

Church Matters

West Kilbride Parish Church Magazine

Issue No. 9 July/August 2011



Ardneil Bay, Seamill

Contents

Page	
3-5	<i>Minister's Letter</i>
6	<i>Editorial</i>
7	<i>Dates for your Diary</i>
8	<i>Church Register and Good News</i>
9	<i>People's Bible</i>
10-13	<i>Prayer Diaries</i>
14-15	<i>General Assembly Report</i>
16	<i>Tearfund and Mary's Meals</i>
17	<i>ALPHA</i>
18-20	<i>Missions and Ministry</i>
21	<i>Notices</i>
22-23	<i>Kenya Report</i>
24-27	<i>BB Report</i>
28	<i>C in the Park</i>

*I would appreciate articles for the next issue of Church Matters to be emailed to me at brianseamill@aol.com by 17th August or, if you do not have access to email, to be handed in to Jo in the church office by 14th August.
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Minister's Letter

Where we are

I don't know if you remember when you were back at school - and it was school report time. When I was at Secondary School, you were handed a thick brown envelope first thing in the day by your registration teacher with the strict instructions: 'You are to give it to your parents, you are not to open it yourself!'.

And so you were left holding this brown envelope - wondering quite what your fate was going to be - and for the rest of the day, it just sat there in your bag looking at you. Some of my classmates couldn't wait - the suspense was just too much for them - and so they steamed the envelope open with their breath - just to see what their teachers had said about them, and so they could pre-empt any trouble they might get into at home at home - before gumming it back down again with the school report securely inside again.

In many ways, the church year effectively runs from September to the end of June, with July and August traditionally as a quiet, restful time in the church. And so as we enter the summer period, it is good for us to stop and to take stock and to think through where we are as a church. Time to look at our school report...

After the union of the churches in January 2010, 2010 was a year of consolidation with a lot of behind the scenes work to bring everyone and everything together. Now that most things are now in place 2011 (so far) has been a year to try to move forward so that as a church we might fulfil our vision statement.

Here are some things of encouragement this year:

- Alpha Courses have been held for both the Elders and the

Congregation - and we hope to do an Alpha Course for the community later in the year.

- Church Conference - we had a great time of learning together about discipleship at our Church Conference in February with Jason Curtis - have a look at at the website for the talks from the weekend if you missed out.

- YF - The Youth Fellowship on a Sunday night numbers between 8-12 secondary age children and we are hoping to do something jointly with South Beach Baptist and Largs St. John's Church over the summer in terms of social action and mission. We continue to give thanks for our children - those in YF and also Junior Church and Crèche - and can I particularly thank the teachers of the children who give up so much of their time.

- Headrigg Gardens Service - we continue to have good numbers at our monthly service at Headrigg Gardens.

Some things to look forward to:

- We are hoping to hold an outdoor service on 7th August in the Glen - see inside further on in the magazine for details.

- The Kirk Session and the Property Team especially have been working hard behind the scenes on plans for refurbishing the church - and we hope to present these plans to the congregation soon.

Some things we are working on:

- We have moved away from elders districts towards a pastoral care team system. This is to try to ensure that the people that really need a visit are regularly visited in the church. This takes a bit of time just to put in place and get right.

- We have started an evening service once a month, and we hope to develop this further.

- The Session Room in the church has now been changed into a Prayer Room - and we hope to develop this further to

encourage prayer within the congregation.

All these things, of course, are just things that have come to my own mind - but of course there are many other things going on which are of encouragement - Rendezvous on a Tuesday, the continuing growth of the Boys' Brigade, the prayer meeting and Bible Study to name a few.

As always, we are thankful for all that God is doing, and continues to do among his people - but as always 'unless the Lord builds the house, we labour in vain' (Psalm 127) and so we constantly need to be seeking after Him and His will for us as a church. This is a difficult time for the church nationally and particularly in the Church of Scotland.

Membership is declining, finances are tight and there is a shortage of ministers. The future is uncertain.

Maybe the Lord's words to Joshua as he led Israel into the promised land are apt for us:

'Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.'

We continue to believe that God is good, that He is working His purposes out among His people - both nationally and here in West Kilbride.

And so let us be encouraged. The Lord is still at work.

Your friend and minister,

James

Join the 'West Kilbride Parish Church and Friends' Facebook group! Simply search for the group or go to : <http://on.fb.me/jFFAai>

Follow the church on Twitter: [@WKPC](https://twitter.com/WKPC)

Editorial

I have been writing dates in my diary for the next few months and have realised that we have a busy and exciting time ahead. We hope you will join with us as we celebrate C IN THE PARK (or Church in the Glen) on the 7th August. It promises to be a fun time for all ages as well as a time to give praise to our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Please come along and bring family, neighbours and friends. Read about it on the back page.

There has been a lot in the news lately about the PEOPLE'S BIBLE. Read on page ? how you can be involved in writing part of it.

We hope for a great response to the ALPHA course starting 12th September. If you have never been at an Alpha course I can really recommend it.

Brian and I are looking forward to attending CLAN Gathering in St Andrews from 23rd to 30th July. CLAN (Christians Linked Across the Nation) is a wonderful time of teaching, worship and praise. One of the main speakers this year is Heidi Baker who, with her husband Roland, has an anointed ministry in Mozambique. If you would like to attend it is possible to book as a day visitor if you cannot attend for the week. You will find details at clan@clangathering.org.uk

This issue of your magazine again covers two months and I hope that you enjoy the articles in it. May you enjoy this summer period and be refreshed and energised whether you are going away on holiday or staying at home.

Deirdre Murray.

Diary Dates for July and August 2011

3rd July	10.30am Morning Worship 2.30pm Afternoon Service at Headrigg Gdns
5th July	10.00am – 12 noon Rendezvous
10th July	10.30am Morning Worship
12th July	10.00am – 12 noon Rendezvous
17th July	10.30am Morning Worship
19th July	10.00am – 12 noon Rendezvous
24th July	10.30am Morning Worship
26th July	10.00am – 12 noon Rendezvous
31st July	10.30am Morning Worship
2nd August	10.00am – 12 noon Rendezvous
7th August	10.30am Morning Worship “C in the Park” - outdoor service in the Glen
9th August	10.00am – 12 noon Rendezvous 7.30pm Kirk Session in the Lower Hall
14th August	10.30am Morning Worship
16th August	10.00am – 12 noon Rendezvous
21st August	10.30am Morning Worship
23rd August	10.00am – 12 noon Rendezvous
28th August	10.30am Morning Worship 6.30pm Evening Service
30th August	10.00am – 12 noon Rendezvous
4th Sept	10.30am Communion, and service of dedication 2.30pm Communion Service at Headrigg Gdns

There is a prayer meeting and Bible study each Wednesday at 7.15pm and each Sunday at 9.45am in the Prayer Room. All are most welcome!

Change in Office Hours

Please note that the hours that the Church Office is open has changed. Jo is only in the office from 9am until early afternoon on **Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays** each week.

CHURCH REGISTER

Baptism

Noah Bourke, grandson of **Helen and Nicol Armstrong** on 8th May.

Deaths

Muriel Boyle of Kirkton Avenue

Joyce Collins of Meadowfoot Road.

Bill Lawrence of Happyhills

Please remember family and friends in your thoughts and prayers at this sad time.

GOOD NEWS GOOD NEWS

Many people will remember **Michael and Esther Franklin** who used to worship in St Andrew's Church before they moved to Carluke about three years ago. We are delighted to report that they had a baby son, **Ezra James**, weighing 6lbs 11 oz on the 8th June. They had previously had a stillborn baby girl so we are very happy that Ezra James and Esther are doing well. We join with their family and friends in wishing the Franklin family all God's blessings.

Congratulations and blessings to **John and Marie Black** who celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary on 1st June and to **Katy and Hugh Kean** who celebrated their Ruby Wedding anniversary on 5th June. We hope both couples had a lovely day and got lots of flowers.

We also wish God's blessing to **Margaret Harrison** who celebrated her 80th birthday on 10th June, **Douglas Davidson** who was 97 years young in June and to **George Blyth** who will celebrate his 90th birthday on 21 August.

We wish good health, happiness and many blessing to all the special people who will celebrate their birthdays, anniversaries and births over the summer.

THE SCOTTISH BIBLE SOCIETY AND THE PEOPLE'S BIBLE

The Scottish Bible Society is touring Scottish towns from June to September with a special trailer containing ScribeStation equipment which will allow members of the public to each hand-write two verses from the Bible and append their name if they wish. The English and Welsh Bible societies are doing the same in their own countries.

In addition, individual churches can arrange to borrow the necessary equipment from the Bible Society and organise their own Bible writing event in their own village. The equipment will enable the handwritten verses to be sent electronically to the Bible Society's computer in Edinburgh.

This is a means of bringing people into contact with the Bible, possibly for the first time in their lives. The three Bible Societies intend that the whole Bible will be handwritten in this way and their plan is to publish the handwritten People's Bible. The verses handwritten in the main trailer and at individual village events will all be included in the People's Bible.

We have obtained agreement from our village Library to locate a ScribeStation there on 18th and 19th August to coincide with the visit of the SBS trailer to Irvine. More details will be provided in our church intimations nearer the time.

Duncan Ferguson

HOSPITAL VISITING

If you know of anyone in hospital who would like a visit, please speak to the minister. Due to data protection, it is becoming increasingly difficult to find out who is in hospital, so please don't assume the minister already knows about someone who has been admitted. Many thanks!

Monthly Prayer diary – July 2011

- Fri 1st The Church of Scotland and the Church in Scotland
- Sat 2nd Rev Gillean Maclean and the Presbytery of Ardrossan
- Sun 3rd This is the day that the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it**
- Mon 4th We think of young families during the holidays from school. May they share good times together
- Tues 5th Protection over our children and young people, from all that would bring them harm
- Wed 6th Human Trafficking. All who are caught up in slavery
- Thur 7th We give thanks for our Minister James, Anna and their son John
- Fri 8th We pray to be vigilant in putting on our heavenly armour every day
- Sat 9th All who are caught up in addiction and the impact this has on family life
- Sun 10th We give thanks for the recent Alpha courses and pray in preparation for the next one**
- Mon 11th We pray for preparations being made for the Sunday Family day to be held in the Glen next month
- Tues 12th All we know who are unwell and all who are caring for them
- Wed 13th The Healing Rooms meetings held in the Bethany Church, Stevenston on Tuesday afternoons.
- Thur 14th All who are struggling with grief and loss. Lord, You have promised to heal the brokenhearted
- Fri 15th Our GP Surgery and local hospitals
- Sat 16th The residents in Headrigg Gardens and our local Care Homes
- Sun 17th May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in Your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer**
- Mon 18th Lord help us to be Your hands and feet, and give us the boldness to reach out in love to those around us

- Tues 19th We pray for Home Helps and Carers and give thanks for the cheer they bring to those who need them
- Wed 20th Our Missionary Partners and all who have been called to serve God in other parts of the world
- Thur 21st Our Servicemen and women. We pray for their protection. We pray for lasting peace to come to troubled areas of the world
- Fri 22nd MPs and MSPs, may they count it a privilege to serve and may they seek to serve with wisdom and integrity
- Sat 23rd Our World Leaders
- Sun 24th Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!**
- Mon 25th We give thanks for the beauty we see all around us
- Tues 26th We pray for all whose lives are torn apart by natural disasters, war or terrorism
- Wed 27th The Persecuted Church and all who are in prison because of their faith in the Lord Jesus
- Thur 28th Carol and Graeme, our Session Clerks and all our Elders, remembering especially the Mission and Discipleship Team as they plan and prepare for the Family Sunday in the Glen
- Fri 29th Rt Rev David Arnott, Moderator of the Church of Scotland
- Sat 30th Our Church Family, may there be love shared among us
- Sun 31st Revive Your Church O God**

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armour of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.”

Ephesians 6 v 10,11.

Monthly Prayer Diary – August 2011

- Mon 1st Let us focus on outreach into our local community
- Tues 2nd We pray for all the preparations being made for the Family Sunday in the Glen
- Wed 3rd We pray for willing volunteers to help the Mission and Discipleship Team and the other teams that will be involved on Sunday
- Thur 4th We pray a covering of protection for all aspects of the event on Sunday
- Fri 5th We pray for our Minister James and also the musicians and all who will have a part to play in the service on Sunday
- Sat 6th We pray for good weather tomorrow and for a great time of fellowship
- Sun 7th Family Sunday in the Glen. We pray that it will draw many people from the village to fellowship and to have fun together**
- Mon 8th As we reflect on the event yesterday, we give thanks. We pray for God's leading and guidance for the future
- Tues 9th Our Minister James, Anna and their son John
- Wed 10th Carol, Graeme and all our Elders
- Thur 11th Our brothers and sisters in St Brides Church
- Fri 12th We pray for local congregations facing change. Help them to remember that You are the same yesterday, today and forever
- Sat 13th The Persecuted Church and all who are in prison because of their faith in the Lord Jesus
- Sun 14th Through all the changing scenes of life, in trouble and in joy, the praises of my God shall still my heart and tongue employ**
- Mon 15th Our Missionary Partners – Lord please meet their every need
- Tues 16th Human Trafficking. We pray for organisations that campaign and work for change
- Wed 17th Children return to school today. We pray especially for the little ones starting school and all who are starting at the Academies. We pray for teachers too!

- Thur 18th All who who struggle with drug and alcohol addiction. We pray for their families also
- Fri 19th Our GP surgery and local hospitals, the Ayrshire Hospice
- Sat 20th Junior Church, YF, The Crèche, BBs, Guides and Brownies and for all the leaders – may they feel supported and encouraged through this coming year
- Sun 21st O magnify the Lord with me, with me exalt His name; when in distress to Him I called, He to my rescue came**
- Mon 22nd All we know who are sick and those who care for them
- Tues 23rd We pray for those who are grieving, Lord, be their comfort
- Wed 24th All whose lives are torn apart by natural disasters, war or terrorism
- Thur 25th Our Servicemen and women working in different parts of the world
- Fri 26th All who are struggling with debt or the fear of unemployment
- Sat 27th The residents in living in Headrigg Gardens and our local Care Homes
- Sun 28th Fear Him ye saints, and you will then have nothing else to fear; make you His service your delight, He'll make your wants His care**
- Mon 29th All who are in authority over us
- Tues 30th The Rendezvous Café, for good times of fellowship
- Wed 31st Protection over our village against violence and crime

“Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain”

1 Corinthians 15 v 58

Thoughts on the General Assembly

The recent General Assembly in May was dominated by the debate on same-sex relationships and the ministry, and whether it is appropriate to ordain someone in a same-sex relationship to the ministry.

The General Assembly voted to continue dialogue on same-sex relationships and the ministry following the Special Commission report on Monday 23rd May.

After several hours of debate, commissioners voted by 351 to 294 to adopt a deliverance which will consider the acceptance for training, induction and ordination of those in same-sex relationships for the ministry. A theological commission has been set up to bring recommendations to the 2013 General Assembly, as well as considering whether ministers should have freedom of conscience to bless civil partnerships and possible liturgy for such occasions. As nothing has been formally enacted, the proposals do not need to consult the Kirk's 46 presbyteries under the Barrier Act, but it does mark a significant departure from the Church's traditional teaching, as acknowledged by the Commission's report.

If the Theological Commission report back to the 2013 General Assembly and recommend that those in a same-sex relationship should be ordained, then this would go down through the Barrier Act to be voted on by the Presbyteries.

After this year's General Assembly, I think it is only fair that I, as your minister, give my own view on what has become such a divisive subject for the church.

The first thing I would say is that although the presenting issue is same-sex relationships and the ministry, in all reality, the issue at stake is the place of the Bible and whether we believe it or not.

Although many would argue on this issue that it is a matter of how you interpret the Bible, even a committee on Human Sexuality made up of those from differing theological positions reported in 2007 that 'The Bible, when it occasionally takes up the subject of same-sex activity, presents it as wrong choice'. ('A challenge to unity: same-sex

relationships as an issue in theology and human sexuality', Worship and Doctrine Task Group, General Assembly Reports 2007, 4.13.18)

What then is my response?

I believe...

- The church should love the homosexual person unconditionally.
- There should always be warmth of welcome, openness and understanding extended to them.
- The church ought always to minister in a spirit of love and compassion.
- The church must be a place of healing mercy and transforming grace.
- The church must remember that sexual sins are no worse than any other sins.

I also believe...

- The church should differentiate between homosexual orientation and the practice of homosexuality.
- God opposes homosexual “practice”, yet has a deep love for the person.

All of us struggle with various temptations in our lives, let us therefore pray for one another and encourage one another to walk in Christ-likeness.

James

General Assembly: Many were distressed at the recent decision by the General Assembly regarding same-sex relationships and the ministry. A website has been set up to affirm the Biblical position which you can sign up to. It is found at www.dissent.uk.com

TEARFUND

I have two letters of thanks from Lynne Paterson, the Director of Tearfund in Scotland, which I shall leave in the Tearfund slot in the Lower Hall for anyone who wishes to read them.

Our gift of £138 is helping with an agricultural training programme in Southern Sudan. At present, Tearfund are training 70 farmers and giving out seed.

Our other gift of £148.50 is going to support a scheme of animal husbandry for poor communities in Afghanistan. Each family signing up to this is given one goat, two chickens, seeds, shovels and buckets.

Thank you all for your small change collections which support this vital work.

Audrey Brown.

MARY'S MEALS – THE BACKPACK PROJECT

Children in poor countries face many obstacles on their way to gaining an education. Schools usually have next to no resources and parents struggle to provide food for their children let alone school bags, clothes, pencils and notebooks. The backpack project helps by inviting us to donate gifts of these items packed into a schoolbag/backpack. These are then given out to children receiving Mary's Meals at schools in countries such as Malawi, Liberia, Uganda or Haiti.

Wanted Items.

Backpack/schoolbag (this does not have to be new)

Exercise books/notepads

Pencils/pens/crayons/eraser/ruler/sharpener/pencil case

Shorts/Skirt & T-shirt or Dress

Flip flops/sandals

Small ball eg tennis ball

Soap/toothbrush/toothpaste/towel

Spoon

There will be a box in the Lower Hall for donations. Thank you.

ALPHA COURSE IN SEPTEMBER

This year we have run two “short” Alpha courses, each consisting of six weekly meetings. The first was for Elders during February/March and the second for members of the congregation during May/June. An average of twenty folk attended each meeting, and the impression I received from various folks' comments is that the courses were greatly appreciated.

We hope to have another Alpha course starting in September and will be publicising in the village to invite non-members to attend. We would also like members to attend, and would encourage you to invite a non-member friend to come with you.

This will be a “full” Alpha course comprising twelve weekly meetings. The majority of the meetings will be on Monday evenings beginning on 12th September.

Each meeting will start with a meal, followed by a DVD talk by Nicky Gumbel on various fundamental aspects of the Christian faith, followed by discussion groups. Nicky Gumbel is an extremely engaging speaker who is able to present the topics clearly. And the group discussions provide a great opportunity to freely ask your questions or describe your difficulties regarding the Christian faith with other folk in a relaxed atmosphere. Each meeting is expected to last for about two and a half hours but more details will be provided nearer the time.

Duncan Ferguson

What are our Ministries & Mission Contributions?

Following receipt of a letter from the Head of Stewardship at 121 George Street, our Kirk Session has asked me to explain a little about what exactly are our Ministries and Mission Contributions. This is certainly not always an easy subject to understand, and can lead to some very stimulating discussions at Presbytery.

The principal means by which the central church raises funds to pay for Ministers, and do the massive amount of work that it does, is by a system entitled Ministries and Mission (M&M) Contributions. Effectively every congregation is levied a sum of money each year, based upon the average income of the previous three financial years. There are scales of the levy, and some particular types of income are excluded from this average income calculation e.g. legacies.

If you follow the annual accounts released recently, you will see that the annual contributions were a little less than half of the annual income, but in fact for a little of 2010 St Andrews was in vacancy and that qualified for a fairly reasonable discount. In 2011, our contributions will total £81,437 which is a little over 54% of our average assessable income. At some point in history, the church has received a sum (probably through a legacy) which has purchased an annuity income of about £1,000 and so we will actually be paying about £80,400 nett this year, as this annuity income goes straight to Edinburgh against .

So, what does our M&M Contributions pay for? Well, the average cost of a Minister (annual stipend, national insurance, pension etc.) is about £39,600, so that takes care of about half of the money. In fact, we are a financially well blessed Parish, where other Congregations in different areas do not do as well.

At the 2010 General Assembly (which I had the honour to represent you at) the Third Article Declaratory of the constitution of our Church of Scotland was reaffirmed. This is where the church seeks to bring the ordinances of the Christian religion to every area of our nation, and this forms a very big part of our local Mission, which often times we can tend to forget. At this moment in time, broadly speaking, one third of churches support two thirds, and this is clearly not sustainable. Measures are being taken in Edinburgh and throughout the church to try to resolve this issue. In Ardrossan Presbytery as a whole, the total cost of Ministries matches almost exactly the total M&M contributions paid by churches.

In fact, total M&M contributions from every church are split into three amounts – about 86% goes to pay for the cost of Ministry in each Parish, 6% to a fund entitled “Mission and Renewal”, and 8% goes to a further fund entitled “Support and Services for Councils and Congregations”. Our 86% Ministry contributions means that we are supporting the wider work of the church in Ministry by £30,436 during 2011.

The Mission and Renewal fund supports the church’s work in resourcing congregations for Christian education and

outreach, in caring for the vulnerable in society, in partnership with Church in some of the poorest parts of the world, and in providing a Christian perspective on the issues of today.

The Support and Services fund provides financial, legal, safeguarding and other services and meets the cost of the Moderator. Much of my own voluntary work for the church is involved in this area of the management of the church. Above I have specified that 8% of the M&M Contributions of churches go to the Support and Services fund, and this may seem like a lot for the management of Scotland's biggest charity. But, in fact, the church also runs the largest national social care programme (nursing homes, and projects for young people, and adults with certain issues), and receives some support income from local councils to assist with this. So, when these projects, and all the other work done by the church is taken into account, in fact only about 1% of income is spent on management.

So, I know the foregoing all sounds a little complicated, but hopefully it has given you some indication of how our contributions are calculated and divided up. Fortunately the church has produced an excellent leaflet this year entitled "2011 Ministries and Mission" and this gives a clearer understanding of how our contributions break down. I have left copies in the magazine rack in the Lower Hall in our church.

Stephen Brown
Treasurer

For anyone interested in coming to CLAN Gathering and need somewhere to stay I was given this notice.

This furnished holiday let is self-contained with own entrance. Situated 7 miles from St Andrew's with location for CLAN Gathering.

Furnished holiday let: for two adults sharing

The Studio @ Kingsbarns

Self catering accommodation

(near St Andrews and across the road from Kingsbarns Links)

Tel: 01334 880450 or 075762481

Email: barnslaw@yahoo.co.uk

www.barnslaw.co.uk

FREECYCLE

TV cabinet with glass top and shelves. Please contact Nan Watt.

Some signs and notices written in English that were discovered abroad.

Outside a Hong Kong tailor's shop: Ladies may have a fit upstairs.

In an advertisement by a Hong Kong dentist: Teeth extracted by the latest Methodists.

A sign posted in Germany's Black Forest: It is strictly forbidden on our Black Forest camping site that people of different sex, for instance, men and women, live in one tent unless they are married with each other for that purpose.

In a Budapest zoo: Please do not feed the animals. If you have any suitable food, give it to the guard on duty.

In a Copenhagen airline ticket office: We take your bags and send them in all directions.

CATHERINE BROWN'S KENYA REPORT

A big thank you to all of those who prayed for our recent ministry trip to Kenya and to those of you who made financial donations. We couldn't do it without you and you share in the heavenly reward! God is moving in Africa and for such a time as this He has given us grace to serve in the harvest fields of the nations. We hope to return to Uganda in late August/early September. Look out for some fun fund raising events coming soon.

Here are just a few of the highlights of our trip:

17th April - Palm Sunday – Pastor Emmanuel (from Uganda), Mary and I ministered at K3C in Kileleshwa where we had the joy of seeing one young man come to Christ. We also prayed for many of the believers for healing, including one lady who had depression. We ended the service with a time of exuberant praise with the palm fronds that made up the church flower display. We met with some dear friends and then had lunch with two of our team members and their family.

Monday 18th - In the morning I met with business woman with whom I am developing a friendship. Anne and I had a good time sharing on Kingdom insights, with particular emphasis on kingdom entrepreneurialism. We headed from there to our GGM Leaders gathering in Nairobi hosted by Bishop Patroba Mukenya where more than 100 leaders attended. We had a powerful time of studying God's word together.

Tuesday 19th - We were blessed to return to Thika women's prison where we are pioneering a bead work training project with the female prisoners. We were able to share the love of Christ with the women, also distributing the underwear which had been gifted from a lady in the UK. One young woman came forward to receive Christ as her personal Saviour and as we held her in our arms Jesus poured His love into her, bringing healing and salvation. We are now in the process of putting together a new proposal for on-going training in Thika prison and we trust God for His provision for the plan, the people and the flow of resource as

we continue to serve the women there. Please continue to pray with us for wisdom, strategy and team.

The remainder of our day was spent in travelling to Eldoret around 8.5 hours. Unfortunately, we had a restless night in the hotel due to some noise from other residents but God turned this to a blessing by reaching out in salvation love to Sylvia.

Wednesday 20 April – More than 200 leaders turned up for our GGM 'Impact' conference in Eldoret town. We are so grateful to Pr Nicholas, John and the team who worked hard to put together an excellent programme. The worship and the prayer team did an awesome job too! We ended the day with a consultation with some of our GGM partners and despite being very tired we wanted to honour our hosts and so we headed off into Kamkunji slums where they live for supper.

Thursday 21st - We travelled back from Eldoret to Nairobi, taking around 8 hours to reach home base. On the way we travelled by way of the great Rift Valley and marvelled at God's spectacular hand in creation.

Despite a long day of travel, we had a final important meeting scheduled for Thursday evening. We met with Chaplains Jane and Simon who were representing the Kenya Military Ministry Bishop and arch-deacons. We had a wonderful time of sharing heart and vision and we are hopeful that this meeting will result in GGM being able to help develop and deliver discipleship and leadership training to the Kenyan Military Ministry.

Friday 22nd April - We made our way back to the airport with tears in our hearts because we love Kenya so much and it was time to return back home for Easter celebrations.

God bless you and thank you so much for sowing into the mission fields of East Africa.

Catherine xx

Boys Brigade Annual review 2011.

Once again it has been a very busy and successful year for the boys of 1st West Kilbride, since the last display the company has continued to grow in strength and depth of activities. The biggest change has been the rapid rise in the size of the company section, this has required the creation of a sixth squad to accommodate the 48 boys attending on a Friday evening. The entire company strength sits just below 130 boys and this makes 1st West Kilbride the 11th biggest company in Scotland, not bad for a small village! The continued success of the company relies heavily on a dedicated group of volunteers who willingly give of their time to offer such a wide range of activities to the boys of our village. It would be impossible to mention every individual as the number of people involved continues to grow, although it is very welcome to note that four of our helpers/instructors have taken the additional step to move forward for officer training (Miss Jessie Skinner, Mr Colin Gillespie, Mr Stuart Houghton and Mrs Dawn Bunting).

Immediately after the last display the company section was involved in a new activity in the form of the East Kilbride hike. We were able to enter four teams into this event and were delighted that all four teams completed the course with one of the teams, picking up the bronze medals (Andy Thomson, Alistair Lennie, Jack Cooper), flushed with success the company then moved onto our biggest challenge in the form of the Cleveland hike in North Yorkshire. This event challenges the boys, both physically and mentally as they work as a team of 3 to navigate themselves around a predetermined course over two days. This year the company had its greatest success at this event, winning three different categories. The team of Robert Montgomery, Alistair Lennie and James Ferrie were placed third overall in this event and picked up the bronze medals, while Ross Taylor, Euan Jack, and Cameron Watson won the under 16 trophy. The crowning moment was when 1st West

Kilbride, were presented with the Viking trophy for the company with the highest placed three teams when our third team of Jack Cooper, Calum Cooper and Jamie Thomson clinched 12th place overall.

Another new venture that the company undertook was the challenge of the West Highland way in October of 2010. The company was joined by our friends from 7th Irvine, 1st Ardrossan and 1st Stevenson to take on the 97 mile challenge from Fort William to Glasgow. A fantastic time was had by all, even with so many aching feet! Special mention must go to Mrs Shedden, Mr Johnston and Miss Skinner for undertaking this expedition.

The company section was, for the second year, able to compete in the national competitions for chess and table tennis. This year we saw an increase in the number of teams to 3 in each event. Adding to the boys many experiences, many of them travelling to other companies through the winter snow, it was fantastic to see that we were able to reach the Scottish quarter-finals in both events.

At Battalion level the junior section continued to dominate in a range of activities such as chess, potted sports and cross-country, winning these trophies once again. The junior section were also able to win the swimming trophy, general knowledge, five aside football and the football league. The boys were always able to win silver medals at the drama competition, badminton event and painting competition. Bronze medals were won in the Bible knowledge competition. These results along with our other competitions entered through the Battalion enabled the boys to win the Battalion Championships with 210 points, 1st Largs were second with 205 points while 1st Irvine, were able to gain the bronze medal position with 196 points.

The company section were defending the Battalion Championships after winning it last year, after many years of trying. The boys were able to win the trophies in chess, cross-country, table tennis, quiz,

swimming, 10 pin bowling as well as the top prize- Scripture knowledge. Silver medals were also awarded in five aside football as well as bronze medals at the badminton and drill competitions. This made for a very close league championship, which ended up with 1st West Kilbride, winning the exact same number of points as 1st Largs. Company section! Once again, the enthusiasm and participation of all of the boys was recognised throughout the season and was very much appreciated. It is our hope that every single boy will find at least one activity, competition or event that will inspire them.

At Christmas time, the company once again managed to beat the record for the amount of money raised during the charity Christmas post. This is a tremendous effort, again by so many individuals, that allowed us to record a total collection of £2047.44! Very many thanks to all who assisted, sorted, stamped and delivered, your efforts are very much appreciated.

As the company has continued to grow and the age profile has continued to rise we have always been on the lookout for new experiences and challenges for the boys to undertake. One area that has been a great success is the encouragement of the older boys to get involved with the church through the youth Fellowship. The numbers in this area have continued to grow as the size of the company section increases. Another area where the boys have fully engaged with has to be. Gymnastics, I'm sure you'll see this during the display, but we have also been able to extend the boys experiences by entering them into the Paisley and district gymnastics Championships. Under the direction of Mrs Jenny Monaghan and Mr Mark Bell, the senior gymnastics team was able to win the open championship by a large margin.

As always, the company feels that it is at the centre of the village and is involved in a range of community-based projects as treeplanting,

beach cleaning and the gardening club. Through our range of activities, events and opportunities the hope is that every boy who comes to the boys brigade can find success, encouragement and inspiration in as many areas as possible.

This company is a collection of volunteers who are able to offer such a wide range of activities and opportunities to the boys of our village and in doing so, I believe that we all benefit. As always we are looking for new ideas and experiences for the boys as well as additional volunteers to expand the program so that maybe next year we will be into the top 10 largest companies in Scotland!

Summer activities.

Although the formal part of the boys brigade finishes with the displays on the fourth and fifth of May. There are still a range of activities that the boys could participate in through the summer months prior to the start of the next session.

Gardening club-14th and 28th of May, 11th and 25th of June.

North Ayrshire Battalion hike-Saturday 21st of May-primary seven boys and company section.

East Kilbride hike-Saturday the 11th and Sunday, 12 June (S2 boys and above).

Cleveland hike-Friday 24th-Sunday 26th of June. (Company section).

Family walk up goat fell-date to be confirmed.

Summer Battalion camp-9th-16th of July. (Lake District).

Primary 2, 3 and 4 activity day with the Scottish football Association-second week in August.

Company section activity day-end of August-check with Mr Pollock and Mr Armstrong (go-karting)

Alex Jack.



Church
In the
Park

'C' is for ... **Church**,
Community and most of all
... **Christ!**

'C' is for '**Seeing!**'

And it is all going to happen
'**in the Park**' (well, the Glen
really!)

On 7th August we are planning to have our morning worship down in the Glen instead of in the church building. The idea is to truly become a 'church without walls' and encourage friends, neighbours and family members to come along and see what Church is like. As many find crossing the threshold of a church building something that is difficult, instead we will take the church out into the community.

As well as our morning worship service, we are hoping to have a picnic together, a Christian Band playing for us and hopefully some puppets and a storyteller. We will also have a marquee in case of poor weather.

More details to follow!

Please do support this important and exciting event as we step out in faith to our community as a church and as we display Christ to those around us.

And can I encourage you to think and pray through who you might invite along to this event?