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# FOCUS



Cardross Parish Church magazine

June 2023



*Dear Friends,*

Summer has arrived! At least it had when I wrote this. I hope by the time you read this the sun is still shining and we continue to feel the benefit of its light and warmth.

Light and warmth are two things we gain from fellowship within the church. Just being with others can brighten our day and help us to dispel the cold of loneliness, isolation or despair. I often wonder if there is a direct connection between the increase in mental health problems and the decrease in church attendance. There is no doubt

that having a support network is a good thing and allows us to share the things that trouble us. To do so in a Christian context brings the added bonus of having God with us. The following passage from Ecclesiastes chapter 4 can be an encouragement to us:

***“Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labour:  
If either of them falls down, one can help the other up.....”***

*Maggie's view continues on page 3*

## Property Report

Our church building in Station Road has been standing proud for 151 years. It is a testament to all those who at that time gave of their time, talents and money to provide a place of worship for the people of Cardross. It is also a testament to those down through the decades who have continued to do so. Throughout the years it has required good stewardship to keep it in reasonable condition. However, as with most things, the years and the elements have taken their toll.

This year we had a quinquennial survey of the buildings which highlighted the poor condition of the tower. The pointing work is badly needing redone to prevent any more water ingress. We had a conservation architect look at the tower along with the buildings officer from Clyde Presbytery. They are confident that if the work is done then the life of the building can be extended for another 50 or 60 years. To that end we are in the process of finding the best way forward.

However, earlier this month we learned that the Presbytery Mission Plan that had been approved by Presbytery in March had been returned by the Faith Nurture Forum and the General Trustees. The Plan is to be revised and will have serious implications for several congregations within Clyde Presbytery including ours. Certain conditions will have to be adhered to before the Plan is fully approved - mostly concerning accessibility.

In our situation this involves considering disabled access through the main doors of the church and the provision of a disabled toilet. The Kirk Session decided not to contest these conditions and hopefully if all the other congregations affected by the revised do the same the Plan can be implemented in July.

Again, we have begun the process of seeking the best way forward in order to comply.

**Gordon and Pamela Stevenson**  
Property convenors



*Pictures above show grass and weeds growing out of the gaps in pointing on the roof and broken louvers of the bell tower of the church*



(Cont...)

*But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.*

*Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm.*

*But how can one keep warm alone?*

*Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves.*

*A cord of three strands is not quickly broken."*

As a church we seek to be a place of refuge for those who need encouragement, a place of solace for those whose hearts are sad, a place where we can learn from one another and a place where together we can learn more about the love that God has for us all. It has been another busy 6 months as you can see from the content of this Focus magazine and I am, as always, so grateful to everyone for your commitment and dedication.

You will remember from past letters that the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland requires every Presbytery to formulate a Mission Plan for the years ahead. The Presbytery of Clyde agreed our Draft Mission Plan on March 18<sup>th</sup> and it was sent to the Faith Nurture Forum and General Trustees for approval. With regards to our situation here in Cardross, nothing was to change. Our ministry allocation was to remain at 70% of a full-time equivalent

minister and the buildings were given a category A which means they are considered necessary for mission here in the village.

Unfortunately, the Draft Mission Plan was returned for revision which entails acceptance of certain conditions concerning buildings. *Please refer to the article under 'Property' on the previous page.*

We are not so badly affected as other congregations are with these unexpected changes so, please do not feel downcast about the situation. Our ministry allocation is still assured and with the property issues taken into consideration then we can continue serving the community of Cardross.

We have been presented with a challenge, but every challenge is an opportunity. Remember that we are not alone. We have the support of many professional people who will guide us through the process of alteration and any sign of darkness and cold at the thought of the upheaval and cost will be greatly lessened. No burden is too heavy when others help us carry it.

The work of the Church continues in Mission and Outreach, Discipleship and Fellowship so let us stay focused on the love of God and the needs of our community that we will be able to serve our Lord and others with all that we are and all that we have.

Have a great summer.

With God's richest blessings,

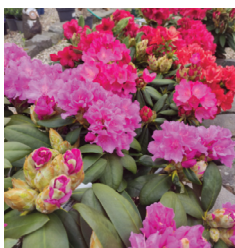
*Maggie*





Ardardan

# *Enjoy the Summer Time at Monty's & Ardardan*



Tearoom  
Farm & Gift Shop  
Plant Centre  
Monty's Farm Park





## Hedgehogs & Holidays!

Thanks to the incredible efforts of the knitting club a quite staggering **£700.00** was raised and donated to the Beatson Cancer Charity.

Our talented knitters raised this marvellous amount by knitting Hedgehog Easter Egg covers (with a cream egg inside) which could then be used as a finger puppet.

Selling for only £3.00 the Hedgehogs were selling out as quick as the knitting club could make them.

Thanks you knitters - you deserve our applause! 🍌🍌🍌🍌🍌🍌🍌🍌🍌🍌

*Daisy and Finn from the Baby & Toddler Group with their hedgehogs*



## SUMMER HOLIDAY CLUB

The theme of this year's summer club is **God's Secret Agent: Joseph**. Running from Monday 3rd July until Friday 7th July the club, which is open to Primary school aged kids. Children will enjoy enrolling in the Bible Spy School with all the adventure, superb games, thoughtful activities and intrigue it brings.

On Sunday 9th July we will have an all age family service at 10:30 am when the children will take part and you can see the activities the children have been involved in during the week long club. We'd love to see all the families there that day.



## Guild Report



It is hard to believe that we have reached the end of another Guild year. We have been blessed with hearing from so many interesting and inspiring speakers who have made us laugh, made us cry and most importantly made us think.

At our opening meeting in September we were delighted to welcome Margaret Thomas who enlightened us on the intricacies of Bousie Embroidery, which was new to us all, and probably beyond most of us. October was the meeting which reminded us all of the work done by 'Good News Scotland', previously known as the Gideons.

In November we enjoyed another very successful and happy St Andrew's Night celebration with entertainment and worship provided by Guislaine and Ricky Kennedy. We were delighted to welcome visitors from surrounding Guilds and also Christine Buchanan, Convenor of Dumbarton Guilds Together. Our December meeting was an afternoon of Christmas fun and laughter, and we happily added to the 800 million mince pies eaten in the UK every year.

January brought the traditional and always thought provoking talk from Maggie who spoke on the Theme 'Wee Seeds, Big Trees'.

In February we welcomed Liz McKee, who gave us a fascinating and interesting afternoon hearing about her time in Pakistan. I am sure we would welcome her back to hear more of her life as a Missionary.

Our speaker in April was a representative from the Project who spoke of the work undertaken by A Home for Good, which deals with fostering and adoption with the aim of finding a safe home for every child who needs one. I have to say it was one of the best presentations I have heard and certainly gave us much to think about.

The Church of Scotland Guild is so much more than the perceived notion of Sales of Work and cups of tea. Over the last two years the Guild has raised over £250,000 for the Projects it is supporting. These projects are diverse and offer help and support both at home and abroad.

The Guild re-opens on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September at 2.30pm, please consider joining us. You can be assured of a warm welcome and yes the ubiquitous 'cup of tea'.

***Maureen I Walker***  
***Convener.***



**The village Time Capsule** was updated and resealed, not to be opened now till 2050.

It now contains important updates inc: life through the Covid Pandemic, the death of Rev Andrew Scobie and Maggie becoming our new minister.

## Messy



## Church

We meet in Cardross Church Halls on a Saturday morning once a month between 1000 and 1200. 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.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2023/2024

**Saturday 16 September 2023**

**Monday 30 October 2023 Halloween Party**

**Saturday 18 November 2023**

**Monday 11 December 2023 Christmas Party**

**Saturday 20 January 2024**

**Saturday 17 February 2024**

**Saturday 16 March 2024**

**Saturday 20 April 2024**

**Saturday 18 May 2024**

**Saturday 15 June 2024**

If you would like further information, or would like to volunteer please contact: Judy Wilson on 07884496257 or email [info@cardrossparishchurch.org](mailto:info@cardrossparishchurch.org)

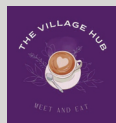
Please visit our Facebook page which will show you what kind of activities we get up to: [www.facebook.com/cardrossparishchurch](https://www.facebook.com/cardrossparishchurch)

## THE HUB SUMMER BREAK

We are delighted that the Village Hub has been so well received by everyone who has visited and enjoyed the homemade food and company. If you haven't popped in please do so. We are indebted to all the volunteers who have given of their time and talents: cooking, baking, serving, making sandwiches and becoming baristas to make the venture such a success

We have raised a total of £1,232 for the following local, national and international charities through customer tips and donations:

October to December 22 1toanother Pakistan £160.00  
November 22 Helensburgh Food Bank £100.00  
January and February 23 Scot Baby Box Appeal (for Ukraine) £461.23



March and April 23 Beatson Cancer Charity £363.33  
May 23 Christian Aid £148.00

We were also delighted to host 25 visitors from the Scotrail Community Gardens network for lunch in June.

**We are going to take a short break over the summer to give the volunteers a well deserved rest. We will close on Wednesday 28th June 2023 and reopen on Monday 7th August 2023 at 10am till 2pm.**

If you would like to join our team of friendly volunteers you will be made most welcome. Please email [info@cardrossparishchurch.org](mailto:info@cardrossparishchurch.org) or contact Judy on 07884496257.



## CORONATION CELEBRATION

**Cardross Parish Church invited the community to celebrate the King's coronation with an afternoon tea and family fun day back in May.**

Our church halls and gardens were the venue for the party marking the crowning of King Charles III earlier that month.

There was face painting, a hook-a-duck competition, a bouncy castle, raffle, plant stall and home baking.

The coronation was watched by millions on TV the weekend before when the weather was not too kind to our new Monarch. But the weather was ideal the following Saturday when we held our celebration.

Rev Maggie McArthur said: "We had an absolutely fabulous day. The weather was warm and sunny. "We

had lots of people from the village who came along to enjoy a fun day in the garden with all the activities for the children (bouncy castle, hook a duck, face painting, throw the bean bag at the cans etc), followed by a super afternoon tea in the hall.

"There was a plant stall, baking stall, raffle and silent auction and we have raised about £2,000. The most important part of the day was everyone getting together and enjoying the occasion.

"I am so grateful to those who came along and supported us, those who worked so hard to make it all possible and those who donated items for the stalls.

We have a great team of volunteers who are willing to give of their time and talents."



## CORONATION CELEBRATION





## MODERATOR DROPS IN FOR TEA



The Church of Scotland's Moderator of the General Assembly, Rt Rev Dr Iain Greenshields, visited Cardross Parish Church and village HUB recently during his tour of Clyde Presbytery. During his visit he enjoyed a spot of lunch and chatted with members of the community and heard about the wonderful fund raising the HUB has undertaken since it's launch. The Moderator also presented four of our Elders with long service awards: Bobby Beggs, Beth Street, Christine Scholarios and Rebecca Maclachlan were presented with framed certificates





## KIRK SESSION MEMORIES

In year 2000 the National Records of Scotland began the enormous task of digitising the records of the Church of Scotland Kirk Session Minutes.

In 2003 I read an article in Life & Work about this work and the fact that they were looking for volunteers to compile indexes for each parish. With my interest in Family History I thought it was something I would enjoy. I contacted Dr Hazel Anderson who was in charge of this work and I should have realised by the speed with which they accepted my offer that they were not overburdened with volunteers.

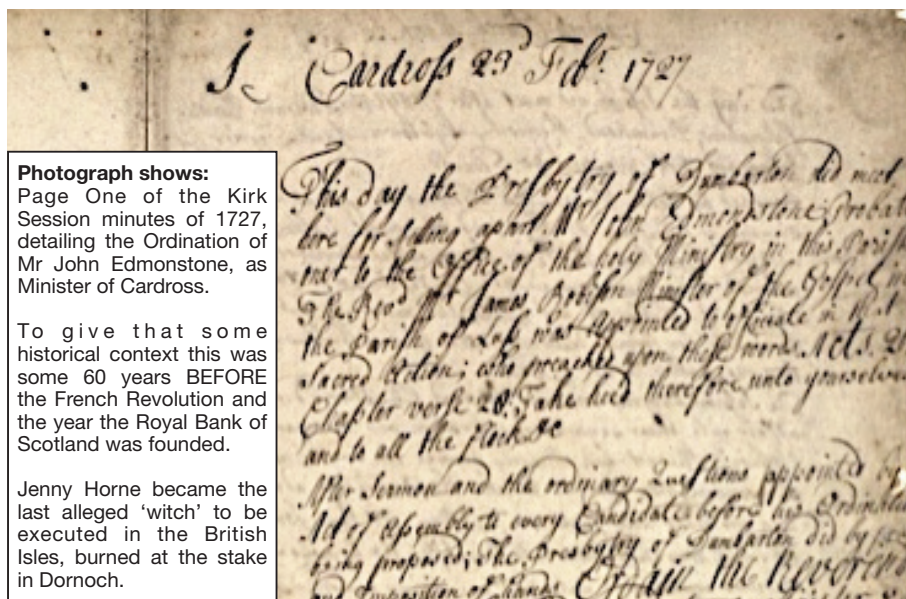
I was offered the chance to work on the parishes which related to my family which made the job more personal and in some cases gave an insight into my own folks lives.

As you can imagine minute books were subject to the ravages of damp vestries and animal and insect damage so many do not survive. The page included is page 1 of the Kirk Session Minute Book of 1727 and the Ordination of Mr John Edmonstone as Minister of Cardross. Considering it is almost 300 years old I think it is fairly legible but if anyone would like a translation I am happy to help.

In future editions of FOCUS I will pick out other notable highlights from the Kirk Session minutes of Cardross Parish Church.

**Maureen I Walker**

**Session Clerk**



**Photograph shows:**

Page One of the Kirk Session minutes of 1727, detailing the Ordination of Mr John Edmonstone, as Minister of Cardross.

To give that some historical context this was some 60 years BEFORE the French Revolution and the year the Royal Bank of Scotland was founded.

Jenny Horne became the last alleged 'witch' to be executed in the British Isles, burned at the stake in Dornoch.

## 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  
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*View from Kilcreggan*

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**For advice and assistance contact:**

**Jim Auld 01436 677768**

**[jim@jamesauldfunerals.co.uk](mailto:jim@jamesauldfunerals.co.uk)**

# UPDATED FLOWER ROTA 2023

## June

25 Mrs R Wilson, Auchensail

## July

02 Miss K Ferguson

09 Mrs J McKillop

16 Mrs D Colquhoun

23 Mrs K Dubowski

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 Christmas Tree

24 Christmas Tree

31 Christmas Tree

**Church Daredevils Tom & Lynda Darroch** demonstrated their stamina and head for heights recently when they took part in an exhilarating outdoor climb over the world famous roof of The O2 in London.

They braved the 1200 foot climb up to the 170 foot highest point and enjoyed breathtaking 360 degree views of the city from the viewing platform.

We now know who to send up the church tower to fix the pointing!

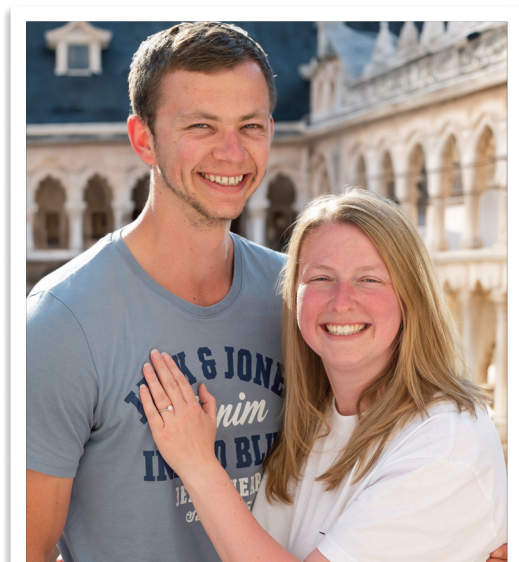




# Congregational Register

## ENGAGEMENTS

Jun 4th Kimberley Young, daughter of John & Kirstine Young and Conar Graham, youngest son of Russell & Joan Graham.



## DEATHS

Jan 2nd Mrs Margaret Johnstone, Argyle Lodge Care Home, Helensburgh  
 Jan 28th Mr Alex McCutcheon, 1 Scott Gardens, Cardross  
 Jan 23rd Mrs Betty Crocker, 17 Riverview Crescent, Cardross  
 Jan 29th Mrs Josephine McPherson, 17 Upper Colquhoun Street, Helensburgh  
 Feb 1st Mr George Goodings, 23 Bainfield Road, Cardross  
 Feb 2nd Mr William Hughes, 115 Mitre Road, Jordanhill  
 Mar 1st Mrs Mary Skinner, Northwood House CH, Helensburgh  
 Mar 1st Miss Jessie Docherty, 13c Wilson Street, Alexandria  
 Mar 15th Mrs Margaret Hedger, Waverly Court, West King Street, Helensburgh  
 Apr 4th Mrs Rhoda Somerside, 4 Cederwood Court, Cardross  
 Apr 6th Mr Tommy Smith, Argyle House CH, Helensburgh  
 Apr 12th Mrs Annie Kinloch, Walton Farm, Cardross  
 Apr 17th Mrs Effie Taylor, 35 Ardencaple Drive, Helensburgh

## Congregational Diary

### Summer Services

Our summer services will be held during July and August and start at 10.30am each Sunday. These services will be more relaxed and family friendly so please encourage your families to come along.

### Summer Holiday Club

The Summer Holiday Club will run from Monday 3rd to Friday 7th July 9.30am till 12 noon each day. See page 5 for further details.

### Summer Holiday Club Prize Giving and Family service

Prize giving will be held on Sunday 9th July at a special service for club families.

### Kirk Session Conference

Thursday 24th August starting at 6.30pm with KS business, tea break then conference.

### The Village Hub

The HUB will be closed the month of July and Resume as normal in August.

### Dr Graham's Homes, Kalimpong

A sponsored bike ride involving a group of ten people from all over the world will be stopping off in Cardross on July 19th and leaving again the following day. There will also be a sponsored run involving a different group stopping overnight from the 17th-18th August. As a church we have supported Dr Graham's Homes for many years and look forward to welcoming those who are raising awareness for the charity.

### Guild Sunday

A special service to mark Guild Sunday will be held on Sunday 10th September.

### Harvest Thanksgiving

We will celebrate the Harvest with a special thanksgiving service on 17th September.

### Communion

Next Communion will be Sunday October 1st

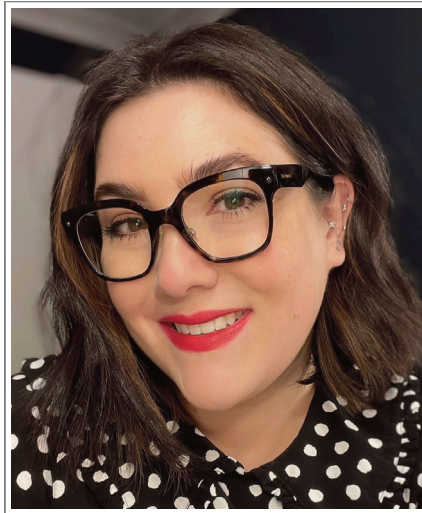
*Maggie*

## What Katie did next!

A well known former member of the congregation, Dr Katie Cross, daughter of Christine and Nico Scholarios, has been commissioned by the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland along with another colleague to write and present a series of lectures for the highly regarded Chalmers Lecture series. This will involve Katie and Rev Professor John Swinton each writing and presenting three lectures each on the subject of "Hope in the world today". Together they will present the final lecture in person and online. The joint lecture series will be published as a resource for congregations and further publications are also planned.

Katie is a Lecturer at Aberdeen University within the School of Divinity, History, Philosophy, and Art History. Her work and teaching are centred around theologies of trauma, suffering, and disaster. Katie also runs the women's network called "Sophia"

which exists to support, advocate for and empower women and minoritized students in theology. Katie also is a member of the editorial board of the Journal of Practical Theology and assistant editor of the practical theology Hub.



### CONTACT: MINISTER

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