


ISWB BULLETIN

SUMMER 2024
ISSUE 1

The Quarterly Magazine of Inverkip, Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay Church



“When they sprout leaves,
you can see for yourselves
and know that summer is near” *Luke 21 v30*

MESSAGE FROM

OUR MODERATOR

'Spill the beans' – the expression means 'to let on', to tell all to an eager audience. I am on the writing team for the Scottish lectionary based worship resources called Spill the Beans.



Rev Karen Harbison

The ethos of Spill the Beans has always been about the story. We believe story is the lifeblood of faith. In story we can tell the truth and speak with honesty about things for which there are not yet words. Telling and sharing and exploring the story of God and God's people, of Jesus and the disciples, hearing the stories Jesus himself told, learning from the stories of the early church and then telling them again and again connects us all together and enables our faith to develop and grow. One of the reasons we chose 'Spill the Beans' as the name for our resources was about that excitement and enthusiasm in telling the story and enabling it to be engaged in creative and relevant ways.

Part of the job of those who have been elected to serve on the Nominating Committee, is to tell the story of the congregation of Inverkip, Skelmorlie & Wemyss Bay Church with enthusiasm

and commitment to anyone who may be considering making an application for the ministerial vacancy here. The work of spilling the beans, telling, sharing, exploring the story of, not only the congregation, but of God's love, is of course, the responsibility of each one of us. By our words, our actions, our worship, our service and the stories of our own lives, we tell the story of God's love.

May these words from Colossians chapter 3 encourage you in the days ahead' and be thankful. Christ's message in all its richness must live in your hearts. Teach and instruct one another with all wisdom. Sing psalms, hymns and sacred songs, sing to God with thanksgiving in your hearts. Everything you do or say, then, should be done in the name of the Lord Jesus as you give thanks through him to God the Father'.

KEEP UP-TO-DATE ON WHAT IS HAPPENING IN OUR CHURCH

www.iswb.org.uk



Inverkip, Skelmorlie &
Wemyss Bay Church



Church Service on YouTube

search for "Inverkip and Skelmorlie"
make it a favourite or bookmark)

MESSAGE FROM

PASTORAL ASSISTANT

In June we travelled to Fuerteventura and had many adventures; notably feeding Giraffes from a raised platform and a road trip up a narrow mountain road with Dr Phil! Strangely enough, my ears didn't 'pop' on the plane but they did go up the mountain (which I think was a volcano)!

I did a bit of snorkelling – something I first tried over 20 years ago at the Great Barrier Reef and loved. There is a whole vibrant, intricate and hidden world under the surface of the water that comes to life. One glance at the beach and everyone is just relaxing, oblivious to everything happening nearby. It reminded me of the spiritual world that is all around us, all of the time. Even though we can't see it, it is even more real and beautiful than all we can see with our own eyes. As



Lynsey Graham

Christians, we walk in faith and not by sight but there are times when we can ask God to open our eyes, to give us vision and discernment. We can 'dive' into the word of God through reading the Bible, listening to a great sermon or worship song or spending time with Him in prayer. The great news is you don't even need to go anywhere to do these things, so perhaps take some time today to slow down the pace of life, focus on breathing slowly and ask God to give you eyes to see and ears to hear all that He is saying to your spirit.

BOOK BASKET

Joyce and Anne

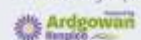
The fundraising 'BOOK BASKET' is still being well supported and thanks to Joyce Brown for keeping it well stocked and organised. All funds raised so far have gone to the Butterfly project which supported young carers. A new initiative called My Grief Matters has been set up in its place. My Grief Matters is a valuable, free service provided by Ardgowan Hospice, dedicated to offering awareness sessions on

effectively supporting and responding to bereaved children and young adults. Training is available to schools, churches and all community organisations. Hopefully everyone will be happy to give their continued support to this excellent service. If anyone wants further information about this service, contact Wellbeing at the Hospice 01475 305401.



**MY GRIEF
MATTERS**

Children & Young People



MESSAGE FROM

OUR SESSION CLERK

The summer is upon us and the long daylight hours mean we can enjoy God's creation with beautiful sunsets and long days.



Ewen Cameron

Rory and I had the pleasure of taking our Californian cousins on a whistle-stop tour around Scotland in June. We visited Pitlochry in the rain, Fort Augustus in stunning sunshine and took in the Isle of Raasay, Arisaig, Inveraray, Inverkip and St Andrews.

I woke up at sunrise every morning at 4.45 and took some superb photos. I have never been to Inveraray Church till their visit and thought it very impressive. We had a visit to Inverkip Church on Friday morning and they loved the simplicity of the building.

The Nominating Committee has been working very hard and we have set a closing date for applications for mid-July. I am unable to provide any information on candidates but have been very impressed with how we are progressing.

Please continue to pray and I am sure with God's guidance we will be able to provide positive news for the next newsletter. I would like to thank the Soul-searching team for the wonderful services throughout the year. They are stopping for the summer but when they restart after the summer please come along.

The Cafe Church has been very successful and I am looking forward to the service which for June is being held on the concourse of Wemyss Bay Station.

Have a wonderful summer and I hope you can visit other Churches over the summer like I will. Please come back with ideas on how we can change or improve our Church in Inverkip, Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay.



christian aid

Caroline Scott

Sunday 19th of May was both Pentecost (50 days after Easter) and our Christian Aid united service and soup brunch in Skelmorlie.

This year's Christian Aid theme was 'Seven days for lasting change' and a short video shown during the service highlighted how transformative a small co-operative loan can be in Africa. Christian Aid offers advice and trains local people to establish their own savings and loan co-operatives. The case study showed how enabling the purchase of a simple bicycle increased the quantity of farm produce gathered in and sent on to the market by a widow called Aline. This in turn generates more revenue to help Aline pay for the further education of her children; a Christian action pushing back against the inhumanity of poverty. Our Outreach committee had prepared three tasty soups and hot rolls to be served with the usual refreshments after the service. It was both a time of fellowship and a celebration of the transformative power of the holy spirit. In May, ISWB Church of Scotland raised £1,080.00 for Christian Aid. Many thanks to all who helped out and donated to this worthy cause.





It kicked off with a quiz in Inverkip Bowling Club on Friday 7th June which was won by our own Jac Seggie's team. By Saturday lunchtime, in spite of the occasional showers, Inverkip Hub was buzzing with activities and entertainment indoors and out for all ages. Saturday evening's ceilidh in Inverkip Church Hall had us all birling round the floor to live music from a terrific ceilidh band. At the tea dance on Sunday afternoon the dancing was a bit more sedate but just as much fun and reminiscent of the old 'Come Dancing' only without the sparkly dresses and dinner suits. We all, dancers and spectators, enjoyed an excellent afternoon. Time now for a wee, well-earned rest before we start planning for next year's event.

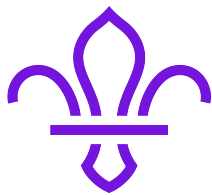


KIP FEST 2024!

PROBABLY THE BEST YET



Scouts



The **71st Ayrshire Scout Group** in Skelmorlie had a surprise visit from their district commissioner John and assistant Margaret during the planning meeting for the Scouts' jumble sale. They took the opportunity to present Explore Leader Kelsey with her Wood Beads and Cub Leader Eric with the Bar to the Award of Merit, recognizing his outstanding contribution to Scouting in Skelmorlie for many years. The

meticulous planning for the jumble sale, held on Saturday, 1st June, clearly paid off. The brilliant weather allowed for numerous stalls and activities to be held outside. As usual, there was a huge turnout by the locals, and an amazing £6,000 was raised. The Scouts and Cubs worked hard to ensure the sale's success, and the residents of Skelmorlie appreciated their efforts in cleaning up the area after the event.



Alistair B Wylie
71st Ayrshire Scouts
Mob: 07889 412924

The **Inverkip Scouts** went into Spring joining the fun at the Morton v Hearts game at Cappielow, with three camps following in the shape of a pioneering competition, Itchy Midgie camp and our annual Group Camp. They were welcomed for a tour of Greenock Fire Station and ran the races at Wemyss Bay Gala Day before running the burger stall at Kip Fest. They're now looking forward to a powerboating and wild camping weekend on Loch Striven in June.

Andy Yarr
I. Scout @ 85th G&D
Mob: 07747 457 320



This term has been full of fun and adventure for the **85th G & D Cubs** which will end with a visit to the Loch Lomond Sea Life Centre for a Sleepover.

Cubs recently took part in the annual Greenock & District Archery & Tomahawk Competition with one of our Cubs winning a 1st place trophy for Archery. We also had a super day out with the Powerboats.

Our registration night for the new term will be held at the Inverkip Church Hall on Wednesday 28th August 2024 between 7pm and 9pm.

New members welcome so come along and join the adventure with our Squirrel, Beaver, Cubs, Scouts and Explorer Sections.

Janice McAdam (GSL)
85th G&D Cubs 07563 372811



85th G&D Beavers have had a very enjoyable Spring/Summer term where we have been outdoors almost every week. We started the term with our Gardening Badge. The Beavers have learned how to pot and look after plants as well as learning about

different gardening tools. We have also completed hikes through Kelly Burn and Ardgowan Estate for our Explore Badge. Nine of our Beavers have received their Chief Bronze Award, the top award for Beavers.

Lynsey



FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

The Friendship Circle starts on Tuesday, 17th September, at 2pm and will be held fortnightly thereafter. If you have never been before, come along to enjoy fun, laughter, and, of course, tea. We enjoy a wide variety of activities and entertainment. You do not need to be a member of the church to join us. You will be warmly welcomed.

For more information call Rita on 01475 529289



INVERKIP COUNTRY DANCING

Our new session starts on Thursday 12 September at 7.30pm in Inverkip church halls. Even if you haven't danced since school or not at all, you will be made welcome. Come and try. Dancing is good for both the mind and the body.

For more information call Kathleen on 07850 047198



The Inverkip Guild will resume on the 30 September at 2.00pm in the Bonomy Room at Inverkip church halls. We are on once a month and have a variety of speakers. New members welcome. Come along and join us.

For more information call Kathleen on 07850 047198

INVERKIP SENIORS KEEP FIT



Our fabulous instructor, the wonderful Grace Gilchrist, didn't have us jumping through the hoops you see in the photographs, nor did we get to twirl them around our waist, or even spin them on the floor in the hope they would come back! Instead we were sensible and used them for coordination, shoulder rotation, flexibility and balance.

It was still fun though and, occasionally, a hoop would escape.

Classes on a Friday morning have stopped for the moment however, once the schools have returned from their summer break at the end of August, we shall be back with Grace at the helm. If you would like more information, please don't hesitate to contact me. On a Sunday morning after the service, I can usually be found having coffee over in the lounge.

Anne Skedd

BADMINTON

If you fancy a game of Badminton just come along on Mondays at 7.45 pm to Inverkip 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. £2 per night.



Carole Gordon
07967846449



We met on the last Thursday of April, as usual, and our theme for the evening was 'God's Protection'. I mentioned my time as a Health and Safety Rep and how we can't avoid all dangers but we can trust that God will give His angels charge over us to protect us.

I told a story of God protecting my cousin Allan and I in the 'cleft of the rock' one day while visiting some chasms when the weather suddenly changed from glorious sunshine to pouring rain, thunder and lightning. The amusing part is that while we were safe and dry in our hiding place we forgot all about the rest of our family whom we had left in the cars with the sunroofs down and windows open – yes, we had the keys! We concluded sometimes God wants us to be brave and "get out of the car" and He will provide a safe place! At our May Café Church Graham and I focused on 'The Richness of Creation' which we explored through a reading from Genesis, a modern-day parable and a poem. This month's theme was inspired by a recent trip to the Gaia Exhibit – a stunning artwork of the Earth floating in 3D – and seeing the Aurora Borealis

in all its glory from the church car park! Seeing these wondrous sights reminds us of God's grace and provision in all that He has created, and how we can honour Him in response by taking care of our planet and of all living things. We meet again on Thursday 27th June at 7 pm in the Wemyss Bay Station Café and all are welcome!

Lynsey Graham Pastoral Assistant



FAMILY NEWS

SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS

Belated Happy Birthday

Tommy Carmichael

Margaret Mary Smith

Formerly of Station Road, Inverkip

Recent Special Birthdays

Willie Gibson

Peter Hill

Pam Nelson

Ian Wilson

Hugh Young

Susie Young

HAPPY RETIREMENT

Jan and Brian Smith

CONGRATULATIONS

Romy Brown LLB (Hons)

Graduated with Bachelor of Law



NEWLY WEDS

Aimee Tyreman & Andrew Cannon

Granddaughter of the late Cathy Docherty

Sarah Hodge & Connor Hughes

Gayle Arthur & Liam Dolphin

GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Anne & David Rourke

Margaret & Brian Spence

Rosemary & David Johnston

Lynda & Campbell Sangster



Lynda and Campbell Sangster marked their golden wedding anniversary at a lovely celebration with friends and family. They now live very happily at Kincaid House.

NEW ARRIVALS

Jude Michael Hill – 29/5/24

Big brother Rowan Alexander

Parents Murray & Claire

Grandparents – Peter and Brenda Hill,

Michael and Lynn Flett

Eden Story

Mum & Dad Judy & Chris Story

Grandparents - Gillian Story and

Hazel & Steven Walker.


Finlay James Spence

Mum & Dad Andrew & Jess Spence

Grandparents - Margaret & Brian Spence

SADLY PASSED

Church members Helen Walker, Ann Clark, Bruce Middleton, Eddie Yde and Alastair O'May have sadly passed away since the last newsletter.



The
BIBLE STUDY GROUP

To read Phil's
article on
Glen Funnel
scan the QR
code



iswb.org.uk/glen-funnel-kirk

The group met from October until May and studied the Gospel story through the references to Peter. This was from his calling as a disciple, the examples of him speaking before getting his brain in gear, his denial of Jesus, and then his reinstatement by Jesus after the resurrection. We then started to look at his role as leader of the early church in Acts. It has been a fascinating journey with a group averaging 9 or so, not only watching Peter develop as a disciple but also watching the group develop, by facilitating it so that everyone felt confident asking questions, no matter how relevant or irrelevant the questions might have seemed – we even strayed into details of Jesus' 2nd coming, I really can't remember why! Although many of the group have known each other for quite a while, we have also had regular attendees from other churches. I have seen their

respect and trust in each other develop, and their confidence in sharing feelings and details that were personal but relevant to the discussions. Of course, anything said stays confidential within the group, but it is one of the best ways to develop as a Christian. My experience over the years has been that once someone takes the courage to come to a Bible study, they get involved, getting a better grasp of the Bible story and also of their faith journey. Perhaps there's a part of the Bible you have puzzled over or never looked at, or you would like a refresher on familiar stories. I haven't decided yet what we are going to study when we start again in the autumn, so please contact me with any suggestions you might have. I love Bible study so don't assume your topic might be off limits. Hopefully, I'll see you in the autumn.

Phil Theaker

WORLD CHEERLEADING CHAMPIONSHIPS

A massive thank you to everyone who helped and supported me to go to the World Cheerleading Championships in Florida. It was a wonderful experience that I could not have achieved without your help.

Many thanks, Lily



CAN YOU HELP?

Maintaining the church and its property is a considerable task, and we welcome help from anyone who is willing to lend a hand. Not all tasks require expert knowledge, and you don't need to be an Elder or a member to contribute. If you've picked up this magazine and have a willingness to help and a bit of time, your efforts would be greatly

appreciated. Our congregation is ageing, and while their spirit is strong, their physical strength may not match it. Any assistance, big or small, would be a blessing. We are particularly looking for help with the garden, property and Audio Visual. Please get in touch with the convener through our website. ISWB.org.uk.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

PROPERTY CONVENERS

Susan Gemmill Inverkip
David Johnston S&W

Care for churches, halls and manses, fabric maintenance, improvements, grounds maintenance, energy management, health and safety

WORSHIP AND MISSION CONVENER **Morag Cowe**

Sunday worship, Cafe Church, Soul Searching Special services – Holy Week, Christmas, Sunday School

PASTORAL CARE CONVENER

Willie Gibson Inverkip
Brian Spence S&W

Visiting members and parishioners, Working with the minister, pastoral assistant and district elders. Coordinating information on who requires support.

OUTREACH AND SOCIAL CONVENER

Muriel O'May
Carol Alexander Deputy
Caroline Scott Deputy

Fundraising and Social Events, Charity collections and support – local and national. Schools Liaison, Welcome.

FINANCE TREASURER

John Scott

Offerings – counting, recording and banking Gift Aid, Bookkeeping, Reporting, Annual accounts

COMMUNICATIONS CONVENER

Jean Benson

Intimations, Church Magazine, Website, Facebook and other social media, publicity, Church Screens

AUDIO VISUAL CONVENER

David Johnston

Sub Group of Communications, Sound, Easy Worship, Video Streaming and recording.

STATUTORY OFFICE BEARERS

Ewen Cameron Session Clerk
Rita Carmichael Session Clerk
John Scott Treasurer

OTHER NOMINATED POSTS

Iain Jackson Presbytery Elder
Ella Wright Roll Keeper
Iain Jackson Safeguarding
Carol Alexander Safeguarding
Jean Stewart Health and Safety
Ewen Cameron Health and Safety

SUNDAY SCHOOL



It was a pleasure to lead our new united Inverkip Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay church in the first of many joint worship services on Sunday 21st April. The children stayed in for the whole service and were an absolute joy! We showed a PowerPoint Presentation of some photos of the activities and crafts we have been working on since the Sunday School was reformed in October 2022. All the children then received a personalised Bible to mark the union of our churches and had the opportunity to introduce themselves individually to the congregation. The Sunday School children and adult helpers Laura and Ewen, then led the congregation in the actions to the song Teach Me to Dance, which seemed to go down well! The following week we were back in the halls and learning about what Jesus means when He says "I am the Vine, you are the branches". In May we learned all about the Ascension of the Lord, making pop up cards (!) and then all about The Great Commission to go in the World and spread the gospel to all

nations. We made megaphones to use to say something Jesus has done for us and globe-themed coasters with a Gospel message on - which we put on the tables for the adults to find over a cuppa! Sunday School meets at our 10 am service (Inverkip) and new friends will be made very welcome.

Lynsey Graham, Pastoral Assistant



GUIDING SKILLS FOR WELCOMING THE DEAF BLIND

Caroline Scott and Jean Benson - Outreach Group

Firstly, look out for a red band at the top of a white stick, which indicates hearing loss, in addition to visual hand, then drawing 'Hello' onto their skin; letter by letter, in block letters. You can introduce yourself too in this manner.

Guide the person by offering one of your elbows for them to hold in the cup of their hand. This is known as the 'C' grip. It means the person with the visual impairment can let go at any time and gives them full control of their progress.

Advance slowly ahead of the person with visual impairment. If the space narrows ahead, draw your guiding elbow back behind your back to communicate this change of dimension to them.

On reaching steps, take the hand of the visually impaired person from your elbow and place it on the stair bannister. Please do not hold their hand, count steps out or hurry them along.

Ensure the deaf blind person is guided to the same seat each week for worship, so they can build up a mental map of their Church environment.

Should a fire evacuation occur during a service, draw a large 'X' on their back with your fingers and offer your elbow for them to take in the 'C' grip, and guide them towards the emergency exit.

Two of our Outreach Team members attended an introductory online training session on the 25th of May hosted by Deafblind Scotland and experienced video simulations of sight impairments and learnt basic guiding skills for welcoming people with impaired vision and hearing loss. It was thought a good idea by our Church Outreach Group to communicate these tips more widely.

When guiding someone to a chair and table for fellowship, place the visually impaired person's hand firstly on the chair seat, then seat arms and lastly the table itself. This enables them to build a mental image of the relative heights of their surroundings before they sit down. Place any mugs containing hot drinks in a box before them.

If visiting the deaf or blind person in their own home, please do not tidy or move objects from their setting. This will only disrupt their sense of place and their sixth sense which they have in their home environment and will cause them distress as they search for objects you have moved. A visit to an unfamiliar place will be mentally draining for the visually impaired and they will tire quickly.

Deafblind Scotland offers more specialised communications training, should you wish to learn more about communicating with people living with impaired sight and hearing.





Last Sunday of each month at 6pm

Soul Searching

All-age worship

March was an emotional month as we imagined how Jesus was mocked and criticised by everyone around him before his death - we heard the harsh words of a farmer, Pharisee, trader, priest, worshipper, Judas and labourer.

In April we were feeling much happier after Easter and wanted to share the good news about the gospel with everyone. In our skit we heard Graham try to tell his friend from work about his faith. In May Jac was preparing for a very special meeting with God, but she tried to set the agenda instead of trusting in God, and inadvertently attracted the attention of the devil! Thankfully Lynsey was able to guide us back to the light in her reflection. In June we thought about how welcoming our church is. Our 'visitor Morag' saw all kinds of fascinating things in the church but the 3 long standing members were less than enthusiastic to begin with, especially grumpy Ian. We wanted everyone to

get the same welcome as if they were Jesus Himself. Along the way we also had prayers, readings, solos from Jennifer and our favourite hymns. And of course fellowship and Muriel's home baking. We think the last few months at soul searching have been some of our best services yet! Although it won't be the same without Eddie Yde who gave us so much encouragement and support over the years. Unfortunately it's time for our summer break to allow the group to refresh and recharge. Our next service will be in Inverkip church hall on 12th September from 6:30pm

*Jac, Ian, Morag, Siona, Lynsey,
Graham, Muriel, Jenniefer & Phil*

PROPERTY GROUP

*Susie Gemmill
Fabric Convenor*



The respective Property Groups of the two former congregations have been learning about each other and identifying the benefits of unification as we merge to form a single team.

Both sites share similar issues - the most prominent being chronic damp. We recently enjoyed a visit from the new Presbytery Building Officer, Donessa Shearer, who gave welcome advice and will help us to strategically plan the order in which we should tackle this problem. At Skelmorlie Wemyss Bay, the 'Moreland Wall' on Long Hill which was badly damaged by a vehicle collision has now been repaired. Thanks to David Johnston for organising its restoration and dealing with the insurance claim. The Kirk Session have decided to sell the manse at Inverkip. Accordingly, it is being prepared for the housing market. The manse at Skelmorlie, meantime, is receiving attention in readiness for the new minister in due course. Although the weather has not been great during the spring and early summer, the grounds at both Skelmorlie Wemyss Bay and Inverkip have been flourishing with new growth. Work parties have risen to the challenge of keeping it under control and looking good. The work of all members of the Property Group and those who help them is very much appreciated. I would particularly like to

pay tribute to Bruce Middleton who recently died following a lengthy illness. He was such an asset to the Inverkip group and we shall miss him greatly - not only for his practical skills (I am thinking especially of his talent for painting) but for enlivening Tuesday afternoon sessions with colourful anecdotes and his unique sense of humour! Bruce's wife, Eleanor, has very kindly and generously donated money to the fabric fund in his memory for which we are grateful.

Please consider joining the ISWB Property Group. No special talent is required and your commitment can be for as little or as much time as you wish to devote. You can be sure of a warm welcome!



ARDGOWAN HOSPICE FUNDRAISER

**An enormous thank
you to all who
participated in any
way to the coffee
afternoon at ISWB
Inverkipp Hall, 15 June.**

At least 242 people were counted, plus helpers, attended. The main hall was filled by 2.15pm. My brother & Alastair's brother worked really hard finding enough tables & chairs and setting up for the overspill from the main hall. People just kept pouring through the doors. Which was wonderful. A huge thank you to my daughters, Alastair's family and my friends who helped on the day. Most of them offered to do so! Maybe not so keen another time! They all worked so hard and deserve recognition. The Steadfast Band also attended the afternoon, again, offering their services in support of Ardgowan Hospice and added greatly to the ambience, with the band member's children taking part in one piece with

their instruments. Very grateful thanks for the donated wonderful raffle prizes, tombola prizes, craft goods & home baking which certainly encouraged people to spend money and help the final figure.

The fantastic sum of over £3000 was raised with, to date, another £1200 from the Just Giving page and £268.75 from gift aid. Taking our total to £4468.75. Ardgowan Hospice were delighted to receive the cash on Monday morning. The Just Giving donations will be sent directly in due course.

A wonderful tribute to Alastair.

Thank you all

*Muriel O'May, Alyson McMillan
& Judith Archibald*



ECO GROUP

The springtime continued to be busy for the Eco group who organised litter picks as part of the wider Big Clyde Beach Clean across Inverclyde, an initiative spawned by Keep Scotland Beautiful's Big Spring Clean.



This campaign saw litter picking groups coordinated by Green Tangerine, targeting the shoreline from Parklea right down to Wemyss Bay.

We were delighted that the Cubs and Beavers of the 85th Scout Group were able to assist with our beach clean and there was a great turn out from the children, leaders and parents.

Over the 6 week campaign there were 65 bags of litter collected from the beaches and around the village, 28 of which were sorted for recycling.

The statistics for the wider campaign across Inverclyde were incredible, with 628 volunteers taking part over 38 events, collecting 535 bags of litter equating to 2,675kg!

Well done to everyone involved! Our thanks go again to the staff from Inverclyde Council for the provision of litter picking equipment, bags and for the collection of the rubbish afterwards.



If you would like to get involved there will be a litter pick in Inverkip on Saturday 20th July from 10-12 and in Wemyss Bay on Sunday 21st July from 10-12.

Lynne McBain





FOODBANK AND STARTER PACK

Your continued support for these wonderful organisations is even more important with rising costs which will hit the poor harder than ever. At the June collection we were joined by Miss Aimee McFadyden and her Primary 3 class from Inverkip Primary who had organised a collection for the Foodbank from the school. A lovely group of pupils and a credit to their school. Thank you!



DATES FOR JULY-SEPTEMBER COLLECTIONS IN INVERKIP CHURCH HALL

Tue 16 July	Tue 20 Aug	Tue 17 Sept	6pm – 7pm
Wed 17 July	Wed 21 Aug	Wed 18 Sept	1pm – 3pm

On these dates we can also take Newspapers, Magazines and Envelopes for recycling by White House Products, plus Old Spectacles and Stamps.

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

Starter Pack requirements – 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.

GENERAL NOTICES

CHURCH HALL BOOKINGS

Can all scheduled Inverkip Church Hall users please notify me when they are not meeting. Thank you.

Inverkip

Joyce Brown

01475 521215 / 07800 816164

joycekbrown@hotmail.com

HEATING ISSUES

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

Inverkip

Jim Brown - 07399 449094

Skemorlie & Wemyss Bay

David Johnston - 07926 898148

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.

Inverkip Joyce Brown 01475 521215 / 07800816164
joycekbrown@hotmail.com

S&WB Catriona Swaffer 01475 520144
cswaffer@yahoo.co.uk



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 leave your used stamps at the Church Door or in the Church Hall

AT THE BIRDTABLE

There is song by Andy Williams which starts “Where do I begin to tell the story” from the film “Love Story” and it has absolutely nothing to do with birdwatching or anything remotely connected with my article in this newsletter. Those first few words however seemed to mirror my thoughts before hitting the keys of the computer with my musings (or should that be ravings?) for my first “At The Birdtable” article in the new magazine.

In birding terms I’m not a “Twitcher”, I just enjoy watching birds and other wildlife (insects, squirrels and occasionally Roe Deer) coming into the garden or seeing the variety of birdlife along the shore or in the local woodland. Without binoculars, and from the comfort of your own living room, it’s amazing what you might see.

In early June I heard a Woodpecker a Cuckoo a few times in the nearby woods but didn’t manage to spot either of them. They both tend to be quite elusive but it’s good to know they are around.

Following a recent trip to Tiree I’m pleased to say I saw no evidence of dead or dying seabirds, victims of bird flu, on the beaches we visited. Hopefully the situation is now improving throughout the country but caution is still required.

Hope you enjoy your birding,

Dunnock



SMARTIES CHALLENGE



We are blessed and privileged to live in a country where clean, uncontaminated water flows from our taps, most of the time.

But back in 1995 there was a severe crisis in West Yorkshire when the area ran dry due to a number of reasons, however, thousands of tankers drove the streets day and night for weeks, distributing supplies from other districts, ensuring we still had clean uncontaminated water to drink.

Welcome to Nairobi and its sprawling slum of Kibera – unlike West Yorkshire in 1995 – there is no lack of water – only a lack of clean, uncontaminated water.

The cause of the problem – damaged pipes, lack of investment and a ‘broken system.’ Contaminated water and poor sanitation are linked to the transmission of diseases such as cholera, diarrhoea, dysentery, hepatitis A, typhoid and polio. Absent, inadequate, or inappropriately managed water and sanitation services expose individuals to preventable health risks. Vision Ministries had to do

something – people were dying, at best missing work / school due to health issues. The effect on families was

devastating as incomes dropped with parents unable to feed their families or pay for medical care.

The government investing in fixing the ‘system’ would be the ideal solution – but..... unfortunately for the majority – nothing has changed.

When Vision Ministries heard about a local product – Water Guard – which treats contaminated water making it fit to drink, we decided to set up a program to distribute the product – freely – through the local church.

We were blessed when Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay Church came alongside with the brainstorming idea of the Smartie Challenge - filling a Smartie tube (once the contents had been enjoyed)



BULLETIN CONTRIBUTIONS

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If you have any special celebrations please let us know.

with 20 pences. Twenty pence pieces would buy a bottle of precious Water Guard which would award the protection needed for an improved life now the cost is just short of 40p! Pastor Nicholas has sent a couple of testimonies from beneficiaries:

One lady has just said that water guard has really changed her life because before she used to get cough and stomach problem and even diarrhoea and she used to go to community health care but since she begin to get water guard from the Community Living Waters Church she now is very happy with her family.

Another person who is 45 years has said the water guard project is very good and helpful even his mother who is upcountry he takes a bottle of water guard to her every month and they have improved their health I thank the church for supporting us.

We at Vision Ministries, thank you for your continued support – please know you are making a difference in helping those who cannot help themselves as thousands of lives are being touched each month.



ESSENTIAL CONTACTS

Interim Moderator

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Session Clerks

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Treasurer

John Scott 520259

Property

Susan Gemmill 07484 813902 Inverkip
David Johnston 07926 898148 S&WB

SESSION SNIPPETS

It was agreed to participate in Open Doors for Inverclyde to open both church buildings and halls on Sunday, 29th September from 1.00 pm to 3.00 pm.

The Session endorsed the contract to renew the Inverkip Church kitchen, which should be given to Howdens as their quote was not the cheapest it was the most detailed.

The Finance Committee is rationalising the accounts of both churches.

The Church Profile has been agreed upon and submitted to the Vacancy Procedures Committee and the position of Minister is now on the churches' vacancy website.

Our new Presbytery elder is Iain Jackson.

The first joint Communion service was held on 2nd June at Inverkip Church followed by the Stated Annual Meeting.

The Property group desperately needs volunteers. You don't need much technical knowledge, just a willingness to help.

REGULAR EVENT

Badminton	Mon	7.45pm	Inverkip Church Hall
Squirrels	Wed	5-6pm	Inverkip Church Hall
Beavers	Wed	6-7pm	Inverkip Church Hall
Cubs	Wed	6-7pm	Inverkip Church Hall
Scouts	Wed	7-9.30pm	Inverkip Church Hall
Country Dancing	Wed	7.30pm	SWB Church Hall
Country Dancing	Thur	7.30pm	Inverkip Church Hall
Cafe Church	Last Thur month	7.00pm	Wemyss Bay Station Cafe
Scottish Women's Institute (SWI)	Third Mon month	2.00pm	Inverkip Church Hall

OTHER EVENTS

JULY

Tue 16	Foodbank & Starter Packs	6-7pm	Inverkip Church Hall
Wed 17	Foodbank & Starter Packs	1-3pm	Inverkip Church Hall
Sat 20	Litter Pick	10-12pm	Inverkip Church Hall
Thu 25	Café Church	7.00 pm	WB Station Cafe

AUGUST

Tue 20	Foodbank & Starter Packs	6-7pm	Inverkip Church Hall
Wed 21	Foodbank & Starter Packs	1-3pm	Inverkip Church Hall
Sun 25	Litter Pick	1-3pm	Inverkip Church Hall
Thu 29	Cafe Church	7pm	WB Station Cafe

SEPTEMBER

Wed 11	Session Meeting	7.30pm	Inverkip Church
Thu 12	Soul Searching	6.30pm	Inverkip Church Hall
Sun 15	Vision Ministry Presentation	10am & 11.30am	Inverkip Church SWB Church
Mon 16	Scottish Women's Institute (SWI)	2.00 pm	Inverkip Church Hall
Tue 17	Friendship Circle	2.00pm	SWB Church Hall
Tue 17	Foodbank & Starter Packs	6-7pm	Inverkip Church Hall
Wed 18	Foodbank & Starter Packs	1-3pm	Inverkip Church Hall
Sat 21	Gillians Saltire Coffee Morning	10-12pm	SWB Church Hall
Sat 21	Litter Pick	10-12pm	Inverkip Church Hall
Sun 29	Doors Open Day	1-3pm	Inverkip & SWB Church Buildings
Mon 30	The Guild	2-4pm	Inverkip Church Hall

OCTOBER

Tue 1	Friendship Circle	2.00 pm	SWB
Sun 6	Joint Communion	11.00 am	SWB