

# Church Matters

West Kilbride Parish Church Magazine

Issue No. 4 Dec.2010/Jan.2011



Cover picture by Sophie Graham, aged 5

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*I would appreciate articles for the next issue to be emailed to me by 16<sup>th</sup> January at [brianseamill@aol.com](mailto:brianseamill@aol.com) or, if you have no email, to be handed in to Jo in the church office.*

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## Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

As I write this in mid-November, it is hard to believe that Christmas is just around the corner - I'm sure with many of you, I don't know where this year has gone!

In the Manse this year, it will be John's first Christmas - although he will only be five months old when Christmas comes round - and so I'm sure he will be more interested in the wrapping paper and cardboard boxes than any gifts they might contain. He will be more interested in baby rice than turkey and not really be interested in the Queen's Christmas message.

It will also be our first Christmas as a united congregation - and will give us time to reflect on what has taken place over the past year - and how we might move forward as a congregation into the future.

I love Christmas. Yes, I enjoy the tinsel and the lights and the presents given and received - but what I really love about it is its yearly reminder of what is truly important and where our focus should be. Because in the story of the very first Christmas, there is wonder and there is awe as God sends a Saviour to redeem us. And who would have thought that Saviour would be 'Immanuel' - God with us?

You see, that first Christmas brings us back to the heart of the Gospel and what is truly important - that Jesus came to die as our substitute - that we might be reconciled with God and live.

Anna and I hope that when John grows up - he will understand what that first Christmas is about and put his faith in Jesus as his Saviour.

It is also my hope that as we think about Christmas again this year as a congregation, that our eyes might be fixed on Jesus - and that we might be lost in 'wonder, awe and praise!'.

We have been on a journey this last year as a congregation. Sometimes the journey has been smooth, at other times more tricky. But the most important thing is that we remember what the foundation of our faith is - that we focus upon God, love Him and give Him glory - and that we love one another. Everything else is incidental to these things.

May the Lord bless you and keep you and your family this Christmas time and journey with us as a Church into the New Year.

James, Anna and John.

*There will be no Gift Service this year but, as a church, we are exploring other ways we can give to those in need during the Christmas period.*

## **A Christmas Letter from the Moderator of Ardrossan Presbytery**

### **Helleborus Niger**

The Christmas rose  
never flowers at Christmas  
unless you cushion it with care  
hype-up its promise,  
and bed it down with close-strewn hay  
as in a manger.

It's pristine glory comes much later:  
March or April; Easter-time,  
and so belies its name.

And so it was  
that only later  
after the messy stable and the bloody cross  
by resurrection hindsight  
we beheld his glory.

*Donald Hilton*

Dear friends,

As yet another Christmas approaches and I wonder as I do each year, if I will find something new and fresh to say to my folks, I can't help but find myself caught up in the excitement of the season. It's a childish sort of excitement, remembered from my own childhood days and reflected in the wee faces of the children I meet in school or Sunday School and of course, my own grand-children.

We try very hard nowadays to be trendy and to be theologically astute, we talk about the REAL Christmas, the kind of things we SHOULD be doing at this time of year. That it's a Christian festival and not a feast of Mammoth Mammon! Of course, sometimes all the celebrations do eclipse the story of the birth of the greatest revolutionary of all time, the Son of God and in these times of economic austerity we should be helping people to celebrate it in a different way. But it's important not to be too like that most miserable of Christian gentlemen, old Scrooge! Decades of secularism cannot be wiped out in one fell swoop. We must read again the story of the birth of Christ in each generation and hope to learn something new about faith in our time when we hear those well-known words.

Our own sense of excitement and celebration can be infectious and if we can offer our own Christian perspectives on this season with love and with patient tolerance of others perhaps they will start to ask the kind of questions that only Easter can reveal answers to.

So nourish your own little Christmas roses this year, both within the Church and outside of its walls, for none of these are outside of God's love and care, and celebrate this wonderful time of year with joy and love and hope for all Gods children. May God bless you all this Christmas-tide and grant you a safe and Happy New Year when it comes.

*Gillean Maclean*

# EDITORIAL

As I write this the Remembrance Service has been held in Overton Church. It was a lovely service and the church was packed – it was standing room only by 10.30am. I spoke to some of the folk who were Overton members and they enjoyed being back in ‘their’ church. If we go ahead with the alterations to the ‘old’ St Andrew’s Church we pray that everyone will truly feel that West Kilbride Parish Church is ‘their’ church!

We will celebrate the first anniversary of the birth of our Church in January, and we are delighted that John Christie, who was Interim Minister of St Andrew’s Church and is now Moderator of the Church of Scotland, will be taking the service on 9<sup>th</sup> January. Please make sure you put this date in your (new) diary and come along to hear him.

As this is a double issue there is a lot in your magazine and I would like to thank all who have contributed. From the youngest, Sophie Graham, only 5 years old, who drew our lovely cover picture to our oldest, Douglas Davidson, who can remember World War 1, and writes ‘Gallimaufry! It is so good to hear the news from two of our Church family who are serving the Lord abroad; Jenny Rodd in Tanzania and Heidi Nicklin in Pakistan.

Happy reading and I pray that God will bless you all as we celebrate Jesus’ birthday and as this year closes and a new one starts.

*Deirdre Murray*

## ***PRAYER CHAIN***

We are intending to start a Prayer Chain in the church. To know that someone is there to pray can be a great comfort in times of need.

If anyone would like to be part of this ministry please contact me on 822963.

*Lynne Seal, Prayer Co-ordinator.*

## Diary Dates for December 2010 and January 2011

5 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<b>10.30am Advent 2 – Morning Worship</b> <b>2.00pm Afternoon Service at Headrigg Gardens</b>
6 <sup>th</sup> Dec	7.15pm Men's Fellowship in the Session Room. Speaker, Mr John Steele
7 <sup>th</sup> Dec	No meeting of the Guild – Christmas Lunch at the Hydro
12 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<b>10.30am Advent 3 - Morning Worship</b>
13 <sup>th</sup> Dec	7.15pm Men's Fellowship Christmas Meal – details to be announced
14 <sup>th</sup> Dec	2.30pm Guild meeting in the Lower Hall. Allocation of funds, Carols and Readings. 7.00pm Carol Concert in the Church, with West Kilbride Community Choir
19 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<b>10.30am Advent 4 - Morning Worship</b>
24 <sup>th</sup> Dec	7.30pm Christmas Eve Service 11.15pm Watchnight Service
25 <sup>th</sup> Dec	10.30am Christmas Day Service
26 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<b>10.30am Morning Worship</b>
28 <sup>th</sup> Dec	No Rendezvous – Christmas break
2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan 2011	<b>10.30am Communion Service</b> <b>2.00pm Communion Service at Headrigg Gdns</b>
4 <sup>th</sup> Jan	No Rendezvous – Christmas break
9 <sup>th</sup> Jan	<b>10.30am Morning Worship</b>
10 <sup>th</sup> Jan	7.15pm Men's Fellowship in the Bill Penny Hall. An evening of games and competitions.
11 <sup>th</sup> Jan	2.30pm Guild meets in the Lower Hall. Speaker from Linda Hill Travel
13 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Panto in Village Hall
16 <sup>th</sup> Jan	<b>10.30am Morning Worship</b>
17 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Men's Fellowship visit to Beith: Trinity
18 <sup>th</sup> Jan	2.30pm Guild meets in the Lower Hall. Project Crossreach: “On the Other Side”
21 <sup>st</sup> Jan	West Kilbride Music Club Concert in Overton Church
23 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	<b>10.30am Morning Worship</b>
24 <sup>th</sup> Jan	7.15pm Men's Fellowship in the Bill Penny Hall. An evening of games and competitions.
25 <sup>th</sup> Jan	2.30pm Guild meets in the Lower Hall. Burns'

Afternoon with G. McKellar and Ruth Gregory  
7.30pm Team Leaders' Meeting in the Session  
Room

**30th Jan**

**10.30am Morning Worship**

**6pm Evening Praise and Worship Service**

31<sup>st</sup> Jan

7.15pm Men's Fellowship in the Bill Penny Hall. An evening of games and competitions.

### **Church Register**

We are delighted to welcome **Mr Shaun Lidbury** of Bellard Walk as a new member.

We look forward to the baptism of **James and Anna's** baby, **John**, on 12<sup>th</sup> December.

We are sad to report the death of **Miss Lizabelle Scott** of Happyhills.

*Our thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends at this time.*

### **THANK YOU**

I wish to say a big "Thank you" and also express my heartfelt gratitude for the letters, cards and visits from my church friends while I was in hospital. I was comforted and blessed by many prayers too. I was very grateful and appreciative of our minister's visits and his uplifting prayers. We are a very fortunate 'flock' in having such a sincere and kind leader and I pray that James, Anna and wee John will have very fruitful and happy years with us.

God bless and guide us all in the days ahead and "Thank you" again for your caring and your love.

*Lillian (Revel)*

## “How Great Thou Art”

This hymn was originally written over 130 years ago by Carl Boberg as a Swedish poem, “O store Gud” (O great God). How it has come to us in English is a fascinating story involving many writers and translators, over a period of 60 years, and taking us to Sweden, Estonia, Russia, what was once Czechoslovakia, Romania and then Britain.

The story began in Sweden in 1885. Carl Boberg became a Christian in 1878 aged 19, and when he was 26 he was returning home when he was caught in a violent thunderstorm.

It passed quickly and a rainbow appeared. When, on reaching home he looked out of his window, he heard a thrush singing and a church bell ringing in the distance. He then wrote “O store Gud”, a poem of 9 verses.

22 years later Manfred von Glehn who lived in Estonia translated it into German as “How Great Thou Art”; and then I. S. Prokhanoff, known as the “Martin Luther” of modern Russia, translated it into Russian where it was greatly used. Stuart K. Hine who was a missionary in western Ukraine heard it there and used it as the basis of his English version. He was inspired when translating the first verse by a remarkable thunderstorm in a Carpathian mountain village in Czechoslovakia. The second verse was written in mountainous Bukovina in Romania where, among “the woods and forest glades”, he one day heard a group of young Christians spontaneously burst forth in singing the Russian version of “How Great Thou Art”. When he wrote “And when I think that God, His Son not sparing”, he had been giving out gospels in the Carpathian mountain villages. He found many of the villagers were already Christians because 19 years before a Russian soldier had left a Bible

behind. No-one in the village could read it and it was some time later before someone could translate it for them and then they learnt of God's love and trusted in Him.

Stuart Hine completed the hymn back in Britain at the outbreak of World War II when he was working with displaced Eastern Europeans who were constantly asking "when are we going home?" These words were a stimulus to him to write "When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation and take me home - -".

The following two optional verses have their roots in Boberg's original poem:

Oh, when I see ungrateful man defiling  
This bounteous earth, God's gifts so good and great;  
In foolish pride God's holy name reviling  
And yet, in grace, His wrath and judgement wait;

When burdens press, and seem beyond endurance,  
Bowed down with grief to Him I lift my face;  
And then in love He brings me sweet assurance:  
"My child! For thee sufficient is My grace".

*Paraphrased from "Hymns and Their Writers" by Jack Strahan*

*Helen Ferguson*

**A boy was watching his father, a pastor, write a sermon. "How do you know what to say?" he asked. "Why, God tells me." "Oh, then why do you keep crossing things out?"**

# Advent Candles

While the Flower Team were discussing how we would decorate the church for Christmas we thought about the Advent ring and candles and wondered why the Advent candles are different colours. We thought you would all be interested in the information when we 'googled' it. There are three purple candles because purple has traditionally been the primary colour of Advent, symbolising repentance. Purple is also the colour of royalty, demonstrating the anticipation and reception of the coming King celebrated during Advent.

Pink (or Rose) is also one of the colours of Advent used during the third Sunday. It represents joy or rejoicing and reveals a shift in the season away from repentance and towards celebration. In the Anglican Church the third Sunday of Advent is sometimes called Gaudette Sunday. as Gaudette comes from the Latin word meaning 'rejoice'.

White is the colour of the centre Advent candle representing purity. Christ is the sinless, spotless, pure Saviour. Also those who receive Christ as Saviour are washed of their sins and made whiter than snow. The white candle is lit on Christmas Day.

As we light the candles this year we hope you will think of the meaning behind them.



## **Gallimaufry**

**December 2010**

To take last year in retrospect,  
Things happened we did not expect.  
Disasters, famine, wars, and flood –  
a list that tends to chill the blood.  
Most were in countries overseas - whilst we  
remained in sheltered ease.  
Yet we were quick to realise it's not enough to  
sympathise.  
Hard cash and effort were required to aid the  
stricken as desired.

***"What we anticipate seldom occurs;  
what we least expected generally happens."  
Benjamin Disraeli***

## Monthly Prayer Diary – December 2010

Wed 1 <sup>st</sup>	World AIDS Day
Thurs 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Our Minister James, Anna and their baby John
Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup>	West Kilbride Yuletide Night. Lord, we give thanks for our community
Sat 4 <sup>th</sup>	We pray for comfort for the bereaved and the broken-hearted
Sun 5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Christ born in a stable is born in me. Christ accepted by shepherds accepts me</b>
Mon 6 <sup>th</sup>	Human Trafficking – people bought and sold into slavery
Tues 7 <sup>th</sup>	God's leading and guidance for the future of the Church in West Kilbride
Wed 8 <sup>th</sup>	Our Church Family. Lord help us to be channels of Your love
Thurs 9 <sup>th</sup>	Heidi Nicklin working in Pakistan, and all who we know who have been called to serve God in other lands
Fri 10 <sup>th</sup>	Troubled areas of the world. All whose lives are torn apart by war
Sat 11 <sup>th</sup>	Our brothers and sisters in St Brides Church – may there be love shared among us
Sun 12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Christ receiving the wise men receives me. Christ revealed to the nations be revealed in me</b>
Mon 13 <sup>th</sup>	Our local schools
Tues 14 <sup>th</sup>	Our GP Surgery, local hospitals and Care homes
Wed 15 <sup>th</sup>	Home Helps and Care Workers. We give thanks for the valuable work they do
Thurs 16 <sup>th</sup>	Rt Rev John Christie, Moderator of the Church of Scotland

Fri 17th	All who are caught up in drug and alcohol addiction, and also their families
Sat 18 <sup>th</sup>	Our youth organisations, Junior Church, Crèche and YF
Sun 19th	<b>Christ dwelling in Nazareth, You dwell in me</b>
Mon 20 <sup>th</sup>	We remember people suffering in areas of the world affected by natural disasters
Tues 21 <sup>st</sup>	All we know who are sick, and those who care for them
Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Our family and friends who do not yet know the Lord Jesus, we pray that they will come to know Him
Thur23 <sup>rd</sup>	All we know who are sad and lonely, may they find hope in Jesus
Fri 24th	Let us give thanks for all who are dear to us
Sat 25 <sup>th</sup>	Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth peace and goodwill to all men
Sun 26th	<b>Christ, grant that people may look at me and see Your presence</b>
Mon 27 <sup>th</sup>	The Persecuted Church and all who are in prison because of their faith in the Lord Jesus
Tues 28 <sup>th</sup>	Carol, Graeme and all our Elders
Wed 29 <sup>th</sup>	Our MPs, MSPs and all who are in authority over us
Thur30 <sup>th</sup>	Protection over our village against violence and crime
Fri 31st	Give thanks with a grateful heart for the blessings we have received during 2010

**“The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel – which means, “God with us”.” Matthew 1 v 23**

## Monthly Prayer Diary – January 2011

Sat 1 <sup>st</sup>	Praise God for a new year filled with fresh opportunities to serve Him
Sun 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Circle me, Lord. Keep protection near and danger afar
Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup>	God's leading and guidance for the future of the Church in West Kilbride
Tues 4 <sup>th</sup>	Our Minister James, Anna and their baby John
Wed 5 <sup>th</sup>	Our Church Family – give us a fresh understanding of brotherly love that is real
Thurs 6 <sup>th</sup>	Human Trafficking – people who are trafficked into prostitution, military service, forced legal adoption etc.
Fri 7 <sup>th</sup>	Carol and Graeme our Session Clerks, and all our Elders
Sat 8 <sup>th</sup>	Rt Rev John Christie as he prepares to visit us tomorrow
Sun 9 <sup>th</sup>	Circle me, Lord. Keep hope within keep doubt without
Mon 10 <sup>th</sup>	Gillean MacLean and the Ardrossan Presbytery
Tues 11 <sup>th</sup>	The Church of Scotland and the Church in Scotland
Wed 12 <sup>th</sup>	Our youth organisations, Junior Church, YF and Crèche
Thurs 13 <sup>th</sup>	All who are working with our young people
Fri 14 <sup>th</sup>	All who are struggling with debt and the fear of unemployment
Sat 15 <sup>th</sup>	Aid Agencies and charities that are close to our hearts
Sun 16 <sup>th</sup>	Circle me, Lord. Keep light near and darkness afar

Mon 17 <sup>th</sup>	Jenny Rodd in Tanzania
Tues 18 <sup>th</sup>	All who are caught up in drug and alcohol addiction, and also their families
Wed 19 <sup>th</sup>	Our neighbours – especially those who feel vulnerable during these winter months
Thurs 20 <sup>th</sup>	Our MPs, MSPs and those in authority over us
Fri 21 <sup>st</sup>	Peacemakers and Peacekeepers
Sat 22 <sup>nd</sup>	We remember people suffering in areas of the world affected by natural disasters
Sun 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Circle me, Lord. Keep peace within keep evil out
Mon 24 <sup>th</sup>	Our brothers and sisters in St Brides
Tues 25 <sup>th</sup>	The bereaved, Lord may they be comforted
Wed 26 <sup>th</sup>	All who are sad and lonely – may they find hope
Thurs 27 <sup>th</sup>	All we know who are sick, waiting for test results, or receiving treatment
Fri 28 <sup>th</sup>	The Persecuted Church and all who are in prison because of their faith in the Lord Jesus
Sat 29 <sup>th</sup>	Our missionary partners and all who are called to serve God in distant lands
Sun 30 <sup>th</sup>	Send us out into the world, to live and work to Your power and Glory
Mon 31 <sup>st</sup>	Our local schools and the work of Scripture Union

**“Never will I leave you;  
Never will I forsake you.”  
Hebrews 13 v 5**

# Gallimaufry

January 2011

The New Year which is still to come,  
May bring great happiness to some,  
And give them cause for celebration - to others, trial and tribulation.  
But if in God we place our trust, His mercy is forever just.  
We'll face the future without fear – each one of us to Him is dear.

*“The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting.  
It has been found difficult, and left untried.”*  
*G.K. Chesterton*

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## SCRIPTURE CAKE

4 cups 1 Kings 4:22 (first part)	fine flour
1 cup Judges 5:25 (last clause)	butter
2 cups Jeremiah 6:20	sugar
2 cups 1 Samuel 30:12	raisins
2 cups Nahum 3:12	figs
1 tablespoon Numbers 17:8	almonds
1 large tablespoon 1 Samuel 14:25	honey
Season to taste of 11 Chronicles 9:9	spices
6 of Jeremiah 17:11	eggs
A pinch of Leviticus 2:13	salt
½ cup Genesis 24:20	water
2 teaspoons of Amos 4:5	leaven (baking powder)

Follow Solomon's advice for making good boys, Proverbs 23:14 and you will have a good cake.  
(This recipe dates back many years and is found in many of our grandmothers and great-grandmothers cook books. The cake is just as good today.)

*Thanks to Eleanor Joliffe who found this recipe in her late mother's cook book.*

## Men's Fellowship

Since the report in the last issue of Church Matters the Men's Fellowship has been unusually active. Good progress has been made in the carpet bowling competitions. On Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> October, after a gap of over two years, we held a Coffee Morning to provide funds to cover our use of electricity and enable the Fellowship to make donations to Christian or humanitarian charities. We wish to thank those who so generously donated home baking as well as other goods for the cake stall, also May Paton and Cathy Cooper who served on the stall, David and Thelma Wilson for their 'sweetie jar' and Norma Greenham and Jean Dowding who took charge of the kitchen. More than £315 was raised, even though there was another Coffee Morning on in the village.

Our speakers on November 8<sup>th</sup> were Liz and John Rhodes who talked about their trip with Park Church, Ardrossan to the Passion Play at Oberammergau and a holiday on the Austrian Bavarian border. John explained the origin of the play in a solemn vow, made by the villagers during an outbreak of the Black Death, that, if there were no more deaths in the village they would re-enact Jesus' Passion regularly. Eventually this settled into the present pattern of once every ten years. He explained what a challenge this was to the villagers who had to cope with months of rehearsals and performances while attending to their regular businesses or going to school as well as providing bed and breakfast accommodation and restaurant meals for over 500,000 people over many months. Liz spoke of the moving, sometimes horrific nature of the actual play. The evening continued with photos of the surrounding Alpine landscape.

On 6<sup>th</sup> December we have invited Mr John Steele who will give a talk about "Wee Cumbrae". Members of the Guild to whom Mr Steele spoke last year say how interesting this talk is. As Usual when we have a speaker this will be an open meeting to which everyone is invited.

*Peter Hinde*

## **Pastoral Care Team.**

As you may have realised by now in West Kilbride Parish Church we have made a few changes, one of which is the Pastoral Care Team. This was formed to find a more efficient way of using our willing band of visitors and elders to meet people who really need and appreciate a visit. At the moment we are trying to highlight people in the congregation who are in our first category: housebound; elderly; not in good health; recently bereaved, and try to visit on a regular basis.

Our next category is members who come to church fairly regularly and would appreciate a visit once or twice a year to keep in touch in case they have missed anything.

The third group is members who attend church regularly, take part in organisations and generally know what is going on in the church. This group doesn't really need a visitor as they share fellowship on a Sunday and through the week. A visit can also be arranged by using the 'Gold' box at the front of the church.

Our last category is the Pastoral Care Team's challenge, members who don't come to church and who have shown little interest. We will work on this in due course after much prayer.

I would like to thank the elders who have given our team lots of information to work on and to assure members that your 'district' elder can still visit as a friend and fellow Christian.

If any member of the church, who enjoys visiting others and would like to become a visitor please speak to me at any time, also anyone who feels they could offer someone a lift in their car especially as winter is approaching.

***1 Peter 3:8.***

Thank you.

*Evelyn McFarland (P.C. Team leader.)*

Dear Friends and Family,

I hope this finds you well and enjoying the autumn. Here we are waiting for the rain to start and the votes to be counted as yesterday were the Presidential elections.

It has been four weeks since I last wrote, so I'll try to weave times and tales of October into a concise and clear picture for you. First let me say how wonderful it was to receive your emails, texts and cards, each is a clear reminder to me of friendship and love. I'm shown again that the way I'm able to move forward here is helped by the love and encouragement you share with me.

October: The rhythm of weekly assessments, lectures, practical placements, reading and reports continues. Lectures have been about development dynamics, community mapping, community assessment and the strategies of development. Each week has been so interesting and revealing in how it contributes to development.

In the midst of learning a lot about different cultural views and ways of life I was reminded during the lectures that although we have our differences we also have common needs. There are universal needs for a healthy community- water, nutrition, purpose, belonging, shelter, education to name a few. A simple thought but one that is of profound help as I learn to help others meet their own needs. Although culture is different our needs are not worlds apart.

One of our lecture weeks we also had a number of local church leaders join us. It was so interesting to hear their stories and to see them commit to working together for the good of Morogoro. One of the leaders was from a Maasi village approximately 30 minutes east from us. We were invited to visit and so spent two afternoons walking around the village greeting and meeting people, sitting on cowhides talking with women and sitting under a tree listening to Maasi men. In those times we learned about village life, issues with water, herding the cattle and stories of how they came to be there. It was wonderfully eye opening to be with them and learn about their traditions.

Another fantastic week was community health; it is a framework for sharing spiritually and physically with a community. Through the week we were taught in workshop style, as we would share in a community, with participation, questions, reflections and group work. It was great to have

some step by step guides and realise more of what is going on in community development. Our teacher shared with us some inspiring stories about how she had reluctantly (because she was new at training and a western women) taught Maasi warriors about HIV/AIDS and the immune system because they wouldn't let her leave until she had. The result of how and what she taught was that they came to conclude the only way their women and children could be protected was by them being faithful to their wives and if single practicing abstinence!!! This is very significant as part of the respect and tradition of a warrior is to have many sexual partners. For four years now the Maasi have kept this promise- this is an amazing example to me of the difference we can make.

Another project was fixing a water tank here on site; it was a lot of fun! I learned from a wonderful Kiwi how to mix up cement in a wheel barrow, plaster and make a sift for sand (and much more!). Our water tank is now slowly curing (drying out) and although my skills are not perfected I know that next time they'll be built on. Next time won't be too far away as during our week on appropriate technology we're building a water tank.

We also organised to go on a safari at a local park which was extraordinary.

My birthday was great! It was a beautiful day and amazing to see animals right outside the window.

A change is that I cut my hair. Many have asked me why?! It is connected to what I have been learning here and new beginnings. I definitely learn by doing and this took it one level deeper. If you would like to know more, I'm happy to share!

So I thank God for all I am learning, my health and the friendships I have here. Please continue to pray with me for my learning, wisdom and health (especially my right ankle as I fell over running 1½ weeks ago).

So this is my October. How about you and yours? It'd be great to hear from you and I'm sorry if my replies are slow internet access isn't straight forward.

With lots of love and blessings,  
*Jenny (Rodd)*

## Welcome Pack

We are in the process of preparing a **Welcome Pack**, primarily for folk who have recently come to live in West Kilbride, so as to give them an oversight of our village life that includes the life and witness of our church. We will also have it recorded on the web, on display in strategic places, and available for visitors to our church, etc.

The pack will include **“A brief history of the West Kilbride Church” and it’s here we require your help**. Already we have gathered information going back to the nineteenth century but there are a number of blank spaces. In this respect, we give you the opportunity to pass on to us not only what you know but also details of suitable publications obtainable.

The opportunity is given for you to get in touch with us so that we can make available to you what we have already recorded and then other information will be gratefully received. Articles will then be placed in chronological order.

Look forward to hearing from you.

*John Harrison*

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### God’s Jigsaw

We are all part of God’s jigsaw and we are all needed to complete the picture. As with every jigsaw there are corner pieces and outline pieces that provide a framework and give support to the whole, but they are not the only important ones. Every picture has bright, eye-catching pieces as well as other less colourful ones, but both are needed. If a piece is lost it must be searched for and replaced for if even one of the pieces is missing the picture is spoiled. No matter how insignificant or dull we feel our lives to be we are still wanted, and needed, to complete God’s jigsaw.

## Tearfund

In the Church intimations recently, I reported that I had received some very substantial donations, amounting to £210, which is just great. Very many thanks to the donors. A letter of thanks, stating what the money will be used for is beside the Tearfund Notice Board in the Lower Hall.

The latest collection from the loose coin boxes [empty ones may be found on the shelf in the Lower Hall] amounted to £109.45, which has been sent to Tearfund. Considering much of this consists of 1p and 2p pieces, it is an amazing total, for which I wish to thank all those who collect so assiduously. It is much appreciated.

Due to the floods in Pakistan there is a widespread outbreak of diarrhoea, gastroenteritis and skin conditions. Tearfund has spent £2.36 million to provide food, temporary shelter and health services for children in conjunction with the Adult Basic Education Society, one of their partners, who have set up transition centres in six villages in Punjab. They are also teaching cleanliness and hygiene to the children and play learning to combat emotional traumas. Please pray for all their work.

*Audrey Brown*

**Ms Terrie asked her Sunday School class to draw pictures of their favourite Bible stories. She was puzzled by Kyle's picture which showed four people on an airplane so she asked him which story it was meant to represent.**

**"The Flight to Egypt," was his reply. Pointing at each figure, Ms Terri said, "That must be Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus. But who's the fourth person?" "Oh, that's Pontius - the pilot!"**

## The Guild

We hope that the Guild has now found a permanent meeting place in the Lower Hall which is proving to be a warm and comfortable place on a Tuesday afternoon. New members are always welcome and we have had several this session. We want to express our Christian faith in worship, prayer and action and we think we are a friendly, welcoming group.

On 26th October one of our own members, Mrs Shuna Hill, was our speaker. Shuna has a guide dog, which was with her, and she told us about the wonderful training work of the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association which enables people with impaired vision to lead independent lives as well as providing them with a loveable companion.

On November 2<sup>nd</sup> Mrs Margaret Broster, from Beith, spoke about her work as Education Representative for the Guilds of Ardrossan Presbytery. She also helped us to talk about the Guild discussion topic for the year which is 'Forgive and Forget'.

On November 9<sup>th</sup> Mrs Muriel Serle, from Kilmacolm, spoke to us about her involvement with 'Dream Flight', a charitable organisation which provides holidays in Florida for children who are incurably, and sometimes terminally, ill. Her moving account of the complex preparations necessary to enable these young people (between eight and sixteen years old) to travel across the Atlantic, stay in a hotel and enjoy ten action-packed days in such a wonderful area for children, was quite breathtaking but also immensely heart warming. We really felt some of the joy of these children and are full of admiration for the organisation 'Dream Flight' which is financed entirely by fund-raising.

*Eileen Hinde*

### **FREECYCLE**

**Request** - Does anyone have a coal bunker that they no longer need and would like to get rid of it? If so, please contact Deirdre on 822272.

*This is the first letter received from Heidi Nicklin in Pakistan.*

Dear Family and Friends,

Arrived here in Pakistan a bit over a week ago and am full of new impressions. I have never been in a country like Pakistan before, meaning in such a Muslim formed country. There are many things I still need to get used to. Public life is dominated by men, they run everything.

I arrived in Karachi and had to spend the night there because the next available flight was 8pm the next evening (last one). So I go to the Airport Hotel – sounds good – I was also carting a lot of gear around. The room was small very basic, at least the bed was clean and air conditioning. The place was totally run by men and all the visible guests were men – where were the women and children? They were friendly and helpful and the food was good – even got breakfast served in my room.

Wednesday last week late at night finally got into Sukkur. I was picked up by the people from our partner organisation, River Side, was given dinner (at 11pm). Their guestroom was under construction and the Humedica flat had 2 beds (Pakistani style) without mattresses or sheets. It was possible to buy a mattress, pillow & sheets at midnight – so I got to bed at about 2am!

The next day out into the field – to the wild refugee camps, these are the non-organised camps that do not receive help from UNICEF, usually the very poor collect here – slum people who live along the Indus River, most of them are illiterate. In one of them a young 15 year old mother came to us with her 3 week old baby boy, who was born premature at 8 months. I have never seen such a small baby. I could hold his wee head in my hand and his feet came to my elbow, he was so skinny, but he had loads of thick black hair. He seemed like a very normal baby making funny faces. We took him and his mother to the hospital, where he was admitted and put on a drip, 2 days later he was discharged. The girl-mother was only feeding him 3x a day, hopefully she now understands that he needs milk 8x a day.

My new colleagues are all friendly and nice to me and I am invited to have my breakfast and lunch (which tends to be in the

middle of the afternoon) with the family who run River Side. The office is in a compound that also houses a boy's hostel for 30 boys and they are funded by the Church of Scotland. I'll get some pictures and send more later.

The flat is fine, very basic furniture wise, has a roof terrace and is safe. The landlord's son got married last weekend. I was invited to the ladies function – was well taken care of and it was interesting with Pakistani music and dancing. Couldn't make it to the wedding because I had a persistent Pakistani gut-bug – got rid of it.

Otherwise Sukkur is not a place you come to visit, even if it is the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> biggest city in Pakistan. It is dry, filthy and ugly. I feel West Kilbride must be part of Eden. I really appreciate evenly distributed rain that makes nature GREEN.

I've so much more to tell you – but another time.

Love and hugs

Heidi

**A little girl was sitting on her grandfather's lap as he read her a bedtime story. From time to time, she would take her eyes off the book and reach up to touch his wrinkled cheek. She was alternately stroking her own cheek, then his again. Finally she spoke up, "Grandpa, did God make you?" "Yes, sweetheart," he answered, "God made me a long time ago." "Oh," she paused, "Grandpa, did God make me too?" "Yes, indeed, honey," he said, "God made you just a little while ago." Feeling their respective faces again, she observed, "God's getting better at it, isn't he?"**

*You may find this wee poem very appropriate as you write your Christmas cards this year.*

I have a list of folk I know all written in a book  
And every year at Christmas time I go and take a look.  
For that is when I realise that those names are now a part  
Not of the book they're written in but of my very heart.  
For each name stands for someone who has crossed my path  
sometime  
And in that meeting they've become the rhythm of the rhyme.  
And while it sounds fantastic for me to make this claim  
I really feel I am composed of each remembered name.  
Even if you may not be aware of any special link  
Just meeting you has shaped my life far more than you can think.  
For once you've met somebody the years cannot erase  
The memories of a pleasant word or of a friendly face.  
So never think my Christmas greeting is just a mere routine  
Of names upon a Christmas list forgotten in between.  
For when I send this Christmas card that is addressed to you  
It's because you're on the list of folks I am indebted to.  
For I am but a total of many folks I've met  
And you are also one of those I prefer not to forget.  
And whether I have known you for many years or few  
In some ways you had a part in shaping things I do.  
And every year when Christmas comes I realise anew  
The best of gifts that life can give is meeting folks like you.  
So may the spirit of Christmas which for ever and ever  
endures,  
Leave its richest blessings in the hearts of you and yours.

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## **Dates For Your 2011 Diary**

April 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> CLAN Women Conference, Edinburgh Academy.

23<sup>rd</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> July CLAN Gathering, St Andrew's, Fife.

*These can be booked on-line at [www.clangathering.org.uk](http://www.clangathering.org.uk)*

## Questions you just can't answer

Why doesn't Tarzan have a beard?

Why do we press harder on a remote control when we know the batteries are flat?

Why do banks charge a fee on 'insufficient funds' when they know there is not enough?

Why do Kamikaze pilots wear helmets?

Why does someone believe you when you say there are four billion stars, but check when you say the paint is wet?

Whose idea was it to put an 'S' in the word 'lisp'?

What is the speed of darkness?

Why is it that people say they 'slept like a baby' when babies wake up every two hours?

If the temperature is zero outside today and it's going to be twice as cold tomorrow, how cold will it be?

Do married people live longer than single ones or does it only seem longer?

How is it that we put man on the moon before we figured out it would be a good idea to put wheels on luggage?

Why do toasters always have a setting so high that could burn the toast to a horrible crisp, which no decent human being would eat?

Do illiterate people get the full effect of Alphabet Soup?

Did you ever notice that when you blow in a dog's face, he gets mad at you, but when you take him on a car ride, he sticks his head out the window?