

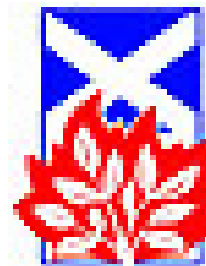


Lochgilphead Parish Church

The LINK

Volume 6 Issue 3

April 2008



Message From the Manse

April, 2008

Dear Friends,

I want to begin this letter by thanking everyone who took the time to fill in our environmental survey so that we could see how green we are as a congregation. The results were encouraging but needless to say there is always room for improvement, even in the manse! As a session we are looking at how we can assist each other to do even more than we are doing at present, so watch this space.

You perhaps wonder why? Well, there is so much talk about global warming and about waste disposal that as Christians we have to accept the challenge to do our bit because we have a responsibility to care for God's creation.

It's very easy to judge other nations and to think that the little we are doing will have no impact, but it is only when individuals do their bit that any impact can be made. We have to do what we can.

There are parallels with establishing peace. We can't prevent wars but peace has to begin with individuals. There are parallels with sharing our faith. We can't bring the whole world to faith or even the whole of Lochgilphead but we can reach out to individuals around us by living out our faith and by practising what we preach – and we all preach, one way or another!

When we stop and think about it, we have to ask ourselves what sort of impact we have on the community in which we live and work and worship? It's important because that is part of our 20/10 vision. Our renewal project is not just about renewing our building but about renewing our commitment to God and revitalising our community through that commitment that we might encourage young and old to join us.

In connection with that, as you know our renovation plans have been on show to the congregation and to the public. Thank you to those of you who took the time and to those of you who were able to come along and see what we are planning. Your feedback was appreciated and is an encouragement to the planning group as we move on the next stage.

There is a lot in the pipeline in Lochgilphead Parish Church which makes this quite an exciting time. We look forward to your continuing interest and support.

With best wishes,
Hilda C. Smith

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Are You A Carrot, An Egg, or a Cup of Coffee?



A carrot, an egg, and a cup of coffee (we all fall into one of these categories). You will never look at a cup of coffee the same way again.

A young woman went to her mother and told her about her life and how things were so hard for her. She did not know how she was going to make it and wanted to give up. She was tired of fighting and struggling. It seemed as one problem was solved, a new one arose.

Her mother took her to the kitchen. She filled three pots with water and placed each on a high fire. Soon the pots came to boil. In the first she placed carrots, in the second she placed eggs, and in the last she placed ground coffee beans. She let them sit and boil. In about twenty minutes she turned off the heat. She fished the carrots out and placed them in a bowl. She pulled the eggs out and placed them in a bowl. Then she ladled the coffee out and placed it in a bowl. Turning to her daughter, she asked, "Tell me what you see."

"Carrots, eggs, and coffee," she replied.

Her mother brought her closer and asked her to feel the carrots. She did and noted that they were soft. The mother then asked the daughter to take an egg and break it. After pulling off the shell, she observed the hard boiled egg. Finally, the mother asked the daughter to sip the coffee. The daughter smiled as she tasted its rich aroma. The daughter then asked, "What does it mean, mother?"

Her mother explained that each of these objects had faced the same adversity: boiling water. Each reacted differently. The carrot went in strong, hard, and unrelenting. However, after being subjected to the boiling water, it softened and became weak. The egg had been fragile. Its thin outer shell had protected its liquid interior, but after sitting through the boiling water, its inside became hardened. The ground coffee beans were unique, however. After they were in the boiling water, they had changed the water.

"Which are you?" she asked her daughter. "When adversity knocks on your door, how do you respond? Are you a carrot, an egg or a coffee bean?"

Think of this: Which am I? Am I the carrot that seems strong, but with pain and adversity do I wilt and become soft and lose my strength?

Am I the egg that starts with a malleable heart, but changes with the heat? Did I have a fluid spirit, but after a death, a breakup, a financial hardship or some other trial, have I become hardened and stiff? Does my shell look the same, but on the inside am I bitter and tough with a stiff spirit and hardened heart? Or am I like the coffee bean? The bean actually changes the hot water, the very circumstance that brings the pain. When the water gets hot, it releases the fragrance and flavour. If you are like the bean, when things are at their worst, you get better and change the situation around you.

When the hour is the darkest and trials are their greatest, do you elevate yourself to another level? How do you handle adversity? Are you a carrot, an egg or a coffee bean?

May you have enough happiness to make you sweet, enough trials to make you strong, enough sorrow to keep you human and enough hope to make you happy.

The happiest of people don't necessarily have the best of everything; they just make the most of everything that comes along their way. The brightest future will always be based on a forgotten past; you can't go forward in life until you let go of your past failures and heartaches.

When you were born, you were crying and everyone around you was smiling.

Live your life so at the end, you're the one who is smiling and everyone around you is crying.

May we all be COFFEE.

"Owed to the Spell Checker"

**Eye halve a spelling checker
It came with my pea sea
It plainly marcs four my revue
Miss steaks eye kin knot sea.
Eye strike a key and type a word
And weight four it two say
Weather eye am wrong oar write
It shows me strait a weigh.
As soon as a mist ache is maid
It nose bee fore two long
And eye can put the error rite
Its rare lea ever wrong.
Eye have run this poem threw it
Eye am shore your pleased two no
Its letter perfect awl the weigh
My checker tolled me sew.**

The Bureaucracy Of Creation



In the beginning God Created heaven and the earth. Quickly he was faced with a class action suit for failure to file an environmental impact statement. He was granted a temporary permit for the project, but was stymied with the Cease and Desist order for the earthly part.

Appearing at the hearing, God was asked why he began his earthly project in the first place. He replied that he just liked to be creative.

Then God said, "Let there be light." Officials immediately demanded to know how the light would be made. Would there be strip mining? What about thermal pollution? God explained that the light would come from a huge ball of fire.

God was granted provisional permission to make light, assuming that no smoke would result from the ball of fire, that he would obtain a building permit, and (to conserve energy) would have the light out half the time. God agreed and said he would call the light "Day" and the darkness "Night." Officials replied that they were not interested in semantics.

God said, "Let the earth bring forth green herb and such as many seed." The EPA agreed so long as native seed was used. Then God said, "Let waters bring forth creeping creatures having life; and the fowl that may fly over the earth." Officials pointed out this would require approval from the Department of Game coordinated with the Heavenly Wildlife Federation and the Audubongelic Society.

Everything was OK until God said he wanted to complete the project in six days. Officials informed him it would take at least 200 days to review the application and the environmental impact statement. After that there would be a public hearing. Then there would be 10-12 months before...

At this point God created Hell!

COFFEE MORNING

In the Church Hall on
SATURDAY APRIL 19TH

10.00am - 12.00am

Sales Tables
Donations Welcome



When I say, "I am a Christian"

*When I say, "I am a Christian"
I'm not shouting, "I've been saved!"
I'm whispering, "I get lost!"
That's why I chose this way".*

*When I say, "I am a Christian"
I don't speak with human pride
I'm confessing that I stumble -
Needing God to be my guide*

*When I say, "I am a Christian"
I'm not trying to be strong
I'm professing that I'm weak
And pray for strength to carry on.*

*When I say, "I am a Christian"
I'm not bragging of success
I'm admitting that I've failed
And cannot ever pay the debt.*

*When I say, "I am a Christian"
I don't think I know it all
I submit to my confusion
Asking humbly to be taught.*

*When I say, "I am a Christian"
I'm not claiming to be perfect
My flaws are all too visible
But God believes I'm worth it.*

*When I say, "I am a Christian"
I still feel the sting of pain
I have my share of heartache,
Which is why I seek His name.*

*When I say, "I am a Christian"
I do not wish to judge
I have no authority...
I only know I'm loved.*

Transport to Church

Do you find it difficult getting to Church on a Sunday morning because you do not have transport? If so, please let us know and we will try and arrange for someone to pick you up.

If we don't know that people are experiencing this problem then we can't help, so please contact your elder..

What Are You Doing With Your Food?

How much food do you buy - and then throw away? According to recent research, it is a staggering third of all you buy. Nationally, that means £8 billion-worth of food a year. That comes to about 6.7million tons - imagine filling Wembley Stadium eight times over.

The Government-funded Waste and Resources Action Programme (Wrap) estimates that if households could cut out such waste, 15 million tons of carbon dioxide a year would be averted - the same as if we took one in five cars off the road.

It seems we let too much food go off in the fridge and cupboard, and also cook more than we need or can eat - and then throw it away.



LPC Renewal Project

The feasibility study has been published, the Congregational Board has appointed a sub committee (the Project Group), chaired by Sandy Taylor, to oversee the day to day running of the project and now we are looking ahead to the refurbishment of the Hall and the Church.

In the short time since its inception the project group has been busy. A bank account has been established; a web site is being designed and should be online shortly; open days have been held so that the congregation and the local community are properly aware of the plans; and most importantly, the approval of the General Trustees has been obtained with encouragement for the congregation to proceed with our proposals.

On Saturday 15th March, members of the congregation were invited to view the plans and comment on the proposals. It was encouraging that, of those who completed the questionnaire, over 99% were in favour of the proposals. There were some comments expressing concern about specific parts of the plans and these will be taken in to account as the final scheme is developed. A similar open day was held a couple of weeks later for members of the local community to attend. Unfortunately, a planned press release in the "Squeak" was not published so the attendance was poor. Nevertheless, of those who did attend, there was general support for the scheme.

We will now be moving in to the fundraising phase, and the "Link" - and the web site - will be used to keep the congregation fully informed of progress. The project group will also be meeting with other groups, both locally and further afield, who have been involved in similar projects to pick their brains and find out how they went about getting the money together. If you have any ideas or experience of fund raising for large projects, please get in touch with Sandy (606218).

Have you heard of.....



..... Telecare?

It is a service provided by Argyll & Bute Council which is available to anyone who feels at risk in his or her own home because of age, disability, isolation, illness or vulnerability. It can offer peace of mind to family and carers.

How the Service Works

The Telecare Service works 24 hours a day 365 days a year, via a Community Alarm connected to the telephone line between your home and the response centre.

All alarm calls result in immediate voice contact being made with staff in the response centre through your telephone line. It also has the advantage that it can send for help...automatically, but only if you need it!

Is it complicated?

No. The installer will take time to show you how each piece of equipment works. Most of the equipment will not need you to do anything, just enjoy living in your home knowing help is at hand 24 hours a day. All the equipment is wireless which makes installation quick and easy.

Cost

There is no charge for the installation of the equipment but thereafter there is a small weekly charge for the rental of the equipment plus the monitoring.

Contact Nancy McLaren at Argyll & Bute Council, ☎ 01546 604275 or email nancy.mclaren@argyll-bute.gov.uk

.....Home Safety Checks?

Another service provided by the Council. Free home safety checks are available to anyone over 65, anyone with children under 5 at home or anyone else considered vulnerable.

- ◇ Get your house checked now!
- ◇ Smoke alarms checked and fitted.
- ◇ Carbon Monoxide alarms checked and fitted.
- ◇ Stair gates provided.
- ◇ Fire guards provided and fitted.
- ◇ Electrical appliances tested.
- ◇ Microwave ovens tested.

Don't leave it too late. Contact Brian Robins at Argyll & Bute Council ☎ 01546 604131 or email brian.robins@argyll-bute.gov.uk

The Guild

The Guild Speaker on the afternoon of Tuesday 26th February was from Sue Ryder Care. Carol-Anne McMahon is based at Bridge of Weir and is the Fundraising Manager for West of Scotland.



She told us her function was to raise the profile and awareness of the work done by Sue Ryder Care which is a provider of specialist hospice and neurological care. They care for people living with MS, Cancer, Huntington's disease, Stroke, Brain Injury and Dementia to name but a few and we were shown two short DVDs illustrating the Hospice in Aberdeen and the work done by them. Although Dee View Court is the only one in Scotland at the moment, plans are going ahead for building another Hospice near Dundee and in the future in the West of Scotland. Everyone appreciated the opportunity to learn about this Charity and there were many interesting questions asked of Carol-Anne and the many original fundraising ideas.

There was a good turnout for this afternoon session

The Guild has now finished for the session.

Who's Your Elder?

There have been some changes in the allocation of Elder's districts recently. Noted below is a brief list of who covers where.

Frank Killeen	Landward West - Baddens, Cairnbaan, Inverneil & Ardrishaig
Bill Kennedy	Manse Brae , Blarbuie Road
Betty Kirk	Fernoch Park, Fernoch Crescent
Flora Gillies	Cossack Street, Coronation Mansions
Jessie Cranston	High Bank Pk, Bank Pk, Stag Pk, Lorne St., Lorne Tr., Poltalloch St
Jim Kirk	Dochas Pl., Union St, McCracken Ct, Lorne Tr, Poltalloch St, Wilson Rd.
Roddy Morrison	Manse Brae, Kilmory Road
Mary MacDonald	Wilson Rd, Fernoch Dr, Fernoch Pk, Moneydrain, Bishopton Rd.
Chris Stevenson	Sinclair Drive, Dewar Avenue
Frances Fleming	Brodie Crescent
Margaret Davidson	Carnasserie Pl, Dunadd Pl, Ellary Pl.
Tom Stevenson	Ardpatrick Place, Dunmor Avenue
Malcolm MacFadyen	Argyll Street., Carnasserie Place, Lochnell Street
Jim Morrison	Rowan Park, Campbell Street, McCallum Court
Jimmy Logie	Landward East - Balliemore, Castleton
Joyce Munro	High Bank Park.
Edna Armstrong	Kilmory Road, Manse Brae
Alex Emslie	MacDonald Tr, MacIntyre Tr.

Recording of Sunday Services



- Are you housebound?
- Do you have difficulty getting to Church on a Sunday morning because of work , family commitments etc.
- Would you like to receive a copy of the morning service?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions then we would like to hear from you.

We are at present experimenting with recording the morning service on to CD. Once this process has been fully established, and if there is a demand for the service, CDs will be available to anyone who wishes a copy.

All you require is a CD player.

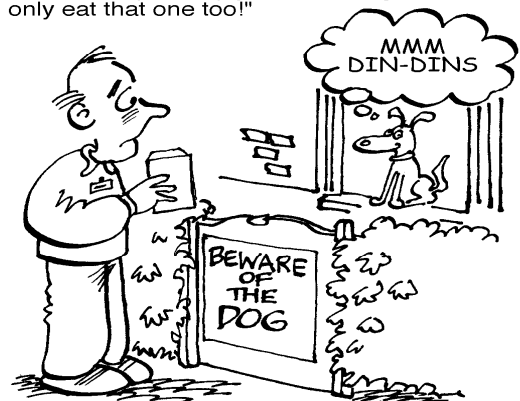
All we require is your address and the CD will be delivered to your door.

Financial Matters

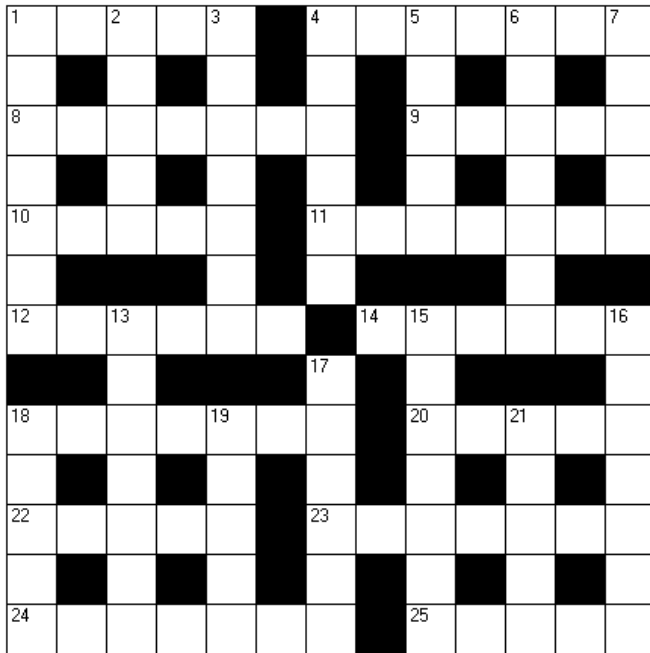
At a recent meeting of the Congregational Board it was decided that a quarterly statement of the Church's Income and Expenditure (General Fund only) should be made known to members of the congregation.

	2008		2007	
	Income	Expenditure	Income	Expenditure
January	2018.54	2146.42	2033.71	1836.04
February	1860.20	3375.38	2027.27	2964.85
March	2278.31	1863.08	2270.18	2089.06
	6157.05	7384.88	6331.16	6889.95

A man was collecting the Christian Aid envelopes: Calling at one house he met the response "Sorry I can't give you anything, the dog ate the envelope." "Ah" said the collector "Don't worry I have a spare envelope." Back came the quick reply . . . "It's no good he'd only eat that one too!"



Crossword



Across

- 1 Violent tempest in Jonah ch. 1 (5)
 4 Description of the queen in Isaiah ch. 47 (7)
 8 Ailment suffered by Hezekiah in 2 Kings ch 20 (7)
 9 Bouquet _____, small bundle of herbs (5)
 10 Jewel of Cush in Job ch. 28 (5)
 11 Time of day for evensong (7)
 12 Morning service (6)
 14 He succeeded Moses as leader of the Israelites (6)
 18 4th book of the OT (7)
 20 Far above the ground (5)
 22 Maxim (5)
 23 Fruit comprising certain cakes in 2 Samuel ch 16 (7)
 24 Patterns of sound (7)
 25 Red animal ridden in Zechariah ch. 1 (5)

Down

- 1 The spies in Joshua ch. 2 were from here (7)
 2 Lowest deck of a ship (5)
 3 Muslim official who calls the faithful to prayer (7)
 4 Major Christian festival (6)
 5 Bird that stirs up its nest in Deuteronomy ch. 32 (5)
 6 East Anglian diocese (7)
 7 Untruthful, like the tongues in Psalm 109 (5)
 13 Paul wrote two epistles to him (7)
 15 OT book and prophet (7)
 16 Performer (7)
 17 Two books of the Apocrypha (6)
 18 Person giving a name (5)
 19 Father of Methuselah (5)
 21 Willow used in basketry (5)

Laughter Lines

The Secret Golfer



As a young man, Norton was an exceptional golfer. At the age of 26, however, he decided to become a priest, and joined a rather peculiar order.

He took the usual vows of poverty, chastity, but his order also required that he quit golf and never play again. This was particularly difficult for Norton, but he agreed and was finally ordained a priest.

One Sunday morning, the Reverend Father Norton woke up and realizing it was an exceptionally beautiful and sunny early spring day, decided he just had to play golf.

So... he told the Associate Pastor that he was feeling sick and convinced him to say Mass for him that day. As soon as the Associate Pastor left the room, Father Norton headed out of town to a golf course about forty miles away. This way he knew he wouldn't accidentally meet anyone he knew from his parish.

Setting up on the first tee, he was alone. After all, it was Sunday morning and everyone else was in church! At about this time, Saint Peter leaned over to the Lord while looking down from the heavens and exclaimed, "You're not going to let him get away with this, are you?"

The Lord sighed, and said, "No, I guess not."

Just then Father Norton hit the ball and it shot straight towards the pin, dropping just short of it, rolled up and fell into the hole. It WAS A 420-YARD HOLE IN ONE!



St. Peter was astonished. He looked at the Lord and asked, "Why did you let him do that?"

The Lord smiled and replied, "Who is he going to tell?"

My Dad's Richer Than Your Dad

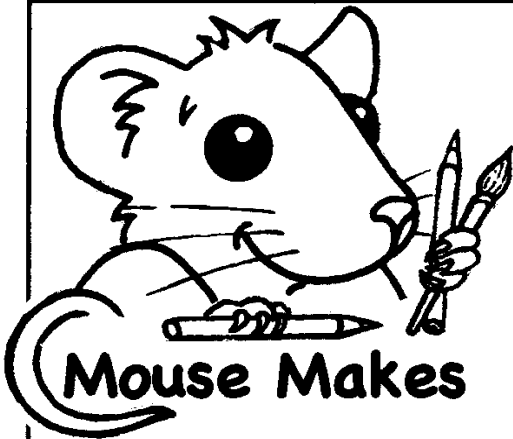
Three boys are in the school yard bragging about their fathers.

The first boy says, "My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a poem, they give him £50."

The second boy says, "That's nothing. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a song, they give him £100."

The third boy says, "I got you both beat. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a sermon... and it takes eight people to collect all the money!"





God gave Moses **ten** laws to **help** and **guide** his people and it is still important for God's people to keep these commandments today.

*The first **four** commandments are to do with our friendship with God. The last **six** are to do with our friendships with one another.*

Read
Deuteronomy
5: 1-22

<p>GOD'S LAWS FOR LIFE The Ten Commandments</p>	<p>1. WORSHIP NO GOD BUT ME Put God first</p>	<p>2. DO NOT MAKE OR WORSHIP IDOLS</p>	<p>3. DO NOT MISUSE GOD'S NAME Watch what you say!</p>	Glue onto the back of 4
<p>4. OBSERVE THE SABBATH AND KEEP IT HOLY Keep a special day to rest and worship</p>	<p>5. RESPECT YOUR PARENTS</p>	<p>6. DO NOT MURDER Don't take away someone's life</p>	<p>7. DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY Don't take away someone's husband or wife</p>	
<p>8. DO NOT STEAL Don't take something that is not yours</p>	<p>9. DO NOT ACCUSE ANYONE FALSELY Don't tell lies about others</p>	<p>10. DO NOT COVET Don't be jealous of what belongs to others</p>	<p>Jesus' summary of the law: LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR AS YOURSELF Matthew 22:39</p>	✂

Make a mini book of God's Commandments:
Cut out the strips then glue them together to make one long strip. Zig-zag fold along the dotted lines



Rotas for April 2008

Door Duty

April 6th	Frank Killeen & Alex Emslie
April 13th	Mary MacDonald & May Taylor
April 20th	Ian Davidson & Margaret Davidson
April 27th	Ishbel MacArthur & Allison Pearson
May 4th	Jim Morrison & Ruth Morrison

Flowers

(Contact Edna Armstrong)

Margaret Davidson

Readers

Tom Stevenson

Mary MacDonald

Margaret Davidson

Ruth Morrison

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

What's on in April

Services (all at 11.00am except where stated)

April 6th	Rev. Hilda Smith
April 13th	Rev. Hilda Smith
April 20th	Rev. Hilda Smith
April 27th	Rev. Hilda Smith Communion
May 4th	Rev. Hilda Smith

Other events

April 13th	Toucan Club, 4.00pm - 5.00pm
April 19th	Church Coffee Morning, 10.00am - 12.00am
April 27th	Toucan Club 4.00pm - 5.00pm

And for your diary

May 4th	United Service, St. Margaret's, 6.30pm
May 7th	Session Meeting, 7.30pm
May 14th	Congregational Board Meeting, 7.30pm
June 1st	Sponsored Walk & BBQ

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

Across
 1 Storm 4 Eternal 8 Illness 9 Garni 10 Topaz 11 Evening 12
 Matins 14 Joshua
 18 Numbers 20 Aloft 22 Motto 23 Raisins 24 Rhythms 25
 Horse
 Down
 1 Shitum 2 Orlop 3 Muezzin 4 Easter 5 Eagle 6 Norwich 7
 Lyng 13 Timothy
 15 Obadiah 16 Artiste 17 Esdras 18 Namer 19 Enoch 20 Osier

Who's Who in LPC

Minister	Rev Hilda C Smith	01546 602238
Session Clerk	Jim Kirk	01546 602524
Clerk to the Congregational Board	Mary MacDonald	01546 602087
Treasurer	Edna Armstrong	01546 602600
Fabric Convenor	Ian Davidson	01546 603784
Fund raising Convenor	Tom Stevenson	
Social Convenor	Roddy Morrison	01546 603972
Guild Contact	Frances Fleming	01546 602270
Free Will Offering Organiser	Alex Emslie	01546 603820
Hall Bookings	Bill Kennedy	01546 602875
Committees 2007 - 08		
Finance	Edna Armstrong, Alex Emslie, Mary MacDonald, Roddy Morrison,	
Fabric	Ian Davidson, Frances Fleming, Bill Kennedy, Joyce Munro, Allison Pearson	
Social	Margaret Davidson, Malcolm MacFadyen, Roddy Morrison, Helen Samborek May Taylor	
Fundraising	Tom Stevenson, Betty Kirk, Jim Kirk, Ishbel McArthur, Jessie Cran- ston, Chris Stevenson	
Project Team	Sandy Taylor, Rev. Hilda Smith, Fabric Convenor, Treasurer, Clerk to the Board	

New Board member

At the recent AGM, Charlie McLean was nominated and duly elected to serve on the Congregational Board. There are still vacancies and anyone who is interested in serving on the Board should contact the Minister or Mary MacDonald, Clerk to the Board.