

The quarterly newsletter from St Kentigern's Church

Outreach

March - May 2016

Like wheat that springeth green

There is life around our congregation, and in our relations with folks in our community and not least other Christians. On one view it is easy to focus on barrenness, to worry about fewer children (and adults) around than before, and so to look ahead with fear.

That wouldn't be a view informed either by resurrection faith or the facts around us. Read about the Fresh Expressions we are developing within our community- and be excited. Think about a dozen and a half people turning up for the regular Thursday Bible study, or regularly more than six meeting every Sunday morning to pray not only for our church, but for others, and for our community and nation, and for our world. Look and see around a dozen people already responding to the challenges we will face in the future as they grow in skill and confidence in leading parts of our Sunday service. See the enthusiasm across our organisations - for young and for old - as people discover real enrichment and not a little fun getting together to explore faith or to live it out with others.

There is still some way to go to Easter. So these are still days before the glory of resurrection. They are days of seed-planting, of nurturing sometimes small growth, of encouraging faith to take root in quite inhospitable parts of our hearts and our shared life, so that we might in time see the fruit of God's Spirit at work.

Of course, there are challenges. When will it ever be different? At the same time we catch glimpses of glory even in the lives we are living, shared with Christ and with each other. Our task is to remain faithful, to give generously of ourselves, to recognise and support what's happening in our fellowship and to own it - so that, when it does bear real fruit, we can each say, 'I helped that grow!'

This is true in our own lives as well:

"When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain, / Your touch can call us back to life again. / Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been; / Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green."

May each of us know, as individuals and as members of Christ's body, the life-giving power of God's Spirit as we approach Easter, and beyond. And may we work in God's field to God's glory, aware we're nurturing heaven's harvest.

Your Minister,

Graeme Barclay

St Kentigern's Church

people together following Jesus



Easter Celebrations

Here's what we're doing around Easter in St Kentigern's. You're welcome to join us for any of these.

Maundy Thursday

We celebrate the Lord's Supper on the night Jesus was betrayed; we may also celebrate the sacrament of baptism as we prepare for Easter Day.

Easter morning

We host the three churches Easter service at 7am BST - which is doubly early this year since the clocks go forward that morning! Then it's back to St Kentigern's for breakfast together.

Easter worship

We gather for worship at 11am on Easter morning with upbeat resurrection-inspired praise and teaching.

Easter March

Following our Easter morning worship, at 1pm we'll go for a march round our parish, stopping off at various points for reflections based on Easter themes. Join us for part or all of the march as follows:

1pm Church

1.15pm Corner of Grassyards Road and Lindsay Drive

1.30pm Play park in the loch, near Community Centre

1.45pm Co-op store at Macphail Drive

2pm The circular area inside the old part of Kilmarnock cemetery

We'll return to church by 2.30, having walked and proclaimed around a large part of our parish! Not quite five hundred miles, but a significant step!

Lent Bible Study

Our Bible Study commenced last Thursday (18 February) and it was encouraging to see such a large attendance and to welcome folks from other Churches. Our study is run in conjunction with Fellowship of Churches and groups are meeting in other venues.

Gary, our Probationer Minister, is leading our study which is based on The Psalms. We looked at Psalm 100 'Know That the Lord is God'. We learned that this Psalm is joyful and questioned whether our faith and worship brings joy. Listening to other people's views and opinions can be quite challenging and rewarding.

We use booklets from York Courses and this study has an input from Revd John Bell from the Iona Community and a native of Kilmarnock.

Ian

Diversity: taking tea with the Imam

Following our successful diversity weekend at the end of January I took up the local Imam's invitation and popped in to the mosque on Hill Street to pass in a photo I'd received and also to say hello. Sheikh Mohammed, the local Imam, welcomed me warmly and we enjoyed a good blether for an hour or so. His tea was good, and he was obviously well-prepared for visitors because he could produce, at the drop of a hat, lovely home-baking his wife had made!

It turns out he's from Syria, but the north-east of the country where things are a bit more settled. He had a friend in, too, who has come to live here as a refugee from Syria. He showed me pictures of the sun shining on the snow in his back garden - it could have been a view in Kilmarnock, apart from the foot-long icicles on the tree branches! That part of the country is very high - higher than Ben Nevis - so the winters are cold. In every other respect this was an ordinary man, a husband and father of two children, whose life had been caught up in unimaginable turmoil and who had escaped the worst of the fighting by going initially to his brother's in Lebanon and eventually coming here.

He was very warm about Scottish people and the welcome he and his family had received here. He did, though, find the accent pretty strong and couldn't believe how quickly we spoke! It was quite extraordinary how the language barriers were overcome and we spoke, albeit from different cultures and religious traditions, about much that we held in common.

It turns out that Sheikh Mohammed and his family used to live in the flats near the site of the old Infirmary, but his wife really struggled without friends here and so they've all moved back to Glasgow. So not everyone from Syria who lives here feels welcome.

It did make me think that, if we make demands of other governments around the world to treat Christians fairly and allow them freedom to worship, we also need to lead by example and extend hospitality. It also made me think that it could be most interesting simply to get to know people such as Sheikh Mohammed, and his Syrian countryman, better. If we are to live together in an increasingly mobile world we will need to learn how to understand people in depth, even if on the surface they seem different from us. We might be surprised how much they are like us!

If you're interested in taking tea with the Imam, or having him and his friends round, let me know and let's see what we can put together. Once again, the Church is at the forefront not of sectarian division but reaching across cultures to deepen understanding and share chat over tea.

Fresh Expressions of church

We were told by Presbytery that we should explore the possibility of trying one Fresh Expression of church over the next three years. In fact, we are sowing seeds for five - and seeing real excitement as we reach out beyond our 'churchiness' to meet people where they are, sharing Godly values and the gospel as we go. These are early days and we'd love you to be involved. So here are the Fresh Expressions we've started, to keep you posted and encourage you to become involved with what we're doing.

Messy Church

MC reaches out to families with preschool children who don't normally attend church on a Sunday. This is a very informal way where mums and dads can join their children in fun, crafts and still hear the message of Jesus' love for everyone.

We meet during the week on a Tuesday afternoon beginning with games involving children and adults, engage in simple crafts and then proceed with watching Bible story videos. We then have a short time of singing and finish off with afternoon tea. During this we have introduced 'table talk' which is going quite well, though some are a little hesitant.

Our next steps include working out: How do we involve the parents and carers in taking real ownership of Messy Church?

Pie, Pint and a Parable

PPP meets monthly in First Edition in Kilmarnock and aims to be an informal group to engage with those who no longer attend church or who have never attended. It focuses on the teachings of Jesus and how they relate to modern times. The group splits into smaller ones round tables, shares food and drink (£5.99!) then looks at a short parable printed on beer mats with discussion questions for the group to consider.

The first night saw eighteen people come along, though only one was not associated with the church.

Our next steps include: How do we encourage more non church people to attend? We might still need the seventeen to make the group work, but then it is full of church folk. Ideally, we would like to have another seventeen non-church people!

Monday Kitchen

MK meets weekly and is for young mums and others who would like to learn basic food making with ingredients provided. We have a Facebook page with 48 likes and we meet to share making basic food and the subsequent eating together over a shared meal. The toddlers who are there are also fed. Time spent sharing food allows people the opportunity to talk and share faith. We have seen this

happen each time we have met, and has been spontaneous though encouraged where it has occurred.

Our next steps: How do we make this better known so that people join in? Is advertising a key issue? If so, what are some of the best ways to get word out, since we are starting with a fairly small number of people. We haven't advertised in church because we wanted to attract non-church folk – but that makes it slightly harder to engage people.

Community Cafe

CC is a place for people to meet in a cafe atmosphere within a well-known local pub. We are making use of their function room to create somewhere inviting and cosy with tables and chairs, possibly a quiet area and a corner for children to play. We hope that the friendly, welcoming and safe atmosphere along with the chance to have inexpensive tea and coffee - with good home baking - will make for a pleasant hour or two in others' company. It's principally for people who might be a bit socially isolated to have a place, not connected with the church building, to meet. We recognise there might be clashes with other church-based events and we are trying to have a meeting day which doesn't impinge on other groups. We also see possible benefit in extending this to residents in the sheltered housing area across the road.

We are hosting our first meeting on Thursday 3rd March from 11.30 - and we'd love to see you along any Thursday morning to give us some support! We hope we can encourage enough voluntary staff to make this work, but have begun to explore with St Matthew's getting support from them. We think certain groups with particular needs might find this a helpful resource.

Community Garden

We are making a large plot of ground owned by the church available for community garden use. We have partnered with the local secondary school and community council and have formed a separate association with a management team. We think this could be a venue for learning, community endeavour and shared activity - and there might even be a quiet place to sit. We depend on a range of organisations to fund this, grant planning permission, arrange for some complex and expensive works, and so on. We think this is a long-term project but with potential for increased relationships with local schools, possibly local residents interested in gardening, and church members. We think it demonstrates the Church's concern for creation, too, which we want to emphasise.

Our story so far

We have, over the course of six months of meeting, praying, talking and thinking, come up with what we believe are reasonable attempts at Fresh Expressions

which reflect some of our thinking about God's leading us in our context and community but which are also flexible and provisional enough to change and adapt as we hear more from those who come along and as we think more deeply, prompted by God's Spirit and informed by our collective thinking.

A group met David McCarthy, the national Fresh Expressions adviser for the Church of Scotland, in January when we had a whole series of interesting conversations about each of the Fresh Expressions above. We were strongly encouraged to keep going and affirmed that we were not too far from the mark in our thinking. At the same time, David offered us valuable thoughts about making the most of opportunities which are available to us. Having had some time to give our ideas greater focus, we think that the Go for It grants available from the Church may help us really move forward.

As we've thought about our Fresh Expressions, we've come up with these ideas we want to hold onto:

1. We can keep things simple. It doesn't need to be complicated.
2. All the things we're doing will be different from each other. There is no 'proper way' to do things. What is proper for all we're doing, though, is that our activities should be tailored to the people of New Farm and the wider community in Kilmarnock.
3. Fresh Expressions is about going out – and staying out. We cannot afford to be drawn into thinking that Fresh Expressions only draws people into traditional expressions church. The two can, though, encourage and bless each other. There's no competition but there is a distinction.
4. We shouldn't be embarrassed about talking about things of faith or deeper topics. Not everyone wants superficial chat, and a gift we might give (at least some) in our community is to 'be serious.' Not in a solemn, miserable way; but part of our ministry is to lift our eyes above the humdrum of Celebrity Big Brother to allow others space to reflect on things that matter.
5. We should be ourselves, and neither push faith issues beyond our sense of what is proper but neither to give up any sign or sense that we are Christian people and that we're doing this prompted by faith. Often, having a faith focused opportunity for people to engage with as an option, but not a requirement, is good. So a reflection space or table at a coffee meeting with a candle, Bible and some way of enabling people to share concerns for confidential chat or prayer is entirely right. Grace at a food-based event would be entirely proper. We have started with gentle and explicit Christian practices in all our Fresh Expressions and these should continue.

6. We need to take a longer term view. So we will need patience, and not to expect – or be forced – to have quick results. We also need to be long-term for the sake of those who come along. So, for example, we should look to provide ways for people to still be involved even if their initial reason for coming has gone (that their children have grown older, or other circumstances have changed).

7. It will be key, in the next little while, to extend awareness of these initiatives through the local authority and other agencies working in our parish and through local media such as the newspaper and local radio.

8. All five of our Fresh Expressions are different and we are also all together in this. Meeting to get support across all we're doing is really important. Some may succeed more quickly than others; we might discover some won't go ahead. This is all fine, but we need to remember that we are all helping all these expressions to grow as they are able. This isn't a competition or a race so much as service together. Meeting regularly, and with David every three months, should help us in this.

9. We need to begin to develop not only applications for funding but relationships with potential funders now. That may well involve business plans and cases, detailed job descriptions, a clear view of our aims – even if we are clear that we're not entirely clear at present! - and a sense of how we might evaluate what we are doing to determine whether we are hitting the marks we have set. We probably don't want to put all our funding eggs in any one funder's basket so investigating where we might get funding is another important early step.

10. Let's get out more. It could be a real help to visit other places and see what other people are doing. The Fresh Expressions website has a lot of good stories and more are available on a DVD and it might be worth getting hold of that and having a few get-together to see what others have done and make connections with our plans.

11. It will help us to keep the understanding of Fresh Expressions development in mind. We do want to develop initiatives which listen to local people and respond to people's needs and wishes, as well as to encourage the flourishing of Christian faith and discipleship (though we need to be ready for this looking very different to others than to us!) and, in due course, to see Fresh Expressions themselves multiply and spawn other gatherings.

12. Let's not forget the number of people involved in all this! We are talking about quite significant numbers of people engaging in a range of creative ways with things to do with Jesus and Christian faith. Our current system and culture doesn't allow for this to be recognised as it should, so perhaps we need to be advocated for the popularity and success of what we're about.

13. Let's do what gives us energy and enthusiasm. Where these are absent, let's not do them unless there is absolutely no alternative – and, even then, could we ask someone who is less enthusiastic about spearheading Fresh Expressions to assist? We need to maintain energy, enthusiasm and excitement.

14. We can't afford to let these become cosy clubs where power, existing friendships and the dead hand of tradition all suffocate life and faith. We have seen that before in church broadly and don't want to repeat the mistake. We need both to invite others to join us and allow them to change and form our thinking and planning. A gift is no real gift if you keep holding all the string(s).

15. It is very encouraging and what we would expect, that whilst doing all this we are also maintaining traditional expressions of church even in the face of reduced minister resources which must hit soon. This is a busy, exciting time in our church of modest size and resources. We can hold our heads high, not in pride but confident that we are alive and eager to move forward.

16. We will need to watch that we don't burn ourselves out by trying to do too much. We'll need to work cleverly to achieve as much as we can with as little effort. We'll need to support each other so we don't spend time pulling against one another, even through ignorance. We can learn from each other if we're open, and that will help us get on better in many senses. And we might need to stop doing other things we consider are less important if we believe we should be concentrating on this important aspect of our present church life.

Women's Hour

Well our session is nearly over for 2015-16 and we have had an interesting and varied programme. We meet on Monday evenings from October to March at 7.30 pm in the small hall and all ladies of the congregation, their friends and the wider community are welcome.

Our programme till the end of March is as follows:

- 7th Talk on Water Aid
- 14th Scottish Bible Society
- 21st AGM and singalong
- 28th Closing Social with the 'Jimmy Choir.'

We hope to welcome back old friends and new in October for another exciting and interesting time on Monday nights. Hope to see you then.

Joanne Murdoch - President

Leading Worship

The recent Presbytery meetings have in some senses been a bit daunting as they have spelled out the challenges many congregations in Presbytery will face as the likely number of full-time Ministers reduces to eight in the next few years, to four (for twenty-four charges) within about eight years. There was a deal of anxiety around, but also a sense of being freed and even called by God to explore new ways and approaches.

That's why we have been richly blessed as about ten people have offered themselves to lead various parts of our services. You've seen some of them in action already, and you have to admit they're good! They've managed this with a few weeks of intensive training, thinking, talking practising and getting feedback, and through a regular process not only of being involved in worship but also meeting to think about how things have gone and to learn from one another. This simple approach of giving it a go and thinking carefully about our experiences is very helpful and there's a real sense of feeling supported by one another as we take these big steps together.

All of this means that, when our Minister is required to serve as Interim Moderator in other charges (or if he weren't here) we would be able to lead much of our services ourselves. We would still need to get some help in preaching - at least for the next little while, perhaps until some of those leading worship develop further into preaching - but there are retired Ministers and other around who might be very happy to preach but might not want to do all the rest of the service. And of course we have Readers available, including Gavin Raleigh from our own congregation.

This is all quite different from 'normal' - or at least the way it was done in the past. But it is letting us hear different voices and styles, and helps us see that God calls many people to serve in all sorts of ways. AS we have welcomed many students for ministry over the years now we're supporting our own folk to train and grow in service.

They value your prayerful support, your encouragement, your helpful and supportive feedback as they continue to learn and grow. As things change we recognise we don't need to fear the future but we can adapt and embrace it, and discover that what's ahead may be richer, in God's grace, than what has been before.

Our Finances in 2015

Our Stated Annual Meeting takes place at the beginning of March, and copies of the full accounts are available in church. Here's a summary of our income and expenditure in 2015.

What did we receive?	2015	2014
Offerings given under Gift Aid	£27,504.71	£27,334.69
Gift Aid tax reclaimed	£5,548.67	£8,291.30
Other regular giving	£17,316.00	£16,736.98
Other donations to St Kentigern's	£540.87	£1,057.63

You can see that two-thirds of our income comes from people giving regularly who allow us to claim Gift Aid on their givings. We have still to receive another quarter's claim for 2015 which should bring up last year's Gift Aid amount to around 2014's level.

What did we spend on Ministry?

Contribution to Stipend and wider Church Expenses	£34,729.00	£31,328.00
	£2,475.32	£2,175.00
Council Tax on Manse	£1,963.28	£1,954.36

The cost of engaging a Minister is just over £41,000 so we do not pay the full costs of having a full-time Minister serving our parish. Our contribution to the wider work of the Church of Scotland would be around £6,000 but we don't pay this, either, since our income is not sufficiently high. Therefore we are effectively being supported by other congregations to the extent of around £12,000 per year. We are required to pay the Council Tax on the Manse and meet travel, telephone, internet and other specified expenses for the Minister.

What did we spend on our premises?

Maintaining / Improving the buildings	£6,677.98	£15,757.73
Energy Costs	£4,244.35	£4,373.30
Insurance and Licences	£3770.64	£3,408.62

We spent much less on improvements and repairs, but still managed to complete double glazing of the whole church. We spent less on energy, despite increasing costs. And we need to spend a great deal on insurance and copyright licences to ensure we have the right cover in place..

These sums cover 90% of our expenses. You can get full details in the accounts.

Dear friends,

It's hard to believe that I have been with you for just over six months now, and that I am now nearing the end of my placement.

I have been truly blessed in my first placement, and could not have asked for a better start to my training. I have had a great mentor in your minister Grant, who has encouraged, supported and challenged me along the way, allowing me to explore and most importantly learn in a wide range of situations that will stand me in good stead in my future placements and future ministry.

I have also been blessed by the support and encouragement that each of you have given me, it truly has been a privilege to journey alongside each of you, you have given generously of your time, encouragement and on some occasions even your tea!

When I spoke in Church on my first Sunday, I said that we are shaped and learn from our experiences and I asked that you allowed me to journey with you, but that you also journeyed with me. I have not been disappointed, many of you have gone the extra mile with me, and by doing so have allowed me to gain experience in a variety situations, it has truly been a privilege to share this with you.

As I prepare to leave the congregation at the end of April, I do so at an exciting time for you as a congregation, as you develop your worship team and a variety of different Fresh Expressions of Church. It has been great to be involved in this from the start with you, seeing them develop, and I look forward to seeing them blossom and bear fruit in the future.

The next stage of training for me will be a full time placement from May to August (over my summer holidays!), I will be undertaking this placement at New Kilpatrick Parish Church in Bearsden. I then have one final year at University and a placement, before starting my probation around May 2017.

I wish each and every one of you God's richest blessings for the future and thank you for everything you have done for me during my time at St Kentigerns.

Blessings

Gary

Fish and Chip Jumpers

We packed up all the Fish and Chip Jumpers, hats and blankets this week and took them to Strachur since the Raven Trust will pack a container leaving on Wednesday bound for Northern Malawi. We were fortunate to be given room for our 14 boxes going to the David Gordon Memorial Hospital in Livingstonia.

A big thanks to all of you St Kentigern's knitters for your substantial contribution. Altogether, we packed 595 jumpers, 196 hats, and 30 blankets.

Please pray for the safe passage of the container and its lorry drivers, the containers ships between Scotland and Africa, Dr Lyn Dowds and her team at DGMH and the babies who will benefit from the cosy warmth of the jumpers, hats and blankets. Thanks again and please keep knitting!

Blessings and best wishes

Kim



St Kentigerns at New Farm Loch Diversity Weekend

St Kentigerns were well represented on the weekend of 30/31 January at the Diversity Weekend organised by New Farm Loch Community Council. This was the second such event, after the success of similar events last year.

St Kentigerns Junior Church had a stall on the Saturday in the Community Centre letting folks know about the work they do with our young people on a Sunday. In the afternoon the young people entertained the folks with songs they regularly sing at Junior Church. They went down very well.

Our Praise Band, now known as REACHOUT, were one of the bands taking part in the Diversity Weekend Concert in the Community Centre. The event took place on the Saturday evening and many folks turned up both young and old. The joint was rocking as they say and was opened by a dhol drummer (Indian) and piper (Scottish), who were joined on stage by an Indian 'beatboxer' resplendent in turban and kilt. Bands, mainly young local people, followed playing their own type of music and the evening was brought to a close by local band Huxtable.

REACHOUT were the fourth band up and played a set of secular and Christian music, including 'I'll be there,' 'Spirit in the sky,' 'Hallelujah,' '10000 Reasons,' 'The power of Your love' and 'You are my vision.' The band went down well and is now looking forward to their next gig, outside of church, hopefully in the not too distant future. You can find out more on their Facebook page. Have a wee look!



On the Sunday members of our church, St Matthews and others met in our small hall together with members of the local Muslim community to discuss a passage from the Koran. The local Imam, Muhammad Abid, chaired the event and the speakers were Imam Sohaib Hussain, David McCaig from St Matthews and Jon Herd from St Kentigerns. It was a very enlightening and informative afternoon, which everyone seemed to enjoy.

John Houston, Community Council member and organiser of the events said, "Following the success of Celebrate Diversity Day on the Saturday, the Interfaith Conversation was a bigger success than we could have hoped for with 60 people from different faiths in attendance."

David Carr was in his office one day preparing to take a service with his congregation of 700. At that point, the Lord spoke to him and said, "I want you to write me a love letter." "Lord," said David Carr, "I have never even written a love letter to my wife – and I have a congregation of 700 waiting for me to lead the service!" "I am already there with your congregation – I want you to stay here and write me a love letter." Below is the love letter that David Carr wrote to the Lord.

Wouldn't you just love Him?

If a Man knocked your door as he passed your way
And He settled the debt that you couldn't pay –
Wouldn't you just love Him?

If He saw you sick and riddled with shame,
If He nursed you and healed you and took all your pain,
Wouldn't you just love Him?

If He noticed your hunger and lack of supply
And fed you on manna from heaven on high –
Wouldn't you just love Him?

And if He knew you were lonely and needing a friend,
And He promised to love you and stay till the end.
Wouldn't you just love Him?

And if He offered to die so you could live
And if He promised to forgive all that you did.
Wouldn't you just love Him?

Jesus

THEY MISSED HIM!

They were looking for a lion, He came as a Lamb,
and they missed Him.

They were looking for a warrior, He came as a Peacemaker,
and they missed Him.

They were looking for a king, He came as a Servant,
and they missed Him.

They were looking for liberation from Rome, He submitted to the Roman stake,
and they missed Him.

They were looking for a fit to their mould, He was the mould breaker,
and they missed Him.

Will you?



Church in the Community

A Public Meeting was held recently in Church for those interested in the Community Garden project and although not a lot of people turned up those who did showed enthusiasm for this enterprise. Two senior pupils from James Hamilton Academy spoke very well about the school's eco outdoor programme and the school's involvement with the Community Garden. A Management Committee was formed consisting of representation from our Church, New Farm Community Council, JHA and the community itself. Planning permission is awaited from East Ayrshire Council.

The Church in the Community Committee are visiting the flats in Fraser Walk inviting folks there to come along to prepare and have lunch together in church on Friday 4 March. Some of the folks living in the flats face massive problems and we want to show them that we care.

An Easter Walk around the Parish is to be held after the service on Easter Sunday. We will have 5 stopping points for prayer. Some folk are not able to walk very far but we hope they can come to some of the stopping points and join us. More details will appear in the Order of Service Sheet.

We had the opportunity to share our plans in a recent service and as a result Mrs Betty Kerr has joined the Committee. This is an exciting time for all of us and if anyone would like to become involved in the work of our Committee please speak to any member.

Church in Community Committee (*Tracey Hamilton, Lyn Gale, Sadie Speirs, Irene Rennie, Bill & Betty Kerr, Willie Craig, Bill Wilson and Tom Logan*)



On Wednesday 16 March at 7pm, we are hosting our next pie, pint and parable evening, in the First Edition, Bank Street, Kilmarnock. First Edition has a pie and pint evening on a Wednesday, which offers a selection of pies and drinks for £5.99. The evening will be informal and while sharing food and a drink we will consider one of Jesus' parables with some points for discussion. It is open to all, but it would be great if you were attending if you

could bring along someone who has lost contact with the church or has no contact with church at all! For further information please speak to the minister or Gary Noonan.

REPORT ON A VISIT TO THE HOWARD CENTRE 5 PORTLAND ROAD, KILMARNOCK KA1 2BT

The Centre offers a wide variety of help, advice and support to the general public, Church and youth organisations. The main Christian spiritual opportunities are with:

- A service for those with drug/alcohol addiction and those who are homeless
- 'Live Wires' for those in Primary 1 to 7 and their parents who attend with them. (It is similar to 'Messy Church' but for a slightly older age-group.)
- Reflective worship support
- Ecumenical Worship enabling.

The main activities of the Centre are well described in its website - <http://www.howardcentre.org/>

Around 950 to 1050 people visit the Centre every week.

How St Kentigern's Church members may be of help to the Howard Centre:

- Help is needed in the kitchen on Tuesdays and Thursdays when the café is run from 9 am to 2 pm. This would entail helping with food preparation and clearing up, and an input for all or part of these hours would be valued.
- A caretaker is needed for one off events outwith the usual timetable of activities, to open and close up the premises, put out chairs, welcome people at the door. Examples include for an event in the evening, or on a Saturday such as a children's party, coffee morning or conference.
- Another pair of hands are needed to help with crafts at the various old folks' homes that are visited, or to help in primary schools with the joint art and craft project with Kilmarnock South Parish Church.

If you have some spare time and would like to consider being a help, please contact Jim McHardy, or visit/call the Howard Centre itself and speak to Mary Ritchie - tel. K/K 541337 email mary@howardcentre.org

Jim McHardy - tel. 01563 527786 or email jim.mchardy7@gmail.com
Other Churches Committee

EVENTS CALENDAR FROM THE FELLOWSHIP OF KILMARNOCK CHURCHES WITH IN ADDITION SOME ITEMS FROM ST KENTIGERN'S

Sunday 13th March from 4-6 pm - Imagine at New Laigh Kirk church halls in John Finnie Street

Monday 14th March at 7.30 pm – Meeting with David Clipston, Ayrshire Scripture Union worker, St Kentigern's Church lounge

Sunday 20th March 2016 – Palm Sunday with Broken Chains, Howard Centre by Fellowship of Churches (held every Sunday 3.15 to 5 pm)

Wednesday 20th April 2016 7 pm - Hustings debate in The Howard Centre

Sat. 23rd April, 7-9 pm - Fragrance, at New Laigh Kirk

Sunday 24th April (provisional) – Service at Crosshouse Parish Church (Fellowship of Kilmarnock Churches)

Sunday 15th- Sunday 22nd May 2016 - Christian Aid week

Sunday 29th May (provisional) – Service at Winton Place Congregational Church (Fellowship of Kilmarnock Churches)

Sunday 26th June (provisional) – Service at New Laigh Kirk (Fellowship of Kilmarnock Churches)

Sunday 25th September (provisional) – Service at Holy Trinity Church (Fellowship of Kilmarnock Churches)

Sunday 30th October (evening) – Festival of Praise for Christian Aid, at Kay Park Parish Church

September (provisional) – Reflective Worship Group event, Howard Centre

Wed. 21st September at 7.30 pm - planning committee meeting of Fellowship of Kilmarnock Churches (in St Andrew's and St Marnock's Church halls)



Since the beginning of the new year we have been busy in Messy Church learning about Jesus as a baby, a young boy, his baptism, choosing his 12 disciples and over the next few weeks celebrating Easter.

We have a wonderful group of children who faithfully attend and are so enthusiastic as are the adults. They all know the big hall is where we play games and do our crafts but the small hall is where story time and singing is held, in other words our church. Its amazing that such young children have learned and follow the routine of Messy Church. Afternoon tea is a special time of talking together and the children feel free to go to the food table and get seconds.

We met recently with David McCarthy, Church of Scotland Fresh Expression expert. Messy Church is a Fresh Expression initiative though we have been going for 4 years and it was interesting to hear what David had to say about progressing forward and we hope to put into practice in the near future some of his suggestions.

We meet on the following dates and look forward to welcoming pre school children and their parents/carers.

March	8 and 22
April	19 and 25
May	10 and 24
June	14

Girls Brigade

We are coming close to the end of another session at GB which is hard to believe. Having had a successful Carol Service at Christmas and trip to see Santa at Heads of Ayr, this year has seen us take part in Divisional competitions and hold our own Coffee Night and Cupid drive. We'd like to thank all the parents and the kind church members (you know who you are) who came along and supported us on the night. The girls enjoyed playing shopkeepers at the craft stall and then had their own Cupid Drive.

We are presently starting to think about our Annual Display and Award Ceremony which takes place on Thursday 5th May at 7pm when everyone is welcome to join us for our final night.

Following this 10 girls and 4 leaders will be joining 25 girls and officers of Largs GB to attend a weekend camp at Dumfries House at the end of May. It will be full of outdoor activities and should be a great experience for all attending. Let's hope for some good weather then too.

I am grateful for all the help and support I get from leaders and members of the congregation and look forward to letting you see some camp photos in the next magazine.

Tracey Hamilton, Captain



Junior Church Holiday dates and Events Feb to Aug 2016

6/3/16	Junior Church on	Mother's day crafts
13/3/16	Junior Church on	
20/3/16	Junior Church on	Palm Sunday
27/3/16	Junior Church	Easter Sunday crafts etc.
3/4/16	HOLIDAY	
10/4/16	HOLIDAY	
17/4/16	HOLIDAY	
24/4/16	Junior Church on	Organise Summer trip
1/5/16	Junior Church on	Pentecost Play dress rehearsal 1
8/5/16	Junior Church on	Pentecost Play dress rehearsal 2
15/5/16	Junior Church on	Pentecost Play PERFORMANCE
22/5/16	Junior Church on	
29/5/16	Junior Church on	(members of GB's away at camp)
4/6/16 (Sat)	Junior Church Summer trip	
5/6/16	Junior Church on	Low Key 'End-of-Term' Party
12/6/16	Thanksgiving Service/BBQ?	
	(Kids in sanctuary throughout service)	
19/6/16	HOLIDAY	Start of Summer Services
21/6/16	Junior Church returns	

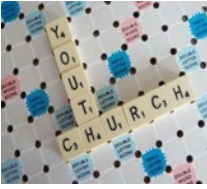


As can be seen from the above list the kids will be performing in church on Pentecost Sunday 15th May, during the morning service at 11 am. The play is called 'Mission Possible: Pentecost' and was written by Michelle Fogg.

Please come along and support Junior Church.

Audrey Frazer (Superintendent)

audrey.frazer@tiscali.co.uk Text - 07773 691538 Phone - 01563 821822
Snapchat - audrey-musicmum



Youth church is for young people of secondary school age and they meet once a fortnight (roughly) in the

Lounge at 11 am.

They meet on 13th March and then on 3rd April.

We are planning an outing to Laser Quest at Pirate Pete's on Friday 18th March.

Clarinda McHardy

The Golden Age Group

The Golden Age Group meets in St. Kentigerns on the third Tuesday of every month, with guest entertainers and speakers.

The next two meetings are:

15th March John Smillie-“Yesteryear”

19th April Men’s Choir (to be confirmed)

So, if you are at a “golden age”, come along to the Golden Age Group, you will be made very welcome.

Come along and meet the friends you never knew you had.

If you don’t have transport, and need a lift, that’s not a problem, just phone one of the following:

John 531628

Willie 522764

John 536422

Monday Kitchen

Come along on a Monday between 11am and 2pm, for a time of fun and learning.

We have a time when we learn some cooking skills, then a meal together and enjoy each others company. We are a friendly bunch and would love to see new faces.

Coffee and Co

Meet on Wednesday afternoons in the Lounge at 2 pm for a cuppa and a blether. Why not come along and join us for a time of fellowship.

Job Club

Need help finding a job? We may be able to help. We can help with your CV and applications.

We are open on Thursday mornings from 10 am - 12 noon. We have internet access and the kettle is always on.

Pleas let your friends and neighbours know that we offer this service.

Church in the Wider World Committee

Let's build a house

Well as you all know, every Presbytery and congregation was challenged by the World Mission Council to raise £500 to build a house in Nepal after the devastation of the earthquake in April last year.



Our Church in the Wider World Session Committee were tasked with coming up with ideas to raise this sum. We decided that we would ask the congregation to once again donate money in exchange for onscreen Christmas greetings that were displayed at the beginning of the services during advent and Ian and Irene opened their house up for folks to go see Christmas lights in their street, both of which received generous donations. We also received money from the Christmas Eve collection and a kind donation from a member's son and friends. All of which raised just over £500.

Our 'soup and sandwich' lunch took place on Sunday 24th January after our morning service and over 70 people stayed for lunch and a time of fellowship. A wonderful time was had by all, with plenty of blethering and laughter. Thanks to all who stayed behind and raised a total of £477! The total collected from all the events was £1048.69, which has been forwarded to the World Mission Council of the Church of Scotland.

John Tomlinson, said "As convener of the "Church in the Wider World" committee, I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who donated for their kindness and generosity, which has resulted in enough money being raised to be able to re-house two families who lost their homes as a result of the devastating earthquake in Nepal last year."

Rumania

The members of the Church in the Wider World Committee recently had a meeting with Karen Gillon, from the Church of Scotland World Mission Council, about where we could direct our next project now that we have completed building the houses for St Peters, Arua, Uganda.

It was suggested that we could perhaps we could help elderly people in the parishes of Hirip and Amac in north east Rumania. Although Rumania is a member of the

European Union, they do not have a benefit system like we have in the UK. Many of the young people have left to live abroad and their elderly relatives may be left on their own. We have already had a letter from the parish pastors in these areas.

With this in mind our committee, took the project to the last meeting of the Kirk Session, who have agreed in principal to support this project. It has agreed that two of our committee, Jon Herd and Sandy Brown, visit the area in August of this year on a fact finding visit. They have made application to the World Mission Council, for a Faithshare grant to assist with the cost of travel, etc.

Souper Sunday - We have postponed 'Souper Sunday' lunch until the back end of the year, as there was difficulty in trying to find a suitable date. Souper Sunday raises money for the Church of Scotland HIV/Aids project. Watch out in future magazines for the confirmed date.

Christian Aid Week - As usual our committee will be helping to organising a Christian Aid Lunch, but as yet a date hasn't been confirmed. John will liaise with The Social Committee. Margaret Murray is arranging a Sponsored Walk around the Dean Park but as yet no date has been confirmed and it is hoped that Reachout will be headlining a Christian Aid Concert on Saturday 7th May.

Compassion UK – John, Jon and Noreen met recently with Grant and a representative from Compassion UK. They are an 'international development ministry that works with local churches across 26 countries in the developing world to release children from poverty in Jesus name.' We hope to invite a speaker to come to church in September to speak to the congregation on their work.

Persecuted Church - The work of the Barnabus Fund, Open Doors UK and other Christian organisations whose work is to assist fellow Christians who are persecuted for their faith.

The top five countries according to Open Doors UK, where Christians are persecuted are:

1. North Korea
2. Iraq
3. Eritria
4. Afghanistan
5. Syria

Please keep persecuted Christians in your thoughts and prayers. For further information: www.opendoorsuk.org/ or www.barnabasfund.org/

Prayer times

We have the huge privilege of bringing our whole lives, our thanks and our concerns for the church and the world to God as we pray. We know life is busy but we also know a commitment to pray together is right. So we host short prayer meetings on Sunday mornings (when people are coming to church anyway) to pray, in a four-weekly cycle, for our world, other churches and agencies, our community and ourselves.

You are welcome to join us. Your presence speaks volumes - you do not need to speak. If you do speak, your words encourage us all. We meet as friends together before God and would love to see more folks join us. We're currently meeting in the Lounge at 10.30 every Sunday and the rota of subjects is:

March

- 6th Our Church
- 13th Church in the Community
- 20th Other Churches
- 27th Church and the Wider World

April

- 3rd Our Church
- 10th Church in the Community
- 17th Other Churches
- 24th Church in the Wider World

May

- 1st Our Church
- 8th Church in the Community
- 15th Other Churches
- 22nd Church in the Wider World
- 29th Our Church



Who's doing what in coming weeks

Welcoming people and uplifting the offering

March S Wilson, W Kerr, E McDonald and B Kerr

The new list for those welcoming and uplifting the offering was not available at the time the magazine went to print. It will be made available as soon as possible.

The Count

March Irene Rennie, H McMurtrie & M Dreghorn

April A. Brown & J Simm

May W Kerr & N Chisholm

Making a welcoming cuppa

We meet after the morning service for our time of fellowship over a tea/coffee. Further details will be available on the notice board in the foyer or speak to Lorna Farquharson.

March

6th Vera Anderson and Liz Watson

13th Nancy Chisholm and Margaret Murray

20th Lorna Farquharson and Shaona Wilson

27th Liz and Archie McDonald

Fairtrade

St Kentigern's is an accredited Fairtrade church committed to using Fairtrade tea and coffee and we would like to encourage donations of tea/coffee for after the morning service and at other times to have the Fairtrade logo. The Co-op, Tesco, Morrisons, and M&S, to name just a few, all stock Fairtrade products. Just look for the logo.



Flower List

March

6th Box
13th Anne Black
20th Box
27th Cathie Brodie

April

3rd Cathie Dixon
10th Margaret Murray
17th Wilma Downie
24th Irene Kerr

May

1st Sadie Speirs
8th Joan Dykes
15th Ann Hogarth
22nd Wilma Downie
29th Box

Thanks to all these people for putting flowers into the church and also to those who donate through the box.

Thanks also to the ladies who make up the flowers and arrange to have them distributed. The care and attention they give to this duty is to be admired.

Thank you

Betty Kerr

Flower Deliveries

March D Robertson

April H Tomlinson

May M Murray

Quotes about flowers

"Flowers are the sweetest things God ever made and forgot to put a soul into."

Henry Ward Beecher

"How does the Meadow flower its bloom unfold? Because the lovely little flower is free down to its root, and in that freedom bold."

William Wordsworth

"Keep love in your heart. A life without it is like a sunless garden when the flowers are dead."

Oscar Fingall

"A bit of fragrance clings to the hand that gives flowers."

Chinese Proverb

"God writes the gospel not in the Bible alone, but on trees, and flowers, and clouds, and stars."

Martin Luther

Hospital and home visiting

You'll be aware that for a few years now there's no access for the Minister to the lists of hospital in-patients. If the Minister doesn't know of members who are at home or in hospital and who would value a visit, he'll not be able to do this. It's essential you tell him, and if possible pass on the mobile telephone number of the person who's in hospital. Feel free to phone details and leave a message on (01563) 571280, text details to (07506) 549 529 or e-mail minister@stkentigern.org.uk.

Letting of Halls

We're keen to let our premises be used by others for the good of our community, but we also need time to clean them, and use them for Church work. If you wish to use a hall, could you please fill in a booking slip and place it in the box in the foyer. Please do not print up tickets or posters until you have confirmation of availability. You can contact me at booking@stkentigern.org.uk or speak to me, Sadie Speirs, at church if you have any queries regarding the use of the halls.

Give online!

You're now able to give directly to St Kentigern's online! The web address is **my.give.net/supportstkentigerns** and you can also get there from any page on our church website at www.stkentigern.org.uk. The online giving allows us to reclaim tax on your offering, and the admin fees are low so almost all you give online is passed on to us. It's secure, convenient and quick - so feel free to use this and pass the word around!

Cleaners

We are in need of more folk to join our cleaning team!

We now have new cleaning tools which should make our job easier and lighter. Why not come along some time and see what it involves?

Sadie is looking forward to talking to you in the near future. Please speak to Sadie on a Sunday, if you think you could help in any way.

Contacts

Grant Barclay, Minister 571280

minister@stkentigern.org.uk

Tom Logan Ministry Assistant 524398

ministry.assistant@stkentigern.org.uk

Church Hub 571693

hub@stkentigern.org.uk

Email addresses

Please contact the church administration/organisations using the email addresses below:

Session Clerk - session.clerk@stkentigern.org.uk

Chair Congregation Board – chair.board@stkentigern.org.uk

Clerk to the Congregational Board - board.clerk@stkentigern.org.uk

Treasurer - treasurer@stkentigern.org.uk

Stewardship - stewardship@stkentigern.org.uk

Gift Aid - gift.aid@stkentigern.org.uk

Free Will Offering - fwo@stkentigern.org.uk

Safeguarding - safeguarding@stkentigern.org.uk

Fabric Convener - fabric@stkentigern.org.uk

Church Hub - hub@stkentigern.org.uk

Booking halls, etc - booking@stkentigern.org.uk

Intimation Sheet - news@stkentigern.org.uk

Outreach Magazine - magazine@stkentigern.org.uk

Media Group - media@stkentigern.org.uk

Social Committee - social@stkentigern.org.uk

Church Officers - church.officer@stkentigern.org.uk

Our Church - our.church@stkentigern.org.uk

Church and Community - our.community@stkentigern.org.uk

Other Churches - other.churches@stkentigern.org.uk

Wider World - our.world@stkentigern.org.uk

Organist - organ.sunday@stkentigern.org.uk

Reachout (Praise Band) - reachout@stkentigern.org.uk

Big Band - big.band@stkentigern.org.uk

Junior Church - junior.church@stkentigern.org.uk

Youth Church - youth.church@stkentigern.org.uk

Women's Hour - womens.hour@stkentigern.org.uk

Messy Church - messy.church@stkentigern.org.uk

Golden Age - golden.age@stkentigern.org.uk

Coffee & Co - coffee.co@stkentigern.org.uk

Job Club - job.club@stkentigern.org.uk

Girls Brigade - girls.brigade@stkentigern.org.uk

Pathfinders - pathfinders@stkentigern.org.uk