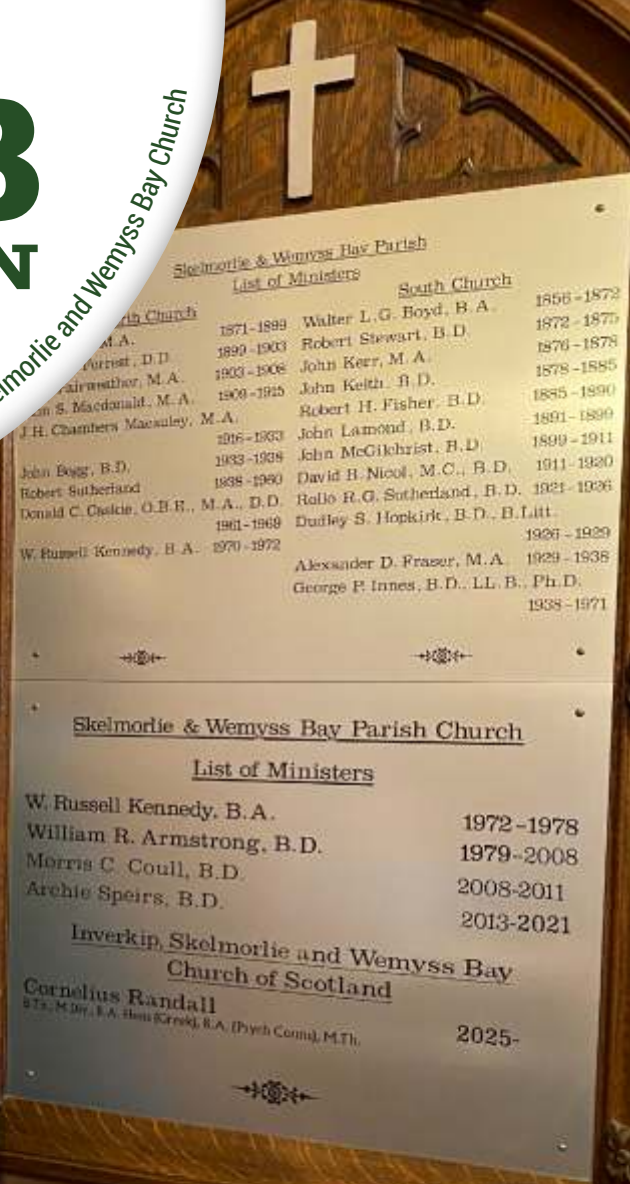


# ISWB BULLETIN

SPRING 2025  
ISSUE 4

The Quarter

Inverkip, Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay Church



Skelmorlie & Wemyss Bay Parish  
List of Ministers

<u>North Church</u>	<u>South Church</u>	
1871-1899	Walter L. G. Boyd, B.A.	1856-1872
1899-1903	Robert Stewart, B.D.	1872-1877
1903-1908	John Keer, M.A.	1876-1878
1909-1945	John Keith, B.D.	1878-1885
J.H. Chambers Macaulay, M.A.	Robert H. Fisher, B.D.	1885-1890
1916-1933	John Lamond, B.D.	1891-1899
1933-1938	John McGikhris, B.D.	1899-1911
John Begg, B.D.	David H. Nicol, M.C., B.D.	1911-1920
Robert Sutherland	Rollo R.G. Sutherland, B.D.	1921-1936
Donald C. Crichton, O.B.E., M.A., D.D.	Dudley S. Hopkirk, B.D., B.Litt.	1926-1929
1961-1969	Alexander D. Fraser, M.A.	1929-1938
W. Russell Kennedy, B.A.	George P. Innes, B.D., LL.B., Ph.D.	1938-1971
1970-1972		

Skelmorlie & Wemyss Bay Parish Church  
List of Ministers

W. Russell Kennedy, B.A.	1972-1978
William R. Armstrong, B.D.	1979-2008
Morris C. Coull, B.D.	2008-2011
Archie Speirs, B.D.	2013-2021

Inverkip, Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay  
Church of Scotland

Cornelius Randall B.Ts., M.Div., B.A. (Hons) (Crest), B.A. (Psych Comm), M.Th.	2025-
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------

Let my teaching fall like rain and my words  
descend like dew, like showers on new  
grass, like abundant rain on tender plants.

Deuteronomy 32 v 2



**Palm Sunday**

Sun 13 April

**Holy Week**

Mon	14 April	Joint Passover meal at Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay Church	7pm
Tues	15 April	Service at Inverkip Church	7pm
Wed	16 April	Service at Inverkip Church	7pm
Thu	17 April	Maundy Thursday Communion at Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay Church	7pm
Fri	18 April	Good Friday service at Inverkip Church	7pm

**Easter Sunday**

Sun	20 April	Service at Inverkip Church	10am
		Service at Skelmorlie & Wemyss Bay	11.30am

# MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW MINISTER

Can you think of a riddle and an idiom that reference time?  
Did you think of the riddle below?

*What flies but has no wings?*

This is a classic riddle I first heard when I was around 9 years old. The answer to the riddle is time. Time flies.

I can't believe that my first month as the minister at ISWB Church has flown by so quickly! There's an idiom that says, "Time flies when you're having fun." This has certainly been true for me at ISWB Church! I've been enjoying my role here in this beautiful part of Scotland.

Becoming the minister at ISWB Church was a deeply meaningful moment—not just for me, but for my whole family. Zanné, Evan, and I took a step of faith, trusting God, as we left South Africa (and my ministry in the Dutch Reformed Church) behind, believing that God was preparing a special place for us to live and serve. Parallel to our own journey, ISWB Church began a discernment process for calling a new minister. In a beautiful way, these two stories came together with my induction. Thank you to everyone who played a part in making this



*Rev. Corné Randall*

occasion so special, including my friends and family from South Africa who joined us in celebration!

As we look ahead, we are entering the season of Lent. This year, the theme for Holy Week is *You Want It Darker*, and we will joyfully celebrate the hope and joy of Jesus's resurrection on Easter Sunday (April 20th). In the Sunday services leading up to Pentecost, we will explore what the Bible teaches us about community well-being and how we can build creative and supportive communities. Please continue to pray for the ministry in Inverkip, Skelmorlie, and Wemyss Bay. *Soli Deo Gloria.*



Katy McIntyre has retired as our Treasurer and we thank her for years of service but look forward to her company for years to come!

Thanks to all who have attended this year and hope to welcome you again in September.

## **FINAL SESSION MEETING**

***Monday 7 April - 2pm***

Talk on the Inverkip Society  
*in Inverkip Church Hall*  
*Kate MacPhail, Secretary*

## OBITUARY

# REV. BILL ARMSTRONG

*17th July 1942 - 17th February 2025*



On 17th July Bill would have been 83 and some years ago Bill wrote "what do you want for your birthday, Grandpa? The question has echoed round our home for weeks. My answer is that I don't want anything, though the answer is not accepted."

"In that sense I have no need for anything. I have a thoughtful family around me; I have good friends who visit me from time to time; I have good Christian people who keep in touch, and pray for my well being; and I have healthcare professionals who see me on a regular basis. What more do I need?" Bill would be the first to agree, that he was never any good at putting on airs and graces, although worship always came from his heart.

Sometimes folk would be a little startled when his comments seemed rather 'non ministerial' by traditional standards, but this endeared him to many. Part of the reason could be that

inside Bill Armstrong there lurked an engineer from Galloway stock. For 8 years he worked with Ferranti in Edinburgh followed by 4 with Marconi in Dunfermline before the call to full time ministry.

After a BD from Trinity College, Edinburgh, and some practical training, he came to West Kilbride as a Probationer. It was there that a Vacancy Committee from Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay Parish found him, just down the road, after searching the length and breadth of the land. He was ordained and inducted on 16 May 1979 and the start of a very successful ministry and the rest is history.

In the last few years Bill showed immense determination and resilience as he fought a battle he was determined to win. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him and in particular by the community that he served for nearly thirty years.

# SUNDAY SCHOOL

We continue to meet at Inverkip during our 10am service. We have two new members – one who has moved up from creche and one who has recently moved here from Aberdeen. We now have a Whatsapp Group for helpers and parents which is proving useful! If you require to be included please let Abigail know.

At the start of the year we looked at Epiphany, Jesus's Baptism and Spiritual Gifts - and the difference between those and other skills we have.

We also covered the story of Jesus in the Temple when He was aged 12 and His parents looking for Him everywhere. There was so much in the reading that we used the topic over two Sundays. Everyone agreed that Jesus was right to go to the

place of worship as that is God's house and He would feel at home there.

We made collages of a church building with lots of people coming into it, then the children looked all over the halls for a picture of Jesus to add Him to the collage. We gave each child a different memory verse from the Old or New Testament which we added to their collage related to the broad theme: Each person has to seek and find Christ for themselves and it's important to come to church and be in God's presence. We are looking forward to starting to use 'Spill The Beans' material and welcoming new helpers Jac and Morag.

**'Let Us Go To The House  
of The Lord' – Psalm 122**



MESSAGE FROM

# PASTORAL ASSISTANT



Lynsey Graham

The verse I read at Rev Corné's Induction Service was Ecclesiastes Chapter 3 'A Time For Everything'. It reminds us to trust in God's perfect timing

I was thinking of my daughter Sarah who just turned 18 with plans to move away. Meanwhile, my sister is getting to grips with life as Mum to a risk taking toddler! Although we are at opposite ends of parenthood we are in a similar season of having to let them go and make their own path, but be there when they need us. Just as God does with us!

The reading mentions contrasting life events such as a time to be 'born' and a time to 'die' and sad times such as times to 'weep' and 'mourn'. Soon after the Induction Service of our new minister we said farewell to the late Rev Bill Armstrong in an equally poignant service. He meant so much to us all and was an inspiration in so many ways.

In February Sarah and I took a much awaited sail on the MV Glen Sannox.

Once we embarked all the disappointment and delays surrounding the ship were forgotten and it was just a joy to be onboard, and what an amazing achievement she is for our beloved 'yard. Thankfully the reading reminds us, through God's grace, in life there are always happy times too: times to 'heal', to 'live', to 'laugh' and to 'dance'.

As we look forward to entering into a new season of ministry with Rev Corné and his wife Zanne leading us I thank God for all the ways they have already touched people's lives in the past and all they will go on to do in Jesus's name in the future, remembering to embrace life's seasons and waiting periods for "He Has Made Everything Suitable For It's Time".

## Every Child

*Every child in Gaza is me.*

*Every mother and father in Gaza is me.*

*Every house is my heart.*

*Every tree is my leg.*

*Every plant is my arm.*

*Every flower is my eye.*

*Every hole in the earth*

*Is my wound.*

*by Mosab Abu Toha*

MESSAGE FROM

# OUR JOINT SESSION CLERKS

After the long winter we are beginning to see the signs of spring all around us. The snowdrops have appeared and even some daffodils have started to flower in my garden.

I look forward to seeing the new buds of life and being able to walk to the station in the light and get home in daylight. I pray that we all challenge ourselves to help each other, the Church and our Community this Spring.

I have been so pleased with the welcome that Rev Corné, his wife Zanné and son Evan have received since arriving in January. When I have been visiting my district, I have received some very positive feedback which has been great.

---

Call it a great coincidence, fate or something more, but while working on this edition of the Bulletin, I noticed an interesting connection ...

... both Rev Bill Armstrong and Rev Corné Randall share the same birthday, though of course years apart. Not only that, but they were also around the same age when they were inducted as minister of our church.

Now, it may be a bit of an assumption here, but Bill served faithfully for nearly



*Ewen Cameron*

The Worship Team, the Sunday School leaders and Rev Corné have met and have discussed new ideas for how we run services and Sunday school which I am looking forward to.

Please let myself or Rev Corné know if you have ideas for services or ways we can help in the Church or community.

All the best for the new challenges this Spring.



*Rita Carmichael*

thirty years...so perhaps, just perhaps, Corné is destined for a long and meaningful ministry with us as well! Time will tell but for now, we celebrate this special time and look forward to the journey ahead.

# INDUCTION OF **REV CORNÉ RANDALL**

We joyfully celebrated the induction of our new minister, Rev Corné Randall on 30th January 2025.

The evening brought together friends from Mannofield church Aberdeen and also family and friends from South Africa who were watching live. The induction service, conducted by Rev. Dr Christine Goldie supported by Presbytery Clerk Rev. Robbie Hamilton and Rev Gordon Armstrong minister at Paisley Oakshaw Trinity, was a meaningful and inspiring occasion. It marked the start of an exciting new chapter for the congregation, rooted in faith and fellowship.

Following the service, a welcome was extended to Corné, Zanné and Evan and thoughtful gifts were presented. This was followed by a marvellous tea.

We are grateful to everyone who worked to make the evening so memorable.









There are only a few meetings left before the end of our session. Although we will be finished, we are holding a Silent Auction on Thursday, 1 May. This is to raise funds for our Guild Projects. Please keep things that you no longer want and others may wish to buy. More information at a later date. All are very welcome at our meetings, men too!

17Mar *Internet Safety with Laura Stewart*

14Apr *Easter Meal*

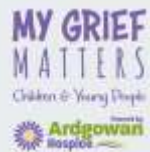
*Kathleen Miller – 07850 047198*



By late November 2024, the Church of Scotland's stamp appeal, with

stamps collected in 2023 and 2024, had raised £18,613.50 for the Firmly Planted Project in Malawi to create tree nurseries. This project will continue until March 2025. Please continue to leave your used stamps at either Church door or in the Church Halls. Thank you for your support.

# BOOK BASKET



**Thank you to everyone who continues to support this fundraising effort for “MY LIFE MATTERS” @Ardgowan Hospice.**

*Joyce  
and  
Anne*

The need for this vital service, that supports, specifically young bereaved children and teenagers, is unfortunately growing and the service is now looking at how to best to regroup and better meet that need.

Once a new plan is in place, we will arrange for it to be shared with you all, but in the meantime can we encourage you to continue buying and reading to support this worthwhile initiative. We know how much it is valued by the hospice team.



We continue to meet on the last Thursday of the month in the Wemyss Bay Station Café following our winter break.

In February we were joined by local singer and musician Tony Forsyth who told us about his inspiring journey of faith and introduced us to some new worship songs. Our theme for the evening was 'Habits' which seemed like a good topic to start the new year with! We meet again on the last Thursday in March when hopefully our speaker will be our new minister Rev Corné!

If you've never been before then please come along and join us, everyone will be made very welcome!

Sing to the Lord! Give praise to the Lord! For He rescues the life of the needy from the hands of the wicked.

*Jer 20:13*

## SMALLS FOR ALL

**Smalls for All** is a charity that collects underwear for those in Africa and the UK who can't afford or can't get any, because dignity matters.

It is supported by the Rotary Club.

If you are able to help with packets of new underwear for men, women or children, it would be very much appreciated.

Donation boxes are available at both church doors.

## CHURCH HALL BOOKINGS

If not using the halls at your normal time please let Joyce or David know as fuel has greatly increased.

### **Inverkip**

Joyce Brown 07800 816164  
joycekbrown@hotmail.com

### **Skelmorlie & Wemyss Bay**

David Johnston - 07926 898148

## 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

# ORIGINS OF LENT

*Phil Theaker*

I am writing this article, partly to satisfy my own curiosity but also to give you an understanding of this significant period in the church liturgical calendar. I had always been fairly certain it didn't have a Biblical basis, but that was about it. However, a little research on some reliable websites has shown me that it is first mentioned in literature from the year AD 325, so the apostles and early church did not observe Lent, it became a tradition in the fourth century. Interestingly, such a date would place the ratification of Lent in the same year as and possibly at the Council of Nicaea, which was the major historical church council that affirmed the deity of Christ.

Positions and understandings have changed over the centuries, and church traditions throughout the world have developed different interpretations of Lent, some being very specific and necessary, whereas others do not celebrate it at all. The Directory for Public Worship, approved by the Scottish Parliament in 1645, takes the position that "There is no day commanded in scripture to be kept holy under the gospel but the Lord's day, which is the Christian Sabbath." Along with other Reformed Churches, the Church of Scotland has historically not observed Lent. John Calvin went as far as to call it a "superstitious observance"! We will leave it as

different churches do different things – much less controversial.

The period of Lent, between Ash Wednesday and Easter is 40 days (excluding Sundays). It is a time of holiness, when Christians remember the sacrifice of Christ and explore their own continuing process of sanctification, or becoming more Christ-like. Many choose to observe Lent with fasting and prayer. Fasting is simply abstaining from something to focus on something else. When we give up something, such as food, social media, or TV, we are given time to reflect on our faith and develop our relationship with God. For many though, it is just a demonstration of will-power.

However, it can be our way today of honouring and modelling the clear significance of 40 days and nights in the Bible, and specifically the time Jesus spent fasting and enduring temptation in the desert. As we sacrifice something we often turn to, we remember the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. We can connect with Jesus during his temptation, come to the realization of our need for forgiveness, and experience freedom from sin through his death and resurrection.

Our formal opportunities will be a series of short services during Holy Week, the week running up to Easter,

UPDATE FROM

# WORSHIP LEADERS TEAM

It's wonderful to at last have a minister after nearly four years but.... if our team of worship leaders thought we could take a big sigh of relief, hang up our hats and slip into obscurity we quickly had to think again.

Of course, I am not serious and if that had been the case we would all have been pretty disappointed. We are very much looking forward to working with Rev Corné Randall and supporting him in his ministry here at Inverkip, Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay Church.

During a recent meeting with Corné it was decided that on one Sunday most months one member of the worship

team would take the services at both churches. We will also be taking part in Corné's services when he feels it is appropriate.

Although we have no plans to reintroduce Soul Searching as a regular monthly event at the moment, the team are hoping to meet with Corné in the near future to discuss ideas on how God might use us in the future.



# HARRY THE HEDGEHOG'S BAPTISM

Harry the Hedgehog had always been curious about the big stone building that stood at the bottom of the hill. Every Sunday morning, he watched from the safety of the garden at the front of the building, as families walked up to the entrance, chatting and smiling, before disappearing inside. One day, he decided to find out what was so special about this place. That morning, the church doors were wide open, and Harry scurried in quietly, hoping no one would notice. Inside, children were gathered around a kind-looking minister who was explaining something. Harry thought that the minister must have been in a hurry that morning because he had put his shirt on the wrong way round.



Harry crept closer and listened. "Baptism," the minister said, "is a sign of God's love and forgiveness. It's a way of showing that we belong to God's family. When someone is baptised, we use water to represent being washed clean and given new life in Jesus." The minister invited the children to dip their fingers in something which he called a font. He explained there was nothing special about the water in the font and it would not harm a baby.



Harry's little ears perked up. "Washed clean?" he thought. He remembered how, after a long winter's nap, his spiky coat was often covered in dust and leaves. Maybe he needed a baptism too!



## INVERKIP COUNTRY DANCING

Our session will soon be finishing for the Summer. We have recruited two new members and now have 18 dancers, although numbers vary per night. We restart in September and would welcome new dancers - no

experience needed. Remember dancing is good for both mind and body.

*For more information contact  
Kathleen 07850 047198.*

Bravely, he stepped forward. The children gasped in delight at the sight of a tiny hedgehog in church. The minister knelt down with a smile. "Well, what have we here? A little visitor!"

Harry squeaked and wiggled his nose. He wasn't sure how to ask, but the minister seemed to understand. "Do you want to learn more about baptism?"

Harry nodded.

The minister gently picked him up and brought him to the large stone font filled with water. "Just as this water cleanses," he said, "God's love makes us new."



Then, ever so carefully, the minister dipped his finger in the water and touched Harry's tiny head. "Harry, you are loved by God."

The children clapped, and Harry beamed (as much as a hedgehog could). He might not fully understand everything, but he knew one thing for sure—he was welcome in this place.

From that day on, Harry visited the church every Sunday, listening to stories, making new friends, and feeling right at home in God's family.



## **SKELMORLIE & WEMYSS BAY COUNTRY DANCING**

We meet every Wednesday evening in S&WB church hall at 7.30. Everyone is welcome to come and give it a go with this lively group.

*Contact Janet Hope 520316*

# **'Let your little light shine'**



**In the autumn of 2024, the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, Rt Rev Dr Shaw Paterson visited Malawi.**

He was struck by the determination of the Church there to ensure education is accessible to all. For many children, power cuts and the lack of reliable lighting prevents further study in the evenings. Dr Shaw has challenged congregations in Scotland to raise money to provide solar cell lighting to students from primary school age, through to postgraduate level. These 'Light Library' devices will be bought locally in Malawi and loaned out to students for home study.

To this end, a Coffee Afternoon is being held.

## **Coffee Afternoon**

**Friday 21st March  
2pm - 4pm**

**Skelmorlie & Wemyss Bay  
Church Hall**

*Come along and  
help build up God's  
people in Malawi.*



# INVERKIP SENIORS KEEP FIT

The Keep Fitters are back in action after the festive break and, as you can see, we are having a ball! It's just wonderful the many different exercises Grace thinks up - today it was "unpacking our shopping bag" as we moved the ball from the floor up and across our body to 'put it in the cupboard' - the top shelf of course!

Grace really does make doing exercises to music fun each week.

We were delighted to recently welcome new ladies to our group and, should you fancy coming along to join us too, we would be delighted to see you - you might find yourself 'having a ball' too!

*Anne Skedd*



## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Skelmorlie & Wemyss Bay Church hosted a wonderful World Day of Prayer service on Friday 7 March. It was led by members of Inverkip, Skelmorlie & Wemyss Bay Church and St Joseph's & St Patrick's Church. The chancel was beautifully decorated in a South Seas theme with flowers and shells and there was even a canoe! The service had been written by the Christian Women of The Cook Islands with the theme of "I Made you Wonderful". Next year's service will be on Friday 6 March 2026 and will be prepared by WDP Nigeria with the theme of "I Will Give You Rest: Come" and will be held in Inverkip Church.



# AT THE BIRDTABLE

Here's a poem which I'm sure many of you may remember.

*The North wind doth blow  
and we shall have snow,  
And what will poor robin do  
then, poor thing?*

*He'll sit in a barn and keep  
himself warm  
and hide his head under his  
wing, poor thing.*

Well, we've certainly had wind and rain in abundance this winter and I can only hope that we have a pleasant Spring and Summer. As I write, the weather has calmed down and although it has been very cold thankfully, we've had no significant snowfalls. (Note to self – don't push your luck!) What did I just say? Hailstones, accompanied by thunder, are now pelting down!

I haven't heard of any sightings of large flocks of birds migrating from Europe to the west coast but I was delighted to

see a Redpoll (partial migrant and winter visitor) and a day later, an Arctic Redpoll on the feeders in the garden. Apparently, the Arctic variety often join flocks of Redpolls moving southwards in the winter months. A third visitor to the garden that same week was a solitary Siskin, a resident but usually in a small gang when in the garden. Another few weeks and the winter visitors will be gone and the summer residents will start to return.

Robins, Goldfinches, Chaffinches, Sparrows and Dunnocks are back in healthy numbers here in the garden although Long Tailed Tits seem to be scarce. I am however concerned that the loss and damage of vast numbers of trees during the recent storms may have a devastating effect on bird and mammal numbers through loss of habitats, nest sites, etc. Time will tell..

Lynne McBain contacted me to tell me of her sighting of a Kestrel hunting locally and had managed to capture it on video with her mobile phone. Nice film Lynne!

Remember, keep your feeders and water dishes clean and topped up.





The Friendship Circle is a small and happy one and there is always laughter echoing around the hall as we play board games, test our knowledge on the latest quiz or just join in singing - probably singing is the most liked. We are fortunate to host James, the Tai Chai friend, at least once in a session or be entertained by a choir, musician and even a piper on St Andrews Day.

Speakers are not normally part of the Agenda. Coffee and Tea are part of the afternoon and sometimes we even have cake! We welcome visitors and prospective friends from the community. You can be sure of a warm welcome.

**We look forward to seeing you.**

## CHURCH ESSENTIAL CONTACTS

*Minister*

**Corné Randall** 01475 910443

*Session Clerks*

**Ewen Cameron**      **Rita Carmichael**  
07394 970150      529289

*Treasurer*

**John Scott** 520259

*Property*

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

## 71st Ayrshire Cubs

**It sounds like the Scout group has been incredibly active and engaged with some fantastic events!**

From celebrating Burns Night with traditional Scottish treats to a fun-filled “Mother and Cub” night, it’s clear there’s a real sense of community and excitement.

The Valentine’s-themed night sounds like a great opportunity for the senior scouts to take on leadership roles, and having special guests like Therapets and a Scottish Opera singer must have been such a unique experience for the pack. It’s also wonderful to see recognition given to dedicated volunteers like Joe with his Commendation for Good Service Award—well deserved!

The upcoming Additional Support Needs day on March 15th is such an important initiative. It’s great to see Scouts Scotland supporting leaders in making meetings more inclusive. I hope you get plenty of volunteers!

It sounds like an amazing group to be a part of.





**Beavers ages 6-8**

Monday: 6.30pm – 7.30pm  
Skelmorlie Primary School  
Leader *Janice McCulloch*

**Cubs ages 8-10½**

Monday: 6.30pm – 8.15pm  
Scout Hall, The Lane, Skelmorlie  
Leader *Alistair Wyllie*

**Cubs**

Friday: 6.30pm – 8.15pm  
Skelmorlie Primary School  
Leader *Robin Nicolson*

**Scouts ages 10½ -14**

Friday: 7 – 9pm  
Scout Hall, The Lane, Skelmorlie  
Leader *Gordon Ferdinand*

**Explorers ages 14-18**

Every 2nd Wednesday: 7pm – 9pm  
Scout Hall, The Lane, Skelmorlie  
Leader *Jamie Craig*

**CONTACT**

**Group Scout Leader:**  
*Byron Griffiths*

**Telephone 01475 529235**  
**Mobile 07718 703196**

## 85th Greenock & District

**You may have caught our Scouts at this year's Greenock Gang Show in November.**

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

The show was one of the most popular entertainment shows at the Beacon Theatre this year and applauded as one of the best Gang Shows in the country. The Scouts followed that exhausting week with an evening watching Glasgow Clan ice hockey team take on Belfast Giants in the Elite League, and then a day collecting food for Inverclyde Foodbank. They tried their hand at Ice Skating at the waterfront and held their Christmas Camp in Pitlochry before bag packing fundraisers at Tesco Greenock. The

New Year brought a tour of Greenock Police Station and a visit from Flight Sergeant Gordon Sinclair who told them about his time in the RAF Regiment. They also completed their Astronomer's badge and visited Dumbarton Castle to learn the importance of the site throughout history.

The Troop are now looking forward to their next camp in Bo'ness and a packed schedule through to the summer.



## 85th Beavers and Cubs

**The term ahead is going to be really busy for the Beaver and Cub Sections.**

So far, we have had visits from the Coastguard where our younger sections learned CPR and water safety. The Cubs celebrated Burns Night by making Cranachan and making Chinese Lanterns for Chinese New Year. Beavers are looking forward to their Spring Camp at South Newton at the end of March with a Gruffalo theme with the Cub Camp taking place at the end of May with a Space theme. In March/April we will be supporting the Big Clyde Beach Clean joining with the Inverkip Litter Pickers (LitterKippers). Beavers and Leaders will also be taking part in the Glasgow Kiltwalk this year (the Wee Wander) on the 27 April to raise funds for Beaver events and camps, with the Cubs having a table top sale at the RSP Off Grid Adventure Centre, Thom Street, Greenock on the 16th March to fund their summer camp. Your support is as always greatly appreciated. The Cub Section(s) will also be supporting the Wemyss Bay

Janice McAdam GSL/CSL/ADC (Cubs)  
85thinverkipcubs@gmail.com

Heather Lenno - Cub Section Leader  
85thwemyssbaycubs@gmail.com

Gala on 17 May, Kip Fest on 21 June and as part of our Community Impact Badge the Foodbank.

New members are always welcome. We have space in our Wemyss Bay Beavers and Wemyss Bay/Inverkip Cub Sections and are currently seeking adult volunteers, so if you can spare a couple of hours, love being outdoors and learning new skills - please get in touch.

If you are over 18 and a student, for example, joining us could definitely add value to your CV. The experience could help you develop a wide range of skills like leadership, teamwork and community involvement.



**BRAHMS: A  
GERMAN REQUIEM**

# GREENOCK PHILHARMONIC CHOIR



**SAT. 29TH  
MARCH**

7.30PM, LYLE KIRK,  
UNION ST, GREENOCK  
*with Glasgow Chamber Orchestra*

Conductor - Nicholas Wilks

Soloists: Emily Mitchell and  
Timothy Edmundson

**Tickets £15** - Under 18s Free  
For tickets, contact - 07847 250529 or  
01475 673574, or contact  
info@greenockphilharmonic.co.uk

[www.greenockphilharmonic.co.uk](http://www.greenockphilharmonic.co.uk)

Registered Charity: SCO31326



# SURPRISE FIND

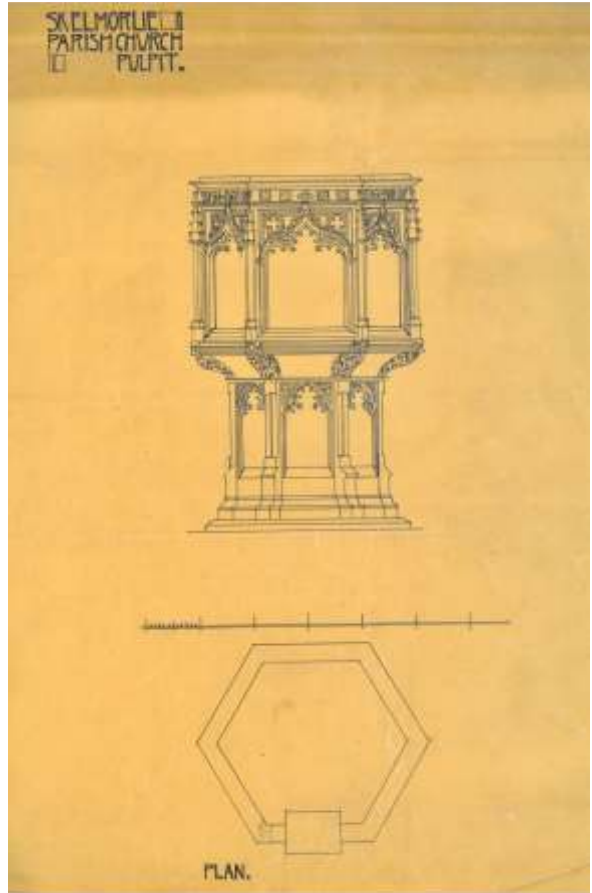
Caroline Scott

**On preparing the manse for our minister's arrival, three metal storage boxes were discovered behind an under-stair access hatch.**

The storage boxes contained church correspondence and building plans from 1856 to 1975. Closer inspection revealed a design for our carved pulpit in the Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay church building.

The Hunterian staff of Glasgow University inspected this original design on tracing paper and stated in all likelihood, that it could be attributed to Charles Rennie Mackintosh. There was Mackintosh style text on the drawing and it was found amongst dated correspondence for the new 'south church' which was designed and overseen by Honeyman and Keppie, the prominent Glasgow architects.

John Honeyman and his wife lived in Skelmorlie village at Stroove, on Montgomerie Terrace from 1868-1881. The aging John gave the young Mackintosh



design opportunities during the commission, most notably with the standard lamp to the left of the church steps.

The original pulpit drawing has been gifted by our Church to the Charles Rennie Mackintosh Society's ecclesiastical archive at their Queen's Cross Church international headquarters in Glasgow. A framed print of the pulpit drawing now hangs in the manse.

# FAMILY NEWS

## SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS

Ryan Cornish  
Sarah Graham  
Bob Mitchell

Erin Fielding  
Brenda Hill  
Evelyn Peebles  
Sandra Thomson

Karen Forrest  
Janet Hope  
Fiona Reid  
Graham Tyreman

Jim Freeman  
Ewen Howie  
Amy Sinclair

## DRIVING TEST CONGRATULATIONS



Anna McClafferty  
Kate Seggie

## NEW ARRIVALS



Sorcha Robyn Nicoll-  
Johnston  
Parents - Andrew and Colleen  
Nicoll-Johnston  
Grandparents - David and  
Rosemary Johnston  
Big brother Pádraig

## SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY

Alec & Cathy Graham recently  
celebrated their Platinum  
wedding anniversary

Twins Lachlan & Caelin  
Parents - Rachel & Gemma  
Grandparents - Jill & Duncan Morrison

## GOLDEN WEDDING

Gaye & William McIntyre  
Janet & Mick Scally

Baby boy Roberto  
Parents - Katie & Roberto Zavaroni  
Grandparents - John & Wilma McIntyre

## SADLY PASSED

Rev. Bill Armstrong  
*See Obituary - page 4*

**BAPTISMS**  
Finn James Paterson  
Parents - Gary and Kirsty Paterson  
Grandparents - Iain and Marion Maclean

## Margaret Henderson

*Margaret was from Greenock originally, however, lived in Inverkip with her husband Ian and daughters Jill and Lesley for over 40 years. She was a very much loved neighbour, friend and member of the Inverkip church family, and a wonderful fundraiser for the RNLI.*

Gordon McKinnon  
Lynda Sangster



# PROPERTY GROUP

*Susie Gemmill, Property Convenor*

The Property Group had no sooner finished organising the repair of a leak in the Inverkip manse roof and rehabilitating the ceiling of the room below when Storm Éowyn upended a tree that grazed the garage roof as it fell.

Fortunately, the damage was minimal and will shortly be fixed. Many thanks are due to Fraser and David Martin for cutting the tree into manageable pieces and removing much of it. Storm damage was additionally inflicted upon the Inverkip Halls roof. Tiles were ripped off at the back and some woodwork at the eastern gable end. An insurance claim has been submitted, and we await the outcome in hopeful anticipation.

Meanwhile, at Skelmorlie Wemyss Bay some tiles were dislodged from the sanctuary roof and the external noticeboard was ruined. The latter is to be renewed (and its counterpart at Inverkip will be updated).

The Randalls have settled into the Skelmorlie Manse, with a few finishing touches being completed. The Inverkip Manse has at last been put on the market - let us hope that it sells quickly!

Property Group members have been tackling overgrowth in the grounds of both sites. Ivy and rhododendron were



cleared from along the cliff side of SWB, and at Inverkip the area behind the Halls has been strimmed.

Additional tasks include scraping and painting the ceiling above the “Beggars’ Pew” at Inverkip and repasting some loose wallpaper in the sanctuary; cleaning mould from the stage in the Crawford Hall. Also, fitting a humidistat in the vestry at Skelmorlie Wemyss Bay and updating the honours board which lists past Ministers. The dishwashers at both sites have been repaired.

The Property Group is a hard-working bunch and my thanks go out to them. They are always open to offers of help, so, even if you cannot give a regular commitment, ‘one-off’ contributions of your time and talents would be gratefully received. Please approach David Johnson at SWB and Jim Brown at Inverkip if you have an inclination or ideas in this vein to discuss further.

# ECO PROJECTS

**The Wemyss Bay Watch Litter Pick Group meets on the 2nd last Sunday of each month, excluding December.**

There is an open invitation to anyone who would like to come along. We meet at the Wemyss Bay Community Centre at 10am. All equipment is provided.

*Elizabeth Canning*

**Inverkipp LitterKippers had a month off litter picking in December but resumed once again in the New Year.** In 2024 the LitterKippers collected a total of 207 bin bags of litter from around our community, 86 of which were sorted for recycling. This is despite having had to cancel three of the scheduled picks due to adverse weather.

Later this month we will be taking part in the Spring Clean Scotland campaign with Keep Scotland Beautiful and are delighted that the Beavers and Cubs of the 85th Scout Group will be helping out once again! As part of the KSB campaign running from 21 March until 20 April, local community interest company Green Tangerine has organised The Big Clyde Beach Clean once again with volunteer groups attempting to clean as much of our Clyde coastline as possible from Parklea down to Wemyss Bay!

Our thanks go to all the volunteers who have turned out in all weathers to help to

make a difference to our community and local environment, and to staff from Inverclyde Council for the provision of litter picking equipment, bags and for the collection of the rubbish afterwards.

Our newspaper and magazine collection has continued throughout the year and delivered regularly to White House Products in Port Glasgow, who shred them and use to package their products. A small donation is made per kilo, and over the past year, the accumulated total was 1827 kgs with a projected donation of £182 which will be used to replace litter picking equipment. Thanks to all who donate their papers and magazines.

*Lynne McBain*



# FOODBANK AND STARTER PACK

Thanks to everyone for your generous contributions to these wonderful charities each month. Remember boxes are available at both church doors each Sunday if you are unable to attend the following collections:-



DATES FOR MARCH - MAY 2025  
COLLECTIONS IN INVERKIP CHURCH HALL



**Tue 18 Mar 6-7pm**   **Tue 15 Apr 6-7pm**   **Tue 20 May 6-7pm**  
**Wed 19 Mar 1-3pm**   **Wed 16 Apr 1-3pm**   **Wed 21 May 1-3pm**

On these dates we can also take Newspapers, Magazines and Envelopes for recycling by White House Products, plus Stamps and old Spectacles which will be taken to Specsavers.

**Foodbank requirements** – Tinned Fruit, Rice Pudding, Pasta (500 Gms), UHT Milk (1 L), Breakfast Cereals. Also required – Soup, Rice, Pasta Sauce, Tinned Meat, Tinned Veg, Beans, Tea, Coffee, Sugar, Biscuits and Snacks.

**Starter Packs 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 no duvets unless new. Dishes, pots and pans.

*Please call Jean Benson 01475 520975 if you require items collected.*



**Thanks to the Inverclyde Warm Hand of Friendship Grant, we have been able to offer a free plate of soup, tea, coffee and cake every Monday 12-1.30pm in Inverkip Church Hall Lounge.**

This is held weekly from October - end of March and all ages are very welcome. We are delighted that some of the P7 class from Inverkip Primary join us most Mondays along with Mrs Goyal. Everyone enjoys their chat and help with solving the quiz questions. We average 28-30 attendees each week and a huge thank you is due to the six teams on the rota who supply the wonderful homemade soup and cakes each week. Everyone is welcome.



# FOLK CONCERT

A great time was had by all at the sold out folk concert on 8 March.

Wee Kenzie, who sang in Gaelic, was a star. Thanks also to young Rowan McVicar who opened the show with his wonderful singing and guitar playing, and also to Aires and Graces, Boyd

Thomson, Elspeth Howie and Jimmy Law who made for a wonderful night!

A big thank you to all the organisers who made the event such a success.



## **Bulletin Questionnaire and Contributions**

Around 45 of you returned our feedback forms which was much appreciated. The vast majority were positive and liked the new format and content. We will take all comments into consideration when compiling the Bulletin.

Please remember that the finished article can only be as good as the contributions that we receive from everyone and we really appreciate your support. To send your content contact us via the details below.



**Jean Benson**

inverkipchurchnewsletter@google.com. Telephone 520975

**Rita Carmichael**

rita.carmichael@btinternet.com. Telephone 529289

If you have any special celebrations please let us know.

## CHURCH SERVICES

---

Sunday	10.00am	Inverkip Church
Sunday	11.30am	Skelmorlie & Wemyss Bay Church
Sun 4 May	11.00am	Joint Communion Service at Skelmorlie & Wemyss Bay Church

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

[www.iswb.org.uk](http://www.iswb.org.uk)



Inverkip, Skelmorlie &  
Wemyss Bay Church

CHARITY NUMBER SC001079



**Church Service on YouTube**

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

## REGULAR EVENTS

---

71st Beavers	Mon	6.30-7.30pm	Skel Com Centre
71st Cubs	Mon	6.30-8.15pm	Skel Scout Hall
WB Scouts	Tue	7-9.30pm	WB School
Badminton	Mon	7pm	Inv Church Hall
Foodbank & Starter Packs	3rd Tue of month	6-7pm	Inv Church Hall
Friendship Circle	Tue fortnightly	2-4pm	SWB Church Hall
Quilting Class	Wed	10-12pm	SWB Church Hall
Foodbank & Starter Packs	3rd Wed of month	1-3pm	Inv Church Hall
85th G&D Squirrels	Wed	5-6pm	Inv Church Hall
85th G&D Beavers	Wed	6-7pm	Inv Church Hall
85th G&D Cubs	Wed	6-7pm	Inv Church Hall
85th G&D Scouts	Wed	7-9.30pm	Inv Church Hall
71st Explorer Scouts	Wed	7-9pm	Skel Scout Hall
Country Dancing	Wed	7.30pm	SWB ChurchHall
WB Beavers	Thur	6-7pm	WB School
WB Cubs	Thur	6-7.15pm	WB School
Cafe Church	Last Thur of month	7pm	WB Station Cafe
Country Dancing	Thur	7.30pm	Inv Church Hall
Seniors Keep Fit	Fri	10-12pm	Inv Church Hall
71st Scouts	Fri	7-9pm	Skel Scout Hall
Sunday School& Creche	Sun	10.10am	Inv Church Hall

## OTHER EVENTS

### MARCH

Mon 17	Free Soup Lunch	12-1.30pm	Inv Church Hall
Mon 17	The Guild	2-4pm	Inv Church Hall
Tues 18	Foodbank & Starter Packs	6-7pm	Inv Church Hall
Wed 19	Foodbank & Starter Packs	1-3pm	Inv Church Hall
Wed 19	Lenten Bible Study	2pm	SWB Church Hall
Thurs 20	Warm Hub Soup Lunch	11.30-1.30pm	Skelmorlie Community Centre
Fri 21	Coffee Afternoon	2-4pm	SWB Church Hall
Sat 22	Litter Pick	10-12am	Inv Church Hall/Ardgowan Beach
Sun 23	Litter Pick	10am	WB Community Centre
Mon 24	Free Soup Lunch	12-1.30pm	Inv Church Hall
Tues 25	Friendship Circle	2-4pm	SWB Church Hall
Thurs 27	Warm Hub Soup Lunch	11.30-1.30pm	Skelmorlie Community Centre
Thurs 27	Café Church	7pm	WB Station Café
Mon 31	Free Soup Lunch	12-1.30pm	Inv Church Hall

### APRIL

Wed 2	Lenten Bible Study	2pm	SWB Church Hall
Mon 7	SWI (Rural)	2-4pm	Inv Church Hall
Tues 8	Friendship Circle	2-4pm	SWB Church Hall
Wed 9	Lenten Bible Study	2pm	SWB Church Hall
Mon 14	Guild Lunch	TBC	Inverkip Hotel
Mon 14	Passover Meal	7pm	SWB Church Hall
Tues 15	Foodbank & Starter Packs	6-7pm	Inv Church Hall
Tues 15	Holy Week Service	7pm	Inverkip Church
Wed 16	Foodbank & Starter Packs	1-3pm	Inv Church Hall
Wed 16	Holy Week Service Maundy	7pm	Inverkip Church
Thurs 17	Thursday Service Good	7pm	SWB Church
Fri 18	Friday Service	7pm	Inverkip Church
Sun 20	Litter Pick	10pm	WB Community Centre
Sun 20	Easter Sunday Service	10am	Inverkip Church
Sun 20	Easter Sunday Service	11.30am	SWB Church
Tues 22	Friendship Circle	2-4pm	SWB Church Hall
Thurs 24	Café Church	7pm	WB Station Café
Sun 27	Litter Pick	1-3pm	Inv Church Hall/Ardgowan Beach

### MAY

Thurs 1	Silent Auction	7pm	Inv Church Hall
Sun 4	Joint Communion & ASM	11am	SWB Church
Tues 6	Friendship Circle	2-4pm	SWB Church Hall
Sat 17	Wemyss Bay Gala Day	12-4pm	Skelmorlie Community Centre
Sun 18	Litter Pick	10am	WB Community Centre
Tues 20	Friendship Circle	2pm	SWB Church Hall
Tues 20	Foodbank & Starter Packs	6-7pm	Inv Church Hall
Wed 21	Foodbank & Starter Packs	1-3pm	Inv Church Hall
Sat 24	Litter Pick	10-12am	Inv Church Hall/Ardgowan Beach
Sat 24	200 years of PassEnger Rail	TBC	Wemyss Bay Station
Thurs 29	Café Church	7pm	WB Station Café