



Lochgilphead Parish Church

The LINK

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Scottish Charity
SCO 16311



MESSAGE FROM THE MANSE

January 2017

Dear Friends,

I know it is the beginning of a new year but I can't help mentioning Christmas. I was in Tesco about 4.45pm on Christmas Eve to see the decorations coming down. The message was that Christmas was past and that it was now new year as far as the shop was concerned. Slightly premature, I would have thought, but it just goes to show that the shops are in no way interested in Christmas itself but rather in what they can make out of it.

I am writing this letter on 28th December and maybe, as I do, we have that thought in our own minds that Christmas is now past and that all that remains is to get through the new year. But you know, it would be a great pity if we are thinking like that because it could mean that, like the shops, we have missed the whole point of Christmas and the heart of the message.

The gift that was given to us that first Christmas, that tiny Christ child, is not simply for Christmas but for life. That child who grew into the man who was crucified for our sins, He comes with us into the new year as the Saviour of the world, as our Saviour.

The angels announced that He had come, the Prince of Peace, the Saviour of the world. The shepherds took that message to all whom they met and told others all that they had seen and heard concerning the Christ child. The wise men, who came some time later, they too headed back to their home country and, it is to be assumed, spread the news to the Gentile population.

We met at the manger in worship and in our hearts looked upon the face of Christ. We heard again why He had come into the darkness of our world and we have been entrusted with the sharing of that message so that the light of Christ might shine in the darkness of our world.

When the stable emptied of Mary, Joseph, Jesus and all the visitors, Mary and Joseph set off with their child into unknown territory after being warned by the wise men that Herod was searching for Him.

As we move into a new year and leave the stable behind, let's remember that the Christ child is not left in the manger till next year but comes with us into the unknown territory of our lives in 2017. Whatever lies ahead, let's accept His gift of peace and life and companionship on the road. Let's remember that Jesus is not simply for Christmas but for life.

May you and your family know the blessings of Christmas throughout the coming year.

Best wishes, Hilda C. Smith

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PRESBYTERY MATTERS

MESSAGE FROM MARILYN SHEDDEN, MODERATOR OF ARGYLL PRESBYTERY

Dear Friends in Argyll congregations,

I am now half way through my year as Moderator of Argyll Presbytery and I am enjoying this privilege very much indeed.

It has been a great pleasure to visit and lead worship in some of the congregations which have been experiencing long vacancies. I look forward to continuing this at the beginning of next year. Presbytery is aware of the frustrations that can arise during such times and offers support and encouragement, and also gives thanks for the witness and life of our churches, so diligently continued by our members.

Many discussions are going on at national and local level to try to find a way forward that will provide ministry for all the people of God. Our own Presbytery will host two consultative meetings in January, one in Kintyre and one in Taynuilt. This will provide an opportunity for people to come together and discuss with members of Presbytery the problems and the opportunities that they are experiencing in vacancy.

One of my greatest joys has been to induct the new minister for Barra and South Uist and join in the lovely celebrations with the island folk.

In these past six months Chris Brett, our Presbytery Clerk, and I have been pursuing various initiatives to explore how the Church can become more involved in the community.

- ◇ At our Presbytery Conference we met with the new Chief Executive of Argyll and Bute, and we will continue discussions with him on matters in which we feel the church might be able to help.
- ◇ We are looking at ways that as a Presbytery, we might offer chaplaincy to Calmac.
- ◇ Chris and I have had the pleasure of meeting with Bishop Brian McGee (Roman Catholic Bishop of Argyll and the Isles) and Bishop Kevin Pearson (Episcopal Bishop of Argyll and the Isles). We were warmly received by both and we share much in common about the current situation in our churches. We hope to work together where we can, and perhaps plan a joint community initiative.

One of my main interests and concerns is for young people, and with the help of our Youth Ministry Team I wish to try to visit most of the senior schools in our Presbytery to have informal conversations with our young adults about life and faith.

At this wonderful time of Advent, we remember that we are a people of hope. We remember that we are on a journey of faith together and we are guided by the one who is The Light of the World. Despite the darkness that engulfs our world in these difficult times, we will go again to the manger and await the nativity of Hope. We will listen for the cry that will echo throughout eternity. It will be a cry for justice and peace. If we ignore it, we have missed the point of Christmas.

May the Christ child be born anew in us and the world at this Christmas time.

Every blessing, Marilyn

Marilyn Shedden

Moderator of Argyll Presbytery November 27th 2016



PASTORAL CARE OF PRESBYTERY STAFF

Argyll Presbytery offers support from pastoral carers for all its Ministers, Ordained Local Ministers, Auxiliary Ministers, Deacons, Presbytery and Parish Workers.

We are looking for more volunteer pastoral carers to help in this important work. It involves making contact with a defined number of people. The carers are available to respond as necessary at any time and make one face to face visit a year; they are a very important listening ear.

If you understand care as both a ministry of presence and referral, are happy within a confidential setting and have the time available and some local knowledge please think about whether you could join the team.

The pastoral carers form a supportive team and meet during the year.

If you are interested and would like to talk to someone about this ring the convenor of the Ministry Committee, Margaret Jacobsen on 01546 606914 or email mhjacobson@hotmail.com

HUB MINISTRY

Hub ministry - an idea being considered by the Church of Scotland. Congregations are getting smaller; less people are coming forward to train as Ministers: this means that our current position of having around 800 charges each with a Minister is no longer viable. The Church is planning for the number of charges to decline to 600.

The Church is hoping to create flourishing hubs of Ministry and is asking some Presbyteries to pilot this idea.


Here in Argyll Presbytery we have 32 charges and currently have 12 vacancies and the number of vacancies is going to increase as people retire. Acting as Interim Moderator can be a very demanding role for Ministers in addition to caring for their own Parish and it is taking a long time to fill vacancies.

What is it? - Presbyteries would be encouraged to group Parishes together, under the leadership of a Parish Minister. Churches would then have a shared Minister leading a team and lay people would be an important part of that team both in leading worship and in administration.

How would it affect congregations? - at the moment congregations make decisions about linking with other Churches and about calling Ministers, these can be lengthy, bureaucratic processes. The suggestion is that under a Hub System Ministers would be appointed by Presbytery with congregations involved but the legal processes involved in unions and linkages would not be used.

If this system were adopted it could free up some finance which could allow alternative types of Ministry such as Chaplains to industry, youth Ministry etc. to develop. The Report to the General Assembly says that moving to this Hub Ministry would require a huge effort in terms of preparation and training and cooperative efforts across the parishes and amongst the ministries. The rewards of engaging in this could be transformative for the life and ministry of the Church of Scotland.

Want to know more? - An open Presbytery meeting is to be held in Tarbert Village Hall on Tuesday 17th January, 7.00 - 9.00pm. Everyone is welcome.



MIDWEEK
PRAY . PRAISE REFUEL

Reflection

Are you searching for the meaning of life?
Do you wonder where Christianity fits in your life?
Would you like to worship in a less formal way?
Or are you just unable to get to Church on a Sunday?

The Monthly Midweek Reflection could be for you.

Once a month, at 1.00pm for 15 - 20 minutes...

A time of calm in the midst of a busy week

Midweek Reflection is a relaxed, informal 'mini' service lasting no more than 20 minutes, which offers a time for reflection, song and prayer.

Wednesday 25th January
Wednesday 22nd February

In Lochgilphead Parish Church

HALL HAPPENINGS

Lochgilphead Parish Church Hall



LOCHGILPHEAD PARISH CHURCH GUILD - up to the end of 2016

It's hard to believe that the first half of our 2016-2017 session has already been and gone but I'd like to tell you what we have done so far.

As our theme for the year is *GO WITH JOY* our first night which was Bible Study led by Hilda, opened with her question "what does joy mean to you?". As individuals we all had different ideas ranging from family, the beauty of God's Earth, personal achievements and many others, but what a discussion we had that night! An opening of our minds and a great way to start our new session.

We had an excellent video and presentation from *MARY'S MEALS* on *Generation Hope* which was very humbling to watch. All those children who are being fed and helped who still had joy, despite having nothing of material value. Marina, from our local shop, came along to tell us ways in which we could help support them and is always looking for volunteers.

Next we had Mrs Hunter from *TALKING NEWSPAPERS* who told us how the organisation worked in bringing joy to those who could not see, with this wonderful service which is run by local volunteers.

THE JOY OF TRAVELLING was brought to us by our friends, Rev Walter Ritchie and his wife Heather. We were treated to an evening of photos, anecdotes and humour from their travels in Asia at the beginning of 2016 on the cruise ship *Arcadia*.

Our traditional Business Meeting at the beginning of December dealt with the allocation of Guild Funds before everyone joined in singing well loved carols. A good night was had by all.

The first half of our year finished with a Christmas Dinner at the Smiddy where everyone enjoyed good food and good fellowship, ready for the joy of Christmas.

We look forward to the second half of our session and in January and February, highlights include *MUSIC AND WELLBEING* and *DALRIADA VETS* talking about pets. Come and join us, you don't need to be a member to come to any of our meetings. You will always get a warm welcome.

Mary MacDonald



DATE OF MEETINGS

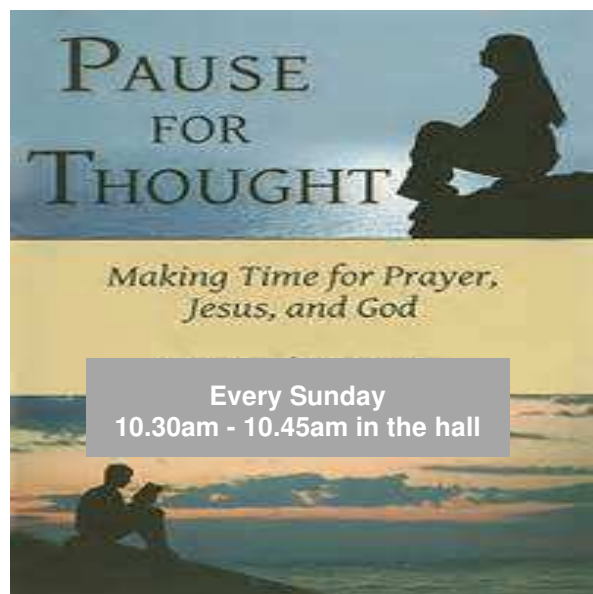
January 26th
February 23rd

In the hall
**FUN, FOOD AND
WORSHIP**

Exciting Crafts, Stories, Songs
& Activities

Why not come along and give it a try.
All children must be accompanied
by an adult.

DON'T MISS IT!



**Bumps
Babies and
Toddlers**

Every Tuesday, 1.00 - 3.00pm
(except school holidays)
In the hall

THEME - BE BOLD, BE STRONG
7.30pm

Tuesday 10th January:
Eco Congregation, Rev Cliff Acklam

Tuesday 24th January:
Music & Well-being, Hugh Fife

Tuesday 14 February:
AGM/Bring & Buy

Tuesday 28 February:
Dalriada Vets, Alison Barr



February 11th,
7.30pm
Price £12.00

**Burns
Supper**

Drop In Café

**Café reopens on
January 11th**

**then
Every
Wednesday**

We really need some more volunteers to help in the cafe for a couple of hours once or twice a month. The café is very busy at lunchtimes and extra hands would be much appreciated. If you would like to help please contact Margaret on 603784.

knit & natter

Let's get Knitting!
Restarts Wednesday January 11th

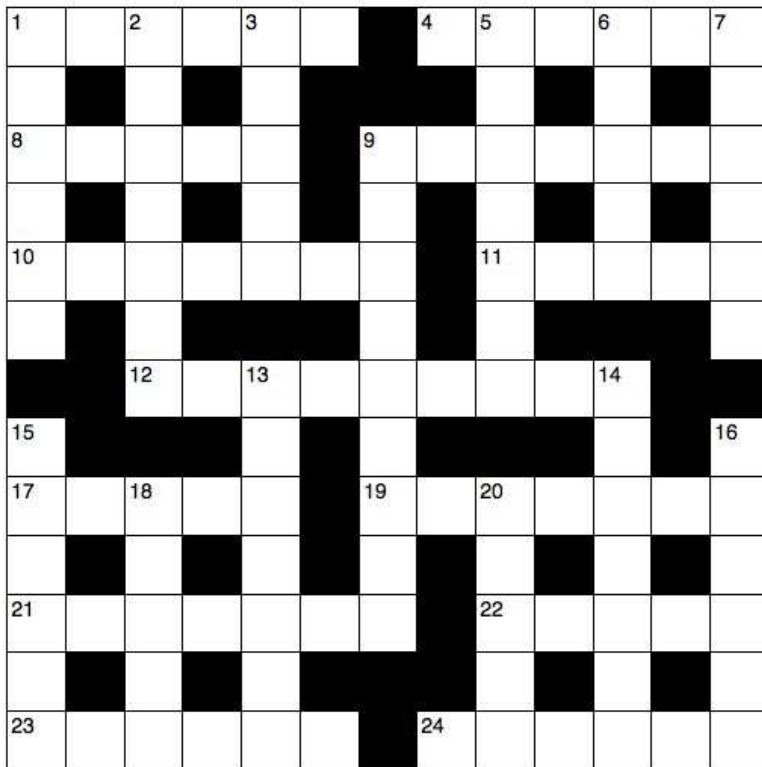
We meet fortnightly in various venues to knit, chat, laugh, learn new techniques and partake of a light supper.

New members, both experienced and beginners are welcome to come along and join us.

For more information contact Margaret on 01546 603784.

The meeting on January 11th will be held at Jenny Campbell's at 7.30pm

Crossword



Across

- 1 Protective covering recommended to the Ephesians (Ephesians 6:11) (6)
 4 The number of apostles (Matthew 10:2) (6)
 8 Tenth-century Bishop of Augsburg for 48 years, who became the first saint to be canonized by a pope (5)
 9 'Do not — what is evil but what is good' (3 John 11) (7)
 10 Reading desk in a church (7)
 11 'He looked up and said, "I see people; they look like — walking around"' (Mark 8:24) (5)
 12 One of the qualities that Paul exhorted Timothy to pursue (1 Timothy 6:11) (9)
 17 One of the meaningless pleasures acquired by the Teacher (Ecclesiastes 2:8) (5)
 19 'Like — babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation' (1 Peter 2:2) (7)
 21 Jesus said that Moses allowed this only because men's hearts were hard (Matthew 19:8) (7)
 22 Girl's name (5)
 23 Most sagacious (Judges 5:29) (6)
 24 How Stephen, the first Christian martyr, died: after being — (Acts 7:59) (6)

Down

- 1 A Jew whom Paul met in Corinth, whose wife was Priscilla (Acts 18:2) (6)
 2 For example, turning water into wine, feeding the five thousand, walking on water (John 7:21) (7)
 3 Abram's relationship to Lot (Genesis 14:12) (5)
 5 'Jesus answered, "It is —: 'Man does not live by bread alone.'" (Matthew 4:4) (7)
 6 'Peace I — with you; my peace I give you' (John 14:27) (5)

Remember God in 2017

Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God. - *Corrie ten Boom*

In His love He clothes us, enfolds us and embraces us; that tender love completely surrounds us, never to leave us. As I saw it He is everything that is good. - *Julian of Norwich*

Endurance and perseverance are qualities we would all like to possess, but we are loath to go through the process that produces them. - *Jerry Bridges*

In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. - *Proverbs 3:6*

New Year (Psalm 139)

A new year!

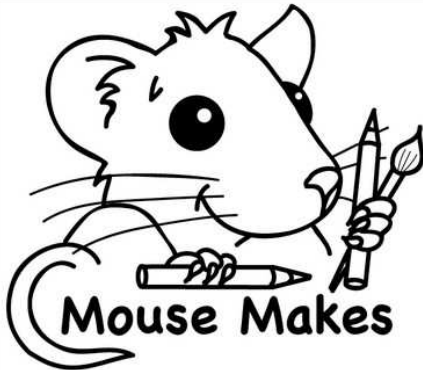
We look back to the old,
 to the leaving, gladly or sadly.
 We look ahead to the unknown,
 to days which might bring love, or loss.
 In our own strength, with our own wisdom
 this is a scary place.
 But our God is already there -
 ahead and behind.
 He created us.
 He knows all our days.
 So we need not be afraid.
 In Him we are secure
 for this new year and forever.
 He will be with us
 if we trust,
 lift up our eyes
 and walk on.

And, with His help, we can.

By *Daphne Kitching*

- 7 'May the Lord deal with me, be it — — severely, if anything but death separates you and me' (Ruth 1:17) (4,2)
 9 Lack of knowledge (Acts 17:30) (9)
 13 This woman 'followed Paul and believed' after his words to the Areopagus in Athens (Acts 17:34) (7)
 14 Or noise (anag.) (7)
 15 'Even though I walk through the valley of the — of death, I will fear no evil' (Psalm 23:4) (6)
 16 ' — Christian soldiers, marching as to war' (6)
 18 Saver (anag.) (5)
 20 'Unless a grain of — falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed' (John 12:24) (5)

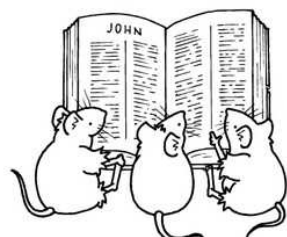
Kids Corner




"This is the day the Lord has made,
Let us rejoice and be happy today!"
Psalm 118:24

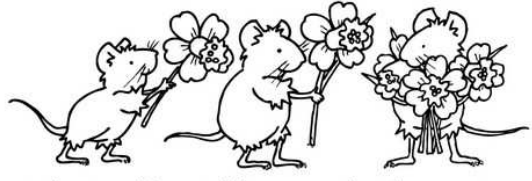
"Oh, Teach us
to live well!
Teach us to live
wisely and well!"
from Psalm 90:12 MSG

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart;
do not depend on your own understanding.
Seek his will in all
you do, and He
will show you which
path to take."
Proverbs 3:5-6




"Always be full of joy.
Never stop praying."

Whatever happens,
always be thankful."
1 Thessalonians 5:17

"Be kind and loving to each other,
and forgive each other
just as God forgave you in Christ."
Ephesians 4:32



"The Lord has told you... what he wants
from you: to do what is right to
other people, love being kind to others
and live humbly obeying your God."
Micah 6:8

 Cut out these Scripture
verse cards to remind
you this new year of how
God wants us to live.

Rotas for November/December 2016

	Door Duty	Prayers	Flowers (Contact - E Armstrong)	Readers	Tea/Coffee Duty (Contact - M. Davidson)
Jan 1st	M MacFadyen & E Munro	M Davidson	Christmas flowers	M MacFadyen	Jim & Ruth Morrison
Jan 8th	S Stankey & I MacArthur	M Jacobsen	Edna Armstrong	I MacArthur	Pat McGuire & Kirstin Thompson
Jan 15th	I Davidson & M Davidson	I Davidson	Roberta Bowen	S Stankey	Sandy & May Taylor
Jan 22nd	F Fleming & P McGuire	S Taylor	Mrs C McGlynn	P McGuire	Joan & Arthur Barclay
Jan 29th	S Morrison & M Purdie	F Cameron		M MacDonald	Fiona Elder & Libby Mochrie
Feb 5th	J Kirk & K Thompson	J Morrison		K Thompson	Sandra Morrison & Tracey Cameron
Feb 12th	D Bowen & R Bowen	M Taylor		F Elder	Allison Pearson & Eilidh MacCallum
Feb 19th	F Cameron & A Galbraith	M Davidson		F Cameron	Sally Stankey & Margaret Jacobsen
Feb 26th	M Jacobsen & I McMillan	S Taylor		M Jacobsen	Sheila & Malcolm MacFadyen
March 5th	J Morrison & R Morrison			R Morrison	Ishbel MacArthur & Elma Munro

If you are unable to carry out any of these duties please arrange a replacement.

Services (all at 11.00am except where stated)

January 1st	Rev. Hilda Smith
January 8th	Rev. Hilda Smith
January 15th	Rev. Hilda Smith
January 22nd	Rev. Hilda Smith
January 29th	Rev. Hilda Smith
February 5th	Rev. Hilda Smith
February 12th	Rev. Hilda Smith
February 19th	Rev. Hilda Smith
February 26th	Rev. Hilda Smith
March 5th	Rev. Hilda Smith

Other Events

Every Tuesday (except school holidays)	Bumps, Babies and Toddlers 1.00 - 3.00pm
Every Wednesday	Drop in Cafe, 10.00am - 3.30pm
January 11th, fortnightly	Knit and Natter Group, 7.30pm
January 26th	Messy Church, 4.00pm—6.00pm
February 23rd	
February 11th	Burns Supper
February 25th	Coffee Morning
January 10th & 24th	Guild Meetings
February 14th & 28th	
Wednesday January 25th,	Midweek Reflection
Wednesday February 22nd	

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS: 1, Armour, 4, Twelve, 8, Utric, 9, Imitate, 10, Lectern, 11, Trees, 12, Endurance, 17, Harem, 19, New-born, 21, Divorce, 22, Erica, 23, Wisest, 24, Stoned.

DOWN: 1, Aquila, 2, Miracle, 3, Uncle, 5, Written, 6, Leave, 7, Ever so, 9, Ignorance, 13, Damaris, 14, Erosion, 15, Shadow, 16, Onward, 18, Raves, 20, Wheat.

..... and for your diary

March 30th, April 27th, May 25th, June 29th	Messy Church
March 25th, April 29th, May, 27th	Coffee Mornings
March 14th & 28th	Guild Meetings
March 3rd	World Day of Prayer
March 22nd	Midweek Reflection

Who's Who in LPC

Minister	Rev Hilda C Smith	01546 602238
Session Clerk	Sandy Taylor	01546 606218
Treasurer	Sally Stankey	01546 602809
Gift Aid Convenor	Edna Armstrong	01546 602600
Roll Keeper	Frances Fleming	01546 602270
Fabric Convenor	Ian Davidson	01546 603784
Social Convenor	Margaret Davidson	01546 603784
Safeguarding Co-ordinators	Jim Morrison Cathleen MacDonald	01546 603132 01546 603108
Worship Group	Rev. Hilda Smith Margaret Jacobsen Ian Davidson Jim Morrison Pat McGuire	01546 602238 01546 606914 01546 603784 01546 603132 01546 602074
Finance Committee	Sally Stankey Edna Armstrong Mary MacDonald	01546 602809 01546 602600 01546 602087
Guild Contacts	Anne Hunter Jessie Cranston May Taylor Chris Stevenson Nannie Ward Mary MacDonald	01546 602866 01546 602866 01546 606218 01546 600259 01546 602343 01546 602087

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