



## Lochgilhead Parish Church

# The LINK

Volume 6 Issue 9

November 2008

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



### Message From the Manse

Dear Friends,

As many of you know, I was one of the chaplains in Yorkhill and the Queen Mother's before coming to Lochgilhead three years ago. At times, families had to deal with very difficult situations and at those times appreciated the support that was offered by the chaplains.

What I liked about working in that environment was that I often had the opportunity to get to know patients and families who were in the hospital long term, as well as those who paid frequent return visits. That meant that when a real crisis arose, I already knew the families well and more importantly, they knew me and so they didn't have to explain who they were or why they were there and nor did I. We already had a relationship and often a good one which helped tremendously. As a chaplain, I could have walked into any situation blind and been there to support the family but the relationship would have been lacking and the families would have had no idea what they could expect from me.

I was reminded recently of the value of good relationships when I read again the verse from Ecclesiastes which says 'Remember your creator in the days of your youth'. God can step into any situation and support us but what a difference it makes when we know Him before hand, when we know Him from the time of our youth and are able to turn to Him and lean on Him without necessarily saying anything, simply because we know each other.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could get that message across to our young people? Wouldn't it be great if they were able to realise the value of a relationship with God through Christ? But then, I suppose it comes back to the same old story that they have to see the difference our faith and our relationship with Jesus makes to us, before it will matter to them. Many of us are well past our youth, but many of us can also vouch for the importance of that relationship which we have had with Jesus and with our God since the days of our youth.

In times of trial which are never far away, we know we can lean on our God to see us through. Unlike other people, He will never fail us. He will never leave us and He cares for us more than we can ever imagine.

Remember your creator in the days of your youth but I would encourage us to remember Him no matter our age or the situation in which we find ourselves. His support will far surpass our expectations.

With best wishes,  
Hilda C. Smith

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# Remembrance



On 11 November 1918 the Armistice was signed between the Allied and German armies, ending the First World War - a global war that lasted four years with the total human cost to Britain and the Empire of 3,049,972 casualties, including 658,705 dead.

Of all the millions of men who joined up to serve and defend the country, 90 years later the ranks have thinned dramatically. Now, there are just three stalwarts of the battlefields living in the UK. **Harry Patch**, **Bill Stone** and **Henry Allingham** are the only survivors to bear witness to those dark days. When they are no longer with us, the Great War will pass from living human memory finally to history.

Henry Allingham has said: "These hellish memories of war are ones I'd rather forget. But never my comrades. Never the men who gave their everything." During a visit to a war cemetery in France, he was quoted as saying, "All of us must remember them, always."

There are a number of events and exhibitions being held to commemorate the 90th anniversary. Below are links to some that may be of interest.

## Imperial War Museum

Explore the Imperial War Museum's First World War collections and discover how the Museum's five branches are remembering the 'war to end all wars' - [www.iwm.org.uk/90](http://www.iwm.org.uk/90)

## BBC - Remembrance90

With the aim of personalising the act of remembrance and bringing World War One vividly alive in the present, the BBC is featuring a season of radio and TV programmes, free public events and online activities. From 22nd October, you can post family artefacts, photographs and memories on the special online Remembrance Wall and through links to an array of family history sites, research your relatives' role in the war and find out more about the events of the Great War.

Free local events will be held across the UK on the weekend of the 8th and 9th of November to mark the 90th anniversary of the end of the First World War and an innovative texting service, where people can sign up to receive a series of texts about an individual First World War soldier from their local area and discover their story is available.

## *I DO NOT KNOW YOUR NAME*

*I do not know your name, but I know you died  
I do not know from where you came, but I know  
you died*

*Your uniform, branch of service, it matters not  
to me  
Whether Volunteer or Conscript, or how it came  
to be  
That politicians failures, or some power-mad  
ambition  
Brought you too soon to your death, in the name  
of any nation*

*You saw, you felt, you knew full well, as friend  
and foe were taken  
By bloody death, that your life too, was forfeit  
and forsaken  
Yet on you went and fought and died, in your  
close and private hell  
For Mate or Pal or Regiment and memories never  
to tell*

*It was for each other, through shot and shell,  
the madness you endured  
Side by side, through wound and pain, and  
comradeship assured  
No family ties, or bloodline link, could match that  
bond of friend  
Who shared the horror and kept on going, at last  
until the end*

*We cannot know, we were not there, it's beyond  
our comprehension  
To know the toll that battle brings, of resolute  
intention  
To carry on, day by day, for all you loved and  
hoped for  
To live in peace a happy life, away from bloody  
war*

*For far too many, no long life ahead, free of  
struggle and pain and the gun  
And we must remember the price that was paid,  
by each and every one  
Regardless of views, opinions aside, no matter  
how each of us sees it  
They were there and I cannot forget, even  
though I did not live it*

*I do not know your name, but I know you died  
I do not know from where you came, but I know  
you died.*



## *Handwritten on the wall of Mother Theresa's room*

*People are often unreasonable, illogical, and self-centred; Forgive them anyway.*

*If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives; Be kind anyway.*

*If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true enemies; Be successful anyway.*

*If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you; Be honest and frank anyway.*

*What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight; Build anyway.*

*If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous; Be happy anyway.*

*The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow; Do good anyway.*

*Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough; Give the world the best you've got anyway.*

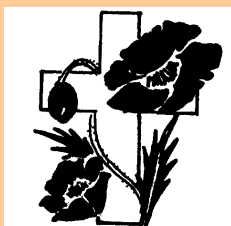
*You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and God; It never was between you and them anyway.*

## November 30th Advent Sunday

As November closes, Advent begins. The exact birth-date of Jesus is not known, but during the 5th century the date of 25 December was chosen to become the Feast of the Nativity, or Christmas.

By the sixth century, the Christian Church was in the habit of spending several weeks leading up to Christmas in prayerful, expectant preparation. The fourth Sunday before Christmas Day became Advent Sunday. 'Advent', of course, means 'coming', or 'coming in', and traditionally special candles have been lit, and more recently, advent calendars used, as the Church prepares itself for the coming of the Holy Child, the long-awaited Messiah.

We will have our Advent wreath with its four red candles to be lit each week and the white one to be lit on Christmas Day.



### **The Remembrance Day Service and Wreath Laying**

will take place at the

**War Memorial, Colchester Square on**

**Sunday November 9th, 2008, at 11.00am**

**Rev. Derek Gibson will conduct the service.**

## Infant Baptism is Still Popular



Two babies in every five in the UK are baptised. Despite the fact that young people are less and less in church, nevertheless 40% of those newly born are brought to a church for infant baptism or christening.

The percentage has declined - it was 55% in 1991 and 50% in 2000, but in 2008 it was still high - at 40%. These percentages include all those babies baptised in the Church of England (and other Anglican churches in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland), the Roman Catholic Churches in each country, the Methodist church and the smaller denominations, some of which also practice infant baptism. The number of baptisms in the Roman Catholic Church is increasing because of the large number of Polish immigrants who have come to the UK to find work, and Catholic baptisms are more than a third, 36%, of the overall total.

Why do people have their babies baptised? The percentage doing so is about three times greater than the number who come to church even once a year, let alone once a week. Some see it as a sort of 'insurance' policy - "I feed my child, I house my child, I get injections for my child, why shouldn't I have it baptised?" as a Scottish lady (who believed in God but never went to church - apart from these occasions) once said.

Most baptisms are accompanied by other friends as well, and often with God-parents. How can we make these occasions special in our church? How can we keep in touch with the families of those who have been baptised, and encourage them to bring their babies to creche and toddlers to Sunday School? How can we help all those who attend to see something of what the Christian faith is all about, and encourage them to seek the truth for themselves?

The Catholics baptise children with oil as well as water, which is a lovely symbol of praying that the Holy Spirit may come upon each child. They also give a lighted candle to each parent, helping to make the occasion especially meaningful.

Baptisms are such an opportunity - it is worth considering: how can we best use them?

## "Blue" Christmas Service

Hilda C. Smith, Minister

As the Christmas season approaches and many are caught up in the excitement and the party spirit, those who of us who have suffered a loss in the previous year or indeed in years gone are often reminded again of the pain of that loss. It may be that we have lost a child, a spouse, a sibling, a parent or a very good friend. Christmas and the empty chair at the table have the capacity to churn up memories and to leave us feeling our loss and our pain more deeply.

Lochgilphead Parish Church has decided to hold a special service at the beginning of Advent for everyone in our community who wishes to take time to remember friends and family. It is hoped that through coming together, each of us will find comfort, hope and a sense of peace in the midst of our pain.

The service will be held on 30<sup>th</sup> November at 3 p.m. and will last about 45 minutes. During it, there will be a special act of remembrance which will ensure that our loved ones are remembered throughout the Christmas season. Each of us will be given a small card as we arrive at the Church on which we can write our own message or thoughts or the name of our loved one and those will be hung on our Christmas tree.

It is hoped that invitations will be sent out shortly to recently bereaved families. If you don't receive a formal invitation, please accept this as your invitation. You are more than welcome to come if you would like to share in this service. If you know of someone else who might like to join with us, please invite them or bring them along with you.

The service will be followed by tea and coffee. I look forward to welcoming many of you to our service.

### TOUCAN CLUB

The Toucan Club takes place on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month.



Nativity rehearsals are starting this Sunday November 2nd. Anyone interested should come along, Please watch the notice board outside the Church for dates of extra rehearsals.

There is also a workshop on Saturday November 29th in preparation for the Family Service, but it will also include preparation for the Nativity.

**We look forward to seeing you there!**

## Even God Enjoys a Good Laugh

There were 3 good arguments that Jesus was Black:

1. He called everyone brother
2. He liked Gospel
3. He didn't get a fair trial

But then there were 3 equally good arguments that Jesus was Jewish:

1. He went into His Father's business
2. He lived at home until he was 33
3. He was sure his Mother was a virgin and his Mother was sure He was God

But then there were 3 equally good arguments that Jesus was Italian:

1. He talked with His hands
2. He had wine with His meals
3. He used olive oil

But then there were 3 equally good arguments that Jesus was a Californian :

1. He never cut His hair
2. He walked around barefoot all the time
3. He started a new religion

But then there were 3 equally good arguments that Jesus was an American Indian :

1. He was at peace with nature
2. He ate a lot of fish
3. He talked about the Great Spirit

But then there were 3 equally good arguments that Jesus was Irish:

1. He never got married.
2. He was always telling stories.
3. He loved green pastures.

But the most compelling evidence of all - 3 proofs that Jesus was a woman:

1. He fed a crowd at a moment's notice when there was virtually no food .
2. He kept trying to get a message across to a bunch of men who just didn't get it.
3. And even when He was dead, He had to get up because there was still work to do.

## Session Notes

The session met on Wednesday October 29th and apart from the normal day to day business the following items were discussed:-

- ◇ It was decided that the Church would change to using non-alcoholic communion wine.
- ◇ Elders were encouraged to inform Alex Emslie of any changes of Church members in their districts in order to keep the roll up to date.
- ◇ The formation of a Bible Study Group was discussed. It was pointed out that there used to be a very successful Bible Study Group several years ago and it was agreed that we should try again to establish a new Group. This will hopefully start into the New Year.
- ◇ Much discussion took place regarding Outreach in the Parish and how we can attract new people into the Church. Discussion formed around returning/lapsed members; attracting new members through Church events and services and how to approach new people moving to the area. We will look at the Cradle Roll, those married in the Church, the parents of baptised children and the families of the bereaved. Visitors should be made welcome and encouraged to come again. We will also look at the "successes" of other Churches to examine what they do to keep and attract people to become part of their Church community.



The recent Coffee Morning held in the Church Hall in aid of the Renewal Project raised the magnificent sum of £409.00.

Our grateful thanks to all who helped on the day, baked, donated raffle prizes or just came along and gave their support.

## Guild Report

By Frances Fleming



The Guild session for this year started on Tuesday October 14th. The opening night was a Bible Study night. The theme for this year is "The Soul."

The Rev. Roddy Macleod gave us a very interesting talk on "He Restores My Soul." His theme was the twenty third Psalm, verse three, "My Soul He Doth Restore Again." He explained how our soul can be restored by our approach to Christianity.

We had a very interesting thought provoking evening where everyone contributed to the discussion.

Our next meeting was on Tuesday October 28th when we had an "Open Meeting" when we were entertained by the Mid Argyll Youth Chorus. This was the younger, newer members of the choir and was also their first public performance. We were given a lovely selection of songs, beautifully sung and sung as if they were really enjoying themselves.

As this was an "Open meeting" there was a large audience, standing room only, as we had run out of chairs. There were mums and dads, as well as members of our own congregation and other congregations in the town there. Also quite a number from further away.

Tea and home baking was served and enjoyed by all. All together a very enjoyable evening.

### CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAYRE

Saturday November 15th,  
in the Church Hall

All donations welcome

A CHANCE TO BUY YOUR CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

### CHRISTMAS LUNCH

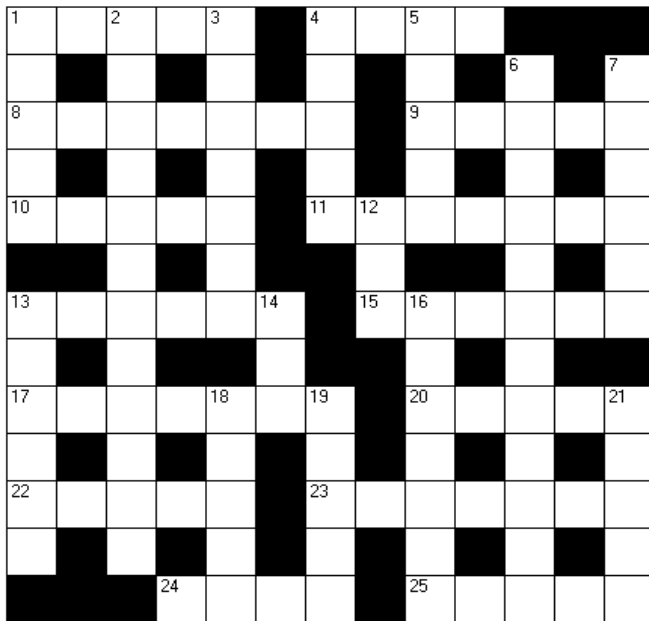
SUNDAY December 7th  
AFTER THE SERVICE

PRICE £10

Make a note in your diary.  
The booking form will be  
available soon



## Crossword



### Across

- 1 Plant under which the behemoth lies in Job ch. 40 (5)
- 4 Do not \_\_\_\_ a young goat (Lev 23.19) (4)
- 8 Holy war (7)
- 9 What the wicked do to the Lord's people in Psalm 94 (5)
- 10 Loaded, as Israel was loaded with silver and gold in Psalm 105 (5)
- 11 Processions (7)
- 13 In wrath you \_\_\_\_\_ through the earth (Hab 3.12) (6)
- 15 Description of the wolves in Acts ch. 20 (6)
- 17 Hates, as the Lord hates the way of the wicked in Proverbs ch. 15 (7)
- 20 How can I \_\_\_\_\_ you like Admah (Hos 11.8) (5)
- 22 Like the crowds following Jesus in Matthew ch. 19 (5)
- 23 25 cents (US slang) (3,4)
- 24 The lilies in Luke ch. 12 do not do this (4)
- 25 Haul on a rope (5)

### Down

- 1 Description of the councils mentioned in Mark ch. 13 (5)
- 2 Atmospheric disturbance having a path cut in Job ch. 38 (12)
- 3 Coloured like the glass in a church window (7)
- 4 Inexpensive (5)
- 5 Happen (5)
- 6 The first Sunday in Lent (12)
- 7 Morally pure (6)
- 12 Donkey (3)
- 13 Seat in which Rachel put the household gods in Genesis ch. 31 (6)
- 14 ..fathers will \_\_\_\_ their children (Ezek 5.10) (3)
- 16 Home town of Nicolas in Acts ch. 6 (7)
- 18 Abram fell into a deep one in Genesis ch. 15 (5)
- 19 The Devil (5)
- 21 Do not handle! Do not \_\_\_\_\_! Do not touch! (Col 2.21) (5)

## Laughter Lines



### Aren't You Moses?

Recently while going through an airport during one of his many trips, President Bush encountered a man with long hair, wearing a white robe and sandals, holding a staff. President Bush went up to the man and said, "Aren't you Moses?" The man never answered but just kept staring ahead.

Again the President said, "Moses!" in a loud voice. The man just kept staring ahead, never answering the president. Soon a secret service agent came along and President Bush grabbed him and said, "Doesn't this man look like Moses to you?"

The secret service agent agreed with the President. "Well," said the President, "Every time I say his name, he just keeps staring ahead and refuses to speak. Watch!" Again, the President yelled, "Moses!" and again the man stared ahead.

The secret service man went up to the man in the white robe and whispered, "You look just like Moses. Are you Moses?"

The man leaned over and whispered, "Yes, I am Moses. But the last time I talked to a bush, I spent 40 years wandering in the desert!"

### The Atheist

An atheist was walking through the woods, admiring all that the "accident of evolution" had created. "What majestic trees! What powerful rivers! What beautiful animals!", he said to himself. As he was walking alongside the river he heard a rustling in the bushes behind him. Turning to look, he saw a 7-foot grizzly bear charge towards him. He ran as fast as he could up the path. He looked over his shoulder and saw the grizzly was closing in. Somehow, he ran even faster, so scared that tears came to his eyes. He looked again and the bear was even closer. His heart was pounding as he tried to run faster. He tripped and fell to the ground. He rolled over to pick himself up but the bear was right over him, reaching for him with its left paw and raising its right paw to strike him. At that instant the atheist cried, "Oh my God!...."

Time stopped. The bear froze. The forest was silent. Even the river stopped moving.

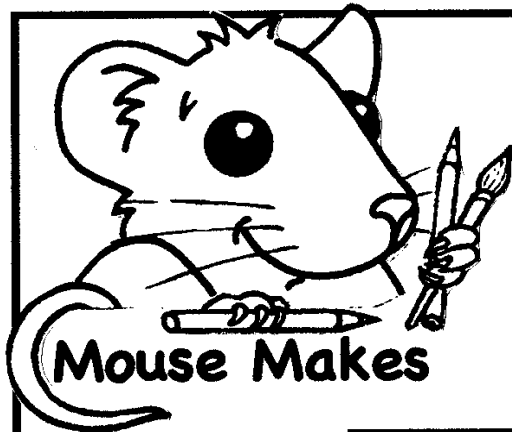
As a bright light shone upon the man, a voice came out of the sky, "You deny my existence for all these years, teach others that I don't exist and even credit creation to a cosmic accident. Yet now you call to me and expect me to help you out of this predicament? Am I to count you as a believer?"

The atheist looked directly into the light, "I am a man of principle and it would be hypocritical to become a Christian and ask for your help after all these years.... but perhaps you could make the bear a Christian?"

"Very well" said the voice.

The light went out. The river ran. The sounds of the forest resumed.

And then the bear dropped his right paw .... Brought both paws together.... bowed its head and spoke: "Lord, for this food which I am about to receive, I am truly thankful."



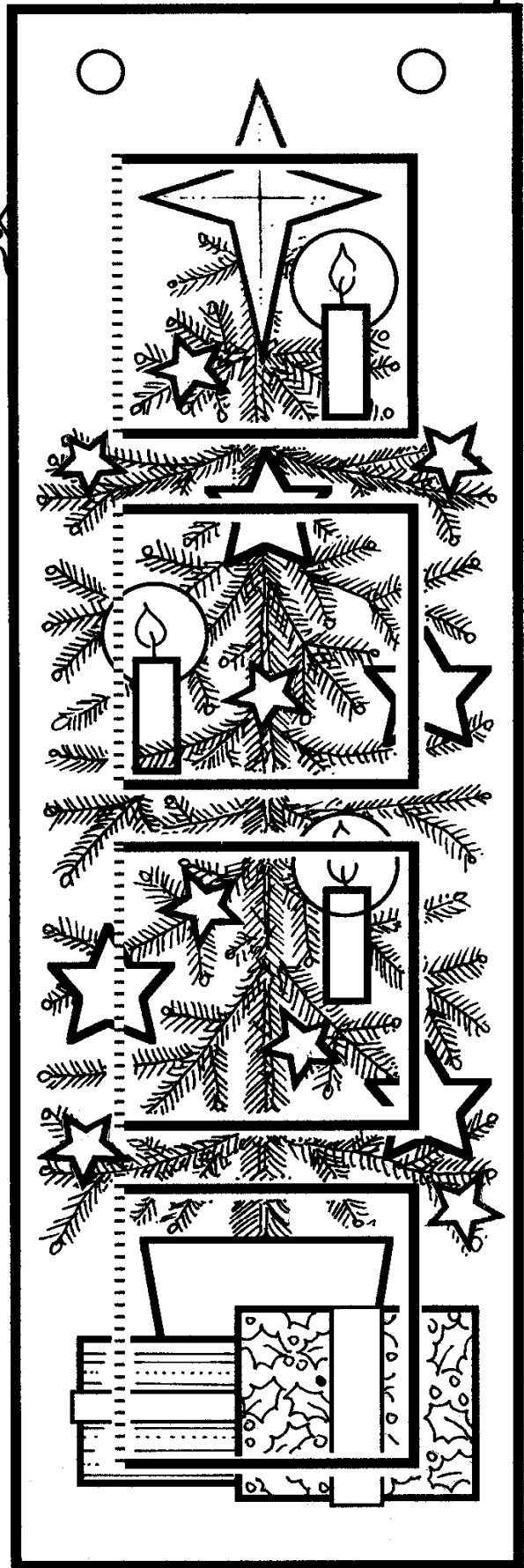
ADVENT comes from the Latin 'AD VENTO' which means 'ARRIVAL'

In advent we celebrate Jesus' birth and look forward to the time when Jesus will come again.



Make this Advent calendar to count down the four Sundays before Christmas

1. Cut out the front of the calendar.
2. Ask an adult to cut around the thick lines of each window with a craft knife, then fold them open along the dotted lines.
3. Put glue on the back of the calendar around the edge and stick onto card.
4. Cut out the pictures and glue onto the backing card behind each window.
5. Punch holes in the top and hang.



## Rotas for November 2008

|           | <b>Door Duty</b>                 | <b>Flowers<br/>(Contact<br/>E Armstrong)</b> | <b>Readers</b>   | <b>Tea/Coffee Duty<br/>(Contact - M. Davidson)</b> |
|-----------|----------------------------------|--|------------------|--|
| Nov. 2nd  | Allison Pearson & Helen Samborek | Catherine Cameron                            | Communion        | Roddy & Sandra Morrison                            |
| Nov. 9th  | Mary MacDonald & May Taylor      | Poppy Basket                                 | Remembrance      | Remembrance  |
| Nov. 16th | Alex Emslie & Ishbel MacArthur   | Betty Kirk                                   | Ishbel MacArthur | Jim & Betty Kirk                                   |
| Nov. 23rd | Ian Davidson & Margaret Davidson | Catherine Cameron                            | Ian Davidson     | Jim & Ruth Morrison                                |
| Nov. 30th | Jim Morrison & Ruth Morrison     | Jessie Cranson                               | Jim Morrison     | Margaret & Ian Davidson                            |
| Dec. 7th  | Tom Stevenson & Chris Stevenson  | tba  | Tom Stevenson    | Christmas Lunch                                    |

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

### What's on in November

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

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| November 2nd  | Rev. Hilda Smith<br>Communion                           |
| November 9th  | Rev. Hilda Smith<br>Remembrance Service,<br>10.00am     |
| November 16th | Rev. Catriona Hood                                      |
| November 23rd | Rev. Stanley Hood                                       |
| November 30th | Rev. Hilda Smith  |
| November 30th | Rev. Hilda Smith<br>"Blue Christmas" Service,<br>2.30pm |
| December 7th  | Re. Hilda Smith   |

#### Other events

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| November 2nd  | Toucan Club  |
| November 5th  | Congregational Board Meeting                           |
| November 7th  | Mr & Mrs. Competition                                  |
| November 15th | Church Christmas Fair                                  |
| November 16th | Toucan Club  |
| November 26th | Session Meeting  |
| November 29th | Children's Saturday Workshop                           |
| November 30th | Lunch Club - Edo's, 12.45pm<br>Contact: Edna Armstrong |

#### CROSSWORD ANSWERS

Across  
 1 Lotus 4 Cook 8 Crusade 9 Crush 10 Laden 11 Parades 13 Strode  
 15 Savage  
 17 Detests 20 Treat 22 Large 23 Two bits 24 Spin 25 Heave  
 Down  
 1 Local 2 Thunderstorm 3 Stained 4 Cheap 5 Occur 6 Quad  
 7 Chaste 12 Ass  
 13 Saddle 14 Eat 16 Antioch 18 Sleep 19 Satan 21 Taste

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

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| Dec. 7th, 21st   | Toucan Club      |
| December 7th   | Christmas Lunch  |
| Jan 28th, Mar 25th,<br>May 13th, Jun 24th,<br>Sept 2nd, Nov. 4th | Session Meetings |
| January 31st   | Burns Supper     |

#### Who's Who in LPC

|                                      |                            |                              |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Minister                             | Rev Hilda C Smith          | 01546 602238                 |
| Session Clerks                       | Jim Kirk &<br>Sandy Taylor | 01546 602524<br>01546 606218 |
| Clerk to the<br>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                      | Roddy Morrison             | 01546 603972                 |
| Guild Contact                        | Frances Fleming            | 01546 602270                 |
| Free Will Offering<br>Organiser      | Alex Emslie                | 01546 603820                 |
| Hall Bookings                        | Bill Kennedy               | 01546 602875                 |

#### Committees 2008 - 09

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Finance               | Edna Armstrong, Alex Emslie, Mary<br>MacDonald, Roddy Morrison,   |
| Fabric                | Ian Davidson, Frances Fleming, Bill<br>Kennedy, Allison Pearson   |
| Social                | Margaret Davidson, Malcolm<br>MacFadyen, Roddy Morrison, Helen<br>Samborek, May Taylor                        |
| Fundraising           | Tom Stevenson, Betty Kirk, Jim Kirk,<br>Ishbel McArthur, Jessie Cranston, Chris<br>Stevenson, Charlie MacLean |
| Project Team          | Sandy Taylor, Rev. Hilda Smith, Fabric<br>Convenor, Treasurer, Clerk to the Board                             |
| Child Protection Team | Jim Morrison, Rev. Hilda Smith, May<br>Taylor, Ruth Morrison  |

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