

Reflections

October– November 2019 Issue No 42

The magazine of Kay Park Parish Church Kilmarnock
..... a welcoming church in the heart of the community

Travelling in the small minibus on a lovely tour from the village of Cavtat to the island of Korcula a conversation began between myself and two French Canadian women from Quebec. We exchanged stories of our experiences travelling in Croatia, happy common ground which was shared and safe. Later in the day the conversation became more personal, where in Scotland do you stay, then (and I knew what was coming next), so what do you do? Experience tells me that there will be two likely reactions to the answer that give, 'I work for the Church', they are, 'that's interesting, how did you get into that? Or the one I experienced on this occasion, an awkward silence that is painful in its lingering presence. I am not sure how the silence was broken, was it by me, or was it one of them who spoke, whatever the subject was changed. However later in the day one of the women asked, 'so do you do what a Priest does in the Catholic church?'. Another turn in the conversation.

In the Colossians chapter 4 v 2- 5, Paul writes to the church there:

'Be wise in the way you act towards outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone'

One of the joys of travel is the discovery of places and the encounter with new people. When people meet me, who do they meet? I find myself wondering, what is it that defines me? What do my words and story tell them? My faith is not what I do it is about 'whose I am and whom I serve'. Too often we define ourselves by what we do rather than the essence of who we are.

As the season turns to autumn, church meetings, clubs, organisations all get underway again. We will soon be busying ourselves with things to do and places to go. This is good but I encourage us each one to take time to consider, whose we are and whom we serve. We are God's children, he loves us. As Jesus called the first followers he calls us. To tell the story of our faith, to bear testimony to the love and faithfulness of God. To pray for one another, to pray for our world and our country in these uncertain times.

On the 23 September the following was posted on the

Church of Scotland website:

As the Church of Scotland continues its challenging work on the three-year radical action plan which was approved by this year's General Assembly, we call on those from across the Church to join together in prayer. The Moderator offered the following prayer;



Jesus Christ

You call us all to follow You in the adventure of faith.

As we begin the process of change guided by Your spirit, help us to trust You. Help us to willingly let go of all "the ways we have always done things", when it feels safer to shrink from changes that deeply affect us, back into what we have known.

Inspire us to take risks, to creatively and courageously be Your church today: looking to You in worship, reaching into our communities venturing out in service.

Bless the Church of Scotland as we seek to build Your Kingdom.

Bless the Assembly Trustees in their tasks, bless the new Chief Officer when he takes up his post

and help us all to see what we can do, together, to bring into being the Radical Action Plan.

Let us renew our commitment to follow You as we step out in glad obedience.

For Your name's sake

Amen

Strength for today... Hope for tomorrow

Rev Fiona

PS: Maybe the next time someone asks the question, 'so what do you do', I need a different kind of answer, ideas?

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.



SHOEBOX APPEAL 2019

Since 1966, Blythwood 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, Blythwood brings hope to thousands in Europe, Africa and Asia. Blythwood 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, Blythwood provides loving care for body and soul.



Bring your shoeboxes to church on Sunday 27th. October. Forms telling what to pack in the boxes are available in church any Sunday or you can download one from the Blythwood website at www.blythwood.org/shoebbox.

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**OPEN
AGAIN**

**Lunch
Break**



Come back to Lunch Break
on Thursday 10 October (and
every second Thursday
afterwards) at 12.15 pm and
enjoy the wonderful
homemade soups with crusty
bread, followed by a choice of
delicious homemade desserts,
and finish with tea/coffee and
biscuits



ALL for an unbelievable £3!



As part of the Weekend of Invitation, in June, over 20 volunteers donned yellow t-shirts and Messy Church lanyards and provided a fun-filled event for kids and their families.

Messy Church encourages families to come together, to make, to eat and to celebrate God. Messy Church is a church for those who don't normally attend church—everyone is welcome

At the first of, hopefully, many Messy Church events in Kay Park, 15 families and 28 kids attended the event with the theme of "Real Me" where activities and worship celebrated

that every person born into the world is unique followers of Jesus Christ and that every person is created in the image of God and is 'fearfully and wonderfully made' (Psalm 139:14).

Everyone who attended, including the volunteers, had a fantastic afternoon taking part in a wide variety of crafts & games, joining together in an informal worship and sharing pizza and ice-cream together.

Our next dates for Messy Church are:

30 November 2019

25 January 2020

28 March 2020

30 May 2020

Please add these dates to your diary if you want to join us as a volunteer or bring your family.

Angela Murray



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REMEMBER THE GREAT BIG CHRISTMAS CARD IN CHURCH?

People love sending Christmas cards, don't they? Sometimes, however, it can be sad for people to see members rushing about the church, handing cards to each other so that some people leave with a bundle while others receive none.

Rev Fiona recognised this in other churches where she had worked and suggested that we put up a great big enormous card in the foyer, so that when people came in they could add their names to it and pop a donation in the box at the side which went to Christian Aid .

Part of the plan worked well; people added their names and donated generously but STILL ran about the church handing out cards to friends.

This year it would be great if we could all just add our names, wish everybody in Kay Park Parish Church a happy Christmas and put the money you would have spent on cards and stamps for fellow members in the box at the side.

It's important that no-one should feel left out at this time and in this special place.



Kay Park Church Family Focus

Marilyn and Jim Malcolm

The Malcolms, along with their daughter Lynne, are familiar faces in our congregation. Marilyn is the daughter of the late Lena Short, and has been a member of our choir for many years. She began life in the small village of Glenbuck, where the family lived for a few years, before moving to Muirkirk. At the age of eight Marilyn moved to Kilmarnock along with her mum and dad and big brother Alan. After she left James Hamilton her first job was in the offices of BMK, followed by a spell in the accounts department of Glacier Metal, where she remained for the next eleven years.

Jim is a Crookedholm boy, who began an apprenticeship as a blacksmith with Howies in Hurlford, after he left James Hamilton. His next move was to the maintenance department at Glacier and that is where romance blossomed. For the last thirty years of his working life he worked for the firm of Duncan McInnes.

When Marilyn's family moved to Kilmarnock they visited several local churches before settling in Henderson. She attended Sunday School, and in her late teens became a full member. Jim, on the other hand, was baptised in Durrisdeer Parish Church in Dumfriesshire, where his mother had been brought up. He attended Sunday School at the former Hurlford Old Parish Church, but like many youngsters he drifted away in his teens.

After their wedding in Henderson in 1974, the Malcolms settled in Bonnyton, where they stayed for two years before moving to their present home in Glenapp Quadrant. First son Fraser was born in 1978, followed, three years later, by twins Kenneth and Lynne. Fraser lives locally and works for East Ayrshire Council as an electrician. Kenneth is a gents' hairdresser and lives in Glasgow, and Lynne, who is a primary teacher, lives with her husband Tony in Kilmarnock. She is currently a peripatetic teacher working for the East Team, specialising in teaching children with additional support needs. Lynne and Tony, who comes from Majorca, were married in 2013. Tony, who is bi-lingual, has an English mum and a Spanish dad. Sadly, his dad passed away recently. His mother still lives in the beautiful city of Palma - a lovely place to visit. Jim and Marilyn are regular visitors to the island. Being a Spanish national Tony had to complete National Service there and is now a reservist in the British Army. All the young Malcolm children passed through our Sunday School.

Many of you will know Marilyn from Marks and Spencer, where she worked for many years up until her recent retirement. When Kenneth and Lynne started nursery school, she accepted a seasonal job in Marks, followed by a temporary job, which gradually snowballed into

something a bit more permanent, and which, in fact, lasted for thirty-three years. She recalled how, at one point, she was asked to fill in for a week or so at the food department, which eventually stretched to seventeen years! Marilyn enjoyed her

job and became a well-known face in Marks. Looking back over my own "long" life, I associate M & S with assistants you have known for ages. There is something comforting in that thought - sadly, times have changed.

Perhaps Marilyn's greatest claim to fame is her wonderful singing voice. She began lessons aged thirteen, which was initially to help with her breathing. However, the lessons continued for many years. At one time she belonged to Loudoun Musical Society, and performed as a soloist for many concert parties. She also sang with the Aeolian Choir, the Kilmarnock and Ayr and Prestwick Fiddle Orchestras, and latterly joined a choral group at Centrestage. For many years she has sung in our church choir, where she has given many solo performances.

Up until recently, Jim was a very keen cyclist, who was often seen all over the local countryside. He was also an accomplished swimmer and competed in the Masters Series. Gardening is another of Jim's hobbies. Both Jim and Marilyn enjoy walking with the Strollers and Striders and are regular visitors to Majorca. Marilyn is a hospital volunteer, and as well as singing in our choir, she is a member of the Social Committee, the coffee and flower rotas and helps at Lunch Break.

The Malcolms are enjoying retirement and making the most of it. It was a pleasure talking to them.



Shirley K. Thomson



THE GUILD

A 2020 VISION

The Background:

For around 133 years the Guild has played a pivotal role in the life of the Church of Scotland.

How it has done so has evolved over the years, reflecting changes in the church, in society, in national and international circumstances, in technology and pretty much everything that affects people's experience!

One of the greatest strengths of the Guild has always been its ability to adapt to new situations and to find ever changing ways to serve in its contemporary world.

To do that effectively, it is important to stop from time to time to reflect on where we are, where we have come from and where we might go next.

The current strategy, "One journey, many roads", was selected with that in mind, with questions such as how do we encourage new members to join and where do we find leadership.

Unfortunately, perhaps the underlying question is -----

What is the Guild FOR?

Throughout our history, the GUILD has had many times of reflection and refreshment.

In other words, the Guild has a huge history of embracing change as crucial to the continued vitality of what is, in essence, an organic, living thing.

With all of this in mind, the National Council of the Guild has agreed that, five years from the Action Plan, we should organise a National Conference of the Guild.

The purpose of the conference will be three fold:

- To look at where the Guild is in terms of its sense of purposewhat do we give and get from membership?
- To gather views and thoughts on how we might address the challenges that face our future
- To see how the wider Church of Scotland's plans for its future might affect ours and vice versa
- How can we offer leadership and challenge to the wider Church of Scotland?

Where and when?

The venue for the Conference will be **St. Matthew's Church of Scotland, Perth.**

The date will be **Saturday, 14 March, 2020**

The time will be **10.00 for 10.30, ending around 15.30**

St. Matthew's is a beautiful church, recently refurbished to be a really attractive, comfortable and flexible venue. Set on the banks of the Tay in the centre of Perth.

It is readily accessible by bus, train or car.

I would like to encourage members and former members to consider coming to the conference and further information will be available after Christmas.

The National Convener's Challenge:

We are being asked to produce a piece of writing in the form of a **short story, 2000 to 3000 words in length, entitled 'The Journey'**

This can be a personal account of a story in the third person; it can be spiritual (but doesn't have to be); it can be fact or fiction, a real journey or an imaginary journey.

All entries to be submitted to the Guild Together Group who will select an entry to be submitted to the **Guild Office by Thursday, 13th February, the date of the National Council.**

Judging will be carried out by independent authors and the announcement made on **April, 22nd at the National Council.**

Ellen MacLeod

Resistance in the Valleys – Fiona Kendall

Regular readers of this blog will remember George, the young Gambian man who made it to Lampedusa following a horrific journey which included detention in Libya, and who now lives in Piedmont.

This week I've been in Piedmont for the annual synod of the Waldensian Church, now united with the Italian Methodist Church. Torre Pellice, which nestles in the Alpine area now known as the "Waldensian Valleys", plays host to this meeting every year. The location is inextricably linked with the tumultuous history of this minority Protestant church which sprang to life 800 years ago and whose members have been persecuted, exiled and discriminated against for much of that time. The serene mountain setting belies the spirit of resistance which has prevailed throughout. As I took the opportunity to visit the newly renovated Waldensian museum, which carefully charts their story, I was struck by how that spirit of resistance, kindled by the prejudice and fear of others, continues today and how it is now channelled into the work which Waldensians persevere in doing for those on the margins.

The trip provided me with an opportunity to catch up with all sorts of people including George⁽¹⁾, who has been supported by the Diaconia Valdese since arriving in Italy. When I last wrote about him, he had very recently had his meeting with the Commission which decides asylum applications. During the long months awaiting their decision, George continued his valuable work as a carer. He studied hard and passed tough exams in Italian (his sixth language), which would give him the formal qualification required for a permanent contract. He is currently holding down two jobs: one in a local hospital and the other in a residential home for people who are severely disabled. He will shortly be leaving the accommodation provided by the Diaconia Valdese for an apartment which he will be renting in his own right. In September, the curling season will start and, all being well, he will once again take up his place in the First Africa Curling Team.

So far, so positive. So you will be as galled as I am to know that George's application for asylum has been refused. This, of course, is nothing to the shock which George felt on learning of that decision, and the heightened sense of uncertainty which it generated. Whilst praise was given by the Commission for his considerable efforts to integrate into the local

community, its members did not agree that George had met the test to acquire refugee status. Worse still, other channels for someone like George to obtain residence in Italy are few and far between.

Resistance comes in many forms and George is not going to give up. He does not believe that it is safe for him to return to The Gambia – and he is now well settled in Italy. He has a life to lead and so much to offer his community. He has therefore appealed the Commission's decision. It will, however, be another two years before he learns the outcome of the appeal.

Whether or not George succeeds, his case highlights the failure of a system which ignores the positive contributions which migrants can make. When a system is essentially based on protection or humanitarian criteria and leaves little or no room for others to adopt another country as their own, it is the receiving country which is likely to miss out. Legal channels for migration which permit realistic numbers to immigrate are not floodgates but filters which enable the kind of people you'd want in your community to join it, irrespective of their country of origin. How long will it take, I wonder, to shift the policy focus from keeping numbers down to populating society with the kind of citizens who can make a difference?

(1) not his real name

Fiona



@fionakmedhope

Fiona writes a monthly blog which is available on the Church of Scotland World Mission section of the website. Each blog is informative and often heart-rending in its content and, as the editor, I find it hard to decide which of the blogs I should print. It is not always easy to find the content online, so, from now on, I will ask that the link to her blogs is posted on Facebook, so that you can find them. I encourage everyone to read them. In the meantime we must continue to pray for Fiona and the work that she does and for those she seeks to help and ask also that justice and compassion should inform all the decisions made over the lives of those willing to undertake such danger in the hope of the freedom which we take for granted.

KAY PARK Strollers & Striders

Our August trip was a day-long joint venture to Arran for both strollers and striders. Despite an

inclement forecast, 24 met at Ardrossan for the 0945 ferry where

we swelled an already busy boat.

A settled crossing saw us disembark in Brodick to meet Silvija and Colin, so 26 (plus Buster) headed off along the shorefront towards Brodick Castle. Taking the Fishermans' Path, we crossed the ever popular golf course, carrying on until assembling at the picnic tables adjacent to Arran Brewery. After a short fuel stop, the party split into groups with many staying on to enjoy strolling through the castle gardens. A group of nine braved a brief shower on the walk back into Brodick and took the bus to Lamlash. This allowed an off road walk back to Brodick. After an initial testing uphill section, a further stop as enjoyed at a viewpoint overlooking Brodick Bay, Goatfell and other peaks. From here onwards, it was downhill into Brodick where we all reassembled at the Douglas Hotel prior to our return ferry.

David Miller

Strollers - Troon to Prestwick 10th September

Eighteen hardy souls set forth from Fullarton Dr. in Troon, following the cycle/foot path towards Prestwick. Walkers and cyclists co-existed largely happily give or take the occasional Lycra-clad lout! A brief road section opposite the airport quickly gave way to a track and then a pathway alongside the golf course with great sea views. Prestwick town rapidly drew into sight, with coffee at the Lido beckoning! Suitably refreshed the group set off for the return..... train trip! Bus passes, yes, bus passes reduced the investment to £1 and soon the group were speeding back to Troon after a grand, and varied day out.

Striders - Falkirk's finest 18th September

Despite a smooth journey to the Kelpies in Falkirk, a quick cuppa was required before seven sterling Striders set off alongside the Forth and Clyde Canal towards the Falkirk Wheel. The landscape and setting changed as we progressed; from swans in parkland, dredgers in

industrial estates, peeks into back gardens, classy balconied apartments, to historic distilleries and ancient marketplaces. Occasional information boards and contemporary sculptures helped us understand our surroundings and before we knew it we had arrived at our half-way point, the fascinating Falkirk Wheel. Lunch was taken variously inside or out, with many canal boats in the lock and Wheel giving us much to admire. The return journey, bathed in occasional sunshine, let us notice things overlooked on the way out and did feel downhill!

Overall, a great journey through history, art and technological achievements.

Silvija Wilde



Next Strollers Dates

Wednesday 9 October

Thursday 7 November

Friday 6 December

Strollers meet at 9.30 am

Next Striders Dates

Tuesday 22 October

Thursday 21 November

Friday 13 December

Striders meet at 9.00 am

Please note – Strollers should meet in the church car park at the times shown, unless there are specific changes to the arrangements.

Everyone is most welcome to join either group as they are able. Please bring friends along if you wish.

Flat Jesus goes with us everywhere

At the end of June, Rev Fiona gave us a stencil of Flat Jesus and asked us to take him with us wherever we go during the summer. This very visible expression of our faith is a great opportunity to create conversations with friends & family as we take him with us. Lots of the photos were in the last magazine and here are another few that made their way here:



The Eden Project



Top of Ben Nevis



Ella



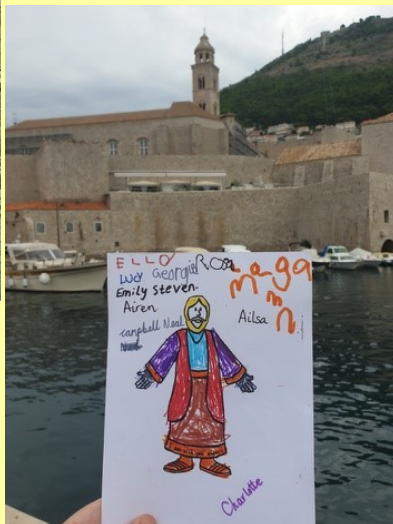
Bletchley Park and Alan Turing



Tracey's Ordination



Dubrovnik



Plitvice National Park

Friendship Club

By the time you read, this our first meeting of the new session on Thursday 3rd October, will have already taken place. The committee has made every effort to compile a varied and interesting programme, and we look forward to welcoming members old and new to our meeting.

Here are some dates for your diary:

October 17	A Trip to India <i>Janette Steven</i>
31	Music with <i>Heart and Soul</i>
November 14	Our Favourite Hymns
28	Our Work in Uganda <i>Archie and Liz Macdonald</i>
December 12	<i>Aileen</i> and the <i>Shining Lights</i>

Come along and join us on every alternate Thursday afternoon at 2pm, when you will enjoy friendship, entertainment and, of course, a delicious afternoon tea.

I hope to see you in October.

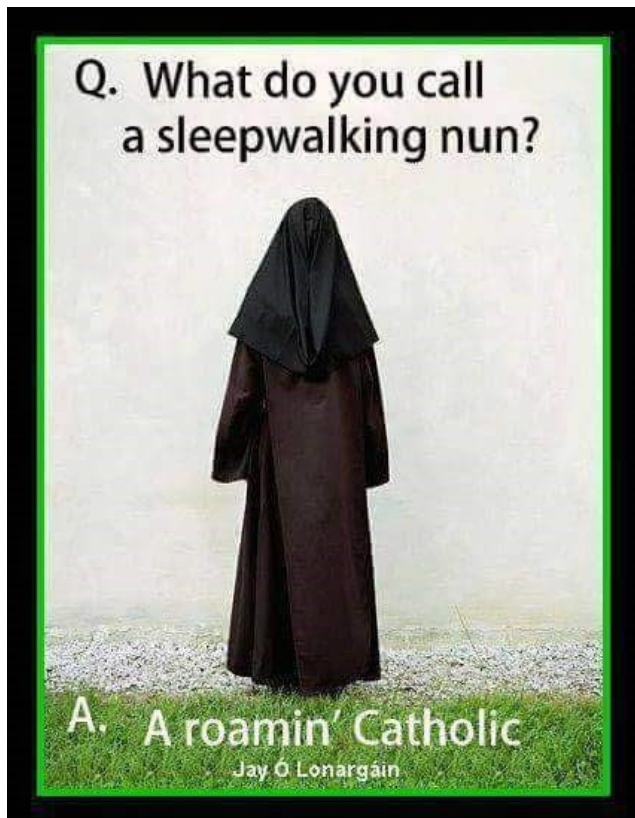
Shona

NEW CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR



Mrs Vanessa Twomey took up her position as Church Administrator on Wednesday 25th September and begins a four week induction programme. Vanessa will be based in the church office and can be found there on Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9.00am until 12 noon and on a Thursday afternoon from 1.00 until 4.00 pm and we welcome her warmly to the staff team.

A mail box has been placed beside the office door and any correspondence for either Vanessa or Paul should be placed in the mailbox and not left on the office desk.



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Prayer Time

From Rene Larmour

**Fallen leaves pattern the ground with variety.
So design my own failings and frailty into whatever design will please you most.**

In Jesus name I pray.



The trees are letting go of this year's foliage.
Help me let go of both blessings and burdens and surrender them both to your loving care.

Leave your soul to God
Deuteronomy 31 v8

He will never leave you nor forsake you

Abba father,
The trees are ablaze with your glory,
The seasons change but you never do
You are always beautiful,
In the green and freshness of spring,
and the golds, reds and chills of autumn.
Make me like you.
Let my life reflect your beauty,
Season after season,
As the calendar of my life turns at turns.

Enjoy the gold of autumn in your lives

If your life is happy and good at this moment, thank God in your prayers.

If your life is difficult because of illness, depression or grief ask God in your prayers to give you strength and peace in your heart and mind.



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.

SCRIPTURE READERS IN CHURCH

OCTOBER	NOVEMBER
6 Jeff Davies	3 Alex Dempster
13 Jess Barry	10 Aileen Sansum
20 Heather Lohar	17 Bill Neilson
27 Shiona Thomson	24 Vanessa Twomey

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.

NOTICES

Church Flowers



Sincere thanks to the following people who have donated to the Flower Fund in August—September 2019 :

Mrs Granger, Mrs Houston, Mrs McGougan, Mrs Andrews and Mrs Black

The wonderful displays of flowers in church and the gifts that are sent out are entirely due to the generous donations of members. Unfortunately many of them have passed away and have not been replaced by new donors.

If you would like to donate your 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 also need more people to deliver the flowers on a Sunday. It doesn't take long, but means such a lot to those who receive the flowers.

ORDINATION

On Sunday, 1st. September, during our service of Holy Communion, Dr Tracey Neilson was ordained and welcomed as a ruling elder to the Kirk Session of Kay Park Parish Church.

Her father, Bill presented Tracey with her Certificate of Ordination and a New International Bible.



FUNERAL

"In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you"

03.09.2019

Mr Thomas Govan, 30 Granger Road D34

06.09.2019

Mrs Julyan, 22 Cairns Terrace N/M

06.09.2019

Mrs Edith Macmillan, 2 Castle Drive D8

09.09.2019

Mrs Aileen Miller, 64 Manor Avenue D9

FAREWELL!

By Certificate of Transference

Robin and Margaret Gemmell D35 to

Ayr: St Columba's Church

Mrs Claire Aitchison D Postal to

Dunlop Parish Church



BAPTISM

28.07.2019

Zara Nicola

Infant daughter of

Sophie and Ross Granger

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OCTOBER- Sunday worship will be conducted at 11.00 am by the Rev Fiona Maxwell unless otherwise stated

9	9.30 am	Strollers 
	7.30 pm	Meeting of Kirk Session
10	12.15 pm	Lunch Break
	7.30 - 9.00 pm	God & Science—2nd of six weekly meetings
13	11.00 am	* MORNING WORSHIP*
17	2.00 pm	Friendship Club
	7.30 - 9.00 pm	God & Science
20	11.00 am	* MORNING WORSHIP *
22	9.00 am	Striders 
	2.00 pm	Guild
24	12.15 pm	Lunch Break
	7.30 - 9.00 pm	God & Science
27	11.00 am	* MORNING WORSHIP * Shoebox Sunday
30	9.30 am	Meeting of Business Committee
31	2.00 pm.	Friendship Club
	7.30 - 9.00 pm	God & Science

ELDER IN CHARGE: AUDREY GRAY

Rena Larmour

Ronnie Hamilton

Eleanor Hamilton

BEADLE: JOHN NISBET

Olive Caldwell

Bill Caldwell

NOVEMBER - Sunday worship will be conducted at 11.00am by the Rev Fiona Maxwell unless otherwise stated

3	10.15 am	Elders' Service
	11.00 am	* HOLY COMMUNION *
5	2.00 pm	Guild
7	9.30 am	Strollers 
	12.15 pm	Lunch Break
	7.30 - 9.00 pm	God & Science—final meeting
10	11.00 am	* MORNING WORSHIP *
13	7.30 pm	Meeting of Kirk Session
14	2.00 pm	Friendship Club
17	11.00 am	* MORNING WORSHIP *
19	2.00 pm	Guild
21	9.00 am	Striders 
	12.15 pm	Lunch Break
22	6.30 pm	Strollers/Striders Dinner
24	11.00 am	* MORNING WORSHIP *
28	2.00 pm	Friendship Club

ELDER IN CHARGE: SILVIJA WILDE

Muriel Watson

Jean Kelso

Aileen Macphee

BEADLE: ROGER BINGHAM

Alex Steven

Hugh McCrone

OFFICE BEARERS

MINISTER:

Rev Fiona A Maxwell BA BD

1 Glebe Court KA1 3BD

Tel 01563 521762

Mob: 07507 312123

FMaxwell@churchofscotland.org.uk

SESSION CLERK:

Janet Grant

Tel: 01294 213236

janetandiangrant@gmail.com

ORGANIST / CHOIRMASTER:

Alex Ferguson

Tel: 07736 347237

a18frg@gmail.com

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

Vanessa Twomey

07769573311

chrchdmnstr@outlook.com

MAGAZINE EDITOR:

Eleanor Hamilton

Tel: 01563 526817

Mob: 07910 300716

ellieham@gmail.com

REPORTER:

Shiona Thomson

Tel: 01563 533574

shionathomson@gmail.com

HALL MANAGER:

Paul Scoular

Mob: 07535 244537

kayparkhallletsmgr@outlook.com

WEBMASTER:

Allan Hamilton

allanh@trad.org.uk

Mob: 07984 930296