

The quarterly newsletter from St Kentigern's Church

Outreach

December 2016
- February 2017

Dear Friends

When you last received a newsletter, you had an Interim Moderator in place.. Now you have a new name at the bottom of this letter, to the surprise of Alison, yourselves and me! But our God is a God of surprises, as I seem to say quite a lot these days!

Let me first reassure you that the process Alison spoke about is moving on. By the time you receive this, the Kirk Session will have met and seen the first draft of the profiles of the congregation and parish, the electoral role should have been finalised and the manse schedule discussed. The Kirk Session have already decided by a majority vote not to continue with discussions on the topic of accepting a minister who is in a same-sex relationship. So; all going well, I hope to invite our Advisory committee to attend the Kirk Session in January, We should then be ready to elect a Nominating Committee. Meanwhile our name is already on the Church of Scotland vacancy list.

Since I began to work with you, I have been greatly encouraged by the friendly and welcoming reception I have received and feel quite at home with you already. I will continue to try to create a rota of preachers whom you already know and are comfortable with. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

I am also much impressed and very grateful for the pastoral work done by the Rev Tom Logan, offers of help I have had, and the number of activities I see happening. Sadly my health and other responsibilities do not allow me to visit all your activities, but I will attend what I can. I, too, see you in an excellent place to move on with our changing church.

God bless you all as you wait for developments and wait through Advent to celebrate the birth of our Saviour and King.

Your friend and Interim Moderator

Anne McAllister

St Kentigern's Church

people together following Jesus



Season Greetings to all our friends and parishioners.

It has been quite a change for us all over the last few months and I wanted to let you know it is pleasing to see that everyone sticking together and working to make our church continue to grow through our worship, faith and prayers.

Our Interim Moderator, Rev Anne McAllister, is doing a great job of organising pulpit supply and we are managing to get some consistency with this, which makes everyone's lives a lot easier and makes transitions more fluent. The Kirk Session are making good progress with the different and sometimes complicated, paperwork that is required with a church vacancy and we will keep you up-to-date as things move along. Suffice to say progress is definitely being made. As you can imagine, nothing happens overnight and we are in for possibly, the long haul, but with continued support of each other and God's strength and through prayer we will come out stronger the other side. Mark wrote, "whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours."

There are some nice Christmas services and events coming up in December and it will be nice to see you at them if you are able. Everyone deserves some Christmas cheer and the church party would be an ideal time to share that cheer with your neighbours. Whatever your plans over the festive season may your home be warm, your holidays grand, and may your heart be held gently in the Lord's hands.

Tracey Hamilton

Session Clerk



Worship in coming weeks and over Christmas and New Year

Below are the things that are happening in and around the church leading up to Christmas and New Year. Why not try and come along and support as many events as possible?

Advent On-screen Messages - Once again we will be displaying on-screen messages on Sunday mornings in Advent, before the service. If you'd like a Christmas message displayed on-screen then speak to Ann or Sandy. We suggest a donation of £5 which will be donated to the Salvation Army.

Old Time Christmas Party - Fancy an old fashioned Christmas Party? The Our Church Session Committee are inviting all the congregation, both young and old, to join them on Saturday 10th December from 7 - 9 pm. Come and join the fun and have party food at the interval. Sign up sheet in the foyer.

Fellowship of Kilmarnock Churches - December 17th Carols at the Cross at 11am

Girls Brigade Carol Service - December 22nd at 7pm on the theme of Angels. Ginger wine, as always, afterwards.

Junior Church would like to invite everyone from the church to sing with them Christmas songs and carols to raise money for the church Romanian project on Friday 23rd Dec, 5.30 pm to 7.30pm, in Tesco Extra, Kilmarnock.

Christmas Eve

Nativity play with Junior and Youth Church members at 6.30 pm.

Watchnight Service at 11.30 pm.

Christmas Day - Family Service at 10.30 am.

New Years Day - First Sunday of the New Year at normal time of 11 am.

My Sacramental Dishes

It has been such a great delight to be worshipping with you again these past few months and enjoying the company of all of you on Sundays and at the First Tuesday services. When we celebrated the sacrament of Holy Communion on the First Tuesday in October service, I brought along my sacramental dishes and used them with the permission of Ian Rennie, your outgoing Session Clerk who was on duty that day.

I wanted to use them and have you see them since your generous gift to me at the end of my Probationary Year was put towards the purchase of the dishes, along with another gift given to buy something I might need for ministry. Since my ministry was most likely going to be among older people at Hallhouse in the first instance, but perhaps in other informal settings such as hospitals and people's own homes, I very much wanted to have a set of sacramental dishes to use. I wanted these to be easy to hold and grasp and I wanted them to reflect aspects of my interests and ministry. People who know me know how much I like Highland Stoneware and so, between the two gifts, I was able to commission the dishes from Highland Stoneware at Lochinver for my own ministry and use.

There are four pieces; a jug to hold water or wine, a cup to use for communion, a plate for bread and a bowl which can hold wine for dipping bread for the form of communion known as 'tincture'. The bowl can also be used with the jug for infant and adult baptism.

Each piece depicts the west coast of Scotland and the distinctive Scottish machair and mountains. Additionally, each piece has either your own cross of St Kentigern, or the cross of St Kenneth.

The dishes reflect the parts of Scotland travelled by the Celtic monks.

You may remember that during the summer of my probation at St Kentigern's we themed our worship around journeys and Tom Logan spoke about the journey of St Columba of Iona. In June of that year, Alistair and I followed the route of St Kenneth along the coast of the island of Mull from Iona to the island of Inch Kenneth. St Kenneth was an Iona monk and, by all accounts, an accomplished sailor, navigator and sheep farmer, knowledgeable enough in animal husbandry to breed sheep hardy enough for the west coast and able to survive being transported from island to island so that the machair grass was grazed efficiently. St Kenneth founded a monastery on the island and the monks farmed the rich sandy soil, providing food and grazing for the different monastic communities in the area. Everything had to be transported by sea and records suggest that St Kenneth sailed with sheep by coracle as far as the Faroes, also known as the 'island of sheep'.

During our pilgrimage, which was done by kayaks, we met with fairly awful weather, even in June, our route had to be revised and we had full winter gear on. So much for our dreams of exploring the west coast in warm sunshine and calm seas! We set out from the west coast of Mull at Gribun, crossing the sound to Inch Kenneth and then exploring the island, the chapel and cross before kayaking along the east side of the island, round the north and into the shelter of a bay where we could see the huge breakers crashing on the rough west coast.

So it was fitting that the crosses on my sacramental dishes should be those of St Kentigern and St Kenneth. Once again, thank you to you all for contributing to these lovely dishes which are very precious and special because of their use to grow Christ's Kingdom, through the sacraments, because of the memories of my time at St Kentigern's, the pilgrimage to Inch Kenneth and the beautiful north west coast of Scotland which is a constant witness to God's amazing and ongoing creation.

Kim Watt



Women's Retreat – 8th October 2016



St Kentigern's Ladies Retreat took place on 8th October and the topic this year was Grace – 'My Grace is sufficient for you'. As with all good events, we had tea/coffee complete with home baking to start the day – a lovely time meeting with ladies from other churches, and there were more than seventy ladies attended from, I believe, about seventeen churches, so there was plenty of chatting to be done at this point.

We then proceeded to the Sanctuary, which had been thoughtfully decorated, and we were welcomed by Gillian. Clarinda asked, 'What's so Amazing about Grace?' and went on to share the blessing that is ours through God's Grace. Stacey sang of this Grace, a beautiful solo accompanied by Audrey on the keyboard and Carolynn continued the theme of Grace in speaking of the sufficiency of that Grace, and the impact upon her life.

A time of meditation followed before Anne gave an introduction to the stations set out in the large hall. Stations which included -

- Grace to forgive
- Grace to serve
- Amazing Grace
- Mindful colouring-in

- Words of Grace
- Hand massage
- and there was a Bookstall

A film entitled 'Grace in the Persecuted Church' was showing in the Sanctuary while the activities were going on in the hall, or for those who preferred, there was time for prayer, or simply for quiet reflection, in the Lounge.

Lunch was an amazing event – such a variety of deliciousness (I'm sure some of us went home carrying a few extra pounds). Thank you, ladies.

The speakers, the programme and the worship were all part of the wonderful tapestry of this Retreat, for which I thank you. Thank you to all of the team involved in producing such a varied programme that blessed us all.

This was a delightful time of togetherness and worship, time shared and time to reflect and be refreshed; time for the Spirit to flow in and through us, invigorating, encouraging - a time that I would strongly recommend you make space for in your diary. It was a blessing to us all.

Thank you.

Lyn

Reachout

We've had a busy time this year, what with singing at Castlemilk Parish Church at one of their closing nights before they moved to their new church, singing at our Praise Night in aid of our Romanian Project, for Fragrance and of course taking our turn at leading the worship on a Sunday. Some of us are also singing accompanied by Audrey for Girdle Toll Guild in December and a few of us will be leading worship for the Watchnight Service.



On Sunday 26th February at 2.30 pm, we will be leading worship for the Fellowship of Kilmarnock Churches here in St Kentigerns and we hope to be out and about visiting other churches. We are presently looking to purchase audio equipment to take with us when we are out and about, thanks to a grant from the Presbytery Primer Fund.

We are also looking to record a CD this coming year, when we get quotes back from local recording studios. So it will be another busy year for REACHOUT.

We give thanks to the Lord for our talents!

“Donald Trump is not on the Throne, God is.”

These were the words of Rev. David Robertson, Free Church Dundee during his talk at Central Evangelical Church, Kilmarnock on 12th November.

David is often quoted in the media in relation to his stand against efforts by humanists and secularists to undermine Christianity. He receives a lot of hate mail but this does not seem to bother him.

Here are some other comments he made:

- * Each home should be a mini-church
- * Christian parents need to be involved in supporting and having an input to their local schools. Often they can say things which a school chaplain can't: if the chaplain said it, he/she would be fired.
- * You can't talk to people about Jesus unless you actually talk to them.
- * You will get opportunities to talk about Jesus
- * Be aware that people nowadays do not even know who Jesus is.
- * Be genuinely interested in people
- * Let it be natural
- * Make use of every opportunity.
- * Plant little grains in people's heads.
- * God can use lots of people to influence them for God, not just you, so leave it with Him to work in people's hearts.
- * Be patient. The process can take years.

A recording in full of his addresses is available on the website – <http://www.centralevangalicalchurch.co.uk/conferences/and> at https://youtu.be/DAQI_Kst2Ug and https://youtu.be/1x2QXtp_hfl

To find the talks on the website, go to 2016, then David Robertson, and then the two audio files on 12/11/16:

- * Confidence in Christ alone
- * Speaking of hope in a world that seems hopeless.

The videos taken of his two talks are expected on the website in late November.

You will not fall asleep listening to him!

Jim McHardy - Other Churches Committee

CHURCH IN THE COMMUNITY

Foodbank

The generosity of our congregation never ceases to amaze us. The appeal was intimated for the Foodbank Table and the response as usual has been astounding. Thank you all so much for making life a bit easier for those who are struggling with the demands of today. Proverbs 19 v 17 Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and He will repay him for his deed.

Community

We continue to focus our thoughts on what we can do for our community and one suggestion is that we utilise our premises on School In-Service Days to provide food and activities for Primary School age children of working parents who may find it difficult to make care provision for their children. An approach has been made to the Head Teacher of Silverwood and New Farm Primaries who likes the idea and is sure a number of families may be interested. Our Kirk Session has given our Committee the approval to go ahead with this venture.

The Kirk Session has also given its approval to the suggestion of running a Holiday Club next August. This involves a substantial amount of planning and work. To enable the Holiday Club to run we require a large number of adults to be involved and all adults must have PVG clearance. Is this something you would like to be involved with? If so a meeting will be held early in the New Year so we can start planning.

Our Church Session Committee

Our committee continue to look for new ideas to encourage the congregation to meet together in fellowship. We were very disappointed in the uptake of our 'Living Advent' event but we continue to look for innovative ideas to bring us all together in a spirit of love.

On a brighter note we did get a number of folks interested in the 'Old Fashioned Christmas Party' and we hope they all have a great time.

Another event we have planned is what is called a 'Rich man's - Poor man's lunch,' which takes place on a Sunday after church in February. Date to be announced. You purchase a ticket for £2 and depending on the number of your ticket will depend on the meal that you receive. This is to highlight the plight of those less fortunate than ourselves.

Sharon Hamilton

Church in the Wider World Committee

Romania

Here is an update regarding what we're doing on Romania. We have now collected over £600 thanks to those who donate through buying the books from the bookstall, to Reachout who played a concert in aid of the project and the folks who go to the Community Cafe, who donated £100.

We have been in contact with Pastor Sandor and have transferred £600 to the churches in Amati and Hirip. This money will be used to provide food parcels to elderly members of the congregations in both churches two weeks before Christmas. The young people in the churches will visit the elderly and give the parcels out, while they travel round singing Christmas carols, which is a tradition in the Hungarian Reformed Church.

Jon and I are looking into other ways of funding, the project, including funds that the Church of Scotland have specifically for Romania and Eastern Europe. The committee are also hoping to confirm a formal twinning with these churches in the near future. We are also looking at the possibility of returning in 2017.

The bookstall will be closed over the festive period and will reopen on Sunday 8th January. If you have books that you'd like to donate, particularly children's books then bring them along in January.

Uganda

Although we have finished the project at St Peters in Ociba, Arua, we still have very strong links with the people of the church and Arua district. Of course folks in the church, particularly Archie and Liz, continue to support these folks.

Liz would like to say, 'Thank you so very much for the money raised to feed Christmas dinner to the wonderful folks in St Peters church Arua Uganda. The baking stall was a great success. Thank you to those who baked & bought. It raised £481. A huge thank you to those folks that still support us giving us items to sell & money donations. Doing Gods work is not always easy, but your continued support helps us greatly. Liz, Archie & Team Arua X'

Further information about a proposed trip to Arua in 2017 can be found elsewhere in this edition of the magazine.

Persecuted Church

The committee will continue to promote the plight of the Persecuted Church throughout the world. Christians in the Middle East are never far from persecution of course, fleeing conflict in Syria, Iraq, etc. North Korea remains at the top of the list of countries where Christians are persecuted according to Open Doors. Please keep our brothers in these areas in your prayers.

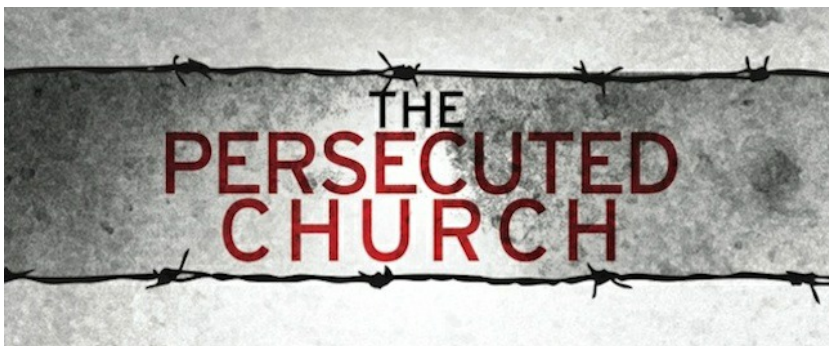
Open Doors are urging us to contact our MP, through the online form below, to ask them to attend the meeting in Parliament launching the Open Doors 2017 World Watch List.

<http://advocacy.oduk.org/ea-action/action?ea.client.id=77&ea.campaign.id=57800&ea.tracking.id=box&ref=story1>

You can also keep up to date, with the Barnabus Fund, another charity that keeps the Persecuted Church, to the fore at <https://barnabusfund.org>.

Some time ago the committee and some others visited the Afro-Caribbean church in Glasgow and it was suggested that we perhaps contact the church for another visit. John will arrange the visit in the New Year and we'll keep you up to date with when we arrange the visit.

It was agreed by Session some time ago that each of the committees would arrange and participate in services on a Sunday. To this end, Anne McAllister has agreed to our committee carrying this out on Sunday 26th March.



Prayer for others and ourselves

We group our prayer requests into four: for our world, for other churches and organisations; for our town and community; and for ourselves.

For our world

- Our project in Rumania and the congregations in Hirip and Amac
- Our friends in Arua, Uganda and especially in the schools and for the congregation of St Peter's Church
- For Church of Scotland congregations in Paris, Rome, Geneva, south Spain, Brussels, Rotterdam, Amsterdam, Lisbon

For other churches and groups

- Our Presbytery as it develops vision for ministry in the future
- The Fellowship of Churches as it enables us to work together wherever possible in joint witness
- For our friends in St Matthew's in their worship and service

For our community

- The Community Council working to grow a sense of community
- Our Community Cafe, that local folk may find friendship, hope and help
- Future developments with our Fresh Expressions of church

For our church

- That we would be united in our commitment to follow where Jesus leads in uncertain times
- Our Kirk Session, Congregational Board and congregation
- The work of our organisations with both the young and adults both in church and the community



SEVEN HOLY ANGELS

He looked up into the heavens
And said "say a prayer for me"
My wife is giving birth soon
Whispering, "God will set her free."
They couldn't find a hotel room
To give birth in, through the night
But one kind man did help them out
In a stable that was right.

There were seven holy angels
At the coming of the king
They were telling all the country
"Let the heavenly bells all ring."
When the child was born and the star did shine
There was praise all over earth
And seven holy angels
Praised the Son of God's birth.

The shepherds saw the angels glow
As they shone up in the sky
They said the King is born tonight
In a humble sheltered sty
So they headed for the city
To find the baby hiding there
And kneeling down before him
His glory did they share.

Tracey Hamilton



Music Roundup

What kind of music do you like? Me I have an eclectic taste. One moment I'll be listening to Frank Sinatra, then it might be Rend Collective, Runrig or Twin Atlantic. So I thought I'd just go through a few newly released albums, some of which you might like to listen to.



On the Christian music scene there are few new albums out and depending on your tastes there might be something in the following:

Rend Collective - Campfire Christmas. Eleven songs including Hark the Herald Angels Sing, O Come All Ye Faithful (Let us Adore Him) and O Holy Night (O Night Divine) as well as covers of popular songs including Shaking Steven's Merry Christmas Everyone.

Chris Tomlin - Never Lose Sight. Chris shows in this his 11th album where exactly his focus is on - GOD. Tracks include Jesus and Good Good Father. A must for all stadium based music lovers.

Skillet - Unleashed. Now if you like gentle melodic Christian music then Skillet aren't for you. They are a heavy metal Christian band who have a huge following in the US. Although they may be too noisy for most the band produce good music.

Elsewhere in the album charts. Well there are a plethora of good albums going around at the moment. A few I've had a listen to are:

Michael Buble - Nobody but me. Good old fashioned Crooning.

Status Quo - Aquostic II. Acoustic versions of some well known Quo songs.

Elvis Presley - The Wonder of You. Second album with Royal Philharmonic.

Twin Atlantic - G.L.A. Glasgow heavy rock band, for lovers of rock only.

Runrig - The Story. Once again another great album from the Celtic rockers.

Norah Jones - Burn. Melodic young lady who always sounds great.

So until next time, whatever your tastes in music might be, enjoy your listening.

Sandy Brown

Junior Church
Dates & Events
2016/17

Christmas Party - Saturday, 17th December, 2016
(from 2.30pm to 6pm approx.)

Holidays - 25th December 2015 , 1st & 8th January, 2016.
Back on 15th January, 2017.

Holiday - 12th and 19th February, 2017.

Palm Sunday - 9th April, 2017 - not on holiday.

(Good Friday - 14th April, 2017)

Easter Sunday - 16th April, 2017 - not on holiday.

Holidays - 2nd, 9th, 16th April, 2017.

Annual Summer Trip - Saturday 3rd June, 2017.

End of year informal party - Sunday 4th June, 2017.

Thanksgiving Service - Sunday 11th June, 2017.

**PLEASE NOTE - EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.
PLEASE REGULARLY CHECK ST. KENTIGERN'S JUNIOR
CHURCH FACEBOOK PAGE FOR UP TO DATE
INFORMATION OR CONTACT AUDREY. THANK YOU.**

Bible Study Group

We are drawing to the end of our Bible Study for this session where we have been studying various issues connected with Christian Community - Built to Last: Everyone's Involved: Everyone's Invited: We Gather Together: Community Commissioned: Servant's Entrance: And They'll Know We Are Christians: True Confessions: Confrontation and Restoration: A Haven for Healing.

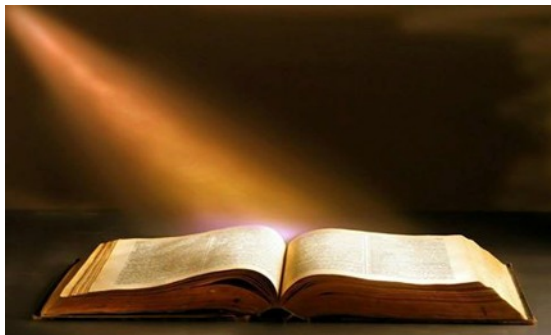
These topics have been challenging, thought provoking leading to deep discussion by everyone. It has been so encouraging to have on average 18 people gathered together on a Thursday evening, everyone participating in either leading prayer or reading a Bible passage.

One particular topic 'We Gather Together' focused on Psalm 100 and we were invited to write a psalm which told a story of the Lord's goodness in either an individual life, the life of a family, or church. Two of our members undertook this task and agreed to their poems being included in Outreach.

A Poem by Olive Gow

Lord, in the beauty of the new day you are there
In the busyness of life you are there beside me
In all fresh experiences you are there to guide me
Thank you Lord, I praise you.

In the worries and the fears you will uphold me
In the tiredness and the tears you will comfort me
At the end of the day you will give me rest
Thank you Lord, I praise you.



A Psalm of a Syrian (A Christian in Aleppo / A potential Asylum Seeker)

by Jim McHardy

Though dust still fills the air
And screaming lingers in my dreams;
Though my house is rubble
And my only possessions are torn clothes
And a mobile phone without its charger
Though I can't trace my wife or children
And all hope and pleasure are gone;
Yet still the Lord is my Saviour
He gives me strength to face today;
He will be with me till the end
One day all will be well.

Our Bible Study Group will resume in the New Year.

Ian

FRESH EXPRESSIONS

Have you been involved in Fresh Expressions up till now ? If so, can you find your way to our next meeting with the Church of Scotland's Co-coordinator for Fresh Expressions on Wednesday 11th January. The time of the gathering is from 11.00 am to 2.30pm in the First Edition in Bank Street. We are keen to have a wide input of experiences to share with David McCarthy.

Do you remember our first get-together outside the Church premises when we met in the Wheatsheaf Inn on Sunday 1st November 2015, when we were challenged to come up with as many as forty ideas, out of which we might choose five? And we did settle on five including 'Monday Kitchen', 'Pie, Pint and a Parable', 'Community Cafe', 'Community Garden' and 'Messy Church' already working away.

All continue except 'Monday Kitchen'. But where are we in terms of the success of our original hopes about how they might evolve ? David McCarthy will help us tackle this and other key issues when we meet on 11th January. I know many have daytime jobs, but I hope many others can manage along to help us plan our way forward and build on the promising starts we've already made.

Tom Logan



c/o Fullarton Parish Church
Irvine
27 November 2016

Dear Sandy,

BLYTHSWOOD CARE SHOEBOX APPEAL – 2016

A huge thank you to everyone – the donors; the sorters, checkers and packers; the drivers; the treasurers – indeed all who helped in any way to send 4,500 gift boxes to Moldova and a further 1,900 to Romania. This year has seen the greatest number of gifts ever sent from our base in Ayrshire!

Additionally, more than £10,000 was donated to be used to offset the huge cost of transportation. What incredible generosity from South West Scotland! Amazing to see this increase year on year!

Thanks to St Andrew's, Prestwick North, Irvine Old and Dregghorn & Springside churches. They came to our aid with alacrity by lending us tables. Without these we would simply not have been able to operate during the first few days.

Helpers came from all airts and pairts. Many came from local churches and other places such as Haysholm School, Abbeyfield House, Key Housing, Loudon Montgomery Primary School SU. Others came from much further afield – Erskine FIE church, Kilmarnock, Ardrossan, Saltcoats, and even from Largs! One young man generously took a week's leave from his work to drive one of our vans.

This year there were 190 helpers from 24 churches, and some with no church connection, all pulling together. Great fun but also hard work. One lady arrived one morning telling how she'd fallen asleep at her TV about 9pm – only to wake at 4 am to creep upstairs to bed!

It's such a huge pleasure to meet up with 'old pals' whom we see only once a year – Shoebox Time. The diary of one of the Kilmarnock ladies showed her group have been shoeboxing with us for 14 years now!

Fullarton's own Rev. Neil Urquhart spent precious time with us in the third week to speak to the helpers and, importantly, stop our work so that the shoebox gifts could be blessed. Neil focused on the anticipated joy that the recipients of the gifts would experience and the hope they would see Christ's hand in it all.

What an uplifting pleasure these three weeks have been. Once again – thank you for you and your team's involvement – specifically for providing **69** filled shoeboxes and **£40**. Please forward grateful thanks to all involved at **St Kentigern's** for making this year's Appeal so successful. Thank you.

Fraser Hutchison.



Youth Church

The last meeting of Youth Church for this year is on Sunday 11th December

in the lounge at 11am as usual.

We are holding our Christmas party at the home of Jim and Clarinda, 1 Todrig Drive, Kilmarnock at 7pm on Saturday 17th December. All those of secondary school age are welcome to join us for food, fun and Christmas songs.

Junior Church

The new crèche is now up and running in the small hall -

incorporated into junior church. All babies and toddlers up to 3 years are welcome in the crèche. All crèche helpers are disclosure checked. We will try to run the crèche every Sunday, even when junior church is on holiday.

Junior church is also on in the small hall during the morning service and is for all children aged 3 to 12 years. Again, all teachers have disclosure.

Please see Audrey for more information on the crèche and junior church.



The crèche and junior church Christmas party is on Saturday 17th December in the church, from 3.30 pm to 6pm. Parents please return permission slips to Audrey.

The junior church would like to invite everyone from the church to sing with them Christmas songs and carols to raise money for the church Romanian project on Friday 23rd Dec, 5.30 pm to 7.30pm, in Tesco Extra, Kilmarnock. All please wear Christmas jumpers, Santa hats etc etc. Please let me know if you are interested and again- parents return permission slips. Thank you. Audrey.

Junior church is due to sing at the diversity event on the last Saturday in January. Details will be available on the JC Facebook page .

We would like to thank Jon Herd for his service as a junior church teacher and wish him well as he is stepping down after Christmas. God bless.

I will be taking Jon's place, teaching on a more regular basis, however we will still be operating a teaching rota.

Please check the JC Facebook page regularly for information and updates.

Thank you

Audrey 07773691538



Hi folks

It's good to see our company is still growing with a couple of new girls just recently joined. May it continue to grow

in strength.

We've been busy since the start back in August - winning over 6 medals at the Divisional swimming gala and finishing in the top 3 overall with companies. We had a successful games night which the girls had a great laugh at trying out the different games. It was nice to see a few of them joining the church Messy Church events too and as usual just over half the company joined the congregation for the enrolment service.

Things are never quiet. We are presently taking part in a Divisional competition to take 12 different photos from weird hairdos, to a church pew selfie, leaders to be mummified and as many bodies as possible in a car still to happen. (should be fun).

Please watch out for events in December. We have decided to have a Christmas Movie Night on December 8 for the girls as a treat and then we will be having our annual Carol Service on December 22nd at 7pm (the ginger wine is all ready for you folks) and the theme is Angels. The girls are learning some really hard songs for it and are doing great. We hope as many of the congregation can come and join us on the night. Then it will be time for a break till the New Year.

If you have a diary for next year then here's a date to note. We're having another Cupid Drive with tea/coffee night and craft stall again which will take place on Thursday 9th February. Tea & Coffee will be from 6.15 pm till just before 7pm when the Cupid drive will start. All are welcome. Keep an eye out in the intimations for more details.

Until then, best wishes

Tracey Hamilton, Captain

The boys meet on a Friday evening from 7 till 9 pm for boys from P1 upwards. They enjoy a varied

programme and since starting back in September have had Fun Nights, Fancy Dress Nights, took part in the Enrolment Service and had their own Remembrance Service on the 11th November.

If you know of any young boys who might like a fun packed Friday evening then why not tell them about Pathfinders?



Messy Church



We have recently had two fantastic Messy

Churches for Primary School children. In August we focused on Harvest with the story of the Sower and the Seed and all the crafts related to this theme. David Hume then spoke to the children and with the use of magic tricks enthralled everyone and even handed out mini garden greenhouses to the children. They will certainly remember David's talk.

On Saturday 5 November we thought of Jesus as the Light of the World and had our own fireworks display at the end of the evening. The crafts reflected on this theme culminating in the mass release of rocket balloons by the children and adults. Anne McCabe spoke to the children about being a light and being seen. To illustrate this Anne wore glow sticks as jewellery. When the church lights were extinguished Anne could be seen clearly and that is what we should do for Jesus.

Approximately 70 people attended both evenings where we shared meals prepared and served by the Social Committee. Our singing was enhanced by Audrey Frazer on the keyboard and we must thank Anne and David for their interesting children's talks, Steven Murdoch for organising the fireworks,

Sandy Brown for making sure the words of the songs were displayed on the screen and the Social Committee for all their hard work. It was great to have the help of the GB Officers as well.

PRE SCHOOL MESSY CHURCH

It has been a really quick session so far. Our faithful group of children and adults really get involved when we meet on a Tuesday afternoon. We have more younger children this session so have had to ensure our crafts are suitable for younger ones. The children love the games and crafts and are so good at listening to the bible story and then seeing a section of a video clip pertaining to the story. We have been learning some new songs and one they really like is Jesus Hokey Kokey. It is a privilege to be entrusted reaching out to young children and adults that the love of Jesus is for everyone.

We finish this session on December 13 and then meet up again on the following dates

January: 10 and 24
February: 21 and 28
March: 28
April: 18 and 25
May: 9 and 23
June: 13

Irene

News from Kenneth Kariaija, Chaplain at Makerere University Business School, Kampala, Uganda

Some of you will remember back to autumn 2001 when Kenneth Kariaija and Benson Mugenyi first visited our church and gave a demonstration of the high knee lifting dance that is characteristic of church worship of their Chiga tribe. The library (lounge) floor has never been quite the same since!

Both were poor students then who relied on the financial support of our church and some others, which they supplemented through cleaning offices in the evening to make enough to survive.

Both went on to gain honours degrees in theology. Benson remained in this country to foster support for a vision he had of having a Christian school in a Moslem area, about which updates have been given in this magazine, and Kenneth returned to Uganda.

Kenneth was in the UK in November recently for 2 weeks to visit the supervisor of his PhD which he has recently begun. He was in Kilmarnock for few hours and updated us on his news.

When he returned to Uganda after his studies around 2004, he was appointed vicar of a Cathedral in Rukungiri, south west Uganda and was there for around 5 years. He built up the congregation until numbers attending services were 1000 – 1500.

He was then invited by the Anglican Church to move to the capital city of Kampala to become the chaplain of Makerere University Business School, which numbers 15,000 students. There is also an Imam and a Roman Catholic chaplain. A mosque has now been built in the University funded by Saudi Arabia. Christian students had no building to meet as a group. Kenneth has been given land by the University for a chapel/centre and has raised some funds for its foundation. As an interim measure, he has bought a cheap large tent/marquee so that students can shelter from the rain when they meet for prayer and worship,

He is married to Patricia who is a good help to him in his work. They have 3 children, Daniel (11), Grace (8) and Aaron (2).

He sends greetings to all in St Kentigern's Church.

Benson is unwell at present and is due to have an operation on 6th December which should help him. He asks for our prayers.

Jim McHardy

Uganda 2017 – Why go?

A good test of how much you enjoyed going somewhere is whether you go back. Of those who visited Uganda previously as part of our church organised trip, over half have returned to the Arua area. But why?

You may ask:

Do many tourists go and is there a lot of sightseeing to be done? No.

Is it a cheap holiday? No, it costs about £1400 for 4-5 weeks?

Is it even a holiday? No.

Are there sea and sunshine? The sea is 600 miles away. There is lots of sunshine and for some people too much.

Is there a luxurious hotel? No, it is basic like a youth hostel or even a tent.

Are there electricity and water? Most of the time there is, but don't depend on it.

So why do people want to return?

The Ugandan people – they are so friendly and pleased to see you

Sharing of life's differences – Ugandans love to hear how people in other countries live: is it really true that your Government hands out money to people who do not work? Is it the case that you do not care for your elderly relatives and put them away from home to other places to die?

Sharing of knowledge and skills – (example). How special needs children can be cared for is a new concept for many Ugandans, and through demonstrating what can be done, senior officials are starting to change their attitudes to their care.

Sharing of resources - a little money can make a big difference. The Sunday School PA system at St Peter's Church in Ociba, Arua had a lot of bare electrical wires which were dangerous, and the sound often cut out due to bad connections. A 4-way extension lead solved the problems, something that cost £5, but this is equivalent to 2 weeks' wages for semi-skilled workers in Uganda.

The genuine faith of the people

The Ugandans we met had virtually nothing to support them through the difficulties in their lives apart from prayer and trust in God. Their faith was an example and challenge.

Why is the trip not promoted more?

It is not for the faint-hearted and some on arrival might wish to catch the next plane home.

Only people who really wish to go to Uganda should consider it. Praying about the matter and believing that it is the right thing for you can sustain you when the going gets tough.

Uganda 2017 is for those who want to:

- * make a difference
- * help people less fortunate than themselves
- * experience a totally different world from what they are used to
- * share fellowship and their faith with people who have nothing materially but everything spiritually
- * feel this is something that they must do.

For more information, contact:

Jim McHardy

Tel 079 299 12150 Email jim.mchardy7@gmail.com

Women's Hour

We meet on Monday evenings from 7 pm in the small hall, from October to March.

As you can see we have a varied programme throughout the year.

We would like to invite ladies from our church, their friends and ladies of the community, to come along and join us.

January 2017

9th -Christmas meal outing

16th - Ayrshire Hospice

23rd - Leprosy Mission

30th -At home Craft night

February

6th- Father Martin ,St Matthews church

13th - Pamper Evening

20th- Shetland

27th- Beautiful Inside & Out

March

6th- Rev John Bell (Open night)

13th- Panel Night

20th-A.G.M

27th - The Unlikely Lads ,closing social

Golden Age Group

We meet once a month on a Tuesday afternoons between 1 and 3 pm, in the small hall, for a time of fellowship, friendship and fun.

December 13th: Christmas lunch at Fenwick Hotel

January 17th: Visit by Burns Club and children from Silverwood School

February 21st: NHS speaker

We hope to see you . Come along and meet friends you never knew you had.



Coffee and Co

We meet in the Lounge on a Wednesday afternoon from 2 till 3.30 pm for a cuppa

and a blether and in the summer and at Christmas we meet at a local restaurant for a meal and fellowship.

Why not come along and join us? We'd love to see you!

Breakfast Club

We meet once every two months on a Saturday morning from 9 am for a breakfast roll, a cuppa and some lively discussion.

Next meeting is on Saturday 28th January 2017. Will we see you there? We hope so!



Kids Bible Wordsearch

Men of the Old Testament Puzzle #6

Fit the words in the list into the diagram below reading forward, backward, up, down, diagonally, always in a straight line.

AARON
ABEL
ABRAHAM
ADAM
AMOS
CAIN
DANIEL
DAVID
ELIJAH
EZEKIEL
GIDEON
GOLIATH
ISAAC
JACOB



JOB
JOEL
JONAH
JONATHAN
JOSEPH
JOSHUA
LOT
MOSES
NIMROD
NOAH
SAMSON
SAMUEL
SAUL
SOLOMON



Q. Why couldn't Jonah trust the ocean?

A. Because he knew there was something fishy about it.

Q. Where is the first tennis match mentioned in the Bible?

A. When Joseph served in Pharaoh's court.

Q. What did Adam say on the day before Christmas?

A. It's Christmas, Eve!

Q. How does Moses make his coffee?

A. Hebrews it.

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:

December

- 4th Church in the Community
- 11th Other Churches
- 18th Church and the Wider World

25th December and 1st January no prayer meetings

January

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

February

- 5th Our Church
- 12th Church in the Community
- 19th Church in the Wider World
- 26th Other Churches



Who's doing what in coming weeks

Welcoming people and uplifting the offering

December	Ian Rennie, Irene Rennie, C McHardy and J Houston
January	J Burnett, S Speirs, A Fratson and J McHardy
February	M Murray, J Murdoch, A Brown and A Hogarth
March	Irene Rennie, Ian Rennie, M Dreghorn and A McDonald

The Count

December	A Brown and J Simm
January	W Craig and A Fratson
February	Irene Rennie, M Dreghorn and M Drummond
March	B Kerr and 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.

December

- 4th Joyce Simm and Lyn Gale
- 11th Shaona Wilson and Clarinda McHardy
- 18th Anna Hogg and Ann Hogarth
- 25th NO TEAS

January

- 1st NO TEAS
- 8th Vera Anderson and Liz Watson
- 15th Liz and Archie McDonald
- 22nd Joyce Simm and Lyn Gale
- 29th Margaret Murray and Nancy Chisholm



Flower List

December

4th Joan Dykes and Helen Rees
11th Betty Bell
18th Margo Dregghorn
25th Margaret Mercer

January

1st FREE
8th Helen Tomlinson
15th Mary Hyslop
22nd Cathie Brodie
29th FREE

February

5th Betty Bell
12th Jean Hood (Barclay Dr)
19th Eileen Kenney
26th Ann and Sandy Brown

My thanks to all these people for putting flowers in the church over these three months. If anyone wishes to add their name to the free dates, the flower list will be on the board at the doors leading to the small hall. I have a spare copy to add any names that are added.

I also thank those who donate through the box. These donations help with the flowers in the vestibule, the Christmas tree in the church and decorations if required. Thanks again to all of you.

I would also like to take this opportunity thank the Lovely Ladies who make up the flowers week by week, for those who are to receive them. The care and attention they take

with this duty is wonderful. Thank you ladies.

Betty Kerr

Flower Deliveries

December M Murray

January J Burnett

February N Chisholm

A Winter Rose - A Sonnet

I walk through the glistening virgin snow
That covers the sorrow
of autumn's death
Where I find on a bush a frozen rose
Its beauty held ageless in winter's breath

How I long to touch those petals again
Those moist velvet lips
that promise such bliss
Opened in passion whispering my name
As I drift in dreams of a breathless kiss

Oh! To pluck this rose
from the winter snow
And hold it closely to my aching heart
And free it from that ice so bitter cold
That now my love
keeps you and me apart

But if I were to pluck this winter rose
Would all its petals
fall upon the snow?

Elaine George

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 Rev Tom Logan and the Pastoral Care team doesn't know of members who are at home or in hospital and who would value a visit, they'll not be able to do this. It's essential you tell them, 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, with Tom on (01563) 524398 or e-mail pastoral.care@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!

Give as you Live

The church has now signed up for Give as you Live, which gives members of our congregation a way to raise FREE donations for our church, when they shop online at 4000+ leading retailers - including Amazon, Ebay, John Lewis, Marks and Spencer, etc.

Sign up to Give as you Live online, then each time you shop online at supported retailers a commission is paid to Give as you Live by the retailer, which they then share with St Kentigerns. Go to <http://www.everyclick.com/st-kentigerns-church-kilmarnock>

Contacts

Anne McAllister	521815	interim.moderator@stkentigern.org.uk
Tom Logan	524398	pastoral.care@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
Girls Brigade - girls.brigade@stkentigern.org.uk
Pathfinders - pathfinders@stkentigern.org.uk