

Letter from the editor



Welcome to the September edition of the magazine. Yes it is hard to believe that a good part of summer is behind us now and soon we will start to notice the days getting shorter.

“Matterhorn First is a dream come true”

This was a headline recently for a story in The Herald about a quadriplegic man who with the aid of prosthetic limbs and accompanied by two friends managed to reach the summit of the Matterhorn. Jamie Murdoch’s story was further amplified by the fact that he had been stranded in freezing conditions on Mont Blanc in 1999 and had his limbs amputated because of frostbite.

Recently on a lochside walk we were surprised to notice two empty wheelchairs parked on a pontoon. A few minutes later kayaks came into view and two disabled sportsmen aboard came alongside and were helped ashore.

I have become so much more aware of the difficulties that tetraplegics face from day to day as I am now an avid reader of Melanie Reid’s ‘Spinal Column,’ which is featured in “The Times” every Saturday. Melanie is tetraplegic after breaking her back in a riding accident in 2000. She has limited mobility, rotting toe nails, clawed feet and persistent bladder infections. Her self- deprecation and wry humour put all my moans into perspective.

All of these and the many others who have chosen to compete in the Paralympic games are an inspiration to us all in the way that they have shown a desire to overcome the handicaps which life has thrown them.

It was heart- warming to find out that the International Paralympic Committee took a hard line on drug cheating in an effort to counteract those who put the health and lives of competitors at further risk.

Interim Moderator's letter



Dear Friends,

Another summer is speeding by (if that's what we can call it) and autumn is approaching with its wonderful colours as the leaves start to drop. Suddenly the new session of church life begins and the busy round of duties continue and new friendships are forged. Some of us will have enjoyed a summer holiday enjoying new surroundings and a relaxing time and I trust that we are all back ready to face any new challenges.

By this time, most of us had hoped that a minister would have been appointed to the linked charge and ready to take the congregations into a new chapter. However, the time has not yet come and although I am sure that the Nominations Committee is doing its best to find a suitable candidate, this will only happen when God decides that the time is right. It is more important that we find the right person than making a hasty choice. The journey ahead may still be uncertain, but when that day dawns, a new impetus will carry the congregations forward into new experiences of faith.

In the meantime, we carry on. God never rests and the work of the church is endless but never a burden. As long as we feel that the life of the church is being sustained and that we are following the will of God and the path that He has set for us, we will never be downhearted.

Let us journey at our own pace towards the goals God has set for us even if the road ahead is not as predictable as we would like it to be.

With every blessing
Ken Welch

Summer Club



Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped with the summer club. Without so many willing volunteers it would have been difficult. I am sure all would agree that it was not a hardship when we were working with well-behaved and personable youngsters. The church is so fortunate to have them as part of our congregation.

We pray that they will continue to be part of our worship because without them our church would be so much the poorer!

Catherine Burns

Tea Party



On Sunday 26th June, the Guild hosted a “Blooming Great Tea Party” in the hall after morning worship. Our taste buds were tickled by a tasty array of sweet and savoury treats to accompany our tea or coffee, and there was a horticulturally-themed crossword to stimulate our little grey cells. This enjoyable social occasion raised a satisfying £231.25 for Marie Curie Cancer Care.

Thanks to the Guild, and to all who participated.

Anne Cochrane

40 Years service to Guiding



On Thursday 12th May 2016 the Brownies and Rainbows had a joint celebration to commemorate Brown Owl Pat Gray's 40 years of service to Girl Guiding. Pat has been a guider in 1st Stevenston Brownies since 21st November 1971. She has also been a Rainbow guider within Livingstone Church.

Family and friends were invited along to help surprise her and she was both shocked and delighted by everyone's warm wishes. She was also touched to see some former Brownies, who are now Guides, in attendance. The guests enjoyed a tea party with home baking contributed by some of the kind parents of the Brownies and a cake with a photograph from Pat's wedding on 15th April 1978 showing the happy couple with their Brownie guard of honour.

Pat's award was presented by Kim Main - County President and Shiona Gilmour - Assistant County Commissioner. Pat was extremely grateful for the efforts made to organise such a wonderful night by Joanna Blane and Ann Norwood, made all the more special by the impromptu entertainment provided by the Brownies.

Gillian McDade

Prayer Thoughts



I am preparing these prayer thoughts during the period when, there were shootings of black Americans by police, shootings of police in retaliation, the devastating attack in Nice on Bastille Day and the attempted coup in Turkey. Sad and challenging times! This turned my thoughts towards forgiveness. How can the people who have lost loved ones in these and other violent circumstances forgive? The answer

given by Jesus does not really make it any easier for weak humanity. When asked by Peter, as recorded by Matthew, should forgiveness be given seven times, Jesus replies 'seventy times seven'. Jesus did not tell us following him would be easy!

Yet consider his own example, as he hung in agony on the cross, his prayer to his Heavenly Father was,

'Father, forgive these people, for they don't know what they are doing.'
Luke 23, verse 34

Fortunately, I have not had to face any of these terrible circumstances and have not been put to that particular test. I can only offer prayer that God would strengthen me and that he would guide the hearts of violent people towards paths of peace.

Themes

Approach: Think on those to whom you owe forgiveness and having offered that forgiveness approach God with a clear conscience.

Confession: Tell God about your doubts and uncertainties, the things that get in the way of following the path that God would have us walk. Ask God for guidance in the difficult decisions you face.

Thanksgiving:

- Ministry – continue to give thanks for David Heberton's work with us.
- Mission – give thanks for the work done locally by the churches in the summer mission.
- Communication – give thanks for the work done by Ross week by week for orders of service and the maintenance of the church website.
- JAM club – give thanks for the ongoing work with the young people and also the team who led the Summer Club.

- Background work – give thanks for those who unseen keep the church clean, operate the sound system, prepare the flowers, count the offering etc.

Intercession:

- Our schools – pray for our schools as they embark on a new session, that they are fully staffed with enthusiastic teachers and pupils.
- Absent members – pray for those who have drifted away from the church that they might be encouraged to return.
- The organisations – pray that the church organisations will enjoy a fruitful new session.
- Peace – pray that those who use violence will come to know the peace that God offers.
- Ministry – pray that God will direct a minister to come and lead us in Livingstone and Ardeer.

Andrew Tomlinson

The Guild



Here we are once more at the beginning of a new session, looking forward to the second part of our 3 year theme "Go in Peace, Go in Joy, Go in Love."

Recently I found a photo of my sister and me on the sands at Saltcoats, joining in the singing with the Salvation Army, who were there every summer week day afternoon. I must have been 5 or 6 years old and I still remember singing "Joy, joy, my heart is full of joy!"

As usual our syllabus has a good variety of subjects:- interesting talks; charities to support; films to see; projects to find out more about; visits;

concerts; a party; meetings arranged by Ardrossan Presbyterial Council and our own Christmas and Easter Services.

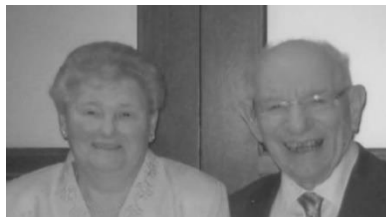
One date I would like to bring to your attention is **September 27th** – our **Macmillan Coffee Afternoon**.

We have heard recently of the progress made in the treatment of Cancer and Macmillan plays a large part in helping patients and their families with any problems they may have.

September 27th is open not only to Guild Members but to anyone who would like to support this worthwhile charity. Call in for tea/coffee and baking from 1.30pm - 3.00pm. You will be made most welcome.

Dorothy Penno

Blue Sapphire Wedding Celebrations



Do you remember what kind of day it was on 2nd June 1951? Probably not, but two longstanding members of Livingstone Church certainly do. It was a very happy day for Frank and Nancy Morgan, who were joined in marriage at St Cuthbert's Church, Saltcoats by the Minister, Dr Smart. Frank and Nancy were brought up in Saltcoats and had known each other since childhood. However it was during the regular dancing evenings at ICI Recreational Club that love began to blossom, and one day, in December 1949, whilst shopping in Glasgow, Frank "popped the question" which has led to 65 years of happy marriage.

The couple were always supportive of youth activities, and had been involved in the running of the Boys' Brigade at St. Cuthbert's. When joining Livingstone Church in 1960, they were instrumental in setting up the Junior Boys' Brigade at their new Church.

Their support for wider Church activities is well known, with Nancy involving herself in the Young Mother's group, various Guild activities, and providing secretarial services to the minister whilst on Presbytery duties. Frank continued to lead the Boys' Brigade, becoming a Deacon, an Elder, and Church Treasurer, which was a duty that he diligently carried out for over 27 years.

Throughout their married life, their love for each other has sustained all difficulties, strongly based on the vows that they made to each other 65 years ago.

It was at Arran View Nursing home, where Nancy now resides, that the staff, on hearing of this special occasion hosted a tea party to celebrate the Blue Sapphire Wedding Anniversary of this very popular couple.

When asked for the secret to such a long and happy marriage, Frank, in his usual chirpy manner replied that "it was the learning of two words - Yes Dear!" We all know that it is their enduring love for each other. We offer them our congratulations and very best wishes for the future.

Mattie Higgon

Fabric Committee Report



The stage alterations are now complete and ready for the next performance of the pantomime. Work on the new disabled toilet at the base of the bell tower is almost complete with the help of Mr Robb the

plumber and with the fabric committee doing the preparation and outside digging. It just needs a bit more painting and tidying up but is quite useable. "Thank you, everyone, for your help."

After inspecting more of the church windows we found an ingress of water, particularly the large windows over the front doors, which may prove costly because scaffolding will have to be erected.

Just a wee reminder that the libraries in the lesser hall and church are open to all so please make use of them.

Summer Mission- Pyramid Rock



This photo was taken on the last morning of the Kid's Club during the summer mission week. It sums up the enthusiasm of the children, along with the youth helpers and all the adults involved. The theme this year was the well- known and well- loved story of Joseph and his Amazing Coat.

During the Fun Day which kick started the mission there were many activities and challenges loosely based on the story of Joseph. There was 'Feeding Pharaoh,' 'Pin the tail on the camel,' 'Crossing the Nile,' 'Pyramid challenge,' and many more. There was a great turn out on the day and thankfully the rain held off and we even had a blink of sun. This event also provided the opportunity for children to register for the Kid's Club to be held during the week to come.

Well over 50 children arrived on the Monday morning for the Kid's Club, called Pyramid Rock this year, and we must have been doing something right for our numbers kept up throughout the four days. We

had an excellent group of young teenage helpers as well as adult helpers from all three congregations. There was a variety of activities, stories, games and wonderful songs, the words and tunes of which kept buzzing through my head all the week. These different activities reinforced the text each day and it's to be hoped that these little examples of faith will be remembered and will develop within the children as they grow older. Each day ended with a light lunch, which the children really enjoyed.

On the Tuesday and Thursday of the week we held two youth evenings and again we were greatly encouraged when well over 20 young people attended each evening along with at least ten youth helpers together with the adult helpers from the three churches. There was a brilliant atmosphere while the children took part in a variety of challenges, games and talks, and each night finished with supper- pizzas on the Tuesday and K.F. Chicken on the Thursday- yes, K.F.C. has arrived in Stevenston!

To finish off our mission week we held a Prayer Walk on Sunday 31st. This started off at St John's Church where we sang 'Stand up stand up for Jesus' and Father Martin Poland led us in prayer. Our next stop was at Stevenston Cross where we sang, 'Lord the light of your love is shining' and this time Rev. Scott Cameron led the prayer. At Livingstone the door of the church magically opened up as we arrived and just as well as it had begun to rain at this point. Here we sang, 'To God be the glory,' with Rev. Robert Travers leading the prayer.

We all then made our way to Ardeer Church for afternoon tea. Despite the weather we were pleased with the turn out (more than last year) and it was great to see a good number of our own congregation joining in the walk too.

This year's Mission was a great success but that would not have been possible without all the adult cooperation and help. We would like to thank all those who delivered the leaflets, came for lunch on the first Sunday, assisted at the fun day and took part in the Prayer Walk, and an extra special thanks to the 'Livingstone Team' who helped at the Kid's Club and supported us so willingly throughout the whole week.



Here are some of the comments the children made on the last day of the Kid's Club.

- I liked playing all the games and singing all the songs.
- I enjoyed going upstairs and watching the DVD about Joseph.
- My favourite parts were the art work and playing games.
- I liked listening to the story.
- I enjoyed the parachute football.
- I liked playing football and eating cakes. I didn't like spilling the juice over myself.
- I enjoyed making new friends and joining in the singing.

Catherine Reid

Visit to the Rainbows



John Beck and I had the pleasure of visiting The Rainbows on Thursday 26th May. It was their closing meeting. As usual the leaders Gillian and Leigh Anne made us very welcome. However it was encouraging to see an up and coming helper by the name of Katie Murphy who is the lovely granddaughter of Jean Paterson.

While Leigh Anne and Gillian organised the picnic, Katie encouraged the girls to talk about the cuddly toys that they had brought for the Teddy Bears' picnic. John and I also had a very enjoyable chat with the girls at the picnic.

Before closing, two of the girls were presented with a special badge to wear as they were leaving the Rainbows to move up to the Brownies. It

was quite moving as the rest of the girls sang a special song with the two girls in the centre of the circle.

We appreciate the time and energy that Gillian and Leigh Anne and now Katie give up to keep the Rainbows alive and we are looking forward to our next visit, but not the same meeting as John and I are running out of soft toys!

Joan Smith and John Beck

Shoebbox Appeal 2016



A big thank you to everybody who contributed in any way to the Shoe Box Appeal in 2015. Blythswood Care gathered and distributed 116,576 shoeboxes. This was approximately 10% more than 2014.

The shoeboxes received last year were distributed in Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Kosovo, Moldova, Pakistan, Romania, Serbia and Ukraine.

It was a good result but Blythswood believe that with your support they can do better in this 50th. Anniversary Year. They would like to increase the number of boxes distributed by at least 30,000.

Blythswood started life in 1966 as the Blythswood Tract Society, providing practical and spiritual help to those on the streets of Glasgow at that time.

Fifty years on, spreading the gospel by the printed page remains central to the work of Blythswood Care.

They would like to include the Gospel According to John with every shoebox sent to Eastern Europe in 2016. They estimate that 150,000 copies in six languages will cost £60,000.

To help with this project we here in Livingstone will as usual be asking members to support this great effort by filling shoeboxes and bringing them to our Harvest Service.

Leaflets giving further information will be available at our September Communion Service.

Thank you in anticipation of your support for this very worthwhile cause.

Dorothy Hershaw.

Jam Club Trip (4 June 2016)



Thankfully the day was dry when we headed off on our adventure to the Robert Burns Experience and Cottage.

After a slight delay due to traffic we arrived at the museum. Firstly we headed into the “Experience” where we had to find hidden mice round the centre. The exhibits were varied: static ones for looking at, a wax reconstruction of Robert Burns, and interactive models too. We then had a picnic lunch before taking the “Poet’s Walk” to the cottage. We explored this, then walked on to Alloway Church and crossed over the old Brig o’ Doon where Tam O’ Shanter would have crossed. The visitors centre’s ice cream was sampled and the gift shop scooped up some of the remaining pocket money. Everyone agreed that it really was an “Experience”.

Comments from the children:

1.Alexander- I really enjoyed the Poet’s wall.

2.Frazer- I enjoyed listening to the lady inside Robert Burns cottage.

- 3.Duncan-I enjoyed exploring the cottage.
4. Emma and Ewan-We loved playing with the interactive exhibits.
5. Natalie – I enjoyed looking for the mice and eating my ice cream.

Luisa Chisholm

Livingstone Players



Have you ever wanted to perform on stage? Now is your chance! We are looking for new members to join our talented adult cast for our 2016 pantomime. Our information night will take place on Monday 29th August at 7.30pm in the Church hall with rehearsals beginning on Monday 5th September at 7.30pm. Junior cast rehearsals will commence in late September on Sunday afternoons.

For more details check out our website: **livingstoneplayers.org.uk** and likewise our Facebook page: **facebook.com/livingstoneplayers**. Tickets will be available online from Tuesday 1st November and after morning worship on Sundays throughout November. To get you in the mood for either treading the boards or being part of our audience, here's a few panto-related jokes.

On which side of the house did Jack's beanstalk grow?

The outside!

What did Cinderella say when the chemist lost her photographs?

Someday my prints will come!

What kind of pet did Aladdin have?

A flying car-pet!

Ross Glover

Finance



Numbers

Main Fund Balances	Jun 30(2015)	Jun 30(2016)
General Fund	3193	482
Designated Funds	3094	4233
Restricted Funds	2166	3049
Fabric Fund	10370	11568
Beneficiary/Reserve Funds	125140	129480

Comparison of Offerings	2015 (Jan-Jun)	2016(Jan-Jun)
Plate	610	553
Gift Aided	12258	12758
Free Will Offering	5066	4321

Overall Offerings down by 1.7% compared to same period last year.

Comparison of Total Income	31269	30468
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Overall income is down by 2.6 % compared to same period last year.

Comparison of Expenses	29549	30694
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Overall expenses for the first half of 2016 are up by 3.9 %

Other income	Investors dividends	£2752
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(included in Total)	Gift Aid tax reclaim	£8069
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Both of these are less than last year which is why our total income is down.

As you can see our drop in income is due principally to the fall in Free Will Offering. We have lost several prominent members of our congregation over the past year and the effect of their loss is now showing in the finances of the congregation.

Major expenditure in the past quarter

Ministry and Mission	£2942 per month
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Locum stipend	£1568
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Gas	£1732
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Insurance	£300 per month
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Maintenance	£200 per month
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Christian Aid	£686
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There were no major fabric costs (the bill for the disabled toilet will be in the next quarter).

Finlay Kerr (Treasurer)

Benediction



I wish for you a smoother path all problems left behind
A little joy a lighter heart a calm and quiet mind
I wish you hope and happiness along the path you tread
And gentle sweet tranquillity to fill the days ahead
I wish you peace to soothe the soul each doubt and fear dispel
And love which grows and knows no bounds
And whispers all is well.

Amen

Jean Paterson

Kiwi Flying Visit



On our way from Australia to South America, we had the opportunity to spend a few days in New Zealand. As it is probably our younger daughter's favourite place in the world, this particular stopover was not optional. But it was another first for us, so we were looking forward to it. We stayed in Auckland which is at the north end of North Island, so that's where the weather should have been best. Unfortunately, only the Scots could go to the other side of the world to find a climate no better than the one they had left. More of that later. Auckland's nickname is

the “City of Sails”. New Zealand has had its share of financial issues, and the country’s biggest city was a bit run down. We renamed it the “City of Sales”. Much refurbishment was going on, motorways were being constructed or repaired, and finding our way around was difficult and frustrating. Around the harbour things were further advanced, in a beautiful setting, but we still only saw four sails, and three of them were on the same boat.

On the way to collect a hire car, we walked past the Rainbow Warrior Memorial, marking the sinking of the Greenpeace ship on the 10th July 1985 in Auckland Harbour by French Government agents. Greenpeace later said “you can’t sink a rainbow”.

We had a couple of trips in the short time we were there. The first was to Rotorua, one of the most active volcanic areas on the planet. The geysers, the bubbling mud pools, and the smells are unforgettable. Shane, the Maori guide who showed us around, regaled us with anecdotes, and Anne serenaded us on the way home with Pokarekare Ana, a Maori song from her Girl Guide days. Our second trip was to the Coromandel Peninsula, an area noted for its scenery. It was very like Scotland. We couldn’t see much of it for the mist and rain. Served us right for going on St Patrick’s day. Where the downpour eased and the mist cleared (both temporary occurrences), the views were sensational, as were the sheer drops off the sides of the narrow mountain roads. The driver was frequently reminded to look at the road, not the mountains.

We will now be in trouble from the aforementioned younger daughter for being so hard on her favourite country, but actually we enjoyed it hugely, met some lovely people from many different countries, and had some good meals. One of these was in Rotorua, where the staff were Chilean, the chef’s fiancée was Filipina, the restaurant was called Che, and the chef and owner was from Argentina, which just happened to be our next stop.

Anne and Alan Cochrane

Organisations



The new session will begin in the near future.

The Guides have their first meeting on Wednesday August 24th from 7pm to 9pm.

The Rainbows have their opening meeting on Thursday 1st September from 6pm to 7pm.

The Brownies will also begin on Thursday 1st September from 6pm to 7.30pm

The J.A.M. Club will commence on Sunday 4th September.

The Guild begins its new session on Tuesday 13th September at 1.30pm.

The Badminton club will recommence on Tuesday 6th September at 7.30pm.

The Livingstone players will commence their rehearsals for the Christmas pantomime on Monday 5th September at 7.30pm.

The Explorer Scouts will begin on Thursday 25th August from 7.30pm to 9pm.

J.A.M. Club



The summer is over and now the J.A.M. club is getting ready for another new session. We will be covering a different topic every month, doing lots of crafts, drawing, learning new hymns and putting on some plays. The children are artistic, and actors in the making. I hope you the

congregation enjoy our visits into church and will enjoy our presentations as the children certainly do. My thanks to all my volunteers who help each week and I look forward to the new session ahead.

Luisa Chisholm

Bible Quiz

Can you identify the prophets using the hints below?

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| 1. He learned God's love in his marriage. | a. Habakkuk |
| 2. He saw seraphim, and God high and lifted up. | b. Ezekiel |
| 3. He answered, "What does the Lord require of you. | c. Joel |
| 4. He stationed himself on a tower. | d. Nahum |
| 5. He had a scribe named Baruch. | e. Jeremiah |
| 6. He spoke of Nineveh's ruin. | f. Isaiah |
| 7. He saw a valley of dry bones. | g. Hosea |
| 8. He saw a plague of locusts. | h. Malachi |
| 9. He saw God's messenger, "like a refiner's fire." | i. Amos |
| 10. This prophet wanted justice to flow. | j. Micah |

Church Diary



Regular worship Each Sunday at 10am

Midweek service will recommence on Wednesdays at 10.30am in September (date to be announced.)

Communion Services Sunday 4th September at 10 am (Livingstone)

11.30am (Ardeer)

Please refer to weekly Order of Service for on- going events.

And finally.... my thanks go to all contributors for their support. Articles for the December should be sent to me by Sunday 6th November .

Answers to Quiz

1. g
2. f
3. j
4. a
5. e
6. d
7. b
8. c
9. h
- 10.i