

The Lych Gate

The Newsletter of St Machar's Ranfurly Church



SEPT 2023

Volume 25 Issue 4



FROM THE MINISTER

Dear friends,

We are moving to a quarterly edition of the Lych Gate; this was decided due to costs of printing as well as the work involved in producing and delivering our magazine. I think this is a good idea, although the one drawback is having to plan and think another month further ahead! The current issue covers September through to November and in terms of our church services this is quite a long and varied season. I anticipate finishing the Life of David sermon series at the end of September with a number of interesting stories still to be explored.

The 1st of October will be our next Communion service and although it is yet to be confirmed it looks like this will be a joint service with Freeland, to be held at Freeland Church. Once firmed up this will be communicated via the weekly email newsletter (if you don't get this but would like to, please email me Hanneke.Marshall@churchofscotland.org.uk). The 8th of October will be our Harvest Service.

A number of other dates for joint services are being proposed and discussed with our respective kirk sessions. It was one of the suggestions that came from our joint meeting in June to have more frequent joint services so that the congregations get used to worshipping together and getting to know one another. The joint

summer services in July have been well attended in both churches, which is very encouraging.

Other ideas from the meeting in June will be taken further in the coming months, such as organising joint social/fellowship events, studying 'intergenerational church' materials together, and setting up a joint group to explore future uses and adaptation of the buildings.

All these things are aimed at working towards building trust, understanding, friendship and common purpose between the congregations; hopefully in time enabling an amicable and good union of 'equal partners'. I understand our members will have mixed feelings about the future; so do I! Clearly there is loss and change involved and that is always difficult and painful. However, there are reasons to be hopeful and encouraged too; and I know some of you are because you have seen what can be possible together...

For those of you not so sure, I would encourage you to make the most of the coming year(s), unless you 'show up' and take part you can't really judge if this future union will have a place for you.

You will of course have a vote when the actual basis of union is being drawn up, but the best way to know whether or not to support the union is by engaging now.

In terms of time scales, the now approved Presbytery Mission Plan for Clyde states that my post will

be reviewed in 2025; I would be given 6 months' notice if it is withdrawn (as is likely). In this scenario we would have another couple of years ahead together. My departure would trigger the presbytery led formal union negotiations; or a request from both kirk sessions to start these earlier if so desired. If I were to move to another charge before 2025, this would of course bring union negotiations forward too. Personally, I am minded to make the most of the time we have and I hope you are too. Although it is perhaps too early to look back, I am so grateful for your support, friendship, enthusiasm and faithfulness over the past six and a half years!

In an attempt to tidy my study yesterday I found the little worn Dutch pocket bible that I received on leaving primary school. My headmaster had written this verse in it:

Psalm 16:11:

You make known to me the path of life;

you will fill me with joy in your presence,

with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

With God we can all face the future with confidence...

Praise God for all his blessings,

Yours
Hanneke

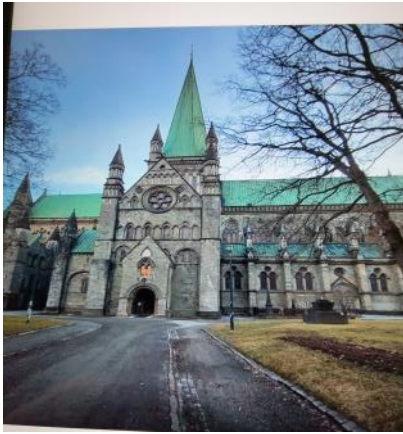
EGLISE NOTRE-DAME-DE-LA-SALETTE

Front Cover: *Eglise Notre-Dame-de-la-Salette* by Francis Hancock

Francis writes: Norma and I stumbled across this unusual church in Maletable during our recent visit to Normandy. It had been recently restored, with glass encapsulating the statues at the top of the tower.

CHURCHES OF THE WORLD

Trondheim Cathedral - Norway



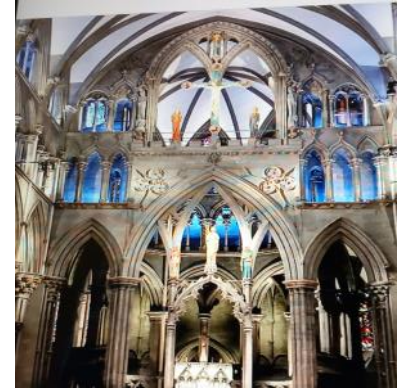
It is the traditional location for the consecration of new kings of Norway and it is the world's northernmost medieval cathedral

and Norway's national sanctuary. The cathedral is built over the tomb of St Olav, the Viking King who converted Norway to Christianity and became "Norway's Eternal King".

Throughout the Middle Ages this was a towering symbol of religious faith and the powerful position of the church.

The work on this cathedral began in 100 and was completed around 1300. Only 5 statues from the Middle Ages have survived on the facade, many of the other deteriorated ones remain on display in the museum. At the top of the north tower, the winged archangel

Michael is depicted fighting evil in the form of a dragon. There are many sculptures of monks, angels, gargoyles and animal life, said to represent the divine work of God's creation.



Helen Bullen

MEMBERSHIP ROLL REVIEW

The Kirk Session is currently reviewing the communion roll. The roll needs to be attested each year to Presbytery; this means we declare that it is an accurate reflection of our membership. Most of our members will have been added to the communion roll many decades ago, following prior infant or adult baptism and public profession of faith, which is sometimes referred to as confirmation. This admits the individual to all the rights and privileges of Church membership. The person's name is then added to the congregation's communion roll and they become eligible to vote in Church meetings and be elected to offices such as the eldership. Members may have also been added to the roll by decision of the Kirk Session, for example following transfer from another congregation.

The Church of Scotland's membership vows are as follows:
Believing in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and confessing Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord:
Do you promise to join regularly with

your fellow Christians in worship on the Lord's Day?

Do you promise to be faithful in reading the Bible and in prayer?

Do you promise to give a fitting proportion of your time, talents and money for the Church's work in the world?

Do you promise, depending on the grace of God, to profess publicly your loyalty to Jesus Christ, to serve him in your daily work, and to walk in his ways all the days of your life?

As you can see these vows are substantial and, as a consequence, church membership should be meaningful and substantial...

Whilst acknowledging that we all go through peaks and troughs in terms of our personal faith, and through differing phases of life which may impact our ability to join in worship or give a fitting proportion of our time, talents and money [though note: *fitting!*], it is important that we take our church membership seriously.

A more rigorous review of the communion roll has not been done for quite a number of years.

Therefore the Kirk Session feels it

is appropriate to do so now as there is (though sadly not uncommon in the Church of Scotland) a discrepancy between our number of members on the roll and those actually involved, engaged, giving, attending (including online) and so on. We will review on a case by case basis, taking into account pastoral considerations. We anticipate moving some members to the supplementary roll or removing their details altogether if they so wish for GDPR reasons. They would be informed of this decision by a letter and will have opportunity to respond.

It is important to stress that **anyone at any time is more than welcome to return to church and reconnect**, and if so can be readmitted to the communion roll by the session. Our communion services are open to all who love the Lord and (just to avoid any doubt!) funeral services are conducted by the minister for anyone in the parish who so requests. The Kirk Session

THE GUILD

The first meeting of the Guild, for the new session, will be on the 2nd October at 2.00pm in the church hall. We have an interesting syllabus and hope it will appeal to many. A coffee morning has been arranged on the 4th November and hope to have a good response as this is our only fund raiser, and it is a good way for us all to meet and have a chat. A lunch is being arranged for the 4th December, venue still to be decided.

We look forward to welcoming all our members and maybe bring a friend or two, as we try to bring a light of friendship and faith into our meetings.

Ann Hart

2ND BRIDGE OF WEIR GUIDES (TUESDAY GUIDES)



The girls on their bike ride and at the Mayfest at the primary school raising fund for the London trip.



QUIZ - NAME THE COMPLAINT

		Answer
1	Has mat crumpled?	
2	Sounds like what the plane did?	
3	East Central has scrambled maze	
4	Lee mass gives you it	
5	Mother has afterthought	
6	Beehives	
7	Songbird	
8	Waterfall	
9	Cane gives you it	
10	Brilliant red agitation finds it	

June Quiz Answers:

1. Worcester 2. Kent 3. Leicester 4. Surrey 5. Oxford
6. Derby 7. Nottingham 8. Lincoln 9. Essex 10. Somerset

Helen Bullen

FROM THE ORGAN LOFT



Summer holidays seem a distant memory, and the new term has started. Over the summer it was nice to drop-in at the summer drop-in! As a musician I always feel duty-bound to do something to try to inspire the next generation. If young people aren't made to feel welcome or included somewhere they won't come back. Looking back on my childhood I feel both blessed and grateful that many people gave me certain opportunities to 'have a go' at something, which fuelled my interest in various things which into adulthood have formed important parts of my life and career. I'm constantly shocked when I hear tales of music teachers in ye olden days telling their pupils they couldn't sing, or of one teacher who would pull your hair until you reached

the right note. Such behaviour would certainly not be tolerated these days or is acceptable. Nor can we calculate the amount of untold damage behaviours such as this have caused people. Many, many, many singers in the choirs I take have said something along the lines of: "I had a music teacher who said I couldn't sing. I hope you don't mind me coming here". It's sad that after many decades the disparaging attitude of these teachers still haunts people.

I find people's attitude in addition to their behaviour as a factor in deterring people from pursuing something. I remember attending a communion service as a child, and at the end a lady came up to me and said "I hope you didn't take part in that". Those were the days where it seemed to be communion was served to only those who were church members. Luckily for the concerned lady I hadn't participated. Her attitude towards me was such that it was many

years before I dared attend a communion service again, nor did I feel particularly welcome in a church which was my own! All of these experiences (and more which I won't bore you with) compel me to make the music which I offer accessible and inclusive to everyone i.e. anyone can have a shot and be part of things. Nobody has a right to tell anyone they can't do something neither does anyone have a right to tell someone whether they should or shouldn't be participating in an act of worship! Which brings me back to my original point! At the Summer Drop-in, I was heartened to see the large number of young people in attendance, and it was nice to be able to give them a shot of the organ. Some had piano skills and were willing to try their piano pieces on the organ. Others had no experience of playing a musical instrument at all. I enjoyed explaining to them how the organ works, and to give them to have a shot of

playing it. By the end of the morning the children had explored some of the different sounds the organ makes and had their first taste of both hands on the keyboard and feet on the pedals. Time will tell whether any of these youngsters were inspired enough to take up the organ or piano, but it was nice to give them that opportunity and bit of encouragement. The list of potential deputies grows ever longer. Speaking of inclusive and welcoming, the choir has resumed their rehearsals too. We meet on a Thursday night from 7.30p.m. until 9.00 p.m. and work hard on our programme of music. New members are always welcome – it'd be super to have you, especially if there's an old music teacher you'd like to get your own back on!

Ian Munro

LETTER OF THANKS FROM STEWARDSHIP CONVENER

In March 2023, I wrote to you all as part of our Stewardship Campaign, to advise of the concern of the Trustees of our projected Financial Deficit for this year being circa £14,500.

I am delighted to advise that we are now forecasting a slight excess of circa £1k of income over expenditure.

This has been achieved by: -

1. Many of you having risen to the occasion by increasing your regular giving and others who contribute on an annual basis or irregular basis, with a related

- increase in gift-aid returns.
2. Recent Fund raising success.
3. Revision of hall letting fees to address the increased cost of heating and lighting.
4. The diligence of our Treasurer, Francis Hancock, in questioning the monies advised for payment in our Giving to Grow (formerly known as Ministries – Mission) and Presbytery Dues, which over the year to December will result in savings of almost £6,500.
5. Transferring monies from Fixed Rate Deposits to our Virgin Media Bank Account where interest on deposits move in

- line with Bank of England Base Rate. Expected to be nearly £1,600 more than budgeted.
 6. Ensuring that the use of heating, lighting and ventilation was used sensibly.
 7. An agreed reduction in the number of Lych Gate issues.
- Whilst this is encouraging, we cannot be complacent. Our Communion Roll continues to decrease, and we will continue to be diligent in our expenditure. We rely on you, the members of the Congregation to regularly review your givings and to those who may not already be "giving" on a

"regular" basis to consider doing so.

I will conclude by repeating the final paragraph of my March 2023 letter.

"It's a privilege, a gift, and a form of ministry to be able to give to support the work of our church. We serve a generous God and are called to be generous people."

Your Sincerely,
Bill Christie
Convener: Stewardship and Finance Committee,

SUMMER DROP IN



SUMMER DROP IN



Volunteers from Freeland and St Machar's Ranfurly Church ran a Drop In on the 7 Fridays of the School Holidays. The theme this year was God's Wonderful World with craft activities linked to that day's focus and used to build up a wall banner. Each session finished with a Bible story and song also linked to the day's message—flowers; trees; seaside; animals; stars, sun & rainbows; birds & butterflies; and people. The final session had the added excitement of an unannounced fire alarm. This resulted in Hanneke leading the story and song out at the front of the church. It was wonderful to hear the strains of 'Jesus Loves Me' ringing out in the sunshine.



BOYS BRIGADE

Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association Update

The new season is getting underway with the Anchors starting on 31st August and the Company Section and Juniors starting 1st September. But activities have hardly stopped over the Summer with the Bronze DofE practice then 2 day expedition followed by the Silver DofE/Queen's Badge practice and 3 day expedition. The one-man tent, donated by Dave Macdonald, kept Craig Smith nice and dry, unlike the 2 boys' tents which leaked on the 3 day expedition, but the two nights were both torrential. They have now been reproofed so next Spring/ Summer I hope the boys will enjoy the comfort of a dry tent!

I am delighted that Sarah McKee is joining the leadership team with the Juniors, but we are only just getting by with leaders and each section would benefit from

another volunteer or two. Paul Birch will be stepping back a bit this session. Please pray that the right people will come forward, it might even be YOU!

Also of concern is the very low number of boys in the Juniors at present. Please advertise this to any P4-6 boy you may know. At time of writing there was some uncertainty about the future of the GA. Please pray for their leader, Allison, as she finds the way forward.



The Bronze boys congratulating Kenneth on 35 years in the ministry.

This is the BBs 140th year and we continue to promote fun, adventure and creativity with a distinctively Christian ethos.



The Silver boys overcoming one of several obstacles, with their usual good humour.

Brian Logie



WORSHIP

Date		Service	Beadle/Reader
Sept	Sunday 10	10.30 am Joint Service at St. Machar's Ranfurly	Helen Bullen
	Sunday 17	10.30 am Morning Service	Margaret Richardson
	Sunday 24	10.30 am All Age Service in Hall	Dick Hughes
Oct .	Sunday 1	10.30 am Joint communion at Freeland Church	
	Sunday 8	10.30 am Morning Service - Harvest Thanksgiving	Bill Christie
	Sunday 15	10.30 am Morning Service	Agnes McKechan
	Sunday 22	10.30 am Morning Service	Ian Hales
	Sunday 29	10.30 am All Age Service in Hall	Margaret Richardson
Nov.	Sunday 5	10.30 am Morning Service	Dennis Taylor
	Sunday 12	10.30 am Morning Service - Remembrance Sunday	Bill Robb
	Sunday 19	10.30 am Morning Service	Philip McCulloch
	Sunday 26	10.30 am All Age Service in Hall	Norma Hancock
Dec	Sunday 3	10.30 am Morning Service	Greg Miller
	Sunday 3	3.00 pm Blue Advent Service	Dick Hughes
	Sunday 10	10.30 am Morning Service	Anne Allen

THE MEMORIES I KEEP

I asked a friend who has crossed 70 & is heading towards 80 what sort of changes he is feeling in himself?

He sent me the following:

1. After loving my parents, my siblings, my spouse, my children and my friends, I have now started loving myself.
2. I have realized that I am not "Atlas". The world does not rest on my shoulders.
3. I have stopped bargaining with vegetable & fruit vendors. A few pennies more is not going to break me, but it might help the poor fellow save for his daughter's school fees.
4. I leave my waitress a big tip. The extra money might bring a smile to her face. She is toiling much harder for a living than I am.
5. I stopped telling the elderly that they've already narrated that story many times. The story makes them walk down memory lane & relive

their past.

6. I have learned not to correct people even when I know they are wrong. The onus of making everyone perfect is not on me. Peace is more precious than perfection.
7. I give compliments freely & generously. Compliments are a mood enhancer not only for the recipient, but also for me. And a small tip for the recipient of a compliment, never, NEVER turn it down, just say "Thank You."
8. I have learned not to bother about a crease or a spot on my shirt. Personality speaks louder than appearances.
9. I walk away from people who don't value me. They might not know my worth, but I do.
10. I remain cool when someone plays dirty to outrun me in the rat race. I am not a rat & neither am I in any race.
11. I am learning not to be embarrassed by my emotions. It's my

emotions that make me human.

12. I have learned that it's better to drop the ego than to break a relationship. My ego will keep me aloof, whereas with relationships, I will never be alone.
13. I have learned to live each day as if it's the last. After all, it might be the last.
14. I am doing what makes me happy. I am responsible for my happiness, and I owe it to myself.

Happiness is a choice. You can be happy at any time, just choose to be!

I decided to share this for all my friends. Why do we have to wait to be 60 or 70 or 80, why can't we practice this at any stage and age?

(Author Unknown)

Contributed by Bill Christie

COLOURS OF SEPTEMBER



BRIDGE OF WEIR CHURCHES ACTIVITIES

Regular Activities

Mondays	6.30 pm	Girls Association (All Age Groups) at Freeland
Thursdays	10.00 am - 12 noon	Coffee Drop in - Home Baking at Freeland
	4.15 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

September Activities

Tuesday 26th		Men's Club—Cruise on the Waverly
Friday 29th	12.00 noon	The Terrace - St Machar's Ranfurly Hall

October Activities

Monday 2nd	2.00 pm	The Guild - St Machar's Ranfurly Hall
Sunday 8th	3.00 pm	Bearsden Fiddlers Concert—St Machar's Ranfurly Church
Monday 16th	2.00 pm	The Guild - St Machar's Ranfurly Hall
Friday 27th	12.00 noon	The Terrace - St Machar's Ranfurly Hall
Tuesday 31st		Men's Club - Fairfield Museum

November Activities

Saturday 4th	10.00 am - 12 noon	Guild Coffee Morning
Monday 6th	2.00 pm	The Guild - St Machar's Ranfurly Hall
Monday 20th	2.00pm	The Guild - St Machar's Ranfurly Hall
Tuesday 28th		Men's Club - Giffnock & Newlands Synagogue

AUTUMN MONTHS

O God of Creation, you have blessed us with the changing of the seasons.

As we welcome the autumn months, may the earlier setting of the sun remind us to take time to rest.

May the brilliant colours of the leaves remind us of the wonder of your creation.

May the steam of our breath in the cool air remind us that it is you who give us the breath of life.

May the harvest from the fields remind us of the abundance we have been given and bounty we are to share with others.

May the dying of summer's spirit remind us of your great promise that death is temporary and life is eternal.

We praise you for your goodness forever and ever.

Author Unknown



JUNIOR CHOIR

The Junior Choir will resume rehearsals on Thursday 31 August at 4.15 p.m. We're looking forward to welcoming the youngsters back and hopefully recruiting some new members too. It is a real pleasure to be able to work with such a keen, enthusiastic and dedicated group. It's great to be able to encourage their music making. I'm hoping to be able to integrate the Junior Choir more into what we offer at St. Machar's. It is my hope this academic year we'll be participating in the Christmas Music Service on the 17th December, the junior choir to lead an RSCM Young Voices service called the *Water of Life* and to feature in next year's Music Sunday Gala Concert which will include, among other things, Horowitz's *Captain Noah and his Floating Zoo* which is for small instrumental ensemble, adult and

children's voices. In addition to preparing for this, I'm hoping to continue the Voice for Life scheme. It promises to be a busy year. One new addition to the Junior Choir family is Machar. Inspired by a couple of colleagues who have a mascot for their junior choirs, I decided to follow suit. The mascot's duty is to both ensure attentiveness and be an incentive for the children to return! Machar's job description is currently being written but duties are likely to include watching the rehearsals to ensure all the children are paying attention and watching the choir director, ensuring copies are being marked-up correctly and generally being supportive. The idea is Machar (with help from adult helpers) will decide the singer who has been the most attentive and said singer will get to take him home with them until the

next rehearsal. The following week the singer will share with the choir what Machar did while with them before he helps leading the next rehearsal and the whole process starts again! I am hoping Machar's presence helps with the recruitment and retention of singers as well as being an incentive for attentiveness during rehearsals! Look out for Machar as he sometimes comes to Church!

Ian Munro



NOTICES

The Terrace

Friday 29th September
Friday 27th October

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**

THE
**BEARSDEN
FIDDLERS**

ARE COMING TO
ST MACHAR'S RANFURLY
CHURCH

Sunday 8th October
3pm

Tickets: £5

Refreshments at close of concert.

Available for purchase by calling
Morven on - **07887 771522**

*All proceeds will go to Fiddlers and St
Machar's Ranfurly Church.*

CHARITY NO: SC003768

Funerals



Jesus said

"I am the Resurrection
and the Life"

Jean Jamieson
2nd April 2023

*

Caleen Hamilton
22nd June 2023

The Guild Coffee Morning
Saturday 4th November

at

10.30 am



CONTACTS

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ROTAS

Date	Welcome	Sound and Vision
Sept 10	Ann Hart / Margaret Richardson	Greg Miller / Jonny Watson
17	Morven McLeod / Anne Allen	Katelyn Macfadyen / Drew Richardson
24	Scott McLaughlin / Elizabeth Lyle	Lois Marshall
Oct 1	Norma Hancock / Sarah McNaught	Freeland Church
8	Bill Robb / Anne Yeaman	H Butterworth / N Butterworth
15	Jennie Durward / Alan Durward	Greg Miller / Jonny Watson
22	Ann Hart / Bill Christie	Katelyn Macfadyen / Drew Richardson
29	Mary Taylor / Dennis Taylor	Tabitha Marshall
Nov 5	Agnes McKechan / Bill Robb	Greg Miller / N Butterworth
12	Philip McCulloch / M. Richardson	H Butterworth / Jonny Watson
19	Morven McLeod / S. McLaughlin	Katelyn Macfadyen / Drew Richardson
26	Norma Hancock / Sarah McNaught	Tabitha Marshall
Dec 3	Elizabeth Lyle / Anne Allen	H Butterworth / N Butterworth
10	Jennie Durward / Alan Durward	Greg Miller / Jonny Watson

Date	Flowers	Flower Delivery	Date	Flowers	Flower Delivery
Sept 10	Ann Hart	Ann Hart	Oct 29	Coral McLaughlin	Coral McLaughlin
17	Marion Reid	Marion Reid	Nov 5	Judy Evans	Judy Evans
24	Margaret Richardson	Margaret Richardson	12	Anne Yeaman	Anne Yeaman
Oct 1	Norma Hancock	Norma Hancock	19	Judy Evans	Judy Evans
8	Ann Hart	Ann Hart	26	Norma Hancock	Norma Hancock
15	Greg Miller	Greg Miller	Dec 3	Ian Hales	Ian Hales
22	Margaret Little	Margaret Little	10	Jane Shepherd	Jane Shepherd



MEET THE MINISTER'S NEW DOG



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**
Please E-mail to: dennis1taylor@msn.com or pass memory sticks or paper copies to Dennis Taylor.