

INVERKIP CHURCH NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2023





The Church of Scotland



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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,
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INTERIM MODERATOR

Karen Harbison

Hi everyone

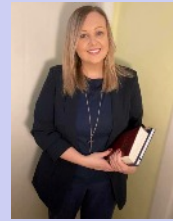
I hope you have had the chance to enjoy the sunny weather, whether out walking or gardening, going on trips or holidays or just enjoying an ice cream in the garden.

Thank you for all your work and involvement in the life of the church and the community. Take the opportunity to rest as some of the activities and meetings draw to a close for the holiday period and to enjoy the beauty of creation

With best wishes

Karen

PASTORAL ASSISTANT
Lynsey Graham



What beautiful weather we have been having lately! We live in such a stunning location that its easy to take our views for granted but the sun always seems to make everything that much better.

Recently Sarah and I went to the cinema to see Disney's remake of The Little Mermaid. The main character Ariel is disobedient to her father which made us reflect on how often we are disobedient to God – even though He knows best and wants only good for us. There are growing tensions between the humans (littering the sea) and the merpeople (thought to have cursed the humans and caused many a shipwreck).

One night, Ariel plays the part of the Good Samaritan, saving the prince from drowning. Despite all that she has been brought up to know about humans, she believes in goodness, arguing they can't all be the same. Forever curious, Ariel loves to collect bits and bobs she finds and can't bring herself to believe that people who make such wonderful things can be all bad. She has an innocent and childlike faith, just like God wants us to have.

Things take a dark turn when, desperate to turn human herself, Ariel does a deal with her evil Aunt reminding us that we have to be on guard at our lowest times as we can be led into temptation all too easily. Thankfully, all ends well and Ariel's belief in New Life is fulfilled as her goodness and faith triumph, helped by her father the king's sacrificial love. Lots of biblical food for thought!

I was absolutely honoured to be invited along to Inverkip Primary School's end of year show 'Rock Bottom'. Wow! From the scenery, props, costumes, singing and dancing to the hilarious one-liners the children were fantastic! Jac and I can't wait to host the end of term school service in the church, plus I'm so blessed to be helping with Sunday School. Children have that sense of goodness, curiosity and hopefulness which the Lord wants for us all.

God bless you,

Lynsey

“If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come” 2 Corinthians 5:17

Café Church

It was wonderful to hear that the Wemyss Bay Station has won the UK's Best Loved Station 2023. When I left my Hospice role in 2021 I was sad to be leaving such a beautiful place of work. However, between the Homeopathic Hospital's stunning garden and layout, being able to keep hold of both of our church buildings and then the train station being crowned winner, I really am so



fortunate to be working in not just 1 beautiful location but 4! Praise God!

In March we were joined by some very special guests: speaker Rev Jeanette Peel, musician Calum Harbison and Mission Development worker Rob Rawson from the Church of Scotland's Faith Action team who came along to film on the night and carry out some interviews. It is hoped our video will be available later in the year via the Church of Scotland's YouTube channel.

Our theme that night was Wellness and Rev Jeanette and myself spoke about our experiences of working in healthcare and the spiritual aspects of health and wellbeing from a Christian perspective.

In April our theme was New Life in Christ and our very own Mary Law gave a heart rending account of the life of local Skelmorlie resident Miss Brown's time as a missionary in Nigeria. Mary kindly brought newspaper articles and keepsakes which were absolutely fascinating and it was so humbling to hear this story. Many people said it was the best talk we have had, so thank you Mary!

In May I spoke about Sarah and I's trip to Dunscore Heritage centre near Dumfries which is dedicated to the life and work of Jane Haining, the only Scot to be remembered at Yad Vashem's World Holocaust Remembrance Centre. Our overall theme was finding God in the beauty of His creation, even at our darkest times.

It has been lovely to hear James and Gloria continuing to grow in faith and in confidence with their reflections and poetry and we even had session clerk Ewen singing a solo and Sheila – normally in the corner with her accordion – venturing back to the mic to sing a duet with me! Sheila has a lovely voice but hasn't sung publicly for a long time, so praise God for that opportunity to be a blessing to those present.

I thank God that I am a part of this New Worshipping Community and it is a pleasure to bring Café Church to you each month. We are hoping to run over the summer months, so if you have never been along before why not give it a try?

God Bless you,
Lynsey Graham, Pastoral Assistant

“Lift up your eyes and see Who created these. He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls forth each of them by name” Isaiah 40:26

SESSION CLERK - Ewen Cameron

We have been blessed with the best of weather in June. I have been watering my garden nightly which is looking good.



Everything looks and feels so much better in the sun. I have been taking lots of short breaks this year. Rory and I went to Islay to look and sample in all 10 of the distilleries. We had a fantastic time and we also visited all of the Churches. My favourite is definitely Bowmore which is a round Church. We were told that at present there is one full time minister for the whole Island of Islay and Jura.

We also took a day return flight from Glasgow to Campbeltown again to visit three distilleries. We had fantastic weather and flew directly over Inverkip, Largs Cumbrae, Bute and on to Kintyre. The landscape is amazing and the flight took just 25 minutes.



I have just returned from a weekend in Moffat where I met up with lots of my Morris Minor friends and drove around lots of B roads near Lockerbie. Some places I have never been to before.

I would like to thank all that helped making the Kip Fest weekend such a great success. It is great to have such a great community.

We are still awaiting the Presbytery plan to be issued by Presbytery. The latest that I can share is that Inverkip and Skelmorlie Wemyss Bay will be forming a Union. We will be keeping our Churches and services as they currently are. Hopefully we will be able to call a minister soon. In the meantime, I would like to thank our worship group for their great services and hard work that they put in every week.

I hope you all have a wonderful summer.

Kind regards , Ewen



It was a glorious, sunny weekend, quite a contrast to the same weekend last year which helped to make this year's Kip Fest a resounding success. A quiz night on Friday at the bowling club started off the weekend and the 9 teams which took part all had a great time. Last year's winners were led by our local MP, Ronnie Cowan, and this year his team was victorious once again.

Saturday morning at the hub got off to a slow start but by 11am things were hotting up and by the afternoon the place was crowded. There were lots of free activities to try for all ages, stories and singing for the very young, art and crafts, a bouncy castle, a word



hunt created by Inverkip primary, football activities and games on the pitch for the young and young at heart. You could try e-bikes, walking football, exercise classes and bowling among other things. For those feeling less energetic there were dancing displays and live music. Blooming Inverkip was kept busy helping folk fill planters and there will be many gardens in the village brightened up by the free plants

people were able to take home. The Scout Group and the walking football cafe kept everyone fed and watered and to help cool down we had a local ice cream van. (The football café raised £650 from donations which is going to the prostate cancer charity)



Saturday evening saw a laser tag activity for older young people in the hub and a ceilidh in the church hall. As the night wore on some of the dancing got increasingly energetic and some of us still have bruises sustained during the Orcadian strip the willow to prove it.

We were delighted that the hotel agreed to host the market this year as last year the weather put a bit of a damper on that activity. They had 20



stalls all from our local area, which attracted 850 people to the event. Their raffle raised £480 for the charity Orchard OCD. The hotel also had activities for children and food available in their marquee out the back.

On Sunday afternoon there was a chance for some more sedate dancing at the church hall where we ran a tea dance with a fabulous afternoon tea. You could also try bowling again that afternoon.

Our grateful thanks to Inverclyde Council for their financial and other support, to the Hub staff and to all volunteers who helped organize and man the events and to local businesses who supported us with donations and sponsorship. We had some wonderful prizes at the raffles held in the bowling club, at the ceilidh and the tea dance with our star prize at each venue being a £100 voucher from Hotels.com.

The organizing committee is now taking a well-earned break but listening to all the positive feedback I am sure we will be back next year.





MELIORA

KIP VILLAGE PARTNERSHIP

KIP FEST 2023

The Kip Village Partnership would like to say a huge thanks to everyone who attended activities across the Village at Kipfest 2023 .

We hope everyone enjoyed the festivals activities ,events and the great weather.

Well done to all the staff and volunteers across all the organisations who helped make Kipfest 2023 a real community event and to all the groups, facilitators ,businesses that ran activities, hosted events, provided sponsorship ,donated raffle prizes, ran stall and managed the four venues.

If you would like to get involved in the Kip Village Partnership or sponsor any of our events contact Kevin at Inverkip Hub.

01475520740
kevin@inverkiphub.org.uk

we are Sainsbury's



Inverclyde
council

The Guild

In the last newsletter, we announced that the Guild was holding a Silent Auction. This was a great success and we raised a grand total of £445. Thanks to everyone who donated items for sale and to those who came along to 'grab a bargain.' The money raised was used to fund three of our Guild projects and a donation to the Church. The projects we supported was-



'BEAT'- a project into research and help with different types of eating disorders, including how this affects people with autism.

'THE VINE TRUST'- a project to help build a self-supporting village in Tanzania. This is to include a school, health centre, homes, community gardens and co-operative farms.

'TREES'- to pay for trees to be planted to help the environment.

Our next session starts on Monday 2nd of October at 2.00pm in the Bonomy Room. We meet monthly and have a variety of speakers to come and give us a talk. Our new theme is 'NEW WINE, NEW WINESKINS.' Hope to see all our members back in October and maybe some new faces will come and join us. The Guild is open to both men and women.

Kathleen Miller

Rural

SWI had another successful session with a good variety of speakers and demonstrations We also took part in the Kilmacolm Agricultural Show winning 2nd prize in the "rural" trays category so well done ladies We look forward to welcoming everyone when we restart in September

Kate MacPhail, Secretary



TREASURER'S REPORT

I hope you enjoyed hearing about the church's finances in our Annual Stated Meeting. If you didn't manage along the accounts are available on our website. Now that they've been submitted to Church of Scotland I can get back to my day job!

The church's revenue so far is greater than 2022 due to a fabric fund claim made in April. This helped us to cover the cost of new windows/doors that needed to be replaced in the church manse.

It's also great to see our groups thriving with church hall rentals almost doubled compared to same period in 2022.

During the year so far we have received donations from the badminton club, SWI (rural) and the Guild for which we are very grateful.

Our largest expense is Ministry & Mission Allocation from Church of Scotland however, you may remember that a new scheme was introduced in 2023 and under this scheme we are paying less than we did under the old scheme.

In addition to the manse repairs, we have incurred some large expenses maintaining the roof of our church. Thanks to property group who do such a good job of organising these essential repairs!

During the year so far we have supported the following organisations; Inverclyde Foodbank, Starter Packs, Heartstart Inverclyde, DEC Turkey appeal and Christian Aid. Thank you as always for your generous donations.

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

Thank you.

Jacqueline Seggie
Congregational Treasurer

SOUL SEARCHING

March was a bit different for us. Instead of our usual skit we had meditations which reminded us of important events in Jesus' life and stones therein. This led us to Easter when the stone was rolled away and we learned that Jesus lived! We rounded off the evening with some Easter hymns to uplift everyone. I don't want to brag but I got a high five from Eddie for reaching the high notes of 'He Lives'. And if you get a chance, watch the American Marines singing 'Days of Elijah' on YouTube.



We celebrated my birthday in April with a delicious cake baked by Muriel. During the evening we celebrated friendship and relationships with our friends. Readings by myself and Graham explored how the disciples may have perceived Jesus – as a borrower, and a familiar stranger: think loaves and fishes, the roman coin, the room for the Passover meal, the donkey, think the road to Emmaus.

We are taking a break for a few months for summer holidays but we look forward to welcoming you all back on the last Sunday of September.

A big thanks to all the team - Ian, Morag, Jennifer, Jac, Siona, Muriel, Graham, Lynsey and Phil.

Jac



Our Christian Aid Brunch in May and retiring collections raised -

£273.17

Thank you all for your support

Jimmy Law was joined this year on **The Kiltwalk** by Forbes Dowling and Sean O'Hagan. All money raised will go to the Butterfly Trust, in memory of Karly Burns, an Inverkip girl who died ten years ago aged just twenty seven. Karly, who lived her short life to the full, was a talented artist, a beautiful young lady with a heart of gold, who will live on in the hearts of all who knew her. She would love to know that people were supporting this very worthwhile charity that meant so much to her.



The Butterfly Trust

The Butterfly Trust provides face to face social support to Scotland's Cystic Fibrosis community. Services include advocacy & advice, welfare benefits, housing, education, employment, befriending & mentoring, massage therapy & transport.

Please make your donations through the following link -

<https://www.justgiving.com/team/65roses>

Cystic Fibrosis is a very demanding illness that requires constant support from family and friends, services are not always on hand and this is why the Butterfly Trust is a godsend to sufferers and their families. Donations, no matter how small, will be gratefully received and we know that they will be used well by this wonderful charity.

The Kiltwalk was part of an ongoing fundraiser for Cystic Fibrosis. A music Night in Skelmorlie Bowling Club raised £724. The final event, a quiz will take place in The Station Cafe on the 23rd of June.

A "Grand Raffle" is running with fantastic top prizes including:-
A Tour of Glasgow Central Station. Free rail travel (Anywhere in Scotland) for two adults and up to four children. A tour (for two) of Tennents Factory in Glasgow. A trip on the Waverley. A voucher for the Inverkip Hotel. A Platter Merchant voucher. Whisky. Wine. Liquors. Food Hamper and much more.

Thanks for your support.

Jimmy Law

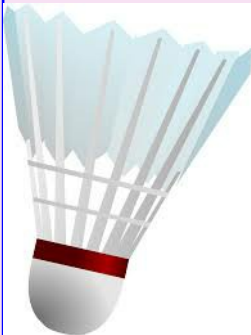
SENIORS KEEP FIT

We are now on our summer break and I'm already missing it, and everyone! After our last exercise class we had a lovely, informal, get-together in the lounge where we enjoyed a cuppa, sandwiches and cakes - no calories were counted! The attached photo shows the class from earlier days and many of those pictured are still coming along.

Classes for 2023/24, again under the very talented and excellent Grace Gilchrist, will recommence after the schools go back in August.

Should you wish more information please don't hesitate to contact me, or any member of our class. Alternatively, why not simply come along to try us out at 10 am on a Friday in the church hall - you will be made most welcome.

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 July-Sept collections at the Church Hall

Tuesday 18 Jul, 15 Aug, 19 Sept 6 - 7 pm

Wednesday 19 Jul, 16 Aug, 20 Sept 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**.



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.





**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

Now we are really enjoying summer weather I can tell you Kathleen, Joan and I are all enjoying Summer dancing in Troon on Monday nights. With that in mind our class resumes Thursday 28th September in the Church Hall at 7.30 pm. We look forward to welcoming back all our current members and anyone who is interested in joining. Scottish Country Dancing is great fun and great exercise. Call me 07866347981 if you have any questions Beginners welcome. **Gaye McIntyre**



FAMILY NEWS

Special Birthdays

Alex Stewart
Pam Gibson
Kathleen Miller
Luke Masterson
Julie Terry
Adam Docherty
Lindsey Grant
Graham Hyett
Janet Scally
Etta Scott

Congratulations

Golden Wedding

Joyce & Jim Brown

-0-

Ruby Wedding

Morag & Ian Cowe

Good Luck to ALL

Starting nursery, Primary school,
Secondary school, College &
University.
Best wishes to all starting new
careers



Our local star, Olivia Devenney, will feature in Movies to Musicals show at the Beacon on 1 October. Congratulations Olivia.

Well done on passing your
Driving Test

Erin Fielding
Euan Wilson

The following Church Members have sadly passed away since the last newsletter:

Isobel Hunter, Ian McPherson, Helen Armstrong & Margaret McIntyre

FAMILY NEWS CONTD

Congratulations to all New Arrivals

Robin Graeme Borland, Mum & Dad Jane & Christopher Grandmother Noreen McBride



Cameron James Kinnell, Mum & Dad Lucinda & Jamie Grandparents Sheila and John



Rhea Elizabeth Percival, Mum & Dad Lori & Mark. Grandparents Carol & Stephen

**Enjoy Your Retirement
David Thomson
Joan Pow**



**Lyle
Stewart,
2nd in Cub
archery
competition**



**Ellie Stewart
Winner of
“Wemyss Bay
Got Talent”**

Congratulations on their engagement.

**Anna Robertson & Mathew Smith
Shannon Howie & Corey Jackson**

The Scouts

It's been a hectic Spring for the Scouts this year with a behind the scenes tour of Glasgow's Central Station in March, and a Paintball day near Bishopston. They have had four camps at Everton gaining badges along the way. Some of them went on a boat trip around the Clyde with Firth of Clyde Boat Tours, and others have learned how to drive a RIB to gain their RYA Powerboating 1 qualification. Most recently they ran their McCaskie's burger stall and Swedish Stove stall at Kip Fest which were both a huge success thanks to everyone who helped and everyone who came down to enjoy the days.



The Troop is now looking forward to an open day for Everton Campsite's 100 years celebration, and their Summer Camp which will be an exciting programme of activities and trips based in France this year.

Andy Yarr

I. Scout @ 85th G&D



THE CUBS

This Term was jam packed full of fun and activities for the Cubs. We enjoyed a Camp, Powerboats, Ice skating to name but a few activities. Cubs also attended the first District Cub Archery & Tomahawk Competition, which we are hoping will be an annual event with a District Cinema visit planned for July. Again, we took part in Kipfest which was a great success. We also took part in the Church Eco Group with their litter picks and will continue to do so next term. There are plans afoot to assist the Blooming Inverkip Gardening Group too.

The Cubs are now looking forward to the Everton Centenary Celebrations, a Panto for Christmas, District Cub Camp in September and our own Autumn Camp in October...phew!

Thank you to all Parents, Leaders and Young Leaders who always ensure a successful and enjoyable term.

Yours in Scouting

Janice McAdam

GSL/ADC Cubs/Cub Section Leader

85th Greenock & District Scouts

Mob: 07563 372811



Beavers

This term Wemyss Bay and Inverkip Beavers have both been exploring the fantastic local area and natural resources on our doorsteps. Some of the activities we have enjoyed include bug hunting, rock pooling, rounders, fire lighting and making bird feeders. We



also both had a taster session at Inverkip bowling club and discovered some budding bowlers in the process. We have been capturing our adventures ourselves and gained our Photography in the process.



We had a night away in March at South Newton where we buried treasure, made maps to find it again, we practiced our archery and played games. The weather on the Saturday night was too wet to have an outdoor campfire but we sang songs and had an indoor one instead. We also all made pirate hats and dressed up in them.

As ever we had a great time on group camp with all the other sections in the 85th Greenock and District. We learnt new skills on the low ropes and crate climbing and also achieved our Experiment badges. Some of us were extra brave and slept in tents for the first ever time.

We have all worked extremely hard on our badge work since Easter and our Leaders were so proud to award almost 150 badges across both sections this term. Our Leaders are looking forward to the summer break and welcoming us all back in the autumn.

Ilona



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.



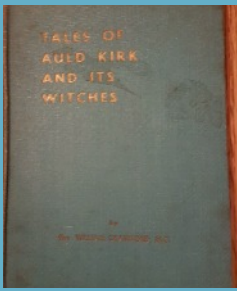
Thanks to Heather and Amy Stacey, (Brownies) and Fiona and Kirsty (Guides) who kept them going for as long as they could.

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



TALES OF AULD KIRK AND ITS WITCHES

By *Rev William Crawford, MC*

Continued from the previous issue:

The Haunted House

The road to Auldkirk winding along the valley of the Kip is very beautiful. West Hills rising steeply on either side, the meadow lands with their grazing cattle, the neat farm standings, and the fleeting glimpse of the distant mountains, it must be one of the most charming roads on the Firth of Clyde. But at night, the road is dark, shadowed by high hills and the overhanging trees, and at the darkest part of it, the haunted house stands within a stone throw of Chresswell Farm.

The traveller can hardly pass it today without wondering at it and a momentary interest being aroused as to its history. It is true that it is no more than a ruin, West broken down stones and mortar, shapeless mass with empty spaces where there were once doors and windows. Nevertheless, something seems to speak to him like an echo of the past-and he would fain wish that its full story could be told.

*For over it there hung a cloud of fear,
A sense of mystery the spirit daunted,
And said as plain as whisper in the ear
The place is haunted.*

I cannot enter into the story of Cresswell, or Crisswell It would take too long. The name as it sometimes appears-Christwell - plainly betokens the presence of a sacred well. Which is still in existence a short distance from the farm. It was supposed to have healing properties.

As early as the 13th century reference is made to a Chapel at Cresswell, no doubt associated with the sacred well. There was, besides, the residents or Manor place of the proprietor, who was at one time a relative of the powerful family of Lindsay of Dunrod., and at another, A cousin of the Stewarts of Blackhall.

Whether the building in question was part of the Chapel or simply the remains of the Manor House of Cresswell is not definitely known, and possibly never will be but this much can be said, that, For generations past the place has been regarded as haunted. Few would be found among the country folk do pass close by it after nightfall, and then only if necessity Compelled and always with quick and footsteps and a beating heart.

The story need hardly be told-it is so familiar-of how the prophet Peden laid across upon it.

Peden was the most noted of the Covenanters and was for many years hunted for his life. One of his places of refuge was the neighbouring Spango Glen. One night of dreadful storm sick in body, tired with his wanderings and anxious to pass the night under shelter, he knocked at the door of the house, but the inmates, recognising who he was roughly ordered him away and slammed the door in his face.

It was then that Peden cursed the place, declaring that, for their unkindness, the traffic of the world would one day pass through their midst, under roof would be open to the winds of heaven.

It was startling prophecy, and, if ever spoken came to a remarkable fulfilment. The next time you pass the haunted house, notice are the main highway passes clean through it, leaving part on one side and part on the other. It is also a roofless ruin. Sparrows' builder nests in the crevices of the walls, and the sound of the Owl is heard near it at night! (Nothing now remains of the ruins as the dual carriageway goes over the top of them).

A persistent rumour among the old folk connected the name of Monteith with the haunted house. Indeed, it is believed that it was one of that name that turned the saintly Covenanter, on that stormy night, from the door. Now Monteith was a name that came to be universally detested among the people of the Scottish race, for it was a Monteith that betrayed Sir William Wallace, the hero of liberty.

Rumour has it that this Monteith was in direct descent from the man who treacherously betrayed Wallace, and that he was a fierce opponent of the Covenanters. He commanded some soldiers of the government at the battle of Bothwell Brig, and after that fatal day pursued The hill folk with relentless ferocity. He it was, also who shortly thereafter headed a large party of horse, overwhelmed Richard Cameron the leader of the Covenanters and his gallant comrades on the field of Airdsmoss. Cameron was slain in the battle, and his head and hands were cut off, it is stated by the same Monteith, who took them to Edinburgh, exhibiting them in person to his aged father, who exclaimed on seeing them, "I know them! I know them! These are the head and hands of my dear son Richard!"

Tradition does not say what was the end of this man of blood, it is believed by some that he was the last inhabitant of the haunted house. When he died the place fell into ruin. A curse lay upon it like that upon the evil man of Scripture: -"let his name be cut off and his habitation be desolate."

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

ECO GROUP

The eco group continues to organise monthly litter picks and have been delighted to welcome the support of both the Cubs and Scouts of the 85th Greenock and District Scouts recently to help out and swell the numbers. In general the number of volunteers each month is less than 10.



New litter pickers and a great collapsible wheeled barrow to transport equipment and bags to/from the beach were purchased 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!

Several group members were recently successful in individual applications for funding for litter picking equipment from Keep Britain Tidy and pooled their resources to buy some great new litter pickers!

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



Eco Group Contd

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 and members are encouraged to give this great wee business their support. Please note that they have now moved to 5 John Street in Gourock.

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

Lynne McBain



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

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AT THE BIRD TABLE

RETROSPECTION -It might be an age-related thing, but in preparation for my contribution to the summer edition of the newsletter I found myself having a look at my previous summer edition ramblings. I've heard it said that "Hind Sight" is the greatest science known to man (and women) but in real terms when we look to the past we are able to make comparisons with present day situations and, to some extent at least, make an educated guess as to how things may develop in the future.

Here are two extracts from the summer issues of June 2016 and June 2019;
2016. Small numbers of Swallows and House Martins are about at the moment and hopefully we'll see numbers increase as more insects hatch as the weather (hopefully) improves. One or two Siskins have been at the feeders as have Green Finches which have been absent for a couple of years. House Sparrow numbers seem to be on the rise too, at least round here anyway. In the past couple of days prior to writing we have had a young Green Finch and a Coal Tit fall prey to a Sparrow Hawk, the circle of life rolls on, like it or not, and;

2019. We've had the usual selection of garden birds over the last few months as well as Tree Creepers and Great Spotted Woodpeckers. On 13th and 18th of April we had a male Blackcap but no sign of a female however. I checked my records for last year and found that I had noted a Blackcap in the garden a week earlier (6th April) but no female recorded on that occasion either, although I have noticed that, on a couple of previous occasions, a female was in the nearby shrubbery while the male was in full view.

I've had reports of Goldfinches, Siskins and Redpolls feeding in local gardens and during local walks I noted Goosanders (pair) and Heron on the Kip Water, Sparrowhawk, Pied Wagtail, Swallows in Ardgowan Estate and further afield Yellowhammers (once common locally) and Willow Warblers.

This year our most common garden visitors have been Jackdaws, Rooks, feral pigeons, Collard Doves, House sparrows, Gold Finches, Blackbirds and Dunnocks. Bull Finches have been seen in the village and we had a pair just a few days ago.



Just recently a small, unidentified, bird collided with an upper window at the rear of our neighbour's house and rolled into the guttering. It was immediately attacked and killed by two Jackdaws which flew down from the ridge of the roof before making off with their meal.



Nature can be cruel at times. I speak from experience as, this very morning, when my wife opened the front door to take in the milk, she found that a fox (or foxes!) had scooped the half dozen eggs delivered by the milkman. This is the second time this year such a heinous act has been inflicted upon this household by Messrs "Vulpes Vulpes" and Co. I was really annoyed as I then had nothing in which to dip my toast soldiers.



You may be surprised to know that foxes are quite active around the village and the photograph was taken in mid-afternoon in a garden on Main Street. It also appeared later in Beatock Place and in both instances the fox showed no interest or fear of the human beings present.

On a more serious note, the extremes of heat and lack of rain is causing serious problems for aquatic life. The oxygen levels in our rivers, burns, lochs and ponds drops resulting the death of fish, amphibians etc. Toxins, from the decaying matter in the water then compound the situation.

Please take extra care when dealing with your feeders and water dishes and keep safe.

Hope you have a good summer.

Dunnock.

Photographs by permission of James Brown and Jean Benson



Property Group

The property group continue to meet on Tuesday afternoon, the bulk of our attention is taken up with keeping the grounds looking tidy. The Azaleas are really starting to mature and gave a great splash of colour to what was a wild corner. Thank you to everyone who has commented. It is nice when locals and visitors give positive feedback it makes the hard work worthwhile.

New lounge and bathroom windows have been fitted in the Manse, a new front door has also been fitted.

After one of the light fittings in the main hall came loose. (Possibly struck by a ball)? We are now looking to replace the main hall lighting, with LED replacements, this would be carried out over the quieter summer period.

Some of the flowerpots outside the hall have been freshened up, and the pots under the notice board that Isabel Hunter tended for many years have also been refreshed.

There is a bat survey planned on the late evening of Tuesday, 4 July. Watch Facebook and church intimations for confirmation.

Thanks to all who give a little of their time to come and help do a little gardening, DIY, or drinking tea and putting the world to rights. All help is appreciated.

Property Group



HEARTSTART INVERCLYDE

Heartstart Inverclyde is a British Heart Foundation initiative established in Inverclyde in 1999. Their aim is to provide Emergency Life Support Skills to all age groups in the Local Community. The 2 hour course is provided free, and is designed to give people the confidence 'To Do' something' in an emergency situation.



Given that we have our own Defibrillator outside the Church Hall, we requested a course to be held for anyone interested in attending. On 21 and 22 March, 23 church members and villagers took part in Defibrillator and First Aid Training in the Church Hall. These excellent training sessions were provided by Linda

McDowell and Glen Miller, volunteers with Heartstart Inverclyde.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the training, although pretty hard work, and received a Heartstart certificate at the end.

Anyone requiring the Defibrillator should ring 999 and the ambulance service will issue you with the code to open the box.



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