Outreach
St Kentigern’s Church
June - July 2022

The newsletter from St Kentigern’s Church

Photo by Sandy Brown

people together following Jesus
Dear Friends,

Yippee! The Fishing Season has begun. In fact, it began more than two months ago. I’ve been up at the Loch only a few times this season, and so far, my success has been “mixed”. No matter. Whatever the outcome of any time spent fishing, the greatest pleasure is in my encounters with other creatures, whether wildlife or human.

One memorable encounter was with a human – an old man who got on to the talk not so long ago. He told me an amazing story about a farming friend from the Borders - another an old man who, having passed on the management of the sheep farm to his sons, likes to “keep his oar in”. His sons thought they’d set their old dad a test. Knowing their dad had never been able to read, write or even count (despite being a successful farmer) they asked him to check that all 100 sheep in a certain field were accounted for. Unknown to their dad, they had first kept one away from the others and had placed it in an outhouse on the homestead.

Their dad looked over the flock carefully, taking his time as he did. “Are they all there, dad?” the boys asked. “Give me time and I’ll be sure to tell you” he replied. After a long time spent looking over them, he said “There’s definitely one missing!”

The boys were amazed, responding: “You’re dead right, but how on EARTH did you work that out? We know you can’t count!” He said, “I didn’t count them, for these sheep are more to me than mere numbers! I know every one of them and everything about them and all that makes them unique. It’s the one which has fewer flecks in its left eye than in its right that’s missing”. Amazed, the boys produced the missing sheep from the outhouse, and right enough, it was the very one their father had described.

I thanked my elderly friend for his story, mentioning that the Bible describes Jesus as the “Good Shepherd”, that he knows his flock one by one and that to Jesus, no-one is ever a number.
In a day and age where folk are obsessed by numbers and statistics, it is comforting to know that God is different. He knows us by name, not by number and that each of his “flock” is known, loved and special.

And so are you – and every other reader of this magazine. In John 10: 3-4 we read “…the sheep hear His voice: and He calleth His own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. And when He putteth forth His own sheep, He goeth before them, and the sheep follow Him: for they know His voice.”

Friends, keep following. These are uncertain times where our chiefest certainty is that we are known, loved and unique to Jesus, who is the “Good Shepherd”

May God bless you and yours with a summer where you can relax, be refreshed and rejoice in both His goodness and mercy.

Your friend and fellow servant of Jesus Christ,


EACHA

A sincere thanks from EACHa to Fellowship churches for your overwhelming response to the appeal for household goods for families arriving in East Ayrshire from Ukraine. The donations have poured in over the past few weeks. Every single item is very much appreciated and will help the families settle into their new homes. Many will be traumatised by their journey, and worry about their home country, and friends and family left behind.

Your kindness has helped to offer a warm East Ayrshire welcome.

Thank you!

Janice Grant
East Ayrshire Churches Homelessness Action
Dear Friends

In 2nd Peter Chap 3 he writes “The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you” and we have all been patient over the last 2 years and now find ourselves living life just a little bit more normal – or like it used to be some folk have said. It’s lovely to see so many chatting and socialising in the building again. Please don’t feel you have to do as others do and if you want to wear your mask etc please continue to do so. We do still need to be wary.

With this good news we find that events can take place. The fun day in New Farm was a great day and brilliant way to show locals what we have in our building. June will see not only the Queen’s Jubilee celebrations but also a visit from Rev Anne when we will get the chance to properly say our thanks for everything she did.

Summer always makes people feel a bit better and I know many are now planning breaks further afield as restrictions ease and it will be nice for folk to continue to check on people who might not have that opportunity. Remember “Love your neighbour as yourself.”

Please remember that we are always looking for extra folk to help out in the church. You don’t need to be an elder to help and any assistance is always appreciated. Some things we need help with are gardening out front, people for the Welcome Rota, people good with IT for admin and some odd jobs round the building. Feel free to get in touch if you can help. Remember the building is for us all, not just a few.

Until next time.

Tracey
What’s on in June

As well as the Jubilee Tea on Sunday 5th June (see advert overleaf) there are a few more interesting things coming up.

Sunday 5 June - Communion Sunday. Please remind friends who have not been in Church for a while that they are all welcome. Our Ukrainian friend Natallia plans to come back and worship with us and to wait on afterwards.

Friday 3 - Sunday 5 June “KESWICK IN AYRSHIRE” 2022 in the Park Hotel Kilmarnock: The Committee has been successful in attracting as the speaker, Alistair Begg, one of the finest preachers you could ever have the privilege of hearing. Bookings for each meeting must be made in advance via the "Eventbrite" system. In order to get in to the page, here is the link now: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/keswick-ayrshire-2022-tickets-169872694803

Saturday 18 June - Sponsored Walk in aid of Christian Aid. The three churches - Kay Park, Hurlford and St Kentigern’s - are joining together for a sponsored walk starting at Kay Park Parish Church at 10 am. All money raised will be going to this years Christian Aid Appeal.

You can walk 1 mile, 3 miles or the full 4.5 miles. For further information contact Tracey Hamilton. Sponsor forms are in the foyer.

Sunday 19 June - The Stated Annual Meeting of the church will follow the morning service. This is your opportunity to hear how the church is doing financially.

Sunday 19 June - At last we are able to host a congregational lunch for Rev. Anne. This will take place in the Hall following Morning Worship and the Stated Annual Meeting. Please mark this date in your diaries and plan to stay that day for lunch.

Sunday 19 June - Reachout at New Laigh Kirk. Reachout have been asked to play for the Intergenerational Meeting in the New Laigh Church Halls. We are looking forward to it.
**Ladies’ Evening**

Our previous Ladies’ Retreat had been held in September 2019 and after a long wait we were delighted to be able to meet once more on Sunday evening March 20th. This time the committee decided the event should be for our church ladies only. Some Covid restrictions were still in place and we wanted to ensure everyone was kept safe. In addition we felt we needed to come together as a church family to encourage each other after such a long challenging time when we weren’t free to be together in this way.

We were so pleased that 39 ladies attended and that Linda Watson agreed once more to be our speaker.

Our topic was Faithful One and we had a very special evening worshipping, learning, listening and taking time to be still with God and also sharing fellowship and supper with each other.

Several of the ladies were new to such an event and one of them, Davina Condron, has written about her experience:

“Thanks to all the ladies who welcomed me to the lovely evening, Faithful One, for the Ladies Retreat on March 20th. During prayer and worship the church had a feeling of calmness and belonging. I thoroughly enjoyed listening to Linda Watson, who gave everyone a meaningful message. Taking part in most of the interesting crafts was fun and uplifting. The gift of a filled and thoughtful “goody bag” was considerate and kind. Ending the evening with a lovely supper and closing thoughts, I felt the kindness and friendship of everyone who attended. Once again a big thank you to all the ladies who organised and worked so hard to make such a special evening possible. Love and God bless, Davina”.

The committee hopes to organise another similar event in the near future and we hope that even more ladies will be able to join us next time.

Clarinda, Sadie, Betty, Anne and Mhairi. (The Committee)
Youth Church

Youth Church had to meet on Zoom again in December and January for a few weeks until it was safe to meet in person around the middle of February. I was impressed at the faithfulness of our leaders and members joining these meetings when they could.

Since then we have met in person on Sunday evenings at Clarinda and Jim’s house, as that is the time when most are free. If sufficient numbers attend the morning service, Youth Church takes place then also.

Some of our meetings have included:

· Looking in depth at the Lord’s prayer over three weeks, led enthusiastically by Callum. Everyone had a better understanding of it by the end and re-wrote it in their own words.

· Joining other youth at Fullarton Connexions, Irvine, as they were hosting a meeting for the Moderator, Lord Jim Wallace and his wife. We enjoyed the lively praise, talk by the Moderator and cafe church afterwards, during which The Moderator took the time to speak to the young people and leaders on an informal basis.

· A really special Easter meeting with four of our leaders involved, each covering bible passages that took us through the events from Palm Sunday on to Holy week and the Crucifixion and finishing with the Resurrection. It was good to view in the course of one evening, the “Week that Changed the World”.

· “Conversations that changed you”, reflecting on important conversations we had all experienced and then looking at people who were changed when they talked to Jesus.

· “Respect”. Mhairi helped us think through what respect looks like in practice and what the bible has to say about it.

· Rules and why we need them/Grace and why it’s amazing. Ross and Clarinda discussed these and then the young people wrote their own “Ground Rules” for Youth Church.
· Carol Baird from Scripture Union is due to visit us to talk about camps and residential weekends and other activities SU has for young people.

Covid affected three of our leaders and some of the young people at different times but the healthy ones were still able to meet.

We only have a few weeks left before the end of term. It’s been a challenging year for our young folk with on-line teaching, alterations to their normal classes and restrictions at school. They have also experienced big changes in their lives: some have now left school, some sat major exams, two passed their driving tests, two turned 18, some are moving on to further education.

It is a joy to see them grow and develop. We are very thankful for their input to our church life in different ways. They have so much to give and they deserve and appreciate our church’s love, encouragement and support. We plan to have a Thanksgiving Evening on 19th June, reviewing the year and looking ahead to the future. We also hope to have a fun evening in the form of an Escape Room challenge on Friday 1st July and an outing in August.

I am very grateful for the good humoured, faithful and well-prepared input from our devoted leaders and for prayerful and practical support from Rev George, the Session and church members. We have much to thank God for.

Clarinda, Ross, Callum, Mhairi, Tracy and Lorna
High Five!

St Kentigern’s Parish Church
New Farm Loch, Kilmarnock
HIGH FIVE HOLIDAY CLUB!
Mon 8 – Fri 12 August 2022
10.30 – 12 noon
in Church Hall.
ending with the Summer Sunday All-Age Celebration in St Kentigern’s Church on
Sunday 14 August at 11 a.m.
Tear-off and return Section.....

“High Five” Scripture Union Holiday Club
all Primary School Children welcome!
Mon 8 – Fri 12 Aug 10.30–12 noon daily
in St Kentigern’s Church Halls Kilmarnock.
To register, please see details opposite

HIGH FIVE Registration Form
Please send/hand in this form by Sunday 3 July to
St Kentigern’s Church, 36 Dunbar Dr; Kilmarnock KA3 7PR or scan in and email to the Minister:
gkind@talktalk.net

Name of parent/guardian registering:

Address........................................................................................................
Tel. No. ........................................mobile no......................................

Names & Date of Birth of the child you are registering:
Name........................................Date of Birth....................
School.................................Class (as at Aug. 2022)............

Signed..................................................(Parent or Guardian)

Date submitted........................................
Platinum Jubilee Afternoon Tea in St Kentigern’s Church Halls Kilmarnock

Sunday 5th June following Morning Worship, from 12.30
Please phone Marion on 01563 522764 with names of those coming.
Admission free. Donations welcome.
What’s on through the week

**Golden Age Group** - the group meet on the 3rd Tuesday of the month, from 1 - 3 pm, for a time of entertainment, with the chance to have a blether with friends old and new over a cuppa afterwards. The next meeting will be on Tuesday 21 June.

**Community Cafe** - our cafe is open from 10 - 12 noon on Wednesday mornings. This is an opportunity for folks to come along to enjoy fellowship with friends old and new. There is also an opportunity to browse or library of books for sale. All we ask is a donation for the books and all money raised will go to our Romania Project.

**“Handy Crafters”** are on each Wednesday 7 - 9 pm in the Church Lounge. This is a recently established weekly activity for all who wish to enjoy developing their craft skills together. This is open to men as well as women, and to non-members as well as members of the Church. Any enquiries should be passed to Stacey Connell or Andrea Dunachie. Refreshments are provided.

**Girls Brigade** are on Thursday evenings from 6 - 7.45 pm, from September to April. Girls from Primary 1 to S6 are most welcome to join in the activities. Further information will be available in our next magazine regarding when they will start back again after the summer.

**All Age Messy Church** is from 5.45 - 8 pm on the last Friday of the month. A time for all the family of Fun, Faith and Food and to share in craft activities, songs, stories and a meal. We will be back after the summer break, so keep an eye out on our website and Facebook pages for further details.

The Outreach Committee hope to have news of new opportunities for the autumn winter period and more news will be available in future magazines.

**Our halls and lounge are available to hire. If you’d like to hire one of them for your activities, then please contact the Church Hub on 07526 490034 or email stkentigernnfl@outlook.com. Details of cost are on our web site at stkentigern.org.uk or on our Facebook page.**
What a difference it makes when Covid restrictions are lifted to enable us to have a more normal Messy Church!

We were delighted to welcome more families at our April Messy Church and the comments made were “this is Messy Church as we know it”. Marion and the Social Committee served us pizza and chips and then we had a game of pinning the man on to the donkey blindfolded. This was a time of great laughter.

Our theme was the story of the Good Samaritan and I illustrated this by telling a modern version of Stan the banana and his enemy Dan the orange who came to his aid after other bananas had passed him by. We then watched a video version of the story and enjoyed making various crafts….friendship bracelet, butterfly, Dr’s medical bag, Thinking of You card, Helping Hands and plaster like biscuits.

Our evening concluded with singing and then the Messy Church grace. We are truly thankful for the number who have volunteered to help with Messy Church.

Our short session will finish on Friday 27 May when we will be celebrating the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee and also telling the story of another Queen – Esther.

At the recent New Farm Community Council Gala Day, it was wonderful to be able to speak to so many young families telling them about Messy Church and inviting them along so we hope to make new friends with families within our community and elsewhere. We will have a break over the summer and plan to resume at the end of August. Please pray for families who come along as for many of them it’s the first time they are hearing that Jesus loves them.

MESSY CHURCH NEWSFLASH!

Here are some of the photos taken at our amazing Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Messy Church. Over 50 adults and children attended from our community and elsewhere and the comments made were “How great it was and what fun” “A great family night with everyone working together.”

All our crafts pertained to the celebration of our Queen and Tracey Hamilton shared the story of another Queen, Queen Esther and how God used her to save her people from treachery against the Jewish people.
The children each received a Jubilee Notebook, pencil and balloon and adults a Jubilee pencil and we all then went outside to gather round our own lit beacon and sang He’s got the whole world in His hands. What better way to finish off a great night than to sing about the love and care God has for each of us.

Irene
The Edinburgh Easter Play ‘Hope Rises’

In last month’s Outreach I reported that I hoped to attend the above Play and on Saturday 16 April Ian and I travelled through to Edinburgh to Princes Street Gardens West to see the powerful Easter story come to life.

The play portrayed a group of displaced people who were left with very little – apart from their history, their stories and the story of a man who changed their world – that man, of course, being Jesus.

There must have been approximately 500 people there and thankfully it was a lovely day. Luke Wroe was the actor portraying Jesus and what a powerful voice he had. We witnessed the calling of the Disciples, the healing of many people and participating in the feeding of the 5000. We all then moved to another area of the Gardens to the trial of Jesus and ultimate crucifixion and resurrection.

One moving scene was when Judas Iscariot’s mother questioned why her son could have done such a thing as to betray Jesus in such a way and for what? 30 pieces of silver. Quite honestly, I’ve never thought about Judas Iscariot’s family and what it meant to them. The scene moved on to when Mary, Jesus’ mother appears, puts her arms around Judas’ mother and shows true love and forgiveness.

People of all ages gathered in the Gardens, young and old, quite a number in wheelchairs, and again the powerful message of Jesus sacrifice for all of us was there to be witnessed.

Irene
Outreach Committee

Community Café

We had a visit the other week from Provost Barry Douglas and he was enthusiastic about how we are reaching out to our community in such a simple way of providing fellowship over tea/coffee, toast and a biscuit. Rev George was also able to be present that day and I don’t think he’ll mind me sharing this with you.

Apparently, the Provost had had a meeting with the First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon earlier that morning and he shared this with Rev George who quickly replied “Well I’m the second Minister you’ll have met today”.

The Café is a place of sharing fellowship with one another, enjoying meeting different people and being able to have a second cup of tea/coffee if so desired. Where else in town would you be able to do this!

As our new kitchen is due to be installed during July and August, we will have a break over the summer months but will be back in September. If you have never been why not take the opportunity to pop in on a Wednesday morning from 10 – 12 noon where a warm welcome awaits.

Sale of Books

Obviously, we have a lot of readers in Church considering the overwhelming number of books which were handed in plus all the jigsaws. We were a bit optimistic in putting up the gazebo considering the high winds and ultimately the gazebo collapsed, thankfully no one was injured.

We were able to hold the Book sale outside and many people from within the Church and some from the community came along to support us and purchase books. Tom Logan provided Strawberry plants for sale which were very popular and I know the ones we have are thriving. The grand total of £400 was raised for our partners in Romania, what a wonderful response!

We set out the Vestibule with tables and chairs and folks were able to share in fellowship over tea/coffee and a biscuit. All in all, it was a great morning and better still we were able to deliver 4 car loads of books to the Howard Centre for the Christian Aid Book Sale.
Foodbank

Each week we are so grateful for the many donations towards Foodbank as are the folks of St Matthew’s. We hear daily of the dire straits of so many people and as a congregation we are fulfilling what Jesus has asked us to do to help those in need.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support of Outreach Committee.

Ian (Convener)

Janey, Nancy, Margo, Lyn, Mhairi, Irene, Sandy, Tom, Callum (Members)

Barnabas Fund

In the latest barnabasaid magazine there is plenty to praise God for. Here are just two articles extracted from their magazine

Young Egyptian Christians receive the gift of God’s Word

Personal Bibles to more than 4,790 Christian 7th grade students (aged 12-13) in Egypt were given to help them develop a lasting love for God’s Word. Each hardback Bible included a reading plan as well as details of a free mobile phone app designed to motivate the students to check off the reading of the day and answer questions on the passage.

Christians are a minority in Egypt and often face hostility or discrimination from the Muslim majority, especially in rural areas. Abanoub, 19, cherishes the first Bible he received at the age of 12. “The most important Bible verse for me at this time are those words Jesus said “Don’t be afraid”. These words remind me that Jesus will take me also through difficult times”.

Christians in Cameroon

Christians living in the far north of Cameroon, a region beset by Boko Haram terrorist attacks, have been provided with a safe water supply on their doorstep. Previously people struggled to find drinking water in this mountainous area, often travelling miles and spending a whole day just to fill a 25 litre can of water.

“God is love, God is love, God is love!” Honorine exclaimed when she saw water shoot out of one of the bore-wells. “I feel happy”, added another resident, Beldena Jean. “I will never have to go far from home to supply myself with water.

Thanks be to God.

Ian
Admin within the church

Sandy will be standing down as Church Administrator at the end of June, having been doing the admin duties for the past 13/14 years. To this end we are intending to share these duties out but, Sandy has agreed to remain as the editor for the Outreach magazine.

Order of Service and Kilmarnock Standard contact - Tracey Grant has been compiling the OoS for some time now and has agree to continue along with sending the notices to the Standard.

Sunday morning slides and CCLI - Lewis has been doing the slides on a Sunday for some time now and has agreed to continue along with keeping the CCLI report up to date.

Hall Lets - This has been moved online for some time now, as agreed by Session,

Church website - We will need someone to keep this up to date and ensure that the daily prayers, notices, etc are added and removed in a timeous manner.

Social Media - Again this is something that requires to been updated regularly. The various Facebook pages we use all have separate administrators/Editors who should be able to keep things updated. We also have Twitter and Instagram accounts that would require updating from time to time.

Now that Covid restrictions have been relaxed the church laptop will be set up within the vestry to replace the old desktop computer, which has served us well for over ten years now.

If you would be interested in any of these positions, then please contact Sandy for further information. Training will be given in all aspects of the admin work.
PHONE IN SERVICE

PHONE IN SERVICE – DIAL NUMBER 444269

(or 01563 444269 or +44 1563444269 from abroad)

Folks will also be able to listen to the service from around 2 pm onwards on the Sunday. For the recorded service, press 1 to listen to it, as before. There is no delay before hearing the recording, unlike the last company where a wait of 30 seconds was the norm.

As before, the cost is that of a local call and, depending on your phone contract, may be free.

Give it a try!

Jim McHardy My tel. no. is 01563 527786 or 079 299 12150

Welcome and Count Duties

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If you have a computer/tablet/smart phone or even a smart TV, you can access our streamed service on a Sunday at 11 am on either our website www.stkentigern.org.uk under ‘Live Streaming’ or on our YouTube channel, just look for St Kentigern’s Church.