

Church Matters

West Kilbride Parish Church Magazine
Issue No. 21 June, July & August 2013



Bumblebee & Poppy

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Registered Scottish Charity SCO13464

Minister's Letter

Lifelong Learning!

I once read a statistic that said that by the age of 2, we have learned over 90% of all we will ever learn. I'm not sure if it is true - but if it is, it is quite staggering to think that John has learned 90% of everything he will know already - and the rest of his life will be spent learning the other 10%!

All of us have certain things that we are interested in and like to learn about and are passionate about - whether it be local history, sport or dogs; cookery, D.I.Y or sailing. It doesn't matter who we are, we all have various interests - things that we know something about. And it always fascinates me that the most unassuming person, when you are able to speak to them about a subject in which they are interested, can suddenly open up and become animated and passionate.

As Christians, I wonder if we are so passionate about our faith and most of all about our Lord. We can be so passionate about things which, at the end of the day, are not of eternal significance. And yet, so often we can be apathetic about our faith - only thinking about God or our faith when times are difficult or hard. Of course, our faith is really important at these times - and we feel our need to know the closeness of God's Presence. But what about those other times - the 'ordinary' times? Are we so passionate about God then?

For those things that we are passionate about, we often spend time researching it, reading the instruction book and talking about it. And in the same way, as Christians, we need to be passionate about the instruction book (the Bible) and not only talk to others about Him - but talk to Him as well!

I wonder how many of us have Bibles on our bookshelves (or in these technological days - on our Ipad or Kindle) which is unused and barely looked at. But if we care about our faith, then perhaps we need to spend time getting into God's Word and learning about Him. We can never learn too much - indeed learning about God is something that is lifelong - but which is of eternal significance.

And how many of us put a priority on prayer - getting to know our Creator, interceding for others and growing in our relationship with Him?

Let's be lifelong learners - students of the faith - and let us be astounded at the amazing God that we have.

Yours in Christ,

James

Church Register

The following have sadly passed away recently. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families:

Cathy Wilson,	Overton Court,	on 13th March 2013.
Andrew Scott,	Bowfield Road,	on 13th March 2013.
Jessie (Anne) Robb,	Sandy Lane,	on 17th March 2013.
Donald Dalgoutte,	Portencross,	on 20th March 2013.
Elizabeth Parsons,	Yonderton Place,	on 24th March 2013.
Marion Laughlan,	Pantonville Road,	son 2nd April 2013.
Jack Hamilton,	Headrigg Road,	on 14th April 2013.
Brian Anderson,	Alton Street,	on 28th April 2013.
Ann Shedden,	Ardrossan Road,	on 6th May 2013.
Geoffrey Millington,	Meadowside,	on 11th May 2013.



Diary Dates for June 2013

- 1 Jun 08:30 AM Prayer Breakfast in the Prayer Room
- 2 Jun 10:30 AM Morning Service And Sunday School**
- 2 Jun 02:00 PM Afternoon Service - Headrigg Gardens
- 2 Jun 06:00 PM Youth Fellowship - Bill Penny Hall
- 2 Jun 07:15 PM Joint Evening Service - Hayocks Community Centre
- 4 Jun 09:30 AM Women Who Pray - Prayer Room
- 4 Jun 10:00 AM Rendezvous - Lower Hall
- 4 Jun 07:30 PM Kirk Session Meeting - Lower Hall
- 5 Jun 07:15 PM WHG (Wednesday House Group Meetings)
- 9 Jun 10:30 AM Morning Service And Sunday School**
- 9 Jun 06:00 PM Youth Fellowship - Bill Penny Hall
- 11 Jun 09:30 AM Women Who Pray - Prayer Room
- 11 Jun 10:00 AM Rendezvous - Lower Hall
- 12 Jun 07:15 PM (CBS) Church Bible Study & Prayer Meeting
- 16 Jun 10:30 AM Morning Service And Sunday School**
- 16 Jun 06:00 PM Youth Fellowship - Bill Penny Hall
- 16 Jun 07:30 PM Evening Service
- 18 Jun 09:30 AM Women Who Pray - Prayer Room
- 18 Jun 10:00 AM Rendezvous - Lower Hall
- 19 Jun 07:15 PM WHG (Wednesday House Group Meetings)
- 23 Jun 10:30 AM Morning Service - Junior Church Presentation**
- 23 Jun 06:00 PM Youth Fellowship - Bill Penny Hall
- 25 Jun 09:30 AM Women Who Pray - Prayer Room
- 25 Jun 10:00 AM Rendezvous - Lower Hall
- 26 Jun 07:15 PM (CBS) Church Bible Study & Prayer Meeting
- 30 Jun 10:30 AM Morning Service And Sunday School**
- 30 Jun 06:00 PM Youth Fellowship - Bill Penny Hall
- 30 Jun 07:30 PM Evening Service

Note:

For Diary Dates July and August 2013 - please check on WKPC's website www.westkilbrideparishchurch.org.uk

SAFEGUARDING – RECRUITMENT PROCEDURES

Welcome to the third of our series of articles on safeguarding – protection of children and adults at risk from harm or abuse.

We recruit paid workers or volunteers performing regulated work with children or adults at risk in accordance with procedures that allow the Kirk Session to appoint in confidence.

Job Description

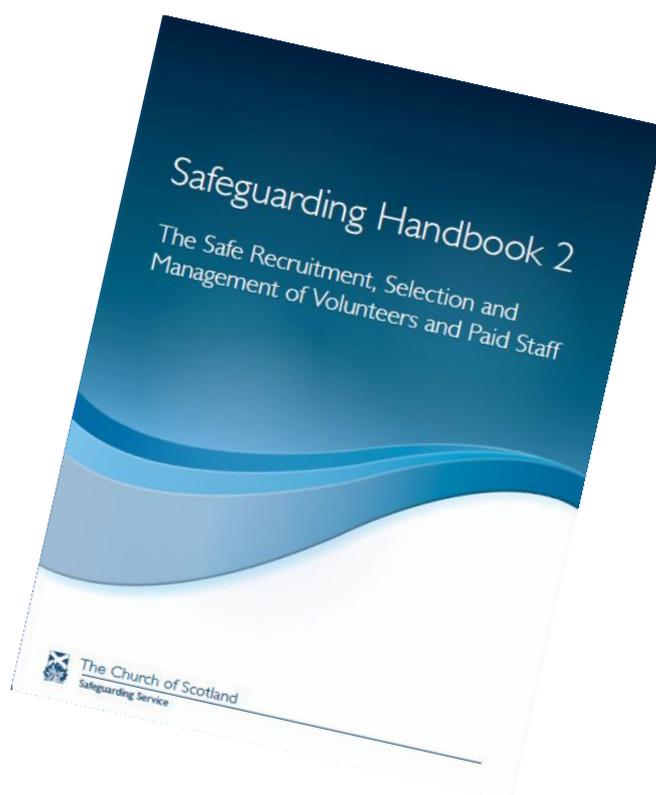
Irrespective of whether the post is paid or unpaid anyone working with children or protected adults must know their duties and responsibilities. We provide a written job description for each role.

Job Application

Again, irrespective of whether the post is paid or unpaid prospective workers must complete an application for the desired role, in the course of which they are asked to identify a minimum of two references.

References

All references are followed up. We use a standard reference request form that helps referees focus on specific aspects of the work to be performed by the candidate.



Interview

Having received the references candidates are interviewed. Rather than formal interview we try to have a conversation with each candidate to get to know them better. We'll ask about any training or support that the person may require as well as answering any questions about the post.

PVG Scheme Membership

Anyone performing regulated work with children or adults at risk must join the PVG Scheme. This means either completing either a PVG Scheme Membership Application or Update along with a Self-Declaration Form, identifying any previous criminal convictions. Both forms are sent to the Church of Scotland Safeguarding Office. After processing each successful applicant receives a certificate from Disclosure Scotland.

Appointment

Having satisfactorily completed all these stages, with approval received from Church of Scotland's Safeguarding Office, the Kirk Session may appoint the candidate. Every worker receives an appointment letter together a Safeguarding Handbook, a Safeguarding Pocket Card and a copy of our Disciplinary Code. Appointment includes a review period, usually six months, and appropriate training.

Our Safeguarding Co-ordinators (Colin McDougall and Anne Fitzsimmons) do their utmost to ensure the process is made as easy as possible. Please don't be put off volunteering – we're here to help.



In January I sent away £148.98 to Tearfund. In April the total collected was a staggering £291.88. Now, a month later I have just banked £69.40, which I am about to send off along with a cheque for £25. I simply don't know how to start thanking you all of you wonderful collectors of small change for your generosity.

Anyhow, Lynne Paterson, the Director of Tearfund Scotland writes in two separate letters of how grateful they are for our gifts which they hugely value. She also writes the following, "There is a Tearfund programme training people in Cambodia called UMOJA (meaning 'being of one mind' in Swahili) which is run through the local churches. One lady called "Um Loeng" has left poverty behind as a result of her training. She is now working with neighbours in breeding fish and chickens which bring her income and food".

In another letter Lynne writes that they are inspired and amazed by the stories of transformation they receive from they receive from their Christian partners across the world. "Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa (EYN) in Nigeria is one instance. Bible teaching given by local churches in an agricultural area inspired the community to show love and concern to the Makeri clan, who had previously been considered as outcasts. As a result, 57 people, including the leader of the clan and his family gave their lives to Jesus, as a result of which the whole community came together to build new church facilities. They now run an adult literacy scheme,

schooling for children, and have plans to build a new health clinic for both communities to use”.

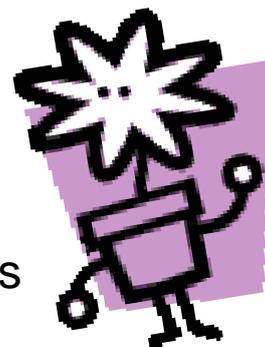
The above information is why I think Tearfund is such a worthwhile charity. Unlike – as in some other charities – money is not sent off into oblivion to end up in the pockets of rich generals. Tearfund partners, mostly churches, are trusted by them to act wisely, being accountable to them. If anything doubtful ever happens it is investigated and published in their magazine. Although money is given in cases of extreme famine for food, tents etc., Tearfund teaches people to recognise their potential so that they can improve their own lives.

Many thanks to you all for helping to make this possible. Letters are in the Teafund slot in the Lower Hall.

Audrey Brown

Flower Pots

Recently I found that some kind soul had left some flower pots in my garden. I suspect that it was someone from the church. If it was you, then many thanks.



Audrey Brown

HOLIDAY CLUB 2013



The Youth Team is organising another club for primary age children in the village from **Monday 24 June to Friday 28 June**, from 6.15 – 8 pm. The title this year is “**Space Academy**” and the stories are all about Daniel and his friends. The space theme reminds us how amazing and powerful God is, something that Daniel and his friends proved over and over again in their exile in Babylon.

We are unsure what we might need you to collect as yet, so please keep a look out for intimations that might request things.

The one thing we most definitely need are your prayers both for the weeks leading up to the club when we are preparing the material, organising the timing of each evening’s programme and advertising the club and for the week of the club itself. We hope that you will find the bookmark helpful as you support the club in your prayers.

ENOUGH FOOD FOR EVERYONE IF

One in eight people in this world still go hungry each night while many others have more than enough to eat and drink.

This month the UK will be chairing the G8 summit. Our world leaders can change the future of millions of people who struggle against hunger. We need our leaders to tackle the issues of tax, aid, land and transparency.

AID

Enough food for everyone IF we give enough aid to stop children dying from hunger and help the poorest families feed themselves.

TAX

Enough food for everyone IF governments stop big companies dodging tax in poor countries.

LAND

Enough food for everyone IF we stop poor farmers being forced off their land and grow crops to feed people, not fuel cars.

TRANSPARENCY

Enough food for everyone IF governments and big companies are honest and open about their actions that stop people getting enough food.

8 June – David Cameron will chair the Food and Hunger summit

17 -18 June – David Cameron will be hosting the G8 summit

PLEASE PRAY

God our provider, who miraculously fed Elijah, we ask You to sustain those who are hungry in our world. May we draw on Your strength as we speak out against our unjust global food system.

Give us faith to believe what seems impossible.

To read more about the IF campaign –

enoughfoodif.org

christianaid.org.uk/if tearfund.org

GOD'S HELP IN MY LIFE

For a good while now I have noticed many instances in which I feel God's help, sometimes in quite amazing ways. When I told the Mission and Discipleship group, of which I am a member, they thought I should write some of them down for Church Matters each time it is published. As you will notice, very often it is to do with parking spaces which seem to be available despite the fact that the car park appears to be full. Here goes!

- 1 Still amazing help with parking. We went to the bank when Crawford was still walking with two sticks after his hip operation. As we approached, a lady drove away from a parking space just beside the bank.
- 2 We were late for an appointment in Ayr – what's new! However as the light were at green all the way, we arrived on time.
- 3 After some shopping for our son Gordon, we were about to take it down to his house when he phoned to say that as he was coming up in a few minutes on his way to the station, he would collect it.
- 4 As Crawford was about to go to the hospital for an operation, we were both feeling a bit concerned. Crawford was very fond of our little black cat called "bramble". As we approached the hospital, a white van drove out of a side road. As "Bramble's Deli" was written on the side of the van I knew it was a sign from God and that Crawford would be all right.
- 5 Despite the fact that the parking space at the shops in Kilmarnock appeared to be taken, when we looked carefully there was one available. The same thing happened later in the hospital car park. While still in Kilmarnock, as it was very cold with snow on the ground, there was a man crouched in a doorway begging. Although we gave him some money, I intended to phone the Salvation Army when we I arrived home. However we were too late. The next day when I went to Saltcoats I noticed that a Salvation Army officer was in the parking space right beside where I was. When I told him about the man in Kilmarnock, he said that he would attend to him as he knew him. God works in mysterious ways.

Audrey Brown

FISH AND CHIP BABIES

Every day in Africa, and other parts of the World , babies are born already affected with HIV, or are premature, or their parents are very poor . If they survive, they are sent home wrapped in newspaper as protection against the sun and the extreme cold at night. Hence the name *Fish and Chip Babies*.

Several local groups have started knitting jumpers and hats from patterns supplied by the organisers, Auchendarvie Community Services. Ladies in the Church started knitting some weeks ago, and to date we have knitted 21 Beanie Hats and 90 Beanie/Jumper Sets, in an amazing array of colours. These have been sent off on the first stage of their travels to Malawi by Community Services. This is all due to Raven Trust www.theraventrust.org .I have been in touch with one of the first groups to start knitting, and they are trying to get some photos of the children wearing the garments.

Florence Fulton

Monthly Prayer Diary: June 2013

- Sat 1st Lord, I pray to be willing to be used as an instrument of Your love, faith and hope.
- Sun 2nd "O Lord, You have examined my heart and know everything about me."
- Mon 3rd We pray for the residents living in Arranview Gardens and Blackshaw Drive
- Tue 4th All we know who are unwell or undergoing treatment. We pray for their loved ones also
- Wed 5th Our GP Surgery, local hospitals and hospices
- Thu 6th Human Trafficking – one of the fastest growing industries in the world
- Fri 7th The Persecuted Church. We pray for all who daily face danger, intimidation, torture, imprisonment because of their faith in the Lord Jesus
- Sat 8th The Food and Hunger summit. We pray for David Cameron and other world leaders to make wise decisions that favour a fairer food system for all
- Sun 9th "You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body, and knit them together in my mother's womb. Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex."
- Mon 10th We pray for the residents living in Bowfield Road and Burnside Place
- Tue 11th Our local Care Homes. We pray for the elderly in our Church family, may help always be at hand when they need it. We remember the Pastoral Care Team as they visit.
- Wed 12th Our minister James, Anna his wife and their son John
- Thu 13th Our Session Clerk Carol and our Elders
- Fri 14th We pray for all who are grieving. Lord, You have promised to comfort the brokenhearted
- Sat 15th We pray for people gathering to stand against injustice by joining the IF campaign events across Britain ahead of the G8 summit. We pray for peaceful demonstrations
- Sun 16th "You saw me before I was born and scheduled each day of my life before I began to breathe. Every day was recorded in your Book!"
- Mon 17th We pray for residents living in Caldwell Road and Carlung Place
- Tue 18th The G8 summit in Northern Ireland. We pray for Godly wisdom for all world leaders. Proverbs 31 v 8,9 – "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy."
- Wed 19th The work of christian Aid Agencies across the world as they seek to tackle the root causes of hunger
- Thu 20th The Middle East, Afghanistan and other troubled areas in the world
- Fri 21st The Ardrossan Presbytery. We pray for Ministers within the Presbytery and for local congregations facing change
- Sat 22nd Local businesses. Pray that they may prosper for the sake of the whole community
- Sun 23rd "How precious it is, Lord, to realize that you are thinking about me constantly!"
- Mon 24th We pray for the residents living in Castle Drive and Castle View
- Tue 25th Helen Scott, our missionary partner in Malawi, and other missionaries we have links with, serving God here and abroad.
- Wed 26th The Church Refurbishment plans and also the sale of the Overton Church building
- Thu 27th Many of our Church organisations take a break during the summer. We give thanks for the fellowship we have had during the past months. We give thanks for all the leaders
- Fri 28th School Holidays!! Lord, bless and protect all our children, teachers and school staff
- Sat 29th We pray for all who are making preparations for Summer Bible Camps and Holiday Clubs and for all who will attend
- Sun 30th "Search me, O God, and know my heart; test my thoughts. Point out anything you find in me that makes you sad, and lead me along the path of everlasting life."
- Sunday verses this month have been taken from Psalm 139, The Living Bible edition.*

Monthly Prayer Diary – July 2013

- Mon 1st We pray for the residents living in Chapleton Lane and Chapleton Road
- Tue 2nd We pray for those of our Church family going on holiday. May they be refreshed in mind body and spirit
- Wed 3rd We pray for families reuniting during the summer holidays. We pray for great times of fun, sharing precious time together
- Thu 4th We pray for families in our community who are struggling with breakups, finances or the threat of unemployment
- Fri 5th We pray for our neighbours. We give thanks that this is often the time when neighbours can get together and enjoy community. We pray for streets where there is tension between neighbours. As Christians may we be salt and light
- Sat 6th We pray protection over our children during the holidays
- Sun 7th Lord, help me by my love to be a witness of Thy love
- Mon 8th We pray for the residents living in Coldstream and Corse Street
- Tue 9th Ramadan begins. We give thanks that in the Middle East where there is such despair, that Muslims are discovering the hope of the gospel through the witness of the churches
- Wed 10th We pray for the Persecuted Church. We remember Christian families whose homes, businesses, schools and churches have been destroyed
- Thu 11th We pray for all the children who will make a commitment to Christ at Summer Camps and Holiday Clubs
- Fri 12th Lord, we pray that You will send gifted youth workers with a heart to reach out to young ones in and around the village
- Sat 13th We pray protection over our village against violence and crime
- Sun 14th O Lord, help me to order my life better, help me to use my gifts more industriously. Help me to turn from no-one in need
- Mon 15th We pray for the residents living in Corse Terrace and Corsehill Drive
- Tue 16th We give thanks for our minister James, for Anna and for John. May they feel supported by our love and prayers
- Wed 17th We pray for the plans for the Church Refurbishment. We remember the Fabric Team and all who have been involved in the negotiations
- Thu 18th We pray for Carol, our Session Clerk and all our Elders. We give thanks for all their hard work, so often done behind the scenes
- Fri 19th We pray for Helen Scott in Malawi – and others we know serving You in other lands. May You meet their every need
- Sat 20th We pray for local Ministers and local congregations facing change
- Sun 21st O Lord, give us courage to stand up and be counted and to stand up for those who cannot stand up for themselves
- Mon 22nd We pray for the residents living in Craufurd Ave and Crosbie Drive
- Tue 23rd We pray for all who are unwell, or having tests carried out and for all who are undergoing treatment.
- Wed 24th We pray for all who are in despair. Lord, please give them strength and purpose for today and hope for a brighter tomorrow
- Thu 25th We pray for all who are bereaved. Lord, please be their comfort
- Fri 26th We pray for peace for the Middle East, Afghanistan and troubled spots in our world. We pray for the innocent victims of war
- Sat 27th Peacemakers and Peacekeepers. We pray for Godly wisdom and His protection over them
- Sun 28th Father God, let us love nothing more than we love Thee
- Mon 29th We pray for the residents living in Cubrieshaw Drive and Cubrieshaw Park
- Tue 30th World Leaders and all who are in authority over us

Wed 31st We give thanks for our Church Family. We pray for brothers and sisters still living in the village but who no longer worship with us because of deep hurts from the past. Lord, please lead the way to forgiveness.

Monthly Prayer Diary – August 2013

- Thu 1st “Be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations,” Psalm 46 v 10
- Fri 2nd North Korea. The most difficult place on earth to be a Christian. www.worldwatch.org
- Sat 3rd We give thanks for our freedom to live and worship as we do
- Sun 4th “Praise the Lord, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise His holy name.” Psalm 103
- Mon 5th We pray for the residents living in Cubrieshaw Street and Cumbrae Place
- Tue 6th James our Minister, Anna and John. We pray for encouragement in their ministry
- Wed 7th Families struggling with addiction – alcohol, drugs, gambling, pornography
- Thu 8th We pray for Carol our Session Clerk and for the ongoing work of all our teams
- Fri 9th North Korea, We pray for Kim Jong-Un, that God will work in his heart and that he will pursue peace and not war
- Sat 10th We pray for the Ardrossan Presbytery and local congregations facing change
- Sun 11th “Neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 8 v 39
- Mon 12th We pray for residents living in Drummilling Avenue and Drummilling Drive
- Tue 13th We pray for all who are unwell, having tests, or receiving treatment
- Wed 14th For all who are grieving. Lord, You have promised that they will be comforted
- Thu 15th As teachers return to school today, we pray for our local schools. We pray for the growth of Scripture Union groups during the coming school year
- Fri 16th North Korea. We pray for the growing community of underground Christians - 200,000-400,000 who continue to live out their faith despite the dangers
- Sat 17th Our GP Surgery, local hospitals care homes and hospices. We pray for Christians who work in health care, may the love of Christ urge them on
- Sun 18th “Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you.” 1 Peter 5 v 7
- Mon 19th We pray for the residents living in Drummilling Road and Farlands View
- Tue 20th We pray for children starting school, those back at school, for all who are preparing to go to college or university and for the young unemployed
- Wed 21st We pray for the Middle East, for Afghanistan and for troubled areas of the world
- Thu 22nd We pray for our Servicemen and women, Aid Agency workers and Rescue Services who are working in difficult conditions. We pray for their families also
- Fri 23rd North Korea. Many Christians there are in prison. We pray for strength for them to endure physical and mental torture
- Sat 24th May God bless every aspect of our youth & children’s work in this new season
- Sun 25th “Let us throw off everything that hinders....and let us run with perseverance the race marked out before us.” Hebrews 12 v 1
- Mon 26th We pray for the residents living in Farmfield Terrace and Faulds Wynd
- Tue 27th The Rendezvous Café. We give thanks for the ladies who serve and the drivers who make it possible for people to attend
- Wed 28th Helen Scott in Malawi and all we know who are serving God in other lands
- Thu 29th Our witness in West Kilbride. Do others see how we love one another?
- Fri 30th North Korea .Pray for protection for Christian aid agency workers involved in distributing food, medicines and Bible material
- Sat 31st Lord, we ask for a greater hunger & desire to read & study your word, to meet together to learn & pray together, to grow together – for we have the freedom to do these things.