

INVERKIP CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2023





The Church of Scotland



Firmly Planted -
collect your
stamps to
support Malawi
project



Help the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP) improve nutrition, improve agricultural productivity, create youth employment and mitigate the impact of the climate crisis. The CCAP project, Firmly Planted aims to establish self-sustaining tree nurseries to nurture and protect the environment and protect livelihoods for households and communities.

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

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INTERIM MODERATOR

Karen Harbison

Dear Friends

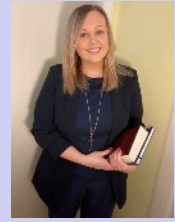
I hope that you are all well and have had a good summer with the chance to relax whether at home, away for the day or away on holiday.

It was good to see many of you at church on 27th August. We are now ready to begin a new session of church activities. Please get involved in one of the many things going on in Inverkip Parish Church - there's something for everyone. The Presbytery Mission Plan for Clyde Presbytery was agreed in June and the plan for our area is for Inverkip Church and Skelmorlie & Wemyss Bay Church to form a union, building on all the partnerships, relationships and co-operation of the past years. The Kirk Session is discussing all that involves and more information will be available for members as soon as possible. A lot of work is going on to prepare for this so please keep all those involved in your prayers.

With best wishes and every blessing

Karen

PASTORAL ASSISTANT
Lynsey Graham



I'm writing this as we approach my favourite time of the year. The beautiful colours of Autumn are just around the corner and The Fringe festival is coming to an end, after another great run, in our capital city. Praise God the exam results are in, schools are returning and all of our organisations are coming back to the halls again.



Last week Sarah and I went to see the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland's performance of Big Fish at the Assembly Rooms: a whimsical tale which brings up lots of themes around family dynamics and the end of life journey. We came away feeling very moved and also uplifted. Being very creative, Sarah was impressed by the props, scenery and amazing costumes and costume changes as the character's memory shifted between reality and fantasy.

It got us thinking, as seasons and indeed outfits change – there is one very important piece of attire that we all need to 'put on'.

The Bible tells us we are to 'put on' the Lord Jesus Christ in Romans 13:14. Paul, the writer, means we are to put on our spiritual cloak. To clothe ourselves in Jesus means not to give into temptation and sin. We hear this expression again in Galatians 3:27 and Ephesians 4:24.

We put on Christ by leaving behind our old nature and wearing the love and forgiveness of Jesus – and we wear it for all to see!

So as you dig out your warm clothes for Autumn, what could be more beautiful than putting on Christ too?

God bless you,

Lynsey

"Put on your new nature and be renewed as you learn to know your creator and become like Him" Colossians 3:10

Café Church

As always, we continued to meet for Café Church over the summer months and it was great to see some folks come along who are usually at other activities and organisations on a Thursday night.

In June we were joined by the Clydeside Singers who led us in praising God for a full hour with modern worship songs, well known hymns and a medley of gospel favourites. We expanded out into the actual station at Wemyss Bay and lots of passers-by stopped to join in.

The choir ended the night with their very own version of Highland Cathedral which, given the setting and the acoustics, was very moving for all.



We were so blessed by their enthusiasm and talent and pray that Mary and the choir will join us again in the future.

In July it was back inside our cosy café venue for a nautical themed night of all-age worship. I spoke about the Tower of Refuge in the Isle of Man and the links with the RNLI and Dr Phil Theaker spoke about the Lighthouse church in Fuerteventura. It is official – ‘Will Your

Anchor Hold?’ is such a great hymn whether played on the piano, organ or indeed the accordion!

We are lining up some other guest speakers for the rest of the year so if you have any ideas please do let me know.

Everyone is most welcome to come along and we thank everyone who makes these nights possible.

Please can you keep Café Church in prayer and specifically pray that we can continue to reach out to many in our communities who have never known Jesus as their Lord and saviour.

Thank you and God bless you,

Lynsey Graham

Pastoral Assistant

“Pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18

MEET OUR NEW PRESBYTERY CLERK

THE REVD ROBERT A HAMILTON



Robbie is currently minister of The New Wellwynd Parish Church Airdrie and has been there for 22 years. After graduating from New College, Edinburgh in 1993 he served as Probationer Assistant at Hamilton Old after which he took up his first charge in Irvine at the Relief Parish Church, Bourtreehill in 1995. As a parish minister he has continually aspired to giving folk a good experience of church and of faith - as a worship leader and pastor, enabler and encourager. This has extended beyond the immediate congregation with his involvement as a chaplain to two schools and the Air Training Corps as well as bodies such as Airdrie Citizens Advice and Airdrie Savings Bank. He has served in various roles within the Presbyteries where he has served including as Depute Clerk, Ministries Convener and Moderator. He has also served nationally continuing his support of ministers and ministers in training - the Board of Ministry, the Ministries



Council and Faith Nurture. He is currently Convener of the Registration of Ministries Committee. Ongoing training through the Study Leave Scheme has been important to him with a particular interest in Christian nurture.

Robbie grew up in Saltcoats and has been married to Carol for 32 years. They have one son Daniel who is 24 and a crazy but cute dog called Rosie. They enjoy travel both at home and abroad and are getting back into caravanning having bought a new van last year. Robbie counts as a passion music - listening and playing (attempting to play the piano). He is looking forward to getting back to regular concerts in Glasgow and is hoping to get back to choral singing again having been in various choirs since schooldays including the Phoenix for a short time.

Robbie is looking forward to this new chapter and hopes that his experiences of church and community as well as his style of ministry which seeks to encourage and enable will stand him in good stead.

CLYDE PRESBYTERY

SESSION CLERK - Ewen Cameron

This year for me has been spent thinking and planning for the future both in the Church and personally.

For Inverkip Church the Union with Skelmorlie & Wemyss Bay, I believe it will be a great opportunity to bring together the talents of both congregations to further our worship with God in the community.

I have been very impressed with the breadth and variation in the worship that we have had in the Churches, at Cafe Church and Soul Searching. I have no doubt that we are in a good position for the future.



Karen Harbison, Rita Carmichael and myself met at the start of the week to start looking at the key areas for the Union and areas that we will be focusing on with the Sessions and Liaison Groups. We are awaiting a further visit from two Presbytery members to provide some more guidance.



My latest trip to the West coast was with Rory visiting Arisaig, Skye, Isle of Raasay and Fort William. We had a fantastic week with great weather and took the Calmac ferry to Armadale and then the Kylerhea ferry back to Glenelg. It is the last manually operated turntable ferry in the World and my first time on the short ferry crossing. Thoroughly recommend for anyone who has not had the chance to take this crossing.

When we attended the Kilmore Church for the Sunday service we were getting a little worried there were not going to be many attending. We had arrived 25 minutes early and the Session clerk was just opening the Church. By 9.59 there were at least 45 people in the Church and about 7 children for Sunday School. We found out that the Minister was a visiting minister from the USA. When he started preaching he told the congregation his great grandfather had been the minister at Kilmore Church and it was lovely to be able to preach in the same Church. I wonder if we will have any future ministers preach in our Church who have had connections to Inverkip Church.

Thanks again for the responses to the roll letter that was sent over the summer. The session will review all the replies at our next Session meeting.

All the best Ewen

Shoe Box Appeal



Through challenging days of restriction, 88,816 boxes were delivered to people in need across Eastern Europe last winter. This winter we will again be sending shoe boxes to people in Ukraine, to neighbouring countries supporting Ukrainian refugees, as well as to those whose lives continue to be marked by poverty across Eastern Europe. Your support counts more than ever in 2023.



By filling a shoe box with simple things you can bring joy this Christmas

shooboxappeal.org

Bring Hope This Christmas

Leaflets available in the Church & Church Hall.

Filled boxes can be dropped off at the Food Bank on Wednesday 18th October between 1 and 3pm or in the Church by Sunday 29th October.

Transforming lives through Christian care

The Guild

Our Guild meetings will start on Monday 2nd of October. Our theme for this year is 'New Wine, New Skins.' We have two projects left from our three year set of projects so this year we will be supporting Pioneers- Chocolate Heaven which helps farmers to work together to get fair prices for their produce. - Fair Trade. The other project is UNIDA- Hear our voice which is helping women into the ministry.



We meet monthly in the Bonomy Room at 2.00pm. Guild members pay a subscription to Edinburgh, but we are happy for anyone to join us at a donation of £3.00. We have a variety of speakers over the session. All are welcome - including men.

Kathleen Miller

Rural

The SWI starts on Monday 25th Sept at 2pm in the Bonomy Room and our speaker is Greg Beecroft from Friends of Wemyss Bay Station. All welcome, as a member or come as a visitor.

Syllabus for this session:-

Oct 23rd. Save the Children

Nov 20th. Jim Carruth who was Glasgow Poet Laureate

Dec 18th. Christmas Party

Jan 23rd 2024. Andy Lynch Depute Clerk of Judiciary

Feb 19th. Craft Afternoon

March 18th. Frances Dunlop on Auchindrain village

April 15th. SSPCA and our AGM

Kate MacPhail, Secretary



TREASURER'S REPORT



During September the church accounts will be submitted to the charity regulator OSCR. Just waiting on approval from Presbytery which should be coming soon.



The church's revenue so far is still doing well compared to 2022. In case you're wondering about tea/coffee money; this year we are planning to donate it to Inverclyde Youth for Christ to support their new project. Please also keep them in your prayers.

Our largest expense is the Ministry & Mission Allocation from Church of Scotland. Other expenses have been minimal during summer months except for some electrical work needed to replace the lights in church hall and make them safe.

We made a donation of £500 to Kip Fest in June from the Crawford Bequest fund. It was a wonderful community event and we are happy to be part of it.

As always please don't hesitate to reach out to me or finance group if you have any questions.

Jacqueline Seggie
Treasurer

Harvest Thanksgiving



Harvest Thanksgiving service will be held on Sunday, 24 September at 10am

There will be a retiring offering in aid of the Inverclyde Foodbank



BADMINTON

If you fancy a game of Badminton just come along on Mondays at 7.45 pm to the Church Hall. 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.

Foodbank and Starter Packs

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

Here are the dates for Sept-Dec collections at the Church Hall

Tuesday 19 Sept, 17 Oct, 14 Nov, 12 Dec 6 - 7 pm

Wednesday 20 Sept, 18 Oct, 15 Nov, 13 Dec 1 - 3 pm

On these dates we can also take **Newspapers/magazines/envelopes** for recycling by White House Products, **Old Spectacles** and **Stamps**.



Foodbank- Tinned Fruit and Meat, Rice Pudding, Custard, UHT Milk, Breakfast Cereals, Soup, Rice, Pasta Sauce, Tinned Veg, Beans, Coffee, Tea Bags, Sugar, Biscuits and Snacks.

Starter Packs - Ladies, Gents and Children's Toiletries, Kitchen and Bathroom Cleaners, Kitchen and Toilet Rolls, Dish Cloths and Scourers. Good quality bedding and towels but only new duvets. Dishes, pots and pans.



SENIORS KEEP FIT

The schools are back and so is our Seniors Keep Fit group which is known for its fun, friendship and fitness. Under the leadership and encouragement of FLEXercise qualified Grace Gilchrist, our skeletons, muscles and sinews are slowly being encouraged back into working order with gentle movements from our heads to the tips of our fingers and toes. Oh, the tongues get worked too as we catch up with each other's news and (if you've got the breath) you can sing along to the great music.

The class is on every Friday from 10-11am in the church hall, there is no age limit, and everyone will be made most welcome. Yes, gentlemen, you too!

Anne Skedd



Country Dancing

I cannot believe we are nearly at the end of August AND tonight (28th August) is the last of Summer Dancing in Troon which Joan, Kathleen and I have enjoyed since 1st May!! Our own class will start in the church hall on Thursday 28th September 7.30 pm. We look forward to seeing all regular members and hopefully any new dancers to join our group. Any questions call me 07866347981 **Gaye McIntyre**



It's time for a Macmillan Coffee Morning

and you're invited

Let's do whatever it takes
to support people living with cancer.



Place: INVERKIP CHURCH HALL

Date: 29th SEPTEMBER

Time: 10.30 - 12.00

Contact: JOYCE BROWN 01475 521215

Simply scan this QR code with your phone
to donate to your host's Coffee Morning.
It's easy, quick and secure. Thank you.



Scan me to
donate

Headline Partners

MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT



COSTA
COFFEE



Registered with
**FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR**



**KEEP
CALM**

AND

DO NOT TOUCH THE
THERMOSTAT

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

BOOK BASKET

Please come and have a look at our good selection of second hand books in the church hall. Books can be kept or returned.

Donations will go to support the BUTTERFLY Project (ARDGOWAN HOSPICE)

who support children and young people who are going through a difficult time eg if someone close to them has been diagnosed with a life limiting illness or they have been bereaved. **Joyce & Anne**





Wedding Congratulations

Richard & Kirsty
(McKnight) Johnson

Daughter of Jan & Robert
McKnight

Granddaughter of Lila
McKnight



Congratulations to all New Arrivals

Magnus Alexander Kjeldsen, Born 23rd August - 8 lbs

Mum & Dad Beverley Graham & Kasper Kjeldsen.

Grandparetns Anne & Eddie Graham, Bente Kjeldson.



Emily Selfe.

Parents Richard &
Liesa Selfe.

Grandparents David &
Helen Lillis. Sandra
McPhee



Claire Clark born 1 August. 8 lb 1 oz.

Parents Scott & Laura, big school
sister Chloe. Grandparents Ken &
Alison Muir, Tom & Yvonne Clark.

FAMILY NEWS

Special Birthdays

Eddie Graham

Martine Dvorak



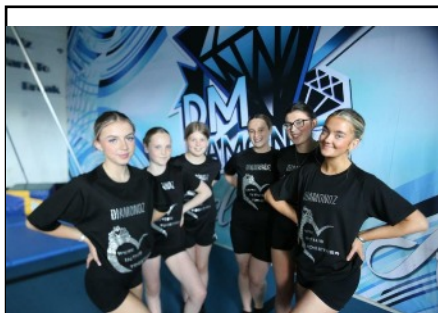
Well Done on passing your Driving Test

Izaak Goyal



Happy Retirement

Wilma Watt



Lily Brown (third from left) daughter of Gordon Brown and granddaughter of Joyce and Jim Brown, has been selected for Team Scotland, along with her fellow pupils at DM Diamondz at the International Cheer Union world championships in Florida next year. **Many congratulations Lily.**

Wedding Congratulations



Melanie Thomson married Alasdair Hoon. Enterkine House 25th June.

Parents Dawn & David Thomson, Chris & Alice Hoon.

The Scouts

It's been another busy few months for the Scouts. Another nine of the Scouts learned how to drive powerboats and successfully gained their RYA Powerboating Level 1 certificate. The Troops joined the rest of the District at Everton to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the campsite there and a bus load of Scouts survived the rain and flood-stoppage to watch Scotland eventually beat Georgia in what has to be the longest game of football seen there for some time. The Troop helped out in the community as well with litter picks in the marina and at Ardgowan Distillery, as well as helping Ardgowan Hospice with their bag packing fundraiser at Tesco. A huge thanks to staff and customers at Tesco Port Glasgow as well as everyone involved in the litter picks.



The Scouts had their summer camp in Jambville near Paris this year. They stopped overnight at a Scout Hall in Dover on the way out and the way back, and spent their week amongst trees in tents on the grounds of the Chateau Jambville. The week started with a hiccup when they were moved to a neighbouring site due to a suspected WWII bomb being discovered in the undergrowth. Luckily a visit from the bomb disposal squad the next day brought nothing exciting. A further relocation during the week - due to concern over storm force winds blowing trees over - kept them on their toes again. activities planned for a great new term.



Highlights of the trip were a day trying out a treetop course of zip slides and climbing, a bicycle trapeze cycling along a wire suspended 8m above a lake for 190m, a visit to a theme park, an afternoon on an adventure water park, and a trip to Paris to climb the Eiffel Tower.



While the Scouts were onsite at the camp they joined up for a campfire with a German Troop who were camping nearby. Both Troops of Scouts 'clicked' really well with their fellow Scouts, and all of the 85th Scouts were soon sporting German neckies which

they had swapped for their own.

Oh. And they rode on the back of a dragon as well.

The programme for the year ahead is looking exciting with more camps and activities planned for a great new term.



Andy Yarr
I. Scout @ 85th G&D

CUBS

This term we are once again welcoming new Cubs from our Beaver Colonies. We are proud to announce that two of our Cubs have achieved their Chief Scout Silver Award for their badgework, dedication and hard work. This is the highest award a Cub can earn. Both Cubs have now moved on to the Scout Section to continue their adventure.

Looking ahead this term, Cubs are excited about the Cub District Camp in September, a District Halloween Party and this year's Panto at The Beacon. The Cubs will also be earning more badges before end of this term in December.



We want to express our thanks to families, Leaders and volunteers who make these experiences possible. We would also like to thank Inverkip Church for their continuous support.

If you are interested in finding out more about our Cub Pack and getting involved, please contact Janice or Heather at the contact details below.

Yours in Scouting

Janice McAdam

GSL/CSL/ADC (Cubs)

85th Inverkip Cubs – 85thinverkipcubs@gmail.com

Heather Lenno

Cub Section Leader

85th Wemyss Bay Cubs – 85thwemyssbaycubs@gmail.com



Inverkip Beavers

On Wednesday 30th August we had our annual registration evening in Inverkip Church Hall and we are very much looking forward to welcoming back our returning Beavers and meeting our newest members when we return to our regular meetings on Wednesday 6th September in our new location of Inverkip Church Hall.

We have an exciting program lined up for this term including our Money Skills Badge where we will be helping the Beavers learn how to be confident in decisions around money. Later on in the term we will be exploring the stars, planets and beyond working on our Space Activity Badge.

Inverkip Beavers is likely to have very limited spaces available for the year ahead. For this reason we will no longer be running a waiting list. Any spaces will be advertised via our Facebook page.

Thank you to all the parents, leaders and young leaders for your continued support in helping us to run another fun and successful term.

Yours in Scouting

Lynsey Halliday
Beaver Section Leader
85th Inverkip Cubs



Guides & Brownies

Unfortunately Inverkip Guides and Brownies have been unable to get a volunteer to help with the running of the units, so I regret that both unit will have to close.

Any girl that is of Brownie or Guide age can apply to join the nearest units which are

Brownies: Ailey Mill Primary School or St Andrews Primary School The nearest Guide unit is also in Ailey Mill Primary

School - to find other units check out the girlguiding website. To register their interest please do so using the following link: <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/> then click on the 'register' button. Then Stephanie will get in touch.



Thanks to Heather and Amy Stacey, (Brownies) and Fiona and Kirsty (Guides) who kept them going for as long as they could.

Jenny Scott

Leader

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

inverkipchurchnewsletter@gmail.com

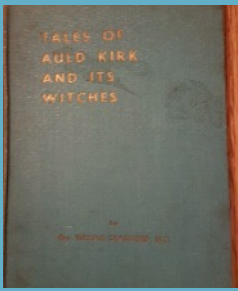
WORD SEARCH

Fruits

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A	E	N	B	L	A	C	K	B	E	R	R	Y	I
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R	E	K	W	C	O	T	O	S	A	A	L	P	G
B	R	I	I	A	Y	E	B	T	N	P	E	P	R
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BLACKBERRY
LIME
WATERMELON
BLUEBERRY
PAPAYA
KIWI
ORANGE
RASPBERRY
APPLE
BANANA
STRAWBERRY
GRAPE
LEMON

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/183/>



TALES OF AULD KIRK AND ITS WITCHES

By Rev William Crawford. MC

Continued from the previous issue:

The Haunted House

Other legends have gathered round this ruin at Chriswell, and for these I am indebted to voluminous notes on local history God was meticulous care by the late Mr Arthur Muir, his informant in this case being Mr John Adam, Town Chamberlain of Greenock from 1849 till 1878. It could never be told as it is in his own words.

Many years ago the haunted house was inhabited by a pirate profligate old villain, who, having acquired a mass of wealth in foreign climates by deeds of rapine and pillage on the high seas, came to seek in retirement that peace which repentance alone can give.

He lived for many years in that house, a grey haired, hard featured solitary man. He was never known to hold much or any communication with his neighbours, and they had little to do with him. Who he lived could only be surmised, A lady, a stranger, who had been known to visit him at rare intervals; And always, at her departure, he became more than usually moody. He would then hide himself for weeks at a time, and only became visible when necessity compelled him to provide himself with the bare means of subsistence.

How long he lived, and weather his dying pillow was smooth by the tender hand of daughter or kinswoman, or F religious consolation was administered to him on his dying bed and Fe received Christian burial after the fitful fever of life was over, no one, alas! can tell. But it was frequently said that the ghost of the hoary old river was observed, with glittering cutlass in one hand and a Black Flag in the other. Stalking, on moonlight nights, among the ruins.

Others say that the last proprietor was a gentleman who had been unfortunate in some love affair. He had a looked, so it was said, with a fair haired, beautiful young lady, from her guardian's house and one of the Western Isles, and having married her, was proceeding homeward to his residence, in Inverkip Glen.

The boat in which they were crossing over from Bute to the mainland was upset, and the young bridegroom and his bride barely escaped with their lives. But soon after reaching her new home the young lady sank and died in his arms, and her inconsolable husband ever after lived the solitary life of a recluse, dying at an early age of a broken heart.

It was whispered—dash for these things are always told in whispers—that two figures, close in snowy raiment, resembling this unfortunate pair, have been seen bleeding hand and hand about the ruin.

These, then, are some of the legends of the haunted house. We may smile at them today and enjoy the telling of them but we must never forget that they were very real to the folk of a bygone generation. They believed sincerely in ghosts and warlocks and such things. Most folk retain a little bit of superstition about them still, and I would not wonder if, after reading this account of the haunted house, you too, when called to pass the old ruin on a dark night, felt a keeping feeling coming over you, and hastened with quickened footsteps to pass the spot!

The haunted house was the scene of a vivid experience in the life of the reverend John McNeil. He used to tell of it two great gatherings all over the world. It was in the days when, as a young lad, he walked up and down tonight school in green oak twice or three times a week. Occasionally his father would set out to meet him. The night in question was one of dense darkness, and the great evangelist tells how, as he walked on, his mind became obsessed with a feeling of dread and foreboding which he could not shake off. Approaching the ruin at the roadside he suddenly seemed to feel, more than to see, a dark and ominous shape looming out of the shadows advancing to meet him.

He cried I wrote in a certain fear, "who is there"? And the answer came at once; "it's your father, John." That answer at once dispersed all his fears, and the rest of the journey home in the company of his father, was a very pleasant one.

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

ECO GROUP

The eco group has continued to organise monthly litter picks over the summer months. There has been less litter recorded, especially from the beach, woods and coastal path this summer, partly due to people doing independent litter picks when out walking (thank you whoever you are!), but also due to the poor weather over the summer holidays leading to less revelry! In general the number of volunteers each month is less than 10, so any additional help would be most welcome! It was great to see some new volunteers at the litter pick in August, we do hope you will return.

Representatives from the eco group continue to liaise with other litter picking groups within Inverclyde to discuss both local and wider environmental issues.

Litter picking equipment is always subject to breakage, so it is great to be able to replace when necessary, made possible from the money received back from White House Products for the paper collections from the church over the course of the year. Thanks to Jean for continuing to facilitate this and for all who support each week with their old newspapers, magazines and junk mail!

The group would also like to express their thanks to Inverclyde Council cleansing dept for their ongoing support with litter picking equipment, bags and the collection of waste afterwards.

Litterpicking dates for your diary:

Saturday 16th September 10:00 -12:00

Sunday 22nd October 13:00 - 15:00

Saturday 18th November 10:00 - 12:00



God of all people, of all creatures;
We thank you for the world that you have
created, where each ecosystem lives in
delicate balance and where the world
produces the food and the clean water that
we all need to sustain life.



AT THE BIRD TABLE

Doesn't time fly, especially when you're enjoying yourself! Here we are, in September already and "the nights are fair draw'n in", summer must be over!

I have a vision of the late Ricky Fulton, in his guise as the Reverend I.M. Jolly, sitting in his grand leather armchair and, in his most melancholy tone, inquiring "What kind of summer have you had?" before recounting what a miserable summer he and his wife, Ephesia, had spent in some Scottish seaside resort.



Well, let it be noted that for this household at least, summer was not too bad at all. In June we did find it a trifle warm and, ok we did moan about the rain occasionally but hey, this is Scotland after all. Droughts and downpours, real Scottish summer weather, ye canny whack it. It's the doldrums in birding terms. After the frenzy of nest building, feeding one or maybe two broods, adults tend to disappear and go into hiding while they moult before reappearing, resplendent in fresh plumage.

Avian Influenza (Bird Flu) is still a matter of great concern, especially with the migration of birds getting underway, and domestic poultry producers together with conservationists and birding organizations are monitoring the situation very carefully.

A Sparrowhawk had been active in the garden for a few days taking a feral pigeon and a blackbird. Many people try to scare the predator away while it is dealing with its prey (often still alive), it's gruesome I know, but that's nature in the raw. Predators are generally good at what they do in terms of dispatching their victims. In my view it's better to leave well alone, if you intervene and scare the predator away you must be prepared to deal with the victim, which may not be a pleasant experience. In many instances I've witnessed Sparrowhawks return to the scene to continue feeding and/or remove its prey, possibly to feed chicks in a nest.



Apart from the usual attacks on the feeders in the garden, squirrels,



Jackdaws and Blackbirds have been feasting on the ripening Rowan Berries. One tree, in a neighbour's garden, has produced only two clusters of berries this year while last year it was bowed down with fruit. Another tree in



an adjacent garden is, however, covered in clusters but I've no idea why there's a difference in the crops of berries this year. It's a mystery.

As usual give your feeders etc. an inspection and a clean out ready for the winter.

Keep safe and enjoy your birding,

Dunnock

Property Group

The summer weather might have been somewhat lacklustre, but the Property Group certainly were not. As usual, they worked hard throughout the growing season to keep the church grounds looking splendid. Their decision to let grass grow between the plants has paid off - not so much weeding required, and more greenery generated.



The light fittings and fluorescent bulbs in the Crawford Hall have been replaced with less energy-intensive alternatives. I should have taken a “before” photo to compare with the “after” one. You will have to take my word for it that the new look is much neater than the old, and the illumination is better. Hopefully, we will do the same exercise in the coffee lounge during the autumn.



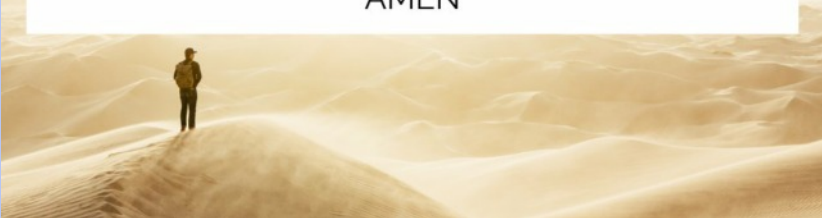
It wouldn't be a summer in Inverkip without bat surveys. The maternity roost in the attic remains healthy and is now estimated to accommodate around 1000 soprano pipistrelles. Our bat licence is being extended, which will allow work on roof repairs to continue once the mothers and their pups have left next month for the winter.

Thank you all who have laboured hard to keep the church buildings and grounds in fine shape. It is not only much appreciated by myself but by members of the congregation and hall users alike. There is always a warm and open invitation to anyone who would like to contribute their time and talents to join the Property Group. Please let me know!

Susie Gemmill
Property Convenor

Thank you for the efforts of people locally,
nationally and globally to care for your world.
For the people who use their creative energy
to work for solutions,
For the people who raise their voices to call for
justice, For the people who make small changes
every day to tread more lightly on the earth.
May we all learn to live simply, so that others can
simply live.

AMEN



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: Badminton
Rural (monthly)
Guild (monthly)

Tuesday: Property Group

Wednesday: Scouts
Cubs & Beavers

Thursday: Country Dancing
Cafe Church (monthly in Wemyss Bay Station Cafe)

Saturday: Messy Church (Not restarted as yet)

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