

INVERKIP CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2023



INVERKIP CHURCH - EASTER SERVICES



Monday, 3rd April

7 pm A Passover celebration hosted this year by our friends at St Joseph's & St Patrick's, Wemyss Bay

Tuesday, 4th April

– 7 pm A short act of worship in Inverkip Church led by Jac Seggie

Wednesday, 5th April

– 7 pm A short act of worship in Inverkip Church led by Morag Cowe

Thursday, 6th April

– 7 pm Maundy Thursday Service & Communion at Skelmorlie & Wemyss Bay Church led by Rev Liz Geddes

Friday, 7th April

– 7 pm A Good Friday Service at Inverkip Church led by Phil Theaker. There will be teas and coffees available in the church hall after the service.

Sunday, 9th April

– Easter Sunday – Join us outside the church at 7am for an open-air act of worship to celebrate the Risen Christ, and continue the fellowship over breakfast in the church hall.

- There will also be a church service on Easter Sunday at the usual time of 10 am. If you can, bring a flower to decorate our empty cross.



INTERIM MODERATOR

Karen Harbison

Dear Friends

Thank you for your warm welcome each time I come to join you on a Sunday morning - it is good to get to know you a little better each time I come along - just keep reminding me of all your names !

It is also encouraging to hear of all the good things you are continuing to do together as God's people in the community of Inverkip . Kirk Session meetings keep me up to date with all your events and with what you are planning for the days ahead. I thank you for your faithful presence and for your adventuring spirit as you seek to do new things, reaching out with God's love in your congregation and in your area, working also in partnership with Skelmorlie & Wemyss Bay Church. There have been many conversations and debates and also a degree of uncertainty as we in our Presbytery and our Lower Clyde Cluster have sought to work our way through the Presbytery Mission Planning process .The Presbytery meets to consider the plan on 18th March and we hope that the plan will be approved at all the different stages and so allow the congregations of Inverkip and Skelmorlie & Wemyss Bay to develop your partnership further and move towards a union in the days to come.

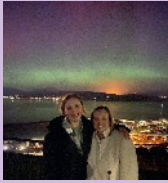
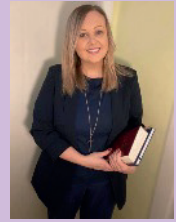
May you travel through this season of Lent with faith and hope, ready to welcome the Easter dawn and the new beginnings God gives.

With best wishes

Karen

PASTORAL ASSISTANT

Lynsey Graham



I was blessed to see the Aurora Borealis at the Lyle Hill Viewpoint in Greenock. What a sight to see the view we know so well but with the beautiful and mysterious Northern Lights dancing in the sky and reflecting on the river. My dear daughter, with her knowledge of physics and photography, was trying her best to explain to me what causes this phenomenon. I'm sad to say, I'm still not totally sure what she meant! However, the words I felt on my heart were 'Order from Chaos'. Perhaps that's a good theme for our journey through Lent? Choosing peacefulness, calmness and order in the midst of the drama that goes on all around us all the time. We can only hear God speak when we stop and listen. How healing it is to come into His presence and focus our minds on Him entirely.

A few weeks ago Sarah and I were blessed to meet with the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, the Rt Rev Dr Iain Greenshields. We had a lovely chat and he spoke very encouragingly about women in ministry roles and about needing more young people in the Church. I told him about my role here and the Café church and he sends his best wishes to you all. The Moderator spoke about Jesus calling the fishermen to put down their nets, stop what they were doing and listen to him. Their lives were about to completely change as they gave up their past, gave up what they were holding on to and instead followed Him.

In The Old Testament we read about God calling Ezekiel to be a prophet: *"The sky opened and I saw a vision of God. There in Babylonia beside the Chebar River, I heard the Lord speak to me, and I felt His power. I looked up and saw a windstorm coming from the north. Lightning was flashing from a huge cloud, and the sky around it was glowing. Where the lightning was flashing, something shone like bronze"* Ezekiel 1 (1 – 4)

"Above the dome there was something that looked like a throne made of sapphire, and sitting on the throne was a figure that looked like a human being. The figure seemed to be shining like bronze in the middle of fire. It shone all over with a bright light that had in it all the colours of the rainbow. This was the dazzling light which shows the presence of the Lord. When I saw this, I fell face down on the ground. Then I heard a voice". Ezekiel 1 (26-28)

I pray that we earnestly seek God's peace this Lenten season and beyond.

God bless you

Lynsey

Mob 07594424526 Email lynseychurch847@gmail.com

Café Church

We met as always in the Wemyss Bay Station café in December 2022 and again in February 2023. In December our theme was 'What God Has Done For Me' and Phil, and Anne shared some stories of answered prayer and trusting in God. Hollie sang 'This Little Light of Mine' before Sheila played us out with 'To God Be The Glory', a rousing end to what has been another blessed and special year for Café Church.



In February our theme was Exploring Our Call to Mission. We focused around Jesus calling the Fishermen but also touched on the Asbury Revival going on in the USA and about the Hebrides revival before introducing the book that many of us are currently reading – The Sleeping Giant: A Call to the Church to Awake and Arise! Written by the Rev Tommy MacNeil.

In the book the author states:

“The first outpouring of the Holy Spirit occurred in the Church and flowed out of the Church.... I'm very aware that many have given up on the Church, but let me assure you that God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit have not. Jesus' Church is still God's Plan A..”

We spent time thinking about how we can all do our part in God's plan from the youngest to the oldest! I have been asked to represent Café Church to collaborate on the Weekly Worship Material for the Church of Scotland website. This will be my second time taking part, last time was as a Worship Leader in a Priority Area and this time, working as a group of leaders in New Worshipping Communities, we will be focusing on Pentecost. This will be a great opportunity to reach and inspire more people and is a topic worth delving deeper into.

Rev Tommy goes on to say:

“At Pentecost we see God continuing to fulfil His passion that the whole earth be filled with His glory.”



In March we will be filming the second of our promotional videos and interviews for the Church of Scotland's Faith Action group and this will eventually be available on the Church of Scotland's YouTube Channel.

Everyone is welcome to come along and join us, you will be made most welcome. The team are so supportive and I thank God daily for this ministry and for all involved.

God bless you, Lynsey Graham (Pastoral Assistant)

SESSION CLERK - Ewen Cameron

Last year in the Spring newsletter I was asking that we pray for Ukraine as war had broken out. One year on and I ask that we continue to pray for the people and country as we all hope that the war can finish and allow them to be able to return to their homeland. It is unimaginable that pain and suffering that has been caused in the last year. It has been great to see though the number of Ukrainians that have been made welcome and are feeling welcome in Scotland.



Spring is my favourite time of year when we see new life appearing. We have had the snowdrops and now the daffodils are appearing in the gardens. Hope for the future that the warmer weather is not far away. I for one am looking forward to the clocks changing and the brighter mornings that it brings. Leaving for work in the dark and returning in the dark is no fun. I was out walking the path from Inverkip Marina to Lunderston bay last weekend and there were plenty of pregnant ewes. It will be wonderful to see the new lambs in the next few weeks. Rory and I are going to Islay and Jura at the end of March for a few days and we are really looking forward to that.

The number of children attending Church has been very healthy since we started to have the Sunday School back in October. Hopefully we can get some more volunteers to assist as Abigail is going to be working in Spain from September until next May as part of her degree. The children have enjoyed singing in the Church and going over bible stories and craft in Sunday School. Please if you would like to assist, please contact myself or Abigail.

We are still working hard with the Presbytery to come to a solution for Inverkip and Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay Church. The Presbytery Plan will hopefully be able to be agreed in the next few weeks and then put before the congregations. The latest version has Inverkip and Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay to work to become a Union and both Congregations will keep their Churches.

The Church is hopefully getting the roof repairs completed before the end of March. The bats usually return at the start of April, so time is not on our side at present. The roofer has ordered the lead that is required and the scaffolding is planned to be put up very soon.

The Easter services are nearly upon us and thanks to the Worship group for organising the week. The Passover meal this year is at St Josephs and St Patricks. If you would like to attend, please contact myself. Please try and support the services over Easter week.

Thanks to you all for making Inverkip Church such a vibrant and fantastic Church to be part of. Please contact me if there is anything you think we should be doing. I hope you all have a peaceful Easter. Kind Regards **Ewen**

Christmas at Inverkip Church

On Sunday 4^h December 2022 we held what has become an annual event, a “Light Night” at our church. For the third year in a row the weather was kind to us although very cold.



Those who came along were able to light a candle for a loved one, add a prayer disc to our tree and bring along Christmas gifts for the local Salvation Army’s Christmas toy appeal. There were very welcome hot drinks and biscuits available for those who had braved the cold to come along. The church was open to allow people to spend some quiet time in contemplation or prayer.

During December we also distributed over 50 goodie bags to elderly and housebound folks within our parish. A big thank you to the Sunday School for making beautiful tree decorations, to our loyal team of bakers who, every year, produce tasty treats for the bags and to the other volunteers who help make up and distribute the goodie bags.



Winning design by Abbie
P7/6 Inverkip Primary

TREASURER'S REPORT

The 2022 accounts have been examined by Robert J Henderson LLB CA from Henderson & Company. We thank him for all his work.

As always, my thanks also go to the Finance Committee who have helped with the banking duties and gift aid claims and my nephew Jamie Glancy for helping me to prepare the accounts. He is my only hope of another accountant in the family.

I'm pleased to say that during 2022, Inverkip has had a good year financially. Excess of receipts over payments was £13,320, and there are adequate unrestricted cash funds of £68,338 available to meet ongoing requirements.

The main points that I'd like to draw your attention to are:

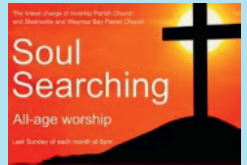
- Total receipts increased slightly compared to 2021 (excluding legacy received in 2021)
- The largest expense is Ministry and Mission allocation that is used by the Church of Scotland to fund ministry work both within Scotland and abroad. We will have to pay £16,526 in 2023 under the new Giving to Grow scheme which is slightly less than under old scheme
- We have been able to support many non-profit organisations such as, Christian Aid, Poppy Scotland, Inverclyde Foodbank, Starter Packs, Shelter Scotland (retiring offering from Christmas 2021/22), DEC Ukraine Appeal, CrossReach and Inverclyde Youth for Christ. We were also able to help a young person experiencing hardship after an accident and the Inverkip Bowling Club with a big event from the Crawford Bequest.

I hope that everyone enjoys reading the accounts in more detail. There are updates from all our organisations. If you have any questions then please let me know.

Thank you.

Jacqueline Seggie
Congregational Treasurer

SOUL SEARCHING



Every month when I come home from Soul Searching my daughters ask me (sarcastically) "did you find it"? And my answer is always "YES"! I always come home from these informal services full of joy and my spirit feels revitalised. If you haven't been before, or if you haven't been in a while; please come along and see for yourself. Here is what you've missed over the last few months ...



At the beginning of advent we had a special guest, the prophet Isaiah (played by Graham and pictured here with Muriel who had baked lovely treats for us all) who gave a very intriguing interview about the One to come. A deliverer! A redeemer! But he was nothing like the interviewer was imagining in his mind. We invited everyone to make a Christingle and sang the first Christmas Carols of the season. We had to have an encore of the first hymn as no-one wanted to leave. Thanks to Val for playing piano for us and it was lovely to have Judy back on violin.

We were back in January after the Christmas break. There was live music from Siona and Ian and in our skit I was cast as a grumpy teenager; Morag said that she'd ask folk to use their imagination haha.

In February, we were a small group as Morag, Ian and Graham were away but a big thanks to Phil for helping out with our closing prayer. Jennifer sang her solo beautifully. In my sermon I explored what Jesus meant when he said "do not judge" and everyone had a giggle at this image which I shared as it captured the sentiment so well.



Our next service is on 26th March at Inverkip Church hall. Please join us from 6pm for fellowship and tea, coffee and home baking.

Graham, Ian, Jac, Jennifer, Lynsey, Morag, Siona and Muriel

CHARITY DONATIONS 2022

Inverkip Church Kirk Session agreed that for 2023 all the taking from the Sunday tearoom should go to Inverclyde Youth for Christ to support their new project which is outlined below.

Radiate Youth Wellbeing Cafe

Radiate Youth Wellbeing Café will be a drop in café for young people in Inverclyde in the 11-18 age range. Poor Mental Health and Wellbeing is the most prominent issue facing young people today. Research statistics indicate that there has been an increase in young people diagnosed with mental health related illness since the covid pandemic began. (The Children's Society) Around 3 young people in every classroom has a diagnosable mental health illness. This is why we believe that it is important to provide environments for young people which are safe, welcoming and give access to trusted adults who can sign post young people to support services. Motivated by our Christian faith, we have passion to see young people's lives transformed by Jesus. We believe that creating spaces where young people can talk to Christians and explore faith; and where they can be listened to, encouraged and built up can help young people reach their potential.



In addition to the money raised from the tearoom there will also be retiring offerings after each Communion service. June's will go to support this year's Guild Project and October's will be donated to Crossreach.

Our retiring offering for the Turkey/Syria earthquake appeal in February raised almost £200.

A big thanks to everyone for all your continued support of worthy causes.

Morag Cowe

Finance Committee

SENIORS KEEP FIT

As you can see from the photo, our members are a happy bunch. The wonderful Grace Gilchrist gets us moving from head to toe (not forgetting the wrists, hands and fingers either) providing gentle exercise for the more mature person. The music Grace chooses is always good and, if you wish or have the breath, you can sing along too. We meet in the church hall from 10-11am every Friday, so why not come along to try us out. There is no charge for a 'taster' and gentlemen are welcome too.

Due to doctors orders, a few of our members are currently out of action. We wish them a speedy recovery and hope they will be back amongst us again fairly soon.

Either myself or Glenda Horton will be happy to have a chat on a Sunday should anyone wish more information.

Anne Skedd



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 PACK COLLECTION

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 April-June collections at the Church Hall

Tuesday 18 Apr, 16 May, 20 June 6 - 7 pm

Wednesday 19 Apr, 17 May, 21 June 1 - 3 pm

On these dates we can also take **Newspapers/magazines/envelopes** for recycling by White House Products, used **Medicine foil bubble packs**, plus **Old Spectacles** and **Stamps**. We received a cheque for £202.95 from White House Products for 2022 donations.



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.

EASTER EGGS WOULD BE VERY MUCH APPRECIATED FOR THE CHILDREN





**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

COUNTRY DANCING

Our class continues to flourish with several new members allowing us 2 full sets on a well attended night.

I don't know where this season has gone and have to announce our last class night of this term is Thursday 30 March. We have invited Skelmorlie dancers along and look forward to a wee supper and a fun night of Scottish Country Dancing. I wish a good spring/summer to everyone, see you all again in September.

Gaye 07866347981



FAMILY NEWS

Special Birthdays

Siona Leitch
Aileen Darroch
Bruce Middleton
Anne Barr
Margaret McIntyre
Wilma McIntyre
Isobel Hunter
Angela McAleese
Cara Stirling
Anne McInnes

Newly Weds



Allison & Paul

Newly Weds



Karen & John



Karen &
Brother
Donald

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

Elizabeth McMurray

FAMILY NEWS CONTD

Congratulations to all New Arrivals

Jordan & Claire Baby Boy Cairn. Grandmother Noreen



Ludovic & Jen Baby Girl Kinvara. Grandmother Lady Shaw-Stewart



**Kerr & Lauren Baby Boy Hamish.
Grandparents Jill & Ian.**

**Emma & Stephen Baby Boy Jonah Peter.
Grandparents Bill & Doreen**



Congratulations on their engagement.

Lyndsay Bunce & Frazer

The Scouts

The Scouts have been busy in the last few months with Christmas fundraising at Tesco and a camp at Dundee. Several of them gained their communicator badge with a night of amateur radio at our Scout radio club, Two groups have completed an 8 hour First Aid course to gain their Emergency Aid badge and more climbed Ben Donich at the Rest and be Thankful to get a good view from the top looking back over the Clyde Coast to Greenock and Gourock with the Inverkip hills behind.



They have also camped in sub-zero temperatures in Everton with snow covering their tents and fitted in a visit to Edinburgh castle on the same weekend.

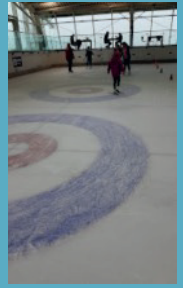
Andy Yarr

I. Scout @ 85th G&D



THE CUBS

This term we again welcomed new Cubs from our Beaver Colonies which continue to grow in numbers. This term is an extremely busy time for the Cubs as we will be starting our adventures with our Spring Camp at South Newton, Kilmaccolm, our Group Camp at Everton, an adventurous day out with the Powerboats, a night at the Ice Skating at the Waterfront Leisure Complex, Cubs District Archery &



Tomahawk throwing competition and of course assisting with KipFest which was great fun last year. It is also Everton Campsite's Centenary Celebrations this year, so another exciting day out with lots of activities to look forward to. We also continue to take part in assisting the Eco Group with their litter picks in Inverkip. The Cub Packs continue to develop their team-work skills, outdoor and adventure skills.



We unfortunately do not have any space at the Inverkip Pack just now, but there is space if anyone would like to join us at the Wemyss Bay Pack. Both Packs join together for events and activities so no matter what Cub Pack you are in, you experience the same fun! We can be contacted on 85thwemyssbaycubs@gmail.com or 85thinverkipcubs@gmail.com

Thank you once again to all the parents, Leaders and Young Leaders who ensure a successful and enjoyable term

Yours in Scouting

Janice McAdam

Cub Section Leader



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 units 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

Property Group

The Property Group have been busy as Boxer, the most loyal and hard-working character in 'Animal Farm'. They replaced a back panel of the external noticeboard which had rotted away. Additionally, have created a bund across the church driveway, to keep the stone chips from being dragged towards the road, and are also planning to replace the stones under the garden seat with concrete slabs. Their Big Idea is to minimise the number of chips that end up in the road drainage system.

Over at the Halls, they have created drainage channels in strategic positions and have also continued painting the internal doors. This in addition to early spring cleaning.

Trades people have been variously called in to service the boilers; replace an extractor fan in the manse and to change the filter in one of the church projectors.

A big shout-out of thanks from me to all members of the Property Group and everyone who helps them. Gentle Reader, you are more than welcome to join our crew - we meet on Tuesday afternoons. No expertise is necessary, just a willingness to contribute to the upkeep of the Church estate and to enjoy yourself in the process.

Susie Gemmill
Property Convenor



Greenock Philharmonic Choir
PRESENTS

MENDELSSOHN
ELIJAH

Andrew McTaggart
Glasgow Chamber Orchestra
Catriona Hewitson Penelope Cousland
William Searle Ross Cummings

7:30pm
Saturday 25th March, 2023
Lyle Kirk, Union Street, Greenock.
Tickets £15

Available from 07847250529 / 01475 673574
or info@greenockphilharmonic.co.uk

Greenock Philharmonic Choir's Spring Concert will be on Saturday 25th March in Lyle Kirk, Union Street, Greenock at 7-30pm.

They will perform 'Elijah' by Mendelssohn.

The conductor is Andrew McTaggart, and the choir will be accompanied by the Glasgow Chamber Orchestra. Soloists are Catriona Hewitson, Penelope Cousland, William Searle and Ross Cumming.

Tickets, priced £15, including refreshments, are available from Calum Harbison on 07847250529, or by emailing info@greenockphilharmonic.co.uk.

Thanks a lot!
Calum Harbison

The Guild

We are happy to announce that our Guild has four new members.

We meet in the Bonomy Room in the Church Hall on alternate Monday afternoons at 2 pm.

We have had a variety of local speakers and then spend some time socialising over refreshments.



We hosted the World Day of Prayer in our church on 3 March. Thank you to all who participated and came along to join us. £192.89 was collected for WDP. Next year's service will be held in St Joseph's and St Patrick's Church, Wemyss Bay.

Our next meeting will be on 27 March at 2 pm when the speaker will be David Rourke. A warm welcome to all.

For our last meeting on 24 April we are going for lunch at the Clyde Kitchen, which is where we had a lovely Christmas lunch.

We are holding a Silent Auction in April to finance money we send to the Guild Projects. Details are on the separate announcement. Please come along and grab a bargain.

Maybe you would like to join us next session when we start in October.

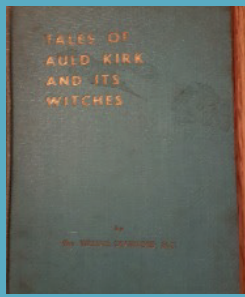
Kathleen Miller

SILENT AUCTION

The Guild is holding a Silent Auction on Thursday 27 April at 7.00pm. in the Church Hall. We would be grateful for any donations to put up for auction. If you are clearing out please think if someone else could use that item—remember one man's trash is another man's treasure. If you have items, please keep them till nearer the time and either bring them to church the week before the auction or give to a Guild member.



Please come along and enjoy a fun night. Tickets cost £2 including tea and will be available soon. All proceeds will go to the Guild projects. If collection is needed or more information, please call Kathleen Miller on 01475 521956.



TALES OF AULD KIRK AND ITS WITCHES

By Rev William Crawford, MC

Continued from the previous issue:

The Lady of the Snowdrops

There is another reason why succeeding generations should remember this laird of Ardgowan. He had built a fine mansion. He had completed at great cost a fine road, and now he is to build a church for the folk and old Kirk. towards the end of the 18th century, the old church in the graveyard had gradually fallen into great disrepair six hundred years had now passed since it had first been built. The walls threatened at any moment to give way and support no longer the roof, which itself was leaking badly.

For some time, how long it is difficult to say, the people had gathered for worship outside the church as it was unsafe to go inside. the people sitting around on the gravestones. A new church had to be built do you replace the old and the people were too poor to build it. When the road was finished, Sir John came to their rescue and said "I will build them a church." the stone was taken from the quarry at Langhouse and it was opened for worship in the year 1806. the church, standing today facing the public Rd, is just as Sir John built it. in the year 1908 Sir Hugh Shaw Stewart undertook all the expense of re seating it and sometime before he hurt himself become an elder of the church and member of Kirk Session.

Nearly a Century and a half Has gone by since Sir John Shaw Stewart said "I will build them a church". many changes have taken place since, but for many years to come men and women and little children will continue to gather themselves together within its walls to praise and worship God after the manner of their father's!

It is not surprising that the matters just related attracted a deal of attention. One of those who was greatly interested was John Galt. "One Sunday" he tells us. "happening to take a walk to the neighbouring village to Greenock, Inverkip I observed that, from the time I had been there, some progress had been made by Sir John Shaw Stewart in turning it inside out. While looking at the various improvements around, my intention of writing a ministers sedate adventures returned upon me. it was as if the mantle of inspiration had suddenly dropped upon my shoulders," Galt wrote shortly thereafter, the annals of the parish and laid the manuscript aside. some years passed before he took it up and re read it and was struck by its merits. He then send it to Blackwood, in Edinburgh and is publication greatly increased the already growing fame of its author.

It is supposed by some that the Annals of the Parish were the description of parish life in Inverkip. But it is not so, for Galt himself adds that "although the story was suggested by the improvements at Inverkip the scene was laid and the characters taken from individuals living in the whereabouts of the village of Dreghorn."

Speaking in praise of Sir John Shaw Stewart, a contemporary historian uses the following words: "he was a man remarkable for a powerful and enlarged understanding, for an independent mind, for the most generous spirit, and the most benevolent disposition. above all, for the most stern and inflexible integrity." Surely it is hardly possible to find words in which higher praise could be given.

Sir John and his wife lie buried together in the vault built over part of the ground on which the old Kirk stood. it is good that we should remember them. When we walk along the Greenock highway or see the traffic speeding past us, when we gather with others in the village kirk to worship and to pray, or when we see again, in the springtime, the lovely snowdrops, let us give a thought to the good laird who did so much and the sweet and gracious lady who was the inspiration of all his deeds," the Lady of the Snowdrops."

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

THE RURAL

As we near the end of this session, we have had a varied syllabus including floral demonstration, Age Concern, and our Christmas Party where Cath had everyone making lovely boxes. The Dogs Trust came in February and brought along Chico who was star of the day and last but not least we were entertained by The Soggie Bunnets.



Still to come is a talk about the Ardgowan Distillery on 20 March followed by our AGM on 17 April. All meetings are held in The Bonomy Room of the Church Hall at 2 pm.

Our thanks to everyone and Happy Easter from the “rural”

Kate MacPhail

Christian Aid Week 15-21 May

The following fundraisers have been arranged to support Christian Aid. Please come along and give your support:-



Saturday, 20 May – Afternoon Tea at the Skelmorlie Manse
2.30 – 4.30 pm

Sunday, 21 May – Hot filled roll brunch after morning service
at Inverkip Church Hall

Top Team Competition

A great night was enjoyed on 26 January for the return of our annual Quiz with teams of four from various organisations - Inverkip Session, Skelmorlie & Wemyss Bay Session, Inverkip Scouts, Skelmorlie Scout Leaders, Badminton, Country Dancers, Bowling Club and the Seniors Keep Fit. Quizmaster Gordon Brown put them through their paces, ably assisted by Stuart, Maggie and Sharon. The eventual winners of the trophy were the Country Dancers. Thanks to everyone involved.



Folk & Variety Concert

A great night was had by all at our folk & variety concert on 11 March. A huge thank you to all our fantastic performers for a great evening of entertainment, especially the Clydeside Singers, and a grand total of £605 was raised for church funds and projects. Thanks to everyone who donated to the raffle, bought tickets, those who came along to support the event, and to all who worked behind the scenes.



ECO GROUP

Over the past year there has been more of a return to normality after the worst of the restrictions during the covid pandemic have now eased..

The litter picking group, now named LitterKippers, has continued to meet once a month to tackle the many litter issues which our community still faces- general littering around the village and beaches, fly tipping and marine litter washed up on the shoreline. Over the year, the group collected a total of **215** bin bags of litter from around our community, which doesn't include all the larger fly tipped items unable to be bagged. This is less than the previous year and is probably down to a couple of factors. The number of volunteers has dropped significantly, often there are only 7 or 8 regular people, but also a lot of the "historical" litter has now been cleared from around the community. Our picks have been bolstered by the Cubs, their leaders and parents of the 85th, who have helped out a couple of picks over the course of the year, and with more planned in the year to come. Our thanks go to all the volunteers who have turned out in all weathers to help to make a difference, and to staff from Inverclyde Council for the provision of litter picking equipment, bags and for the collection of the rubbish afterwards. The group continues to liaise with, support and be supported by the other litter picking groups in Inverclyde under the umbrella of



LITTERKIPPERS 2023

January- Saturday 21st 10:00-12:00
February- Sunday 19th 13:00-15:00
March- Saturday 18th 10:00-12:00
April- Sunday 23rd 13:00-15:00
May- Saturday 20th 10:00-12:00
June- Sunday 25th 13:00-15:00
July- Saturday 22nd 10:00-12:00
August- Sunday 20th 13:00-15:00
September- Saturday 16th 10:00-12:00
October- Sunday 22nd 13:00-15:00
November- Saturday 18th 10:00-12:00

www.inverclyde.org.uk  Inverkip Parish Church



Our newspaper and magazine collection has continued throughout the year, and delivered regularly to White House Products in Port Glasgow, who shred them and use to package their products. A small donation is made per kilo, and over the past year, the accumulated total was 2029.5kg (over 2 metric tonnes!) with a donation of £202.95 which will be used to purchase litter picking equipment.

The church continues to have monthly collections for Inverclyde Foodbank and Starter Packs Inverclyde. Empty medication packs can also be dropped off and these are then taken to a local collection point for recycling.

The past year has continued to be challenging to sell fair trade products with limited opportunities but the group continues to promote local fair trade events and global issues through social media. It is hoped that a monthly fair trade stall will be able to resume in the coming months. The Eco group will also use this opportunity again to offer refills of eco friendly washing up liquid, previously popular with many members. Refills and many other eco and plastic free products can be purchased at local shop Invereco, in Greenock and members are encouraged to give this great wee business our support.



Following on from the success of the event the previous year at the beginning of Advent, the church hosted a Light evening outside the church where members of the community could come along and write a message to remember someone on a small wooden disc to hang on our Christmas tree outside the church. The tree was decorated with eco/bird friendly decorations, with baubles made of fat balls and garlands made of monkey nuts and cranberries.

Our thanks go to all those who continue to support our eco initiatives, and we look forward to being able to continue and develop over the year to come.

Lynne McBain



AT THE BIRD TABLE

Writing this contribution for the magazine on a beautifully clear, but extremely cold, afternoon, I am somewhat apprehensive. Why? you may ask am I so downcast, well it's all the fault of the weather forecasters on the telly. Those cheery lads and lasses have announced that we are yet again about to be subjected to further chaos as super cold air from the north brings snow to almost the entire country. Yellow warnings cover most of the country, snow ploughs are ready to plough and gritters are ready to grit as soon as the first flake hits terra firma.

It's been no joke for many parts of the country so far this winter, especially the Highlands and the North, and up until now we have gotten off lightly in this part of the world. While we might bemoan the extremes of weather causing disruption the situations in eastern Europe due to war and earthquakes make our circumstances pale into insignificance by comparison. We do really need to count our blessings!

The weather, on top of Avian flu, seems to have taken a toll on birdlife this winter and while the feeders in the garden were busy certain species seemed to be in short supply e.g. Greenfinch, Long-tailed Tit, Siskin, and Song Thrush. This winter I haven't seen or heard of any local sightings of winter migrants such as Waxwings. Perhaps the appearance of Sparrowhawks in the area have contributed to the lack of visitors. It was interesting to hear that Bullfinches, not usually seen in built up areas, have been seen in a few local gardens.

Squirrels are plentiful and seem to enjoy the suet balls in the "squirrel proof" cage feeder. They are incredible acrobats and contortionists.



Two other recent garden visitors, on separate occasions, were Roe deer, a Buck and a Doe. Although the images were taken almost a fortnight apart both deer were photographed at the same spot. The Buck was later filmed in a garden close to Langhouse Road and the householder was able to capture, on video, the rascal eating tender shoots in the flower beds. Very frustrating for a gardener but a reassurance that we still have a few Roe Deer in the area.



Now would be a good time to get your nest boxes cleaned out and repaired if necessary and it would also be appropriate to site any new boxes to allow prospective occupants to become accustomed to their presence around the garden.

If you are a DIY enthusiast, then check out the RSPB website for details of the traditional style of boxes (for several species) to make at home.

As usual keep feeders going and be sure to provide water.

Keep safe and enjoy your birdwatching.

Dunnock.

P.S. Stop Press.

Just received a video, from the householder mentioned above, of three Roe Deer in her garden early this morning, wonderful!



We have been offering free soup lunches every Monday between 1200-1330 from 17 October 2022 until the end of March 2023 as part of the Warm Spaces initiative instigated by Inverclyde Council and CVS Inverclyde. A wonderful team of volunteers have been providing the soup and

home baking on a rota basis, and latterly the soup has been provided free of charge by the Wemyss Bay Station Café to whom we are indebted. After a slow start there is now an average of 20 folks attending and we are delighted to have four members of Inverkip Primary P7s and their teacher coming for lunch and then having a chat with the adults, which they all enjoy.



After the success of last year's event, plans are in place to hold another weekend of entertainment organised jointly by Inverkip Hub, Inverkip Church and Inverkip Bowling Club. The dates are:-



Friday, 9 June – Quiz night at the Bowling Club

Saturday, 10 June – A wide variety of entertainment for children at The Hub with support from the Scouts, Cubs and Inverkip Primary. Come and Try at the Bowling Club and a Ceilidh in the Church Hall in the evening.

Sunday, 11 June – Possible market at Inverkip Hotel in the morning, Come and Try at the Bowling Club and a Tea Dance in the Church Hall in the afternoon.



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:	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
SWI (monthly)
Guild (monthly)

Tuesday: Property Group

Wednesday: Scouts
Cubs & Beavers (in school)

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