



# The LINK



## Message From the Manse

Dear Friends,

The new year got off to a very rough start for many with frozen pipes and dangerous road conditions but in terms of Church life, the new year has got off to a good start. All the local Churches and fellowship groups are talking together about the possibility of outreach to our community and particularly to the youth of our community. A large, high impact event is being considered for October/November of this year in conjunction with Youth with a Mission, an international Christian organisation. But, you know **even if it doesn't take place, the fact that our local congregations are** talking to each other which in turn has led to us discussing outreach within our own Church is a massive step forward. Outreach is well and truly on the agenda so watch this space.

From the beginning our 2010 Vision, or our Renewal Project as it is also known, has been not just about the renewal of our buildings but about the renewal of our faith community. It is about strengthening our faith and providing opportunities for us to explore our faith and share our faith with each other and with others. Our Bible Study Group provides one vehicle for doing that and at our next meeting we will be beginning to study **John's gospel to see what it has to teach us as we move forward to realise** our vision. I would encourage you to come along to that meeting in the manse. It is informal. There is no pressure on anyone to lead or even to speak but we do get to know one another better and we are able, hopefully, to encourage one another on our journey through life.

Thanks to everyone who has played a part in our Church life in the last year in whatever way, and I wish you every blessing as we move forward into 2010 with all its opportunities and challenges.

With best wishes,  
Hilda C. Smith

Inside  
this  
Issue

Paradoxes  
of Our  
Times

Praying with  
Objects

Marriage  
Week

Guild Report

Project  
Notes

YWAM

Session  
Notes

Kids Corner

Crossword &  
Laughter  
Lines

Rotas and  
**What's On**

## Paradoxes of Our Times

Today we have bigger houses and smaller families,  
More conveniences, but less time.  
We have more degrees, but less common sense,  
More knowledge, but less judgement.

We have more experts, but more problems,  
More medicine, but less wellness.  
We spend too recklessly; Laugh too little;  
Drive too fast; Get angry too quickly;  
Stay up too late; Read too little;  
Watch TV too much and pray too seldom!

**We've multiplied our possessions, but reduced our values.**

We talk too much, love too little, and lie too often.

**We've learned how to make a living, but not a life.**

**We've added years to life, not life to years.**

We have taller buildings, but shorter tempers;

Wider freeways, but narrower viewpoints.

We spend more, but have less.

We buy more, but enjoy less.

**We've been all the way to the moon and back, but have trouble crossing the street to meet our neighbours.**

**We've conquered outer space, but not inner space.**

**We've split the atom, but not our prejudice.**

We write more, learn less; plan more, but accomplish less.

**We've learned to rush, but not to wait.**

We have higher incomes, but lower morals.

We build more computers to hold more information, to produce more copies, but are short on quality.

These are times of fast foods and slow digestion;

Tall men and short characters.

More leisure and less fun;

More kinds of foods, but less nutrition.

Two incomes, but more divorces;

Fancier homes, but broken homes.

**That's why I propose, that as of today, you don't keep anything for special occasions, because every day you live is a special occasion.**

Search for knowledge. Read more.

Sit on your front porch and admire the view without paying attention to your needs.

Spend more time with your family and friends,

Eat your favourite foods and visit the places you love.

Life is a chain of moments of enjoyment, not only about survival.

Use your crystal goblets.

**Don't save your best perfume, use it every time you feel you want it.**

**Remove from your vocabulary phrases like "One of these days" and "Someday."**

**Write that letter you've thought about writing.**

Tell your family and friends how much you love them.

**Don't delay anything that adds laughter and joy to your life.**



Everyday, every hour, and every minute is special.  
**You don't know if it will be your last.**

**If you're too busy to take the time to send this message to someone you love and tell yourself you will send it "one of these days,"**

Believe me,  
**"One of these days,"**

**You won't be here to send it!**

## Praying with Objects



Have you ever watched young babies contentedly studying their surroundings? Their eyes are attracted by colour, shape and movement. As babies grow into toddlers and young children, this fascination with their **environment continues. Look at the way children's eyes** light up with excitement as they discover the veins in a fallen leaf, the sparkling trail of a snail across a pavement, or the colours of a piece of silver paper catching the light. All too quickly this fascination fades as the pressures of life and the need to achieve take over.

This fascination with our world is a gift from God. It is always there for us to take hold of again, if we can only pause amongst the hustle and bustle of our busy lives. When was the last time you looked with wonder, either at a natural object, such as a seashell or a tree, or a manufactured object such as a book or a pen. We take so much for granted, but looking with wonder and gratitude can help to bring calm and a sense of inner peace into the busyness of our world.

The next time you watch a DVD or listen to a CD, take a few moments to look at the disc. Look at the colours reflecting off the surface. Look in wonder as you ask yourself where this glorious rainbow of colours comes from. Think about other times and places where you have seen these rainbow colours. Spend a few moments thanking God **for the beauty of the rainbow and feel God's calming presence.**

When you pick up a pen, why not spend a few moments thinking about the people who designed the pen, the people who were involved in making it. As you hold the pen allow yourself to marvel at the number of people involved. Thank God for the way in which people work together to help others.

Pausing with an object and allowing your thoughts to turn to God in gratitude can bring a moment of calm and prayerfulness in an otherwise busy day.

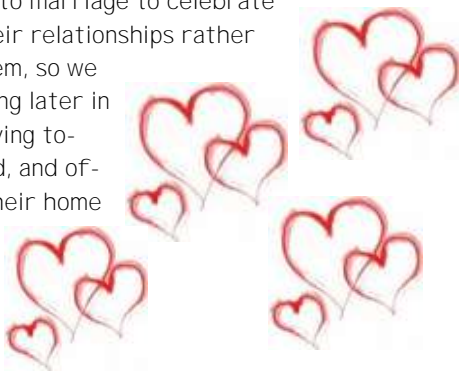


## Marriage Week

Marriage Week UK celebrates the diversity and vibrancy of marriage as the basis for family life in the UK. It is timed to include **Valentine's Day (8th -14th Feb 2010)** and has been held every year since 1997.

Marriage remains incredibly popular - over 90% of young people in the UK aspire to be married at some point in the future, and the large majority will achieve this. Although **the popular view is that marriages don't last, two out of every three first marriages will last until one partner dies, and one in two second or subsequent marriages will also last a lifetime.** The divorce rate (the number of divorces per 1000 married couples) has remained virtually static **since the early 1980's.**

Current research suggests that the enduring stability of marriage results from the commitment that two people make to each other, embodied in their vows, and supported by family, friends, and society at large. Many couples today however come to marriage to celebrate the stability of their relationships rather than to initiate them, so we see couples marrying later in life, often after living together for a period, and often after buying their home and starting a family.



## Why Your Broken Heart Really Hurts

Has anyone ever broken your heart? If so, you will know that it really does hurt. Now science has caught up with romance, and it agrees - yes, you really are in physical pain.

Here is why: There is a genetic link between physical pain **and social rejection. The gene regulates the body's most potent painkillers, mu-opioids.** Variations in the gene govern how much social pain a person feels in response to social rejection.

Scientists describe a broken heart as an overlap in the neurobiology of physical and social pain, and say it makes **perfect sense. As one professor explains: "Because social connection is so important, feeling literally hurt by not having social connections may be an adaptive way to make sure we keep them." Whatever the cause, anyone who has ever been in love - and lost - knows the pain all too well.**

## Get I nvolved in Marriage Week!

Marriage Week offers you an opportunity to make a positive contribution to celebrating marriage in the UK. The **only limit to what's possible is your imagination! Here's a few ideas to get you started!**

- ◇ Romance each other for a week - take time out to do the things you did when courting that made that time magical!
- ◇ Write love notes to each other and leave them around your home for each other to discover
- ◇ Re-affirm your wedding vows - ask your local church or registrar what opportunities they can offer - or just do it in a private ceremony yourselves with family and friends
- ◇ Invite some other married couples round for a romantic dinner and then watch a movie together to celebrate the good times
- ◇ Invite round some singles or those separated in their relationships, just for a happy evening with you - let your love for each other do the talking
- ◇ **Make a "love-making pact" with each other, committing you to spend quality time with each other every night for the week - and watch the impact on the rest of the year!**
- ◇ Get the house to yourselves, and then cook a meal together - then tenderly feed each other. Fun - but messy!
- ◇ Write each other a love letter telling your spouse just how special they are and what you appreciate about them. Lower the lights, and read your letters to each other.



## A February Rose

My love, she likes a red, red rose  
Of deep magenta hue,  
A gift for Valentine that shows  
**That someone's love is true.**

But think on this, my bonnie lass,  
As you admire the bloom -  
**That flower's been forced on under glass**  
You ought to wait till June!





## Guild Report

The Guild met in church on 12<sup>th</sup> January for the first meeting of 2010 led by Edna Armstrong. Despite the weather, 16 members braved the elements to hear our Speaker,

James McLellan, lead us on our topic for this year - **"Called to Act Justly"** on our three year theme of **"What Does The Lord Require of You"**. He gave a very interesting talk about inequalities throughout the world, tribulation and hope, making reference to the abolition of slavery and progress against apartheid amongst other things. The huge amount of work done by the many aid agencies, which improved the living conditions of the poorer people in many countries, was also illustrated. This provoked many questions on Charities and "Giving" which led to widespread views on this subject. The general consensus was that it was best to keep on giving as everyone can make a difference to another life, however small.

Our Hymns were well chosen by Edna and reflected the way in which we should all do our best for one another, not only in our own community and country, but in the wider world. What better way to express it than in the Hymn **"Brother, Sister, Let Me Serve You"**. That is what the Lord Requires of Us.

James was warmly thanked by Ruth Morrison for making us more aware of just issues and the meeting ended with prayer.

### COFFEE MORNING



Saturday  
February 27th  
10.00 - 12.00  
Donations Welcome

### JUMBLE SALE

SATURDAY MARCH 6TH  
2.00pm - 4.00pm

**It's time to have a good clear out of all the things that have been lurking in your loft or cupboards that you no longer need or want.**

Bring them along to the Church Hall on the morning of the sale and let them make a few bob for the Renewal Project.

Helpers Wanted.  
Contact Ian on 603784 if you can help on the day.



## Project Notes



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

■ Grants/Pledges (£22,000) ■ Fundraising (£57,218)

Watch  
Our  
Money  
Grow

**£360,000**  
Phase 3

The fund continues to grow and by the time the next "Link" is published, there is a good chance that we will have broken through the £80k barrier.

The raffle, which was held recently for the beautiful patchwork quilt sewn by Rhona Logie, raised the magnificent sum of £1007.00. The draw was made on 31st January and the lucky winner was Murdo MacDonald of Ardpatrik Place. Our thanks go again to Rhona for the hours of work which she put in to the making of the quilt - a wonderful effort in aid of our Renewal Project.

A further £500 was raised at the Burns Supper, which will be deposited in the Renewal Project fund.

A meeting has been held with the Architect, Campbell Morris Associates and, subject to the project group signing off the proposals, they will proceed to start discussions with the local planners, Historic Scotland and other relevant statutory authorities.

The Project group has set up a small sub committee to concentrate on making applications to trusts and other funding bodies.

A programme of fund raising events has been prepared for the first six months of the year. **Look out in future issues of the "Link" and the "Squeak" for details.**

### THANK YOU

I would like to thank members of the congregation and those in the community who bought the **"Crinan Canal" calendar that I produced for the Church Renewal Project**. It was wonderful that so many of you supported me by buying the calendar. They were all sold. After expenses, the sum of £1070, was handed over.

Thank you all once again.

Frances Fleming

£340,000

£320,000

£300,00

**£280,000**  
Phase 2

£260,000

£240,000

£220,000

**£200,000**  
Phase 1

£180,000

£160,000

£140,000

£120,000

£100,000

£80,000

£60,000

£40,000

£20,000



## LIFE and WORK

*Life and Work* is the magazine of the Church of Scotland. In its 128-year history it has established itself as the pre-eminent voice of the Church of Scotland. Though firmly rooted in the affairs of the Kirk, it also aims to cover a broad range of subjects of interest to church-goers, across the spectrum from international affairs and British political and social issues to science, ethics and the arts. At a time when we learn of the closure of other church magazines and the challenge of web-based media, it is important that we, members of the Church support this much valued publication.

Your elder can provide more information, arrange a subscription or pass you a copy if you would like to see what **it's like**.

## YWAM

**Responding to an approach from the "Youth With A Mission" organisation, local churches have been actively considering the prospect of an outreach initiative specifically targeting young people in rural Scotland.**

**Founded in 1960 in North America, "Youth With A Mission" (YWAM) is an international movement of Christians** from many denominations, which has a focus on getting youth into short-term mission work and to give them opportunities to reach out in Jesus' name. YWAM have already undertaken this type of mission in Tillycoultry.

Representatives of local churches will meet on 8 February **to decide if "we" are to commit to bringing the World Impact tour to Mid Argyll in September or October of this year.** Should they decide to do so, you will see and hear much more about this initiative, as the planning work begins to roll out. If you want to play a part in bringing the youth back to the Church, there will be plenty of opportunities to volunteer or provide support in other ways.

In the meantime, your elder, the Minister or Roddy Morrison will be able to provide what further information we have at this time.

## BLYTHSWOOD COLLECTION SCHEDULE

Since 1966, Blythswood Care has combined the Christian message with practical help for those in need. Whether through filled shoeboxes at Christmas, relief and development aid or social projects for young and old, Blythswood brings hope to thousands in Europe, Africa and Asia.

**Blythswood Collection allows people who don't live near a Blythswood shop or depot, but would like to support their work to donate goods such as *bric a brac* and small items of furniture, as well as shoeboxes for the Shoebox Appeal.**

**The dates for the next "Round Scotland" collections from February to June 2010 are:**

	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
Lorne Lorry Park, Wednesday, 2.00pm—4.00pm	10	10	7	12	9

## SESSION NOTES

At their last meeting on 27 January the Kirk Session spent a lot of time considering how our church and congregation might address the challenges facing the Church today and in particular the **"missing generations"**.

### Future Focus

The Session heard from Sandy Taylor, when he gave a short presentation on a Church of Scotland resource, called *Future Focus*, which is designed to help congregations develop by addressing their problems or concerns (such as the younger generations missing from the Church today), or perhaps to prepare for a different future, when preparing to fill a Minister vacancy.

**Described as a "toolbox" of ideas**, *Future Focus* is intended to help congregations understand their situation better, to read the signs of the times, and to answer the call of God to be all that God wants us to be in these challenging times.

Having explored and developed their understanding of this resource tool and how it could be used in our congregation, the Kirk Session agreed to acquire a copy of *Future Focus* with a view to use it, to help us (as a congregation) think about how we might develop, addressing the concerns, hopes and dreams.

### Youth With A Mission

The Session gave lengthy consideration to the proposal of the **Youth With A Mission movement to bring their "World Impact Tour" to Mid Argyll.**

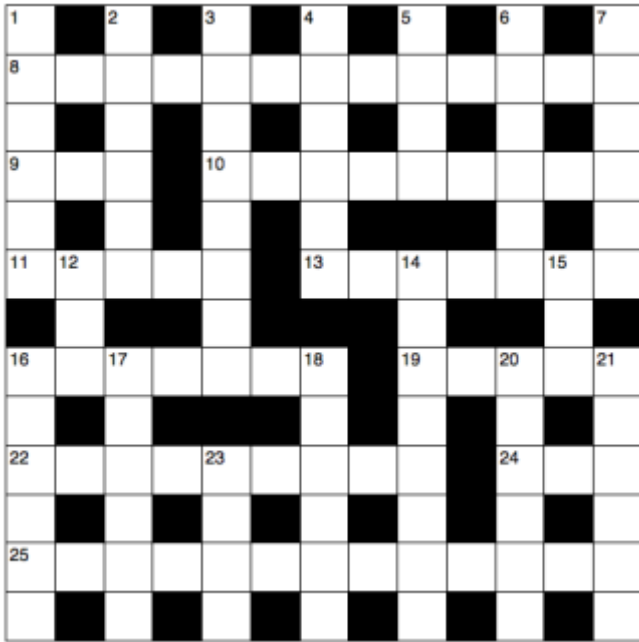
Described as an international movement of Christians, dedicated to presenting Jesus Christ personally to this generation, *Youth With A Mission*, proposes an evangelistic mission to engage the young people of Mid Argyll to deliver the message of Jesus. **As proposed, the Mission will bring one of three high energy "shows",** showcasing international performing arts, sporting and musical groups in campaign style evangelism with a view to engaging the youth attending this event later this year, in September or October.

Whist representatives of the local community have met on several occasions in recent months to consider this proposal, no commitment has yet been made. It is however likely that a final decision will be made at their next meeting on 8 February.

Having considered the video shown at the Service on 24<sup>th</sup> January **and their knowledge of the movement the Kirk Session's deliberations will inform the decision as to whether Lochgilphead Parish Church is to support this initiative.** Although some concerns were expressed, it was the clearly expressed desire of members of the Kirk Session to see the youth of the town more involved in and engaged with the Church. The Kirk Session were interested, therefore, to learn that the self same concerns and maybe reservations which they expressed along with their general support, had been expressed by other Christian leaders and congregations. Undoubtedly going to impact on all of our lives, our church and community, the decision to go ahead will be a very important one for us all.

You are invited to find out more and to have your say at a Public Meeting to be held in Lochgilphead Parish Church on the evening of 8 February 2010; when the video which heralds the style and format of the proposed evangelistic event will be shown at 6.15 pm in advance of a public question and answer session at 7.30 pm.

## Crossword



Across

- 8 Interrogated (Acts 12:19) (5-8)  
 9 **'Burn it in a wood fire on the — heap' (Leviticus 4:12) (3)**  
 10 Tobit, Judith, Baruch and the books of Esdras and the Maccabees are part of it (9)  
 11 Science fiction (abbrev.) (3-2)  
 13 Clay pit (anag.) (7)  
 16 Went to (John 4:46) (7)  
 19 **'Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to — your bodies as living sacrifices' (Romans 12:1) (5)**  
 22 **David's plea to God concerning those referred to in 14**  
 Down: **'On — — let them escape' (Psalm 56:7) (2,7)**  
 24 Royal Automobile Club (1,1,1) 25 How the book of Ezekiel refers to God more than 200 times (Ezekiel 2:4) (9,4)

Down

- 1 Seas (Proverbs 8:24) (6)  
 2 One of the sons of Eli the priest, killed in battle by the Philistines (1 Samuel 4:11) (6)  
 3 Specialist in the study of the Muslim religion (8)  
 4 **'Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but — him as if he were your father' (1 Timothy 5:1) (6)**  
 5 **One of Esau's grandsons (Genesis 36:11) (4)**  
 6 Taking a chance (colloq.) (2,4)  
 7 **God's instructions to the Israelites concerning grain of offerings: ' — salt to — your offerings' (Leviticus 2:13) (3,3)**  
 12 Confederation of British Industry (1,1,1)  
 14 **'All day long they twist my words; they are always — to harm me' (Psalm 56:5) (8)**  
 15 **The crowd's reaction to Jesus bringing back to life a widow's son in Nain (Luke 7:16) (3)**  
 16 Disappear (Psalm 104:35) (6)  
 17 **How Jeremiah was likely to die if he wasn't rescued from the cistern where he was imprisoned (Jeremiah 38:9) (6)**  
 18 What the prophets do to a wall, with whitewash (Ezekiel 13:10, RSV) (4,2)  
 20 Made by a plough (Job 39:10) (6)  
 21 Noah was relieved when the flood waters continued to — (Genesis 8:5) (6)  
 23 Jesus gave the Twelve the power and authority to do this to diseases (Luke 9:1) (4)

## Laughter Lines



### LOT'S WIFE

The Sunday School teacher was describing how Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt, when little Jason interrupted, 'My Mommy looked back once while she was driving,' he announced triumphantly, 'and she turned into a telephone pole!'

### GOOD SAMARITAN

A Sunday school teacher was telling her class the story of the Good Samaritan. She asked the class, 'If you saw a person lying on the roadside, wounded and bleeding, what would you do?'

A thoughtful little girl broke the hushed silence, 'I think I'd throw up.'

### DID NOAH FISH?

A Sunday school teacher asked, 'Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark?'

**"No," replied Johnny. 'How could he, with just two worms?'**

### SAY A PRAYER

Little Johnny and his family were having Sunday dinner at his grandmother's house. Everyone was seated around the table as the food was being served. When Little Johnny received his plate, he started eating right away.

'Johnny! Please wait until we say our prayer.' said his mother.

'I don't need to,' the boy replied.

'Of course you do.' his mother insisted. 'We always say a prayer before eating at our house.'

'That's at our house.' Johnny explained. 'But this is Grandma's house, and she knows how to cook!'

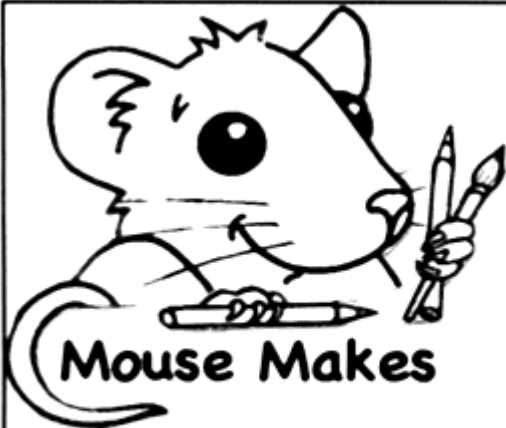
### MOSES AND THE RED SEA

Nine-year-old Joey was asked by his mother what he had learned in Sunday School.

'Well, Mom, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, he had his army build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely. Then he radioed headquarters for reinforcements. They sent bombers to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved.'

'Now, Joey, is that really what your teacher taught you?' his mother asked.

'Well, no, Mom. But, if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it!'



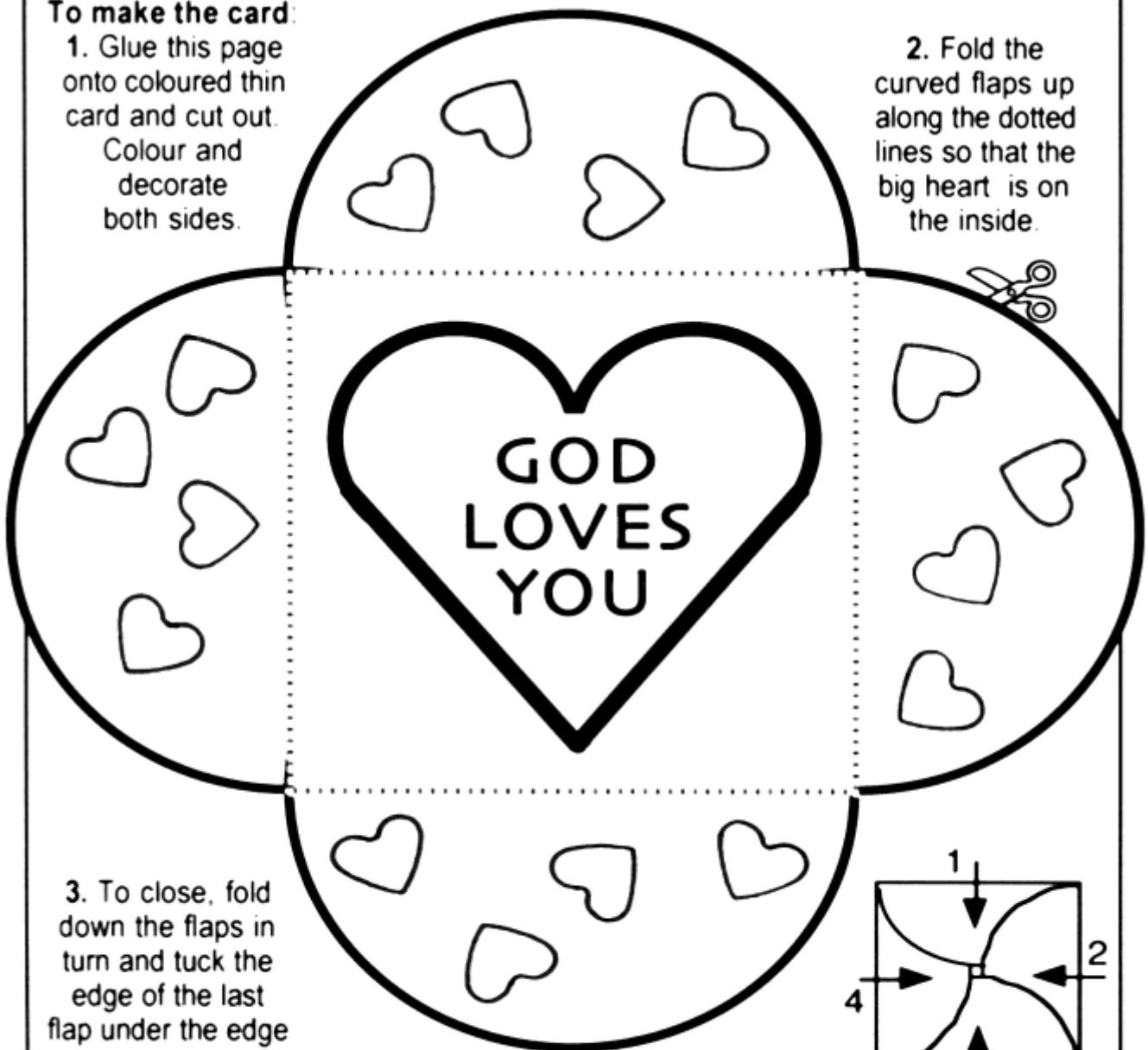
The Apostle Paul said:  
"I am convinced that **nothing** can ever separate us from **God's love**. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow, not even the powers of hell can separate us from **God's love**."

Romans 8:38-39

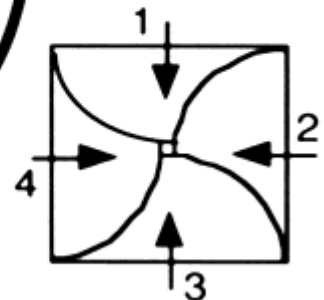
**To make the card:**

1. Glue this page onto coloured thin card and cut out. Colour and decorate both sides.

2. Fold the curved flaps up along the dotted lines so that the big heart is on the inside.



3. To close, fold down the flaps in turn and tuck the edge of the last flap under the edge of the first.



# Rotas for February 2010

	Door Duty	Flowers (Contact E Armstrong)	Readers	Tea/Coffee Duty (Contact - M. Davidson)
7th Feb.	Sandy Taylor & Margaret Jacobsen	Margaret Purdie	Edna Armstrong	Jim & Ruth Morrison
14th Feb.	Malcolm MacFadyen & Helen Samborek	Edna Armstrong	Malcolm MacFadyen	Tom & Chris Stevenson
21st Feb.	Jim Kirk & Charles Maclean	J. McTaggart	Ian Davidson	Sandy & May Taylor
28th Feb.	Roddy Morrison & Frances Fleming	Ann Fletcher	Roddy Morrison	Roddy & Sandra Morrison
7th Mar.	Frank Killeen & Allison Pearson	tba	Jim Morrison	Margaret & Ian Davidson

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

## What's on in February

## ..... and for your diary

Services (all at 11.00am except where stated)

February 7th	Tom MacKay
February 14th	Rev. Hilda Smith
February 21st	Rev. Hilda Smith
February 28th	Rev. Hilda Smith Family Service

Mar. 24th, May 12th, Jun. 30th, Sept. 1st, Nov. 3rd, Dec. 1st	Session Meetings
Apr. 21st, Jun. 2nd, Oct. 6th, Nov. 24th	Congregational Board Meetings
Mar. 16th, Apr. 20th, May 18th, Jun. 15th	Project Group Meetings
March 31st	Youth Chorus Concert
Mar. 27th, Apr. 24th, Jun. 26th, Aug. 14th, Sept. 25th	Coffee Mornings
May 22nd	Spring Fayre
May 30th	Sponsored Walk & BBQ
June 20th	Church Picnic

## Other events

February 7th, 21st	Toucan Club
February 8th	Public Meeting YWAM Video 6.15pm; discussion 7.30pm
February 9th, 23rd	Guild Meetings
February 10th	Congregational Board Meeting
February 14th, 28th	Youth Fellowship, 7.00pm
February 16th	Project Meeting, 7.00pm
February 20th	Race Night, Masonic Lodge on behalf of the Renewal Project.
February 27th	Coffee Morning
March 6th	Jumble Sale, 2.00pm - 4.00pm

## Who's Who in LPC

Minister	Rev Hilda C Smith	01546 602238
Session Clerk	Sandy Taylor	01546 606218
Clerk to the Congregational Board	Mary MacDonald	01546 602087
Treasurer	Edna Armstrong	01546 602600
Assistant Treasurer	Roddy Morrison	01546 603972
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	Fabric Convenor, Rev. H Smith, Treasurer, Clerk to the Board, Session Clerk, Fundraising & Social Committee Convenors
Child Protection Team	J Morrison, Rev. Hilda Smith, M Taylor

## CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS:  
8. Cross-examined, 9. Ash, 10. Apocrypha, 11. Sci-fi, 13. Typical, 16. Vis-  
ited, 19. Offer, 22. No account, 24. RAC, 25. Sovereign Lord.  
DOWN:  
1. Oceans, 2. Hopnli, 3. I slamist, 4. Exhort, 5. Omar, 6. On spec, 7. Add all,  
12. CBI, 14. Plotting, 15. Awe, 16. Vanish, 17. Starve, 18. Daub it, 20. Fur-  
row, 21. Recede, 23. Cure.

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