

Church Matters

West Kilbride Parish Church Magazine
Issue No. 15 June, July & August 2012



Sheep Safely Grazing, Law Brae

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Heading on into Summer

As I write this in the middle of May, it is clear that the summer will almost be upon us. Traditionally, of course, summer is the time when we each take a break and a rest. And it is good for us to take time out, to rest, reflect and recharge. One of my favourite passages that I often reflect upon is found in Mark's gospel chapter 6. Jesus had sent out the twelve disciples to preach and to heal in His name. And the disciples work hard doing what Jesus has commissioned them to do, before returning to Jesus once more. And because things are so busy, Jesus says to the disciples: 'Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest'. And so Jesus and the disciples leave to go to a solitary place, but when they get there, a large crowd have already arrived before them. Jesus has compassion on the people, teaches them and then performs a great miracle in feeding the five thousand. It is quite a story!

But I often wonder what the disciples must have thought. They had worked hard and were probably looking forward to a break - to breathe the fresh air and to spend time with Jesus and in prayer. And yet, suddenly there is more work to do! And often life can be like that. We think we have just reached the end of something - and we are probably looking forward to a break - but then we find there is more to do.

This summer in the church may be a case in point because this summer we have two big events planned!

Firstly, we have 'On your Marks' - a week of activities, Bible stories and fun for children of primary age, and the Youth Team have already been hard at work planning the week. It will be running from 25th-29th June, from 6pm-7.30pm with a special service also taking place on the Sunday morning. As you can probably tell from the name, the week is based on an Olympic Theme and as a play on words, we will be looking at Mark's gospel. Please do encourage your children / grandchildren to come along! Registration for the week will take place on 23rd June.

Please do pray for this event - the young people who will come along, and the leaders who will take part.

The second event will be 'C in the Park 2012' which will provisionally take place on Sunday 5th August in the Glen, following on from the success of last year's event.

Again, please do pray for this event, and the Mission and Discipleship Team as the event is planned.

We have much to give thanks to God for and your continued support and prayers are much appreciated, especially as we seek as a church to reach out with the good news about Jesus Christ, during this summer period!

Yours in Christ,

James

IF YOU DON'T PRAY FOR YOUR NEIGHBOUR - WHO WILL?

A Prayer of Blessing

Father, I commit to pray for the people in my street. You told us to love our neighbour as ourselves, and one of the ways I can demonstrate my love for my neighbour is by praying for them. I want to pray your blessing down on them and for them to know You as I know You and for them to know Jesus as their Saviour and Lord.

Help me to be a good neighbour - I want to have your eyes as I look at my neighbour and to have Your heart as I pray for them.
In Jesus name - Amen

Diary Dates for June 2012

3 Jun	10:30 AM	Morning Service And Sunday School
3 Jun	02:00 PM	Afternoon Service Headrigg Gardens
3 Jun	07:15 PM	Joint Evening Service - Hayocks Community Centre
3 Jun	07:30 PM	Youth Fellowship – Bill Penny Hall
5 Jun	09:30 AM	Women Who Pray – Prayer Room
5 Jun	10:00 AM	Rendezvous – Lower Hall
5 Jun	07:30 PM	Kirk Session Meeting – Lower Hall
6 Jun	10:00 AM	Vestry Hour
6 Jun	07:15 PM	Prayer Meeting
10 Jun	10:30 AM	Morning Service And Sunday School
10 Jun	06:30 PM	No Evening Service
10 Jun	07:30 PM	Youth Fellowship – Bill Penny Hall
12 Jun	09:30 AM	Women Who Pray – Prayer Room
12 Jun	10:00 AM	Rendezvous – Lower Hall
13 Jun	10:00 AM	Vestry Hour
13 Jun	07:15 PM	Prayer Meeting
17 Jun	10:30 AM	Morning Service And Sunday School
17 Jun	07:30 PM	Youth Fellowship – Bill Penny Hall
19 Jun	09:30 AM	Women Who Pray – Prayer Room
19 Jun	10:00 AM	Rendezvous – Lower Hall
20 Jun	10:00 AM	Vestry Hour
20 Jun	07:15 PM	Prayer Meeting
24 Jun	10:30 AM	Morning Service – Junior Church Presentation
24 Jun	06:30 PM	Evening Service
24 Jun	07:30 PM	Youth Fellowship – Bill Penny Hall
25 Jun	06:00 PM	On Your Marks
26 Jun	09:30 AM	Women Who Pray – Prayer Room
26 Jun	10:00 AM	Rendezvous – Lower Hall
26 Jun	06:00 PM	On Your Marks
27 Jun	10:00 AM	Vestry Hour
27 Jun	06:00 PM	On Your Marks
27 Jun	07:15 PM	No Prayer Meeting
28 Jun	06:00 PM	On Your Marks
29 Jun	06:00 PM	On Your Marks

Diary Dates for July 2012

- 1 Jul 10:30 AM Family Service**
1 Jul 02:00 PM Afternoon Service Headrigg Gardens
3 Jul 09:30 AM Women Who Pray – Prayer Room
3 Jul 10:00 AM Rendezvous – Lower Hall
4 Jul 07:15 PM Prayer Meeting
- 8 Jul 10:30 AM Morning Service And Summer Club**
10 Jul 09:30 AM Women Who Pray – Prayer Room
10 Jul 10:00 AM Rendezvous – Lower Hall
11 Jul 07:15 PM Prayer Meeting
- 15 Jul 10:30 AM Morning Service And Summer Club**
15 Jul 06:30 PM Evening Service
17 Jul 09:30 AM Women Who Pray – Prayer Room
17 Jul 10:00 AM Rendezvous – Lower Hall
18 Jul 07:15 PM Prayer Meeting
- 22 Jul 10:30 AM Morning Service And Summer Club**
24 Jul 09:30 AM Women Who Pray – Prayer Room
24 Jul 10:00 AM Rendezvous – Lower Hall
25 Jul 10:00 AM Vestry Hour
25 Jul 07:15 PM Prayer Meeting
- 29 Jul 10:30 AM Morning Service And Summer Club**
29 Jul 06:30 PM Evening Service
31 Jul 09:30 AM Women Who Pray – Prayer Room
31 Jul 10:00 AM Rendezvous – Lower Hall

Diary Dates for August 2012

- 1 Aug 10:00 AM Vestry Hour
1 Aug 07:15 PM Prayer Meeting
- 5 Aug 10:30 AM Morning Service And Summer Club**
7 Aug 09:30 AM Women Who Pray – Prayer Room
7 Aug 10:00 AM Rendezvous – Lower Hall
8 Aug 10:00 AM Vestry Hour
8 Aug 07:15 PM Prayer Meeting
- 12 Aug 10:30 AM Morning Service And Summer Club**
12 Aug 06:30 PM Evening Service
14 Aug 09:30 AM Women Who Pray – Prayer Room
14 Aug 10:00 AM Rendezvous – Lower Hall
14 Aug 07:30 PM Kirk Session Meeting – Lower Hall
15 Aug 10:00 AM Vestry Hour
15 Aug 07:15 PM Prayer Meeting
- 19 Aug 10:30 AM Morning Service And Sunday School**
19 Aug 07:30 PM Youth Fellowship – Bill Penny Hall
21 Aug 09:30 AM Women Who Pray – Prayer Room
21 Aug 10:00 AM Rendezvous – Lower Hall
22 Aug 10:00 AM Vestry Hour
22 Aug 07:15 PM Prayer Meeting
- 26 Aug 10:30 AM Morning Service And Sunday School**
26 Aug 06:30 PM Evening Service
26 Aug 07:30 PM Youth Fellowship – Bill Penny Hall
28 Aug 09:30 AM Women Who Pray – Prayer Room
28 Aug 10:00 AM Rendezvous – Lower Hall
29 Aug 10:00 AM Vestry Hour
29 Aug 07:15 PM Prayer Meeting

Church Members

In the last edition of “Church Matters” we looked at the questions that are asked of prospective members and the vows that are taken when we join the church.

The question was also asked whether being a member of a church was like being a member of the gym where 60% of the members don't go or is it more like being a member at the golf club where most members will actually use the facilities.

As a church, we currently have around 700 members and clearly not all members are actively involved in the congregation. This may be for various legitimate reasons - illness, infirmity, age or family circumstance. It may also be that some members are simply not interested in the church for whatever reason.

Over the Summer months, it would be helpful for all members to consider the following questions:

- (1) Why am I a member of West Kilbride Parish Church?
- (2) Am I still fulfilling the vows I took when I joined the Church?
- (3) Do I still wish to be a member?

If you are a member of West Kilbride Parish Church you will receive, with your September “Church Matters”, a personal letter asking you to think seriously about whether the vows you made are still something which you are committed to keeping.

This letter will allow you, if you wish, to recommit to these vows by continuing to be a member.

A Walk of Celebration

My first Easter Day in West Kilbride and what do I discover? The parish church 'sunrise' walk up Law Hill. The first thing to say is that it is not as early as sunrise, departure from the church being a more friendly 07.45. It was a cold, misty morning and people gradually appeared in twos and threes, well wrapped up against the weather. I had been advised that the terrain would not be muddy, and that there was only one section where you had to stop talking, and that was the initial steep section out of the village. We set off *en masse*, a few of the more elderly or frail being transported by car a little later. There were over fifty people in all – not bad for a cold misty morning.

Well, they were right about the 'no talking' stretch. It was a long time since I had done any walking apart from round the village, and I certainly puffed my way up the 'vertical' section, determined not to have to make 'the stop of shame' or should I say embarrassment! Eventually we turned off onto a broad gravelled track across a field and soon arrived at the summit, topped with its almost inevitable telephone mast. I usually look at Law Hill from my front window and had not realized how short a walk it really was.

At the summit someone had erected a large silver covered cross on a post. I was able to see it for weeks afterwards, when the sun was in the right direction - a bright, almost whitish glow, for me only discernible as a cross through binoculars, but a sight that nevertheless gave me a sense of ownership and pleasure.

Almost inevitably for my first climb, although this was the first time in living memory for the sunrise walkers, Law Hill was covered in a mist so thick there was no view at all of the village or approaches to the Clyde! James, the minister, clad in waterproofs and a beanie, held a brief and heartfelt service, which ended with everyone in a row along the summit shouting as loudly as possible, "Christ is risen". A mad but lovely thing to do on this special day. The children with the energy then rolled Easter eggs down a s exceptionally steep slope, fortunately none landed up rolling down it themselves it was so steep. I say 'energy' because they had to climb up the summit again to reach the route down to the village!

This thoroughly enjoyable event was topped off with fruit juice, rolls, hot drinks, and burger butties in the church hall. How civilised!

Lesley Armitage

Prayer Diary – June 2012

- Fri 1st Lord, we pray that Your Kingdom will come and Your will be done in West Kilbride.
- Sat 2nd Our Minister James, Anna his wife and their son John.
- Sun 3rd As our congregation meets together, we pray for a sense of the nearness of God to touch each one of us and make a difference to how we live our lives.**
- Mon 4th The residents living in Glenside Grove and Glenview.
- Tue 5th We give thanks for our Queen today and pray that all will go well with the planned celebrations to mark her Diamond Jubilee.
- Wed 6th Human trafficking. We pray for people bought and sold into slavery.
- Thu 7th Preparations being made for ON YOUR MARKS!
- Fri 8th Servicemen and women serving in Afghanistan and all who are caught up in conflict around the world. We pray for Peacemakers and Peacekeepers.
- Sat 9th All who are unwell, undergoing treatment or waiting for test results.
- Sun 10th We pray for local congregations who are facing change. We pray that they will see God's plans unfold for them, as we have.**
- Mon 11th The residents living in Goldenberry Avenue and Halfway Street.
- Tue 12th The bereaved and brokenhearted. Lord, be their comfort, their strength and their peace.
- Wed 13th Carol and Graeme our Session Clerks and all our Elders. We pray too for the preparations being made for this year's 'C in the Park'.
- Thu 14th Helen Scott in Malawi and all who have been called to serve God in other lands.
- Fri 15th The Middle East. Middle East church leaders have asked for "a tsunami of prayer" for the region.
- Sat 16th The Persecuted Church and all who are in danger because of their love of the Lord Jesus"

- Sun 17th** **We remember all who are frail, elderly or unwell who can't join with us to worship today. Lord, may they receive a special touch from You.**
- Mon 18th The residents living in Happyhills and Hauplands Way.
- Tue 19th We give thanks for the beauty that we see all around us, especially during these summer months.
- Wed 20th The GP Surgery, our local hospitals and Care Homes.
- Thu 21st All who are struggling with long term health problems or addiction. Lord, be their strength in times of weakness.
- Fri 22nd The Government and The Scottish Parliament. We pray for all who are in authority over us.
- Sat 23rd Registration Day for 'ON YOUR MARKS'!!
- Sun 24th** **We pray for all the children who live in West Kilbride. May they all have the opportunity to hear the Good News that Jesus loves each one of them.**
- Mon 25th The residents living in Headrigg Gardens and Headrigg Road. We also pray for ON YOUR MARKS starting this evening.
- Tue 26th We give thanks for all who give of their time and talents to work with our children and young people throughout the year and during this week with ON YOUR MARKS. May they be blessed beyond their imaginings!
- Wed 27th We pray protection on our families. We pray for those going through difficult times. We rejoice with those who rejoice.
- Thu 28th We remember Primary 7 children as they prepare to move to the Academies and also pupils leaving school . We pray for all the future holds for them.
- Fri 29th The closing night of ON YOUR MARKS!!
- Sat 30th Protection over our children during the school holidays.
Protection over our village against violence and crime.

**“Train a child in the way they should go,
and when they are old they will not turn from it”
Proverbs 22 v 6**

Prayer Diary – July 2012

- Sun 1st** **We give thanks that we have the freedom to come to worship openly and without fear.**
- Mon 2nd We pray for the residents living in Heritage Park and Highthorne Crescent.
- Tue 3rd Rendezvous. We pray for good times of fellowship and give thanks for the ladies who serve there.
- Wed 4th We give thanks for our Minister James, Anna and their son John.
- Thu 5th The residents living in Headrigg Gardens and pray for all our local Care Homes.
- Fri 6th Human Trafficking. We pray for organisations working to raise awareness.
- Sat 7th We pray for all who are locked into poverty. We pray for charities and organisations who seek to help, and help us Lord not to turn a blind eye.
- Sun 8th** **We pray for countries where Christianity is the minority faith and where Christians can face grave danger.**
- Mon 9th We pray for the residents living in Hillside Road and Hunterston Road.
- Tue 10th Carol and Graeme our Session Clerks and all our Elders.
- Wed 11th Preparations being made for this year's 'C in the Park'.
- Thu 12th All who are struggling with debt and the fear of unemployment.
- Fri 13th World Leaders, may serve with Godly wisdom, humility and integrity.
- Sat 14th Katy Clarke our MP, Kenneth Gibson our MSP and our Local Councillors.
- Sun 15th** **We pray for children who have lost one or both parents in anti - Christian violence.**
- Mon 16th We pray for residents living in Hyndman Road and Jacks View.
- Tue 17th Our GP Surgery, local hospitals and hospices.
- Wed 18th Let us give thanks that we live in such a beautiful place.
- Thu 19th We pray for families during the school summer holidays.
- Fri 20th Our brothers and sisters in St Brides Church.

- Sat 21st We pray blessing on our local businesses for the sake of the whole community.
- Sun 22nd We pray for wisdom for Pastors working in areas where armed groups are active. Pray that God will guard and protect them.**
- Mon 23rd We pray for residents living in Kilruskin Drive and Kirkton Avenue.
- Tue 24th All we know who are unwell and those who are caring for them.
- Wed 25th We pray for all who mourn. Lord, You have promised to comfort them.
- Thu 26th We pray as the publicity for 'C in the Park' is distributed, that many people will be drawn to sharing fellowship together.
- Fri 27th The Olympic Games open today. We pray for Heavenly protection over every aspect of the Games, and that success will come to those who are deserving of it.
- Sat 28th We pray for all who are struggling with addiction – drugs, alcohol, gambling, pornography – and the impact this can have on family life.
- Sun 29th We praise God for the places in the world where there is amazing growth of Christian churches.**
- Mon 30th We pray for the residents living in Law Brae and Lawfield Avenue.
- Tue 31st We pray for our witness as Christians living in West Kilbride.

**“This is the confidence we have in approaching God:
that if we ask anything according to His will,
He hears us.”
1 John 5 v 14**

Prayer Diary – August 2012

- Wed 1st We pray for everyone involved in the preparations for 'C in the Park'. We pray for many willing volunteers to help.
- Thu 2nd We pray for God's hand to be evident in all we seek to do for Him through 'C in the Park'.
- Fri 3rd We pray protection over every aspect of 'C in the Park'.
- Sat 4th We pray for James our Minister, and the musicians as they make their final preparations for tomorrow.
- Sun 5th 'C in the Park' 2012** May God richly bless our time together. May many people come to join us.
- Mon 6th We pray for the residents living in Maimhor Road and Main Street.
- Tue 7th May we have much to thank God for as we reflect on 'C in the Park'.
- Wed 8th Troubled areas of the world. We pray for the innocent victims of war and conflict.
- Thu 9th Aid Agencies, Rescue Services, Peacemakers and Peacekeepers.
- Fri 10th Our GP Surgery. We give thanks for our doctors, nurses and all who work there.
- Sat 11th We pray for the brokenhearted and the bereaved. We remember the 'Footprints' poem – "It was then I carried you".
- Sun 12th The closing ceremony of the Olympics. We do pray that everything went safely and that there is much to be thankful for.**
- Mon 13th We pray for the residents living in Manse Road and Meadowfoot Road.
- Tue 14th We pray for all who are caught up in addiction. We pray for their families. We pray for healing. God, You can make a way where there seems to be no way.
- Wed 15th Human Trafficking, for all who are caught up in modern day slavery.
- Thu 16th We pray for children and their teachers as schools resume. May they feel cared for and supported throughout this coming school year.

- Fri 17th Our Minister James, Anna and their son John. May they feel supported by our love and our prayers.
- Sat 18th We pray for all Christians who suffer discrimination, oppression, or persecution because of their love of the Lord Jesus.
- Sun 19th Our young ones in Crèche, Treasure Seekers, Junior Church and Youth Fellowship. We give thanks for all who willingly help as leaders and supporters. May they be truly blessed in their ministry.**
- Mon 20th We pray for the residents living in Meadowside and Merlewood Road.
- Tue 21st For all we know who are unwell, undergoing treatment or waiting for test results.
- Wed 22nd Helen Scott in Malawi and all we know who have been called to serve God in other lands.
- Thu 23rd Carol, Graeme and our Elders. We pray also for all who work quietly in the background to support the smooth running of our Church.
- Fri 24th All who are sad and lonely. All who suffer from the darkness of depression. May they find the strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow.
- Sat 25th All who serve in the Government and the Scottish Parliament.
- Sun 26th Our Church Family, may there be love shared among us.**
- Mon 27th We pray for the residents living in Nethermiln Road and North Road.
- Tue 28th We pray for The Ardrossan Presbytery and local congregations facing change.
- Wed 29th God's leading and guidance for the future of our Church in West Kilbride.
- Thu 30th Our young people preparing to go to college or university and for all who have yet to find employment.
- Fri 31st Our organisations as we begin again for the autumn sessions.

**“Will You not revive us again,
that Your people may rejoice in You?”**

Psalm 85 v 6

On Your Marks

We are currently planning a Children's Club called "On Your Marks". This will take place each weeknight: Monday 25th June - Friday 29th June, 6p.m. - 7.30p.m. at West Kilbride Parish Church. This is for children of primary school age.

"On Your Marks" has a lively Olympic theme and is based on stories from Mark's Gospel.

The leaders who are involved are very enthusiastic about the material we are using which is produced by Scripture Union specifically for children. It presents stories from the Bible in a way which we believe the children will find relevant and enjoyable. They will have the opportunity to play games, have a go at crafts and of course, have lots of fun - sometimes at the leaders' expense!

Preparation is already well underway for this event. Our minister James McNay will be taking an active role during the week and will also conduct a special family service on Sunday 1st July to round off the week's activities.

Those involved would all very much value your prayers. This is a new undertaking for us here in West Kilbride Parish Church and we are very aware of how much we need this prayerful support.

We would like to suggest that the whole church family – no matter what age - might like to read Mark's gospel at home during the month of June. In so doing, we can all learn together.

It is interesting to remember that for the Millennium year, golden copies of the book of Mark were given out in West Kilbride so perhaps now in the 60th Jubilee year it is good to be reminded of the message again!

Thank you for your support.

Helen Scott – Malawi

April 2012

Dear Praying Friends,

Let me share with you some of the joy of Easter I have been privileged to be a part of. I heard last week that there was a vehicle going up to Engerenge Presbytery on the northern border of Malawi. I have a long-standing invitation to go to a church up there called Lutengano. I was last there in 2002 and was given the name of Mama Lutengano. So I phoned them up on Wednesday and invited myself for Easter!

I arrived up there at 9am on Friday morning (we left here at 5.30am) just in time for breakfast and then the start of the Easter Services. In this area of Malawi they speak a language called Kangonde – quite different from Tumbuka, though they do understand Tumbuka. It is a rice growing area and the church is situated in the middle of paddy fields, near the shores of the lake with the mountains of Tanzania shimmering in the distance. This year, that area has been hit by drought, but the rains have come and people are now hopeful of a harvest!

On Good Friday we had a service in the morning, then after lunch I conducted a bible study looking at Grace. Fortunately this didn't take place till about 3.30pm as Lutengano is very hot and at midday I felt like a wet rag. Then in the evening we had more worship in the church – I actually gave up at 9pm and went to bed but I'm told the others continued till midnight. All day people were arriving at the church with big bundles of bedding on their heads as the church was a sort of big SU camp for the weekend.

One team of ladies was busy cooking for everyone. I and other visitors for Easter stayed at the manse. Others camped in the church itself or the Women's Guild house or the primary school across the field. In the lulls between services, there was constant singing by all the choirs which were practising their songs and the steps. They tried to teach me and I got the hang of some, but physical coordination is not my strong point. The energy expended in constantly jiggling around plus singing is enormous! Anyway, it was great fun. On Saturday there were more services, 8am – 10am, then breakfast, 11am – 1pm, then lunch, then 2pm – 5 pm, then supper, then 7.30pm – 2am (I think, though I had gone to bed around 9pm exhausted and just aching to stretch out.) In the afternoon slot, I led another bible study on Peter. I was actually so hot and full of rice that I asked questions and got them to discuss. Then we had a good time looking into what the Bible says about forgiveness. Even after it finished, little groups continued to sit around outside and look at some of the issues and questions they had about the Bible. It was such a blessing to be a part of that.

At sunrise, the climax to Easter was when everyone sang with hoarse but joyful voices that Jesus had risen. We celebrated Holy Communion on Sunday morning before breakfast and after breakfast another Easter Thanksgiving service. The church had a time of fund-raising and what a lot of singing and dancing there was as they brought their gifts to church – not only money, but bananas, rice, chickens.

In the midst of all this it was reported on the radio on Saturday that President Bingu wa Mutharika had died. He had a heart attack on Thursday and instead of announcing

his death immediately, they flew the body to South Africa and then announced on Saturday.

So now we have a new President, Joyce Banda, who was the Vice President and will be interim president until the next elections. Although she was vice president, Mutharika had sidelined her as they disagreed and so one of the reasons they delayed announcing the death was the pro-Bingu faction did not want her to succeed to the presidency.

What was the reaction in Lutengano? Nothing really, they just heard the news as though they were talking about the price of sugar – in fact the price of sugar gets much more animated discussion these days as it goes up all the time (today £2.50/kg on the black market). When I go back to school I am sure I will get all the low down about the politics of this weekend. So what does our new president have to do? There are rifts that need healing as Bingu had antagonised everyone ... inside the country, our neighbouring countries, the world ... She also needs to try and get the economy back on track – not an easy job. At the moment we have serious fuel, sugar and forex shortages and the black market is thriving.

We shall wait to see what happens next, but please pray for us as we do need your prayer.

Yours in the Joy of Our Risen Lord

Helen (Mama Lutengano)

GOLI HOSPITAL BADLY DAMAGED BY STORM!

Yesterday afternoon, I received this message from Thomas McNeil:



“We got a call at 2pm this afternoon to let us know of a bad storm that hit Goli. It has removed half of the roof of the Out Patient Department building. The roof over both consultation rooms, the

laboratory, dressing room and pharmacy has been removed and water has flooded those rooms. The iron sheets were blown some 30 metres or so and have even caused some little damage to the latrines, which they blew into. In addition to that, a large tree has been uprooted and was blown onto the second ward block (the one still under construction), which has caused some little damage to the exterior of the building. Fortunately, the staff were able to salvage most of the medicines, so there is not much that has been damaged by the water – the roof is the greatest damage. Items have been removed from the affected rooms so that if more rain comes tonight those things will be ok.”

Later I received the following from Bishop Taban:

“The devil is a liar, always when we are starting to become serious with getting things done, there is something that pulls

us back.” (A reference to the arrival of the surgeon.) “ I had good time with the Doctor in Goli yesterday and I am working on some cost to send you for finishing Operation Theatre and the Doctor's house. I will come to Goli with chain saw and cut down the tree on the other Ward and do some estimates to quickly put back the outpatient department. I have timbers in store from my Timber cutting project and I will surely donate all the timbers needed to replace the roof frame work, I will need money for iron sheets, nails, ceiling boards, paints and labour.”

We await news of the help needed but it will come at a difficult time when MAI was expecting a request for funds to make some alterations to facilitate surgery and supply further equipment to take the work forward; EPC’s appeal will now relate to restoring rather than advancing! Please remember them in your prayers; this will be so discouraging to them, as to us.

Shalom,

John

John Earwicker

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BISHOP ASSESSES GOLI DAMAGE ON HIS BIRTHDAY!

Yesterday was Bishop Elias Taban's birthday. His "party" was to supervise the cutting down of a tree that had been uprooted in the storm and which had damaged the second block, nearing completion, and housing three wards needed in future. As a qualified building engineer, he was there to cost the building work.

He has appealed to MAI to fund almost £6,000 to repair all of the damage that we reported yesterday.

Most of the Out Patient Department roof was blown off, the latrines were hit by flying debris and damaged as well as the wards block. Bishop Taban's denomination is funding the timber but need our help with the other costs, mainly labour in a local community where skilled builders are in very short supply and have to be brought from Yei, 17 miles away. Any help you, your friends, church or business can give would be gratefully received.

BETTER NEWS FROM NIGERIA!

The solar installation which will ensure continuous power to the Operating Theatre at Vom Hospital, Plateau State during the frequent power outtages has been completed.

MAI provided a grant that funded almost 80% of the costs while the Hospital raised the remainder. Dr Nanle is Director of Health and Social Services for the denomination who own the Hospital. He wrote: "We are truly grateful for all the help. (This) will certainly improve the services rendered."

Thank you for your interest and support; you are making a difference in the lives of thousands of people each year and sustaining fantastic initiatives.

Shalom, John

John Earwicker

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Church Register

The following have passed away recently:

Mrs May Wilson, Highthorne Crescent - died on 24th March 2012

Mr Tam Maxwell, Highthorne Crescent - died on 30th March 2012

Mr Gregor Mckay, Bowfield Road - died on 10th April 2012

Mrs Margaret Hogg, Yerton Brae - died on 11th April 2012

Mr Marshall Ferguson, Ardneil Avenue - died on 15th April 2012

Mr Alex Jack, Portencross Road - died on 17th April 2012

Mrs Pauline Corney, Bowfield Road - died on 19th April 2012

Mr Jack Spencer, Merlewood Road - died on 26th April 2012

We remember the families in prayer.

My dear friends

Thank you for the lovely cards I received from you! Last year has been very difficult for me, but the support from all was helpful, and your kindness from so many was overwhelming! Thank you all who gave me transport to various hospitals and to those who visited Gregor especially our minister (Rev. James). He enjoyed seeing 'Baby John'.

I wish good health & happiness to you all.
Jean

BIRTHS

Katherine and Mark Davis on the birth of their son Evan Murdo Davis on 6th May. Katherine is the daughter of Marjory and Winston Platt formerly of South Kilruskin Farm, and will be known to many in the congregation.

Jenny (Whiteford) and Peter Coleman had a 7lb 14oz baby daughter, Amie Vaila, born on 13th April. Jenny and Peter now live in Lerwick, Shetland. Sheena and Ian are delighted with their third grandchild.

Linda (McPhee) and Kurt Potts had a baby son, Logan, on 20th April and weighing 8lbs 6 oz. They live in Broxburn. Grandparents John and Heather have moved house and are now on hand for babysitting duties!

Eleanor and Richmond Joliffe are pleased to announce the birth of their second grandchild, Catriona Elizabeth Joliffe, born on 26th March.

Many blessings to all the new parents and the proud grandparents.

BIRTHDAYS

Mrs Aitken, Headrigg Gardens, celebrated her 105th birthday on the 28th April. She is a remarkable lady! Blessings and many happy returns to you!

Rev Ross Mitchell was 70 years young on the 5th May. Blessings and good wishes to Ross too!

ANNIVERSARY

Mr & Mrs Strick celebrate their Golden Wedding anniversary on 26th May. We pray they will have a wonderful time with family and friends around them.

ENGAGEMENT

Congratulations and blessings to Jim Bell's daughter Sarah and her fiance Scott Robertson who got engaged on 7th April. I believe the wedding will be in West Kilbride in October. Watch this space!