

Church Matters

West Kilbride Parish Church Magazine

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Editorial

I love spring and the Easter celebrations. I am writing this before we have our walk up Law Hill on Easter Sunday but in faith that we will have a photograph of the people at the service for this month's cover. We are so blessed that we have freedom to have our service in the open and sing and shout "JESUS IS ALIVE!" from the top of the hill so that the people in the village can hear us. I am so aware of our brothers and sisters in parts of the world who would love to have that freedom but can only worship the Lord in whispers because they fear persecution, imprisonment and even death because they follow Jesus. Please keep them in your prayers at all times.

It was decided that this edition would be a double issue as I was finding it difficult to get articles by the closing date and, typically, this month I've received lots of lovely articles. In last month's magazine I said that I would try to get a reporter for the church conference that had been held in February and we are fortunate to have two reporters – one for the Friday night and one for the Saturday.

Please read about the ALPHA Course starting on 15th May. It is for anyone who wants to get a bit deeper into their faith. That should be all of us!

We also have an interesting article by Rev Martin Thomson on the trip to Malawi he and some others from Dalry Trinity Church took when they visited our mission partner, Helen Scott. Heidi Nicklin sent us her last letter from Pakistan and it will be so good to see her when she gets back home.

The prayer chain is working well, with lots of requests for prayer coming in. If you need urgent prayer for yourself or anyone else the contact number is 07826652331. I am so excited that at last we have a prayer room in the church. It is for everyone to use any time the church is open. We do hope you will use it! There is more detail about it on page 4.

The next issue of Church Matters will again be a double issue so please do send in your contributions. Remember, the magazine is only as good as the content received!

Deirdre Murray

Don't Waste Your Life

One of the books that has had a great effect on me is 'Don't waste your life' by John Piper, who is Baptist pastor of Bethlehem Church in Minneapolis. It is a book which encourages people and Christians in particular not to waste their life. But what does a wasted life look like? On the cover of the book Piper quotes from a story from 'Readers Digest' in 1998. It says this:

'A couple took early retirement from their jobs in the Northeast five years ago when he was 59 and she was 51. Now they live in Punta, Gorda, Florida, where they cruise on their 30-foot trawler, play softball and collect shells...'

Piper's comment is this:

Picture them before Christ at the great day of judgement: 'Look, Lord. See my shells'. That is a tragedy.

I wonder if you are worried about wasting your life. To make sure that you are not so taken up with trivial matters that you do nothing of eternal value. Piper's difficulty with the couple in Reader's Digest is not the fact that they have retired or even I believe in having a time of enjoyment- but rather that they are simply whiling their time away with no purpose or even thought towards eternity.

One of my heroes is Robert Murray M'Cheyne - a minister of the Church of Scotland in the 19th century. His autobiography (*The Memoirs and Remains of Robert Murray M'Cheyne*) by Andrew Bonar has become a bit of a classic work. M'Cheyne was a preacher, a pastor, a poet - a man known for his deep piety. He wrote a book on mission and had a huge influence on the church. Yet he died when he was only 29 years old - the same age I am now.

Shortly, I will become a year older than M'Cheyne was. He is an example to me as to how to live out a life that is worthwhile - that is wholehearted for God. John Piper writes this in the introduction to his book:

If you are a Christian, you are not your own. Christ has bought you at the price of your own death. You now belong doubly to God: He made you and he bought you. That means your life is not your own. It is God's. Therefore, the Bible says, 'Glorify God in your body'. God made you for this. He bought you for this. This is the meaning of your life.

For us as Christians here in West Kilbride - the challenge is not to waste our lives - but to realise whose we are, what He has done for us and to live out our lives fully for him - so that when we come before Jesus, none of us bow our heads and with shame say: 'Lord, I wasted it'.

Your friend and minister,
James

PRAYER ROOM

At last the Session Room has become The Prayer Room! It has been painted, new curtains are being made and it is in the process of being cleared out. By the way, does anyone want the old piano that's in there?

It has been said that church should be a place where we can feel free to kick off our shoes and be ourselves with God. With that in mind, we do need various things to make the prayer room a comfortable space so if you have any large cushions, floor cushions, bean bags or comfy seats that you could donate they would be gratefully received. We would also like anything with praying hands – pictures or ornaments – or any other 'prayer' items.

Most of all we need YOU to come and use the prayer room at any time the church is open. We pray that organisations will use it before, during or after meetings and that they will be blessed by being there.

Lynne Seal and Deirdre Murray

PROPERTY REPORT, APRIL 2011.

As usual, there are a number of matters which have been on-going over the past few months. As reported in last months "Church Matters", the repairs to the tower and stair walls were perhaps the most visible of these. It is pleasing to note that these have now been completed, with only decoration to be taken care of. We should not, however, consider bringing the gallery back into use until a real, in depth tidy has been arranged. This is an area of the church, which has almost suffered from being "out of sight, out of mind", and we will be looking at this shortly.

Again, as reported last month, we have had various areas of the property surveyed, where water ingress has been evident and caused damage. The results of these surveys suggest that, whilst repairs and preservative treatment will be required, it would be false economy to carry out any such work until a full investigation is made and appropriate action taken. Some areas have already been proved as being the source of problems and considerable remedials will have to be put in place. We are, however, in the process of arranging for a full survey of all roofs, gutters and lead work prior to any action being considered.

No doubt, you will be aware that the property team and Session have been in discussion with an architect who was appointed to investigate potential alterations to the buildings. This architectural practice has vast experience in the type of works being discussed and has already made an initial presentation to Session.

In addition, the property team has visited two churches where extensive works, designed by this practice, have been successfully completed. During these visits, discussions were held with members of these churches "teams" who were involved throughout their full process. This was extremely helpful with the

heartening result of their labours being an increase in attendance and in the general use of the buildings by the community. It has to be said that some of the proposals under discussion may be viewed as being quite radical and dramatic, involving all parts of the property. That being said, even to get to the current stage, things have been taken “one step at a time” by the property team and by Session. This will continue to be the case until a conclusion is reached, with the proposals of Session then being put to the Congregation.

In the mean time, Overton has not yet been placed “on the market”. Professional advice is being taken in a number of areas, including obtaining a proposed “valuation”, before any further decision regarding time-scale is taken.

Further, should the decision be taken to progress with all or part of the “design” proposals or improvements at W.K.P.C., an option to temporarily relocate to Overton, whilst these works are carried out, could be considered.

There will obviously be much more to report and eventually to consider, as matters develop.

Billy McFarland.

Can you help to solve a mystery?

Every month, a £50 donation appears in the church bank account under the reference P624901002. The bank says they cannot give me any details of the donor. Is this you? If it is, please let me know in confidence (and if we can claim Gift Aid on these donations). Stephen Brown, Treasurer (Stephen@yerton.com, 823957).

Christian Aid week 2011

Christian Aid week runs from Sunday 15th to Saturday 21st May.

There will be a Soup Lunch in the Bill Penny Hall immediately after the Morning Service on Sunday 15th May – Anne Kean and friends extend a warm invitation to all to come along and enjoy some fellowship with friends while helping to support this worthy cause with an enjoyable lunch.

June Kerr and Ann Wilkinson need volunteers for the house to house collection that week. Please read their letter and show them your support.

St Bride's ladies will also host a Coffee Morning in the Bill Penny Hall on Saturday 21st May from 10.00am to 12 noon.

Please support these events.

Christian Aid Week House to House Collection 15th – 21st May

Do you have a couple of hours to spare during the week 15th – 21st May? Shortly we will be seeking volunteers to participate in the Christian Aid collection. West Kilbride Parish Church has 34 Districts to cover and we want to be able to ensure that each District has a Collector.

The outlying areas of Seamill and West Kilbride, e.g. the Smallholdings, Carlung, Portencross, Crosbie Towers, can be difficult areas to get volunteers for, but from personal experience, these are very beautiful places to visit particularly on a sunny evening in May.

Hopefully with this advance notification we will be able to recruit enough volunteers so if you are able to help out please put the dates in your diary now. We will be in further contact in a couple of weeks' time.

June Kerr & Anne Wilkinson

CHURCH CONFERENCE February 2011

Friday 18th February

After a week at work, the thought of coming out on a Friday evening in the winter to the unknown quantity of “the church conference” was, if I am honest, a bit of a struggle. How glad I am that I went!

Jason Curtis, who was the speaker for the Friday and Saturday sessions, was no dry theologian and he must have read my mind because he started off by acknowledging that we must all be tired at the end of the week. He explored part of 1 Colossians with us – and did it in a way that was invigorating, because he would stop to ask us questions, to encourage us to question him and generally to make us feel involved in looking deeper into God’s word.

He challenged us to think about what church really means and to be prepared to move out of our comfort zone mentality where we can sometimes treat church as “the club we go to on Sundays”. The job of every member, he said, was to MAKE disciples. There is no magic formula to make disciples; it is about our mindset as followers of Christ. In all our contacts, friendships and relationships, at work, at home, in our community, we are, he said to be “intentional, relational and focussed”.

He had a particular message for elders when he said that their job in the church is not to be decision makers but disciple makers. I sent an e mail to a friend who is an elder in Greenock to pass that on!

He made no secret of the fact that being a disciple is hard work – he used the words “endure”, “suffer” and “labour” but at the same time he was so encouraging and understanding, it was a privilege to have been able to attend and to come home with much food for thought.

Alison Ward

Saturday 19th February

On Saturday morning we met again to consider with Jason Curtis what it meant to be a disciple. He read Ephesians 4 verses 17 – 21 and explained it must be a continual transformation of our lives as we follow Jesus and learn from Him.

- V17 Don't live in the old way. (That is an un-renewed mind.)
- V19 The result is sin.
- V20 The remedy – a true knowledge of Christ.
- V21 A change of lifestyle – our minds are to think the way Christ thinks.
- V24 Then we will walk as in a new creation.
- The image God originally created in Genesis (Adam and Eve) was marred by sin.
- Jesus came to restore the image that God created.
- Christians walk towards life.
- Believing is something that a disciple has to work on.
- This is continual and there will be peaks and troughs in our lives as we follow Jesus, but he is always there for us.

Once again this was a very challenging message but it made me think of all that Jesus had done to take away my sins and bring me into a right relationship with God, and that to be really happy I would want to try to be his disciple and please him.

We then sat down together over a lovely light lunch prepared for us by his disciples in the catering team and talked over how we could try to become better followers of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

My thought at the end of the day, which I would pass on to us all, was “NEVER GIVE UP.”

Helen Ferguson

HUGGING

Feels good, dispels loneliness, overcomes fears,
 builds self-esteem, (Wow! They actually want to hug ME!)
 slows down aging, huggers stay younger longer, eases tension,
 fights insomnia, keeps arm and shoulder muscles in good
 condition, is ecologically sound, is democratic. Anyone is eligible
 for a hug, it's portable, affirms physical well-being, is energy
 efficient, saves heat, makes impossible days possible and makes
 happy days happier.

ALPHA COURSES

During February and March we ran an Alpha course for Elders on six consecutive Sundays. Around twenty Elders attended each Sunday. A light lunch at 12.00 in the Bill Penny was followed at 12.30 by a DVD talk by Nicky Gumbel on various important aspects of the Christian faith. Thereafter we split up into three groups and discussed a variety of questions related to the DVD talk. Usually the session finished at 2.00 pm

From remarks made by some of the Elders, my impression was that they greatly appreciated the course. Nicky Gumbel is a very engaging speaker who has a gentle style and a sense of humour which helps to clarify the subject without distracting attention away from the important truths involved. Several Elders said that they valued the small group discussions because they provided a rare opportunity to talk freely about their faith with other folk in the church in a relaxed atmosphere.

And now ... we hope to have another Alpha course, this time for members of the congregation. It will have a very similar form and duration to the first course and the planned start date is Sunday 15 May. So put that in your diaries folks.

Duncan Ferguson

NEWSPAPERS

Actual excerpts from classified sections of newspapers:

Illiterate? Write today for free help.

Dog for sale: eats anything and is fond of children.

Man wanted to work in dynamite factory. Must be willing to travel.

Session Update

I thought it would be an idea to re-iterate the team structure that exists within our Church. We operate within what is known as the 'Unitary Constitution' (UC) which differs from the previous structures. Effectively, the 'UC' is a system of individual teams that report in and recommend to, the Kirk Session. Membership of the teams is made up from both Elders (one of whom will be Team Leader) and congregation members. Teams will meet as required but usually at least once between Session meetings, which meet bi-monthly. It is the Teams' responsibility to discuss/explore matters relevant to their remit and feedback to Session. Any decisions and items for approval will be considered at Session.

The Teams in place are:

- Worship
- Mission & Discipleship
- Pastoral Care
- Communication & Technology
- People & Policy
- Fabric
- Finance
- Catering
- Youth

Membership of a particular team does not mean that you are tasked with doing all that requires to be done in that area. For example, if you are in the Youth team, you are not necessarily doing Junior Church, Crèche etc. More, you are part of the overseeing and organising. I am probably not explaining it very well so please ask. I would not wish you to miss out on being part of a Team because of my 'wording'.

I will not use this space to fill you in on what the Teams have been doing and what has been agreed. I'll leave that to each Team Leader and I guess

a number of Team updates will be included in this magazine. Instead, I thought it would be helpful to share a typical Session meeting with you.

- The meeting opens with James sharing a passage of scripture with us followed by a short message. In all cases, this message will focus in on our position as Elders.
- This will be followed by a short time of open prayer where the emphasis will not only be on the matters to hand but also the life of the Church and all those who attend.
- The agenda will follow the team structure with each team, where necessary, having submitted a report prior to the meeting covering their considerations and items for approval. Session will have the opportunity to question and discuss.
- Routine and specific correspondence is also dealt with and updates are received from Presbytery.
- Dates are set for Church events and ad-hoc business is attended to. This is usually limited as most items are dealt with/picked up by the Teams.

So in summary, the previous structure for the West Kilbride Churches was that the Kirk Session as a group discussed and agreed as necessary. Whilst the Kirk Session continues to approve, the broader discussions on the key matters are cascaded to the Teams. This may encourage others to be part of the process.

I trust that this 'blurb' is helpful and sheds a little light on what was/is an unknown area of the Church.

Graeme Cruickshank – Joint Session Clerk.

PS The Agenda may look limited but the Session can talk for Scotland. We start at 7.30pm and we've still been there sometimes after 10.30pm. We're getting better as at the meeting on the 12th April, we finished at the back of 9.00pm – home in time to catch the end of the Man U v Chelsea game.

Helen Scott – our Mission Partner in Malawi

Helen Scott works for the Church of Scotland in Ekwnedeni, Malawi, as a science teacher in the Girls' School there, and as an Elder in the Church. She is also very involved in pastoral work among people of all ages.

Rev. Martin Thomson, the Minister of Dalry: Trinity Church, which is Helen's home church, recently visited Ekwnedeni, with four members of his congregation. He has allowed us to re-print this letter which he wrote for his own church magazine on his return.

Eileen Hinde (Mission Partner Link)

A day from Ekwnedeni

I waken to the smell of smoke from burning wood. Helen's boiler has been lit. There will be hot water.

All five of us are to be collected at 8a.m. to visit a LISAP project in a place called Camwe (Livistonia Synod Aids Project). There are too many of us and so I ride in the rear of the Pickup along with 'Charity' who works for LISAP. It is raining. The Pickup leaks, even although (mercifully) the rear is covered. Ever concerned for the comfort of visitors, they stop and conjure a mattress from somewhere.

We travel along a track akin, I suppose, to a very rough forest drive. It continues to rain and parts of the road turn to mud and quagmire and become increasingly difficult to pass. Our driver, a lovely Christian lad called Petros, is an excellent driver who uses the 'four wheel drive' to great effect. He negotiates chasms which I think need to be bridged and rescues the vehicle from seas of mud that hippos would hesitate to wallow in. There are times when I am sure we are about to tip over. Mentally, I formulate an exit strategy from the sealed rear of a rolled Pickup.

There are advantages in facing out the rear window whilst travelling. I am repeatedly astonished at what we have just driven through, and blissfully unaware of what we are approaching. I ponder in my mind a children's address about being grateful for what has been and trusting the 'divine driver' for what lies ahead.

During the 90 minute journey, I chat to Charity, and struggle all the time to find a comfortable position. She tells me of her work and her family. Like me, she has three boys. We speak of our love for our children; and our concerns – parents the world over.

Charity's husband is a farmer. They recently stopped growing tobacco,

because they felt it was a crop that did harm. They now grow beans. It has been a good move, since the price of tobacco has fallen.

After leaving the track and negotiating something that is not much bigger than a rough path, we arrive at our first stop. It is a community based child care project catering for a large number of AIDS orphans. The term 'orphan' refers to the many that have literally been orphaned, but includes those who are being cared for by single parents or grandchildren who cannot meet their basic needs. It also includes those children who find their families have been enlarged by child relatives who have been orphaned. If you have six children and suddenly add four who are destitute then resources are overstretched. Currently LISAP support 2,400 such orphans. The emphasis is on keeping them within the community, since distant orphanages are not always what they should be.

In a small classroom, there must be at least 70 such children of nursery age. I struggle not to weep. So many vulnerable children in one place, whose lives have been overtaken by tragedy before they are even of an age to comprehend what is happening. Many of these children will be HIV positive.

They are singing with gusto as we enter. They sing the alphabet for us, and then a song with the months of the year. They are led by trained volunteers from within the community. As a former teacher, I am deeply impressed by the gifts of these volunteers for engaging with the children, despite the near total lack of resources.

A nearby room contains a similar number of slightly older children. There are sums on a chalk board. The local chief speaks to us about how the roof leaks in heavy rain. I look through the window where it is pouring in stair-rods. I would hate to see 'heavy' rain.

The rain eases, and outside volunteers prepare porridge over an open fire. All the children are provided with a meal. Elsewhere, a meal of porridge is provided by the charity 'Mary's Meals', recognising that children don't learn much if they have no food in their stomachs.

We pile back into the Pickup. I resume my place on the mattress, next to Charity. We are surrounded by smiling, waving, singing, shouting children.

So many orphans. So much need. The best thing? They all look very happy. They chase us for about a mile as we drive off.

Our next port of call is a Herbal Garden created and tended by a support group of those living with HIV/AIDS. There are no fewer than seven such groups. The herbs include Aloe Vera, pineapple plant, ginger and sundry

others. They are all perceived to have medicinal properties. Those who are living with HIV/AIDS often fall prey to secondary illness, and these plants provide an alternative to unaffordable medicine. Our own Gerald has been bitten. It is the end of the rainy season and so the mosquitoes are sabre toothed. They pull up his sleeve and immediately Aloe Vera paste is added, straight from the plant.

Then, on to a piggery, run by the same support group. Each support group runs a piggery and a herb garden. They support themselves, even as they are supported.

Lunch is cooked for us out in the open. 'Sima' – a dough made from maize flour – chicken with egg and small fish (heads, tails, eyes, the lot!)

On to the church building where we are welcomed by the chiefs and hear reports from various groups. As we leave, the minister takes my hand, 'Pastor,' he says, 'can you help me, I have a problem with my Session Clerk. He has swearing.' I am perplexed at the prospect of being called upon to admonish a stranger for the use of bad language. However, when Kevin's shirt is removed, it is clear that the problem is 'swelling'. I call upon Annie McDonald, who, as a nurse, confirms what the man has already been told at the hospital. The growth is too near the spine to be easily removed. We from the West do not have the answers to all problems.

The journey home to Helen's is even more challenging, as the rain has rendered part of the track close to impassable. We pass a similar Pickup to ours being dug out the ditch. I remind myself that LISAP workers face such conditions throughout the rainy season. This is Malawi.

The church in Malawi is not seamlessly perfect, any more than the church in Scotland is hopelessly flawed. We each have weaknesses and strengths. However, I am profoundly challenged by the vision, determination and self-sacrifice exemplified by so many, both Malawian and missionary, as they serve Christ in a place of such poverty and suffering. Of course, one of the most prominent in Ekwendeni, and someone who is held in the highest regard by the Malawians, is our own Helen Scott. Barely a day goes by without Helen being visited by those in need of support and guidance. Her quiet, steady influence in school, church and community is remarkable.

Do our lives so reflect the same love of Christ, so that we would serve here in Scotland with such self-sacrifice? Do those around us, recognising that love, come to us for support? Is the quality of my Christian life as telling as it should be?

Yours thoughtfully, Martin Thomson

Tearfund

Once again, thank you so much to all our small change collectors for the terrific sum of £148.15 which consisted of £30.95 in coppers, £38.20 in silver and the remainder in larger coins, notes and cheques.

Having sent £139 from the previous collection, I am unable to trace the reply letter from Lynne Paterson, the Scottish Director of Tearfund. However, as they always reply very quickly with a letter of thanks and information about their latest projects, I'm sure it will be among some of the mail I have yet to check!

As I intend to look into this before the next Church Matters goes to print, I hope to be able to report more comprehensively in that issue. Meanwhile I wish to express my sincere gratitude for all your efforts.

Audrey Brown.

I would like to say a big 'thank you' to all who bought tickets and supported the Coffee Morning at South Beach House. The sum of £1037 was raised for the mini bus appeal.

The offering at the World Day of Prayer service at the beginning of March in St Brides Church was £157.

May Paton

Apologies for omitting to tell readers that the little poem on the back page of the last issue, entitled 'The Sunday Jaunt' was written by Sarah Lang. Thank you Sarah, we enjoyed reading it. *Ed.*

Kayak Challenge

Further to the mention in the February issue of Church Matters, I just want to let you and everyone know that Bruce left on his mammoth journey on 28th February from Largs and reached Stornoway on March 23rd.

His main accommodation on this charity kayaking challenge was a tent which as you can imagine in March was a challenge in itself at times. The only part he had company was round the Mull of Kintyre when his good friend Callum McNicol joined him. He had company on the last day when a lad from Stornoway came out to look for him as his GPS tracker had shown he was nearby. His blog is on the internet at www.westcoastkayakchallenge.co.uk. and is a good read. He has archive material from November when he was training and right through to his final account of his journey.

This was done in memory of a friend of his called Andrew Edwards who died at 33 years from bone cancer. Andy was treated at the Royal Marsden in London and also at the Beatson Oncology Unit Glasgow. 90% of the money Bruce has raised and is still hoping to raise goes to these two world class units. The other 10% goes to the RNLI as he said "I am doing this challenge in a boat a very small boat." It was a seakayak he did his 313 miles in.

On behalf of Bruce, I would thank all those who have donated through his web page, given me donations and if there is still anyone out there who would like to contribute this can be done through the webpage, or hand in to the Initiative centre where there is a sheet for donations, and these will be collected. I will let you all know the final total.

Thanks to you all,

😊Eleanor Jolliffe

HEALING ROOMS

In a previous edition of Church Matters we mentioned that Brian and I were Directors of Healing Rooms in the Three Towns. People have asked us what a Healing Room is and we would like to tell you more about it.

In April 2004 the first Healing Room in Scotland opened in a small shop front on Dumbarton Road, Glasgow and, since then, 36 'Rooms' have opened across the nation.

A Healing Room is a place where anyone can come to receive free prayer for healing from a team of trained Christian volunteers. No appointment is necessary. After filling out a form with your prayer needs you are invited into a room to receive prayer by a small team of two or three people.

Over the years many people have been healed from various conditions; physical, mental, emotional and spiritual. Deeper healing is offered to people who need more than the normal healing prayers. There are many written testimonies from those who experience healing. The following is part of a testimony we received from a woman who came down from Glasgow for prayers for healing for her grandson ***'who had been extremely badly burned while at a bonfire when an aerosol can was thrown into the fire which exploded straight into his beautiful face. He was rushed to hospital where the doctors were very concerned about the outcome. The day after the prayers he could open his mouth wide and was no longer in pain. By the following day he was completely healed! This is truly a miracle!'***

We just love to see God at work. God is so good!

If you would like prayers for healing, from 4th May we are situated in the Bethany Church in New Street, Stevenston on Wednesdays from 1pm until 3pm. If you are interested in being part of this ministry please speak to Brian or me.

Deirdre Murray

Monthly Prayer Diary – May 2011

- Sun 1st** **My times are in Thy hand; My God, I wish them there; My life, my friends, my soul I leave entirely in Thy care**
- Mon 2nd World events as they unfold
- Tues 3rd World leaders and all who are in authority over us
- Wed 4th All who are caught up in natural disasters, thinking especially of the people of Japan at this time
- Thurs 5th The Scottish Parliamentary Elections
- Fri 6th Human Trafficking – people bought and sold into slavery
- Sat 7th The Persecuted Church and all who are in prison or danger because of their faith in the Lord Jesus
- Sun 8th** **My times are in Thy hand, whatever they may be, pleasing or painful, dark or bright, as best as may seem to thee**
- Mon 9th We pray for those attending oncology depts. and hospices. We pray also for the staff who work there
- Tues 10th For all we know who are sick, and those who care for them
- Wed 11th For all we know who are struggling with the dark days of depression
- Thurs 12th Our GP Surgery and local hospitals and Care Homes
- Fri 13th Our local schools, remembering the pupils who are studying for their exams
- Sat 14th Our Youth Organisations, YF, Junior Church and Crèche
- Sun 15th** **My times are in Thy hand; Why should I doubt or fear? My Father's hand will never cause His child a needless tear**
- Mon 16th Christian Aid Week
- Tues 17th Our Missionary Partners and all who have been called to serve in other parts of the world
- Wed 18th Aid Agencies and Rescue Services. We give thanks for their expertise and willingness to work in such difficult circumstances
- Thurs 19th Our Servicemen and women serving in Afghanistan and Iraq and other parts of the world
- Fri 20th We remember and give thanks for Rt Rev John Christie as his role as Moderator comes to an end
- Sat 21st The opening of the General Assembly. Lord we pray for the Church of Scotland and the Church in Scotland
- Sun 22nd** **My times are in Thy hand; Jesus, the Crucified! Those hands my cruel sins had pierced are now my guard and guide**

- Mon 23rd Rev David Arnott the new Moderator of the Church of Scotland
- Tues 24th Our Minister James, Anna and their baby son John
- Wed 25th Rev Gillean Maclean and the Presbytery of Ardrossan
- Thurs 26th Carol and Graeme our Session Clerks, and all our Elders
- Fri 27th Our brothers and sisters in St Brides Church
- Sat 28th All who are struggling with loss and bereavement, Lord, may they be comforted
- Sun 29th My times are in Thy hand; I'll always trust in Thee; And, after death, at Thy right hand I shall forever be**
- Mon 30th All who are struggling with addiction and the impact this has on family life. Lord, be their strength in times of weakness
- Tues 31st Protection over our village against violence and crime

I trust in you, O Lord; I say, "You are my God." My times are in Your hands; Psalm 31 v 14,15

Monthly Prayer Diary – June 2011

- Wed 1st We give thanks for God's leading and guidance for the Church in West Kilbride and we pray for what the future holds
- Thur 2nd Our Minister James, Anna and their baby John
- Fri 3rd Our Session Clerks Carol and Graeme, and all our Elders
- Sat 4th Our Church Family
- Sun 5th We pray for a deeper desire to study Your Holy Word
- Mon 6th The new Moderator of the Church of Scotland Rt Rev David Arnott
- Tues 7th All who are trying to cope with grief and loss, Lord, be their comfort
- Wed 8th Human Trafficking. We pray for organisations that campaign and work for change
- Thur 9th All who are struggling with depression, may they find strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow
- Fri 10th All we know who are unwell, and those who care for them
- Sat 11th All our young people, from the tiniest baby
- Sun 12th Pentecost Sunday. We pray for a deeper expectancy of the Holy Spirit's power in these days
- Mon 13th We pray to be conscious of the gifts and the fruit of the Holy Spirit
- Tues 14th World events as they unfold

- Wed 15th Our Missionary Partners and all we know who have been called to serve in other parts of the world
- Thur 16th MPs and our newly elected MSPs – may they serve with wisdom and integrity
- Fri 17th Our World Leaders.
- Sat 18th The Persecuted Church and all who are in prison because of their faith in the Lord Jesus
- Sun 19th We pray for a deeper longing to become more like Jesus
- Mon 20th We pray for all who are struggling with addiction, and also for their families. Be their strength in times of weakness
- Tues 21st All whose lives have been devastated by natural disasters, war or terrorism
- Wed 22nd We pray for Aid Agencies, Peacemakers and Peacekeepers
- Thur 23rd We pray for a covering over our families and for healing where there are broken relationships
- Fri 24th Local Schools, remembering pupils leaving or changing schools
- Sat 25th All who are struggling with debt or the fear of unemployment
- Sun 26th We pray for a deeper passion to share about Jesus in West Kilbride
- Mon 27th We ask for Divine Appointments
- Tues 28th The Rendezvous Café – for good times of fellowship. Lord, bless all who serve there
- Wed 29th Lord help us to do what is just, show constant love, and live in humble fellowship with You
- Thur 30th ‘By this shall all men know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another’

“In the last days. God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.” Acts 2 v 17

‘If a matter is not serious enough to pray about, then it is not serious enough to worry about; and if it is serious enough to pray about, and we have prayed about it, then there is no need to worry about it.’

James E. Gibbons

‘I never pray more than fifteen minutes, but I never go more than fifteen minutes without praying.’ *Smith Wigglesworth*

Diary Dates for May and June 2011

1st May	10.30am Communion Service 2.30pm Communion Service at Headrigg Gdns
3rd May	10.00am – 12 noon Rendezvous
5th May	6.00pm Anchor Boys' Display in Bill Penny Hall
6th May	7.00pm Boys' Brigade Display in Village Hall
8th May	10.30am Morning Worship – Boys' Brigade Closing Service
10th May	10.00am – 12 noon Rendezvous
15th May	10.30am Morning Worship Christian Aid week begins – Soup Lunch
17th May	10.00am – 12 noon Rendezvous 7.30pm Team Leaders' Meeting
21st May	10.00am - 12 noon Coffee Morning in Bill Penny Hall for Christian Aid, and Plant Sale in Lower Hall
22nd May	10.30am Morning Worship
24th May	10.00am – 12 noon Rendezvous
28th May	Elders' Conference (details to follow)
29th May	10.30am Morning Worship 6.30pm Evening Service
31st May	10.00am – 12 noon Rendezvous
5th June	10.30am Morning Worship 2.30pm Afternoon Service at Headrigg Gdns
7th June	10.00am – 12 noon Rendezvous 7.30pm Kirk Session in the Lower Hall
12th June	10.30am Morning Worship
14th June	10.00am – 12 noon Rendezvous
19th June	10.30am Morning Worship
21st June	10.00am – 12 noon Rendezvous
26th June	10.30am Morning Worship and Junior Church Presentations 6.30pm Evening Service
28th June	10.00am – 12 noon Rendezvous

Dear Family and Friends,

My time in Pakistan is almost over; I will be leaving in 3 days. It has been a long stay here in Sukkur and all of a sudden it is coming to an end. All in all it has been extremely interesting and an experience I wouldn't want to miss. I have learnt a lot about Pakistan, the under privileged, malnutrition and how to fight it.

I have made some new friends. There are people I am sad to leave behind, but am looking forward to my home and normality.

Our project has been successful, which is a beautiful feeling to go home with. However, the problem with chronic malnourishment remains a huge issue in Pakistan.

Our help is like a drop in the ocean. Years ago I read that if everyone focused on what is in front of them, then the drops turn to streams...

I will not miss the heat, the dust & garbage or the traffic.



Sabia, one of our special little patients.

Tonight I have been saying goodbye to the missionaries – I don't enjoy it. Last week I visited most of our communities for the last time. Tomorrow we go to the very last one.

On the evening of the 20th April I will leave Sukkur for Germany, where I will spend Easter. Then in the last week of April I will be at Humedica's HQ.

On the 2nd May I will give a presentation to the donor, because this has been a successful project! I am totally out of practise in giving presentations - that will be my final challenge in this project.

One minor problem with these 2 unexpected weeks in Germany is that I only have 1 single western summer blouse with me – good excuse to go shopping. And I really need something for the meeting with the donor.

Then on the 4th May I fly home to Scotland!

Liebe Grüße and Blessings, Heidi