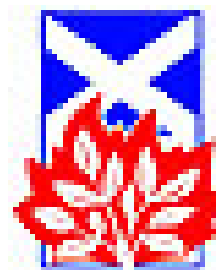


The LINK

Volume 7 Issue 3

April 2009

www.lpchurch.co.uk



Message From the Manse

Dear Friends,

As I write this letter, there is an update on the news regarding the tragic death of eighteen people following the sinking of the helicopter in which they were flying home from an oil field in the North Sea. Every loss is a personal loss and that is the real tragedy. How devastating for their families, their colleagues and indeed all who knew them and shared life with them.

I shared the Easter story with pre-fives this week and afterwards, one of the wee girls asked me: 'Did Jesus die quickly?' It was really moving. But, you know, that is what we all hope when we hear of a tragedy, that those who lost their lives did not suffer.

Jesus did suffer. He suffered an horrendous death and he suffered it for you and for me. Do we actually think of what he went through on what we now call Good Friday or do we pass over that and go quickly from Palm Sunday, where many welcomed Jesus, to the next happy event which is Easter Sunday and the resurrection of Jesus? If we do, we miss out on so much with which we could perhaps identify, particularly the feelings of abandonment when life is on a downward spiral. Jesus has been there before us. He has walked that road and he will walk it with us. That's the real comfort of Holy Week, the comfort that is offered in the midst of pain before we experience the resurrection and the joys and the hope it offers.

May you know that comfort as you walk through life and may you share, too, in the hope and the joy of Easter Day.

With best wishes,

Hilda C. Smith

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If Jesus Sent A Church Newsletter



First, he would make it funny. Some of his stories were hilarious - especially those reported by John. People could see the irony of how they and others were living - laughed at themselves - and remembered the stories - hopefully even change lives.

Second, Jesus would discuss politics. He didn't run away from sharp issues the way that we Brits say, "never talk about religion or politics." He most certainly understood that those are the two most important subjects in the world. When our nation taxes people who earn incomes under the poverty level - it's like taking food away from a starving baby.

He would add pictures. He talked in pictures (parables) - no doubt he would publish with pictures in order to capture the reader's attention. He would follow the K.I.S.S. Rule - "Keep It Simple Son." He would write so people could understand - not write so as to impress. Again, he taught with parables.

Jesus would eliminate the weather reports in his church newsletter. Watch church newsletters and you often will see the minister's opening article begins with: "Well, it's May now and warm weather is going to follow." "In October, we experience the first swirling winds of winter." Most of us had that pretty well figured out a few years ago. There's more to talk about with The Faith than the phase of the moon.

He would not report offerings or enter church budgets into the newsletter. Some have noticed that he was more interested in the widow's mite than in the grand gifts of those who were wealthy. Besides, Jesus seemed to be more about relieving guilt, than building it.

I doubt Jesus would enter church council proceedings into the copy. As far as we know, Judas never gave a treasurer's report. That was not of essence to the disciple's activity. What he and his disciples did was feed the hungry and heal the sick. Along the way, hundreds discovered "love" in the middle of all those activities.

Without a doubt, Jesus would keep the newsletter short. In his case, a ream of paper was at a premium. It was necessary to use resources and energy in the most cost effective way. Jesus went where people gathered and chatted with them where they were.

Sometimes, that was even in pagan temples. "Come unto me" means "join me in my attitude," not "I'll be sitting here until you get good and ready to drop by and listen to me."

Jesus would talk human growth rather than church programme. Jesus would show us the heart of the Father -

and the response of the Son. Jesus rode into Jerusalem not on a proud stallion as the Roman Centurions did. Jesus didn't even ride into Jerusalem on a donkey - but on the colt of a donkey. There's a lesson about living with humility somewhere in that story which could help us learn how to live with God and with each other.

Oh - and I doubt that Jesus would use staples to seal his newsletters. If the Father was concerned about even the smallest sparrow - Jesus would be concerned about broken fingernails from pulling the staples out.



FLORIDA COURT SETS ATHEIST HOLY DAY!

In Florida, an atheist created a case against the upcoming Easter and Pass-over holy days. He hired an attorney to bring a discrimination case against Christians, Jews and observances of their holy days.

The argument was that it was unfair that atheists had no such recognized days. The case was brought before a judge. After listening to the passionate presentation by the lawyer, the judge banged his gavel declaring, "Case dismissed!"

The lawyer immediately stood objecting to the ruling saying, "Your honour, how can you possibly dismiss this case? The Christians have Christmas, Easter and others. The Jews have Pass-over, Yom Kippur and Hanukkah, yet my client and all other atheists have no such holidays."

The judge leaned forward in his chair saying, "But you do. Your client, counsel, is woefully ignorant."

The lawyer said, "Your Honour, we are unaware of any special observance or holiday for atheists."

The judge said, "The calendar says April 1st is April Fools Day."

Psalm 14:1 states, 'The fool says in his heart, there is no God.'

Thus, it is the opinion of this court, that if your client says there is no God, then he is a fool. Therefore, April 1st is his day. Court is adjourned.



BAN THE LORD'S PRAYER!

Submitted by Margaret Jacobson

It might do us all good if we Christians gave up saying the Lord's Prayer. Perhaps for a year - or maybe just for Lent.

But definitely take a break from it.

Maybe your church is different but in our services we go rattling through the Lord's Prayer like a high-speed train. Fortunately there is the 'for ever and ever' bit at the end that reminds us to slow down before we crash into the buffers of the Amen.

The words are so familiar it is easy to recite them while thinking of what we are having for tea or whether there is any milk in the fridge. Or just about anything. Perhaps if we stopped saying it for a while we might come back to it with renewed respect.

There is a story of an old Catholic woman who went to her priest and told him she was having terrible trouble saying the Lord's Prayer. When he asked what the problem was, she said she always got stuck on the first word.

When this wise woman thought about the meaning of that first word, she was suddenly lost in wonder and amazement at the love of God that allows us to say 'Abba, dear father.'

And so she never managed to get to the next bit.

Of course, the next few lines of the prayer are all summed up in that one word Abba. If God who made the universe is really our dear friend and father, how can we possibly not hallow his name; and seek to do his will; and work for his Kingdom?

How can we stand aside and do nothing while his children live in poverty in our own towns and cities and starve in their millions in other parts of God's world?

How can we spend so much time worrying about the ridiculous institution of the church while God is out there in the world, pleading with us to join him in bringing justice and love to his creation?

On second thoughts, maybe that's exactly why we do rush through the Lord's Prayer: why we hardly give its words a second thought. Because taking it seriously is a very scary and challenging option. And we do not go to church to be scared or challenged. Do we?

David Rhodes

David Rhodes is an Associate of the Iona Community, and author of 'Advent Adventure' and 'Sparrow Story: The Gospel for Today' (SPCK)



Is Your Home Properly Protected?

It is a sad fact that burglaries cause a lot of grief and take up a significant amount of police time. Neighbourhood Watch Associations have an important role in reducing crime, but we can all help the police by taking appropriate precautions in respect of our own property. So here are a

few tips based on the advice of crime prevention officers:

- ◇ Letter boxes can be used by criminals to extract goods close to the door, commonly door or car keys, or even to work vulnerable locking devices from the inside. So letter plates should not be closer than 400mm from the door lock (an internal cover plate provides additional security). Some people who have a letter basket remove the bottom it, allowing mail to fall to the floor (preventing theft of the mail).
- ◇ To make a door secure, a rim latch (Yale type) on its own is not sufficient. The door should be fitted with a 5-lever mortice deadlock, though insurance companies will accept a rim automatic deadlock. The rim latch and the mortice should be fitted 18-24 inches apart. For added safety fit a spy hole and door chain or limiter.
- ◇ The back door should be fitted with a 5-lever 2-bolt mortice sash lock, half way up the door. This should be to British Standard 3621. Bolts should always be fitted at 90 degrees to the grain of the wood, reducing the likelihood of the wood splitting under pressure.
- ◇ Patio doors are often used as a means of entry, so unless yours is fitted with a multi-locking system, it is advisable to fit extra locks. These are usually "push to lock and key to open" which makes them easy to use. If in doubt, consult the installer to manufacturer.

Many police stations have a dedicated Crime Prevention Officer who will be pleased to advise anyone who feels vulnerable.

LOCHGILPHEAD PARISH CHURCH



HOLY COMMUNION

SUNDAY APRIL 26TH,
11.00am

To which all are invited

Project Notes



Watch
Our
Money
Grow

MUGS APLENTY

Delighted to say that we have received our new consignment of mugs. As previously reported these are priced at £10 each, or if you would like we'll pack and post them for you for a wee bit extra (with a wee note of thanks). Same design, same superior quality.

FUNDRAISING FOR THE PROJECT - OUR GIFT DAY AND BEYOND

April will be an important time for our Renewal Project. Beginning in March with our Gift Day, the Church will write to all residents, businesses, and organisations in the area purposefully asking for their financial support for our Project.

Although an important element in the call for giving, the Gift Day will be the symbolic start to a month over which we hope many will contribute. It is important that we extend our call for support beyond the congregation as "we" are limited in number, and the extent to which we can support an extended call for financial support, not only this year, but in years to come.

Opportunities to support our appeal include the **making of a gift**, the **pledge of a gift** (by an agreed date); by **regular contribution** and **occasional donation(s)** (including that "saved" using small change bags

This is particularly important as we make the formal applications to national funding bodies and charitable trusts who have basic expectations of a successful grant funding bid; that applicants:

- a) own the property in question, or have the consent of the owner
- b) can demonstrate capacity to generate or commit part of the funding, and
- c) can demonstrate the support of the community served by the facility to be provided through the desired funding.

Success in our community fundraising combined with the feedback from our "information days in March 2008 will address items b & c above. It will also allow us to assert our capacity to deliver the Project with the Church of Scotland which is meantime concerned that the reduction in public funding through the Lottery charities and the size of our community will make our task too difficult.

We hope to announce the total of gifts and pledges raised through community giving in the course April in the Church on Sunday 3rd May. Be there for the good news.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

You will have noticed the banner on the railings outside the Church. You will also have noticed that we are calling for support for our Renovation Appeal. Not another appeal but perhaps a more user friendly name for our Renewal Project, which helps people readily understand what the money will be used for, to repair and modernise our Hall and Church.

Keep in touch with our fundraising by watching the arrow gradually creep up the side of page towards our target each month.

MAY IS OUR SPONSORSHIP MONTH

Next month the Annual Sponsored Walk and BBQ will take place on Sunday May 31st. Details of this will be in next month's Link along with the sponsor form.

However, we have dedicated May to be a sponsorship month when anyone can arrange to do a sponsored event suitable to them. Some suggestions could be, a sponsored silence, sponsored slim, sponsored read, sponsored cycle, sponsored golf event, sponsored toddle - the list is endless.

In fact you could come up with your own idea and turn it into a sponsored event. Each event doesn't have to raise huge amounts, but when put together, the results can be substantial. Don't wait for someone else to organise it - **JUST DO IT!**

At the back of the Link you will find a Sponsor Sheet which can be used and adapted for your own needs.

For us, however, the work to provide an improved, modern Hall and linked Church will provide far more, in terms of the chance to revitalise our Church, the Parish Church and to attract new members, to extend our impact and support for the community.

EVERY LITTLE COUNTS

In developing our fund raising programme, the Project Group were keen to find ways to ensure that everyone could do what they could to support the fundraising effort, and our "Every Little Counts" money bags does just that. Everyone has a copper or two in their change at the end of the day. Keeping these to one side, the value of these savings will soon grow. Mirroring the Renewal Project's fundraising with trusts and other funding bodies but on a smaller scale, taken together small sums of money will make an effective contribution to our new Hall.

Thanks to the sewing skills of Joyce Munro and Ishbel McArthur we now have a stock of many-coloured small change bags. These will be available at the Church and at coffee morning events or if you would like one to be sent to you, give Sandy Taylor a call on 606218.

It's as simple as that! When ready, pass your bag to an Elder or the Minister, or 'phone Sandy to arrange its collection.

£360,000

£340,000

£320,000

£300,000

£280,000

£260,000

£240,000

£220,000

£200,000

£180,000

£160,000

£140,000

£120,000

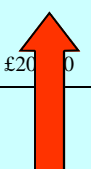
£100,000

£80,000

£60,000

£40,000

£20,000



RENEWAL PROJECT - ONE YEAR ON

Beginning with our Congregation and Community Information days in March last year we are now one year into the Project. So SWOT!

A commonly used business analysis tool, a SWOT analysis is one way to review the status of a business or in the case a project. Undertaking a SWOT analysis involves the identification and recording of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats in relation to a particular task or objective. It is normal for this analysis to take account of internal resources and capabilities (strengths and weakness) and also those factors outside the organisation (opportunities and threats). Here is my snapshot!

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The support and commitment of our congregation 2. The hard work and enthusiasm of the Project Group 3. The very welcome commitment of Fundraising and Social Committees, and The Guild to extend their programmes to raise funds in support of the Project. 4. The excellent Link and website www.lpchurch.co.uk 5. The Minister's resolute faith in the project and our ability to deliver it 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Notwithstanding the good efforts of all, the limited time which people can give to the Project, which in turn limits the speed of progress and maybe the types of fundraising which can be done. 2. The limit in capacity of any congregation and its wider community to give in support of projects of this nature 3. Insufficient people to "lead" elements of our fundraising 4. The condition of the Hall limits our ability to use the Hall meantime to generate revenue income
Opportunities	Threats
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To gain the support and involvement of the wider community: residents, businesses and organisations 2 To realise a more integrated congregation through "our" focus on this common aim; working together, in lots of different ways towards one goal 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The finite membership of the Church 2. The changing age profile of the Church 3. The economic recession and the impacts on the local community 4. The reduced availability of public funding for charitable causes in light of the Olympic and Commonwealth Games funding requirements

What use it this? Although normally done as a team exercise, it helps focus on the things which work well, together with those which need to be addressed to make us work better and more importantly, to identify the challenges which we must take account of and hopefully overcome as we drive the Project forward.

Sandy Taylor, Project Leader

The Gardeners' Hymn

All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
The Lord God made them all.



But what we never mention, though gardeners know it's true,
Is when He made the goodies, He made the baddies too.

All things spray and swattable,
Disasters great and small,
All things paraquatable,
The Lord God made them all.



The green fly on the roses, the maggots in the peas,
Manure that fills our noses, He also gave us these.

All things spray and swattable, etc.

The fungus on the goose-gogs, the club root on the greens,
The slugs that eat the lettuce and chew the aubergines.



All things spray and swattable, etc.

The drought that kills the fuchsias, the frost that nips the buds,
The rain that drowns the seedlings, the blight that hits the spuds.

All things spray and swattable, etc.



The midges and mosquitoes, the nettles and the weeds,
The pigeons in the green stuff, the sparrows on the seeds.

All things spray and swattable, etc.

The fly that gets the carrots, the wasp that eats the plums,
How black the gardener's outlook, though green may be his thumbs.



All things spray and swattable, etc.



But still we gardeners labour midst vegetables and flowers,
And pray what hits our neighbours' will somehow bypass ours.

All things spray and swattable, etc.

© Barbara Robinson

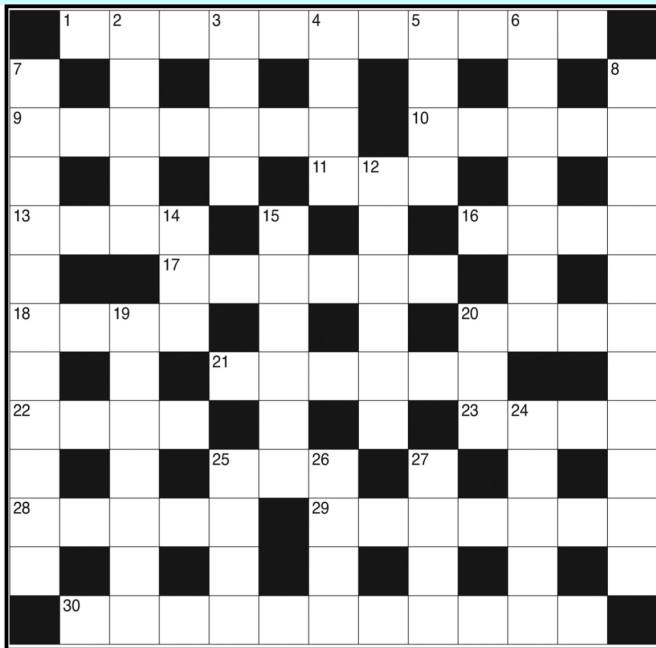
**Saturday
April 4th**

10.00am—12.00 noon

**Donations for the
Raffle and Sales Table welcomed**



Crossword



Across

- 1 Criminals (1 Timothy 1:9) (11)
 9 Disregard (Luke 11:42) (7)
 10 'If we endure, we will also — with him' (2 Timothy 2:12) (5)
 11 'Make them — down in groups of about fifty each' (Luke 9:14) (3)
 13 Lazily (4)
 16 He was killed by his brother Cain (Genesis 4:8) (4)
 17 Consented (Acts 15:25) (6)
 18 A bird the Israelites were forbidden to eat (Leviticus 11:13-15) (4)
 20 'The water had risen and was deep enough to — in' (Ezekiel 47:5) (4)
 21 Counsel (2 Samuel 17:11) (6)
 22 He sold his birthright to his twin brother for some red stew (Genesis 25:30-33) (4)
 23 Those who 'practise magic — ' are twice condemned in the closing chapters of the Bible (Revelation 21:8; 22:15) (4)
 25 Gamble (3)
 28 Shows wedding guests to their seats (5)
 29 Uriah, Bathsheba's husband, was one (2 Samuel 11:3) (7)
 30 'The statutes of the Lord are — , making wise the simple' (Psalm 19:7) (11)

Down

- 2 Gabriel was one (Luke 1:19) (5)
 3 'That on the cross my burden gladly bearing, he — and died to take away my sin' (4)
 4 'A man ought to examine himself before he — the bread and drinks the cup' (1 Corinthians 11:28) (4)
 5 Twentieth-century US composer of more than 200 Christian songs, — Kaiser (4)
 6 Sign in the sky of the covenant between God and the earth (Genesis 9:13) (7)
 7 Sinful (2 Peter 2:9) (11)
 8 Perfect (Hebrews 9:14) (11)
 12 In rice (anag.) (6)
 14 Tibetan ox (3)
 15 22 Across had one against his brother for stealing from him his father's blessing (Genesis 27:41) (6)
 19 'When evening comes, you say, "It will be fair — , for the sky is red"' (Matthew 16:2) (7)
 20 'The — is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land' (Psalm 95:5) (3)
 24 First Director General of the BBC, Sir John — (5)
 25 Male siblings (abbrev.) (4)
 26 What (anag.) (4)
 27 'Mockers — up a city, but wise men turn away anger' (Proverbs 29:8) (4)

Laughter Lines



God and the Biker

A man was riding his Harley along the Oban road, when suddenly the sky clouded above his head and, in a booming voice, the Lord said,

'Because you have TRIED to be faithful to me in all ways, I will grant you one wish.'

The biker pulled over and said, 'Build a bridge to Mull, so I can ride over anytime I want'.

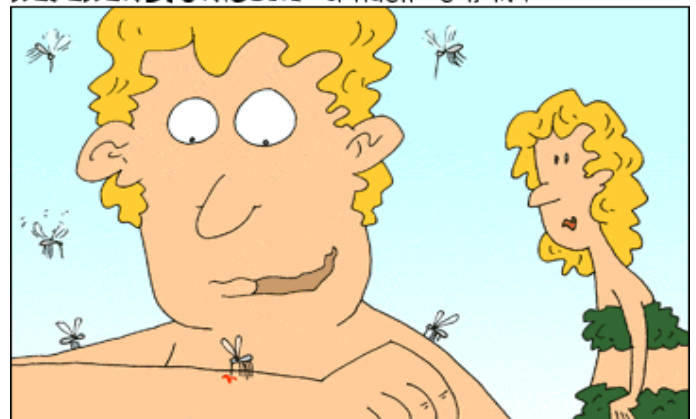
The Lord said, 'That request is materialistic, think of the enormous challenges for that kind of undertaking; the supports required to reach the bottom of the Atlantic and the concrete and steel it would take! It will nearly exhaust several natural resources. I can do it, but it is hard for me to justify your desire for worldly things. Take a little more time and think of something that could possibly help mankind.' The biker thought about it for a long time.

Finally, he said, 'Okay, I wish that I, and all men, could understand our wives; I want to know how she feels inside, what she's thinking when she gives me the silent treatment, why she cries, what she means when she says 'nothing's wrong', and how I can make a woman truly happy.'

And the Lord replied, 'You want two lanes or four lanes on that bridge?'

A New Way of Looking at the Midge!!

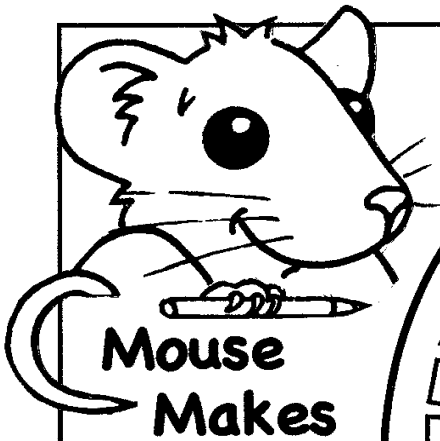
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Thanks to Vicki Oberski (See Genesis 3)

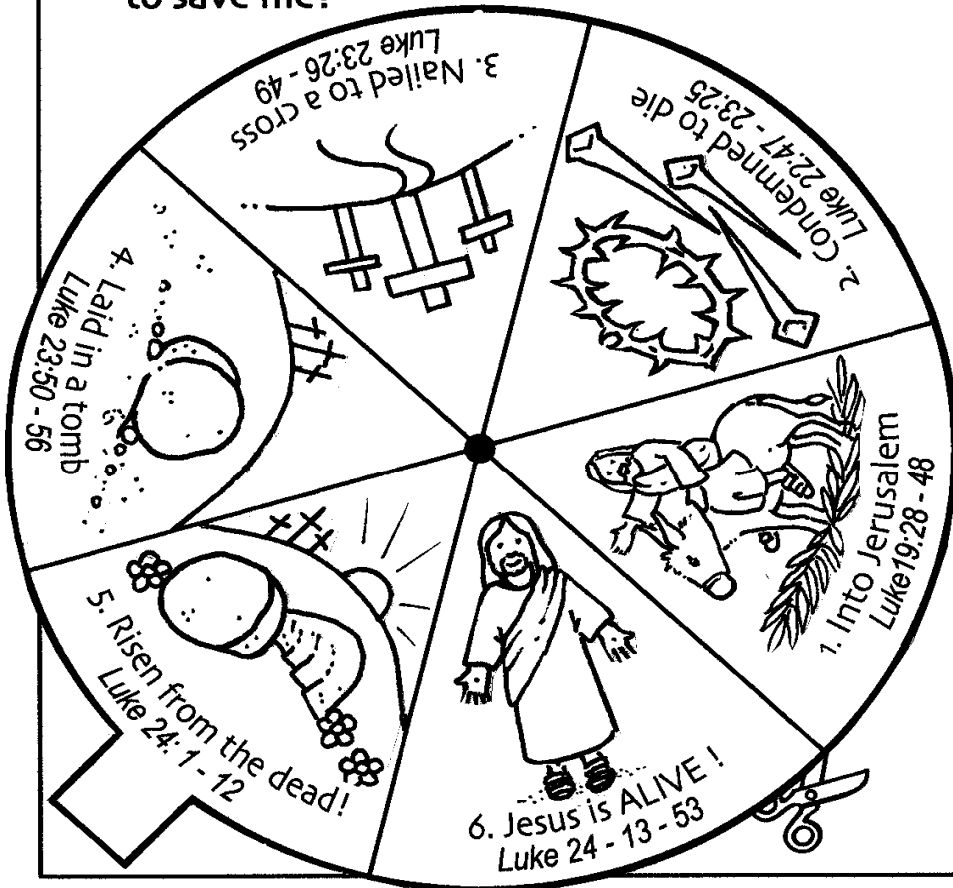
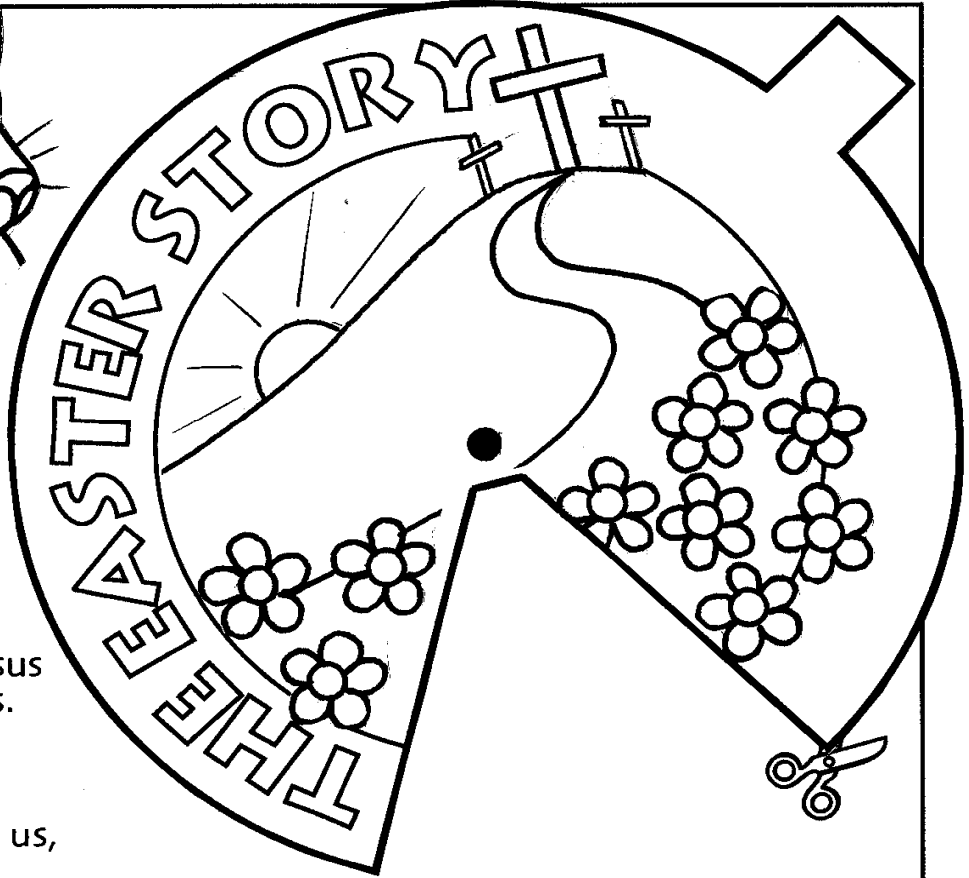
03-24-2008

WE WERE EVICTED FROM EDEN, BUT GOD MUST STILL LOVE US SINCE HE SENT US THESE NEW FRIENDS TO GIVE US TINY KISSES

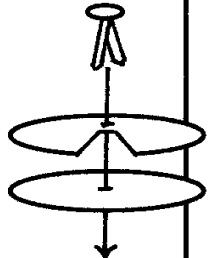


Mouse Makes

Nailed on a cross,
condemned to die,
They said that Jesus
was telling lies.
But he is risen
for all to see!
He came to save us,
**Jesus came
to save me!**



To make your Easter Story Teller glue the page onto thin card. Colour in then carefully cut around both circles. With the help of an adult, pierce a small hole through the black dot in the centre of both circles. Push a split pin through the top circle and again through the bottom circle to join together. Spin around to tell the Easter Story.



Rotas for April 2009

	Door Duty	Flowers (Contact E Armstrong)	Readers	Tea/Coffee Duty (Contact - M. Davidson)
Apr. 5th	Alex Emslie & Jim Kirk	Margaret Davidson	Margaret Davidson	Margaret & Ian Davidson
April 12th	Jim Morrison & Ruth Morrison	Jenny Campbell	Ruth Morrison	Jim & Betty Kirk
April 19th	Ian Davidson & Margaret Davidson	Frances Fleming	Ian Davidson	Tom & Chris Stevenson
April 26th	Ishbel MacArthur & Charlie MacLean	Andrena MacKinnon	Communion	Sandy & May Taylor
May 3rd	Tom Stevenson & Chris Stevenson	tba	Tom Stevenson	Roddy & Sandra Morrison

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

What's on in April

..... and for your diary

Services (all at 11.00am except where stated)

April 5th	Rev. Alistair Dunlop
April 12th	Rev. Hilda Smith
April 19th	Rev. Hilda Smith
April 26th	Rev. Hilda Smith Communion
May 3rd	Rev. Hilda Smith

May 13th, Jun 24th, Sept 2nd, Nov. 4th	Session Meetings
May 23rd	Spring Fayre
May 31st	Sponsored Walk & BBQ
June 10th	Congregational Board Meeting
September 5th	Autumn Fete

Other events

April 1st	Congregational Board Meeting, 7.30pm
April 4th	Coffee Morning
April 5th & 19th	Toucan Club, 4.00 - 5.30pm
April 5th	United Church Services Tarbert Free Church, 6.30pm
Holy Week - April 9th	Communion LPC, 7.00pm
April 10th	Christ Church, Noon - 3.00pm
April 10th	Good Friday Service, Ardrishaig
April 11th	Christ Church, 7.00pm
April 21st	Social Committee Meeting, 7.00pm

Who's Who in LPC

Minister	Rev Hilda C Smith	01546 602238
Session Clerks	Jim Kirk & Sandy Taylor	01546 602524 01546 606218
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	01546 600259
Social Convenor	Margaret Davidson	01546 603784
Guild Contact	Frances Fleming	01546 602270
Free Will Offering Organiser	Alex Emslie	01546 603820
Hall Bookings	Bill Kennedy	01546 602875
Committees 2009 - 10		
Finance	E Armstrong, A Emslie, M MacDonald, R Morrison,	
Social	M Davidson, M MacFadyen, R Morrison, H Samborek, M Taylor, F Fleming, W Kennedy, J & R Morrison, A Pearson	
Fundraising	T Stevenson, J Kirk, I McArthur, J Cranston, C Stevenson, C MacLean	
Project Team	S Taylor, Rev. H Smith, Fabric Convenor, Treasurer, Clerk to the Board	
Child Protection Team	J Morrison, Rev. Hilda Smith, M Taylor, R Morrison	

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS: 1, Lawbreakers, 9, Neglect, 10, Reign, 11, Sit, 13, Idly, 16, Abel, 17, Agreed, 18, Hawk, 20, Swim, 21, Advise, 22, Esau, 23, Arts, 25, Bet, 28, Usher, 29, Hittite, 30, Trustworthy, DOWN: 2, Angel, 3, Bled, 4, Eats, 5, Kurt, 6, Rainbow, 7, Unrighteous, 8, Unblemished, 12, Irenic, 14, Yak, 15, Grudge, 19, Weather, 20, Sea, 24, Reith, 25, Bros, 26, Thaw, 27, Stir.

Editor: Margaret Davidson, Inchbraoch, 7 Carnasserie Place, Lochgilphead, PA31 8TW: Tel: 01546 603784: email: inchbraoch@btinternet.com

