

# Church Matters

West Kilbride Parish Church Magazine  
Issue No. 28      September 2014



Cereal Field at Portencross

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## Minister's Letter

*'Affirming God's love  
also means affirming God's way'.*

Recently on Sunday morning's we have been studying Paul's letter to the Colossians. It, I hope, has been a helpful study. Throughout this letter, Paul's concern is to focus upon Jesus because it is Jesus who should be at the very centre of our faith.

Quite often these days we hear of people who believe that Christianity is all about following certain morals or living life in a certain ethical way. Commonly it is thought that 'being a Christian' equates with 'being a good person'. But this is clearly not what Paul thinks a Christian is.

In Romans, Paul says that 'there is no-one righteous, no not one'. So none of us can truly say that we are truly 'good'. But the good news of the gospel is that: 'While we were still sinners, Christ died for us' (Rom. 5:8).

If our salvation depended upon our own goodness, then we wouldn't need a Saviour. But the fact is that none of us are good enough to reach God's perfect standards – and so we need a Saviour. A Saviour who is perfect and blameless and holy. A Saviour just like Jesus!

And so, the foundation of the Christian faith is that we need a Saviour – and by believing and trusting in Jesus we have a Saviour. And this means forgiveness for us – and hope of eternal life!

In Paul's letter to the Colossians, Paul has constantly been pointing the Colossians to Jesus because although they might be tempted to follow philosophy or to trust in their own goodness, it is in Jesus that the truth is to be found and salvation is found in him alone.

Now, it is with this in mind that I have been thinking about the quote that we find at the beginning of this article: 'Affirming God's love also means affirming God's way'. You see, after Paul has told the Colossians that in everything, Jesus is to be supreme, it could have been their temptation to believe that because of God's grace and mercy to them in Jesus that this meant that they could simply trust in Jesus – but live out their life as they did before.

And this also can be a temptation in our life. We like the thought of trusting in Jesus for our salvation, but we don't like the inconvenience of our life changing. But the fact is that if we truly believe in Jesus for our salvation. If we truly understand the depth of God's love and grace to us – then we will want to respond by living out our lives in a way which is God-honouring and which displays Christ to others. Affirming God's love means affirming God's way. We are saved not **by** good works – but we are saved **for** good works.

When we are saved by Christ – we are to live to God's glory because our life is not our own (as if it was anyway!) it belongs to God.

Here is an example for you: Often I meet people who will say to me that they are a Christian. But they don't go to church and don't want to go to church. I find this strange. Now, of course, going to church does not make you a

Christian any more than going into a garage makes you a car. But surely if we understand what Jesus has done for us and we are grateful to God, then we would want to spend some time in worship with our brothers and sisters in Christ? Why would we not when we will be spending an eternity with them anyway?

More and more as Christians, as we understand what Christ has done for us, I believe that we need to display God-honouring lives. Lives truly changed by Christ. It is our God-honouring lives and living as salt and light in our dark world that will make a difference to our world and to our community.

May we seek not simply to affirm God's love – but also to affirm His way in our words and our actions.

Yours in Christ,  
James

## Church Register

The following have sadly passed away recently.  
Please keep their families in your prayers:

Mr John (Jock) Morrison, Yerton Brae on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2014.  
Mrs Anne Kerr, Orchard Street, on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2014.  
Mr Norman Mustoo, Gateside Street, on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2014.  
Mrs Elizabeth (Betty) Tait, Lawfield Avenue, on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2014.  
Mrs Pamela Jones, Overton Drive, on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2014.  
Mr John (Ian) Hart, Gateside Street, on 11<sup>th</sup> August 2014.  
Mrs Mary Cherry, South Beach House (formerly Overton Court), on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2014.



## Editorial

As I write this summer feels like it has turned to autumn but I trust you were all blessed with having a lovely time over the last three months as we were fortunate to have some really good weather.

Summer is often a time to catch up with family who live a distance away from us and Brian and I had a great week with our family. We were in Coniston in the Lake District, where my grandmother was born and brought up. There were 19 of our family staying in one house, my sister and family (ten of them) were in another house and my late brother's widow, son and two grandsons brought a caravan. 33 of us in total! We had a wonderful time and Isabel and I managed to dig into our family history – fascinating- we just wish we'd asked grandma a lot more questions!

All the organisation of the church are gearing up to start this month and we hope you will become involved with at least one. Please remember the Flower and Fabric Festival on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> September. It is such a wonderful opportunity for the community to be involved, either by helping or visiting the church.

Of course, the Referendum will be held the day before, on the 18<sup>th</sup> September, and we must pray that, no matter what the result is, people will work together for the good of all the citizens of Scotland. I have attended a few of the many public meetings and I have been heartened at the interest shown by so many people who have previously not engaged with politics, especially young people. I have heard so much intelligent debate from young people that I hope will continue into other elections.

I have two letters to report about this time from Lynne Paterson the Director of Tearfund in Scotland.

She writes to thank us for our recent donation of £140 which represents the small change collected by you in the little boxes for which I also thank you.

Lynne says that thanks to the amazing support like ours. Patrick Mambwe from Zambias Serenje district where he was born has now been helped to grow enough food for his family by being taught new techniques of preparing his land for planting. Patrick is one of about a thousand people in Serenje who has been taught by the Evangelical Fellowship of Zambia, a Tearfund Partner.

Patrick has also been given 15kg of bean seeds from which he had a good harvest, managing to sell surplus from which he has bought burnt bricks and iron sheets enabling him to build a house which has always been a dream for him.

Lynne says this is one of thousands of testimonies of life transformed by our generosity.

Thanks to you also, I was able to send her £115 from the sale of plants. She writes about 2 young people Luis 15 and Jorge 12 who live in an area of the Honduran capital called Fior del Campo or Land of Flowers which is a misnomer, as it is a slum.

Tearfund partner called Allanza runs a club called Valores (values) providing a Christ inspired alternative to drugs and violence in which Luis and Jorge have been enrolled. They have joined a football team called 'The Lions' which gives them protection from the violence of an area which has one of the highest murder rate in the world.

Lynne thanks us for helping to provide a better future for children like Luis and Jorge. Thank you so much also to all who bought plants.

*Audrey Brown*

## **Church Conference**

**Our Church Conference this year will take place from 5th-7th September.**

We are delighted to have Elaine Duncan, Chief Executive of the Scottish Bible Society, with us as our guest speaker.

The programme is as follows:

**Friday 5th September:** 7.30pm

**Saturday 6th September:** 11am, followed by lunch.

**Sunday 7th September:** 10.30am and 7.30pm.

Please come along for a time of fellowship, teaching and encouragement together.

Elaine is a very experienced speaker and has spoken at Spring Harvest, Word Alive and Keswick in the past and so we are very privileged to have her sharing with us over this weekend!

## Session Snippets

The Kirk Session met on 6th June and was constituted with prayer. The opening devotions were focussed upon Philippians 1: 18-26 and being sold out for Christ. After singing a hymn, we then had a time of open prayer and then broke up to discuss the fourth chapter of the book 'Don't Waste your Life' by John Piper. Although the book has some worthy themes in it, sometimes the language in it makes it a bit inaccessible and so it was agreed to consider a different book in future.

We then moved on to the business of the meeting. There were a number of items of correspondence from the Presbytery relating to Data Protection, a learning disabilities consultation and advising of new forms available on the Church of Scotland website relating to property matters. These items of correspondence were remitted to their respective teams for action.

A report was given on fabric. With the refurbishment having been completed, it is important that we continue to maintain the fabric of the church building and so Session approved work needing to be done to roof and stone work. A security entry system to the building was also approved and has subsequently been fitted.

Other things of note that were discussed was the possibility of being a collection point for the North Ayrshire Foodbank in conjunction with St. Bride's Roman Catholic Church. As St. Bride's were collecting on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays we agreed to be a collection point on a Tuesday and Thursday during office hours.

We also agreed to deliver 'Penny Gospels' to our whole community in conjunction with St. Bride's.

Each year, the Kirk Session has to appoint a Presbytery Elder to represent the congregation at Presbytery and Deirdre Murray was appointed for the year ending June 2015.

There were a number of other matters that were also discussed on the evening. One of the main items was how the Kirk Session and the Teams assess themselves to make sure that they are working effectively and a timetable was put in place to ensure that we carry out this review. This assessment of what we are doing came out of our recent book study that we did together as a Session.

After intimations were given, the meeting was closed by the saying of the Grace together.

# Monthly Prayer Diary – September 2014

- Mon 1<sup>st</sup> We return again to pray for our village, street by street.  
People and families who live in Aiknut Road & Ailsa View.  
(There is a WK street map on display in the Prayer Room)
- Tue 2<sup>nd</sup> James, our Minister, Anna, his wife, and their son, John.
- Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> Our Session Clerk, Carol, and all our Elders.
- Thu 4<sup>th</sup> The Church in West Kilbride and local Churches in our area.
- Fri 5<sup>th</sup> Our Church Conference beginning this evening.
- Sat 6<sup>th</sup> We pray for The Persecuted Church.  
A prayer from Open Doors –

*“Thank you that you are the ‘light of the world’ and the darkness will never overcome the light... Bring hope and healing to traumatised families who have lost everything. Let them know they are not forgotten by us.”*

- Sun 7<sup>th</sup> “Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds.” Hebrews 10 v 23,24
- Mon 8<sup>th</sup> People and families who live in Alton Street & Alton Way.
- Tue 9<sup>th</sup> Current world situations. “Arise, Lord! Lift up your hand, O God. Do not forget the helpless.”  
Psalm 10 v 12
- Wed 10<sup>th</sup> World Leaders, Peacemakers and Peacekeepers.

- Thu 11<sup>th</sup> 'Islamic State' 'Boko Haram' 'al-Shabaab' – names that have become all too familiar to us. Lord, teach us how to pray for those who live with such evil and darkness in their hearts.
- Fri 12<sup>th</sup> For all who have been traumatised by recent conflicts, we pray for God's comfort, healing and provision.
- Sat 13<sup>th</sup> Aid Agencies, Rescue Services, Doctors and Nurses in war torn areas.
- Sun 14<sup>th</sup> Pray for Scotland "Your Kingdom come, Your will be done".
- Mon 15<sup>th</sup> People and families who live in Ardneil Avenue & Ardrossan High Road.
- Tue 16<sup>th</sup> We pray for all who serve in the Scottish Government, in Westminster and In local politics at whatever level.
- Wed 17<sup>th</sup> Pray for Scotland on the eve of the Referendum. There will be an opportunity to gather together for prayer at our weekly prayer meeting, tonight at 7.15pm.
- Thu 18<sup>th</sup> The Scottish Referendum – Give thanks that God will continue to work out His purposes in the nation whatever the decision.
- Fri 19<sup>th</sup> The Flower and Fabric Festival that will open in the church today.
- Sat 20<sup>th</sup> We give heartfelt thanks for all the beauty and the peace we enjoy day by day in this beautiful part of the world.
- Sun 21<sup>st</sup> We give thanks for our Church Family. May we, "Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer" Romans 12 v 12
- Mon 22<sup>nd</sup> People and families who live in Ardrossan Road & Arranview Gardens.
- Tue 23<sup>rd</sup> Our GP Surgery, local hospitals, hospices and Care Homes.

- Wed 24<sup>th</sup> All we know who are unwell, receiving treatment, or awaiting test results, Lord, be to them all they need.
- Thu 25<sup>th</sup> We pray for the bereaved and brokenhearted, Lord, we pray for Your comfort day by day.
- Fri 26<sup>th</sup> All who are lonely, all who are suffering the darkness of depression, Lord, give them hope of a brighter tomorrow.
- Sat 27<sup>th</sup> All who are struggling with addiction and the impact this has on family life. Be their strength in times of weakness
- Sun 28<sup>th</sup> “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord” Colossians 3 v 23
- Mon 29<sup>th</sup> People and families who live in Arthur Court and Arthur Street.
- Tue 30<sup>th</sup> The Rendezvous Café. We give thanks for all the ladies who serve there and the drivers who make it possible for people to attend.
- Wed 1<sup>st</sup> We think of young people starting university or college and we also remember the young unemployed.
- Thu 2<sup>nd</sup> We pray for the elderly in our community. May help always be at hand for them. We pray also our Pastoral Care Team as they visit.
- Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> All the young people connected to our church either through Sunday Services or through the organisations meeting during the week. May each one have a deeper relationship with Jesus.
- Sat 4<sup>th</sup> We pray for all the leaders and teachers of our young ones.
- Sun 5<sup>th</sup> “Put your trust in the light while you have it, so that you may become children of the light” John 12 v 36

## Diary Dates for September 2014

|                |                 |   |
|----------------|-----------------|---|
| 1 Sept         | 7:30 PM         | Choir Practice  |
| 2 Sept         | 9:30 AM         | Women Who Pray – Prayer Room  |
| 2 Sept         | 10:00 AM        | Rendezvous – Lower Hall   |
| 3 Sept         | 7:15 PM         | Prayer Meeting in the Prayer Room   |
| 5 Sept         | 7:30 PM         | Church Conference   |
| 6 Sept         | 11:00 AM        | Church Conference   |
| <b>7 Sept</b>  | <b>10:30 AM</b> | <b>Church Conference Morning Service with Communion &amp; Junior Church</b> |
| 7 Sept         | 2:00 PM         | Afternoon Service with Communion – Headrigg Garden                          |
| 7 Sept         | 6:00 PM         | Youth Fellowship – Bill Penny Hall  |
| 7 Sept         | 7:30 PM         | Church Conference Evening Service   |
| 9 Sept         | 9:30 AM         | Women Who Pray – Prayer Room  |
| 9 Sept         | 10:00 AM        | Rendezvous – Lower Hall   |
| 9 Sept         | 7:30 PM         | Team Leaders Meeting – Entrance Foyer                                       |
| 10 Sept        | 7:15 PM         | Prayer Meeting in the Prayer Room   |
| <b>14 Sept</b> | <b>10:30 AM</b> | <b>Morning Service And Junior Church</b>                                    |
| 14 Sept        | 6:00 PM         | Youth Fellowship – Bill Penny Hall  |
| 14 Sept        | 7:30 PM         | Evening Service   |
| 16 Sept        | 9:30 AM         | Women Who Pray – Prayer Room  |
| 16 Sept        | 10:00 AM        | Rendezvous – Lower Hall   |
| 17 Sept        | 7:15 PM         | Prayer Meeting in the Prayer Room   |
| 19 Sept        | 11:00 AM        | Flower & Fabric Festival  |
| 20 Sept        | 10:00 AM        | Flower & Fabric Festival  |
| <b>21 Sept</b> | <b>10:30 AM</b> | <b>Morning Service And Junior Church</b>                                    |
| 21 Sept        | 6:00 PM         | Youth Fellowship – Bill Penny Hall  |
| 21 Sept        | 7:30 PM         | Evening Service   |
| 23 Sept        | 9:30 AM         | Women Who Pray – Prayer Room  |
| 23 Sept        | 10:00 AM        | Rendezvous – Lower Hall   |
| 24 Sept        | 10:00 AM        | Craft Group – Lower Hall  |
| 24 Sept        | 7:15 PM         | Prayer Meeting in the Prayer Room   |
| 27 Sept        | 4:00 PM         | Messy Church in WKPC  |
| <b>28 Sept</b> | <b>10:30 AM</b> | <b>Dedication &amp; Thanksgiving Service And Junior Church</b>              |
| 28 Sept        | 6:00 PM         | Youth Fellowship – Bill Penny Hall  |
| 28 Sept        | 7:30 PM         | Evening Service   |
| 30 Sept        | 9:30 AM         | Women Who Pray – Prayer Room  |
| 30 Sept        | 10:00 AM        | Rendezvous – Lower Hall   |
| 30 Sept        | 7:30 PM         | Kirk Session Meeting – in the Small Hall                                    |



Congratulations on your  
Diamond Wedding Anniversary  
*THOMAS & MARY LAPSLEY*  
Who were married on  
23<sup>rd</sup> July 1954

With much love from all the family  
XXXX



## **Our Love and Good Wishes**

To

**MARGARET CAMPBELL**

Who Celebrated  
101 Years Old

On

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> August

**CONGRATULATIONS!!!**

## THANKS

Betty McDougall wishes to thank all the members of the church family who have been so kind to her during her recent illness. Also to James for his visits and comforting prayers.

She finds it difficult to express her thanks to so many people for their cards and hospital visits throughout her stay there. Although she is now home, she is still limited in what she is able to do.

## BIG THANK YOU

Nan Watt and Mary Gibson would both like to say a big thank you to all our friends for all your prayers, cards, flowers, phone calls, and the many visits. We would also like to thank James, our Minister and friend, for all his pastoral care.

*Blessings, Nan & Mary.*

# GRANDMOTHERS

When Brian took the service in July he read out this description of grandmothers written by an eight year old boy and I thought it worth putting in the magazine:

*A grandmother is a woman who has no children of her own so she loves the children of other people.*

*Grandmothers have nothing to do, they just have to be there.*

*If they take you for a walk they go slowly past beautiful leaves and caterpillars.*

*They never say, "Come along quickly" or "Hurray up for goodness sake".*

*They are usually fat but not too fat to tie my shoelaces.*

*They wear spectacles and sometimes take out their teeth.*

*They can answer any question, for instance, why dogs hate cats and why God isn't married.*

*When they read to us they never leave anything out and they do not mind if it's always the same story.*

*Everyone should have a grandmother, especially those who do not have a television.*

*Grandmothers are the only grown ups who have plenty of time.*

*Deirdre Murray*



*Scottish Charity Number: SCO13464*

# **Church Conference** ***5th - 7th September 2014***

## ***Guest Speaker:***

*Elaine Duncan, Chief Executive of the Scottish Bible Society.*



**Friday 5th September - 7.30pm**

**Saturday 6th September - 11am,**  
followed by lunch.

**Sunday 7th September - 10.30am**  
**Sunday 7th September - 7.30pm**

*Worship, Encouragement, Teaching.*  
*All welcome!*

# CHURCH MATTERS DISTRIBUTION

The September edition of Church Matters will be printed and delivered for all as previously. However following the recent questionnaire this will be the last paper edition which will be distributed as above.

In the recent questionnaire one hundred and two members requested to continue to have a paper copy. These members will continue to have a paper copy delivered. To all others, Church Matters will be available on the church web site at [www.westkilbrideparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.westkilbrideparishchurch.org.uk).

***May I emphasize that if any member decides at any time that they wish to revert to a printed copy of the magazine being delivered this can be done by contacting Ruth at the church office.***

Please also note that Church Matters or any part of Church Matters such as Prayer Diary can be easily printed off from the web site. If anyone needs any help or advice as to how this is done, please do not hesitate to ask myself or any of the communications and technology team.

*Richard de Courcy  
(communications and technology team)*



## Data Protection Act Consent Form

The purpose of the Data Protection Act 1998 is to ensure that any personal data an organisation holds about an individual is stored and used in an appropriate way. West Kilbride Parish Church (Registered Scottish Charity SC013464) strives to comply fully with data protection law. The Presbytery of Ardrrossan is registered as a Data Controller with with the Information Commissioner and strives to comply fully with data protection law.

West Kilbride Parish Church is committed to protecting your privacy and safeguarding your personal data. We shall use the information you have provided us with for communication and related church matters and will only keep the data for as long as is necessary.

If you agree to the information being used in this way then please complete and sign the form below. If you have any queries, please alert the Church Office as soon as possible.

[Note : The Information Commissioner's website provides in-depth information regarding requirements of the Data Protection Act at <http://www.ico.gov.uk> ]

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I consent to the details provided above being held by West Kilbride Parish Church for the purposes of communication and church related matters.

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| Signed |  |
| Date   |  |