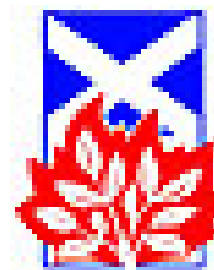




The LINK



Message From the Manse

Dear Friends,

It's hard to believe that we are at the end of another session but what a wonderful start to the summer; blue skies and sunshine, even if it is a little hot at times for being out of doors. I want to start this letter by thanking everyone who has supported our project so well over the last year, and particularly this year when our fund raising has really taken off. We couldn't do it without your support and generosity which has been quite amazing. We will get this work done for you and you will have a fantastic new hall, hopefully within the next fifteen months! That should encourage us to keep going. I have no doubt that God will provide the means for us to realise our vision, not just the financial means but new younger leadership so we can extend the clubs that we offer to all age groups within our Church and community. As I said some time ago, God is working away and all we have to do is be ready to join in.

A few weeks ago I preached on the parable of the mustard seed which starts off tiny but grows into a large tree which provides shelter and protection as well as food for the birds of the air. It reminds us that everything has to have a beginning and that nothing emerges fully grown. The Church worldwide is still growing but somehow we seem to have lost the impetus in the western world to encourage outreach.

In the past we sent missionaries abroad - we still do - but one of the countries to which we took the gospel was Malawi. At the present time, the Churches in Mid Argyll are hoping to be twinned with a Church in Lilongwe in Malawi which describes itself as having 1,663 Christians in its membership and 576 Sunday School children. They have grown so large that they meet in twenty different venues. We have a membership of under 200 and we have around 12 children! Who needs to take the gospel where now? God hasn't moved away so what has changed? I leave you to think about that one.

There is clearly a challenge waiting to be met and if we fail to meet it, we fail the people of our parish. That gives us something to think about over the summer months. How can we reach out to others and encourage them to join us, not just those who receive the Link and who have fallen away, whom we would love to welcome back, but also new members? As Jesus says, there is more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over righteous people....

Enjoy the summer. Take time to relax and to unwind. Take time to reflect on the way forward for our Church so that when the new session begins we are bursting with energy and raring to go!

Wishing you every blessing,

Hilda C. Smith
Minister

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Issue

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Laughter
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Rotas and
What's On

Is Your Faith a Bit Shaky? Here's How to Grow It

From time to time we may come across people who say to us 'I wish I had your faith'. We may know deep down, however, that our own faith is rather shaky, not to say downright weak. So the challenge is: how can we build up our own faith to be a solid basis for how we live our lives?



We can grow as Christian disciples in a number of ways - prayer, attending church, and especially fellowship with other believers. But what about reading the Bible? Bible reading can become one of those things we know is good for us, but we can't quite get round to. We may feel we don't have enough time; we don't know where to begin; and when we do actually pick up a Bible, we can't make head or tail of it!

If we think of it another way, though, Bible reading is not a chore like weeding the garden, but essential for spiritual health and well-being, rather like a well-balanced meal. If we're really busy, it may seem too much bother to stop for a decent meal. Or we may be tempted to grab something on the run, which ends up giving us indigestion. Like reading the Bible, eating well is an essential part of keeping healthy and we neglect it at our peril.

What practical steps can we take to do something about this? First of all, we should admit to ourselves that reading the Bible may well be more than simply a matter of opening the book and reading it. Some parts of Scripture are very accessible to most people while others are far removed from our world and our personal experience.

Secondly, we can make use of the wide range of Bible reading aids available. Study Bibles, commentaries, daily notes and other resources all teach us about the Bible and help us apply it to our lives. As we continue to read the Bible, whether alone or in the company of others, so the Spirit works within us to instruct our hearts, inform our minds and strengthen our faith. And as we become more and more familiar with God's written Word, almost imperceptibly we find the presence of the living Word transforming our walk of discipleship.

Number Fun

Here is one of those totally useless bits of information that is interesting nonetheless: at five minutes and six seconds after 4am on the 7th of August this year, the time and date will be 04:05:06 07/08/09. This will not happen again for 100 years. Same for next year's 05:06:07 08/09/10. So - now you know!

Bible Moved to Top Shelf in Libraries

Librarians have been advised that the Bible and the Koran should be moved to the top shelves - in order to avoid offending the Islamic community.

Muslims have complained that the Koran has often been put on lower shelves, and see this as offensive. They believe that the holy book should be placed above 'commonplace things'. As a result, library officials have been advised to keep ALL holy books, including the Bible, on their top shelves, in the interests of equality.

This decision came to light earlier this year when guidance on how to handle controversial materials was published by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA), a quango that answers to Andy Burnham, the Culture Secretary.

Librarians in Leicester had consulted the Federation of Muslim Organisations, and had been advised that all religious texts should be kept on the top shelf to ensure equality.

Libraries are not obliged to follow the advice.

Funeral Music Goes Pop!



If you attend a funeral nowadays, you are much more likely to hear chart hits, anthems from the talent show X Factor, or even TV theme tunes rather than the traditional hymns such as Abide with Me or Amazing Grace.

A survey of 30,000 funerals last year found that hymns were most popular at only 35% of services, down from 41% in 2005. 58% of all requests were for contemporary songs, with only seven per cent of requests being made for classical music.

'My Way' by Frank Sinatra is overall most favourite. Next comes 'Wind Beneath My Wings' by Bette Midler, and 'Time to Say Good-bye' by Andrea Bocelli and Sarah Brightman. Other, more unusual requests have included Radio 4's 'Shipping Forecast', and the themes from 'Only Fools and Horses', 'Top Gear' and Channel 4 'Racing'.

The survey was carried out by Co-operative Funeralcare.

Run Forrest, Run!

Submitted by Norma Ross

The day finally arrived. Forrest Gump dies and goes to Heaven. He is at the Pearly Gates, met by St. Peter himself. However, the gates are closed, and Forrest approaches the gatekeeper.

St. Peter said, "Well, Forrest, it is certainly good to see you. We have heard a lot about you. I must tell you, though, that the place is filling up fast, and we have been administering an entrance examination for everyone. The test is short, but you have to pass it before you can get into Heaven."

Forrest responds, "It sure is good to be here, St. Peter, sir. But, nobody ever told me about any entrance exam. I sure hope that the test ain't too hard. Life was a big enough test as it was."

St. Peter continued, "Yes, I know, Forrest, but the test is only three questions.

First: What two days of the week begin with the letter T?
Second: How many seconds are there in a year?
Third: What is God's first name?"

Forrest leaves to think the questions over. He returns the next day and sees St. Peter, who waves him up, and says, "Now that you have had a chance to think the questions over, tell me your answers"

Forrest replied, "Well, the first one -- which two days in the week begins with the letter "T"? Shucks, that one is easy. That would be Today and Tomorrow."

The Saint's eyes opened wide and he exclaimed, "Forrest, that is not what I was thinking, but you do have a point, and I did not specify, so I will give you credit for that answer." "How about the next one?" asked St. Peter, "How many seconds in a year?"

Now that one is harder," replied Forrest, but I think and think about that, and I guess the only answer can be twelve."

Astounded, St. Peter said, "Twelve? Twelve? Forrest, how in Heaven's name could you come up with twelve seconds in a year?"

Forrest replied, "Shucks, there's got to be twelve: January 2nd, February 2nd, March 2nd ... "

"Hold it," interrupts St. Peter. "I see where you are going with this, and I see your point, though that was not quite what I had in mind ... But I will have to give you credit for that, too. Let us go on with the third and final question.

Can you tell me God's first name?"

"Sure," Forrest replied, "it's Andy."

"Andy?" exclaimed an exasperated and frustrated St. Peter. "OK, I can understand how you came up with your answers to my first two questions, but just how in the world did you come up with the name Andy as God's first name?"



"Shucks, that was the easiest one of all," Forrest replied. "I learnt it from the song, 'ANDY WALKS WITH ME, ANDY TALKS WITH ME, ANDY TELLS ME I AM HIS OWN.' "

St. Peter opened the Pearly Gates, and said: "Run Forrest, run!"

Session Notes

At their recent meeting, the Kirk Session considered the following business, amongst other things, and made the following decisions.

Review of the Presbytery Structure

The Session considered again the Church of Scotland's consultation on the Review of the Presbytery Structure, which is to be reported on at the 2010 Assembly. The Session decided that the best way to deal with, what was a potentially complicated issue, when we "all" know so little about how the local presbytery works, was to draft a response for the Lochgilphead Parish Church, and use that as a basis for a "conversation" with the congregation. This will likely happen towards the end of August or beginning of September.

Bible Study

The Bible Study group has started up again, but has not progressed as expected due to conflicting demands on the Minister's time. Hilda advised that she had asked other elders to lead the sessions using dedicated study materials. Look out for dates of the next meetings or speak to your elder for further information about the group, the format, participation etc.

Child Protection

Having heard from Jim Morrison, the Church's Child Protection Co-ordinator the Kirk session formally appointed Margaret Hall Jacobsen, as a Children's Worker, a specific requirement of the Church of Scotland and child protection legislation. All children's workers are subjected to a disclosure check, undertaken through Disclosure Scotland, at an enhanced level, as part of this the assessment and appointment process.

Homelessness in Mid Argyll

Having heard from Myra MacDonald, the Council's Homelessness Regulation and Performance Officer, the Kirk Session agreed that it should help address the need of those who find themselves homeless or who find the urgent need to relocate to new accommodation at short notice. The Session have agreed that they could look to provide home starter packs and personal well-being packs for those finding the need to establish a "new home", with little or no resources or warning. These starter packs would most likely be assembled from unused kitchen utensils and crockery, and the well-being packs, of basic personal and toiletry needs.

Before putting this decision into action, the Session determined to meet with the Scottish Churches Action Group, which plan to hold a meeting in Lochgilphead in the near future.

Malawi Mission Partnership

The Kirk Session agreed that Lochgilphead Parish Church should lend its support to the idea of establishing a mission partnership with the Kasamba CCAP Congregation in Malawi. This is a newly established church, and is located in the Central Region of Malawi, to the East of the Capital City of Malawi - Lilongwe. The Church has a congregation of one thousand six hundred and sixty three (1,663) Christians and five hundred and seventy six (576) Sunday school children.

The Kasamba Congregation want to develop a twinning relationship with churches here in Scotland in order to:

- ◇ Widen Christian networking across frontiers.
- ◇ Have a cross-cultural learning on Christian life and faith.
- ◇ Maintain a missionary bond.
- ◇ Share experience.
- ◇ Enhance our historic relation.
- ◇ Network with Scottish church members

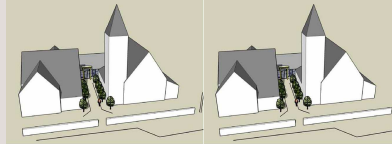
In so doing, the Kasamba Congregation hope to benefit by gaining ...

- ◇ Cross-cultural Christian experiences (sharing and learning)
- ◇ Knowledge and experience in Urban Ministry
- ◇ Knowledge and experience in inter-faith dialogue and ecumenical affairs
- ◇ Expertise in Ministry and HIV/AIDS within Church circles.
- ◇ Church and society experiences
- ◇ Leadership training

As this is a Mid Argyll Churches project, our agreement will be put to the next meeting of the Malawi Mission Partnership group, who will in turn have to decide if they are to commit to such a project. The project will be supported by the Church of Scotland and requires no direct funding from the congregation, although in making this commitment we will need a few people to drive it forward with energy and enthusiasm, making it their own and showing how we can help make a difference to our partner congregation.

Watch out for more. (If other local churches agree and we proceed to establish the mission partnership, two people the local group will have the opportunity to travel to Malawi to help realise the benefits of twinning.)

Project Notes



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

■ Grant Pledges (£20,000)

■ Fundraising (£37,330)

Watch Our Money Grow

£360,000 Phase 3

Coffee Morning

As we continuously search for new and innovative ways to raise the money we need for our Renewal Project, we never forget the importance and value of our Coffee Mornings. The latest on Saturday 27th June raised £550. In addition to the teas and coffees, patrons could choose from a wide selection of home baking, sewing and embroidery, plants and even purchase the "secret" to Ruth Morrison's biscuits. The prize raffle continues to make a significant contribution to the proceeds on the day. Thanks to all our supporters, whether as someone who gave of their time to work on the day, who brought along something for us to see or use in the prize raffle, or as one of the valued patrons.

D.P. MacVean

We are delighted to learn that Janet MacVean has donated some new prints of the work of her late husband, D.P. MacVean (Donnie) which are on display and for sale in the Archway Gallery.

Made from original paintings, these prints have not been available to the public before. With the net proceeds of their sale going to the Church Renewal Project, we have been delighted to organise some press coverage for this small showing of Donnie's art.

Whether an established fan, or new to Donnie's work please find a little time to visit the gallery to view these prints. The prints, which are available either mounted or framed are on show until the 18th July, although they will continue to be available for sale thereafter, included with other prints in the racks. The Archway is open Monday to Saturday 9.30 am - 5.30pm.

£340,000

£320,000

£300,000

£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



FLORAL ART EXHIBITION

IN LOCHIGLPHEAD PARISH CHURCH

AUGUST 12TH - 15TH

10.00am - 5.00pm & 7.00pm - 9.00pm
Wednesday - Friday
10.00am - 4.00pm on Saturday

IN AID OF THE CHURCH
RENEWAL PROJECT

Exhibits produced by members of Lochgilphead
Flower Club and Lochgilphead Parish Church



Sponsored by the
Rotary Club of
Mid Argyll and
Mid Argyll
Round Table



Entry £4.00
including Tea/Coffee

We will require a large number of willing volunteers to serve teas/coffees, man the sales table, steward at the Church door, and of course, bake for the teas/coffees and sales table, over the four days that the exhibition is running. Each day will be split into four sessions, so even if you only have a couple of hours spare, your help will be much appreciated. Remember - more is less - more helpers, less work for everyone.

We will also require "runners" to fetch and carry during the day on Tuesday when the flower arrangements are being made up. Also, posters have to be delivered throughout the town to advertise the event, so again volunteers are required.

If you can't help in the ways described above, perhaps you can supply greenery from your garden for the floral arrangements. Suggestions of greenery are box, laurel, privet, leylandia, eucalyptus, veronica, escalonia, broom, pittisporrum, euonymus, skimmia, hosta, pieris, bergenia, fatsia (please no rhododendrons) This will help to keep the cost of the exhibits down. We also require a supply of small baskets or containers (these are non returnable) to make up arrangements for sale.

If you think you will be able to help in any way, even for an hour or so, please add your name to the list or call Margaret on 01546 603784 and leave a message.

*Important
DATE!*

AUTUMN FETE

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 5TH

Mark this date in your diary.

Your help will be needed!

Look out for more information
in the Church notices.

GUILD COFFEE MORNINGS

JULY 17th, 18th,
24th & 25th

CHURCH HALL
10.00am - 12.00am



MID ARGYLL SHOW

The Church has booked a stall at the Mid Argyll Show on August 8th to sell mugs, possibly run a Balloon Race and to generally promote the Renewal Project.

If you would like to offer your assistance, please contact Ian Davidson on Tel: 603784.

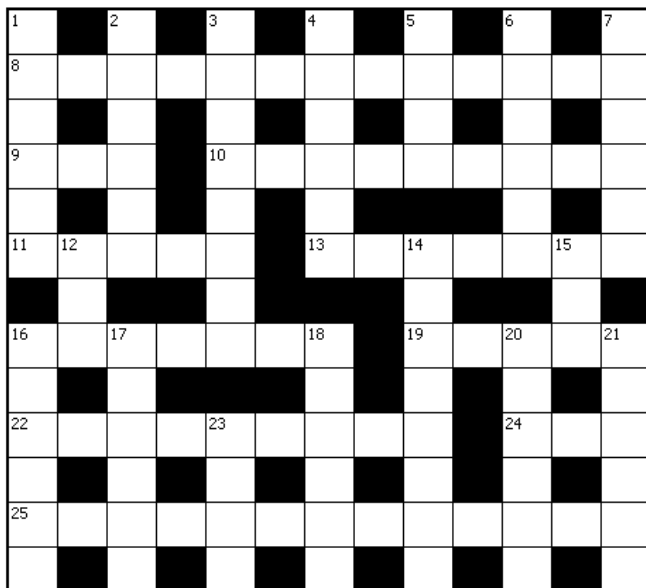
ARDRISHAIG GALA DAY

Frances Fleming is looking for two volunteers to help her run a stall at Ardrishaig Gala Day on Saturday July 25th, in the afternoon from 2.00pm - 4.00pm.

It is intended to sell the Guild tea towels, Crinan Canal calendars and the Jolomo mugs.

Please contact Frances on Tel 602270 if you can help.

Crossword



Across

- 8 Academic who studies history of one of Israel's perennial enemies (13)
 9 Take to court (Matthew 5:40) (3)
 10 Absence of guilt (1 Kings 8:32) (9)
 11 Of Tim (anag.) (5)
 13 Deprive priest of ecclesiastical status (7)
 16 Where Paul and Barnabas called en route from Perga to Antioch (Acts 14:25-26) (7)
 19 'The earth is the — , and everything in it' (Psalm 24:1) (5)
 22 'Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through a — message when the body of elders laid their hands on you' (1 Timothy 4:14) (9)
 24 Raincoat (abbrev.) (3)
 25 Issue relating to sexual ethics dealt with in the controversial Papal Encyclical Humanae Vitae in 1968 (13)

Down

- 1 'The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a — for many' (Matthew 20:28) (6)
 2 Upward slope (Nehemiah 3:19) (6)
 3 'God blessed them and said to them, "Be — and increase in number"' (Genesis 1:28) (8)
 4 'What God has — together, let man not separate (Matthew 19:6) (6)
 5 One of the partners which, with BEA, formed British Airways (1,1,1,1)
 6 'This will be a — — you. You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger' (Luke 2:12) (4,2)
 7 Takers (anag.) (6)
 12 'But the things that come — of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man "unclean"' (Matthew 15:18) (3)
 14 'Then I set bowls — of wine and some — before the men of the Recabite family' (Jeremiah 35:5) (4,4)
 15 Levitical eating laws were much concerned about animals 'that chew the — ' (Leviticus 11:3) (3)
 16 Llama-like animal noted for its wool (6)
 17 The seed which fell among these was choked by them as it grew (Luke 8:7) (6)
 18 Launch an assault against (Genesis 14:15) (6)
 20 'Neither can you bear fruit unless you — in me' (John 15:4) (6)
 21 John says of the healing of the royal official's son, 'This was the — miraculous sign that Jesus performed (John 4:54) (6)
 23 Inflict pain on (Acts 7:26) (4)

Laughter Lines



DORIC - Supplied by Alex Emslie

For the benefit of those who have not been in the North East long enough to get to grips with how to converse with your local counterparts.

DORIC OFFICE TALK

General

Process Flowcharts	The wye tae dee things
Departments	Bourachies o'fowk
Roles (job titles)	Fit the folk are caa'd
Resources	handy things tae hae handy
Value	Foo mony or foo muckle
Unit of measure	Foo mony or foo muckle fit

Concepts and Standards

Quality	Fit wye a thingmie's fit for fit it's supposed tae fit
Competency	Fit ye're fit for
Business Risk	Anything that can mak' an erse o' fit ye're trying tae dee
Documentation	Bumf
Document Register	Faur tae look for mair bumf
Retention Period	haud on til' for

Processes

Process Reference	Fit it's caa'd
Process Title	Fit it's tae dae wi'
Process Owner	Heid mannie
Approver	Fa say "aye"
Draft	Nae quite feenish'd

Tasks

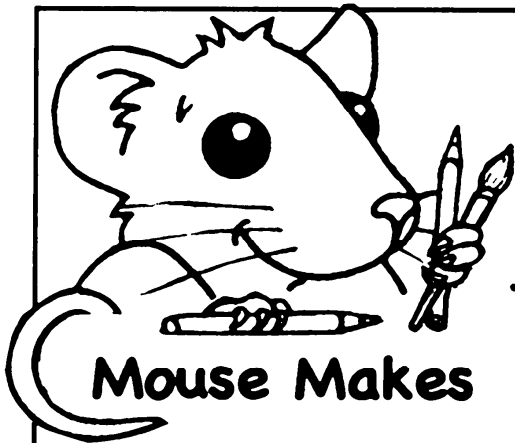
Task	Fit's needin'deen
Responsible	Fa dis it
Informed	Tell't
Consulted	Speired at
Assists	Gies a haun til
Accountable	Fa's heid' on the block if a'thing gings erse ower tit
Create	Mak up
Refer to	Hae a lookie at
File/Archive	Pit awa

Project Completion

Project	Jobbie
Completion Checklist	Tickytyboo tick list

Guidance in the Published Processes

"Click on a Process Group at the left to Display the list of Processes for that Process Group	"Gie a dunt tae the left lug o' the moosie o'er the heid o' a Bourachie o' Maps tae the left tae hae a look at a list o' the Maps in ahint it."
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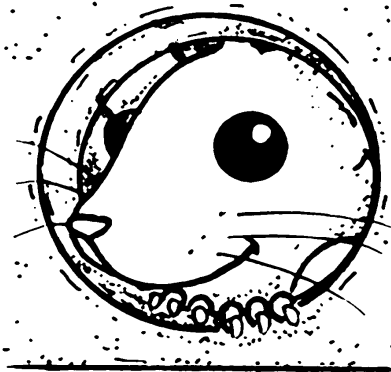


Mouse Makes

If you make a promise do you keep it?
GOD always keeps his promises!

"The LORD your GOD has given you all the good things that he promised. Every promise he made has been kept, not one has failed."
Joshua 23:14

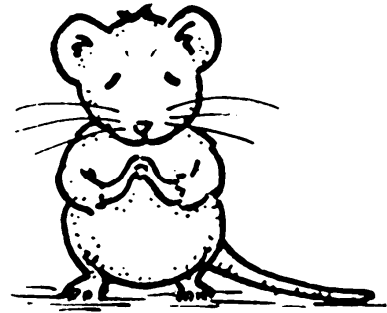
God helps you



"GOD is our shelter and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble" *Psalm 46:1*

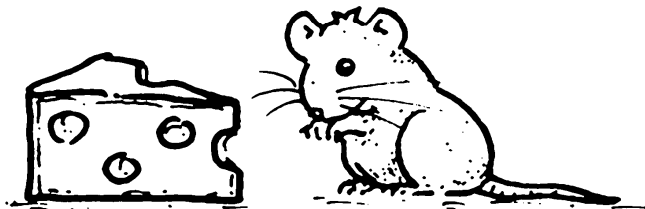
Cut out and keep these cards to remind you of God's promises.

God hears you



"The LORD is near to all who call on him" *Psalm 145:18*

God knows what you need



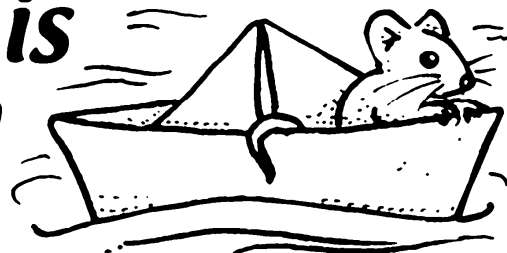
"Your FATHER knows what you need before you ask HIM" *Matthew 6:8*

God cares for you



"Leave all your worries with HIM because he cares for you" *1 Peter 5:7*

God is with you



"Be strong and courageous... for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go" *Joshua 1:9*

Rotas for July/August 2009

	Door Duty	Flowers (Contact E Armstrong)	Readers	Tea/Coffee Duty (Contact - M. Davidson)
July 5th	Tom Stevenson & Chris Stevenson	Ruth Morrison	Chris Stevenson	Margaret & Ian Davidson
July 12th	Sandy Taylor & Joyce Munro	Jenny Campbell	Joyce Munro	Tom & Chris Stevenson
July 19th	Malcolm MacFadyen & Helen Samborek	Sandra Morrison	Malcolm MacFadyen	Sandy & May Taylor
July 26th	Jim Kirk & Charles MacLean	tba	Jim Kirk	Roddy & Sandra Morrison
Aug. 2nd	Roddy Morrison & Frances Felming	Nannie Ward	Roddy Morrison	Jim & Betty Kirk
Aug.9th	Frank Killeen & Allison Pearson	Betty Kirk	Jackie Comben	Jim & Ruth Morrison
Aug. 16th	Mary MacDonald & May Taylor	Margaret Davidson	Mary MacDonald	Margaret & Ian Davidson
Aug. 23rd	Alex Emslie & Ishbel MacArthur	Jessie Cranston	Ishbel MacArthur	Rom & Chris Stevenson
Aug. 30th	Ian Davidson & Margaret Davidson	Margie Killeen	Ian Davidson	Sandy & May Taylor

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

What's on in July/August

..... and for your diary

Services (all at 11.00am except where stated)

July 5th	Rev. Hilda Smith
July 12th	Rev. Hilda Smith
July 19th	Rev. Stanley Hood
July 26th	Rev. Douglas Bell
August 2nd	Rev. Douglas Bell
August 9th	Rev. Stanley Hood
August 16th	Rev. Hilda Smith
August 23rd	Rev. Hilda Smith
August 30th	Rev. Hilda Smith

Sept 2nd, Nov. 4th	Session Meetings
September 5th	Autumn Fete
October 24th	Race Night
December 6th	Christmas Lunch

Other events

July 17th, 18th, 24th & 25th	Guild Coffee Mornings
July 25th	Stall at Ardrishaig Gala Day
July 26th	Guild Songs of Praise
August 8th	Stall at Mid Argyll Show
August 12th - 15th	Floral Art Exhibition
August 19th	Project Meeting, 7.30pm

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
Joint Treasurers	Edna Armstrong Roddy Morrison	01546 602600 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	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

8 Assyrologist, 9 Sue, 10 Innocence, 11 Motif, 13 Defrock, 16 Attalia, 19 Lord's, 22 Prophetic, 24 Mac, 25 Contraception

DOWN

1 Ransom, 2 Ascent, 3 Fruitful, 4 Joined, 5 BOCAC, 6 Sign to 7 Streak, 12 Out, 14 Full cup, 15 Cud, 16 Alpaca, 17 Thorns, 18 Attack, 20 Remain, 21 Second, 23 Hurt

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