

May 2024 Magazine



*All Saints Scottish Episcopal
Church*

Drymen Road Bearsden



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Please do not contact the Rector in connection with hall bookings – the contact details for Celia, who deals with this, are above.

The cover picture: A symbol of the coming of the Holy Spirit, Whit Sunday

May 2024

Dear All,

CLEAR OFF AND DO SOMETHING!

I've always loved the story of the Ascension.

"After saying this, he (Jesus) was taken up to heaven as they watched him, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They still had their eyes fixed on the sky as he went away, when two men dressed in white suddenly stood beside them and said, "Galileans, why are you standing there looking up at the sky? This Jesus, who was taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way that you saw him go to heaven." (Acts 1: 9-11)

When I was at school we were always given half a day off, though it was supposed to be a surprise treat after we had had a service. But the festival is often overlooked. Many churches don't have an Ascension Day service but keep the celebration to the following Sunday (we are joining with churches from across the North West Region for a service on Ascension Day itself, May 9th, at St Bride's, Hyndland).

The very concept that Jesus "went up" to heaven defies modern understanding of the universe. Up where? Into outer space? The Ascension story doesn't easily fit into our thinking anymore; it's hardly referred to in the Bible and it falls on a working day. Much easier to forget all about it!

But actually we need to try and think about it a lot more, because although we might miss the fact, it's incredibly significant. When you really stop and think about it, you realise that Christ's ascension to heaven adds quite a bit to our understanding of the Christian faith.

St Augustine expressed his opinion about Ascension Day like this: "This is that festival which confirms the grace of all the festivals together ... For unless the Saviour had ascended into heaven, his Nativity would have come to nothing ... and his Passion would have borne no fruit for us, and his most holy Resurrection would have been useless." In other words, Christ's ascension is an essential part of the gospel message.

When the disciples were gazing up into the sky to catch a final glimpse of Jesus two angels told them Jesus would return. We are in the in-between time somewhere after the ascension and before Jesus' return. The Kingdom of God has come but it is not yet here in all its fullness and completeness. As we wait for God's Kingdom to come when Christ returns, we have been given the task of carrying on Christ's ministry. As we wait, we are called on to trust in the Lord –

remember he has all power and authority – he has promised his continual presence.

When those disciples had seen Jesus ascend they went back to Jerusalem where they worshipped God. Our task is to join with them and with those gathered around the heavenly throne and give glory to our ascended Lord and King who has promised his help and presence as we live in this age before his Second Coming.

The message of the angels is clear: don't just stand there – go out and do something about what you have seen and heard and believe. Don't be skywatchers – be people with your feet on the ground. Don't linger where Jesus is no longer – clear off and go and get busy!

Let's get on with it and live for Jesus carrying out the task, the ministry, he has given us to do.

Rev'd David

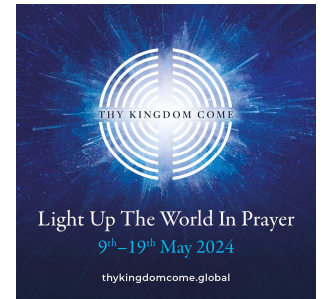
THY KINGDOM COME

Thy Kingdom Come (TKC) is a global ecumenical prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus. We hope many at All Saints will wish to join in these 11 days of prayer, which coincides with a special prayer and giving day we will be holding on May 11th.

Since it began in May 2016, God has grown TKC from a dream of possibility into a movement which unites more than a million Christians in prayer, in nearly 90% of countries worldwide, across 85 different denominations and traditions- so that friends and family, neighbours and colleagues might come to faith in Jesus Christ.

Every person, household and church are encouraged to pray during the 11 days (May 9th – 19th this year) in their own way. It is the movement's hope and prayer, that those who have not yet heard the Good News of Jesus Christ and His love for the world, will hear it for themselves and respond and follow Him. Specifically, the movement invites each and every Christian across the globe to pray that God's Spirit might work in the lives of five people who have not responded with their 'Yes' to God's call. You can read the whole booklet online by visiting:

<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/sites/default/files/2024-03/TKC%20Prayer%20Journal%202024%20WEB%20V1.pdf> There will also be hard copies of the booklet in church which can be taken away and kept.





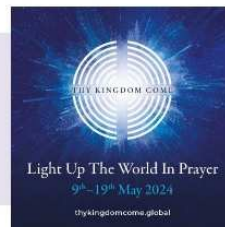
DAY OF PRAYER & GIVING FOR OUR CHURCH AND BEYOND



Praying about the future, with its possibilities and challenges, with the chance to give to our work – or offer to help!

Saturday, May 11th
9.30am – 4.00pm

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. (Philippians 4: 6)



Led prayer at beginning, end and on the hour – time for reflection – prayer resources – offer your gifts and experience to our work – come for five minutes or five hours!



GENEROUS GIVING, GENEROUS LIVING

“Each person should use whatever gifts they have received to serve others faithfully, administering God’s grace in its various forms.” (1 Peter 4:10)

What we offer to God and each other is at the heart of a new initiative we are launching at All Saints - how we offer our time, talents and treasure and how we respond to God and those around us in prayer.

“Generous Giving, Generous Living” combines the thinking behind a stewardship campaign with encouragement to be people of prayer as we look ahead together as God’s people at All Saints within this community of Bearsden and United Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway as part of the Scottish Episcopal Church.



The Vestry firmly believes that if we want to change, grow, be refreshed, and face the challenges of the future as well as deal with the practical issues of the present we need to set aside some time to pray together, reflect on where we are and where we’re going, and ask if you might be willing to increase your giving, make special one-off donations when you are able, plan to leave a legacy, or offer yourselves in some kind of service to the church – whether that be going onto a reading or prayer rota, boosting our choir numbers, serving on the Vestry, developing new work with young people, assisting at Sunday services and in many other ways.

Or you might consider becoming an All Saints Prayer Warrior, taking time out every day to pray for a particular aspect of our church life and ministry.

“Generous Giving, Generous Living” is a great phrase because it reminds us that stewardship isn’t all about giving what we have, but it’s more about living to the full and benefitting from the life God has called us to. Paul writes to Timothy:

“God richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.. do good, be rich in good deeds and be generous and willing to share... and take hold of the life that is truly life.” (1 Timothy 6: 17-19).

That’s a very clear call to leaders to teach people how to live generously. It’s easy to follow that thinking through to what Jesus says in the Sermon on the Mount: *“Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well.”*

Our initiative isn’t principally about encouraging you to unlock your wallets – it’s about unlocking your generosity and calling for a personal response where you think hard practically and prayerfully about what you give to God, to the church,

to the community of your gifts, your finances and your life. We are launching this initiative on **Saturday, May 11th**, with a Day of Prayer and Giving in church from **9.30am-4.00pm**. The day will start with a short Morning Prayer and end with Evening Prayer and on each hour there will be a short time of led prayer. In between, the church will be open for you to come and pray, using a variety of resources. You will find our new prayer sheet with this magazine or available in church to help you, there will be other printed material to use as a springboard to prayer, you may wish to light a candle as a symbol of your prayer, or you may wish to be quiet and listen to what God might be saying to you.

There will be an opportunity to make a financial donation to our church work – we welcome anything, big or small – and there will be paper available for you to let us know your name and your interests or experience and if there is anything you feel you might be able to offer practically to us as a church.

It's all about looking beyond the present, and looking beyond how you present yourselves and what you present to God and others. Is it your desire to do good with what God has given you in terms of your wealth, your precious time or your talents? Is it our desire as a church to do good with what God has so graciously provided? Whatever the Lord has entrusted to us, can we say that we are using it to do good? If we use our resources to invest in the lives of others and to advance the gospel, we are living life to the full and storing up treasures in heaven. When we use our resources to honour God, not only are we laying up treasures in heaven for ourselves, but we also point others to Christ. In the process we experience a more rewarding and fulfilling life on this earth.

Let's not be shy about it – yes, part of the message is about money and financial wealth. We do need to raise money just to pay our bills, to pay the Rector's stipend, to look after our buildings, to develop all aspects of our ministry and more but that isn't the full story. The bigger picture is about encouraging everyone to give and live generously as part of who we are as Christians and as members of All Saints and as part of the Church in Bearsden and beyond.

"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land." (2 Chronicles 7:14)

Whether you can come for five minutes or five hours on **May 11th**, please do make an effort to be part of this important event, as we seek to undergird our hopes and plans with prayer, seeking to give and live generously in all things and striding out in God's name with confidence and hope. Giving and living a generous life isn't just about what we give and how we live but about experiencing the fullness of life that our generous God gives to us.

Revd David

NEW WEEKLY SERVICE

Following the Vestry's decision to hold a prayer and giving day on Saturday, May 11th (see article on the previous pages in this magazine) we have also rethought our plans concerning midweek services.

As was noted in the April magazine there has been a tradition of holding a Wednesday morning Communion service, and since Covid this had become a service on the first Wednesday of each month at 11.30am.

Listening to congregational views, it is clear that this service hasn't been ideal and numbers have been small to non-existent. Many forget when a first Wednesday actually is, some couldn't come when it was just before the Wednesday Lunch Group, some didn't want to come that late when the lunch group wasn't running, some didn't like the 1970 liturgy....

We originally thought of changing this midweek service to a first Tuesday, as suggested last month, but it was then pointed out that it didn't resolve the possibility of people forgetting when a first Tuesday of the month was and that Tuesday wasn't really "midweek" anyway!

Having decided that the prayer and giving day is a significant moment for us at All Saints, and wanting to undergird all that we do with regular prayer as well as wishing to provide the best opportunities for prayerful worship, it has been decided to make the revamp more substantial.

So, the prayer and giving day will serve as a launch date for our new weekly midweek said service. This will take place on **Wednesday mornings at 10.00am**, using the contemporary 1982 liturgy, which we use for our 10.30am Sunday services. Prior to that each week, **at 9.30am**, there will be an informal prayer group meeting, giving a chance to continue praying about the church and community and beyond – this won't be a structured service, more a chance to pray as a group, probably based on subjects agreed at the start of each meeting.

It is hoped that this weekly opportunity will help more remember that it is taking place, and encourage more to come along. This will be on a trial basis during the summer and will be reviewed prior to the lunch group recommencing in September. Sunday services will remain as they are now.

Based on the May 11th "launch day" **the first of these new midweek services will be held on Wednesday, May 15th – 9.30am prayer group and 10.00am Said Communion.**

Rev David

RED FOR PENTECOST

The liturgical colour for the feast of Pentecost (**Sunday, May 19th**) is red and the various hangings and priestly vestments will be red on that day, symbolising the flames of the Holy Spirit and the blood of the martyrs. There is a growing tradition in churches worldwide for members of the congregation to come along wearing something red on that day and we are encouraging it at All Saints! Be imaginative to celebrate this exciting church festival – you could wear red socks, a red top, a red buttonhole or something else!

THE PROPERTY GROUP

At April meeting of the Vestry it was agreed that the Property Group be established which, in common with many other charges, allows the job of Property Convenor to be shared among a group instead of having to be the responsibility of just one person.

This Group will look after the three properties that the Church have, namely – Church, Hall, Rectory and the grounds perimeters.

The Group membership comprises of several members of the Congregation who will take forward the differing aspects of looking after our property as identified and remedial work required. The Group will meet infrequently, as required and will report to the Vestry appropriately.

The membership of the group is:

David Hamblen, Andrew Long, John Harrington, Celia Fisher and Halls as required, John Mackenzie. Should any member of the Congregation who feels they have skill/s to assist the Group and wish to volunteer please let Susan know

The immediate focus of the group will be:

- a) Church: Bell Cote which has a leak.
Stained Glass window above the Altar – timber frame is eroding.
- b) Hall: Heating, boiler issues. A great deal of work has been done on this problem and we are extremely hopeful that has been resolved.
- c) Rectory: a number of significant areas of concern have been addressed there are still a number that will need attention and action.
- d) Wall with neighbours- this is ongoing and the neighbours are liaising with us.

We will be calling on advice/help/support from the Diocese and Provincial Offices. The Property Group will update the Congregation via the magazine as appropriate.

Susan Gray, Property Convenor

VESTRY NOTES 8 APRIL 2024

- The heating in the halls has now been restored.
- Susan Gray has agreed to become Property Convenor.
- An audit of Church keys is being undertaken.
- It was agreed that the Flower Festival would be held on the same day as the Bearsden Festival, set for June 15/16. Details have yet to be confirmed (update: it has been decided to hold the Bearsden Festival from June 21-23, but we are going to hold the Flower Festival and related activities over the previously agreed weekend of June 15-16.)
- There will be a meeting to confirm the Alternate Lay Representative on 28 April.
- John Brooker has agreed to restore the Foodbank and continue to support Drumchapel.
- PVG forms will shortly be made available in the Church.
- A Prayer and Giving Day will be held on 11 May. Details are elsewhere in the magazine.
- Revd. David is looking for volunteers to serve/administer the chalice in the Communion Service.
- A new weekly midweek service and prayer group will be launched in May while the Wednesday Lunch Group is inactive.
- Next meeting: **Monday 13 May**

Brenda Hadcroft



SUNSHINE BAGS ARE BACK!

You will all remember the Sunshine Bags. A great Fund Raiser for the Church. Originally started by Jean (and her late husband Alex, from an idea of Jean's Mother). A superb, easy, and straightforward way to give thanks for our Church, for the Sunshine and for the Happy Events we experience throughout the summer months. Or just to say Thank You!

The bags will be available **from Sunday 5 May** in the basket at the back of the Church. Please take one and every time you feel that recognising something special or not in your life pop a coin in the bag, *We would prefer no bronze or 5p coins please.*

Spend the summer filling your bag and when Autumn comes just return your bag on Harvest Sunday at the beginning of October. We will let you know the total

sum we raise in the November Issue of the Magazine. Any questions just ask any of us.

Many Thanks

Jean Stirling, Ann Caie Susan Gray

OUR DRUMCHAPEL LINKS

Recently I read that there are now more foodbanks in the U.K. than there are McDonalds restaurants and that the government's Household Support Fund, to which many foodbanks have access and rely on greatly, is to end in September.



Is it perhaps time that All Saints thought about giving our foodbank donations a shot in the arm? The box is lying empty at the back of the church and we have long-established associations with Drumchapel, who were over the moon to receive our Harvest donations last year. I have therefore approached the Vestry who have given me the go-ahead to see if we can revive our foodbank donations with an aim of sending these to our Drumchapel friends.

Foodbank donations everywhere have fallen off the edge of a cliff at a time when there is greater demand than ever before. The belief that somebody with a car, a television set and a mobile phone cannot be a victim of modern-day poverty is just so wrong. There many, many reasons why referrals are made.

Please let's see what we can do at All Saints. Despite the cost of living increases we have a proud and long tradition of generosity and open heartedness. If you can put something in the box at the back of the church then a great big "Thank You".

There is a list on the noticeboard in the Drymen Hall of the items needed so much. Non-perishable items, tinned goods, long-life milk and fruit juice, the list goes on but as long as the items are in-date and unopened they'll be accepted gratefully. Philip and Jenny make regular donations to the East Dunbartonshire foodbank and tell me that teabags, coffee and biscuits are always especially appreciated. I know that others in our congregation also give regularly whenever and each time they do a supermarket shop. If you are able to make a donation then it would also be a huge help if it could be in reuseable supermarket bag, simply to make life a great deal easier at the foodbank and to make that trip as much as possible like a normal supermarket shop for the individual. People are referred to foodbanks for so many reasons so why make it an indignity?

Your donations will make an enormous difference. As a congregation we have the ability to make a real difference to the running and success of the Drumchapel foodbank and we could achieve this simply by popping an item into the box at the

back of the church. I have the time, the energy and the boot-space to deliver these to donations to Drumchapel. To do so on your behalf will be a privilege.

John Brooker

NOTICE FOR THE BOOK STALL

Just to let you know we welcome more books for the above as we now seem to have some empty shelves!!

Many Thanks

Jane Lewis and Mary Stott



CHRISTIAN AID COFFEE CONCERT - SATURDAY 18 MAY 11.30

Royal Scottish Conservatoire students are performing operatic arias and ensembles from favourite operas at Bearsden Cross Church on **Saturday 18th May**. They will not be receiving more than their expenses and so the net takings will be more than usual and all will go to Christian Aid. There will also be home baking and coffee included in the ticket price.

Tickets are £12.00 for an adult (free for children accompanied by an adult) and are available on the door – cash only. This should be a great concert and a perfect way to support Christian Aid.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 12TH-19TH MAY

There will be Christian Aid envelopes in the pews in church from Sunday 12th – Sunday 19th if you would like to give.

I have had some offers from people to deliver CA leaflets for which I am most grateful. However, All Saints have 500 to distribute around the Mosshead area, so if anyone else can help I would be delighted! I will put the leaflets at the back of the church the week before, with your name on and the street/streets where they need delivering. As in previous years there is no return trip needed so it is not an arduous task especially if we get some decent weather.

Thank you in advance

Celia

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER EVENTS

The Passion

On Tuesday evening of Holy Week Jean Stirling and I were pleased to attend the enactment of "The Passion" by the Oxford-based group LAMPS at New Kilpatrick church. We were delighted to be joined by Gioia and Ellen. Janet was also in attendance for that performance and the thought passed through my mind that she would nobble one or all of us to write something for the church magazine! My instincts proved to be spot-on. (Editor's comment: daughter Eleanor taught me the Navy expression 'volun-told')

The LAMPS Collective performed the drama of The Passion from the perspectives of Peter, Mary Magdelene and the Roman centurion named Marcus. They performed at New Kilpatrick some five or six years ago when Jean and I first saw them. The production is in a contemporary style with props and scenery consisting of just three wooden boxes, one for each participant to sit or stand upon. The person performing the part of Mary Magdelene had an excellent singing voice and this entire enactment was, quite simply, riveting. The events of Holy Week were faithfully represented and whilst the severing of the ear of Malchus, the high priest's slave, was noted, I was not aware that the tearing of the curtain in the Sanctuary of the Temple was mentioned. It really didn't matter, not at all and thankfully we were spared the detail that the Roman soldiers broke the legs of those who were crucified with Jesus, as is noted in John's Gospel!

I feel that we were privileged to see this performance at Bearsden. LAMPS have also performed at Edinburgh, Stirling and St. Andrews and they were going on to appear at other venues in Glasgow. My plagiarism will, I'm certain, be pardoned when I add that LAMPS is an acronym which stands for "Love, Action, Music, Poetry and Stories; a group who seek to inspire, challenge and entertain".

Will I attend another enactment should LAMPS perform again in Bearsden? Most definitely. Will Jean accompany me? I believe that she will and I very much hope that she does. Take my word for it, this is something that is not to be missed.

Jean Stirling and John Brooker.

Maundy Thursday and Good Friday

We had a moving Maundy Thursday service this year. It featured the long reading of the Passion according to St Mark. Members of the congregation took the various parts of Jesus, the Narrator (Mark), Peter, Judas, Pilate and the congregation read out the Crowd parts. This made the scene more dramatic and effective, especially when the congregation cried out "Crucify Him!". Apart from the specific prayers for Maundy Thursday David performed the Washing of the

Feet ceremony with two members of the congregation. After the communion the chancel was swiftly cleared of everything: candles, crosses, altar coverings, and the aumbry was left open, leaving a bare and empty scene which was very dramatic. David's sermon can be found at <http://bearsden.church.scot/sermons>

We were joined at the **Good Friday** service with members of the New Kilpatrick congregation and their minister, Rev Roddy Hamilton, along with Rev Dr Kevin Francis and Rev David Guest. Susan Harrington kindly played the organ, while Esther played on Maundy Thursday. The Good Friday service was called "The Way of the Cross". I found the service very moving in a church void of all ecclesiastical trappings. There was time to reflect in silence, beginning with "On that day the world changed...and love lay there with life poured out dead with injustice...". There were well-chosen readings of poetry and prose based on the crucifixion, Bible readings, hymns and prayers, but possibly the most moving parts were the periods of silence. A fitting time of meditation at the hour of Christ's death.

Graham Caie

Spring and Easter at Abbotsford

Residents and staff at Abbotsford Care Home celebrated the joy of Spring when Revd David took a service there just before Easter.



He had been invited to help mark the joy of the season and the service included hymns, readings, and a short talk. Many of the residents joined in when David started reading Wordsworth's poem Daffodils, saying they remembered learning it at school and they enjoyed seeing a bright vase of the flowers, which also prompted them to talk about gardens and days out. They were accompanied in prayers by "Benjamin the praying bunny!"

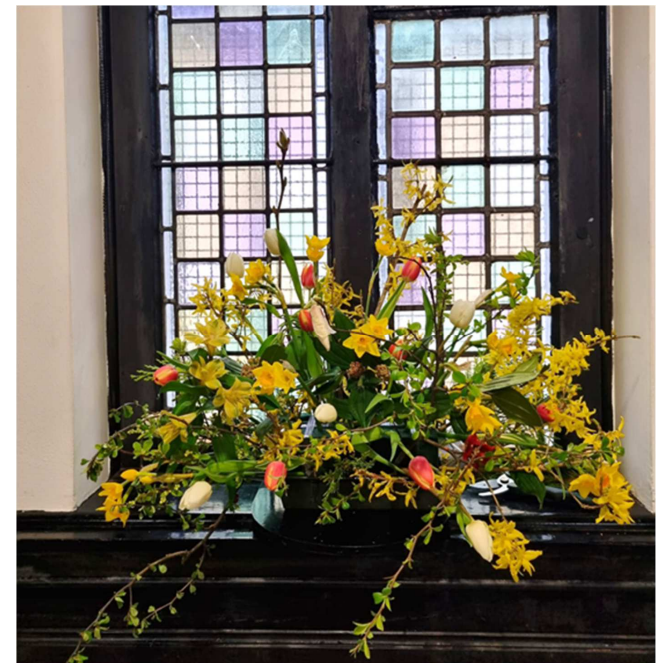
Revd David is delighted to have forged links with the home and has been along on a number of occasions, including the chance to take seasonal services during the year.

EASTER FLOWERS

As ever, the Church was beautifully decorated to celebrate Easter, with many thanks to Ann Caie's organisation and her amazing team of flower arrangers. Some photos of the displays follow.

A note from Louise

When Mum left a gift to the church in her Will she asked that it be used to fund the flowers for Festivals and special occasions. She would have loved to see how wonderful the church looked on Easter Sunday. In her memory, I thank you.





ASSOCIATION OF BEARSDEN CHURCHES (ABC) EASTER SONGS OF PRAISE

Westerton Fairley Memorial Parish Church again hosted the ABC Songs of Praise service on Easter Sunday evening. We were welcomed by their minister, Christine Goldie, who told us that after the service we must eat all the bountiful supply of delicious cakes they had provided. The Opening Prayer was led by Alan Hamilton, minister of Killermont Parish Church.

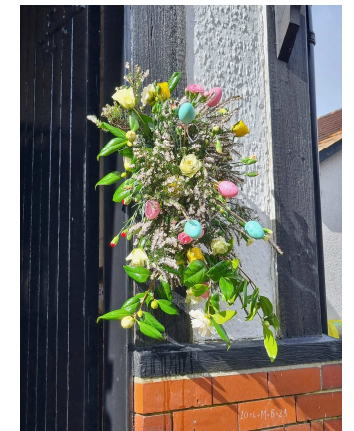
The hymns had been chosen by representatives of six of the ABC churches. Ellen MacDonald from All Saints chose the first, *“Jesus Christ is Risen Today, Alleluia”* and Celia spoke about why it had been chosen and its meaning to Ellen and herself. *“All Heaven Declares”* was chosen by a member of the Killermont congregation who used to attend services in a church building in Aberdeen shared with another denomination, perhaps looking forward to the amalgamations of many of the Bearsden congregations and, retiring within the next couple of months, Christine Goldie was invited to choose and speak about one of her favourite hymns (*“This Joyful Eastertide”*). Celia and I learned a couple of new hymns, one of which, *“Look Forward in Faith”* written by Andrew Scobie, the minister of Cardross parish church for 45 years, has been found to be very comforting by the wife of the late treasurer of the ABC.

Father Joe Mackle from St Andrews closed the service with the final prayer and blessing before we retired to enjoy the cakes. Thanks to Westerton church and everyone who was involved in the service. As on previous occasions, this Songs of Praise was a true celebration of a joyful Eastertide.

Celia and Penny



All Saints
entrance





EASTER DAY 2024

Easter Day Service

The Easter Day service was a very happy and uplifting experience, thanks to David being so welcoming and inspiring. The ladies in the Flower Group did a magnificent job this year – as always – decorating the entire church including the front porch. Images of the flower arrangements can be seen on previous pages. We had a full congregation with quite a number of children. David addressed the children on a number of occasions and made them feel very welcome; they helped with putting the flowers on the cross and we all sang 'Happy Birthday' to Mayuri Caie who was seven on Easter Day! David said he'd shout out "Hallelujah. Christ is risen!" on random occasions throughout the service and asked the congregation to reply: "He is risen indeed. Hallelujah!". There was a special liturgy for Easter Day and David preached, as ever, a thoughtful and uplifting sermon, based on St Mark's Gospel which ends with the image of the empty tomb. After taking communion we were encouraged to place flowers on the large wooden cross which the flower ladies had covered in Oasis and greenery. After the service Trevor Stack carried the heavy cross to the front gate where it will remain for a few weeks. Then the children – and some of the chocaholic adults – were given bags of small Easter eggs to take home. Altogether a joyous occasion!

Graham Caie

The editor overheard one small boy wishing the service could go on for longer! He had been a delightfully vociferous participant. Some of the teenagers had an interesting discussion about the meaning of the empty tomb – they had all been listening to the sermon!

ORGAN NOTES

You may remember that we had the Swell organ repaired last April by Paul Miller our organ tuner. This year I am attempting to repair the Great organ in stages. The Great organ are the pipes on show at the front of the instrument which makes it an easier task to access.

Last month, John Brooker and I stripped down the pipes and took off the top boards from the sound-chest on a Tuesday morning which allowed me to come back Wednesday afternoon to repair and glue up the faulty pipe motors. On Thursday morning John joined me again to put it all back having first checked that it was working OK; imagine my despair when during Esther's last voluntary on Passion Sunday one of the repaired motors broke again causing a very loud syphon which persisted until the organ was turned off!

The photos show the pipes removed and the central part which shows the five small bellows (one for each stop) which allows the air pressure into the stop channels.



All the pipes removed and laid out on the chairs



The five small bellows

I will keep trying until all the faults are repaired but it may well be a case of two steps forward followed by one step back as on Passion Sunday, so please be patient. We should get there in the end, God willing.

John Harrington

READ... MARK... LEARN — PART 1

Many of the congregation were interested in hearing the Easter story as told by Mark on Easter Day, not least the sharp and unusual ending to the gospel.

I have always rather liked Mark's gospel. I think a lot of it is because of my journalism background, as Mark writes in an informative, condensed and action-packed way. But I also recall fondly actor Alec McCowen's brilliant and gripping one-man stage performance of the Gospel According to Mark using the Authorised Version, which I had the chance to speak to him about when he appeared in a summer season at Chichester, and he told me what a superbly crafted piece of drama it was.

Most biblical scholars agree that the Gospel of Mark was written by John Mark, whom the Apostle Peter affectionately calls "my son" in 1 Peter 5:13, though the Bible doesn't identify the author. Because of their close relationship and many internal clues, we can surmise that the Holy Spirit used Peter's first hand accounts in shaping this gospel. An outline of the events in Mark's Gospel compares very favourably with an outline of Peter's sermon to Cornelius in Acts 10:34-43. One of the early church fathers, Justin Martyr, who wrote about A.D. 150 in Rome, confirmed that Mark recorded Peter's recollection of events.

It was probably written between A.D. 64 and 70 (though some think it may even be as early as A.D. 50), to a mostly Gentile audience. Mark likely wrote from fast-paced Rome, which may account for his approach, driving the action on breathlessly. In any case, Mark is anxious to unveil to us who Jesus is, what His mission was, and how we are to respond to Him.

In the first eight chapters, Mark focuses our attention on the power and authority of "the Son of God" who performs many mighty works. The second eight chapters reveal a Jesus with no less authority, but who is determined to take the lowly route of suffering and death, in order to fulfil His saving mission. As to our response, Jesus calls us to "repent and believe the good news" (1:15) and to endure suffering along with Him.

Mark is a "busy" book. In this Gospel, Jesus seems the busiest, moving from one event to another quickly. The word immediately occurs more than 40 times in Mark. We see Jesus as a servant busy meeting needs and busy being God's Messiah.

Mark (who is also called John-Mark in passages such as Acts 12:25) was a "failure" in ministry as pictured in the book of Acts with Paul (Acts 15:36-41). His relationship with Paul was restored in the end (2 Timothy 4:11). Like Mark, Peter

knew what it was like to be a "failure" in following Jesus when he denied Him three times, but he was also restored in the end. Another indication of Peter's influence is the vivid, eyewitness detail of this Gospel.

Many believe Mark to be the first of the four Gospels written, and that it was written in Rome. Mark was not one of the twelve disciples. Perhaps the only mention of him in the gospel is a shadowy one in Mark 14:51-52 - it is very likely that he was the youth wearing a linen cloth at Jesus' arrest because only his Gospel mentions this incident which occurred after all the disciples had already fled. It has also been suggested that Mark could have been the young man at the tomb, mentioned in 16: 5. As a youth, Mark may have been part of the larger group that followed Jesus.

An indication that Mark wrote his Gospel for the Roman mind is that he uses more Latin words than any of the other Gospels: for example, centurio (15:39), quadrans (12:42), flagellare (15:15), speculator (6:27), census (12:14), sextarius (7:4), praetorium (15:6).

Mark is often said to be the most translated book in all the world. One reason is because it is the shortest Gospel (and can be read easily in one sitting – why not try it?!); but the other reason is because this Gospel was written for people unfamiliar with first century Judaism.

Mark is mentioned on ten occasions in the Bible using either his Jewish name of 'John' or his Roman name of 'Mark'. He lived in Jerusalem and was a cousin of Barnabas. You may remember that Mark accompanied Paul and Barnabas on their first missionary journey from the church in Antioch (A.D. 46), but left them prior to the completion of that journey (Acts 13:13). Paul and Barnabas had a significant dispute over whether to allow Mark to re-join them (Acts 15:37-39). Later in Paul's life, he and Mark had been reconciled. By A.D. 60-62, Paul complimented Mark as a fellow worker (Col 4:10, 11; Philemon 24). Paul asked for Mark's assistance while he was in prison (2 Tim 4:11).

Evidently, Mark enjoyed significant contact with the leaders of the Jerusalem church. For example, Peter announced his miraculous jail escape at the home of Mark's widowed mother, Mary (Acts 12:12). Mark also provided assistance to Peter (1 Pe 5:13). Mark records 18 (out of 35) of Jesus' miracles - proportionately more than any other Gospel) but only four of His parables (4:2-20, 26-29, 30-32; 12:1-9) and one major discourse (13:3-37)

Over a third of the narrative is devoted to the events of Passion Week. Next month I'll look at more of the context of the Gospel and at that mysterious final chapter, which ends so abruptly.

Revd David

Life
Charlotte Bronte
1816-1855

Life, believe, is not a dream
So dark as sages say;
Oft a little morning rain
Foretells a pleasant day.
Sometimes there are clouds of gloom,
But these are transient all;
If the shower will make the roses bloom,
O why lament its fall?

Rapidly, merrily,
Life's sunny hours flit by,
Gratefully, cheerily
Enjoy them as they fly!

What though Death at times steps in,
And calls our Best away?
What though sorrow seems to win,
O'er hope, a heavy sway?
Yet Hope again elastic springs,
Unconquered, though she fell;
Still buoyant are her golden wings,
Still strong to bear us well.
Manfully, fearlessly,
The day of trial bear,
For gloriously, victoriously,
Can courage quell despair!

My childhood home was only a few miles from Haworth, the home of the Bronte sisters, and it was a frequent destination for summer school trips. When I went to secondary school, I was made to learn the first eight lines of this poem which

have stayed with me for over sixty years and recently came to mind because of our very wet weather.

Charlotte Bronte, who is most famous for her novel Jane Eyre, wrote this lovely, gentle poem in 1846 published under her pen name Currer Bell. Her life was one of frequent terrible tragedy and sorrow, and yet it is a poem which counsels optimism and hope at every stage of life.

In the first stanza she persuades us that rainy weather is not so bad after all. It doesn't last long and anyway it makes the roses flower. So, why be sorry about it? In the second short stanza she counsels us to enjoy the good times in life as they fly by happily but all too quickly.

In the final long stanza the rain in the first stanza has become a metaphor for all the sad things which will befall us in our lives but Bronte clings joyously to hope which 'elastic' and 'unconquered' comes on 'golden wings' to support us. She concludes by saying that we must bear our trials bravely for, in spite of all she suffered in her own short life, she still believes that courage will always defeat despair.

Brenda

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERMON

As several people present had appreciated the Rector's sermon at the Maundy Thursday Sung Eucharist, it has been suggested that it should be available on the website. The Rector began:

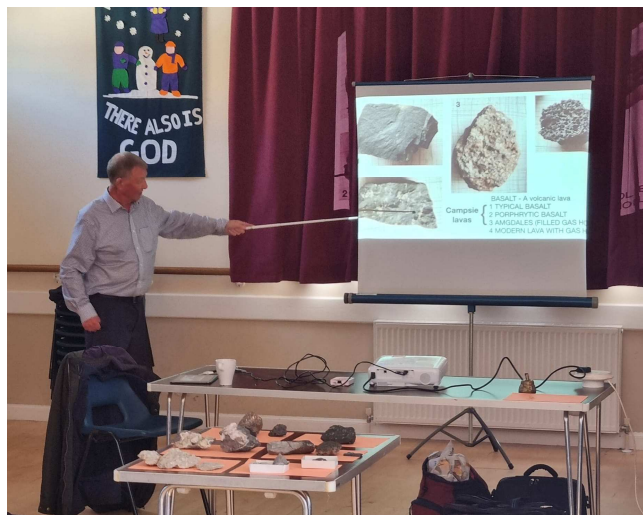
Lord, who on the night before your passion took towel and water and washed the feet of your disciples: give us understanding of what you have done, and teach us to follow the example of your humility, that by love we may serve one another for love of you. Amen.

And ended with a challenge:

..., there wasn't anything very glamorous or exciting about washing a dozen pairs of hot and sticky feet before a meal. But Jesus did it, and then said, "You are to do as I have done for you."

And that is indeed a command – a new commandment, the Mandatum Novum that gives Maundy Thursday its name. A command directed at the people who meet in Christ's name and share bread and wine at the Lord's table. And maybe if we heard that command and did something about it more often, we would begin to understand more about what Christ's unconditional and great love for us is all about.

The whole sermon can be found on the website:
<http://bearsden.church.scot/sermons>



WEDNESDAY LUNCH GROUP THE 2023-2024 SEASON

The editor has asked us to summarise the 2023-24 season of the Wednesday Lunch Group (WLG) to give magazine readers an idea of what we do, and how the weekly event is organised. So here are some relevant facts and figures:

There were 27 separate lunches held during the season just completed, 14 before Christmas, starting on 20th September 2023, and 13 after Christmas from 17th January 2024. As Easter was early this year, we met again three times after the holiday, finally completing our programme on 17 April. We generally do a quick count of the numbers attending, and this year obtained a figure of 556 lunchers on the 22 days we recorded their number, or 25.3 per week. The maximum number of attendees was 50 at the Christmas party on 13 December.

As regular attendees will know, our expenses for food and tableware are covered by donations from the lunchers. However, they are invariably generous and the money we collect always exceeds the expenses. During the year just finished, total donations were £2888 (bolstered by special collections on particular days) and expenses were £993. This enables us to make significant donations to charity. At the Christmas Party we were able to give a cheque for £1000 to the Chief Executive (Douglas Wilson) of the Glasgow Children's Holiday Scheme which we support regularly at Christmas time. In addition, as usual we collected toys and other gifts for the GCHS families, which Douglas was able to pass on before

Christmas. In the post-Christmas period, the tradition is that we support an overseas charity. In 2023 we sent the surplus to the Disasters' Emergency Committee Turkey/Syria earthquake appeal. In the year since, DEC have not launched any further major appeals, but their collection for Turkey/Syria is still open. If readers have any alternative suggestions, please let us know; otherwise the donation of the remaining £964 will go to DEC.

An important element in our programme is the special events which are held at regular intervals throughout the year. This year we have had two illustrated talks, both after Christmas. The first was by our Rector, describing his long term association with the theatre as critic and performer. The second, which closed our programme in April, was a (virtual) field trip to examine the geology of the Campsie Fells, given by Mike Keen one of our regular attendees. Both talks were copiously illustrated. There were two flower days during the year, one just before Christmas in which lunchers were invited to put together a table decoration for the festive season, and one just before Easter to arrange spring flowers into a suitable display. All material was supplied for both, and both were extremely popular. In addition in November we held a Cake Sharing day and, later in the month, a Christmas Gift sale with proceeds going to the GCHS.

Of course, the Wednesday lunches only succeed because of the band of regular voluntary helpers who set out and lay tables and collect them up afterwards, who make the soup and the sandwiches, who bake the cakes which are a great feature of the lunches, and who wash up afterwards. About nine people volunteer to help each week from a pool of about twice that number. Without the involvement of these stalwarts, there would be no Wednesday Lunches,

All being well, the Wednesday Lunch Group will start again in September 2024 – details will be circulated nearer the time.

Brenda Hadcroft & Andrew Long

A Walk in the Campsies by Mike Keen

At the final lunch this season we were treated to an excellent talk by Mike on the geology and history of the Campsies. Most of us have enjoyed walks on the fells, up Dumgoyne and in Campsie Glen, so it was fascinating to hear the background to their formation and subsequent development over the millenia. Mike had rock samples on display showing the variations of those found in lava. I have always had trouble visualising geological time scales but Mike explained the landscape evolution clearly, especially the different levels of lava as experienced above and below the Blane valley. I was sad to hear that the waterfall walk is no longer possible as I have fond memories of scrambling up and down with small children.

Mike also talked about the industries that were found above Lennoxton. These were all early nineteenth century: an Alum works, used in fixing dyes to fabric, coal mines, and a lime kiln with associated limestone quarry.

His walking tour ended with a nice cup of tea at Sonas Cafe and Bistro at Clachan of Campsie. We will look with new eyes on our next outing.

Janet Stack

EDWARD AND DAVID SIMMONS ARE DOING THE KILTWALK AGAIN!



Apologies that I won't be at church on Sunday, 28th April. This is because my son, Edward, and myself are taking part in this year's Glasgow Kiltwalk. We shall be doing the "Big Stroll", starting at Clydebank, walking along the Forth & Clyde Canal to Bowling then heading through Dumbarton, along the River Leven to the banks of Loch Lomond at Balloch: A distance of some 15 miles!

We are doing this on behalf of The Sporting Aces (<https://www.thesportingaces.co.uk>), a charity which provides sport and social activities for people with additional support needs. Edward is the Sporting Aces' official spokesperson!

If you want to sponsor us then please go to the Just Giving page: <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/thesportingaceskiltwalk2024>. This should link straight through online. If that, or a quick Google of the associated keywords, doesn't work then let us know and we'll find another way!

The photo above is of us the last time we did the Kiltwalk in 2022. We hope the weather will be as good this year!

David Simmons

SERVICES IN MAY

Services will be held both in Church and on Zoom at 10.30 am
Andrew Long will provide the log in details on request.
Please remember to mute yourself during the service.

Date Sunday	5 May Easter 6 (White)	12 May Sunday after Ascension Day (White)	19 May Pentecost (Red)	26 May Trinity Sunday (White)
Celebrant	Rev David Guest	Rev David Guest	Rev David Guest	Rev David Guest
9.00am Service	Said Eucharist (1970 Liturgy)		Said Eucharist (1970 Liturgy)	
10.30am Service	Sung Eucharist	Sung Eucharist	Sung Eucharist	Sung Eucharist
Stewards	Brenda	Joyce	David	Tracey
Eucharistic Assistants	Jenny	Hanan	Louise	Graham
Readings	Acts 10:44-48; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17	Acts 1:1-11; Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53	Ezekiel 37:1-14; Acts 2:1-21; John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15	Isaiah 6.1-8; Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17
Reader	David Simmons	Mary Stott	Andrew Long	David Hamblen
Intercessor	David Hamblen	Sheena MacDonald	David Simmons	Louise Benson
After-service Coffee	Ann Pauline	Fiona Gillian	Kate Sheena	Elaine Mairi
Other events	A 9.00am Said Eucharist is held on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, using the 1970 liturgy. There will be a 10.00am Said Eucharist on Wednesday mornings from May 15th , preceded by a prayer group at 9.30am. A joint regional Ascension Day Communion will be held at St Bride's, Hyndland, on Thursday May 9th at 7.30pm. Come along on Pentecost Sunday wearing something red!			

The Rector's usual days off each week are Thursdays and Fridays. One of these may occasionally change depending on other work demands.

The Editor for the June edition will be Janet Stack. Please send articles to janet.stack@btinternet.com by **Sunday, May 19th 2024**.