

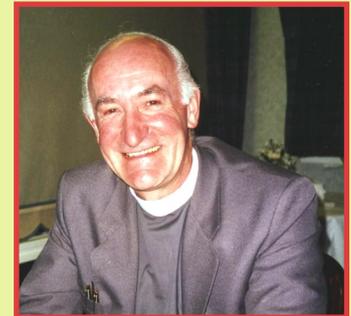
Reflections

October - November 2018
Issue No 36

The Locum's Letter

My Dear Friends,

Some years ago the zoo in Washington DC moved to a new location where there was more room for the animals to roam. One old rhinoceros wasn't impressed, however, or maybe he was just too dim-witted to appreciate the benefits of his new surroundings. For despite the extra space he still kept to the boundaries of his old patch, grazing away like nothing had changed. He was confined only by the limits of *his* own mind.



When we settle for what we have experienced in the past, we also are confined by the limits of our own mind. We go over the same old ground. We graze on the same patch of thoughts and outlook, chewing over the familiar fodder we fed on years ago. Constantly nibbling at the past, reliving the old ways and grazing on the same old patch makes us like the rhinoceros. We become trapped by the limits of *our* own mind.

The first followers of Jesus were no doubt like this until He showed them there was a wider world to inhabit. He led them beyond the familiar ground they had known to a new future, and He inspired them to think beyond the boundaries which had limited them in the past. No longer would they wear away the old ground of their yesterdays, like the rhinoceros thinking to themselves this is how we've always done it. For now, led by His Spirit, they were free to think new thoughts and to do new things.

In much the same way really, Kay Park congregation is now being led to pastures new where you will not need to remain within yesterday's boundaries. Instead, you will be free to explore new opportunities the good Lord has in store for you.

Your friend and Locum.

Edward V. Johnson

*The Induction
of the
Rev Fiona Maxwell BA BD
to the charge of Kay Park Parish Church
will take place in the Church
on Thursday, 1st. November at 7.00 pm.
All members of the congregation and friends
are warmly invited to attend.
The Induction service will be followed
by Supper and a welcoming Social.*

A portrait of Rev Fiona Maxwell, smiling. She is wearing glasses, a dark jacket, and a white collared shirt. The background is plain and light-colored.

Friendship Club

Come along and join the ladies of the Friendship Club on their opening meeting at 2.00 p.m. on 4th. October. The ever popular Music Box members are the guest artistes and a delicious afternoon tea will be served afterwards.

There is always laughter and friendship in abundance at the fortnightly meetings and you can be assured of the warmest welcome when you come along, whether or not you are a Kay Park member.

On 18th October, the minister of Holy Trinity Church will tell how a lass from Nova Scotia in Canada ended up a minister in Kilmarnock. It's bound to be a fascinating story.

All the leaders - known affectionately as "The Shining Lights" - look forward to seeing you.

Guild



The Guild started the new 2018 – 2019 Session with their DEDICATION SERVICE on Sunday, 16th September, 2016.

This was followed on Tuesday, 18th

September, 2018 with our first meeting and it was an 'Open Meeting' in that other Guilds were represented. Our Guest Speaker was Karen Gillon, Assistant General secretary to Iain Whyte. She touched on what is the best 'Road' for individual Guilds. At the end of the day it is what suits your/our Guild best and what the members are most comfortable with.

The new Guild Strategy is – "ONE JOURNEY, MANY ROADS" and this year the theme is: 'SEEKING THE WAY'.

Project Partners for 2018 to 2021 are:

- Crossreach
- Sailors Society (the current Director brought in the authorities to investigate abuse in 2014)
- The Boys' Brigade
- World Mission Council
- Malawi Fruits
- The Free to Live Trust

The two projects we have chosen for this Session are:

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1. The Boys' Brigade, which continues, through the Christian ethos to enrich the lives of young people and aside from fund-raising they will look to work on intergenerational activities alongside the Guild – such as developing IT skills.

2. Journeying Together is a partnership between the Guild and the World Mission Council to help teenage mothers in Zambia living in poverty. Alongside mentoring and training, they will have the chance to return to school. Girls who previously had no prospect of finishing their education will now be able to pursue career goals.

Our next meeting is on – Tuesday, 2nd October when local historian Frank Beattie will show slides of 'Old Kilmarnock' and we look forward to welcoming anyone who may wish to join us. The two other meetings in October are:

- 16 October – Bible Study – Very Rev Bill Hewitt
- 30 October – The Razor Sharps Musical group led by Rev. Alan Garrity

The meetings between September and December are in the evening starting at 7.30pm and from January to April, 2019 they start at 2pm to allow for bad weather.

Please come along – the subscription is £12 but you can have a taster to allow you to consider joining and you will be made very welcome.

Ellen MacLeod - Convener

September 2018



Dear Friends,

I am delighted to be able to share with you in the excitement of the coming of your new minister Rev Fiona Maxwell. You should be aware by now that her Induction takes place in the church on Thursday 1st November. The evening will begin with a Presbytery service followed by a short supper and then a welcome to Fiona. I hope that as many of you as possible will be able to be there on that night to welcome your new minister.

Although I did not know Fiona before the vacancy began, I have come to know her a little bit over the recent weeks and I am sure she will be the right person to take Kay Park Church forward in the next chapter of your history. Talking of history, it is always easy to look back and reminisce and I trust that with a strong history behind you, you are ready to move forward to the next challenges.

It has been a privilege to have been Interim Moderator over these last 10 months, building on the work which Kim Watt had started. I have been very impressed with the way that the Church has continued to function throughout this period of vacancy. This is due in no small part to Rev Eddie Simpson who has been a constant friend and minister to you during these months. I know he will be thanked properly on the night of Fiona's Induction, but I just want to add my thanks for making my job as Interim Moderator as easy as it has been.

I want to thank the Nominating Committee for the diligent and prayerful way that they set about their role under the leadership of Sylvija Wilde. Despite the seriousness of the task, I think we had some good fun too. I also want to thank Janet Grant, the Session Clerk, and the whole of the Kirk Session for more than keeping the show on the road. Many members have worked tirelessly to continue the ministries carried out here and it all points to a bright future.

As you know this was the church that nurtured me and set me on the path to ministry. It will always have a very special place in my heart and I look forward to watching it grow and develop as you continue to worship, share fellowship and reach out to those who have yet to hear and those who are in need. May we work together to extend God's kingdom so that our children and grandchildren will have a future that is full of faith and hope and love.

Yours sincerely,

Bill Hewitt

OLD MANSE, NEW MANSE



It has been incredibly busy over the summer months. The Kirk Session, at its meeting in June, decided to sell the Manse at 52 London Road and purchase another more modern house which would be less costly to heat and maintain, with more manageable gardens.

Almost at the same time we had a Sole Nominee in Rev Fiona Maxwell. The race was on to provide her with a home. We sold the Manse in London Road very quickly with the sale completing on 21st. September.



We have also been very fortunate in being able to find a new Manse at 1 Glebe Court and the purchase is due to complete on 8th. October just in time for our new minister to move into, prior to her Induction on 1st. November and we look forward to warmly welcoming her then.

The house in Glebe Court is convenient for the church as well as the town centre and conforms to all the requirements of the Church. It needs very little work and will be much cheaper to maintain in the future.

It is a time of farewells and welcomes, change and challenge. Together we can move forward in faith continuing to serve Christ in this parish and beyond.

Janet Grant - Session Clerk

Kay Park Church Family Focus

Val and Richard Jenner

Three years ago after living in England for 20 years, the Jenners decided, on the spur of the moment, to spend their retirement back in Kilmarnock.

Richard is a Yorkshireman and is a native of Sheffield. He previously worked in local government in South Yorkshire. However, in January 1980, he was appointed Depute Chief Executive of the old district of Kilmarnock and Loudoun, later becoming Chief Executive of the Council – a post he held for over 12 years.

Val is a Stewarton lass and was brought up in the old Cairns Church in that town. Being in a small town, the church was very much part of the community at that time. After leaving Kilmarnock Academy, she went to Strathclyde University, which at that time had recently acquired university status, to study geography and sociology. After graduating with an Honours BA, she embarked on a post-grad teaching course at Jordanhill College, after which she obtained her first teaching post at Kilmarnock Academy.

This is a second marriage for both Val and Richard, and Val has four children from her previous marriage – Martin, who has two children and lives with his family in Twickenham, Kerrin and Ryan who both live in Cornwall, and daughter Kyla, who lives with her husband and two children in Cleethorpes in Lincolnshire.

During his tenure as chief executive, Richard was involved with Kilmarnock's town twinning initiative, which forged links with towns in Germany, France and Belgium. The couple met in 1991 and a year later were married in Henderson Church by David Lacy. They then settled, along with the children, in Kay Park Crescent. In 1995, Richard left Kilmarnock & Loudoun Council and became general manager at Prestwick Airport. However, a year later, Val and Richard along with Ryan and Kyla relocated to Grimsby, when Richard became general manager at Humberside Airport. The family settled well and were very happy in their new home. While living there, Val got a job in a local secondary school teaching geography, and eventually became Head of Careers and Work Experience. A further move to Norwich followed after Richard was appointed Managing Director of Norwich International Airport, while Val taught A'level Government and Politics at City College Norwich.

On their return to Kilmarnock in 2015, Richard was appointed interim Chief Executive at Prestwick Airport, a post which he held for 10 months before being appointed as Spaceport Director from which he is now retiring. They are now well settled in their home in Elmbank Drive, and have returned to the new Kay Park congregation. Val is now a member of the Social Committee, helps on the Sunday morning coffee rota, and is part of the Lunchbreak team. Outwith church she belongs to EACHA – East Ayrshire Churches Homeless Action, and is a trustee for the Town Centre Regeneration group. Both Richard and Val are members of the Galleon, which they attend regularly, and they come along to our Strollers and Striders when they can.

As far as holidays are concerned, the Jenners enjoy travelling, and have their own villa on the island of Menorca, which they and their family visit regularly. Next year they are looking forward to a trip to Costa Rica and Panama. They have previously visited the States as well as Russia, and Val has also undertaken the fascinating trip on the Trans-Siberian Railway. In the year 2000 she spent time on a Native American reservation in South Dakota, and in 2005 she trekked in Vietnam in aid of the charity MIND.

The Jenners lead a very full and active life, and are delighted to be back in Kilmarnock and also Kay Park Church. I very much enjoyed our chat.



Lunch Break



continues on Thursday 11th. October and fortnightly afterwards at 12.15pm

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.

Our friendly staff look forward to welcoming you on every alternate Thursday until 20th. December



Kay Park Golfers

In September, a highly competitive group of keen golfers gathered at Kilmarnock Barassie Golf Club to contest the 2018 Kay Park Golf Championship.

Reigning Champion, Allan Granger, has had a tight grip on the trophy for the past couple of years, but the eager group lining up this year were determined to wrench it from his grasp.



From all accounts, it was a tense competition, but greatness rises to the top and it was Bill "Tiger" Caldwell who deservedly and by quite a safe margin, seized the trophy from the grasp of Jim Aitken in second place with Ronnie Hamilton and Alex Steven in joint third place.

Despite the disappointment felt by the losers - sorry, the ones who almost won - an amicable dinner was enjoyed by everyone and eventually Bill's triumph was accepted with good grace!

Everyone seemed to enjoy the day and even made a decision to have two tournaments next year, so Bill may have to play to keep his trophy after only six months - a poor show! Two trophies might be the answer.

This really is a fun day with lots of laughter and the handicap system in golf means that everyone has a fair chance of winning or at least getting a place on the 'honours board'. If you would like to join them and enjoy the companionship as well as the golf, please give your name to Ronnie Hamilton or Alex Steven.

RECIPE CORNER

Alistair Watson ..

'Man With The Black Cap @ Lunch Break'



Be A Wizard Of The Wok!!!!!!

Rice Noodles Stir Fry With Seared Loch Trout Fillets.



Ingredients for the stir fry. (Two portions)

One half pack of medium rice noodles
Half a leek.. finely chopped.
One spring onion... finely chopped
One slice of cooked ham.. shredded
A handful of cooked prawns.. finely chopped
A teaspoon of salted butter
A table spoon of oil of your choice
A small squeeze of both garlic and ginger puree.

Method

Put your Wok on the hob at a high heat, add the butter, oil, ginger and garlic. When the mixture is foaming, combine all the other ingredients and stir fry vigorously for two minutes only, pull off the heat and set aside while you pan sear the trout for two minutes each side. Split the contents of the wok between two bowls and place a trout fillet on top. Done, serve. Quality fast food.



"Basically, we're looking for an innovative pastor with a fresh vision who will inspire our church to remain exactly the same."

KAY PARK

Strollers
& Striders

"Fortune favours the brave"

August saw the Strollers and Striders combine for the annual trip to Arran. The forecast for once wasn't too promising, but 5 hardy souls appeared at Ardrossan for the ferry and were adamant they wanted to go!

In Arran they met up with Silvija and Colin and together we set out on the Fisherman's Walk to Cladach. The weather was kind to us, with only a little, brief drizzle during the whole day. After some delicious home baking and coffee we made our way back to Brodick where we had our picnic lunch then boarded a bus to Lamlash. In good spirits we walked back to Brodick via the Fairy Glen then caught the ferry home. The weather was much better than forecast (we walked much of the time in short sleeves) and all were delighted that we ignored the gloomy weather predictions. Well done all!



In September, the Strollers went to Eglinton Park in Irvine where Olive Gow led us on an interesting trail during which we heard of the Earls of Eglinton, jousting knights and links with Robert Burns. As ever our rewards in the café were well deserved and thoroughly enjoyed. At Eglinton the scope for walking, children's play and snacks is possibly not well known, so we pass it on.

The weather again was against the Striders and their proposed visit to the Falkirk Wheel and The Kelpies. However 8 intrepid striders met, decided they would have a walk whatever the forecast and so being adaptable we switched the venue to Ayr and had a most pleasant walk via Greenan Castle finishing back at the Burns Museum for refreshments. The weather was fine and was just reward for KPPC'S walkers who refuse to be deterred!!

Strollers Dates in 2018

Wednesday	10th. October
Thursday	8th. November
Friday	7th. December

Next Striders Dates

Wednesday	17th. October
Thursday	15th. November
Friday	14th. December

Why not join us next month?

Bill Caldwell

Farewell to Eddie and Betty



It is with a deep sense of gratitude mixed with sadness that the members of the congregation say "Farewell" to Eddie Simpson at Fiona Maxwell's induction, as we welcome Fiona Maxwell.

In many congregations an interval of over a year between a long-serving minister leaving and a new one arriving can be a dispiriting time, when congregations dwindle and enthusiasm lessens. Eddie and his lovely wife Betty have made very sure that this hasn't happened in Kay Park Church and we are very grateful to them both and wish them well, wherever they are called to next. And Eddie will surely be in demand in every vacant parish. He undertook the tasks of a Locum, preaching with passion and visiting with warmth and compassion, wholeheartedly.

Eddie would be the first to say that the post of a Locum is very different from that of a full-time minister, so our warm praise for him in no way lessens our very eager anticipation for Fiona's arrival to sit at the helm of our church and lead us forward in the future.

YOUNG CHURCH

Before the planning meeting scheduled for August, Audrey Gray intimated that she was going to take a step back from Young Church. Thanks to Audrey for all her hard work and support for Sunday School/Young Church over the past 28 years!

The leaders then decided that we would operate as a “committee” with no **one** person in charge. We met to decide on our plans for the new session and decided to split the young people into the following groups: Nursery/P1 Charlotte Murray (who will be our new Young Leader) ; P2/3/4 Jenny Neal ; P5/6/7 Olive Gow; S1 and upwards Angela Murray. Vanessa Twomey will be coordinating the Crèche until further notice but she will remain a part of the Young Church group.

Each Sunday we will start by gathering together – opening with a song and collection. And we will close together with any birthday wishes and prayer (this to be taken by a rota of children). This will be an opportunity to pass any information to parents/carers. We will provide Young Church every Sunday up until Christmas except for the October Communion Sunday - to eliminate confusion as to when Young Church is on.

We were pleased to have 2 new young people attending on our opening Sunday; and another one the next week (as a result of the children’s activities on the Weekend of Invitation). We hope to be able to display some of our artwork in the hall as we work throughout the year, so keep a look out for new posters etc. Our first project was to think about the start of a new school year, thanking God for our teachers, helpers and friends and to ask God’s blessing on them and ourselves in the year ahead.

Some of the older group sit upstairs in church on a Sunday, so you may not always see them. They will continue to have a varied programme, including a monthly trip to Costa Coffee for a discussion group.

We are all looking forward to seeing the Young Church grow in content and numbers. Please do encourage any young people to come along and I know the congregation will make them very welcome and support them as they grow in their Church family.

Olive Gow



SCRIPTURE READERS IN CHURCH

OCTOBER

- 7 Robin Hume
- 14 Charlotte McCrone
- 21 Jeff Davies
- 28 Tracey Neilson

NOVEMBER

- 4 Ronnie Hamilton
- 11 Janette Steven
- 18 Guild Service
- 25 Jess Barry

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.

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“Never Known a Summer Like it”

We have never known a summer like it. Everyone said so, except those who said they could remember one in 1976. Was it 1976, or 1979?

Whenever it was, it was unusual, very unusual indeed to have such a prolonged spell of wonderful weather. Edith and I often had to seek the shade as we sat in our garden during the hottest days, and then she might say - “All the same, I wouldn’t want it to be like this all the time”. We love the sunshine of course but we don’t want it to go on every day for weeks on end. We like a bit of a change. Well, that wish has been granted. It’s all over now. Back to normal, sunshine one day and rain the next.

I have been reminded of another time when, like us, it wasn’t just the heat that was hard to bear; the going on and on made it seem worse. This was in India. I was serving King and Country as a humble member of the R.A.F. I had spent the last year of the war in France and Germany, and now that the war in Europe was over I had been posted to the Far East in order to defeat the Japanese with my rifle and typewriter. Luckily they surrendered, so India was as far as I got. I wrote about this in a little book of memoirs I published some years ago, so I hope you haven’t read it before. It’s unlikely, but if you have, just skip the rest.

I was flown to Karachi in March 1945. Karachi is now in Pakistan. I wasn’t there long. A week later I was sent by train to Jodhpur, which is in Rajasthan. It’s about 400 miles from Karachi to Jodhpur, so I spent the night on the train, sharing a carriage with an Indian gentleman and his wife and family. He cooked *chapattis* on a small camel dung brazier. He didn’t offer me any, which was just as well. The train stopped at a wayside halt at about 6 a.m. and I walked up to the Base. It was comparatively cool at that hour of the day. When I arrived at the camp my fellow airmen took one look at me and hurried me off to the local tailor. They considered that the khaki drill uniform I had been kitted out with in Karachi was unsuitable for the climate in Jodhpur where the average temperature from March until September is 35° and frequently exceeds 40°. I was there for only a few weeks, and then transferred to New Delhi where I worked in the Secretariat building, as it then was. It was a little less hot than Jodhpur, but not much. I was promoted to Sergeant and given a wee house of my own – well, a room with a bed and a loo (essential in these climates). A brick staircase led to the flat roof above.

When I say there was a “bed” I should say a “*charpoy*”. This is a wooden structure with lengths of knotted hemp stretched across its frame in place of a

mattress. Quite comfortable once you get used to it. It also had a mosquito net (another essential) which was held in place by two crossed bamboo poles at either end.



Air conditioning had not yet been introduced to India on an industrial scale. We made do with lattice curtains made of reeds. The *bihisti wallah* (water carrier) splashed water from his pig-skin bag on to the curtains while one of the other boys languidly swung the curtains to and fro by means of a piece of string attached to his big toe. This produced a slight current of cool air.

Having retired to bed one night I became conscious of the infernal heat and resolved to sleep on my roof where it would be cooler, or at least less hot. I dismantled the mosquito net and carried it and my charpoy up the stairs to my roof. It wasn’t very heavy. Erecting a mosquito net requires two to do it properly, as the bamboo poles at one end have to be held in position while you put up the other end, and the net takes the strain. With only one person the poles tend to collapse as soon as you leave them to fix the ones at the other end of the bed. However I managed in the end, and lay thankfully down to rest.

It was lovely lying there in the comparatively fresh air, looking up at the stars. I thought how good God had been to me to allow me to see such wonderful places and enjoy myself so much. A moment later I heard some of the boys shouting in the street down below. At the same time a small cloud began to roll in towards me from the east. No doubt as to what this was. No one wants to be out in a sand-storm if they can avoid it, so I hastily jumped out of bed, dismantled my mosquito net, and carried it and the charpoy back down the stairs and into the security of my room. I was getting pretty tired by this time, and my hair and eyes were full of sand, so it may have taken me longer to get the net up and crawl into bed, where it seemed even hotter than before. I hope I remembered to thank God for letting me have such unusual experiences.

I was sent home (by sea this time) in March 1947 when India gained its long awaited independence. So I only had to suffer two seasons of that unrelenting heat. When our troop ship came home we disembarked in Liverpool. It was cold and wet.

Iain A Macmillan

Monday Action Team

.....aka The Monday Boys

So much of the work involved in keeping our church looking smart is undertaken by the Monday Action Team, affectionately known as the Monday Boys. They have saved the church thousands of pounds over the years by using their skills and often their own materials to keep us up to the mark. Jim Laird accepted the invitation give us some insight into their work and took some photos just to let you see what has been done.

General gardening

The ongoing tasks of grass cutting, hedge and tree trimming, and general tidying of the garden areas are now being joined with Autumn leaf clearing. Much admired and commented on is the small flower garden at the entrance to the car park, but the gardens at the front of the church and along the side of the lane are also worth a look.

At the front corner next to the London Road steps, a small plot exists with numerous stones collected from such areas as the Danube, Dunure, Dean Park, Troon, Riga, the Hebrides, Arran, Stockholm and Scott Ellis, and the most recently added is a Granite boulder from St Ninian's cave, Isle of Whithorn.

If you are visiting somewhere near or far, why not bring back a stone (no larger than a tennis ball, please!) and add it to this corner.

Painting

Maintenance includes painting both inside and out. The task of highlighting various steps and the decoration of the new creche room are just two of these items.

Woodwork and plastering

The covers for the new defibrillator and for the media control unit, additional handrails, and a new door to the boiler house are just some of the jobs carried out by the team along with various plastering repairs in the kitchen.

Security

Securing the waste bins and protecting doorbell pushes, which were being vandalised were addressed and work to secure the side door was carried out again.

A specific problem with unauthorised use of the car park unfortunately created the introduction of a security chain.

Tea time

A wee cuppa closes the Monday sessions and we are getting expert at cleaning up supplies of strawberry tarts, many of which appeared due a number of special birthdays this year.



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.

Dear Friends

It's now six months since I came to Rome, and I've just returned from a trip to the UK to spend time family and friends. Although a busy visit, I appreciated the opportunity to play with the youngest members of the family, to talk and laugh with the folk who know me best, to walk and swim in the Dales... and to take a small step back from the tense political climate in Italy.

It was a bittersweet thing to see for myself that the situation here is getting a fair bit of coverage in the UK media. This is a measure of how difficult things are but also, I hope, of the interest and concern which those outside Italy are showing.

Since I last wrote, post-election negotiations have given way to the formation of a new government, which campaigned on an agenda to reduce migration. Ironically, the numbers of migrants travelling to Italy had already drastically reduced. This year 80% fewer people than last year have crossed the Mediterranean Sea in an attempt to establish a new life for themselves in Europe. It's therefore particularly sobering to realise that the rate of dead and missing has significantly increased. According to statistics agreed by UNHCR and the Italian Ministry of the Interior – and contrary to popular rhetoric - reducing the numbers setting sail is not reducing the death rate.

It's important to consider that point in the light of the changing policy in relation to search and rescue (SAR). Only a few years ago, SAR was effected as part of the EU's Mare Nostrum initiative, its name reflecting the Latin words for the Mediterranean ("our sea").

Mare Nostrum since has been replaced by other, less comprehensive, operations as public and political support for SAR has been eroded. "Our sea" no longer belongs to us all. This time last year the Italian coastguard could count on the support of around a dozen NGOs to assist when boats in distress were identified in the Med. Those NGOs worked in collaboration with the Italian coastguard, responding to calls for help, effecting rescue and disembarking those saved at the nearest safe port. In recent months, however, the NGOs have effectively been choked out of existence and, since June, responsibility for SAR has been delegated to the Libyan coastguards, who have neither the resources – nor the safe ports – required to effect SAR properly. As I write, only two NGOs still carry out SAR in the Mediterranean, so hostile is the public and political climate, so significant are the risks of criminalisation and so real are the physical dangers.

It was therefore a bold step for the Federation of Protestant Churches in Italy (FCEI) to which the Mediterranean Hope (MH) project belongs to enter into a formal collaboration with one of these NGOs, Proactiva Open Arms (POA), in May this year. The FCEI's solidarity with this Spanish NGO is expressed in word and deed: MH has sent two of its team out on missions with the Open Arms boat and, thanks to generous donations from two US churches, has been able to provide substantial financial support. Given that current government policy is that Italian ports are generally closed to the NGOs, the fuel costs of any mission are necessarily higher, as the rescue boats have to travel significantly further to find a safe berth.

These global issues are teaching me a great deal, for example, the simple truth that expressions of solidarity matter greatly. I have never at any point in my life been so conscious of the importance of standing up for what you believe in. Listening only takes us so far. If we are to have a hope of influencing change, we need to be prepared to be respectful but to also to express a view. If we are to have a hope of being taken seriously, we need to be well-informed and able to back up what we say.

I find it extremely encouraging that, as church, we have an opportunity to present an alternative view which is rooted in the Gospel commitment to hospitality. The message was radical when expressed in the life of Christ and, it seems, is no less radical today. Living out the message may be complex in practice but, for Christians, the theory of commitment to the stranger could not be more familiar. The FCEI has been vocal about the basis for its actions and, in so doing, drawn attention to a wider community about what our faith is about. So often we hesitate to articulate our faith openly. Yet, in this case at least, there is an important connection between motivation and action, a connection worth articulating. This is what we are about, is it not? Our faith is not simply a resting place for hopes and uncertainties but a foundation for tackling injustice.

And so, although the political climate here is febrile, it seems to me that there is great cause for hope. Diverse voices can be heard challenging the rhetoric of hatred and indifference. Within the past few days, those voices have included the Catholic Bishops' Conference, an anonymous admiral within the Italian coastguard, author and film-maker Roberto Saviano, as well as ordinary Italians. From 20th May to 23rd June 2018, the people of



Milan hosted a programme of events under the banner “Insieme Senza Muri” (Together Without Walls), the aim of which was to highlight Milan’s pride in being an open and welcoming city dedicated to integrating the diverse communities living there.

A week after Interior Minister Matteo Salvini announced the #chiudiamoiporti (close the ports) policy, over ten thousand Milanese, led by their mayor, sat down to eat lunch together, emphasising the multi-cultural nature of this city and the desire of many to foster good relationships with folk of different backgrounds.

The last three months have seen my work here develop. It’s been very interesting to represent FCEI-Mediterranean Hope at number of conferences, both in Italy and beyond. In the scramble to find approaches to migration which actually work, there is an appetite for information about schemes such as our humanitarian corridors programme. Although not without its challenges, it is considered to be a model of best practice and is starting to be replicated in other countries. Each year UNHCR hosts the Annual Tri-Partite Consultations on Resettlement in Geneva, drawing together representatives from government and civil society across the world. Four of us attended this year’s meeting from Italy and I suspect it was a surprise to some other delegates to hear the presentation from the Italian delegation delivered in a Scots accent! From my perspective, it was important not only to be exchanging information with those working for organisations such as FCEI-Mediterranean Hope but, perhaps even more so, with those working for government. Clearly, there are significant pressures on the civil servants who are implementing government policy across the world. The discussions we had were frank and challenging – but always respectful. Whether the information exchanged will ultimately influence governmental policy remains to be seen...

Of course, it’s not all large-scale meetings and press conferences. There’s no substitute for simply talking to folk, whether it be face to face, via a medium such as Twitter or expressing a view in the time-honoured fashion of a protest. One such protest took the form of paper boats placed in city squares across Europe. The point was two-fold: to express solidarity with those attempting to cross the sea, and to draw attention to the European summit at the end of June at which migration policy reform was to be discussed. When people ask why a protest is happening, it’s an opportunity to raise awareness. We needn’t intimidate in order to educate.

On a more personal note, life in Rome continues to delight and to stimulate. It’s good still to be involved with two English-speaking congregations here, namely, Ponte Sant’Angelo Methodist Church and St. Andrew’s Church of Scotland. The congregation at St Andrew’s (which is currently vacant) has been given permission to call a new

minister and will soon elect a nominating committee. The congregation is looking forward to having a permanent minister and hopes that the process of finding one goes quickly and smoothly.

Although formal language lessons stopped some months ago, the opportunities to keep learning Italian are endless. The working language of the office is Italian and my colleagues continue to show extreme patience! Watching Italian television and listening to Italian radio is now

becoming easier, and it’s much less terrifying to go out for the evening with a group of Italians than it once was. I’m getting to know the hills around Rome with friends of various nationalities and, once a month, have an Italian cookery lesson in a kitchen in Garbatella. And there’s never a shortage of things to visit in Rome in the unlikely scenario of being at a loose end...

I’d like to end with a thank you to all of you for your continued support and prayers, not only for me but for the project, and for migration issues at large. It’s been a real pleasure to read your messages and to know that so many people are with me on this journey. It’s also been a joy,

To hear about refugee projects which some of you are involved in. No part of the world is entirely unaffected by this issue and it’s an encouragement to hear of constructive work going on outwith Italy as well as within.

I will keep doing my best to keep you up to date with all that is going on, through the monthly blogs and through Twitter, if not by way of email. For your part, if you are willing I’d be grateful if you’d consider including the following in your prayers:

- The people of Italy, often conflicted and polarised by migration issues;
- Policy makers, who need creativity and tenacity to find ways forward;
- The new chapter in the life of the congregation at St Andrew’s.

Every blessing

Fiona

@fionakmedhope

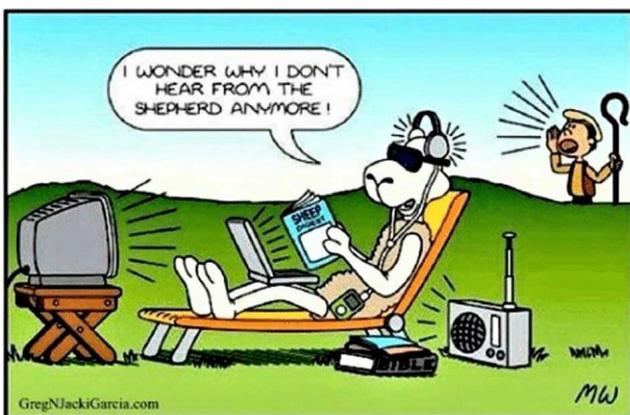
You can read Fiona’s blogs on the Church of Scotland website, where there is also news from other parts of the world where the Church is trying to help, by searching <https://cofswmc.wordpress.com/author/cofswmcblog/>

The Crèche Room

They say location, location, location is everything, but I'm hoping that that is not the case with the crèche, yes, we do have an amazing room that the Monday boys have transformed, yes, we have a lot of new toys thanks to a monetary donation from LunchBreak and some toy donations. But what makes the crèche are the boys and girls who come along every Sunday, I'm hoping that these new things will encourage those with a child under three to come along each Sunday from 10.50 and enjoy these new facilities. Also, we wouldn't have the crèche if it wasn't for our dedicated volunteers who enjoy seeing the children each week and watching them grow and progress onto Young Church. Why not pop down stairs after church and come and see our lovely crèche room?

To finish I would like to say three thank yous

- ◇ Thank you to the Monday boys who transformed the room
- ◇ Thank you to Lunchbreak for the money to buy much needed toys
- ◇ Thank you to the volunteers who run the crèche



My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.
- JOHN 10:27 NIV

Pilgrims - how do you fancy the road and the miles to Dundee this year?

Our annual Pilgrimage has gone far and wide over the years: we have visited Iona a few times, Lindisfarne and Holy Isle, Belfast on a couple of occasions as well as York and Chester and many, many places in between.

This year we thought Dundee might be an excellent place to visit with all the hype about the new V&A, as well as all the new creative exhibitions taking place



all year round in the city. We planned to travel via Perth and a stop at Glendoick Garden Centre which we so enjoyed a couple of years ago, stay overnight in Dundee or St Andrews and travel home via the splendid new Queensferry Crossing and Hopetoun



House beautiful Garden Centre. As usual we will join with another congregation for worship on the Sunday morning.

In the next issue of the magazine we will be able to give you details and prices, but at the moment it would be good to know if you have a preference for dates (usually the first or second weekend in May) and if this is a trip that piques your interest. The exact itinerary may be changed according to the feedback we get from you.

Please let Jack Leishman or me know over the next few weeks.

Eleanor Hamilton



From an Order of Service (not ours)

“The third verse of ‘Blessed Assurance’ will be sung without musical accomplishment.”



Since 1966, Blythswood Care has combined the Christian message with practical help for those in need. Whether through filled shoeboxes at Christmas, relief and development aid or social projects for young and old, Blythswood brings hope to thousands in Europe, Africa and Asia. Blythswood is committed to long-term care projects in Romania, enabling disadvantaged children and young people fulfil their potential. With the support of people like you, Blythswood provides loving care for body and soul.

A big thank you to everybody who contributed in any way to the Shoe Box Appeal in 2017, enabling them to gather and distribute 115,932 shoeboxes.

Please bring your Love in a Box by picking up a form in church or downloading one from the website www.blythswood.org and choosing who you want to send a gift to. Then find a shoebox, cover it with Christmas paper and fill it with some of the items recommended on the form.

Then on **28TH OCTOBER, Communion Sunday**, bring it to church and present it during the service.

Simple for us, but our gifts bring unimaginable joy to some of the poorest people in the world.



App Talk



I was going to title this “Confessions of an Addict” but thought better of it because it slights those with a genuine and painful addiction. It should more accurately be titled “Confessions of a Smartphone Bore”.

I confess that I am that person who, the minute you take out your phone, says “Ooh - do you use Apple Pay? It’s magic! OR “Waze is definitely the best GPS for travelling - oh, you’re still using Google Maps.” OR “Isn’t using your phone for Banking a doddle? “No, I’m not worried about losing my phone - it’s my fingerprint that works it” “Am I worried about losing that finger?” “Silly!”

I confess that my smartphone makes my life so simple that I love it ... maybe more than my car (but don’t tell my husband!) I love that I can do so many things without leaving home and when I’m away I can do so many

things **IN** my home without coming back!

Here are some of my favourite Apps (those little coloured squares on the screen if you don’t have a smartphone):

Apple Pay (there’s Google Pay and Android Pay too). I very rarely use cards or cash when shopping. I just look for the Apple Pay sign, point my phone at the till screen and press a button on the phone. Done!



Waze is a great free App which gives you times and directions but, because people contribute to it, tells you about hold-ups ahead. In France this year, it helped us to make our flight in time despite a miles long tail back on the roads by diverting us along country roads to rejoin the motorway in time.



There’s Hive which controls our central heating and lighting when we’re away, so that we don’t need to set these time clock switches. With Hive I can sit in an airport somewhere and tell it to switch my central heating back on in time for our arrival, and put the lights on for our arrival. If I bought a Hive plug I could put the kettle on so that it was ready and waiting, but even for me, that seems a bit much at the moment.



I would love to hear about your favourite apps, so don’t put your phone away when you see me. I promise not to talk about my favourites but listen to yours.

Eleanor Hamilton



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Prayer Page



“Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, “The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for him””
Lamentations 3:22-24



**God's purposes and plans will not fail.
Before you spend all your prayer time
telling him about yours, ask about his.**



Prayer
Request

If you want to request that the Prayer Chain prays for you or someone you love, please complete one of the Prayer Request Forms available at the front door or at the bottom of the stairs at the back door. All requests are handled in confidence.

If you cannot find a form or it is in the middle of the week, phone Rene Larmour or Olive Gow with your request.

CHURCH NOTICES

Church Flowers

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



List for August and September -

Mrs Sansum, Mrs Kelso, Mrs McKenzie, Mrs Pollock, Mrs Campbell, Mrs McCreddie, Mrs Houston, Mrs McGougan, Mrs Knapp, Mrs Andrews, Mr Presly, Mrs Thomson.

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"

21.06.18

Alexander Dunlop,
Thorntoun Nursing Home N/M

21.08.18

Alexander Black,
55 Wilson Avenue N/M

14.09.18

Mrs Irene Dunlop,
62 Gibson Street D. 21

20.09.18

Mrs Dorothy Falconer,
14 Barclay Drive D.18

BAPTISM

"Suffer the little children to come unto me"

30.09.2018

Jessica Agnes Lacy

Daughter of Liz and Michael Lacy

5 Elmbank Drive D.41

Sometimes

I want to ask God
why He allows poverty, famine
and injustice in the world when He
could do something about it,
but I'm afraid He might just
ask me the

same question

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OCTOBER – Sunday worship will be conducted at 11.00 am unless otherwise stated

- | | | |
|----|----------|---|
| 1 | 7.00 pm | Planning Group In Counting Room |
| 4 | 2.00 om | Friendship Club in the Hall |
| 7 | 11.00 am | Morning Worship with the Rev Eddie Simpson |
| 10 | 7.30 pm | Kirk Session meets in the hall |
| 11 | 12.15 pm | LunchBreak in the Hall |
| 14 | 11.00 am | Morning Worship with the Rev Eddie Simpson |
| 16 | 7.30 pm | The Guild meets in the Hall |
| 18 | 2.00 pm | Friendship Club in the Hall |
| 21 | 11.00 am | Morning Worship with the Rev Eddie Simpson |
| 25 | 12.15 pm | LunchBreak in the Hall |
| 28 | 10.15 am | Elders' Preparatory Service in the Hall |
| | 11.00 am | Sacrament of Holy Communion (Carded) and the return of the Blythswood Shoeboxes |
| 29 | 7.00 pm | Planning Group In Counting Room |
| 30 | 7.30 pm | The Guild meets in the Hall |

In Charge: CAROL RAEBURN**Beadle: JOHN NISBET**

Gordon Slater

Janette Steven

Jim Raeburn

Jean Deans

George Thomson

Maureen Miller

NOVEMBER – Sunday worship will be conducted at 11.00 am unless otherwise stated

- | | | |
|----|----------|---|
| 1 | 2.00 pm | Friendship Club in the Scout Hall |
| | 7.00 pm | Induction of the Rev Fiona Maxwell BA BD |
| 3 | | GUILD COFFEE MORNING |
| 4 | 11.00 am | Morning Worship with the Rev Fiona Maxwell |
| 8 | 12.15 pm | LunchBreak in the Hall |
| 11 | 10.50 am | Remembrance Service -Morning Worship with the Rev Fiona Maxwell |
| 14 | 7.30 pm | The Guild meets in the Hall |
| 15 | 2.00 om | Friendship Club in the Hall |
| 18 | 11.00 am | Morning Worship with the Rev Fiona Maxwell |
| 22 | 12.15 pm | LunchBreak in the Hall |
| 25 | 11.00 am | Morning Worship with the Rev Fiona Maxwell |
| 26 | 7.00 pm | Planning Group In Counting Room |
| 27 | 7.30 pm | The Guild meets in the Hall |
| 29 | 2.00 om | Friendship Club in the Hall |

In Charge: RENA LARMOUR**Beadle: ROGER BINGHAM**

Ronnie Hamilton

Eleanor Hamilton

Audrey Gray

Bill Caldwell

Olive Caldwell

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