



Reflections

The magazine of Kay Park Parish Church, Kilmarnock

.....a welcoming church at the heart of the community

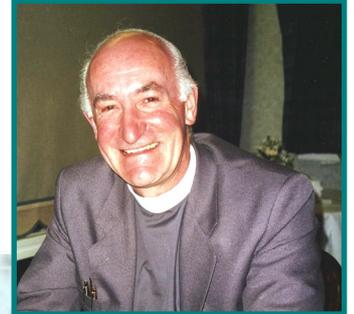
August - September 2018

Issue No 35

The Locum's Letter

My Dear Friends,

The enemies of Jesus didn't like the people he hung around with. In fact what always distinguished Jesus from other religious people of his day was the way he opened wide his arms and welcomed everyone. So I thought instead of the usual *Everyone is Welcome Here* on church noticeboards we might consider the following:



WELCOME TO CHURCH

We extend a welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, gay, filthy rich or dirt poor. We extend a special welcome to young mothers and fathers who are dog-tired because they haven't slept a wink for weeks owing to a bawling baby. We welcome weight watchers who are as skinny as a rake, and those who didn't join and could afford to lose a few pounds.

We welcome you if you can sing like Andrea Bocelli or are totally tone deaf, sing off-tune, and put everyone else off when you try. You're welcome here if you're "just browsing," just out of bed or just got out of jail. We don't care if you're more Catholic than the Pope, or haven't been to church since Christmas Eve.

We extend a special welcome to those who are over 60 but still not grown up, and to teenagers who are grown up and know a lot. We welcome football supporters, snooker players, starving artists, tree-huggers, late-developers, vegetarians and junk-food eaters. We welcome those who are in recovery or still addicted. We understand if you're having problems or you're down in the dumps or if you don't like "organised religion," or get bored stiff during Services.

If you blew all your offering money at the bookies, or had a bad night at the bingo you're still welcome here. We offer a special welcome to those who think the earth is flat, those who work too hard, and those who have no intention of ever working at all. You are welcome if you are sharp as a tack, thick as two planks, can't spell, or because your granny is visiting and expects you to go to church.

We welcome those who have tattoos, body piercings and fake tans - or all three. We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now, and to those who don't know how to pray, but just shut their eyes and hope for the best. We also welcome any who had religion shoved down their throat as kids and also those who got lost when they were really going somewhere else this morning, and just wound up here by mistake.

The Noticeboard out there means what it says - *"everyone is welcome here"*

Your friend and Locum

Eddie Simpson



After a moving and uplifting service on Sunday 29th. July, the congregation voted by secret ballot to call the Rev Fiona Maxwell to be the minister of Kay Park Parish Church. There was loud applause when the vote was announced as 153 - 10 in favour of calling her to be our minister. Rev Maxwell will be inducted to the charge at the end of October; until then we are in the safe hands of Eddie Simpson as our Locum Tenens and of Bill Hewitt as Interim Moderator. The members of the Nominating Committee are to be congratulated on their work and their selection.

Friendship Club

Although we are still enjoying our fabulous summer our thoughts will soon be turning to the autumn and all our winter activities.

The new session of the Friendship Club begins on Thursday 4th October when we will be entertained by the fantastic music and songs of "Music Box". The committee has tried to make up an interesting and varied syllabus with some new faces as well as some familiar ones. The syllabuses should be available sometime in August either from myself or a committee member.

We look forward to welcoming members old and new. It is a lovely way to spend a winter's afternoon.

Enjoy the rest of this great summer. See you in October.

Shoira K. Thomson

Guild

Since the last magazine there have been only two events to report:

The **Annual General Meeting** on Thursday, 3rd April, 2018, where there were no offers to step up to take on any of the positions which would allow the present team to stand down, so the present committee was re-elected.

I would like to quote from the Guild Office, Edinburgh – "The GUILD is a movement within the Church of Scotland which invites and encourages, both women and men to commit their lives to Jesus Christ and enables them to express their faith in worship, prayer and action. There are around 20,000 members, and the GUILD is one of Scotland's largest voluntary organisations. Although women make up the bulk of our membership, increasingly MEN are becoming members and taking active roles at all levels. (our General Secretary is Iain Whyte – and former Moderator the Very Rev. Russell Barr is also a member). The GUILD MOTTO is taken from Acts 27; V23: "Whose we are and Whom we serve". So we would warmly invite the men in our congregation to come along and join us in our work and help us to move the Guild forward in the 21st century.

The **Spring Dinner** was in the Piersland Hotel, Troon on Tuesday, 17th April and much enjoyed by all.

The season ended on Tuesday, 8th May with a very enjoyable Guild Trip to Summerlee Museum of Scottish Industrial Life. This brought back memories of how we

used to live. We got there via McKinnon Mills and back home via East Kilbride for High Tea in the Bruce Hotel.

Future Events:

ANNUAL GATHERING

Saturday, 1st September, 2018 in the Caird Hall, Dundee.

GUILD WEEK

18th – 25th November, 2018

In an effort to accommodate members who would like us to hold meetings in the afternoon and those who prefer evening meetings we are offering both in the 2018 - 2019 session. From September until December we will meet in the evening as usual at 7.30 p.m. and from January until April we will meet in the afternoon at 2.00 p.m.

All meetings will be fortnightly on a Tuesday. The new session for 2018 – 2019 starts on Tuesday, 18th September, 2018, when our guest speaker will be Karen Gillon, Assistant Secretary to the General Secretary, Iain Whyte. Karen is responsible for communication and social media.

Ellen MacLeod

Convener



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Kay Park Church Family Focus

Elizabeth and Jim MacDonald

Jim MacDonald's main claim to fame harks back to the Massacre of Glencoe in 1692, when his ancestors fought against the Campbells. He was actually brought up in the family croft in Glencoe, where he attended primary school before going on to secondary education in Kinlochleven. He was a boy scout and also went to Sunday School in the local kirk. Elizabeth hails from Stonehaven, but after the war the family moved to Montrose where she was educated at Montrose Academy. She was one of a family of eight who were all brought up in the church.

On leaving school, Jim worked in retail marketing, before moving to Kilmarnock in 1963, where he worked for the Ayrshire Mission to the Deaf in Clark Street. He spent fourteen years there and subsequently completed his two year qualification in Social Work in Edinburgh. Thereafter he was appointed Development Director of a new project to provide specialist services for deaf people with learning difficulties, based in the Gorbals in Glasgow, but with an intake from the whole of the UK. This still provides residential and day care places for twenty-five residents and forty staff today. For two years Jim was appointed the UK chairman of the National Council of Social Workers with Deaf People. Around this time he was also on the rota for five years for interpreting the news in British Sign Language on Scottish Television.

Elizabeth and Jim met in Brechin when he was working in retail and Elizabeth was employed in the hospitality industry. In 1962 they married in Lunan Bay, after which they settled in Glasgow before coming to their present home in Kilmarnock. Soon their family grew when their daughter Fiona was born, followed soon after by wee brother Steven. When the children got a bit older, Elizabeth decided to study for Highers at evening classes, to enable her to obtain a primary teaching qualification. After qualifying, she got a teaching post at Kilmaurs Primary School, where she remained for the next twenty years.

The MacDonalds have encountered several challenges in life, the greatest of which was losing Fiona to breast cancer when she was only forty years of age. Her young daughter Kirsty was only seven when her mum died, and consequently Jim and Elizabeth stepped up to the plate and took over the parental role. Kirsty has brought great joy and pride to her grandparents, and has just

graduated with an Honours degree in English from Napier University in Edinburgh. Immediately following confirmation of her grades, she has now accepted a place at Edinburgh University to undertake a two year Masters Degree in Education. Their son Steven works as a joiner in Kilmarnock, and has three sons, the youngest of whom is four. The MacDonalds are very family orientated, and once a month they have a whole family get-together at their home.

I wondered how it came about that they chose Old High as their church in Kilmarnock. A former provost of the town, William Gilmour, was chairman of the Ayrshire Mission to the Deaf and he introduced Elizabeth and Jim to his own church, the Old High. While Jim worked with the Mission, one of his responsibilities was to conduct church services and funeral services in sign language. Elizabeth was part of the Young Mothers and also the Guild in Old High. They were both very happy there.

However, since our union, Jim and Elizabeth have become very regular attenders at Kay Park, and are very much part of our congregation. They both enjoy walking with the Strollers, and Elizabeth is now on the Friendship Club committee. She helps at Lunch Break and is also on the flower delivery rota. Jim is also one of our regular scripture readers.

Holidays have played a big part in the life of the Macdonalds. One of their favourite destinations is Lake Bled in Slovenia. They have also driven through the Canadian Rockies, as well as driving up the east coast of Australia and the Big Sur on the west coast of America. Closer to home another favourite destination is the Lake District. In her spare time Elizabeth plays badminton regularly.

The MacDonalds are a lovely couple whose life choices bear testament to a life where all their priorities are in the right place. They welcomed me warmly into their home and it was indeed a pleasure talking to them.

SKT



Lunch Break



will open again after the summer break
on Thursday 27th. September at 12.15 pm

Please come along with your friends and enjoy a
leisurely meal with a delicious selection of homemade
soups & desserts with tea / coffee and biscuits
for only £3.00.



Turn off your predictive text, Brother Thomas...

RECIPE CORNER

Alistair Watson ..

'Man With The Black Cap @ Lunch
Break'



Smoked Haddock, Black Pudding on French Toast

Prep time.. 5 minute Cook time..5 minutes

Ingredients (for 2)

2 X 170 gram fillets smoked haddock

300mls semi skimmed milk

2 eggs beaten

2 slices black pudding

1 tbsp oil of your choice

2 slices wholemeal bread

cherry tomatoes and parsley to garnish

Method

1. Heat the milk in a large based pan, once boiling turn down to a simmer, add the fish, cover the pan with a lid (or foil) and cook for 6/8 minutes, depending on the thickness of the fish.

2. While the fish is poaching, heat your grill to medium. Grill the black pudding until cooked through. Remove from the grill, set aside and keep warm.

3. Heat the oil in a frying pan. Place the beaten eggs in a shallow dish. Add the bread, one slice at a time, to soak up the egg.

Add to the frying pan and cook, flipping over halfway through until golden on both sides.

4. Lay the egg bread on 2 warm plates, top with the black pudding, remove the poached smoked haddock from the milk, drain and lay on top of the black pudding. Serve, garnished with cherry tomatoes and parsley.

KAY PARK PARISH CHURCH

September Lunch

on Sunday, 9th. September, 2018
at 12.15 p.m.

in the Church Hall
Cold Buffet & Desserts
with wine or fruit juice

**Ticket £7.50 Adult
£5.00 Child**

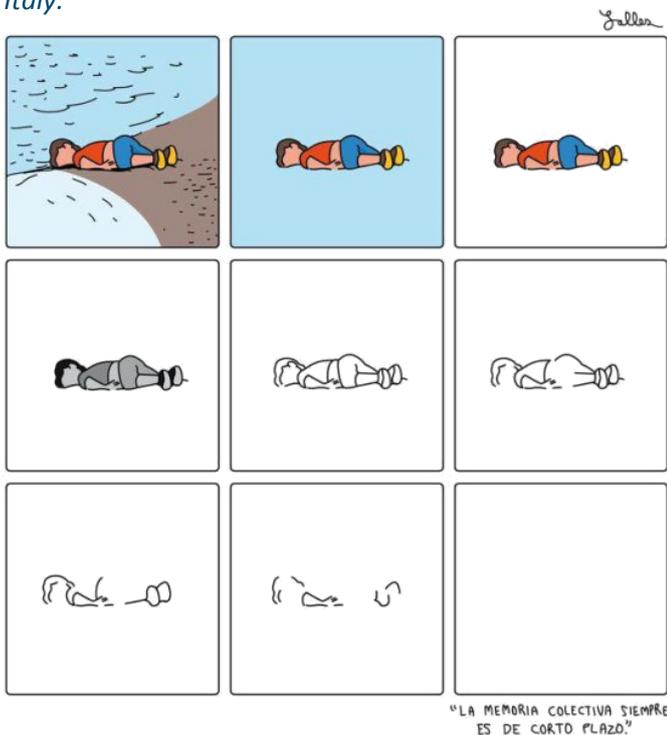
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Tickets available from August from Fionna McLaughlan
or any member of the Social Committee.

Home Truths

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.



I recently saw this image on Twitter. There are few people, I think, who were not shocked by the original image of Alan Kurdi washed up on the shores of Turkey on 2nd September 2015. Yet the point made so succinctly by the cartoonist is that our collective memory fades quickly.

Were that not so, urgent efforts to create a coherent European migration policy might now be in evidence. Instead, yesterday, an equally distressing photograph on Twitter showed the bodies of a woman and child, fuel burns on the shoulders of the woman, found drowned by crew of Proactiva's *Open Arms*. The remains of a boat floated alongside them, as did Josefa, the sole survivor of the wreck. How did the boat come to be destroyed? Perhaps Josefa will be able to tell us, when she is finally permitted to set foot on dry land. Everyone wants to stop deaths at sea. On the face of it, European countries recognise that the current approach to migration is not working, that Italy cannot shoulder the migration burden on its own and that reform is urgently needed. However, whilst member states wrangle over what that means in practice, the current Italian policy of closing ports and making it all but impossible for NGOs to carry out search and rescue operations in the Mediterranean Sea is not stopping migrants from setting off from the shores of Africa. And

5

so people continue to drown.

Statistics published this week by UNHCR and the Italian Ministry of the Interior^[1] showed that the migrant "invasion" this year is five times smaller than in the same period (January – July) last year. The numbers coming have clearly reduced. However, the same data set shows that the number of dead and missing has actually doubled. This increase has occurred in a period when NGO boats have been impounded, NGO light aircraft used to locate boats in distress have been prevented from flying and the Libyan coastguard has acquired primary responsibility for co-ordinating SAR operations.

Not all Italians are comfortable with the current policies of the newly-formed government. Yesterday, outside the Ministry of the Interior, a silent flash mob stood with their hands aloft, hands painted red to symbolise the blood of those who continue to die at sea, blood which, it is suggested, is now on the hands of the government.



The default policy is that the Italian ports are closed to rescue boats. Perhaps surprising, then, that an offer was made for the *Open Arms* to disembark Josefa in Catania. Instead, the *Open Arms* is heading for Palma de Mallorca, a decision which the Minister of the Interior has suggested points to the NGO having "something to hide". An alternative possibility is that Josefa has "something to tell" and that, in the current hostile climate, the NGO considers it safer all round for the *Open Arms* to head for a Spanish rather than an Italian port.

As matters stand, we do not have a functioning system for rescuing, disembarking and settling migrants across Europe. Instead, we appear to have a climate of hostility and mistrust, where collaboration has been replaced by accusation. What has happened to our collective memory of the little boy washed up on the shore who inspired so many to say that this should never happen again?

mediterranean
HOPE
federazione delle chiese evangeliche in Italia



You can read Fiona's blogs yourself on the Church of Scotland website, where there is also news from other parts of the world where the Church is trying to help, by searching <https://cofswmc.wordpress.com/author/cofswmcblog/>

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WANTED!

- Are you aged between 4 and 16?
- Do you like making friends and having fun together?
- Would you like to hear about Bible Stories and join in Church celebrations?
- Would you like to take part in arts and crafts and activities?

If you've answered yes, why don't you come along and join us in Young Church on a Sunday morning during the Church service.

WE'D LOVE TO SEE YOU!!!!

Our new session starts on 26th. August at 10.30 am and every Sunday after that at 11.00 am. Come and see us - we're very friendly and have great fun.

If you need any more info, just speak to one of the Young Church Leaders, or you can phone me, Olive Gow, on 07397 153755 or 01563 528954 or email: olivegow@hotmail.co.uk.

Legacies

Over the past many years, those who have remembered the church in their wills have enabled so many amazing things to be done in this church. These gifts are often from quiet, unassuming members and have ranged from many thousand pounds to a few hundred and every single pound is welcomed with gratitude for the thought behind the gift as much as the gift itself. In recent years legacies have been used to enhance the church, to buy bibles and resources for the Young Church, to purchase music for the choir. It takes a lot of money simply to keep the church running and we all hope and pray that our church will have a future long after we have gone. The most painless way to ensure this is for us to make sure that we have made some provision for this in our will, or have spoken to our family about such a provision.

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SCRIPTURE READERS IN CHURCH

AUGUST

- 5 Shiona Thomson
12 Bill Caldwell
19 Maureen Miller
26 Alex Steven

SEPTEMBER

- 2 Aileen Sansum
9 Bill Neilson
16 Silvija Wilde
23 Andrew Raeside

OCTOBER

- 7 Robin Hume
14 Charlotte McCrone

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.

What a great spell of weather and perfect for the Strollers and Striders.



Since the last magazine each group has had two walks. In June, the Strollers enjoyed a walk by the River Ayr from Ayr College, out past the University of West of Scotland Campus and onwards as far as Dalmilling Golf Course and returning on the opposite bank of the river to the college. River, woods and fields on a beautiful morning, followed of course by post-walk

refreshments. Delightful.

In July, the venue was again Ayr, this time the grounds of Rozelle Estate, Alloway. Twenty of us made the trip, some for the first time, discovering paths which they never knew existed. We finished by sampling the café's home-baking, but manfully (and womanfully) resisting the treat of the day – "naughty Belgian Waffles"!!

In June, as part of our very successful church Invitation Weekend, 18 Striders travelled up the valley to Darvel to take on the Lanfine Estate walk which has become a firm favourite. To spur us on we had the prospect of afternoon tea at the church with all those who had opted for that wonderful event. The perfect end to the afternoon.



On the 16th July, what a walk we had, the 16 of us – coast, countryside, castle, with nuclear power thrown in. Jeff and Sheila took us on a delightful walk in the Portencross Castle/ Hunterston area, part of the Ayrshire Coastal



Bill Caldwell



Path. On a glorious day we enjoyed 7 miles of varied scenery – as well as a "guid blether" and to follow, refreshments at the Waterside Hotel.

Honestly, our walks just get better and better! Why not join us either as a Stroller or a Strider (or both)? You'll be made most welcome. See the June / July magazine for dates, or speak to me.

Arran beckons on 18th August for Strollers and Striders. Please be at Ardrossan Ferry Terminal for 9.15 to buy tickets for the 9.45 sailing. Our customary stroll along the Fisherman's Walk to Claddach will be followed by.....whatever you wish to do with the rest of the day – a further walk, Goatfell, Brodick Castle Gardens, some shopping, a long, lazy lunch, putting- it's your choice! Depending on your choice a picnic lunch would be appropriate. We return on the 4.40pm ferry . See you then.

KAY PARK
Strollers & Striders



Strollers Dates in 2018

Saturday	18th. August ARRAN
Tuesday	11th September
Wednesday	10th. October
Thursday	8th. November
Friday	7th. December

Next Striders Dates

Saturday	18th. August ARRAN
Tuesday	18th. September
Wednesday	17th. October
Thursday	15th. November
Friday	14th. December



THE WEEKEND OF INVITATION



What a brilliant weekend of fun and fellowship was enjoyed in Kay Park Church over the Weekend of Invitation in May!

Friday night's Pie and a Pint Quiz got everything off to a great start with a full house, a beer tent, delicious pies and loads of people up for a laugh and a good night. Our quizmasters, David McCubbin and John Thomson are not members of the church but they set up a challenging and amusing quiz that had us all in competitive mode. There was lots of noise and laughter around the room as the teams debated the answers. Anne Granger, despite a shoulder dislocated in the days before the event, set up and stocked the beer tent with the help of her team and especially her husband, organised the nibbles on the tables and dished out the delicious Killie Pies (from WW Wales).



Allan Granger's team won the prize in the end and there were lots of requests for another Pie and a Pint Quiz next year. It was lovely to see so many 'new' faces and so many younger people, although the age range stretched from 96 to 12!



So many plans for the Saturday morning walks were thrown into disarray by the weather.

After weeks of good weather, the Saturday morning was really wet and so the planned walks were cancelled. Sandra Nisbet still had cakes and tea available for the parents who turned up to do crafts and Angela Murray, Vanessa Twomey and one or two of the Young Church members gave those who came along a great time. The weather cleared up at lunchtime and the Striders set off for a walk through the Lanfine Estate in Darvel, before returning to the church to have their afternoon tea.



The Afternoon Tea on Saturday afternoon was the bargain of the year - with a delicious selection of finger sandwiches and thousands of scones and delicious cakes on beautifully decorated tables .. and all for £2 per head! However, in addition to all the delicious food there was sensational entertainment, provided by the trio of Alex Ferguson (Frank Buble/Michael Sinatra), Grant Donald (Elvis McPresley) and Aileen Sansum (Julie McAndrews), who stunned the room with their enthusiasm and their talent. Now Trump Turnberry can't provide that at their £40 Afternoon Teas! Sheila Davies and her team of workers had prepared all the food by hand and were the most delightful of waitresses, while innumerable volunteers had baked the most beautiful cakes .

Guess who?

Sunday morning after the service saw our annual Garden Party move from our beautiful side garden into the hall, where cake and bubbly were the order of the day. Quite a few of the attendees at the weekend's events joined us in worship and came to the Garden Party as well, which was more than we could have hoped for. As usual Fionna McLaughlan, our Social Committee convener, had everything in hand with bubbly and cake and people stayed longer to chat. It was a wonderful weekend of fun and fellowship and many people said how much they had enjoyed it. On Facebook someone wrote that she had had the best weekend ever, so maybe we should do it again. What do you think? We'd love to hear from you.



CHINA HIGHLIGHTS *from Alison Clark*



This year has gone past so quickly and I have been very fortunate to have been able to travel within China. One of my most memorable trips has to be to Xi'an. I only spent a few days in Xi'an, but they were fantastic. Compact and easily navigable, the city centre boasts many exciting attractions and fun neighbourhoods to explore. The city actually sprawls far beyond the city walls, but most of the things to do in Xi'an are located within the 14 kilometres of the wall itself.

Exploring the city from the city walls was a really unique activity. Lots of cities in China were once walled, including Beijing – but a great deal of them were torn down before and during Mao's rule. But even though the walls in Xi'an are restored, they remain intact and it is possible to walk and bike around them.

My friend and I walked around half of the City Walls, which took about 4 hours with lots of stops. It was

possibly not the best idea to walk around these from 12-4 on a hot day but it was lovely all the same! There's great architecture, interesting exhibitions and fantastic views of both sides of the city along the wall.

Of course, no visit to Xi'an would be complete without a visit to the Terracotta Warriors. In 210 BC Emperor Qin commanded these warriors be built to protect him and guard him through to the afterlife. They weren't discovered until 1974, and very soon after this, they opened as a tourist attraction. Now, the marvel of the warriors is admired by millions of visitors every year.

There is currently an exhibition of some of the Terracotta Warriors on at the World Museum in Liverpool. Definitely worth a visit.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank for the support I was given for the Great Wall Half Marathon, which I completed in just over 3 hours and 5,146 historic steps. All the hard work and months of arduous training paid off. I will be forever grateful to my family, friends and colleagues who motivated and supported me to challenge myself and to keep going. I would also like to thank everyone from KPPC who sponsored me for this run in aid of the Ayrshire Hospice raising £1,010. A fabulous total for a great cause.

Thank you again
Alison





Sharron Johnstone
Podiatrist/Chiropodist

Diploma in Chiropody
Edinburgh 1986
HCPC Registered

90-92 Portland Street,
Kilmarnock, KA3 1AA

Tel: 07800 865230

Mrs Anne Mair of Mackenzie Drive would like to say how grateful she is for all the cards, flowers and phone calls she received after her recent accident, which has kept her from church for the past few months. The support from family, friends and fellow members has helped her recovery and she hopes to be back in church very soon.

Prayer Page

**Best.
Summer.
Ever.**



Rest is not idleness.

To lie sometimes on the grass under the trees on a summer's day,
To listen to the murmur of the sea gently lapping,
Watching the clouds floating across the blue sky

It is by no means a WASTE of time

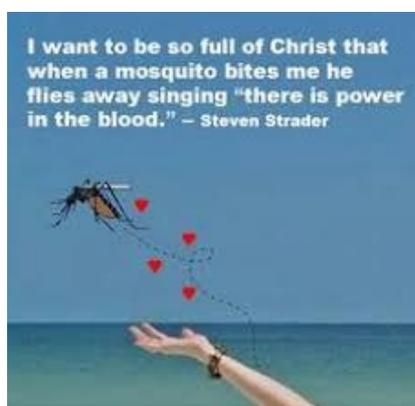
When a friend was dying, one of his last wishes was to place his feet on
the grass.

DON'T WAIT.

It is good to take some time out to enjoy
the bounty that GOD has made for us.
Look around and be grateful for all the
wonders his hand has provided for us ,
all for FREE.



**A perfect summer's day is when the sun is shining ,
a breeze is gently blowing**



You can contact either myself, René Larmour or Olive Gow if you or a dear one is in need of prayers from the Prayer Group. There are slips in pew Bibles which can be placed in the boxes, These are at front entrance or at the bottom of stairs at the back door.

All information is strictly confidential.

CHURCH NOTICES

Church Flowers

Sincere thanks to the following people who have donated to the Flower Fund in June / July 2018



Mrs Richardson, Mrs Mair, Mrs Bryan, Mrs Samson, Mrs Plenderleith, Mrs Cuthbertson, Mrs E Steven, Mr Leishman, Mrs Stewart, Mrs McKnight, Mrs Wotherspoon, Mrs Neil.

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 mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you"

12.06.18

Mrs Hannah Gray, 59 Rowallan Drive - District 7

18.06.18

Mrs Moira Gay, 13 William Street - District 9

06.07.18

Mr Billy McLaughlan, 2 Huntly Court - District 18

03.08.18

Mr James Plenderleith, 4 Glebe Avenue - District 37

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Mrs Irene Dunlop, 62 Gibson Street
to Graceland Nursing Home - District 21

Mr James Gray, 59 Rowallan Drive District 7
to Argyll House, 69 North Hamilton Street

WELCOME TO A NEW MEMBER

Mrs Anne Rae, 31 Melville Street - District 46

Fionna McLaughlan and her family would like to thank most sincerely everyone who visited them with food or who sent flowers or cards on the sudden death of her husband, Billy.

A heartfelt thank you to the Rev Eddie Simpson and all who attended the funeral.

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