

# Outreach

June - August 2018

The quarterly newsletter from St Kentigern's

**Hungarian Reformed Church**

**Amati, Romania**

**St Kentigern's Church**

people together following Jesus



Stewarton  
May 2018

Dear friends

As I write, I have just watched the wedding of Harry and Megan. What a wonderful morning that was – a beautiful day, lovely outfits, happy people and love celebrated. I felt that everyone was totally absorbed in the moment. Both inside and outside people were focused on what was happening right there, right then.

Recently my work has taken me among several people who have dementia. I visited a friend younger than myself who has suffered from Alzheimer's for a long time now. She greeted us with the recognition that we were someone she knew, we were her friends. She smiled and was pleased to see us. It didn't last long as she is a wanderer, but she came back to us, was pleased to receive our gifts and was able to enjoy a little time with us.

At the Musical Afternoon there was a lady of 90 who suffers from dementia, yet she loves to sing the old songs and eat sweets and both of these things she could do. She recognises me as a friend and is pleased to see me. She may well have forgotten by the evening that she was there, but she was happy for that short time.

It is a great gift to be happy in the moment, to live that moment, that activity, that day to the full. The Lord tells us not to worry about tomorrow, to let it take care of itself. Today we are in vacancy. We don't know when the right person will appear. This is a time when we must live in the moment. We can enjoy our friends and activities. We can join in the delight of the children when their new band got a huge ovation. We can give thanks that we have someone to lead worship every week and someone to play music. Our Lord is looking after us now, and He will surely do so in the future. So enjoy today, and every good moment it brings.

Your friend and IM,  
Anne

## Letter From the Session Clerk



I write this on a beautiful May weekend, having had many activities and meetings to attend over the last week or so. It's not only GB and other youth organisations that are coming to the end of another session, but even the Kirk Session is coming to a halt for summer, even though we have other events still to occur over the summer.

I know everyone works hard and now need a break. Sadly to say our Nominating Committee won't get a holiday – at least not until they find that one person who is just right to take us on the next part of our journey. I know it is in God's hand and I know I trust them all.

You will see some changes too in that the Youth Church members will be welcoming you at the door and I hope you make them feel part of our church too. You will also find the Minutes of the Kirk Session meetings pinned to the notice board in the vestibule if you want to see what has been discussed. All are welcome to join us at meetings as we don't try to hide anything from anyone. This is your church and we act on your behalf. Everyone should feel like they are a part of it.

Enjoy your summer holidays, whether you are staying at home or travelling afar and keep safe.

Tracey Hamilton,  
Session Clerk

# **Church in the Wider World Committee**

*(Noreen Gray, Ian Rennie, John Tomlinson, Jon Herd , Sandy Brown)*

## **Romania**

Things are still going well with our twinning agreement with the churches in Amati and Hirip. The bookstall, donations from kind folks in the congregation and our recent Praise Night, allowed us to slowly build up the funds again. We recently sent another £400 off to our friends in Romania.

Our friends in Romania continue to look at identifying the most needy in their villages and helping by purchasing their much needed medicines.

Our Twinning Agreement continues with them until 2021,so we will be looking at further projects which will help our friends and of course we will continue to raise funds. The committee would like to thank everyone who turned up to the Praise Night, to our new youth band 'Souled Out,' and of course to Reachout for putting it all together.

Our highlight this year is of course the visit of Pastors Sandor, Erzsebet and their eldest son Daniel, who will be visiting us from 20th to 25th June. During this time they will visit the church, meet with the Provost, have a meal with the Committee, Rev Anne and our Session Clerk, Tracey Hamilton, have two day trips to Culzean and the coast and visit Edinburgh.

On Sunday 24th they will join us for the morning service, enjoy our Congregational Lunch and meet with the Kirk Session. Everyone in the congregation is invited to join us for the Congregational Lunch and a sign up sheet will be in the foyer.

## **Further Information**

Our committee continue to reflect on other work that is being carried out by the Christian community. We have recently obtained

information on a couple of new charities, which we may look at further in depth.

1. Embrace, is a Christian development charity tackling poverty and injustice in the Middle East. More information at [www.embraceme.org](http://www.embraceme.org)

2. The Scottish Churches China Group, which is a group of individuals and church representatives committed to supporting health and education programmes in Shenyang, Nanjing, Shanghai and Hong Kong. Again more information can be found at [www.sccg.org.uk](http://www.sccg.org.uk)

We will keep you updated on these two charities and also on the likes of MAF, Christian Aid, Leprosy Mission, UNICEF and the other charities that you kindly support.

Until our next report 'Isten áldja meg.' (God Bless)

## **THANK YOU**

As you may be aware in mid March I suffered a heart attack while attending a Fresh Expressions meeting with David McCartney and others from our Church.

I received outstanding treatment from the NHS starting with A & E at Crosshouse, Hairmyers Hospital and Coronary Care at Crosshouse. I am glad to say I am on my way to recovery.

Throughout this experience I have been so much aware of God's presence, receiving His peace and assurance. I have also been aware of the prayers of people sustaining and keeping me calm. When you are faced with such a situation you really know you are in God's hands and when you give everything over to Him you receive that peace and calmness. This was duly noted by the Hospital staff.

To everyone who phoned, visited, sent cards and enquired about me I give my sincere thanks that I belong to such a loving and caring family in St Kentigern's.  
Ian

## **News from Barnabas Fund received by email**

### **Egyptian Christians facing death threats**

“Are you a Christian?” demanded three armed and masked men to Bassem Shehata Haraz as they stopped him in his home town, El Arish on 13 January. They had spotted the cross that 27 year old Bassem displayed, as do most Egyptian Christians. “Yes” he replied. The masked men shot him dead.

Bassem had fled from El Arish, the administrative capital of Egypt’s North Sinai governorate in February 2017 after a wave of Christian murders there. On 19 February terrorists linked to Islamic State had threatened to kill all Christians in the Sinai and issued a video stating, “We will put an end to you, you won’t escape us...you are our preferred target”. Five days later, they killed the seventh Christian in less than a month. The whole of the remaining Christian population of El Arish, some 200 families, then left the city and sought safety in other parts of Egypt.

Unable to find work elsewhere, Bassem and his brother returned to El Arish a few months later and re-opened the family shop. They were walking in the street with a Muslim friend when Bassem was killed. For many years, Barnabas Fund has been providing practical help – mainly food, clothes and medical care to the poorest Christians of

North Sinai. When the mass Christian exodus from El Arish occurred in February 2017 their regular aid was redirected to the families in their new locations, where they were in even greater need than before, due to loss of homes and livelihoods.

These are the dangerous situations many Christians are facing daily in various parts of the world. Please pray for the work of Barnabas Fund and those they reach out to.

Ian

## **World Mission Stamp Appeal 2018**

### **From the June/July World Mission Council magazine**

The Church in the Wider World Committee would like to bring this years stamp appeal to the congregations attention, being as it is supporting the Hungarian Reformed Church.

‘This year the Stamp Appeal is raising money for the Hungarian Reformed Church in Transcarpathia (TRC), Ukraine, which gives valuable support to children and young people with learning difficulties and disabilities. They help to run day centres which provide educational, emotional and physical support for children and young people with disabilities, allowing them to life in all it’s fullness and to enjoy participating in society and family life.

Up until 2013 there were no day care centres for children and teenagers with disabilities in this region. If the children weren’t living in residential care, they stayed at home all day, many of them doing very little except watching TV. As a consequence, many were left feeling very isolated from others of their own ages and didn’t have any opportunities to learn and develop their potential. Since then, the TRC has developed 3 day care rehabilitation centres, allowing dozens of children and teenagers to flourish.

Therapists who work at the centre offer either individual or group therapies, which include educational activities (writing and reading), massages, games, music, craft work, walks and games. The families of the young people are also given support and an opportunity to meet other parents who are caring for a child or young person with a disability. A special programme for teenagers is held once a week, providing opportunities to social and enjoy a range of activities.

Sadly there is little support for people living with disabilities in the Ukraine. This means many children and young people with disabilities do not have the facilities they need to reach their full potential. The Ukrainian Reformed Church is convinced that each of these children can participate fully in society, if they are given the care and education they need. ‘

## Stamp Appeal - How does it work

Supporting the project is easy!

- Simply collect up as many stamps as you can
- Leave a small amount of envelope around each one
- Send them to the address below.



Post your stamps to:

World Mission Stamp Project,

PO Box 9191,

Wishaw,

Lanarkshire,

ML2 0YB

For other options and more information:

[www.churchofscotland.org.uk/stamp](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/stamp)

Or call Keith Scott on 01698 351323





## **My travels in Jordan**

During 2004 Jon Herd was attached to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and served with the international police contingent in Jordan. He was part of the coalition effort to rebuild Iraq after the 2003 war, in particular to train the new Iraqi police service in the principles of democratic policing. This was done at a purpose-built training facility in the Jordanian desert. While there he wrote a series of articles for his church magazine, covering life, work, tourism and culture in Jordan. The next in the series is reproduced below.

### **“Did you say ‘Chobie’ music?”**

I recently did a turn as night-shift duty officer, looking after the students (all 2000 of them) as they went into their weekend. All I had for assistance was a few heavily armed PSD guys (Jordanian Public Security Directorate, who provide internal and external security at the training camp) and my driver Ibrahim, who could not speak English. Needless to say, communicating with the students and Ibrahim was achieved through a combination of hand-gestures and shouting loudly in English, the great stand-by of the Brit abroad. As it was their weekend there was no particular time for ‘lights-out’. During the week it is 10 pm but at weekends the students are allowed to relax and do their own thing, within reason, at the discretion of the duty officer. As it turned out we had a great time with some students watching football on the satellite channels and others indulging their passion for ‘Chobie’, the traditional music and dance of Iraq.

Chobie music is quite unlike our preconceptions of Arabic music being friendly to European ears, and the accompanying dance is very similar to the traditional Greek dancing one sees on holiday. The most popular exponent of Chobie is an Iraqi called Ilham Al Madfai, a singer and guitarist. Madfai also plays the ‘aoud’, an Arabic form of the ancient lute. I have tried to play an aoud and found it as difficult to master as the Arabic language. (I gave up with the aoud but persist with

the language). The dancers, all male, hold hands and move slowly around in a circle with intricate and precise steps. The leading dancer twirls the beads which Shia men carry. The beads, incidentally, are 99 or 33 in number, signifying the various names of Allah. Although the dance is slow it requires concentration and self-control as I found out when I joined in. After a few minutes I could feel the sweat forming on my brow. It is a measure of the relationship that the British enjoy with these guys when a British police officer in full uniform is welcome to join hands and dance with them. This type of thing would be described as 'good public relations' by PR gurus and police bosses; it could equally be described as 'having a good laugh' by the average bobby. The students were delighted to have me as their guest for this dance and invited me to Iraq to try the real thing. "Bukra!" I joked – "Tomorrow!" It's certainly not safe today.

Thus, my night shift passed in music, dance and laughter. Eventually the students went off to bed and the dust settled. Shortly after that the sun came up over Muwaqar, my first desert sunrise, a magical and peaceful experience.

In my previous missives I have described my impressions of the Iraqi students and how they challenged, and indeed removed, my stereotypes. I recently found myself drafted in to teach a class I had not previously met. I was impressed by these guys right away. They were clearly a cut above some of the other students at the camp – disciplined, smart in uniform and clean in appearance, quick-witted and with a sense of humour. I asked their background and they replied, in good English, that they had been part of Saddam's Republican Guard. I quipped that I was going to give them 'the mother of all lessons' but the joke seemed lost on them. It was a pleasure to teach them; their professionalism was refreshing. A few days later however, as part of a briefing session by the FCO, I saw a film of Republican Guard Units executing Kurds in the north of Iraq. This was done in what looked like a quarry, with women and children watching, possibly from the same village as those who died. The film was as distressing as those we have seen from the Second World War, although in colour and with

good sound, and I will not easily forget the images I saw. I do not know if any of my students have been involved in these atrocities, and there's nothing I can do about it anyway. Teaching a class of potential mass-executioners is a strange experience in ones life.

While I am on this rather dark subject, we (that is, the staff at the training school) saw the video showing the final moments of the American Nick Berg, the first hostage in Iraq to be beheaded. I will not describe the sound and vision of this footage. It was almost too much for me and it is another experience I will not forget. As the film ended, and as we stood in stunned silence, Emad, one of the Jordanian Language Assistants at the camp, and a man I regard as a friend, thumped the table to get our attention. "I would like to ask all Muslims here if this represents Islam in any way!" he shouted, clearly upset. The other Jordanians were unanimous in their condemnation of Nick Berg's fate and were at pains to point out that the Koran forbids the murder of non-Muslims.

They are embarrassed by the religious fanatics, and thoroughly resent the damage they have done to the image of Islam around the world, and the negative impact they have had on the lucrative tourist industry, which in Jordan at least is moribund. They make the point that these kidnappers are simply criminals, more interested in money than Islam.

One (intentional) side effect of screening these distressing images is to sharpen our wits, especially in relation to our own safety as we travel around Jordan. This is, as we are constantly reminded, a safe country, although the most wanted man in Iraq, the terrorist Abu Moussad Al-Zarqawi is a Jordanian and a few months ago four terrorists were shot dead north of Amman. They were apparently planning attacks in Jordan, including at the newly opened shopping-mall in west Amman which is popular with Westerners. We can do little other than be vigilant and trust the security forces to maintain their high standards.

Jon.

# **Fresh Expressions of Church**

## **Community Cafe**

Since last September a regular clientele has faithfully attended the Community Cafe in the Lesser Hall of the local Community Centre from 10am on Wednesday mornings. The aim of the Community Cafe has been to provide a meeting place within the community for all who can attend.

We need to thank the local Councillors who attended before Christmas to speak about their work, and the local manager of Citizens' Advice Centre who spoke about the role of the CAB, and not least, our own 'Musical Memories' maestro Audrey Frazer, who faithfully came in each month with a wide variety of music and songs to everyone's delight.

Most of all we need to thank our loyal team who have set up and served so cheerfully every week. The Cafe closed on Wednesday 30th May until the beginning of September.

## **A Pie, Pint and Parable**

Again, since last September, a steady loyal group has attended this venture in the First Edition on the first Wednesday evening of the month at 7pm. Mark and Ross have taken in hand deciding which parables of Jesus we might discuss, and many a good learning discussion has taken place after a hearty meal has been enjoyed accompanied by Irn Bru or something a wee bit stronger.

A full-page photographic feature was included in the Kilmarnock Standard during November last year.

Wednesday, 6th June will be the last meeting until September when we hope many more might come and join in on the very varied discussions.

## **Messy Church**

A full article about Messy Church appears elsewhere in 'Outreach'.

## **Visit of Rev. David McCarthy (Fresh Expressions Co-ordinator)**

If you are involved with Fresh Expressions in any way, or would like to be, then do come in to the meeting we have arranged with the Kirk's co-ordinator for Fresh Expressions on Thursday 21st June at 11.30 am in the First Edition in Bank Street. David travels to meet us from Perth, so it is good if he can meet as many of us as possible.

Tom Logan

## **Coffee and Co**

Coffee and Co has stopped meeting since Wednesday 2nd May until 22nd August, provided we can have an increase in attendance.

We have been running for over 20 years now and feel unless we can encourage more people to come along on a Wednesday between 2 and 3.30 pm in the lounge it will not be feasible to continue.

Anyone is welcome for a coffee or tea, biscuits and cakes for a small donation if wished and a blether. All subjects are discussed from TV Programmes to the NHS to politics in a friendly atmosphere

If you wish to know more please contact me.

Janey Burnett



## **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 church**

- The work of our Nominating Committee as they continue in their quest for a new minister..
- 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

### **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
- Those who are working on the Community Garden Project
- Future developments with our Fresh Expressions of church

### **For other churches and groups**

- Our Presbytery as it develops visions for ministry in the future
- The Fellowship of Kilmarnock 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 world**

- Our friends in the congregations of Hirip and Amac, Romania
- Our friends in Arua, Uganda and especially in the schools and for the congregation of St Peter's Church
- For our brothers and sisters in the Persecuted Church throughout the world

## Is Grumbling a Sin?

***"We should not test the Lord as some of them did and were killed by snakes. And do not grumble as some of them did, and were killed by the destroying angel." 1 Corinthians 10:9-10, NIV***

Have you ever thought that grumbling could be a sin? To answer the question we need to define sin. It is not simply the obvious sin that committed Christians would recognise and seek to avoid; rather it is a heart attitude which leads to doing what is wrong and not doing what is right according to God's word and nature.

So what is grumbling? Grumbling and complaining seem to be similar inferring that a person is discontented with their lot in life. I'd never thought of myself as being a grumbler, but on reading the story of the children of Israel, journeying from Egypt to the Promised Land, I realised that grumblers don't always recognise that they are grumbling. The Israelites grumbled after they'd been freed from slavery, having forgotten their miraculous deliverance (Exodus 14:11-12). They grumbled about the lack of water (Exodus 15:22-25) and the lack of food (Exodus 16:1-3). They grumbled against their leaders (Exodus 17:3-4) and they grumbled against God (Exodus 16:18). Sadly, the Israelites who grumbled against the Lord were not allowed to enter the Promised Land.

Grumbling and complaining are the opposite to gratitude, which is God's will for all believers, whatever our circumstances (1 Thessalonians 5:18). Gratitude leads to deep contentment and peace, bringing the assurance that God is with us, working for the good of those who love Him. Grumbling can turn you into a negative person who looks inward instead of being focused on the goodness of God.

God hates grumbling, as He hates all sin. It can have far reaching effects. As a habit, it affects our attitude to life, and our attitude to Jesus, because it is usually linked to criticism, which can give the devil a

foothold. Footholds develop into strongholds if they are not recognised and dealt with. Grumbling infects the attitudes of others – you don't usually grumble to yourself. It can be a means of spreading discontent, especially when it is against God-appointed leaders. The longer you grumble about a situation, person, circumstances, co-workers, the church or your family, the more justified you can feel in doing so.

The implication is that we blame or judge others instead of seeing what is in our own hearts. Grumbling implies we don't trust God. But He expects us to trust Him in every situation, with the assurance that He is a loving Father, unchangeable and utterly trustworthy. Grumbling, like all sin, is against God. There can be no excuse for blaming Him for the hard or negative things in our lives.

Sadly, grumbling can keep you from the purposes of God for your life. It makes you deaf to His voice and fixes your eyes on the difficult situations you face instead of upon Jesus. The longer you remain in that negative place, like the Israelites, you remain in your wilderness instead of enjoying the abundant grace and fullness of eternal life here and now.

**Prayer:** *Father, please forgive me for the times when I have not honoured you in my thoughts and words. I pray that You will give me a grateful heart and a deeper knowledge of Your nature and character, so that I will be filled with thankfulness and joy because my hope and trust are rooted in Your eternal love. In the name of Jesus I ask You to set a guard over my mouth and to keep watch over the door of my lips. O Lord, may my heart not be drawn towards anything that grieves or dishonours You. Amen.*

The above appeared in our Daily Bread Bible Readings on Tuesday 17 April 2018.



## Bible Study

On a Thursday evening we have been studying the Book of James and it has been helpful to have a background knowledge and this I share with you.

James is a rather brief letter – just over a hundred verses in length. Yet it is the most penetrating letter we could ever read – with five no nonsense chapters that get “down and dirty” inside our lives. We may not be comforted reading James, but we will be convicted.

James continually wants to know if your life is real. He wants to know if your walk matches your talk, if your faith is genuine. He is pleading all the way through for authenticity. “Is your faith something I can count on? Is your faith expressing itself in action?”

Over and over James drove home the point with words that went something like this: “If your faith is genuine, then your walk will be authentic”. Or to put it another way, if you say you believe like you should then why do you behave like you shouldn’t? That’s really James question. “If you keep telling me you have the right theory, and you have placed your faith in the right message, why is it you’re living a wrong life?”

James leaves us with words to this effect “Let’s be the instruments that lead others to glorify God. Live in such a way that the world may see our good deeds and give glory to our great God”. Live your faith. Show your fruit. Get real”.

That’s what James would have us do. An authentic salvation from God results in an authentic demonstration before others.

The above background information is an excerpt from The Living Insights Study Bible.

Ian

## **Jesus are you a Charismatic or a Presbyterian?**

Lord, I was just wondering, which church would you attend?  
Would you still want to go to the Synagogue?  
Would you be a Presbyterian? A Roman Catholic?  
A Baptist perhaps? Maybe you'd be a Charismatic?  
I mean after all, you are really into healing and miracles!

Lord, I asking this because I'm not sure you'd fit into our church.  
We like tings to be predictable, respectable and dignified.  
We're serious, but not too serious.  
You may be just a bit too radical for our culture.

You see, we might "think it" but you "say it."  
I don't think the Vacancy Committee would choose you.  
You don't mind me being honest?  
You know - speaking my mind?

Lord, you really gave the Scribes a hard time.  
Not to mention the Pharisees.  
You didn't take prisoners.  
You were about people over precedent.  
What would you think of all our red tape?  
our Kirk Session,  
our church laws,  
our services,  
our robes,  
our pews,  
our way of doing things?

Lord, you said it,  
you'd love it - if it's from the heart?  
Ah, now you've got me!

Taken from 'Sanctuary Street prayers' by Albert Bogle.



**New Farm Loch**  
**YOUTH DIVERSITY**

**FREE FUN DAY**

**St Joseph's Academy**  
**Saturday 23rd June**

**10.30 till 3.30**

**Music Workshops**

**Take A Bow**

**Dhol Drummers**

**Dancers/ Singers**

**Bring your friends & family**

**Face Painting etc all FREE!!**

**Under 5's play area**

**CPR/1st Aid Workshops**

**Information Stalls**

# **Can you help out!**

## **Summer Services**

Tracey Hamilton is looking for names of folk who would be willing to supervise children during the summer holidays from June 24 to mid Aug. No prep needed. Kids will take a bag of activities with them. Minimal effort required. Must have PVG. Let me know availability.

Thanks Tracey Hamilton

## **Treasurer**

Shaona Wilson has served as our treasurer for many years but she would like to stand down. To do that we need someone to take over and Shaona has agreed to stay on to show our new treasurer the ropes. You don't need to be an Elder or be a church member. It is a very important aspect of church life. Please speak to Shaona or Tracey Hamilton.

## **Stewardship**

Gillian Rooney will be stepping down as Stewardship Convener in September when she starts her time of placements for her training for the Ministry. This is another role that is very important and brings the need for good financial stewardship, the use of talents and time to the congregation and keeps it fresh in our minds. For more information contact Tracey Hamilton.

## **Safeguarding**

Noreen who again has been our Safeguarding Convener for a wee while now has indicated that she would like to stand down. This is particularly important, as we keep our young people safe in church and during all the activities that they are involved in. Again for more information, please contact Tracey Hamilton.

But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him,

*Luke 10:33*



## New ways of doing Church

Recently I was up at Heart and Soul in Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh and got speaking to a lady in one of the marquees, who told me of an internet church. Yes you read that correctly I did say an internet church. I was intrigued.

From their website - 'Sanctuary First is a Pioneer Ministry being developed by the Church of Scotland through Falkirk Presbytery. The concept was originally developed out of the congregation of St Andrew's Parish Bo'ness but has transitioned into what might be described as a fresh expression of church under the direct governance of Falkirk Presbytery. Albert Bogle was appointed in April 2016, as minister of Sanctuary First with the aspiration that Sanctuary First will become a worshipping congregation of the Church of Scotland on the internet.'

It is a new initiative and has many things that you would find at a traditional church ie Prayers, Bible readings, Sermons (they call them blogs) and music. So just like a normal church service.

It is also maybe a way of communicating with today's busy society or for those who don't get to church as often as they would like because of other commitments. You can sign up for daily emails or download their app for your phone or tablet.

You can look at what they have on offer by going to <https://www.sanctuaryfirst.org.uk/home> Have a look and see what you think! Who knows you may like this new way of doing church?

Sandy Brown

**SanctuaryFirst**  
A PLACE TO BE

## **Other Churches Committee**

### **THE CHURCH IS THRIVING**

In this past month, visits to two places have helped inspire us about the possible future of the church in this country -

#### **London**

An evening service of the "Hillsong" church in London was attended at which we were seated upstairs amidst 500 people mainly in their teens and twenties. There was singing and dancing to the music, a testimony and a 30 minute sermon which was listened to attentively. A larger number were downstairs. This was the church's third service of the day.

According to a report some time back

(<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/magazine/4677440.stm>), "Hillsong London" claims a weekly attendance of 6,000 worshippers across its three Sunday services in London. The crowd appears to be largely aged 18 to 30, middle-class and multi-ethnic.

"Hillsong," is fundamentally about creating a new impression of Christianity for a generation who have turned away from God." It has the same core message but wrapped up in a different way.

#### **Kirkintilloch**

Another visit last month was to the Sunday evening service at Kirkintilloch Baptist Church. Around 140 young people were present, mostly in their mid-teens and twenties.

We also visited a youth club run in the church every Friday at which an average of 150 attend aged P6 (age 10) to S3 (age 14-15).

Twenty five leaders or assistant leaders help run the club called 'FNL' – 'Friday Night Live'. Entry is by means of a pass shown at the door. Parents are able to drop off their children before 7 pm and know that they are in a safe, fun environment until 9 when they pick them up. What was on offer is exciting and varied and there is a waiting list of young people wishing to join. The sanctuary and every room of the

church is used, and due to lack of space, the stairwells and corridors are used to allow young people to sit around chilling/ chatting.

In the rooms/sanctuary, the following are available -

Large inflatables - usually three, or an obstacle course which occupies the entire sanctuary space

Computer games room (no shoot and kill games!) for individuals or groups

Pool tables

Crafts room which also included mindful colouring, where the youth can do the crafts as part of a group or on their own

Dark room – where a maze minefield is highlighted with UV light and a commander officiates over two combatants who compete against each other's memory about the location of the mines.

Tuck shop and games room

Ukelele music room with 11 participants practising for a performance at the 6.30 evening service

Football and netball

Youth Alpha course at which 20 attended

After age 15 (S3), it is possible to continue at the club as an assistant leader for which training is given. This entails team building in the church and in addition a residential weekend with no Wi-Fi or phone signal. The trainee leaders can use this volunteering experience to gain Duke of Edinburgh awards and the skills acquired are of interest to the Education Authority and of value in a Curriculum Vitae when going for a job.

If it can happen in Kirkintilloch, why not in Kilmarnock which is a similar town? An expanded report on the conclusions of several visits to this church is being compiled for the Kirk Session to consider.

*Jim McHardy & Anne McCabe*  
*Other Churches Committee*



# JUNIOR CHURCH

The junior church summer trip is on Saturday 9th June to Culzean Castle and is open to all the congregation. I'm taking names for the trip now to secure places on the bus. Please let me know if you want to go. Letters with full details are now available. There are still seats on the bus for members of the congregation to join us so please collect your letter. .

The junior church Thanksgiving Service is on Sunday 10th June- all welcome and Souled Out Youth Band will be playing three hymns during that morning service. Please support our youth. Thank you.

On 24th June the junior church will once again host a stall at the Diversity Event in St Joseph's Campus from 10am to 3pm. If you have items we can sell, please let me know. Thank you for your support.

Junior church is then on holiday (crèche still available if there's demand) and will be back on Sunday 19th August. All children up to

twelve years old are very welcome in the crèche (up to 3 years) and then junior church. All teachers and helpers have disclosure. We are looking for teachers and helpers in junior church- please let me know if you can help us.

## Golden Age

We meet on a Tuesday afternoons between 1 and 3.30 pm for a time of fun and friendship. Come along and join us and have a cuppa afterwards.

On Tuesday 19th June, music will be provided by "Musical Minds".

## July Summer Break

Tuesday 21st August Andrew Dick will be giving a talk on Ayrshire mining.



## May In-Service Day for Children

This is being written after another successful day with children of working parents. Our first child arrived at 8 am and it was full on thereafter.

Though slightly down in number from previous in-service days nonetheless the children entered into all activities with great gusto. The toaster was red hot as the children devoured slice after slice of toast having first had bowls of cereal.

Our crafts included decorating a bag to hold their different crafts, seaside art scratch cards, decorating egg boxes and planting cress seeds and making pencil holders from jam jars covered in pebble fablon with garden twine wrapped round the neck of the jar and then covering the jar with sea shells. The children loved all the crafts.

We had our usual team games and potted sports and a summer treasure hunt and then a more relaxing time playing board games. It was all quiet through in the Lounge as we settled down to watch Paddington 2.

Craig, Lewis and Cameron from Youth Church came along to help and their contribution was invaluable. A big thank you too to Noreen, Janey and Joyce who also came along to support our Committee.

Again we have to thank Centre Stage for supplying our lunch of quiche, sausage rolls and various sandwiches followed by delicious cakes.

These in-service days are an outreach to our community and the response of parents/carers is very positive. Where love is shown, it makes a big difference and we want to share the love Jesus has for everyone through this outreach.

Church in the Community Committee

## Messy Church

As we come to the end of our session we look back and thank God for the many blessings He has poured down on us. Over the session we have welcomed 32 children and their parents, grandparents, or childminders.



Although they don't all attend every time we meet, on average we have 16 children plus adults attend regularly and its been so encouraging to welcome folks from outwith our parish. News of Messy Church certainly travels and the response of adults has encouraged Messy Church Team. We all feel one big happy family having fun, sharing news and most importantly hearing about the love Jesus has for each one through the stories told, participating in crafts pertaining to the story and learning new songs. We have discovered that the children are singing these songs at home and in fact some parents download the songs for the children to listen to.

It is always sad to say cheerio to the children who have been at Messy Church for a few years but they move on to school with our blessing. We end our session on 12 June with a Summer Celebration with children invited to wear shorts, t-shirt, hat and sandals and we hope the adults will do likewise.

A big thank you to all the Messy Church Team for their faithful and enthusiastic service. They thoroughly deserve their holidays. God willing we hope to restart on Tuesday 28 August.

Irene

## Palm Sunday Messy Church

How many children and adults would turn up was on all our minds as we prepared the Large Hall for the crafts and would we have sufficient mince and potatoes for our meal at the end. We serve a faithful God who answered all our prayers in a wonderful way.

Folks kept arriving and it was so exciting to welcome old and new friends, we even had one family arrive by taxi from the other end of the town.

Our theme was Easter week and all our crafts were related to this starting with Palm Sunday and ending with Jesus resurrection. We made a Palm branch, donkey, scene from Last Supper, Crown of Thorns, Beaded Cross, Hand print with nail mark, Cupcakes representing Calvary, Stone rolled away biscuit and a larger Easter Wreath which you can see in the Sanctuary. Everyone got involved and there was such a buzz within the large hall.

We then moved through to the Church where we had a time of singing. Unfortunately, our technology let us down but we were able to sing unaccompanied and what a joyful sound it was. Gillian gave a short talk and explained that the tomb was empty and to illustrate this she had an Easter egg with something inside and another one which was empty. She also gave the children Easter scratch art cards which they loved.

Dinner was now being served in the Small Hall where the Social Committee had prepared mince and potatoes and a pasta dish. The food was up to the usual high standard and was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

These events don't just happen without a lot of prayer, planning and willingness of people to help and in St Kentigern's we have such people who love the Lord and want to share this love with others.

We propose to try and have more all age Messy Churches and would value your prayers and support.

Irene



## GIRLS' BRIGADE

We have now finished up for the summer, all be it a couple of events still to happen.

Over the last three months we have joined hundreds of girls from all over the country at a Mad Hatter's Tea Party in honour of Girls' Brigade Scotland being 125 years old. Celebrations continued when we had a Divisional celebration down in Largs where we played putting, had a treasure hunt, made crafts and took part in circus skills. It was all made the better by a beautiful day and was brought to a close with a service in the church.

Our Annual Display was a celebration of all the hard work the girls have put in over the year studying all things "Light". They sung, spoke and danced their way through the creation of light to the present day neon lights. Many thanks to Sadie Speirs for presenting our awards as part of her final big event as a member of GB before retiring. We wish her all the best and expect she won't be a stranger at future events.

Fifteen girls joined 25 others from Largs the same weekend of the

Royal Wedding, at Dumfries House for camp weekend. The sun was shining on them all, even during their mud trials.

We have a company trip to Five Sisters Zoo in June as part of our company celebrations for the 125 Birthday which most are attending and should prove a great day out. Many thanks to all my leaders for all their help. It has been a great year and I look forward to the next in August.

Happy holidays to you all.

Tracey Hamilton, Captain

## Music

### Big Band

The big band are playing at the morning service on Sunday 24 June. We'll have a rehearsal as usual at 10am before the service at 11am. New musicians are very welcome.

### Souled Out

Our new youth band will be playing at the Thanksgiving Service on Sunday 10th June. They are coming on in leaps and bounds and were really good at the recent Praise Night. Young people over the age of 8 are most welcome to come along on a Friday evening at 6 pm to join us.

### Reachout

Just a wee update on what's been happening recently with the band. We of course played at our Praise Night in St Kentigerns recently and introduced some new worship music and collected money for the Romania Fund. It was great to have 'Souled Out,' with us and look forward to have them join us at future Praise Nights.

We are playing for the morning service at Crosshouse Parish Church on 8th July and for Galston

Guild in December at their Candlelit Tea. We look forward to these events and others that we hope to play at during the year.

We are still looking at recording a CD and more news will be made available when this occurs. In the meantime we ask that you pray for the band and our outreach work at events and other churches.



**Praise Gathering**  
**Glasgow Royal Concert Hall**  
**Sunday 24th June 7.30 pm**

A choir of over 300 gathered from 140 churches, throughout the land with special guests and introducing the Praise Gathering Youth Choir.

For more information contact

<https://praisegathering.org.uk/>

Tickets from £17.50 - £22.50

## Life and Work Magazine

Ever thought about subscribing to the Church of Scotland monthly magazine, Life and Work. Each month there are interesting articles from the Church of Scotland and beyond.



Our local coordinator is Lynn Gale, so why not have a wee word with her and she can add you to the list of subscribers from St Kentigerns.

Alternatively you can subscribe online at <http://www.lifeandwork.org/subscribe/subscribe> the choice is yours.

## Church Big Clean

It's that time of the year - The Church Big Clean. It will begin with a 'Family Big Clean,' on Saturday 30th June at 10 am. All are welcome. Just come along and join in.

There are jobs for all ages and we work at our own pace. The kettle is always on. If you are coming, bring a packed lunch.

The church will be open till 4 pm and if you have an hour or two to spare your help will be appreciated. A sign up sheet will go out at the beginning of June for the Saturday and the week days for the following two weeks.

This is our opportunity to make sure all our church buildings are hygienic and safe for all who use it.

### The Congregational Board



## **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:

### **June**

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

### **July and August**

There will be no formal prayer meetings during July and August but the Lounge will be open at 10.30 am each Sunday, should you wish to meet to pray.





## Who's doing what in coming weeks

### Welcoming people and uplifting the offering

<b>June</b>	Ian Rennie, Irene Rennie, Tracey Calderwood, Tracey Grant
<b>July</b>	Bill Kerr, Betty Kerr, Shaona Wilson, John Herd
<b>August</b>	Janey Burnett, Mhairi MacNee, Joyce Simm, Anne Fratson
<b>September</b>	Noreen Gray, Ann Brown, Mary Niven, Ann Hogarth

### The Count

<b>June</b>	Ann Brown and Joyce Simm
<b>July</b>	Willie Craig and Anne Fratson
<b>August</b>	Bill Kerr and Nancy Chisholm
<b>September</b>	Irene Rennie, Margo Dreghorn and Margaret Drummond

### Making a welcoming cuppa

#### June

3rd	Liz Watson and Anne Black
10th	Margaret Murray and Nancy Chisholm
17th	Shaona Wilson and Clarinda McHardie
24th	Anna Hogg and Mhairi MacNee

#### July

1st	Anne Black and Liz Watson
8th	Nancy Chisholm and Margaret Murray
15th	Shaona Wilson and Irene Rennie
22nd	Clarinda McHardie and Anna Hogg
29th	Liz Watson and Anne Black



## Flower List

### June

3rd Helen Rees  
10th Joan Dykes  
17th Ann Hogarth  
24th Free

### July

1st Betty Kerr  
8th Free  
15th Free  
22nd Free  
29th Free

### August

5th Free  
12th Free  
19th Free  
26th Free

Thanks to those putting flowers in church. Also thanks to those who support through the box, this is a great help.

Thanks again to all.

Betty Kerr, Flower Convener.



## Flower Deliveries

**June** Margo Dreghorn

**July** Janey Burnett

**August** Sadie Speirs

## Summer

As I gaze out over the fields,  
I think of God's Creation  
the warm summer sun,  
the crops swaying gently  
in the breeze,  
the beautifully coloured  
meadow flowers,  
the birds singing in the trees.

I think to myself,  
what a wonderful world,  
You have created.  
and I thank you Lord!

Sandy Brown

## **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://my.give.net/supportstkentigerns) and you can also get there from any page on our church website at [www.stkentigern.org.uk](http://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 (01560) 483191      interim.moderator@stkentigern.org.uk  
Tom Logan                      524398                      pastoral.care@stkentigern.org.uk  
Church Hub      Number to be changed shortly      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  
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

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