and across our nation. Do you think that is too melodramatic? Not on the current evidence.

One Christian commentator writes: “Our house is built on sand – we have no place for God, no space for values or virtues, and social environment in which it really hard to talk about right and wrong.” I agree. God has been evicted, integrity and responsibility mocked and truth despised.

But it is not good enough to lament. The people of God are called to act with mercy and grace and in love. It is not loving to watch a friend walk in front of speeding juggernaut without trying pull him back or call a warning. It is possible to speak truth without being shrill. We can warn without being judgemental. Now is the time to demonstrate a tangible commitment to our neighbours. Even in the darkest times, the people of God are called to be light.

Our song ‘Do not be afraid’ speaks of our fragility. How vulnerable we all are! Yet we need not be afraid. We are followers of Jesus so we are people of hope – a hope to be shared and carried into the most desolate reaches of our society.

My friends, let us pray for healing in our communities: for peace and security; for justice and compassion; for wisdom for our leaders. Let us take action, with pen and voice and vote. Go fearlessly into a frightened world, secure in the presence of God and with His name upon your lips.

Your friend and minister

Alan

PS Here are the words of our song. Even if you don't know the tune, please speak them in your heart or use them in your prayers.

*Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you.
I have called you by your name; you are mine.*

When you walk through the waters I'll be with you.
You will never sink beneath the waves.

When the fire is burning all around you,
you will never be consumed by the flames.

When the fear of loneliness is looming,
then remember I am at your side.

When you dwell in the exile of the stranger,
remember you are precious in my eyes.

You are mine, O my child; I am your Father,
and I love you with a perfect love.

*Gerard Markland (born 1953
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JACK PATERSON & IAIN CORMACK

We have lost two men of faith who helped to lead our congregation by their service as elders over many years.

Jack was ordained as an elder in 1981 having already made his mark in the church choir. Those whom he visited in his elder's district valued his warmth and friendliness. His practical, faithful wisdom was greatly respected at session meetings. I knew Jack as an encourager even when he wasn't quite sure whether he liked what I was doing. He realised that each minister had to find his own voice and that the congregation needed to be responsive to changing circumstances while remaining true to God.

Another singer, Iain was admitted to the KPS session in 1974. He had a quiet, measured authority that was grounded in his deep faith. Like Jack, he was always worth listening to. We could be certain that his contributions were steeped in prayer. A most diligent district elder, Iain's visits brought encouragement and comfort. He had a particular interest in overseas mission and cared deeply that, as a congregation, we were engaged in God's work elsewhere in the world. For me as his minister, Iain was a tremendous source of spiritual strength.

We could say so much more about Jack and Iain. We miss them both but our sadness is allayed with thanksgiving for their lives and the joyous certainty that they have been welcomed by their Father as good and faithful servants.

Alan Hamilton

Thank You.

I wish to thank everyone very much for their prayers and kindness to Jack during his long illness.

I am also extremely grateful for the very large attendance at the Service of Thanksgiving, and for all the beautiful flowers, cards and visits received by me thereafter.

It has meant a great deal to me to have your support throughout this sad time.

Greta Paterson

LODGING HOUSE MISSION

A HUGE 'thank you' to everyone who contributed to the Appeal for the Mission during the month of June. The Mission had specifically contacted each Church representative to raise awareness of its increase in numbers of homeless men and women attending the Mission for help and a hot meal. I intimated their need and the response from the congregation was very, very generous.

Angus and I delivered a total of 405 items of food on 4th July. The appreciation of the Mission staff was touching and I was asked to convey to the congregation their sincere and heartfelt thanks for such generosity. I hope again that we will be able to respond to their Harvest Appeal by giving the supplies from our own Harvest Thanksgiving Service to them. You can be assured that any donations will be graciously accepted and put to excellent use.

I felt that members would be interested to hear at first hand, words from the Chaplain at the Mission, Gus McKay, and have printed below his letter which is printed in the current edition of LHM Newsletter.

***I** t is hard to believe that almost two thirds of 2011 have already past. No doubt many will be asking where the time has gone. For many homeless people the concept of time has very little impact on their lives. Seldom do they see their daily routine change except perhaps at the weekend when a number of the weekday services that provide care and support for them are closed. Every day for many may seem like 'Groundhog Day', reliving their day over and over again with very little or no change ever happening. The wonderful thing about God is that every day with him is like 'Groundhog Day.'*

***T**he Bible tells us that 'Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday and today and forever'. These words are displayed on a poster which hangs above one of the doors of the Mission reminding everyone that God's love and grace is forever constant and never changes. God will always love us no matter what we feel or think about Him. There is nothing we can ever do to make Him love us more and nothing we can ever do to make Him love us less.*

God has proved his love by sending Christ into the world to die for each one of us. In a world where there is so much turbulence as we have witnessed in the Middle East, in the financial markets, in Africa and most recently in London, it is comforting to know that our God remains ever constant and is not distracted with all that is going on. His love endures for ever.

***A**t the Mission, one of the main objectives is to convey the message that God is indeed a God of steadfast love to all our service users. Unfortunately for many who come here, the concept of love is a difficult one to grasp. When someone has been continually told that they are worthless or useless and that their life will achieve nothing, it can be demoralising and hurtful. It is even more difficult to accept when it is some of the people who should be closest to them who are saying this, e.g. parents, brothers or sisters, spouse or teachers.*

However this is the one thing that God can never be accused of saying to anyone. No-one is excluded from receiving His love and grace in their lives. No sin is beyond forgiveness.

We find it more difficult to forgive and forget than God, yet the Bible makes it very clear that God's grace is greater than our sin. The hymn writer sums this up beautifully in these

words: "The vilest offender who truly believes, that moment from Jesus a pardon receives."

A *s we continue to share God's love and grace with our service users, our prayer is that they may experience for themselves God's faithfulness and love in their often disordered and chaotic lives. Please pray with us that this might happen to many.*

Jessie Cameron

SCOTTISH BIBLE SOCIETY

Following the information given in the last two editions of the Newsletter I can now give you the final details for the exhibition and "*The Peoples Bible*".

i) Divine Write

- An Exhibition to Celebrate the 400th Anniversary of the King James Bible

This exhibition is being held in the Mitchell Library in Glasgow from 9 September 2011 until 14 January 2012 and will be a unique opportunity to view, in one location

- two different copies of the original 1611 edition of the King James Bible
- almost all of the pre 1611 English Bibles
- Medieval Latin Bibles produced by hand before the invention of printing
- the first published Greek text of The New Testament
- the first complete Scottish Gaelic New Testament
- the original Rheims-Doauai Bible - the Catholic rival version of the King James Bible
- Post 1611 Bibles printed in Scotland.

I hope this will be an interesting and informative exhibition and that many of you will go along to have a look.

The Mitchell Library is open:

9.00am - 8.00pm Monday to Thursday

9.00am - 5.00pm Friday & Saturday

Closed Sunday

(for Public Holiday Opening Times phone 0141 287 2999)

ii) **THE PEOPLE'S BIBLE**
- MAKE YOUR MARK IN HISTORY

The Peoples Bible is a national tour which will produce a unique hand written edition of the Bible.

A joint venture between the Scottish Bible Society and the Bible Society of England and Wales, it will be in **Milngavie Town Centre near to The Fraser Centre from 9.00am until 5.00pm on Tuesday 20th September 2011.**

To date over 7000 verses have been hand written. Anyone who comes along on the day will have the opportunity to handwrite two verses from the bible using a digital pen, producing a paper copy and a digital version which will be able to be viewed online so "making your mark in history". Anyone who can write, no matter their age is welcome, and guidance will be given on the day.

The completed paper copies will be bound and The Peoples Bible will be presented at a special service in Westminster Abbey, in the presence of Her Majesty The Queen on 16th November 2011.

Please make a note of these two events in your diary and pray for their success. I will remind you again in the News and Notices prior to these dates.

Ohna Dalziel

THE WAY AHEAD GROUP
(A Stroke Club for Bearsden)

Club meetings recommence on Thursday 1st September. Members meet each Thursday from 1.15 to 3.45pm in the Main Hall of Killermont Church.

Last session, the Club was entertained by the New Kilpatrick Country Dance Group and held outings to Duntreath Castle and Largs.

We had a most enjoyable belated Christmas meal at Bearsden Golf Club in April. Our local MP Jo Swinson visited the Club in May to express her support for the work of the Group and she stayed for tea and chat with our members.

The Committee is now finalising Club activities for autumn/winter 2011 and planning our Christmas Party.

If anyone is interested in helping and/or driving members to the Club once a month, please contact Anne Wightman (942 4052).

Gordon Ferguson

Events Committee
Dates for your diary

The Events Committee are planning a number of events over the coming session. Please put these in your diary now!

Friday 7 October 2011 - A Whodunnit Dinner starring our young people (and Jason Keating!). Come along and share in a meal before watching the action and deciding Whodunnit? Tickets priced £12 are available from any member of the Events Committee or myself (detail below)

Friday 4 November 2011 - Bill McMillan in Concert. Bill has agreed to entertain us once again and tickets will be available from Sunday 9 October priced £15 for a family ticket, £6 for an adult, £3 for a child to include tea, coffee and juice. Proceeds of the concert will be divided among Christian Aid, Marie Curie Fund and the Church Funds.

Friday 3 February 2012 - KPC Burns Supper

Shona MacLachlan (Events Convenor)

THE GUILD

The new session of the Guild begins on Monday 10th October when we will be starting the last year of our three-year strategy; *what does the Lord require of you?*

The first year's theme was *to act justly*, last year's theme was *to love mercy* and this year's theme is *to walk humbly with God*.

On our first meeting we will be entertained by a group from Lenzie called "Three plus One" consisting of three ladies and one gentleman, hence the name and we expect to enjoy an evening of music and poetry, serious and humorous.

We have a very interesting syllabus in place for the next session which will be available in the new church information booklet and if there is anything that you would like to see or hear please come along – you will be made most welcome.

I hope that all last year's Guild members will be able to attend our first meeting and that we will see some new faces as well.

Moira Forrester

THE CHURCH GARDEN

The gardens round the church have been really beautiful this year and I'm sure that everyone has been delighted by the variety of plants and colour that greets us on a Sunday morning. I would like to thank the gardening team who have put a lot of time and thought into planting and tending the garden. It is much appreciated.

Moira Forrester

LADIES ASSOCIATION

The Committee of the Ladies Association hope that all ladies have had an enjoyable summer, and we are looking forward to welcoming existing and new members to our meetings which start at 7.45 pm on Wednesday 12th October and every second Wednesday evening after that.

We have something for everyone in our programme this winter and start off with a Musical Evening - do come along and join in!

Pauline Inglis

AFTERNOON GUILD

Thirty years ago Mamie Holgate and Susie Lyle saw the need to start up an afternoon meeting for the Guild members who no longer felt able to go out in the evening – so began the “Afternoon Guild”.

The first meetings were held in the Lesser Hall and as numbers grew transferred to the North Hall. With yet increasing numbers we now meet in the Large Hall.

The Guild is open to everyone so if you would like to join us, please come along – you are assured of a warm welcome. Our meetings open short devotions followed by a speaker or entertainment and finish with tea, home baking and much chat.

Our opening meeting will take place in the **Large Hall on Wednesday 5th October at 2.00pm** when we will be delighted to welcome as our guest speaker the **Rev D P Munro** who will talk on our Guild Theme for this year called **“to walk humbly with your God”**

We look forward to seeing you all on the 5th, old friends and new. If you require transport please contact Etta Herdman or May Newlands.

May Newlands

3rd Bearsden Boys' Brigade - Company Section

The Summer Break is close to an end and our 70th Annual Inspection and Display at the start of May seems like a distant memory. We say farewell and good luck to Sgt Jamie McAulay who having achieved his Queen's Badge in his final year with the Company is now off to University.

We look forward to the coming session and to the various activities and events. Whilst taking part is always the main objective we also hope to continue the successes of last session which included our Junior football team winning the Battalion League and Craig Jardine winning the Battalion Cross Country Junior Event and going on to win the Scottish National Cross Country Championships which this year were hosted by our Battalion.

This year marked the 125th Anniversary of Camping in the Boys' Brigade, the first camp being held at Tignabruaich in 1886. To mark this occasion a Battalion Camp was held at Broomley Grange, Stocksfield, Northumberland and 3rd Bearsden were represented by 4 boys and 1 officer.

We enjoyed 3 nights camping and a number of activities including assault course, high ropes and Zip wire. Even the dreaded washing up after meals was completed in good spirits!

Enrolment for the coming session is on Friday 2nd September and we look forward to welcoming back all the boys and new recruits who have been promoted from the Junior Section.

Iain Macmillan

Company Section - 3rd Bearsden Boys' Brigade

GIRL GUIDING KILLERMONT

In spite of the really cold, wet and windy weather, the Guides enjoyed their “summer” camp at Netherurd, Peebles, and the activities they took part in. One of the highlights was the Bat Walk on the Saturday night – and it stayed dry for the whole evening!

Congratulations to Susan Liveston and Gemma McKechnie – two of our Rangers – who ran camps at Auchengillan in much more favourable conditions. They are delighted to have gained Ranger Guide Camp Permits.

The Brownie outing to Edinburgh Zoo was unfortunately a “bad weather day” but the other Brownie outing to the Falkirk Wheel was much more pleasant.

All units resume during the first week of September. There is a waiting list for both Rainbows and Brownies, but places are available for Guides and Rangers.

We are all looking forward to the start of another busy and eventful year.

Alison Weir

COFFEE COUNTER

Many thanks to all the volunteers who provided the coffees etc over the summer. It is very important that there is an opportunity for us to get together after each Sunday service as it is the only time many of us can meet up for a chat. Your help has been greatly appreciated.

Alyson McMillan

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

I was approached a few months ago to arrange another food handling course as some people were unable to attend the one in May. There is now going to be a course in the church on Saturday 12th November from 9.30am to approx 4.30pm. Lunch will be provided.

If you are interested, please let me know before the end of September. The church will pay for the course but if you feel you can make a donation, it will be gratefully received.

Alyson McMillan

Church Information Booklet Amendments & Addition - Page 18

- i) There is no longer a Friends of Guiding committee
- ii) Brownies - 2nd and 20th Bearsden meet in Church Hall /Forum alternately