

The **Lych Gate**

The Newsletter of St Machar's Ranfurly Church



February 2020

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MINISTER'S LETTER

From Christmas to Easter

It is always a little strange but in the church calendar we go from Christmas -celebrating Jesus' birth - to Good Friday and Easter at seemingly breakneck speed. It depends on when Easter falls, but within 3 months the baby Jesus is grown up, arrested and hangs dead on a cross. The gospels don't have a lot of information on what Jesus' childhood and young adult years were like. We don't really hear of him again until he is approximately 30 years old and commences his itinerant ministry of preaching, teaching and healing.

I usually focus on one of the Gospels in my preaching in the services between Christmas and Easter. This year, I will be looking at Matthew's

gospel, and I hope you will join in, by attending our services, and by reading through Matthew's gospel yourself in your devotional time. A book I recommend for this is 'Matthew for everyone' by Tom Wright, in it he gives his own accessible translation of a passage followed by a very relatable explanation/reflection. The series has sometimes been compared with William Barclay's very popular series from the 50s and 60s 'the Daily Study Bible'. It can also still be bought. Each gospel writer has ordered the material that they had about Jesus' life in a particular way – for Matthew his main aim is to show to a predominantly Jewish readership that Jesus really is God's promised Messiah, come to set the people and the world free from sin and to establish the reign of God.

This is truly good news – or gospel – not just 2000 years ago, but also in 2020. As we pray each week, thy (God's) kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Yours in Christ,
Hanneke



CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD ANSWERS

Across

1. Cattle 4. Watch 8. No run 9. Postman 10. Liaison 11. Tree 12. Doe 14. Rein 15. Mary 18. Eve 21. East 23. Tarried 25. Martini 26. Taste 27. Night 28. Assent

Down

1. Candle 2. Terrace 3. Lang syne 4. Wise 5. Timer 6. Handel 7. Spend 13. Emeritus 16. Reissue 17. Seaman 19. Ethic 20. Advent 22. Sprig 24. Gift

THE MASQUERADERS

**Saturday 25th April 2020 – 7.00pm
in the Church Hall**

The group is rehearsing very hard and you will experience an evening filled with amazing talent to entertain you. Not content with amazing entertainment you will also be refreshed with tea/coffee and home baking after the show.

This year our chosen charity is "Rays of Hope" which is a Cancer Support Group established in 2015. They are situated in Elderslie, where they provide a safe, confidential environment for people during and after treatment. They have many regular activities, exercise classes, craft activities, a walking group, creative writing, knitting & crochet to name but a few. They also have a choir for both ladies and gentlemen.

With the success of the last show, tickets are sure to be in high demand. Numbers are limited due to the size of the hall so get in early to avoid disappointment. Tickets, priced £5, will be on sale from the beginning of April from any of the group. In order not to miss out on tickets for this highly entertaining evening. phone 614943 to book.

SEATED SERVICE—THE FRIDAY LINK



We have been running a short, seated service particularly aimed at people who find it more difficult to be in church for a full service on a Sunday morning. It is held every second Friday in the month at 2pm in the Session Room downstairs. It is informal, lasting no more than 30 minutes. We have prayers, listen to a couple of hymns, a bible reading and a short reflection. Afterwards there is tea and coffee and a chance for a chat. It is called **The Friday Link** as it aims to link people to the life of the church. We would love for you to come along too. If you need transport please contact the session clerk

The next two meetings of the Link will be on Friday 14th February and Friday 13th March at 2pm.

Front Cover : Signs of new life —Picture by Trish Telfer

GUILD LUNCH



On Friday 29th November a very successful lunch was served to 70 people. As this last Friday of the month is usually the Terrace lunch it was decided to amalgamate the two events. The people who come to the Terrace were invited, also many people from the Church and the village.



It was a very happy event with lovely soup, sandwiches and mince pies. Nearing the end of the lunch we had a selection of carols sung with gusto. Many thanks go to all the helpers who produced and served lunch and to all who came and enjoyed the event.

Ann Hart

CITADEL BAND CONCERT

Advent at St Machar's Ranfurly Church began with a wonderful concert given by The Clydebank Citadel Band.

On 1st December 2019 just over a hundred members, friends and family enjoyed the music and worship, and were reminded of the message of Christmas.



We were very lucky that the band managed to fit us in to their busy advent schedule. A donation of £200 was given to the Salvation Army from the proceeds of the concert.

After the concert we moved down to the church hall for further fellowship. Following all the music and singing the refreshments of tea and coffee, mince pies and shortbread were much appreciated. Thanks go to our friends in the Clydebank Citadel Band, all who bought tickets and those who helped on the day.

Morven McLeod

1ST BRIDGE OF WEIR GUIDES

During the months of September and October we had great fun with an evening of Yoga and another making our own lip balm. These healthy living sessions were finished off with an evening on looking after your skin with 'Storm' from Castle Terrace.

Next we looked at 'Plastic Pollution'. It was amazing to look at and think about how much plastic we use in a typical day. By the end of the evening we had all made a pledge to try and cut out as much single plastic use as possible.

We started the month of November with a campfire at South Newton campsite organised by the 2nd BoW (Tuesday) Guides. It was a wet night but we didn't let that dampen our spirits and we all had a great time round the campfire singing and of course eating s'mores.



40 girls from Bridge of Weir & Kilmacolm had a great time flipping on the trampolines and not having much sleep!

In December we had a film and onesie night in the hall for our annual Christmas movie evening. To finish 2019 we were out with the Santa Sleigh and survived an exceptionally wet evening.



In the first term of 2020 we are continuing to work on our 'Skill Builder' activities.

We will also be making bird feeders and of course flipping a few pancakes on the evening closest to Shrove Tuesday. We are all looking forward to attending a Thinking Day Activity Day in Dundee on the 22nd February.

As usual we attended the Remembrance Day Service in St Machar's Church and ended the month with a District

GIRLGUIDING NEEDS YOUR HELP

Bridge of Weir has a thriving Girlguiding history, but we currently require more Volunteers to help Lead our Rainbows and Brownies units to

make sure all future girls get opportunities to join the fun. If you enjoy having fun, crafts and watching young people thrive, please join us.

Contact Kim Cowling on kimcowling40@gmail.com for more details, we'd love to hear from you.

FEBRUARY QUIZ (FIND THE CAPITALS)

		Answer
1	The woods here told tales	
2	A fiendish brute I could be	
3	The girls here are so pretty	
4	Cigars available here	
5	Here a brace ran amok	
6	He found David Livingstone	
7	Upset sat hen	
8	Thank a rat to contain one	
9	Unopened flower – a nuisance	
10	The immortal part of man holds a note	
11	Many regard it holy	
12	I rob Ian loosely	

December Quiz Answers: 1.Robin 2.Crow 3.Owl 4.Swallow 5.Falcon 6.Kittiwake 7.Raven 8.Grouse 9.Chaffinch 10.Goose 11.Albatross 12.Nightingale.

CHURCHES OF THE WORLD

St Mary's Basilica Gdansk – Poland



In the Hanseatic city of Gdansk can be found this majestic church. This is believed to be the largest Lutheran brick church in the world. It can hold over 25,000 people! (this had been useful during a period of martial law between 1981 and 1983 when members of the Solidarity movement sought refuge here).

Construction began in 1370. When you enter this church, the size is quite arresting and overwhelming, you feel quite humbled. There are over 37

large windows. The sculptor who carved the crucifix of Christ seemingly nailed his errant son-in-law to a cross to add realism to his work.

St Mary's was seriously damaged during World War 11 and the original frescoes were all whitewashed over to protect them with the result the pillars where they were painted seemed quite Spartan since they have never been recovered. There is a huge astronomical clock dating from 1464. It shows the time and date, phases of the moon, position of the moon in relation to the zodiac signs and the calendar of saints. Adam and Eve ring the bell on the hour!



It also has a massive 78 metre high tower but we had no time to explore this (405 steps!)



And this is yet another church which has the graves underneath the original floors instead of outside the church. 300 graves are embedded in the stonework here.

Helen Bullen

FUND RAISING OPPORTUNITIES

Drivers Wanted

Hassle free runs to the airport. A huge thank you to all our willing "airport-run" drivers who completed well over 50 safe journeys in 2019, with their happy passengers, helping to raise over £900 in donations for church funds. Being driven by a friend from our church makes a great start to a holiday. Have you enjoyed using this service? It's good to be picked up by someone you know to take you to the airport (or station).

Would you consider being one of our drivers? Each person generally does between 1 and 10 runs per year with an average of 1 every 3 months (by choice some folk do many more, some far fewer). Anyone who uses taxis to get to the airport, please consider asking for a church driver next time. To learn more about joining our happy band of volunteer drivers contact Morven. (morvenmcleod@btinternet.com or by phone 07887771522).

Easyfundraising

Do you shop online? Do you wish to raise money for St Machar's Ranfurly Church? If you answered "yes" to the questions, then the answer is **easyfundraising**. Easyfundraising is the UK's biggest charity shopping fund-raising site, with more than 3000 retailers as members. It is simple to use and is free.

Get started – log into easyfundraising website, choose your cause to support (St Machar's Ranfurly Church) then join for free.

Start shopping – visit your chosen retailer's website, then shop as normal.

Raise donations – your chosen charity will receive a small donation every time you shop online.

You are still shopping from the retailer's own website – no catches, no hidden charges and St Machar's Ranfurly Church will be very grateful for your donation. Whatever you buy costs exactly the same as if you visit the retailer site directly.

easyfundraising – the clue is in the name! So let's get shopping - what a great excuse to raise funds!

The Fundraising Committee

NOTICES



Friday 31st January
Friday 28th February
Friday 27th March


Homemade Soups,
 Sandwiches, Tea/Coffee,
 Biscuits £4.00
 Last Friday of the month
 12 Noon - 1.30pm
 Come along and enjoy good
 food, good company

**St. Machar's Ranfurly
 Church Hall**


Link Seated Service

The Link Seated Service is on Friday 14th February and Friday 13th March at 2 pm in the Session Room. This is a short informal service followed by tea/coffee and a chat.

Everyone welcome. Wheel chair access via ramp, Transport available if needed (contact 612417).



Funerals



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

Betty Park
 27th December 2019

Thomas Ritchie Vaughan
 24th January 2020

Visiting team

We are looking for a few more people who are willing to give some of their time to visit folk who are housebound or otherwise would appreciate a visit. You would be given one or two addresses to visit once or twice a month as you are able and willing.

PVG disclosure will be needed, this requires a form to be filled in and some basic safeguarding training. Please speak to Ann Hart if you feel this is a way you could help care for our congregation (01505 873010 rjhart20@gmail.com).

Guild Syllabus 2019/20

Feb 3	Mounted Police	PC Rosland Semple
Feb 12	Presbyterial Rally	
Feb 17	British Heart Foundation	Laura Stockwell
Mar 2	Journey from Holland to Bridge of Weir	Rev. Hanneke Marshall
Mar 16	Youth Assembly (AGM)	Emma Vaughan
Apr 4	Coffee Morning	
Apr 25	Presbyterial AGM	



Junior Church Dates

February 23rd	March 8th
March 1st	March 29th

Save the date

THE MASQUERADERS
are back again by popular demand

**SATURDAY 25TH APRIL
 2020
 7.00 PM
 IN
 THE CHURCH HALL**

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.



Our volunteers give girls a space where they can build their confidence, raise their aspirations and have fantastic fun. They run projects, events and activities that give girls the opportunity to discover their potential and learn new skills. They passionately believe that girls can be a powerful force for good. There are lots of ways you can volunteer with Girlguiding - it's flexible, and can be arranged to fit around a busy lifestyle. No matter how much or how little time you have, every hour counts.

Be part of it
 Girlguiding is the leading charity for girls and young women in the UK. By volunteering with us, you can help us create amazing opportunities for girls all around the UK.

DIARY

WORSHIP

EVENTS

February			February		
Sunday 2nd	10.30 am	Morning Service - Sacrament of Holy Communion	Monday 3rd	2.30 pm	The Guild - Mounted Police Church Hall
Sunday 2nd	7.00 pm	Joint Communion Service with Freeland Church in St. Machar's Ranfurly Church	Wednes'y 12th		Guild Presbyterial Rally
Sunday 9th	10.30 am	Morning Service	Monday 17th	3.00 pm	The Guild—British Heart Foundation Church Hall
Friday 14th	2.00 pm	Friday Link Seated Service	Wednes'y 19th	7.30 pm	The God Question Seminar The Bridge
Sunday 16th	10.30 am	Morning Service	Wednes'y 26th	7.30 pm	The God Question Seminar The Bridge
Sunday 23rd	10.30 am	Morning Service - Junior Church	Friday 28th	12 noon	The Terrace Lunch Church Hall
March			March		
Sunday 1st	10.30 am	Morning Service / Junior Church	Monday 2nd	7.30 pm	The Guild - Journey from Holland Church Hall
Sunday 8th	10.30 am	Morning Service / Junior Church	Monday 16th	7.30 pm	The Guild Youth Assembly + AGM Church Hall
Friday 13th	2.00 pm	Friday Link Seated Service	Wednes'y 18th	7.30 pm	The God Question Seminar The Bridge
Sunday 15th	10.30 am	Morning Service	Wednes'y 25th	7.30 pm	The God Question Seminar The Bridge
Sunday 22nd	10.30 am	Morning Service	Friday 27th	12 noon	The Terrace Lunch Church Hall
Sunday 29th	10.30 am	Morning Service / Junior Church	April		
April			Saturday 4th	10.00 am	Guild Coffee Morning
Sunday 5th	10.30 am	Morning Service - Palm Sunday			
Monday 6th	7.30 pm	Holy Week Joint Service Freeland Church			
Tuesday 7th	7.30 pm	Holy Week Joint Service Freeland Church			
Wednesday 8th	7.30 pm	Holy Week Joint Service Freeland Church			
Thursday 9th	7.30 pm	Holy Week Joint Service Maundy Service in Hall			
Friday 10th	7.30 pm	Holy Week Joint Service St, Machar's Ranfurly			
Sunday 12th	10.30 am	Morning Service - Easter Sunday			

REGULAR ACTIVITIES - SEPTEMBER TO JUNE

Monday	Thursday
7.30pm Guild 1 st and 3 rd weeks (October – May)	6.30 pm Anchor Boys (<i>Freeland Hall</i>)
Tuesday	Friday
6-7pm 1 st B.o.W. Rainbows	6.30 –8pm Boys Brigade Junior Section (St Machar's Ranfurly Hall)
7.30pm 2 nd B.o.W. Guides	7.30-10pm Boys Brigade Company Section (<i>Freeland Hall</i>)
Wednesday	Sunday
6-7pm 2 nd B.o.W. Rainbows	10. .30 am Junior Church (see notices & website for dates)
7.30pm 1 st B.o.W. Guides	

ROTAS

	BEADLE	SOUND		WELCOME	
<i>February 9th</i>	Dennis Taylor	Donna Bryson	Marion Reid (T)	Jamie Speirs	Shirley Speirs
<i>16th</i>	Marion Reid	Drew Richardson	Bill Christie (T)	Coral McLaughlin	Scott McLaughlin
<i>23rd</i>	Scott McLaughlin	Dave Macdonald	Bobby Hart (T)	Ann Hart	Elizabeth Lyle
<i>March 1</i>	Helen Bullen	Jim Downie	Dave Macdonald (T)	Anne Allen	Jane Stirling
<i>8th</i>	Norma Hancock	Ian Abernethy	Philip McCulloch (T)	Agnes McKechan	Morven McLeod
<i>15th</i>	Philip McCulloch	Donna Bryson	Bill Robb (T)	Margaret Richardson	Naomi Butterworth
<i>22nd</i>	Dick Hughes	Drew Richardson	Jim Downie (T)	Laura Macfayden	Tricia Telfer
<i>29th</i>	Jennie Durward	Jim Downie	Dennis Taylor (T)	Mary Taylor	Sarah McNaught
<i>April 5th</i>	Marion Reid	Dave Macdonald	Allan Durward (T)	Jennie Durward	Lorraine Russell

FLOWERS			
	DONATION	DELIVERY	TRANSPORT
<i>February 9th</i>	Jane Stirling	Jane Stirling	Francis Hancock
<i>16th</i>	Jill Crombie	Jill Crombie	Bobby Hart
<i>23rd</i>	Margaret Connelly	Jennie Durward	Drew Richardson
<i>March 1</i>	Tricia Telfer	Tricia Telfer	Stewart Little
<i>8th</i>	Barbara Abernethy	Barbara Abernethy	Norma Hancock
<i>15th</i>	Dorothy Simpson	Dorothy Simpson	Ann Hart
<i>22nd</i>	Morag Vaughan	Norma Hancock	Coral McLaughlin
<i>29th</i>	Jane Shepherd	Jane Shepherd	Stewart Yeaman
<i>April 5th</i>	Moira Johnston	Moira Johnston	Morven McLeod

