

Church Matters

West Kilbride Parish Church Magazine

Issue No. 20 April & May 2013



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Easter Thoughts

As I write this, we have snow on the ground! Whilst we had a lovely spell of weather in February - it soon passed and we moved on to windy weather and then snow. When I see freshly fallen snow, I always think of the verse found in Isaiah chapter 1 which says: 'Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow.'

When it is freshly fallen, snow is brilliant white and it is pure. There is nothing better than going out early in the morning when snow has fallen during the night and you can walk in snow that is unspoilt.

The other thing that we have begun to see in the fields are the new born lambs. It always amazes me that the older sheep whose fleeces we think of as being relatively white, appear so dirty compared to the brilliance of the wool of the new lambs.

The other half of the verse in Isaiah is parallel to the first when it says:

'Though they [our sins] are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.'

In the run up to Easter, I think that this is a good verse for us to reflect upon. All of us fall short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23). All of us were dead in our trespasses and sins (Eph. 2:1). All of us have sins that are as scarlet and as red as crimson.

But the amazing thing is that God has made them as white as snow and like wool.

How does that happen?

Well, it happens through Christ who is our Saviour and Lord.

I love Easter, because it is a yearly reminder of the love that God has for us. That though we could not do anything about our sin - that God could and he chose to by sending Jesus into the world the one who gave up his life on the cross that we might be forgiven.

My favourite image in the Easter story is that when Jesus died, Matthew records that the Temple curtain was torn in two. That is significant, because the way into the Holy of Holies which was before only accessible to the High Priest was now accessible to everyone.

When I look out on the white snow - and see the whiteness of the fleeces of the lambs in the field, it is a wonderful picture of what has happened to my sin and what has happened to me.

Through Christ, all my grime has been taken away when he out of love died. Instead, I am covered by his righteousness and am acceptable in God's sight. And as Jesus was raised on the third day - so also I can celebrate life - life in all its fullness and life everlasting. This is the Christian hope. May you also rejoice in it this Easter time!

Yours in Christ,

James

Refurbishment News

As I updated the congregation recently, a lot of work has been going on behind the scenes in terms of the refurbishment.

Due to some grants, and some very generous pledges we believe that we have the capital available to carry out the planned refurbishment work.

However, in the last year, as a church we ran a deficit of around £6000 on our general running costs. We also used around £6000 of interest from investments for our general running costs - and when we do our refurbishment we will be using up our investments and so that leaves us with a deficit on our everyday running costs of around £12,000.

However, although this might seem a lot of money we are spending between £7000-9000 to keep the Overton Building going (these are insurance, heating and maintenance costs) and so when Overton is sold, then there should be a significant saving.

Presbytery is concerned that we as a congregation are sustainable and visited the Kirk Session recently to express their concerns about us running a deficit.

Presbytery gave us the option of having a feasibility study done to look at the possibility of a new building being built. The Session debated this possibility and following discussions voted to continue on with the refurbishment project.

To that end, we are currently trying to put a plan together that will assure Presbytery of our sustainability and allow us to go ahead with the project.

Many thanks for all your support so far. If you do want to pledge towards the project, then please either use the yellow envelopes on the pews or speak to Nan Brownlee, our Finance Team Leader. And please also do support the fund-raising events that are organised. We will also be holding a stewardship month as we did last year. This year, we will be considering our financial giving and this will take place in April / May.

James

Church Register

Deaths

The following have sadly passed away recently. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families:

John Coleman, Yonderton Place, died 16th January 2013.

Bill Gibb, Carlung Cottage (latterly Erskine Home), died 27th January 2013.

Helen Aitken, Headrigg Gardens, died 31st January 2013.

Scott Morris, Dundonald, died 2nd February 2013.

Jean Simpson, Headrigg Gardens, died 16th February 2013.

Grace Ramage, Bankhouse Road, Largs, died 20th February 2013.

Baptisms

Alfie James Fitzsimmons, son of Nancy and Paul, baptised on 27th January 2013.

Tyler Angus James Gray, son of Kirsty and James, baptised on 10th March 2013.

Church Diary April 2013

- 06 Apr 8:30 AM** **Prayer Breakfast in the Prayer Room**
- 07 Apr 10:30 AM** **Morning Service And Junior Church**
07 Apr 2:00 PM **Afternoon Service – Headrigg Garden**
07 Apr 6:00 PM **Youth Fellowship – Bill Penny Hall**
09 Apr 9:30 AM **Women Who Pray – Prayer Room**
09 Apr 10:00 AM **Rendezvous – Lower Hall**
13 Apr 18:00 PM **Refurbishment Secret Auction – Lower Hall**
- 14 Apr 10:30 AM** **Morning Service And Junior Church**
14 Apr 6:00 PM **Youth Fellowship – Bill Penny Hall**
14 Apr 7:30 PM **Evening Service**
16 Apr 9:30 AM **Women Who Pray – Prayer Room**
16 Apr 10:00 AM **Rendezvous – Lower Hall**
16 Apr 7:30 PM **Kirk Session Meeting – in the Lower Hall**
- 21 Apr 10:30 AM** **Morning Service And Junior Church**
21 Apr 6:00 PM **Youth Fellowship – Bill Penny Hall**
23 Apr 9:30 AM **Women Who Pray – Prayer Room**
23 Apr 10:00 AM **Rendezvous – Lower Hall**
24 Apr 7:15 PM **Church Prayer Meeting & Bible Study**
- 28 Apr 10:30 AM** **Morning Service And Junior Church**
28 Apr 6:00 PM **Youth Fellowship – Bill Penny Hall**
28 Apr 7:30 PM **Evening Service**
30 Apr 9:30 AM **Women Who Pray – Prayer Room**
30 Apr 10:00 AM **Rendezvous – Lower Hall**

Church Diary for May 2013

- 04 May 8:30 AM Prayer Breakfast in the Prayer Room
- 05 May 10:30 AM Morning Service with Communion And Junior Church
- 05 May 2:00 PM Afternoon Service with Communion – Headrigg Garden
- 05 May 6:00 PM Youth Fellowship – Bill Penny Hall
- 07 May 9:30 AM Women Who Pray – Prayer Room
- 07 May 10:00 AM Rendezvous – Lower Hall
- 08 May 7:15 PM Church Prayer Meeting & Bible Study
-
- 12 May 10:30 AM Morning Service And Junior Church
- 12 May 6:00 PM Youth Fellowship – Bill Penny Hall
- 12 May 7:30 PM Evening Service
- 14 May 9:30 AM Women Who Pray – Prayer Room
- 14 May 10:00 AM Rendezvous – Lower Hall
- 18 May 9:00 AM Christian Aid Coffee Morning – Bill Penny Hall
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- 19 May 10:30 AM Morning Service And Junior Church
- 19 May 6:00 PM Youth Fellowship – Bill Penny Hall
- 21 May 9:30 AM Women Who Pray – Prayer Room
- 21 May 10:00 AM Rendezvous – Lower Hall
- 21 May 7:30 PM Team Leaders' Meeting – in the Lower Hall
- 22 May 7:15 PM Church Prayer Meeting & Bible Study
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- 26 May 10:30 AM Morning Service And Junior Church
- 26 May 6:00 PM Youth Fellowship – Bill Penny Hall
- 26 May 7:30 PM Evening Service
- 28 May 9:30 AM Women Who Pray – Prayer Room
- 28 May 10:00 AM Rendezvous – Lower Hall
- 29 May 7:15 PM Joint Meeting of CBS and WHG in the Church building

Monthly Prayer Diary – April 2013

- Mon 1st** As we continue in the joy of Easter, we pray again for our community. How do we spread the Good News that Jesus is Alive?
- Tue 2nd** James our Minister, Anna his wife and son John.
- Wed 3rd** Carol our Session Clerk and all our Elders
- Thu 4th** We give thanks for all the families who attend our Church. We ask God's protection on relationships. May parents and children enjoy worshipping together
- Fri 5th** Church refurbishment plans. We pray for all who are involved in decision making
- Sat 6th** For all who are caught up in Human Trafficking
- Sun 7th** Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, 1Peter 4 v 10.
- Mon 8th** There are people in West Kilbride who are struggling with finances, unemployment or personal problems that they feel cannot be shared. People hurting through bereavement, rejection, divorce, families broken as a result of addiction. Prayer Changes Things – do we believe that?
- Tue 9th** As Christians do we feel supported when trouble comes to us. Are we open to ask for help? Lord, please enable us to be a caring, sharing, praying Church.
- Wed 10th** We pray for those in our community who are struggling and who don't know that Jesus loves them. Lord, please show us how to reflect Your love and how our Church can be a beacon of light and hope
- Thu 11th** We pray for all the youth & children's work that takes place in the church on Sundays and during the week. May this be a place of safety and trust.

- Fri 12th** We pray for all who live alone in our community either by choice or by circumstances. May they feel loved and valued
- Sat 13th** We give thanks that we live in such a beautiful place
- Sun 14th** “Help us O Lord, our God; for we rest on Thee, and in Thy name we go”² Chron14v 11
- Mon15th** We pray for the residents living in Aiknut Road & Ailsa View
- Tue 16th** We pray for the Roman Catholic Church at this time of change for them
- Wed 17th** We pray for the new Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby
- Thu 18th** We pray for the Church of Scotland and the Church in Scotland
- Fri 19th** We pray for an increase of the impact of Scripture Union in our local schools
- Sat 20th** All who are persecuted or tortured because of their faith in Jesus Christ
- Sun 21st** “The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.” James 1 v 5
- Mon 22nd** We pray for the residents living in Alton Street & Alton Way
- Tue 23rd** We pray for the Middle East & Afghanistan
- Wed 24th** Helen Scott our missionary partner in Malawi.
- Thu 25th** Charities and Aid Agencies. May they have all the resources they need
- Fri 26th** Our local GP Surgery, local hospitals, hospices and Care Homes
- Sat 27th** All who are unwell or having treatment. All who are suffering depression. We remember too, their loved ones and all who care for them
- Sun 28th** “I wait for the Lord, and in His word I put my hope.” Psalm 30 v 5
- Mon 29th** We pray for the residents living in Ardneil Avenue & Ardrossan High Road

Tue 30th We pray for ourselves, for an increase of faith and a deeper passion for God's Word and to know how it applies to our daily lives

Monthly Prayer Diary – May 2013

Wed 1st You are the everlasting God. You do not faint, You wont grow weary. You're the defender of the weak. You comfort those in need, You lift us up on wings like eagles

Thu 2nd Thank You for the beauty of Your creation, so evident in the scenes all around us

Fri 3rd James our Minister, Anna and son John

Sat 4th We give thanks for all the work done behind the scenes that helps in the running of our church

Sun 5th Thank You for the Cross. The price You paid for us, You gave Yourself so completely

Mon 6th We pray for the residents living in Ardrossan Road & Avondale Road

Tue 7th We give thanks for The Rendezvous Café, giving thanks also for the ladies who serve there and the drivers who make it possible for people to attend

Wed 8th We pray for local schools, remembering especially the pupils taking exams

Thu 9th We pray for all we know who are unwell or having treatment. We give thanks for the answers to prayer we have received, especially through the Prayerchain

Fri 10th We pray & give thanks for all who have been rescued from Human Trafficking

Sat 11th We give thanks for the amazing testimonies of Your faithfulness to people in the Persecuted Church. We are humbled by their witness Page11

- Sun 12t** Give thanks with a grateful heart. Now let the weak say, “I am strong,” let the poor say “I am rich” because of what the Lord has done for us
- Mon13th** We pray for the residents living in Arthur Court and Arthur Street
- Tue 14th** We give thanks for Christian Aid Week and for the work of Christian charities
- Wed15th** We pray for all who are caught in the ‘poverty trap’
- Thu 16th** We pray for the bereaved and brokenhearted. We give thanks for the comfort You can bring, Lord Jesus
- Fri 17th** The Church in Scotland. We give thanks for past Revivals and pray for the next wave
- Sat 18th** Church of Scotland Assembly. We pray for the new Moderator Rev Lorna Hood
- Sun 19th** Pentecost Sunday! Holy Spirit, move among us with holy fire
- Mon20th** We pray for the residents living in Avondale Road and Barony Glebe
- Tue 21st** We give thanks for our GP Surgery, local hospitals hospices & Care Homes
- Wed 22nd** We give thanks for all who are involved in Scripture Union in our local schools
- Thu 23rd** We give thanks for our Church Family & pray that everyone feels loved & valued
- Fri 24th** We pray for all who are caught up in addiction & give thanks for all who have been able to escape from it. Lord, be their strength in times of weakness
- Sat 25th** We pray for our local prisons and give thanks for prison ministry

**Sun 26th Thank You for loving me so much...help
me to know deep in my heart that I'm
Your special friend**

**Mon 27th We pray for the residents living in Bellard
Road and Bellard Walk**

**Tue 28th We remember Helen Scott & all who we
know who are serving You abroad**

**Wed 29th We give thanks for the fellowship &
encouragement found in the Housegroups**

**Thu 30th We give thanks for our youth & children's
work, for the children & their leaders**

**Fri 31st We pray for The Govt & Scottish Parliament
and give thanks for all who serve
nationally and locally**

Letter from Deirdre

**I would like to thank everyone with all my heart for
your love, prayers, good wishes, cards and flowers
received during this last few weeks since my
diagnosis and surgery for cancer. I am now on a
course of chemotherapy and still need your prayers.
I truly believe it is because of the prayers said for
me that I have been at such peace over this time. I
remain positive and I'm standing on the promises of
God!**

**Brian has also appreciated the prayers and support
that he has had from our church family.**

**Many blessings to all of you,
Deirdre Murray.**

**Thanks and blessings,
Deirdre.**

Dear Praying Friends,

Let me make a confession - I hate “fellowships”! does that sound terrible? The fellowships I am talking about are when one group of students goes to visit another group of students for prayer and fellowship. It starts around 9 am and goes on till about cpm and we sing and sing and sing and preach for all that time. In order to take schoolgirls out of the Ekewendeni area on a trip, permission has to be sought from the Educational Manager in Mzuzu, the Education Secretary of the church and the police, so these things take up a lot of time and energy,

As patron of the SU at school I am, each term. asked to take the SU group out to visit another school for fellowship. For the past three years I have been finding excuses until all my excuses had dried up and the girls were not going to be put off any longer. So I reluctantly agreed. Imagine my joy then, when the host school had to cancel it! Plan B was to go and visit a CBCC [community-based child care centre] in one of the local villages. So we went there instead =only the permission of the local police needed for that]. What a great morning we had. About 220 little children were there and we played games etc., then distributed bars of soap that school girls had collected from amongst themselves. These CBCC’s are run by a team of local volunteers from, the village and I was impressed by their commitment. They provide a meal each day for the children many of whom are orphaned or vulnerable children. They also stimulate them to play and to learn psychosocial skills. It is not easy to commit yourself to co such a thing every day. they had come together on a Saturday just because we were visiting. As we were leaving I asked the schoolgirls if they had enjoyed it - a resounding yes. When asked why, they said it was much better than a fellowship as they felt they had done something

really worthwhile, they had shown God's love in a practical way! I feel that the trip has been really worthwhile and I still have Saturday afternoon for other things!

The rains have come and everywhere looks green and verdant, Maize is growing tall and looking promising - in some areas; yet in other areas it is small and parched and unlikely to produce a cob. These are the hungry months when the next harvest is not yet in but last year's stock have finished. For the vulnerable households, [I know a family where there is one grandmother and 20 grandchildren but no other living adult] Children often show the signs of malnutrition - sore, protruding tummies, listless faces. We saw some of these this morning and the frightening thing is that it is so normal to see these symptoms in small children

* Please pray for Malawi. It, like the rest of the world is going through a hard time economically, yet people don't have the same safety nets here as elsewhere.

* Pray for the president, Joyce Banda, She seems to be trying to do a good job but it is a difficult time economically, so people blame her.

* Pray for the CBCCC we visited and all the others like it, especially the volunteers who are so committed.

* Pray for our students. That they will be aware of others in greater need.

* Pray for the vulnerable - they are going through the hungry season.

I wish you all a Blessed Easter when it comes. Just now we are in the midst of exams and close for Easter holiday on the 21st March. Till then life will be busy.

Best Wishes,
Helen

SAFEGUARDING – CODE OF GOOD PRACTICE

Welcome to the second of a series of articles on safeguarding – protection of children and adults at risk from harm or abuse.

We manage safeguarding according to a common set of standards shared with other organisations within the Church of Scotland. These standards demonstrate a commitment to the safety, well-being and care of children and adults at risk.

Policy

As explained last month our safeguarding policy statement can be found at the entrance to the Bill Penny Hall. We minimise the potential for harm or abuse to children or adults at risk by performing risk assessment. We provide a safe environment and suitable pastoral care for any who may be affected by such harm or abuse.

Recognising and reporting

We have clear procedures for responding to witnessed, suspected or reported harm or abuse and train and support our workers and volunteers to recognise, report and record any such concerns for potential referral to social services or police as appropriate.

Safe recruitment and management

All workers and volunteers working with children or adults at risk are recruited following a formal process with written job description, interview, references, supervision by line manager, probationary period, training and appropriate support including an agreed code of conduct regarding expected behaviour and appropriate boundaries between themselves and those with whom they work.

Working with known convicted sex offenders

Should a known convicted sex offender wish to worship within our congregation a covenant of responsibilities would be agreed after consultation with the Church of Scotland Safeguarding Service.

Responsibilities

A Safeguarding Panel has been appointed – its members are displayed at the entrance to the Bill Penny Hall. The Kirk Session ensures appropriate training is provided for Kirk Session and Safeguarding Panel members, for Safeguarding Co-ordinators and for workers and volunteers working with children or adults at risk to allow our safeguarding standards to be achieved.

Our full Code of Good Safeguarding Practice is displayed at the entrance to the Bill Penny Hall.

If you suspect or witness harm or abuse to a child or adult at risk (including historical harm or abuse), or it is reported to you, you must report it to one of our Safeguarding Co-ordinators - Colin McDougall (01294 823288) or Anne Fitzsimmons (01294 823181).

Refurbishment - Secret Auction

To be held in West Kilbride Parish Church Lower Hall on Saturday 13th April at 7.00pm. Wrapped items will be auctioned off in aid of the Refurbishment Fund. They could be anything from a Picasso to a Pick, all well camouflaged of course. Can't guarantee any famous paintings but expect an enjoyable social occasion and lots of fun as you bid for your surprise item. Good Luck!!

Tickets £2 for adults / £1 children - refreshments provided. Tickets obtainable from the Church Office; Margaret Morrow (822725) and Helen Fairclough (823810).

Youth Update

Follow that Star

This was a new venture for WKPC and we were so encouraged to see families coming to do activities together.

The evening began with a game followed by a song. James then told us how the Wise men followed the Star to where Jesus was and explained that we can still follow Jesus today. There were then four craft activities, where children and adults made something to take home and something to add to the large nativity mural. A meal was then enjoyed and the evening ended with a time of reflection on the Christmas story and singing Away in a manger. Watch out for details of children/family activities we are hoping to organise for the summer.

Here as promised is an update on Boy's Brigade.

SPORTS CLUB

Junior and Senior Sports clubs are now in full swing and meet on a Thursday at 7.15pm- 8.15pm - Bill Penny Hall and 8.30pm- 9.30pm - Village Hall respectively. We have over 15 at Junior Sports Club and over 10 at Senior Sports Club . A huge thanks to Graeme Innes, Graeme Mustoo, Gavin Florence, Phil O'Neil and Paul Monaghan and Elizabeth Macgilvray for their continued support and assistance with the Sport Clubs. Sports club

finished for the year on Thursday 21st March.

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ANCHOR BOYS

We have over 35 Anchor boys this session and recently welcomed Duncan, Lochy and Samuel, Eric and Jasper. So far the boys have enjoyed a visit from the S.F.A. who put them through their paces when they delivered a football fun evening. Owl Magic also came to Anchor Boys and the boys got to hold the owls. We have also enjoyed a Hallowe'en Party, Christmas Party, Bouncy Night and a Scottish Evening.

In November, 26 boys attended the Annual Anchor Boy Fun Day in Irvine which was a great morning - including, potted sports, crafts and parachute games. We are looking forward to a Tag Rugby taster session in the next few weeks and on 14th March we had a Red Nose Fun Day with a superhero theme x .

The Anchor boys finished for the term on 21st of March 2013 and re start on Thurs. 18th April . The 25th April is our Annual Fun Run , held at the glen. The Anchor Boys finish up for the session on Thursday 9th May with our Annual Display in the Bill Penny Hall at 6-7pm The Parents and Friends held their Dafodil Tea from 10 -11.30am on Saturday 16th March in the Bill Penny Hall and the BB Promotion Service was held in the W.K. Parish Church on Sunday 17th March at 10.30am .

1st West Kilbride Boys' Brigade Company

The Company continues to challenge and encourage boys within the village.

The P2/P3 Anchor Boys currently have 35. The Junior Section (P4 - P7) have 50, whilst the Company & Senior Section currently have 45. We are still in the top 10 largest companies in Scotland. Not bad for a village the size of West Kilbride.

We are 1 of 15 Companies which make up the North Ayrshire Battalion and take part in a wide variety of competitions run during our session. Currently we are as follows :-

Anchor Boys : Painting Competition = P2, 2nd place to Samuel Allen P3, 3rd place to Kyle McKay

Junior Section: With 10 out of 12 competitions completed the results are currently

1. 1st Largs with 171 points ; 2. 1st West Kilbride = 169 ; 3. 2nd Kilwinning = 160

So the championship comes down to the Mime & Drama and John Brown football competitions.

Company Section : Currently half way through with 6 out of 12 competitions completed

1. 1st West Kilbride with 118 points ; 2. 1st Largs = 114 ; 3. 1st Irvine = 113

Special mention goes to Rev. James McNay for teaching the boys who went on to win the Scripture Knowledge competition announced last Thursday.

