



# **The Livingstones Herald**

**The Quarterly Magazine of Livingstone Church**



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## Letter from the editor



Welcome to the June edition and for once the sun is shining and has been for several weeks. We have used the good weather to get some much needed tidying up in the garden done and to plant our summer annuals.

Recently, mainly because of the good weather, we decided to make a return visit to Dumfries House Estate. In the few years since we were last there the Queen Elizabeth Garden has been transformed from a largely uninteresting site to a wonderfully restored garden with a mixture of terraces, new greenhouses, formal areas and everywhere there are flowers in a myriad of colours. It now costs £3 to visit the gardens but if you go to the Visitor Centre to pay, at the end of your visit, you are rewarded for your honesty by receiving a ticket which will allow entrance to the garden for a year. What a treat it was on our way to the Garden to cross the River Lugar by the new Chinese bridge, with its delicate curves, tranquil pagoda, built in traditional materials of stone and timber.

Another new area which impressed us was the Harmony outdoor play park which is close to the engineering workshop. A theme which focuses on the natural elements, earth, water, air and fire, is incorporated into a landscape design which uses high quality engineering play equipment to teach a bit about engineering in a fun way. I pedalled on a static bicycle and produced a couple of fairly high water jets –magic. We had a great time and I noticed there was even a three year old experimenting and enjoying himself too.

There is a new maze which was opened in 2016 and already the trees were tall enough for us to get lost in it. The maze which also includes obelisks and a Japanese pagoda was the idea of Prince Charles, inspired by the one at Sandringham and his childhood visits there. I hope some of you will have the opportunity to visit Dumfries House Estate in the near future. It is definitely worthwhile.

## Interim Moderator's Letter



My time with you is drawing rapidly to a close. Little did I imagine in May 2011, when the Presbytery Clerk asked me to act as Interim Moderator at Stevenston Ardeer linked with Livingstone, that it would be 2017 before I retired. However, despite my protestations at that time that I had no experience to carry out such a task, the appointment went ahead. Despite the marathon, I found the journey interesting and I hope that from your point of view it has been worthwhile, but now I am delighted to hand over the reins to the Rev. Dave Sutherland.

During this time, a new manse has been purchased and the former one disposed of. The manse is now jointly owned with Ardeer Parish Church and we trust that it will be a real home for the manse family and those who may follow in the future.

Livingstone Parish Church could not have continued to function without the dedicated work of a number of people. Sandy as Session Clerk has been a tower of strength and ably supported by Dorothy who seems to know exactly where every piece of paper is filed. Finances were well looked after by Finlay and you could always rely on the ladies if catering was required. The JAM Club has been the safe hands of Luisa and Brownies under Pat. Dorothy has ensured that the Guild has a varied programme whilst Charlie, Bobby and the team have ensured that the building is well looked after and have saved the congregation a lot of money by their hands on dedication. Catherine has ensured that you are all well informed by the quarterly newsletter and the latest addition of the Audio Visual system is largely thanks to Ross who has masterminded the operation. The entire Kirk Session has responded well to the challenges so that Livingstone Parish Church has remained active during the period of vacancy.

The Rev David Heberton deserves our grateful thanks for being the locum over such a long period and apart from the services he conducted, his pastoral work has been appreciated by many

members. David carried on through some very difficult times and now deserves a well-earned rest, although I am sure that he will find other ways of serving his Lord and Master in the months ahead.

My greatest debt is to the congregation who have made Charlotte and myself so welcome that we feel we are part of the Livingstone family. We will both look forward to hearing of the progress as your journey of faith continues to unfold.

May God's richest blessings be on you all and especially your new minister Dave and his wife Maureen whom I am sure will receive your full support.

God bless  
Ken Welch

### **Easter Sunday Service**



This is the scene which greeted us as we entered the church on Easter Sunday. As usual Liz Canavan and Jean Galloway had made a special effort to decorate the Communion table with spring flowers, reminding us of the empty tomb and the joy felt that the Lord has risen.

## Letter from the Minister



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Two disciples were walking away from Jerusalem after Jesus' crucifixion and the subsequently empty tomb. They were on the road to Emmaus and were joined by someone else as they walked. Their new companion listened in to their conversation about Jesus' death and eventually asked them directly about their conversation. The two disciples not recognising Jesus told him all about the crucifixion and the empty tomb. Jesus then took the time and space to talk about the Scriptures from the time of Moses. It was only when the stranger gave thanks and broke bread with them that they recognised Jesus and when they did so, Jesus disappeared and the disciples ran back to Jerusalem to tell the others.

Maureen and I are delighted to join you all at Ardeer and Livingstone to walk with you as we all journey with Jesus. It's my prayer that as we walk and talk, we will see Jesus Christ and follow Him as He leads us into a time together. Over the last year, as part of Path of Renewal, I have been looking at discipleship, being missional church and evangelism as the way in which church can move forward into the future. Church no longer holds the position within the community it once did and so we need to look at how we make connections with individuals and communities.

I'm looking forward to sharing time and your stories in faith with you. The only thing I can really promise is change: I'm not the same as previous ministers and changes within both churches have happened over the last few years. But maybe I can say that we walk and talk together and look at how, when and why change happens.

There's only so much that can be said in a letter but I hope to be able to share with you soon. In the meantime, I would express my thanks to

your Interim Moderator, Ken Welch, for his hard work and his kindness towards Maureen and me as we make this move. I also want to thank your locum, David Hebenton, for his service to you in Christ's name.

May God bless each one of you.

Dave

### **Prayer Thoughts**



Our church is about to enter a period of change with the arrival of our new minister, the Rev Dave Sutherland. In the workplace, one of the key pillars of good practice is the management of change. Many of us will have attended courses which focus on how to deal with change. How then should we respond to change in the church, is it the same as any other organisation? As with many such questions the answer is yes and no. Members of the congregation may change, elders may change, ministers may change, but we are reminded in the letter to the Hebrews that the church has at its head a constant. In the letter to the Hebrews chapter 13 at verse 8 the writer reminds us;

***“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever”***

We are constantly prayerfully seeking ways to ensure that we keep building Christ's church. As we get older we may sometimes resist the changes we experience, we get comfortable with the pattern we are used to. There are times when we should challenge ourselves to see if the words 'comfortable' and 'Christian' really belong together. Instead of resisting, we should ask in prayer if we are following the path that Christ our leader wants us to be on. As we enter this new ministry we must pray for Dave Sutherland as he seeks to keep building Christ's church in Stevenston, and give thanks for the work done by David Hebenton and those who came before.

## Themes

**Approach:** Before meeting with God consider the comfort of being in a strong relationship with God and the discomfort that may cause in our daily lives.

**Confession:** Bring before God the times that word deed and thought have made you uncomfortable and ask God's forgiveness where this has left His work undone.

## Thanksgiving:

- Ministry – continue to give thanks for David Heberton's work with us.
- Prayer answered – give thanks for Rev Dave Sutherland coming as our minister and personal prayers that God has answered.
- Vacancy – give thanks for the work of Ken Welsh our Interim Moderator and pray that he now enjoys a less hectic time.
- IT in worship – give thanks for the work done to enable the new system to be installed and the ongoing work of operating the system, service by service.
- Easter – give thanks for the services held during Holy Week to remind us of the real meaning of Easter.

## Intercession

- Ministry – pray for Rev. Dave Sutherland as he begins his ministry with us.
- Schools – pray for those pupils who are in transition from primary to secondary or who have arrived at the end of their time at secondary.
- Summer Mission – pray that the mission will build on the success of previous years and bring the Gospel to more people, young and old in Stevenston.
- The World – Pray for those countries and communities affected by war and famine, grant them a safe and healthy environment to live in.
- Prayer – pray that talking to God will remain a key part of our daily lives.

Andrew Tomlinson

## **The Guild**



At the time of writing, the Guild session is all but over. The last event will be our trip to Lomond Shores on May 9th, so we are hoping for good weather.

We have had a successful session with a varied programme for our members to enjoy. Our numbers have remained steady and the ladies have joined in enthusiastically.

I am sure that they will be glad to know that next session's syllabus is almost completed and they can look forward to our Theme for 2017/18 'Go in Love'.

We have 25 members on our role. If any members of the congregation wish to join us they will be made most welcome. The opening date is Tuesday 12th September at 1.30pm in the large hall.

### **Another date for your diary.**



Following the success of the 'Blooming Great Tea Party' in aid of Marie Curie, there will be another 'Blooming Great Tea Party' and Brunch on Sunday 25th June, in the large hall after the Church Service. It is hoped that as many as possible of the congregation will support this social occasion and make money for this worthwhile cause.

Dorothy Penno



## Note of Thanks



Marion Tomlinson would like to thank those who sent cards and messages of good wishes in her recent illness. They proved to be a great source of comfort and will continue to be so during the recovery process.

## Church Flowers



Dear friends,

Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers, which were given to us. They were lovely to look at, lasted for several weeks and were most uplifting. Your kindness was much appreciated.

With our thanks,

June & Jim Wilson



Special birthday congratulations from everyone at Livingstone Church to Frank Morgan who celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on Tuesday April 25<sup>th</sup>.



Have you ever been hungry? Do you remember your parents saying, “Eat your greens, they are good for you” and “Eat those crusts, they will make your hair curl?” Well, you would not have been hungry on Easter Sunday morning after the delicious breakfast prepared at Livingstone Church Hall by the JAM Club.

Service was provided by the smartly uniformed team, comprising Alexander, Frazer, Duncan, Carrie and Natalie. Orders were recorded from the enticing menu, and with minimum delay the food appeared, carefully presented by the team. What a pleasure it was to be served by the young people and to eat breakfast, in the company of friends, prior to proceeding to worship at the Easter Service in our church.

The reward for the hard work put in by all concerned, was the raising of nearly £200 for the UK registered, international charity, ‘Mercy Ships.’

This charity currently operates the Danish ferry boat, now turned hospital ship, ‘Africa Mercy’, and with its volunteer crew provides hope and healing to underprivileged people in some of the poorest parts of the world.

Many thanks to the JAM Club for their kindness and hard work, which benefited this worthwhile charity.

Mattie Higgon



## Letter from Hope on the Horizon

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your ongoing support...

I am so grateful for your recent gift of £197.50 to help us continue to deliver hope and healing to some of the poorest people in the world, who would otherwise not have access to safe medical care.

Your support directly enables our doctors and nurses on board our floating hospital ship and in our land-based medical centres to carry out vital procedures that can transform and even save lives.



Your gift directly helps children like Israel.

Israel was born with a cleft lip and palate. He couldn't eat properly, and was running a real risk of starvation. His mother, Simone, was repeatedly turned away from local hospitals because they didn't have the expertise to help. But thanks to your generous gift, Mercy Ships can offer life-saving medical treatment to children like Israel. Look at his smile today. You have a hand in shaping it.

Thank you for your kind support; together we are making a lasting difference in the lives of so many people.

## Visit to the Rainbows



John Beck and I were warmly welcomed when we visited the Rainbows on Thursday 27th. April. It was encouraging to see a full troop, eager to get started with their leader Gillian and helper, Katie. We got a few inquisitive glances when John and I joined them in the circle to sing the Rainbow song. Following the song we quietly sat down in the circle as Gillian asked them to 'sign the colours.' It quickly dawned on me that they were signing the words of the song. We were very impressed as they had only just started to learn them the previous week. However after a wee practice they "sang" the song using Sign Language and we were all delighted with the result.



The next activity was decorating plastic plant pots in preparation for the next week when they would be planting sunflower seeds. With plenty of sparkling shapes they set about designing their pots with enthusiasm. The end results were really very attractive.



While some girls were finishing off their pots, Katie took the others for a circle game, which they enjoyed. She is a very efficient and well liked helper, who enjoys being able to take some responsibility, as she was once a Rainbow herself.

Gillian brought everyone in the circle again to finish with the Rainbow closing song. We all had a really enjoyable night and again we are so thankful for all the work put in by the leaders! We look forward to the next visit.

Joan Smith and John Beck

## Summer Mission 2017

(Polar Explorers)



Preparations are well under way for this year's Summer Mission. Catherine Reid, Anne Cochrane and I have been meeting regularly with members from Ardeer Church and the High Kirk. This year the Mission will be held from Saturday 22nd July until Sunday 30th July, so please note these dates in your diary. A very full and varied programme of activities is once again being organised. This annual event has been an important joint outreach from the churches to the adults and children in our churches and the town.

We have always been very grateful for the support and help given by our congregation and urge as many of you as possible to become involved this year. As in the past, leaflets advertising the events will need to be distributed in advance, so please 'look out those walking shoes'. If you feel you would like to become involved in any way throughout the week of activities, please let us know. All help and support, of any kind, would be greatly appreciated.

This Mission Team wish to stress that the week is organised to include events for both young and old and we hope that many of you will take the time to attend some of the events. The week starts with the Gala Fun Day and BBQ on Saturday 22nd July in the High Kirk Grounds. The children can enjoy the activities and games while adults can enjoy the BBQ and a cup of tea .This is followed by Sunday Lunch which is served in the High Kirk Hall after morning worship. From Monday to Thursday we have activities for primary school pupils in the morning, while events for secondary pupils are held in the evening.



This year we hope to try a new venture called 'Messy Church 'on Saturday 29th in Livingstone. This involves activities for children with their parents/guardian. A light lunch will be provided followed by a time within the sanctuary. The week will finish, as in the past with a Praise Walk supported by all the churches in the town on Sunday 30th July .You do not need to take part in the whole walk but can join us along the way .The cup of tea and fellowship at the end is always very welcome and enjoyable.



The Mission is an important commitment by the three churches. It is not only a very valuable and worthwhile outreach venture, it is a highly

effective joint initiative and partnership between the churches in the town. The fellowship and friendship enjoyed by the members of the three churches has been an important element of Mission. Why not come along and join us to experience this for yourself and further develop inter- church relationships.

Dorothy Hershaw

### **Presbytery Report May 2017**



After the opening devotions the Presbytery welcomed members of the Guild Presbyterial Council. The council's annual report was delivered by Moira Buchanan. She began with a short video entitled, 'The Guild Today,' which illustrated the wide range of activities the present day members, men and woman, are involved in. The Guild is in its 130<sup>th</sup> year in 2017. Moira then gave a brief summary of the projects the Guild is involved with.

This is the second year of their 'Be Bold Be Strong' initiative. Last year's theme was 'Go in Peace' and this year it was 'Go in Joy'. She highlighted the six main projects the Guild is supporting and to date has raised £40256 for them. This is an increase compared to last year.

The main business of Presbytery was pretty mundane. The highlight for Livingstone was the call to Presbytery to attend the induction of the Rev. Dave Sutherland at Ardeer, Rev James McNay to preside, Isobel Beck DCS to conduct, and Rev Lily McKinnon to give the sermon and deliver the charges.

Mission and Discipleship Council have produced a short video on the work of the Disability Working Group which was shown. The Council

would like one member from each congregation to act as a contact person for the group to help disseminate information to congregations.

**Property:** Ardeer have decided to use some of their funds in Edinburgh to complete their restoration programme.

**Mission:** Rev. David Watson reported on the group trip to Milala Presbytery in Malawi. He enthused at the reception they received and the generosity of their hosts. The group intend to prepare a presentation about their visit and what the next steps should be. Here are some points from the congregation he visited. On the Sunday he preached, the first service started at 7.30 and finished at 10.00. The second service started at 10.30 and finished at 1.00 with standing room only, followed by Sunday School (500 attended) and the youth organisations. The local minister's wife is a primary 1 teacher in the school that meets in the church grounds. When asked, she said she had 190 pupils in her class. Malawi is primarily a young country demographically. Presbytery is now looking to congregations to come forward and be willing to be twinned with one of the fourteen congregations in Milala Presbytery.

The presentation to Kirk Sessions, on the Role of Presbytery is ready to go forward and will be given to three Kirk Sessions in September. It is hoped that all Kirk Sessions will see it in the next two years.

Presbytery closed with the Benediction

The Mission Committee afterward spent most time further discussing the Malawi visit and how the presentation should be developed.

Finlay Kerr (Presbytery Elder)

### **Church Magazine - Audio Version**



We are now planning an audio version of our quarterly magazine, "The Livingstones Herald". A trial issue was produced on CD of the March 2017 edition, and appeared to be well received (by its single recipient!)

If you are aware of anyone who has difficulty with the print format, and would like the magazine as a “talking book”, please let us know.

You will also be able to access the audio version on the church website - [livingstonechurch.org.uk](http://livingstonechurch.org.uk) under the banner “Our Church”, along with other current and historical information. The last (March) edition is already available in audio form on the website.

Alan Cochrane

### **Visual System**



Around 18 months ago, a small committee was formed by the Kirk Session tasked with researching the feasibility of installing a visual system within the Sanctuary. Many churches now use projectors and televisions as part of worship as they offer more versatility than traditional hymn books or printed sheets. After visiting various Churches who already have similar systems installed, the committee sought advice from local audio visual companies. Our main aim was to ensure that there was minimal change to the overall look of the Sanctuary whilst trying to ensure that everyone would be able to see a screen.

We also needed to choose whether we would be installing televisions, projectors or a combination of both. It was decided that the two main screens should be projectors as you can achieve a larger viewing area than televisions. Unlike other churches who project on to screens, our walls are of a neutral colour and in good enough condition to project directly on to them. This means that when the projectors are turned off, the look of the Sanctuary is the same as it was before the installation.

The new system was fully installed in March after the Kirk Session, Ardrossan Presbytery and CARTA (Church Art and Architecture Committee) agreed to the project. There are 2 large projections on to the walls next to the organ pipes and two smaller televisions on the balcony. The system can be operated from three areas – one upstairs,



one downstairs and one at the organ next to the communion table. The new system will create opportunities to enhance Sunday worship. The words of the hymns and Bible readings are viewable along with intimations, photographs, videos and much more.

There have been some concerns regarding the phasing out of the current printed order of service. The estimated annual cost of printing the hymn sheets is currently between £500-£600 and this is rising. It is estimated that the new visual system will reduce regular printing costs by up to 94% and paper use by around 87%. The printed hymn sheet will not disappear completely:

- A limited number of copies of simplified hymn sheets will be produced for those who receive a recording of the service.
- These will be available to 'borrow' during the service for those who are unable to see the screens or have visual impairments.
- If you require a printed hymn sheet, please pick one up from the table in the vestibule and return it at the end of the service.
- The simplified hymn sheet will still be available to download on the website ([livingstonechurch.org.uk](http://livingstonechurch.org.uk)) along with the intimations and church notices for those who listen to the service online at a later date.

Anything new will always experience teething problems and the new visual system has been no different. Over time, these difficulties will be resolved and any suggestions which could improve the new system are always welcomed – many have been implemented already! A number of 'volunteers' are currently being trained up to operate the system and the first batch of students have enjoyed the challenge and found it easier than they'd imagined. If you fancy a shot, why not come and have a go!

Finally, a great deal of thanks has to go to those who compiled the printed order of service over the past 18 years or so. Whether they had a long stint or simply covered absences, Dorothy Taylor, Maureen Smyth, Moira Lafferty, Sandra Palmer & Dorothy Hershaw did a great job

making sure we were singing the right words to the right hymns and ensured we weren't restricted to just one or two hymn books. The congregation of Livingstone has always been forward thinking and striving to progress. As the playwright George Bernard Shaw wrote, "Progress is impossible without change".

Ross Glover

## **Fabric Report**



Since the last magazine was produced we have been busy with the installation of the electrical supplies for the projector system in the church. As you can imagine it's quite a big undertaking, and at this time we would like to thank Ross Glover for his contribution and help with this project.

Have you noticed the flags have been moved in the church? We hope the new position (in the vestibule) meets with everyone's approval. However if not, we are open to suggestions for replacing them elsewhere.

All the electric hand dryers have been installed now in all four toilets with the approval of Health and Safety guidelines.

We'd like to wish all those going away during the summer an enjoyable holiday and for those staying at home, have a restful break.

Fabric Committee

## **J.A.M.Club**



Hasn't it been a quick session and what a lot the J.A.M. club has done. Topics such as Harvest, Joshua, Gideon, Christmas, Job, Love,

Daniel, Easter and Jonah have all been looked at. We have been singing songs and also learning some plays, the highlights being the J.A.M. club involved in the whole of the Christmas Service and the Doctor Fixit play at Easter. The children although small in number are all stars in my eyes.

A big thank you to all my volunteers who help out and to Mrs Higgon for playing for us when we have singing practice.

Our trip this year is to New Lanark Experience on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June and fingers crossed the weather will be kind to us. Come September the J.A.M. club will be back with plenty of topics to cover and an array of activities to do.

Luisa Chisholm

## Finance Report



Here is an overview of our Fund balances at the end of the first quarter with the 2016 balances for comparison.

<b>Fund</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
General Fund	-2402	-2150
Fabric Fund	7010	4724
Designated Funds	4680	4124
Restricted Funds	1482	962
Flower Fund	1985	1766
Total assets	150785	137032

## Offerings

Plate	415	324
Gift Aid	6345	6607
Free Will Envelopes	2234	2006
Totals	8996	8938

An overall increase of 0.7%

Expenses	13870	14420
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Overall we are much the same as last year. However we, along with Ardeer, have taken over responsibility for the manse which with Council Tax, Insurance and refurbishment costs will result in a considerable increase in expenditure from the General Fund. We will also no longer be earning rent money which fed our funds in Edinburgh. These funds paid for the new boiler in the halls and the new audio video system in the sanctuary so have been extremely useful to us over the past six years

Finlay Kerr (Treasurer)

## Church Diary



Regular worship                      Each Sunday at 11.30am

Wednesday Service                      Church hall at 10.30am

### Communion Sunday

Service in Ardeer at 10am

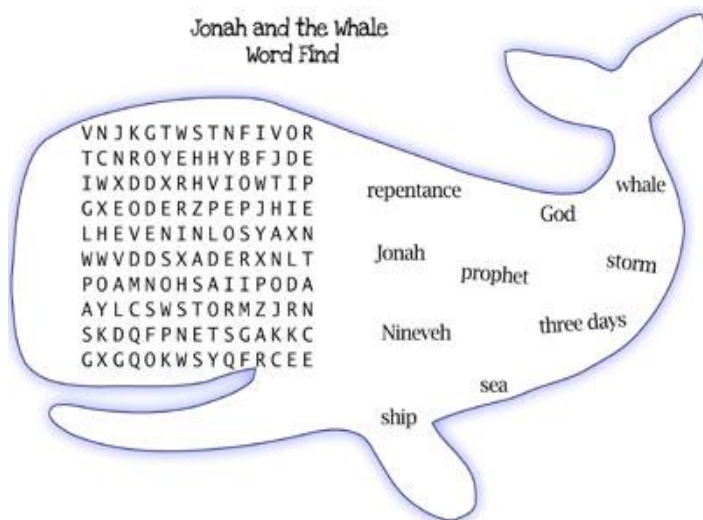
### Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June

Service in Livingstone at 11.30am

Please see weekly notices in church or refer to the church website for ongoing events.

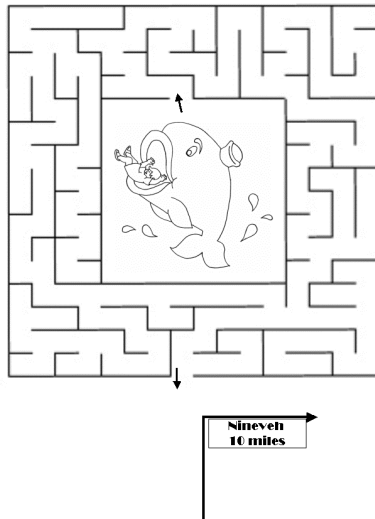
Stevenston Livingstone Parish Church is a registered Scottish Charity, No:SC000452.

The J.A.M. club have been learning about Jonah. Can you find the words in the word search?



## Jonah Maze

Help Jonah find his way to Nineveh.



Remember the magazine can be viewed in colour on the church website at [livingstonechurch.org.uk](http://livingstonechurch.org.uk). where you can find the weekly church service and the intimations. My thanks to all contributors. Articles for the September magazine should be sent to me by Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> August.