

Church Matters

West Kilbride Parish Church Magazine

Issue No. 3 November 2010



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MINISTER'S LETTER

*'In his hand are the depths of the earth,
and the mountain peaks belong to him.' Psalm 95: 4*

For those who saw it, you could hardly but be moved. The rescue of the Chilean Miners was the good news story of this year, and in the midst of news of war and financial gloom, it was rather refreshing.

33 miners, 69 days stuck half a mile underground. The first 17 days were spent surviving on the 48 hours of rations that they had - a little rice and a little milk. Probes were drilled desperately from the surface - searching for any sign of life. As day after day passed, it looked an evermore forlorn possibility ... but then hope! A single scrap bit of paper attached to one of the probes which had written of it news that all 33 were alive.

A supply tunnel was quickly set up which allowed the miners to obtain basic supplies whilst a rescue operation was put in place. Finally, a shaft reached the miners and was wide enough for them to be rescued and all 33 were brought to the surface in remarkably good health considering what they had experienced.

I wonder if we had had to survive in such circumstances, whether we would have done so well. It is clear that a lot of these men were men of great faith - built into their schedule were prayers twice a day. One of the men, Jose Henriquez, is an evangelical preacher - and was charged with keeping the

men's spirits up. And you may have noticed that some of the men, when they were rescued, wore matching t-shirts saying *'In his hand are the depths of the earth and the mountain peaks belong to him'* - a quote from Psalm 95. Obviously, even in the depths of the earth, the miners felt the hand of God upon them.

Of course, in our own lives, most of us will probably never experience anything like what these miners went through. But in our own way, sometimes with the problems that crop up in everyday life - at work or within our family or with ill-health - we can feel as though we are beyond God's reach. Maybe we feel as though we are trapped in a mine, in utter darkness and there seems to be no hope.

But that one verse from Psalm 95 gives us much comfort - and much hope. Because it assures us that whatever is happening in our lives, that God is there and he cares. In fact, more than that; He holds that situation in his hand and knows exactly what you are going through and how to help you through. The camp that was set up at the place where the miners were was called 'Camp Hope'. In God, we have a hope that keeps us going in the darkest of times and leads to life. In your own situation may you know that hope and life today.

Your friend and minister,

James

Editorial

By the time this edition of Church Matters reaches you Summer time will have ended, you will have had an extra hour in bed (unless you forgot to turn your clock back) and will be looking forward to Advent. Summer seems to have gone very quickly!

There is much to look forward to in the Festive season – as a church we will be participating in the Craft Fayre, Yuletide Night, Carol Concert, Gift Service and more! Read more about it inside your magazine.

There is a fair amount of reading in this issue so thanks to those who have submitted articles this month, without them we wouldn't have a magazine. The next issue will be a double one for December and January so please get in touch if you have anything you'd like to see in print – a testimony, poem, prayer, funny story, good news, book review... the list can be as extensive as you like!

Deirdre Murray

Session Update

Session has met twice since the last update and some of the key points, at least from my personal perspective were as undernoted:–

Tuesday 12th October:

- The meeting commenced with a fitting tribute to Eddie Woods who had served as an Elder in St Andrews for many years and latterly in the Parish Church. Eddie passed away in August and our thoughts and prayers continue to be with his family at this time.
- A letter had been received from Carloway Parish Church Isle of Lewis – expressing thanks for the Gift of Communion ‘Trays’. Following the Union in West Kilbride, Session agreed to donate the spare communion ware.
- TEARFUND acknowledged the gift of approx £580 following the recent Retiring Offering.
- Each of the Teams provided a full updating report. A number of areas were specifically approved including the recommendation from the Catering Team regarding the disbursement of their funds. There were also a number of proposals from the Mission & Discipleship Team including: A stall at the Craft Fair on 27th & 28th November 2010 and a Carol Singing group for the Yuletide Evening on 5th December 2010.
- Mr John Coy (who along with his wife Alison were the first new members of the Parish Church) will represent the Church at the cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday. Given the anticipated attendance that Sunday and with the gallery still out of commission, morning worship will take place at Overton.

Tuesday 19th October:

- A specific evening was arranged for Session to meet with the Architect (Raymond Angus Assoc Ltd) who had been tasked with investing the options open to the Church with regards to restructuring/upgrading its facilities in line with its Vision Statement. A detailed presentation was given providing a range of ideas for the church. These ideas were a mix

- of practical, logical extensive and radical, but suffice to say, gave Session a taste of what can/may be done.
- It's early days and there is much to consider, review, re think etc. If nothing else, the process has started although it will without doubt be a lengthy process. Which reminds me of a plaque that used to hang in my aunt's house – 'Lord give me patience..... but hurry.'
- James was keen to re-iterate that whatever we do, and I believe this also relates to our personal lives, if it's the right thing, then we should do it. The Lord will provide.

Which brings me back to the point I often finish on – Prayer. The Church must seek the Lord's will on this and all matters and I would again commend the prayer times both on a Wednesday and a Sunday.

Graeme Cruickshank – Joint Session Clerk.

Baptisms: Oct 24th Lucy Rankin (daughter of Joy and Paul Rankin)

New members in September: Rev Alan Ward, and Mrs Alison Ward, of Meadowfoot Road

Helen Scott – Malawi

September 2010

Dear Friends,

“There is neither Jew nor Greek,..... for you are all one in Christ Jesus” Gal. 3V28

This is our verse for the year at school, chosen because this will be our big challenge this term.

Can I first of all apologise to you for not writing a prayer letter for ages. This is because the school has been in a period of not knowing what would happen. Everything was a bit sensitive and so I didn't feel the time was right to write a prayer letter. However, now decisions have been made and we know where we are going.

There has been a push to privatise the school. Until now it has been a grant-aided school, supported by both church and government. Although many of us felt that is was not the right thing to do, the decision has been finally made and this year's Form 1 intake will be privatised. The remainder of the girls will continue under the grant-aided scheme. Next year both Form 1 and 2 will be private, and over the next 4 years privatisation will be phased in. One of the big issues will be staffing; since all the other staff are government employees they will be eventually be posted away and replaced by others. As you can imagine, the past few months led to a great deal of uncertainty in the staff room, but now we know where we stand, things are easier. So this year we need to hold on to the fact that we are all one, otherwise there will be a “them and us” mentality take root, which will make administration ten times harder.

We are going into new territory and we need the grace of God to pull together. I have to overcome my disappointment at what has happened and allow God to use me to help make the best of this

situation. Please pray that I will be able to do this.

On the 25th September, there will be the selection exam for the Form 1 candidates and 80 will be selected on merit. They will begin the following week. Who will be teaching them has not yet been worked out. Their fees will be K30,000 per term. For a private school this is not high. It has been kept low so that many can apply and so that the difference between the private and non-private sectors is minimal. So watch this space to find out how we get along... There will be a lot of teething troubles to get through. I'm just taking one day at a time and not thinking ahead too much!

The school terms have been changed, but we are now into a new pattern. Our school year is not like the UK one (ie Sept – July) so we have just started the first term of the new school year.

As I type this, the electricity is going on and off like a yoyo. There is no fuel in the country at the moment but I think it will come soon. However, the good news is that I have now got email access at home, so maybe I can be a better e-correspondent than I have been.

Intermittent rain has made the harvest a patchy one, some areas having very little rain at all. So already there are tales of hunger.

I have been able to use my house to provide hospitality for some of the many visitors who come to Ekwendi, and I have also enjoyed the company. This is also the wedding season.

Every weekend I could be at a wedding, indeed I often am. I lose track of whose is which week! I managed to go to the UK for 2 weeks in August, then came back to find I was on an interview panel for the nursing school. 1200 applied for 50 places. The interviews were spread over 5 days – about 200 per day, though this was reduced to about 40 per day for oral interviews!

Pray for our General Secretary who was arrested, then released on bail, following something which was said at a funeral. His court

case comes up this week, but pray that the government and the church will be able to sort out their differences.

I trust you have had a good summer. I shall try to keep you abreast of what is happening and not take so long before my next letter.

With every blessing,
Helen

Gallimaufry

**There's a divinity that shapes our ends,
Rough-hew them how we will." Shakespeare**

*Presbytery spoke - the deal is done,
Two congregations now are one.
Overton and St Andrews perish,
One letter turns them into Parish.*

**Our ship is launched on uncharted seas,
We're hoping for a following breeze.
Our Captain will be James McNay,
To navigate us on our way.**

**All hands are summoned to the oars,
Providing the basic motive force.
Effectiveness of our progression
Will be monitored by the Session.**

**The voyage ahead is complicated,
But our desire is clearly stated.
*We will apply our best endeavour
To carry out God's will, together.***

Monthly Prayer Diary – November 2010

Mon 1 st	God's leading and guidance for the future of the Church in West Kilbride
Tue 2 nd	The Rendezvous Café – for good times of fellowship
Wed 3 rd	Rev. James McNay, Anna, and their baby John
Thur 4 th	Rev. Gillean MacLean and members of the Ardrossan Presbytery
Fri 5 th	Let's make this a day of thanksgiving for all of God's goodness to us
Sat 6 th	Human Trafficking – people bought and sold into slavery
Sun 7th	“May the mind of Christ my Saviour live in me from day to day”
Mon 8 th	Our local schools
Tue 9 th	The Church of Scotland and the Church in Scotland
Wed 10 th	Our youth organisations, Junior Church, Crèche & Y.F. - and their leaders
Thur 11 th	Remembrance Day
Fri 12 th	All who are sad and lonely; may they find hope in Jesus
Sat 13 th	Our GP Surgery, local hospitals & Care Homes
Sun 14th	“May the word of God dwell richly in my heart from hour to hour”
Mon 15 th	Help us to have deeper longing to study and be guided by your Word, Lord
Tue 16 th	All we know who are bereaved; may they be comforted
Wed 17 th	Carol and Graeme, our Session Clerks, and all our Elders
Thur 18 th	The Persecuted Church and all who are in prison because of their faith in Jesus Christ

Fri 19 th	Our Missionary Partners, and all we know who are serving God in other parts of the world
Sat 20 th	All who are caught up in addiction – drugs, alcohol, gambling, pornography
Sun 21st	“May the peace of God my Father rule my life in everything”
Mon 22 nd	All we know who are sick, and those who care for them
Tue 23 rd	Our world leaders, and for those in authority over us. Our MPs and MSPs
Wed 24 th	Rt. Rev. John Christie in his role as Church Moderator
Thur 25 th	Troubled areas of the world – for Peacekeepers and Peacemakers
Fri 26 th	Protection over our village against violence and crime
Sat 27 th	We remember the people of Pakistan affected by floods and all whose lives are affected by natural disasters
Sun 28th	“May the love of Jesus fill me as the waters fill the sea”
Mon 29 th	Help us to radiate Your love in West Kilbride
Tue 30 th	Our neighbours, especially those who feel vulnerable as winter approaches

**“As for God, His way is perfect”
Psalm 18 v 30**

More Howlers from Church Bulletins

This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the alter.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

At the evening service tonight the sermon topic will be "What is hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practice.

The rector will preach his farewell message, after which the choir will sing "Break Forth into Joy".

"FAYRE PRESENTS"

This will be a social and coffee afternoon with a difference and is run by the Guild of the Presbytery. There will be stalls selling Christmas presents and cards - Fair Traded - Church Orientated- gifts that will make a difference to many people in Scotland and overseas.

Stalls will include Christian Aid, Tradecraft, Books and Guild materials, Crossreach, Hadeel, Geilsland School and Gill with cards for all occasions to raise funds for Guild purposes.

This is not a formal meeting - no opening/closing. Just come along **anytime** between 1pm and 4pm on Wednesday 17th November to Kilwinning Old Parish Church Abbey Hall.

Come along and bring friends, family and other church members as well. Enjoy shopping in a friendly, social atmosphere.

FREECYCLE

Hospice Christmas Lapel Badges.

I use these to decorate Christmas decorations such as Gift bags and Bells which are sold in aid of Ayrshire Hospice. If you have any from previous years I would be grateful to receive them. I would also be delighted to get similar small Christmas decorations.

Florence Fulton.

Used Stamps and Postcards

Please donate any postcards you have received and no longer want and the stamps from your mail (you'll get lots of these at Christmas!) to Helen Ferguson. They are sold to raise money for the Bible Society. Please leave at least ½ " margin round the stamps but do not remove the stamps from the postcards as they get more money for the postcards.



LIBRARY

Did you know that there is a library of Christian books in the Church? This is run by Judy Thompson and is on display in the hall at Coffee time after the church service.

Aid work in Pakistan

At the end of October I will be going to Pakistan for about 4 months working for Humedica International, a German humanitarian aid organisation (www.humedica.org). They are similar to Tear Fund but a lot smaller. I will be based in the Sukkur district in Southern Pakistan. The aim of the project is to put together a feeding programme for children affected by the recent flooding. I am sad to leave home and friends but excited to be not only working again but being able to help children in need.

Shalom and blessings

Heidi Nicklin

We wish God's blessing to Heidi as she sets out on this latest trip with Humedica International. Please keep her in your prayers.

UNITY

Community is a way of being present to another person so that another person can be present to you. It's a quality of being, a style of relating. It makes room inside of you so that there is room for others within; it frees you so that you can get out of yourself and connect with others. You become touched and touchable, supporting and supportable.

I could summarize Jesus' teaching as symbolized in what some call "universal table fellowship." He is always eating with new people, the wrong people, women at a men's symposium, non-Jews, and sinners, and ignoring all the purity codes of how, when, and where that his religion required at that time. He forms new unity wherever he goes. Today the church often makes it very hard for us to do the same. Did Jesus change his policy after he died?

The Guild

The Guild is now well into this year's programme. After **Melody Mix** on September 28th when we were entertained by music on the keyboard and accordion, the Revd. James McNay spoke to us on the Guild theme "**Called to Love and Mercy**". He invited us all to share experiences of love and forgiveness and gave us much food for thought.

Some of our members attended the **Presbytery Guild Communion Service** at Beith on September 28th.

On October 12th we entertained each other by choosing our **favourite hymns and readings**. This is always an enjoyable session. We devoted the afternoon of October 19th to learning more about one of the National Guild projects we are supporting financially this year. This is "**Terrify No More**", a project run by the International Justice mission in Cambodia. It aims to rescue and rehabilitate women and girls who are victims of human trafficking there.

Eileen Hinde

W.K.P.C. Men's Fellowship.

We duly made the draw for this winter's bowling competitions at the beginning of October but so far have not played any of the ties. Our speaker this month was myself, having been persuaded by the committee that it was about time I took a turn. I chose to tell the meeting, which as usual when we have a speaker, was an open meeting, about a recent visit to Bali in Indonesia. This is a lovely tropical island with wonderful white sandy beaches, a hot climate tempered by cooling breezes, many attractive resort hotels and a very friendly, laid back local population. In my talk however I tried to avoid the holiday brochure image and concentrate on the history,

geography, culture and the people. As my son Mark lives and works in Bali I was able to say something about the houses and the way of life as well as the religion. Bali is an island of Hinduism in a nation which is almost entirely Muslim.

On November 8th we hope to hear from John and Liz Rhodes, who recently visited Oberammergau for the Passion Play with a party from Park Church Ardrossan. They intend to show slides of the surrounding area and tell of the effect of the Passion Play on neighbouring villages. John had intended to speak of a visit to Prince Edward Island but found the landscape un-photogenic!

On Saturday 30th October we invite you to our Coffee Morning on the Bill Penny Hall from 10am to 12noon.

Peter Hinde

GOOD NEWS GOOD NEWS

Happy 80th birthday to Norman Stevenson, Kilruskin Drive. We hope you had a lovely day.

Gilmour and Maureen Smith have celebrated their Ruby Wedding anniversary. Congratulations on 40 years of wedded bliss!

Dates for your diary.

Our church will be participating in the Craft Fayre on Sunday 28th November after the church service. We will take a table there and give away little gifts in a 'Grace Dip'. If you can volunteer to help with this, either preparing the gifts or on the day, please give your name to Deirdre Murray.

We will also be taking part in Yuletide Night on the 3rd December by singing carols and giving out free hugs. If you would like to come along to help there will be a practice of the carols to be sung on Sunday 21st November after the church service. No need to practice the hugs but, if you want to, you can practice on your friends and family! If you want to take part please give your name to Margaret Morrow (singing) or Deirdre Murray (hugs).

The Community Choir is rehearsing for a Carol Concert to be held in the church on Tuesday 14th December. We would welcome more singers for this, especially men, so please come along to rehearsals on Sundays at 1.45pm.

Diary Dates November 2010

- 1st November 7.15pm Men's Fellowship in the Bill Penny Hall. An evening of games and competitions.
- 2nd November 2.30pm Guild meeting in the Bill Penny Hall. Speaker Mrs M. Broster on the Guild topic, "Forgive and Forget"
- 7th November 10.30am Communion Service
2.00pm Afternoon Communion Service at Headrigg Gardens
- 8th November 7.15pm Men's Fellowship in the Session Room. Speaker, Mr John Rhodes
- 9th November 2.30pm Guild meeting in the Bill Penny Hall. Dream Flight – Mrs M Serle
- 14th November 10.30am Remembrance Sunday - Morning Worship **to be held at Overton Church**
- 15th November 7.15pm Men's Fellowship in the Bill Penny Hall. An evening of games and competitions.
- 16th November 2.30pm Guild meeting in the Bill Penny Hall. Mrs Austin – Nazarene Church, Ardrossan. Music and Witness
7.30pm Team Leaders' meeting in the Session Room
- 17th November 1.00pm Guild – Fayre presents Kilwinning Old

21st November 10.30am Morning Worship

22nd November 7.15pm Men's Fellowship in the Bill Penny Hall. An evening of games and competitions.

23rd November 2.30pm Guild meeting in the Bill Penny Hall. Mrs D Murray – Trip to Sudan, and Bring & Buy

28th November 10.30am Advent Sunday - Morning Worship

29th November 7.15pm Men's Fellowship in the Bill Penny Hall. An evening of games and competitions.

7.30pm Food Handling Course begins

30th November 2.30pm Guild meeting in the Bill Penny Hall. Speaker Mrs Shuna Hill

7.30pm Session Meeting in the Lower Hall

Articles for inclusion in Church Matters should be sent by email to

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If you cannot send them by email, please submit them to Jo in the church office.