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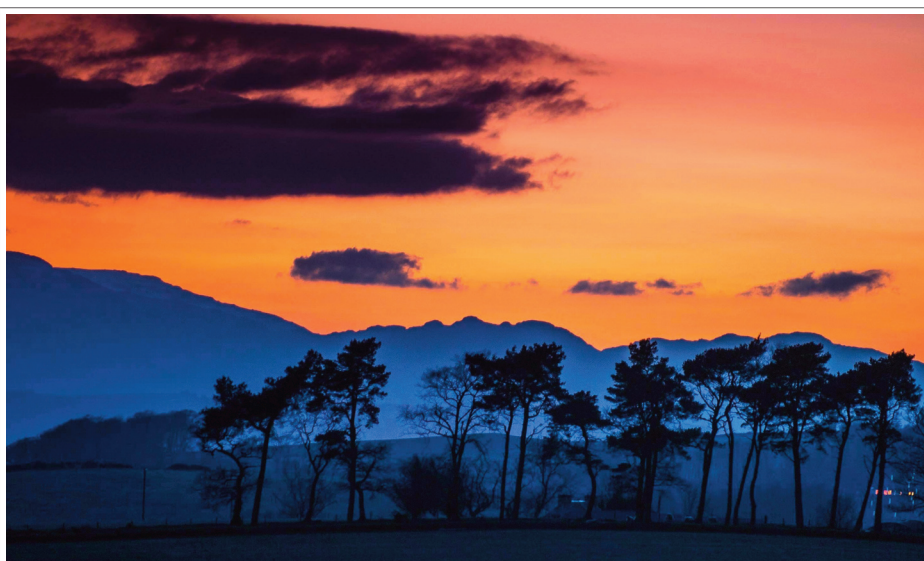


FOCUS



Cardross Parish Church magazine

February 2023



Dear Friends,

The day I committed these words to print I awoke to the most amazing sunrise. The sky was ablaze above the rooftop of the house opposite and above the beautiful reddish hue there was a crescent moon still resplendent as night gave way to a new day. Seeing this I was reminded of the Psalmist who spoke of the ever-present power of God's love regardless of whatever night or day we face in life.

*I lift up my eyes to the mountains—
where does my help come from?*

*My help comes from the Lord,
the Maker of heaven and earth.*

*The Lord watches over you—
the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
the sun will not harm you by day,
nor the moon by night. (Ps 121)*

We are now well into a new year and I am proud of everyone who worked so hard during 2022 which was a very busy year for our congregation with all our celebrations surrounding the 150th anniversary of the church building. We rounded off the celebrations with Philip Craven playing the Millennium Peal on the bells followed by a "Church Birthday" party for the children.

Maggie's view continues on page 3.....

Finance and fund raising

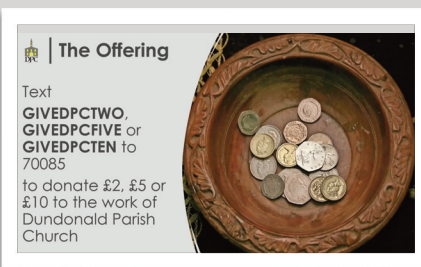
At the recent meeting of the Kirk Session, I was able to report that the Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2022 once again finished on the right side.

This is due in no small measure to the continuing grants from Miss Hendry's and Miss Bell's Trusts, to those who pay for the use of our halls, those who supported our Platinum Jubilee Afternoon Tea and the resurrected Christmas Fair (see P7) but above all, those who give regularly to the Church through the weekly plate, the Freewill Offering Scheme and huge donations direct through the bank. All of these income streams ensured that, once again, we broke even, allowing us to proceed with our refurbishment of the Church office to offer a space for young people that replaces the "Dunny" below the hall stage.

We are delighted with the continued support for the live streaming of the Sunday services and will shortly be introducing an option for those watching at home to participate in the weekly offering through a text giving scheme

which allows viewers to donate £2, £5 or £10 directly to the Church's bank account through their mobile phones (see example illustration below) Watch out for this new feature during the online services.

C Noel Glen
Treasurer



Example of how a church in Ayrshire have enabled those watching online to give their offering via their mobile phones. Rather similar to donating to Children in Need etc you text two, five or ten to donate that amount.

Our Christian Aid ladies are the top fund raisers

Christian Aid Week 2022

Christian Aid Week fundraisers shine

15-21 May 2022

It was a joy to see you celebrating Christian Aid Week this year. Across the country, you baked up a storm, served brekkies, sold plants and crafts, counted your 300,000 steps and collected vital funds. Here, we take a look at your inspiring fundraising.



Argyll and Bute: A group of walkers from Cardross Parish Church had fun enjoying the local scenery and completed their 300,000 steps challenge. They topped the JustGiving leaderboard with donations raising more than £3,000.

Cardiff: Nine-year-old Fin French challenged himself to climb the height of Mount Everest by walking up and down Ben Llyn - a high Welsh hill - over 10 times.



Our amazing group of lady walkers who undertook the Christian Aid 300,000 step challenge last summer have feature in the charity's magazine.

The ladies raised more than £3,000 which put them at the top of the national Just Giving leaderboard.

So once again many congratulations to our ladies for all their efforts and for showing others that Cardross Parish Church punches above it's weight when we all pull together.



(Cont...) May I take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributed to the success of all the various events and activities.

But it was also a year in which we faced sadness. We said goodbye to dear friends and mourned with their loved ones. We also mourned the death of HM the Queen especially since her passing came so soon after her Platinum Jubilee. We were able to hold a service of thanksgiving for her in the church and contribute to the Book of Condolence provided by the Council.

It certainly was a year of mixed emotions but even in the dark night of the soul God's light shines to guide our steps.

As a congregation you have been faithful to your calling as people of Christ and generous in your love to others. During the busy period of Advent, Cardross Parish Church must be commended for reaching out with the confines of the congregation:

- We donated 36 Advent Calendars from the Real Chocolate Company which included the Christmas Story Book along with 48 Chocolate Angels to the local Foodbanks.
- On Advent Sunday we were able to make a contribution to Guislaine and Ricky Kennedy's charitable work with the Homeless in Dumbarton as a thank you for leading us in a time of musical worship at our Café Church. It was a wonderful evening. The alternative Christingles went down a treat - thank you Peter!
- On December 4th at our Gift Service we donated an enormous amount of presents for the children of the area and our thanks go to the Social Work Department for distributing them to families in need.

- On December 11th we sent about 100 blessings bags of essential items over to The Kindness Homeless Street Team in Glasgow who distributed them on our behalf and the ladies of our knitting club for the wonderful woolly hats the donated.
- And on Christmas Eve it was brilliant to have nearly 30 children in our midst and to send the proceeds of the collection to the Lodging House Mission in Glasgow to the amount of £250.

In all of the above you have shown sacrificial love and enabled others to know that they matter to God. And that was just the month of December! This is our mission. Let us pray for strength to continue in it as 2023 unfolds.

Looking ahead, we hope to bring the community together again in various ways. The new Village Hub is up and running and doing well. It's a great place to be.

On Saturday 18th March we will gather to bury the Time Capsule. Let's hope it's an enjoyable day as it was last year when we unearthed it and all ages can have a time of fellowship and fun.

In April we will welcome the Hope Alive Tour. This is a group of people who run for fun and raise money for charity. They have done so in several places in the UK as well as abroad. They have chosen to support Dr Graham's Homes in Kalimpong this year and because of our connection with the Homes the run will start from Cardross and finish in Edinburgh.

In May we shall celebrate the Coronation of King Charles by holding a Coronation Fair on Saturday 13th.

So, as you can see there will be a lot to keep us busy and focussed but let us never lose sight of whose we are and whom we serve.

Love and blessings to all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Maggie



There's lots going on at Ardardan

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& Indoor &
Outdoor
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Monty's!

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Monty's
FARM DADS



HUB is a community success



The new community venture The HUB , which is based in the church halls, has been a huge success and welcome addition to life in the village since it opened at the end of last year.

The HUB, which runs 10am till 2pm on a Monday and Wednesday every week, provides a warm space with an excellent selection of fresh homemade soups, sandwiches, cakes, barista style coffee and tea - all at affordable prices.

The HUB is also busy helping charities: In October £160 has been sent to **1toanother Pakistan**, which is working with flood relief. In November the **food bank in Helensburgh** was sent £100 worth of food.

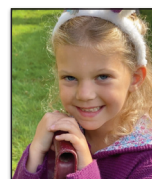
This January the HUB are collecting for the **Scot Baby Box Appeal for Ukraine** and have already sent some money as they have an urgent appeal for nappies.

Organiser Liz McKee said 'We are delighted with the response from the community. It's lovely to see so many people coming along each week to enjoy the company and food on offer.' "I am grateful to the folk who have volunteered to help prepare and serve the food and we would be delighted if there were a few more kind souls who would be prepared to join the team on a rota basis." **If you are able to help in any way please contact Liz McKee 842142 or Rev Maggie 849329.**

A prayer by Cecily Stalin

Thank you God for my family who love me; my friends who play with me; Maggie and the church who teach and guide me; for Summer, Autumn, Winter and Spring and the beautiful changes that they bring

Pray for poor people with no food or shelter; people who are lonely; for those that are sick or injured. Thank you God for giving us this beautiful world and caring for and loving us. Amen.





GUILD NEWS

It is hard to believe that we are already halfway through the Guild Year. At our opening meeting we welcomed Margaret Thomas who enlightened us on the intricacies of Bousie embroidery

In October we had a most interesting afternoon led by two members of 'Good News' formerly The Gideons. I am sure we can all remember finding a Gideon Bible in a drawer in a hotel room. November brought Ghislaine Kennedy who provided a very special evening for our St Andrew's Night. We welcomed two of the Leadership Team of Guilds Together and members of several surrounding Guilds. It was wonderful to share food and worship with friends.

Our December Meeting was an afternoon of fun with a quiz - who knew that 800million mince pies are eaten in the UK every year - singing our favourite carols and finishing with adding to the mince pie total and a Secret Santa.

At our meeting on 19th January we will welcome the Minister as our speaker and on 16th February Liz McKee will speak to us about her time in Pakistan. 23rd March brings a Speaker from the Guild Project 'Home for Good' which we are supporting this year.

Our Coffee Morning is in the diary for Saturday 25th March. This is our only fundraiser to allow us to make our contributions to the Church, the Project, Dr Graham's Homes in Kalimpong and Erskine so we would ask for your support that morning. Our year ends in April with the AGM and afternoon tea.

Cardross Parish Church Guild offers a warm welcome to all so why not come along one afternoon at 2.30pm and enjoy good company, and of course being the Guild, you can be sure of an excellent cup of tea.

Maureen Walker

A BIG THANK YOU TO TOM.

At the beginning of December Tom Darroch stepped down as the convenor of the Property Committee of Cardross Parish Church. Tom has spent the last 5 years working hard to keep the fabric of the church, halls and manse in good order as well as attending to all the things that needed attention on a regular basis. He has given countless hours of his time and has had many a headache when things were challenging but he carried out his duties willingly and with good grace. He always responded to pleas for help and no doubt the phone rang a great deal in the Darroch household.

I am sure you would like to join me in thanking Tom for all he has done over the Our thanks must go also to Lynda for years. her

patience when Tom was called out to deal with emergencies.

As we do so we also welcome Tom's replacement or should I say replacements! Husband and wife team Gordon and Pam Stevenson have kindly agreed to take over this demanding role and jointly attend to property matters from now on. We are grateful to them both and wish them every



Tribute to Jeannette Scobie

It was with deep sadness that we learned of Jeannette's death. Her passing seemed to bring about the end of an era.

Jeannette was a very gifted person and excelled at school and in her career as a teacher. She married Andrew in 1962 and in 1965 they moved to Cardross where Andrew was the Minister for 45 years. During their time among us they would have seen many changes. Being a mother of two she knew the benefit of a playgroup in the village and was instrumental in setting it up. Many people still remember with fondness their early years at the playgroup.

Jeannette loved music and art both of which played a big part in her life. She was a valued member of the Lomond and Argyll Arts Society and was one of the Church Recorders. Her

home was beautified with many works of art which gave her much pleasure. Within the church itself we see many reminders of her desire to display the skill of others. This is evident in the stained glass windows dedicated to Andrew and made by Susan Bradbury, the silk embroideries by Hannah Frew Paterson, the John Creed Communion ware and Alms Plate, and the silk hangings to name but a few.

We give thanks for her presence among us as a friend and fellow church member.

We remember a woman of faith, beauty and talent and commend her to God whom she served all her life. Our prayers are with James, Rosie, Andrew, Bethany and Craig in their time of loss.



Maggie



Jeannette with her family at the dedication of the Rev Andrew Scobie windows in 2012

A look back at Christmas



It's always the same, after weeks and weeks of preparation and anticipation 'Christmas' passes in a flash!

Of course as Christians it shouldn't be like that. We recognise as we celebrate the birth of this special child that Jesus is not just for Christmas but is the gift we cherish and worship all year, and indeed all our life, long.

However after all the rush it's nice to look back at the events we held over the festive period and remember the fun and excitement we all had.

It was wonderful to have the church full with the pupils and families of Cardross Primary School for their Christmas service on the 20th of December - this was the first school service in the church since the pandemic struck in 2020. So it was wonderful to hear all those children singing so joyfully in the church. At our

Christmas Eve service many of those children and their families returned and we were treated to a repeat performance of the children singing 'The Calypso Carol' - it was magical and I would urge you to go on to our YouTube channel and watch the play back if you haven't seen it already.

Another returning event returning after the pandemic was our Christmas Fair which was held at the end of November and it was a great success. We raised over £1200.00 which is a great help for the church funds.

Likewise our Messy Church families were able to celebrate Christmas with a joint party for local children to mark the end of our 150th Anniversary celebrations. All who attended enjoyed an evening of fun and games followed by a pizza meal, hot chocolate (a bit favourite!)(cont P9)

A look back at Christmas



Pictures show:

Far left:
Many of the primary school children who sang the Calypso Carol at the Christmas Eve service.

Left:
Some of the Messy Church children at the Christmas Party held to mark the end of our 150th Anniversary year.

Below:
Our Christmas Fair was a huge success and the ladies on the homemaking stall run off their feet selling cakes and baked goods.



Bottom:
Many of the toys and games donated at our Christmas Gift Service. These were distributed to less fortunate families.

(...cont) and they left happy, full of food and clutching a selection box under their arms. And of course they were all full of Christmas Spirit!

That same Christmas Spirit was also very much evident at our *Christmas Cafe Church* where our worship was led by Ghislaine and Ricky Kennedy. Alongside beautiful songs, the Christmas Story was told with a modern twist, with attendees



recruited into roles in the story.

Finally our Christmas Gift Service was inundated with toys and games which were distributed to families in the area who could do with a little help.

Thanks to your kindness these families will hopefully have known a little more joy this Christmas.

FLOWER ROTA 2023

January

- 01 Christmas Tree
- 08 Mrs J Wilson, Riverview
- 15 Mrs S McLatchie
- 22 Miss N Gray
- 29 Mrs S Auty

February

- 05 Mrs P Fitzpatrick
- 12 Mrs E McKee
- 19 Mrs P Stevenson
- 26 Mr A Walker

March

- 05 Mrs A Lee
- 12 Mrs R MacLachlan
- 19 Mrs J Wilson, Riverview
- 26 Mr M Timmer

April

- 02 Mrs A Gallacher
- 09 Mrs J Fisher
- 16 Mrs K Young
- 23 Mrs I Muir
- 30 Mr P Foster

May

- 07 Mrs C Fleming
- 14 TBA
- 21 Mrs M Craven
- 28 Mrs J Dean

June

- 04 Mrs M MacNeill
- 11 Mrs L McKee
- 18 Mrs J Wilson, Riverview
- 25 Mrs R Wilson, Auchensail

July

- 02 Miss K Ferguson
- 09 Mrs J McKillop
- 16 Mrs D Colquhoun
- 23 K Dubojski
- 30 Mr J Young

August

- 06 Mrs R MacLachlan
- 13 Mrs S Kinloch, Walton
- 20 Miss S McGown
- 27 Mrs M MacNeil

September

- 03 Mrs J McNeil
- 10 Guild
- 17 Harvest Thanksgiving
- 24 Miss S McGown

October

- 01 Mrs P Goldie
- 08 Mrs R Wilson (The Manse)
- 15 Mrs H McCulloch
- 22 Mrs M Glen
- 29 Mr H Hosie

November

- 05 Mrs A Wood
- 12 Remembrance Sunday
- 19 Mrs J Goodings
- 26 Mrs J Wilson, Lea Farm

December

- 03 Mrs L Darroch
- 10 Mrs E Cormack
- 17 TBA
- 24 Christmas Tree
- 31 Christmas Tree

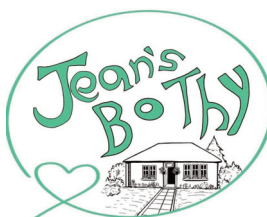
There are a couple of weeks needing filled. Please contact Maggie or Carolyn to arrange.

Your Harvest giving helps so many



Thanks to your generosity this years Harvest gifts were shared between the Helensburgh food bank and the fresh foods going to JEAN'S BOTHY - here's a bit about that project:

Jean's Bothy is a Mental Health and Wellbeing Hub based in Helensburgh and offering a safe, welcoming space for members to spend time and participate in the many activities we have to offer both in person and online. It is a confidential space where members can offer their views, stories and opinions with other members and staff. Last year we won the National Lottery Community Project of the Year. You can become a member by contacting us and self referring or through local GP's or other community health teams, but must be over the age of 16. Membership is free. We are open Monday to Friday



between 10am and 4pm and anyone is welcome to drop in to see what we have on offer. We publish a monthly magazine - the Bothy Blether, have a Facebook page and weekly emails go out to all members about the week ahead. We provide lunch 3 times a week for members and plan to increase this over the winter. Currently we offer a gardening group, art therapy, knitting and crocheting, well-being through writing, walking, resin workshops, outdoors with nature, photography, woodwork, chair yoga, book club and fitness and yoga groups at The Journey each week plus chill and chat times. New groups and one-off activities are added all the time and new faces are always welcome. Anyone interested can contact us on 01436 679218, text or WhatsApp 07542226390 or email jeansbothy@enable.org.uk.

James Auld Funeral Directors

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KIRK SESSION TRIBUTE FOR MRS AUDREY FOSTER

As I begin this tribute to Audrey, I can safely say on behalf of every one of us that it has been a privilege to serve the Lord with her in however many years we have known her.

Audrey was someone we expected always to be with us because she was always there at every meeting, event, project, or service – not only in attendance but often having done preparation of some kind. She was a “doer.” We read in the Letter of James, “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only”. (1:22) This was certainly true of Audrey. And whatever Audrey did she did beautifully and to perfection - from her baking to her artwork, to her care of people young and old. It was easy to love Audrey because she loved us and never judged but simply accepted who we were and saw the best in us all.

At Audrey’s funeral I shared an extract from the book entitled the “The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse.” The author, Charlie Mackesy has a wonderful ability to reach all ages by his wisdom and beautiful illustrations. Audrey’s granddaughter, Charlotte, had copied and pasted some of them into a scrap book for Audrey so that she could reminisce whilst in hospital. In one of these we read, “I’ve realised why we are here” whispered the boy. “For cake?” Asked the Mole. “To love”, said the boy. “And to be loved”, said the horse.

The love of God shone from Audrey reminding me of the Psalmist who once said of those whose walk with God is close and personal, “Those who look to him for help will be radiant with joy; no shadow of shame will darken their faces.” (Ps 34:5)

And I can tell you that this radiance remained with Audrey until she passed away. It had a profound affect upon the nurses and doctors

of ward 14 at the V.O.L hospital. On the day of her funeral 8 of them watched the service online. I think that says it all! She was beautiful in life, beautiful inside and out, beautiful in the face of death.

Audrey’s life from an early age was built upon faith in Christ. This faith was nurtured within a loving Christian family and a vibrant church community. It was this faith that directed her choices and helped her to be the wonderful person we all knew so well.



The Lord blessed her with many gifts such as music, art, sewing, baking, and cooking. He also blessed her with the skill of organising things, hospitality and getting alongside others. She was compassionate, wise, practical, and good fun but above all dedicated to the service of her Lord wherever she found herself.

I love to think of Audrey as being the only woman teller in the bank where she went to work after leaving school in the days when this was radical and at times unacceptable to certain customers. Thankfully, she

had the inner strength and confidence to cope with this and never let it deter her. She could hold her own but always with grace and good manners.

There is deep gratitude for the fellowship and friendship we were able to share with Audrey and for all she did within the Congregation here in Cardross and elsewhere when she accompanied Peter during his ministry as a Presbytery Reader. They made a great team together and Audrey’s specific talents were able to enhance many churches.

.....Continues on page 14

Congregational Register

BAPTISMS

Dec 4th Penelope Delilah-Gray Webster, daughter of Joanne and Arron

DEATHS

Aug 19th Mrs Isabella Findlay, Argyle Lodge, Helensburgh
 Sept 9th Mrs Audrey Foster, Templeton, John Street, Helensburgh
 Sept 14th Mr James Robertson, The Flat, McCallum Street, Campbletown
 Sept 29th Mrs June Dale, Badgers Drift, Dalnabreac, Archardle
 Oct 23rd Mrs Jeannette Scobie, Crimond, 104 West Clyde Street, Helensburgh
 Nov 16th Mr Stuart MacFarlane, Gardeners Cottage, Lineside Walk, Rhu
 Dec 15th Mr Angus Bremner, 24 Highmains, Ave, Dumbarton
 Dec 17th Mr David Philips, 5 Columba Street, Helensburgh
 Dec 20th Mrs Elizabeth MacLean, Millburn, Main Road, Cardross
 Dec 25th Mr John Calderhead, 14 Dunmar Court, Oban
 Dec 27th Mrs Catherine (Rena) Campbell, 10 Kings Court, Helensburgh
 Jan 2nd Mrs Patricia Buchanan, Rowanan, Pier Road, Rhu

Audrey Foster Tribute continued.....

Here in Cardross Audrey beautified the church on many a Sunday with her amazing flower arrangements; she literally lit up the church during the Advent reflections with the lovely candle and holly stands. The church hall displays her painstaking artwork from her involvement with the Holiday Club and Messy Church and just recently, the Summer Services, and how could we forget her delicious biscuits on Easter morning! Her talents were many and were put to good use in the service of God. She cared deeply about us. She provided for us. She loved us. For all of this we give thanks to God and hold her dear in our hearts. She was a dedicated elder and faithful servant of her Saviour Jesus Christ. She died, as she lived, in his nearer presence.

AMEN.

Audrey is now safe with her Saviour but for those who are left to grieve we also want to hold dear in our hearts. We pray for Peter, for Jane, Mark, Joanne, Charlotte and James. This has been such a difficult and sad time for them all especially with the death of Peter's brother, John, on the day of Audrey's funeral.

Some other words of the Psalmist come to mind, "Praise the Lord, who carries our burdens day after day; he is the God who saves us." (68:19)

We pray that Peter and the family will indeed be upheld by the Lord, their burden bearer, and find their strength, as Audrey did, in his nearer presence.

Maggie

Congregational Diary

SERVICES TO 30th APRIL

FEBRUARY

Sunday 5 th	11.00am	Morning Worship	<i>Celebration of Holy Communion</i>
Sunday 12 th	11.00am	Morning Worship	
Sunday 19 th	11.00am	Morning Worship	<i>Thinking Day</i>
Sunday 26 th	11.00am	Morning Worship	

MARCH

Sunday 5 th	11.00am	Morning Worship	
Sunday 12 th	11.00am	Morning Worship	
Sunday 19 th	11.00am	Morning Worship	<i>Mothering Sunday</i>
Sunday 26 th	11.00am	Morning Worship	<i>Annual Stated Meeting</i>

APRIL

Sunday 2 nd	11.00am	Morning Worship	<i>Palm Sunday</i>
	6.30pm	Cafe Church	<i>In the church halls.</i>
Thursday 6 th	7.00pm	Maundy Thursday	<i>Celebration of Holy Communion</i>
Friday 7 th	7.00pm	Ecumenical Service for Good Friday	
Sunday 9 th	8.30am	Service in Easter Garden	
	11.00am	Easter Morning Service	<i>Celebration of Holy Communion</i>
Sunday 16 th	11.00am	Morning Worship	
Sunday 23 rd	11.00am	Morning Worship	
Sunday 30 th	11.00am	Morning Worship	

Lenten Studies – It is proposed to hold a series of Lenten Studies each Wednesday morning at 10.30am, from 22 February. It is intended that they will be held in the refurbished former office space in the church.

The **Year 2000** was a very special occasion for very many differing countries across the whole World and here, back home in Cardross, it was similarly seen as a 'time' and 'day' to remember.

Many of you will recall the ringing of the Church Bells as the clock struck 1200 on that special morning with everyone moving across the road to the Church where the Rev. Andrew Scobie had arranged another party for us all – a time that will remain with many of you, a time that perhaps for those few moments the whole World would come together and a time that reminds us that, 'With God, all things are possible'.

The occasion also provided us with an opportunity to arrange something that would remain with Church and Community for many years and so the 'Time Capsule' was born. It was just over a year before this was ready for 'burial' – a good number of the organisations from the Community and from the Church had taken part and it was then agreed that the 'Capsule' should remain buried unto the year 2050.

However, as the 150th Celebration of the Church Building was to take place during the year 2022 it was decided that it would be appropriate to have the 'Capsule' lifted for just a short time during that period to allow those who had taken part in the original occasion to 'look back' and to 'look forward' and also to give the opportunity for the many new and thriving organisations of both Church and Community to be involved.

If all who have expressed an interest in taking part bring a contribution, there could now be as many as 27 Groups being part of the Time Capsule and this would be just great and important for the future.

The Time Capsule will be buried once more at a special occasion to be held within the Church Grounds on 18th March 2023 when all will be welcome.

Peter Foster

Messy Church is back!

We are delighted to be back again! Messy Church meets in Cardross Church Halls on a Saturday morning once a month between 10am and 12pm.

Messy Church is for families in whatever shape they come in. All children, regardless of age are welcome, but must be accompanied by an adult.

Messy Church is a way for families to explore Bible stories through creative activities and experiments. Everyone enjoys games, crafts, activities, songs and share in a meal together in Christian fellowship.



We hope to run the Summer Club from Monday 3 July till Friday 8 July 2023. We would welcome anyone wanting to assist with Messy Church or the Summer Club.

If you would like further information, please contact:

**Judy Wilson on
07884496257**

or email info@cardrossparishchurch.org

2023 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 18 February 2023 at 10am

Saturday 18 March 2023 at 10am

Saturday 22 April 2023 at 10am

Saturday 20 May 2023 at 10am

Saturday 17 June 2023 at 10am

Please visit our Facebook page which will show you what kind of activities we get up to: www.facebook.com/cardrossparishchurch

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