

The Lych Gate

The Newsletter of St Machar's Ranfurly Church



September 2024

Volume 26 Issue 3



FROM THE MINISTER

What is wise?

Knowledge and wisdom are not the same thing. You can have all the information in the world, but still not know what is the right course of action. It certainly helps to inform yourself widely if you have an important decision to take, but it doesn't necessarily lead directly to a conclusion.

Wisdom is needed. Wisdom requires knowing what is important to you, what values you hold and how to stay true to these. It also requires an ability to think through wider consequences of your actions. You need to be able to consider where a path leads and if you should be going down it.

It is quite hard to define wisdom, although we can usually think of examples in real life. The book of Proverbs in the Bible is what we call 'Wisdom Literature', along with Job, Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon. I'm hoping to spend some time in this Wisdom literature in the coming months (by the time the Lych Gate has come out I will have made a start with the story of the young king Solomon praying for wisdom to be a good ruler).

According to Proverbs 9:10 the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom (with fear of the Lord both reverence and love are meant). We will discover there is a lot of 'common sense' to be found in the

book of Proverbs, observations from everyday life and nature, but at the same time this wisdom is discernible because of its wise Creator. A humble open attitude towards God and towards the world around us is what is needed to be truly wise.

As we will continue to need to discern the way forward and make decisions about the future, we too need wisdom and not just common sense, but the wisdom of God. Let us earnestly search and pray for this wisdom,

Yours,

Hanneke



FREELAND HOLIDAY BIBLE CLUB

Freeland Holiday Bible Club

The daytime, primary age club had to be cancelled due to lack of interest but during two weekends at the end of June and July respectively 8-10 teens gathered on Friday, Saturday and Sunday night for fun, games and to explore a Bible passage together. The theme was Team Builders and relevant stories from the Old and New Testament were explored in a way relevant to young people.

I helped during the second weekend and learned a whole lot of new crazy games. There were some lasting memories made of Ken with a Velcro swimcap on and balls sticking to his head and me trying to pick up an empty cereal box with my teeth without using hands (try it at home, though you may not get up again!).

A number of the teens who came go to the BB Girls' Association on Monday nights and there were a few boys too who thought they may go back to BB's after the summer holidays.

As far as the primary bible club was concerned, the team are going to think about what kind of format might be more appealing, though in our area many children are either away on holiday or in activity camps while their parents work.

Please pray for the young people that came along, that they might discover for themselves what it means to follow Jesus and to know him as friend and saviour.

Hanneke

BOYS' BRIGADE AND GIRLS' ASSOCIATION

The new session is upon us with the Company Section and Juniors starting back on Friday 30th August, the Anchors on the 29th and the GA on 2nd September. Over the summer we had a Bronze DofE 2 day expedition with 7 participants and a 3 day Silver expedition with 5 participants. The unpredictable Scottish climate was reasonably kind to us except for a very wet start to the Silver which proved challenging, but these experiences can be character building and, although a bit unpleasant at the time, can be educational and looked back on in years to come with a smile!



I am delighted to welcome Lauren McLaughlin as a new helper for the Anchors, but a few more volunteers would be greatly appreciated and would allow us to maintain a quality programme without putting too much pressure on any one individual.

Although most of our activities are in our separate sections, we look forward to some joint events; the National competitions [Company plus GA], the Enrolment and the Remembrance Services, a joint ten pin bowling outing in December and the Display in May.

Please advertise our BB & GA to friends and family, especially for the Junior age group [P4-6] which has had low numbers in the last couple years.

Sometime in the Autumn we hope to hold a fundraising afternoon tea which I hope will prove popular— look out for further details soon.

Brian Logie



Cailean is almost through the very comprehensive KGV1 training for young officers and has been working on a 1st Bridge of Weir Facebook page and website which we hope to make more use of this coming year.

QUIZ - NAME THE SCOTTISH COUNTY

		Answer
1	Resolve chaste sin	
2	Be earned mixture	
3	Hurled ants around	
4	Made by small flute?	
5	Reconstruct hailstone at this place	
6	Sounds free as	
7	To mix fish?	
8	West 17	
9	Get the P.R. round	
10	Noah's boat follows £1	

June Quiz Answers:

1. Bowls 2. Tug-of-war 3. Wrestling 4. Billiards 5. Baseball
6. Lacrosse 7. Athletics 8. Polo 9. Squash 10. Fencing

Helen Bullen

CHURCHES OF THE WORLD

St Mary's Cathedral - Tallinn



This church was originally established by the Danes when they invaded Tallinn in the 13th century and is the oldest church in mainland Estonia. It was originally a Roman Catholic Cathedral and became Lutheran in 1561.

Built originally in wood, it was then replaced with stone when the

Dominican Friars arrived. The monks were killed in a conflict between the Knights of the Sword and supporters of the Pope's legate in 1233 and the church was then desecrated. A letter was sent to Rome asking permission to consecrate it anew and this was then allowed. A great fire in 1684 resulted in the entire wooden furnishings and roof destroyed and many of the stone vaults collapsed. It was rebuilt in

1686.



As I walked in the door it was surprising to hear the organ being played although the church was empty. The tour guide confirmed that the organist came to practise each day at the same time and our tour had been arranged with the church authorities to coincide with this. He was practising for a forthcoming concert and it was lovely to hear some Handel being played inside this beautiful church.

Helen

SUMMER DROP IN

Thanks to all who made our Summer Drop In such a success.



JUNIOR CHOIR

We are looking forward to restarting the Junior Choir on Thursday 29 August at 4.15 p.m. in the hall. The choir is open to all children in the P3 – P7 age bracket. We have a busy year planned with the choir singing as part of the Remembrance Sunday service, leading an all-age service in the spring, and working on Jonah Man Jazz when they'll be joining up with the Bishopton Church Junior Singers for performances at both Bridge of Weir and Bishopton. I am hoping it will be possible to perform again at Bridge of Weir Primary School assemblies too.

Our rehearsals normally begin with a warm-up session (usually led by one of the children). The warm-ups encourage us to warm up our bodies, breathing and voices, then sing some songs covering a wide variety of genres and topics! We try to keep things seasonal and will be looking at music for Harvest, Hallowe'en, Remembrance, and Christmas, we then finish the rehearsals with some sort of musical game. The final activity is to decide which choir member Machar, our mascot, will be going home with for the week. He tends to go home with the child who is the most

attentive, helpful and gives their best effort for the hour long rehearsal. It's a useful method to retain choir members.

It has been lovely to have Evelyn Watson playing for many of our rehearsals and performances. The children and I are grateful to Evelyn for coming along so willingly and assisting our rehearsals. Keep an eye in the future editions of the Lychgate and weekly emails to see what the Junior Choir is getting up to and when they'll next be performing.

Ian Munro

FROM THE ORGAN LOFT



Last summer, along with other colleagues, I was made redundant from my role with the Royal School of Church Music. The organisation had got into serious financial difficulties and tough decisions had to be made. The role my colleagues and I had been doing was, in our eyes at least, vital to the organisation. We were more or less responsible for organising activities, looking after a team of local volunteers, engaging with local membership, promoting the RSCM to clergy, organists, musicians, worship leaders, educational institutions in addition to finding out ways how the RSCM could enable the flourishing of church music nationwide. As a result of our redundancies the entire volunteer network (some 330+ local volunteers based the length and breadth of the UK) were also made redundant. The RSCM in one fell swoop had lost connectivity with its members, volunteers and good local knowledge.

Undeterred, my predecessor at the RSCM, Alistair Warwick (Director of Music at Holy Trinity Church, Stirling), RSCM Scotland Area Team Leader and now Chair of Church Music Scotland Matthew Beetschen (Director of Music at Dunfermline Abbey) and I felt that church music needed supporting in Scotland. Young people needed to be encouraged to participate in church music – whether through choirs, instrumental groups or organ studies; clergy and worship leaders need help, support and guidance about using music; singers and musicians need opportunities to develop or become involved in something bigger. In fact, what we saw was a window of opportunity. Many of the Scottish volunteers felt the same and were willing to get involved with our plight.

On the 1st February 2024, after the RSCM declined our proposal for Scotland to form its own branch of this organisation, we formed Church Music Scotland, which was dedicated at a special service of Choral Evensong at Dunblane Cathedral during the 1st Church Music Scotland Dunblane Summer School. Church Music Scotland is a Community Interest Company, that is, a private company limited by guarantee, registered in Scotland, and instituted for the good of the community, specifically those

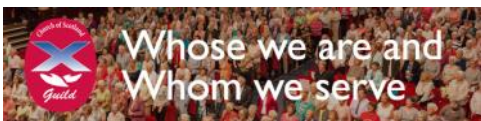
engaged in Church Music in Scotland: worship leaders, clergy, musicians. It was a pleasure to have Professor George McPhee accept our invitation to be our Honorary President, and perhaps an even bigger pleasure to have our own Rev. Hanneke Marshall lead one of the services at this first Summer School.

Nevertheless, this decision provides us with an opportunity to reach out in a more focused way, to help and guide worship leaders, clergy and musicians of all traditions and confessional identity to use music creatively and effectively in worship, to build up the Church at this time and in this place, through the gift of music. We are delighted close to 200 people have signed up to our newsletter and keen to support our work. The future looks bright and there are many activities in the pipeline, including on Saturday 2 November a free Come and Sing Faure Requiem at Dunblane Cathedral with a performance as part of a service.

For more information about Church Music Scotland please visit their website and sign up to our newsletter to find out more!
<https://churchmusic.scot/>

Ian Munro

ST MACHAR'S RANFURLY GUILD



This will begin On the 7th.October 2024 at 2.00pm in the church hall. Below is the syllabus up to Christmas.

7th October Glasgow Mission
21st October Stewart Wilson Theme
4th November Life in South Africa

9th November Guild Coffee Morning
18th November Chas. Childrens Hospice
2nd December Sunday Post
16th December Tenements in Glasgow

We have always had good meetings and hope many of you will join us again for interesting speakers and warm fellowship.

Looking forward to seeing you all.

Ann Hart

BRIDGE OF WEIR CHURCHES ACTIVITIES

Regular Activities

Mondays	6.30 pm	Girls Association (All Age Group) at Freeland
Thursdays	10.00 am - 12 noon	Coffee Drop-in Home Baking at Freeland
Thursdays	4.15 pm	Junior Choir at St. Machar's Ranfurly Hall
Thursdays	6.15 pm	Anchor Boys at Freeland
Fridays	6.30 pm	Boys Brigade Junior Section at St. Machar's Ranfurly
Fridays	7.30 pm	Boys Brigade Company Section at Freeland

September Activities

Monday 2nd	7.00 pm	Union Steering Group Meeting in St. Machar's Ranfurly
Thursday 5h	7.45 pm	Joint Meeting of Kirk Sessions in Freeland Church
Friday 6th		All Day Bible Reading -in Freeland Church
Tuesday 24th	11.00 am	Freemachars Meeting
Friday 29th	12.00 noon	Terrace Lunch

October Activities

Monday 7th	2.00 pm	Guild Meeting
Monday 7th	7.00 pm	Union Steering Group Meeting in St. Machar's Ranfurly
Thursday 10th	7.45 pm	Joint Meeting of Kirk Sessions in Freeland Church
Monday 21st	2.00 pm	Guild Meeting
Friday 25th	12.00 noon	Terrace Lunch
Saturday 26th	4.00 pm	Ruosambee Company of Singers in St. Machar's Ranfurly Church
Tuesday 29th	11.00 am	Freemachars Meeting

November Activities

Monday 4th	2.00 pm	Guild Meeting
Saturday 9th	10.30 am	Guild Coffee Morning - St. Machar's Ranfurly Hall
Sunday 17th	3.00 pm	Bearsden Fiddlers - in St. Machar's Ranfurly Church
Monday 18th	2.00 pm	Guild Meeting
Monday 18th	7.00 pm	Union Steering Group Meeting in St. Machar's Ranfurly
Thursday 21st	7.45 pm	Joint Meeting of Kirk Sessions in Freeland Church
Tuesday 26th	11.00 am	Freemachars Meeting

NOTICES

Airport runs

If you are fortunate enough to be planning/ getting ready to go on holiday, please remember that the Fundraising Committee can organise runs to the airport or Johnstone station, for a donation to Church funds. How nice to be picked up by a friendly person whom you know.
Contact Morven 07887771522 or Jane 07580040186

RudsamBee
company of singers

directed by
Ian Munro

**A journey through the Americas and
other favourites**



**St. Machar's Ranfurly Church
Bridge of Weir
Saturday 26 October 4.00 p.m.**

Entry by donation
in aid
of
**St Machar's Ranfurly Church
&
Rudsambee**

Bearsden Fiddlers

Sunday 17th November
3,00 pm

**Guild Coffee Morning
St Machar's Ranfurly Church Hall
Saturday 9th November - 10.30 am**



Funerals



Jesus said

"I am the Resurrection
and the Life"

Peter Ferguson

08/06/2024

*

William Brodie

20/06/2024

*

Liz Curran

10/07/2024

*

Dewar Horne

29/07/2024

*

Jim Gourley

28/07/2024

Freemachars

A Warm invitation is extended to all retired men to get-together on the last Tuesday of each month. Talks are in Freeland church at 11 am. Usually followed by lunch at Bernie's. Visits meet at Freeland at 11 am (sometimes earlier) with lifts available.

24 Sep **Talk** The Iolaire Disaster
29 Oct **Visit** Riverside Transport Museum
26 Nov **Visit** Ibrox Stadium
17 Dec **Lunch** Christmas Lunch

CONTACTS

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ROTAS

Date		Service	Welcome	Beadle/Reader
Sept 08	10.30 am	Morning Service	Norma Hancock / Anne Yeaman	Bill Christie
15	10.30 am	Morning Service	Elizabeth Lyle/ Morven McLeod	Philip McCulloch
22	10.30 am	Morning Service	Jennie Durward/Allan Durward	David Macdonald
29	10.30 am	All Age Service—in Church Hall	Agnes McKechan /Ann Hart	n/a
Oct 06	10.30 am	Communion Service in Freeland	Freeland Church /Dennis Taylor	n/a
13	10.30 am	Morning Service	Sarah McNaught/ Bill Robb	Dick Hughes
20	10.30 am	Morning Service	Mary Taylor/ Dennis Taylor	Bill Robb
27	10.30 am	All Age Service—in Church Hall	Margaret Richardson/ Norma Hancock	n/a
Nov 03	10.30 am	Morning Service	Bill Christie/Anne Yeaman	Ann Hart
10	10.30 am	Morning Service	Philip McCulloch /Elizabeth Lyle	Greg Miller
17	10.30 am	Morning Service	Scott McLaughlin/ Morven McLeod	Mgt. Richardson
24	10.30 am	All Age Service—in Church Hall	Jennie Durward/Allan Durward	n/a
Dec 01	10.30 am	Morning Service	Ann Hart / Bill Robb	Helen Bullen

Date	Flowers	Flower Delivery	Date	Flowers	Flower Delivery
Sept 08	Norma Hancock	Norma Hancock	Oct 27	Judy Evans	Judy Evans
15	Jenifer McNocher	Norma Hancock	Nov 03	Morven McLeod	Morven McLeod
22	Margaret Richarson	Margaret Richardson	10	Judy Evans	Judy Evans
29	Helen Bullen	Helen Bullen	17	Mary Taylor	Mary Taylor
Oct 06	n/a	n/a	24	Elizabeth Lyle	Elizabeth Lyle
13	Margaret Little	Margaret Little	Dec 01	Maureen Lyle	Maureen Lyle
20	Jane Shepherd	Jane Shepherd			

Editorial Team:
Dennis Taylor , Mary Taylor
Marion Reid

Contributions for the next issue of *The Lych Gate* should be with the Editor by **Tuesday 12th November 2024**.
Please E-mail to: dennis1taylor@msn.com or pass memory sticks or paper copies to Dennis Taylor.