

# FAIRLIE PARISH CHURCH NEWS



www.fairlieparish.co.uk

fairliechurchnews@gmail.com

Reg. Charity SC 017304

**MINISTER:** Rev. Dr. Graham McWilliams

**Tel:** 07853 774 383

**E-Mail:** gmewilliams@churchofscotland.org.uk

**Session Clerk**

Mrs ALISON McKELLAR  
4 Sempie Crescent Tel: 560069  
sessionclerk@fairlieparish.co.uk

**Church Secretary**

LINDA BEVERIDGE  
St Columba's Parish Church  
Largs, KA308LX  
Tel: 01475 686212

**Hall Convener:**

Mr JOHN WHITTAKER  
3 Southman Road, Tel: 568005

**Treasurer:**

Mr TOM McLAUCHLAN  
18 Kelvin Street  
LARGS KA30 9BA  
Tel: 07944 705681

**Music Director:**

Mr CHRIS KELLY  
Tel: 07813 343440  
c\_kelly1812@hotmail.co.uk

**Gift Aid Convener:**

CHRISTINE THOMAS  
18 Brisbane St, LARGS, KA30 8QN  
Tel: 338564

**Editor:**

Mr CHRIS COWPIE  
Rockhaven, Main Rd.  
Tel: 568215  
fairliechurchnews@gmail.com

**Distributor:**

Mrs CAROL McDOWELL  
3 Montgomerie Cr.  
Tel: 07929878517

**Flower Convener:**

Mrs JOAN MILES  
Tel: 568141

**FAIRLIE PARISH CHURCH is a LINKED CHARGE with LARGS, St COLUMBA'S PARISH CHURCH**

**JULY / AUGUST 2020**

Dear All,

## FROM THE MANSE



I hope that during these times of extended self-isolation, shielding and social distancing, you are well, and that life is a little easier than it has been.

Over the last three months or so, so much has changed and so many of the events that we hoped to celebrate have been either cancelled or postponed. I'm sure that we have all missed out on something whether that is a big birthday or anniversary, a special event like leaving school or moving to High School, a wedding, or just a visit to the Village Inn to share a meal and a drink with family and friends. These times of restrictions will pass, and a new form of 'normality' will emerge. However, through the use of new technologies, it is amazing how people have rallied to gather in virtual space, to find a place of welcome and inclusion. The church, having missed many occasions to gather in worship and celebrate, has also risen to this challenge, streaming worship live, making CDs/DVDs available for those who don't have internet, gathering for coffee mornings, and engaging in meetings through social media. Much of our innovation has been praised by the new Moderator of the Church of Scotland, who is also a Parish Minister.

In the mid-1800s, Rev. Dr. Robert Lee, of Greyfriars Church, in Edinburgh, was charged with being 'innovative'. During a time of change, painted/stained glass was installed in his church. And after the church reopened in 1857, Dr. Lee embarked upon what became known as 'the Greyfriars Revolution': he introduced a Book of Order for worship, pioneered the practices of standing to sing, kneeling for worship, and saying prepared prayers. He later installed an organ, in 1865. Much of what Dr Lee initiated became part of a new 'normal' which emerged in church life.

Although people think that the church is slow to change. Not now. With different styles of leadership emerging, there is a vast opportunity to worship God, online, at a time that suits you. So, while many of us may feel the pain of not being together, physically, we can gather together with others, virtually, to meet with the God who is constantly present.

With the ongoing prevalence of the invisible coronavirus in our midst, the Presbytery of Ardsrossan has given guidance that the earliest any local church will be permitted to open its doors for worship will be 16<sup>th</sup> August. And, then, only once all of the Health and Safety guidance has been met and can be sustained.

While there are many different versions of this story, the simplest version is this: A man who was suffering from his many life challenges decided to travel to seek advice from King Solomon, the wisest man of all. After listening to the man's problems, Solomon gave him a ring bearing the inscription "this, too, shall pass." The man was consoled and was at peace. As Jesus says, 'Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away,' [Matthew 24:35]. And Jesus words told us that He will be with us always, in the good and the bad.

I hope that you will find some peace in knowing that, wherever we are, God is with us, and these days that we are living through will soon pass. And in the emerging days, I hope that we can meet together at church, or at a social event, and celebrate all the events that we have missed so far; and the new ones still to come.

With every blessing

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## Fairlie Parish Church SERVICES

Sunday Morning Worship is live on Facebook, and later on the Church Website. We continue to meet each Sunday morning at 9.45am for worship. Our times together last about 30 minutes and allow a time for praise, Bible reading and personal prayer. These services are recorded and, afterwards, a CD/DVD is available to those who are unable to join. If you, or someone you know, would like a CD or DVD of the Sunday service, please let me know. If you need a CD player, we will try to arrange for you to get one.



A shortened service is broadcast LIVE on Fairlie Church Facebook page each Sunday at 9.45am

You can catch up later on the Church Website - [www.fairlieparish.co.uk/SERMONS/sermons.htm](http://www.fairlieparish.co.uk/SERMONS/sermons.htm)



Prayer and Praise. Our 6.00pm gatherings now just on each Wednesday, continue as we focus our lives on the constancy of God's presence during these changing times. A number of hymns which we have sung have been selected by those who have tuned in to the church's Facebook Page. If you wish to join, please do.

*Graham*

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### TELEPHONE CONTACTS

Some Elders and members of the congregation are managing to keep in touch with those for whom we have the correct contact details. If you have not heard from me, or anyone else, then the chances are we do not have the correct telephone number.

In that case please let me know and I will sort it out so that as many people as possible can be contacted.

Also, if you have the opportunity, why not give someone a call to check how they are getting on.

**More contact is better than no contact.**

### BLACK LIVES MATTER

Over the last few weeks there have been some appalling images of black people being abused. I thought that we had passed this type of prejudice; but obviously not. And I know of one Church of Scotland minister who has regularly received racial abuse.

This may seem unbelievable, but it shows how society is not as we may think. As a Christian Church we abhor and condemn such behaviour and treatment of others.

Created in the image of God, we are all equal. I hope that we can demonstrate this in how we live, as individuals and as the Church.

*Graham*

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### THURSDAY PRAYER GROUP

This small group met each Thursday morning in church for about an hour. We use the Church of Scotland material – 'Together We Pray', consisting of a bible reading, meditation and prayers, to focus our thoughts and bring the needs of individuals, our church, village, nation and world to God.

As we have been unable to meet in church, we have been reading the same sections in our homes on a Thursday. Some get together by phone, others have been meeting outside in the garden when allowed by government directives. We are unable to use the Prayer Box or the Prayer Tree in church so we rely on word of mouth for individual prayer requests.

Health issues predominate – Covid 19, other conditions and mental health issues, especially those suffering from anxiety and depression, and those who have been bereaved. If you would like us to remember someone, please text or contact Ann on 07394 340126 or call Graham our minister on 07853 774383.

Copies of meditations can be obtained if you'd like to join us from your home.



With the introduction of 'Test & Protect' by the Scottish Government it is important to be aware of some dangers. The caller WILL address you by your name.

They will NOT ask you:

- to phone a premium rate number
- to make a purchase, payment or donation
- for your medical history unrelated to coronavirus
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## BY WHAT AUTHORITY DO YOU DO THESE THINGS?

The day following the overturning of the money changer's tables in the Temple courts Jesus was approached by the Jewish leaders and asked the question, "By what authority do you do these things?" Jesus would not answer them directly but in the form of a question in return, "Was the baptism of John of heaven or of man?" They would not answer this question because if they said "of heaven" then they would be asked by Jesus why they did not support John, and if they said, "of man" then the people would rise up against them for the people thought John a prophet of God.

'Authority', in the sense used, is that which motivates an individual or society. The Jewish leaders claimed their religious authority went back centuries to Moses and The Law. Such tradition carries a lot of weight and if we are to believe social scientists like Max Weber (1864 – 1920) it is the biggest cause of conservatism within a society. Once any religious denomination claims to have ultimate authority it is guilty of idolatry and this is what Jesus was indirectly accusing the Temple authorities of, in the passage referred to.

Max Weber, also considered charismatic leadership to

be a significant source of motivating authority for individuals and society, but it depended upon the support of the people for that authority. Remember that the Jewish leaders could not answer Jesus' question on one hand, "for fear of the people." A charismatic leader is an antidote to an entrenched and conservative based society and is thus feared by them, but it is a source of hope to those who are oppressed within a society. As Martin Luther-King expressed during the civil rights movements of 1968 in the USA, "I can see the promised land!" John the Baptist could also be put into that category of charismatic leader, as could his successor Jesus; they both attempted to break through the traditional and sterile conservativeness of Judaism with a living faith. Note that The Law itself was never a source of contention between Jesus and Jewish leaders; he had come to, "fulfil The Law," but their implementation of it was otherwise; "They heaped burdens on the people."

We should be aware that Creation is a moving process and that we have a need to move with it. In a cause and effect world, pandemics, global warming, inequality etc., are all signs that we living this process wrongly and we need to seek change for the better.

*John Stewart*



Fairlie Church has been very generous, giving to the foodbank. Thank you !  
The current situation has affected our ability to pass on your food donations.

During the current crisis the foodbank is working in cooperation with North Ayrshire Council to extend help to the old and vulnerable.

Whilst we are currently unable to deliver your food donations, cash donations enable the foodbank to source directly from the supermarkets.

North Ayrshire Foodbank, Church of Nazarene, ARDROSSAN, KA22 8EU, 07908 469 556

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**DOG WALKING - DAYCARE - BOARDING**



The second speaker at the Eco-congregation Scotland Annual Gathering 2020 was Alistair Seaman, who has been Operations Manager for Keep Scotland Beautiful since 2018.

Previous to taking up this appointment, he has worked for the International Nepal Fellowship, a Christian charity.

When he arrived in Nepal, the village to which he was assigned had just been burned to the ground due to a period of drought, high winds and a spark from a cooking fire. The temperature was 43 degrees and the villagers had nowhere to shelter and though no one was killed, they had nothing. Two men who had been working in India for a year lost their earnings in the fire.



Two months later, during the monsoon, the same village was severely flooded and the makeshift homes were lost. These occurrences are becoming more frequent, fortunately the I.N.F. was able to quickly come to their aid.

As a result of these experiences, Alistair, who worked among the Nepalese for five years, began to question his own lifestyle and decided to reduce his own carbon footprint drastically.

He suggested to us, that because the majority of people of the Scottish population do not know personally the people affected, they feel disassociated from their problems and perhaps we should remind ourselves that the personal problems of millions of people require a personal response from each of us.

Now that there is a loosening of some of the restrictions do we want to return to the 'old normal'? Let us think of how we can benefit nature by being more aware of the damage to which we have unwittingly been subjecting the planet.

As may be expected from his position in Keep Scotland Beautiful, Alistair, is very keen that we all take more

responsibility for our refuse, and all types of litter whether it is on land, left on beaches or washed ashore.

I have also been attending workshops online and one of them was about Moo Food, which was established by a young woman who had lost her job and then decided to do something different.

The name comes from Muir of Ord, which has a population of about 2,700. Many in the village are involved in maintaining the community orchard, the twenty-five growing boxes, the twenty fruit trees at the school and smaller groups of trees around the village. Since Covid 19 there has been a renewed interest in growing fruit and vegetables.

The work is organised by three part-time workers and thirty volunteers, whose efforts supply the Community Food Project, which is available to all. The senior school children check the food in the Community 'Frig, which is housed in a shed and open from 8am - 8pm everyone is welcome to take items from it and add to it e.g. an extra portion of casserole or too many ripe tomatoes. Local retailers, Lidl, Co-op and Tesco also provide items getting close to their sell-by date, and so prevent waste.

The community engages in Swop Shops, tasting sessions and Scavenger Hunts and also Carbon Conversations. The school has a large area where children learn about growing, composting and cooking.

Emergency Food Parcels are provided for those in need and a befriending service is available.

There are eight similar projects across the Highlands committed to building a better future for local people.

Meanwhile, back in Fairlie...

The Gas usage for May, 2020 has been 66 cubic metres, against 116 last year, and Electricity 453 kWh, against 1048 kWh last year. All understandable with the current situation.

Thought:

'Let's seize this moment for the common good and not repeat the mistakes of the past.'  
*Ann Gregory*




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## KNIT & NATTER

Hopefully our group of knitters are continuing at home but we definitely miss the natter part. Some are running out of wool, so if any of you have 4 ply, double knitting or chunky to spare, we'd love to take them off your hands. Blankets have been stitched up using small squares and this is a good way to use up odd scraps. Continue with squares please (25 stitches on size 8 needles for DK) or small baby cardigans. Looking forward to getting back together when all is 'normal' in September, we hope. Enjoy the summer holidays!



## ADVICE to the EDITOR

After 12 years of editing the Church Newsletter I have recently come across these wise words

1. Avoid Alliteration. Always.
2. Prepositions are not words to end sentences with.
3. Avoid clichés like the plague. They are old hat.
4. Comparisons are as bad as clichés.
5. Be more or less specific
6. Writers should never generalise.
- Seven : Be consistent.
8. Don't be redundant; don't use more words that necessary; it's highly superfluous.
9. Who needs rhetorical questions?
10. Exaggeration is a billion times worse than understatement.
- 12 Attention to detail with you're spelling and grammar, punctuation; numbering and formatting.

*Chris Cowpe*

## HOME THOUGHTS to ABROAD ?

Up in Scotland life is tough  
Of Boris we've had quite enough.  
Here we do what Nicola says  
Self-isolate for lots more days.  
Our hair is long, our teeth are sore,  
Never been like this before.  
Into the shops we must not go  
Even though our stocks are low.  
One cannot go into the store  
But they'll deliver to your door;  
Milk in glass bottles, eggs as well  
All they do is ring the bell.  
Fish and meat and veggies too  
Even paper for the loo.  
But now the sun is shining bright  
Hardly even dark at night,  
I sit alone, admire my view  
Looking at Arran, Cumbraes too,  
The scene for me is pure perfection  
It takes my mind off the infection.

*Pat Johnstone*

## LAST MONTHS QUIZ



Identify these TV programs from the Clues - ANSWERS

1. In and out (4,3,4) .....HOME & AWAY
2. Stir serial (8) .....PORRIDGE
3. A wee bit chilly (1,5,2,5) .....A TOUCH OF FROST
4. What you can't teach Old Shep (3, 6) .....NEW TRICKS
5. Explosive idea (3,3,4,6) .....THE BIG BANG THEORY
6. Codename (5) .....MORSE
7. Attic and basement (8,10) .....UPSTAIRS, DOWNSTAIRS
8. Orphan's view (8) .....PANORAMA
9. Fabulous fair ride (3,5,10) .....THE MAGIC ROUABOUT
10. Yellow family (3,8) .....THE SIMPSONS
11. Off to bed, pet (9,10) .....GOODNIGHT SWEETHEART
12. Let's eat at my place (4,4,4,2) .....COME DINE WITH ME
13. Unknown documents (3,1,5) .....THE X FILES
14. Just cons and nags (4,5,3,6) .....ONLY FOOLS & HORSES
15. Can't see what's on the calendar (5,4) .....BLIND DATE
16. Short survey before the light goes (7) .....POLDARK
17. Negotiate search (7,4) .....BARGAIN HUNT
18. Stern invitation to boogie (8,4,7) .....STRICTLY COME DANC'G
19. Saturdays big wedding (5,2,3,3) .....MATCH of the DAY
20. Designer clothes (3,4) .....TOP GEAR
21. Tamper with the World Health Organisation (6,3) .....DOCTOR WHO
22. Overhear a few words (11) .....CATCHPHRASE
23. Our place in the universe (5,4,4,3,3) .....THIRD ROCK from the SUN
24. Endure seasonal drink (4,2,3,6,4) .....LAST of the SUMMER WINE
25. Questioning identity (3,2,3,5,3,3) .....WHO DO YOU THINK U ARE?
26. Where the Queen might be treated (1,1) .....E.R.
27. Built to impress (5,7) .....GRAND DESIGNS
28. What people play on their loo's (4,2,7) .....GAME of THRONES
29. Gawk at cube (9) .....GOGGLEBOX
30. Those close to us (7) .....FRIENDS

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## OUR ON-LINE SERVICES

During this very unusual time that we are living through our Minister, Graham has worked hard to give support to our congregation and beyond with a regular on-line presence.

Sunday morning Services live at 9.45am on our Facebook page draw in up to 50 viewers. and more later in the day. Short early evening Services at 5pm on Wed, Thu, & Fri have around 30 regular attendees.



These figures are dwarfed by over 350 people being reached on Sundays with 250 'engaging'

<https://www.facebook.com/FairlieParishChurch>

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## transform – The Word that brings life



The Spring magazine of the Scottish Bible Society was delivered just as we went into lockdown so was unavailable for people to collect from church. However I can drop off a copy to anyone as I can recommend an interesting read. (Ann on 568421)

'Bibles like bars of gold' is about the visit of Rev Marc Bircham, a SBS board member to the Amity Printing Press in Nanjing, China. He reflects on the visit to Amity and the growing need for Bibles there. Amity was first established as charitable foundation in 1985 on the initiative of Chinese Christians and backed by the United Bible Societies, the Chinese Government and churches across China. It began printing Bibles in 1988 with over 500,000 distributed in China and around the world in the first year. In November 2019, they published their 200 millionth Bible. Amity also carries out charitable and relief work in response to national disasters.

Marc's chat about his visit and time in China can be watched at [scottishbiblesociety.org/china](http://scottishbiblesociety.org/china).

'A [dis]connected generation' reflects on 'The Connected Generation' a new piece of research from Barna Group that gives an overview of 18-35 year-olds around the world. This makes interesting reading with figures and statistics. Two key research results are that young adults are **anxious** and **lonely** but are surprisingly **open to faith**. In the UK, 1 in 4 reported feelings of anxiety – about decisions, sadness or depression, fear of failure and insecurity about themselves. Only 40% felt optimistic about their future. This is a generation asking serious questions and acutely aware of the issues facing the world. How are our churches seeking to reach this generation?

'Light continues to shine in the darkness' is about the Syrian Christian community – one of the oldest in the history of the church. In the decade of conflict it is estimated that up to 900,000 Christians have fled to neighbouring countries; churches have been damaged or destroyed and leaders targeted for kidnapping. In spite of all this, the work of the Bible Society there continues, giving much needed support to people facing overwhelming chaos, trauma and grief. They continue to bring Bible-based Trauma Healing programmes to those who are affected by war.

**Bible 2020** – What would happen if people around the world all read the same passage of the Bible aloud every day for a year? This has become a global movement with over 17000 people in over 100 countries taking part and downloading the Bible 2020 app. At sunrise on 1<sup>st</sup> January at Okitu Beach, Gisbourne, New Zealand the first participants read aloud the opening words of John's Gospel. Download now to take part. (Apple App Store or Google Play)

'Ten Must Know Bible Stories' is a project which began when a church and seven local schools started working together. Their combined experience and expertise resulted in the development of a prodigious suite of new Religious and Moral Education resources, tailored to the Scottish Government's Curriculum for Excellence. Pupils and teachers alike have given very positive feedback.

*Ann Tyler*

# — *Rambling* — **ROSE** —

I am writing this on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> of May, and I have to say I never remember such a wild day, with the wind especially and also rain coming at us all the time, luckily earlier was a bit less windy, as I had my tomatoes to water in the greenhouses, if I hadn't done it then, I am afraid they would have missed out! I wonder what we could name it. Yes you may have guessed 'The Corona word'. At least this gives me an inside job.

One day when my Grandson Benjamin was helping me in the garden, he noticed when walking on a slab of concrete that a few bees were going underneath it. I then phoned my Bee expert friends the Tylers, and I was told they are called Mining Bees. I had never heard of them, but with what they were doing, the name made sense. Since then, in my shed where all sorts of clutter lives, I have found another bee dashing about when I went in, into old large pieces of material, even if the doors are shut there are two spaces to the outside, do they go out? I have no idea, Anne Tyler is thinking about it, so if she finds out I will let you know later.

One bit of good news, opposite my kitchen window is a very full looking birds nest. Mum (or perhaps dad) is almost all the time feeding them. Now, around 10<sup>th</sup> June, all seemed to have fledged; I think Mum or Dad were Bluetits. I have often wondered, as I see seagulls flying about, where they nest. My grandson says he sees some sitting on the moor - I wonder what they feed their young on. Do they fly down to the shore to get their usual treats?

My 'friendly' crows have been busy again, even by 7am. I hear them, no longer downstairs, but high up on the windows upstairs, so somehow it doesn't worry me so much. I now hear noises from the same tree. If they fall out I would

feel bad if I didn't feed them, so just let's hope this doesn't happen.

I think I have told you about the little woolly cross that I put in different pockets. Here is what it says.

I carry a cross in my pocket, a simple reminder to me  
Of the fact that I am a Christian no matter where I may be.  
This little isn't magic, nor is it a good luck charm  
It isn't meant to protect me from every physical harm  
It's not for identification for all the world to see  
It's simply an understanding between my Saviour and me  
When I put my hand pocket to bring out a coin, or a key  
The cross is there to remind me of the price He paid for me  
It reminds me to be thankful, for my blessings day by day  
And to strive to serve Him better, in all that I do or say  
It is also a daily reminder of the peace and comfort I share  
With all who know my Master, and give themselves to His care  
So I carry this cross in a pocket reminding only me  
That Jesus Christ is the Lord of my life, if only I let Him be.

Anon.

Two texts, one for July...

God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, and courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference.

... and for August

This is the title of the hymn that we sang so well at Presbytery, and I always say it every morning before I get up "Guide me O Thou great Jehovah."

*Rosemary Jarvie*

## For such a time as this - Rev Liz Crumlish

Lord we see You carefully prepared and responding on the hoof.  
Lord we see You planning ahead and reacting in the moment.  
Lord we see You showing the way and equipping and empowering others.  
Lord we see You right in the thick of it and in deserted places.  
For You took time to be with the crowds and to be with God.

You took time to encounter individuals and to encounter Yourself.

You took time to sift and sort, to discern and pray.  
You took time to do and to be.  
What if, today we followed Your example..  
Knowing ourselves beloved of God.  
Doing, with others, the work You reveal.  
Resting in You that we might be filled.  
Being, simply, who You call us to be.  
For such a time as this.



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## Messy Church will resume as soon as restrictions are safely lifted !



This week schools break up for the summer holidays, but of course, children have not been physically in school since March. How they miss seeing their teachers and friends, as well as all the end of term activities. We are hoping that as restrictions ease, then we'll be able to meet our friends outside and in the garden. So too, with Messy Church. Our team have missed each other and all the families and friends. We are hoping and praying that we will be able to meet again in September to share in fun and friendship.

Last month I said I'd count the 'loose change' in the demijohn at church as we had been collecting for toilets for families and schools with no toilet or water. The total in the jar was £118, so another two toilets have been twinned with Messy Church in Democratic Republic of Congo and Zambia. Thank you so much to everyone who put their change into the jar. The coins were really heavy to carry to the bank and I thought I'd set a **challenge** for you and your families below .....

All these coins made me think of one of the stories Jesus told about how God feels when we turn to Him -

The Story of the Lost Coin.

'Or imagine a woman who has ten coins and loses one. Won't she light a lamp and scour the house, looking in every nook and cranny until she finds it? And when she finds it you can be sure she'll call her friends and neighbours: "Celebrate with me! I found my lost coin!" Count on it - that's the kind of party God's angels throw every time one lost soul turns to God.'

(The Message - Luke 15 v 8-10)

I think as we all find our way to Messy Church in September, or whenever we can meet, we'll rejoice and have a super 'party' to celebrate that we have all found our friends again and rejoice that our coins can make such a difference to improve lives by providing a toilet.

Enjoy your summer and God Bless!

Ann

Here is the breakdown of money

**How many coins did I carry to the bank? (Answers at our first meeting)**

£2=£4; £1=£15; 50p=£5; 20p=£30; 10p=£12; 5p=£22; 2p=£15; 1p=£10

### NEXT ISSUE

The Next edition of the Newsletter will cover SEPTEMBER

Last date for copy is Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> AUGUST

### Newsletter on the WEB

The Church Newsletter is on the Web in the first week of the month on the Church Website - [www.fairlieparish.co.uk](http://www.fairlieparish.co.uk)

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