



The Livingstones Herald

The Quarterly Magazine of Livingstone Church



ISSUE No 73 MARCH 2017

Letter from the editor



Welcome to the March edition of the magazine. You will have noticed that I have changed to white paper for the cover. This is to facilitate the running off of the magazine and also will make the running costs slightly cheaper. I also hope to vary the graphics from time to time to help compensate for the loss of the bright yellow paper.

Recently I was drawn to this heading in The Herald, 'Switch on, log in, let us pray.' The heading was referring to the service held in Trinity Church Falkirk on Sunday 5th February. Trinity Church is one of the forerunners when it comes to exploiting new technology and is one of only 20 churches in Scotland that currently live-stream their Sunday service. A couple of cameras relayed the service via the church's website and local people were able to join in in their own homes, even to sing the hymns if they wished, as the verses appeared as captions on the screen.

The Kirk hoping to increase that number has just appointed the Very Rev. Albert Bogle, a former Moderator, as its first digital minister. I can see why live-streaming appeals to churches seeking to increase their reach and the size of their congregations in this day of falling rolls. Motherwell Dalziel St Andrew's has been live-streaming for more than four years now. Its dedicated YouTube channel has had 74000 views from across 100 nations. Its minister, the Rev. Derek Hughes has said that live-streaming has not only increased his attending congregation but has also lowered the age range there.

We in Livingstone at present record the Sunday service and this is given weekly to those who are unable to come to church. This allows them to join in worship and to feel that they are still a part of the church congregation.

Interim Moderator's letter



It is great to have good news to pass on and the good news is that the Nominating Committee have a candidate to fill the vacancy. The committee have worked hard for 18 months and following prayerful consideration are able to recommend the Rev David Sutherland to be the next minister of the linked charge. A profile of the Rev Sutherland appears in the magazine.

Intimation will shortly be given that he will preach as Sole Nominee on Sunday 12th March. Following the service all members and adherents present will be invited to vote "For or against" the Nominee. I hope as many as are able will attend worship on that day. It is important to note that the congregation choose the minister and not the Nominating Committee. In this instance the candidate will preach before both congregations at the usual times.

We are grateful, to the Nominating Committee for their diligence and dedication. I am pleased to report that the members representing both congregations worked very well together and the decision to recommend Rev. Sutherland was unanimous.

Should the nominee be accepted by both congregations, preparations will be made for an Induction, subject to the agreement and timing of Presbytery. The vacancy has lasted a long time but as I have said on many occasions, it will only be filled at a time of God's choosing and we pray that this is the minister that He has chosen to lead you in the future.

The appointment of a minister opens up great possibilities for the future development of both congregations and provided he is appointed, he will bring experience and skills which will create an exciting future and a deepening of faith and Christian service.

I have had the pleasure of meeting Mr Sutherland on two occasions and latterly with his wife Maureen. I was very impressed not only by his abilities but by his sincerity and humanity, and I would like to think that in one hearing you may come to a similar conclusion and welcome him as the Minister of the Linked Charge.

With every blessing
Ken Welch
Interim Moderator

The Guild



We have enjoyed a variety of talks, activities, New Year lunch, DVD of the National Gathering of the Guild, Burns Celebration and successful Bring & Buy sale in aid of Guild Projects during the last few months.

In the last magazine I told you about the hope that we could support the toilet twinning charity and fund 3 toilets to twin with our 3 toilets - gents, ladies and disabled - within our buildings. I am pleased to tell you that we succeeded and you will find a picture of each twinned toilet on the wall of each toilet mentioned.

With the money left over from the toilet twinning, we bought 'Call to Mind', an aid for people with dementia and their carers. We donated this to South Beach House when we went to entertain the residents on 6th December, and received a very nice letter of thanks.

We have still got a good programme to go before Easter which is later this year. I would like to bring to your attention our CONCERT on the 21st March, when we will be entertained by the Largs Fiddle Orchestra. The concert is at our usual time of 1.30pm and tickets are

£4.00. We hope that anyone in the congregation and friends will join us for an afternoon of toe tapping music.

Finally, our annual Daffodil Tea will be held on Tuesday April 11th in the evening after the Holy Week Service, to which all members of the congregation are invited.



Dorothy Penno

A date for your diaries



You are all invited to come to BREAKFAST

On Easter Sunday 16th April
In the Church Hall open from
10.00am until 11.15am.

Like last year the J A M Club will serve you.
The charity MERCY SHIPS will receive any
donations you give.

Come along and enjoy the start of the
Easter Celebrations



Dorothy Penno



Q. What kind of man was Boaz before he married Ruth?

A. Ruthless.

Q. Who was the greatest comedian in the Bible?

A. Samson. He brought the house down

J.A.M. Club



On Sunday 29th January the Jam club gave us a lesson on "Praise Him in Everything." It was presented in the form of a play. Two school children, played by Carrie & Duncan were the main characters.

Duncan, late for school, was having the "worst day of his life."

It was one of those days, we all have had them, when one thing goes wrong ... everything goes wrong.

Even before coming to school things hadn't gone well for Duncan, much of it his own fault. His friend Carrie reminded him of the good day they had at the Jam club the day before, when they had activities on finding ways to praise God. She told Duncan that it is easy to praise God when life is going well but not so easy when it's not.

She countered all that Duncan thought had gone wrong with his day, so far, by pointing out what had gone right. Although he had missed the bus, his mum brought him to school in the car, when she could have made him walk. He had been allowed to play his computer game for a little while, which was better than not at all, thus finding something to praise God no matter what. It was just like Pollyanna's Glad Game, an optimistic and positive attitude to lifelooking for something to praise and thank God and be glad about, even in the worst times.

Carrie challenged Duncan to think of one good thing that he could praise God for. Duncan thought about this and then replied, "Well I did get this book I've been waiting ages for from the library." With Carrie's help Duncan thought of many more things he could praise God for ...that he had clean clothes; they would have double playtime and much more. Duncan was not mad anymore and he and Carrie decided, "Yes God does deserve our praise."

A very thought provoking little play, reminding us that we all should

find something to praise God for, even when things go wrong. Find something to be glad about in everything that happens ...both good and bad.

Very well done to Carrie and Duncan who had a lot of words to learn for the script and who performed their play very well.

Dorothy Taylor

Prayer Thoughts



I suppose it's really obvious, but when we turn to God in prayer we should be aware of our relationship with God and making sure that it is right. Jesus sets the standard for this in a conversation he had with Peter recorded in Luke's gospel.

Luke chapter 22, verses 31 and 32: “Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to have all of you, to sift you like wheat. But I have pleaded in prayer for you, Simon, that your faith should not fail. So when you have repented and turned to me again, strengthen and build up your brothers.”

Jesus is making it quite clear that we have to clear away the distractions that Satan is ever ready to put before us. We all know what it's like to be out in mist or fog. Things are indistinct, obstacles might be in our path and we don't see them until it is too late. Our time for prayer can be just as obscured if we have not first reasserted our faith in God. On many occasions Jesus reinforces the idea that, if we place our trust in God, and are wholly reliant on him, any request we make will be granted. That's a huge promise, but it also emphasises the difference between where we are and where God wants us to be in our relationship with him. By being completely reliant on God we are completely in

tune with him and our prayer requests will exactly match the path that God has set out for our lives.

Themes

Approach: Come with an uncluttered mind knowing that God welcomes us into his presence.

Confession: Follow Jesus instruction to Peter and repent and turn to God, reasserting your faith in Him.

Thanksgiving:

- Ministry – continue to give thanks for David Heberton’s work with us.
- Heritage – give thanks for the faith and work of those who served God in times past and handed the gospel message on to us.
- Faithfulness – give thanks for those whose faithfulness in many different roles in Livingstone help to sustain our worship.
- Presence – give thanks for the church’s presence in Stevenston and pray that its influence on peoples’ lives will grow.

Intercession

- Frailty – pray for those who are suffering from physical or mental frailty and for those that support them.
- Schools – pray for our local schools that they provide a safe and supportive environment for all who attend.
- Easter – pray that the real meaning of Easter will be celebrated and thanks given to God.
- The World – Pray for those countries and communities devastated by war or natural disaster that they may be built up again.
- Prayer – pray that talking to God will remain a key part of our daily lives.

- Ministry – pray that God will direct a minister to come and lead us in Livingstone and Ardeer.

Andrew Tomlinson

Peter Pan 2016



A big thank you to everyone for helping to make the 2016 pantomime a great success. The four night sell out run was once again exhausting but extremely rewarding for all the cast. Our new black stage floor certainly enhanced the performance this year along with the brilliantly designed scenery and props which made Peter Pan a pantomime to remember. The shop was busier than ever so a special thank you to all who helped and to those who looked after the junior cast. Without your assistance, the pantomime simply wouldn't happen.

Everyone had great fun rehearsing and performing the pantomime but you - the audience - are as much a part of the cast as the players themselves. Your attendance each year is invaluable; hopefully to enjoy a great night's entertainment and of course enabling us all to raise money for Christian Aid. Thank you all for playing your part and supporting us. Remember to check our website – www.livingstoneplayers.org.uk - for details of our upcoming production. Preparations are already underway for our 2017 pantomime!

Ross Glover

Presbytery Report



The Presbytery met at the beginning of February after the Christmas break. The first order of business was a tribute to the late Rev. Margaret Thomson former Minister of Erskine, Saltcoats (now Kirkgate). Unfortunately the present incumbent Rev. Dorothy Grainger of Kirkgate, who also happens to be Presbytery Moderator this year, has been unwell and the tribute was given by Rev. Fiona Ross.

There was very little discussion at this month's meeting mostly consisting of notices and information. There was notice that Treasurers could apply the 5% reduction to this year's Ministry and Mission which should have been for 2016 but the notification was not sent out in time.

Four members of Presbytery will fly out to Malawi in April to develop relations with our partner Presbytery there. Most costs are being met from central funds but a reserve fund has been set aside for contingency purposes.

The Church of Scotland is involved in many projects both nationally and internationally but unless someone has a particular interest much of the work done is completely unknown to the ordinary Church member. I feel that as a congregation we miss out on a lot of these activities. The guild is involved with some but the congregation as a whole is not even aware of them. Several items of mission were brought to the Presbytery's attention.

- Creating a Culture of Invitation (Mar 29th at Hampden).
- Year of the Young Person information.

- Letter from the Principal Clerk.
- A Quick Guide to Refugees and the Church of Scotland.

Referring to the previous:-1.The first is a one day conference.

2. Next year has been themed, 'Year of the Young Person.' Planning is underway.

3. The Principal Clerk invites you to the Heart and Soul event which takes place during Assembly week. The presbytery hopes to arrange a bus to go to this event.

4. 'A Quick Guide to Refugees,' is an information booklet.

There is more information on each of these on the Church's website or you can see them on the Church of Scotland website.

This year it is Livingstone's turn to send a delegate to the General Assembly.

F. Kerr (Presbytery Elder)

Badminton Club



The badminton club meets on Tuesday evenings from 7.30 pm till 9.30 pm. We have a core membership of 5 adults and 2 young people. The object of the club is primarily FUN. We have no interest in league play. As part of the evening we have tea or coffee with biscuits.

Badminton relies on long and short shots, with disguise and direction of shot being the main points of the game. The standard of the

badminton is varied, and although we all want to win, fun is the main aim. We play doubles so that we can play as many games as possible during the evening. There are no set partnerships: we change the pairings every match. One of our young people is a Boys Brigade member and has to show that his playing standard is improving and that he has a good attendance record. At intervals I have to sign his record book to show his standard is improving (which it is). This is one of the requirements towards his Queen's badge.

We will always welcome new members and were delighted to do so last week as a result of the Church Notices in the A&S Herald.

Arthur Taylor

Letter from Friends of South Beach House



South Beach House are hosting a Daffodil Afternoon Tea on Thursday 30th March 2017 at 2.00pm. We would cordially like to invite all Guild and Church members to attend. I am sure that it will be an enjoyable afternoon and I look forward to seeing as many of your members who are able to attend.

Visitors can pay £2 on the day.

Yours sincerely,

Marion C Brown.

Friends of South Beach House,

Care Home Committee.

Letter from Blythwood Care



Thank you for filling shoeboxes.

Shooboxappeal.org

Livingstone Parish Church Stevenston

61 boxes and donations of money and knitting.

Transforming lives through Christian care for body and soul.

Does this list of worries seem familiar to you? The poet nailing this human of traits is Irene Evans.

She Worries About Things

She worries about people. She worries about what things can do to people.

She worries about things that are non-things, like love and justice.

She worries about things happening. Or not. Things that will ... may ... ought .

She worries about things to do. Not done yet. Things to remember. Or to forget.

She worries about things going wrong, falling apart, out of control. She worries

When told there's nothing to worry about. There will be if I don't, she says.

Profile of Rev. Dave Sutherland

The nominating committee have unanimously invited Rev. Dave Sutherland to preach as sole nominee for our vacancy. The committee met with Rev. Sutherland on two occasions and heard him preach in Kirkgate, Saltcoats. We were impressed by his openness and commitment as well as how he engaged in discussion with us.

Rev. Sutherland was a late entrant to the full time ministry, having spent some 30 years as a police officer in Dundee, attaining the rank of sergeant. Much of his service was focused on community liaison including work with young people and in schools. He was first of all ordained as an auxiliary minister in 2001 while still a serving police officer, before successfully studying for full time ministry following his retirement from the police. He is currently minister at Dumfries Maxwelltown West where he has established a Bible Study group, prayer group, held a series of Messy Church and co-ordinated a Baby and Toddlers Group. He has also had a long association with Scouts, from assistant Cub Scout leader in the 1980s to appointment as Group Chairman for the Scout Group based in Maxwelltown West Church.

Dave is married and he and Maureen have one grown up son.

Rev. Sutherland will preach as sole nominee in both Ardeer and Livingstone on Sunday 12 March. You are encouraged to make sure you can attend. Following each service the congregation will be asked to vote on his appointment as minister. A strong attendance that Sunday will help to show Rev. Sutherland our commitment to God's work in Stevenston.

Andrew Tomlinson,

Clerk to the Nominating Committee

Letter from Ardrossan Social Services

NORTH AYRSHIRE
Health and Social Care Partnership



Livingstone Church

Just a little letter to express our gratitude to you all for your contributions to our service over Christmas.

As you can see from the pictures we were able to provide our families with Christmas presents and over 80 families benefited from a roast dinner ensuring they had a hot meal for Christmas Day.

The money that you kindly donated went towards this and also to buy gifts for teenagers that we work with.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated by the staff and our services users and is a testament to the goodwill and charity of you all.

Best Wishes for 2017
Ardrossan Social Services



Fabric Committee Report



As usual the weather rules the roost at this time of the year. But we managed to catch up on a few jobs which were needing attention on the inside of the church. These had accumulated for a while such as faulty pew doors, loose boards under the seats and poor wiring in the sound system microphones.

The guards on the radiators in the large hall were removed to allow Maureen to clean and wash them and are now back to normal and looking good.

By the time you read this report the church windows above the front door should have been replaced although the weather may have held this job back. The Panto went well thanks to all the hard work and dedication of the Pantomime members both on and off stage and the fabric committee too.

Now the days are getting longer, outside jobs will be taken care of. I can already see one right outside the front door

Fabric Committee

J.A.M. Club Nativity



There was a real treat in store for all who attended the church service on the 18th December. The whole service was taken by the J.A. M club and was ably lead by Alexander Chisholm. Alexander is working towards

his silver Duke of Edinburgh award and by leading the service this has also helped him towards the Scouts' Diamond award.

The nativity was called, "The Christmas Star's Big Shine," and was narrated throughout by Fraser Chisholm. There was the bossy angel, Emma McKechnan, nudging the star and telling him he had a very important job to do and the star, Duncan Chisholm, 'the shiniest star in the whole universe' travelling to find Bethlehem (first of all via Africa where he met a monkey, Ewan McKechnan.)

The monkey joined in, grasped Little Star's gleaming tail and off they both flew to find Bethlehem, through the sky, across a huge ocean and over a leafy rainforest where they met a tiger, Ewan again! The tiger told them it was not Bethlehem but India.

So tiger joined on, took hold of monkey, while monkey grasped Little Star's tail and off they all zoomed till they reached China and met Panda, played by Natalie Hastings. Here Panda joined on also and once again they all rushed through the velvet sky, faster and faster until suddenly they nearly crashed into the angel.

"Look out," shouted the angel as she left to tell the shepherds about the good news.

Little Star closed his eyes, puffed out his chest and began to shine until he burst into the most dazzling shine of his life.

Yes there he was from his vantage point up in the pulpit shining like a well-lit Christmas tree covered in fairy lights. We gathered from the narrator that the star shone so brightly that it showed the way to the shepherds and also the Wise Men, who came later.

It was brilliant, a fantastic ending. All credit to the J.A.M. club for the excellent nativity, and a special word of thanks to Alexander for conducting the service with such confidence and maturity. Well done to all.

Catherine Reid

Finance Report



The end of December is the end of the financial year for the Church and it is on these figures that Ministry and Mission and Presbytery dues are based and the overall numbers you will see in the Church's Annual Report. It is an opportunity to see how we have done financially compared to last year and consider what our prospects are as we go forward into the future.

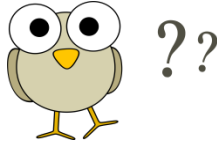
Overall donations were down by 1.5% (£634) which does not seem to be much of a difference but for most of 2016 donations were ahead of 2015 and the drop was in the last two months. This fall in donations has continued through January and is a source of concern to the Session.

Combined with the drop in donations there has been a large increase in our expenses. We used reserves to pay for the new boiler but paid for the new windows from the fabric fund (£1760). However the main expense was the payment for Ministerial Assistance (£6236) compared to £324 in 2015. We should have been paying that amount in previous years so expenses in previous years have been lower than they should have been and that has protected us in the past from deficit. Now we face this expense on a continuing basis until we have a new Minister but then we will lose the discount we receive for being a vacant charge which is about the same as the Ministerial Assistance cost. We must budget for much greater expenses in the future.

This comes down to your weekly giving. It is the only source of income we have any control over so I would once more ask you to review your givings. If you are eligible to donate by Gift Aid it only needs a simple signature to enable us to claim an extra 20% from what you already give. I have not given figures this time as they will be in the Annual report.

Finlay Kerr (Treasurer)

Bible Quiz



Here are some Bible firsts. All of them have a New Testament reference. Can you supply the name or the phrase?

1. Who was the first person to call Jesus “Lord”?
2. In which town did Jesus perform his first miracle?
3. In which city were the disciples first called Christians?
4. Who was the first Christian martyr?
5. Who were the first Christian missionaries?
6. Who was the first Gentile convert?
7. In which city was the first Christian church located?
8. Which is the first commandment in importance?
9. Who was the first disciple to recognise Jesus as the Christ?
10. Which is the first commandment with a promise?

Key Lime Pie



Some years ago we were on holiday in Key West in Florida when we visited a preserved 19th century fisherman’s house. The house was owned by the Curry Family whose predecessors, we learned, had

emigrated from Scotland. The owner was present in the house on the day we were there and when she learned that we were from Scotland she invited us into her kitchen for a chat. As we left she handed me this recipe which was first created in the house in 1894 by Aunt Sally a cook. I make it regularly and all the family love it. It tastes so good and yet is very easy to make. Here it is and I hope some of you will have a go at making it.

Ingredients

4 eggs separated

3½ fl. oz. lime juice

14 oz. can sweetened condensed milk

60g sugar

Large sweet pastry case

¼ teaspoon cream of tartar.

Method

Beat egg yolks until light and fluffy. Blend in lime juice, then condensed milk stirring until mixture thickens. Pour mixture into pastry case. Beat egg whites with the cream of tartar until stiff. Gradually beat in sugar, beating until glossy peaks form. Spread egg whites over surface of pie to edge of crust. Bake in 350degree oven (155-160 Fan assisted) until golden brown, about 25 minutes. Chill in fridge for several hours before serving. Enjoy!

Church Diary



Regular worship

Sunday at 11.30am.

Wednesday morning service in the church hall at 10.30am.

Sunday 5th March

Communion Sunday

Service in Ardeer at 10am and in Livingstone at 11.30am

Sunday 12th March Rev. Dave Sutherland preaches as sole nominee

Service in Ardeer at 10am and in Livingstone at 11.30am.



Monday 10th April Combined service in Ardeer at 6.30pm

Tuesday 11th April Service in Ardeer and Livingstone at 6.30pm.

Wednesday 12th April Combined service in Livingstone at 6.30pm.

Thursday 13th April Joint Communion service in Livingstone at 7pm.

Friday 14th April Combined service in Ardeer at 6.30pm.

Answers to quiz

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Elizabeth, Luke 1:43 | 6. Cornelius, Acts 10 |
| 2. Cana, John 2:1-11 | 7. Jerusalem, Acts 2:5, 41-47 |
| 3. Antioch, Acts 11:26 | 8. To love God, Mark 12:29-30 |
| 4. Stephen, Acts 7:54-60 | 9. Peter, Matthew 16:16 |
| 5. Paul and Barnabas, Galatians 2:9 | 10. Honour your father and
mother, Ephesians 6:2 |

My thanks go to all contributors for their continued support.

Articles for the June magazine should be sent to me by Sunday 7th May
to magazine@livingstonechurch.org.uk