



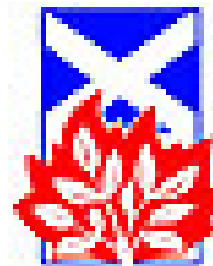
Lochgilphead Parish Church

The LINK

Volume 6 Issue 8

October 2008

www.lpchurch.co.uk



Message From the Manse

Dear Friends,

As I began to think about a topic for this month's letter from the manse, I happened to log on to another Church's website and noticed that their minister had been preaching on the problem of suffering and how it is a problem when we believe in a loving and all powerful God. It's a problem because it happens. The minister made the point that there is no definitive answer to why suffering happens but the first aspect of suffering he concentrated on is the one I want to focus on just now, namely, that some suffering is self-inflicted. It's not something we like to think but it is something we need to face.

The truth is that our lifestyles can cause us to suffer. The cyclists who were taking part in the triathlon around the Lochgilphead area recently were no doubt suffering the next day: self-inflicted!. On a serious note, sport may cause self-inflicted pain but it is actually something very positive which we can do to help ourselves when we are young enough and fit enough! I don't want to see my whole congregation out jogging round Lochgilphead!

However, the theme of self-inflicted suffering fits in with harvest and the idea that we reap what we sow. That sort of statement, like 'be sure your sins will find you out', is not one that we like very much.. When things go wrong in our lives, we very often want to blame someone other than ourselves. But, you know, sometimes the blame lies very clearly at our own door whether we like it or not. In many ways, we do reap what we sow.

We receive warning after warning in the media about the danger to our health and to our environment of various substances, of different products, of a lack of exercise and of modern technology, for example, long term damage to our sight due to staring at computer screens for hours on end but do we listen? I am sitting in front of a computer screen as I write! We do cause suffering to ourselves and to our environment and we need to think about that and to take responsibility for our actions and for the consequences of our actions.

This letter is only about self-inflicted suffering and in a page, we can only scratch the surface but there is lot of suffering which comes our way through no fault of our own and as I said at the beginning, there is no definitive answer as to why that kind of suffering takes place. But where self-inflicted suffering is concerned, at times we get a warning about the way we live our lives and it's up to us to take action to change things for our own good and to avoid avoidable suffering.

God is all powerful, and if we need help to change our lives, all we need to do is ask and we will receive. It sounds so simple but it can still be hard work to change an established harmful pattern of life or indeed any established pattern of life. We can ask God and he will open doors for us so that we get help but what we need to realise is that God uses people. We are his hands and feet, his ears and eyes. It may be that help will come to us through self-help groups or through the support of friends or someone perhaps not so close to us. God will use each of us if we are open to helping others and we too will reap what we sow.

Our Church family needs to be a family where we care for each other and look out for each other. Are you willing to be part of that caring family and to accept the responsibility for your actions which could have far reaching positive consequences for those you reach out to and help? It's a challenge facing each of us.

Best wishes,
Hilda

Inside
this
issue

The Little
Things

Simply 90

Time to
Change

Project
Notes

Session
Notes

Is the Snow-
ball Still
Rolling?

Kids Corner

Crossword &
Laughter
Lines

Rotas and
What's On

The L I T T L E Things

After September 11th, one company invited the remaining members of other companies who had been decimated by the attack on the Twin Towers to share their available office space. At the morning meeting, the head of security told stories of why these people were alive and all the stories were just, the "L I T T L E" things.

The head of the company arrived that day because his son started kindergarten.

Another fellow was alive because it was his turn to bring donuts.

One woman was late because her alarm clock didn't go off on time.

One was late because of being stuck on the NJ Turnpike because of an accident.

One of them missed his bus.

One spilled food on her clothes and had to take time to change.

One's car wouldn't start.

One went back to answer the telephone.

One had a child that dawdled and didn't get ready as soon as he should have.

One couldn't get a taxi.

The one that struck me was the man who put on a new pair of shoes that morning, took the various means to get to work but before he got there, he developed a blister on his foot. He stopped at a drugstore to buy a Band-Aid. That is why he is alive today.

Now when I am stuck in traffic, miss an elevator, turn back to answer the ringing telephone.....all the little things that annoy me. I think to myself, this is exactly where God wants me to be at this very moment....

Next time your morning seems to be going wrong, the children are slow getting dressed, you can't seem to find the car keys, you hit every traffic light, don't get mad or frustrated.

God is at work watching over you!

May God continue to bless you with all those annoying little things and may you remember their possible purpose.

The number of people in the UK who celebrate their 90th birthday grows larger year by year. Nearly half a million people in the UK will be doing so in 2009! The actual estimated number is 460,000 men and women. This is up from 360,000 in the year 2000, itself an increase from 250,000 in 1991. The rate of increase in numbers was especially high in the 1990s, averaging 12,000 a year, but since the 21st century dawned we have still been adding 11,000.



Nearly three-quarters, 74%, of those who are 90 or over are women, a percentage which is dropping owing to the greater longevity of more and more men. The percentage of women was 81% in 1991.

It is possible that as many as 18% of those 90 or over have a Christian commitment, one in every 6, although many will not be able to get to church, as they will be living in residential homes, or needing transport.

In a survey of older Christians undertaken a few years ago, in which over 200 90-year olds participated, many said they still kept reading their Bible, and many watched the BBC Sunday programme *Songs of Praise*, finding it a spiritual experience.

Virtually half, 49%, of all 90-year olds went to Sunday School back in the 1920s, and many will still remember the hymns they sang then and the Bible verses they had to learn by heart. How can we help these older people bring their faith alive, especially when it has been dulled by years of nominalism or even neglect? There is an urgency also - only 10,000 of 90-year olds will celebrate their 100th birthday.

A Baptismal service was in progress at our local Baptist Church. During the course of his sermon the minister looked down at the water in the Baptistry and said, "There is nothing magical about this water, it is the same water that we shall use to make the coffee with later."



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

Why You Are Like a Pumpkin

Being a Christian is like being a pumpkin. God lifts you up, takes you in, and washes all the dirt off you. He opens you up, touches you deep inside and scoops out all the yeuchy stuff - including the seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc. Then he carves you a new smiling face and puts his light inside you to shine for the world to see.



Copyright © 2001 Christiana Eakin-Cheney



Time to Change

**Remember to turn your clock back on
Saturday October 25th**

The European Union as a whole uses summer (or daylight saving) time from the last Sunday in March to the last Sunday in October. The change between the two takes place at 01.00 GMT.

In October, just when you get used to it getting dark at around 5.30-6.00pm we change our clocks from following British Summer Time (BST) back to Greenwich Mean Time (GMT). This means it will be dark an hour earlier, and don't we all notice it! It seems as though suddenly the nights are substantially longer.

...it's not surprising that so many people, up to one in every 20 people, suffer from SAD...

Subconsciously, many of us will feel winter has dawned. Most of us will be travelling to and from work in darkness, so perhaps it's not surprising that so many people, up to one in every 20 people, suffer from SAD (Seasonal Affective Disorder) during the UK's long winter days. This is a specific type of depression that experts believe is related to a lack of exposure to daylight. It affects people at the same time each year - during autumn and winter.

The fact that we are back in GMT it doesn't mean our weather is affected. As the sun continues its journey south of the equator to bring summer to the Southern Hemisphere, winter sets in in the Northern Hemisphere. Here the sun, now at a lower angle in the sky, is weaker and sets earlier than during the summer. So the nights become increasingly longer, and this does have an affect on the weather.

In the depths of winter the nights in the UK are anything from 15-19 hours long.

In the depths of winter the nights in the UK are anything from 15-19 hours long. On clear winter nights heat escapes from the ground for longer than it does in the summer, so allowing temperatures to fall further and increasing the chance of frost.

At this time of year any tender or tropical plants in your garden will need to be well protected. Top tip: if you haven't got a conservatory then try putting your pots on polystyrene trays or wrapping the pots in bubble wrap.

Harsher frosts in the winter means a return to setting the alarm clock ten minutes earlier to make sure you have time to scrap the ice off the car windscreen! Keep watching the weather forecasts so you don't get up earlier every morning!

Colder nights can also lead to a greater chance of fog forming, another hazard for the unsuspecting motorist in the early morning rush-hour.

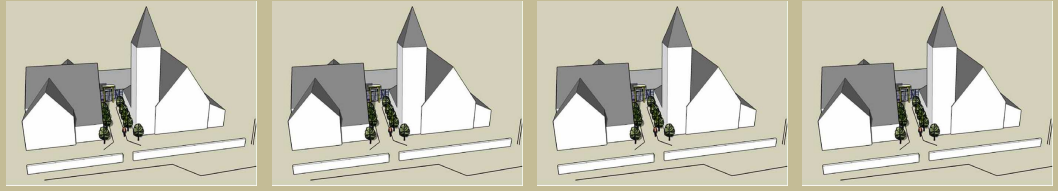
For me though winter isn't always doom and gloom. After all there's nothing like seeing the weak winter sunshine shining on a frosty lawn or a spider's web first thing in the morning.

As the nights draw in remember there's always the excuse for brewing some mulled wine and toasting crumpets on an open fire. Now you couldn't do that in the Mediterranean, could you?



On the table side by side
The Holy Bible and the T.V. Guide.
One is well worn, yet cherished with pride,
But that one is not the Bible, it's the T.V. Guide.
One is used daily to help folks decide,
No! it isn't the Bible, it's the T.V. Guide.
As the pages are turned what shall they see?
Oh! it doesn't matter, just turn on the T.V.
Then confusion is started, for they can't all agree
On what they shall watch on the old T.V.
So they refer to the book in which they all confide
But it isn't the Bible, it's the T.V. Guide.
The Word of God is seldom read.
Maybe a verse before they fall into bed.
Exhausted and sleepy and tired as can be,
Not from reading the Bible, but from watching T.V.
Then back to the table side by side,
The Holy Bible and the T.V. Guide.
No time for prayer, No time for the Word.
The plan of salvation is seldom heard.
Forgiveness of sin so full and free
We find in the Bible and not on T.V.

Project Notes



Short Notes. A chance to keep in touch with the Renewal Project

Renewal Project Moving Along

I say moving, as opposed to speeding, as our decision to ensure the Church of Scotland's support for our project before approaching other potential funders seems to have slowed us down a little.

Over the Summer the Project Group met with two of the Trustees to encourage their support of our Project. This proved helpful as they gave advice on how to get the best funding contribution. As part of the application process the Trustees asked that we prepare a Business Plan which has since been prepared and dispatched to "121 George Street", the Church of Scotland HQ, in Edinburgh.

Hilda, Ian and I met with Peter Cross and the Rev T. Alastair McLachlan of Kilmelford Church last week to gain an insight into their successes in winning community support and fundraising in support of a modest rehabilitation project to repair and improve Kilniver Church and another, at Kilmelford Church where building work is about to start. The chance to learn from others, more experienced, was very valuable giving us confidence in some of our fundraising proposals.

Made It!

After several earlier attempts, we've finally made it. The Project has made it into the "Squeak" and we're delighted. Jackie, the Senior Reporter has agreed that she will welcome something from the Project each month in the months to come.

Christmas Gifts

We are delighted that JoLoMo has agreed to provide two prints of the Church and Lochgilphead to be used in the production of quality mugs, printed with these images in his imitable style. A present to be valued by all who receive one. For sale at Christmas, hopefully in time for the Christmas Craft Fair, priced at £10 each.

We Need You ...!



We need people to help us prepare for our approaches to the community for their support of the Project. Early in 2009, we propose writing to all residents, businesses and community organisations in Lochgilphead asking for their support of our Project. It would be good to extend this approach to others who may welcome the chance to contribute to the Project fundraising.

Can you help us prepare a mailing list of people we might write to?

We need people who have a very good knowledge of people who live in the community and those who no longer live here, but have a link to the community and the Church.

Session Notes

As well as the usual business at the recent Kirk Session meeting, there were three items which generated a bit of discussion.

The session approved the Minister's plans for a "Blue" Christmas service. A "Blue" Christmas Service provides an opportunity to remember missed loved ones, reflecting the potential for Christmas to be a sad (blue) time for some. The service will be held on the afternoon of Sunday 30th November 2008, featuring a Christmas tree, with minimal decoration (white lights only). Participants can record their thoughts or feelings on a brightly decorated card which is placed as a decoration on the tree, which will then remain in the Church throughout the Christmas season

Jim Morrison, our Child Protection Officer, presented an interesting and thought provoking report on the duties and responsibilities which the Kirk Session have to be aware of with regard to child protection issues in the church. A Child Protection Panel has been appointed, to support Jim and the minister.

Following on from the last minute decision to hold this year's fete in the church, the Session considered the use of the church for similar events in the future and agreed that it was appropriate that the church can be used, but only for events organised by our congregation. Requests for the use of the church by other organisations would be considered individually on their merits.



There will be a Coffee Morning, with a Sales Table and Raffle on

Saturday October 11th

In the Church Hall.

We will be most grateful for donations of baking and items for the raffle

Is the



Still Rolling?

Having set the first the Snowball rolling with the minister's house in early summer, it looks as if the Snowball is beginning to melt, which would be a great pity, as it has the potential of raising a considerable amount of cash for the Renewal Project.

I can confirm, that I, the editor, had a most enjoyable evening, full of fun and laughter, when I invited six people along for a meal. I hope that they enjoyed themselves enough and were inspired enough to organize their own meal, going on to extend friendship with others, whilst at the same time benefitting our cause.

If you are participating in this event, please let us know how your meal went, what you did, or if you have still to hold yours yet.

An Evening of Music

A most enjoyable evening was had at the recent Musical Evening organised by the Social Committee and held in the Church in aid of the Renewal Project. In total £185.00 was raised.

Once again MAMSOC entertained us well with extracts from "Songs From the Shows" and the John Holt Quartet had many a foot tapping in the aisle with their marches, jigs and reels. It was indeed a night when Rogers and Hammerstein met Robbie Shepherd.

Our grateful thanks go to all the performers for giving their time and entertaining us so well.

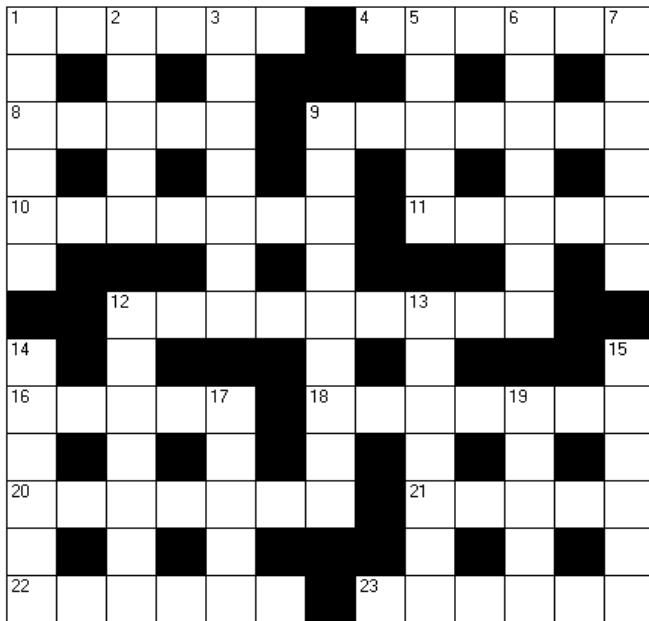
What is It?

What is greater than God
More evil than the devil
The poor have it
The rich need it
And if you eat it, you'll die?

HINT: The answer is ONE WORD and seven letters long

Give Up??? .. the answer is on the back page

Crossword



Across

- 1 Unexpectedly sudden (6)
- 4 Location of St Basil's 12 across (6)
- 8 ..which _____ throughout the earth (Zech 4.10)
- 9 Grazing described by Psalm 37 as safe (7)
- 10 Sea to which the land of Judah stretched in Deuteronomy ch. 34 (7)
- 11 Japanese rice dish (5)
- 12 Church containing the bishop's throne (9)
- 16 Body part preserved as worthy of veneration (5)
- 18 OT book and prophet (7)
- 20 Most like those who will inherit the earth, according to the sermon on the mount (7)
- 21 His servants discovered a well of fresh water in Genesis ch. 26 (5)
- 22 I will _____ them in their homes (Hos 11.11) (6)
- 23 Way out (6)

Down

- 1 Flaming missiles in Psalm 7 (6)
- 2 Sounds the church bells (5)
- 3 I will _____ pests from devouring your crops (Mal 3.11) (7)
- 5 Fertile spot in a desert (5)
- 6 Plans fail for lack of it, says Proverbs ch. 15 (7)
- 7 Type of beetle (6)
- 9 Whitsun (9)
- 12 Brief formal prayer that varies with the day (7)
- 13 Delivering a lesson at a service (7)
- 14 Food fragments eaten by dogs in Mark ch. 7 (6)
- 15 Gathered under the hen's wings in Luke ch. 13 (6)
- 17 Angler's basket (5)
- 19 ..or an _____ that teaches lies (Hab 2.18) (5)

Laughter Lines

Weight Lifting

Here's an exercise for people who want to build muscle strength in their arms and shoulders.



Begin by standing on a comfortable surface, where you have plenty of room at each side. With a 5-lb potato sack in each hand, extend your arms straight out from your sides, and hold them there as long as you can. Try to reach a full minute, then relax.

Each day, you'll find that you can hold this position for just a bit longer and do at least ten repetitions. After a couple of weeks, move up to 10-lb potato sacks, then 50-lb potato sacks, and eventually try to get where you can lift a 100-lb potato sack in each hand and hold your arms straight out for more than a full minute.

After you have worked your way up and feel comfortable at this level, put a small potato in each of the sacks, but be careful!

The Feud

There was a feud between the minister and the choir director of a local church.

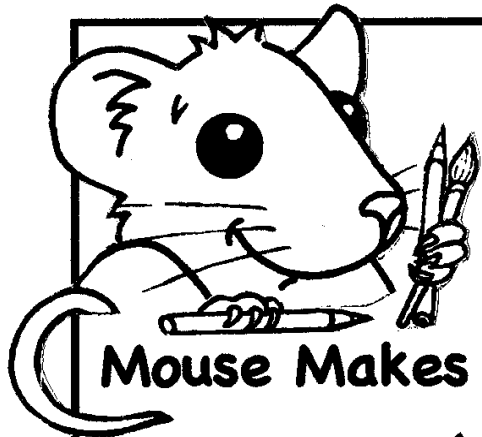
It seems the first hint of trouble came when the minister preached on "Dedicating Yourselves to Service" and the choir director chose to sing: "I Shall Not Be Moved".

Trying to believe it was a coincidence, the minister put the incident behind him. The next Sunday he preached on "Giving." Afterwards, the choir squirmed as the director led them in the hymn: "Jesus Paid It All".

By this time, the minister was losing his temper. Sunday morning attendance swelled as the tension between the two built. A large crowd showed up the next week to hear his sermon on "The Sin of Gossiping." Would you believe the choir director selected the song: "I Love To Tell The Story"?

There was no turning back. The following Sunday the minister told the congregation that unless something changed, he was considering resignation. The entire church gasped when the choir director led them in: "Why Not Tonight"?

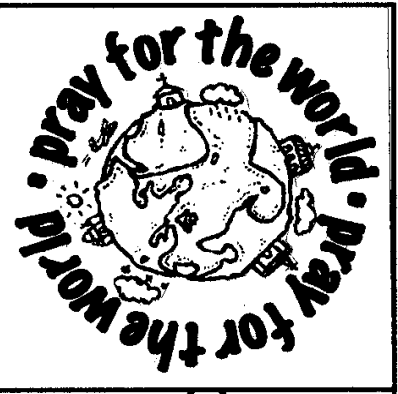
Truthfully, no one was surprised when the minister resigned a week later, explaining that Jesus had led him there and Jesus was leading him away. The choir director could not resist: "What A Friend We Have In Jesus."



Mouse Makes

PRAYER CUBE

Stick on card, colour in then cut around the outside. Fold along the lines and glue together to make a cube. Roll the cube then use the words on the top to start your prayers.



I'm sorry for...
 Father God, forgive me

When you pray you can talk to God about ANYTHING... anytime, anywhere!

You can PRAISE God for his goodness, you can THANK him for his love and care and tell him your worries because God hears us, helps us and loves us!

"Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love endures forever"
 Psalm 136:1



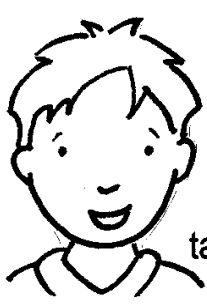
I'm worried about...
 please help me, Lord

MY PRAYER CUBE

thank you for...

for my family
 and my friends

FATHER GOD,
 thank you for all the good things you give me.
 Amen



LORD, help me to learn how to pray and talk to you. Amen.



Rotas for October 2008

	Door Duty	Flowers (Contact E Armstrong)	Readers	Tea/Coffee Duty
Oct. 5th	Sandy Taylor & Joyce Munro	E Armstrong	Jackie Comben	Jim & Betty Kirk
Oct. 12th	Frank Killeen & M. MacFadyen	Betty Kirk	Chris Stevenson	Jim & Ruth Morrison
Oct. 19th	Jim Kirk & Charlie MacLean	Chris & Tom Stevenson	Jim Kirk	Margaret & Ian Davidson
Oct. 26th	Roddy Morrison & Francis Fleming	Jim & Ruth Morrison	Roddy Morrison	Tom & Chris Stevenson
Nov. 2nd	Allison Pearson & Helen Samborek	Catherine Cameron	Communion	Roddy & Sandra Morrison

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

What's on in October and for your diary

Services (all at 11.00am except where stated)

October 5th	Rev. Hilda Smith
October 12th	Rev. Hilda Smith
October 19th	Rev. Hilda Smith
October 26th	Rev. Hilda Smith Family Service -
November 2nd	Rev. Hilda Smith Communion

Nov. 2nd, 16th; Dec. 7th, 21st	Toucan Club
November 5th	Board meeting
November 7th	Mr & Mrs. Competition
November 9th	Remembrance Sunday
November 15th	Guild Christmas Fair
November 29th	Children's Saturday Workshop
December 7th	Christmas Lunch

Other events

October 5th	Toucan Club
October 11th	Coffee Morning
October 14th	Guild Meeting Rev Dr Roddy Macleod
October 19th	Toucan Club
October 28th	Guild Meeting Youth Chorus
October 29th	Kirk Session 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	Roddy Morrison	01546 603972
Guild Contact	Frances Fleming	01546 602270
Free Will Offering Organiser	Alex Emslie	01546 603820
Hall Bookings	Bill Kennedy	01546 602875

Committees 2008 - 09

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

RIDDLE ANSWER: "Nothing"

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

Across
 1 Abrupt 4 Moscow 8 Range 9 Pasture 10 Western 11 Sushi 12 Cathedral
 16 Relic 18 Obadiah 20 Meekest 21 Isaac 22 Settle 23 Egress
 Down
 1 Arrows 2 Rings 3 Prevent 5 Oasis 6 Counsel 7 Weevil 9 Pente-cost
 12 Collect 13 Reading 14 Crumbs 15 Chicks 17 Creel 19 Image

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