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FOCUS



Cardross Parish Church & community magazine

June 2025



Dear friends - "Firsts and lasts"

As I write this letter my heart is conflicted because I am preparing to take my leave of you as minister and friend. My retirement date is officially 31st July, but my last service will be the 20th of July. That will be a very emotional day.

There will be several "lasts" as that time approaches. My first "last" was the Guild AGM in April when the realisation hit home that I would not be in Cardross to mark Guild Week in September or attend the first meeting of the new Guild session. My time with the Guild has been a lot of fun. The depth of fellowship and quality of speakers has been wonderful, and I shall miss it very much. I am so grateful to all who serve the

Lord in this way and who remind us, in the words of the Guild Motto, of "Whose we are and whom we serve." My sincere thanks to the Guild for the Afternoon Tea Voucher which I look forward to enjoying in my retirement.

This edition of FOCUS is issued in time for my second "last" – Communion on June 1st. I cannot tell you what a privilege it has been to celebrate the sacrament with you over these past ten years. There is something special about sharing the bread and the wine and knowing the presence of God among us. Each time I have issued the words of peace to you *I have held you dear*.

.....Continued on page 3



Guild celebrates 90th Anniversary

We've had a busy and a successful start to Cardross Guild's 90th year, beginning with a evening at the Quiz Night for Guild Week, last September. I think my greatest pleasure was that we welcomed folks from groups with no formal church connection who all enjoyed a fun evening. We raised the sum of £215 which will be donated to 'Bibles for Bairns.'

In September we welcomed Catriona MacAulay who has been a puppy walker for Guide Dogs for the Blind for many years. October brought Helen Guyan who spoke enthusiastically about the work of the Pandita Mukti Mission in Pakistan.

The St Andrew's Night in November was a fun evening with the entertainment provided by Kenneth Blackburn, our wonderful organist. His music was match by his sartorial elegance as always. We were delighted to welcome friends from guilds in Helensburgh, Dumbarton Lomond and Luss.

Our December meeting was a fun afternoon, with carols, mince pies and Secret Santa. The January meeting brought the Minister who gave a thought provoking and inspirational talk on the theme, Sure Foundations. Sadly in January we lost one of our longest serving and faithful members with the death of our friend Pam Goldie. Pam loved the Guild and her lovely smile cheered up many a dull day.

On Sunday 26th of January we enjoyed a very special celebration for our 90th anniversary when the Right Rev. Dr Shaw Paterson, the Moderator of the General Assembly led worship and along with Christina Paterson, the National Convener of the Guild and the National Secretary, joined the congregation for lunch**

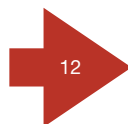
In February John Nonhabel from The Prison Fellowship, gave us much to think about as he asked us to think about the effects of prison on not just those incarcerated but also on their families.

At our March meeting we heard about the work of CrossReach the social care arm of the Church of Scotland. CrossReach does amazing work across the country, offering help and support to young mothers coping with post-natal depression, support to those suffering from alcohol and drug addiction, and caring for those in their older years suffering from dementia.

As fund raisers go I think we can count the Fiddlers Concert as a very successful evening. Again an occasion that brought folks from outwith the village. The magnificent sum of £1000 was raised which allowed us to pay our dues to the church and our annual commitment to Erskine and Dr Graham's Homes in Kalimpong

As I said this has been a very special and happy year but now it is time to say a very sad goodbye. Maggie is retiring and we have to be brave and unselfish and wish her well. On the day Maggie first preached as Minister of Cardross Parish Church she said 'I understand that I am here as a 70 per cent minister but I am not a 70 per cent person' and my goodness she has proved that over and over again in the past 10 years. Her support for this congregation and the wider community of Cardross has been quite amazing. We know her support for the Guild has been unstinting, she even took on the Convener's role for a year.

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Continued from front page...

And so, it will go on until I leave. There will be my last school service, my last Messy Church, my last Holiday Club, my last Home Communion, my last wedding, my last funeral, my last visit to the HUB, my last Kirk Session and so much more. For me these "lasts" mark the beginning of the end of my time in Cardross but for you they mark the end of the beginning when you can look forward to a new minister coming and a new time of hope for the future.

By the time you read this Presbytery will have appointed an Interim Moderator to work with the Kirk Session in preparation for the vacancy. The Presbytery Plan states that Cardross is a 70% ministry and there is no reason why this should not continue. We have all worked so hard over these past ten years and have had many challenges such as COVID to contend with.

The Mission of the Church has continued to reach many across the generations both locally and beyond. Your faithfulness and dedication have brought stability to the Charge and enabled Presbytery to see the potential in keeping a church presence in this amazing village where so much is happening because of wonderful people working in the various community groups.

At the recent Local Church Review (the old Quinquennial review process) the Presbytery representatives were very impressed with all that Cardross does as a congregation. I feel I am leaving you in good heart and a sound financial situation.

I commend you all for your hard work and pray that the Lord will grant you peace of heart and strength of spirit as you continue to serve him.

After I leave there will be a Locum appointed to lead worship and attend to pastoral needs until a new minister is chosen. And then, there will be many "firsts" for that person and all of you.

You will always have a very special place in my heart, and I shall remember you with real gratitude and love. I have had the privilege of being your pastor in times of joys and sorrows. I have been humbled and touched over these years by the way you have welcomed me into your homes and lives. There has been the joy of welcoming new people to our congregation and also children through baptism. There has been the sorrow of saying goodbye to dear friends who have been called home to their Heavenly Father.

Both Neil and I have considered you as family and it will be hard to part as it is for anyone to leave family behind. But we are heartened in knowing that together we all continue to place our trust in the Risen Jesus who says, *"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End."* (Revelation 22:13)

Perhaps then, "firsts" and "lasts" should not matter in light of Christ's everlasting love.

But for now, dear friends, my "last" signing off for FOCUS, as I have always done is one in which I send you God's richest blessings.

Maggie

The Moderator, the Right Rev. Dr Shaw Peterson was guest of honour at the Guild 90th Anniversary service back in January.





Enjoy all elements of our
lucky wee part of the world!



Eat



Shop



Play



Enjoy

*Thank you as always for all your support
The Monty's & Brilliant Team*

Record roll for Easter Eggs



Helensburgh and Dumbarton. This was an incredible achievement especially so as the raw price of chocolate has soared leading to an increase of a £1 per egg to £5.50.

So a sincere thank you your support is greatly appreciated.

Rebecca MacLachlan

Easter morning was a chillier one than the last couple of years but there was a warm welcome for all who attended the early morning service in the Easter Garden. As well as worship there was Easter egg decorating for the younger members of the congregation who came along with the eggs being, once again, provided by Jenny McIntyre's brood of hens.

Of course as well as chicken eggs there were plenty of the chocolate variety available too. And after the service we enjoyed croissants, hot cross buns, coffee and tea in the warmth of the church hall.

Thanks to the tremendous generosity of members of our congregation we were able to donate 102 'Real Easter Eggs' from the Meaningful Chocolate Company, and other Easter treats, to the Food Banks in



SUMMER HOLIDAY CLUB 2025



This years Summer Holiday Club will be based around the new animated film 'The King of Kings.' It features the voice talents of a stellar cast including: Kenneth Branagh, Uma Thurman, Pierce Brosnan, Mark Hamill and Ben Kingsley.

The film is based on a book written by Charles Dickens for his children telling them of the life of Jesus. In it the famous author tells his son the greatest story ever told, and what begins as a bedtime tale becomes a life-changing journey. Through vivid imagination, the boy walks alongside Jesus, witnessing His miracles, facing His trials, and understanding His ultimate sacrifice. The King of Kings invites us to rediscover the enduring power of hope, love, and redemption through the eyes of a child.

The film is an action packed adventure story filled with humour, pathos and ultimately hope. We will be watching the film each day and doing crafts and activities based on what we have seen.

The Holiday Club runs from: Monday 7th - Friday 11th July 10am- 12noon each day. There will be a **special family service** for all who attended on **Sunday 13th** (the second last Sunday before Maggie leaves) and it would be be great if you come and show your support and thanks for all she has done for the children of the village over the years.
For further information contact Judy on: 07884 496257



MAGGIE'S TEN YEARS - PART ONE



It's hard to believe that it's 10 years this September since Maggie was inducted as our Minister. Most of us are still in denial that she will be retiring at the end of July. But rather than dwell on how sad we all are that she is going we have decided to celebrate the wonderful times we have shared since Maggie came into our lives back in 2015. Over the next 3 pages, and in the September edition of FOCUS, we will be showing some of the pictorial highlights of Maggie's time as the Minister of Cardross Parish Church - starting with (on the front cover) Sunday 16th August 2015 when Maggie was elected and appointed minister of Cardross Parish Church. The picture above is from the party after her induction service in September, with Rev Gregor McIntyre, Judy, Peter & Audrey.

As we welcomed Maggie we had said goodbye to our locum minister, Rev David Munro, who had looked after us so well in the years we were waiting to call a new minister. Seen here with Maggie at the Senior Citizens Christmas lunch in 2015. (Cont....)





SNAPSHOTS OF MAGGIE'S



TEN YEARS AT CARDROSS



From Messy Church to walking for Christian Aid, celebrating Father Dominic's retirement, presenting a long service award to Sandra McLatchie, supporting Ukraine, marking the playgroup moving up to the school to Maggie & Neil's Ruby Wedding.



CONTRAFLOW NEWS



Pancake Family Event

Families attended a well-organised and enjoyable evening at the Baptist church. Cammy Swinton and Anne Cook's presentations explained the significance of Lent and invited families to make individual responses. Everyone looks forward to this being an annual event for families in the Contraflow calendar. Our autumn events will include a Back to School Service, Prayer Night, and Light Party.

Easter Code workshops for P7s. This event consisted of seven sessions, each carefully crafted to engage students in creative and educational activities centred around the theme of Easter. The Easter Code sessions were well-received by both students and teachers. Pupils learned about the central message of the bible. They learned about Jesus through an overview of his life, there were stations at Easter Code where the pupils

learned about the week leading up to Jesus' death and resurrection. One of the best moments for Cammy was when a pupil said, "I never realised Jesus rose from the dead". The work Contraflow does in schools to share the message of the Gospel in a fun, educational and interactive way is getting better each year.

Coffee Morning

Thanks to the amazing soup and baking providers, to Jane Worsfold for organising the craft stalls and the Volunteer team who did a great job on the day. The event raised over £650, which will go towards running our holiday club, Seaside Special 7-11 July. Our next coffee morning is November 29th.

For more information about Contraflow email: Contraflowyouth@gmail.com

Picture below shows Cammy Swinton talking to P7 pupils from Cardross Primary School



THANK YOU FOR THE MUSIC KENNETH!



We said (and sung) ***'Thank you for the music'*** as our organist and choir master, Kenneth Blackburn, played for us for the last time at the end of April. At the end of his final service the congregation serenaded him with the ABBA's classic to say goodbye.

Kenneth had been organist at Maggie's previous church, Fernhill and Cathkin on the South side of Glasgow. He joined us after the Covid lockdown restrictions

were lifted and we were allowed back into church for worship and sing.

Known for his sartorial dress sense, love of musical theatre, Disney classics and the Eurovision Song Contest, Kenneth has brightened many a Sunday with his skills and extensive music repertoire. He will be much missed.

We hope to announce a replacement for Kenneth soon but in the meantime we are indebted to Moira Craven for filling in each Sunday so wonderfully.



MODERATOR AT THE GUILD 90TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY



Continued from page 2...

I have many folk to thank who have made my job as convener such a pleasure this year all our speakers who have made us laugh, made us cry and have certainly made us think. I would also like to express my thanks to the ladies of the committee, Christine, Davina, Elsa, Helen, Janette, Jill, and Margaret. On a personal level these ladies have been an enormous support to me and I

certainly could not have done the Convener's job without them.

I close by wishing everyone a very happy summer and look forward to welcoming members old and new when we re-open in September.

Maureen Walker
Guild Convener

Christian Aid is a global movement of people, churches and local organisations who stand together with our most marginalised global neighbours of all faiths and none.

As the war came to an end in 1945 Christian Aid was established in the first instance to help refugees. This year, they celebrate 80 years of providing humanitarian relief and long term developmental support for poor communities world wide while highlighting suffering, tackling injustice and championing people's rights.

Here in Cardross the church and Christian Aid for many years and in emergency appeals such as the the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine your generosity to all these appeals.



wider community have supported many ways and responded to recent Earthquake in Myanmar and and The Middle East. Our thanks for

Later in the year, to mark the 80th anniversary, we plan to plant a Tree of Hope. Trees are beautiful and are representative of hope for the future, a hope which is much needed in our world today.

Rebecca MacLachlan
Christian Aid co-ordinator

Congregational Register

DEATHS

Dec 5th Mr Pat Treble, St Leonard's, Lochranza, Arran
 Dec 17th Baby Nova Khan-Smith, Shuna Terrace, Oban
 Jan 12th Mrs Pam Goldie, 35 Bainfield Road, Cardross
 Jan 18th Mrs May Cormack, Netherton Avenue, Anniesland
 Jan 15th Mr Iaian McCulloch, Northcourt, Stafford Street, Helensburgh
 Jan 21st Mr Jamie Crawford, 18 Loch drive, Helensburgh
 Feb 17th Mrs Lorna McKillop, Hermitage Care Home, Helensburgh
 Feb 25th Mrs Joyce Bruserud, Waverly Court, Helensburgh
 Mar 7th Mrs Sylvia MacFadyen, 16 Riverview Crescent, Cardross
 Mar 12th Mrs Marion McCormick, 36 Kirkton Road, Cardross
 Mar 13th Mr Bruce Hyde, Tavool House, Burgh, Isle of Mull
 Mar 22nd Mr Tom Rosenburgh, 31 Barrs Road, Cardross
 Apr 5th Mr William Ritchie, 38 Lawrence Avenue, Helensburgh
 Apr 9th Miss Marion Hunt, 1 Mossbank, North Connel
 Apr 19th Mr James Evans, 112 Highmains Avenue, Dumbarton

James Auld
 Funeral Directors

The Millig Funeral Home, 137 East Clyde Street, Helensburgh G84 7AA
 Phone: 01436 677768 Fax: 01436 677726

Little Aiden Cottage, Barbour Road, Kilcreggan, Helensburgh G84 0LA
 Phone: 01436 842884 Email: jim@jamesauldfunerals.co.uk

Each arrangement is tailor made to every family's
 requirement. Funeral planning forms part of our services
 with funeral plans in association with

Golden Charter 

For advice and assistance contact:

Jim Auld 01436 677768

jim@jamesauldfunerals.co.uk

James Auld Funeral Directors providing caring and
 dignified funeral arrangements to the local community.

Community Noticeboard

FRIENDS OF GEILSTON

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Our AGM took place on 26th March. We welcomed Susan Schnadhorst onto the committee and bid farewell to Lesley Quirk. The AGM report and verified business accounts are now available on our [website](#).

Workshops and Events promoted by the Friends

A full programme of Friends of Geilston (FoG) events and workshops is to be found in the [events section of our website](#). You can book your place and find full details of each event, including workshop fees. Normal NTS garden entry fees apply to all events. Please note: NTS-run events at Geilston are not listed in this email but are detailed on our website.

Upcoming Workshops:

- **Foraging Walk** – Saturday 24th May, led by herbologist Nicky Brownrigg
- **Art Workshop (Improvers)** – Thursday 5th June with tutor Carol Moore
- **Sound Bath** – Saturday 21st & Sunday 22nd June, with Reflection Holistics
- **Photography Workshop** – Monday 14th July, led by Kath Polly
- **Art Workshop (Beginners)** – Thursday 14th August with tutor Julia Gurney
- **Family Art Workshop** – Sunday 31st August, with Charlotte Anker
- **History of Geilston Garden Stroll** – Wednesday 10th & Sunday 21st September

Sundays in the Garden

Our first “Sunday in the Garden” took place earlier this month (see photo above of Tartan Harmony with their captivated audience). Join us for upcoming dates:

- Sunday 6th July – Featuring the Peninsula Choir
- Sunday 7th September – Featuring the Helensburgh Oratorio Choir

Sundays in the Garden run from noon to around 4 pm, depending on the availability of tea and homemade cake! Choirs start their performance around 2pm.

Large Events

Mark your calendars:

- **Craft Fair** – Sunday 3rd August
- **Autumn Event** – Sunday 5th October

CARDROSS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Fly tippers have been dumping rubbish on the Red Road spoiling out beautiful countryside and causing environmental damage. Should you witness this please pass on any details (number plates etc) to Patrick Trust on: **07836 781713**.

The Community Council meets on 3rd Monday of each month. Our next meeting will be **16th June** and starts at 8pm in the Geilston Hall. The agenda for these meetings can be viewed on Post Office noticeboard behind letter box and also here: www.cardrossparishchurch.org/blogs/news_community_council

CARDROSS RAINBOWS & BROWNIES

We welcome all girls aged 5 to 7 and meet once a week at the Geilston hall. **For more information contact: Sarah on 07545 250 291**

All girls aged 7 to 10 can be brownies and meet every week Tuesday at Geilston hall. **For more information contact: Rona on 07450 283 053**

CARDROSS CUBS & SCOUTS: Find us on facebook or instagram @1stcardrossscoutgroup

Congregational Diary

SERVICE DATES FROM MAY 18TH UNTIL SEPTEMBER 7TH 2025

MAY

Sunday 18 th	11.00am	Morning Worship	<i>Assembly Sunday</i>
Sunday 25 th	11.00am	Morning Worship	

JUNE

Sunday 1 st	11.00am	Morning Worship	<i>Holy Communion</i>
Sunday 8 th	11.00am	Morning Worship	<i>Pentecost</i>
Sunday 15 th	11.00am	Morning Worship	
Sunday 22 nd	11.00am	Morning Worship	
Sunday 29 th	11.00am	Morning Worship	

JULY

Sunday 6 th	10.30am	Morning Worship	
Monday 7 th to Friday 11 th	Summer Holiday Club	<i>10am till 12noon each day</i>	
Sunday 13 th	10.30am	Morning Worship	<i>Holiday Club Service</i>
Sunday 20 th	10.30am	Morning Worship	<i>Minister's Final Service</i>
Sunday 27 th	10.30am	Morning Worship	

AUGUST

Sunday 3 rd	10.30am	Morning Worship	
Sunday 10 th	10.30am	Morning Worship	
Sunday 17 th	10.30am	Morning Worship	
Sunday 24 th	10.30am	Morning Worship	

SEPTEMBER

Sunday 7 th	11.00am	Morning Worship	<i>Resume 11am worship</i>
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How the HUB changes lives



In January this year the Hub donated £400 to a Pakistani minister who builds water pumps and toilets for remote villages in the desert in Pakistan. Sohail is a minister in the Church of Pakistan who because of family illness has had to relocate to Europe. He now lives in Holland but visits Pakistan as often as he is able. In February he went back to Pakistan with our money and another £400 raised in Holland. There he oversaw the work in two villages to build a water pump and toilet for women in each village. Our village was Abisia, Tehsil Lquat Pur, in Rahim Yar Khan which is near the Thar Desert in the south of Pakistan. The people living there have no source of clean water or toilets so go out into the desert when they need to use the toilet. Having easily accessible clean water and a toilet within the village has changed their lives.

The Hub would like to thank everyone who supports us in any way because without you we would not be able support Sohail's work in Pakistan.

CONTACT: MINISTER

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