



# Reflections

April - May 2018

Issue No 33

## The Locum's Letter

My Dear Friends,

Here is a prayer we will pray this Easter in church. You may also want to use it in your own private devotions.

*Lord Jesus Christ, bruised for our iniquities and raised for our salvation, receive our prayers for all the world. Especially we pray this Eastertide for those who are dying, and for all who grieve their passing.*

*Wherever this day death arrives with the roar of bombs or the rattle of machine guns, come risen Christ Jesus;*

*Wherever today death arrives with the malnutrition and disease of refugee camps, come risen Christ Jesus;*

*Wherever today death arrives with the assassin's knife or the terrorist's bomb, come risen Christ Jesus;*

*Wherever today death arrives with the swallowing of illegal drugs or the insertion of a needle in some dark corner, come risen Christ Jesus;*

*Wherever death arrives today with the squeal of car tyres or the shouts of a drunken brawl, come risen Christ Jesus;*

*Wherever death arrives today despite the best of medical care, and the tender love of families, come risen Christ Jesus;*

*Whenever death arrives today as a most welcome friend to those whose bodies are wasting away and who long to go home, come risen Christ Jesus;*

*Wherever death has left in its wake desolate families, desperate orphans, or angry people, come risen Christ Jesus;*

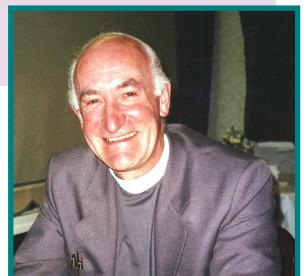
*God of Easter, let it be written indelibly on our mind and in our soul, that because of Easter nothing can defeat your love; nothing sever us from the grace of the risen Christ. Let it be remembered of us that we awoke each morning with faith and hope ingrained, and with love ready to flow through all we did, to the glory of your name! Through Jesu*

**Amen!**

I wish you all a happy and blessed Easter

Your friend and Locum

Eddie



## THE WEEKEND OF INVITATION

We hope you will have read the card delivered with this magazine inviting YOU to invite YOUR friends to join in our weekend of celebration of the fellowship that we find here in Kay Park Church. Inviting is such a pleasure - we invite people to come to the football with us, to enjoy an evening at the Flower Club, to come for a coffee, to play a round of golf.....

We have arranged a programme for the weekend of 15 - 17 June this year. We have tried to find something for everyone of every age and we would like you to enjoy the pleasure of inviting your friends to come along and enjoy one or two of the weekend events. Tickets are available for two - the Quiz and the Afternoon Tea - simply so that we can cater for numbers, but we bring along as many as you like for the walks, the Garden Party and of course for Worship on the Sunday morning.

The vision of the Church of Scotland is to be a church which seeks to inspire the people of Scotland and beyond with the Good News of Jesus Christ through enthusiastic, worshipping, witnessing, nurturing and serving communities.

# Friendship Club

We are now at the end of another successful year for the Friendship Club. Every week our attendances have been high and it was lovely to welcome several new members.

At the first meeting in February, Una English, a guide at Dumfries House, gave a most interesting and instructive talk on the many achievements which have taken place at this magnificent house and its grounds. It has become a huge attraction for visitors both from here and abroad, and it has given many employment opportunities to local people. Staying on the royal theme, our next speaker at the end of the month, was Ian Thomson, a retired policeman, who was responsible for the security of the Royal Family and other important people, including Pope John Paul, on their visits to Scotland. He gave a fascinating insight into the many aspects of his work.

Anne Scott of Kilmarnock Flower Club entertained us at the beginning of March with her amazing floral demonstrations on an Easter theme. She was ably assisted by Aileen Sansum, who gave an appropriate reading and accompanied us as we sang some Easter hymns. Some lucky members won the lovely arrangements. We enjoyed a lovely afternoon at our final meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March when the "Razor Sharps", formerly known as "The Barber Shop Group", sang a variety of songs interspersed with some comedy, and beautiful solo singing by Elizabeth Garrity, who accompanied herself on the clarsach. It was a delightful way to end the session. It was also an opportunity to present Jean Kelso with a lovely flower arrangement, beautifully made by the multi-talented Aileen Sansum.

After many years of dedicated service to our Friendship Club, Jean Kelso has decided to retire from the "Shining Lights", and join the ranks. Jean has made a great contribution to the club and we are sorry to lose her. However, the good news is that Elizabeth MacD onald has agreed to become our latest committee member and we are delighted to welcome her. She is already practising with the rolling pin and self-raising flour!!

For most of this session our treasurer, Beryl Paterson, has unfortunately been out of commission due to knee problems, but we are delighted that, after surgery, she is well on the way to recovery. Throughout this time she has continued to deal with our finances and outing arrangements.

Elizabeth  
MacDonald

The outing this year is on Wednesday May 23<sup>rd</sup> when we are going to Cardwell Bay Garden Centre in Gourock followed by a meal at Piersland House in Troon. We hope that our usual good luck with the weather will continue. The bus will leave the church at 12 noon. There are still a few spaces available.

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of everyone in the Friendship Club to wish you all a lovely summer basking in glorious sunshine.

*Una K. Thomson*



The Razor Sharps



Elizabeth Garrity and  
her clarsach



Jean Kelso  
and Sandra Nisbet

# Guild

The second half of the Guild year should have started on 16<sup>th</sup>. January but due to inclement weather – SNOW!!- we had to cancel the meeting so did not have the pleasure of meeting Frank Beattie. Our next meeting on was with Aileen Sansum and Friends and we enjoyed the singing and poetry very much indeed. Bible Study in February was led by our locum, Rev Eddie Simpson, who related stories from his Chaplaincy in Barlinnie Prison, which were both funny and poignant.



In contrast, we had a history lesson later in February from Barbara Graham, who told us about prison reformer, Elizabeth Fry, and in some ways the modern version from Eddie and that of Elizabeth Fry have not changed much, in how easy it is to find yourself in prison when moving in certain circles of society. Things have improved greatly in most prisons in that children no longer mix with adults and, on the whole, there is better sanitation.

Our Charity Night for our project “Feed the Minds” was another very thought-provoking night with the subject, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). WE had an excellent speaker and those in attendance found it informative and sensitively communicated, encouraging questions and discussion.

It is amazing to think that 20<sup>th</sup>. March was the last Guild meeting of session 2017/2018. Our guests were from Loudoun Musical Society led by Musical Director, Stephen Cowan. We were entertained by a lovely group of young people doing songs from the shows and we welcomed ladies from the congregation who were not Guild members which was lovely but no men (as yet).

Our next events are: our Spring Dinner in Piersland House Hotel, Troon on 17th. April followed by our Outing to Summerlee Museum of Industrial Life, Coatbridge and McKinnin Mills on 8<sup>th</sup>. May. The Presbytery's Guild Rally will be on Monday 14<sup>th</sup>. May at 7.30 p.m. in John Knox Church, Stewarton when the Speaker will be the Very Rev Dr Russell Barr (who is also a Guild member in Cramond).



## ONE GUY DIDN'T

Three guys were tried for crimes against humanity.  
Two guys committed crimes.  
One guy didn't.

Three guys were given government trials.  
Two guys had fair trials.  
One guy didn't.

Three guys were whipped and beaten.  
Two guys had it coming.  
One guy didn't.

Three guys were given crosses to carry.  
Two guys earned their crosses.  
One guy didn't.

Three guys were mocked and spit at along the way.  
Two guys cursed and spit back.  
One guy didn't.

Three guys were nailed to crosses.  
Two guys deserved it.  
One guy didn't.

Three guys agonized over their abandonment.  
Two guys had reason to be abandoned.  
One guy didn't.

Three guys talked while hanging on their crosses.  
Two guys argued.  
One guy didn't.

Three guys knew death was coming.  
Two guys resisted.  
One guy didn't.

One.  
Two.  
Three guys died on three crosses.

Three days later.  
Two guys remained in their graves.  
One guy didn't.

By Georgy on [www.turnbackto God.com](http://www.turnbacktoGod.com)

# Musical Minds

Musical Minds meets in Kay Park Church Hall on a Tuesday afternoon from 1.00 p.m.

Backed by Alzheimers Scotland it is a singing group for people with dementia and their carers.

If you pop in to the church hall on a Tuesday afternoon you will see a lot of very happy people of all genders and ages having a cup of tea and a biscuit and chatting away to each other. Laughter seeps through the doors.

Later on, the singing starts and the sound of well-loved songs sung by still vibrant voices is a glorious thing to hear.

Musical minds draws big crowds without losing its friendly atmosphere.

The power of music, especially singing, to unlock memories is an increasingly key feature of dementia care. It seems to reach parts of the damaged brain in ways other forms of communication cannot, and it's fun.

New members are welcome to come along but there is only one other point to make: the car park behind the church fills up very quickly and people are tempted to park in the lane at the side where the double yellow lines end - DON'T PARK THERE.

Zealous parking wardens patrol regularly and even Blue Badge holders are not allowed to park in this restricted zone. There is plenty of parking in the town centre or in the Tennis Club grounds at the top of the lane.

## LINDA GILCHRIST

Thirty years ago Linda Gilchrist came to work at what was then Henderson Church and this Easter she decided to retire and enjoy life with her husband Andrew and look forward to the wedding of her son Scott in June.

Starting as our cleaner, Linda turned us into what must surely be the most immaculately kept church in the town. But over the years she has been much more than that.

A Galston lass, Linda is not a member of the congregation but she seems to know everyone who has ever entered the hall. As she was there most mornings for many years, she was the point of contact with the church for many people. In the past few years she has shared her cleaning duties with Susan Muir and the two of them saw us through the refurbishment over months which must have driven them to despair

However one of Linda's most important roles in our church life was as Church Officer and she remained as our Church Officer after we became Kay Park Parish Church. At weddings and funerals, Linda was the woman who glided gracefully in the background, ensuring that the families were looked after and that everything went smoothly. Susan Muir, who has deputised for Linda occasionally will take on the role of Church Officer in the future.

The congregation will miss Linda's smiling presence and constant helpfulness and wish her and her husband good health in their retirement. They both love travelling and will have the opportunity to explore the world as much as they want.



### ***Idle thoughts of one retiree's wandering mind .....***

I had amnesia once -- or twice.  
\*\*\*\*\*

Protons have mass? I didn't even know they were Catholic.  
\*\*\*\*\*

I am neither for nor against apathy.  
\*\*\*\*\*

All I ask is a chance to prove that money can't make me happy.  
\*\*\*\*\*

If the world were a logical place, men would be the ones who ride horses sidesaddle.  
\*\*\*\*\*

What is a "free" gift? Aren't all gifts free?  
\*\*\*\*\*



# A Day Like Any Other

Our Fiona Kendall is working in Italy with Mediterranean Hope on behalf of the Church of Scotland and Methodist Church in Britain. Here she shares a little about the situation of asylum seekers in Italy.



Perhaps it is fitting that my first blog from Italy should be sent the day after the election. A high turnout at the polls yesterday appears to have resulted in what, for the asylum system, could be a challenging outcome. If, as many anticipate, the right wing parties combine forces, we will see a significant change in approach to the support currently provided to migrants in this country. Immigration has been a key issue in this election campaign – little wonder, perhaps, given the difficult economic conditions which many here face.

From the perspective of many migrants, however, today will be a day like any other. Mediterranean Hope's office is within easy reach of Rome's Termini station, an area where many destitute migrants gather and, indeed, spend the night outdoors. Unusually, Metro stations were last week kept open at night to provide a little shelter for rough sleepers. This was, however, an acute response to adverse weather rather than a sign of

things to come. For last week Rome suffered freezing temperatures – and even snow, which brought chaos to a city unused to such a phenomenon.

**mediterranean  
HOPE**  
federazione delle chiese evangeliche in italia

For many migrants, the reality is that life here is very tough. Over 181,000 migrants arrived here during the course of 2016. Of those asylum seekers whose claims were processed that year, over 60% were refused any form of protection – and almost 100,000 claims had yet to be processed by the end of the year. The basic needs of those whose applications are pending should be met in a complex network of central, local and private accommodation but conditions in these places vary significantly and overcrowding is a constant issue.

There is no question that the Italian system is overloaded. European policy currently prevents all but a few of the many who land here but would prefer to seek asylum in other European countries from doing so. Italy (and Greece), it is felt, are shouldering a burden which properly belongs to the whole of Europe. This mix of policy and geography permits other countries a cushion not afforded to their southern neighbours.

Meantime, there is plenty of work to be done here. In the weeks and months to come, it will be good to share some of that with you and to hear your comments about these difficult issues which touch the lives of millions of individuals – voters and migrants – who are hoping for the best from life.

You can read Fiona's blogs yourself on the Church of Scotland website or by searching  
<https://cofswmc.wordpress.com/author/cofswmcblog/>

## Vacancy News

It is a few months since we last gave any update on progress in identifying our next minister. As you know confidentiality is at the heart of the process, but the Vacancy Nominating Committee felt it was important to give you as much information as possible, within these restraints.

We are working in difficult times as regards appointments to vacant Church of Scotland charges. Over 200 congregations are seeking a new minister, with many taking several years to find the right person.

As we told you earlier in the winter, we have taken a range of approaches to advertising, including the use of social media and direct information to groups who might be considering a new challenge, with our Interim Moderator Rev. Bill Hewitt providing valuable guidance

We have received positive feedback, particularly on the quality and content of the Parish Profile and there has been some interest expressed on a range of levels.

As a group we are learning that the process demands both proactivity on one hand and patience on the other, with the firm belief that God's Will will be carried out, through our faith, work and prayers.

So, please be assured that we continue to work hard on behalf of the congregation of today and tomorrow and as always, please keep us in your prayers.

**Vacancy Nominating Committee**

# CHINA HIGHLIGHTS

from Alison Clark

I am writing this from a sunny Shanghai where the current temperature is a warm 26°. The weather is gradually beginning to improve and warm up although my colleagues say the temperature will fluctuate for the next month or so.

I have settled into school well and I am enjoying learning about the different cultural backgrounds of my fellow colleagues and students. Since returning to Shanghai, after my brief visit home at Christmas to see my family, I have been on a couple of sightseeing tours within China.

In January, myself and three friends who work in the British International School here in Shanghai, visited Harbin. Harbin is located in the south of Heilongjiang Province, the most north-eastern part of China. Harbin is famous for being known as the 'Ice City'. Every year Harbin attracts visitors from China and the rest of the world to its ice and snow festival. The festival runs for about a month beginning in January. Nothing can prepare you for the subzero temperatures. Temperatures of -32 degrees mean that even with appropriate clothing, being outside for any longer than 60 minutes is not advisable.

The International Ice and Snow Festival is an exhibition of snow and ice sculptures. These sculptures are kept pristine by subzero temperatures and are dotted across multiple locations. The biggest is Harbin Ice and Snow World. The sculptures are quite breathtaking and even more so when they are lit at night. The festival area covers about 750,000 m<sup>2</sup> and themed zones present glistening renditions of architectural wonders, folklore and traditional crafts. Many border on surreal, however, I stepped back and enjoyed the spectacular snow fairies, dragons and towering igloos.

The gilded Orthodox churches of Harbin, steadily built up by the Russians were ransacked during China's Cultural Revolution. One gem remains in the town centre, the magnificent church of Saint Sophia. This 1907 Church unfortunately has been stripped of its original interior splendours. Today, it is a museum hosting a photographic exhibition about Harbin history but it is a striking reminder of the city's Russian heritage.

During Chinese New Year I was fortunate to have a friend from Scotland come to visit me. After exploring the sights of Shanghai, we headed to Zhangjiajie. Zhangjiajie has become famous as the blockbuster film Avatar was filmed in the National Forest Park here. Unfortunately, during our visit the weather was not kind to us however this did not hinder us from exploring this incredible part of China. Zhangjiajie is in the Hunan Province.

The first day, we travelled by cable car to the top of the park to witness the 'Avatar Mountains'. With the mist and low cloud cover I did feel like I was in a movie scene as we hiked and explored this vast mountain area, witnessing for myself the famous Hallelujah Mountain. On the second day, we explored Zhangjiajie Grand Canyon and the famous Glass Bridge. The bridge is 413 m long and almost 300 m high. There is apparently, an 800-person restriction on the bridge at any one time but I did not see any signs of that rule being enforced! The bridge is anchored on both sides by two pillars, which adds to its grandeur, and is suspended between two mountains. One thing is for sure I have definitely conquered my fear of heights. We then had a long hike down the side of the mountain to view this structural masterpiece from the ground. I certainly will remember this trip for a very long time to come.

Before I sign off, I would like to share with you all that I am currently training to run a half marathon on the Great Wall of China in Beijing. The race will take place on May 19<sup>th</sup> 2018. This is going to be a busy day but with the time difference I am hoping to be able to run my race, watch the royal wedding and then enjoy watching the FA Cup final! I'll keep you posted on how my training is going and on my travels around China.



# Christian Aid Week

## 13 - 19 May 2018

### Together we're stronger than the storms

Will you help a family like  
Marcelin's weather future storms?



#### 'If another hurricane comes, we'd just die'

Marcelin lost his home and livelihood when Hurricane Matthew hit Haiti in September 2016. 'I lost pigs, goats, everything in the house. I have nothing left,' he says.

He now lives in an old concrete shower block, a tiny space he shares with his teenage daughters. There are no windows or doors, and the only furniture is a single bed that the girls sleep on.

Marcelin has shown incredible resilience in the face of such hardships and is working hard to raise his children alone. **Will you #StandTogether with your global neighbour Marcelin by giving a donation to help build a disaster-proof home in Haiti?**

Every day he gets up at dawn to work the land but he's struggling to support his family. The changing weather frequently destroys the food he grows and his family often go hungry.

He can no longer afford to send all his children to school and is unable to save any money for a new home.

So, this Christian Aid Week, will you build hope in Haiti?

We know how to make it happen – of the 700 houses we built after the 2010 earthquake, just one needed repaired after Hurricane Matthew. But we're relying on the kindness of people like you to be able to do more, and reach more of our global neighbours in their hour of need.

Christian Aid is working in Myanmar helping the Rohingya people, in South Asia after the floods, in Sierra Leone devastated by mudslides; helping in crisis situations in East Africa, Nigeria, South Sudan and Yemen.

In all these places Christian Aid offers direct practical help and by making a donation you can help all of them. We have an opportunity during Christian Aid week - just once a year - to make a difference to millions of lives. We can drop loose change into a bucket, place a generous donation in an envelope or make a direct donation to Christian Aid by going on to the Christian Aid website and clicking

[Donate now](#)

See what your donation can do. You can make a donation online very simply and change lives in a moment.



## A THOUGHT ABOUT AGEING

"What age do you think I am?" This is a question that used occasionally to be asked by men (never by a woman). The guy was obviously hoping for the right answer, namely that he looked younger than he really was. It was a vanity thing. So if I thought he was probably about 70 I was tempted to reply – "You're never 80 already, are you?" To which he would reply crossly – "No, I'm not! I'm not 70 yet". And then he wouldn't speak to me again when we next met.

No woman would ask such a question; they have no desire to discuss their age, and certainly no intention of disclosing it. *"One should never trust a woman who tells one her real age. A woman who would tell one that, would tell one anything".* (Oscar Wilde of course).

You don't hear so much of this sort of thing nowadays – I mean people hoping they don't look as old as they are. Everyone is living longer, so there is less to be ashamed of in being 80, or 90, or even 100 for heaven's sake! I think it was the Queen mother who started it (I wonder if the Queen sent her a telegram), and the Queen herself of course. Who would have thought this chit of a girl whom we remember being crowned, if we're old enough, could possibly be 90, and still going

strong. Her husband, that stalwart, the Duke of Edinburgh, even more so, but he has looked pretty old for ages. You have to be really ancient nowadays before you are classed as "old".

It's interesting to see how people's attitudes change as they get older. We used to smile sympathetically as we watched a Boy Scout assist some old buddy across the road; now we don't mind getting a bit of a hand ourselves. It largely depends on your state of health of course. If you're reasonably fit, and don't smoke or anything, you can still feel OK. A retired doctor wrote a letter to the Times newspaper in which he said – *"Sir. Having reached 90 I can assure you that there are only two golden rules for attaining a mature age: first, always give way to temptation; and second, go easy on the fruit and veg. No other measures are required".*

The English have a droll sense of humour.

You don't hear elderly people asking these damn fool questions – what age do you think I am? Elderly people are usually quite pleased to be 90, or whatever age one has to be nowadays to be classed as elderly. Even ladies. One of them, an actress, was asked recently what pleased her most about being so old, and she replied – *"I've outlived everybody else!"* Of course one does lose one's friends, and that can be hard.

We are more conscious of our approaching demise than we were when we were young. In those heady days we thought we were immortal, now we know better. Not that we dwell on it.

That would be morbid. And in any case the church has assured us that death hath lost its sting, and we are all going to live again. So that's cheering, don't you think?

I don't have a problem with all that. I have a guardian angel who looks after me. He has seen me through some tricky situations – once when they found I had a broken heart valve I didn't know anything about, though fatal, and they replaced it. Once when I had to fly home from Croatia with a broken neck, and survived. And once when I was pulled out of the upside-down wreckage of a car and emerged unscathed. And there were other less perilous events that were awkward at the time but were suddenly fixed, like the time when two skin divers appeared in the water beside my boat that was irretrievably jammed on a rock and they dived down and released the keel.

Does he have a name, my guardian angel? Well, I had a father whom I loved, so in my prayers I just address my guardian angel as my Heavenly Father. I have no doubt that He will see me through.

IAIN A MACMILLAN

### Thank you

*I would like to thank the many members of the Church who have been so kind and caring since the death of my husband Charles. The many cards and flowers were much appreciated by myself and all the family and your prayers brought such comfort at this sad time. The service conducted by the Rev Eddie Simpson was very moving and consoling as was the music played by Alex.*

*My heartfelt thanks once again.*

*Irene Cuthbertson*

# KAY PARK Strollers & Striders

What do Troon, Darvel and Ayr have in common? Probably quite a number of features is an answer, but they were also the venues for the walking groups in February and March.

The Lanfine Estate area in Darvel was the venue in February, for the Striders' second outing, and the four and a half mile walk with splendid views all the way to the coast from the high points of the route, was much appreciated by the group. Robert Burns' father-in-law, James Armour, was heavily involved in

the building of Lanfine House, as he was in the construction of the bridge spanning the river next to The Secret Garden Café in Ayr, the location of our March walk. We started the Burns Museum, passed Mungo's Well "where Mungo's mither hanged hersel"

and headed for the coast near Greenan Castle, before returning.



at



The Strollers enjoyed an Alloway/ Belleisle walk in February and a seafront walk including the ballast bank at Troon in March.

Again the weather was fine on each occasion and enjoyed by the 16-20 walkers who turned out on the four walks.

As ever, the chat was good as was "the purvey" at the end of each walk – particularly the "clootie scones"!!

Why not join us at the Dean Castle Country Park car park, 9.30 a.m. on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> April for the Striders walk and/or the church car park, 9.30 a.m. on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> April for the Strollers? All most welcome.

Bill Caldwell



## Strollers Dates in 2018

Thursday 19th. April

Friday 4th. May

Saturday 9th. June

Next Striders Date

Thursday 12th. April

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## SCRIPTURE READERS IN CHURCH

### APRIL

- 1 Bill Neilson
- 8 Linda Wallace
- 15 Michael Lacy
- 22 Aileen Sansum
- 29 Jeff Davies

### MAY

- 6 Vanessa Twomey
- 13 Allan Hamilton
- 20 Heather Lohuar
- 27 Jim Macdonald

### JUNE

- 3 Olive Gow

Would all scripture readers please note it is their responsibility to find a substitute if they cannot read on their given date and to let Jess Barry or Janet Grant know. Also please report to the sound desk for a sound check before the service. If anyone is not willing to continue being a reader would you please let Jess know as soon as possible.



6 members of the 37<sup>th</sup> Ayrshire Henderson Scout Group joined Scouting colleagues from Forth Region

last summer on a trip of a lifetime to the Kunene region of Namibia. Thanks to the generosity of members of the Kay Park Parish Church, we were able to make the dreams of the local community a reality, as we built a kindergarten for the pre-school children and garden in which they would be able to grow crops and learn about horticulture.

For 2 weeks we lived and worked on land donated by one of the local Kings on the outskirts of the village of Omakange, working with a local contractor to build a one roomed kindergarten. While the contractor did most of the brick laying, it was down to us to put up the roof complete with solar panels!

Our other significant contribution was in the building of 4 pit toilets and hand washing basin for the school. Many hours were spent below ground laying bricks until we were able to top off the spiral shaped buildings with a corrugated iron roof and install a plastic toilet basin. We got the opportunity to weld, use angle grinders and mix cement and concrete – skills we never thought we would have the opportunity of learning when we joined the Henderson Scout Group!

Each day, a patrol was responsible for cooking for the 47 expedition members and for keeping the campsite clean and tidy. While our diet was fairly familiar, we did get a chance to eat springbok on the day of the handover ceremony!

#### A THOUGHT ABOUT AGEING.



During the 2 weeks in Omakange, songs were composed and sung, a graduation ceremony took place and a number of our team took part in either a 5km or 10km run!

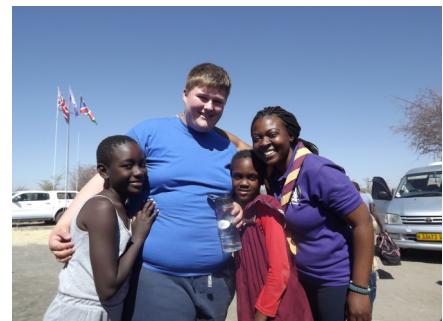
As well as leaving a physical legacy in terms of the school, community garden and the elements of our campsite we left behind, we also left a legacy with the local community, kindergarten children, pupils and staff of the local combined school and the newly formed Scout group. We all had the chance of spending time at either the current kindergarten (during the winter a disused goat shed) or the Combined school which catered for children from primary 1 age through to 16. We laughed lots, we played the High school team at football and we visited the local town, Opowu, for our shopping.

The school is complete, the children are using it, the community garden is growing – literally – and the campsite was recently used for a national Rover (Explorer) camp.

We thought it was the trip of a lifetime, a once in a lifetime opportunity, but we were wrong! The latest update is that 4 of our group, Carol, Daniel, Callum and Ross, are returning to Namibia next summer to carry on the work on the site and further develop the facilities there!

We are sincerely grateful for the support from the members of the Kay Park Parish Church, for your kind donations, your words of encouragement and your prayers. We took you with us to Namibia, told people about you and your ongoing support for our Scout Group.

Carol Nicol



“What age do you think I am?” This is a question that used occasionally to be asked by men (never by a woman). The guy was obviously hoping for the right answer, namely that he looked younger than he really was. It was a

## RECIPE CORNER

Alistair Watson ..

'Man With The Black Cap @ Lunch Break'



### Alistair's One Egg Special Breakfast Omelette

Breakfast for me is the most important meal of the day. This recipe "kick starts" your morning.

You will need a seven inch saute pan, one large egg, a table spoon of fine chopped spring onion, a cherry tomato sliced finely, one slice of chorizo, a little grated cheese, a slice of multiseed bread toasted lightly spread with mild sweet chilli sauce, topped with smoked salmon.



Method. Rub a little olive oil on to the surface of your saute pan and place on low heat. Meanwhile crack your egg into a mug and whisk up with a fork. Tip your egg into the pan and sprinkle over the spring onion. Place the sliced cherry tomato on the left side of pan, put on the grated cheese and top with the chorizo cut in half on top. When the egg begins to set, pull the pan off the heat and with a spatula fold the egg from right to left in the pan and press down. the pan and press down. After one minute flip the omelette over and cook for one minute more. It should be golden brown, lift the omelette and place on the smoked salmon topped toast... Wonderful taste and flavours.

## Lunch Break

We are open every fortnight on a Thursday from 12.15 p.m. until 26 April - with homemade soups and desserts with tea/coffee and biscuits and still only £3.00!



Lunch Break will be open fortnightly from 12th April until the end of the month. Come along and enjoy the good company as well as the food.



## A 17TH CENTURY NUN'S PRAYER

Lord Thou knowest better than I know myself that I am growing older and will some day be old. Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and on every occasion. Release me from craving to straighten out everybody's affairs. Make me thoughtful but not moody: helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it all, but Thou knowest Lord that I want a few friends at the end.

Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details; give me wings to get to the point. Seal my lips on my aches and pains. They are increasing, and love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by. I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of others pains, but help me to endure them with patience.

I dare not ask for improved memory, but for a growing humility and a lessening cocksureness when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken.

Keep me reasonably sweet: I do not want to be a Saint—some of them are so hard to live with—but a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the devil. Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places, and talents in unexpected people. And, give me O Lord, the grace to tell them so.



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# Kay Park Church Family Focus

## Michael and Liz Lacy

Michael Lacy has been known to our congregation since he moved to Kilmarnock at the age of ten, when dad David took up the charge at Henderson Church. It was a big change for Michael and sister Claire, since they were already settled at Jordanhill School in Glasgow. The two of them continued their education at Loanhead Primary and Kilmarnock Academy.

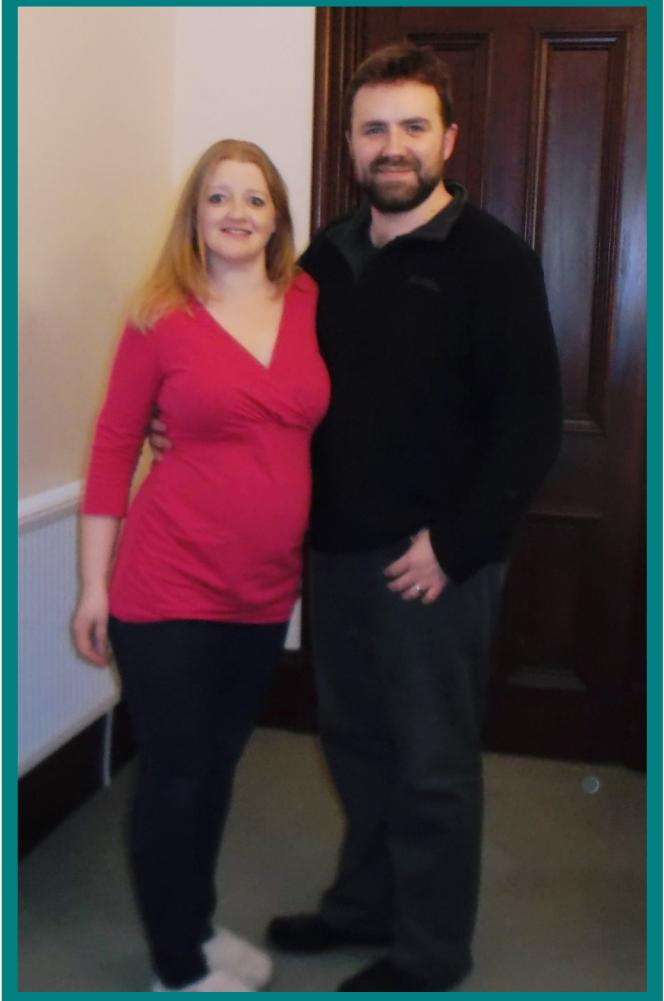
Liz, who grew up in Gorebridge in Midlothian, is also a child of the manse, - more precisely of the rectory, since her father was a minister in the Scottish Episcopal Church. She was educated at Gorebridge Primary and Newbattle High School. Both Michael and Liz went to university – Michael to Glasgow Caledonian to study Psychology, and Liz to Edinburgh University and then Queen Margaret University to study Social Work and Psychology. They are very much a young couple who share a keen social awareness and a desire to put the needs of others first.

Michael has had several jobs, including that of events manager at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Glasgow, followed by a period as director of operations at the Park Inn in York. He also spent some time working in Australia. In 2010 he moved to the Coylumbridge Hotel in Aviemore to be the deputy general manager, and this was a most fortuitous move, since there he met Liz, who was manager of the children's creche.

Liz's career path has always been involved in Social Care. She was a team leader in a homeless supported hostel for young people run by the Edinburgh based YMCA in Glasgow. Another job was with Streetwork, based in Edinburgh, where she became service manager. The next charity she worked for was RAMH, a mental health charity, in Ferguslie Park in Paisley, which, although often challenging, she found extremely rewarding. Liz remained there for three years before moving in 2016 to be a team manager for Community Care in North Ayrshire. She is now employed by East Ayrshire Council in a similar role, overseeing and being responsible for daycare and home care in the region.

After leaving Aviemore, Michael worked for Enable Scotland as business manager, helping people with disabilities to get into paid employment. Currently he is a project manager with North Ayrshire Council, working with all departments within the council trying to maximise efficiencies in their operations.

After they married in Kay Park in March last year, Michael and Liz decided to settle in Kilmarnock. Michael became a full member of the Church in 1997, and was ordained as



an elder at the tender age of twenty-four. Before their wedding Liz also became a member, and is now clerk to the vacancy committee and helps out on the coffee rota. In 2013 she took an Advanced Diploma in Photography, thus furthering an interest very close to her heart.

Michael is a member of the hall lets committee, and, for several years has been a trustee of the successful Basement Youth Cafe, which meets in the Baptist church. He recently took over from David Johnstone as director.

The Lacy's are now settled in their new home in Elmbank Drive, and are very much looking forward to the arrival of their baby in May. They will be fantastic parents. Before that, however, Michael and sister Claire are off to New Zealand to attend the wedding of a family friend. Fingers crossed that baby Lacy doesn't arrive too early! In July the whole Lacy clan, along with its latest member, are off to Carradale for a holiday.

Michael and Liz are a very grounded young couple who have their priorities in the right order. Their practical Christianity stretches much further than weekly church attendance. They represent the way forward for our congregation. I received a warm welcome into their home.

*Shona K. Thomson*

# Prayer Page

**"IS SPRING COMING?" HE SAID. "WHAT IS IT LIKE?"  
"IT IS THE SUN SHINING ON THE RAIN AND THE RAIN FALLING ON THE SUNSHINE."**

*Easter brought us the Cross on which Christ died for our sins, but it also gave us the Resurrection, so let us be thankful and celebrate the gift that God has given us.  
HE SACRIFICED HIS SON FOR US THAT WE MIGHT LIVE.*

*PRAISE BE TO GOD*

## *Ecclesiastes*

*3: 1 - 8*

*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing*

**Easter is meant to be a symbol of hope, renewal, and new life.**

Janine di Giovanni

So, i close  
my eyes to  
old ends

And open  
my heart to  
new beginnings.

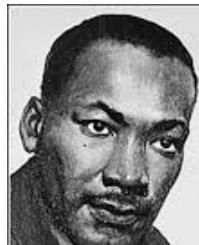
## *Song of Solomon*

*2: 11 - 12*

*For behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come and the voice of the turtledove is heard in the land.*

## *Spring*

*Spring appears in whispers  
and hushed tones,  
as the bellowing winter bows away.  
Drowsy flowers come to  
attention, waking from their sleep -  
yawning;  
with head turned upward towards  
the Maestro called Sun -  
I watch with anticipation  
as ...  
the concert begins.*



You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step.

— Martin Luther King —

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The Church of Scotland is drawing up plans to accept contactless payments in a bid to boost donations.

It is planning to run a pilot scheme offering the new technology at a number of churches across the country later this year.



Contactless is an increasingly common method of making payments.

The development emerged after the Church of England revealed members would be able to make donations by contactless cards, Apple or Google Pay.

Some congregations are already using innovative transaction methods.

Greyfriars Parish Church in Lanark offers the option for people to donate money via text message during a service.

It also provides an online ticketing payment service for events where people need to buy a ticket in advance.

Traditional collection plates are part of the heritage of the Church of Scotland and there is no suggestion that they will be replaced by contactless payment devices.

Anne Macintosh, General Treasurer of the Church of Scotland, said: "We work with Church of England colleagues in areas of shared interest and were very excited to hear of the success of their trial.

"Our own Stewardship Team has been looking at this and we have identified a number of churches with a view to piloting contactless payment terminals in the near future.

"We envisage that these could be used for many purposes including retiring collections and donations by visitors to our historic churches and cathedrals.

"Regular giving to our congregations is largely made by standing order which is hugely important.

"But we know that there are many occasions when special collections are held or people would like to give spontaneously but just don't carry much cash.

"We think there is huge potential for congregations here, not only to raise extra income, but to show that the Church is moving with the times."

## News from Head Office

A former Moderator who has spent nearly 20 years campaigning against homelessness has welcomed a Scottish Government decision to accept proposals to eradicate rough sleeping.

Very Rev Dr Russell Barr, a member of the government's Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Group, said its recommendations represented an "important first step".



This image of Homeless Jesus in Glasgow surrounded by snow powerfully illustrates the scourge of rough sleeping. Image by Kathrine Stokes.

The measures accepted by Housing Minister Kevin Stewart include a national system of rapid rehousing, involving integrated support from frontline outreach services and local authorities.

This will include moving to a 'Housing First' model for those with most complex needs – where people move straight into a permanent, settled home rather than temporary accommodation.

In December, £328,000 was invested to support additional capacity for night shelters and extra staff to help get more people into accommodation over winter.

The Scottish Government will now provide a further £150,000 to continue to provide some services to the summer, while the latest recommendations are taken forward.

## Impossible to imagine

Dr Barr, who set up a charity in Edinburgh called Fresh Start in 1999 to help people who had been homeless turn a new tenancy into a home, said: "I am delighted that Mr Stewart has accepted our proposals and provided funding to ensure the recommendations are put into action.



"This is an important first step on what I hope and pray will be a series of co-ordinated efforts to end the blight of homelessness in 21st century Scotland."

# CHURCH NOTICES

## Church Flowers

Sincere thanks to the following people who have donated to the Flower Fund in February - March 2018



Mrs Heath, Mrs Skeoch, Mrs Booker, Mrs Watt, Mrs McCrone, Mrs Anderson, Mrs Caldwell, Mrs Stewart, Mrs Irving, Mrs Wight, Mrs Aitken and one Anonymous donation.

Donations can be placed, in an envelope marked 'Flower Fund', on the Offering Plate, or given to Moira Neil or Aileen Sansum. Cheques should be made payable to Kay Park Church Flower Fund.

*We need more people to deliver the flowers on a Sunday. It doesn't take long, but means such a lot to those who receive them. .*

## FUNERALS



*In my Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.*

21.02.18 - Mr Charles Cuthberston, 25 Holehouse Road D. 45

04.04.18 - Mrs Margaret Beattie, Torrance Lodge D. 35

## VACANCIES

### PART TIME CLEANER

### PART TIME CARETAKER

Following the retiral of Linda Gilchrist we are looking to appoint a part time cleaner to work alongside Susan Muir, who will be taking over the duties of Church Officer.

We would also like to appoint a part time caretaker to cover the weekend.

- Part time cleaner to work 7.5 hours (flexible).  
Hourly rate – Real living wage of £8.75 per hour
- Part time caretaker to work 5 hours over Fri, Sat and Sun to open/close the building and set up/clear for Sunday coffee.

**Hourly rate – Real living wage of £8.75 per hour**

Expressions of interest in the first instance to Janet Grant.  
Session Clerk - janetandiangrant@gmail.com Tel: 01294 213236

Betty Anderson would like to say thank you to all those who were such a support during her recent illness. She is immensely grateful for the cards, flowers and visits she received and for the continuing support from her family and from her friends in the church, especially in the Friendship Club.



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## APRIL

— Sunday worship will be conducted by the Rev Eddie Simpson at 11.00a.m.unless otherwise stated.

- 3 7.30 p.m. Guild AGM
- 8 11.00 a.m. Morning Worship
- 10 Guild Spring Dinner at Piersland House, Troon
- 12 12.15 p.m. Lunch Break
- 15 11.00 a.m. Morning Worship
- 17 April to 8 May - Rev Eddie Simpson will be on (well-deserved) holiday
- 22 11.00 a.m. Service conducted by the Rev Gary Horsburgh
- 26 12.15 p.m. Lunch Break last day until Autumn
- 29 11.00 a.m. Sacrament of Holy Communion conducted by the Very Rev William Hewitt. Elders Service at 10.15 a.m.  
This service will be immediately followed by the Stated Annual Meeting in the Sanctuary.
- 30 7.00 p.m. Planning Meeting in the Counting Room

**In Charge: CAROL RAEBURN**Gordon Slater  
Maureen MillerJanette Steven  
George Thomson**Beadle: ANDY RAESIDE**

Jim Raeburn

Jean Deans

## MAY

— Sunday worship will be conducted at 11.00 a.m. by the Rev Eddie Simpson unless otherwise stated.

- 5 - 6 May Pilgrimage to Belfast
- 6 11.00 a.m. Service conducted by the Very Rev William Hewitt
- 8 Tuesday - Guild Trip to
- 9 7.30 p.m. Meeting of the Kirk Session in the Hall
- 13 11.00 a.m. Morning Worship
- 20 11.00 a.m. Morning Worship
- 23 Wednesday - Friendship Club Trip to Cardwell Bay
- 27 11.00 a.m. Morning Worship

**In Charge: DAVID JOHNSTONE**Rena Larmour  
Audrey GrayEleanor Hamilton  
Ronnie Hamilton**Beadle: JIM WILSON**

Olive Caldwell

Bill Caldwell

**COPY DEADLINE**  
**Contributions for the**  
**next issue should be**  
**with the Editor no later**  
**than 25th. May**

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