

Letter from the Editor



As I write this letter I am aware that Christian Aid week will be quite soon, on the week beginning the 10th May. This year too will be the 70th Anniversary of the founding of Christian Aid. The organisation that became Christian Aid was launched just after the Second World War and the Churches' initial vision was of a world where everyone is respected because they are a human being; where all have equal rights and people live in peace and harmony; where all live in a world without poverty. This vision is still as relevant today as it was 70 years ago.

Christian Aid is one of the many charities that have launched special appeals in response to the earthquake in Nepal. In fact the other day I was reading a column in the Herald, written by the Rt. Rev. John Chalmers, Moderator of the General Assembly. In it he was telling us that he would be climbing Ben Lomond with many others, initially as a sponsored outing to raise awareness and raise funds for Christian Aid. However the decision was taken later that every penny raised on Ben Lomond will now go to the Nepal Earthquake appeal. As the Moderator said, "I have a mountain to climb, but Ben Lomond is nothing compared to the mountain that has to be climbed by the people of Nepal. They cannot recover from this catastrophe without help from every possible source from around the world."

The Moderator finished by saying that this effort was just a start, in fact just a drop in a bucket but "a dripping tap soon fills a bucket." Hopefully in time the Scottish contribution will make a little difference.

Interim Moderator's Letter



Dear Friends,

Doesn't time fly! It seems that celebrations for Christmas and New Year were hardly over before we were celebrating Easter and here we are at the start of the summer, a time when it is claimed that the church takes a breath before a new session comes along. The organizations have ceased for a break and soon our thoughts will be turning to summer holidays.

For Livingstone and Ardeer, there is no respite this year as the nominating committee continues with its task of finding a suitable candidate to recommend as the next minister of the linked charge. We all hope that their work will be blessed and that they will be able to report sooner rather than later. However, we must be patient as there is a great shortage of people entering the ministry.

Maybe the church is able to take a short break, but God never rests. We read in Psalm 121, "Where shall I find help? Help comes only from the Lord, maker of heaven and earth. How could he let your foot stumble? How could he your guardian, sleep. The guardian of Israel never slumbers or sleeps, The Lord will guard you against all evil and he will guard your going and your coming".

As I am writing these notes, the terrible events in Nepal are unfolding and we inevitably have that feeling, where is God when all this carnage is taking place? The one thing that we can be sure of is that God is there in the midst supporting those affected in so many different ways. In our own country £19m was raised in a matter of

hours to support the rescue mission which is an example of love for others and I am sure that this is also replicated in other countries.

Why do these things happen? The short answer is we don't know. The geologists can tell us how the earth plates move but they cannot answer all the questions and none of us know why disasters occur from time to time. We can know that God does care because the bible tells us so and the fact that God allowed his Son to suffer for our sins on the cross at Calvary shows us the depth of His love for us.

In Paul's letter to the Corinthians, he states, "Now we see only puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we shall see face to face. My knowledge now is partial; then it will be whole, like God's knowledge of me. In a word, there are three things that last for ever: faith, hope and love; but the greatest of them all is love."

May we continue to be disciples for our Lord, showing our love for all around us and enjoy whatever rest we are able to gain in the months ahead.

With every blessing,

Ken Welch

Interim Moderator

The Guild



We have had a successful year in the final year of the three year strategy, "Whose we are and Whom we Serve". The theme for this

final year was "A World to Serve" and we have supported the last 2 of the 6 projects - "Mary's Meals" and "Comfort Rwanda".

We have had a good variety of speakers talking on different interesting subjects and an enjoyable concert.

Following our informative talk about Dundonald Castle in March we decided to have an afternoon visit to see the Castle for ourselves followed by afternoon tea in Troon.

We arranged a "Sandwich and Sweet" lunch to bring the congregation together socially and to support the charity "500 Miles".

As the Ardrossan Presbyterian Council June Rally is this year in Brodick, we decided to use this as our trip giving us time to explore the town, attend the service which includes Communion and return to enjoy a meal together in Saltcoats.

The syllabus for next year is complete and includes many different subjects and hopefully will be enjoyed by the members.

Dorothy Penno

Prayer Thoughts



To finish our series of thoughts based on the 'The Lord's Prayer', we arrive at

For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory for ever.

This sentence gives a bit of a dilemma, Luke does not include it at all and only some translations of Matthew have it. It is possible it comes from David's prayer recorded in 1Chronicles chapter 29 at verse 11. Nevertheless, consider these words which complete the familiar prayer we say. They really bring together the whole reason why we offer God our prayers. God is the all powerful, the only person capable of answering our prayers. The kingdom we seek to be part of is God's and when we obey God, we are showing how the people of that kingdom actively do his will. As we try to do his will we reflect God's glory to others and in turn give that Glory to God. So whether it is recorded in all the old manuscripts or not this sentence gives the foundation to our prayer life.

Themes

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

Confession: Reflect on your life's journey. Think on those times you have felt the need of God's power to deliver you from bad circumstances and come to the realisation that he was already there sharing your experience.

Thanksgiving:

- Ministry – continue to give thanks for David Heberton's work with us.
- Blessings – give thanks for all the people who work to give us the ordinary everyday things and services, farmers, shopkeepers, council workers and many more.

- Sunday services – take a moment to think on the many people who work in different ways to make the service possible and give thanks for their work.
- Centre Stage – give thanks that the work previously done by ASFaCT continues and that ASFaCT seeks other ways to be of service to the community.

Intercession:

- Ministry – Pray that God will direct a minister to come to lead us in Livingstone and Ardeer.
- Christians at risk – pray for those who suffer for their faith and for God to show that his love can conquer all.
- Illness – pray for those known to you who are ill or in need that they will feel God's comfort.
- Young People – pray for those who are about to change school or leave school that they may have a settled future.

Andrew Tomlinson

Session News



Following a recent training course a small group of elders have been looking at Church of Scotland procedures for the implementation of the Data Protection Act.

Together with your copy of this magazine you should have received a letter outlining what this means for our church and giving you information about procedures to be followed by all members come September.

If you have any questions about this or want further information then please speak to your elder or contact me.

Sandy Hershaw,

Session Clerk

Churches in the Presbytery

This time, Ann Turner, a member of St Cuthbert's Church in Saltcoats, has written the following article to give us some information about the history of her church. I'd like to thank Ann for taking the time to do this for us.

Saltcoats St Cuthbert's Church



The present church was built in 1908 by the renowned (at the time) architect McGregor Chalmers. It only became St Cuthbert's after the union of 1929 and the name derived by accident. St Cuthbert's in

Edinburgh was the church where our then minister the Rev Daniel David Rees was an assistant before he came to Saltcoats.

Previous to 1929 the church had been the original parish church of Ardrossan (there being no historical parish of Saltcoats and the parish of Stevenston conjoined the parish of Ardrossan)

The Church's history can be traced back to the ruined church on Castlehill in Ardrossan, built in 12/13 century. From there a church was built at Laird Weir in Ardrossan (the baptismal bowl used today was excavated from that area over 100 years ago). The next church to be built was the church at the Kirkgate in Saltcoats (now the museum and not the building that is now named as such).

The current church, built on the glebe of the Kirkgate church was constructed as a result of the previous building being regarded as 'unsanitary'. Thus a large airy church was constructed – a definite disadvantage nowadays.

The church is a sandstone building – inside and out and is built more on the Anglican style with a longer chancel area than is normal in Scottish churches.

There are chancel stained glass windows by Percy Bacon – an English artist- installed when the church was built, windows by William Wilson installed in the late 1940's and two further windows by Gordon Webster in the 1960's

There is a model of a ship hanging in the church which was gifted to the previous church by a sailor in the Napoleonic wars. It is potentially of value but as a result of various restorations over the years that value has been greatly reduced.

Ann Turner

JAM Club



Another year is nearly over and I can't quite believe how much we have crammed in. Topics include Harvest, Care Packages, St Andrew, Christmas, New Year New You, Love, Palm Sunday, Easter and Peter.

You have been entertained with singing and drama, Highlight is always the Christmas Nativity and giving out chocolate eggs on Easter Sunday. Our trip in June is to Heads of Ayr Farm Park and fingers crossed the weather will be great.

My thanks go to the helpers who volunteer their services and obviously to the children who come week in week out. Enjoy the summer and see you in September.

Luisa Chisholm

Summer Mission



This summer as in previous years our church is working in partnership with Ardeer Church and The High Kirk to hold a Summer Mission for all ages and communities in the town. A small

group from the three churches has been meeting regularly since January to plan the programme of events and activities for this year. In past years this has been an extremely successful outreach to our community while also providing the forum for very effective partnership working and fellowship between the three congregations. This year our Summer Mission will take place from Saturday 25th July until Sunday 2nd August.

Leaflets advertising the events will be distributed to all houses in the town. In past years many of our congregation helped with the delivery to our parish and we hope that this year will be the same as of course 'Many hands make light work!'

Events will include a Mega Fun Day and BBQ in the High Kirk grounds, a week of activities for primary aged children, evening events for secondary pupils, Sunday Lunch and a Praise Walk for all ages. We do hope that many of you will find some time in the week to participate. If indeed you feel that you have some time to spare and would like to help in some way then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Dorothy Hershaw

Visit to the Guides



I recently paid a visit to the guides during their regular Wednesday meeting. I was given a warm welcome by guider Joanna Blane who

introduced me to the eighteen guides on the roll. It was a very interesting evening beginning as always with the guides in horseshoe formation and the colour party raising the guide flag.

There was great excitement as the guider discussed the menu for the forthcoming guide camp which is taking place at the end of May at the Blair Activity Centre. The Activity Centre has been greatly improved and the guides were told that they would be sleeping in groups in the new wooden wigwams. In preparation for the camp they were shown how to wrap up their sleeping bag in their ground sheet to keep everything dry should there be rain.

There were different activities during the evening. In their groups they had to put the different parts of the Guide Law into the order they thought most important and then to justify their choice to the other groups. They made a 'web of friendship' using a ball of wool. One guide threw it to another saying why she chose that person i.e. because she was 'kind' or 'funny' or 'helpful' etc.

We sat round in a ring for the very popular camp fire and the singing of the guide songs. We sang 'Jelly fish,' 'Tarzan' and 'Edelweiss' among others and yes they were as amusing and complicated as their names suggest. The guides included me in all they did and I really enjoyed my time with them.

Joanna thanked me for coming and said how happy she is with the halls and the facilities there. The evening ended with the lowering of the colours and the singing of taps.

Catherine Reid

Finance



Numbers

Main Fund Balances	Dec 31st (2014)	Mar 31st
General Fund	-1027	-3053
Designated Funds	5462	3565
Restricted Funds	1766	1977
Fabric Fund	10213	10309
Beneficiary/Reserve Funds	125886	1259884

Comparison of Offerings

	2014	2015 (Jan-Mar)
Plate	244	300
Gift Aided	5625	6142
Free Will Offering	2199	2601

Overall Offerings up by 12% (Down to 6% in April)

Comparison of Expenses

Overall expenses up by 65%

While it is nice to report that next year our Offerings year on year have increased it is the case that our expenses have increased sharply.

We had a gas bill of nearly £3500 and the Livingstone Players donated substantially more than last year.

The pressure on the General Fund is going to increase now that a settlement of back payments will soon be resolved. This will increase our expenditure by several thousand each year for the foreseeable future.

As a congregation we will again have to examine and discuss our Stewardship.

I would like to thank the counting team for all their hard work (and entertainment) every Sunday after worship. To Charlie Campbell we hope to see you back with us soon. Anyone who would like a little relaxation while doing our church a service is very welcome to join us any Sunday

Finlay Kerr (Treasurer)

Easter Sunday



This was the lovely floral display which greeted us on Easter Sunday. It brightened up the church and along with the singing of favourite Easter hymns such as 'Thine be the Glory and 'Jesus is Lord!

Creations voice proclaims it,' it helped to make the Easter Service special. Mr Hebenton thanked Elizabeth Canavan and Jean Galloway for creating the display for us. If you would like to see this picture in colour, you will find it in the 'Livingstones Herald' on the website at www.livingstonechurch.org.uk.

My holiday in Australia



I left Scotland on the 14th January and arrived in Sydney, Australia on the 16th January without my suitcase. Fortunately it arrived the following afternoon by courier, (a good job my brother's clothes fitted me.)

My two brothers and I went on the Hucksbury River on a houseboat for seven days. There was a lot of water between the fish so we didn't catch many. We had a great time but some of the conversation we had there is not suitable for the church magazine. I stayed at my brothers' for a good part of my holiday where I was able to help with two flittings for my niece and nephew.

For two weeks of the holiday my brothers and I went off to tour Tasmania. This beautiful island just reminds me of the Highlands of Scotland. The orchards were full of apples and we did see the Tasmanian Devil. While there we visited Port Arthur, a small town and convict settlement, where the prisoners went when they were sent out to Australia. I found it very eerie indeed. We spent three days in Hobart, the state capital and during that time we took a bus tour on an

open top bus which was freezing! While walking in the park in Hobart I got into conversation with a lady who asked our name. When we told her it was McNaught she nearly fell off the bench where she was sitting. It turned out that her name was also McNaught, spelt the exact same way, but no relation. We returned to Melbourne by boat and then drove back to Sydney.

I spent the rest of my time there having breakfasts, lunches and of course barbeques at all the homes of my relatives, some of them even with a pool. I also managed to fit in a barbeque on the beach and I played a round of golf with my golfing partner from home as he was in Australia visiting family too.

I returned home after twenty seven hours flying time to a warm welcome from all my family who are very well.

David McNaught

Agate Collecting in Ayrshire



My history of collecting semi-precious stones began during my studies as a mining engineer in the 1960's, although collecting has been going on since Victorian times. Queen Victoria on her visits to Balmoral assembled a sizeable collection with many of the stones coming from Ayrshire localities. While Cairngorm stones, sapphires, bloodstones and jaspers can still be found, agates are slightly more common in Ayrshire.

The agates were formed in volcanic block andesite lava and are composed of mainly silica coloured with different minerals which provide hues of red, blue, yellow, brown and green. The stones are very hard and can cut glass.

The main locations locally are at Galston and Dunure.

The Galston agates vary in size from a few inches to larger ones which can weigh up to 13 kilos and are found in veins in the lava and at various depths.

The Dunure agates are much smaller (like a small potato) and can be found along the shoreline and in the adjacent fields where they can be discovered during ploughing.

Because of the hardness of the agates, polishing them is a lengthy process and requires the use of silicon carbide grit and polish of various grades. Cutting the stones is carried out on a diamond lapidary machine or disc. They are then polished to a jewellery finish on a series of wheels and shaped to a required design into necklaces, brooches, bracelets and rings.

My own collection of over 500 pieces is mostly in flat specimen form or in cabochons (which are oval on one side and flat on the other). It was on display at the Royal Scottish Museum in Edinburgh for six months.

On a historical note, The Kilmarnock Herald of July 1907 wrote:- "Agate mining was a forbidden pursuit and landowners did not approve! On moonlight nights, with lanterns, picks, shovels and pumps, miners would wend their way to select their claim." It was very trying work, for the miners sometimes had to dig down six or eight feet. If fortunate to come across the right stone they put the lumps in their bags and trudged home. The next step was to send the

stones to some Edinburgh jeweller who would pay up to 3 shillings a pound for the very best. This gave the miners some ready cash.

Nowadays, with the farmer's permission, and the assistance of a J.C.B digger, retrieving the agate is easier.

"There is no greater thrill than finding a braw pebble fae the Burn Anne."

Bobby Gorrie

Fabric Committee Report



The large hall stage has been improved with new curtain rails and new stage curtains. We hope this will aid the productions of the pantomimes and concerts etc. and add to the drama too. New stage lighting will be installed later on when all the organisations, who use the halls, have stopped for the summer holidays.

We still have a very good library in the lesser hall so please come and browse. We also have a surplus of pianos and would be interested to know if anyone in the congregation knows of anyone or any organisation who would like one. Please contact the Fabric Committee if interested.

One or two doors have been repaired and a light fitting replaced. There are always jobs to be done in an old building.

Bible Quiz



"What's gone is gone!" sometimes but not always. Supply the missing words and you will see that sometimes 'what's gone is gone' but sometimes only temporarily.

1. "All we like _____ have gone astray."
2. "He perceived that _____ had gone out of him."
3. It was said of Jesus that "the _____ is gone after him."
4. "For the _____ passes over it and it is gone."
5. "For lo the winter is passed, the _____ is over and gone."
6. "When the _____ is gone out of a man, he passes through waterless places seeking rest, but he finds none."
7. "Give us some of your _____, for our lamps are going out."
8. "As a man burns up _____ until it is all gone."
9. "I am gone like a shadow at _____; I am shaken off like a locust."

Answers at end of magazine

Church Website

I hope that many of you will have taken the time to investigate the new website set up by Ross Glover and like me have found it most interesting. In fact each time I have visited the site I have found things that I missed on previous visits. For example the first time I looked under the heading 'Office Bearers', I only saw the names of the current Kirk Session. Had I scrolled right down I

would have found a photograph, taken in the Centenary year, of the then Deacon's Court and Kirk Session, in which I appeared, along with some other very young looking present day elders.

I have also realised, only recently, that the Fabric Committee have a page with Work Party updates almost weekly included there too. I can't begin to imagine just how much time and effort by Ross has gone into setting up the site and keeping it right up to date. I'm sure like me you appreciate how worthwhile his effort has been.

He recently e-mailed me to tell me that he has now set up an e-mail forwarder for me. The address is:
magazine@livingstonechurch.org.uk

Any e-mail sent to this site will automatically be forwarded on to my personal e-mail address. I think this a really good thing to have especially with such emphasis on Data Protection at the present time.

I'd like to thank all contributors to the June edition and also those who regularly put together and fold the magazines. Articles for the September edition should be with me by August 8th, of course using the new address.

Ed.

Some interesting facts about eating habits in the Fifties.



1. Curry was a surname.
2. A takeaway was a mathematical problem.

3. Ready meals only came from a chip shop.
4. A Big Mac was what we wore when it was raining.
5. Olive oil was kept in the medicine cabinet

Church Diary



Regular worship

Each Sunday at 11.30am

Wednesday Service

Church hall at 10.30am

Communion Sunday

Sunday 7th June

Service in Ardeer at 10am

Livingstone at 11.30am

Please see weekly Order of Service or Church website for ongoing events.

Bible Quiz answers

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| 1. sheep, Isaiah 53:6 | 2. virtue, Mark 5:30(KJ Vers.) |
| 3. world, John 12:19(KJ Vers.) | 4. wind, Psalm 103:16 |
| 5. rain, Song of Solomon 2:11 | 6. unclean spirit Matthew 12: 43 |
| 7. oil, Matthew 25:8(KJ Version) | 8. dung, 1 Kings 14:10(KJ Vers.) |
| 9. evening, Psalm 109:23 | |