Gate The Newsletter of St Machar's Ranfurly Church



February 2019 Volume 21 Issue 1



St Machar's Ranfurly Church, Church of Scotland, Bridge of Weir. Scottish Charity No. SC003766

MINISTER'S LETTER



'He's not a tame Lion' – I spent some time this afternoon watching The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe with the girls. It is a beautiful film based on C.S. Lewis famous book. I found the scene in which Aslan the lion, voluntarily steps forward to be captured, mocked and killed by the White Witch

very moving. It is of course an allegory for the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. Somehow seeing it in a different, allegorical way, brought the message and the emotion of the passion story home to me afresh.

At the end of the film, when Aslan has come back to life, Lucy sees him walking off on a distant seashore. Mr Tumnus explains that he does this; he will go and come back in his own time. 'After all, he is not a tame Lion.'

Over the next few months we will follow the story of Jesus from Luke's gospel. I hope you will join us regularly for worship and will find that Jesus can still surprise you. Whenever you think you have him sussed out, he will slip through your fingers.

He is more majestic, more powerful and more loving than you think.

I recommend doing your own personal reading in the Luke's gospel. Why not use the WordLive website for daily Bible notes (currently from Luke), or buy Tom Wright's Luke for Everyone for accessible explanations? I've just started reading 'Jesus, a pilgrimage' by James Martin, SJ and it is great. It paints a vivid picture of Jesus in his physical and historical surroundings, whilst also being a deeply spiritual book.

Yours,

Hanneke

BOYS BRIGADE JUNIOR SECTION

At the recent outings to the Battalion Sports Days the boys were 2nd in football, 1st at 10 pin bowling and 3rd at potted sports.

Brian Logie (BB officer junior section) .







Front Cover: Snowdrops at Melrose Abbey (Photograph by Mary Taylor)

CHURCHES OF THE WORLD

Church of San Nicolo Savoca, Sicily



This is a quiet and crumbling village of Savoca perched high above the sea.

It gives a chance to breathe deeply the mountain air and see what an unspoiled Sicilian hill village can be. It has plenty of charm but perhaps its claim to fame was it was the setting for many of the scenes for the film of the Godfather.

This church seems almost to stretch out into space, built in a massive outcrop of rock and perched on the hillside beneath the rocky castle summit. It has 3 wide aisles and an austere atmosphere of the steep fortress over the valley. Inside there is a silver statue of St Lucia and a display of eyes! (St Lucia had her eyes put out and is the patron Saint of sight). Photography however was not allowed inside

This church, together with the village was one of the famous sets for the wedding of Michael and Appollones in the film of the Godfather.

Helen Bullen

THE TOURIST PRAYER

Thanks to Carole Cairney for sharing the following prayer with us:

Heavenly Father, look down on your humble, obedient tourist servants, who are doomed to travel this earth, taking photographs, sending postcards and buying souvenirs.

We beseech you, O Lord, o see that our plane is not delayed, our luggage is not lost and our overweight baggage goes unnoticed. Give us this day divine guidance in our selection of cabins. We pray that everything works and that the Cabin Stewards understand us.

Lead us to good, inexpensive restaurants where the wine is included in the price of the meal. Make the native love us for what we are and not for what we can contribute to their worldly goods. Grant us the strength to visit the museums, cathedrals palaces and if we skip a historic monument to take a nap after lunch, have mercy on us for our flesh is weak.

Dear God, protect our wives from bargains they do not need or can't afford. Lead them not into temptation, for they know not what they do. Almighty Father, keep our husbands from looking at foreign women and comparing them to us. Above all, please do not forgive them their trespasses for they know exactly what they are doing.

And when our voyage is over, grant us the favour of finding someone who will look at our holiday photos and listen to our stories so our lives as tourists will not have been in vain.

Amen

WORSHIP LEADERS IN TRAINING

During the months of February and March two of our members, Dick Hughes and Aaron Marshall will be undertaking a Presbytery led course in order to become recognised Worship Leaders. They will receive instruction in the different elements that make up our worship services and will have to practice these various aspects.

Two elders from Lochwinnoch Parish Church, Greg Miller and Eric Beattie, are also doing the course and as there is no minister in Lochwinnoch to supervise them, will be joining us. I look forward to their input in our services over the next couple of months and for these men to use and develop their gifts for the building up of the church.

Worship leaders, once certified by the Presbytery, will be able to lead worship under the minister's supervision in their own congregation. It is not the same as being a Reader (like Mary-Jane Bird) as training for this is more extensive.

In order to give support to Lochwinnoch Parish Church and to Greg and Eric, the Kirk Session of St. Machar's Ranfurly Church have agreed to two joint services being arranged in March. The first will be on 10th March in St. Machar's Ranfurly Church at 10.30 a.m. The second will be held at Lochwinnoch Church on 31st March at 11.00 a.m.

Please note that there will be no service in St. Machar's Ranfurly Church that day. Further arrangements for transport will be made nearer the time.

THE HISTORY OF ST MACHAR'S RANFURLY CHURCH

In the December 2018 edition of The Lych Gate Magazine Emma Christie traced the building of the Church in the Village and the inauguration of its first minister, The Rev Robert Turnbull; she continues her research through articles in Newspapers.

The Rev Thomas Duncan

At that period in time the Church was known as "The Established Church in Bridge of Weir. The translation of Rev Robert Turnbull to Barrowfield Church in Glasgow was in September 1883.

The Paisley and Renfrewshire Gazette 19 July 1884,

On Wednesday Rev. Thomas Duncan, Edinburgh, was inducted to the pastoral charge of Bridge of Weir Parish Church by the Paisley Established Presbytery. The Church became vacant in September last by the translation of the late minister, the Rev. Robert Turnbull to Barrowfield Church, Glasgow. The Rev. James Young, of the North Parish, Paisley, preached and presided, and suitably addressed the new minister and the congregation. Mr Young chose as the text of his discourse Zechariah viii. and 23. At the close of the proceedings, Mr Duncan shook hands with the congregation, who were present in large numbers. In connection with the induction, a dinner took place in the afternoon in the Ranfurly Hotel. There was a large attendance of presbyters and others. Mr Robert Wilson of Manswraes, Bridge of Weir, occupied the chair and the croupier's duties were ably discharged by Mr Thomas Frame. Amongst the company present were: - The Rev Mr Duncan, the newly inducted minister; Rev Dr Graham, Kilbarchan; Rev J B Dalgety, Paisley; Rev James Young. Paisley; Rev William Lowe. Paisley; Rev. Thomas Carruthers, Bridge of Weir Free Church; Rev. Alexander McLaren, Houston; Rev. Robert Turnbull, Glasgow, late of Bridge of Weir; Rev. Mr Murry, Kilmacolm; Mr R C Guy, Johnstone; Dr Turner. Mr A E Schroder, Mr Hay, Mr McPherson, Mr Armstrong, Mr Dalziel, Mr Stewart, etc

An ample dinner served up in fine style by "mine host" of the Ranfurly, was partaken of. The customary loyal and patriotic toasts having been duly honoured. The Chairman gave the toast "The Health of Mr Duncan." He hoped Mr Duncan's coming to Bridge of Weir would be a source of happiness to himself and a benefit to the neighbourhood. He was sure that both the Established and The Free Church Ministers of Bridge of Weir would find plenty of work. They all wished Mr Duncan every success. (Applause) Rev. Mr Duncan, in responding to the toast, said that that day was a period that he had looked forward to when a student, of having his name enrolled amongst the ministers of the Church of Scotland. At the close of his college career, a call was made upon students to go to the Provinces of Canada. A fellow student and himself had gone out together – a Paisley man. The Rev. Andrew Lochhead, a very estimable and amicable and able man, now gone to his rest. For many years he (Mr Duncan) laboured amongst our countrymen in Canada, and he could only say now that he never regretted having gone across the Atlantic. However humble his endeavours might be in his new sphere of labour, he trusted to work in strict harmony with the brethren of the Presbytery, and he hoped that, with their kindly assistance and with co-operation of the congregation, much good might be done in the district. (Applause). Other toasts followed. A congregational soiree was held in the evening.

Paisley & Renfrewshire Gazette. 6 December 1884.

Rev. Mr McLaren, Houston, stated that he had been asked to bring application of The Bridge of Weir Church Trustees – who wished their church erected into a Parish Church – before the Presbytery. The Church at Bridge of Weir was making good progress. The Church itself was erected in 1878 at a cost of £2,700. It provided sittings for 430 people, and this could be increased by 150. The attendance at the Church on Sundays was

always good, both forenoons and evenings. The population of the district was 1600. Under the ministry of Rev. Mr Duncan, he had no doubt the prosperity of the church would go on increasing. He then moved that the Presbytery agree to the application of the Bridge of Weir Trustees, to have the church erected into a Parish Church, through the agency of the Endowment Committee. Rev. Dr. Graham seconded the motion. The Motion was unanimously agreed to.

Paisley & Renfrewshire Gazette: Bridge of Weir 18 July 1885.

The memorial-stone of the New Manse for the minister of the Established Church is to be laid today. We understand by Thomas Inglis Scott Esq of Torr Hall. The ceremony takes place about 3 o'clock.

The Parish Church.

At the close of the forenoon service in the Parish Church at Bridge of Weir on Sunday, the Rev. Mr Duncan gave a statement of the progress of the church and made appropriate remarks in connection with that day being the anniversary of his induction twelve months ago. The membership had been increased by 43 and the attendance at the Sabbath School had nearly doubled.

Paisley and Renfrewshire Gazette 22 May 1886.

Manse of the Established Church. The "Long Delayed" has come at last. Rev Mr Duncan has after "weary, weary, waiting" taken possession of the manse which has been built for him. A meeting has been held to settle the date on which the supplementary bazaar should be held but nothing definite has been arranged. It will be held in Paisley towards the end of September and it is expected that The Greenock Telegraph

April 4 1896.

Honour to Local Minister.

Bridge of Weir residents will be extremely pleased to notice that the

Senate of The University of Glasgow has resolved to confer the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Divinity to the Rev Thomas Duncan

minister of Bridge of Weir,

THE HISTORY OF ST MACHAR'S RANFURLY CHURCH (CONT'D)

formally minister of St James' Charlotte Town, Prince Edward Island and a member of the Board of Education for that Island. The honour will be formally conferred on Tuesday 14 April 1896.

Paisley & Renfrewshire Gazette 4 September 1897

Bridge of Weir Parish Church.
We understand that the service in the Church tomorrow will be conducted by Rev George G Duncan BD of Glendevon Parish Church (Son of Rev Thomas Duncan) The contributions for the day will go towards the defraying of the expenses connected with the erection of the gallery in the Church and enlargement of the hall. The gallery, we understand is now fit for use and the completion of the hall

is only a matter of a week or two. The congregation is to be congratulated on this effort and it is hoped that the results of their endeavours tomorrow may add very materially to their resources.

Evening Telegraph Friday May 5 1899.

Death of Rev Dr Duncan: Bridge of Weir.

Rev Dr Duncan minister of Bridge of Weir Parish Church died yesterday afternoon in the presence of his assembled relatives. The deceased had a stroke of opoplexy last Sunday morning whilst preparing for the afternoon service. He never regained conscious. The Rev

Gentleman who was 66 years had been minister of the parish for over 15 years and was much esteemed by a large circle of friends. Previous to that Dr Duncan had laboured in Canada successfully for 28 years and for his work there in education matters the Senate of Glasgow University a few years ago conferred on him the Degree of Doctor of Divinity. A widow and grown up family of five are left to mourn his loss. Rev George G Duncan, Glendevon Parish Church is a son of the deceased clergyman and carried off many honours in Glasgow University a few years

2ND BRIDGE OF WEIR GUIDES

Last term flew by very quickly finishing with our annual coffee morning and Christmas activities. It was very productive and busy; the girls worked on the new Girlguiding program with interesting activities slotted in. Food was on the agenda with the girls working in pairs producing the most amazing and yummy pizzas. These were not all eaten in Guide time the balance taken home in pizza boxes!



We had a film and chill out night followed by crafts and a mocktail party. Some of the drinks looked a little lethal but tasted fine.

We had an away night kindly driven there by Shona's husband Craig. It was an amazing and a very interesting visit to a vet practice in Barrhead.

The girls learned about x rays, animal care and bandaging animals. There was practical experience while Shona's beautiful collie put up with being poked, prodded and having various bits bandaged! It was a super visit enjoyed by us all.



On a sombre note the girls collected plastic bottles, painted and made them into the style of poppies. Each poppy was named after a local fallen serviceman from WW1. The girls with a little for the leaders mounted all 77 on camouflage netting and hung them on the church gate and perimeter fence.



ago.

We had a fun sleepover at Flipout trampoline park in Glasgow with other Bridge of Weir and Kllmacolm Guides. It was great fun with lots of jumping and a film, the night passed with expected minimum sleep. We had to shake ourselves awake for breakfast, more jumping before some of our younger Guides took their promise.

We had an outing with Santa's sleigh before we broke up for Christmas.

Moira Johnston

NOTICES

Vacancies

We have different opportunities to serve the life of the church.

Teen group leader

We would like to trial a small group for our teens who have 'outgrown' Junior Church. They would leave the service during the sermon and have a conversation based on the scripture passage read in the main service, or topics picked together. If this might be for you, please speak to the minister.

Safeguarding officer

Each congregation needs to have a safeguarding officer. They keep up to date with information from presbytery and central offices and submit PVG applications of local volunteers that work with children or vulnerable adults. Dick Hughes is retiring from this post and we are urgently looking for someone to take over. If this has your interest, please speak to the minister or to Dick for more information

Buildings team convener

Our buildings team looks after the fabric and the use of our church, hall and manse. This involves getting quotes from contractors if works are needed and reporting to the Kirk Session. Bill Robb has convened this team for a number of years and will retire from the role in a few months. If this role might interest you, please speak to the minister or with Bill.

Guild Programme 2018 –2019

Feb. 18th Mother Earth in Bolivia Mar. 4th R.S.P.B.

Mar. 18th Photography & AGM

Holiday Chalet

Wester Ross (Achiltibuie / Summer Isles area)



Self-catering; sleeps up to six, but ideal for two to four. £200 pw.

All proceeds to church fund-raising.

For further info & dates, contact: Dave Macdonald 612472 (dave.sonas@outlook.com)

Junior Church

Sunday 3rd February

Sunday 17th February

Sunday 10th March



Funeral



Jesus said "I am the Resurrection and the Life...."

Mrs Morag Graham January 3rd 2019

Ms Ellen Magee January 18th 2019

Mr Bill Melvin January 24th 2019

Pastoral Care

The Future Focus programme concluded that one of our aims is to take church more into the community. There are a number of church members who are unable to attend church because of age, infirmity, mobility or other problems. The Kirk Session would like to include such members by offering home visits to provide support and extend the care of church to these members. The frequency of visits would be determined by mutual agreement between the member and the pastoral care worker. We would like to set up a Pastoral Care Team to provide such support and encourage and empower others. Care Volunteers will require PVG clearance and safeguarding training as they may be dealing with vulnerable adults. Volunteers will be given some basic training before commencing visits. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer please tact Hanneke or Fiona for further information including a job description.

Fiona Downie Email: fdownie13@gmail.com

Airport Runs: Please note that you can now book a run to the airport or to Johnstone Station by phoning: Morven McLeod - 07887 771522, or Jane Stirling - 07580 040186
A donation to Church funds is requested for this service.

CONTACTS

Minister: Rev. Hanneke Marshall

The Manse, 9 St Andrews Drive, Bridge of Weir, PA11 3HS

Tel: 01505 **612975**



Anyone wishing to consult the Minister may telephone for an appointment. She will be happy to arrange a meeting to discuss any matters at a mutually convenient time.

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SESSION CLERK	Dennis Taylor	33 St Andrews Drive, Bridge of Weir	PA11 3HT	01505 612417
DEPUTE SESSION CLERK	Marion Reid	Roquaine, 61 Hazelwood Road, Bridge of Weir	PA11 3DX	01505 612408
TREASURER	Francis Hancock	18 Glendentan Road, Bridge of Weir	PA11 3HE	01505 614943
CHURCH OFFICER	Stewart Yeaman	58 Ranfurly Road, Bridge of Weir	PA11 3EP	01505 612886
PRESBYTERY ELDER	Mary Taylor	33 St Andrews Drive, Bridge of Weir	PA11 3HT	01505 612417
BUILDINGS	Bill Robb	18 Kilgraston Road, Bridge of Weir	PA11 3EN	01505 612313
STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE	Ian Hales	Ranfurly House, Ranfurly Place, Bridge of Weir	PA11 3DE	01505 613447
WORSHIP	Rev Hanneke Marshall	9 St Andrews Drive Bridge of Weir	PA11 3HS	01505 612975
PASTORAL CARE & NURTURE	Fiona Downie	49 St. Andrews Drive, Bridge of Weir	PA11 3HU	01505 613671
COMMUNICATION & ADMINISTRATION	Dennis Taylor	33 St Andrews Drive, Bridge of Weir	PA11 3HT	01505 612417
LEARNING	Rev Hanneke Marshall	9 St Andrews Drive Bridge of Weir	PA11 3HS	01505 612975
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ORGANISATION LEADERS

JUNIOR CHURCH		Evelyn Watson Jill Crombie	oboe63@hotmail.co.uk jill.50@live.com	01505 610277 07904 210234
THE GUILD	President	Margaret Mills	margaret.fram@btinternet.com	01505 612625
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	Officer in Charge: Junior Section	Susan Wyllie	susanm.sw@talktalk.net	07960 791967
	Officer in Charge: Anchor Boys	Gerry Miller	geraldineemiller@gmail.com	01505 612173
GUIDES	Leader: 1st B.o.W (Wed)	Christine Haddock	christineh_2@hotmail.com	01505 610655
	Leader: 2nd B.o.W (Tues)	Moira Johnston	aquarotor@btconnect.com	07721 399164
RAINBOWS	Leader: 1st B.o.W (Tues)	Brenda Carson	brenda.carson@talk21.com	07799 451150
	Leader: 2nd B.o.W (Wed)	Kirstie MacPherson		07903 822596

MASQUERADERS CONCERT



The fun song and hilarity are about to start as the Masqueraders take to the stage once again for their eagerly awaited fund raising concert. The date is Saturday 27th April at 7 p.m and tickets cost £5.

Members of the Masqueraders attended a guild presentation by Dr. Haddock on the work of the Royal Hospital for Children which was very informative and they were so taken with Dr. Haddock's talk that the decision was made to make the Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity (formerly Yorkhill Children's Charity) the chosen charity to benefit from this year's concert.

Editorial Team Dennis Taylor Contributions for the next issue of *The Lych Gate* should be with the Editor by **Sunday 31st March. P**lease. E-mail to: dennis1taylor@msn.com;. Pass memory sticks or paper copies to Dennis Taylor. Colour copies of this issue are available at the website or by e-mailing Dennis Taylor.

	DIARI					
	W	ORSHIP			EVENTS	
February Sunday 10th Sunday 17th Sunday 24th	10.30 am	Moming Service Moming Service - Junior Church Moming Service - All Age Service	February Wednesday 13th Monday 18th Friday 22nd	2.30 pm 12.00	Guild Presbyterial Spring Meeting The Guild - Mother Earth in Bolivia The Terrace	Church Hall Church Hall
March Sunday 3rd Sunday 10th Sunday 17th Sunday 24th Sunday 31st	10.30 am 10.30 am 10.30 am	Church in St Machar's Ranfurly —Junior Church Morning Service—All Age Service Morning Service—Junior Church	March Monday 4th Tuesday 19th Monday 18th Wednesday 27th Friday 29th	7.30 pm 9.30 am 7.30 pm 12.00	The Guild— RSPB The Easter Code The Guild AGM - Photography Guild Presbyterial AGM The Terrace	Church Hall Bridge of Weir Prim. Church Hall Church Hall
April Sunday 7th	10.30 am	Moming Service	April Friday 27th	7.00 pm	The Masqueraders Concert	Church Hall

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Monday		Thursday	
7.30pm	Guild 1 st and 3 rd weeks (October – May)	6.30 pm	Anchor Boys (Freeland Hall)
Tuesday		Friday	
6-7pm	1 st B.o.W. Rainbows	6.30 – 8pm	Boys Brigade Junior Section (St Machar's Ranfuly Hall)
7.30pm	2 nd B.o.W. Guides	7.30-10pm	Boys Brigade Company Section (Freeland Hall)
Wednesday		Sunday	
6-7pm	2 nd B.o.W. Rainbows	10.25am	Junior Church (all sections in Hall)
7.30pm	1 st B.o.W. Guides	8-10pm	Gryffe Youth Fellowship (Freeland Church)

	RUIAS					
	BEADLE	SOUND		WELCOME		
Feb 10th	Helen Bullen	Donna Bryson	Bill Robb (T)	Margaret Richardson	Naomi Butterworth	
17th	Norma Hancock	Drew Richardson	Dennis Taylor (T)	Mary Taylor	Lorraine Russell	
24th	Fiona Downie	Jim Downie	Dave Macdonald (T)	Anne Allen	Jane Stirling	
Mar 3rd	Dennis Taylor	Ian Abernethy	Jim Downie (T)	Barrie Shepherd	Tricia Telfer	
10th	Philip McCulloch	Dave Macdonald	Marion Reid (T)	Jamie Spiers	Shirley Spiers	
17th	Marion Reid	Donna Bryson	Alan Durward (T)	Jennie Durward	Sarah McNaught	
24th	Dick Hughes	Drew Richardson	Bill Christie (T)	Coral McLaughlin	Scott McLaughlin	
31st	Helen Bullen	Jim Downie	Bobby Hart (T)	Ann Hart	Elizabeth Lyle	
Apr 7th	Jennie Durward	Ian Abernethy	Philip McCulloch (T)	Agnes McKechan	Morven McLeod	

	FLOWERS		TRANSPORT		
	DONATION	DELIVERY	CAR 1	CAR 2	
Feb 10th	Liz Campbell	Pamela Wilson	Ann Hart	Bobby Hart	
17th	Jill Crombie	Jill Crombie	Norma Hancock	Coral McLaughlin	
24th	Margaret Connelly	Lorraine Russell	Stewart Little	Philip M ^c Culloch	
Mar 3rd	Tricia Telfer	Morven McLeod	Stewart Yeaman	Scott McLaughlin	
10th	Margaret Mills	Margaret Mills	Francis Hancock	Morven McLeod	
17th	Marion Reid	Marion Reid	Mary Taylor	Drew Richardson	
24th	Morag Vaughan	Elizabeth Lyle	Ann Hart	Bobby Hart	
31st	Norma Hancock	Norma Hancock	Stewart Little	Philip M ^c Culloch	
Apr 7th	Moira Johnston	Moira Johnston	Norma Hancock	Coral McLaughlin	



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