

# BARK

He is  
not here,  
He has  
Risen!  
Luke 24:6

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**D**ear Friends - and this time I know you really are 'dear' friends,

**A**s I write this I cannot believe that I have been here less than 6 months. I feel so much a part of things that I feel as though I have been here much longer. And I mean that in a good way. No, I do not know all of your names, sometimes I might accidentally walk by you in the street because I don't recognise you out of your Sunday best. But I have been overwhelmed by the number of you who make a point of stopping me and talking to me.

**S**ometimes when ministers move to a new Parish they see areas of need or come with pre-packaged ideas and get so carried away with their own enthusiasm that the congregation are dragged - sometimes gaining enthusiasm, sometimes quite reluctantly, sometimes even kicking and screaming, worse still there can be mutiny! However, for the first time in my ministry I feel as though I am running to catch up with the congregation. There is so much enthusiasm among you, so many ideas, so much commitment - a minister's dream. Amn't I a lucky Rev!

**T**here is no doubting the disciples' enthusiasm on Palm Sunday - adrenalin was running high. They strode on, set in their purpose, all they had been working towards was being fulfilled. They had given up everything because they knew, not just believed, but knew that Jesus was the Son of God. And now, after the years of hardship, wandering, sometimes being welcomed, sometimes being chased the crowds knew. The cheers. The chanting: Hosanna! Hosanna! The palm leaves - they couldn't have believed it, a palm leaf carpet! They were treating him like a King! Actually, they felt pretty royal too. Nod here, wave there, shake a hand.

**T**hen came Good Friday - Black Saturday - it was, well and truly was, over. The disciples scurried away, enthusiasm? Well, only for their own survival, only to hide and keep themselves safe.

**O**f course, as they were to discover, it wasn't all over. The enthusiasm returned. The Good News was spread. But there had been a moment when they thought "No"; no couldn't do it - stay safe; no, too difficult - don't want to be crucified!

I hope you will continue to infect me with your enthusiasm, that when we hit stumbling blocks and problems you will forge on. Jesus will always be saying: "I have big plans to make this church the best it can be. You are working miracles here. Trust me. I rose to be with you."

Yours in Christ

Alison

## Easter Services

There are lots of chances to attend a service during the Easter period this year.

Firstly on **Wednesday 17th April** there will be a Passion service in **Kelton Church** and on **Maunday Thursday 18th April** there will be a celebration of the Last Supper in **Castle Douglas Parish Church**. On **19th April** there is a **Good Friday** service in **Castle Douglas Church** and again in **Kelton Church** in the evening. All these services are at 7.00 pm apart from the Good Friday service in Castle Douglas which is at 12 noon.

On **Easter Sunday** there will be the usual **Sunday services** in Castle Douglas and in Kelton but if you feel like getting up even earlier you could join in a service at Carlingwark Loch at 5.45 am. and/or the usual celebration of Easter at Kirkland of Gelston at 8.00 a.m.

### A Cuppa and A Chat

Do you sometimes feel like stopping mid morning for a cuppa? Why not come and share with friends in Auchencairn Church. We always do this on a Sunday morning after the service so we thought why not do it during the week sometime.

So on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday 15-18th April if you would like to drop into the church any time between 10.30 am and noon just for a cuppa and a chat we'd love to see you. Bring the wee ones along too they'll be very welcome.

If it's a success we may do it again.



## R & R – Reports and Restoration

The fabric team awaits the survey reports for Auchencairn windows and Kelton Church, due very soon.

Certainly the time has come to see what work is required to get more mileage out of old stones and mortar as we have been beset by water from roof above and basement below.

Weather like rain and frost takes a toll, a charge if you will, so there is a cost to us as custodians of buildings if we are serious about conveying a message.

Although the General Trustees hold legal titles to our buildings, in a sense the local congregation is a public stamp of ownership and demonstrating to the landlord (the GT's) that we are good tenants is essential.

Sometimes it is by happy labours and materials from diy enthusiasts (the more the merrier!) and at others it requires a dig into the pockets.

Fund raising in the wider community will certainly be needed where specialist trades are required, so spread the word and contributions will go much further.

Donald

## The Guild

In our Guild meetings we have been following our theme " Exploring Faith" . Our first meeting in October gave us the opportunity to hear our minister Rev Alison Burnside speak of the journey of faith which has led her to our parishes. A year in Pakistan as a young woman was a formative step in her journey. Pastor Mike Smith , New Life Church C.D told us of the evangelical outreach of the members. Youth clubs, young mothers groups and running the Food Bank gives an indication of their involvement in the community. Douglas Whyte, Pastor of Dalbeattie Baptist Church and his wife Ann gave us a clear picture of the Baptist faith as they spoke of the various churches they had been called to in their long ministry. It was heartening to hear of how the new Baptist Church in Dumfries is flourishing. In our own exploration of faith the members at our January meeting told of hymns which had sustained their faith. As we sang we rejoiced in the sharing of each others journey. A different exploration led by Mrs Helen Crawford had each member reading verses describing Flowers and Fruits of the Bible. Helen put together an arrangement as each flower and fruit were noted giving us an awareness of the beauty and usefulness of Gods world. In April we look forward to Mrs Mary McLeod of Dumfries, speak to us of being a "Good Neighbour " .A perfect way to round of our journey through different faiths. A warm welcome awaits at our Guild meetings.

Margaret

## What happened next

It is sometime since the last Newsletter and sooooo much has been happening since then. Alison may feel she is running to keep up with us but she has been throwing lots of ideas into the mix too - and we have enjoyed them. There are a few photos at the end. Can you guess what was taken where?

We had Session and Board meetings on 31 October and Alison invited us to dress appropriately for the date if we so wished. In November we had our Christmas Fayre and coffee morning full of wonderful things knitted and sewn and baked and grown and turned and stuck and two of our members produced a children's Christmas Colouring Book which also sold well.

Christmas was of course a very busy season in the Church which started for us on the 3<sup>rd</sup> when there was a 'Celebration of Loved Ones'. During this evening service we were invited to write a thought or a message on stars which as you'll see in the photo were then hung on the Christmas tree. We remembered family and friends who had died and also those who had moved away. It was a very moving service but not at all depressing. Members were invited to take along wrapped gifts on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> to be given to Social Work to distribute to families who would find it difficult to provide gifts for their children. In both churches you will always now find a container in which you can at any time place items which can be passed on to the Food Bank. They not only give out food but also toiletries and cleaning materials so anything you can give is very welcome. Later on we had a Candlelit Service at Kelton where the only lighting was, yes, you've guessed it - candles. A lot of little tea lights were used that evening. On the 14<sup>th</sup> we held our second annual Christmas party in Gelston Village hall and had almost as many people as last year. The table was groaning under the weight of food and we even had a visit from Santa this year. Our usual Carol Service at Auchencairn was well attended on the 14<sup>th</sup> including local school children, with refreshments served in the school later. This included an interview for ABC, the Auchencairn Broadcasting Service, with Mary and Joseph telling about their long journey. Members and friends of the Guild had their annual dinner and outing to the Pantomime on the 19<sup>th</sup> and on the 23<sup>rd</sup> at our Christmas Service we had another visit from Mary and Joseph but not only that - they brought along their poor long suffering donkey and we had to sympathise with him as we heard again of that journey to Bethlehem and how he felt about **his sore feet and his sore back and what was in his manger** - "There's a baby in my dinner and it's JUST NOT FAIR!"

The same afternoon there was the first Carols in the Mart where 200 to 300 people from all the local churches and from none joined together at Wallet's Mart. Hopefully to become an annual event.

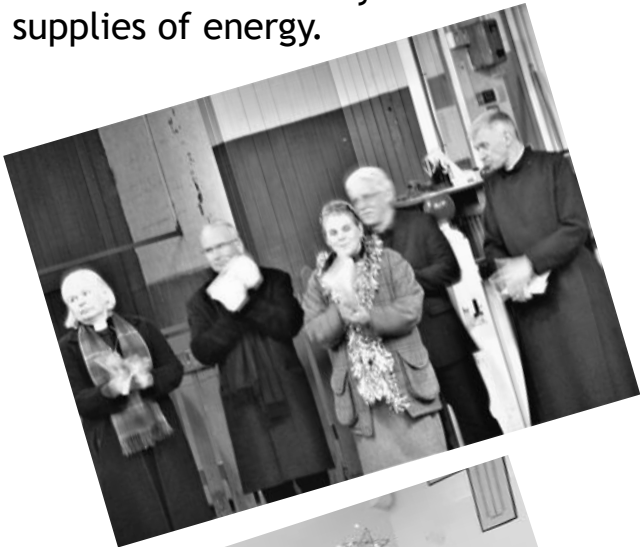
And so to our Watchnight Service and sharing in the Christmas Day service at the Parish Church and our own family celebrations.

No sooner was all that over than a group of members started cleaning and

painting and planning how to improve our buildings and environment and get very necessary repairs done.

Phew!! It's exhausting just reading about it!

Over and above all this Alison has still had to fit in all her service planning and 'ministering' duties including visiting homes and hospitals and, of course, looking after her own family. She must have unending supplies of energy.



## Bengairn Parish Duty Rota

Please arrive 20 minutes before the start of the service.

### Apr

07	(K)	N Smith	J Hendry
14	(A)	P Davis	J Walker
21	(K)	B Wright	J Brown
28	(A)	D Henry	K Ross

### May

05	(K)	R Bellamy	R Gladstone
12	(A)	W Hean	C Ashton
19	(K)	A Campbell	A Ross
26	(A)	M Shanks	F Twiname

### Jun

02	(K)	A Hyslop	E McArthur
09	(A)	R Ramsay	J Jardine,
16	(K)	N Smith	J Hendry
23	(A)	P Davis	J Walker
30	(A)	B Wright	J Brown

**Kirkcudbright Choral Society**

Saturday 27th April

Cochran Hall,  
Kirkcudright Academy  
7.30 pm

Symphonic Adiemus  
(Karl Jenkins)  
Luminous Night of the Soul  
(Ola Gjeilo)  
Good Night Dear Heart  
(Dan Forrest)

Tickets £10 from members, Thomson  
Newsagent, Kirkcudbright and  
[tickets@kirkcudbrightchoralsociety.org](mailto:tickets@kirkcudbrightchoralsociety.org)



The board outside an American church reads:

Catch up  
with  
**Jesus**

Lettuce Praise  
& Relish Him

'Cause he loves me from  
my head  
to-ma-toes

[Lot's Wife is Turned into a Pillar of Salt](#)

Five year old Millie was listening to her father reading a Bible story.

He quoted from Genesis 19:26, 'The angel told Lot to take his wife and flee out of the city. But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.'

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## Church Diary

Communion Services at Auchencairn on second and fourth Sunday of June and September and at Kelton on first Sunday of March and November.

### April

17th 7 pm Kelton  
 18th 7 pm Castle Douglas  
 19th 12 noon Castle Douglas  
 and 7.00 pm Kelton  
 21st 5.45 am Carlingwark Loch  
 and 8.00 am Kirkland of Gelston  
 and 9.30 am Kelton  
 and 11.00 am Castle Douglas

### May

3rd 7.15pm Concert Kelton

### June

9th Orroland Garden Open  
 9th Communion Auchencairn  
 15th Extra Service Auchencairn

### Aug

18 3.00 pm Dundrennan Abbey

## Note from the session clerk

As we approach Easter perhaps we can look back and be grateful for surviving another “festive season”. Last Christmas we had some extra services, and I have to mention the Community Carols at the Mart. All the local religious leaders took part, and the attendance exceeded all expectations. A wonderful afternoon and a new tradition perhaps.

In spite of what our new Minister might say, I feel that she has hit the ground at speed and some of us are trying to catch up. The current spirit of ecumenical rapport is continuing with the world day of prayer service and various other events planned for the future. I should perhaps mention a recent funeral where the deceased stayed in the parish, but not attached to the Church of Scotland. The service was held in Kelton Church, and was led by Father McFadden. A small matter in the grand scheme of things, but a significant event in the spirit of co-operation and togetherness of the religious community.

I have to mention the matter of ongoing property maintenance, and fund raising events planned to help with finance.

We may institute a special collection in the future to assist in the matter. We have now settled in with our new friend and Minister Alison, and look forward to an active future as we get up to speed with her.

Peter

Session Clerk

Oh dear God, Every Sunday we light the Candle of Hope at the start of the service and we have so much to hope and pray for.

Pray for all the young people caught up in knife crime because of hate, or to score a point or to “look big” and those taking drugs;  
Pray for people losing jobs because their company has had to close ;  
Pray for people losing homes because they can no longer earn enough to keep them;  
Pray for people caught up in cyclones, earthquakes, tsunamis or killed or attacked because of hate or misunderstandings

Hope that all the people of the world will realise what a better place it would be if they just got on together;

Hope that they will realise that if they shared what they have the world would be a happier place

Hope that we will all care for everything and everyone around us.

Lord, please help us to see the best way forward to make our world the way you would wish it to be. Amen



## We can't go far wrong.

I was recently passed a story which gave the appearance of one of those round robin letters which appear every so often. It was quite long and I have condensed and adapted it somewhat for inclusion here.

The story is of a few friends who went for lunch. While the others made sensible healthy choices from the menu one older man, Jim by name, had other ideas. Jim was around 85 years old and to the surprise of his companions he asked for home made apple pie with—two scoops of ice cream. Some of his companions found this amusing but the writer of the story (I'll call him Joe) couldn't enjoy his meal as he watched Jim savour every bite of his apple pie.

Some time later Joe invited Jim out to lunch and while Joe had a tuna sandwich Jim ordered chocolate parfait. As Joe was chuckling at this Jim asked what was so amusing. “You are”, said Joe, “but you're also puzzling. How come you always order such rich food when everyone else is making healthy choices.”

“Well”, said Jim, “In the past I always tried to make healthy choices but I've recently realised how old I am and I should stop worrying about things and enjoy what time I have left. It's not just food I've lots of things I'd still like to do. I'd like to smell more flowers, fish trout streams I haven't fished before, play golf courses I haven't played before, go to sporting events I never had time for, sit in a country church and thank God for His grace, speak to friends I haven't seen for years, go to places I thought I couldn't visit and, yes, eat apple pie when I feel like it.”

If we live well, love much and laugh often - if we take care of each other and try to make this world a better place - if we are mindful that happiness isn't based on possessions, power or prestige but on our relationship with God and with people we like, respect and love then we surely can't go far wrong.

Items for the next newsletter should be given to the Editor **IN WRITING** at Church, by e-mail to [rosemarygladstone@gmail.com](mailto:rosemarygladstone@gmail.com) or by post to Mrs R Gladstone, Lansdowne, 93A St Mary Street, Kirkcudbright, DG6 4EL. Contributors should give contact details in case of any queries.