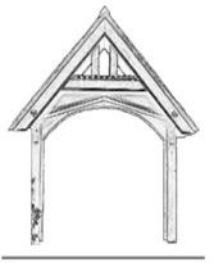


# *The* **Lych Gate**

**The Newsletter of St Machar's Ranfurly Church**



October 2022

Volume 24 Issue 5



## FROM THE MINISTER

It feels like it is the umpteenth time I have to write we don't have much clarity yet as regards to what the presbytery mission plan will hold in store for us! Since I wrote for the August issue there has been some progress in that our own subcommittee met three times in August to prepare a considered response to the consultation. The Kirk Session met on the 25<sup>th</sup> August to discuss our conclusions and proposals and agreed with them all. This meeting was open to church members and a number came to hear and contribute to the discussion. On the 31<sup>st</sup> August the subcommittee met with the consultation group from presbytery to give our response to the draft plan and set out our ideas and concerns. They are also visiting the other congregations in the surrounding villages. It is possible and likely that they will perhaps organise further meetings, possibly jointly in the next few weeks.

Ultimately this needs to result in a proposal for ministry in our area (and this will include building determinations) that goes towards the big presbytery plan. Once this has been pulled together and agreed by the presbytery planning committee, the whole plan will be presented to presbytery and will be voted on at its November meeting (22<sup>nd</sup>). If approved by presbytery this plan will get sent to PMPIG (Presbytery Mission Plan Implementation Group) of Faith Nurture Forum. They have to approve it meets the requirements of the Presbytery Mission Planning Act.

If the plan is approved and adopted, it will over the next five years be put into action – bearing in mind the usual restrictions around tenure etcetera. If this all sounds rather vague and abstract, it is, until we know what the plan will entail for us! At this moment in time, I cannot tell you much more about our conversations with the

consultation committee, so as not to prejudice the outcome. However, it is important to note that at this moment in time no decisions have been made or implied about which church buildings are to close or what shape ministry will take in the village in the future. I hope you will trust that the Kirk Session and the sub committee are seeking a good, wise and faithful way forward. Please pray for all those involved in drawing up the presbytery mission plan as it is a fiendishly difficult undertaking and a frankly thankless task!

We all need to ask ourselves continually what is truly important and faithful to what Christ calls us to be and do. Though we all have our own attachments and preferences, needs and desires, we need to keep surrendering these to a higher calling. Only in this way advances God's kingdom on earth.

Yours *Hanneke*

## A PRAYER FOR PEACE OF MIND AND HEART

**'the Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit'**

**Psalm 34:18**

Lord, I come to you,  
feeling confused and bewildered.  
My world has been shaken,  
my hope has been dimmed.  
Fragments of grief lie all around me,  
waves of fear break over my life.  
Help me know your presence of calm,  
bring light to my darkness,  
and peace to my heart.

Heal my heart and my mind,  
from crushing thoughts, fear and anxiety,  
Give me hope for my future,  
restore my troubled soul.

Loneliness and grief threaten to overwhelm me.  
Protect me Lord,  
give me comfort and relief.

Hold me close and lead me to security,  
Where your love breaks in and guides me to peace.  
Order my steps, bring courage and stillness.  
Help me to trust.  
Help me to dare to believe,  
That in the pain and in all of the heartache,  
You are still God  
And You will bring peace.

Amen

Bath Abbey Pastoral Care Team, February 2021

## 1st BRIDGE OF WEIR GUIDES (WEDNESDAY GUIDES)

We started our new term during the first week of September and it was great to welcome seven new Guides to the Unit. As always, at the beginning for a new term, we set our Unit Guide-lines for the year which are put together and agreed by everyone. The following week we practised our fire lighting skills in the church car park. We used colanders which is a great way to limit the size of the fires as we don't have a lot of space. Some girls had their first attempt of fire-lighting using this approach while the older girls used our Trangia portable stoves to make hot chocolate for everyone.



On Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September, we attended the Girlguiding Scotland 'Wander the World' activity day. We joined Rainbows, Brownies and Guides from all over Scotland at Blair Drummond Safari Park. The weather was kind, and the girls had a fabulous day. They enjoyed the petting zoo, the safari bus around the reserve seeing the bigger animals and they had a go on some of the many rides and the pedalos. Of course, no day out would be complete without a visit to the gift shop!

This month we will also be completing Girlguiding Scotland's new resource, Pencil Express. The world has been a topsy-turvy place for us all over the last couple of years, so we are going to take a step back and look at how we might express ourselves, our thoughts, and our emotions in pencil. We will then think about our hopes and dreams for the future and what is amazing about ourselves, our community, or the world. Girlguiding Scotland has provided us with pencils to draw, write or doodle our thoughts onto paper. These will be submitted to our County to be displayed. Over the next few weeks, we will also continue to work on our Skill Builders activity packs which all goes towards the Guide section Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards.



Christine Haddock  
1st Bridge of Weir Guides

## CITADEL BAND CONCERT



On Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September we welcomed back the Clydebank Citadel Band (following a Covid gap of several years). Our concert took place during the time of mourning for HM Queen Elizabeth II but the band played some wonderful uplifting music while taking time to pay respects to our late queen.

We were joined by friends and relations from around the village to enjoy the music and worship led by 22 members of the Citadel Band.

Refreshments and fellowship followed in the church hall.



A donation of £200 has been sent to the Salvation Army. Following very positive feedback from concert goes it is hoped to repeat this feel-good event in future years.



Morven McLeod

## FROM THE ORGAN LOFT



Sunday 9 October 2022 is *International Chorister Day* - a celebration of the amazing opportunities that being a chorister provides, at all levels from our great cathedrals to small parish churches. Churches across the UK and rest of the world are being encouraged to be part of this day. Cricketer Alistair Cook, TV & radio presenter Alexander Armstrong, pop stars Britney Spears and Ed Sheeran all spent their formative years singing in their local church choir. As I've said in previous articles many people get their first experience of music in the church and this is something I strive to encourage.

Becoming a chorister is the start of a lifelong journey. It means gaining singing skills and a musical education not to mention inspiring a love of choral music. It doesn't mean that choristers go on to become professional musicians – most do not. But the skills you gain being part of a choir are valuable ones and transfer to a huge range of other disciplines and settings. For example: self-discipline, commitment, teamwork and organisational skills. It can also lead to not only a life-long love of music, but also to long term friendships. Looking back on my life I can certainly say my organisational skills (such as they are) and many of the friendships I have made have come from being part of a choir. 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. As well as being an opportunity to raise awareness of our dedicated

church choir and to potentially recruit new people to join, we are celebrating the joy of music and friendships that can be made through singing.

We are organising a *Meet, Eat and Sing* event on Sunday 9 October and have extended the invitation to various church choirs in the area to join us. Singers are arriving from 12.30 where we will meet over a soup lunch, then rehearse in the afternoon for a 4.30 p.m. service where we will perform the pieces we have worked on to a congregation. Everyone is welcome, please contact me at [organist.stmachars@gmail.com](mailto:organist.stmachars@gmail.com) for more information. So far we have at least 26 visiting singers from Houston, Bishopton and Paisley signed up to join us. Please do consider joining us for this special occasion.

Ian Munro

## COVID UPDATE

With the gradual improvement in the Nation's health, the Covid Committee has recommended that some of the restrictions we have had over the last year should be relaxed. The doors at the Church will be fully opened prior to the service to ensure good ventilation throughout. During the service, the doors will be

closed but once the service is over they will be opened again for at least 30 minutes. The hand sanitizer will remain for anyone who wishes to use it. In the hall, when it is busy, the external door will remain open to create better ventilation. Internal doors can be closed. For all

services or activities in the hall, it is recommended that once the service or activity has completed, all doors are opened for at least 10 minutes to provide a good change of air. The hand sanitizer will remain for anyone who wishes to use it.

Dennis Taylor

## 1ST BRIDGE OF WEIR GUIDES (TUESDAY GUIDES)

### At Camp



### Climbing



## FLOWER ROTA



Firstly I would like to thank all members who have, very generously, contributed to the flower fund during the past two and a half years. It is that which

has enabled me to put flowers in the church each Sunday. Now that we seem to be over the worst of this Covid pandemic I feel it is now the right time to restart the flower rota. This would mean you could choose a date, buy the flowers, put them in the church and hopefully be able to deliver them yourself as well. I am aware that some members are unable to do this. So I, on these

occasions, will buy the flowers and see to their delivery. I intend to begin this from the beginning of 2023 so if you wish to choose a date let me know with a text on 07547845224 or email at [norma.hancock48@gmail.com](mailto:norma.hancock48@gmail.com) Thanks again to those who have donated and to those who will in the future.

Norma Hancock.

## THE GUILD



On Wednesday 14th September a rally was held for Guilds Together in St. George's Church Paisley, attended by many ladies from the local Guilds. The speaker was the General Secretary of the Church of Scotland Guild Karen Dillon.

Following opening devotions, Karen started by saying that she had her talk all prepared, until last

Thursday's events happened, when she felt she had to redo her talk, which she did fluently. Most of the tributes about the Queen from many people had commented on her humility, service and faith. She was a constant in our lives and this was what the Guild had been for many people during the pandemic. People think of the Guild as old fuddy duddies; we do not blow our own trumpet, we get on with the jobs quietly and successfully. The Guild is the forerunner of the Church in many projects and from little acorns larger trees have

grown, be it Aids, Prostitution, eating disorders or learning disabilities and many more topics which been addressed and solved. She finished by quoting a 97 year old, who felt she could no longer help in the Guild but was told the most Important thing she could do was pray. As we restart the Guild on the 3rd October at 2.00p.m. we would ask for support and prayers in the hope we can live up to "whose we are and whom we serve".

Ann Hart

## QUIZ (NAME THE BREED OF DOG)

		Answer
1	Sin inside layer	
2	Lash favourite	
3	Resort on twisted Nile	
4	Crazy craze huns	
5	Sounds like a sly look without trouble	
6	Tweet RR oil mixture	
7	Left bound hood crumpled	
8	Great Britain is inside furled sail	
9	Grand confused Dean	
10	Right US soldier joins company	

### August Quiz Answers:

1. Annesland   2. Cowlares   3. Barrowfield   4. Partick   5. Cartyne   6. Shawlands  
7. Carmyle   8. Govan   9. Jordanhill   10. Battlefield   11. Polmadie   12. Gorbals

Helen Bullen

## JUNIOR CHOIR

Rehearsals resumed for the Junior Choir on the 1 September. Whilst we unfortunately lost two of our previous members who have moved up to High School, another five have joined us and our number has risen to sixteen. It is great to welcome so many enthusiastic young people into the church but also start them off on their musical journey.

We had been invited to participate in the Royal School of Church Music's *Young Voices Festival* which would've seen children's choirs from across central Scotland come together at Perth Cathedral to sing a service entitled *The Water of Life*. Water themed bible readings and music give a nice

structure to this and the music ranges from short African songs, to traditional hymns, American spirituals to short anthems. The untimely death of HM Queen meant this event has been postponed until sometime in 2023. The children have been given their own music book and have enjoyed tackling some of the pieces including *Come all you people*, *Sing of the Lord's goodness* and *O healing river*. It is the first time the youngsters have sung from proper, printed music, so we're incorporating some music theory into rehearsals too.

We'll be continuing with the *Water of Life* material and I'd hope we are able to sing at both the

re-arranged Young Voices Festival as well as leading this service at St. Machar's one Sunday as well. I hope to introduce some other songs to the children before the October break, before looking at some Christmas music. The Junior Choir will be giving a short concert on Thursday 1 December at 5.00 p.m. and hope to participate in the Christmas Music Service on Sunday 18 December. Please do give the Junior Choir your support and come and hear them in action! It is a wonderful opportunity the church is affording them and it is heartening to see the children benefiting from this.

Ian Munro

## BOY'S BRIGADE AND GIRLS' ASSOCIATION

**Company Section.** Our new session got off to a sunny start with four of our senior boys completing a 3-day Silver DofE/ Queen's Badge expedition to Everton Scout Camp and Bute.



Our first Friday meeting was well attended by 18 boys. We now have 27 on our list with 24 attending last Friday. John Semple treated us all to a trip out to the 'Sugar Boat' for our second meeting of the year.



On Friday 9<sup>th</sup> we hope to all attend the Steve Legg show, but as I write there is some uncertainty about this on account of the passing of our esteemed BB patron, Queen Elizabeth II.

Organizationally it has been a complex start with a transition of treasurers and the reconstituting of the Girls' Brigade as a BB Girls' Association. We are all grateful to John Lyndsay for his 13 years as treasurer and to Tom Kennedy for taking up the reins. Also, thanks to Allison Livingston and her team for building up a great girls' group over the past few years.

**Juniors.** We now have 11 boys registered in the Junior section which meets in St Machar's Ranfurly Church Hall on a Friday evening. A few more would be great so please advertise it to any P4-6 boys. We hope to have a full programme of events this year without Covid restrictions. Another one or two leaders would be

appreciated owing to the loss of one and another only able to attend intermittently.

**Anchors.** We meet in Freeland Church on Thursday evenings 6.15pm -7.30pm. The boys enjoy a variety of activities including crafts, games, Bible stories and dodge ball. This session we will be having Fancy dress and Christmas parties and end the year with a trip to the Pace Pantomime. With the relaxation of covid restrictions we are planning trips to the fire station and ten pin bowling as well as inviting guest speakers to help run some activities. So far, we have 13 boys registered. Although there has been some improvement in leader numbers, we are looking for further volunteers to undertake training to help deliver the best possible programme for the boys.

Brian Logie  
Captain, 1<sup>st</sup> Bridge of Weir

# NOTICES

## DIARY

October	Sunday 2nd	10.30 am	Sacrament of Holy Communion
	Sunday 2nd	7.00 pm	Joint Sacrament of Holy Communion in Freeland Church
	Monday 3rd	2.00 pm	The Guild Social Afternoon
	Sunday 9th	10.30 am	Morning Service
	Sunday 9th	4.30 pm	Meet, Eat and Sing service
	Sunday 16th	10.30 am	Morning Service
	Sunday 23rd	10.30 am	Morning Service
	Friday 28th	12.00 noon	Terrace Lunch
	Sunday 30th	10.30 am	All Age Service
November	Sunday 6th	10.30 am	Morning Service
	Sunday 13th	10.30 am	Morning Service
	Saturday 19th	10..00 - 12.30	2nd Bow Guides - Coffee Morning
	Sunday 20th	10.30 am	Morning Service
	Friday 25th	12.00 noon	Terrace Community Lunch
	Sunday 27th	10.30 am	All Age Service
December	Thursday 1st	5.00 pm	Junior Choir Concert
	Sunday 4th	10.30 am	Morning Service



### FUNERALS

Jesus said "I am the Resurrection and the Life"

\*

Murray Sharp

1st September 2022

\*

Margaret Thomson

9th September 2022



## THE TERRACE

*The Terrace* 

Friday 28th October 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

## COFFEE MORNING



**Guides Coffee Morning**

**Saturday 19th November.  
10-12.30**

## THE GUILD



Social Afternoon  
Monday 3rd October  
In  
Church Hall

## CONTACTS

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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	
Oct 2nd	Mary Taylor	Dennis Taylor	Katelyn Macfadyen	Naomi Butterworth
9th	Anne Yeaman	Agnes McKechan	Katelyn Macfadyen	Drew Richardson
16th	Bill Robb	Ann Hart	Greg Millar	Katelyn Macfadyen
23rd	Elizabeth Lyle	Philip McCulloch	Harrison Butterworth	Katelyn Macfadyen
30th	Norma Hancock	Sarah McNaught	Katelyn Macfadyen	Jonny Watson
Nov 6th	Scott McLaughlin	Marion Reid	Beth Robertson	Katelyn Macfadyen
13th	Anne Allen	Margaret Richardson	Lois Marshall	Katelyn Macfadyen
20th	Morven McLeod	Jennie Durward	Katelyn Macfadyen	Tabitha Marshall
27th	Anne Yeaman	Bill Robb	David Macfadyen	Katelyn Macfadyen
Dec 4th	Mary Taylor	Dennis Taylor	Katelyn Macfadyen	Naomi Butterworth

### 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 22nd November 2022**. Please E-mail to: [dennis1taylor@msn.com](mailto:dennis1taylor@msn.com) or pass memory sticks or paper copies to Dennis Taylor.