

The LINK



MESSAGE FROM THE MANSE

March, 2017.

Dear Friends,

By the time you are reading this letter, we will have entered the period of Lent which runs for forty days leading up to Easter. It seems no time at all since we were celebrating the birth of our Lord and now we are beginning to look towards His crucifixion and His resurrection. If nothing else, it reminds us how quickly time passes and it goes even quicker as we get older. A lifetime when we are young and looking forward seems a long time and it is until we start looking back, wondering where the time has gone.

The speed at which time passes reminds us of the urgency to share our faith with our friends and with our families while we have the opportunity. Jesus said to His disciples: **I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father, but by Me.** Those are not words which suggest there is another way if we choose to ignore this one. Those are not words which offer an alternative life if we ignore our Lord. He and He alone is the way to life.

For much of His life, our Lord was misunderstood. He was looked upon as the one who would overthrow the Romans and establish His kingdom but His kingdom was greater than an earthly kingdom. His kingdom would be in heaven and on earth and would be marked by peace and by love. What He offered His followers was not what they expected from Him. Roman rule continued and their leader died.

Jesus' followers were devastated because they had misunderstood His message. They had not grasped that He would die and rise again, even though He had told them.

How devastating it will be if fail to understand our Lord's message today and fail to grasp what He has told us. How devastating it will be if we fail to grasp that He meant what He said when He said: **I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father but by Me.**

Jesus calls us to follow Him, to walk with Him on the road from Bethlehem to Jerusalem, from the cradle to the grave, and beyond to life eternal. Lent gives us the opportunity to make that journey of faith and to consider what we understand of faith and of what our Lord has said. Come and share with us in this season of Lent on our journey towards the Cross and on towards life. Don't miss out on the only Way. Don't misunderstand.

Best wishes.

Hilda C. Smith

Here are a couple of photos of the maize distribution in Lilongwe thanks to the money that was sent by the Malawi Twinning Group. Thank you to those of you who have supported the congregation at what has been a difficult period



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News from Kasamba Congregation, Lilongwe, Malawi.

Desiree, who visited our congregation four years ago wrote recently and said:

Here at Kasamba, we are all well and about to get over the hunger period as the green maize is about to ripen. And asking ourselves how have we managed the six months of lean period. The early warning about impending hunger prepared the families for the worst with lots of diet/meal adjustments. There have been no reported deaths related to hunger or the eating of poisonous plants. Jehovah Jireh provided for our daily Bread.

Kasamba continues to distribute maize to vulnerable families and thanks to the giving heart of our partner in Mid Argyll. You have seen us and carried us through the lean period. May the good Lord continue to shower His blessings upon you and the whole leadership.

One woman said and I quote " This morning when I woke up, I had nothing in my home and I was prepared to live on water and when I heard a knock on the door calling to come and receive the maize, I lifted my hands to God and said thank you Lord. You have seen my problem". It is likely that there are many such needy families who live one day at a time.

Malawi is blessed with heavy rains since end November, 2016 and the crop in the field is promising. It is hoped that there will be a good harvest of various crops. We continue to pray for continued rains to see the crops ripen.

Bore worm has emerged in selected districts including Lilongwe and it is damaging the maize crop. The Ministry of Agriculture is working hard to contain the situation and with limited resources, possibly only big farmers will be assisted. Bore worm infestation will affect production.

For the first time, Lilongwe experienced flooding after it rained for continuous 24 hours. Damaging houses and two lives were lost. It happened during the day and some school children were trapped at the middle of the flooding river. Thank God the Malawi Army patrolling helicopter lifted them to safety.

It is a story when it will be told to their children in the future it will be like a riddle and unbelievable. Some roads were washed due to poor drainage and many families have their assets damaged with flooding in the homes. I hope we will catch/harvest the rainy water for use during the dry season when taps run dry.

Stay Blessed, Desiree

Rev Custom Kapombe also wrote and said:

At Kasamba, the Church is growing, the space during worship is becoming a challenge sometimes. We are working hard to make the Church hall get finished. We will use it during Sunday worship.

We have incorporated some needy children into the Nursery School. We have a new prayer house in the interior of Dedza. We have bought a plot at Mitundu where we shall build a prayer house for Mitundu.

On 3rd February we lost a Church elder by the name of London Gondwe. He was also helping in the building project. He was laid to rest on 6th February.

We are continuing with Maize distribution. We will soon go to distribute in Monkey Bay and the surrounding prayer houses. We have some bags already purchased.

Let me thank you all for your support. You have stood with us in the hunger situation here in Malawi, especially Kasamba.

Many parts of Northern Malawi are experiencing low rainfall.

Greetings to the entire family, Custom

EMBRACING CHANGE

A recent article in Life and Work (September 2016) by the Very Rev Dr James Simpson painted an interesting view of the church of Scotland: are we ready to embrace change or will we just go forward managing decline. Declining numbers of Ministers, declining number of Churches and declining and aging congregations.

Most of us would prefer things to stay the same and we kid ourselves that that is how things are MEANT to be, how they SHOULD be and they have ALWAYS been like that.

But study of the Bible as James Simpson reminds us, shows us in book after book that to share God's message it has always been necessary to change, to adapt.

Isaiah 43:18-21 The Lord says, "do not cling to the events of the past or dwell on what happened long ago. Watch for the new thing I am going to do. It is happening already."

Dr Simpson says "the Church is called to be the body of Christ, not his corpse. If there are no signs of change, growth and development, then let us call in the undertaker. To cling to the past and past ways, is to run the risk of missing out on God's new things, as the Pharisees did 2000 years ago. There is no use crying for the good old days, whatever date we locate them."

We have a rich tradition in the Church of Scotland, one to be proud of and we can learn from that tradition and build on it; we can learn from the past but not live in it. Jesus was critical of those who had a blind devotion to the past, those guardians of the Jewish tradition who were convinced that the new is always inferior to the old; that any change, is to be deplored. They resisted Jesus' new interpretations of scripture, his proposed reforms and his outreach to the most vulnerable – they resisted to the point of crucifying him.

February 12th our Minister preached about change, about what might happen in the future and about what we should do to prepare for it. Yes, we are looking perhaps 10 years ahead, but it would be good to be prepared and to be positive and to welcome any challenges.

Margaret Jacobsen

PROPERTY MATTERS

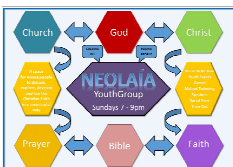
PROPERTY COMMITTEE

A new property committee has been established with a remit to be responsible for the repair and maintenance of the church buildings, the manse and the church grounds. The members of that committee are Ian Davidson (Convenor), David Bowen, Niall Cameron and Matthew MacMillan.

The Future

It is now three years since we completed the renovation of the hall following several years of hard work and fundraising by the whole congregation. The results are obvious to everyone, with the hall being used every day of the week, fulfilling the vision which we had when we started on the project, that it should become an asset for the whole of the community in Lochgilphead and beyond.

The Kirk Session has now agreed that we should move on to consider the future of the Church building, consider how to address the disrepair issues in the Church, (a couple of recent surveys has identified repair costs of nearly £60000) and also consider the modernising and reordering of the interior of the Sanctuary. The Session has agreed that a new Project Group should be set up to take this forward and, in this issue of The Link, we have enclosed a leaflet explaining the issues and are asking for volunteers, particularly those with relevant expertise, who would like to be a member of that group. Speak to Ian Davidson if you feel you would like to help or would like some more information.



NEOLAIA YOUTH GROUP

"Neolaia" is the Greek word for youth and the group is open to all young people within the secondary school age range, with or without an existing or previous church connection. It is held every Sunday night from 7-9 pm at Admore, 4 Kilmory Road, Lochgilphead,

PA31 8SZ and led by Fiona Cameron, Youth Leader (07399413654) and the Rev Hilda Smith (01546 602238).

The theme for our current year is based on the song "The Great Adventure" from Steven Curtis Chapman's album "Re-Creation", which aims to inspire young people to trail blaze 'through the wild blue yonder of God's amazing Grace', covering a variety of current/relevant topics to young people today, in relation to the Christian Faith. So far we have looked at the Church, Faith, Self-Awareness, Hope, Jealousy, Racism/Prejudice, Friendship and That's Not Fair God, to name but a few.

If you are interested then please come along and bring a friend or meet some new ones. Alternatively if you would just like to know a bit more about us, then please contact one of the above leaders. Look forward to meeting you!

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

This year's service will be held in
Lochgilphead Baptist Church
on Friday 3 March at 7.00pm

Prepared by ladies of the Philippines

it is based on Matthew Chapter 20 verse 4:

'You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage.'

Pictured are some of the staff and volunteers at the local office of the CAB here in Lochgilphead.

Instead of spending money on Christmas cards, the local

team decided to contribute to a very worthwhile cause, the emergency food parcel service managed by MO-MA (Move on- Mid Argyll) on behalf of the Lochgilphead churches.

The CAB team raised £185 and were delighted to pass this money on recently to May Taylor.



MIDWEEK

PRAY . PRAISE REFUEL



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 22nd March

Wednesday 26th April

In Lochgilphead Parish Church

HALL HAPPENINGS

Lochgilphead Parish Church Hall



LOCHGILPHEAD PARISH CHURCH GUILD

The year got off to a good start with a very lively discussion on Eco Congregations with guest speaker, Rev Cliff Acklam, whose enthusiasm for all things green, recycling etc led to an informative evening as well as pointers to us all in our personal lives. We are all pretty good at recycling at home but we have some way to go as a congregation. It is not as easy as you would think to be green in the church without substantial financial outlay for a new form of heating and lighting for instance.

Our speaker for our second January meeting was Hugh Fife who told us how music can make a huge difference to everyone's wellbeing. He especially mentioned the benefits of music to mental health clients whom he has worked with in music workshops and who also participate in his 'Easy Group' with great enjoyment. He also played some of his own music on his guitar, which was much appreciated by all.

Our AGM was held at the next meeting on 14th February and after the business part was completed, our Property Convener, Ian Davidson, spoke about what work was required to be done in our church before giving us a Quiz on the church buildings etc. Amazing what you don't know, but some did very well!

We finished the evening with our Bring and Buy Sale for our current Guild project and were able to donate £100 to it. Thanks to everyone for their contribution.

We still have a few meetings before finishing for the session, so please come along if you are able to. You will be made very welcome, you don't need to be a member.

Mary MacDonald

LOCHGILPHEAD PARISH CHURCH BURNS SUPPER SATURDAY FEBRUARY 11TH



It was worth waiting for. Although a couple of weeks after Burns Night the Lochgilphead Parish Church Burns Supper held on February 11th was one of the best in many a long year. Some fifty people attended with guests made up from the congregation, the wider community and some from as far afield as Arizona.

Ian Davidson, as chairman, kept the proceedings running smoothly throughout the evening as well as giving an animated Address to the Haggis. Ken Stark from Inveraray presented an informative and amusing Immortal Memory. He even managed to incorporate some anecdotes about President Trump into his address. Keeping it in the family, his daughter Pamela Spalding, Secretary of Inveraray Burns Club, kept the audience spellbound with her recitation of 'Tam O' Shanter.' Following on from that, Father David Connor kept everyone in floods of laughter with his extremely entertaining Toast to the Lassies, to which Fiona Cameron replied with great gusto. Jim Morrison finished the evening off with a rendition of 'To A Mouse.'

It is a tradition at church Burns Suppers that young local musicians are encouraged to perform. This year was no exception with eleven year old Christopher McCartan piping in the top table and the haggis. Tiegan Holroyd entertained with her flute and was later joined by Holly Renton, to sing a medley of Burns and Scot's songs.

As always the evening was a great success due to the efforts of many people coming together, to produce a happy and relaxing evening full of good food and entertainment.



**LOCHGILPHEAD PARISH CHURCH
COFFEE MORNINGS
10.00am-12 noon
in the hall**

Saturday 25th March Organised by Margaret Davidson
The morning will take on an Easter Theme

Saturday 29th April Organised by May Taylor

Offers of help, donations of home baking and raffle prizes will be most appreciated.

**THEME - BE BOLD, BE STRONG
7.30pm**

Tuesday 14th March:
TBC

Tuesday 28th March
Closing Night—Surprise!!!



WORLD MISSION STAMP APPEAL

In aid of
Church of South India's Othara
Eco-spirituality Centre

*Please save your old stamps and put them
in the box in the church hall*

**BEETLE DRIVE
Family Fun Night**

*Wednesday 5th April
6.30pm
in the hall*

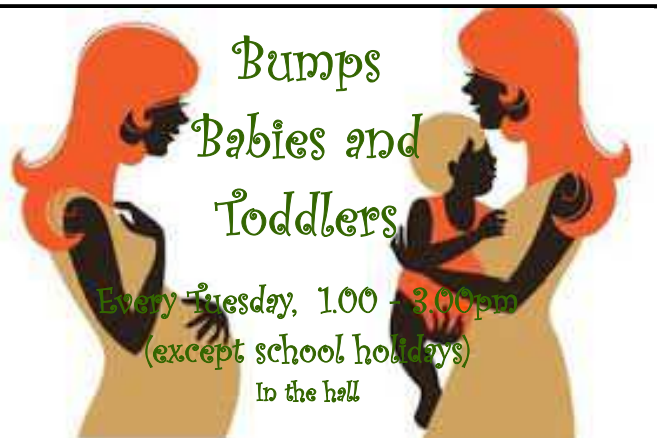


**PAUSE
FOR
THOUGHT**

*Making Time for Prayer,
Jesus, and God*

GERALD O'COLLINS, SJ

Every Sunday
10.30am - 10.45am in the hall



DATE OF MEETINGS

March 30th
April 27th
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!



Drop In Café

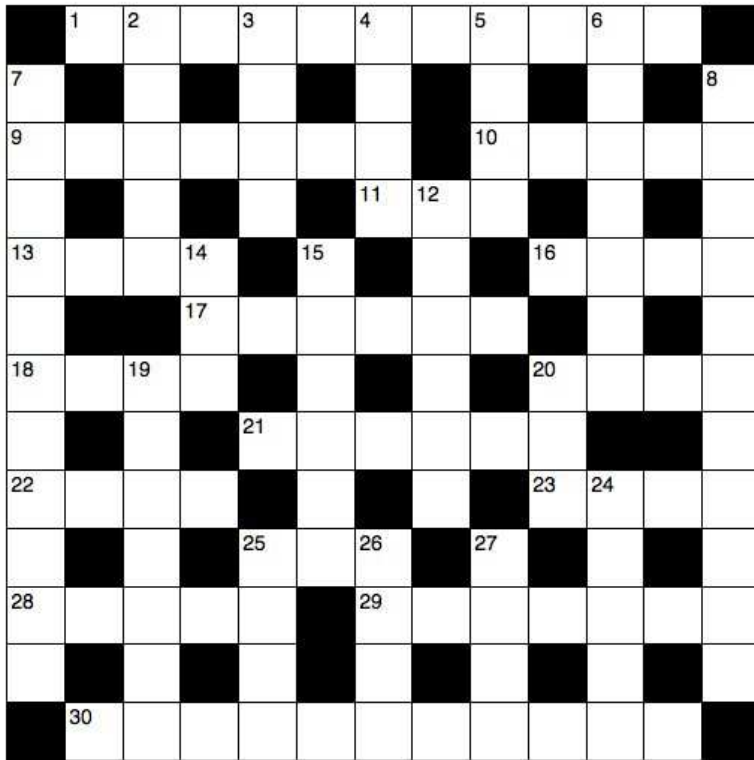
**Every
Wednesday
10.00am to 3.30pm**

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.

Crossword



Across

- 1 These letters come between Romans and Galatians (11)
 9 'You will not — me to the grave' (Psalm 16:10) (7)
 10 King of Moab to whom the Israelites were subject for 18 years (Judges 3:14) (5)
 11 Town possessing mineral spring (3)
 13 Mede (anag.) (4)
 16 High-fidelity (abbrev.) (4)
 17 He succeeded his father Rehoboam as king of Judah (1 Kings 14:31) (6)
 18 A son of Simeon (Genesis 46:10) (4)
 20 Controversial religious book of the 1970s, The — of God Incarnate (4)
 21 'He has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you — — and hear' (Acts 2:33) (3,3)
 22 'You — me together in my mother's womb' (Psalm 139:13) (4)
 23 Edit (anag.) (4)
 25 'Who has believed our message and to whom has the — of the Lord been revealed?' (Isaiah 53:1) (3)
 28 Abraham's brother (Genesis 22:23) (5)
 29 'When Mordecai learned of — that had been — , he tore his clothes' (Esther 4:1) (3,4)
 30 Sympathetic (Proverbs 11:16) (4-7)

Down

- 2 'That was why his parents said, "He is — —; ask him"' (John 9:23) (2,3)
 3 Integrated Services Digital Network (1,1,1,1) 4
 4 'Saul has slain his thousands, and David his — of thousands' (1 Samuel 18:7) (4)
 5 Concept (John 8:14) (4)
 6 'Do we, then, — the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law' (Romans 3:31) (7)
 7 Industrious (2 Timothy 2:6) (11)

How God works

A grandmother was taking her young grandson for a walk in the park. The daffodils were in bloom, and it was a beautiful Spring day. Wanting to encourage her grandson's spiritual understanding of the world, she said: "Doesn't it look like an artist painted this scenery? Did you know God did all this?"

Her grandson replied: "Oh yes, and God did it left handed, too." In astonishment, the grandmother asked what he meant. "Well, he must have done," said her grandson, "because we learned at Sunday School last week that Jesus sits on God's right hand."

Ask children about angels...(and this is what you get!)

Angels talk all the way while they're flying you up to heaven. The main subject is where you went wrong before you got dead. - Daniel, age 9

When an angel gets mad, he takes a deep breath and counts to ten. And when he lets out his breath again, somewhere there's a tornado. - Reagan, age 10

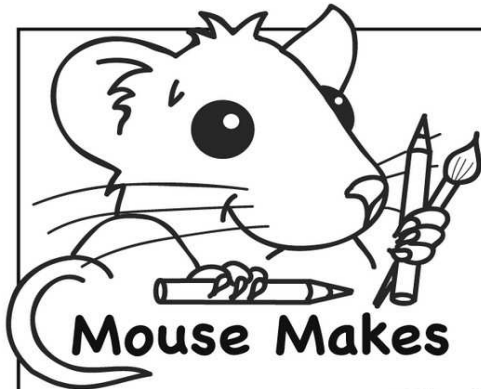
Angels have a lot to do and they keep very busy. If you lose a tooth, an angel comes in through your window and leaves money under your pillow. Then when it gets cold, angels go south for the winter. - Sara, age 6
 Angels live in cloud houses made by God and his son, who's a very good carpenter. - Jared, age 8

All angels are girls because they gotta wear dresses and boys didn't go for it. - Antonio, age 9.

8 'I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be — in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you (Ephesians 1:18) (11)
 12 'Out of the same mouth come — and cursing' (James 3:10) (6)

14 This was how many of the Jewish leaders described Jesus (John 10:20) (3)
 15 Vitality (Job 20:11) (6)
 19 He urged David to kill Saul at Hakilah (1 Samuel 26:8) (7)

20 'So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul — with the church and taught great numbers of people' (Acts 11:26) (3)
 24 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord — — ' (Deuteronomy 6:4) (2,3)
 25 Parched (Matthew 12:43) (4)
 26 'In the image of God he created him; — and female he created them' (Genesis 1:27) (4)
 27 Disparagement (Psalm 15:3) (4)



Mouse Makes

SHROVE TUESDAY

During **Lent** some Christians eat simple food or go without food for a while like Jesus did. Pancakes are often made to use up all the fresh eggs and milk on Shrove Tuesday, the day before the start of Lent.



ASH WEDNESDAY

The first day of **Lent** is called **Ash Wednesday**, it is a day for saying **sorry** to God for any wrong things you have **said** or **thought** or **done** and to ask for God's help to live in the right way.

In bible times people would cover themselves with ashes as a sign of repentance. In some churches today on Ash Wednesday the minister will draw a cross shape on our foreheads with ash.



WHAT IS LENT?

When Jesus was 30 years old he was baptised by John in the River Jordan. Before Jesus began to preach and teach and heal he went out into the wilderness alone.

For 40 days he did not eat but spent time praying and talking to God,

preparing himself for what God had sent him to do.

Remembering those days Jesus spent in the wilderness, the Christian Church set aside the 40 days before Easter as a time to pray, read the bible and learn more about God.



This time is called LENT

While Jesus was out in the wilderness he was tempted by the Devil *three* times.

Look up the bible verses to see how Jesus replied.

1 The devil said, "If you are God's Son order this stone to turn to bread."

Read Jesus' reply in **Luke 4: 4** and **Deuteronomy 8: 3**

2 The devil said, "I will give you power and wealth if you worship me."

Read Jesus' reply in **Luke 4: 7** and **Deuteronomy 6: 13**

3 The devil said, "If you are God's Son, throw yourself down, the Scriptures say God will take care of you."

Read Jesus' reply in **Luke 4: 12** and **Deuteronomy 6: 1**



Dear Lord,
Please forgive me for

.....
Amen

Rotas for March/April 2017

	Door Duty	Prayers	Flowers (Contact - E Armstrong)	Readers	Tea/Coffee Duty (Contact - M. Davidson)
March	5th J & R Morrison	I Davidson	C Cameron	R Morrison	I MacArthur & E Munro
	12th S & M Taylor	M Jacobsen	E McCallum	S Taylor	J MacAulay & I MacMillan
	19th C Gilmour & A Hunter	F Cameron	M Ferguson	M Taylor	I & M Davidson
	26th M MacFadyen & E Munro	J Morrison	E Munro	M MacFadyen	D & R Bowen
April	2nd S Stankey & I MacArthur	M Taylor		I MacArthur	F Cameron & A Galbraith
	9th I & M Davidson	M Davidson		M Davidson	J & R Morrison
	16th F Fleming & P McGuire	M Jacobsen		P Maguire	S & M Taylor
	23rd S Morrison & M Purdie	I Davidson		I Davidson	P Maguire & K Thompson
	30th J Kirk & K Thompson	S Taylor		K Thompson	A & J Barclay
May	7th D & R Bowen	F Cameron		M Macdonald	S Morrison & T Cameron

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

Services (all at 11.00am except where stated)

March 5th	Rev. Hilda Smith
March 12th	Rev. Hilda Smith
March 19th	Rev Hilda Smith
March 26th	Rev. Hilda Smith
April 2nd	Rev. Hilda Smith
April 9th	Rev Hilda Smith
April 16th	Rev. Hilda Smith Easter Sunday
April 23rd	Rev. Hilda Smith Communion
April 30th	Rev. Hilda Smith
May 7th	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
March 30th	Messy Church, 4.00pm—6.00pm
April 27th	
March 3rd	World Day of Prayer
March 25th	Coffee Mornings
April 29th	
March 14th & 28th	Guild Meetings
Wednesday March 22nd,	Midweek Reflection
Wednesday April 5th	Beetle Drive—Family Fun Night

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS: 1, Corinthians. 9, Abandon. 10, Eglon. 11, Spa. 13, Deem. 16, Hi-fi. 17, Abijah. 18, Ohad. 20, Myth. 21, Now see. 22, Knit. 23, Tide. 25, Arm. 28, Nahor. 29, All done. 30, Kind-hearted.

DOWN: 2, Of age. 3, ISDN. 4, Tens. 5, Idea. 6, Nullify. 7, Hard-working. 8, Enlightened. 12, Praise. 14, Mad. 15, Vigour. 19, Abshal. 20, Met. 24, Is one. 25, Aird. 26, Male. 27, Sir.

..... and for your diary

May 25th, June 29th	Messy Church
May 27th	Coffee Mornings
June 7th	Guild Council Rally
May 24th, June 21st	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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