

# Church Matters

West Kilbride Parish Church Magazine

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Daffodils

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# Minister's Letter

## Easter Thoughts

In many ways it is difficult to think that it is coming up to Easter already. The weather has been cold and pretty miserable with few days of sunshine and for many of us, it still seems like winter. And yet Spring has almost sprung. Snowdrops and daffodils are beginning to emerge. New born lambs are appearing in our fields. It is slow - but things are changing and after the "death" of winter, new life is coming!

It therefore seems appropriate at this time of year that we celebrate Easter - the heart of the Christian faith. I often wonder if we rush through the Easter story too quickly, without really thinking what it was like for those who were there and who followed Jesus, particularly the disciples.

You see, those who followed Jesus had seen and heard some incredible things. They had been there when Jesus had taught with authority, such as the "Sermon on the Mount". They had heard his parables, though perhaps been puzzled by them.

They had seen signs and wonders - people being healed, demons being cast out. They had even seen people being raised to life who were dead! They had seen lives being radically changed. And it was marvellous! It was wonderful!

But then Jesus set his face toward Jerusalem and there was a sense of astonishment mixed with fear as they followed Jesus as he travelled the journey.

They saw Jesus enter Jerusalem on a donkey. They saw how people shouted "Hosanna". And they must have wondered ... what was going to happen next?

What did happen next they could not have predicted. Rather than lead a revolution - peaceful or otherwise, things began to go badly wrong. Jesus was arrested - the people turned against him when he could have been set free and he was sentenced to death - a criminal's death crucified on the cross.

And as they saw him die on the cross, not only did they see Jesus physically die - but they saw their hope die. The one they had followed for 3 years was dead. Hope was gone.

This was a metaphorical winter of the bleakest kind.

I often wonder if we truly understand the loss that His disciples must have felt. The bewilderment and the pain. The sense of their hope being dashed. The sense that they had wasted their time. Jesus had raised others - but now he was dead and it was the end.

But from Friday, through Saturday, they reached Sunday. The day where everything changed! Because rumours began emerging that Jesus' body was missing. Some of the women said the stone was rolled away from the tomb and an angel had appeared to them.

And then, while they were still pondering these things that Jesus appears. Probably when they first saw him, they thought they were dreaming and had to pinch themselves. But it was really him. 'Peace be with you', he said to them. And in an instant, things changed. Darkness had turned to light, death had turned to light, despair was replaced by hope!

This is Easter - that Jesus was willing to die on the cross for our sake to pay for our sin, to turn aside the wrath of God and to bring forgiveness for all who believe in Him.

And on the third day - He rose again to life - life which we can share!

In the bleakest days, it is the hope that we have in Jesus that keeps us going and helps us along. At Easter we see the depth of God's love and care for us.

That is why there is joy at Easter.

Yours in Christ,

*James*

## Church Register

It is with sadness we record the passing of the following people:

**Anne Wilson**, Fauld's Farm, died on 5th January 2015.

**Albert Herd**, Alton Street, died on 26th January 2015.

**Neville Jones**, Overton Drive, latterly South Beach House, died 20th February 2015.

**Isa Duncan**, Ardrossan, formerly Yonderfield Farm, died on 23d February 2015.

**Betty McDougall**, Corse Terrace, latterly Buckreddan Nursing Home, died on 6th March 2015.

**Nancy McLean**, Kirkton Avenue, died on 6th March 2015.

**Andrew Donaldson**, Caldwell Road, latterly Abbotsford Nursing Home, died on 17th March 2015.

*Please pray God's love and peace for their families and friends.*



## Baptisms

**Alasdair Robert McNay**, son of James and Anna and brother of John, was baptised on 15th February 2015.

**Beatrice-Anne Lawrence**, daughter of James and Astrid, was baptised on 8th March 2015.

*Children are a gift from the Lord, they are a reward from Him. Ps 127:3*

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

A little bird told me that **Mary Gibson** was 80 years young on the 23rd March. We hope you had a wonderful birthday with friend and family, Mary, and wish you many more blessed, healthy and happy years.

## Ruby Wedding

Many good wishes and blessings to **Paul and Jill Selman** who celebrated their Ruby wedding anniversary on 17th March. We hope you had a wonderful time!

## Golden Wedding

We would like to wish our friends **Jan and Jim Watson** every blessing as they celebrate their Golden Wedding anniversary on 16th April. I believe there's to be a family get together. Enjoy!

## Editorial

As I type this the sun is shining (oh, my goodness, my windows really need to be washed!), I've walked to dog for an hour and a half and life is good. It makes me think that, for so many people, no matter how lovely the day is, they are in a state of darkness. Whether this is through depression, illness, despair, loneliness, fear, mourning or some other reason, they need help to come through whatever is keeping them in that darkness. If you know of anyone who is suffering like this you can be there for them, give a lending hand when you can, be a shoulder for them to lean on, give a comforting hug, a kind word of encouragement, a smile, a cup of tea and, always, a prayer. Small things mean a lot and are appreciated so much. Remember, as Christians, we are God's hands and feet, His eyes, ears and mouth, so do as Jesus would do and do it with joy.

On Friday, 13th March we had a Talents Evening in the church. No, it wasn't 'WKPC has Talent', although I'm sure it could have been! It was an evening where the leaders of the various teams in the church gave presentations of what each team did and encouraged people to give of their talents to the church. Displays were put on boards, showing teams in action and giving more details. I am pleased to say that a few people put their names forward to help but we need many more. If you weren't there, or at the service the following Sunday, Mandy has written an article on this so please read it and prayerfully consider offering YOUR talents to the church.

Easter will soon be upon us and we have reflective services throughout Holy Week. Do please come to as many of them as you can. Also, remember our early Easter Sunday morning climb up Law Hill for the short service there, followed by the children rolling their eggs down the hill. I love when we shout "JESUS IS ALIVE!" so that people in the village can hear us. We have a lovely breakfast of rolls and sausage when we get back to the church. Many thanks to the ladies who make this for us!

Could I ask if there is anyone out there who would like to volunteer to be Children's Editor for the magazine? It would be great to have some children's pages in future.

*Deirdre Murray*

## **What are your Gifts?**

Stewardship is a fundamental part of Christian discipleship. It is concerned with the gifts of God and the way we use these gifts. It is concerned with the love and commitment of God to this world and its people, and with our response to God's love and God's commitment.

As part of our Christian witness we are encouraged to offer our time, talents and money to glorify God and advance the work of God's kingdom.

So how do we identify our talents?

Think about the head -

What are your intellectual gifts?

What are you knowledgeable about?

What life experienced do you have you can share with others?

Think about the hands -

What are your practical gifts?

Are you a hands on person?

Do you have creative and artistic gifts?

Think about the heart -

What are you passionate about?

What do you care most about and what are you most willing to work on with your time and talents?

Think about the variety of skills and talents that are right here in this congregation. What an amazing witness it would be if we all, each and every one of us, used the talents we

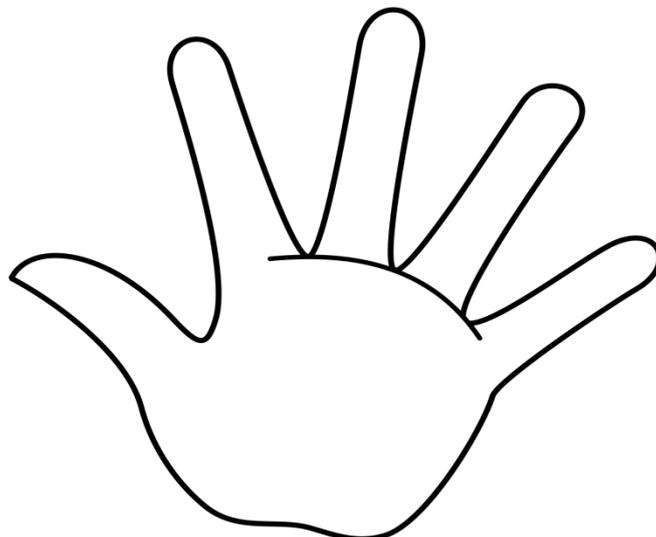
have been gifted with to advance God's kingdom! So don't be shy tell us what you are good at!

Here are a list of the teams within the church that could use your help:

Pastoral Care Team  
Fabric/Property Team  
Mission and Discipleship Team  
Finance Team  
Youth Team  
Communication and Technology Team  
Catering Team  
Worship Team  
People and Policy Team

Below is a helping hand and its blank! Please fill it in by writing down your name and what you are good at, what your gifts or skills are, thinking about the gifts of the head, hands and heart.

Once you have filled it in then hand it into or email it back to the church office. [office@westkilbrideparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:office@westkilbrideparishchurch.org.uk) and it will be passed onto the team leaders.



## **Reflection Space and Prayer Stations**

During Holy Week this year as well as the services in the evening there will be an opportunity in the morning to come along and have some quiet time in the church.

From 9 - 10am on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March, Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March and Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April there will be Prayer Stations in the church sanctuary and in the Prayer Room for you to come along and reflect.

This is an informal quiet time where you can come and go as you feel called. You can stop and stay for the hour or you can stay for a short time. You are free to wander around the prayer stations and participate in them or just sit in the quiet and reflect, spending time with God and considering Christ's journey to the cross.

*Mandy*

### **SESSION SNIPPETS**

The Kirk Session met in the sanctuary on 10/02/15. Opening worship consisted of singing Hymn 590 and a reading of Mathew Ch 9 from verse 35- "ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest".

James then made a tribute to Alec McAusland, a long serving elder who died recently with particular mention of his contribution to the BBs.

After the minutes of the previous meeting were approved the session went on to discuss our book at present which is 'What's So Amazing About Grace' by American writer Phillip Yancey. Our comments were quite diverse and it is evident that we hold a wide range of views ranging from conservative to liberal on the Bible and the meaning of Christianity.

Among correspondence a letter was received from Peter and Eileen Hinde who wish to stand down as active elders. They have been elders for over thirty years. It was agreed to send a letter of thanks for their long and conscientious service to the Church in West Kilbride.

The leaders of various teams gave short résumés of their work. Finance leader John Coy gave a fairly upbeat report saying expenditure and income is just about balancing. Alison Ward for the Youth Team sought, and was given permission, to organise a further Holiday Club for the summer. The Mission and Discipleship Team are planning a Church Family meal to be held at Strathclyde House in April. Billy McFarlane for the Fabric Team showed some rough sketches for the new doorway for the front of the church. The proposal is for two sets of predominantly glass doors which should appear more welcoming as well as improving insulation and conserving heat. This proposal now has to be presented to the various planning committees which although will take some time should not in Billy's estimation prove a difficult hurdle.

A large part of the meeting was used to help our minister prepare for the Ardrossan Presbytery's Local Church Review which was due to be carried out in late February. This will have been carried out by the time you read this.

The object of the review has been outlined by James in a previous article for “Church Matters” As part of the process James and the office bearers (i.e. the Kirk Session) had to complete a large questionnaire regarding five areas. These were, worship, discipleship, fellowship, evangelism, service, along with a story of where we are as a church and our mission. Overall there were 47 questions to answer! James had completed most of this before the session meeting but needed session approval and a little help and advice in some places. We were lucky to have the Rev Mandy Hickman our ordained local minister at our session meeting to help. She in fact takes part in Local Church Reviews for Ayr Presbytery.

The meeting was closed with the saying of The Grace  
The date of the next Session meeting is 14th April.  
These notes are what the title says i.e. snippets only. The full content of a meeting and the mechanics of how your Session runs itself may be of interest to some, so please remember it is our policy to have the meetings open to all members to attend.

*Richard de Courcy*

# tearfund

Thank you so much to all of you in the church who collect small change in our little boxes. It all adds up so wonderfully, so that recently I sent two donations, one of £60 and another of £87.20. Then in came a large donation of notes which, added to the coins, again meant that we were able to send another £254.20 which is just so gratefully received.

As Lynne Paterson, our Scottish Director of Tearfund, never fails to write to thank us for every donation we send I have three letters received recently. In one she writes about Mariana, who lives in the Inhassoro district of Mozambique where life is a hard existence. Some of the people have to walk long distances to find water and food is in short supply. However, she says that, thanks to the amazing support like ours, CEDES, a Tearfund partner, is leading a food project involving nine farmer's associations across nine sites which are helping people like Mariana. She has been taught eco friendly techniques of farming and given new tools. She now grows a wide range of vegetables providing nutritious meals for her family. With money made from selling surplus crops she has been able to save £180, enabling her to send her children to school and buy clothes for them. She is now thinking of buying a larger field.

Ernest Maswera, Tearfund's Country Representative for Mozambique, says that Marianna's story highlights Tearfund's determination to reach people in isolated areas who otherwise have little assistance.

Lynne says, "Please pray for this ongoing work in Mozambique and thank you once again for your generosity."

In another letter Lynne says, "Thank you for your encouraging letter and gift of £254.20, which we value hugely as it helps to empower people like Meseret out of poverty."

She, her husband and daughter, were so poor that people in her village in Ethiopia thought they were beggars. Her husband's job as a labourer only provided scraps of food and they slept on the floor. She then found that 17 women in her local church, with a church facilitator, had set up a group bank account, saving together and investing in small businesses. Meseret started a handicrafts and hairdressing business from home enabling her to send her daughter to school, build a new house and buy furniture. She is now leader of the self help group.

She and her husband both gave their lives to Christ and love to introduce others to the church.

Lynne writes, "Thank you for partnering with us, enabling us to share Jesus' love with more people like Meseret across the world."

*Audrey Brown*

## **Annual Beach Clean**

This will take place on Saturday 25 April from 1pm to 4pm, starting at Ardneil Farm, Portencross and extending to the Waterside, Seamill. Everyone is welcome to join in at any point along the stretch of beach, and bags, gloves, tabards, and a limited supply of "litterpickers" will be available at either end. Bags will be placed at the bottom of Hyndman & Fullerton.

We had a wonderful turnout last year and gathered over 350 bags/large items from the beach, so please try and come along for this year's Spring Clean. Participants will be offered free yummy refreshments at both ends of the beach!

## Monthly Prayer Diary – April 2015

- Wed 1<sup>st</sup> The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and give His life as a ransom for many. Lord, how can we thank you?
- Thu 2<sup>nd</sup> Make us ready to follow Christ in word, action, in service and love, so that all the world may know the One we love and serve: Jesus Christ the Lord
- Good Friday** Jesus, You sacrificed all for us, even life itself...everything we have and everything we are belongs to You, our rock and our redeemer
- Sat 4<sup>th</sup> We lift up the names of those in our family and those of our friends who have yet to give their lives to You. Meet with them, we pray
- EASTER DAY!!** We wonder at the depth of Your love for us. May all the peoples of the earth receive the Good News of Your Gospel. May we sing with all creation, "Welcome, Risen Lord!"
- Mon 6<sup>th</sup> We pray for the residents who live in Manse Road and Meadowfoot Road
- Tue 7<sup>th</sup> We pray for homes where there has been a change in circumstances eg redundancy, illness, family breakdown or wherever people are struggling behind closed doors
- Wed 8<sup>th</sup> James our Minister, Anna his wife and their two boys John and Alasdair. We give thanks and ask God's protection over them
- Thu 9<sup>th</sup> Five weeks today will be the General Election. We pray for the media and newspaper editors to be discerning and fair, ensuring articles and news items are balanced and truthful. [www.engage15.org.uk](http://www.engage15.org.uk) (CARE)
- Fri 10<sup>th</sup> We praise God for increasing opportunities foreigners (mostly Chinese), have to trade and meet North Koreans, and for more evidence of God working in this dark land (AsiaLink)
- Sat 11<sup>th</sup> We give thanks that even though the most terrible things are happening in the Middle East, Muslims are finding Jesus through dreams and visions
- Sun 12<sup>th</sup> "What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!"
- Mon 13<sup>th</sup> We pray for the residents living in Meadowside and Merlewood Road
- Tue 14<sup>th</sup> We pray for school children who are preparing for their exams

- Wed 15<sup>th</sup> We pray for teenagers who are struggling with serious problems, living in unhappy homes, struggling with addiction, intimidation, etc
- Thu 16<sup>th</sup> Carol, our Session Clerk, our Elders and all who work behind the scenes. We give thanks for all their hard work and dedication
- Fri 17<sup>th</sup> We remember all we know who are unwell, receiving treatment or awaiting test results. We pray for their families also
- Sat 18<sup>th</sup> We pray for The BIG Arran Challenge to be held 6<sup>th</sup> June. Now in its third year this event raises money to transform the lives of vulnerable adults and children (Glasgow City Mission)
- Sun 19<sup>th</sup> "Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere? We should never be discouraged: Take it to the Lord in prayer!"
- Mon 20<sup>th</sup> We pray for the residents living in Nethermiln Road and North Road
- Tue 21<sup>st</sup> We give thanks for the saints who have gone before us who inspired and encouraged us. May we never be too busy to give encouragement
- Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> For all who feel the pain and loss of bereavement, Lord, be their comfort
- Thu 23<sup>rd</sup> Our local GP Surgery, local hospitals, hospices and Care Homes
- Fri 24<sup>th</sup> We pray for World Leaders and all who are in authority over us
- Sat 25<sup>th</sup> May Your light shine in the darkest places of the world. We pray for refugees, for asylum seekers, for Christians being persecuted for their faith
- Sun 26<sup>th</sup> "Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care? Precious Saviour still our refuge, take it to the Lord in prayer!"
- Mon 27<sup>th</sup> We pray for the residents living in Orchard Street and Overton Court
- Tue 28<sup>th</sup> We remember all who are preparing for this year's Summer Club
- Wed 29<sup>th</sup> The Leaders of our young ones. May they be encouraged in all they do
- Thu 30<sup>th</sup> If I don't pray for my neighbours and I don't love like Jesus, Who will?

## Monthly Prayer Diary – May 2015

- Fri 1<sup>st</sup> James our Minister, Anna John and Alasdair
- Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> Our Church Family
- Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> We think of all who use to worship with us, thinking today of those who are housebound or in Care Homes. We pray they will sense Your Holy Presence and Your Peace right where they are
- Mon 4<sup>th</sup> We pray for the residents living in Overton Crescent & Overton Drive
- Tue 5<sup>th</sup> Father Joe Boland and the Church Family who attend St Brides
- Wed 6<sup>th</sup> We pray for the Ardrossan Presbytery and all the local churches in our area. May Christians be known by our love
- Thu 7<sup>th</sup> We do give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy and for our freedom to vote today. We pray for those who will govern, that they may do so creatively and wisely for the good of the nation and the wellbeing of those beyond our shores and borders
- Fri 8<sup>th</sup> We pray for every child caught up in the conflict in Syria. We ask for healing for their traumas. May they know the joy of childhood despite the disorder surrounding them. Please bring about peace in Syria so that children can grow up free from fear & filled with hope. (Tearfund)
- Sat 9<sup>th</sup> We pray for Aid Agencies & pray especially for Christian Aid Week
- Sun 10<sup>th</sup> We think again of all who use to worship with us, thinking today of those who have been hurt by their experience in Church situations. Lord, You know it all. We pray there may be forgiveness & healing
- Mon 11<sup>th</sup> We pray for residents living in Pantonville Rd and Portencross Road
- Tue 12<sup>th</sup> There are around 500 SU Groups running in our primary and secondary schools. May they be fun, encouraging places to be, where young ones can grow in their knowledge of You (SU Scotland)
- Wed 13<sup>th</sup> All we know who are unwell and for those who love and care for them
- Thu 14<sup>th</sup> We pray for all who struggle with mental health issues. May they receive the help they need when they need it
- Fri 15<sup>th</sup> Our local schools at this time of exams, school trips and preparation for moving on to the next year

- Sat 16<sup>th</sup> The General Assembly of The Church of Scotland opens today
- Sun 17<sup>th</sup> We pray for family members who no longer attend Church to worship with us. Help us in our witness, especially at home
- Mon 18<sup>th</sup> We pray for the residents living in Ritchie Street and Sandy Court
- Tue 19<sup>th</sup> The Mission & Discipleship Team and the Youth Team. May they be inspired by You Lord, to do the work You want us to do in these days
- Wed 20<sup>th</sup> The Communication & Technology Team. May their work run smoothly as they seek to keep us all informed and up to date with church matters
- Thu 21<sup>st</sup> The residents and staff at Southbeach House in Ardrossan. We pray also for families and especially relatives who find it difficult to visit for whatever reason. (Crossreach)
- Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> The Pastoral Care Team and the Catering Team. We give thanks for everyone involved and pray that more may feel a call to join them
- Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> We pray for families where there are broken relationships and especially where children have gone astray. We pray for reconciliation
- Sun 24<sup>th</sup> Lord, as we meet to celebrate the memory of that first Pentecost experience, we give thanks that You sent The Holy Spirit, the Comforter
- Mon 25<sup>th</sup> We pray for the residents living in Sandy Road and Sharlee Wynd
- Tue 26<sup>th</sup> We pray for Mission Organisations and missionaries know to us, especially, Helen Scott and the people she worked with in Malawi
- Wed 27<sup>th</sup> All who are caught up in the spiral of addiction and for their families
- Thu 28<sup>th</sup> We pray for all we know who feel the pain of loss and grief
- Fri 29<sup>th</sup> The Finance Team and The People & Policy Team. We give thanks for all their hard work, so much done behind the scenes
- Sat 30<sup>th</sup> The Worship Team and The Fabric Team. We give thanks for how You have inspired them in the past and pray for what is yet to come
- Sun 31<sup>st</sup> If I don't pray for my neighbours and love like Jesus, who will?

## **Where has the time gone?** *News from the Youth Team*

The church year is racing past! By the time you read this, we will be planning the last Messy Church before the summer, which will be held on Saturday 30th May. The planning group is grateful for the helpful ideas and suggestions from Mandy Hickman, our OLM. Mandy set up Messy Church in her last placement in Ardrossan and as a result of discussions with her, we are looking forward to trying some different activities.



When we think of the summer, we think.....Holiday Club! This year we are holding it from 29<sup>th</sup> June to 3<sup>rd</sup> July, immediately after school finishes for the summer holidays. The theme is "Polar Explorers" – could be interesting if we have a heatwave! There is talk of constructing an igloo from milk bottles so your help may be needed! Please look out for this in the Intimations nearer the time.

The week by week work of teaching in Crèche, Treasure Seekers and Junior Church continues. At the Family Service at the end of February we enjoyed sharing in what they had been learning from some of the "I am " sayings of Jesus.

At the other end of the age spectrum, the YF is being relaunched after Easter. For the past few months there has been a lack of girls attending and a shortage of leaders but we have some more help and hope to offer a varied programme for those from P7 up. Please do pray for the YF and that those who come will settle in and enjoy the activities and discussion.

Visitors to our congregation often comment on the number of youngsters we have. We do give thanks to God for all of them and for their dedicated leaders who give their time to preparing and leading the different age groups. But we rely just as much on the continuing prayer support of the members of the congregation and we thank you, too, for your faithfulness.

*Alison Ward, Youth Team Leader*

## Diary Dates for April 2015

1Apr	7:30 PM	Short Service – Holy Week
2Apr	7:30 PM	Maundy Thursday and Communion Service
3Apr	7:30 PM	Good Friday Service
<b>5Apr</b>	<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>Easter Sunday – Sunrise Celebration on Law Hill (leaving from church at 8.00am) followed by Breakfast at Church.</b>
5Apr	10:30 AM	Easter Sunday Service
5Apr	2:00 PM	Afternoon Service – Headrigg Gardens
5Apr	7:30 PM	Evening Service
6Apr	7:30 PM	Church Choir Practice
7Apr	9:30 AM	Women Who Pray – Prayer Room
7Apr	10:00 AM	Rendezvous – Lower Hall
8Apr	7:15 PM	'Wednesday Fellowship' – Lower Hall
<b>12Apr</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>Morning Service and Holiday Club</b>
12Apr	7:30 PM	Evening Service
14Apr	9:30 AM	Women Who Pray – Prayer Room
14Apr	10:00 AM	Rendezvous – Lower Hall
14Apr	7:00 PM	Kirk Session Meeting – in the Sanctuary
15Apr	7:15 PM	'Wednesday Fellowship' – Lower Hall
<b>19Apr</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>Morning Service and Holiday Club</b>
19Apr	7:30 PM	Evening Service
19Apr	7:30 PM	Youth Fellowship – Bill Penny Hall
20Apr	7:30 PM	Church Choir Practice
21Apr	9:30 AM	Women Who Pray – Prayer Room
21Apr	10:00 AM	Rendezvous – Lower Hall
22Apr	7:15 PM	'Wednesday Fellowship' – Lower Hall
<b>26 Apr</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>Morning Service and Junior Church</b>
26 Apr	6:00 PM	Youth Fellowship – Bill Penny Hall
26 Apr	7:30 PM	Evening Service
28 Apr	9:30 AM	Women Who Pray – Prayer Room
28 Apr	10:00 AM	Rendezvous – Lower Hall
29Apr	10:00 AM	Craft Group – Small Hall
29 Apr	7:15 PM	'Wednesday Fellowship' – Lower Hall

## Diary Dates for May 2015

**3 May 10:30 AM Morning Service And Junior Church**  
 3 May 2:00 PM Afternoon Service – Headrigg Gardens  
 3 May 6:00 PM Youth Fellowship – Bill Penny Hall  
 4 May 7:30 PM Church Choir Practice  
 5 May 9:30 AM Women Who Pray – Prayer Room  
 5 May 10:00 AM Rendezvous – Lower Hall  
 6 May 7:15 PM 'Wednesday Fellowship' – Lower Hall

**10 May 10:30 AM Morning Service and Junior Church**  
 10 May 6:00 PM Youth Fellowship – Bill Penny Hall  
 10 May 7:30 PM Evening Service  
 12 May 9:30 AM Women Who Pray – Prayer Room  
 12 May 10:00 AM Rendezvous – Lower Hall  
 13 May 7:15 PM 'Wednesday Fellowship' – Lower Hall

**17 May 10:30 AM Morning Service and Junior Church**  
 17 May 6:00 PM Youth Fellowship – Bill Penny Hall  
 17 May 7:30 PM Evening Service  
 18 May 7:30 PM Church Choir Practice  
 19 May 9:30 AM Women Who Pray – Prayer Room  
 19 May 10:00 AM Rendezvous – Lower Hall  
 19 May 7:30 PM Team Leaders Meeting – Entrance Foyer  
 20 May 7:15 PM 'Wednesday Fellowship' – Lower Hall

**24 May 10:30 AM Morning Service and Junior Church**  
 24 May 6:00 PM Youth Fellowship – Bill Penny Hall  
 24 May 7:30 PM Evening Service  
 26 May 9:30 AM Women Who Pray – Prayer Room  
 26 May 10:00 AM Rendezvous – Lower Hall  
 27 May 10:00 AM Craft Group – Small Hall  
 27 May 7:15 PM 'Wednesday Fellowship' – Lower Hall  
 30 May 2:30 PM Messy Church in WKPC

**31 May 10:30 AM Morning Service and Junior Church**  
 31 May 6:00 PM Youth Fellowship – Bill Penny Hall  
 31 May 7:30 PM Evening Service

### House Groups

Currently three house groups usually meet fortnightly on Monday/Wednesday evenings. For dates and times of meetings, please speak to either Helen Ferguson, Audrey Brown or Margaret Morrow.

## **"Love One Another" Stained Glass Window**

Under the Gallery is a window gifted by Mrs Isaac and her nephew Archibald Hunter Service in memory of Mrs Isaac's mother and sister and Mr. Service's mother and grandmother.

Signed C.E. Stewart FRSA 1947, a fine design by the son of the designer of the Ascension Window. In memory of Mary Graham Hunter Boyd (died 1905) and her daughter Marion Hunter Service (died 1924).

The scene depicted is the traditional one of St. Bride's landing at Seamill as a Christian Missionary. St. Bride holds the Lamp of Christianity in her hand and is offering it to two figures one of whom is kneeling. In the background are the hills of Arran with the sea stretching forward to St. Bride's feet.

The window bears these two texts, "Love one another," and "The Lord is Strength."

At the top of the window is a small picture of the Lake of Menteith with which district the Hunters of Highthorn had a connection. In the bottom corners are small pictures of the outside of Overton Church and Portencross Castle.

This window shows beautiful hand-painted work by Susan Bradbury who worked on the windows to fit in the Refurbishment.

Some of the glass is no longer made but Susan managed to find glass in her “workbox” that was over 40 years old which perfectly matched the original. Look for the orange/gold pieces around the edge.

I love the way when the sun shines through the ‘Creation’ window that the three faces and the lamp seem to ‘light up’ when the sun shines and you can see this from the outside of the Church. It is worth having a really close look at this window to appreciate the work involved.

Susan also made the two round windows: Sunflowers to signify day and Poppies to signify night. At some point I will try to get more information on these round windows

*An update on the War Memorial window. We have now received a grant from the War Memorial Trust to cover the renovation cost of this window. It would be interesting to find out if there are many families still in the village with connections to the names of the fourteen men mentioned on this window.*

There is a folder with more information on the window ledge.

Also many thanks to Sheena Dench who helped in obtaining this grant.

*Evelyn McFarland*

