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John Russell
Tribute



FOCUS



Cardross Parish Church magazine

October 2023



The Summer Holiday Club was a great success. See Page 9

Dear Friends,

We are familiar with the expression, "I don't believe it"? Well, this was what I said to myself when towards the end of August I was in a supermarket and saw Christmas items appearing on the shelves.

It was a stark reminder that 2023 was passing at a rapid pace and soon we will be drawing the curtains to shut out the dark nights hoping that the winter will not be too severe.

The past few months in the life of our church have been busy as usual. It was

lovely to have some of our church families participate in morning worship during July and August as we followed the theme "Let's Look @ Luke" and I thank them all for their contributions.

Our holiday club was successful, and I am grateful to the team for their commitment to making the week fun and meaningful for the children.

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

Finance Report

I am pleased to report that the church's routine income and expenditure up to this point in the financial year is in line with our budgeted estimates.

The Village Hub has been very successful and donations have been made to the church over the course of the year totalling £1,250 which have been gratefully received.

Our current contracts for electricity and gas have been renewed by the Church of Scotland and a new dual fuel supplier, E.ON, has been appointed. The average cost increases are 98% for electricity 105% for gas. These increases are significant and will be taken into account when we set our budget for 2024.

There are some impending capital projects which may impact our finances i.e. removal of trees at boundary wall on to Main Road, creation of an accessible toilet within the church and urgent external and internal repairs to the church tower. These will be monitored closely over the coming months. (See Property Report P6/7)

The Kirk Session has approved my appointment as Church Treasurer from 1st January 2024. I am taking over from Noel Glen who has served the Church as Treasurer for over 30 years. Noel has managed the Church's finances diligently and we sincerely thank him for his long and faithful service to the Church.

Alison Wood, Depute Treasurer

MEET OUR NEW PRESBYTERY CLERK - Revd Robert A Hamilton

Robbie is currently minister of The New Wellwynd Parish Church Airdrie and has been there for 22 years. After graduating from New College, Edinburgh in 1993 he served as Probationer Assistant at Hamilton Old after which he took up his first charge in Irvine at the Relief Parish Church, Bourtreehill in 1995. He has served in various roles within the Presbyteries where he has served including as Depute Clerk, Ministries Convener and Moderator. He has also served nationally continuing his support of ministers and ministers in training - the Board of Ministry, the Ministries Council and Faith Nurture. He is currently Convener of the Registration of Ministries Committee. Ongoing training through the Study Leave Scheme has been important to him with a particular interest in Christian nurture.



Robbie grew up in Saltcoats and has been married to Carol for 32 years. They have one son Daniel who is 24 and a crazy but cute dog called Rosie. They enjoy travel both at home and abroad and are getting back into caravanning having bought a new van last year. Robbie counts as a passion music - listening and playing (attempting to play the piano). He is looking forward to getting back to regular concerts in Glasgow and is hoping to get back to choral singing again having been in various choirs since schooldays including the Phoenix for a short time.

Robbie is looking forward to this new chapter and hopes that his experiences of church and community as well as his style of ministry which seeks to encourage and enable will stand him in good stead.



(Cont...)

We were glad to welcome the five cyclists representing Doctor Graham's Homes in Kalimpong on their sponsored tour. The time we spent with them was a real blessing. They appreciated the hospitality we offered them as well as the visit to Dr Graham's childhood home at Low Auchensail. Many thanks to Glen for letting us tramp around the garden and to Rosemary for showing the group around the Stations of The Cross at High Auchensail. Two of the group, now resident in the USA, actually studied at the school in Kalimpong so it meant a great deal to them to be here. See picture on page 5.

I am relieved to inform you that the Presbytery Mission Plan has finally been approved for Clyde Presbytery and that congregations which have been vacant for a prolonged period of time can now begin the process of seeking a minister. For some there will be the difficulty of readjustment first, but we pray for a smooth transition of the Plan and a hopeful future for the Mission of the Church in Scotland. We pray also for those congregations who will be faced with the loss of buildings and ministries in this difficult but necessary process for the whole church.

As a congregation we have welcomed new people in our midst, said goodbye to loved ones and celebrated special occasions. The church has played a vital part in the life of our community, and we pray that this will continue for many years to come. Your

Harvest gifts which beautified the church on the Sunday benefited the Foodbank and Jean's Bothy reminding us that the church is not ours, but Christ's and we follow his example by sharing and serving. It is our belief in a gracious God that enables us to do this. So, as we leave summer and autumn behind with all its beauty and bounty, and prepare for the months ahead, let our belief in the Almighty God guide us and inspire us in all that is yet to come.

Stay safe and keep praying.

With God's richest blessings,

Maggie



The Guild held its first meeting of the session on Thursday 21st September and we were delighted to welcome six new members.

Our Speaker, Ruth Box, spoke powerfully and movingly about the work of a small Christian Mission, in south Asia, called Chocolate Heaven. This missionary outpost is on a predominantly Muslim island and care must be taken with identifying the exact location. The mission cooperative offers work and equal pay to both men and women and is the only organisation on the island other than the government who offer this equality. They manage the cocoa plantation and produce chocolate bars and individual chocolates.

Can I just say that an enormous and heavy cool-box of chocolate bars was brought into the hall at 1.45pm and the same box was removed from the hall at 4.30pm carried in one hand. The chocolate produced is 'heavenly'

Please come and join is at our next meeting when we will welcome Margaret Campbell from Bearsden: Cross Church who will bring some of her beautiful hand painted floral cards which she sells in aid of MacMillan Cancer Research.

Maureen Walker - Convener.

Some Dates for your Diary:



Food Festival Weekend Sat 4th & 5th Nov

Enjoy tasting lots of our favourite products,
and get ideas for Festive treats!

Maker's Market Sat 11th & 12th Nov

We look forward to welcome some local marker to
showcase & sell their art, jewellery & crafts

*Enjoy all we have going on at Monty's &
Ardardan this coming Autumn / Winter!*



For All Family events coming up at Monty's over the
Autumn & Festive Season pop onto Monty's website
www.montysfarmpark.co.uk



Hannah Frew Paterson MBE

It was with sadness that we learned of the death of artist Hannah Frew Paterson creator of the beautiful embroidered panels that adorn the wall behind the communion table.

The panels which were commissioned and gifted by the late Miss Elizabeth C Hendry, in memory of her sister Lorna Hendry. A labour of love as well as a work of art they took nearly two and a half years to complete.

During the during the Covid pandemic Hannah's son John took his Mum for a run out in his car and visited the church. took great delighted seeing them again after a number of years and talked about it for days after according to her son John.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Hannah's family at this sad time and we thank God for blessing our church with her art.



Five cyclists representing Doctor Graham's Homes in Kalimpong visited the church during their sponsored tour they also visited Dr Graham's childhood home.



Property Report

The Conservation architect has been working on the two main issues affecting our church.

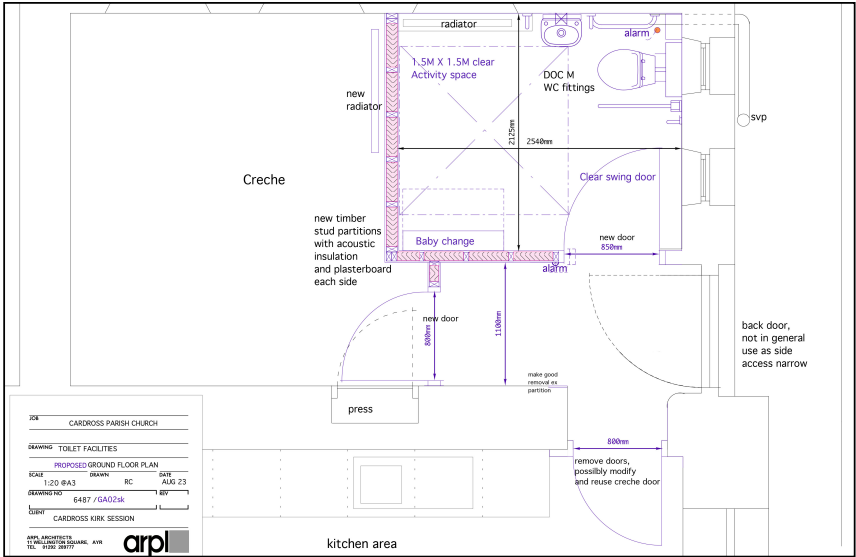
The first is the repair work required on the church tower. The cap of the tower needs repointing with lime mortar and the vegetation removed. Internally the wooden beams will require to be assessed by a wood specialist and may require to be partially replaced. Both these tasks are expensive and we intend to apply for grants to help with this project

The second issue is improving access to the church for people with disabilities. We already have a ramp for access to the church via the church office and it has been proposed that we run a slabbed

path 1.2 metres wide from the main entrance gate to the existing ramp. In addition the existing toilet at the back of the office could be converted into an accessible toilet. Significant structural changes will be needed for the new toilet and a building warrant will be required. Again we plan to apply for grants to assist with funding this work.

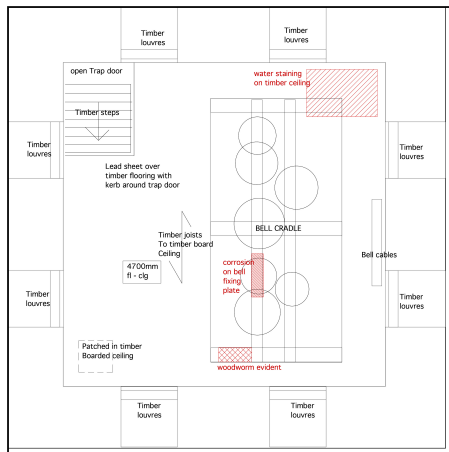
Work has also been undertaken to cut back the trees in the church hall grounds that have been overhanging the main road and causing stress to the boundary wall. LJX Tree Services were contracted to do this work and it was completed at the end of September.

*Gordon & Pamela Stevenson
Property conveners.*



Plans for new accessible toilet replacing the current small toilet in the office / vestry

Property Report



Woodwork needing attention in our Bell Tower with the plans show areas of concern. The exterior of the tower will require the cap repointed and the vegetation removed as can be seen on this drone shot of the tower.

LJX Tree Services working on our trees that were overhanging the main road and causing stress to the boundary wall. The work was undertaken on Monday 25th September 2023.



Messy Church Outing

Messy Church resumed this year on 17 September. Our priority on that first Saturday back was to harvest all the potatoes that we had planted earlier in the year. All the potatoes were taken into the church and were displayed for our harvest service and were then donated to Jean's Bothy.

At the end of the usual Messy Church activities (and after a light lunch) many of the families travelled together by train to the Royal Concert Hall in Glasgow for the Fishy Music 25th Anniversary Concert. It was fantastic with an excellent selection of songs and storytelling. On leaving the concert Hall we just missed the train and had a wee wait, so chips were the order of the day!



Messy Church families on the steps of the Royal Concert Hall before the Fishy Music 25th Anniversary Concert where they had seats on the front row and fish and chips on the way home!

Earlier in the day families dug up a harvest of new potatoes they had planted earlier in the year and which were donated Jean's Bothy in Helensburgh.

Summer fun at Holiday Club



This year the theme of our Summer Club was **God's Secret Agent** and we followed the story of Joseph. We had 29 school age children who were keen to join in all the various activities, craft work making necklaces, artwork for the story boards, learning the memory verse, singing and playing games both indoors and outdoors. On the Friday we had our usual water play which was enjoyed by all. On the Sunday we had a superb all age family service and prize giving, followed by a picnic and cake. All the children were a credit to their families and to their school.



Heart felt thanks to Knitting Club



Well done to the Knitting Group who recently supplied the Critical Care Team at the Golden Jubilee Hospital with 90 knitted hearts. These small hand knitted hearts are offered to bereaved families as a token of love and connection.

As Peter Scholarios of the ICU2 team said in the thank you letter he wrote to the knitting club *"The importance that these small hearts have to families at a time of deep sorrow is unmeasurable. They give families a token of love and connection to their loved ones and bring a small light in a dark time. We are forever grateful for your kindness."*

Rebecca MacLachlan

MOTHER THERESA by Sheila McGowan

On the first Sunday that Stuart Wilson took our service in August this year he showed a photograph of Mother Theresa which made me recall a visit I had made to Calcutta on my way home from Kalimpong in 2001.

We were shown the memorial to Mother Theresa and then were shown two of her hospitals. The first was a hospital for children - row upon row of small cots with a little child in each cot. It was very sad. The second hospital was for women - it was so awful it is difficult to describe.

As soon as we entered the ward one of our group said 'we should not be looking at these women' so we all turned around and walked out again. The women were all so thin and haggard looking with eyes staring out of their heads. While appreciating all the work Mother Theresa did it was all so sad to see the people she was helping and hope that after all these

years they are all back to full health and strength.

Another memory from that holiday is the hottest curry I have ever had on the plane from Calcutta to Delhi' I thought my throat was never going to be the same again !



Kirk Session tribute to John Russell

Psalms 147 is a song of praise to God for his hand in creation and his continuing grace to those who place their trust in him for all things at all times. In verse 10-11 we read of God that, *"His pleasure is not in strong horses, nor his delight in brave soldiers; but he takes pleasure in those who honour him, in those who trust in his constant love."*

Such a one was our friend and fellow elder John Russell. Here was a man who honoured God throughout his life and put his complete trust in God's providence and grace. As a farmer he saw the hand of God in the beauty and bounty of creation and knew the pain of loss when life returned to its divine source. But always, he trusted and honoured God.

As the writer of Proverbs once said, *"When a man's ways please the Lord, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him. Better is a little with righteousness, than vast revenues without justice. A man's heart plans his way, But the Lord directs his steps."* (16:7-9)

The Lord directed John's steps from the day of his birth until the day of his death.

Born on September 28th 1933 to George and Elizabeth Russell when the family lived at east Fulton Farm, near Linwood John was a loving big brother to Jasmine who was born in 1939. In December 1940 the family moved to Lea Farm, Cardross, just in time to suffer the Clybebank and Greenock blitzes in the early part of WW2. And of course, Cardross was badly hit too. One of the bombs that fell but thankfully failed to explode, remains in the garden at Craigielea to this day. You will be pleased to learn that it has been diffused! It became a topic of interest, and the school children came from the primary school to see it

as part of their lessons about the war. John loved telling them all about it.

John loved being with people of all ages. He loved a good blether. He was gracious in his encounters making us all feel at ease. He was good company and being such a big man, he had a real sense of presence. Physically he was indeed strong, well suited to the farming

life, but he also had an inner strength that surpassed outward appearances. His faith gave him the ability to appreciate God's goodness and strength to endure times of trial. He exercised this faith through service to the church. A respected elder since 1966 John was also a dear friend to us all.

His life with Anne was happy and fulfilling. They made a good team and worked well together keeping the farm going and

bringing up their family. In retirement they expanded their horizons further and loved to travel. Anne's passing brought a deep sense of loss, and the last few years were challenging in various ways for John. The love and care of his family kept him going and even up to the last they did all that was possible for him.

John was one of life's true gentlemen. Once committed to something he would see it through. He was trustworthy, practical, a man of integrity and intelligence who will be sadly missed and fondly remembered.

We continue to hold, George, Maxie, Libby, Alex and the whole family circle in prayer at this difficult time for them all.



Rev Maggie McArthur

James Auld Funeral Directors

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

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Kirk Session Memories

By Maureen
Walker

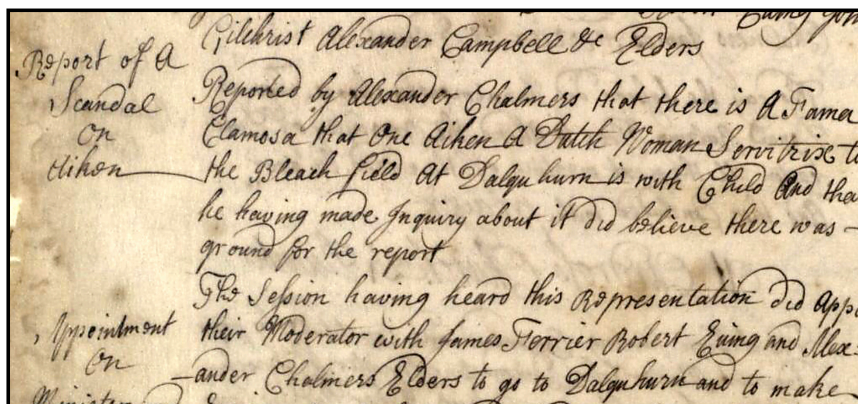
The National Records of Scotland, is the official repository for Kirk Sessions and Presbytery Records which are earlier than those in current use. They also hold the historical records of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland and the records of Synods, which were abolished in 1993. Most church records which are more than 30 years old can be consulted by the general public in the Historical Search Room in New Register House, in Edinburgh.

It should, of course be understood, that Kirk Session Minute Books and also the Old Parish Registers which were records of Baptisms, Marriage Banns and Deaths, pre 1855 and kept by the Minister or Session Clerk of the Parish Church, were stored in damp, unheated vestries and were prey to insect and vermin depredation. Many do not survive, including many of the Kirk Session Minutes for Cardross, which show huge gaps. Nothing prior to 1727 and a gap between 1734 and 1810. The next set of Kirk Session Minutes runs from 1810-1873. All of our church records from 1900 are safely in the hands of the National Records of Scotland.

Images of pages from the Church's Kirk Sessions and Court Records from 1559 to 1900 are available on the **ScotlandsPeople**

website. These records contain details of key events in communities across the country offering remarkable insights into the everyday lives of ordinary Scots, as well as accounts of exceptional historical events, such as wars, witchcraft trials and epidemics. These records of kirk sessions, presbyteries, synods and the General Assembly, makeup a major part of Scotland's written history and are used by a wide range of academic, professional and amateur researchers, especially genealogists and ecclesiastical historians.

The Kirk Sessions also saw themselves as the guardians of the moral welfare of the local congregation and parish. **The Minutes of Cardross Kirk Session in February & March 1728 (see below - Report of a scandal) deal with the case of an unmarried mother and how she must state to the three Elders, sent by the Kirk Session, who is the father of the expected child. Both accuser and accused are summoned before the Kirk Session to make separate statements and the Kirk Session will decide who is telling the truth regarding the paternity of this as yet unborn child.** Similar items appear regularly with, in some cases, witnesses called before the session and their statements noted in the Minutes Book.



Congregational Register

ENGAGEMENTS

Aug 25th Colin Stevenson, son of Gordon and Pamela, to Vicky Raeside, daughter of Morton and Carolyn at Elie - pictured below.



BAPTISMS

Sept 24th Lillie Catherine McMillan daughter of Steven and Elaine and wee sister to Mollie.
61 Barrs Road, Cardross.
Sept 24th Fraser Colin MacLean, daughter of Christopher and Fiona and wee brother to
Amy and Emily, 37 Park Street, Dumbarton.

WEDDINGS

April 5th Lisa Allan and Fraser Eunson
Sept 2nd Gemma Crosbie and Jamie Ross

DEATHS

June 22nd Mrs Jessie Fraser, Mugdock House CH, Bearsden.
June 22nd Mrs Elizabeth Lester, Crosslet House CH, Dumbarton
June 23rd Mrs Louisa Crawley, 25 Meadow Park, Campbeltown.
July 12th Mrs Isabel Crawford, Crosslet House CH, Dumbarton.
July 26th Miss Katie MacDonald, 6 Barrs Crescent, Cardross.
Aug 6th Mr Robert Miller, Lorne Campbell Court, Campbeltown.
Aug 7th Mr John Russell, Craigielea, Church Avenue, Cardross.
Aug 25th Mr Forbes Ramsay, Lagavulin, Main Street, Cardross.
Sept 3rd Mr Duncan Smith, 26 Riverview, Cardross.
Sept 4th Mr Alexander Milne, 8 Sandbank Crescent, Alexandria
Sept 17th Mrs Frances Alexander, 25 Rutherford Court, Bridge of Allan.

Congregational Diary

Services from 1st October to 25th November 2023

OCTOBER

Sunday 1st	11.00am	Morning Worship	<i>Celebration of Holy Communion</i>
Sunday 8th	11.00am	Morning Worship	<i>Led by the Very Revd John Christie</i>
Sunday 15th	11.00am	Morning Worship	<i>Led by the Very Revd John Christie</i>
Sunday 22nd	11.00am	Morning Worship	
Sunday 29th	11.00am	Morning Worship	

NOVEMBER

Sunday 5th	11.00am	Morning Worship	
Sunday 12th	10.50am	Act of Remembrance at War Memorial	
" "	11.15am	Morning Worship	
Sunday 19th	11.00am	Morning Worship	<i>CrossReach Sunday</i>
Sunday 26th	11.00am	Morning Worship	<i>Christ the King Sunday, Ordination of new Elders</i>

**** Note - short communion services will resume after morning worship on Nov 5th, Dec 3rd and Jan 7th.**

WHAT'S ON

Here is a list of some of groups and clubs that use the church and church halls and which you can join if you wish:

BIBLE STUDY	- Thursday 10am - 12noon in the church office
THE VILLAGE HUB	- Monday and Wednesdays 10am - 2pm
THE GUILD	- Monthly, Thursday. Next meetings: 26 th Oct 2.30pm, 18 th Nov 7.30pm 14 th Dec 2.30pm, Jan25 th 2.30pm & 22 nd Feb 2.30pm
MESSY CHURCH	- Mon 30 th Oct, Halloween Party 6-8pm, Sat 18 th Nov 10am-12pm, Mon 11 th Dec, Christmas Party 6-8pm
KNITTING GROUP	- First Monday of each month 7pm - 9pm
BADMINTON	- Every Wednesday 2pm - 4pm
CARDROSS WRI	- Mondays 9 th Oct 7-9pm, 23 th Nov 7-9pm, 11 th Dec 7-9pm
ART WORKSHOP	- Thursday 9.30am - 2.30pm
DANCE CLASS	- Tuesday and Thursdays 6pm - 9pm
DRAMA CLASS	- Mondays 3.30pm - 6pm
SEWING GROUP	- Tuesday 7-9pm
BABY & TODDLERS	- Wednesdays 10am-12pm
CHURCH CHOIR.	- Each Sunday at 10am meeting before the service

Maggie

Lottery funding for village HUB



The Village Hub resumed in August after a short summer break. We are pleased to be able to continue to provide this service for the community. We have been welcoming our regular customers and several new faces.

During the Summer the Hub committee through the Church made an application for grant funding to the Community Lottery to create a disabled access to the

garden area beside the Bible Garden. We were delighted to have been successful in receiving a considerable grant towards the costs of the work to be undertaken.

The work has commenced with the area having been dug out and it is expected to be completed over the next few weeks weather dependent.



CONTACT: MINISTER

Revd. Maggie McArthur
The Manse
16 Bainfield Road
Cardross G82 5JQ
Tel: 01389 849329
Email: minister@cardrossparishchurch.org

CONTACT: CHURCH

Tel: 01389 841322 (only on a Sunday morning)
Email: info@cardrossparishchurch.org
www.CardrossParishChurch.org

CONTACT: FOCUS

Editor: John Young
Email: info@YoungMedia.co.uk



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