

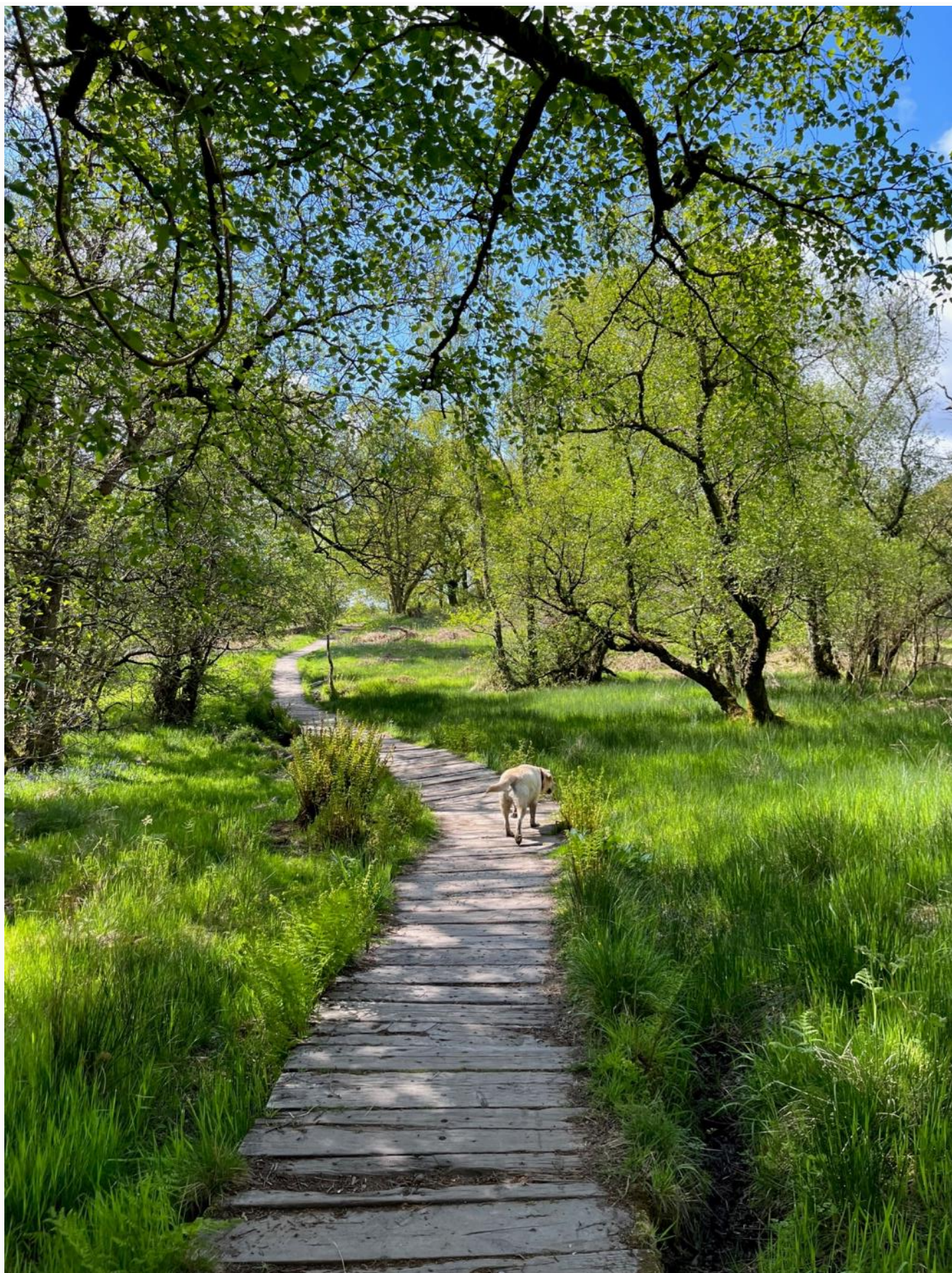
The Lych Gate

The Newsletter of St Machar's Ranfurly Church



JUNE 2023

Volume 25 Issue 3



FROM THE MINISTER

And suddenly it was summer... well not quite, as it doesn't entirely feel like summer yet! But we are now in June and personally I'm looking forward to our summer holiday which will take us to the Belgian Ardennes and the Netherlands. We'll be away for quite a few weeks due to the limited availability of an XL kennel on the Hull to Rotterdam ferry... Asher our yellow Labrador will be travelling with us and will no doubt enjoy exploring new places. He is a good travelling companion as he enjoys being with the 'pack' and is always curious to go somewhere new. Of course, we need to keep his needs in mind and regular pitstops are required. As I am writing, this he is lying in a sun puddle in the manse study; he's good at making the most

of a comfy spot! Although you will receive this Lych Gate magazine in June, I still have my Pentecost service to prepare and am mulling over different images for the Holy Spirit. Now, admittedly Labradors don't feature in the Bible as a metaphor for the Spirit, but I'm just thinking that there are some similarities. The Spirit is a faithful companion, willing and keen to travel with us and explore new places, even leading the way when allowed off the leash! The Spirit is a life and joy bringer, full of enthusiasm and loves meeting and connecting people. Whilst we can't really say that the Holy Spirit has 'needs', tending to the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives does require time and attention. We need a routine to feed our spirit with

God's Spirit.

In the church calendar there is no extended Pentecost season; we go into 'ordinary time'; however, all of ordinary time really is the season of the Holy Spirit. Where will the Holy Spirit lead you in the coming weeks and months? More than ever we need the life giving presence of the Spirit both personally and in the church. I pray that you will tend to the Spirit's companionship in this season and follow where the Spirit leads.

Yours *Hanneke*

JOINT MEETING WITH ELDERS FROM FREELAND AND ST MACHAR'S RANFURLY CHURCH

Elders from both churches met on 16th May in Freeland Church Hall to discuss hopes and fears, challenges and opportunities moving towards a joint future. Our meeting was led by Rev Maggie McArthur, minister of Cardross Parish Church. She made clear that she was there at our request and not on behalf of presbytery to lead any formal negotiations. We (the respective kirk sessions) want to use the current period prior to any more formal moves towards a union in the most constructive way. Elders were arranged in small groups with a balance of elders from each church per group. After a devotional by the Rev McArthur, the first conversation round was sharing hopes and fears regarding a future union. After a period of time the tables fed back to the whole group. Some of the hopes expressed by the groups were: one new united church for the village; combining of resources and volunteers; sum being greater than its parts; renewed energy and positive outlook; a positive union being good publicity; attracting more people to a stronger church. Some of the fears expressed were;

protracted process/bureaucracy getting to a union; losing members in process; division and conflict which would be bad publicity for the church; loss of identity; St Machar's Ranfurly congregation feeling like it's a take over; loss of community space. We then started a round of conversation around the challenges and opportunities that a future united church might have. Again feedback to the whole group was given. Some of the challenges that were mentioned; ageing profile of church members and volunteers; creating a new identity that can be a home for all; connecting better with the village; growing the church! Opportunities that were identified: fresh expressions of church; refurbishing church building and/or halls for new congregation. Both ministers were present but not taking part in the table conversations or the feedback rounds. This is not intended to be a comprehensive report of the evening. The facilitator will be writing a report for the Sessions and we will be having another joint meeting on June 13th. The plan for this meeting is to

establish joint task groups who will begin exploring and working on areas where we can do so. We do this already in mission and outreach; as well as school chaplaincy and shared worship services. There are other areas where we can do more together, even before a union and this will hopefully create a good foundation for moving forward. One challenge recognised on the night was the need for clear communication at all levels including with our members and the rest of the village. The way we talk about the future will impact on whether it will be perceived as good or bad news. We all know that often church unions can go badly and create a lot of conflict, which ultimately damages the reputation of the church in the community. Whilst we want to honestly acknowledge differences and losses, we were all agreed that we hope to create a good and strong union. Everyone has a role to play in this regard. Keep an eye out for the weekly email newsletters for further updates following our joint meeting on the 13th of June. It is likely that we will be inviting non-elders onto the task groups. **Hanneke**

1ST BRIDGE OF WEIR GUIDES (WEDNESDAY GUIDES)

After the Easter holidays we started working on our outdoor 'Have Adventures Skill Builder' and the County outdoor challenge 'Ren Rambles'. We also planted sunflower seeds and will see who can grow the tallest one in the Unit. Of course, we celebrated the King's Coronation by having an evening decorating Royal themed cup-cakes. We enjoyed eating them after playing some royal inspired games. On the very wet Coronation bank holiday Monday we joined in with the village litter pick as part of *The Big Help Out*. We were all shocked at how much rubbish we collected from around the main car park in the village in just an hour. We all appreciated the hot drinks and cake in Freeland Hall afterwards.

In May we were out fire lighting and held a scavenger hunt around the village using the what3words app. What3words is a really quick and simple way to find, share and save exact locations. The system converts GPS coordinates into 3-word addresses. We will finish May with two nights out at the

river at Quarrier's Village. BoW fishing club is running two sessions for us. Not sure we will catch enough for our dinner, but we are looking forward to this new activity.

In June we will celebrate our Unit's 100th birthday by hosting the Bridge of Weir Rainbow and Brownie Units along with 2nd Guides for a fun night at South Newton. We are also looking forward to our annual weekend camp. This year we are going to Girlguiding North Ayrshire's activity centre, Blair, near Dalry.

As our term draws to a close, we will have a final outdoor activity evening and badge presentations at Finlaystone Estate. Let's hope the weather is kind to us for all our outdoor activities.

Girlguiding leaders from Bridge of Weir and Kilmacolm are running the tea tent on Gala Day in Houston Road park again this year. If you are coming along to Gala Day, please pop in for a cuppa and a sweet treat.

Christine Haddock
Guider Leader



QUIZ NIGHT

The Fundraising Committee held a most enjoyable quiz evening on Saturday 26th April. The picture below shows the winning team displaying their medals.



TERRACE LUNCH



The terrace Lunch on Friday 26th May provided delicious food and enjoyable fellowship with all proceeds being donated to Christian Aid.

MEN'S CLUB

Last month we reported that 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 the remainder of 2023 is shown.

The Freelanders Draft Programme (Last Tuesday of Each Month)

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



We ended the Guild year on the 20th March with the AGM followed by a super talk by 3 people from Brighter Bridge of Weir, who do a wonderful job of keeping the village looking colourful and very tidy.

We expressed our thanks for all their dedication and hard work. We will restart the Guild on Monday 2nd October 2023 at 2.00pm in the church hall. So far the syllabus is a mystery but by then we shall be organised.

A date for your diaries is a coffee morning on Saturday 4th November at 10.30am when we shall have a small stall for home baking and jams. We hope to have a good turn out as this is our main fund raiser for the Guild.

We look forward to seeing you all in October; do bring a friend.

Ann Hart

2ND BRIDGE OF WEIR GUIDES (TUESDAY GUIDES)

The Guides have been continuing to work on their UMA's (Unit Meeting activities); the older girls towards achieving their Gold Award.

We have also been busy raising funds towards our trip to London in August. There was a very successful sponsored weekend walk from Lunderston Bay to Weymss Bay which raised £189.00 with more to come. Last weekend they made s'mores over the fire pit at the Primary School which was great fun. Then on Tuesday evening there was a bike ride to Kilmacolm.

Moira Johnston



QUIZ - NAME THE ENGLISH COUNTY (IGNORING "SHIRE")

		Answer
1	Sauce	
2	Knew the old way to say it	
3	Reset reset lice	
4	The one with the fringe on top	
5	Ruminant crossing	
6	Famous for a race	
7	Famous for lace	
8	Bright green	
9	Rough excess drops a note	
10	Sounds like people who like hot weather	

April Quiz Answers:

1. Falcon 2. Pigeon 3. Goose 4. Swallow 5. Chaffinch
6. Pelican 7. Buzzard 8. Thrush 9. Starling 10. Pheasant

Helen Bullen

JUNIOR CHOIR

The Junior Choir has just finished their second year. Whilst our numbers have dropped slightly, we still have eight children attending loyally each week. This term we have introduced singing in 2 part harmony, a variety of rounds, some musical games and a wide range of songs which cover everything from Disney's *Lion King* to spirituals to African songs and more. It is great to be able to encourage the young people to make music, learn new more musical skills and make friends. There's a nice sense of community among the young people which is one of the many positive things to come from being in a choir. We are looking at ways to try and integrate the Junior Choir into the

musical life of the Church and I hope many of them will be able to sing at our Gala Concert on Music Sunday (11 June). Going forward I hope to involve the children more through the church's year including at Christmas and other times. While the children go off on their summer holidays, and helpers enjoy a well-earned rest, I'll be looking at new music for next term! Ideas are already forming and I look forward to sharing more of our plans with you in the next edition of Lychgate. A special thanks to all our helpers who come and help with rehearsals. It is really wonderful we are able to have a junior choir here and I am so grateful to everyone who helps and supports

us. One of my friends is really impressed that we have a junior choir here and are encouraging children to make music, they told me "these are memories which will last with the children for a long time. They'll look back at their time fondly. The memories and the music will live with them for most of their days". Such is the joy of music and why it is vital to support the next generation. The Junior Choir will resume rehearsals on Thursday 31 August at 4.15 p.m. and is open to young people in the P.3. – P.7. bracket. Please encourage anyone you know to come along!

Ian Munro

NOTICES

SUMMER PLACEMENT AARON MARSHALL

Aaron Marshall (husband of...) has just completed his three year divinity degree at Glasgow University and is currently doing his full time summer placement. During the month of May he has been shadowing the healthcare chaplain at the Inverclyde Hospital. In June and August he will complete six weeks in our church; sharing in services, pastoral care and other church activities. After the summer holidays he will start his 15 month probationary placement in Kilbarchan Parish Church so you'll not see much of him then... I trust you will welcome him (back) in the fold over the summer months!



Funerals



Jesus said

"I am the Resurrection and the Life"

Hamish MacRae April 18th

William Stewart April 27th

Harold Main May 17th

Louise Hide May 18th

FROM THE ORGAN LOFT



Many of us will have watched the coronation of HM King Charles III and Queen Camilla. There were many highlights – the first Coronation of a new monarch in 70 years, Penny Mordaunt and her swords, the various faith groups represented and the music. From a musical point of view at least, I felt the Coronation was a glorified concert. It showed musicians playing and singing at their very best. The Coronation ceremony itself showed church music in a positive light. The Choir of Westminster Abbey alongside their organist and an orchestra of some of the country's top orchestral players, were joined by Cathedral choirs from Truro and Belfast and augmented

further by singers from the Monteverdi Choir. Many people have remarked on the quality of this ensemble, and there is no denying the significance of their contributions. However, this quality is nothing new.

These choirs give consistently high performances whether for state occasions, Sunday services or a mid-week evensong attended by a small number of people.

Regardless of the occasion these choirs sing to a high standard on a daily basis. During my postgraduate years in London, I'd often go to services at Westminster Abbey and would try and arrive early to get a seat in the quire. Roughly where Humza Yousaf was sat at the coronation and would watch the Westminster Abbey Choir and their then Director of Music (James O' Donnell) in action. It was a masterclass in professionalism, and

music making of the highest quality. The service church musicians give often goes unrecognised or appreciated whether that is top cathedral choir, small parish choir, a praise band or something else.

Churches are blessed to have a willing group of people to provide the musical accompaniment to their worship. The Choir at St. Machar's is almost on a par with their Westminster Abbey counterparts (we probably have more fun) and make a valuable contribution to the worship here. The selection of music we sing covers many styles and genres with our choir rising to the challenges of each piece admirably. Whereas a choral society has the luxury of a term to learn a programme of music, church choirs work in a much shorter timescale and the sheer amount of music our choir has covered is as admirable as it is inspiring.

Sunday 11 June 2023 is Music Sunday, a day where churches are encouraged to give thanks and celebrate the musical life of their church and our Gala Concert on the afternoon of Sunday 11 June should do exactly that. I would encourage you to support the choir here and the musical life of this church. Music has the power to connect people to God and has a special power that the spoken word perhaps doesn't. If you enjoy singing, why not consider coming along to the choir on a Thursday night and join us? You don't have to read music. We work hard but have a lot of fun along the way. The choir breaks soon for the summer but rehearsals will begin again on Thursday 17 August at 7.30 p.m. and will begin contributing to the worship again on Sunday 3 September.

Ian Munro

CHRISTIAN AID



THANK YOU!

Sincere thanks to everybody who supported Christian Aid Week this year. The house-to-house collectors, Jennie and Rosemary for rounding up volunteers, the "catering crew" who were so brilliant in organising and delivering the Big Brekkie and Terrace Lunch, Hanneke for theming our Sunday morning service on Christian Aid – and, importantly, everybody who donated so generously.

A real "churches-together" activity involving St Machar's Ranfurly and Freeland, with further support from St Mary's through a retiring collection.

Combining all the monies raised both as cash and through the online giving "e-envelope", and including the gift aid bonus arising from many of the donations, the fantastic sum of £7,138 was raised for Christian Aid's vital work in tackling poverty and the causes of poverty.

For those who haven't quite got round to donating yet, the "e-envelope" for online giving will remain open for a while. Go to <https://envelope.christianaid.org.uk/bridge-weir> or scan this QR code to go straight to the e-envelope.



Dave Macdonald



The Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association finished off the term with our annual display. Allison Livingston, the leader of the GA, open the proceedings with a bible-based talk. We had contributions from the Anchors, Juniors, Company Section and Girls' Association. There was dance, marching, games, a team of Superheroes, a sketch based on the Wise and Foolish Builders parable and a slide show of BB

highlights over the past year. Badges and prizes were presented including Queen's Badges, the highest award in the BB, for Fergus Mackay and Finlay Jones. At the end of March one of our quiz teams got as far as the National Finals in Belfast and this was reflected in a mini quiz when our team beat a team of parents! Since Easter, in the Company Section, we have had a talk on Christian Aid from Hanneke and a talk on the church in Uganda and Rwanda by Phil Arbon. The expedition season has started with a DofE Bronze team due to do their 2-day trek in June.

The Juniors continue to struggle for numbers with just 9 boys currently registered. Please encourage any boy in the P4-6 age group to come along. This term Alan and Geraldine retired as leaders from the Anchors and Joy retired from the Juniors. We thank them for the many years of faithful service they all put in, but we need to recruit replacements. We are most grateful to Lorna Yee who is taking over as officer in charge of Anchors.

Brian Logie

Press Release

Were You There?

As many organisations come out of the lockdown years there are very few who can celebrate such a special birthday like The Boys' Brigade. Celebrating it's 140th year in 2023 and as part of their celebrations Paisley & District Battalion would like to hear from any former members, friends or members of the public about their memories of the 1983 Centenary.

During the Movement's Centenary Year members from Paisley and District were prominent in the national celebrations at The Centenary International Camp at Scone Palace or at Centenary Salute at Ibrox Park. Indeed Paisley's President Raymond Shaw was the man instrumental in the success of Centenary Salute along with many others from this Battalion. Andrew Hosie was another who led the administration at the Centenary Camp – a major undertaking for 2,000 campers from around the world. Rev Sandy McDonald - David Tennant's father – Minster at St

Mark's Oldhall & Ralston conducted The National Centenary Thanksgiving Service and many more who made the year such a success at a national level. In Paisley & District local celebrations took place from an Anchor Boys Day at Erskine to a Centenary Show in Paisley Town Hall and not one but two Fiddler's Rally Concerts. In companies across this Renfrewshire there were many events including Birthday Parties on 4th Octobers and for some trips abroad.

Alas many who were part of these events are no longer with us but a spokesman for the Battalion said it would be important to record the memories of people who are still around. One member recalled the reaction of the Centenary Campers as they left the field at Centenary Salute and of The Anchor Boys' Day at Erskine a photo of two boys one stroking a Boa Constrictor the other shying away in horror. Yes it is fair to say none of the 1933 officers who attended the reunion in Paisley Town Hall are with us today

but the fun and joy shown by these men many of whom were in their eighties and nineties but those who saw that fellowship they enjoyed could ever forget.

This celebration is not only about looking back in time a spokesman commented, but also an opportunity to recharge the inspiration that is young people after the Covid years. Indeed we hear there are twenty-five young men who have completed their Queen's Badge Course and will be put forward for The Brigade's highest award later this year. With companies working throughout Renfrewshire from Anchor Boys through to Queen's Men yes The Boys' Brigade has much to celebrate.

If you were at any event grand or small The Battalion would like to hear from you by writing to Celebrations at BB HQ North Street Paisley or Email to headquarters@bbpaisley.org

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ROTAS

Date	Welcome	Sound and Vision	Flowers	Flower Delivery
June 11	Mary Taylor / Dennis Taylor	Tabitha Marshall / Lois Marshall	Rosemary Taylor	Rosemary Taylor
18	Ann Hart / Bill Christie	Jonny Watson / Harrison Butterworth	Moira Johnston	Moira Johnston
25	M. Richardson / Morven McLeod	Greg Miller / Naomi Butterworth	Coral McLaughlin	Coral McLaughlin
July 02	Jennie Durward (Freeland)	n/a	n/a	n/a
09	Dennis Taylor (Freeland)	n/a	n/a	n/a
16	Norma Hancock (Freeland)	n/a	n/a	n/a
23	Anne Allen / Norma Hancock	Katelyn Macfadyen /Drew Richardson	Norma Hancock	Norma Hancock
30	Elizabeth Lyle / Scott McLaughlin	Tabitha Marshall / Lois Marshall	Helen Bullen	Helen Bullen
August 06	Jennie Durward / Alan Durward	Harrison / Naomi Butterworth	Jennie Durward	Jennie Durward
13	Sarah McNaught / Bill Robb	Greg Miller / Jonny Watson	Jenifer McNocher	Norma Hancock
20	Anne Yeaman / Agnes McKechan	Katelyn Macfadyen /Drew Richardson	Rosemary Taylor	Rosemary Taylor
27	Mary Taylor / Dennis Taylor	Tabitha Marshall / Lois Marshall	Mary Taylor	Mary Taylor
Sept. 03	Philip McCulloch / Bill Christie	Harrison / Naomi Butterworth	Jennie Durward	Jennie Durward
10	Ann Hart/ M. Richardson	Greg Miller / Jonny Watson	Ann Hart	Ann Hart

WORSHIP

BRIDGE OF WEIR CHURCHES ACTIVITIES

June Sunday 11th	10.30 am	Morning Service	June Activities		
Sunday 18th	10.30 am	Morning Service	Fridays (from June 28th)	10 am—12 noon	Summer Drop In — St Machar’s Ranfurly Hall
Sunday 25th	10.30 am	Morning Service - All Age - in Hall	Saturday 10th	PM	Joint Churches Gala Day Stall—Space Activities
July Sunday 2nd	10.30 am	Morning Service - Joint at Freeland Church	Sunday 11th	4.00 pm	Music Sunday - Gala Concert St. Machar’s Ranfurly Church
Sunday 9th	10.30 am	Morning Service - Joint at Freeland Church	July Activities		
Sunday 16th	10.30 am	Morning Service - Joint at Freeland Church	Fridays	10 am—12 noon	Summer Drop — St Machar’s Ranfurly Hall
Sunday 23rd	10.30 am	Morning Service - Joint at St. Machar’s Ranfurly	August Activities		
Sunday 30th	10.30 am	Morning Service	Fridays (till August 11th)	10 am—12 noon	Summer Drop In — St Machar’s Ranfurly Hall
August Sunday 6th	10.30 am	Morning Service			
Sunday 13th	10.30 am	Morning Service			
Sunday 20th	10.30 am	Morning Service			
Sunday 27th	10.30 am	Morning Service			
Sept. Sunday 3rd	10.30 am	Morning Service			
Sunday 10th	10.30 am	Morning Service			



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Dennis Taylor , Mary Taylor
Marion Reid

Contributions for the next issue of *The Lych Gate* should be with the Editor by **Tuesday 22nd August 2023**.
Please E-mail to: dennis1taylor@msn.com or pass memory sticks or paper copies to Dennis Taylor.