

# *The* **Lych Gate**

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



April 2023

Volume 25 Issue 2



## FROM THE MINISTER

### Another story must begin

'Another story must begin' was the title of the Lent Course based on Les Misérables which we have studied over the last couple of months. A group of between 15-20 participants from St Machar's Ranfurly and Freeland congregations have been meeting in the Bridge to explore the various characters in the story/film.

The characters of Jean Valjean and Javert are to my mind the most intriguing; they beg the question if it is truly possible to make a new start or radically alter the course of one's life. Jean Valjean does, inspired by the gracious action of the bishop, and his life change has tremendously positive effects for many. Javert the police officer has a similar background to Jean Valjean, but time and time again chose to resist grace and sticks with what he knows and the rules he's comfortable with. In the end Javert's choices and attitude bring nothing but death, even to himself.

Though none of the dilemmas the characters in Les Misérables face are simple, there is always opportunity for 'another story to begin'. I wonder if that can be true for us also. As we now know that the presbytery plan states we will in time be united with Freeland Church, we are each faced with an invitation to be part of *another story* that is beginning to take shape. A new story to be written about the Church of Scotland in

Bridge of Weir. A new story about who we are and what we will be, together. We each choose whether we become active participants in this story or whether we stay on the side lines, or even drop off the page altogether. Of course, there are things that will change in time, and things we will miss and experience as loss.

However, even if there was to be no union, we could not continue as we are and closure in time would be inevitable. I would urge you to make the most of opportunities to get to know the Freeland congregation better, to come to joint events and services so that together we can explore *another story that must begin*.

Those of us that have already met and worked together in mission and outreach, school chaplaincy and even the recent Lent Course have already discovered that there is much encouragement to be gained from doing so.

In practical terms, there is as yet no official procedure started to prepare for a union seeing as that will likely be triggered by either a review of my tenure (in 2025) or by my departure (if earlier). This will be led by presbytery and will involve having two negotiation delegations from both Sessions to prepare a basis of union that will be put to a vote.

Meanwhile however, both Kirk Sessions will meet together in May to continue exploring in what further

areas we can increase collaboration and joint planning for the future. We are (as in previous years) preparing for joint services during Holy Week and for other outreach activities beyond that. The Freelanders group who plan monthly activities for retired men have invited St Machar's Ranfurly men and their friends to join them and to rename the group. Having looked at the activities I'm somewhat jealous that I am neither retired nor male!

*See elsewhere in the Lych Gate for more info.*

We are preparing to have a joint morning communion service in St Machar's Ranfurly on 4<sup>th</sup> June.

Last but not least, I am delighted to be welcoming Greg Miller from Lochwinnoch as a new elder to our Kirk Session. Greg is to be held up as an example of how you can be open to a new story beginning, when the life of your own church comes to an end! Already Greg has contributed much to our congregation and our choir, and I have no doubt he will continue to do so in the Session too. We give thanks to God for the encouragement that Greg brings to our church.

Yours *Hanneke*

## STEWARDSHIP LETTER

You will have received with this Lych Gate a special Stewardship appeal with the request to review your regular and annual giving. This letter is going to all the members on our roll. I won't repeat everything here that is already in the letter, but I do urge you to read it carefully and to prayerfully consider what you can do in response. As the letter explains we are currently forecasting a £14,500 deficit for 2023.

This is largely due to increasing costs and reducing income. We have only modest reserves in the fabric and general fund (approx. £30,000 each) and do not want to deplete these to a point where we might default. You will understand that unforeseen fabric expenses (repairs to the church) can quickly add to the problem, therefore we need to keep our reserves in a healthy place.

A Stated Annual Meeting is planned for Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May at which the accounts for 2022 and the budget for 2023 will be discussed. These will be released before then, once the accounts have been independently examined.

Hanneke

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

For our first meeting night in January, after we looked back over the past year and shared some New Year's resolutions, we had a games evening. All the games included Smarties. Each Guide took an empty Smartie tube home and used it to collect loose change for the rest of the month. We also celebrated Burns night in January with Highland Games and, of course, haggis, Irn-Bru and shortbread.

In February, using the money collected in our Smartie tubes, we went along to the local Co-op. The Unit collected an amazing £210.

The girls, in their patrols, then had to work out what items they could buy, which were then donated to the Renfrewshire Food Bank. Thankfully we didn't cause too much chaos in the Co-op that evening!

For Thinking Day celebrations this year, we joined nearly 500 Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers from across Renfrewshire at a County event in Paisley, on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> February. We had a great day taking part in activities in various venues around the city

centre. We enjoyed a session with Owl Magic, a walking tour around Paisley and lots of crafts. The day finished with a campfire session all together in the Methodist Central Hall.



For our one Unit Thinking Day celebrations this year we made Guide-Tingles and decorated pancakes with a Guide theme. That evening we also had a visit from our new Division Commissioner, Caroline who had come along to present our Unit Helper, Pauline, with her five-year service award, and to help us present three Bronze awards and enrol one of our Guides.



On the 1<sup>st</sup> March we celebrated St David's Day. We made and ate Welsh Cakes which were very tasty. We also made friendship spoons based on Welsh Love Spoons. In March we also had a swimming session at the Waterfront Centre in Greenock.

As we head towards the Easter holidays, we will complete the Skill Builder activity pack we have been working on through the term. On our last night we will have some Easter fun - I'm sure there will be chocolate involved!

Christine Haddock  
Guider Leader

## BOOK CLUB

The third meeting of the newly formed Book Club took place on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March. Once again those who attended were enthusiastic about their reading preferences.

John McKenzie treated us to a rendering of "Joan Hunter Dunn" by John Betcheman

Books mentioned which others may wish to read were:

- Andrew McCall Smith - various
- John Grisham "The judges List"
- Anthony Doerr "All the Light we cannot see"

It was agreed we will meet again in the autumn on September 14th.

Dennis Taylor



## MEN'S CLUB

The current group for retired men at Freeland Church known as the "Freelanders" have extended an invitation to all retired men in St. Machar's Ranfurly. They would like us to join them and are in the process of renaming their group to reflect the wider catchment. (Names being considered are "Gryffe Grumpies" and "BOWmen").

The draft syllabus for 2023 is shown opposite:-

<b>The Freelanders</b>	
<b>Draft Programme</b>	
(Last Tuesday of Each Month)	
26 April	Kelvin Grove Art Gallery & Museum
30 May	Cruise on Loch Katrine
27 June	The Burrell Collection
25 July	Culzean Castle
29 August	Paisley Abbey
26 September	Cruise on Waverly
31 October	Fairfield Museum
28 November	Giffnock & Newlands Synagogue
12 December	Christmas Lunch at Bernie's Deli

## THE GUILD



After the long period of Covid we were able to restart the Guild last October with a social afternoon. 22 ladies joined and we have had an average of 18 members per meeting. There were 5 meetings before Christmas and we enjoyed a variety of speakers on interesting topics.

We started the New Year with a lunch at the River Inn, 20 ladies attended. Again we had 5 meetings in the second half and enjoyed a varied selection of themes. We will restart on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October when the theme for the year will be New Wine, New Wineskins, we shall look forward to our new project. Guild week this year is from September 10<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>, before we restart but hopefully we shall have a Sunday Service.

My thanks to the committee for all their work, especially Elizabeth Lyle as Secretary, Agnes McKechnan as Treasurer and Mabel and Jenny for attending to our needs at tea time. Also to Helen for playing the piano.

Our thanks go to all of you for coming as that is what makes it all worth while. We wish you a happy healthy summer and look forward to seeing you in the Autumn.

Ann Hart

## QUIZ - DO YOU KNOW YOUR BIRDS?

		Answer
1	Sir Robert Scott's middle name	
2	Walter?	
3	You're in trouble if it's cooked	
4	Gulp!	
5	Tease part of a foot	
6	Crossing (pedestrian activated)	
7	Sound of proper bees in Rabbie	
8	Both rushing to reveal one	
9	Old sailor surrounded by a catapult	
10	Rustic takes an hour for a second	

### February Quiz Answers:

- |            |            |              |            |             |            |
|------------|------------|--------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| 1. Running | 2. Cricket | 3. Hiking    | 4. Croquet | 5. Fencing  | 6. Curling |
| 7. Golf    | 8. Polo    | 9. Badminton | 10. Rugby  | 11. Snooker | 12. Squash |

Helen Bullen

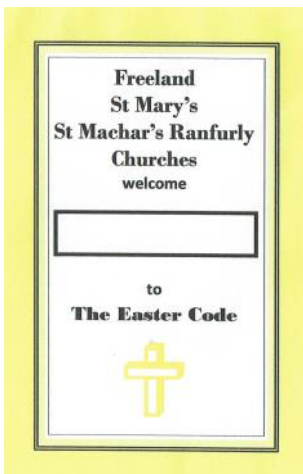
## JUNIOR CHOIR

The Junior Choir continues to meet on Thursday afternoons from 4.15p.m. – 5.15 p.m. in the hall. This year we have sung a number of rounds, which is the children's first experience of singing in parts. We have learnt *Doe a Deer* from *The Sound of Music*, and the matching solfege hand signs. We have divided the children in two groups for this and this will be our first song we've sung in two part harmony. Given the children are in the P.3 – P.4 age bracket this is a great achievement for them.

With Easter fast approaching we are singing a few Easter songs exercises. ranging from *Peter Cottontail* to *We have a King who rides a donkey* and a Honduran *Alleluia*. I try and encourage the children to think about what they are singing, and I set them the task of finding out where Honduras is and what the country's flag is. At other times I ask the children questions about the music – what a particular term means and so on. They always respond enthusiastically. We are slowly filling a board in the hall with some of their homework exercises. Our spring term finishes on Thursday 30 March and restarts on Thursday 20 April, and we look forward to welcoming the Junior Choir to our celebration of Music Sunday and the end of the Bridge of Weir Gala Week.

Ian Munro

## EASTER CODE



On Wednesday 15th March volunteers from Freeland, St. Mary's and St. Machar's Ranfurly Churches welcomed P5 pupils from Bridge of Weir Primary to our hall and church. The children really enjoyed themselves and learned a lot about the events of Holy Week.



The Last Supper



Feet Washing



Garden Of Gethsemane

## 2ND BRIDGE OF WEIR GUIDES (TUESDAY GUIDES)

Tuesday Guides have had quite a varied month commencing with the Renfriends Event organised by Girlguiding Renfrewshire. The day took place in Paisley and was run in four venues. It was loads of fun there was much to keep us all interested and entertained for the day. There was an opportunity to tour Paisley Abbey and an historical walk around the centre of town. The culmination was a 'campfire' get together and awards presentation in the Methodist Halls attended by the Lord Lieutenant Peter McCarthy, Sarah McNeil Deputy Scottish Chief Commissioner and our outgoing County President Mar Ray.



The Guides have been busy working on UMAs (Unit Meeting Activities) these are themed

activities used for the girls working towards the Gold Guide Award.

Our Young Leaders led one evening (called It's on the Cards) which turned out to be loads of laughs and very competitive. The following Tuesday we were all off to South Newton for an evening outside! Told to wrap up warmly as it may be cold but we would be playing team games. Apart from the evening being a somewhat chilly night at -5 degrees the girls were kept relatively warm running about.

Each group had a large bucket of varying size and shaped balls from which they would select one ball before being told what the game was. Points were awarded accordingly for each game. As we are in the run up to Easter and will be away from the Church Hall, the girls took part in an Easter themed fun night completing four group tasks.



As the poor Easter bunny had over indulged and his hutch was too small. With paper string and tape and lollypop sticks a new abode had to be constructed. This had to be free standing and supported. Points were awarded for construction and for the length of time the task took. Then there were basket hats which could not be hand supported. Someone was allotted to be the catcher. Points were awarded for each thrown egg which landed in the basket and there were surprise prizes in some of the eggs. There was an opportunity to make a comic strip story from picking a word from a tin. Each word had to be filled into the next story telly square. The word had to be clear and had to tie into the overall plot. Everyone enjoyed the evening along with the chocolate and marshmallow prizes.



Moira Johnston

# Happy Easter

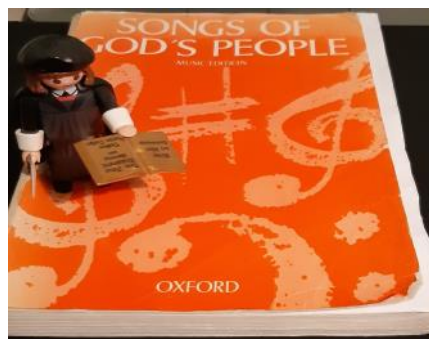
## FROM THE ORGAN LOFT



I recently caught up with an organ-playing friend of mine. This friend had been clearing out some files and had come across some interesting things dating back many years. One such artefact was a letter from an edition of the Life and Work dated back to the mid-1980s. This letter had been signed by various organists from across Scotland (some familiar names who are still in post) all complaining vociferously about the latest hymnary supplement from the Church of Scotland: *Songs of God's People*. Do you remember that hymn book? Many of the hymns included in *Songs of God's People* are now something of a cult classic and have made it into CH4. Among the many complaints from these organists was about the choice of hymn tunes. Their complaints were the book relied on too many folk melodies, or melodies which were not particularly musically satisfying or in their eyes, not "traditional hymn tunes" and so it went on. I hope they felt better after their vent!

Whilst some people may, to varying degrees, agree with the arguments and protestations of these experienced, learned organists. In my view, in the space of a few paragraphs showed themselves to be not only narrow-minded but blissfully unaware of the origins of many of the tunes they had been playing on a weekly basis for many years!

If you go back many hundreds of years, the average person could not read or write. Part of Martin Luther's reformation was to enable everyone to participate in some level at a church service. The bible was to be printed in the vernacular and the hymns the congregation were to join with had to be simple tunes and easy texts so people could pick them up. Composers such as Johann Sebastian Bach, would often turn to secular tunes and use these melodies in their hymn tunes. This provided something familiar for the congregation to sing during services, leaving the choir to sing the more complex musical material which made up the remainder of the liturgy.



As we approach Holy Week and Easter, I'm sure *O Sacred Head! sore wounded* will be making an appearance. The tune, *Passion Chorale*, which we sing to this hymn is credited to Bach.

However, Bach pinched this from one of the drinking houses close to St Thomas' Church in Leipzig. The original text, completely inappropriate for church purposes, was replaced with the text we now associate with that hymn by the German theologian Paul Gerhardt. Perhaps if these organists had done a bit of research about some of the 'good old hymn tunes', so pleasing to 'staunch Presbyterians', they may have reconsidered what they wrote in their letter and realised that almost five hundred years since the Reformation not much has changed in terms of hymn writing!

The accompanying photograph is my souvenir figure of Martin Luther (produced to mark the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation) sitting on top of my *Songs of God's People* giving his approval to the musical content contained within...

Ian Munro



## BOYS BRIGADE

### COMPANY SECTION

Delighted to report that our football team got through to the Scottish finals where they narrowly missed getting through to the UK finals. It all came down to the last game.

Much more exciting than 'match of the day'! Our quiz team *is* through to the UK finals. So, we wish Jonny, Joseph, Lewis and Billy all the very best for their trip to Belfast on 25<sup>th</sup> March.



***Receiving their instructions before the start of the Scottish finals. Our boys in black.***

On our Friday evenings this past term we have had sessions on communication skills and, led by Hanneke, on romantic relationships. The latter being held on the nearest Friday to St Valentine's Day. Appropriate to all our recent competitions we had an evening looking at Sportsmanship. Finally, we had a session on the serious subject of criminal exploitation of children [mainly to do with black-market drugs] using material produced by BB HQ and the police.

After our Easter break, we will be gearing up for a Duke of Edinburgh expedition and finally the display on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May in the Cargill Hall.

We are still in need of extra leaders, and boys, especially for the Juniors [P4-6].

Brian Logie

### ANCHORS

Anchors have had a busy session with a variety of activities throughout the year. In addition to the usual games, crafts and Bible stories, the boys had a fun evening learning circus skills and playing with a very large ball. The Rapid Response team taught the boys about what to do in an emergency and how to administer CPR using mannequins. The boys enjoyed making pancakes and the ten-pin bowling night. The Battalion held a Fun Day where the boys had the opportunity to meet other Anchors from the local area. The session will end with a trip to the Big Adventure followed by the Display.

We have had a very busy, enjoyable session. Two of the leaders are retiring after many years of service. Anchor leaders can only continue to provide quality activities for the boys if more people are willing to undertake training and become leaders. Please give this some consideration and talk to any of the leaders if you feel you can help.

Gerry Millar





## CHRISTIAN AID



### Christian Aid Week 14-20 May 2023

This year Christian Aid Week will take place from 14<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> May. Your participation and support will be more important than ever this year.

Christian Aid, through its local partners, continues to undertake its important anti-poverty work in places like Malawi. Look out for further information about “pigeon pea” and the “Big Pea Challenge”! (And if you just can’t wait, go to [caweek.org/BigPea](http://caweek.org/BigPea) to find out more!)

But Christian Aid is also heavily involved in the efforts to support

communities devastated by the recent earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. Christian Aid was already active in northern Syria because of the dreadful conflict there in recent years, and was well placed to give immediate support. It was also able to give immediate support to the coordinated “DEC” (Disasters Emergency Committee) fundraising efforts. Way back in 1963, Christian Aid had played a leading role in establishing DEC to ensure aid organisations coordinated their fundraising efforts in responding to major disasters.

Christian Aid Week in Bridge of Weir simply does not happen unless people step forward to make it happen. House-to-house collection using the traditional “red envelope” remains our most important fundraising activity. **Volunteers please!** Contact Jenny Durward or myself. This will be supported by the online giving option of a dedicated Bridge of Weir “e-envelope” which will be going live towards the end

of April.

The web link will be: <https://envelope.christianaid.org.uk/bridge-of-weir> , or you will be able to scan the QR code below to go straight to the envelope.

Hopefully there will be other social and fundraising events during the Week. But, again, these will only happen if people step forward to organise and support them. Please support Christian Aid Week this year as much as you can and help to make it happen.

Dave Macdonald

QR code for e-envelope:



### HALL ACTIVITIES

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

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 .

## NOTICES



### QUIZ

Saturday 22nd April at 7.00 pm



Fun quiz in St. Machar's Ranfurly Church Hall  
Families/teams/individuals/everyone  
warmly welcomed

Tea, coffee, juice at the interval –BYOB if you wish

Tickets £5.00 available from Fundraising committee  
and Morven 0788-7771522

### Good Friday



Lunch –12 noon

*followed by*

Services

at

St. Machar's Ranfurly

&

Freeland

### 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 fundraising 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!

Fundraising Committee

*The Terrace* 

Friday 28th April

Friday 26th May

**LUNCH**

**12 NOON**

**Homemade Soups, Sandwiches,**

**Tea/Coffee, Biscuits**

**Entry £5**

**Come along and enjoy good food and  
good company**

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



# NOTICES

## WORSHIP

<b>April</b>	Sunday 2nd	10.30 am	Morning Service - Palm Sunday
	Monday 3rd	7.00 pm	Holy Week Service - Freeland
	Tuesday 4th	7.00 pm	Holy Week Service - Freeland
	Wednesday 5th	7.00 pm	Holy Week Service - Freeland
	Thursday 6th	7.00 pm	Maundy Thursday Service - Hall—St. Machar's Ranfurly
	Friday 7th	12.00 noon	Good Friday Lunch & Services - Hall/St. Machar's Ranfurly/Freeland
	Sunday 9th	10.30 am	Easter Sunday Morning Service
	Sunday 16th	10.30 am	Morning Service
	Sunday 23th	10.30 am	Morning Service
	Sunday 30th	10.30 am	Morning Service - All Age - in Hall
<b>May</b>	Sunday 07th	10.30 am	Morning Service
	Sunday 14th	10.30 am	Morning Service
	Tuesday 16th	7.30 pm	Joint Kirk Session Meeting—Freeland
	Sunday 21th	10.30 am	Morning Service
	Sunday 28th	10.30 am	Morning Service - followed by Stated Annual Meeting
<b>June</b>	Sunday 4th	10.30 am	Joint Sacrament of Holy Communion- St.Machar's Ranfurly
	Sunday 11th	10.30 am	Morning Service



## BAPTISM



Andrius Vincent  
Maclean Sharp

26th February 2023

## BRIDGE OF WEIR CHURCHES ACTIVITIES

### Regular Activities

Mondays	6.15 pm	Girls Association of the Boys Brigade Anchors and Juniors at Freeland
	7.15 pm	Girls Association of the Boys Brigade Brigaders at Freeland
Thursdays	10..00 am - 12 noon	Coffee Drop in - Home Baking at Freeland
	4.00 pm	Junior Choir at St Machar's Ranfurly
	6.15 pm	Anchor Boys at Freeland
Fridays	6.30 pm	Boys Brigade Junior Section at St Machar's Ranfurly
	7.30 pm	Boys Brigade Company Section at Freeland

### April Activities

Saturday 22nd	7.00 pm	Quiz Night - in St Machar's Ranfurly
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### May Activities

Monday 8th	TBA	Coronation Day Big Help Out—Litter Pick and Afternoon Tea—Freeland
Sunday 14 - 20th		Christian Aid Week

### June Activities

Fridays	10 am—12 noon	Summer Drop In—St Machar's Ranfurly
Saturday 10th	PM	Joint Churches Stall—Space Activities

## CONTACTS

**Minister: Rev. Hanneke Marshall**  
The Manse,  
9 St Andrews Drive,  
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	
Apr 09	Agnes McKechan	Philip McCulloch	Harrison Butterworth	Blair Watson
16	Mary Taylor	Dennis Taylor	Blair Watson	Naomi Butterworth
23	Anne Allen	Ann Hart	Blair Watson	Drew Richardson
30	Margaret Richardson	Norma Hancock	Blair Watson	
May 07	Alan Durward	Jennie Durward	Katelyn Macfadyen	Greg Miller
14	Elizabeth Lyle	Sarah McNaught	Jonny Watson	Tabitha Marshall
21	Scott McLaughlin	Morven McLeod	Lois Marshall	Harrison Butterworth
28	Philip McCulloch	Bill Robb	Greg Miller	Naomi   Butterworth
June 04	Agnes McKechan	Ann Yeaman	Katelyn Macfadyen	Drew Richardson
11	Mary Taylor	Dennis Taylor	Tabitha Marshall	Lois Marshall

### Flower Rota

Date	Donation	Delivery
Apr 09	Easter Sunday	
16	Greg Miller	Mary Taylor
23	Anne Porrelli	Anne Porrelli
30	Elizabeth Lyle	Elizabeth Lyle
May 07	Stewart Little	Stewart Little
14	Maureen Lyle	Elizabeth Lyle
21	Helen Bullen	Helen Bullen
28	Evelyn Watson	Evelyn Watson
June 04	Ann Hart	Ann Hart
11	Rosemary Taylor	Rosemary Taylor