

# FAIRLIE PARISH CHURCH NEWS



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**FAIRLIE PARISH CHURCH is a LINKED CHARGE with LARGS: St. COLUMBA's PARISH CHURCH**

**NOVEMBER 2020**

Dear All,

With only four weeks to go until the New Year, I hope that you are well.

No. Really, I have not made a mistake because the Church calendar runs from the first Sunday in Advent which, this year, is the 29<sup>th</sup> November. At last the Church is leading the way in something....our exit from 2020.

Actually, the Church, both local and national, has been leading a lot of positive work helping those who have been struggling through this year. Many members have been keeping in touch with one another by phone. However, this support network is not perfect and if you have not received a call from someone then, maybe, you could pick up the phone and call them, just to say 'hello'.

Throughout this year we have been having a cheery, if not cheeky, fifteen minutes of Prayer and Praise via Fairlie Parish Church's Face Book page. Every one is welcome to join, or catch up at a more convenient time, and the beauty is that when you sing no one else can hear you. And we all know that singing can lift our spirits. If you 'tune

in' you may not know the hymn-tune, but you would soon pick it up. Anyway, no one will criticise you if you sing a wrong note. I do, often!

As church buildings have been given permission to open, there have been many opportunities to make a donation towards the North Ayrshire Foodbank, on Thursday afternoons (2.00-3.00pm) at St Columba's Parish Church, in Largs. Hundreds of items of food have been donated, to date. And any financial donations are being given to the Foodbank to buy fresh produce. The leaders of the Young Church have been overwhelmed by the sincere generosity of the people of Fairlie and Largs.

More recently, at Fairlie Parish Church, the annual organisation for the Blythswood Care Shoe Box Appeal has been underway. With the additional restrictions of Coronavirus, this year arrangements for filling the

*(continued overleaf)*



## Remembrance Service at Fairlie Church Sunday 8th November 2020

The service at Fairlie Church will be streamed LIVE  
on the Fairlie Church Facebook Page  
at 10.30am until 11.05am  
and available later on  
Facebook and the Church Website

Due to Government COVID-19 restrictions, there will be **NO** Act of Remembrance outside at the War Memorial.

Limited seats may be available in church under strict COVID guidelines,  
These may be booked through the Church Session Clerk

decorated shoe boxes has been a bit challenging. However, through the enormous dedication of Ann Tyler donations of new items are being collected from villagers before being neatly packed into a box, appropriately filled for a child, teenager or adult. These boxes, packed with love, will then be transported to Irvine before being delivered to eastern Europe where life is even more challenging than we can imagine. The shoe box Appeal runs until 8<sup>th</sup> November. However, if you are a bit late, and would still like to contribute, please contact our Session Clerk.

Advent is the time when we prepare for the Birth of Jesus, Christmas: a celebration for everyone. And this year, Christmas is not cancelled. One of Jesus' prayers was that His followers may be 'one.' This is a prayer which is being fulfilled today because, throughout this year, there have been many loving acts of kindness being shown by villagers, neighbours and strangers. This is one of those years where we can recognise the unspoken need of those

around us: some of us may be feeling lonely, but you are not alone! The war-time generations have had their own personal experiences and are possibly drawing upon those experiences to get by. But, for many of us, this type of restrictive living is a new encounter. But we will get through this time *together*, as one!

2020 has been a difficult year; but it is not over yet. So, there is still opportunity to make it better for yourself, or someone else, by picking up the phone, or making a donation to a charity, or just sharing a smile. May we all be 'one' as Father, Son and Holy Spirit are one.

I *hope* that you continue to see *hope* through this year. For, of all things, Advent is about *hope*!

Take care and stay safe and sane!

With every blessing, *Graham*



### PRAYER THROUGH POETRY

Eternal God, Lord of the living, of time and space, we bring our thanksgiving. We thank You for the breath to say, 'Thank You, Lord, for each new day.' With joy we praise You for every nation, as we see Your glory through all of creation. With heads bowed low, fill us with grace, receive our worship from every place, where thanksgiving, love and honour are given; in expectation of the Saviour's heaven. And thank You, too, for the hands to share, responding to Your loving care. Gracious Lord, Almighty King, for life, for health, for everything, we offer our praise with thankful hearts and receive Your blessing as each day starts.

Now Lord, our God, with bended knee we bring to You our heartfelt plea; for church and family and hopeless cases, in the knowledge that Your love embraces all of Your children who suffer in silence as life around them is filled with

violence. For the sick and bereaved and our anxious friends, whose lives are despairing and knows no end. For children and parents and those who are lost, for every concern which carries a cost, be their strength and their hope and their guiding light as the short hours of day make way for long nights, where thoughts and hopes bring memories of the times before, as they used to be.

Bless all Your children who live without hope, in despair and depression, through this isolation. Give to them love and grace, and impassion those able to show great compassion to those who are least, who are struggling the most for life is a challenge, yet You are the Host who can take from us all the burdens we carry and, so in our silence, our prayers we do raise in thanksgiving, Lord, through our thoughts and our praise.



Once again, there will be no house to house collection in Fairlie. However, you are asked to consider donating on-line at:

<https://tinyurl.com/y3mnlf8c>  
or Google 'Poppy Scotland Donate'



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## WELCOME TEAMS



In light of the changes brought about by the pandemic, the welcome teams have changed.

As there is less for the teams to do, the numbers are cut to 2 people with Graham, the minister, being a third person.

Duties will now be as follows:!

1. Making sure everyone uses the sanitiser and wears a face mask while in the church.
2. Checking the names and telephone numbers of the people arriving at the church.
3. Escorting people to a seat.
4. Counting any money in the retiring offering - we cannot collect the offering in bags.
5. Making sure everyone leaves by the bell tower door.

Tuesday: Organised by Prayer Group

Sunday: Church opens 9.30 am  
Service 9.45 -10.20 am approx.

Week beginning

- 1<sup>st</sup> November Mrs C Thomas, Mrs A Woods  
8<sup>th</sup> November Mrs P Wilson, Mrs L Cowpe  
15<sup>th</sup> November SERVICE On-line ONLY  
22<sup>nd</sup> November SERVICE On-line ONLY  
29<sup>th</sup> November Mr J Whittaker, Mrs J Busby  
6<sup>th</sup> December Mrs E Clark, Ms A McDonald  
13<sup>th</sup> December Mr J Riddell, Mrs A Gregory  
20<sup>th</sup> December Nativity Sunday, On-line ONLY  
27<sup>th</sup> December No Services

Spare : Mrs A McKellar

## KNIT & NATTER

Thanks to all the ladies who have knitted throughout the year for the various charities. At present, all the hats, scarves, gloves and socks are being used to fill shoeboxes. These are colourful and cosy. We are also grateful to Catherine and Alison for the lovely woven scarves. It is with pride that our knitted poppy display will once again be used this year. This endeavour was the catalyst for our little group. We are still knitting and looking for any donations of wool. Baby hats, cardies, squares for blankets can be knitted for baby units from now on. If you know of any project needing knitting please let us know as we will be delighted to take part. Call Ann Tyler for wool and it can be delivered. Stay safe until we can meet again.



Above you will see the number of times the Fairlie Church Facebook pages were accessed in the week ending 25<sup>th</sup> October

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**DOG WALKING - DAYCARE - BOARDING**



I thought that you might like to hear about a project taking place at Granton Church, Edinburgh, where a group of people, not all Christian or church members, have come together to assist the people in the area by providing food and clothing.

Granton is an area in the north of Edinburgh, which has a high percentage of people in real need. There are refugees, those with drug or alcohol problems, former prisoners, single parents and those who are just poor.

In normal times the church building is open for access most days, but it is difficult to meet the government's requirements at the moment, so access is by appointment. There is one paid person, who works 30 hours per week and 11 volunteers with 5 being regular. There is also a bank of 25 who can be called upon if required.

The management of the volunteers, many of whom are unemployed or disabled can be tricky, as they come from many cultures with different ideas and languages.

The Kirk Session supported the Eco-congregation Group in applying for a Climate Change Fund grant and with help from the Robertson Trust the facility opened.

Before the Covid 19 restrictions, the group was channelling 1,000-1,500 kilos of clothes every year. At the moment they are not taking any donations apart from tins and are making clothes available on a limited scale and to other organisations on request. At the beginning of 'Lockdown', they received 1,500 donations.

Many of their activities have had to be curtailed, e.g. prepared cooked food, though they keep a store of

tins and have diverted the left over bread supplied by a local bakery once a week to the local primary school, the Salvation Army and 'Fresh Start'.

They have had a Dr. Bike session where a mobile workshop came to check for free, recycled bikes for safety, and provided free lights and so allowed people to get to around when transport was scarce.

'Swop Shops' take place with other churches and school uniform is in great demand, all for free. During the 'Lockdown' computers were provided for children to assist their learning. Sometimes vintage clothing is handed in and when it is sold, it provides welcome income to buy food. Other groups in the area provide toiletries and dignity boxes and deliver them.

Customers are referred by G.P.s, domestic abuse groups, health visitors and nurseries. No one is turned away because of their religion.

With another grant two sewing machines were bought and an unemployed tailor made aprons for the cooking group, shopping bags from old curtains and bread bags from old bedding. This grant was sufficient to employ someone to give sewing lessons and soon there was a class of 36, who brought along mostly their own clothes to repair or upgrade. The making of draught excluders and rag dolls has been popular.

"This is something that is part of the Church", said the organiser.

The fuel readings for September 2020 are as follows:  
Electricity 172 kW (2019:1195 kWh)  
Gas 44 cuM (2019:134 cuM).

*Ann Gregory*



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# SHOE BOX APPEAL

Bring some joy  
this Christmas  
[shoeboxappeal.org](http://shoeboxappeal.org)

### Please use average sized shoeboxes

This makes it easier for those who distribute boxes and is fairer for recipients; it also means we can pack more boxes into the cartons.

### Carriage costs

It costs approximately £3,500-£4,000 to send a container load of shoeboxes to Eastern Europe. Please place your donation in the envelope and bring some joy this Christmas.

**Please donate £3 or more to help your box get there**

### Please deliver your shoeboxes to:

Local collection point

**FAIRLIE PARISH CHURCH**  
Tuesdays .....2pm - 4pm  
Sundays .....9.30am - 10.30am  
by **SUNDAY 8th NOVEMBER**

If you are unable to deliver your shoeboxes please contact

**Ann Tyler on 568421**

The appeal has made a great start this year despite all the restrictions. Some organisations are unable to take part this year and we have benefited by people giving to us instead. So many thanks for supporting Blythswood Shoebox Appeal.

The Millennium Room has been turned into a 'sorting depot' and so far over 90 boxes have been filled. We realise that we will not match our wonderful figure of 197 from last year but the charity is so grateful for what we can provide.

If you are unable to collect items for the boxes but would like to support the appeal then donations of money are most welcome for us to buy what is needed and especially for covering the cost of transport (£3 per box).

Leaflets are available from the front door of the church or from Ann 568421 or Alison 560069. We have covered boxes for filling if you haven't a shoebox.

All items and boxes need to be handed into church Tuesdays 2-3pm or Sundays 9.30 – 10.30pm or phone us for collecting items by Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> November.

We realise it will be more difficult this year but have been asked to do our best which is all we can do, to make a difference to folks who have so much less than us and to send our gifts and good wishes this Christmas.

Ann Tyler and Alison McKellar.



## HEART LANGUAGE

Have you ever thought about your 'heart language'? This is something I have been aware of for many years since my daughter went to work in Chad with Wycliffe Bible Translators. Obviously for most of us it is English but whenever I hear or read anything in Scots I am moved in ways I can't explain. Perhaps your 'mother tongue' is Gaelic or French or Spanish but you are quite at home with English.

The collaborative work of Bible Societies and other agencies, like Wycliffe, is enabling scripture translations to be completed more efficiently and, as a result, God's Word is being made available to more people at a faster rate than ever before. Earlier this year the wonderful milestone of 700 full Bible translations was reached, meaning 5.7 billion people or 80% of the global population, now have access to the bible in their 'heart language'. Nearly  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the world's full Bible translations have been provided by Bible Societies.

Something profound happens when a community receives Scripture in their own language. People feel God is speaking directly to them, they begin to understand their value and purpose in life and this gives them hope. Of the 7359 languages in the world (including 242 sign languages), 6659 have yet to receive the full Bible. A further 3948 have no Scriptures at all. In 2018, Bible Societies and partner agencies committed to a 20 year journey, aiming to provide a further 600 million people with new access to scripture in their heart language, with the goal of completing 1200 translation projects by 2038.

Michael Perreau, Director General of United Bible Societies states,

"This is the fruit of generations of sacrifice and generosity. Each Bible translation takes years of hard work and dedication. We give thanks to God for the men and women who have spent so much of their lives bringing God's Word to their communities and for those who have supported and prayed for that work."

"It's heartening to know that, through our efforts in 2019, millions more people are able to face the challenges of 2020 with Scripture in their hands. May God's Word bring comfort and hope in these difficult days. And while record-breaking Bible distribution is something to celebrate, what's more important is that we'll see God's Word transform individuals, their families and communities, as people engage with scripture and its life-changing message." *Ann Tyler*

## CHANGE to SERVICES

As we go to print with this edition COVID-19 guidelines are subject to change.

There are PLANNED to be the following.

- 1<sup>st</sup> November - Service at 9.45
- 8<sup>th</sup> November - Service at 10.30
- 15<sup>th</sup> November - On Line 9.45
- 22<sup>nd</sup> November - On-line 9.45
- 29<sup>th</sup> November - Service 9.45
- 6<sup>th</sup> December - Christingle Service 2pm



During the current crisis there are collections on the front door steps of St Columba's, our sister church, (Across from Nardini's) Thursday afternoons between 2pm & 3pm

### North Ayrshire Foodbank

Just 2 months till Christmas!!

*Christmas Hamper items needed are:*



- 2L bottles of Irn bru,
- a bottle of Shloer,
- Christmas log (a cake),
- tin of festive biscuits,
- tin of festive sweets / chocolates,
- Pringles tubs of crisps and selection boxes.



Cash donations will purchase fresh food items for the hamper



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## THE GUILD



It is months since I have sent a report about the Guild. Although we have no hope of meeting in the foreseeable future, perhaps you would like to know what is happening nationally. The report of the Gathering (held online, instead of in Dundee) has been printed for you to read.

We have now reached the 3rd. year of "One Journey, Many Roads". Sadly we did not manage to finish last year, "Campanions on the Way", and didn't hold the AGM, due to total lockdown. This year's theme is "The Extra Mile", which perhaps is something we can do for our friends.

Our group raised £300 for the Join the Dots, our chosen project for the 3 years. This is a Crossreach project to help the elderly and housebound who live alone and do not have any friends or family near them.

If anyone is missing contact with other members and would enjoy a chat on the phone let us know by phoning 568200 and this can be arranged. You could also be forwarded the fortnightly newsletter from the Guild office if you are interested.

Meanwhile I hope that you are all keeping cheerful and well and looking forward to meeting again sometime in the future.  
*Pat Johnston*

## ANNUAL GATHERING On-Line

THE Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland has paid a warm tribute to the Church of Scotland Guild at its first online 'Gathering', which took place in September.



The Rt Rev Dr Martin Fair said as Christians the 'Jesus way' was to give and to serve and love without expectation of reward because 'it is the right thing to do.'

"We go the extra mile without thinking of reward or return. It seems to me that the Guild, not least through its wonderful projects, exemplifies this Jesus way brilliantly and beautifully.

"I have been amazed through the years to read of the different projects the Guild has supported and the huge amount of money you have raised to make this happen."

Echoing the Guild's new theme for 2020/21 'The Extra Mile', he said: "You show us a way, the way of the extra mile. A way that is different to so often how things are in the world"

The Gathering, which generally takes place in Dundee and marks the launch of a week of celebration of the Guild – one of Scotland's largest membership organisations – moved online this year when the meeting of 2000 women and men had to be cancelled because of the Covid-19 pandemic. The event was webcast via the Church of Scotland website. The Guild has raised millions of pounds in partnerships with six projects every three years.

There were updates from each of the six projects during the online Gathering. The projects are: the Boys' Brigade Scotland, CrossReach, Malawi Fruits, the Sailors' Society, Seema's Project, India and Journeying Together in Zambia.

During the 80-minute online Gathering, National Convener Marian Macintyre thanked the Guild "for the gift of this incredible, life changing year" as she handed over her badge of office to the new National Convener, Mabel Wallace who said: "I am humbled, privileged and excited to serve as National Convener as we journey through, going the extra mile."

She was installed into the office by her own minister, the Rev Richard Baxter, minister at Fort William: Duncansburgh Macintosh, who is also presently Moderator of the presbytery of Lochaber. The moment was marked with the launch of a new Guild blessing, written by the Guild's General Secretary Iain Whyte, compiled by Bea Nicolson and sung by a virtual Guild choir.

Presenting an update on the work of the Guild through the year, Mr Whyte said: "The heart of the Guild is in the local groups but together we can do so much more for ourselves, for each other and for those outside the Guild."

During the webcast, there was a short question and answer session with Mr Whyte, the Guild's Associate Secretary Karen Gillon and the Church of Scotland's Chief Officer Dave Kendall. Mr Kendall said the Guild did "vital" work, adding: "You should be very proud of what you have achieved. I am really looking forward to working with you all in the future."

*The online Gathering can be viewed at [www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/2020/The-Guild-Annual-Gathering-goes-digital-this-weekend](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/2020/The-Guild-Annual-Gathering-goes-digital-this-weekend)*



## Messy Church

November is the month of 'remembrance' in our country. This made me think of a

story in the Bible involving Jesus, his disciples and a woman called Mary.

Jesus and his friends were visiting a man called Simon the Leper in a town called Bethany. Whilst they were at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar filled with very expensive perfume. She broke the jar and poured the expensive perfume onto Jesus' head. Some of his friends were indignant about the waste of all this, as they thought that it could have been sold for more than a year's wages and the money given to the poor. They gave her a right old telling off about it. But Jesus said, "Leave her alone and stop bothering her. She has done a beautiful thing for me. The poor you will always have with you and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have me. She did what she could. She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial. I preached throughout the world, what she has done will be told in memory of her."

Just imagine - we are still remembering this woman, called Mary, for the beautiful thing she did for Jesus 2000 years ago.

On Remembrance Sunday, we remember all of our service people, men and women, who have, since WW1, given up their beautiful lives for their country and us. We remember them by wearing poppies and

laying poppy wreaths at our War Memorial. Around the village, near where they lived, there will be wreaths with the names of all the men and women who died in WW1, 100 years ago, so that we can remember them today.

During this time of Covid-19 pandemic, there have been many people, old and young, who have done something beautiful for others. Some have been given awards in the Queen's Honours lists, like our own milkman, Willie Brown, whilst others like Captain Tom have been given a knighthood. The great majority of folks who have done something beautiful for others go on doing what they can and are remembered by just a few in their communities. We can think of all the NHS staff, carers and front line workers who have helped keep us safe and well during this time. (8 months) -

My challenge this month is for as many as possible to make, draw, colour and display a poppy in our windows. In this way we will remember not just our service men and women but all those who have done something beautiful for us during these last months - Our way of remembering and saying thank you to families, friends, teachers, health care workers and key workers for keeping us safe and well. You too can do what you can to help others and show that you care.

We are all missing our Messy Church meetings but hopefully we can perhaps arrange something for Messy Christmas. Stay safe and God Bless,

*Ann and the Messy Team*

### NEXT ISSUE

The Next edition of the Newsletter will cover DECEMBER & JANUARY with our latest plans for CHRISTMAS

Last date for copy is  
Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER

### 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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