

## Letter from the Editor



Welcome to the September edition of our magazine. How time flies. We have recently returned from a first visit to Jersey in the Channel Isles. While there we visited several churches in the island one of which was the most unique and original church we have ever seen. It is known simply as St Matthews Glass Church. This small church is rather plain and uninteresting on the outside but once inside it is a feast for the eyes.

No massive stonework or elaborate wood carvings were in evidence. Instead the real star of the structure was glass, colourless, opaque, exquisite glass, carved in the most beautiful shapes of angels, flowers, columns and even a large glass font- the largest glass font in the world. The communion table, made of frosted glass, stands in front of a dominating glass cross, over four metres tall. The cross, flanked by two pillars, contains concealed lighting that when lit, displays the glass to its best advantage.

Anyone familiar with glass art will know the name Rene Lalique and would marvel at this, one of his greatest achievements. The moulds of the glass sculptures were destroyed by Lalique himself so this remains unique in the world. The work was commissioned by Lady Florence Trent a resident of Jersey. Although she lived there she also owned a villa in the South of France next door to Rene Lalique. She convinced Lalique, in collaboration with a local architect to refurbish the interior of St Matthews in memory of her late husband Jesse Boot, the founder of Boots the Chemist. The magnificent work was started in 1932 and completed in 1934 and to this day stands open for residents and visitors alike on the south shore of the island in a suburb of St. Helier.

## Interim Moderator's Letter



Dear Friends,

As I write this letter at the end of July, the central heating is on and the rain is cascading down the window. The weather forecast for the rest of the week is rather gloomy but as we move into August, we hope for better things and perhaps some warmth before autumn begins.

We have not heard from the Nominating Committee so we can assume that their efforts have not yet borne fruit. However, whilst we don't have a forecast, we can look forward with more than hope because we also have faith.

That wonderful psalm "I to the hills will lift mine eyes" assures us that as God created the universe and all around us, he continues to guide us, he never sleeps. He is always at our right hand and will preserve us from all ill.

Whilst we may be disappointed that the minister of the linkage has not yet been found, there is no need for us to be downcast. Livingstone Parish Church has a very strong Kirk Session and extremely good leaders of the organizations. This will ensure that the smooth running of affairs continues until the day comes to welcome a minister. That may be in the near future or bearing in mind the number of vacancies throughout Scotland, it may be well in the future.

What I do know is that God has a plan for us and that it will be revealed in his good time. Until then, we should continue to give thanks to God for all that he has provided for us and seek his guidance by our prayers.

Jesus said “The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes.” He spoke of the Holy Spirit.

We may not be able to predict the weather; that is something with which we have to contend and neither can we predict the influence of the Holy Spirit. The surprise element is what we need to take us out of a stodgy predictable past.

With every blessing,

Ken Welch

### Session News



As part of the September Communion Elders' visit all members are being issued with a new communion card which will only contain your name. The removal of your address is part of our compliance with the data protection act. You will also be asked to sign a form

agreeing for us to hold your name and address on a secure congregational role. If you want further information please contact the Session Clerk. If you do not manage to meet with your elder but wish to complete the form please sign it and return it to

The Session Clerk

Livingstone Church

New Street

Stevenston

### The Guild



Our opening meeting will be on Tuesday 15th September at 1.30pm in the Church Hall.

Our new strategy for the next three years is 'Be Bold, Be Strong!' with the first year's theme 'Go in Peace' and the topic 'let's talk about....working through conflict'. Of the six projects for the new strategy, the two chosen for this year are:-

'Let's stick together' from Care for the Family, Scotland and

'Caring for Mother Earth in Bolivia' from Christian Aid.

The strategy, the theme, the topic and the projects all come from the

Guild Headquarters at 121 George Street, Edinburgh, and are what makes the Guild different from any groups or clubs that meet in the Church regularly.

Having said all that, I don't want you to think for one minute that the Guild is always a serious group of people discussing serious problems of today. Far from it! A very varied syllabus has been completed to appeal to all tastes.

It includes our annual Macmillan coffee afternoon; speakers on a wide variety of topics to entertain, inform, amuse and inspire the members; there will be two concerts; Burns entertainment; visit to South Beach House to entertain the residents; and services conducted by ourselves at Christmas and Easter. We also have the Ardrossan Presbyterial Council meetings to attend where we meet friends from other Guilds and share fellowship.

I must say that the members of Livingstone Guild are very loyal, generous and interested in all aspects of the syllabus, and the work of the Guild and I cannot wish for any more than that. So if any of you would like to come and join us you will be made most welcome.

Dorothy Penno

### Prayer Thoughts



When we pray we should never lose sight of the fact that prayer is a conversation. If you think back on your own conversations, with

family, with friends, with colleagues, with strangers, you find that they will have covered all the human emotions. Words full of joy, of despair, of anger, of love; at one time or another they will all have been part of our conversations. So it is with our prayers, it is a conversation and it will not always be from a situation of a calm mind undisturbed by worldly thoughts and issues. If we look at the prayers of Jesus we find the same. Consider this prayer from Matthew 11 at verse 25.

*Then Jesus prayed this prayer: "O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, thank you for hiding the truth from those who think themselves so wise and clever, and for revealing it to the childlike."<sup>26</sup> Yes, Father, it pleased you to do it this way!*

This was a prayer in a time of frustration when Jesus finds himself being rejected by some of the people who have witnessed his teaching and healing. He may be concerned that he is not making the impact he wants, but he sees beyond his own feelings to God's plan, a plan of which he is a crucial part. So yes, we can express our frustrations in our own conversations with God, but like Jesus we also have to be mindful of God's plan being worked out in ways that we may not understand.

### Themes

**Approach:** Quietly repeat the Lord's Prayer and feel His presence around you.

**Confession:** Consider those times when frustration has caused your prayers to falter or stop. Think of when impatience has got in the way, making you forget that God will answer our prayers.

**Thanksgiving:**

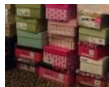
- Ministry – continue to give thanks for David Heberton’s work with us.
- Youth Ministry – Give thanks for the work done through the JAM club and the holiday club. Give thanks also for the team who set up and delivered the Summer Mission in the town and give thanks for the impact it has had.
- Interim Moderator – give thanks for the work Ken does on behalf of both congregations.
- Web site – give thanks for the work done by Ross to create and maintain our excellent web site.

#### **Intercession:**

- Ministry – Pray that God will direct a minister to come to lead us in Livingstone and Ardeer.
- Our Schools – Pray for the staff and pupils in our schools.
- Data Protection – Pray that the permissions required by ‘Data Protection’ will be collected easily in each elder’s district.
- Foodbank – pray that the food bank will be well supported for as long as it is needed.

Andrew Tomlinson

#### **Blythwood Care Shoebox Appeal**



Since 1966, Blythwood Care has combined the Christian message with practical help for those in need. Whether through filled

shoeboxes at Christmas, relief and development aid or social projects for young and old, Blythwood brings hope to thousands in Europe, Africa and Asia. Blythwood is committed to long-term care projects in Romania, enabling disadvantaged children and young people fulfil their potential. With the support of people like you, Blythwood provides loving care for body and soul.

The shoeboxes received in 2014 were delivered to Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Kosovo, Moldova, Pakistan, Romania, Serbia and Ukraine.

Please help with this year’s appeal from Blythwood Care by filling a shoebox with items and **GIVE A GIFT AND BRING SOME JOY** to others.

Boxes will be collected at our Harvest Service in October. Please look out for leaflets in the pews.

Dorothy Hershaw

#### **Churches in the Presbytery**



I hope you have enjoyed reading about the different churches in the Presbytery in recent magazines. For this magazine I have asked one of our friends from the High Kirk to tell us about its history. I’d like to take this opportunity to thank the contributor for the excellent article.

## High Kirk Stevenston



The present church building is the third to have stood on the site. A new church was erected in about 1670 and in 1744 the Saltcoats parishioners financed the Saltcoats Aisle. The church was often used by mariners trading in and out of Saltcoats and the centre one of three lofts was called the Sailors Loft, the others being the Ardeer and Kerelaw Lofts. The Sailors Loft had a strict order of naval precedence, the front row for captains, the second for mates and the remainder for sailors, while the harbour master was the custodian of the door.

In 1832 the patrons and inheritors of the parish, ‘caused the old church to be pulled down’ due to ‘insufficient in one of its walls’ and ‘incapable of accommodating the requisite number of examinable persons.’ On May 4<sup>th</sup> 1832 the foundations of the new church were laid on the site of the old and work on the road to the church and manse begun. The new church was opened for public worship on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May 1833 and Dr Landsborough’s address was from psalm 122, “I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord.”

To mark the centenary in 1933 improvements to the approach to church and manse were made. An arch marking off the Kirkgate from

Manse Brae was erected bearing the dates 1833 and 1933. Interestingly during the war the church hall was requisitioned for government use.

Of the eleven ministers who have served the present church the following two are of interest. The Rev Dr David Landsborough served from 1811 to 1843. In 1843 he became Free Church minister in Saltcoats and played a vital role in the first school at Kyleshill. The Landsborough School was a day school for local children and was used as a meeting place for church business and Sunday School. He was buried in 1854 in High Kirk churchyard and outside the belfry window remains a personal memento of this remarkable man, his sundial inscribed D L 1811.

The other, Rev. Alexander MacDonald(1921-1927) was an Islay man, fluent in Gaelic. In a later ministry he was appointed Moderator of the General Assembly.

In the 125<sup>th</sup> year from the building of the church a small chapel and vestry were built on the back of the church known as St Monach’s aisle. This stands on the site of the pre-Reformation church. St Monach was a contemporary of St Columba and his name has persisted in this area for many hundreds of years.

Much of Stevenston’s past can be traced through the church vaults and the graveyard surrounding the church. Beneath the church are the family vaults of the Cunninghams of Auchenhavie, the Hamiltons of Kerelaw and the Warners of Ardeer, formerly the most notable families in the area. Part of the vaults date back to 1627 when a monk’s prayer cell sat on the site. The graveyard is situated on the hill

around the church and many of the graves are older than the present church. Rev. David Landsborough and Rev. John Bell, previous ministers are remembered in the graveyard.

Stevenston High Kirk still stands overlooking the town which it has served all these years. From its lofty position the building has witnessed many changes in the structure, layout and life of the town.

### Summer Mission



*I pray that you, together with all God's people, may have the power to understand how broad and long and high and deep is Christ's love'. Ephesians 3:18*

This text from scripture was the memory verse for this year's Summer Mission which was held on the last week of July.

A Fun Day launched Mission Week in the grounds of the High Kirk. This was a great success attended by 150 children and their families who enjoyed the many activities and challenges on offer, all based on higher, longer, broader and deeper. Many members of the three congregations enjoyed watching the activities while enjoying a cup of tea and BBQ in the sunshine! And yes we were very lucky as it was sunny. This event also provided the opportunity for children to register for the children's club to be held throughout the week ahead.

The children's club (Mega Makers) was attended over four mornings by 61 children, with 10 young teenage helpers as well as adult helpers from the three congregations. Activities, games, songs and stories were planned around wider and wider, deeper and deeper, stronger and stronger and forever and ever. These reinforced the text each day and we hope that we planted seeds of faith which hopefully will develop in the children as they grow and mature into adults. Each day the children also enjoyed the fellowship of having lunch together.

We also held two youth evenings on Wednesday and Thursday and were encouraged that each night we had 20 teenagers attending together with adult helpers from the three churches. A well planned programme of challenges, quizzes, games and talks was on offer for the young folk and each night finished with supper which was greatly enjoyed by all. On Friday evening teams of young and not so young, took part in quizzes, games and challenges. This Fun Night was another opportunity for folks from all three churches to join with families from the Mission Week. The evening finished with a light supper.

On Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August we held a Prayer Walk. This started at Ardeer Church, stopped at all places of worship in the town for prayers and songs and finished at Hayocks Community Centre. Despite the weather we were pleased by the turnout from the churches and the opportunity to chat with others along the way. Many walked the whole route while others did a mixture of walking and hitching a lift and all were rewarded with a most welcome and much needed afternoon tea.

The very full programme of events for the week was planned over a number of months. This ensured that nothing was left to chance and that as varied a programme as possible was delivered to the families

in the town. The Mission also provided a very valuable link with the other churches and was a great opportunity to work and co- operate together in fellowship, friendship and faith.

We would like to thank members of our congregation who delivered the publicity leaflets, assisted at the fun day, provided tea for the prayer walk as well as those who attended the events.

This year's Mission was a great success but that would not have been possible without all the adult co-operation and help.

Special thanks to the ' Livingstone Team' who helped at the activities throughout the week, attended planning meetings and gave a huge amount of time and commitment to this very valuable and worthwhile outreach to families in our parish and in the town.

Dorothy Hershaw

#### Mission Week Youth Team



During Mission Week this year the youth team have helped organise and run the activities. At the Fun Day on the first Saturday we all ran a base each and helped set up and take down all the equipment at the end of the event. After the lunch on the Sunday we, along with the adult helpers spent Sunday afternoon at the High Kirk halls setting up for Mega Makers (the name chosen for this year's Summer Club.)

Mega Makers kicked off on Monday with members of the youth team leading the singing, the warm up stretches and working the so called

mega machine each day. We also organised the schedule for the youth nights and we all lead an activity there on the Wednesday and Thursday evenings.

On the Friday we assisted with the running of the Challenge Evening and during the Prayer Walk on the Sunday we helped lead the singing and the actions for the choruses, which we sang at each stop along the way.

I have also been helping run the Facebook page called Stevenston Summer Mission giving updates about the events during the week. Our commitment during the week was because we wanted to bring more people of all ages to discover Jesus.

John Wilson

#### Under Our Skin



Can you identify the biblical words that are “under our skin” by supplying the missing ones below?

1. God used a ..... from Adam in creating Eve.
2. The “man”, Jacob wrestled, touched the ..... of his thigh.
3. Job said that if he ever lifted a hand against the fatherless “then let my..... fall from my shoulder”.
- 4 The king of Babylon engaged in divination by looking at a .....



5. Ezekiel was to say, “O dry…… hear the word of the Lord.”
6. Isiah saw the sword of the Lord filled with “the fat of the …… of rams.
7. “Blessed are the pure in …… for they shall see God .”
8. When he confessed Jesus as the Christ, Jesus told Peter that “flesh and ……had not revealed this to him.”
9. Jesus was crucified at Golgotha, known as “a place of a ……”
10. Timothy was advised to sip some wine “for the sake of your…… and your frequent ailments.”

Answers can be found at end of magazine.

### Update on Finance



### Numbers

Main Fund Balances	Mar 31 <sup>st</sup>	Jun 30 <sup>th</sup>
General Fund	-3053	3193
Designated Funds	3565	3094
Restricted Funds	1977	2166

Fabric Fund	10309	10370
Beneficiary/Reserve Funds	125984	125140

### Comparison of Offerings

	2015 (Jan-Mar)	2015(Jan-Jun)
Plate	300	610
Gift Aided	6142	12258
Free Will Offering	2601	5066

Overall Offerings up by 6% compared to same period last year.

### Comparison of Total Income

11151	31269
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Overall income is down 1% compared to same period last year.

<b>Comparison of Expenses</b>	14607	29549
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Overall expenses for the first half of 2015 are up 10%

Other income	Investors dividends	£1356
	Gift Aid tax reclaim	£8647





their time each week and the girls enjoy meeting each other and joining in the games. We look forward to our next visit.

Joan Smith and John Beck

### Our holiday in South Dakota



South Dakota was our destination this year, home to Wild Bison, the Black Hills, the Badlands, Mount Rushmore, Crazy Horse Memorial, Chuck Wagon Suppers, Rodeos, Pow Wows (Native American singing, dancing and drumming) 4th July parade and night time breathtaking fireworks. AND hot, sunny weather with a few spectacular and violent thunder and lightning storms thrown in for good measure.

Our accommodation as usual was a KOA (Kampgrounds of America) kamping kabin in Rapid City. These wonderful wooden cabins with a porch and porch swing, house a bed, a set of bunks and a shelf, basic but we love staying in them. We have the pleasure of camping without having to take a tent. We do have to take bedding, stove and dishes but that is all part of the enjoyment. For us it beats staying in a hotel hands down.

Each site had a fire pit where we sat at night, enjoying a glass of something after cooking a delicious evening meal on our small stove. Sometimes we ate out at various types of restaurant. One

night we decided to have a pizza. ....We entered the shop- asked for a pepperoni pizza- the server opened the oven and lifted out an already boxed 16" pizza and handed it to us!! ....\$5 (about £3) !!! incredible ....must be the fastest Fast Food ever.

Some of the highlights of our trip were driving along the Wild Life Loop in Custer State Park and finding a wild Bison herd either side of the road. One very large bull brushed against the car! We also heard and saw the little Prairie Dogs, plus a herd of Burros, not native to Dakota but descendants of those left behind by the gold miners of long ago.

Leaving the Wild Life Loop, we drove The Needles Loop. This presents a very different landscape of the park...It was given the name Needles from the mountainous rock formation in this part of the park. They were long, high fingers of rock, many with holes very like the eye of a needle. Periodically built into the rock were three tunnels barely wide enough to accommodate a family car. The final drive was on the Iron Mountain Loop....a continual spiral up and over the mountain. This too had tunnels. The engineers designed them so that when driving through the tunnels the Presidents' Heads of Mount Rushmore are framed in the exit of the tunnel...very clever.

While driving along the Highway, the Badlands in the National Park of that name suddenly rise before you. The Badlands formations are breathtaking, a place of extremes. The mountain region has very little grass, trees, foliage, rivers or lakes. Ice seas, volcanoes and earthquakes formed them millions of years ago when dinosaurs roamed the land. South Dakota is a dinosaur mecca for palaeontologists digging for bones. Strata of rock of various hues...gold, yellow, bronze, shades of pink from pale to deep abound. 'Beware of Rattle Snakes' notices are posted along the

route! Other inhabitants of the Badlands are coyotes, vultures, turtles, and many more. Incredibly homesteaders were able to survive the harshness of this land.

Rapid City had lots to offer in the way of concerts, movies under the stars, Native American culture events and lots more, all free. We, like everyone else, took along our lawn chairs and sat in the wonderful town square where these events took place. The Town Square which is only a few years old has a covered raised stage, astroturf instead of grass and ground level fountains that spurt in various sequences. The children and adults had a great time running through the fountains to cool down on the hot days.  
Three wonderful weeks!!

Dorothy & Arthur Taylor

### **Fabric Committee Report**



The weather this summer has been disastrous in more ways than one.

During a storm in July, trees behind the large hall swept many tiles off the hall roof causing water to come in. This meant that the trees had to be felled, slates replaced and the gutter repaired and cleaned.

If anyone has a wood burning stove and would like some logs, then come along and help yourself from the pile at the rear of the church.

The roof of the church itself was also damaged by the gales. This has not been repaired yet as the slater is waiting on better weather, which hopefully will come soon, fingers crossed.

A pool of water appeared on the kitchen floor and this turned out to be a leak in the kitchen boiler. A new boiler was bought and fitted and things seem to be back to normal.

We have new floodlights for the stage lighting in the large hall and there is one last curtain to be hung for the stage.

We have managed to get someone to take one of the spare pianos from the lesser hall. There is one still available. If anyone is interested, please see a member of the Fabric Committee.

### **Jeff Stevenson**

On 3<sup>rd</sup> August Jeff Stevenson one of our elders passed away. Jeff was someone who knew the value of service to others – much of that being based on his very firm Christian faith and commitment.

He served as a deacon in the old Deacon's Court for a number of years before being ordained as an elder in the 1980's. The lives of many boys in the town were touched by Jeff through his role as captain of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Stevenston Boy's Brigade, here in Livingstone. Jeff demonstrated a real commitment to the company through the giving of his time to company nights, camps in the summer and to two lots of football on Saturdays. He was ably supported in all of this by his late wife Jean, who washed two sets of football strips every week.

We extend our sympathy to his daughter Margaret, sons James and Martin and all their families at this sad time.

## Church Diary



Regular worship

Each Sunday at 11.30am

Wednesday morning services will recommence on September 9<sup>th</sup> in the church hall at 10.30am.

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September**

**Communion Sunday**

Livingstone Church 11.30am

Ardeer Church 10.00am

Please note there will be no evening service on Communion Sunday.

Please check regular Sunday Orders of Service for dates of other services etc.

## Organisations

The new session will begin in the near future.

The Rainbows have their opening meeting on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September from 6pm to 7pm.

The Brownies will also begin on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September from 6pm to 7.30pm.

The Guides will have their first meeting on Wednesday August 26<sup>th</sup>.

The J.A.M Club will commence on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September.

The Badminton club starts up again on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm.

As already mentioned in Guild article, the Guild will have their first meeting on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September at 1.30pm.

The Livingstone players will commence their rehearsals for the Christmas Pantomime early in September. Date to be confirmed.



Q: As people age, do they sleep more soundly?

A: Yes but usually in the afternoon.

Q: How can you avoid that terrible curse of the elderly, wrinkles?

A: Take off your glasses.

## Answers to 'Under our Skin' quiz

- |                               |                               |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. rib, (Genesis 2:21-22)     | 2. sinew, (Genesis 32:32)     |
| 3. shoulder blade (Job 31:22) | 4. liver, (Ezekiel 21:21)     |
| 5. bones, (Ezekiel 37:4)      | 6. kidneys, (Isaiah 34:6)     |
| 7. heart, (Matthew 5:8)       | 8. blood, (Matthew 16:17)     |
| 9. skull, (Matthew 27:33)     | 10. Stomach, (1 Timothy 5:23) |

**Please remember:** All articles for the next magazine should be sent to me by 1st November. The new address for e-mails is :  
magazine @livingstone church.org.uk

**And Finally.....** Thanks to all contributors and to those who help with the folding of the magazine.