

The **Lych Gate**

The Newsletter of St Machar's Ranfurly Church



August 2022

Volume 24 Issue 4



FROM THE MINISTER

A sense of perspective

I write this as I have just returned from a three week holiday -as you read this I should be fully into the swing of things again! We have had a lovely holiday in the south of France and in the Netherlands respectively; luckily without any journey problems as we drove in our own car and took ferries that weren't involved in delays! It is always tempting to feel a little smug for having chosen the 'clever' route, but in reality, it doesn't take much to get stuck or side-tracked and this summer travel chaos seems to abound. When caught up in these kinds of situations, there is not much for it but to accept the delays with a sense of calm resignation and a determination to make the best of it. Perhaps this is a useful attitude too with which to approach the presbytery mission planning process! Much like the children's story 'We're going on a bear hunt' - *we can't go over it, we can't go under it, we've got to go through it!* I'll not repeat all the facts and figures again, but the planning process needs to achieve a reduction in ministries of 40% across the presbytery and also a similar reduction in buildings. At the same time the newly formed congregations and patterns of ministry are supposed to be better equipped to deliver mission in our local communities. Perhaps an impossible task, and the process over the past 14 months in our presbytery has not been particularly encouraging or confidence instilling that good solutions can be found.

As it stands, there is now a consultation document that suggests ministry allocations per local mission area and in some cases per village or locality. It doesn't have any information or determinations about buildings in it. Consultations will now take place with kirk sessions and ministers during August and September by presbytery planning members in order to flesh out and firm up these proposals or alter them. This will include what kind of unions

between congregations might need to take place to achieve these numbers. In order to ensure a degree of impartiality these conversations are facilitated by presbytery members from the 'other side' of the Clyde i.e. in our case from the old Dumbarton presbytery. Our kirk session has in its last meeting in June appointed a small sub committee to prepare for this consultation meeting, which will place at the end of August.

As it stands the consultation document envisages one full time Minister of Word and Sacrament for the village of Bridge of Weir. There is no further detail in the document and it doesn't answer how ministry and mission might be shaped and shared across the villages in our local mission area (Kilmacolm, Houston, Bridge of Weir, Kilbarchan). Our local mission area at present also includes Linwood but the consultation document proposes to add this to the Paisley area. The former Lochwinnoch parish area has already been added to the Kilbarchan parish but this is not recognised in the document. In relation to population numbers, having one minister allocated to our village would still be very generous compared to other areas in the presbytery (eg 1 to 5000 compared to 1 to 12-15000 in some places). The issue of number of ministries in relation to population and deprivation was contentious at the June presbytery meeting, when the consultation document was first aired, and it would not surprise me if changes will need to be made in this regard.

The AMBA audit scores of buildings have not been released by presbytery yet and it is not clear when this will be done or how these will inform decisions. Following the consultations with congregations, the evaluation and review of the plan is to take place by presbytery in autumn 2022 and it is then to be sent to Faith Nurture Forum for approval in November this year. It feels like a lot of work is still to be done in a very short amount of

remaining time...

It is at times frustrating to have so little control over what is happening (much like travel chaos and delays), but it is important to try and focus on what we can control, namely our own responses to what is being proposed. Naturally, we are aware (perhaps painfully so) of what we might lose in terms of history, identity and autonomy. It is understandable to want to resist this, but change is inevitable. We can keep a sense of perspective by realising that this is impacting all congregations and ministries across the Church of Scotland in some way or other. And more importantly, we can keep a sense of perspective by asking how we can be faithful to Jesus Christ and his calling for us in the village and the local area. I am always reminded of and convicted by the passage of Philippians 2:5-11

(here in the Message translation:)
⁵⁻⁸ *Think of yourselves the way Christ Jesus thought of himself. He had equal status with God but didn't think so much of himself that he had to cling to the advantages of that status no-matter what. Not at all. When the time came, he set aside the privileges of deity and took on the status of a slave, became human! Having become human, he stayed human. It was an incredibly humbling process. He didn't claim special privileges. Instead, he lived a selfless, obedient life and then died a selfless, obedient death—and the worst kind of death at that—a crucifixion. Jesus' laying aside of privilege and sacrifice was what made possible new life and resurrection:*
⁹⁻¹¹ *Because of that obedience, God lifted him high and honoured him far beyond anyone or anything, ever, so that all created beings in heaven and on earth—even those long ago dead and buried—will bow in worship before this Jesus Christ, and call out in praise that he is the Master of all, to the glorious honour of God the Father.* That final vista of all is what puts all our concerns into perspective!

In the meantime, Yours *Hanneke*

1st BRIDGE OF WEIR GUIDES (WEDNESDAY GUIDES)

As ever, it has been another busy session at the Guides. During May we enjoyed a night at South Newton doing some cooking over an open fire. We split the girls into groups, and they all cooked different things. We had campfire pizzas which were pitta breads filled with some tomato puree and cheese, camp donuts (jam sandwiches fried and dipped in sugar), dampers (a sweet bread cooked over a fire) and finally chocolate bananas (banana split, filled with chocolate buttons and then heated in the embers of the fire until the chocolate melts) – Yum! To finish off the night we had to have some s'mores of course.



June was also a busy month. Firstly, we celebrated the Queens Platinum Jubilee. We learned about how Guiding was back in 1954 and enjoyed a Royal tea party of cucumber sandwiches, jubilee themed cupcakes and decorated Union Flag sponges. Next, we had an evening of upcycling – we sanded down and repainted a table, magazine rack and a wooden box. On Sunday 12th June we had a trip to Millport leaving from Johnstone Station. Thankfully the weather was relatively kind, and we had a great day out. Everyone manage to cycle



around the island stopping at the HMS Shearwater monument for our packed lunch followed by a well-deserved ice



cream at Fintry Bay.

Saturday 11th June was Bridge of Weir's Gala Day. Despite the terrible weather the District Tea Tent, run by the leaders of Girlguiding in Bridge of Weir & Kilmacolm, was really well supported. We would like to thank St Machar's for the loan of tables and chairs and general help given on the day. We really appreciated it.

Christine Haddock
1st Bridge of Weir Guides

RELIGIOUS BUILDINGS IN SCOTLAND

Religious Buildings in Scotland
(Did you Know)

- ◆ The largest cathedral ever built in Scotland was St Andrews Cathedral
- ◆ The smallest cathedral is the Cathedral of the Isles in Millport on the Isle of Cumbrae. It holds only 70 seats.
- ◆ The only medieval monastery which is still inhabited is Plascarden Abbey in Elgin.
- ◆ Crock church in Sutherland has the names of the victims of the clearances scratched onto the glass of the church windows and can still be seen today.
- ◆ The oldest Post-Reformation church is Burntisland Parish Church. It was at a General Assembly here in 1601 that James V!'s proposal for an English translation of the Bible (which was to become the Authorised Version) was approved.

Helen Bullen



Why not come along to the final Summer Drop In Session In the Hall on Friday 12th August and enjoy a coffee and cake. The theme for the morning is The Seaside with lots of associated craft.

FROM THE ORGAN LOFT



For many people the summer holidays mean turning the out of office on, putting their feet up, pouring a refreshing drink or two and enjoying a break from normal day to day activities whilst taking a trip away. Whilst I certainly have enjoyed these things this summer, the summer holiday period for me and several of my colleagues is all about planning! To Carla's horror my desk is covered in pieces of paper, lots of music and music books, a bible, CH4, a copy of the RSCM's Sunday by Sunday, sample CDs from music publishers and Hanneke's service plan not to mention a mug of stone-cold coffee because in the chaos I've forgotten all about it and it has gotten cold! The piano is in a similar state (but without the coffee on it!). There may also be Christmas tunes coming from the CD player. Preparing the musical items on a Sunday-by-Sunday basis is a time consuming, and difficult task. Special Sundays such as Harvest, Communion, Remembrance to name but a few take care of themselves. Advent and Christmas require more thought. There's too much music for this period and deciding what to leave out is something of a challenge. Then there's the Sundays in between times. It's a big job nor is it particularly easy. Getting it right takes thought, consideration and at times a plunge into the unknown.

I follow certain criteria. First and foremost, comes the liturgy. In other words, what is appropriate for a particular Sunday. As I mentioned the autumn period sees harvest, communion, and remembrance Sunday. There's also the 150th

anniversary of the birth of Vaughan Williams and International Chorister Day to consider. Once that's done along comes Advent and Christmas. Once those Sundays are filled and thought about, then comes the in-between times. Sometimes there's an appropriate piece which can complement a reading nicely, other times less so. Once the liturgical side of things is taken care of, I then follow a check-list of three items:

Music which I believe important to include. That could be anything ranging from: something which every choir should sing, music or a composer who is significant, or potentially a new hymn to include. I mentioned Vaughan Williams earlier. You may not be aware of him, but we've all sung his music. *O little town of Bethlehem* and *Come down, O Love Divine* are melodies set to music by him. Vaughan Williams composed 9 symphonies, several operas, ballets, film scores (*Scott of the Antarctic* and *49th Parallel* to name but two), he collected over 150 folk tunes and edited the English Hymnal. He helped popularise the folksong *Greensleeves*. Many of the folksongs he collected found their way into hymnbooks and have now been set to some favourite hymns.

Something for the choir. This ranges from music which I think (and hope) the choir would enjoy singing, to pieces they know and sing well to pieces they want to do. International Chorister Day falls on Sunday 9 October this year. International Chorister Day is a celebration of the amazing opportunities that being a chorister provides, at all levels from our great cathedrals to small parish churches. Becoming a chorister is the start of a lifelong journey. It means gaining singing skills and a musical education and inspires a love of choral music. The skills you gain are valuable ones and transfer to a huge range of other disciplines and settings. For

example: self-discipline, commitment, teamwork, and organisational skills. Being in a choir can lead to not only a life-long love of music, but also to long-term friendships. Many ex-choristers who have gone on to be successful in a whole range of jobs can specifically point to the important part being part of a church choir played in getting them to where they are today. More details about our celebration of International Chorister Day will be announced soon.

Something for the congregation. We want our music to give the congregation a lift and enhance their worship experience too. I try hard to include as wide a range of music as possible so that every style is covered and there should be something for everyone.

By the time I've recovered from this it's time to start planning the next cycle of music! Despite the long laborious process this is, it is a task I enjoy as I inevitably end up discovering new hymns and new music. As for the state of my desk? The less we say about that the better.

Ian Munro

The Church Choir resumes rehearsals on Thursday 18 August at 7.30 p.m. in the Sanctuary and will be resuming singing in Services from Sunday 4 September. The choir is always keen to welcome new members, the ability to read music is desirable but not essential – you can learn as we go.

Everyone is welcome – no experience necessary!

STATED ANNUAL MEETING

On 5th June 2022, at Bridge of Weir and within the Church, the Stated Annual Meeting of St. Machar's Ranfurly Church of Scotland was held immediately after the Morning Service. The Rev. Hanneke Marshall was the moderator and 34 members of the Congregation were present.

Finance The Trustee Annual Report for 2021 and the accounts had been presented and approved by the Kirk Session. A copy of this report is available on the Church Web Site.

The Treasurer, Francis Hancock, gave a summary of the main features of the year. Voluntary Income was approximately £5K down and about £14K compared with pre-pandemic

levels of 2019. Expenditure had been kept as low as possible, especially planned maintenance although the chimney repair had been necessary. In total we had recorded a £3.2 K deficit.

Questions were invited. The only one concerned the water charge which was explained as relating to the sale of the previous manse.

The Congregation agreed to receive the Trustee Report and Accounts.

Committees Hanneke recorded the work of the convenors and their committees. The Finance, and the Mission and Outreach committees were in need of extra people and an open invitation was made for people to join.

Photo Review of 2021 Hanneke gave

a reminder of events in 2021 via a photo review.

These included:

Mark's Gospel ; Easter Trail; Lent Calendar; Mark's gospel on Youtube; Christian Aid Week; Plant Sale; God's creation – Bunting and Prayer Flags; Remembrance; Journey through Christmas; Choir Restarted; Junior Choir

Vote of Thanks David Macdonald thanked everyone who had contributed to making the year successful.

The meeting was closed by the Moderator with prayer at 12.30 pm.

Moderator Hanneke Marshall
Clerk Dennis Taylor

THE GUILD



A meeting of the committee was held to decide how we are going forward, Due to numbers and having to ask speakers, who now almost always want expenses, we are asking you to let us know if you would be interested

in coming to and joining the Guild.

We are planning on having an afternoon social on Monday 3rd October to start us off and depending on numbers we will go ahead with speakers.

We would be meeting the first and third Mondays in the month in the Church hall at 2.00p.m. (no evening meetings) and because of an increase

in affiliation fees the subscription would be £20.00,

We know it has been a long time since our last meeting (an afternoon on 1st, November 2021) but we hope you will all return and keep our Guild alive.

Please reply ASAP either to

Ann Hart 01505 873010
Elizabeth Lyle 01505 612503
Agnes McKechan 01505 612032

AUGUST QUIZ (NAME THE GLASGOW DISTRICT)

		Answer
1	Get your gun lady's country	
2	Hides for milk producer	
3	Garden accessory for the farmer?	
4	Select but insert picture	
5	Motor north to northeast English river	
6	Ladies cover and and and	
7	Sounds like motor distance	
8	Tell the small commercial motor to move	
9	The sacred river's on a small mountain	
10	The place where armies fought	
11	Sounds as if the parrot is at risk of becoming deceased	
12	Ex Russian president loses Che victory for £s	

June Quiz Answers: 1. Tea Caddy 2. Toaster 3. Bread Bin 4. Rolling Pin 5. Egg Timer
6. Dishwasher 7. Hot Trolley 8. Tea Pot 9. Bowl 10. Kitchen Scales Helen Bullen

JUNIOR CHOIR

When Mary Taylor, Hanneke and I discussed the idea of a Junior Choir I don't think any of us knew what the level of interest would be or how it'd develop! The first six week block of rehearsals was to be a trial period: nothing ventured, nothing gained. I don't think any of us was quite expecting the success or indeed the joy the Junior Choir has brought us this year. We have fourteen loyal and enthusiastic children in the P.3 – P.7 age bracket who arrive full of enthusiasm and energy (you can probably hear them arrive!), but who work hard and pay attention during rehearsals.

We have covered a wide range of music covering hymns, Christmas Carols, a rap(!), songs from films and shows and just about everything in between! The bond between the children has continued to grow. They look out for each other, care for each other and get along. That is simply down to music's ability to connect people.

Being part of a choir enables these personal connections to be made. Seeing the young people grow and experiencing this together is one of the things which makes music so special.

In addition to singing, we worked through the White Level Voice for Life book. The children have now completed all the outcomes and goals which have been set for this level. We were able to present them with their certificates at the concert on the 12th June. The children now know how to use their voices properly, and how to breathe; their aural skills (pitching and singing back some notes, clapping in time to the music) are very good; they have learned some musical terms and encountered some musical notation; they have also come to realise what it means to be in a choir and the responsibilities which go with that (attending rehearsals and concerts regularly and punctually, telling me in advance when they'll be absent, bringing their music and a pencil to

rehearsals). The list could go on! They've also sung in a different language as well and learned about some different cultures too.

All the skills the children have learned at this stage will be with them for the rest of their days. It is something of a privilege to have been able to start them off on their musical journey, to watch them grow and develop, not just as young people but as musicians as well.

We will be starting back on Thursday 1 September, and any child in the P3 – P7 age bracket will be warmly welcomed.

I'd like to thank Hanneke and the Kirk Session for their support, the congregation who support our end of term concerts and the team of volunteers: Mary, Anne, Coral, Dick, Helen and Morven who come along to supervise.

Ian Munro

SAINTS WITH A SCOTTISH CONNECTION

Saint Nicholas	A Greek Saint of the 4th century nowadays identified with Santa Claus. He is the patron saint of Aberdeen.
Saint Barr	Irish missionary who established a monastic community on the Island of Barra in the early 7th century.
Saint Ivan	A 9th century monk who lived as a hermit near Irvine in Ayrshire.
Saint Boisil	An Abbot of Melrose who lived in the 7th century. The town of St Boswell's is named after him.
Saint Serf	Leader of the monastic community at Culross in the 6th century. He is patron saint of Orkney.
Saint Mirren	An Irish abbot who came to Scotland and founded the first church in Paisley. The Island of Inchmurrin in Loch Lomond is named after him, He is the patron saint of Paisley.

NOTICES

DIARY

August	Sunday 7th	10.30 am	Morning Service
	Friday 12th	10.00 am	Summer Drop In
	Sunday 14th	10.30 am	Morning Service
	Friday 19th	10.00 am	Summer Drop In
	Sunday 21st	10.30 am	Morning Service
	Thursday 25th	7.30 pm	Kirk Session Meeting
	Friday 26th	12.00 noon	Terrace Lunch
	Sunday 28th	10.30 am	Morning Service - All Age Service
	Wednesday 31st	2.00 pm	Presbytery Mission Plan Meeting
	September	Sunday 4th	10.30 am
Sunday 11th		10.30 am	Morning Service
Sunday 18th		10.30 am	Morning Service
Sunday 18th		3.00 pm	Concert - Clydebank Citadel Band
Sunday 25th		10.30 am	Morning Service - All Age Service
October	Friday 30th	12.00 noon	Terrace Lunch
	Sunday 2nd	10.30 am	Sacrament of Holy Communion
	Monday 3rd	2.00 pm	The Guild Social Afternoon
	Sunday 9th	10.30 am	Morning Service

THE TERRACE



The Terrace 

Friday 26th August 2022

LUNCH

Homemade Soups, Sandwiches,
Tea/Coffee, Biscuits

Entry £5

Come along and enjoy good food and
good company

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

DROP IN

SUMMER DROP IN

Come along to play and chat at our summer drop in. Friday mornings from 10-12 during the summer holiday, starting 8th July. We have messy play, craft, toys and story time. Tots and children of primary school age welcome with a parent or carer. We serve coffee/tea/juice and healthy and homemade snacks. Everything free, voluntary contribution.



www.stmacharsranfurlychurch.org.uk



play
eat
laugh
listen
make
share
belong
sing



CONCERT



St MACHAR'S RANFURLY CHURCH

AUTUMN CONCERT

performed by the

Clydebank Citadel Band

Sunday 18th September, 2022 at 3pm

Tickets: £5.00 (including refreshments)

Available from Morven Tel: 01505 612286
or on the door subject to availability.

All Proceeds to St Machar's Ranfurly Church Funds and the Salvation Army

THE GUILD



Social Afternoon
Monday 3rd October
In
Church Hall



CONTACTS

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 Bridge of Weir,
 PA11 3HS
 Tel: 01505 **612975**



Session Clerk: Dennis Taylor
 33 St Andrews Drive,
 Bridge of Weir,
 PA11 3HT
 Tel: 01505 **612417**

ROTAS

Date	Welcome		Sound and Vision	
Aug 7th	Mary Taylor	Dennis Taylor	Katelyn Macfadyen	Drew Richardson
14th	Ann Hart	Agnes McKechan	Greg Millar	Jonny Watson
21st	Elizabeth Lyle	Norma Hancock	Beth Robertson	Lois Marshall
28th	Philip McCulloch	Bill Robb	Harrison Butterworth	Naomi Butterworth
Sept 4th	Sarah McNaught	Scott McLaughlin	Tabitha Marshall	Drew Richardson
11th	Marion Reid	Ann Allen	Jonny Watson	Katelyn Macfadyen
18th	Morven McLeod	Margaret Richardson	Greg Millar	Beth Robertson
25th	Jennie Durward	Alan Durward	Lois Marshall	Harrison Butterworth
Oct 2nd	Mary Taylor	Dennis Taylor	Tabitha Marshall	Naomi Butterworth
9th	Ann Yeaman	Agnes McKechan	Jonny Watson	Drew Richardson

REGULAR ACTIVITIES SEPTEMBER - JUNE

Day	Time	Activity	
Monday	9.30 am	Pilates	Hall
Monday	7 pm	Pilates	Hall
Tuesday	7.30 pm	Guides	Hall
Wednesday	6 pm	Rainbows	Hall
Wednesday	7.30 pm	Guides	Hall
Thursday	4 pm	Junior Choir	Church
Thursday	6.45 pm	Yoga	Hall
Thursday	7.30 pm	Choir	Church
Friday	7 pm	Boys Brigade	Hall
Saturday	9.30 am	Dance West	Hall
Sunday	7 pm	Young Farmers	Hall

HALL & CHURCH HIRE

Our hall is available for birthday parties, occasions, activities and classes on a one-off or regular let basis. It is located underneath the sanctuary and is accessible by two doors, one of which is suitable for wheelchairs and prams. The main hall is approximately 13 by 13 metres and has tables and chairs available to use. There is a small kitchen and another room adjacent to the main hall, which is suitable for smaller gatherings. There are gents and ladies toilets, as well as an accessible toilet with baby change facility. We have a pull down projector screen in the main hall. The cost of a half day let is £55 and full day £100. For charitable or non-profit causes, please enquire about our preferential prices. The sanctuary and millennium room can also be booked. For all enquiries and availability please contact Anne Yeaman on 01505 612886 or 07984 527482 .

Editorial Team
 Dennis Taylor
 Mary Taylor Marion Reid

Contributions for the next issue of *The Lych Gate* should be with the Editor by **Tuesday 20th September 2022**.
 Please E-mail to: dennis1taylor@msn.com or pass memory sticks or paper copies to Dennis Taylor.