

INVERKIP CHURCH NEWSLETTER WINTER 2022-23



INVERKIP CHURCH - ADVENT SERVICES

Sunday 27th November

10 am – First Sunday in Advent

Sunday 4th December

10 am – Second Sunday in Advent

Gift Service – please bring an unwrapped gift for a child for distribution
by the
Salvation Army

5-7 pm – Light Night in Church grounds celebrating the Light that came
into the world at Christmas. An opportunity to add a prayer disc to our
Christmas tree and to light a prayer candle in memory of a loved one.
Gifts can be brought along at this time too.

Sunday 11th December

10 am – Third Sunday in Advent

Sunday 18th December

10 am – Fourth Sunday in Advent

Saturday 24th December

7 pm – Family Service with Nativity

11.30 pm – Watch Night Service

Sunday 25th December

10 am – A short Family Service



INTERIM MODERATOR

Karen Harbison

Dear Friends

The clocks have changed, the nights are fair drawing in and the weather is getting colderwinter is just about here. And these darker months bring many challenges in terms of people feeling a bit lonely or isolated, a bit sad as they remember loved ones no longer here to share conversation and all of life's ups and downs in the long winter evenings, a bit wary of going out in wild weather, and this winter there are the added worries of increased food and fuel costs to try to cope with.

As the church, as followers of Christ we seek to follow the light of the world and to bear the message of hope and love and justice and so we, in our church life are seeking to offer, in so many ways spaces and places of warmth and hospitality, companionship and conversation to each other and to our neighbours in our community.

And in the midst of winter, through the Season of Advent we hear the words of the prophets and the whispers of angels and look forward to celebrating the gift of the Christ Child.

The Advent call is a call to pilgrimage:

To follow a star wherever it leads,

To wait in suspense for a new revelation,

To journey in hope, confident of God's leading,

To believe that the heavens can open,

To watch for an unlikely birth

And see beauty in the dirt of a stable.

The Advent call is a call to pilgrimage.

In this magazine you will be able to find out about many of the events and activities planned in the church and community over the next weeks.

Together may you have a blessed Advent

With best wishes

Karen



PASTORAL ASSISTANT

Lynsey Graham



I'm sure I can speak for everyone when I say what an absolute delight it is to have our young people back with us on a Sunday morning! A huge thank you to my fellow worship team members for including the children in the Sunday services and to all who have offered to help with Sunday School. Why not join us each week in our Weekly Mission? Check out our Sunday School boards in the large hall for more information.

There is a common phrase we hear that goes something like 'children are the church of tomorrow' but we all know they are very much the church of today in fact. The reason we feel so good when the children are with us is because often they are hearing about God's love through Jesus for the very first time, or having heard it a few times the realisation finally drops. Not only are we observing them but we actually feel something of that experience stir again in ourselves. That's why all-age worship is so important. We recall that sense of wonder we once had, we remember the feeling of hearing how loved we are and we reaffirm our identity as children of God, as we learn and experience God's love afresh, together as a church family.



What better way to end the year than with our Sunday School back and our School Christmas Assembly returning to church too?

One of my favourite Christmas songs has the lines:

“For a spell or two, no one seems forlorn

This comes to pass when a child is born”

So as we await the birth of our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ, let's remember, whatever age we are (!) that feeling of curiosity and wonder that the festive season brings and may we experience a spiritual rebirth through the Holy Spirit as we remember God's promises fulfilled for us.

God bless you

Lynsey

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Email: lynseychurch847@gmail.com

“Church is not an organisation you join; it's a family where you belong, a home where you are loved and a hospital where you find healing” Nicky Gumbel

CAFE CHURCH

As the nights are drawing in, we are still continuing to meet in the Wemyss Bay Station Café on the last Thursday of the month at 7pm and everyone is most welcome to come along and join us.

In September we had a virtual ‘tour’ of the Holy Land, studying all the famous sites and their significance to Jesus’ life and ministry. In

October we focused on the theme of Healing and welcomed along our good friend the Rev Morris Coull as our guest speaker. My Mum even felt called to get up and share with us her inspiring personal experience of divine healing, a moment in which God was truly glorified.

As always, we have a mixture of contemporary worship songs and some old favourites and with guest speakers, singers, musicians, poets and readers there is something for everyone. We often take a deeper look into topics that the group feel God is calling us to explore.

At the heart of our worship is always a deep sense of the presence of God. We start and end our evenings in prayer, asking God to bless us with His presence and always praying for our linked charges and our wider communities.

Its been a real blessing to be part of Café Church this year and I thank everyone who has supported us and to Lynne, Rita, Caroline and Susie for helping spread the word each month. Special thanks as well to our guest speaker Rev Morris and our special visitor Rob Rawson. A huge thank you to our hostess Lynne and the Café Church team: Ewen, Gloria, Jimmy, Phil, Sarah and Sheila for whom nothing is ever too much trouble.

With change going on in the wider church, we hope to be a constant source of support and encouragement to all and I look forward to what 2023 has in store for Café Church.

God Bless you,

Lynsey Graham, Pastoral Assistant

**Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in Heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them
(Matthew 18:19-20)**

SESSION CLERK

Ewen Cameron



I hope you are doing well and looking forward to our Christmas activities and services. We have had so many great services during Autumn. Each member of the worship group provides their own different style which I feel is great.

It was very pleasing to see the Sunday School restart and see the children come into the Church. Lynsey and I have looked at lots of materials and with the help of Sarah and Abigail the first class was very well received. We started with Zacchaeus, and we will be busy preparing for the Christmas in the next couple of weeks. We had one child who was in Sunday School before and 8 new starts. Hopefully we can build on the numbers but for the first week back we were pleased. Again, please let us know if you can assist with Sunday School. We are trying to have a rota, so the teachers have an opportunity to attend Church for a full service.

I am eagerly awaiting the Presbytery meeting which is scheduled for November 22nd. We will learn what the plan is for Inverkip Church and Skelmorlie Wemyss Bay and the Presbytery. I will of course update you as soon as I have details.

I was so pleased to read out at Church the fantastic news that Colleen had raised over £2k for Prostrate Cancer and raised awareness. Well done, Colleen.

I have been enjoying attending the Café Church which Rev Morris Coull in attended in October and talked to us about healing. Both members of our Churches and visitors have been attending which is great. Please come along if you get a chance to.

The increase in Gas and Electric will affect all of us but please try and come along to as many activities that the Church runs and you will have fun and warmth at the activities. If you need assistance in getting to/from Church on a Sunday please let me know or your elder and we will assist you.

I hope you all have a lovely Christmas. I appreciate that some find Christmas difficult so please reach out to myself or the Pastoral team if you need to talk or we can help in any way.

Take care of yourself and reach out if you can to assist your neighbours

TREASURER'S REPORT - Jac Seggie

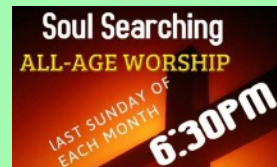
Wow only 2 months to the end of 2022! The finance team will be busy preparing gift aid and fabric fund claims to recoup the excess of payments over receipts which has grown to over £6k since my last report.

Thank you for joining me at the Harvest service on 25 September. We had a beautiful harvest display, that powerful video from i58 and everyone donated generously. I was able to send £456.91 to i58 (Inverclyde foodbank) after the service. I am sure that money has helped so many people!

We were also able to help a young man (who is suffering hardship due to an unforeseen injury) with £500 from the Crawford Bequest.

SOUL SEARCHING

Soul Searching was back in September after the summer break. We continued the harvest celebrations from earlier that day. There was a bread tasting challenge won by Anne Skedd who took home a lovely sour dough loaf for supper. Unfortunately technology wasn't our friend despite Keith's best efforts so we got the old hymn books out and Jennifer sang beautifully for us in her solo. Graham tried to interview Morag about psalm 104 but there were a few differences of opinion let's say. I was all sermoned out after the morning but I did share a short reflection on the psalm which I hope everyone enjoyed. Lynsey closed our time together in prayer. It was lovely to see a few new faces too.



October's Soul Searching was also plagued by technical difficulties; thankfully we only needed a couple of batteries and then we got back on track. Muriel had baked delicious goodies! Our theme was unexpected visitors and everyone seemed to enjoy the skit. Imagine Open All Hours in biblical times with Ian as Abraham and Graham as the young shop assistant. Such a fun and joyful evening.

If you haven't been before, or haven't been in a while, please join us for our last session of the year on 27 November in Skelmorlie & Wemyss Bay Church hall.

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



Dear Friends at Inverkip Church

As you know, I took part in March the month for Prostrate Cancer over the month of September where I pounded the pavements doing at least 11,000 steps per day.

Prostrate Cancer is a charity very close to my family's heart just now as my brother-in-law Michael continues to fight this disease.

I am absolutely delighted to say that I raised £2,025 for Prostrate Cancer UK. I am totally overwhelmed by the generosity shown by my wonderful friends at Inverkip Church. I just want to say a MASSIVE THANK YOU to you all for helping me achieve this amazing donation to this charity. The money will help so much towards treatments and support for those affected. In addition to the financial aim, I also wanted to raise awareness of Prostrate Cancer for all the men in our lives to be alert to the signs and symptoms. My heartfelt thanks to you all.

Faith, Hope and Love

Colleen



Friday, 2 December – Prostrate Cancer Fundraiser – 7pm for 7.30pm at Inverkip Church Hall

Following on from Colleen's fantastic fundraising effort for Prostrate Cancer, a charity also close to his heart, Jimmy Law is putting on an evening of entertainment with some of the material he used at the Edinburgh Fringe and he has enlisted the help of a good friend, Bobby McCallum, who is an excellent singer. It will be an evening of stories, song, poetry and humour and highlighting the beauty and the audience's memories of our scenic country. It will be a **Bring Your Own Bottle and Tickets are £5**. There will also be a Raffle





Church of Scotland Guild

Our Guild started in October and we now have fifteen members. In our whole area we have only five Guilds left, so it is very encouraging that we are still running and attracting new members. Our theme for this year is Little Seeds, Big Trees. This is to show that even doing little things can lead to bigger things.

All the Guilds in the area compete in what is called The Convener's Challenge. This year each Guild was to plant daffodils around the church grounds. Our Guild has planted all of the planters on the wall leading into the Halls. Hopefully we will have a lovely display in the Spring.

We also have a collection at our Christmas meeting for a chosen charity. This year we are collecting selection boxes and tubes of sweets for Children in Poverty. If anyone would like to donate to this cause, please give to a Guild member or bring to church by Sunday, 4 December.

If you would be interested in joining us, our next meeting is on 28 November from 14.00-16.00 in the Bonomy Room of the church hall. This is open to both men and women. You will be made most welcome.

Kathleen Miller 521956





TALES OF AULD KIRK AND ITS WITCHES

By Rev William Crawford. MC

Continued from the previous issue:

The Lady of the Snowdrops

I have not yet told all that this good lady did. the country was at war, and Napoleon threatened to invade the land with his armies. many had gone forth to fight and left widows to mourn them. food was both scarce and dear. there was much distress and poverty in the land studies have come down to us of the lady of the snowdrops being foremost in deeds of benevolence. she organised help for the sufferers, visited the widows in their affliction. Out of her substance she closed the naked and cared for the poor.

The man whom she married, the 4th baronet, was the first to bear the name of Shaw Stewart," Appointment the death of his grand uncle Sir John Shaw, 3rd baronet of Greenock, in 1752, he inherited the entailed estates of Greenock Easter, Greenock and Finnart And assumed the additional name of Shaw. through his mother he came also to represent the families of Nicholson of Carnock and Houston of that ilk."

Sir John Shaw Stewart, seems, in every sense, to have been a remarkable man. Distinguished by many great qualities, a man of great energy, vision and faith, he stood out from among his contemporaries As Saul stood out from the rest of the people. He succeeded to the baronetcy in the year 1796. His father lived till he was 84 and Sir John-The eldest son-was then a man past middle age. he died in 1812. he was Laird of Ardgowan for 16 years; but into those years was crowded a record of achievement which sounds to us today almost incredible.

In the first place he applied all his energy into building a new residence. the family had left for two centuries and more in some buildings lying close to the old castle. they were small and must have been lacking in both space and comfort. it was in no sense, a fitting or were they residents for the family. in two years' time, Sir John had the plans by Cairncross submitted, and the new mansion of go and completed I'm ready for occupation in 1798.

Ardgowan House, as it was called, with this fine hall and staircase, It's spacious rooms unsplendid outlook was regarded from the moment it was built as one of the finest residences in the County of Renfrewshire. Do it there was added, some years later a beautiful Chapel what it's lovely organ which was in constant use until quite recent times. as the years passed, the house contained more and more treasures-chieftest of which are perhaps the fine landscapes and paintings by well-known masters which adorn its walls. the most romantic is a portrait of himself which Napoleon had painted for his mother by a famous French artist. Below, in a little receptacle, is a lock of the great Emperors hair, and accompanying it is a field marshals 3 cornered hat. it has a bullet hole through it. Napoleon wore it at the Battle of Wagram!

Sir John next sets his heart on a greater undertaking. roads well the great lack in Scotland then, and the only road to Greenock from Inverkip was by the old graveyard, across the Roman bridge, advance by what was no more than a cat track winding up and down the valley of the Kip it was a day's journey in itself. Sir John Shaw Stewart determined that he would make a better and more direct road.

The project that faced him was formidable enough; the sea at high tide, wash the stones at the foot of the bell rock. believe it or not, there is a picture, on the walls of outgoing house, depicting fishing boats sailing up two within a short distance of Bankfoot. The Kip emptied itself there into the waters of the Firth!

Before the road could begin, the Kip, which at times came down in a turbulent flood, had to be diverted and the new course made for it, That course follows at the present day. Much solid masonry was used in the process. the road, it was more than a road-the broad highway took three years to construct and involved an immense amount of labour. As it proceeded it compassed the ruin of the house at Cresswell and so brought to fulfilment the curse that the prophet, Peden, had lead upon it. Sir John bore the whole expense of the great undertaking.

The road was completed in the year 1802-1803. Greenock then showed little signs of the vast expansion that was to take place during the 19th century. The genius of James Watt, the advent of the Steamboat and the great era of industrialism were yet to come. From a small borough of a few thousand inhabitants good Greenock was to become an important seaport of some 60,000 people by the end of the century. With its key position on the Clyde, it's great shipyards, docks and factories it was rapidly to develop into one of the busiest centres of trade in the whole country. Sir John Shaw Stewart must have had some vision of the great days ahead when he planned the road which will ever be associated with his name.

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

FOODBANK AND STARTER PACK COLLECTION

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

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

- **Tues 13 Dec 6-7 pm & Wed 14 Dec 1-3 pm**

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



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

Selection boxes and woolly hats and gloves also appreciated.

Starter Packs

“By 10 November, 27 packs had already been given out this month, this means the shelves are looking rather empty.”



Items in short supply, Shaving Foam, Razors, Gents Shower Gel/Shampoo, Kitchen Roll, Bathroom/Kitchen Cleaner, Dish Cloths and Scourers. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

CHURCH HALL BOOKINGS



**KEEP
CALM**

AND

DO NOT TOUCH THE
THERMOSTAT

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

I am pleased to report we have gained a few new members. At the last count we could have 2 full sets (if everyone was there on the same night!) However, we are always pleased when we have enough to dance!! We enjoyed a visit from Susie on Thursday 27th October. She brought her dancing shoes and just joined in allowing us to have a 5 couple set. Susie you are welcome any time. We will make 15th December our last class before the Christmas break .

As usual enquiries to **Gaye 07866347981**



USED GLASSES

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

Many thanks
Joyce Brown



FAMILY NEWS

Special Birthdays

Alex Anderson
Anne Graham
Anne Barr
Drew Gallagher
Colleen Erskine
Margaret Lapsley
Lynsey Graham
Peter McDonald
John Rodden
Barry Murphy
Blair Harkins
Anna Darroch
Aryn Burke
Norrie Barnes

Newly Wed

Judy Walker & Chris Story

New Arrival

Congratulations to Sophie and James on the birth of their son Harrison.

Proud Grampa - Stuart Smith

Christmas Shoebox Appeal

89 boxes were delivered to the Blythswood van at Clark Memorial Church, Largs on 2nd November. A very big thank you to all who supported once again.

SENIORS KEEP FIT

Firstly, our grateful thanks to Andy, our group's only gentleman (so far) who took this photograph to allow me to be "captured" on camera. There is no prize for spotting me!

Unfortunately, some of our original members are no longer able to attend due to health problems however, as you can see from the photo, the group continues to flourish. Since the "Covid break" 6 ladies have joined and they assure us that we are indeed a group where fun, friendship and fitness does flourish. Age is irrelevant! One of our keenest new members is (whisper it) over 90!

Grace, as always, leads with great enthusiasm. She constantly surprises us with varied and fantastic music together with new ways of working on our core strength, balance and posture.

If you feel you would like to try the class out, please come along to the church hall on a Friday morning at 10am. We would be delighted to see you.

Anne Skedd



GIRL GUIDING NEWS

Inverkip Rainbows are still meeting as usual on Mondays in the church hall at 6.30 pm, however, unfortunately we have had to temporarily close the Brownie and Guide units until new leaders can be found to take on the running of these units



Meanwhile the Guides have joined forces with the Larkfield guides on a Thursday evening, any Brownie that is of age to move up to Guides or any Guide that wishes to keep attending will be made welcome at Stephanie's unit, If interested please contact jenny @ jscott_guides@yahoo.co.uk for full details of where / when

If you are able to offer a few hours each week to help the units remain open please register your interest at Register your interest | Girlguiding

Jenny Scott
Leader

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

inverkipchurchnewsletter@gmail.com

85th CUBS

Our Autumn Camp at South Newton was great fun with low ropes and inflatable Zorbs and other activities the Cubs participated in, so looking forward to visiting the camp again next year. We did manage to brush up on some skills while we were there!

Cubs also took part in another Eco Litter Pick recently as part of their continuing Environmental Conservation badgework. Really good turn out – well done Cubs and parents.

Halloween parties for both Sections were a great success. All the spooky and crazy costumes were amazing. We celebrated a festival that usually takes place in another Country covering our International badge. We made Day of the Dead masks and explored traditions by trying different foods.

Before the end of term, we will be having our Christmas Party/Camp at Everton with traditional Christmas dinner, crafts, outdoor activities and perhaps a special visitor or two!!

We are now ready to start plotting and planning our Badgework Programmes for next term which will include camps, events and assisting with Community events.

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

Yours in Scouting

Janice McAdam

Cub Section Leader

85thwemyssbaycubs@gmail.com

85thinverkipcubs@gmail.com



Scouts and Explorers

The Scouts have been out camping recently with camps at Everton in September and Bo'ness in October. Some of the Scouts have gained the Zodiac Challenge badge for camping



in different months of the year and having at least one camp in each of the 4 seasons. More are expected to complete the badge in December. October's camp took them to Bo'ness where they took a boat trip on the Falkirk Wheel and had a behind the scenes



tour of the National railway Museum. They had a night walk over the old Forth Road bridge and tried out some adventurous activities at the national Scout Centre in Fife.

Meanwhile the Explorers took part in this year's Mark Muir Challenge - Greenock's most prestigious competition for Explorers. The Challenge which is a secret programme started with heading to Aviemore on Friday night and doing a night hike up to the well known "Green Loch" where they camped out in survival bags. Saturday was spent hiking down from the Loch and then spending the day cycling between Loch Morlich and Loch An Eilein completing different bases. Activities and tasks at the bases included paddleboarding, pioneering, bike maintenance and various Task Master and problem solving challenges. On the Saturday night, the Explorers hiked up and down Cairn Gorm with full kit in challenging conditions.



On the Sunday, it was an early rise at 6am to do a final hike round Loch An Eilein before heading back to Inverkip to finish off the weekend with lunch prepared by the Muir family and to receive their awards presented by the District Commissioner in front of family and Unit leaders. All Explorers completed the challenge and received their Mark Muir Challenge award with one of them going above and beyond the requirements of the challenge and receiving the Gold Mark Muir Challenge award. Our team a healthy earned 3rd place this year with the Darroch Explorers from Gourrock winning 1st place. The challenge is a difficult one and just completing it is something to be proud of.

The Scouts and Explorers are now looking forward to a fantastic run of shows with the Greenock Gang Show at the Beacon Theatre in November with several of them appearing in the cast on stage and the others enjoying a night in the audience.

Andy Yarr
I. Scout @ 85th G&D
Mob: +44 7747 457 320



PROPERTY GROUP

After a long, not-very-hot summer, the Property Group have tidied up the grounds for winter, planted daffodil bulbs in anticipation of spring and turned their attention indoors. The main doors to the Halls have been painted, as have numerous skirting boards. There is no saying what Irene, Bruce and Joyce will paint next!



Thanks to the financial generosity of the Scottish Country Dancing group and the practical talents of Peter and Jim, the Gents/Disabled toilet now sports a vanity unit. It will shortly have a baby-changing table installed as well.

Meanwhile, over at the church, I am glad to say that the attic timbers have been checked and not found wanting, and the clock has been serviced for another year.

Regular readers of the Newsletter will know that there is always a warm and open invitation for prospective members to join the Property Group. The regular meeting time is Tuesday from 1pm until the kettle goes on at 2.30, but at least one member (viz. Douglas) prefers to contribute on a flexible basis - so whatever suits you, you can be sure of a welcome.

My thanks go to all the team, plus those who help them. Grazie mille!

Susie Gemmill

Property Convenor

Wanted! Additional Members for the Sound+Screen Team



It is hard to believe that our audio visual equipment was installed five years ago.....already! Of course, during much of the two “lockdown” years, we only had a limited number of services when it was used, and we are most grateful to Skelmorlie Wemyss Bay Church for pioneering recorded services and live-streaming so that we could nevertheless enjoy worship from home. It has now been proposed that we develop live streaming for ourselves, but there are presently only three team members regularly operating the audio-visual equipment and more hands would be needed if we introduced camera(s) too. Please do approach either myself, Rory Cameron or Morag Cowe if you have any interest whatsoever in joining the team - the more people involved, the more we can do to develop the potential of technology.

Many thanks!

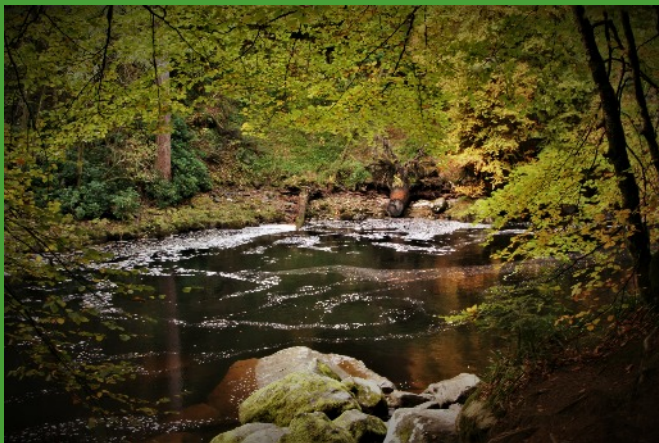
Susie Gemmill

AT THE BIRD TABLE

Judging by the gales and the rainfall during the last couple of weeks of October and the beginning of November, coupled with turning the clocks back, I would have to say that Winter is upon us. Summed up well but that little known poet, Billy Shakespeare, who said, “When icicles hang by the wall, And Dick the shepherd blows his nail And Tom bears logs into the hall, And milk comes frozen home in pail, When blood is nipp'd and ways be foul, Then nightly sings the staring owl, Tu-whit; Tu-who, a merry note.”

It's been a while since I've heard owls hooting around the village but there again, I don't tend to be out and about so much when darkness falls. In the past I have heard Tawny Owls calling from trees within the village and I know that there are still Barn Owls hunting silently along hedges and fields. It can be a bit un-nerving when a Barn Owl, with its soundless flight, suddenly appears out of the blue (or should that be “the black”?) on a still, misty night. Really spooky!

Trees are shedding their leaves quite rapidly now and, on returning from a week of dog sitting in Aberdeenshire, we were surprised to see that all the rowan berries had been stripped from the trees. Presumably the birds, for there was not a trace of berries on the ground, had been feasting in our absence. With the berries and leaves gone I get a good view of birds (and squirrels) waiting in the tree to get to the feeders.



We decided to take an indirect route to Aberdeenshire with a couple of overnight stops to visit places of interest. Our first destination was Birnam on the A9 to visit The Hermitage, a scenic woodland glen with waterfalls and gorges, originally designed in the 18th. Century for the Dukes of Atholl as a pleasure ground. We followed winding paths up the glen to the famous Rumbling Bridge, a really spectacular spot.



Next morning, we stopped off at Loch of the Lowes, a Scottish Wildlife Trust reserve in Perthshire. It has a visitor centre with toilets and a shop, there are also two observation hides complete with telescopes, at the shore of the loch. The loch is fished by a pair of Ospreys between April and August and in winter wildfowl such as Goldeneye, Wigeon and Whooper swans may be seen. While at the centre we were able to watch a small group of Fallow Deer moving along the lochside. A lovey area and certainly worth a visit.

Scotland is a really wonderful country and it's certainly worth the effort to care for and protect our precious environment!

Although the regulations regarding "Bird Flu" have been relaxed please take care when dealing with your feeders, clean and disinfect them regularly and be sure to wash hands thoroughly when finished.

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

Dunnock



ECO GROUP

As another year draws to a close the church eco group would like to thank the dedicated litter picking group – “Litterkippers” which has continued

to meet each month to tackle the many litter issues which our community faces. There continues to be a lot of general littering around the village and beaches, in addition to the marine litter washed up on the shoreline, and fly tipping is an ongoing problem. We were delighted to be joined by the Cubs of 85th Greenock and District Scout Group to help out a couple of litter picks through the year, and a group from Ardgowan Thistle Football team. Our thanks go to all the volunteers who have turned out in all weathers to help to make a difference.

The eco group continue to collect newspapers, magazines and junk mail which is passed to White House Products who shred it to use in packaging and in return a small annual income is generated which supports the ongoing work of the eco group.

The group also continues to collect used pill packets which are passed on for recycling, old or unwanted spectacles, and stamps, all of which can be dropped off at the church each week or to the hall on Foodbank collection days.

The group continues to offer washing up liquid refills to help reduce our plastic consumption.

Through the pandemic there was significantly reduced opportunity to hold our monthly Fair Trade stall but this will hopefully resume shortly.

Thank you to all for your ongoing support.

Our last litter pick date of the year is Sunday 20th November from 13:00-15:00 and the first one of 2023 will be on Saturday 22 January from 10:00-12:00.

Lynne McBain



RURAL

It was lovely to meet our returning members and to welcome new ladies in September .



Cath gave a demonstration of flowers for Halloween which were greatly appreciated by the ladies who won them in the raffle. We have also been knitting squares to be made into housecoats as part of the “knit for peace” project. Members or visitors always welcome.
Kate MacPhail, Secretary



Alison Bunce has been named RCN Nurse of the Year 2022 for her incredible work with Compassionate Inverclyde.

Many Congratulations Alison on this fantastic achievement.

BADMINTON



If you fancy a game of Badminton just come along on Mondays at 19:45 in 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.



We all anticipate that this winter will be incredibly difficult for many individuals and families; Inverclyde is already one of most deprived areas in Scotland and now we're up against a cost-of-living crisis.

CVS Inverclyde is working with Inverclyde Council and HSCP to deliver the Warm Spaces initiative.

We as a church are offering a free soup and roll lunch in the church hall every Monday, 12:00 – 14:00 or on the dates when the Guild and Rural are on they invite everyone to join them 14:00-16:00 for a free cuppa and fellowship. Please come along and enjoy our Warm Space.

Monday, 21 November 14:00 – 16:00 – Cuppa and Chat with the Rural

Monday, 28 November 14:00 – 16:00 – Cuppa and Chat with the Guild

Monday, 5 December 12:00 – 14:00 – Soup Lunch

Monday, 12 December 12:00 – 1400 – Soup Lunch

Monday, 19 December 14:00 – 16:00 – Christmas Cuppa with the Rural

Quiz Night Winners



It was a closely fought battle between the Laws and the Browns, only 1 point in it, however, the Browns just won the coveted trophy. A Big Thank You to Sainburys and all who donated raffle prizes and came along on the night. £275 was raised for Church Funds.



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 Brownies Guides (in school) SWI (monthly) Guild (monthly)
Wednesday:	Scouts Cubs & Beavers (in school)
Thursday:	Cafe Church (Wemyss Bay Station Cafe/last Thurs) Country Dancing
Saturday:	Messy Church (last Saturday of the month)

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

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