



Lochgilphead Parish Church

The LINK

Volume 9 Issue 1

Jan / Feb. 2011

www.lpchurch.co.uk



A WORD FROM THE INTERIM MODERATOR

Dear Lochgilphead friends,

Despite the difficult weather conditions over the Christmas period, it is good that services and other events were able to go ahead, although attendances were affected by icy roads and pavements.

I was glad to be part of the group of carol singers who sang so heartily outside the church as part of *Argyll Churches Worshipping Together*, on the Saturday before Christmas - with the weather suitable for the occasion. It was a kind of witness to see and hear singers from different church backgrounds presenting the Christmas message in well-known hymns. I think passers-by on the way to the Co-op appreciated the carol-singing. Afterwards we were able to visit the very meaningful exhibition of Christmas trees in the church. All the individuals and organisations involved are to be congratulated for such a colourful display. And then there was the usual tea and coffee and home baking in the church hall which we enjoyed after our carol-singing.

We do not know what 2011 holds for each of us personally, for our congregations, our Church and our nation. Financially this is a challenging time, and the Church is not immune from the difficulties that affect other organisations. But we go forward in faith, trusting in the promises of God.

When Rev. Jim Hosie of Ardrishaig was in his last year in the ministry, if he was asked how close his retirement was, he could give the exact number of months, weeks and days. As I approach retirement in 2011, perhaps I should be counting the days as well. (Whenever I print *retiral* on my computer, it wants to change it to *retrial*. There may be a message there!)

As I said in my last letter, we are grateful to all the preachers who have been conducting Sunday services. Again, we thank Session Clerk Sandy Taylor for his good work in arranging a programme of pulpit supply. I am encouraged that Hilda has been participating more and more in Sunday services, and I know her contributions have been appreciated. We hope she will be back full-time before too long, although I have enjoyed being part of the work of the Kirk Session and congregation.

Wishing you all blessings for the year ahead.

Roddy MacLeod

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This Spring thousands of people face possible redundancy, as the Government cuts kick in. The huge uncertainty looms large. The loss of income, place, and belonging leaves them shaken. An entrepreneur who lost his business and home said that the most difficult aspect was not knowing

where 'rock bottom' would be - how much more was there still to lose? Transitioning is never easy, particularly when it is not due to our own choice, but something that is decided for us. We would love all that is good to last...

And yet, we know that to everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven. It includes a time to pluck up what is planted and a time to lose (Ecclesiastes 3).

The author of this book does not only sketch a seasonal perspective, but also paints the bigger picture that over-arches every season. "God has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men. Yet, they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end."

And that's it. We don't always understand. We cannot always see the end. At times we can't even see the new beginning. But like winter is followed by spring, a new season will come. The rhythm of life will continue. In the bleaker winter of life, we remember that the seeds are already lying dormant, waiting to sprout in spring.

In the moment of crisis, directions may become unclear and may even be contradictory. It is quite an art to live wisely and recognise new beginnings. For what is new won't usually be announced by the appearance of angels and bright stars in the sky. Life is more subtle than that.

"There are journeys we have begun that have brought us greater riches and refinement; but we had to travel through dark valleys of difficulty and suffering," writes John O'Donohue in Benedictus. "Beginnings are new horizons that want to be seen; they are not regressions or repetitions."

This year, 2011, will include thresholds of change we had not anticipated, opportune times within life's chronology. It requires minds that are open to new frontiers and courage to shape new landscapes. It needs the perceptive to recognise the new things that God is doing. And it presumes time to watch, listen and learn (Isaiah 43:19, 50:4).

"In times of change, learners inherit the earth, while the learned find themselves beautifully equipped to deal with a world that no longer exists." (Eric Hoffer)

May we be sensitive in the year ahead to the earth's new shoots and heaven's whispers. As Martin Luther King said, we may not know what the future holds, but we do know who holds the future. May our God who has made everything beautiful in its time and who set eternity in our hearts, give us courage and an inquisitive mind for the new year.

Are you grumpy yet?



An infant laughs nearly 300 times a day. Teenagers laugh on average just six times a day. By our twenties we are down to four times a day. Our thirties are a bit better - at five times a day. But by the time we hit 50, our sense of humour is deserting us, and we laugh just three times a day, while the average 60 year old manages a good laugh just 2.5 times a day.

It gets worse. According to the TV station Dave, who carried out the research, people over 50 are most like to complain and worry than younger people. They write more letters of complaint, argue with neighbours more, and spend time worrying about health and money.

One of the researchers suggests: "It's important to remember how good laughter is for you. It releases endorphins and a little laughter every day goes a long way to reducing stress."

Poor Old February!

*Thirty days hath September,
April, June, and November.
All the rest have thirty-one
Save for February, and it alone,
Short-changed when they gave out the dates,
Whose days are only twenty-eight!
Though, to be completely sure
In leap years it just gets one more.*

*It puzzles me, why should this be?
That some months have an extra three
Days more than poor old February!
May? Now that I understand;
Sometimes its days can be quite grand
And August too, when we get tanned!
July, when we can drink cold beer,
December, full of Christmas cheer!*

*These months, indeed, should not be short;
But don't you think perhaps they ought
To pick a month that's much too long
And bolster Feb - would that be wrong?
January, month of cold and frost
Improved if just one day were lost!
Or March is not so very great
To feel the loss of just one date!*

*The boffins and the scientists say
February can't be as long as May -
The equinox needs a certain day!
But February is just that special time
When the grip of winter rime,
Weakens with the Spring's first sign!
So, hearken to my heartfelt plea
For a longer February!*

Love you!

A vicar once horrified a stranger whilst travelling up twelve floors with her in an office block lift by saying, 'How lovely to meet a fellow Christian'. 'What do you mean?' she replied, bewildered. 'Well you're wearing a crucifix so I assumed you must be a Christian.' 'Oh, this,' lifting a large gold necklace she was wearing, 'this was my Grandmother's - I wondered what it was.' So often we just take for granted that people know what we know about the Christian faith, and of course, in that case she clearly didn't.

As our thoughts turn to 'Love' in the month of February and St Valentine's Day, what symbol might you choose to express your love for someone? Perhaps a heart, a lipstick kiss, or even a hug? What colour would you choose for love? It is usually red - to remind us of our life-blood. In fact, if you see stained glass in a church, the chances are that where red glass predominates the message is of sacrifice and ultimately of 'love'.

Jesus, it is often said, showed his love by opening his arms wide upon the cross; and so the cross is our supreme symbol of God's love for each of us. A cross (no figure suspended) because Jesus is no longer held there, but rather has overcome death and is alive again. A crucifix (with a suspended figure) because here is Jesus paying the ultimate sacrifice for love of each one of us.



It is not enough to love - you need to be loved

Sometimes we can be inclined to give and give and give to others - without asking anything in return. We may think that this is a sign of generosity - of great strength. But it can also be one of pride - we want to be seen as the one who does not need help. Or it can be a sign of very low self-esteem - we do not think we are worth receiving anything from others.

Whatever the reason, when we keep giving, without also receiving, we put ourselves in danger - we will burn out quickly. It is as important to know when we need to TAKE attention and care, as when we need to give it to others. If you do not pay careful attention to your own needs - whether physical, emotional, mental or spiritual - you will not last the distance. If you want to remain a joyful giver for years to come, you need also to be a joyful taker - and accept God's love - given to you through other people.



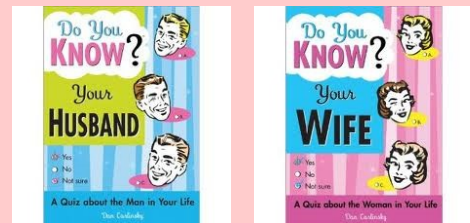
Editor: With Valentine's Day in mind, you may find the following of use.

Newlyweds know each other better than older couples.

How well do you know your partner? It seems that the shorter time you have been married, the better you know their likes and dislikes. In a recent study, psychologists found that couples who have been together for an average of 40 years knew less about each other's likes and dislikes than those who have been together for only a year or two.

They believe that this is because at the start of a relationship, people pay more attention to each other. Years on, they take their partner for granted, and 'stop looking' at their partner in any detail. It was also found that couples who shared the same tastes made the best guesses about each other, regardless of age.

Take this quiz, to see how well you know some things about your spouse:



What is their current favourite music?

What is their current favourite TV programme or film?

Name three kinds of food that they best like.

What is your spouse's current favourite garment?

What colour would they most like in the bedroom? In the living room?

Where would they most like to holiday this coming year?

What sort of furniture do they like? Dark? Light? Modern? Traditional?

If your spouse could do anything for a day, what would that be?

If your spouse is frightened of one thing, what is it?

What would be your spouse's 'dream' for the future?

HELP!!!

It is always encouraging to hear that people enjoy reading the "Link" but it can be made more interesting if you, the reader were to send in contributions. The obvious things are reports on church activities, but what about some personal stories, maybe your holiday adventures, topics for discussion, even "letters to the editor". The Editor would like to hear from you!!



GUILD REPORT

By Margaret Jacobsen

The Guild has been meeting fortnightly throughout the winter on an interesting programme of events under the theme "What does the Lord require of you". 16 -20 people,

mostly women, but men are very welcome, have enjoyed fellowship and heard some very interesting speakers.

December 14th was a night where we could celebrate Christmas with our good friends Bruce and Sheila from the Smiddy. The Hall was beautifully decorated and Sheila and Bruce and colleagues served a wonderful meal which was enjoyed by everyone. We played a version of pass the parcel and the evening passed filled with laughter and fun.

The programme for 2011 begins Tuesday 11th Jan. when Rev. Walter Ritchie is to talk to us on "Can we forgive and forget". Jan. 25th is about Mary's Meals and Feb. 8th is about being an ECO friendly church.

We would be very pleased to welcome anyone who would like to join us on these evenings.

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL 2010



Lochgilphead Primary School's Vocal Ensemble

The sound of excellent singing rang out from the Church over the four days of this year's Christmas Tree Festival. Children from Lochgilphead Primary School and High School, Ardrishaig Primary School, Badden Farm Nursery and Elfs Playgroup all played their part in offering a great programme of entertainment. It was wonderful hearing so

many young voices filling the Church with such a wide variety of music, from the traditional carols to modern pantomime songs.

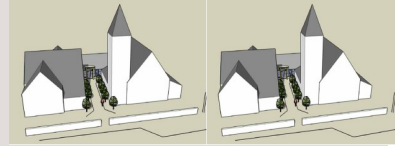
We are very grateful to everyone who took part. Each organisation that took part in the Festival received a share of the donations made by those who came along.

Unfortunately not all of the trees were sold this year, but some of those left were donated to people who did not have a Christmas tree.



Primary 6 pupils from Lochgilphead Primary School

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 (£20,000)

■ Fundraising (£78,068)

Watch Our Money Grow

£360,000 Phase 3

When we started the planning for the renewal of the Hall we called it our 20/10 vision, in the hope that we could have at least have the project started, if not completed in 2010. This was always an ambitious plan but one which could have been achieved with a bit of luck. However, funding the project was always going to be the main stumbling block in realising that ambition.

As a congregation we have been able to raise a magnificent sum of money (See above) but there is still a considerable way to go. The project group will continue in its attempts to raise funds from grant making bodies and will also continue to arrange fundraising events over the next few months, but as we move in to a new year and our 2010 vision is behind us, let us all make a resolution that we will keep the project to the front of our thoughts and every member of the congregation give some thought as to how they can help the project group in achieving the goal of having a refurbished modern hall for the benefit of everyone.

£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

Grandad was babysitting when he heard his little grand-daughter muttering the alphabet over in hushed tones. "What are you doing?" he asked her. "I'm praying," she replied. "I can't think of the right words so I just say all the letters. God will put them together for me 'cos He knows what I'm thinking."



© CHRISTIAN CRACKERS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR by Phil Mason, published by Monarch

£80,000

£60,000

£40,000

£20,000

WORDSEARCH

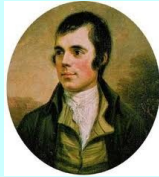
February is the month of romance. Millions of Valentine cards will be sent in the next week or two, as we celebrate our romantic love for that special person in our lives. But there are other kinds of love to celebrate: and on Candlemas we remember Mary and Joseph taking their baby son to the temple to present him to God. Jesus' whole life was a loving present to us from God. Through his death for us on the cross, and his resurrection, his love can now transform anyone's life. Romances can die, but God's love for us is always there. But it won't do us much good - unless we accept it!

Valentine	Restaurant	Hearts	Baby
Rose	Kiss	Romance	Temple
Love	Present	Hug	Mary
Girlfriend	Boyfriend	Fiancé	Angels
Worship	Repentance	Candlemas	Presentation

D C L E M A R Y B A B E
 S T R P L D T E M P L E
 D N E I R F L R I G N N
 N A P H L A I C R I E D
 P R E S E N T A T I O N
 E U N R T A A N N E L E
 S A T O I R E D S C C I
 S T A W G L A L S N É R
 I S N L A U E E A R O F
 K E C V O G H M H S A Y
 R R E M N V O A E O P O
 M O S A P R E S E N T B

BURNS SUPPER

Sadly the annual Burns Supper will not go ahead this year due to the fact that we have been unable to confirm the use of the Council Chambers for the proceedings.



The council representative has cited health and safety problems as the reason. It is not possible to obtain other premises at such short notice and at a reasonable price.

This is most unfortunate, but it should make us more determined to get our own hall renovations up and running in order that we have our own facilities at hand for events such as the Burns Supper.

Wouldn't it be great if this could happen for January 2012!

COFFEE MORNING & TABLE SALE

In the Church Hall

SATURDAY, JANUARY 29th
 Donations Welcome



Children are referred to Befrienders by a variety of agencies including social work, schools, youth workers, and health. The individual child is then "matched" with a befriender and they then meet regularly and get to know each other.

Getting to know each other can involve many different activities; for instance, walking, cooking, cycling, swimming, talking, board games, bowling, watching TV, walking the dog, fishing, pictures, eating out, eating in, gardening. However, it is not the activity that is important but the quality time spent with the child and the individual attention which they receive. Befriending is not about "treats", it's about developing a good, trusting relationship between the befriender and child.

Who can be a befriender? Maybe it could be you! If you have patience, a sense of humour, commitment and you enjoy the company of children and young people, you could think about becoming a befriender. Cathi Bertin would be delighted to hear from you. She can be contacted at the local office at 18 Argyll Street and by phone ☎01546 603144.

MoMa - the service for homeless people in Mid Argyll - was set up after a talk given to the Kirk Session. Maybe, following Cathi's talk, some members of our congregation will consider becoming a befriender.

The Church working in the community.

Befrienders

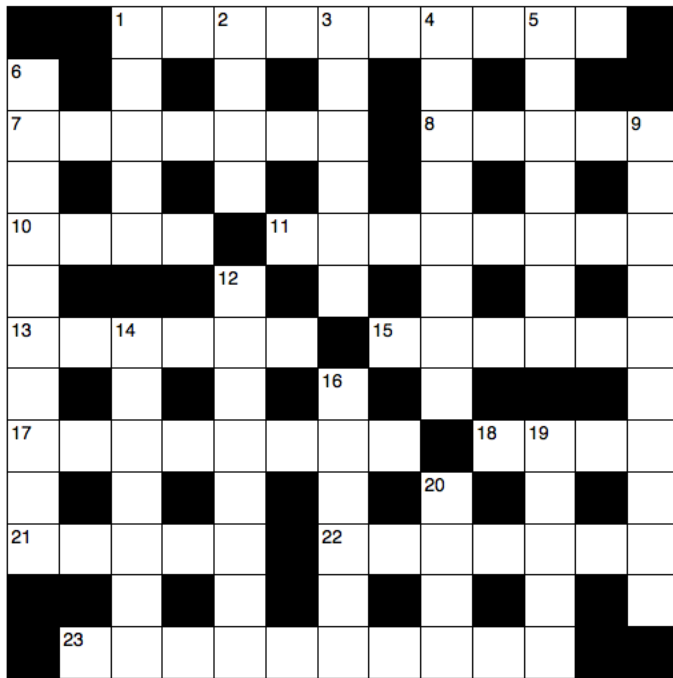
For Argyll & Bute Children

Because children's lives are never just black and white

As part of the Kirk Session's programme of inviting local organisations to come along and talk about their activities, Cathi Bertin, the local coordinator, spoke at the last meeting on the subject of Befrienders, explaining how Befrienders is an independent voluntary organisation which recruits adult volunteers to offer friendship and support for children aged 7-16 years, living in Argyll and Bute, and experiencing difficulties in some area of their lives.

Befriending is a simple concept and it is a positive way for caring adults to become involved in supporting vulnerable children and young people in their own communities. However, befriending does not "just happen" and Cathi stressed how important it was to recognise that in befriending the child's needs are paramount.

Crossword



Across

1. Success or wealth (Deuteronomy 28:11) (10)
7. Forbidden fruit for Nazirites (Numbers 6:3) (7)
8. Concede (Job 27:5) (5)
10. Look at (Psalm 48:13) (4)
11. Much in evidence after weddings (8)
13. Condense (Job 36:27) (6)
15. Breakwater (6)
17. Give a tan (anag.) (8)
18. More usually now called Pentecost, — Sunday (4)
21. After living for 365 years, it was said of him that 'he walked with God' (Genesis 5:23-24) (5)
22. Trampled (Judges 9:27) (7)
23. For example, Miriam, Deborah (Exodus 15:20; Judges 4:4) (10)

Down

1. Arrogance (Proverbs 8:13) (5)
2. Roman poet from first century BC (4)
3. So rapt (anag.) (6)
4. Declare again (2 Corinthians 2:8) (8)
5. Paul's 'fellow worker', to whom he sent two epistles (Romans 16:21) (7)
6. God's foreseeing care and protection (Job 10:12) (10)
9. Traditional form of Roman Catholic Mass (10)
12. "The Lord... has given the — of Israel to David and his descendants for ever" (2 Chronicles 13:5) (8)
14. "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my —" (Luke 1:46-47) (7)
16. The central element in Nebuchadnezzar's dream, identified and interpreted by Daniel (Daniel 2:31) (6)
19. "On this rock I will build my church, and the gates of — will not overcome it" (Matthew 16:18) (5)
20. City where Paul was under house arrest for two years (Acts 28:16) (4)

Laughter Lines



AN ITALIAN BOY'S CONFESSION

'Bless me Father, for I have sinned.
I have been with a loose girl!'

The priest asks, 'Is that you, little Joey Pagano?'

'Yes, Father, it is.'

'And who was the girl you were with?'

'I can't tell you, Father. I don't want to ruin her reputation.'

"Well, Joey, I'm sure to find out her name sooner or later so you may as well tell me now. Was it Tina Minetti?'

'I cannot say.'

'Was it Teresa Mazzarelli?'

'I'll never tell.'

'Was it Nina Capelli?'

'I'm sorry, but I cannot name her.'

'Was it Cathy Piriano?'

'My lips are sealed.'

'Was it Rosa DiAngelo, then?'

'Please, Father, I cannot tell you.'

The priest sighs in frustration.

'You're very tight lipped, and I admire that. But you've sinned and have to atone. You cannot be an altar boy now for 4 months. Now you go and behave yourself.'

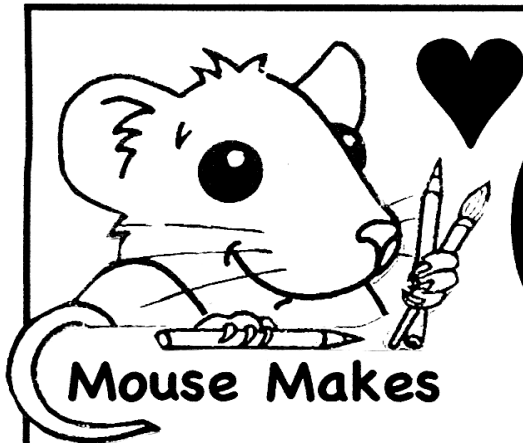
Joey walks back to his pew, and his friend Franco slides over and whispers, 'What'd you get?'

'Four months vacation and five good leads.'

Senior Moment

A minister standing in his church one afternoon was astounded to see a suspicious looking man in a black ski mask come hurling headfirst through the stained glass window. "What on earth are you up to? What happened?!" he demanded. "I'm terribly sorry," said the man, "I forgot to let go of the brick."





WHAT IS LOVE?
*Cross out every **second** letter and find the bible verse:*
 OHNMETJSOAHYF,
 CAHQAXPZTDEKR
 WFBOHUKRL,
 VAECRLSWE
 CTMER
 NQ

HOW DOES GOD SHOW HE LOVES US?
Look at this page in the mirror
 "God showed his love for us by sending his only son into the world, so that we might have life through him"
 1 John 4:9

"The **steadfast** love of the Lord **never** ceases, his mercies **never** come to an end, they are new every morning"
Lamentations 3:22-23

GOD'S LOVE
Change each letter to the letter before it in the alphabet:
 "Hpe mpwfe uif xpsmfe tp nvdi uibu if hbwf ijt pomz tpo tp uibu fwfszpod xip cfmjfwft jo ijn nbz opu ejf cvu ibwf fufsobm mjgf"
 kpio 3:16

HOW LONG IS GOD'S LOVE?
*Cross out all the **xxx** to find out.*
 "Oxgxixvxextxhxaxnxkxsxtxox
 xxhxexLxoxrxdx,fxoxrxhxexi
 sngxoxoxdx,xhxixsxsxtxexa
 dfxaxxsxtlxoxvxexen
 dxuxrxexsxxfxoxrx
 exvxexrx."
 pxxaxlxm
 136:1

Rotas for January/February 2011

	Door Duty	Flowers (Contact E Armstrong)	Readers	Tea/Coffee Duty (Contact - M. Davidson)
Jan. 2nd	Ian Davidson & Margaret Davidson		Ian Davidson	Jim & Ruth Morrison
Jan.9th	Jim Morrison & Ruth Morrison	Edna Armstrong	Jim Morrison	Tom & Chris Stevenson
Jan. 16th	Tom Stevenson & Chris Stevenson	Cathy McGlynn	Tom Stevenson	Sandy & May Taylor
Jan. 23rd	Sandy Taylor & Margaret Jacobsen	tba	Margaret Jacobsen	Roddy & Sandra Morrison
Jan 30th	Malcolm MacFadyen & Helen Samborek	tba	Malcolm MacFadyen	Margaret & Ian Davidson
Feb. 6th	Jim Kirk & Charles MacLean	tba	Edna Armstrong	Jim & Ruth Morrison
Feb. 13th	Roddy Morrison & Frances Fleming	Edna Armstrong	Roddy Morrison	Tom & Chris Stevenson
Feb. 20th	Frank Killeen & Allison Pearson	tba	Chris Stevenson	Sandy & May Taylor
Feb. 27th	Joan Barclay & May Taylor	tba	May Taylor	Roddy & Sandra Morrison

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

Services (all at 11.00am except where stated)

January 2nd	Rev. Stanley Hood
January 9th	Rev. Stanley Hood
January 16th	Rev. Walter Ritchie
January 23rd	John Morrison
January 30th	tba
February 6th	tba
February 13th	tba
February 20th	tba
February 27th	tba

Other events

January 9th; 23rd; Feb. 13th; 27th	Youth Fellowship
January 11th	Guild Meeting
January 18	Project Group Meeting, 7.30pm
Jan. 16th; Feb, 6th; 20th	Toucan Club
January 29th	Coffee Morning
January 25th	Guild Meeting
February 8th	Guild Meeting

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS: 1, Prosperity, 7, Raisins, 8, Admit, 10, View, 11, Confetti, 13, Distil, 15, Groyne, 17, Navigate, 18, Whit, 21, Enoch, 22, Trod-den, 23, Prophets.
DOWN: 1, Pride, 2, Ovid, 3, Pastor, 4, Reaffirm, 5, Timothy, 6, Providence, 9, Tridentine, 12, Kingship, 14, Saviour, 16, Statue, 19, Hades, 20, Rome.

..... and for your diary

January 22nd	Burns Supper (Cancelled)
March 4th	World Day of Prayer
May 29th	Sponsored Walk & BBQ
June 12th	Pentecost Lunch
September 4th	Autumn Fete

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	Roddy Morrison	01546 603972
Gift Aid Convenor	Edna Armstrong	01546 602600
Fabric Convenor	Ian Davidson	01546 603784
Fund Raising Convenor	Tom Stevenson	01546 600259
Social Convenor	Margaret Davidson	01546 603784
Safeguarding Co-ordinator	Jim Morrison	01546 603132
Guild Contact	Frances Fleming	01546 602270
Free Will Offering Organiser	Alex Emslie	01546 603820
Hall Bookings	Bill Kennedy	01546 602875

Committees 2010 - 11

Finance	E Armstrong, A Emslie, M MacDonald, R Morrison
Social	M Davidson, M MacFadyen, R Morrison, H Samborek, M Taylor, F Fleming, J & R Morrison, A Pearson
Fundraising	T Stevenson, J Kirk, I McArthur, J Cranston, C Stevenson, C MacLean
Project Team	Ian Davidson, Rev. H Smith, Roddy Morrison, Mary MacDonald, Tom Stevenson, Margaret Davidson
Child Protection Team	J Morrison, Rev. Hilda Smith, M Taylor

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