

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.

Autumn 2023

# Kay Park Parish Church Newsbite!

## A WORD FROM THE MINISTER

I was driving past a large billboard the other day and saw the most recent Jonny Walker advert which has the tagline, 'Keep Walking'. It reminded me of a book I read many years ago called 'A Long Obedience in the Same Direction, by Eugene Peterson. In the book Peterson discusses Psalms 120 – 134, known as the Psalms of Ascent. These Psalms were sung by the Hebrew pilgrims on their way up to worship in Jerusalem. Writing about Psalm 121, 'I lift my eyes to the hills', Peterson writes;

*'The Christian life is **going to God**. In going to God Christians travel the same ground that everyone else walks on, breathe the same air, drink the same water, shop in the same stores, read the same newspapers...fear the same dangers, are subject to the same pressures, get the same distresses, are buried in the same ground.*

*The difference is that **each step we walk, each breath we breathe, we know we are preserved by God, and we know we are accompanied by God***'. (Page 40)

When Jesus called his first disciples it was to 'follow him' and to keep on doing so. This 'following' involves a daily decision to walk the way of Jesus, loving God, and our neighbour (even those we consider our enemies). This is a counter cultural way of living and being in a society that tends towards being selfish and acquisitive.

Jesus spent time with people (Matthew 9 v 36) he spent time in prayer (Mark chapter 6 v 35) he even showed us how we should pray (Matthew chapter 6 v 5- 15). As you read this edition of 'Newsbite' I pray you will be encouraged to 'Keep Walking' with Jesus. I pray too that our life together as a church family in person and online, would be one where we encourage and support one another and our wider parish through our prayers and loving service.

With love and prayers, Rev Fiona

PS Thank you to everyone who completed the Membership and Stewardship Review Forms.

PPS Thank you too to everyone who has contributed to this edition of "Newsbite" and to Vanessa Twomey, our Church Administrator, for planning, formatting, and printing.



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

KPPC Guild .....	2
Doors Open Day .....	2
Friendship Club.....	2
Wednesday Café.....	3
Strollers & Striders.	4
Church Flowers .....	4
A-C-O-R-N .....	5
Hymn.....	5
Community Lets.....	6
Book Review .....	7
Communion Invite.	7
Thank you.....	7
Young Church .....	8
Young Church.....	9
Dementia .....	9
Mission Partners ....	10
Poets Corner .....	11
Shoebox Appeal.....	11

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- A-C-O-R-N
- Mission Partners
- Dementia in Church

The guild are continuing to meet for coffee and a chat on the last Tuesday of the month and this is going well if the noise coming from the cafe area is anything to go by.

Our syllabus for the start of the next session is nearly complete and details will be advertised in the coming weeks. We plan to hold a concert next April in the church as our fundraiser to help us support the Guild projects - Home for good, Beat -eating disorders, Unida, Starchild, Vine Trust and Pioneers.

The Guild have reached the third and final year of the strategy “Look Forward in Faith” year 1 was ‘Lights and Bushels’, year 2 ‘Wee Seed, Big Trees’ The theme for this year is ‘New Wine, New Wine Skins’. This may be the most difficult part, where we really need out faith to move forward into new ways of doing the Guild. The Guild like the Church is in a period of necessary change, if we want to survive we must change. In Mark 2:22 it says *”And no one pours new wine into old wineskins, otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wine-*



*skins”* Jesus is telling us that the new cannot exist in the old. Change is not easy, and change will cause upset to some, but new ideas will not work in the existing format. A new way of looking at the future of the Guild and changing how we do things is our “new wine” and our hearts are “the new wineskins”. Let us this year continue to look forward in Faith and follow his plan.

I am sure we will enjoy this new theme just as much as we enjoyed Wee seeds, Big Trees.

The tree that we planted in June 2022 is thriving I am pleased to tell you.

Jean Herbert

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*“Following Christ isn’t something that can be done half heartedly or on the side. It is not a label we can display when it is useful. It must be central to everything we do and are.” Francis Chan*

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### **Future Date are:**

#### **DOORS OPEN DAY**

Kay Park Parish Church will be open on Saturday 9 September from 10—2pm as part of the National Doors Open Day in Scotland. Please come along and enjoy the beautiful surroundings, and the coffee and chat.

A big thank you to all those who have kindly volunteered to help on the day.

Janet Grant

## FRIENDSHIP CLUB

The Friendship Club will resume on Thursday 5th October at 2pm and we will meet fortnightly at that time thereafter.

The Shining Lights (committee) warmly invite you to come along for a time of fellowship and fun followed by a cuppa and some nice home baking. Yes we are baking again!

We have worked hard to organise a wide and varied programme of speakers and music which reflect our Christian values and the teaching of Christ. We welcome The Reverend Fiona Maxwell as the guest speaker at our opening meeting.

Previously our members have brought along toiletries which we donate to the Foodbank. This has been greatly appreciated and we plan to continue this act of kindness in the new session and ask for your support in this initiative.

You don't have to be a church member or have a church connection to be part of The Friendship Club. Everyone is welcome. Historically our members have been ladies but gentlemen are most welcome too.

We extend our thanks to Betty Booker who is standing down as a loyal committee member after many years of faithful service in this role.

Betty's pineapple cakes are legendary and have been special favourites at tea time!

We look forward to welcoming back all our former members and hope that others would like to come along and join us as we gather to share time together.

*Do come along and give the Friendship Club a try. You won't be disappointed.*

From the Shining Lights

### **Future Date are:**

Thursday 5th October—Our Minister Rev Fiona Maxwell

Thursday 19th October—Songs from 'The Unlikely Lads'

Thursday 2nd November—Rev Jill Clancy on 'Life as a Prison Chaplain'

Thursday 16th November—Allan Garrity and the Barber Shop Boys

Thursday 30th November—Christmas Stall & Quiz

Thursday 14 December—The Shining Lights at Christmas

*A friend loves  
at all times.  
Proverbs 17:17*

## WEDNESDAY CAFÉ

Wednesday cafe has been busy over the summer. It's nice to see the Wednesday walkers after their stroll around the park. Can I send a big thank you to all our visitors and also to everyone who so willingly give of their time to help serve.

We are now serving scones or a wee pancake, which seem to go down a treat.

If you haven't already visited us then please come along and bring a friend.

You will be made most welcome and I'm sure you will enjoy the company.

We look forward to seeing you as we go into autumn.

Jean Deans





## STROLLERS & STRIDERS

### CHURCH FLOWERS

Sincere thanks to the following people who have donated to the Flower Fund

#### June

Mrs Aileen Sansum

Mrs Mary Lapham

Mrs Ellen Houston

#### July

Mrs Cathie Williamson

Mrs Rene Larmour

#### August

Mrs Mary Lapham

Mrs May McCreadie

Mrs Lesley Wotherspoon

Mrs Aileen Sansum

Donations can be placed in an envelope marked 'Flower Fund' and either put in the offering plate or given to Aileen Sansum.

Cheques should be made payable to Kay Park



The Wednesday Walkers is proving popular with a regular core of walkers. This is primarily intended as a group which is suitable for walkers of all ages and abilities. We meet weekly at 10am at the car park adjacent to the Burns Centre in Kay Park and take a leisurely stroll around the park paths before continuing on to the Church cafe for refreshments and more chat.

The Strollers continued with their monthly walks with visits to Dean Castle Country Park, Portencross and Seamill and, most recently, Lainshaw Woods and Annick Water in Stewarton. These, typically, last around 1 hour or just over.

Striders' walks have taken them to Whitelee Wind Farm, Alloway and Doonfoot and finally, Gailes and Shewalton Woods. These walks last a bit longer and are around 1hr 45min to 2 hours.

For the most part, the weather has been kind to us with an occasional short shower the worst we have faced over this time. Of course, each walk concludes with very sociable refreshments.

New (or returning) members are always welcome. Details from David Miller – 07977050624.

David Miller

Future dates are :

**Strollers – 6<sup>th</sup> September, 5<sup>th</sup> October and 3<sup>rd</sup> November.**



This is a picture of some of the striders' on their outing to Alloway and Doonfoot. This shows the group on a foot-bridge across the River Doon with Greenan Castle in the background.



This photo shows a strollers' walk between Portencross and Seamill and was taken on the beach looking out towards Arran.

### QUOTE

Jesus said 'Come follow me'

John 1:43

## A-C-O-R-N

Acorn is a movement that seeks to connect Christians with the work God is doing in others through caring conversation. Acorn does this through missional discipleship, by involving some Christian friends and sending them out to try the acronym A-C-O-R-N;

**All Church of Scotland congregations are being urged to adopt a daily discipline that is leading to spiritual growth and new followers of Jesus.**

**Ask** – ‘Lord, is there anyone beyond the church You want me to connect with today?’

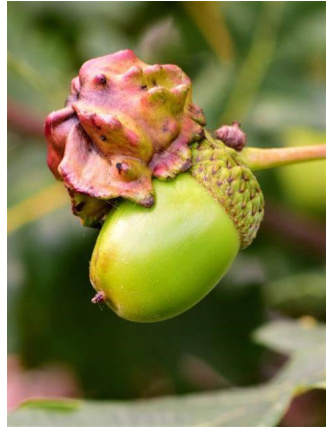
**Calls** - When God calls and reveals a person for us to get alongside,

**Obey** - We obey and follow through by contacting them in any way appropriate. We then just ask the person “How are you?” God is already there, with the other. Our job is to find out what God is doing and join God in that conversation. God then reveals deeper hurts, desires and opening for the Gospel.

**Reporting** - What God has been doing in and through them.

**Noticing** - Together what God is up to and doing in the other person.

Christians are then encouraged to mentor other Christian friends in this way of life.



Mighty oaks from little acorns grow: a simple church outreach idea is bearing fruit

### Will you come and follow me if I but call your

Will you come and follow me  
If I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know  
And never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown?  
Will you let my name be known  
Will you let my life be grown in you  
And you in me?  
  
Will you leave yourself behind  
If I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind  
And never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare  
Should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer in you  
And you in me?  
  
Will you let the blinded see  
If I but call your name?  
Will you set the prisoners free  
And never be the same?

Will you kiss the leper clean  
And do such as this unseen  
And admit to what I mean in you  
And you in me?  
  
Will you love the "you" you hide  
If I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside  
And never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found  
To reshape the world around  
Through my sight and touch and sound in you  
And you in me?  
  
Lord your summons echoes true  
When you but call my name  
Let me turn and follow you  
And never be the same  
In Your company I'll go  
Where Your love and footsteps show  
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you  
And you in me

## COMMUNITY HALL LETS

<b>Mon</b>	Scalliwags	9.30am
	Brownies & Guides	6.00pm
<b>Tues</b>	Killie Heartmates	6.00pm
<b>Wed</b>	Physio Class	1.45pm
	GA	7.30pm
<b>Thur</b>	Killie Heartmates	6.30pm
	Rock Choir	7.30pm

For more information on any of the above groups or information about hiring the halls, please contact the Church Administrator

## GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS SCOTLAND

Gamblers Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who have joined together to do something about their own gambling problem and to help other compulsive gamblers do the same.

### Is Gambling causing problems in your life?

If so ..... We can help!

- Website: [www.gascotland.org](http://www.gascotland.org)
- Email: [info@gascotland.org](mailto:info@gascotland.org)
- Helpline: 0370 050 8881 (24 HRS)

## HALL LETS

The Church halls are used regularly but there is still availability for other lets. Over the last few months we have had yoga classes, birthday parties, Triage, concerts. We are a multi purpose building and will try to accommodate most events.

To hire our halls contact the church administrator on

07394 173977 or

[kppcchurchoffice@gmail.com](mailto:kppcchurchoffice@gmail.com)

## SCALLIWAGS

The Scalliwags meet every Monday morning from 9.30am, the group caters for children under 3 and are usually accompanied by parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and friends. It is a friendly group and all are made welcome. If you would be interested in joining the group please email

[scalliwags@live.co.uk](mailto:scalliwags@live.co.uk)

## ROCK CHOIR

If you like to sing, you'll Love Rock Choir!

Pop, rock and chart singing for adults and teenagers.

No auditions and no need to read music



## BROWNIES & GUIDES

17th Kilmarnock Brownies and 6th Kilmarnock Guides meet most Mondays at 6pm and 7.30pm

## KILLIE HEARTMATES

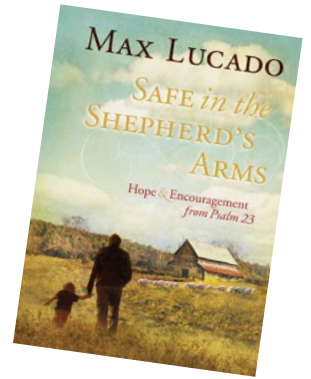
Killie Heartmates is an active cardiac exercise group. They meet all year round to offer support and help to improve members health and fitness. The group have fully qualified B.A.C.R. instructors (British Association of Cardiac Rehabilitation)

## Safe in the Shepherd's Arms—Max Lucado

### Hope & Encouragement from Psalm 23

Words of comfort and inspiration from Psalm 23 provide readers with hope to persevere through life's daily challenges.

In today's world it can be difficult to feel safe and secure. Max Lucado offers a 30-day devotional as a reliable source of safety and security from the 23rd Psalm. He describes this psalm as "written by a shepherd who became a king—because He wanted us to know about a King who became a shepherd." With Psalm 23 as our guide, we can release our burdens, throw off our fears, and rest safely in the Shepherd's arms.



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*"Following Jesus is simple, but not easy. Love until it hurts,  
and then love more" Mother Teresa*

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You are invited to join us as we celebrate the  
Lord's Supper during worship, at 11am on the fol-  
lowing

Sundays

Sunday 3 September 2023

Sunday 5 November 2023

Sunday 4 February 2024

Sunday 2 June 2024



Jesus said 'Do this in remembrance of me'

Registered charity number: SC008154

## Thank You

To the Minister and Church members.

I just want to thank everybody for the help they gave me when I took ill recently in church. On that day, people looked after me and made sure I got home safely. I received lots of phone calls, cards, church flowers and good wishes. All the kindness was very much appreciated.

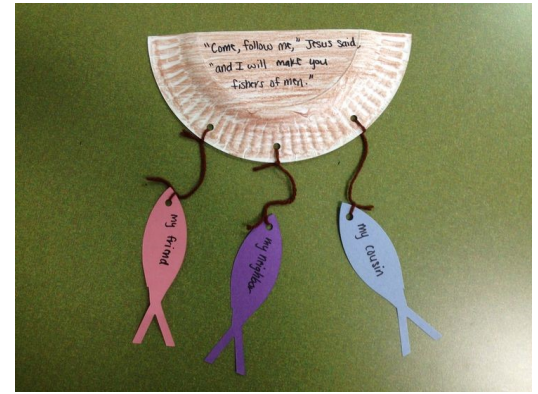
I hope it won't be too long before I feel able to be back at church and the Wednesday cafe.

Mary Lapham, and Charlie



## What you will need:

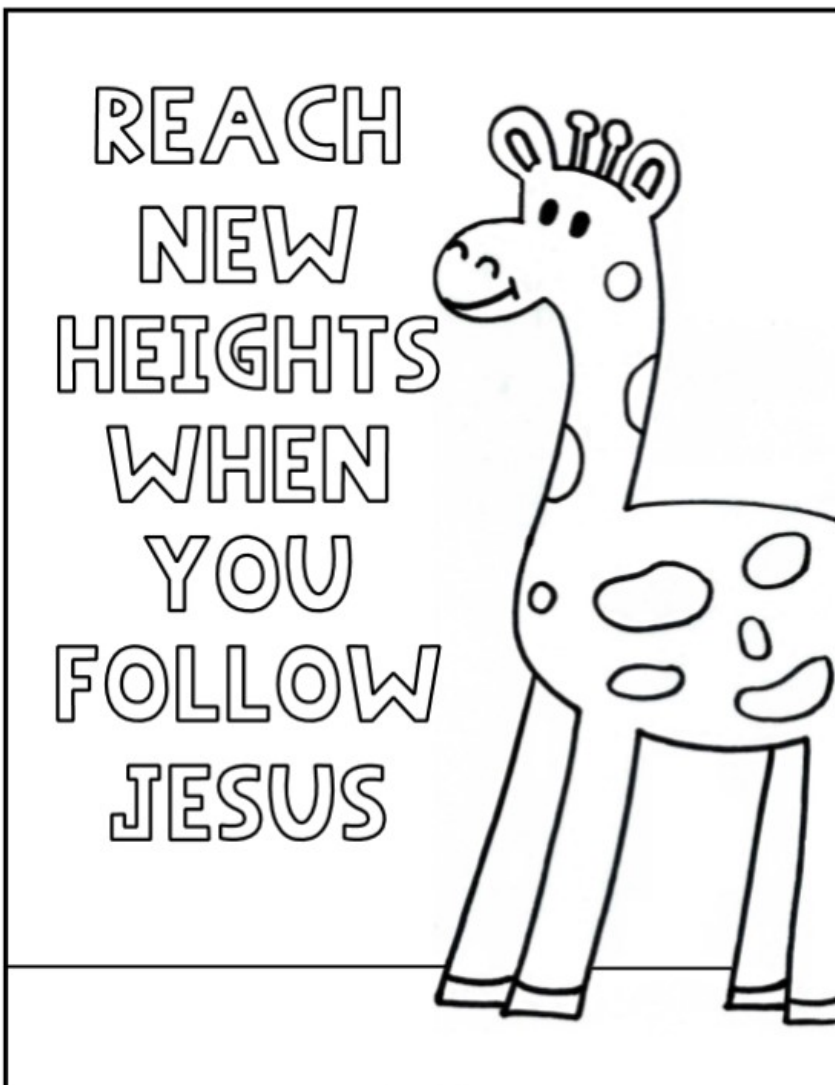
- A paper plate
- Coloured paper
- String/wool
- Coloured pens
- Scissors



## What to do:

1. Cut the paper plate in half and colour one side in any colour and then write Jesus said 'come follow me and I will make you fishers of men'
2. Cut out some fish shapes from the coloured paper and write the names of people you want to tell about Jesus.
3. Using the string hang them from the paper plate

## Colouring Sheet



**Thank you** Lord, for nursery and school.

**Thank you** for the teachers and staff who work there.

**Thank you** that I can learn lots of new things.

**Thank you** for all my friends.

**Help me** to enjoy nursery and school.

**Help me** to be good and helpful in class.

**Help me** to try my hardest.

**Help me** to be a good friend.

**Amen**



# first & third Sundays@KPPC

Young Church have had a break over the summer and we are now looking forward to welcoming all our children back. The 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of every month will have activities down in the hall for young folk. There will be warm up exercises, bible stories, crafts, prayers and refreshments.

## **Future dates are:**

3 September - Communion— Children meet downstairs for the whole service

17 September—The meaning of forgiveness

1 October—Harvest thanksgiving—Children stay in church for the whole intergenerational service

15 October—A wholehearted response to God's invitation

5 November—Communion—Children meet downstairs for the whole service

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*“Following Jesus means you actually have to do something”*

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## DEMENTIA IN CHURCHES

Reachout Together recently held an information day on Dementia and churches. During the session, there was a presentation by Alzheimer Scotland on dementia and a discussion led by a local dementia group at Galston Church. Additionally, a session focused on reflection and support for individuals with dementia and their families and friends within the church community.

To be a ‘Dementia-Friendly Church’ is to find ways to minister to people with dementia so that they know with everything in their being that they are ‘held by God’ as they are helped to experience once again life in all its fullness that Jesus promised to all. Growing Dementia-Friendly Churches

Here are some top tips for us as a church to help people with dementia and also their carers and loved ones.

- accept and value people regardless of cognitive abilities,
- ensure that the person with dementia, and those who support them, are cared for through all the stages of the illness.
- make sure that the person who has dementia, and their friends or family members, are both spiritually and pastorally supported and nurtured for them to enjoy being a part of a worshipping community in every sense.
- be open to what people with dementia have to offer, look for strengths and abilities, and then support and encourage using these gifts so that they may participate in the community that is the body of Christ.

## MISSION PARTNERS—ISRAEL & PALESTINE

### Muriel Pearson

Following a career in teaching, Muriel began training for ministry in 2000 and took up the post of parish minister in Cranhill, a Priority Area in the east end of Glasgow, in 2004. There, she worked closely with community organisations and helped develop Cranhill Development Trust. Muriel currently serves on the board of Place For Hope and has trained as a counsellor, an NVC (non-violent communication) practitioner and Capacitar facilitator.

She was appointed to the post of Associate Minister in St Andrew's Jerusalem and Tiberias in September 2021 and is currently waiting for her visa. She sees her role as about listening and storytelling and working with people of peace across Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories.



### Stewart Gillan

Stewart's first ministry was in South Africa, where he served as parish Minister in Alexandra township and as a researcher with the Commission of the Restitution of Land Rights. He completed his PhD at New College, Edinburgh, where he did field work with communities that had been forcibly removed from ancestral land under apartheid.

Upon his return to Toronto, he became the Executive Director of the Churches' Council on Theological Education in Canada. It was in Toronto that he met Sarah Ormerod, a soprano and music teacher. They married in 2004, relocating to Scotland and taking up residence in Linlithgow, where Stewart served as minister of St Michael's Parish Church for the next fourteen years. During this time they started their family, with Imogen making her appearance 15 years ago and Alex 13. They moved to Glasgow in 2018 when Stewart took up a call as minister of St John's Renfield, Kelvindale. For Sarah, Kelvinside Academy, where she was Head of Music, was just around the corner.

Of his call to become a Mission Partner in Jerusalem, Stewart writes: "I have felt called to the ministry of the Church in Israel and Palestine since my first visit in October 2007 with the Middle East Committee of the then World Mission Council. Our visits over the next four years gave me an introduction to the life and work of our churches in Jerusalem and Tiberias, our three institutions (Tabeetha School, Scots Hotel and St Andrew's Guesthouse), and some of our Church and Human Rights partners in the land of the Holy One.

"Already the learning curve has been a steep one, with a long way to go. I look forward to sharing in ministry with the Rev Muriel Pearson. Together, we ask for your support in prayer and partnership in this deeply spiritual and strategic ministry with people who have been working for peace and justice in God's name all of their lives. God being our helper."

**For their up to date newsletters please go to the Church of Scotland Website and search for Mission Partners**

### MEDITERRANEAN HOPE

The most up to date newsletter from Fiona Kendall who is the mission partner with Mediterranean Hope can be found if you follow this link or if you prefer a paper copy this can be found at the back of the church, please feel free to take copy.

[https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0016/101644/october-2022-undaunted-and-determined.pdf](https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0016/101644/october-2022-undaunted-and-determined.pdf)

Diary of a Church mouse by Sir John Betjeman



Here among long-discarded cassocks,  
Damp stools, and half-split open hassocks,  
Here where the vicar never looks  
I nibble through old service books.  
Lean and alone I spend my days  
Behind this Church of England baize.  
I share my dark forgotten room  
With two oil-lamps and half a broom.  
The cleaner never bothers me,  
So here I eat my frugal tea.  
My bread is sawdust mixed with straw;  
My jam is polish for the floor.  
Christmas and Easter may be feasts  
For congregations and for priests,  
And so may Whitsun. All the same,  
They do not fill my meagre frame.  
For me the only feast at all  
Is Autumn's Harvest Festival,  
When I can satisfy my want  
With ears of corn around the font.  
I climb the eagle's brazen head  
To burrow through a loaf of bread.  
I scramble up the pulpit stair  
And gnaw the marrows hanging there.  
It is enjoyable to taste  
These items ere they go to waste,  
But how annoying when one finds  
That other mice with pagan minds  
Come into church my food to share  
Who have no proper business there.  
Two field mice who have no desire

To be baptized, invade the choir.  
A large and most unfriendly rat  
Comes in to see what we are at.  
He says he thinks there is no God  
And yet he comes... it's rather odd.  
This year he stole a sheaf of wheat  
(It screened our special preacher's seat),  
And prosperous mice from fields away  
Come in to hear our organ play,  
And under cover of its notes  
Ate through the altar's sheaf of oats.  
A Low Church mouse, who thinks that I  
Am too papistical, and High,  
Yet somehow doesn't think it wrong  
To munch through Harvest Evensong,  
While I, who starve the whole year through,  
Must share my food with rodents who  
Except at this time of the year  
Not once inside the church appear.  
Within the human world I know  
Such goings-on could not be so,  
For human beings only do  
What their religion tells them to.  
They read the Bible every day  
And always, night and morning, pray,  
And just like me, the good church mouse,  
Worship each week in God's own house,  
But all the same it's strange to me  
How very full the church can be  
With people I don't see at all  
Except at Harvest Festival.

**SHOEBOX APPEAL**

It is still some time away but if you are able to participate in this very worthwhile project now is the time to start collecting items (e.g. toothpaste, toothbrush, comb/hairbrush, soap) to fill your shoebox. We expect the shoeboxes to be collected by Blytheswood Care at the end of October/beginning of November. More information will be shared as it is received.

## OFFICE BEARERS

### Minister:

Rev Fiona A Maxwell BA BD

Tel: 01563 521762

Mob: 07507 312 123

fmaxwell@churchofscotland.org.uk

### Session Clerk:

Janette Steven

Tel: 01563 401209

janettesteven12k@gmail.com

### Church Administrator:

Vanessa Twomey

Tel 07394 173977

kppcchurchoffice@gmail.com

### Treasurer:

Alex Steven

Tel: 01563 401209

alexsteven21m@gmail.com

## FUNERALS

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

Thursday 15 June

Nancy Hamilton

Wednesday 16 August

Margaret Black

## KIRK SESSION MEETINGS

7pm in the Sanctuary

Wednesday 13 September

Wednesday 18 October

Wednesday 29th November

## UPCOMING DATES

- Doors Open Day Saturday 9 September 10 – 2
- Harvest Thanksgiving Sunday 1 October
- Communion Sunday 5 November 11am



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Scottish Charity No: 008154

