

Church Matters

West Kilbride Parish Church Magazine
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Easter

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MINISTER'S LETTER

Prayer Struggles?

This year we have designated as our 'Year of Prayer and Invitation'. We are roughly going to spend the first six months concentrating on prayer - before spending the last six months focussed on invitation (though clearly we will be praying all the way through).

Part of what we will be praying through, of course, is who we will be inviting later in the year.

At the moment though, our focus is on prayer. Prayer is fundamental in the Christian faith. Jesus himself prayed - and if he prayed, then it is clearly important that we pray too.

But *what* do we pray?

Because despite us knowing that we should pray, we often find it difficult to know what we should be praying for and how we should pray.

Of course, we have some great patterns of prayer in Scripture - none more so than 'The Lord's Prayer'.

But often our prayers can drift into 'shopping list' prayers where we are just putting up a pile of requests, or 'help' prayers where we are just asking for help! At least we are praying - but we recognise that our prayer life could be a lot richer than it is.

Recently, I have been reading a book by Alistair Begg called 'Pray Big'.

It is a book based on Paul's prayer in Ephesians 1 and in it Paul 'prays big'.

Alistair Begg points out how spiritual Paul's prayer is for the Ephesians, when often our own prayers are about praying for earthly things. That is not to say earthly things don't matter - but his point is that we should follow Paul's example in praying bigger prayers about things that really matter.

So often, we pray for things like health (which is important) - but we neglect to pray for people's souls and their salvation (which is more important!).

One of the things Alistair Begg¹ says is this:

You have been raised with Christ in the heavenly places. You have been made part of a family that will never come to an end. One day you will live in a new heaven and a new earth. You will see God face to face and, with a heart no longer burdened and distracted by sin and a body no longer broken and decaying in frailty, you will praise him.

And here is the key point:

And you and I just want to pray that we'd stay healthy and live long?!

All that matters may be brought before God, what we bring before God is not always what matters most.

(Pray Big, p.31).

And so I encourage you - pray big! Pray spiritual prayers focussed on what is most important.

Because as the children's song goes: 'Our God is a great big God'.

Yours in Christ,

James

Note 1: Alistair Begg was going to be the speaker at Keswick Ayrshire this May. The event has been cancelled due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

PS: Please read my COVID 19 Update on pages 28

Church Register

**The following people have passed away recently.
Please remember their families in your prayers:**

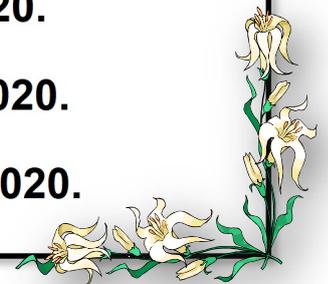
Nancy Fraser, Meadowfoot Road, died 24th January 2020.

Cathie Blair, Lawfield Avenue (Latterly Arran View Care Home), died 31st January 2020.

Jean Macrae, Kilruskin Drive, died 6th February 2020.

Sheila Brown, Headrigg Road, died 21st February 2020.

James Grant, Tarbert Avenue, died 28th February 2020.



GUILD

At our January meeting of the Guild Brian and I gave a talk, with slides, of our recent study trip to the Holy Land and spoke of our delight and wonder at being in the places where Jesus walked, lived and talked. It was a moving and emotional trip, more so because we also visited the West Bank in Palestine, visiting Christian organisations involved in peace and reconciliation and conflict resolution. We saw first hand the dreadful conditions and unjust treatment that Palestinians suffer on a daily basis and experienced a little of this ourselves. We are giving talks to other Guilds and organisations, so if anyone knows of any group who would like to know more please feel free to pass on our details.

Our minister, James, was the speaker at our February meeting and he spoke of the Church - the big picture. Many of the statistics he quoted certainly gave us cause for concern but also hope for the future. God is still at work in His Church!

It is with regret that we have to let folks know that the Guild committee has decided that they can no longer continue to keep the Guild going. We have tried going from weekly to fortnightly then monthly meetings and done our best to organise a varied and interesting syllabus that we thought would appeal to our church family. However, the number of people attending regularly has dwindled and it was felt that we couldn't ask speakers to come along and speak to about ten people. If anyone has any ideas of another type of group they would like to have in the church, please let us know.

The meeting in April will now be our final meeting of the Guild and it will be our closing lunch at the Seamill House Hotel.

Deirdre Murray

SESSION SNIPPETS

The Kirk Session met on 20th January. Opening devotions consisted of MP hymn 870, “Jesus is The Name We Honour,” and a reading from John, Ch4, the story of the Woman at the Well. In verses 28 and 29 the Samaritan woman goes back to her city and makes an invitation to her people to come and see Jesus. This passage perhaps encapsulates our mission statement “To know Jesus and to *make Jesus known*.” This passage emphasizes one of the main themes for our church in West Kilbride this year which is to encourage members of the congregation to invite at least one person to our church this year.

We then watched a short video from America about issuing an invitation to a community to come to church. A personal invitation is most effective especially if there is a pre-existing relationship of some kind. It also pointed out that inviting an individual to a specific church event or day is more likely to meet with success. It highlighted the fact that although we shy away from asking people to come along to church, 4 out of 10 people will say yes, another 4 out of 10 will say “maybe” and only 2 out of ten people will say outright “no”. Although one may not be able to extrapolate from America to here there are perhaps more people than we think “out there” who are just waiting to be asked.

Following discussion it was decided to actively promote the idea of each church member personally inviting one person from May with an event or special service in September.

The session has received correspondence from Ardrossan Presbytery. There is to be a reduction in ministries from 24 to 19. To address this issue, the presbytery has been divided

up geographically into 4 Mission Groups. We are grouped with Largs, Cumberae, and Fairlie. Meetings will be held by each group to discuss ways of managing resources more efficiently. They have been asked to report back to Presbytery by April.

The Team Focus for this meeting was the catering team led by Janette Fleming. This is a very hard working team within the church. Catering has to be organised and provided; for Sunday post service tea and coffee, for Rendezvous, Messy Church and nearly all church functions and events throughout the year. This is against a background of ever increasing demands around health and safety. We are so very fortunate in this church to have one such as Janette to coordinate all this. Please all who read this note that volunteers and help are always needed.

John Coy for the finance team reported that our finances remain reasonable and stable.

Colin MacDougal for the People and Policy team advised the Session that he had completed a safeguarding audit checklist and an a safeguarding register both of which will be available for the Annual Presbytery Inspection of Records . A general data protection review has been carried out and no breeches identified.

Under Health and Safety, Colin advised that progress is been made towards the purchase of a defibrillator in the near future. On reflection Richard de Courcy advised we should purchase a semi- automatic machine which would require a manual press of a button following a “spoken” prompt to deliver a shock. This would hopefully encourage someone to take charge of an often chaotic situation. Again the importance of training in CPR was stressed. To this end it was agreed that the church would provide training for in the first instance volunteers from the church and affiliated

organisations. There will be a cost involved in the region of £12-15per head for any such training and it was agreed that the church would bear the cost but ask for a donation towards this from those undergoing training. A full and comprehensive article regarding the defibrillator can be found in last month's edition of Church Matters.

The wall bordering the lane at the side of the church has now been repaired. Enquiries will be made if the lane surface can be properly surfaced with tarmacadam and who would pay for this. One of the problems is that it is not clear who owns the lane and if all parties with an interest are in agreement that the lane should be resurfaced.

At present we send charitable boxes to our twin church Emazwini in Malawi. Although well meaning, this is not as efficient as sending money. The Session agree to continue sending boxes for the present but would further consider the alternative of sending money.

And charity rather closer to home. It has come to the notice of the Session that some in our community are finding it difficult to access the food bank in Ardrossan owing to the travel involved. The Session agreed to investigate ways and means of making Food Bank items available to be picked up in West Kilbride.

The meeting closed with the saying of The Grace.

Richard de Courcy

YOURS SINCERELY

Eileen Hinde, a long-serving serving Elder in St Andrews Church and in West Kilbride Parish Church, has recently left the village and gone to live closer to her son and his family in Hampshire. Before Eileen left the village, she wrote down some of her life memories for our Yours Sincerely pages.

“Looking back at my life of well over eighty years has left me feeling full of thankfulness and happy memories of people I have met and places which have been my home. I was born in Stockton-on-Tees, North Yorkshire (then in County Durham). In the adjacent semi-detached house four days earlier another girl was born, Olive, my lifelong friend. All through the years as we have both moved around several times we have kept in touch and I visited her in Northallerton last year.

Being an only child, my friendships are important to me and I like to keep them in repair.

In 1939 when I was seven, my happy life changed suddenly when my father died from a cerebral hemorrhage in Nottingham where we lived at the time. He was a civil engineer with I.C.I. My mother was distraught and it was mainly thanks to relatives in Yorkshire, where we went to live, that we were able to put our lives back together again.

We settled in a small rural village, high on the hills outside Bradford and joined the Methodist Church there. I loved my Sunday School teachers and it was there that I gave my life to the Lord Jesus Christ, aged eleven.

I went to the local Grammar School and then to Liverpool University to read English Literature. There, I joined the Christian Union, learnt so much about my faith and met Peter, my husband. We graduated; I trained as a teacher, while Peter did his compulsory two years National Service in the army before joining the Civil Service Inland Revenue Department.

We married in 1957 and our first home was on Deeside (on the Wirral Peninsula). Our first three children were born there – Andrew, Elizabeth and Mark. There we made many friends, especially in the local Methodist Church, before we moved to Newcastle – Under - Lyne, Staffordshire, where Catherine was born. There we had our first experience of Bible Study Groups, which have been a part of life ever since.

Again we moved on, this time back to Yorkshire for me. We settled in Ilkley, a beautiful spa town in the Dales. Peter worked in Leeds and Sheffield, and our last child, Daniel was born. The Playgroup movement, run by volunteer mothers, was just getting off the ground and I was involved as Secretary at the first group in Ilkley. We made friends in Ilkley quickly and I am still in touch with many of them. (I remember lovely Christmas parties we had in our homes, and our camping weekends in the Yorkshire Dales.)

Moving to Scotland when Peter was transferred to Glasgow 1 Tax Office was daunting but we found a home in this lovely village of West Kilbride and moved in, now with Peter's mother with us. St Andrew's Church of Scotland was very near to us so we became members. During my time here I have seen many changes in the village and in the Church. There have been difficult times

but what has emerged is a thriving village and a large lively church and I will miss them very much.

Thank you, my dear friends, for your kindness to me and my family over the years. I will keep you in my prayers.

With love

Eileen Hinde”

I think Eileen has been very modest in what she has left unsaid, and I for one will be forever grateful for her help and guidance in my life from the very beginning of my Christian walk. We give thanks for Eileen and Peter’s faithful service as Elders, and for the many ventures they took an interest in and helped to build within the church and in the village.

One particular one to mention was The Banner Group and we can give thanks for the beautiful banners that fill the walls in the church halls. Eileen was particularly thankful to Paul Selman for faithfully continuing to hang the banners and changing them through the different seasons of the church calendar.

Dear Eileen, our love and our prayers go with you, may you know much peace in your new home and continue to be blessed with lovely friendships.

Lynne Seal

NEW EVERY MORNING

(a rhyming acrostic based on Lamentations 3:22-24)

Night falls. For some, it's very dark.
Evening's stars hunker down behind cloud;
Where lamps glowed, now there's barely a spark.

Empy hearts break, black-dog heads are bowed.
Very faintly, the breeze carries someone's prayer,
Echoing its hope somebody lights a candle –
Risible weapons against a world's despair
Yet still too hot for Hell's hordes to handle.

Moonlight still dances behind its shroud
Oceans still yield their gentle luminescence
Rims of silver trim each nimbus cloud –
Nocturnal sentinels of a numinous presence.
In a few short hours the generous day will dawn
New promises will comfort those who mourn
God's mercies are, with each fresh sun, re-born.

Harry Hunter

THY KINGDOM COME



Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray for more people to come to know Jesus.

What started in 2016 as an invitation from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to the Church of England has grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer

During the 11 days of Thy Kingdom Come, it is hoped that everyone who takes part will

1. Deepen their own relationship with Jesus Christ
2. Pray for 5 friends or family to come to faith in Jesus
3. Pray for the empowerment of the Spirit that we would be effective in our witness

After the very first Ascension Day the disciples gathered with Mary, constantly devoting themselves to prayer while they waited for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Like them, our reliance on the gift of the Holy Spirit is total – on our own we can do nothing.

Our May Prayer Diary includes prayers taken from Thy Kingdom Come. Let us pray with expectation in our hearts.

See <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/> for more information about the Thy Kingdom Come prayer movement.

BLYTHSWOOD CARE REPORT

Visit of Pastor Dragisa from Serbia



On the 26th of February I went to Fullarton Church in Irvine to hear Pastor Dragisa speak about his Christian work in Serbia and the help he is given by Blythswood Care. He became a Christian in 1968 and showed a picture of a country road and hills where he used to go and pray.

He saw his work as mission, charity, after school care, camps, delivery of shoe boxes and church planting. Serbia has high poverty due to sanctions after the war and lost markets and Blythswood Care helps him to provide food for the needy.

Part of his mission involved the distribution of Bibles and New Testaments. He said during Communist Rule people were brainwashed, but he now feels people are being poisoned by false religion. It was interesting to see from the slides he showed that there was a high proportion of men in the congregation. He recognised the need for “workers for the harvest” and the “Balkan Theology Faculty” was established for training. They were also studying the “Christianity Explored” course in his church.

The After School Care was for poor children who needed additional support. They were taught Maths, Language and English and had Bible workshops and Creative Art. Throughout the year they held two camps for children from 8-15 years which promoted Christian values and was supported by Blythswood Serbia.

Over the past 15 years they have given out thousands of shoeboxes and this year they went to the South of Serbia which is the poorest part, to give them out there. There was a picture of lots of children holding up their boxes and standing out in the snow!

His three children have formed a band called "Happy Day Gospel Music" which they feel promotes the power of gospel music and sends a message through their performance. There was a slide of a VERY packed hall of young people listening to them.

Another Pastor in Serbia has a vision to reach people in a different town named Ruski Krstur.

It was great to listen to Pastor Dragisa's enthusiasm and see how he cared for his country and his desire to spread the Good News of Jesus.

Helen Ferguson

QUESTIONS

Can we really comprehend a God of love?
How He sent His precious Son from Heav'n above
To become our Saviour and our dearest Friend
And by trusting Him our lives would never end.

Do we really know our Saviour as we ought?
Do we understand the cost at which we're bought?
Of His suffering upon that cross of shame?
Of the reason why, for us, to earth He came?

Another question is do we love Him too?
Do we recognise He died for me and you?
Do we ask forgiveness as we bend our knee
To the One, who in His mercy, sets us free.

H.M.R.



Village Project Update

Last September we collected 5 boxes of spectacles from members of the congregation, visitors and from R. B MacGregor the Opticians for the Chowe Village Project, who have a UK office in Skelmorlie. The project employs a Malawian optometrist who visits the village, measures the sight requirements of those needing spectacles and from the stock of used spectacles dispenses suitable frames and lenses to the people.

Chowe is a village southeast of Lake Malawi, in the south of the country. West Kilbride Parish Church has twinned with Emazweni Church in Malala Presbytery which is in Central Malawi west of the capital Lilongwe.



Yes, the spectacles did arrive in Malawi!
We received this thank you note from the Chowe Project.

"I would like to to extend a huge thank you for the tremendous collection of glasses we received from your church. It was incredibly kind and thoughtful of you all. The glasses have now been distributed appropriately to those most in need in the Village of Chowe in Malawi. We employed an eye specialist and his team to carry out the eye testing. Things most of us take for granted in this country can be life changing for those less well off. Having the ability to see properly can be the difference of employment or complete poverty in many cases. So I really can't thank you enough for the effort you have made and apologise it has taken me so long to write but my brother has only recently delivered them to the village.

*Thanks once again
Cath Kerr*

CHURCH FLOWERS

Just a little update on church flowers. Christmas is long behind us now and Easter is already on our minds.

Our team of helpers has been struggling a bit recently as, believe it or not, a lot of us are getting older and a few of us have been unwell over the winter. Church flowers do not mean a formal arrangement so if you enjoy seeing flowers and can put them in a vase please consider joining our happy band! Many hands make light work!



Donating flowers is a lovely way to mark a special date so if you wish to do this please write your name against the appropriate date and hand in your donation to the Church office marked for flower fund (with your name and date if you wish it to be recorded .)

Thank you

Moira Mackinnon

Monthly Prayer Diary – April 2020

- Wed 1st We pray for God's continued guidance for every aspect of James' Ministry. We pray too for Anna and their boys John and Alasdair
- Thu 2nd We pray for Betsi, Mandy, Brian and Douglas as they prepare for Holy Week and Easter Services.
- Fri 3rd We pray for Carol our Session Clerk, our Elders and Team Members and all who work behind the scenes to help the smooth running of our church.
- Sat 4th Messy Church. May the message portrayed through the story and the crafts mean something special to everyone who comes. And we give thanks for those in the kitchen who prepare the lovely meals
- Sun 5th Palm Sunday. Our hearts cry out "Hosana" as we meet Jesus in worship today. "Blessed is the one who comes in the Name of the Lord."
- Mon 6th We pray for all who live in Chapleton Mains and Chapleton Road. We pray also for the congregation in Saltcoats St Cuthberts Church and their Minister Rev Sarah Nicol.
- Tue 7th May there be within this day – and within this week – quiet moments when I can rest in your presence, sit for a while at your feet, be still and simply listen. (faithandworship.com)
- Wed 8th Lord grant us simplicity of faith and generosity of service that gives without counting the cost...Lord, grant us simplicity of faith and a

yearning desire to share it.

(faithandworship.com)

Thu 9th Forgive those things we have done which have caused you sadness and those things we should have done that would have brought you joy. Lead us to the Cross and meet us there.
(faithandworship.com)

Fri 10th Good Friday. We stand in awe today as we meditate on the love of God exhibited on the Cross at Calvary, a love that is not earned and never could be

Sat 11th "... In this world of fear, I choose hope, In this world of anger, I choose forgiveness, In this world of exclusion, I choose love, In this world of distraction, I choose you..." *(Tearfund Lent Devotional, Day 46)*

Sun 12th Easter Sunday!!! "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade." (1Peter 1 v 3-4)

Mon 13th We pray for all who live in Coldstream and Corse Street. For the congregation at Stevenston Ardeer Church linked with Livingstone, and their Minister Rev Dave Sutherland

Tue 14th We thank You for the courageous and hardworking pioneer women of World Day of Prayer Zimbabwe, who taught their communities to pray, love and forgive. Blessed are the peacemakers

- Wed 15th The spread of the Coronavirus has grabbed the world's attention. In Wuhan, where it was first detected, there are around 470,000 professing believers. A Wuhan Pastor asks "Please pray for the peace of Christ to rule and reign in our hearts, so that we may be a witness to those who are without hope."
(Asialink)
- Thu 16th We pray for all whose lives have been devastated by Natural Disasters
- Fri 17th We remember all we know who are unwell at this time, waiting for test results or having treatment. We pray also for those who love & care for them
- Sat 18th We pray for all who have been called to serve You in other lands. We pray against discouragement, disappointment, fear and doubt, and ask that you will keep them safe. We remember our friends in YWAM
- Sun 19th As we meet together in freedom today, we remember Christians around the world who have to keep their faith completely secret.
- Mon 20th We pray for all who live in Corse Terrace & Corsehill Drive. Stevenston High Kirk and their Minister Rev Scott Cameron
- Tue 21st Lift up people experiencing extreme poverty in Venezuela as the political & economic crisis continues and pray for an end to the crisis. Pray for the millions of people who have fled Venezuela to seek refuge. (*Tearfund*)
- Wed 22nd We remember all who live in areas of conflict, Syria, Afghanistan, parts of Africa, Libya, Yemen India/Pakistan Iran Iraq

- Thu 23rd We remember all who are bereaved and know the pain of loss. We thank you that you understand every tear, every sigh, every fear, every longing.
- Fri 24th We give thanks for our GP Surgery, local hospitals, Care Homes, Hospices. We pray for staff shortages & increased workloads due to the Coronavirus
- Sat 25th We pray for the preparations for Keswick Ayrshire to be held in Kilmarnock next month. We pray for the main speaker Alistair Begg as he prepares
- Sun 26th Christian converts from other religions risk being killed, often by relatives. Many families lose their only breadwinner when a husband or father is martyred. We give thanks for Barnabas and other agencies who give support
- Mon 27th We pray for all who live in Crauford Avenue & Crosbie Drive. Whiting Bay and Kildonan Church and their Minister Rev Elizabeth Watson
- Tue 28th At SU Scotland, we recognize God's special concern for the poor & we are committed to reach those from areas of depravation in Scottish towns. Please pray for the work of SU in schools, holidays & special events
- Wed 29th We pray for our local school children, especially those who are taking or preparing for exams. May our schools be safe places in every regard
- Thu 30th We pray for the witness of Christians living in West Kilbride, remembering our brothers & sisters in St Brides and those who go to other local churches

Monthly Prayer Diary – May 2020

- Fri 1st We give thanks for James and Anna, John & Alasdair. We pray protection over their home, their health and their family time, their going out & their coming in
- Sat 2nd Messy Church today!! We give thanks for all the families who have attended during this past year & pray protection over them during the summer months until we meet again in September
- Sun 3rd “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer” (Acts 2v42 – 47). There is much to be enjoyed this month as a fellowship, may it all be covered in prayer
- Mon 4th We pray for all who live in Cubrieshaw Drive & Cubrieshaw Park. We pray also for the Presbyterial Group of The Guild
- Tue 5th We give thanks for Rendezvous, for good times of fellowship, We pray for the ladies who serve & the drivers who make it possible for people to attend
- Wed 6th We pray for those we know who are unwell and for those with long-term sickness and chronic pain. Dear Lord, please bring comfort & healing
- Thu 7th We remember our persecuted brothers & sisters around the world, especially those living in North Korea, Afghanistan, Somalia, Libya, Pakistan. The five most dangerous places in the world to be a Christian
- Fri 8th We pray for all who are caught up in addiction and the impact this has on family life. Lord, please set the captives free. Be their strength in times of weakness

- Sat 9th We pray for all who are living in areas of conflict, for children and for all who have lost hope of life ever being different
- Sun 10th Christian Aid Week. Father God, thank you that you deeply care for those in need. As your followers, help us to have generous hearts & to share with you in the work of caring for the needy & the oppressed. (*Christianaid*)
- Mon 11th We pray for protection on our Christian Aid collectors. We pray for the residents in Cubrieshaw Street and Cumbrae Place. Ardrossan & Saltcoats Kirkgate Parish Church. Interim Moderator Rev James McNay, Locum Mr Brian Murray
- Tue 12th We pray blessing on all fund raising activities around the country that have been planned to raise funds for Christian Aid
- Wed 13th We pray for all who are struggling financially and who need to use Foodbanks to feed their families, may those who provide relief continue to receive funding to help those most in need. (*Crossreach*)
- Thu 14th Through our street outreach & daily Drop-ins, we are able to connect with some of the most vulnerable men & women in Glasgow. Pray for wisdom to know how best to enable each individual to make progress in their lives. (*Glasgow City Mission*)
- Fri 15th Please pray for refugees in the Middle East who are asking for Bibles, that, as they read the Scriptures, God will draw close to them. Many of these refugees are Christians and have suffered or are still suffering from devastating trauma. (*Scottish Bible Society*)
- Sat 16th The General Assembly opens today. Please pray for all who will attend and for all the decisions that will be made during this coming week

- Sun 17th O High King of Heaven, have mercy on our Land. Revive your Church. Send the Holy Spirit for the sake of the lost, the least and the broken. May your Kingdom come to our nation. In Jesus mighty name. (*The Caleb Prayer. Caleb Liturgy. Ffald y Brenin*)
- Mon 18th We pray for the residents in Drummilling Avenue and Drummilling Drive. Ardrossan Park Church. Interim Moderator Rev Alan Ward; Locum Mr Andrew Bruce
- Tue 19th We pray for all who are grieving and who don't know how to move forward. Lord, please be their comfort and give them hope for a brighter tomorrow
- Wed 20th We pray for the Keswick Ayrshire event in Kilmarnock this weekend. We ask for your covering over all that will take place there. May all who attend and take part have their faith renewed and revived
- Thu 21st Ascension Day 'Thy Kingdom Come' Loving God, thank You that You gave Your Son Jesus for me, and for all people. Help me accept the love that You showed me in sending Your Son. I pray for my five friends. Please open their hearts to Your love. And teach me to love more truly
- Fri 22nd Loving God, thank You for the way You love us. Please help me by the power of Your Holy Spirit to love as You love, so that my five people will come to know You
- Sat 23rd Loving God, thank You that before we loved You, You loved us first. Thank You for my friends. Please open my friends' eyes to Your love and action for them.

- Sun 24th Loving God, I am sorry for the times when I have not loved others as You love. Thank You that before I thought of confessing, You had forgiven me. I confess all that is not right in my life today and ask for the forgiveness You so lovingly give. May this love transform my friends' lives also.
- Mon 25th Loving God, thank You for coming to find us with Your love. Please come to find my friends. We pray for all who live in Drummilling Road and Farland View. Beith Parish Church, and their Minister Rev Roderick MacDonald
- Tue 26th Loving God, help me to know You more. Through knowing You, may I show You more and love as You love. Please show Your love to my five friends – through me and others who love You.
- Wed 27th Loving God, thank You for Your costly love. Please may my five friends understand something of the strength of Your love for them
- Thu 28th Loving God, thank You for Your love from which nothing can separate us, and which does not depend on our efforts. Please reveal this love in the lives of the five people I am praying for.
- Fri 29th Loving God, please get my friends on the road where they see You running to meet them. Thank You that You welcome us with joy however far or however long we have been away.
- Sat 30th ...(be silent)... Try silent prayer for five minutes – even if it's difficult! Make a note afterwards of anything God seemed to say to you, through thoughts or feelings that came into your mind.
- Sun 31st Pentecost! Holy Spirit, thank You that You are living in me, showing me God's love and helping me share that love with others.

Monthly Prayer Diary – June 2020

- Mon 1st We pray for all who live on Farmfield Terrace and Faulds Wynd. We pray also for the congregations of Brodick linked with Corrie, linked with Lochranza and Pirnmill, linked with Shiskine Churches on Arran, and their Minister Rev Angus Adamson and Parish Assistant Mrs Jean Hunter
- Tue 2nd We give thanks and pray for James, Anna, John and Alasdair and hope they feel supported by our love and prayers. We pray for James when he has difficult decisions to make or difficult discussions to take part in
- Wed 3rd We pray as yesterday for Betsi, Mandy, Brian and Douglas
- Thu 4th We lift also in prayer, Carol, our Elders, Team Members and all who support and work behind the scenes to aid the smooth running of our church
- Fri 5th We remember our school children. The school year is fast coming to an end. We pray for school concerts & shows, school trips and school visits for those moving on. We give thanks for the good connections especially between WKPC and the Primary School

COVID-19 Update from James

Church Activities cancelled... but not Church!!

Dear All,

As the magazine was just about to be printed, things changed dramatically because of the Covid-19 outbreak. As of 17th March 2020, all church activities have been suspended following instruction from the Church of Scotland. This includes all church services, Lifegroups and prayer meetings. Our Easter Services have been cancelled.

The information from the Church of Scotland is below.

“The Church’s Covid-19 Task Group met this morning, and considered the most recent advice from the Scottish Government, issued on the evening of Monday 16th March. The Scottish Government advised that people should minimise social contact by avoiding crowded areas and large gatherings, including religious congregations, and smaller gatherings, listing areas which were of concern.”

Worship – Cancellation of Worship Services

In the light of the above, the Church of Scotland Task Group has agreed to ask, in the strongest terms, that all gatherings for worship should cease until further notice, with effect from Wednesday 17th March 2020, or earlier if possible. Other Scottish Churches are taking similar actions. This obviously includes Easter services. Some Presbyteries have already instructed this action. This will include, but not be restricted to, housegroups, meetings for youth work, and church cafes. It will still be possible for an individual to offer a livestreaming of a sermon and prayers. Sunday broadcasts of a weekly service

take place on Radio 4, and also on Radio Scotland; other radio stations are available.

Whilst this is disappointing, it seems to be necessary to prevent the spread of Coronavirus and we will do all we can in West Kilbride to make sure that we adhere to what is being asked of us.

However....

Just because we cannot meet physically, this does not mean that church does not continue. We can still pray and read our Bibles and seek after the Lord in prayer and we need to do so more than ever at this time.

We will also try to continue things 'virtually' where we can. These things are now happening:

- Sunday morning services are being recorded and streamed on our website (wkpc.church/live) and via social media (Twitter: [@WKPC](https://twitter.com/WKPC) / Facebook: facebook.com/westkilbrideparishchurch).
- Wednesday Fellowship and other prayer times will take place via Zoom conference call (we have already done several very successfully. Even Betsi joined in from Malta!). If you are interested in being part of this and have a smartphone, tablet or PC, then get in touch with James (07486882099)
- Pastoral Care will be done via telephone call or text to make sure that everyone is being looked out for.

- The UK and Scottish Governments have requested that all functions, and social gatherings including religious meetings are stopped to curtail the spread of the virus. The Church Office is closed - please use the Church office email address (office@westkilbrideparishchurch.org.uk) and phone number (01294 829902) to communicate. We will inform you as soon as permission is given to restart.

A West Kilbride Coronavirus Support Group has been set up via Facebook. Everyone in West Kilbride should have a leaflet put through their door about this. The details are given on the next page.

Please also look out for your neighbours and friends and support them as best you can at this time.

Lastly, if there is anything that I can do to help - or that we can do as a church, then please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Simply phone me, send a message or an email and I'll certainly try to help.

Yours in Christ,

James

Phone: 01294 823186 Mobile: 07486882099

Email: jmcnay@churchofscotland.org.uk

PS - In the midst of all that is happening, let us not forget that we believe that the Lord is in control. He is our Good Shepherd, the Light of the World, our Saviour and our Friend!



WEST KILBRIDE CORONA VIRUS COMMUNITY SUPPORT GROUP

Preparation not Panic

Working together to ensure that West Kilbride is supported should we be affected by Covid-19 (Corona Virus).

We understand that there are many vulnerable people in WK and that most are supported well by a network of carers, family & friends.

We want to bridge any gaps in this support should they occur during this period and can offer practical support such as grocery drops and other errands. Technical help in using online grocery shopping or social media can also be useful.

A number of us can provide PVG's if requested.



Join us on facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/197342898211500>

Email enquiries to metamorphics.ayrshire@gmail.com

We are here to support you if:

You are self-isolating or your usual support has been affected

If you are needing reassurance

We would like your help if:

You are able to offer a little bit of time to run errands?

Or offer some reassurance on the phone/text to someone alone and feeling vulnerable

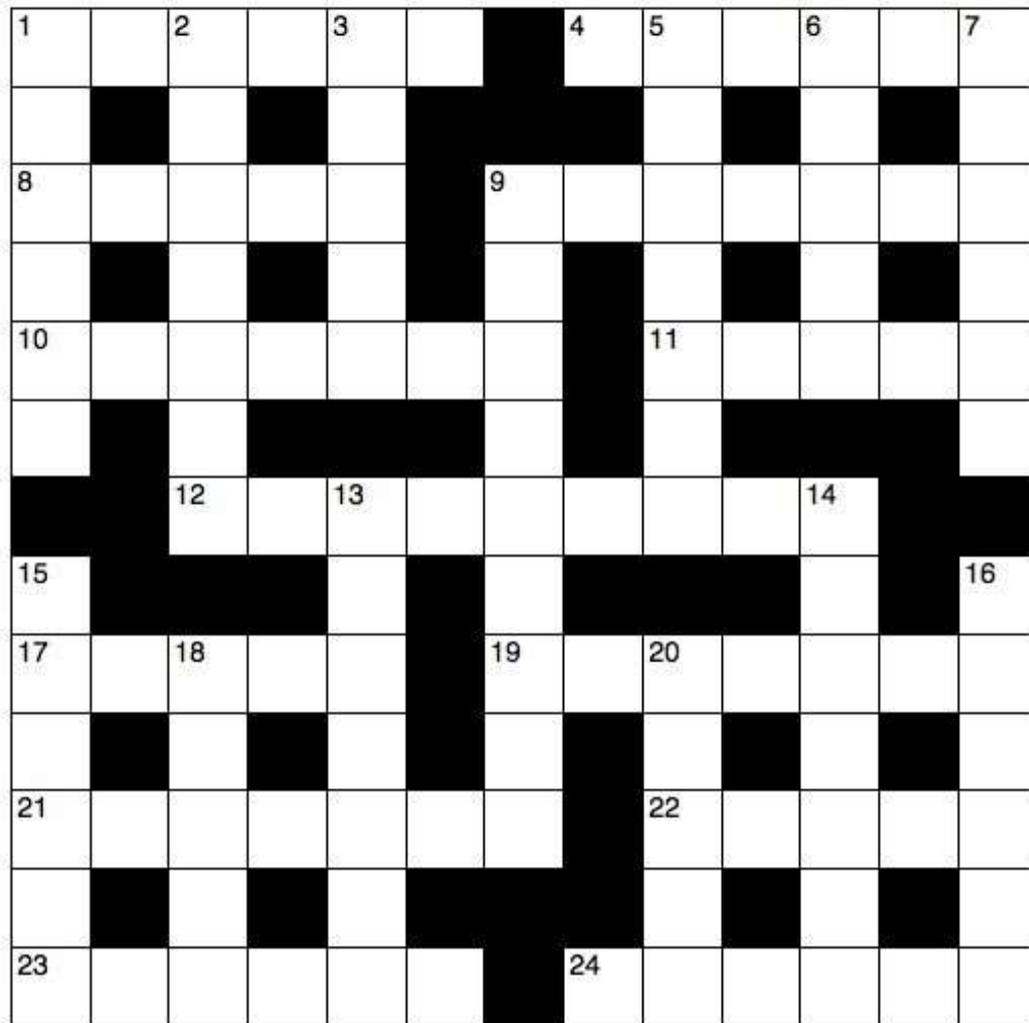
Contact

Fi Thorburn
07903 404224

Or

Karen Morgan
07992 116375

CROSSWORD



Crossword Clues & Answers

Across

- 1 Relating to the whole universe (6)
- 4 The disciple who made the remark in 8 Across (John 20:24) (6)
- 8 'Unless I see the nail marks — — hands, I will not believe it' (John 20:25) (2,3)
- 9 He urged King Jehoiakim not to burn the scroll containing Jeremiah's message (Jeremiah 36:25) (7)
- 10 Baptist minister and controversial founder of America's Moral Majority, Jerry — (7)
- 11 'Look, here is — . Why shouldn't I be baptized?' (Acts 8:36) (5)
- 12 Repossessed (Genesis 14:16) (9)
- 17 Port from which Paul sailed on his last journey to Rome (Acts

- 27:3–4) (5)
 19 'Moses was not aware that his face was — because he had
 (Exodus 34:29) (7)
 21 Roonwit, C.S. Lewis's half-man, half-horse (7)
 22 Grill (Luke 24:42) (5)
 23 'The lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the — apostles'
 (Acts 1:26) (6)
 24 'I was sick and you looked after me, I was in — and you came
 to visit me' (Matthew
 25:36) (6)

Down

- 1 Coastal rockfaces (Psalm 141:6) (6)
 2 Academic (1 Corinthians 1:20) (7)
 3 Publish (Daniel 6:26) (5)
 5 For example, the Crusades (4,3)
 6 11 Across is certainly this (5)
 7 He reps (anag.) (6)
 9 Liberator (Psalm 18:2) (9)
 13 Man who asked the question in 11 Across was in charge of all
 her treasury (Acts 8:27) (7)
 14 They must be 'worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in
 much wine' (1 Timothy 3:8) (7)
 15 The human mind or soul (6)
 16 'O Lord, while precious children starve, the tools of war
 increase; their bread is — ' (Graham Kendrick) (6)
 18 'We played the flute for you, and you did not — ' (Matthew
 11:17) (5)
 20 Bared (anag.) (5)

<p>ACROSS: 1, Cosmic. 4, Thomas. 8, In his. 9, Deliah. 10, Falwell. 11, Water. 12, Recovered. 17, Sidon. 19, Radiant. 21, Centaur. 22, Broil. 23, Eleven. 24, Prison.</p> <p>DOWN: 1, Cliffs. 2, Scholar. 3, Issue. 5, Holy war. 6, Moist. 7, Sphere. 9, Deliverer. 13, Candace. 14, Deacons. 15, Psyche. 16, Stolen. 18, Dance. 20, Debar.</p>
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Mouse Makes

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DONKEY • COLT • SAT • COATS
 ROAD • CROWD • CUT • PALMS
 BRANCHES • KING • HOSANNA
 DISCIPLES • ROOM • PASSOVER
 FEAST • EAT • DRINK • BREAD
 WINE • SON • MAN • BLOOD • CUP
 MEAL • JEWS • PLOT • KILL • COINS
 GETHSEMANE • PRAY • WILL
 BETRAY • KISS • ARREST • MESSIAH
 CHRIST • CRUCIFY • JESUS • CROWN
 THORNS • ROBE • TREE • NAILS
 CROSS • SPIRIT • DARKNESS
 TEMPLE • DEATH • LOTS • DICE
 TOMB • STONE • LINEN • BODY
 BURY • GUARD • THREE DAYS
 DAWN • MORNING • ANGEL • TELL
 HEAVEN • GOOD NEWS • LORD
 GOD • RAISED • JOY • PEACE
 PRAISE • SAVIOUR • EASTER

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