

# Church Matters

West Kilbride Parish Church Magazine  
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On the Back Road to Ardrossan

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# Minister's Letter

## Fearful?

As I write this, our eldest son, John, is about to start school. Starting school is, of course, a momentous occasion. I wonder if you remember it?

I first went to school when I was four years old and I went to a school called Milecastle Infant School in Newcastle. I hadn't been to nursery, though I had been to playgroup - and so I was fearful. I didn't know what to expect. I didn't know any of the children. And I I didn't know my teacher. I remember that first day seemed to drag on and on - until at last a bell rang, and we were free to go home. At least until the next day!

Now, although we may look back at our first day of school, and wonder why we were so fearful, it is true that throughout our life there are things that we are fearful of. Though perhaps with age and experience, we are just better at hiding our fear.

We can be fearful about our future. Fearful about the past. Fearful about our work. Fearful about our health. Fearful about our family.

Yet, when we have God in our life, there is no need to fear. And one of the wonderful things is that when we trust in Jesus, then we have no reason to fear.

One of my favourite Psalms is Psalm 27. In the Psalm, David is under pressure. He is surrounded by his enemies. And yet, even in the midst of terrible circumstances, David does not fear. He says in verse 1:

*The Lord is my light and my salvation - whom shall I fear?*

In other words, when we have God in your life, ultimately we have nothing to fear - even when the odds seem stacked against us.

David, of course, knew this from personal experience. For who would have thought as a wee boy, he would be able to slay the giant Goliath? The odds were against him - and yet, with God in your corner, the impossible is possible.

David says this at the end of Psalm 27:

*I remain confident of this:  
I will see the goodness of the LORD  
in the land of the living.  
Wait for the LORD;  
be strong and take heart  
and wait for the LORD.*

Maybe in your own life at the moment, you are fearful. But God is greater than even your biggest fear. Wait upon him. Take heart. And see the goodness of the Lord - for He is the one who ultimately has the victory.

Yours in Christ,  
James

## Live services online!

From 16th August, we have been streaming our morning service live on the internet, with catch up being available later. On 16th August, 23 people watched the church service, with another 20 watching later on.

The idea behind streaming our service is to allow those who are unable to be present with us (either ill, on holiday or for any other reason) to be able to watch the service. It will also be available for anyone in our community who wants to watch and see what happens in our services - and will perhaps introduce them to church.

You will be able to view the live stream from the church website ([westkilbrideparishchurch.org.uk](http://westkilbrideparishchurch.org.uk)) by clicking on the 'Live Services' tab from the left-hand menu on the homepage. Alternatively, go straight there by typing in:  
[westkilbrideparishchurch.org.uk/live-services](http://westkilbrideparishchurch.org.uk/live-services).

If you know someone who would like to be part of our services, but who for whatever reason is unable to attend worship, then please give them the web link and they will be able to watch the service.

## Church Register

**The following have sadly passed away recently. Please remember the families in your prayers:**

**Anthony Jarvie**, Crosbie Drive - Died on 5th June 2015.

**John Torrance**, Ardrossan Road - Died on 25th June 2015.

**Iain Shields**, Lawfield Avenue - Died 3rd July 2015.

**Susan McManus**, Burnlea Nursing Home - Died 16th July 2015.

**Brenda Fotheringham**, Craufurd Avenue - Died 30th July 2015.

**Sandra Dickson**, Lawfield Avenue - Died 12th August 2015.



# EDITORIAL

Well, did you catch the summer? It didn't last long, did it? Whether you holidayed in Scotland or abroad, or even had a 'staycation', we hope you will have recharged your batteries and are ready for all the business ahead.

At the beginning of summer we had fun on our Church Family outing to Eglinton Park. The weather wasn't too good but it didn't stop the fun and games. We also had our Holiday Club - Polar Explorers. What a wonderful week was had by all, children, leaders and helpers (known as 'Huskies' this year!) Then we had CLAN Gathering, which was held at Kelburn this year. Again, the weather was pretty awful but we had a week of great teaching, worship and a variety of workshops and seminars to choose from. CLAN will be back at Kelburn for the next few years and Brian and I have already booked for next year.

Remember that, in addition to the Church groups, we also have other activities going on. We have the Community Choir on a Tuesday night at 6.30pm and everyone is welcome. If you want some exercise and are a 'certain age', you can join the Bus Pass Ballet from 10am until 11am on a Tuesday. In the new session there will also be Bus Pass Tap Dancing from 11.30am until 12.30pm. I'll be joining that one as I go to the Women Who Pray meeting at 9.30am each Tuesday. There'll be just time for a coffee at Rendezvous before I get my tap shoes on. It's all go!

Our minister, James, is to be installed as Presbytery Moderator on the 1st September in our church. Please pray for James as he carries out this big responsibility.

*Deirdre Murray*

## Session Snippets 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2015 at 7pm

The Session Meeting was constituted with worship: prayers and a hymn.

The sederunt was passed round and apologies were intimated.

The Minutes of the last Kirk Session Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> April were agreed unanimously.

As has been the custom, a further chapter of Philip Yancy's book, 'What's So Amazing About Grace?' was discussed. The session divided into groups for discussion and then an interesting general assessment of views took place. It was agreed that the chapter had challenging aspects.

The Session Clerk read out the correspondence, which consisted of two extract Minutes from Presbytery, contents of which were duly noted, referring to procedures for Funeral and Retiring Offerings and signatories required for payments from congregational funds.

Team Reports followed, most of which had been circulated before the meeting.

**The Property Convenor** expanded his report. The double rejection by the Arts and Artistic Committee Church, (CARTA) at 121 George Street, to the proposed glass doors at the front of the Church was discussed. The existing wooden doors appear to be favoured and the colour and the fact that glass was to be prominent was not acceptable. Session was asked for approval to continue the discussions, now with the help of Presbytery. Permission was gladly given. Please note that funds are in place for a new door.

Permission was granted to purchase a new dishwasher for the Bill Penny Hall.

Snagging is underway, as the alterations are now a year old, and will be ongoing and will take time. There is nothing major needed to be done, though the disruption is being worked round Church life.

The trees and shrubs at the back of the church have been taken away by a professional contractor, as well as those growing from the church steeple. Please note that we were advised of the fantastic view from the steeple!

**The Finance** Team report was circulated and permission was requested to join the Scottish Churches Utilities Group, as it holds out the possibility of better deals for gas and electricity and help in any disputes. There is not charge for this service. The Session gave their approval.

There is still the ongoing discussions with gas and electricity bills.

**The Mission and Discipleship** team requested permission from the Session to:

- Purchase three banners for the front of the Church (Easter, Christmas and General) which will be perpetual, not specific and therefore reusable.
- Run an Alpha Express course in the autumn. It was felt that the time was right.
- Pair new Church members with buddies from within the Church, as a point of contact and care.
- Have a 'Back to Church' Sunday in the autumn, as there is a need to reach out to those who, for whatever reason, may not have felt comfortable about returning to worship on a Sunday.

- Print Bible Notes to go with the intimation sheets on a Sunday – it is cheaper to print ourselves rather than purchase. This to take place over a trial period.
- Organise a team for Gala Day

Permission was granted for all the above.

The report of the **Presbury Meeting** was circulated. The Rev James McNay has been nominated as Moderator of Presbytery for 2015/16. The Presbytery Clerk has intimated that he will retire at the end of September and a committee was formed to look into finding a replacement.

**New Members** were welcomed to the Church by the Session, namely Liz Jack and Ellen McLaren by Profession of Faith and Henny and Paul Martin by transfer.

### **Any Other Business:**

- Internet streaming takes place already for large funerals but it is proposed to extend this to Sunday Services – the cost for the licences needed is £155 according to the Performing Rights Society. Child Protection policy in relation to this means that all will need to be given notice that it is happening and sit so not in camera sight, if required. There are pastoral reasons for streaming the service. The proposed time to start will be in August 2015. The Kirk Session gave approval for this on a trial basis.
- Lets: There have been applications from the Community Choir for a let from 15/9 to March 2016. From the Dance Academy for Saturday 9.45-5 22/8/15 to 18/6/16 and Tuesdays from 10-11am for adult ballet. Dates for Messy Church and Presbytery to be forwarded to ballet class. These were all agreed.

- The Church laptop was stolen from the Sanctuary last Sunday, the cost of which has been covered by insurance. Both James and Ruth in the office are in dire need of new computers and one extra one will be needed for the streaming. James has found a deal where he found a laptop for £75 and he proposed that we purchase three of them. Kirk Session agreed.
- **New Elders.** It is 7 years since new Elders were appointed, and James felt it was time to think about this at the August meeting. He requested that any names elders might think suitable be given to him by the end of June. This will be discussed in August Kirk Session meeting.
- **New** Communion Rotas and Church Calendars were circulated.
- **Holidays:** James will be on holiday 6-27 July and Mandy 27<sup>th</sup> July – 10 August.

**Date of Next Meeting** was agreed to be 11<sup>th</sup> August 2015 at 7pm

*Joyce Anderson*

## **A PRAYER**

Day by day, dear Lord:  
 Teach me from Your Word and Your world  
 Lead me on my pilgrimage of life  
 Free me to live in Your rhythms  
 Spur me to overcoming prayer  
 Strip from me all that clutters  
 Cherish through me what is broken  
 Blow me to places on the edge  
 Inspire me to foster unity  
 Reach out through me with Your justice, truth and love.

Just shortly after our summer edition of Church Matters was printed we sent the amazing total of £213.50 which our collectors have so assiduously gathered in our little boxes. Thank you so very much for such a great effort.

Lynne Paterson writing to thank us says that £183.50 has been allocated to the general fund, and £30 to the Nepal Earthquake Fund. She also writes “We hugely valued your donation which was help people to break free from material and spiritual poverty through the work of our Christian partners across the world, e.g. Mariana, a farmer who lives in Mozambique.” Farmers are poor, some of them walking 7 miles to cut down trees for firewood and charcoal. Although this is bad for the environment, it is their only choice in the harsh dry climate.

However, our support helps CEDES, a Tearfund partner who is leading a food project involving 9 farmers in 9 sites which is helping farmers like Mariana. She has been taught eco-friendly techniques and given new tools resulting in her ability to earn many times more than the £18 a season she used to earn. From selling surplus crops her children are now well fed, attend school, have books and pens and the family have new clothes. As she has been able to save £180 she is thinking of buying a larger field. Please pray for the on-going work in Mozambique.

Lynne says our £30 will help to bring vital practical help to those struck by the earthquake in Nepal and North India whose homes have been destroyed.

News of Tearfund's response and prayer points are at [www.tearfund.org/earthquake](http://www.tearfund.org/earthquake). Thank you again for your support.

*Audrey Brown*

## Monthly Prayer Diary – September 2015

- Tue 1<sup>st</sup> **“Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances”** 1Thess 5 v 16, 17, 18
- Wed 2<sup>nd</sup> We give thanks for James our Minister, Anna his wife and their sons John and Alasdair. We pray for God’s equipping for James
- Thu 3<sup>rd</sup> We pray for our Church Family
- Fri 4<sup>th</sup> World Watch List; Rank 19 Kenya. Some churches have installed metal detectors for fear of suicide bombers or they have hired armed police to guard their services
- Sat 5<sup>th</sup> Please pray for the Tearfund campaign NO CHILD TAKEN. Poverty drives people into the trap of traffickers. Parents believe their children will be well looked after but instead many become modern day slaves
- Sun 6<sup>th</sup> We pray for the many people who work on Sundays. We pray for those who are Christian, may they shine Your light in all they do
- Mon 7<sup>th</sup> Pray for our witness. Lord, please use me to lift up others, even as You have sent others to lift me in times of need
- Tue 8<sup>th</sup> We pray for Carol our Session Clerk, and all our Elders
- Wed 9<sup>th</sup> We remember all who work in our GP Surgery, local hospitals Care Homes and Hospices
- Thu 10<sup>th</sup> Tomorrow will be the vote in Parliament of the Assisted Dying Bill. Please pray for MPs who may still be undecided which way to vote ( CARE)
- Fri 11<sup>th</sup> World Watch List; Rank 20 Turkmenistan. While Christians rarely face violence, the Church there is under constant pressure. Please pray for strength and perseverance for Christians and Church Leaders
- Sat 12<sup>th</sup> Asialink ask for continuing prayers for Nepal. Rehabilitation continues amid fears that trekking areas and heritage sites are not safe. Please pray for the devastating results on the tourist trade
- Sun 13<sup>th</sup> We pray for missionaries and those called to work away from home

- Mon 14<sup>th</sup> We pray for our witness. May peace fill every aspect of our relationships with others.
- Tue 15<sup>th</sup> Crossreach Postnatal Depression Services in Lothian, one of the only independent services with crèche facilities for parents with post - natal depression in the UK. They support around 140 clients a week
- Wed 16<sup>th</sup> All we know who are unwell, awaiting test results or receiving treatment. We pray also for their loved ones and all who care for them
- Thu 17<sup>th</sup> We give thanks for Mandy working alongside James. May she be richly blessed as we are to have her with us
- Fri 18<sup>th</sup> World Watch List; Rank 21 India. Violence against Christians is rampant, especially in states where BJP is ruling. Church buildings and believers homes are destroyed, pastors, church members are beaten up and sometimes even killed.
- Sat 19<sup>th</sup> Scottish Bible Society. Cuba is changing, Christianity is growing & desire for God's Word increasing. There is a great shortage of Bibles
- Sun 20<sup>th</sup> We pray for all in our Church Family who are housebound. Help us Lord to help them to feel included and not abandoned
- Mon 21<sup>st</sup> Pray for our witness. Pray for a way to show someone unconditional love this week
- Tue 22<sup>nd</sup> We pray for all who are grieving. Thank You for Your promise, they will be comforted
- Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> We pray for the Teams and all the work that goes on behind the scenes to aid the smooth running of our church activities
- Thu 24<sup>th</sup> We pray for the Scripture Union groups held in our local schools
- Fri 25<sup>th</sup> World Watch List; Rank 22 Ethiopia. Owning Christian material, accessing Christian media and meeting other Christians are all difficult for certain believers, as is finding a place of burial
- Sat 26<sup>th</sup> National Prayer Weekend 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>. Encouraging prayer in our neighbourhoods. Have you asked your neighbour if they need prayer today...this week... this year?

- Sun 27<sup>th</sup> If I don't pray for my neighbours and love them like Jesus, who will?
- Mon 28<sup>th</sup> We pray for our witness. Pray for a chance to step out of your comfort zone and share the hope you have found in Jesus
- Tue 29<sup>th</sup> Glasgow City Mission has extended its opening hours – part of their new 5 year plan to 'Go Deeper' with the people they serve
- Wed 30<sup>th</sup> We pray for all caught up in addiction and the affect it has on family life

## **Mary Stuart, Queen of Scots**

Keep me, O God, from pettiness.

Let us be large in thought, word and deed.

Let us be done with fault-finding and leave off self-seeking.

May we put away all pretence and meet each other face to face without self-pity and without prejudice.

May we never be hasty in judgment and always generous.

Let us take time for all things.

Make us grow calm, serene, gentle.

Teach us to put into action our better impulses and make us straightforward and unafraid.

Grant that we may realise that it is the little things in life that create differences, that in the big things we are all one.

And, O Lord God, let us not forget to be kind.

Amen

If anyone has her/his own favourite prayer and would like to share it in the Church Matters, please send the prayer to the church office to be included in the next edition.

Thank You!

# Blessed?

I was on the phone with a good friend the other day. After covering important topics, like disparaging each other's mothers and retelling semi-factual tales from our college days, our conversation turned to the mundane. "So, how's work going?" he asked.

I answered my buddy's question with, "Definitely feeling blessed. Last year was the best year yet for my business. And it looks like this year will be just as busy."

The words rolled off my tongue without a second thought. Like reciting the Pledge of Allegiance or placing my usual lunch order at McDonald's.

But it was a lie.

Allow me to explain. Based on last year's quest to go twelve months without buying anything, you may have the impression that our family is subsisting on Ramen noodles and free chips and salsa at the local Mexican restaurant. Not to worry, we are not in dire straits.

Last year was the best year yet for my business.

Things are looking busy in 2015.

But that is not a blessing.

I've noticed a trend among Christians, myself included, and it troubles me. Our rote response to material windfalls is to call ourselves blessed. Like the "Amen" at the end of a prayer.

"This new car is such a blessing."

"Finally closed on the house. Feeling blessed."

"Just got back from a mission trip. Realizing how blessed we are here in this country."

On the surface, the phrase seems harmless. Faithful even. Why wouldn't I want to give God the glory for everything I have? Isn't that the right thing to do?

No.

As I reflected on my “feeling blessed” comment, two thoughts came to mind. I realize I’m splitting hairs here, creating an argument over semantics. But bear with me, because I believe it is critically important. It’s one of those things we can’t see because it’s so culturally engrained that it has become normal.

But it has to stop. And here’s why.

First, when I say that my material fortune is the result of God’s blessing, it reduces The Almighty to some sort of sky-bound, wish-granting fairy who spends his days randomly bestowing cars and cash upon his followers. I can’t help but draw parallels to how I handed out M&M’s to my own kids when they followed my directions. Sure, God wants us to continually seek His will, and it’s for our own good. But positive reinforcement?

God is not a behavioural psychologist.

Second, and more importantly, calling myself blessed because of material good fortune is just plain wrong. For starters, it can be offensive to the hundreds of millions of Christians in the world who live on less than \$10 per day. You read that right. Hundreds of millions who receive a single-digit dollar “blessing” per day.

During our year in Guatemala, Gabby and I witnessed first-hand the damage done by the theology of prosperity, where faithful people scraping by to feed their families were simply told they must not be faithful enough. If they were, God would pull them out of their nightmare. Just try harder, and God will show favor.

The problem? Nowhere in scripture are we promised worldly ease in return for our pledge of faith. In fact, the most devout saints from the Bible usually died penniless, receiving a one-way ticket to prison or death by torture.

I’ll take door number three, please.

If we’re looking for the definition of blessing, Jesus spells it out clearly.

- Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to Him,
- 2 and He began to teach them, saying:
  - 3 Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
  - 4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
  - 5 Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
  - 6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they will be filled.
  - 7 Blessed are the merciful, for they shall be shown mercy.
  - 8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
  - 9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the sons of God.
  - 10 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
  - 11 Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.
  - 12 Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. (Matt 5: 1-12)

I have a sneaking suspicion verses 12a 12b and 12c were omitted from the text. That's where the disciple responded by saying,

*12a Waitest thou for one second, Lord. What about "blessed art thou comfortable", or 12b "blessed art thou which havest good jobs, a modest house in the suburbs, and a yearly vacation to the Florida Gulf Coast?"*

*12c And Jesus said unto them, "Apologies, my brothers, but those did not maketh the cut."*

So there it is. Written in red. Plain as day. Even still, we ignore it all when we hijack the word "blessed" to make it fit neatly into our modern American ideals, creating a cosmic lottery where every sincere prayer buys us another scratch-off ticket. In the process,

we stand the risk of alienating those we are hoping to bring to the faith.

And we have to stop playing that game.

The truth is, I have no idea why I was born where I was or why I have the opportunity I have. It's beyond comprehension. But I certainly don't believe God has chosen me above others because of the veracity of my prayers or the depth of my faith. Still, if I take advantage of the opportunities set before me, a comfortable life may come my way. It's not guaranteed. But if it does happen, I don't believe Jesus will call me blessed. He will call me "burdened."

He will ask,

"What will you do with it?"

"Will you use it for yourself?"

"Will you use it to help?"

"Will you hold it close for comfort?"

"Will you share it?"

So many hard choices. So few easy answers.

So my prayer today is that I understand my true blessing. It's not my house. Or my job. Or my standard of living.

No.

My blessing is this. I know a God who gives hope to the hopeless. I know a God who loves the unlovable. I know a God who comforts the sorrowful. And I know a God who has planted this same power within me. Within all of us.

And for this blessing, may our response always be,

"Use me."

Taken from:

<http://accidentalmissionary.net/2014/02/20/the-one-things-christians-should-stop-saying>

# CRAFT GROUP



The Craft Group meet monthly in the Lower Hall and we are looking for new people to join us. Whatever you like to do, come and do it in great company! For example, you can scrapbook, make cards, beadwork, embroidery, crochet, knit and, of course, natter!

We only have one man coming along (who makes rugs) so more men are welcome too.

We meet on a Wednesday from 10am until 4pm but you can come for just the morning or the afternoon if you want to. Tea and coffee are provided and those of us who come for the day bring a packed lunch.

There is no charge so please come along and encourage others to join too. The next meetings are on Wednesday 2nd September and then the 7th October. If you would like to join us but need a lift please let me know.

*Deirdre Murray (tel. no. 822272)*

# How to Pray for Crisis Situations

When crisis hits we all want to do something. We want to help. We want to pray. However, when faced with danger and devastation it's hard to know how to pray beyond the instinctive, "Help Lord!" So here are a few suggestions for turning empathy into intercession.

**GET INFORMED:** gather the basics of the story. What's happening? Where? Who is affected? Who are the key leaders and who will be responding with aid? What are the needs right now?

**PRAY FOR THE PEOPLE:** pray for those who are negatively affected. Pray for those who have lost their families, homes and hope. Pray for those who are still in danger. Who are the lost, vulnerable in that society.

**PRAY FOR THE CIRCUMSTANCES:** what are the problems that only God can fix? The weather? Supernatural protection? Ask God to intervene.

**PRAY FOR THOSE IN POWER:** who are the decision makers that can impact the crisis, both the leaders in that country and those who help? Pray for mercy, compassion and wisdom as they deal with the crisis. If you don't know much about the nation why not learn more through the amazing Operation World resource.

**PRAY FOR THE CHURCH:** who can spread God's love and God's hope in the situation? Pray for pastors, churches and non – government organisations that they would be equipped with all they need to bring aid.

**MOTIVATE OTHERS TO PRAY:** help to soften people's hearts by making the crisis personal enough to understand. **SHARE YOUR PRAYER:** use social media to share your prayers and inspire others to add their AMEN!!

*24-7 Prayer International*

# The Garden

***Come to the garden alone, while the dew is on the roses...***

## **FOR THE GARDEN OF YOUR DAILY LIVING**

### ***PLANT THREE ROWS OF PEAS***

1. Peas of mind      2. Peas of heart      3. Peas of soul

### ***PLANT FOUR ROWS OF SQUASH***

1. Squash gossip    2. Squash indifference    3. Squash grumbling  
4. Squash selfishness

### ***PLANT FOUR ROWS OF LETTUCE***

1. Lettuce be faithful    2. Lettuce be kind    3. lettuce be patient  
4. Lettuce really love one another

### ***NO GARDEN IS WITHOUT TURNIPS***

1. Turnip for meetings    2. Turnip for service    3. Turnip to help one another

### ***OUR GARDEN MUST HAVE THYME***

1. Thyme for each other    2. Thyme for family    3. Thyme for friends  
4. THYME FOR GOD

***WATER FREELY WITH PATIENCE AND CULTIVATE WITH LOVE. THERE IS MUCH FRUIT IN YOUR GARDEN BECAUSE YOU REAP WHAT YOU SEW.***

**Holding a grudge is letting someone live rent free in your head.**

# The Story of William Cowper

Recently, on a Sunday in church, we finished the service by singing together :-

*O for a closer walk with God,  
A calm and heavenly frame  
A light to shine upon the road  
That leads me to the Lamb.*

But the writer finished with :-

*So shall my walk be close with God,  
Calm and serene my frame,  
So purer light shall mark the road  
That leads me to the Lamb.*

The writer, William Cowper, was born in 1731 when literary genius seemed dead, but eminent writers called him “the forerunner of the great restoration of our literature” and “the singer of the dawn”. As a boy he was delicate and sensitive. His mother died when he was six years old and his father sent him to a distant boarding school where he was bullied and beaten.

When he was eighteen he began to study law and was called to the Bar when he was twenty-three but his mental health eventually gave way as he found it difficult to cope with the stress he was experiencing and he was admitted to a psychiatric hospital for two years. It was when he was there that he became a Christian. He was then thirty years old and was reading his Bible and the passage in Romans 3 v 22-24 gave him, as he said, “the strength to believe”.

He was discharged from hospital and a Mr and Mrs Unwin received him into their home when he found it impossible to live alone. They cared for him as an adopted son.

When Mr Unwin died, Mrs Unwin, her daughter and William moved to Olney in Buckinghamshire where William and John Newton (who wrote “Amazing Grace”) became close friends.

Their personalities were completely different, but their Christian faith bound them together.

William Cowper often suffered from bouts of depression and feared he would be banished from God’s presence, but when he was dying his face lit up and he said, “I am not shut out of heaven after all”. John Newton conducted his funeral service and said of him, “I can hardly form an idea of a closer walk with God than he uniformly maintained”. William Cowper wrote “Oh, for a closer walk with God” based on “Enoch walked with God” (Genesis 5v24) when his health was good and his faith was very clear to him, but just before he was depressed again he wrote “God moves in a mysterious way”.

It is amazing to think how God was able to use such a frail person to write such beautiful verses that we are able to sing together in church over two hundred years later. It is also very encouraging to see how God provided special people to support him in his life. I trust this little story will let us see how much God values each one of us when we depend on Him.

## Diary Dates for September 2015

1 Sep 9:00 AM	Women Who Pray – Prayer Room
1 Sep 10:00 AM	Rendezvous – Lower Hall
1 Sep 7:30 PM	Presbytery Meeting – WKPC
2 Sep 10:00 AM	Church Craft Group – Small Hall
2 Sep 7:15 PM	'Wednesday Fellowship' – Lower Hall
<b>6 Sep 10:30 AM</b>	<b>Morning Service and Junior Church</b>
6 Sep 2:00 PM	Afternoon Service Headrigg Gardens
6 Sep 6:00 PM	XLR8 – Bill Penny Hall
7 Sep 7:30 PM	Church Choir Practice
8 Sep 9:00 AM	Women Who Pray – Prayer Room
8 Sep 10:00 AM	Rendezvous – Lower Hall
9 Sep 7:15 PM	'Wednesday Fellowship' – Lower Hall
<b>13 Sep 10:30 AM</b>	<b>Morning Service and Junior Church</b>
13 Sep 6:00 PM	XLR8 – Bill Penny Hall
13 Sep 7:30 PM	Evening Service
15 Sep 9:00 AM	Women Who Pray – Prayer Room
15 Sep 10:00 AM	Rendezvous – Lower Hall
16 Sep 7:15 PM	'Wednesday Fellowship' – Lower Hall
<b>20 Sep 10:30 AM</b>	<b>Morning Service and Junior Church</b>
20 Sep 6:00 PM	XLR8 – Bill Penny Hall
20 Sep 7:30 PM	Evening Service
22 Sep 9:00 AM	Women Who Pray – Prayer Room
22 Sep 10:00 AM	Rendezvous – Lower Hall
23 Sep 7:15 PM	'Wednesday Fellowship' – Lower Hall
26 Sep 4:00 PM	Messy Church - WKPC
<b>27 Sep 10:30 AM</b>	<b>Morning Service and Junior Church</b>
27 Sep 6:00 PM	XLR8 – Bill Penny Hall
27 Sep 7:30 PM	Evening Service
29 Sep 9:00 AM	Women Who Pray – Prayer Room
29 Sep 10:00 AM	Rendezvous – Lower Hall
29 Sep 7:00 PM	Team Leaders Meeting – Entrance Foyer
30 Sep 7:15 PM	'Wednesday Fellowship' – Lower Hall

### House Groups

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