

THANK YOU SANDRA

"The office in Cardross Parish Church has been a place of contact for many in the community. We have been blessed by Sandra MacLatchie who for over 30 years has worked as the Church Secretary. Sandra has given those years in faithful service and has helped all the groups and individuals who have made use of the office as well as her dedication to the Church itself. We are indebted to her for all she has done.

a friend to us all and a valued member of our congregation."

Maggie



However, as a consequence of the financial situation brought about by the Coronavirus we all regret very much that the position of secretary is no longer viable and therefore Sandra's post is to be made redundant from December 3rd. We thank Sandra most sincerely for all she has done throughout the years and wish her well for the future. She remains

PLEASE NOTE NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES FOR CONTACTING THE MINISTER OR CHURCH - THESE ARE NOW IN USE AND YOU SHOULD UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS BOOK ACCORDINGLY.

We are updating our database of congregational members. So if you could email us with your details, telephone numbers etc that would be a big help.

CONTACT: MINISTER

Rev. Maggie McArthur
The Manse

16 Bainfield Road

Cardross G82 5JQ

Tel: 01389 849329

Email: minister@cardrossparishchurch.org

CONTACT: CHURCH

Tel: 01389 841322

Email: info@cardrossparishchurch.org

www.CardrossParishChurch.org



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to Sandra

FOCUS



Cardross Parish Church magazine

December 2020



Dear Friends,

Here we are once again approaching Christmas. Normally this is a time of 'get togethers' when we meet and enjoy one another's company at various services, fundraisers and parties - none of which will be possible this year due to COVID 19. However we have been blessed to be able to take certain things into the virtual world and make use of technology all of which would never have happened without the expertise of John Young who has given

freely of his time and skills. A huge 'THANK YOU' to you John from all of us!

One of the things we have missed so much is fellowship with one another. We are glad to be back in church for worship on a Sunday albeit in a restricted way as you can see from the photo of the church with pews marked out to allow for social distancing. It is a very strange experience keeping your distance from others as is not being allowed to sing.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

The object of the exercise, as far as the Treasurer is concerned, is to balance the books.

We started 2020 with a healthy "Reserve Fund" though we knew this would be depleted with the loss of income in the sum of £6000 from the Playgroup who had moved to the school.

In early Spring we had a problem with the heating system in the Halls. This meant replacing the pipework, radiators and boiler, all as approved by the Church of Scotland Heating Engineer. We had funds available from the sale of the former Manse to meet this cost along with generous Grants from the General Trustees of the Church of Scotland.

It therefore came as a body blow, when on 23 March, as a result of Coronavirus that we had to close the Church and the Halls, with a huge loss of income from Worshipers and Hall Users.

We had to take serious measures, or our "Reserves" would have been exhausted by the end of July. Accordingly we set up a Giving Campaign which received an enormous response from willing and generous supporters of the Church, and which realised the colossal sum of £22,000. A huge Thank You to one and all.

This, together with continued support of those who contribute direct through the Bank and through WFO Envelopes, has achieved sufficient funds to see us

through till the end of the year, meeting all our commitments to the National Church, Insurance, Gas, Electricity, salaries etc.

Meantime we had committed to further Stonework at the front Gable of the Church, but the cost £14,000 has been met equally by Grants of £7000 each from The National Churches Trust and Miss Hendry's Trust, to whom we are eternally grateful.

The Finance Committee will meet shortly to prepare a Budget for next year, but already we can foresee difficulties ahead. With a limited number of people attending Church due to the Coronavirus restrictions and with the lack of Christmas and Spring Fairs and the further shortage of Hall users, the Treasurer cannot see his way to balancing the books in 2021, bearing in mind that our commitment to Mission and Aid to the Church of Scotland will be in the order of £45,000.

We have been unable to welcome back many of our regular groups because of the restrictions but we can now have Claire's Dance class. Further, we are delighted to receive additional income from The Scottish Children's Reporter Administration who are making good use of our halls - a lifesaver at this time.

Let's hope the Treasurer doesn't have many more sleepless nights. Answers please on a postcard!

C.Noel Glen.



Congregational Register

BAPTISMS

Feb 23rd Noah Ephraim Joseph Dubowski (born 13/1/17)
Taigh-na-mara, Peel Street, Cardross
Nov 1st Fern Annabella Mae Conway (3/2/20)
11a Bainfield Road, Cardross

WEDDINGS

Jul 22nd Eilidh Morrison and Robert Shaw
22D South Chester Gardens, Bonnyrigg
Sep 27th Theresa Crisham and Fergus Nimmo
35 Gibbs Road, Banbury, Oxfordshire

DEATHS

Jan 14th Mrs Jo McGrath, The Glen, Darleith Road, Cardross
Jan 26th Mrs Beth Lyon, 3 Braid Avenue, Cardross
Jan 26th Mr Jim McCulloch, Normanhurst Court, Helensburgh
Feb 11th Mrs Agnes McGhee, Ribhinn Beat, Glencruitten
Feb 15th Miss Mary Gardner, Northwood CH, Helensburgh
Feb 22nd Mrs Evelyn Westwater, 29 Dalmore Crescent, Helensburgh
Feb 26th Mrs Rosa Clark, Tower Place, 6 East Clyde St, Helensburgh
Feb 27th Mr Jim Thomson, 30 Muirend Road, Cardross
Mar 4th Mrs Margaret Hutchinson, 8 Birch Cottages, Helensburgh
Mar 30th Mrs May McCulloch, Morar Lodge CH, Helensburgh
Apr 6th Mrs Jean Wilson, Northwood CH, Helensburgh
Apr 9th Mrs Irene Caldwell, 2 Villafield Court, Station Road, Cardross
Apr 11th Mrs Norma Irvine, 4 Riverview Crescent, Cardross
Apr 14th Mrs Catherine McPherson, Erskine Park Home, Erskine
Apr 24th Mr Brian Kelly, 35 Dalveen Way, Fernhill, Rutherglen
Apr 25th Mrs Helen Smith, Northwood CH, Helensburgh
May 2nd Mr John Greene, 25 High Mains Avenue, Dumbarton
May 11th Mrs Jane Simpson Nicoll, 7a East Argyle St, Helensburgh
May 31st Mr Ken Butler, Ardencaple Road, Clachan-Neil, Oban
Jun 2nd Mrs Morag Moore, Inverawe, Station Road, Cardross
Jun 22nd Mrs Isa Craig, Auburn, 4 Barrs Road, Cardross
July 7th Mrs Jennifer Kinloch, The Stables, Barrs Road, Cardross
July 7th Mrs Jean Brownlie, Morar Lodge, Helensburgh
July 11th Mrs Margaret Duggan, Kirkton Cottage, Darleith Rd, Cardross
July 13th Mr Christopher Street, 2D Cairndhu Avenue, Helensburgh
Aug 31st Mr Michael Wilson, High Auchensail, Darleith Dr, Cardross
Sep 2nd Mr Colin Purdie, 12a Eastfield Crescent, Dumbarton
Sep 12th Mrs Jessie Brazier, 27 Barrs Road, Cardross
Sep 12th Mr Alex Whyte, Quayside CH, Clydebank
Sep 19th Mr George McKenzie, 44 Kirkton Road, Cardross
Oct 10th Mr Douglas Taylor, 14 Bainfield Road, Cardross
Oct 28th Mr James Belch, Mosswood CH, Linwood
Nov 4th Mrs Noreen Scott, 4 Scott Gardens, Cardross.

KIRK SESSION TRIBUTE: MICHAEL WILSON

Where do I begin? Whatever I say could never be enough to do justice to Michael's life because his was a life worthy of more than a few words. His was a life full of adventure, opportunity, courage, faith, hope and love. His was a life well lived, fulfilling and fulfilled. In his own words printed on his funeral order of service, "I have enjoyed the happiest of the world, I have lived and loved."

Michael reached the age of 92 but in many ways he still saw the world through the eyes of a child – always waiting for something good to happen, always seeing the best in people and always trusting that God would bring some blessing which he could share with others. And I have to say he was never disappointed. Even in spite of illness and infirmity he approached each day with a joy that many of us will never have.

Michael's face just radiated God's love. I read somewhere recently that the gifts of grace and prayer are for believers. GRACE – unmerited favour with God. PRAYER – the privilege of communing with God. Combine the two and you get the blessing of communing with the Holy One. That sums up Michael. He received Jesus by faith and was assured of heaven. His walk with God was so close that God's love shone through him and was a blessing to all of us.

He was a man of strong character but gentle in manner; a man who stood on his principles but did so with grace; a man who wasn't afraid to speak the truth but did so in love.

How blessed and privileged we have been to have Michael as a friend, to serve with him on the Kirk Session and to be on the receiving end of the wonderful stories of his successful and adventurous life. In the words of the old



saying, "you could write a book about it" - well Michael did just that! His memoirs were completed recently and the printed version had just been delivered to High Auchensail a few days before he died. The book is entitled, "Dios es mi co piloto" – "God is my co-pilot".

Or as his son Richard said at the funeral perhaps it should have been "God is my pilot". The reason for this is that Michael placed his complete trust in his God and never wavered in that trust.

The sadness of losing Michael is overwhelmed by the sense of thanksgiving for a soul returning to his creator. Michael blessed us with his presence while he walked among us and brought all of us a little nearer to God. Now he walks with God in eternity.

We continue to pray for Rosemary. They were devoted to one another and cared for each other so lovingly. They made a great team and together they supported not only our church but also St. Michael's and countless charities at home and abroad with fundraising events at their home. We pray also for their sons, Crispin, Andrew, Richard and Alistair and their wives and children. Michael has left them a legacy of love and big boots to fill.

His blessing to them was included in the service and I'm sure it was meant for us all:

Peace be in thy home and in thy heart,
Or, if thou roam earth's highways wide
The Lord be at thy side to bless and guide.

"Thank you", Michael. May God bless you now you have completed your journey through earth's highways and find rest in the house of your Lord for ever.

AMEN.



Our last service of worship was March 15th just before Lockdown and I have left the numbers of the hymns we sang that day on the hymn board as a reminder. I long for the day they can be changed because that will be the day we can sing again.

The previous week to that sad day we had a joyous time together when Steven Fischbacher of Fischy Music came and taught us new songs. Church Families from Cardross, Helensburgh and Dumbarton came along to the church hall and we all had a wonderful time of fellowship singing our hearts out. This is a good and positive memory of what life was like before COVID and it gives us hope that one day we shall be able to rejoice again in the presence of others.

But in the meantime, we have to adapt and work within the parameters set by those in authority who seek to guide us through these difficult times. The restrictions may seem harsh but they are necessary for our safety. Many of the activities and groups that normally take place in the hall have not been able to resume but this does not mean that church life ceases completely. The buildings may have been shut but the Church as God's people was still open. All through this period we have functioned as a church and will continue to do so:

Every member received a personal card to let them know they were upheld in prayer and elders have been keeping in touch with their districts.

The Prayer Group faithfully remember the sick and the bereaved.

People receive flowers when bereaved and cards when in hospital because visits are not allowed.

Worship went online and will continue even though Sunday Worship in church has resumed.

DVD's are delivered to those who have no access to computers.

Every child associated with the church through Sunday School, Holiday Club, Messy Church, Music Makers or the Dunny Cafe received a personal card and sweets in the summer.

A virtual Holiday Club was produced with five days of crafts and stories and songs.

The Primary 7's received their Scripture Union "It's Your Move Books" when they started secondary school.

The Kirk Session and Congregational Board met and attended to all the business of the church. The Presbytery and the General Assembly met.

From all of this and more you will see that we are endeavouring to be make sure that the spiritual and practical needs of our congregation, local community and wider community are met. We seek to be Church in the widest sense of the word and to bring the love of Jesus to others in these challenging times.

Christmas will be different for all of us. That is the stark reality. Some will be on their own. Some will be grieving. But even though Christmas will be different the message never changes. Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem, the Word made flesh, Emmanuel - GOD WITH US! So we need never feel alone or afraid. The Light came into the world and the darkness has never been able to put it out.

With God's richest blessings to you and yours.

Maggie



CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS

I commend the office bearers and everyone who has worked hard to keep things going pastorally, practically and financially, and who will be very busy before Christmas because we have various projects in the pipeline:

A daily Advent message will be posted on Facebook.

There will be Weekly Advent Bible Studies using Zoom at 7pm on Tuesday 1st, 8th and 15th December. (Please let me know if you wish to attend these so that I can send out the zoom link)

There will be Weekly Advent Reflections online at 7pm on Wednesday 2nd, 9th and 16th December. My thanks to Peter Foster for preparing these.

There will be a Family Christmas Eve service at 6pm online which will include the children from our Music Makers virtual choir. This will be a Christingle service and every family in Cardross will receive a Christingle Pack so that they can put the Christingle together at home as the service progresses. My thanks to Mrs Girling at Cardross Primary School for agreeing to distribute the packs for us through the school.

The Christmas Gift Service will be on December 6th and the presents brought to church that day will be distributed to families in the surrounding areas. Essential items for the Homeless will be collected and distributed.

The Shoe Box Appeal can be done online - details on the Facebook Page.

"Goodie Bags" containing homemade tablet will be distributed to those we know about in our community who are housebound, elderly, in care homes and recently bereaved. Thank you to all the talented tablet makers!

There will be an interactive Christmas Trail around the village called "IN SEARCH OF CHRISTMAS" for all the youngsters.

And as in the summer, every young person associated with the youth programmes of the church will receive a Fair Trade Advent Calendar and story book.

Maggie

DECEMBER

1, 8 & 15	7.00pm	By Zoom - Advent Bible Studies
2, 9 & 16	7.00pm	Online - Advent Reflections
6, 13 & 20	11.00am	Advent Morning Worship in church
24	6.00pm	Online - Family Christmas Eve service
25	11.00am	Online - Maggie's Christmas Day message



CURTAIN CALL FOR ANDREW

Andrew Black came to Cardross as Organist and Choirmaster in 2017. He brought a wealth of musical knowledge and an immense sense of commitment to providing the very best musical accompaniment to our Church Worship.

His Choir practices were intense but interspersed with wonderful personal insights into so much of the abundance of sacred music. He introduced the choir and congregation to the anthems of Malcolm Archer some of which stretched our musical abilities – no bad thing.

As a congregation and a choir our sincere thanks go to Andrew, as he moves on to pastures new.

Maureen Walker



NOREEN SCOTT

With Noreen's death a wonderful voice is stilled. Noreen had sung in church choirs for most of her life and she was equally happy singing the Messiah and all sacred music, to Rock Nativity, Oliver and the Wizard of Oz.

She was an amazing soloist and it was a joy to sing with her in a duet or in a choir.

Noreen and her husband, Bill were committed members of Cardross Parish Church Choir until Bill's death and Noreen continued to bring her musical talents Sunday by Sunday until ill health overtook her three years ago.



All her friends in the choir are so very sorry that we were not able to sing Noreen into God's care at her funeral.