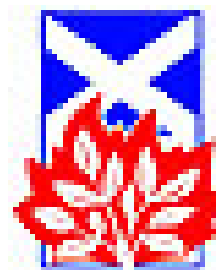


# The LINK

Volume 7 Issue 2

March 2009

[www.lpchurch.co.uk](http://www.lpchurch.co.uk)



## Message From the Manse

Dear Friends,

By the time you receive the Link we should have a Banner up outside the Church advertising our 2010 Renovation Appeal. The main message on it is 'Please Donate and Save your Church and Hall'. Is the situation really that serious? Well, yes, it is. We all know the state the hall is in and very soon it will no longer be suitable for use. However, the appeal to save your Church, which is going out to the whole parish, is about more than just fabric issues.

The idea of renewal is about encouraging all of us within the parish to see the Church, its worship, its activities and our faith as a vital part of our lives. Renewal is about turning our lives around so that, perhaps for the first time, we are face to face with God and with the life He offers, a life which may strike an even more powerful chord at a time when financial security, for many, is a thing of the past, at least for the time being.

We don't need a new hall to turn our lives around or to share in a relationship with God but we do need a new hall if we are to become a vibrant part of the community in which we live. At present, it suggests that we are dying on our feet. To that end, we have a varied and exciting programme of events planned for the coming year which, if well supported, should generate a lot of money. There will be something for everyone and everyone has something to offer.

Maybe you have time on your hands. Could you do something to raise funds? Would you be willing to help run a cafe at lunchtime once or twice a week offering soup and filled rolls? Maybe you could walk the West Highland Way and raise funds for your Church and Hall. Maybe you are extra fit and could get sponsorship to climb a few Munroes... Maybe you could encourage your neighbours to do something or your families! The list is endless. Please help us in any way you can.

What really saddens me just now is that families are coming forward for baptism we have no facilities to accommodate babies on a Sunday. The result is that young parents do not come along and I cannot blame them but we need to change that. A church with young families is alive. A Church without young families is dying on its feet. Renewal is the name of the game.

Let's work together to meet our goal for the sake of the God whom we serve and for the benefit of our parish of which we are all part. Thank you for your support.

Every blessing,

Hilda Smith

Inside  
this  
issue

"Yes We  
Can!"

Heaven's  
Grocery  
Store

Illegal,  
Immoral or  
Fattening

Prostate  
Cancer

Project  
Notes

Guild  
Report

Kids Corner

Crossword &  
Laughter  
Lines

Rotas and  
What's On



*Time* magazine (issue of 22nd December) voted a sentence in the new American President's victory speech on 4th November 2008 as the Number One Quote of the Year. "It's been a long time coming, but tonight, because of what we did on this day, in this election, at this defining moment, change has come to America." The magazine also voted his slogan "Yes We Can" as the outstanding slogan of the campaign.

Wouldn't it be great for that magazine, or any other, to vote the Christian church as the Number One Organisation of the Year 2009? What might we have to do to make that happen?

One hundred years ago in 1909, UK church membership stood at 9.5 million people, almost a quarter, 23%, of the then population of 41 million. In 2009 the projected church membership is 3.6 million, 5.8% of the country's 61 million people.

To reach the 1909 percentage of 23%, church membership would have to quadruple to 14 million. Maybe our slogan should be not "Each one reach one" but "Each one reach three"!

Each existing member would need to see a friend, a relative or a neighbour join him/her church every 4 months in 2009 to make that happen. Is that possible? Could revival happen again? Can people be brought back to church? Could new people join in? The answer is a simple YES to each of these questions, given the grace and energising power of the Lord in the process.

What are some of the problems? There needs to be a resurgence of confidence in the gospel. A willingness to talk to others about our faith. A warm welcome to newcomers as they visit our churches. Preaching that helps people understand what Christianity is about. Belief in the power of the Holy Spirit to change lives. A strategy to do something today, and not leave it till tomorrow. Above all, we need a fresh vision of the risen Christ this Easter - and a realisation that the next time he comes will be in judgement.

Can this happen? Again a simple YES, "for nothing will be impossible with God" as the angel said to Mary. Amazingly, he deigns to use us in bringing about the impossible.



## Heaven's Grocery Store

*I was walking down life's highway a long time ago.  
One day I saw a sign that read "  
Heaven's Grocery Store".  
As I got a little closer, the door came open wide.  
When I came to myself, I was standing just inside.  
I saw a host of angels.  
They were standing everywhere.  
One handed me a basket and said,  
"My child, please shop with care".  
Everything a Christian needed was in that  
Grocery Store.  
All you couldn't carry, you could come back  
the next day for.  
First, I got some PATIENCE;  
LOVE was in the very same row.  
Further down was UNDERSTANDING,  
you needed it wherever you go.  
I got a box or two of WISDOM,  
a bag or two of FAITH.  
I just couldn't miss the HOLY SPIRIT,  
for He was all over the place!!  
I stopped to get some STRENGTH and  
COURAGE to help me run this race.  
By then my basket was getting full but...  
I remembered I needed some GRACE!  
I didn't forget SALVATION,  
for SALVATION was free.  
So I tried to get enough of that  
to save both you and me.  
Then I started up to the counter  
to pay my grocery bill,  
for I thought I had everything  
to do my Master's will.  
As I wind up the aisle I saw PRAYER  
and I just had to put that in.  
For I knew when I stepped outside,  
I would run right into sin.  
PEACE and JOY were plentiful;  
they were on the last shelf.  
SONGS and PRAISES were hanging near,  
so I just helped myself.  
Then I said to the angel,  
"How much do I owe?"  
He just smiled and said,  
"Just take them everywhere you go."  
Again I smiled at him and said,  
"How much do I owe?"  
He smiled again and said.....  
"My child, JESUS PAID YOUR BILL A LONG TIME  
AGO!"*



## Well, most enjoyable things are either illegal, immoral or fattening...

In the beginning God populated the earth with broccoli and cauliflower and spinach, green and yellow and red vegetables of all kinds, so Man and Woman would live long and healthy lives. Then using God's great gifts, Satan created Ben and Jerry's and Krispy Creme. And Satan said, "You want chocolate with that?" And man said "Yea." and woman said, "And another one with sprinkles." And they gained 10 pounds.

And God created the healthful yogurt that woman might keep the figure that man found so fair. And Satan brought forth white flour from the wheat, and sugar from the cane, and combined them. And woman went from size 10 to size 16. So God said, "Try my fresh green salad." And Satan presented Thousand-Island Dressing and garlic toast on the side. And man and woman unfastened their belts following the repast. God then said, "I have sent you heart healthy vegetables and olive oil in which to cook them." And Satan brought forth deep fried fish and chicken-fried steak so big it needed its own platter. And man gained more weight and his cholesterol went through the roof.

God then brought running shoes so that his children might lose those extra pounds. And Satan gave cable TV with a remote control so Man would not have to toil changing the channels. And man and woman laughed and cried before the flickering light and gained pounds.

Then God brought forth the potato, naturally low in fat and brimming with nutrition. And Satan peeled off the healthful skin and sliced the starchy centre into chips and deep-fried them. And man gained pounds.

God then gave lean beef so that man might consume fewer calories and still satisfy his appetite. And Satan created McDonald's and it's 99p double cheese-burger. Then said, "You want chips with that?" and man replied, "Yea! And super size 'em." And Satan said "It is good." And man went into cardiac arrest....

God sighed and created quadruple bypass surgery.



## ONE MAN DIES EVERY HOUR OF PROSTATE CANCER IN THE UK

**Prostate cancer is now one of the most common cancers amongst men in Scotland.**

Prostate cancer is now the most common cancer in men, excluding non melanoma skin cancer. More than 34,000 men are diagnosed in the UK each year. Out of every 100 cancers diagnosed in men, 24 are prostate cancers. Prostate cancer kills 10,000 men in the UK every year.



As with other diseases, the early diagnosis of prostate cancer can significantly improve the effectiveness of the chosen therapy or treatment. Working together, NHS Highland and the Mid Argyll Rotary Club want to promote awareness of prostate health.

The early diagnosis of the disease has the potential to significantly reduce the number of men being diagnosed with prostate cancer which has already spread. This event is for anyone who wants to know more about the prostate. Our team will be able to help visitors, improve their knowledge and awareness of the prostate gland, what it does; the most common prostate problems that affect men and what to do when things go wrong".

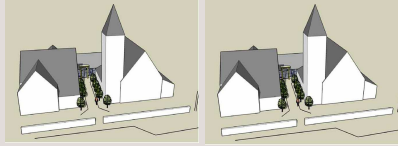
Men aged over 50 years or who are concerned to learn more about prostate health and the symptoms of prostate cancer are invited to come along to one of two drop-in sessions at the Mid Argyll hospital where they find out more about [prostate cancer](#), the [prostate gland](#) and the [symptoms](#) of prostate cancer. Visitors to the information stand will also learn about specific [risks and causes](#), [how prostate cancer is diagnosed](#) and about [screening](#).

The information stand will be manned by local medical staff in the atrium reception at the **Mid Argyll Hospital**, on **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March or Monday 16<sup>th</sup> 2009**, between 3.30 and 7.30 pm. (More details in the local press in advance of the event.

Visitors to the stand will be able to pick up leaflets, view education materials, take part in a short quiz and ask questions of local nursing staff.

**Put the date in your diary, or suggest your partner, spouse or maybe a friend take advantage of this opportunity. It could make all the difference!**

## Project Notes



### CONGREGATION REVIEW

Concerned to ensure that they remain in touch with the Church, the LPC Renewal Project team invited the congregation to a meeting in the Church on the evening of Wednesday, 18th February 2009, to find out what's been done and what's planned.

#### Our Work To Date

Following Hilda's welcome Ian spoke to a series of illustrated slides which reminded us of the scope of the planned project and how he saw the management of a phased approach to the project, the scheduling of the key elements of the construction work and latterly, confirmed the formal appointment of Campbell Morris Associates as our project architects. Sandy then set out details of progress made in terms of our early fundraising, reflecting on events and initiatives such as our JoLoMo mugs, before Roddy confirmed the Project's financial position, reporting the monies held in our "HBOS Account" (£10,767) and "Church of Scotland Investment Account" (£4,338.12).

#### The Year Ahead!

Sandy then spoke to the planned work, focus of our planned fundraising and significant challenges to be met in 2009.

#### a. Challenges

Sandy reported on the much reduced Lottery funds which will be available to charities and voluntary groups in Scotland over the next four years, due to the diversion of lottery monies to fund the Olympic Games in London and the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. The effect of which will see a 70% reduction in this funding: with the Big Lottery Fund the hardest hit!

The impact of the UK recession on the Project could also not be avoided as we look to the future, when we might see reduced corporate giving, and maybe reduced giving from members of the congregation. This uncertainty is reflected in our current situation, where Church of Scotland Trustees' have issued a qualified response to our request for their support. Whilst welcoming our proposals as a valued development of the Church, the Trustees are concerned that in this financial climate and with reduced lottery funds, we may struggle to raise the substantial funds required for our project.

#### b. Our Plan 2009

Sandy outlined the key features of our Plan, which would see the congregation manage a much developed, comprehensive fundraising programme in 2009; which would be made up of a mix of Grants and Award Applications, Commercial Sales, Community Fundraising and Congregation Giving.

Developing members understanding of commercial sales, Sandy drew attention to the emerging importance of things that we might sell to generate income in the year ahead.

- ◇ More JoLoMo Mugs, and soon JoLoMo Cards
- ◇ A limited number of Donnie MacVean prints and a Limited Edition JoLoMo print of Lochgilphead (100 copies), as seen on our mugs.
- ◇ More jewellery
- ◇ "In Memoria" Stars. Sandy spoke of the idea to sell stars to fixed to the underside of the church roof, which would reflect cherished memories of the dear departed (... next time you are in the Church look for some stars to be found there at present), and
- ◇ Commercial lets of both the Hall and Church.

#### c. Community Support and Congregation Giving

In all that we do, it is important that we engage the support of the local community. It is after all the **Parish Church**.

In our efforts to fundraise, it will be important to win the widest possible support for this, our community project. We will, therefore, soon write to all local residents, businesses, organisations and those who have moved away but would have "links" to the Church, inviting their financial support. These letters will give Notice of a planned Community Information and "Gift Day", to be held on 28 March 2009, which will feature our display boards, refreshments and project team members, who will provide information about the ways in which people can support our fundraising appeal.

#### d. Church Events Programme

The following programme is in the early stages of being organised and will be published again in the weeks to come, as we fix dates and maybe even venues. The Programme is meant to be more than simply fundraising, but to give us opportunities to come together in fellowship, and get to know one another.

#### Renewal Project Team:

Edna Armstrong, Hilda Smith (Rev.), Ian Davidson, Mary MacDonald, Roddy Morrison, Sandy Taylor and Tom Stevenson.

February	Coffee Morning		
March	Coffee Morning	Renovation Appeal Day	
April	Coffee Morning		
May	Spring Fayre	Coffee Morning	Sponsored events ... walk plus!
June	Barbecue Evening		
July	Safari Supper		
August	Coffee Morning	Floral Art Display	
September	Brass Band Concert	Autumn Fete	Prize Raffle
October	Coffee Morning	Choir Concert	American Supper / "Mr & Mrs"
November	Church Sale of Work	Fiddlers Rally	Chef Demonstration Night
December	Coffee Morning	Christmas Lunch	Watchnight Service

Note: Suggested Gardeners Question Time At the Spring Fayre (Invitation to the Beechgrove Garden team, maybe even for the Church grounds)

**e. Other Things We Need To Do?**

Amongst other things planned by the Project Group but which will be kept for next year would be a Community or Town Fayre, a Celebrity Auction and a Christmas Tree Festival.

Beyond these plans, the Team recognise the need to re-invigorate the Snowball Tea/Meal.

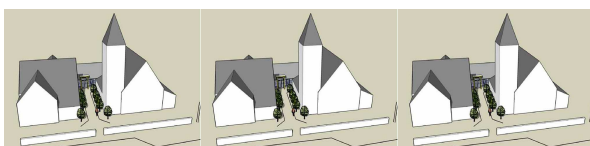
**Over To You!**

- Having taken the time to read this report, think!  
 Have you any questions?  
 Have you any other ideas for fundraising, suggested things we should be doing?  
 Could you help
- ◇ us contact former members of the church or residents of Lochgilphead who might want to contribute to our appeal
  - ◇ by selling the next order of JoLoMo mugs and cards, or
  - ◇ organising or work at one of our fundraising events?

If you would like any more information, to volunteer or make a suggestion, please have a word with Sandy or any of the team.

**"Church Hall Appeal"**

Drawing the evening to a close Hilda thanked all for coming, their contributions and continued support. She suggested that we would better focus the wider community's focus on our Project if we were to encourage their giving to a "Church Hall Appeal" rather than the Renewal project, an idea which will feature in a banner to be erected on the Church in the near future, as we look to win the support of residents and visitors to Lochgilphead.



**Guild Report: By Frances Fleming**



The Guild met on February 10th and 24th. Our guest speakers on February 10th were Heather and Walter Ritchie who gave us a very interesting talk o their trip to Antarctica and South America. They sailed across the Atlantic and visited the Caribbean Islands of St. Martin, St. Lucia and Bermuda before continuing to the Amazon. They then visited the Falkland Islands before going to Antarctica, after which they sailed up the west coast of South America. We were shown lots of lovely slides of the places they visited. The people of South America, although very poor by our standards, all looked very happy and were always smiling.

Our next meeting was a talk from Mr. Ken Craig from Mercy Ships. Mercy Ships are Hospital Ships which are staffed by volunteers that visit the west coast of Africa and carry out medical treatments for the local population who are unable to be treated in the own country. Congenital malformations such as hare lip and cleft palate are repaired, allowing children to lead a normal life and eat normally. We were shown a DVD of the work carried out on the ship. A collection at the meeting raised £130.00 which was given to Mr. Craig for the mercy ships.

There was a good attendance at both meetings, including visitors.



**Saturday April 4th**

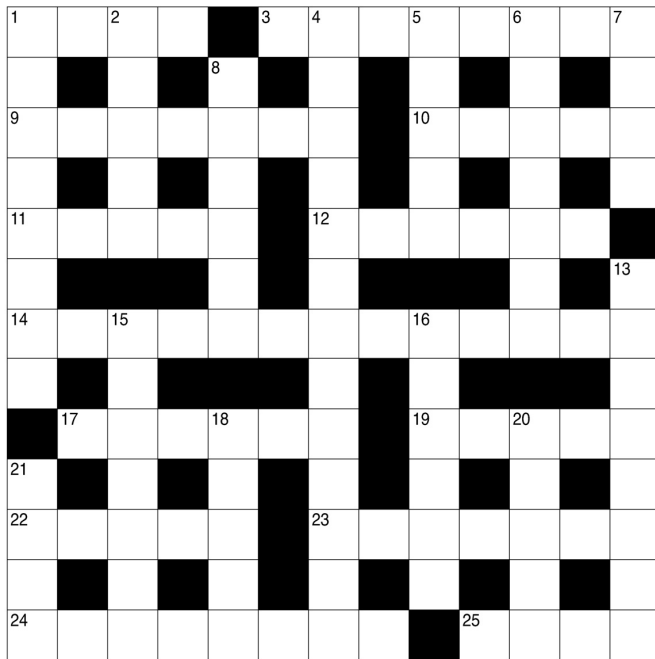
10.00am—12.00 noon

**Coffee Morning**

Donations for the Raffle and Sales Table welcomed

**Our grateful thanks go to all who contributed in every way to the last Coffee Morning which raised a total of £460.00 for the Renewal Project.**

## Crossword



### Across

- 1 Primatial city of the Church of England's northern province (4)
- 3 Speaking under oath (Jeremiah 5:2) (8)
- 9 Fallen angel from Milton's Paradise Lost (7)
- 10 'Do not take a — or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road' (Luke 10:4) (5)
- 11 Abram's father (Genesis 11:26) (5)
- 12 Complied with (John 17:6) (6)
- 14 'My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a — of the Spirit's power' (1 Corinthians 2:4) (13)
- 17 i.e. palm (anag.) (6)
- 19 'We always — God for all of you' (1 Thessalonians 1:2)(5)
- 22 Syncretistic religion originating in 19th-century Persia (5)
- 23 Pariah (Jeremiah 30:17) (7)
- 24 Deter (Ezekiel 33:8) (8)
- 25 'Although I am — than the least of all God's people' (Ephesians 3:8) (4)

### Down

- 1 Pagan name for Christmas (8)
- 2 Happen again (5)
- 4 How Ezekiel invariably described God speaking, most memorably in the Valley of Dry Bones (Ezekiel 37:4) (4,2,3,4)
- 5 More than sufficient (5)
- 6 Native of, say, Tel Aviv (7)
- 7 Great merriment (Psalm 35:15) (4)
- 8 Sheepskin coat (6)
- 13 Inhabitants of Canaan who struck fear into the Israelites because of their height and strength (Deuteronomy 1:28) (8)
- 15 Ancient city on the Nile for which Jeremiah prophesied doom (Jeremiah 46:19) (7)
- 16 Use tat (anag.) (6)
- 18 Farewell using all but one vowel (5)
- 20 Gemstone (Exodus 28:19) (5)
- 21 David's grandfather (1 Chronicles 2:12-15) (4)

## Laughter Lines



### A Few Scottish Jokes

Five Englishmen boarded a train just behind five Scots, who, as a group had only purchased one ticket. Just before the conductor came through, all the Scots piled into the toilet stall at the back of the car. As the conductor passed the stall, he knocked and called "Tickets, please!" and one of the Scots slid a ticket under the door. It was punched, pushed back under the door, and when it was safe all the Scots came out and took their seats. The Englishmen were tremendously impressed by the Scots' ingenuity. On the trip back, the five Englishmen decided to try this themselves and purchased only one ticket. They noticed that, oddly, the Scots had not purchased any tickets this time. Anyway, again, just before the conductor came through, the Scots piled into one of the toilet stalls, the Englishmen into the other. Then one of the Scots leaned out, knocked on the Englishmen's stall and called "Ticket, Please!" When the ticket slid out under the door, he picked it up and quickly closed the door

\*\*\*\*\*

A very popular Scotsman dies in Glasgow and his old widow wishes to tell all his friends at once so she goes to the newspaper and says "I'd like tae place an obituary fur ma late husband" The man at the desk says "OK, how much money dae ye have?"

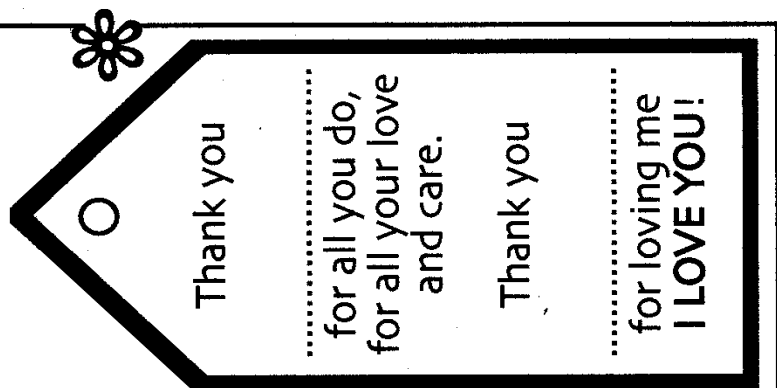
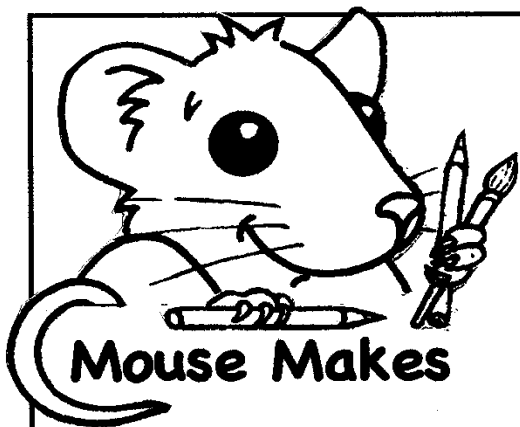
The old woman replies "£5" to which the man says "You wont get many words for that but write something and we'll see if it's ok" so the old woman writes something and hands it over the counter and the man reads "Peter Reid, fae Parkheid, deid"

He feels guilty at the abruptness of the statement and encourages the old woman to write a few more things. The old woman ponders and then adds a few more words and hand the paper over the counter again. The man then reads "Peter Reid, fae Parkheid deid. Ford Escort for sale"

\*\*\*\*\*

Jock once attended a Temperance lecture given by Scotland 's top medical man, a noted anti-drink campaigner. The speaker began by placing a live, wriggling worm in a glass of whisky. After a moment or two it died and sank to the bottom. The speaker said quietly to the audience, "Now my friends, what does this tell us?"

Jock piped up, "If you drink whisky you'll not be bothered by worms!"

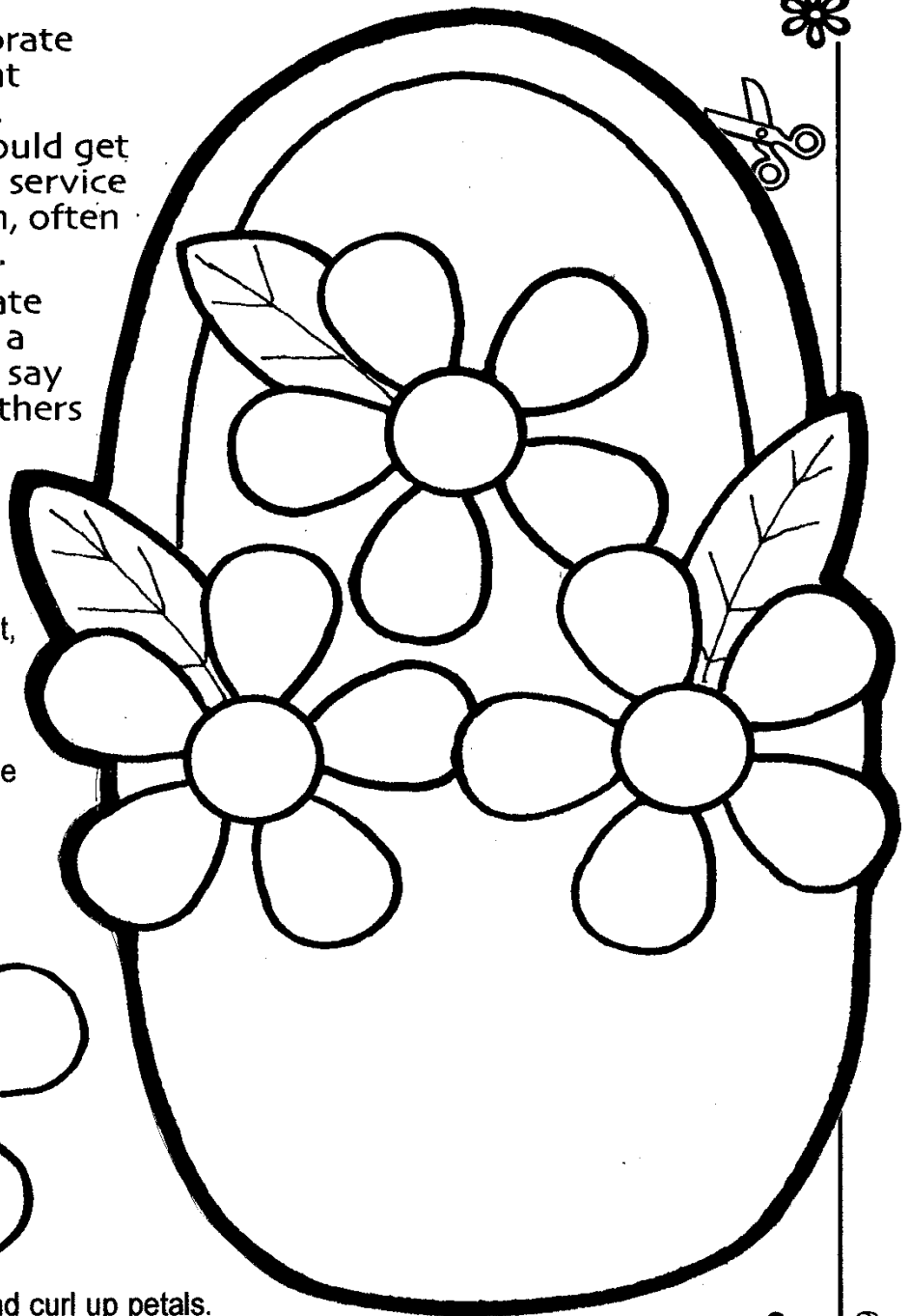
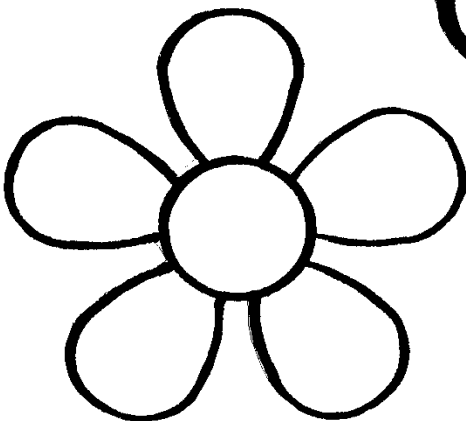


Many Christians celebrate the 4th Sunday in Lent as **Mothering Sunday**. Originally families would get together for a special service at the 'mother' church, often at the local cathedral.

Today we still celebrate **Mothering Sunday** as a family day, a time to say 'thank you' to our mothers and all those who look after us.



To make a **Thank You** card, cut around the flower basket, colour in then glue onto a folded blank card. Cut out the tag, glue to tag shaped card. Punch the hole and hang from the basket with ribbon.



Cut out this flower, colour and curl up petals. Stick on basket with a blob of glue to give a 3D effect.



## Rotas for March 2009

	<b>Door Duty</b>	<b>Flowers (Contact E Armstrong)</b>	<b>Readers</b>	<b>Tea/Coffee Duty (Contact - M. Davidson)</b>
Mar. 1st	Malcolm MacFadyen & Helen Samborek	Eilidh McCallum	Malcolm MacFadyen	Margaret & Ian Davidson
Mar. 8th	Jim Kirk & Charlie MacLean	E Findlay	Jim Kirk	Tom & Chris Stevenson
Mar. 15th	Roddy Morrison & Frances Fleming	Catherine Cameron	Roddy Morrison	Sandy & May Taylor
Mar. 22nd	Frank Killeen & Allison Pearson	Sandra Morrison	Edna Armstrong	Roddy & Sandra Morrison
Mar. 29th	Mary MacDonald & May Taylor	tba	Mary MacDonald	Jim & Ruth Morrison
Apr. 5th	Alex Emslie & Jim Kirk		Margaret Davidson	Margaret & Ian Davidson

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

### What's on in March

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

March 1st	Rev. Hilda Smith
March 8th	Rev. Hilda Smith
March 15th	tba
March 22nd	Alastair Dunlop
March 29th	Rev. Hilda Smith
April 5th	Rev. Hilda Smith

#### Other events

March 1st & 15th	Toucan Club, 4.00pm - 5.30pm
March 1st	United Evening Service Lochgilphead Free Church
March 6th	World Day of Prayer, 7.30pm Lochgilphead Parish Church
March 9th & 16th	Prostate Cancer Awareness Mid Argyll Hospital
March 10th	Guild AGM & Bring & Buy Sale
March 21st	Elder's Training, Ardrishaig
March 24th	Guild Closing Meeting
March 25th	Session Meeting
March 28th	"Gift Day"
March 29th	Family Service Church AGM - after the service
April 1st	Congregational Board Meeting
April 4th	Coffee Morning

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

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 5th	United Church Services Tarbert Free Church, 6.30pm
May 13th, Jun 24th, Sept 2nd, Nov. 4th	Session Meetings
June 10th	Congregational Board Meeting

### 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
<b>Committees 2009 - 10</b>		
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	
Fundraising	T Stevenson, J Kirk, I McArthur, J Cranston, C Stevenson, C MacLean, A Pearson	
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, York, 3, Swearing, 9, Lucifer, 10, Pursue, 11, Terah, 12, Obeyed, 14, Demonstration, 17, Impale, 19, Thank, 22, Bahai, 23, Outcast, 24, Dissuade, 25, Less.  
DOWN: 1, Yuletide, 2, Recur, 4, Word of the Lord, 5, Ample, 6, Israel, 7, Glee, 8, Afghani, 13, Anarkites, 15, Memphis, 16, Astute, 18, Adieu, 20, Agate, 21, Obed.

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