

INVERKIP CHURCH NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2022





Please continue to collect your used stamps to support The National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon (NESSL) and their pastors.

In response to the financial collapse in the country, the pastors in Syria and Lebanon initiated in 2021 a scheme where they gave half of their salary to establish a relief programme as an expression of support to the neediest families around their congregations. NESSL is a partner church of the Church of Scotland. The financial situation in the Synod has affected their ability to pay pastors salaries. Despite this, pastors are reaching out to the needy in their congregations in a sacrificial way.

Please pass on your used stamps to Joyce Brown, leave them at Church Door, or in the Church Hall.

INTERIM MODERATOR



Karen Harbison

Dear Friends

Just a little letter to introduce myself to you.

My name is Karen Harbison and from 1st September 2022, I am pleased to be serving as Interim Moderator of Inverkip Church. I look forward to getting to know you and our neighbours at Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay Church in the days to come.

I am the Minister of Westburn Parish Church and live in Greenock with my husband Calum. We have two grown up children, Duncan and Eilidh and a wee dog called Albie who enjoys his walks along the Esplanade .

I have been at Westburn for the past 8 years and previously was minister of Trinity Church in Hamilton.

We are facing many changes and challenges within the life of our church and our local congregations at this time but already I have heard about work going on in Inverkip Church which enables people to support and care for each other and to share God's love in the community and I would encourage you to keep on working together in the days to come.

With best wishes

Karen

PASTORAL ASSISTANT

Lynsey Graham

As the annual Edinburgh Fringe festival comes to an end it was great to see my cousin Lorraine doing her stand up comedy act – in person and not via Zoom!

Did anyone catch Chris doing his comedy routine at the Meliora Ceilidh? My daughter Sarah has it on video for anyone who missed out!

Laughter is good for the soul, we should learn to laugh more often. Laughter lightens the load of the burdens of life. It lifts our spirits and brightens the mood.

I took part in a block of Laughter Yoga recently and although it feels silly to start with I soon couldn't wait for my weekly class. They say when we laugh there is a release of 'happy' hormones like dopamine and serotonin and reduced 'stress' hormones like cortisol. On top of these short term benefits, apparently daily laughter can improve our immune system, reduce pain, lower blood pressure and rates of depression. Its also a great way to bond with others, help you feel connected and improve well being. I remember my daughter's first laugh as a baby, it was the most wonderful sound I had ever heard! When we laugh we are full of joy, even for a moment, and God delights in that too.

Don't carry the weight of the world on your shoulders. The Lord tells us His yoke is easy and His burden light. When we submit fully and trust in Him we can leave the big responsibilities to God, find our inner child and display the joy that comes from knowing Him.

The Joy of The Lord is Your Strength (Nehemiah 8:10)

Lynsey

Mob: 07594424526

Email: lynseychurch847@gmail.com



CAFE CHURCH

In June we had a really blessed evening as we worked our way through the Biblical Parallels in the Lion King Musical story. I love to do this and have found such parallels exist in The Secret Garden, The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe and many many more of our popular childhood books and movies.

We had a break in July but in August we were joined by Rob Rawson a Mission and Development Worker from Faith Action, Church of Scotland. We looked at the Parable of the Prodigal Son through song, rhyme, a modern day re-telling and a discussion around the famous Rembrandt art work.

God's love for us is like the father in the story, it is unconditional. No matter how far away we go, we can always come back to Him. God would never hold our mistakes over us nor find fault. He is just ready to love us.

Thank you to everyone for the ongoing support of Café Church and for all who take part and come along, it really is an amazing new expression of Church open to all. Please consider joining us on the last Thursday of the month at the Wemyss Bay Station Café, you will be made most welcome.

The Christian does not think God will love us because we are good, but that God will make us good because He loves

us

C.S. Lewis

SESSION CLERK

Ewen Cameron



Well that's us into Autumn and the summer nights are drawing in.

We have had a fabulous summer with record high temperatures.

It was strange having to get the watering can out to make sure the plants in the garden didn't dry out.

We are so blessed to live in such a truly beautiful area.

We had some great news that Karen Harbison is our Interim moderator (started 1st Sep) Karen will assist us as we work through with Presbytery, a Plan for the future. We have a Congregation consultation meeting scheduled for the 22nd September at 7pm in the Church which is open to all who wish to attend. Presbytery are going to discuss what the future plans may be like in the future.

We have been very blessed with having a superb Worship Group who provide us week in week out with stimulating and enjoyable services. Previously when we have been in the position of being vacant it has been a difficult task for the Interim Moderator to ensure we had cover. We are certainly very privileged to have such good worship leaders and this has been noted by Presbytery. Morag has organised the full rota for Sundays until the end of January which is great.

We are planning on having a Harvest service on the 25th September, led by Jac.

The Remembrance service will be taken by Liz in the Church followed by Ian at the War memorial.

We also hope to start the Sunday School back up this year and hope to see many more young people attending again.

During the summer, I have been lucky to have been to lots of local favourite places. Millport and Rothesay and I also took a day trip with Rory to Mallaig via the train to Fort William. It is a spectacular train journey if you have never been on it, I thoroughly recommend it. I had mentioned I was going to the Session and Jimmy Law sent me some advice. "Sit on the left to view the best scenery. First time I was on it was with the 85th Scouts. Half a crown extra to sit in the glass topped observation car at the back of the train. Well done Luke Masterson and Ronnie Maxton"

Well, we did sit on the left and watching Rannoch Moor and then approaching Glenfinnan going over the viaduct was wonderful. There were Harry Potter fans waving the train past as we approached the viaduct. The scenery is amazing from the train and I have been to Mallaig many times by car. When we arrived, we visited Mallaig St Columba's on the Hill. It was open which meant we could have a look round. Rory was on the lookout for the sound desk which was discretely hidden away. It is a lovely Church, you get the feeling you are in a big boat with all the wooden beams. We had lovely Cullen Skink, a pint of Prawns, a couple of pints of a local beer in one of the hotels on the front. We passed the RNLi Lifeboat and their shop but unfortunately it was closed. We try to go in whenever we are in Mallaig. I said to Rory we could get some fish from Andy Race Fish merchants but he thought they would smell on the train home. We were lucky to catch the sleeper from Fort William back down which is very comfortable.

I hope you all had a great summer and look forward to the new chapter at Inverkip Church.

Ewen

TREASURER'S REPORT

Church finances are continuing to hold up well in 2022. At the end of August 2022 we had an excess of payments over receipts of £4k but we haven't claimed any gift aid or on consolidated fabric fund yet so this will be easily cleared by the end of the year.

It has been quiet over the summer months but we donated £300 to Inverkip Bowling Club from the Crawford Bequest to assist them with holding the Greenock and District Bowls Association Finals.

Thank you for your continued support of much needed items and money for Starter Packs and Inverclyde Foodbank each month. There will be a further opportunity to support the Inverclyde Foodbank at our Harvest service on 25 September 2022. I am leading worship that morning and I know you will support this charity generously as unfortunately there is a tough winter ahead for many people.

Thank you.
Jac Seggie

BADMINTON



If you fancy a game of Badminton just come along on Monday, 19 September at 19:45 to the Church Hall. Thereafter every Monday at the same time. Everyone 15 years and over will be most welcome, no experience necessary, and some rackets available. The aim is to get a wee bit of exercise and have fun.



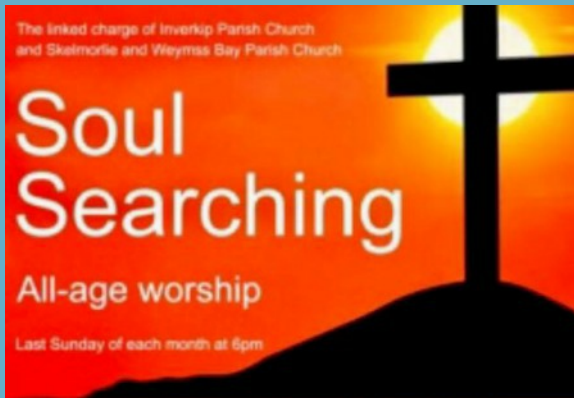
One of our members, Colleen Erskine, is taking up this huge challenge in September in support of Prostrate Cancer Awareness. Please read her story below and, if you are able, give her your support. Thank you.

"Michael is my brother in law but more like a big brother to me and truly the best Uncle my 3 boys could ask for. He has recently been diagnosed with stage 4 prostate cancer. Michael's cancer is at an incurable stage but he will receive aggressive treatment to attempt to keep his cancer at bay. Michael was a fit and healthy 53 year old before his diagnosis and still continues to run many miles over each week! He's ready for the fight of his life and has all his family right behind him to support him and do all we can to help Michael on this difficult journey. I am doing 11,000 steps a day for the month of September to raise awareness, to encourage men to get tested and to support Michael. Any amount you can donate would be much appreciated by us all. I will post my step record to my Facebook page each day .

Thank you for reading. *Colleen xx*"

<https://marchthemonth.prostatecanceruk.org/fundraising/colleens-challenge-for-prostate-cancer-awaren>





Soul Searching will be back on Sunday, 25 September and thereafter on the last Sunday of the month, alternating between Inverkip and Skelmorlie & Wemyss Bay Churches. The venue in September will be Skelmorlie & Wemyss Bay Church, usual time is 6 pm for tea and coffee and home baking, followed by a time of worship and reflection. All are very welcome.

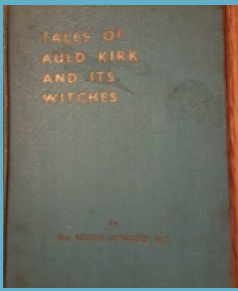
Jac, Lynsey, Morag, Ian, Siona, Muriel, Jennifer, Chris & Graham



The Guild will meet on **Monday 3rd October at 2pm** in the Bonomy room .

We will have a cuppa and a chat and decide the way forward.
Please come & bring a friend.

For any further information contact Kathleen Miller 521956



TALES OF AULD KIRK AND ITS WITCHES

By *Rev William Crawford, MC*

Continued from the previous issue:

The Lady of the Snowdrops

It will be readily admitted, by all who know it, that Inverkip is a place of much natural beauty. at every season of the year, from the early spring to the late autumn, And even in the cold and dead days of winter, there is always some spectacle of beauty, on sea or land or hill, which the eye can behold with pleasure. But to most of the folks who live in it, the springtime with its lovely snowdrops, holds a special charm, and how lovely they are, always making their appearance in the early days of February. the shoot up out of the cold and bare ground and grow in such profusion as to seem like a veritable mantle of purest snow. They are an exquisite delight to all who see them.

Now the snowdrops did not come there by themselves. They are not native to the soil, like our woodland flowers, or the far-famed Scottish bluebell. somebody must have planted them, and I can give the name of the lady who did so. She was, first, lady Maxwell of Polloc. The days in which she lived were marked by a great desire on the part of landowners to beautify their grounds by the planting of bulbs. The result of lady Maxwell's efforts are to be seen in Polloc estate today., she had, however only been married a few years when Sir James Maxwell died, and she became the wife of Sir John Shaw Stewart of Ardgowan.

As mistress of Ardgowan She continued the work, begun at Polloc, only on a more extensive scale. the whole of the high banking around the old castle of Ardgowan, stretching for more than a mile, and other parts of the policies were planted with the tiny snowdrop bulbs. The work must have entailed much type and thought and labour.

A hundred and fifty, years have past since the planting was done, and, during that time, the snowdrops have increased greatly. They now grow in countless masses. coming suddenly, after the severe days of winter, and, clothed in their pure and modest raiment of white, they never fail to bring a message of hope and cheer to all who behold them. "*chaste snowdrop, sweet harbinger of spring and pensive monitor of fleeting years*"

Thanks to Jim Brown for transcribing the text from the original publication.

FOODBANK AND STARTER PACK COLLECTION

Your continued support for these wonderful organisations is even more important now with rising costs which will hit the poor harder than ever.

Here are the dates for the September-December collections at the Church Hall or call Jean Benson (520975) for collection.

Tuesday 20 Sept, 18 Oct, 15 Nov, 13 Dec **6-7 pm**

Wednesday 21 Sept, 19 Oct, 16 Nov, 14 Dec **1-3 pm**

On these dates we can also take Newspapers/magazines for recycling by White House Products, used Medicine foil bubble packs, plus Old Spectacles and Stamps.



Foodbank - Urgent items - Tinned Fruit, Rice Pudding, Custard, UHT Milk (1L), Breakfast Cereals. Also required - Soup, Rice, Pasta Sauce, Tinned Meat, Tinned Veg, Beans, Coffee, Tea Bags, Sugar, Biscuits and Snacks.

Starter Packs

In August Starter Packs were provided to 53 homes. Within these homes were 38 single people, 15 families including 23 children.

Monthly Focus for September Children's Shower Gel, Shampoo, Toothbrushes/Toothpaste.

Items in short supply bathroom/kitchen cleaner, toilet roll, kitchen roll, soap powder and shaving foam.

Thank you for your continued support.

CHURCH HALL BOOKINGS



Can all scheduled hall users please notify me when they are not meeting. Thank you.

Joyce Brown - 01475 521215

joycekbrown@hotmail.com

If you experience any problems with the heating in the Church Halls please contact-

Douglas Vallance - 07599074579



CHURCH FLOWERS

Once again, thanks to all who contribute to putting flowers in the Church, Sunday by Sunday, and to all who help deliver them. If you would like to help by putting flowers in the Church please let me know as they are always greatly appreciated by anyone who receives them.

Joyce Brown

COUNTRY DANCING

Just don't know where summer has gone! Class re- starts Thursday, 22nd September 7.30 pm in the Church Hall

Anyone who enjoys Scottish music please come along, it is good exercise and fun!

Why not just "Try Country Dancing"
(no obligation).

Gaye McIntyre



USED GLASSES

Please continue to save your used glasses (cases not needed), plastic contact lens packaging and solution bottles which will be passed on to Specsavers. They can be handed in on a Sunday or left at the hall.

Many thanks
Joyce Brown



FAMILY NEWS

Special Birthdays

Tommy Burns

Morag Cowe

Helen Howie

Ian McPherson

Johnny Miller

Graham Robertson

Congratulations

On passing your driving test Laura
McGregor



Congratulations to all on
their recent exam results



Ian McPherson and his
Grandaughter Catriona

Congratulations on your Silver Wedding Anniversary - Moira & Drew Givens

The following Church Member has sadly passed away since the last newsletter:

Grace Allan

SENIORS KEEP FIT

We're back! This photo was taken the day of our return after the summer break, and before we got all hot and bothered. It was so good to be back and we were delighted to welcome a new member. The class is on a Friday from 10-11am in the Church Hall and if you fancy trying us out, why don't you come along or just chat to me or any of the group to hear what it's all about.

Anne Skedd



THE RURAL

Inverkip SWI (rural) starts on September 26 th at 2pm in church hall our first meeting is a social afternoon to enjoy a natter and tea We would welcome anyone who would like to come along as a member or as a visitor and we hope to have some events later to promote SWI

Our dates for this session are October 24 November 21. December 19. 2023 January 22 February. 19. March 19. April. 16



**Kate Macphail,
Secretary**

GIRL GUIDING NEWS

Rainbows are starting back Monday 5th September at 6:30pm

Brownies will restart Mid – end September

Guides will also restart Mid – end September



If your daughter is interested in joining any of the units please register their interest on the Girlguiding website; www.girlguiding.org.uk scroll down to the appropriate badge, click on that and scroll down to register, someone will be in touch shortly after.

If you would like to volunteer with any unit you can register your interest by using the same link as above, on that page there is a 'sign up to volunteer' button, again someone will be in touch shortly after.

Jenny Scott
Leader

If you have any news, pictures, comments or suggestions for the next newsletter we'd be delighted to hear from you.

inverkipchurchnewsletter@gmail.com

CUBS

Welcome to the new Term which we are sure will be fun filled for all involved.

This term we will be covering a variety of badges to include DIY, Scientist, Navigator, Air Activities, Community Impact and Environmental Conservation...to name but a few!

We have our Autumn Camp at South Newton to look forward to and our end of Term event in December will be our Christmas Camp at Everton.

Hopefully we will also have the return of our annual Remembrance Day Parade to the War Memorial.

We also have the Gang Show in November which from the beginning to end is action packed with exciting and colourful items including participation from Scouts, Beavers and Cubs. This will run from Tuesday 15 November to Saturday 19 November at the Beacon so make sure you get your tickets!!

We are always on the lookout for adult support to enable our Sections to run, so if you can spare a couple of hours per week – come and join the fun.

Yours in Scouting

Janice McAdam

Cub Section Leader

85thwemyssbaycubs@gmail.com

85thinverkipcubs@gmail.com



Scouts Back in Business

In August the Scouts were delighted to hold their first summer camp since 2019. The Troop camped at a national scout adventure centre in the Lake District for a week. For the first time that any leader can remember, there wasn't a drop of rain for the whole camp and the Scouts made the most of the sunshine. They spent the week cooking their own meals on open fires and trying out activities including powerboating, crate climbing, paddleboarding and canoeing. The braver



ones climbed high up a tree before jumping out of it to try to catch a swinging trapeze in an activity called 'leap of faith'. In a break with tradition, the camp was held later in the summer when the English schools were also on holiday. This meant that they got to meet Scouts

from down South and pick up some new campfire songs from them. On the days off activities, the group had a tour inside an old slate mine and finished the week with a trip to Blackpool Pleasure Beach. They're now home again and getting started on a busy programme of events through to the New Year including our District Gang Show, several camps, and



activities like the Scotland Vs ROI match, Amateur Radio and much more.

Andy Yarr

I. Scout @ 85th G&D

Mob: +44 7747 457 320



PROPERTY GROUP



Hmmm! It was not a particularly great summer weather-wise, but that did not stop the weeds and the grass growing ferociously in the Church grounds. The Property Group kept everything under control, however, and the place is looking neat. They have also attended to several small repairs and are germinating ideas for future improvements to the estate. I

never know what the team are going to do next!

One priority that is definitely on the cards concerns roof repairs. A bat licence is first required, however, and to that end I am grateful to Cairn Ecology for conducting surveys on a voluntary basis. Seven years ago, such surveys revealed that our maternity roost of soprano pipistrelles numbered 800. It now looks as though that has swollen to more than a thousand! If you would like to see some for yourself, look at the south-west of the roof about half an hour before sunset - the bats flit out in ones, twos or even small groups. Better, watch them swarm en masse as they return to the roost just before sun-rise. Be quick, however, as the bats will shortly be departing for the winter.

Big thanks to all the team, past and present, for keeping the church and its buildings fit and healthy. Also, to members of the congregation who additionally contribute in their varied ways. There is a culture of anonymity but you all know who you are!

Susie Gemmill

Property Convenor

AT THE BIRD TABLE

Well, it doesn't feel like three months since I last put pen to paper to write my summer contribution (what a fib! I used the laptop and typed it) for the summer edition of the Inverkip Church Newsletter, and a cracking publication it was, as always! A grand read for the holidays.

You will have guessed by my evasive ramblings that I haven't got much to say on the birding front in this issue. As I said in the last issue, summer is a quiet period, not for the birds, what with egg laying, feeding, more egg laying, more feeding, but for bird watching.

I spent a week up on the northeast coast in a small caravan site near Elgin, close to the shore with pine woods behind. It was the same location as last year and I had hoped to see Crested Tits as they are only found in that corner of Scotland. No such luck (again) however!

Just before we travelled north television channels and newspapers showed images of the Bass Rock on the east coast of Scotland. The rock is home to the world's largest Gannet colony which had been decimated by Avian Flu. Dead and dying Gannets and other species of sea birds were being washed up all along the east coast. This disease can affect many species of wild birds and can also affect domestic fowl and pet birds.



During a walk along the shore, I spotted what I thought was a white plastic bag at the water's edge, but on getting closer I noticed movement as a yellow bill and white head slowly appeared. It was a Gannet, presumably suffering from Avian Flu, and it simply turned its head to look at me but made no attempt to move otherwise. A day or so later, on the beach with the family, I came across a Guillemot, standing upright but hunched up like a Penguin, and again, making no attempt to move away as I passed by.



The situation in Scotland is extremely serious and is having a massive impact on the wild bird population, especially seabirds, and may take many years before we see a marked recovery. **Please remember not to touch dead or dying birds and keep dogs away from sick and dead birds. If you come across five or more dead birds, please report to the DEFRA helpline on 03459 33 55 77. Please be extra diligent when dealing with your feeders, clean and disinfect them regularly and be sure to wash hands thoroughly when finished.**

Hopefully things are improving and we'll be able to enjoy the winter visitors and our usual garden birds as the year progresses.

On a lighter note – the Rowan trees are looking resplendent with massive crops of ripening red berries. It's amazing how quickly they disappear when the birds decide they're ready to eat. In absolutely no time at-all the fruit is devoured by hoards of Black Birds, Thrushes and Wood Pigeons initially but, later in the season, if any berries remain, we might also see the occasional Redwing or Fieldfare.

Take care, keep safe, and enjoy your bird watching.

Dunnock

CROSSREACH

Care you can put your faith in



Crossreach Christmas Cards and Calendars are available to order now and can be viewed on the Crossreach website

Please let Jean Benson (520975) know of any items you would like to order and then we can save on postage. Jean also has a printed catalogue if you would prefer to have a look at that.

“LITTERKIPPERS”

The litter picking group – “Litterkippers” continue to meet each month to tackle the many litter issues which our community faces. If you can spare some time to help, even just for 30 minutes, please come along at one of the times below. All equipment will be provided.

Litter Pick Dates:-

Sunday 25 September 1300-1500

Saturday 22 October 1000-1200

Sunday 20 November 1300-1500



shoeboxappeal.org



SHOE BOX APPEAL



Bring hope this Christmas

Leaflets available in Church or Church Hall
**Filled boxes can be dropped off at the Church Hall
on Wednesday, 19 October between 1 pm and 3 pm**

Transforming lives through Christian care

Interim Moderator:	Rev. Karen Harbison	721048
Session Clerk:	Ewen Cameron	07394 970150
Depute Clerk:	Morag Cowe	521455
Treasurer:	Jac Seggie	529614

SERVICES

Sunday - 10am

Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday in February, June and October.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Sunday:	Creche - 10am Sunday School - 10am Soul Searching - (monthly, with S&WB Church)
Monday:	Rainbows Badminton Brownies Guides (in school) SWI (monthly) Guild (fortnightly)
Wednesday:	Scouts Cubs & Beavers (in school)
Thursday:	Cafe Church (Wemyss Bay Station Cafe/last Thurs) Country Dancing
Saturday:	Messy Church (last Saturday of the month)

Not all groups have resumed following lockdown, hopefully all should be up and running in the near future.

Website:	www.inverkip.org.uk
Facebook:	Inverkip Parish Church
Charity No.:	SC001079