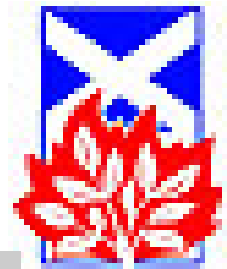




# The LINK



## Message From the Manse

Dear Friends,

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. (Jeremiah 29: 11).

This verse came to me as I was thinking about what to write in this letter and I share it with you because they are words of tremendous encouragement to each of us. They are words that were written so long ago but because the Bible is a living word, they are as relevant today as when they were first spoken. The great thing about God's plans is that He will see them fulfilled. He won't disappoint us.

A couple of weeks ago in the sermon I quoted a couple of statements I came across on the Church of Scotland website. The first one was: Mission is 'finding out what God is doing and joining in'. God has plans. He is active. He is not sitting back waiting for us to do something before He acts. He is already involved in mission, in reaching out to touch lives and stir people to realise that He offers each one a future and a hope through His Son and He calls us to join with him in that work.

The second statement was: If the mission of Christ's Church was to wait until God's people were ready, then Christianity would still be a small Jewish sect. The challenge this throws out to me is that we cannot sit back and do nothing until our hall is ready. God won't wait. We need to work with what we have until we have better facilities so that we can join God in His mission.

Where do you see yourself fitting into God's plans? In what way does He call you to reach out and work with him? Our Church is firmly on the world map due to our website and through it a number of people have shown interest in our Renewal Project. Our efforts at fundraising are paying off but I will say it again, our project is about more. It is about renewal, about a reawakening of faith, about reaching out to young and old and everyone in between to show that God has a purpose in their lives, plans for good to offer each one a future and a hope. Thank you for all your efforts to bring this about and at the end of the day, for joining God in His mission.

Best wishes,  
Hilda C. Smith

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### THANKS TO OUR SESSION CLERK

Ever present, always prepared, keen to keep us all informed, Jim Kirk, our Session Clerk, has decided to step down, after ten years of committed service to the Church.

On learning of his resignation the Kirk Session offered their hearty thanks to Jim for his years of service. Hilda was especially keen to express her personal thanks to Jim, for deferring a previously planned resignation, in order to support her over the past four years. Hilda spoke warmly of Jim's service, not only to her personally, but to the Church.

When asked what he would do now that he wouldn't need to be out early on Sunday mornings etc., Jim said that he was looking forward to a holiday in June, the first in a little time. THANKS JIM.

So what happens now? After Jim's last day on the 31<sup>st</sup> May 2009, Sandy Taylor will assume the role and responsibilities of the Session Clerk. You can contact Sandy on (01546) 606218 or 07767 337355.

## Bible or Mobile Phone?



Ever wondered what would happen if we treated our bible like we treat our mobile phone.

What if we carried it around in our purses or pockets?

What if we flipped through it several times a day?

What if we turned back to go get it if we forgot it?



What if we used it to receive messages from the text?

What if we treated it like we couldn't live without it?

What if we gave it to kids as gifts?

What if we used it when we travelled?

What if we used it in case of emergency?

This is something to make you go ...hmm... Where is my bible?

Oh, one more thing.

Unlike our mobile phone, we don't have to worry about our bible being disconnected because Jesus has already paid the bill.

Make you stop and think "where are my priorities?" And no missed calls.



## Nails in the Fence

There once was a little boy who had a bad temper. His Father gave him a bag of nails and told him that every time he lost his temper, he must hammer a nail into the back of the fence.

The first day the boy had driven 37 nails into the fence. Over the next few weeks, as he learned to control his anger, the number of nails hammered daily gradually dwindled down. He discovered it was easier to hold his temper than to drive those nails into the fence.

Finally the day came when the boy didn't lose his temper at all.

He told his father about it and the father suggested that the boy now pull out one nail for each day that he was able to hold his temper.

The days passed and the young boy was finally able to tell his father that all the nails were gone.

The father took his son by the hand and led him to the fence. He said, 'You have done well, my son, but look at the holes in the fence. The fence will never be the same.'



When you say things in anger, they leave a scar just like this one. You can put a knife in a man and draw it out. But It won't matter how many times you say I'm sorry, the wound will still be there. A verbal wound is as bad as a physical one.

Remember that friends are very rare jewels, indeed. They make you smile and encourage you to succeed. They lend an ear, they share words of praise and they always want to open their hearts to us.'



Show your friends how much you care.

YOU ARE MY FRIEND AND I AM HONORED!

Please forgive me if I have ever left a 'hole' in your fence.

## Session Notes

- ◇ Hilda reported on the newly established **Bible Study** meetings. These meetings are to be held fortnightly in the Manse. The discussion material will be available in advance (at the moment, in Church, on the Sunday) before the meeting. The last meeting was lead by Roddy Morrison, who very much welcomed the structure provided by the prepared study materials. The next Bible Study meeting will be held on Wednesday evenings 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of June 2009.
- ◇ Hilda reported the **resignation of Jim Kirk our Session Clerk**, who has decided to step down, after ten years of committed service to the Church.
- ◇ The Session is looking forward to meeting the **new Church of Scotland Youth Worker** (South Argyll area of the Argyll presbytery) on appointment later in the summer.
- ◇ On reviewing the quality and value of recent **Elder Training**, attended by a good number of the Church elders the Session decided that they should look consider the organisation of our own training, reviewing old and new support materials.
- ◇ The Session also considered novel ideas promoted by the elders of other local churches.
- ◇ The Session did decide that the Church will send **personal invitations** to members of the Church in advance of the next Communion service, by way of reminder. (This should not be confused with the former Communion Cards. These are not a form of record of attendance).

LOOK OUT for more in the next issue of the Link on:  
... our work on **Child Protection**  
... progress on a project Twinning local churches here in Mid Argyll with some in Malawi.

## 92 Year Old Preacher



While watching a little TV on Sunday instead of going to church, I watched a church in Atlanta honouring one of its senior pastors who had been retired many years. He was 92 at that time and I wondered why the church even bothered to ask the old gentleman to preach at that age.

After a warm welcome, introduction of this speaker, and as the applause quieted down, he rose from his high back chair and walked slowly, with great effort and a sliding gate to the podium. Without a note or written paper of any kind he placed both hands on the pulpit to steady himself and then quietly and slowly he began to speak....

"When I was asked to come here today and talk to you, your pastor asked me to tell you what was the greatest lesson ever learned in my 50-odd years of preaching. I thought about it for a few days and boiled it down to just one thing that made the most difference in my life and sustained me through all my trials. The one thing that I could always rely on when tears and heartbreak and pain and fear and sorrow paralyzed me... the only thing that would comfort was this verse.....

"Jesus loves me this I know.  
For the Bible tells me so.  
Little ones to Him belong,  
we are weak but He is strong.....  
Yes, Jesus loves me...  
The Bible tells me so."

When he finished, the church was quiet. You actually could hear his foot steps as he shuffled back to his chair. I don't believe I will ever forget it.

A pastor once stated, "I always noticed that it was the adults who chose the children's hymn 'Jesus Loves Me' (for the children of course) during a hymn singing, and it was the adults who sang the loudest because I could see they knew it the best."

*Here is a new version just for us who have white hair or no hair at all. For us over middle age (or even those almost there) and all you others, check out this newest version of Jesus Loves Me.*

### JESUS LOVES ME

Jesus loves me, this I know,  
Though my hair is white as snow,  
Though my sight is growing dim,  
Still He bids me trust in Him.  
(CHORUS)

YES, JESUS LOVES ME..  
YES, JESUS LOVES ME..  
YES, JESUS LOVES ME, FOR THE  
BIBLE TELLS ME SO.

Though my steps are oh, so slow,  
With my hand in His I'll go  
On through life, let come what may,  
He'll be there to lead the way.  
(CHORUS)

When the nights are dark and long,  
In my heart He puts a song..  
Telling me in words so clear,  
"Have no fear, for I am near."  
(CHORUS)

When my work on earth is done,  
And life's victories have been won.  
He will take me home above,  
Then I'll understand His love.  
(CHORUS)

I love Jesus, does He know?  
Have I ever told Him so?  
Jesus loves to hear me say,  
That I love Him every day.  
(CHORUS)



## Being British

Submitted by Frank Killeen

Being British is about driving a German Car to an Irish pub for a Belgian beer. Then on the way home grabbing an Indian curry or a Turkish kebab, to sit on a Swedish sofa and watch American shows on a Japanese TV, and most of all being suspicious of anything foreign.

Oh, and only in Britain can you get a pizza to your home faster than an ambulance. Only in Britain do banks leave both doors open and chain pens to the counter. Also, supermarkets make sick people walk to the back of the shop for prescriptions, while healthy people get them at the front.

We might be British, but my goodness, we are funny!

## HELPING THOSE WITH CONSUMER DEBT PROBLEMS

Keen to see the Church as part of the community, on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May the Kirk Session welcomed the first of a series of invited speakers who are to give members of the Church (both the congregation and the Session) an insight into some of the problems facing the community in which we live, work and worship. Beginning with a presentation on Consumer Debt, other speakers will deal with homelessness and children in need of support.

Our first speaker, Desmond Middleton, who is the Lead Money Advice Officer working with Argyll and Bute Council, gave a presentation on Money Advice services and the potential consequences of unmanageable consumer debt.

### What is Money Advice?

Working together, three local agencies; Argyll and Bute Council, Argyll and Bute Citizens Advice Bureau and the Bute Advice Centre provide face to face advice to members of the public. Most referrals to the Council's Money Advice Service come from local agencies and other Council Services such as Social Work, Welfare Rights and the Council Tax debt recovery teams. Further referrals come from the National Debt Line, a free consumer credit counselling service which provides telephone advice, and fee-based agencies such as solicitors, debt counselling companies, and insolvency practitioners.

### Clients

The majority of their clients are home owners, working (with full time incomes), who have become overcommitted to credit agencies, banks and other lenders. A typical client has an average debt of some £40,000, with those with more complex debt, extending to some £80,000.

### Goals

The goal is to work towards repayment of owed debt within a period of 10 years (or less) and to avoid a bankruptcy.

### What's In It For The Creditors?

The intervention of debt counselling services avoids bankruptcy and the potential for no debt recovery. The arrangements made on behalf of debtors, are viewed as realistic and sustainable (... as opposed to the promises made by debtors made without professional advice and support). Because the service is free, it does not reduce the client's resources (which would otherwise be put towards debt repayment), thereby maximising the potential payment.

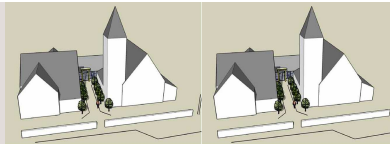
### Priorities

To gather accurate information.  
To create a budget, which pays all household bills first and sets aside payment of priority creditors.  
Inform the individual about the "bottom line" and the options, open to them, including winning their commitment to sustained repayment.  
Negotiate with creditors to achieve the agreed strategy.

### Debt Recovery Companies

Debt Recovery Companies promise recovery, and some specialise in buying debts. Both strategies are in line with the

## Project Notes



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

### Spring Fayre 2009

Our best success yet! Delighted to see so many members of the Church working together at the Spring Fayre. What greater success? Thanks to all who gave of their time and energies to help make the Fayre the success that it undoubtedly was, raising £2150.32.

### Names Please

The Project team would welcome the postal contact details of friends, relatives and former acquaintances who have moved away. We would wish to ensure that they are kept aware of our work, and perhaps win their interest and support.

### Farthest Flung

Delighted to say that we have just posted our first mug to Australia, now the farthest away destination. Can you beat that? Happy to send even farther afield, for the price of the mug and the postage.

### Jolomo Prints

The mounted, signed, limited edition Jolomo Prints are now available from the Archway at a price of £100, with 50% going towards the Renovation Appeal.

### Local Businesses and Organisations

We have now written to all local businesses and organisations and some a little more distant, and will continue to extend our searches for financial support for the Renovation Appeal.

priorities, one of which is to stop further borrowing. However, creditors do "hound" debtors with phone calls at home and at work, perhaps up to 8 times a day, when they are pressurised into accepting repayment regimes which are designed to settle one creditor's interest, whereas most clients have multiple creditors and debt.

### Bankruptcies in Scotland in the year to April 2009

The number of debtors resorting to, or being forced into bankruptcy

All assets are sold including the car

Family homes are sold

Possible eviction for rent arrears

Creditors are paid out after one year

Desmond was particularly keen to highlight the ease by which current legislation can see creditors recover their money using bankruptcy, and the consequences for individuals and families.

.....continued on the next page

Watch  
Our  
Money  
Grow

£360,000  
Phase 3

£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



## Floral Art Exhibition August 12th - 15th

As part of our fundraising for the Renewal Project, we are holding a Floral Art Exhibition in the Church from August 12th - 15th. Members of Lochgilhead Flower Club have kindly agreed to give their expertise and take on the bulk of the floral arrangements, although some members of the congregation are also going to try their hand with the exhibits. It is also hoped that the children can make and exhibit "tray gardens."

This will be a new venture for the Church which will involve a lot of work and co-ordination to make it successful. Running alongside the exhibition, teas/coffees and a sale table will be available in the hall selling baking, plants, mugs, tea towels etc. and publicising the Project.

For this we will require a rota 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.

If you can't help in the ways described above, perhaps you can supply greenery from your garden for the floral arrangements. This will help to keep the cost of the exhibits down.

If you think you will be able to help in any way, even for an hour or so, please add your name to the sheet which is available on the Church window or call Margaret on 01546 603784.

One way everyone can help, and that is by coming along to the exhibition with your family and friends, and by spreading the word to as many people as possible.

**LET'S MAKE THIS A  
"BLOOMING GOOD SHOW!"**

## Bible Study

The Bible Study Group meets every fortnight. The Group is open to anyone who wishes to go along. The next meetings are on **Wednesday June 3rd and 17th, 7.30pm at the Manse**

## An Open Letter from Roddy Morrison to the Chancellor of the Exchequer

Dear Mr. Darling,

Please find below my suggestion for fixing Britain's economy. Instead of giving billions of pounds to banks that will squander the money on lavish parties and un-earned bonuses, use the following plan. You can call it the Patriotic Retirement Plan:

There are about 20 million people over 50 in the work force. - Pay them £1 million apiece severance for early retirement with the following stipulations:

- 1) They **MUST** retire. Twenty million job openings - Un-employment fixed.
- 2) They **MUST** buy a new British CAR. Twenty million cars ordered - Auto Industry fixed.
- 3) They **MUST** either buy a house or pay off their mortgage - Housing Crisis fixed.
- 4) They must send their kids to school/college/university Crime rate fixed.
- 5) Buy £50 of alcohol/tobacco/fuel a week there's your money back in duty/tax etc.

It can't get any easier than that!

P.S. If more money is needed, have all members of parliament pay back their falsely claimed expenses and second home allowances.

If you think this would work, please forward to everyone you know. If not, please disregard.

*....continued from previous page*

### **Future Consequences**

The real concern is the impact in the future. Once bankrupted as a means to resolve their crisis, individuals will

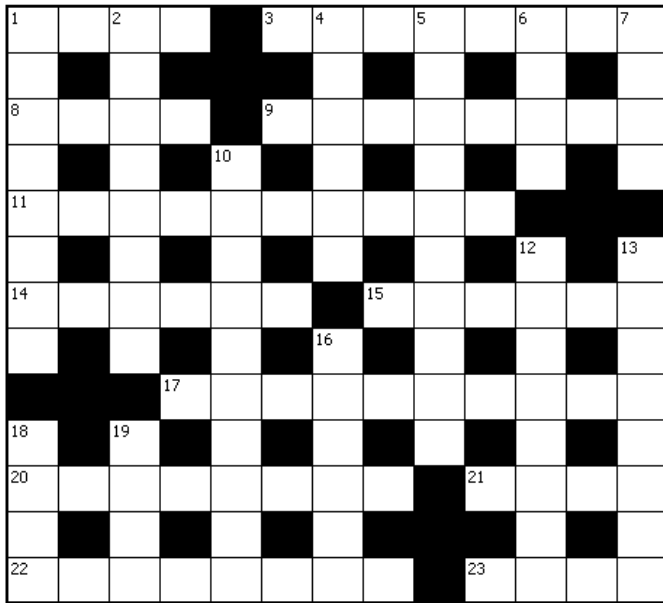
- Have a poor credit rating
- Find it hard to get a mortgage
- ... and even harder to borrow money
- Will be seen as a higher risk for private landlords

### **If Not Bankruptcy, What Options ...**

- Pro-rata Repayments
- Token Payments
- Moratorium (repayment holiday)
- Bankruptcy

At the end of his presentation Desmond spent a good deal of time answering the many questions put to him the Kirk Session. The Kirk Session subsequently agreed that the as and when, most likely at some time in the future, the Church could help those in trouble with over-indebtedness, providing emotional support.

## Crossword



### Across

- 1 See 23 Across
- 3 Where the thief on the cross was told he would be, with Jesus (Luke 23:43) (8)
- 8 Invalid (4)
- 9 Blasphemed (Ezekiel 36:20) (8)
- 11 Adhering to the letter of the law rather than its spirit (Philippians 3:6) (10)
- 14 Shut (Ecclesiastes 12:4) (6)
- 15 'This is how it will be with anyone who — up things for himself but is not rich towards God' (Luke 12:21) (6)
- 17 Mary on Isis (anag.) (10)
- 20 Agreement (Hebrews 9:15) (8)
- 21 Native of, say, Bangkok (4)
- 22 Deaf fort (anag.) (5-3)
- 23 and 1 Across 'The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of — to work it and take — of it' (Genesis 2:15) (4,4)

### Down

- 1 Struggle between opposing forces (Habakkuk 1:3) (8)
- 2 James defined this as 'looking after orphans and widows in their distress and keeping oneself from being polluted by the world' (James 1:27) (8)
- 4 'The one I kiss is the man; — him' (Matthew 26:48) (6)
- 5 'Be joyful in hope, patient in —, faithful in prayer' (Romans 12:12) (10)
- 6 St Columba's burial place (4)
- 7 Swirling current of water (4)
- 10 Loyalty (Isaiah 19:18) (10)
- 12 'God was pleased through the foolishness of what was —, to save those who believe' (1 Corinthians 1:21) (8)
- 13 Camp where the angel of the Lord slew 185,000 men one night (2 Kings 19:35) (8)
- 16 'There is still — — — Jonathan; he is crippled in both feet' (2 Samuel 9:3) (1,3,2)
- 18 David Livingstone was one (4)
- 19 Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority (1,1,1,1)

## Laughter Lines



### Holy Humour

A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I know what the bible means!"

His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean, you "know" what the bible means?"

The son replied, "I do know!"

"Okay," said his father, "What does the bible mean?"

"That's easy, Daddy ... "the young boy replied excitedly, It stands for "Basic Information Before Leaving Earth."

\*\*\*\*\*

A minister parked his car in a no parking zone in a large city because he was short of time and couldn't find a space with a meter.

Then he put a note under the windscreen wiper that read: "I have circled the block 10 times. If I don't park her, I'll miss my appointment. Forgive us our trespasses."

When he returned, he found a parking ticket from a parking warden along with this note, "I've circled this block for 10 years. If I don't give you a ticket I'll lose my job. Lead us not into temptation.

\*\*\*\*\*

A minister waited in line to have his car filled with petrol just before a long holiday weekend. The attendant worked quickly, but there were many cars ahead of him. Finally, the attendant motioned him toward a vacant pump.

"Reverend," said the young man, "I'm so sorry about the delay. It seems as if everyone waits until the last minute to get ready for a long trip.

The minister chuckled, "I know what you mean. It's the same in my business."

\*\*\*\*\*

People want the front of the bus, the back of the church and the centre of attention.

\*\*\*\*\*

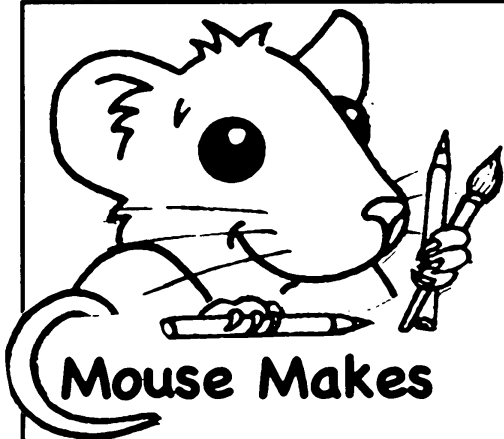
Give me a sense of humour, Lord,

Give me the grace to see a joke,

To get some humour out of life,

And pass it on to other folk.





When **Nehemiah** heard that the walls of Jerusalem were in ruins he sat down and wept. For days he fasted and prayed before God. Finally the opportunity came for him to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the walls, but it wasn't going to be easy....

Read Nehemiah's story in the **Old Testament** book of 'Nehemiah', chapters 1 to 7.

Here is Nehemiah's list of all the things that need to be done to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. Fill in the missing gaps on the tower to help rebuild the wall.

- |         |           |
|---------|-----------|
| PRAY    | GATE      |
| RUBBLE  | BEAM      |
| REPAIR  | BOLT      |
| RESTORE | BAR       |
| BUILD   | STEP      |
| WORK    | TOWER     |
| STONE   | HOUSE     |
| TIMBER  | POOL      |
| WALLS   | FINISH    |
| FLOOR   | DEDICATE  |
| ROOF    | CELEBRATE |
| DOOR    |           |

Word puzzle grid:

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____S_____
_____E_____	_____	_____A_____E_____
_____L_____	_____	_____Y_____
_____R_____	_____	_____A_____L_____
B_____	_____	_____M_____
_____	_____	_____E_____A_____E_____
RE_____R_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____L_____
_____S_____	_____	_____
_____ER_____	_____	_____O_____
_____A_____E_____	_____	_____I_____ER_____
_____D_____	_____	_____
_____K_____	_____	_____P_____
_____	_____	RE_____R_____
_____	_____	_____O_____E_____
_____	_____	_____B_____

How many gates were repaired?  
Who rebuilt them?

How long did it take to finish the walls?

## Rotas for June 2009

	Door Duty	Flowers (Contact E Armstrong)	Readers	Tea/Coffee Duty (Contact - M. Davidson)
June 7th	Mary MacDonald & May Taylor	Allison Pearson	Mary MacDonald	Roddy & Sandra Morrison
June 14th	Alex Emslie & Ishbel MacArthur	Ishbel McArthur	Ishbel MacArthur	Sandy & May Taylor
June 21st	Ian Davidson & Margaret Davidson	tba	Margaret Davidson	Jim & Ruth Morrison
June 28th	Jim Morrison & Ruth Morrison	Cathy Cameron	Jim Morrison	Jim & Betty Kirk
July 5th	Tom Stevenson & Chris Stevenson	tba	Chris Stevenson	Margaret & Ian Davidson

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

### What's on in June

### ..... and for your diary

#### Services (all at 11.00am except where stated)

June 7th	Rev. Hilda Smith
June 14th	Rev. Hilda Smith
June 21st	Rev. Hilda Smith
June 28th	Rev. Hilda Smith
July 5th	Rev. Hilda Smith

Sept 2nd, Nov. 4th	Session Meetings
July 17th, 18th, 24th & 25th	Guild Coffee Mornings
August 12th - 15th	Floral Art Exhibition
September 5th	Autumn Fete
October 24th	Race Night
December 6th	Christmas Lunch

#### Other events

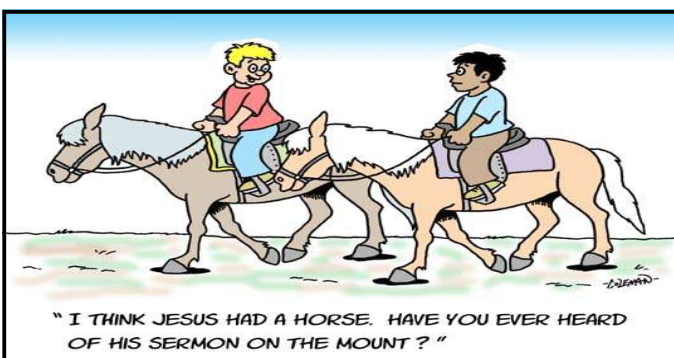
June 3rd & 17th	Bible Study Group, 7.30pm at the Manse
June 6th	Concert in the Hall for the Renewal Project - more details to follow
June 10th	Congregational Board Meeting followed by Project Group Meeting
June 7th	Toucan Club, 4.00 - 5.30pm
June 21st	Church Picnic, Ormsary Beach
June 24th	Session Meeting

#### 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
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 Care, 3 Paradise, 8 Null, 9 Profaned, 11 Legalistic, 14 Closed, 15 Stores, 17 Missionary, 20 Covenant, 21 Thal, 22 Trade-off, 23 Eden  
 Down  
 1 Conflict, 2 Religion, 4 Arrest, 5 Affliction, 6 Iona, 7 Eddy, 10 Allegiance, 12 Preached, 13 Assyrian, 16 A son of 18 Scot, 19 DVLA

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