



Auchencairn Kirk by D McCubbin

BARK



Kelton Kirk by D McCubbin

Dear Friends,

It's hard that after the excitement of Christmas we suddenly find ourselves faced with Easter. You wonder that God could not have separated them a bit, given us a few more months between them. Everything of great importance in the Christian Year happens within a space of a few months.

I suppose the main reason Jesus was born was to die. That's not a pleasant thing to think of. The disciples really struggled with it. They didn't quite get it - no matter how hard he tried to tell them. And Jesus wasn't ecstatic about it either:

The sorrow in my heart is so great that it almost crushes me.

How many times have we come even just slightly close to feeling like that? And what do we do? Some of us will bury our heads in the sand; some will face up to whatever it is in the belief that after we have come through it our lives will improve greatly.

There is no doubting how Jesus felt. No skipping merrily to the cross:

I'm going to show you how much I love you; I'm going to help you understand how precious you are to God. If he could have been like that then the disciples wouldn't have been confused, frightened. If he had been like that so many of us would not want to avoid Easter - because it hurts, hurts so much that few go to church to dare think about Good Friday.

My Father, if it is possible, take this cup of suffering from me.

Three times he pleaded.

Now he could have run away. He could have melted anonymously into the Galilean hillsides; crawled home to his father's carpentry workshop: oops, dad, got it wrong.

Instead the words he uttered next were:

Yet not what I want, but what you want.

What was about to happen might not be pleasant, but he trusted, despite his instinct, to trust God.

We might not 100% understand why he died; we might not even 20% understand why he had to die. But we can be 110% certain that whatever the reason, at the root of it, was love for us - yes, love for you!

God bless you this Easter time.

Alison

Bengairn Guild

Looking back at our December meeting the members and friends enjoyed a Christmas meal at the Market Inn followed by fun and laughter at the Pantomime.

January saw the members, under Nicky's leadership, speaking of those people known to them, who had gone "the extra mile" and in February our leader, Rosemary, in choosing Hymn 251 and a reading from 1st Peter for devotions ending with a prayer focusing on different talents gave an excellent introduction into what Judith of Blood Bikes had to tell us of the foundation in Dumfries and Galloway of this vital group of volunteers. As vice chairman Judith was more than able to picture for us how from a small beginning, the Blood Bikes now fulfil duties during a 24 hour day 365 days of the year. These certainly are a group who go the extra mile.



Our meeting in the village hall at Auchencairn in March will have Lily Stevenson speak to us on empowering young girls in India while in April back at Kelton, Dr Liz Matear will be sharing her work experiences both in Canada and India.

A warm welcome awaits you at our meetings at 2pm on the second Wednesday of each month from October to April. Come and walk the extra mile with us.

Margaret.

Auchencairn Little Library



Have you visited our Little Library yet? Many of our members have loaned or donated books and jigsaws that anyone can borrow. There are authors such as farmer Adam Henson, and mystery writer Agatha Christie, District nurse stories from Annie Groves, biographies and autobiographies and all sorts of stories.



Books can be borrowed on the 2nd and 4th Friday and Saturday of each month between 10 am and 4 pm. If there is no one in attendance when you in just choose your book or jigsaw and write your name and the number of the book on the sheet available.

Books and jigsaws can also be borrowed every Wednesday morning between 10.30 am and noon during Coffee and Chat from 18 March.

Cuppa and Chat Returns on 18 March



The success of last year's Cuppa and Chat can be measured in the number of people who returned week after week for, well, a Cuppa and a Chat, as well as those visitors who dropped in while in the area on holiday.

If you're able to drop in on a Wednesday any time between 10.30 am and noon we'd love to see you. You can either join in with the general chit chat or sit quietly if you'd prefer. The sales table and library are also available at this time and we have a few toys suitable for younger children if you'd like to bring them along with you.

Two volunteers act as hosts each week and provide toast, biscuits and tray bakes. There is a rota in the church to which you can add your name if you'd like to volunteer and don't worry—the tray bakes don't need to be home made.

Although we don't make a charge as it is the socialising that is important, we were pleased to be able to pass on to our treasurer £200 from donations received last year.

Boys and Girls (and Mums and Dads)



Would you like to create a special Environmental/Wildlife garden in the centre of Auchencairn?

We are planning to create an environmental garden in the church grounds. Look out for the poster in April and come and join us with your ideas.



Jean and Jeanette

Kirkcudbright Choral Society—Triumph and Tragedy

The spotlight will be on the well-known biblical characters of Samson, David and Goliath and Moses (to name but a few) at Kirkcudbright Choral Society's Spring concert, 'Triumph and Tragedy - Great Moments from the Bible' on Saturday, 28th March in Kirkcudbright Parish Church at 7.30 pm.

Tickets (£10, students free) are available from Alison and Rosemary or from Thomson's Newsagents in Kirkcudbright, from choir members and at the door on the night. Details can also be found at www.kirkcudbrightchoralsociety.org

Exhibition

Do you have an interesting or unusual hobby or collection? Please share it with us at our Hobbies Exhibition in Auchencairn Church on Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd August.

Contact Jean or Nicky a.s.a.p or ask a member to pass on your name if you'd like to be involved.

Woodworker



Artist



Our Mither Tongue

The Dominie is grown gray,
And Feth he's keepit thrang
Wi' counts and spellin a' the day
And Liffies when they're wrang.
He dauners oot at nine o'clock
He dauners hame at four
Frae twal to yin to eat and smoke
And sae his day is owre!

Oh Leezie, Leezie fine and easy
Is a Job like yon -
A' Seturday at gowf to play
And aye the pay gaun on?

And when the burn comes doun in
spate
And troots are taken weel,
To tak' a day he isna blate,
Syne marches aff wi' his reel
His garden it has ne'er a weed,
His tatties a' are soun,
The laddies needna fash to read,
As lan's they delve his grun.

Oh Leezie, Leezie fine and easy
Is a Job like yon -
Weel or ill he's maister still
And aye the pay gaun on?

When winter days are cauld and
dark
And dykes are deep in snaw
And bairns are shiverin oure their
wark,
He shut the shop at twa.
And when it comes to Hogmany
And fun comes roarin ben,
and ilka dog maun tak a day
The Dominie taks ten.

Oh Leezie, Leezie fine and easy
Is a Job like yon -
To stop the mill when'er you will
And aye the pay gaun on?

And when Inspectors gie' a ca
He taks them roun to dine
And aye the upshot o' it a
The bairns are daein' fone.
And sae the Board come smirkin'
roun
Wi prizes in their haun.'
And syne its frae the end o' June
Until the Lord kens whan!

Oh Leezie, Leezie fine and easy
Is a Job like yon -
Sax weeks to jaunt and gallivant
And aye the pay gaun on!!

Money Matters

We are told that there is less cash about these days and of course that's true. Many people nowadays seldom have any money in their pockets and even cheques are apparently on the way out and plastic is 'in' or even using an 'App' on our phones.

Many of us pay things by Direct Debit or Standing Order and more and more people are giving to the Church in this way. If you would like to set up a Standing Order please use Sort Code: 82-61-22 and Account No 90044158 putting your own name in as the Reference.

The undernoted sums have been passed on to our treasurer.

2019.....£1,285
 Cuppa and Chat £200
 2020 January £100
 2020 February Car Boot £18.50
 Craft table top £30.00
 Bengairn Churches £51.50



There are a variety of items for sale at every service which have been made and donated by members of the congregation. New items are frequently added so it's worthwhile taking a look every so often. We also have a couple of tables and some car boot items at the sale run by Castle Douglas Parish Church on the second Saturday of each month.

All money raised from these, garden openings, concerts and other fund raising goes into church funds with a view to improving things like leaky roofs, outdated heating systems, draughty windows, and old or non-existing kitchens and toilets. If you have any suitable items to sell or any fund raising ideas let us know and please support our members who are working for the benefit of all.

Getting together

Some of our members have joined together to enjoy DVD and Chippy nights over the winter. We have joined Dame Maggie Smith and her friends on a visit to an exotic hotel in India and also in a residential home for retired musicians and we spent time in Singapore with Bob Hope and Bing Crosby. There was a lot of blethering went on before giving way to the sound of munching when our suppers arrived from a local Fish and Chip shop. A lovely way to spend a cold winter evening in good company.

Diary Dates

15 March Annual meeting Kelton

18 March Coffee and Chat in Auchencairn and every Wednesday at 10.30 am

Holy Week Services 5th - 12th April

Palm Sunday 9:30am Kelton Church

Wednesday 7.00pm Kelton Church

Thursday The Last Supper CD Parish Church

Good Friday 12noon CD Parish Church

7.00pm Auchencairn Church

Easter Sunday 6:15am Dawn at Carlingwark Loch (ecumenical)

8.00am Celebrating The Resurrection: Kirkland of Gelston

9:30am Easter Sunday Celebrations: Auchencairn

30th April 2.00pm Session meeting Kelton

1st & 2nd Aug Hobbies Exhibition & Teas: Auchencairn

16 August 3.00pm Dundrennan Abbey Service

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Let us pray

Father God, we thank you for the talents that you have given to each and every one of us. We may feel that we have reached an age when we'd like to slow down but help us to know that we still have something to give because you have given us the ability to do what is needed and you know what we are capable of.



Take care of all those working for the good of others, expecting nothing in return. Take care of those volunteers and paid workers who worked so hard to help us during times of storm and troubles often working much longer than they're meant to and taking many personal risks.

We ask your blessing on our members, members of other churches and of no church. Help us all to continue using our talents to help each other as much as we can.

Amen

Rev James Sinclair

Members will have noted the death of Rev James Sinclair who was minister of our former linkage from 1992 till 2004. Jim had been ill for most of his retirement and our thoughts are with Anne and Valerie at this time.

At the completion of another year, our membership has again reduced. We now have 153 communicant members. Hopefully we can reach a few more through our various efforts at outreach. We face a difficult time ahead with resources being required to maintain our buildings so we go forward together with (we hope) enthusiasm and vigour.

Session Clerk

Where are we this Sunday?

On the first and third Sunday of the month services are held in Kelton Church.

On the second and fourth Sunday they are in Auchencairn Church.

Services on the fifth Sunday vary. The next one on 29 March is in Dundrennan Village Hall. All Sunday morning services start at 9.30 a.m.

Items for the next newsletter should be given to the Editor **IN WRITING** at Church, by e-mail to 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.