

KNITTERS TO THE RESCUE!

The knitting group knit predominately for the various hospital Special Baby Care Units. We have just answered an urgent call from Crosshouse Hospital, Kilmarnock who have suffered severe

flood damage to their linen cupboard where baby knits are stored. We have sent a good supply of blankets, hats and cardigans to help build up their stock.

We knit for other groups too and have recently delivered a quantity of Twiddle Muffs to Erskine Hospital. Our latest challenge to date is knitting blankets for Erskine Hospital as there is a need for them too.

The group continues to meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the month in the Committee Room, Church Hall at 7.30pm.

New members to the group will be made very welcome.

Lynda Darroch

K2 tog - KNITTING GROUP



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Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.
Email: cardrosschurch529@btinternet.com
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View

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Rwanda
challenge

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To sew or
not to sew!

FOCUS



Cardross Parish Church magazine

June 2018



Dear Friends,

"THIS IS THE DAY THAT THE LORD HAS MADE, LET US REJOICE AND BE GLAD IN IT". These words from Psalm 118 form my morning prayer as I open my eyes each day. I have no idea what each day will bring but I know that the Lord has gifted me the day and therefore I have an opportunity to serve him in it whatever the day brings. The Lord has made the day but we have the responsibility of making it a good one for others. We must try and seek the betterment of life, show more love and serve without counting the cost.

But not everyone will face the day rejoicing. Some will feel they have nothing to rejoice about due to loss, illness, changed circumstances. Even within our own congregation many have felt the blow of what has happened with regards to the financial situation that came to light in recent months. When challenges and change come our way, very often like a bolt out of the blue, then it is easy to feel physically and emotionally shocked.

Continued Page 3

Chris is historic 1st for Guild



With great pride and honour I was appointed last year as the Guild Convener.

The Guild is thriving and this year was eventful, great fun and interesting. We have steady numbers attending and the unity and fellowship is tremendous. Sadly though we lost some dear and faithful members now at eternal rest. God Bless.

Through the session we welcomed some very interesting speakers; from Historic Environment Scotland, St. Margaret's Hospice and Propsects, which is one of the current projects supported by both the Guild and the Church of Scotland. As well as this once again we had a very successful Coffee Morning.

As well as the informative evenings we also did some great socialising. We had a fabulous St. Andrew's night when we were joined by ladies from Riverside and Helensburgh Guilds, all of us were very well entertained by Tartan Harmony, the Acapelo Singers from Helensburgh, what fun it was! Suffice to say rounded off with a pleasant supper.

At our Christmas meeting I did a demonstration of edible table decorations. I'm sure that many tables would be well adorned over the festive season if the enthusiastic eating of the said demonstration is anything to go by.

I am to remain in post of Convener and we all look forward to an equally interesting and fun season when we resume in the Autumn.

We are delighted too that the Guild Autumn Rally is to be at our Church in October more details later.

Special mention should be made too that as The Guild this year welcomed our first male member, Mr. Chris Fisher.....quite an historic moment, but great to have both Chris and Julie as members.

Our organisation aims to further our Christian Fellowship, and through faith, unity and effort to help those less fortunate through the greater works of the Guild. Similarly we have our own Church's wellbeing at our heart and as always were able to again give fairly generous donations to the Church and several charities. It's amazing what can be achieved through our unity.

Whilst we all will enjoy our summer recess, we will all look forward to renewed interests and activities for the ensuing year and extend a welcome to anyone wishing to join us. Details of our syllabus will be announced toward the end of the summer.

Alison Campbell

Church Diary

JUNE

- 3 11.00am Morning Worship - Celebration of Holy Communion.
- 10 11.00am Morning Worship
- 17 11.00am Morning Worship
- 24 11.00am Morning Worship
- 25 4-6.00pm Dunny Café - end of session BBQ and games.

JULY

- 1 10.30am Morning Worship - Round the Table Communion.

2nd - 6th ****SUMMER HOLIDAY CLUB - 9.30am till 12noon each day***

- 8 10.30am Morning Worship - Family Service with members of the Holiday Club
- 15 10.30am Morning Worship
- 22 10.30am Morning Worship
- 29 10.30am Morning Worship

AUG

- 5 10.30am Morning Worship - Round the Table Communion.
- 12 10.30am Morning Worship
- 19 10.30am Morning Worship
- 26 10.30am Morning Worship

SEPT

- 2 11.00am Morning Worship - Round the Table Communion.

Please note alteration of Service times:
From Sunday 1 July until Sunday 26 August the service will begin at 10.30am reverting to 11.00am on Sunday 2 September.

Congregational Register

DEATHS

2017

Dec 1st Mrs Carole Cornish, 1 Braid Avenue, Cardross.

2018

Jan 11th Mr John Campbell Jardin, 82 East Princes Street Helensburgh.

Jan 13th Mrs Lettie Munro, 1/2 Colquhoun Sq, Helensburgh.

Feb 16th Mr John Dugald MacFadyen, The Whins, Polvinster Rd Oban.

Feb 19th Mrs Isabella Clow, 3 Kildonan Drive, Helensburgh.

Feb 25th Mrs Jacqueline Coulsen, Morar Lodge Care Home, Helensburgh.

Feb 26th Mrs Margaret Kinloch, Ardoch Farm, Ardoch.

Mar 11th Mrs Margaret Lindsay, 2 Campbell Court, Campbeltown.

Mar 14th Mrs Catherine Derries, 8 Darleith Road, Cardross.

Mar 23th Mr Hamish MacLachlan, Belleaire House Care Home, Greenock.

Apr 4th Mr Charles Moore, Inverawe, Station Road, Cardross.

Apr 4th Mrs Betty Chisholm, St Stephen's Ave, Rutherglen.

Apr 11th Mr Alastair Kyle, 5 Scott Gardens, Cardross.

Oct 31st Miss Anne Fraser, 10 Campbell Crescent, Oban.

Nov 18th Mrs May McTurk, Castlevue Care Home, Dumbarton.

Nov 19th Mr Andy Robb, 28 Woodend Road, Rutherglen.

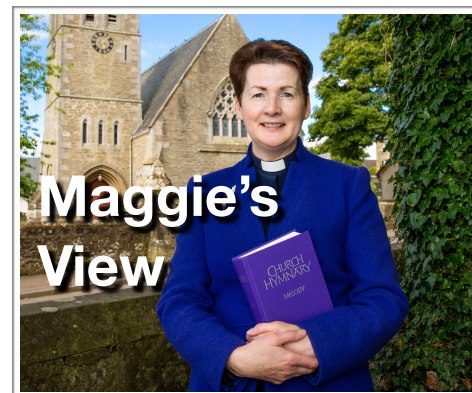
Nov 28th Mrs Margaret Hogarth, 43 Dumbuck Gardens, Dumbarton.

BAPTISM

Feb 2nd Sean Weir (Adult) and baby Mya Weir, daughter of Sean & Carla.

WEDDING

Mar 17th Islay McKee and Hugh Russell at Sherbrooke Castle Hotel, Glasgow.



(cont...) It is in such times that the words from Psalm 118 bring us back to where we should be – recognising God's powerful presence in creation and our responsibility to bow in reverence to the One who is greater than anything the day throws at us.

Faith is not called faith without a reason. It is only when we completely trust in God's ability that we find it to be true. It is only when we leave our cares with him that we find peace. It is only when we praise him through our problems that we meet with the living Saviour.

As you read this, it may be early morning, the middle of the day or late in the evening, but

whatever the day holds or has held for you, may you find something, however small, to rejoice about. Work with God this day and try waking up tomorrow with the words of Psalm 118:24 on your lips. I can guarantee that you will feel closer to God.

Every night my closing prayer is, "THANK YOU LORD FOR THE BLESSINGS OF TODAY AND FOR THE BLESSING OF TOMORROW". Even when the day has been busy or problematic, I know I can end it with these words because God brings blessings even through the difficulties, and the more I pray this the more I come to realise that God is faithful and will never leave us desolate. The closer we draw near to him the better our lives will be.

"THIS IS THE DAY THE LORD HAS MADE", be it rain or shine, happy or sad, we can rejoice and be glad in it! Give it a go –you have nothing to lose and everything to gain.

With God's richest blessings.

Maggie.

Future publishing dates for Focus and special cards:

The editor welcomes articles and pictures for our Church Magazine: Focus and also our social media page on Facebook.

The deadline for copy and pictures for the **October edition** of Focus is: **16th September.**

The deadline for copy and pictures for the **February 2019 edition** of Focus is: **13th January.**

Special ecumenical cards (similar to what we distributed this Easter) with dates of special services and events, will be printed in time for Christmas 2018 and also Easter 2019.

Tel: 01389 849188 • www.ardardan.co.uk



There's lots going on at
Ardardan throughout the
summer months.

Quality plants & advice, foodie treats and
family events. Keep an eye on our facebook
page and website for what's going on.

Thank you for your support!



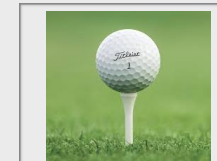
*The Ardardan Team look forward
to welcoming you throughout the
summer season!*



HELENSBURGH ECUMENICAL GOLF SOCIETY

A popular golf event is to be held again after many years in the rough. The Helensburgh Ecumenical Golf Society plan to hold an 18 hole Stableford golf competition for the Brown Trophy over the links at Helensburgh GC on Thursday 23 August. Open to ladies and gents from all local churches the trophy is named after the Rev James Brown who will be there on the day to present it to the winning team. To allow for planning of numbers anyone interested in taking part

should contact the organiser: John Christie on: 01436 675545 or by email: john.christie115@gmail.com by the end of June at the latest.



Welcoming you to church will be:

JUNE

- 3 A Macpherson, Mrs M Bryson, Mrs J McNeil
- 10 N Glen, T Davey, Mrs M MacNeill
- 17 G Stevenson, Miss N Gray, Mrs A Lee
- 24 D Still, Mrs C Scholarios, Mrs A Wood

JULY

- 1 D Paterson, Mrs M Ferguson, Mrs L McKee
- 8 Mrs M McGhee, Mrs K Watson, G Kenny
- 15 Mrs R MacLachlan, J Young, Mrs A Campbell
- 22 Mrs J Fisher, Mrs C Craig, Mrs M Craven
- 29 P Foster, Mrs E Cormack, Mrs M Walker

AUGUST

- 5 Mrs M Brown, Mrs J Wilson, A Macpherson
- 12 W MacLachlan, Mrs C Melvin, Mrs M Bryson
- 19 Mrs J McNeil, N Glen, T Davey
- 26 Mrs M MacNeill, G Stevenson, Miss N Gray

SEPTEMBER

- 2 Mrs A Lee, D Still, Mrs C Scholarios
- 9 Mrs A Wood, D Paterson, Mrs M Ferguson
- 16 Mrs L McKee, Mrs M McGhee, Mrs K Watson
- 23 G Kenny, Mrs R MacLachlan, J Young
- 30 Mrs A Campbell, Mrs J Fisher, Mrs C Craig

TREASURER'S REPORT

I was re-appointed Treasurer at a special meeting of the Congregational Board on 22nd March 2018 following the sudden and appropriate resignation of the previous treasurer on 14th March.

As a result I had the sad and unenviable task of advising the Congregation at it's Annual General Meeting on Sunday 29th April that it appeared that there had been a misappropriation of a significant amount of Church funds by the former treasurer during his period in office of less than one year, and all as confirmed by the auditor in his formal report attached to the Annual Accounts for 2017 which were presented at the AGM.

Naturally the matter was in the hands of the Police and we await the outcome of their investigations.

Meanwhile tremendous goodwill has been shown to Revd. Maggie and to the Church by many well wishers who have contributed funds in excess of £15,500.00 to alleviate the situation for which we are extremely grateful.

I have spent considerable time bringing the books back into order and I can assure you that I will honestly and accurately look after the funds, just as I did for the previous 27 years and that until a new treasurer is found.

**Noel Glen
Treasurer**

Dates of Kirk Session & Congregational Board Meetings

May 10	Kirk Session	7.30pm
June 14	Congregational Board	7.30pm
Aug 23	Kirk Session	7.30pm
Sept 13	Congregational Board	7.30pm
Oct 18	Kirk Session	7.30pm
Dec 6	Congregational Board & Kirk Session	7.00pm

Summer Holiday Club



The Summer Holiday Club which is a sequel to last years club will run from Monday 2 July until Friday 6 July 2018 from 9.30 am till 12 noon. . A number of story treasures from the City of Ancora are missing and holiday club members are recruited as Guardians to recover these treasures and return them to the Hall of Memory.

Again and as in the past there will be music, craft work, artwork and of course games for the children to enjoy. On Sunday 8 July there will be an all age service at 10.30am followed by a picnic in the Church Halls/Grounds depending on the weather. The cost is £20 for the first child and £10 for each sibling. Children must be school age or be registered for primary one starting in August 2018.

Registration forms can be obtained from Judy Wilson by email judy@judyfamily.plus.com or from the Church Office. Places at the Summer Club are limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Closing date to register is Friday 15 June 2018 but don't leave it too late or you could be disappointed.



Roll back the clock to EASTER.



Easter morning was marked as always with an early morning service in our Easter garden. There was a wonderful turnout of families and the weather was kind for Worship and Easter Egg rolling! After the service, which was conducted by Peter Foster, with Diane Philips helping provide the musical accompaniment, the many who attended enjoyed a hearty breakfast provided by Maureen and Sandy Walker.



To Sew or Not to Sew!

Anne Russell's lifelong struggle with right handed crafts.

One of my earliest memories of school (which I may say was not exactly yesterday) was when the teacher gently removed the pencil from my left hand, put it in my right hand and said - 'This is the hand you use when writing' - she didn't add also when sewing, knitting and every known hand craft - totally unsuitable for my right hand. I struggled on until the first big problem arose when we were instructed to sew a lap bag (do people still use them I wonder) and on completion to sew some finer articles of ladies underwear!

Life became totally confusing, but help was on hand as the class opposite was the Latin one - was this a form of escape? I realised it would be easier to help Hannibal over the Alps, so I abandoned the sewing and concentrated on Latin, although in married life it was not a lot of use when overalls needed repaired, although I do admit it was a great asset with my daily crosswords.

I have thus become a life long friend of large safety pins, sellotape and magic tape for putting up hems!

After marriage I joined the Scottish Women's Rural Institute where I enjoyed many years of sociability with the sewing ladies of the village. When I became President I was concerned somebody would stand up and say 'This lady cannot sew!' However, as I have a reasonable reputation for chocolate sponges and meringues, I'm still there.

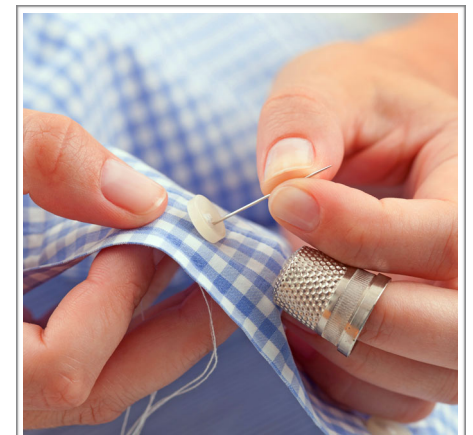
Demonstrations are a big part of our syllabus and a milliner came one evening. After her demonstration on hat making she left one incomplete hat to be raffled - yes

you've guessed it, I won it! To this day an unfinished, misshapen hat remains in the corner of my wardrobe.

One very popular pastime of the Rural was cane work, making trays and baskets, surely I could manage that. My friends produced some delightful pieces and I did try, and try, but I have just discovered there is a section of wonky articles in the local supermarket so I now know where to go!!

In conclusion but there is a little light at the end of the tunnel for this awkward handed person. The Rural ran a days art class for some of its members recently and when I returned home proudly displaying my art work my husband knew straightaway that I had been drawing daffodils! So I'll keep trying, as Hamlet said "To be or not to be: that is the question."

Anne Russell



PUZZLE TIME

The Good Samaritan Parable

D	F	X	T	I	L	R	O	A	D	X	Z	D	G	D
T	S	I	R	H	C	O	M	O	P	C	H	O	C	Y
E	Y	N	R	X	I	Z	R	M	D	R	S	O	X	F
L	T	P	T	J	X	E	E	D	D	N	T	G	U	W
B	K	Q	N	H	N	L	V	O	J	I	O	Q	Q	R
A	I	X	D	Z	A	M	G	E	X	J	R	K	F	R
R	N	H	V	S	D	O	X	Z	S	F	Y	P	H	I
A	D	O	U	R	T	S	A	M	A	R	I	T	A	N
P	N	R	U	A	H	R	R	Q	J	E	S	U	S	N
J	E	R	I	C	H	O	S	E	H	T	O	L	C	E
J	S	A	F	Z	D	Q	O	F	J	Y	N	H	N	K
T	S	R	H	P	L	Y	J	E	W	I	S	H	L	K
B	L	E	V	I	T	E	J	A	N	Z	D	A	U	I
O	Z	W	T	M	V	C	S	D	A	Q	W	V	A	L
T	P	S	E	G	A	D	N	A	B	C	A	L	N	U

BANDAGES
CHRIST
CLOTHES
GOD
GOOD
INN
JERICHO
JERUSALEM
JESUS
JEWISH
KINDNESS
LEVITE
PARABLE
ROAD
SAMARITAN
STORY
THIEVES
WALK

Words to find:

**IMPORTANT EVENT - PLEASE
GIVE IT YOUR SUPPORT!**

CARDROSS PARISH CHURCH

AFTERNOON TEA

**will be held in the Church halls
on Saturday, 2nd June 2018
from 2.00 - 4.00pm**

There will be a few stalls and a raffle

Adults £5.00/Children £2.00

Charity No.: SC003494

DOCTOR CROSS - I PRESUME!

This is my first time writing to you as Katie Cross since getting married (don't worry, I've kept Scholarios as a middle-name!) For the past three years, I've been working on my PhD in theology at the University of Aberdeen, and I'm delighted to tell you that I recently passed my doctorate! I thought you might be interested to know a wee bit about what I've been up to, since our church family in Cardross features in my thesis a fair bit...

I wrote my PhD on the Sunday Assembly- a group of non-believers, who draw deeply on the structures and practices of the Christian church. *Guardian* journalist Esther Addley says that 'a church goer who stumbled through the wrong door [into the Sunday Assembly] would find much they recognised.' Typical meetings include communal singing (of popular songs, by artists like Queen and Fleetwood Mac), readings, reflections, and financial offerings. Instead of sermons, there are short talks, covering a range of topics from particle physics to mindfulness. I spent three years visiting congregations in London and Edinburgh, and exploring questions about belonging, community experience, and responses to suffering.

What I found was interesting. The Sunday Assembly is very new, and because of this, it doesn't have a language to talk about the difficult parts of life. Death, illness, loss, and global trauma is only dealt with in passing. Sometimes, the church can be like this, too- we prefer to emphasis the positive, and struggle to respond to the darker parts of the human experience.

However, I think Cardross is the exception. Growing up, I remember plenty of space in which to talk about tragic news stories, as well as the hymns of 'lament' we would sing. There was,

and is, a language in Cardross in which to talk about the real parts of life- the nitty gritty of the human experience, and the darkness which often surrounds us. I'm proud to have grown up in a church that recognises how important this is, and I'm pleased to have included Cardross in my final PhD thesis as an example of how church *can* be in a world where tragedy is so close.

Thank you for reading this wee update! If you'd like to hear any more on what exactly I wrote, I'd be delighted to chat, and you can email me at k.cross@abdn.ac.uk any time.

Dr Katie Cross (Scholarios)



TEACHER LOUISE SWAPS CARDROSS

My name is Louise Wilson and I was born and brought up in Cardross with my three sisters and I'm sure you will have seen us at Church. I attended the local primary school and Hermitage Academy. I went on to work in an aquarium taking on the role of school project co-ordinator where I developed the schools package for visiting school groups. It was working with the visiting classes that I first began to think of a career in teaching.

After studying for my Post Graduate Diploma in Primary teaching at the University of the West of Scotland and completing my probationary year, I became a fully registered primary teacher. I have been teaching for three years in Scotland now but I am always looking for opportunities to develop my teaching skills.



About six months ago, I started looking for a teaching opportunity with a difference. I care very deeply for developing young minds but my only teaching experience is in Scotland. Whilst this has provided me with several challenges, I would love to develop my teaching within another culture. After joining City of Edinburgh local authority at Kirkliston Primary, I heard of a P.E specialist called Kari Spence that was leading a group of teachers to Faith and Hope Primary School in Rwanda.

The plan is to bring different teaching strategies to the school and help the staff become more creative in their teaching style. In addition, the school is also piloting a girls' hub where young women and girls from the local community can become trained in skills such as crafts, seam stressing, hairdressing and nail art. This will allow young girls to stay in school for longer and when they leave, they will have the necessary skills to start an enterprise project of their own and earn more

money to help their families. I feel in 2018, it is shocking that there are still parts of the world where females are still considered second-class citizens. I want to help the young girls in this country achieve their potential as I have had the good fortune to have so many wonderful opportunities to do anything I wanted with my life. Whilst I cannot change a culture over night, there are some girls that I can help this July as part of the Together in Sport Rwanda group.

I am passionate about this project, as it will take me completely out of my comfort zone! I have the luxury of teaching children using interactive whiteboards, iPads and every modern convenience you can think of. This summer, I will experience what it is like when all that is taken away from me. I want to challenge myself to be more creative without the help of modern technology and I can take this back to develop my teaching in Scotland.

FAMILY CEILIDH

Saturday 9 June 2018,
7.30pm

Cardross Church Halls

With a Mix of Ceilidh, Disco, Kids Games
and a Prize Raffle.

BYOB and a light supper is
included in the ticket price.

Adults £10
Child £5 (School Age)
Family (2A/2C) £25

Tickets Available From Judy Wilson
On 07884 496 257
Or Email Judy@Judyfamilyplus.com

Proceeds Are Going To Support

FOR SUMMER IN RAWANDA!



Whilst my aim is to go and share my teaching experience with the staff in Rwanda, I am feeling more and more as the trip approaches that I will be learning just as much from them.

I am deeply excited about experiencing another culture particularly one with such a unique history as Rwanda. The past in Rwanda is still very painful for some of those living there but Felix and his team at Faith and Hope are determined to shape a brighter, more positive future for its youngsters. I am privileged to say that this July, I will be helping in that cause too.

Louise would like to thank everyone who has sponsored her for the recent KILT WALK from Glasgow to Balloch. Her, sister Elizabeth and Mum Judy completed the 24 miles and raised over £2000.00 for the Rwandan school. The next fundraising event is a FAMILY CEILIDH in the Church halls on Saturday 9 June. Tickets available from the church office or from Judy Wilson.