



“

*May the God of hope  
fill you with all joy and  
peace in believing, so  
that you may abound in  
hope by the power of  
the Holy Spirit.*

”

Romans 15:13



# galstonkirk **NEWS**

Magazine of Galston Parish  
Church of Scotland  
*Charity Number SC010370*  
No. 163 December 2018



# parish REGISTER

## BAPTISMS:

*Allow little children to come to me*

- 27.05.18 - ARYA MAX HOWE,  
33 Clinchyard Place, Galston.
- 10.06.18 - OLIVER HENRY KERR,  
9 Church Farm Road,  
Emersons Green.
- 15.07.18 - AILA KATREENE HAMILTON,  
Knowehead Farm, Hurlford.
- 22.07.18 - BAILEY MICHAEL GIBBONS,  
7 Sorn Place, Galston.
- 18.11.18 - WILLIAM BRYCE SLOAN,  
Darnlaw Farm, Auchinleck.



***If you, or anyone you know, would like a visit from the Pastoral Care visiting team, please let your Elder know, or contact 01563 820684***

## FUNERALS:

*I am the Resurrection and the Life*

- 14.05.18 - NANCY KAY,  
Grange Nursing Home, Kilmarnock.
- 15.05.18 - GEORGE HOOD,  
Gracelands Nursing Home,  
Kilmarnock.
- 14.06.18 - IAN ALEXANDER,  
23 Garden Street, Galston.
- 23.07.18 - MARGARET McMURRAY,  
72 Brewland Street, Galston.
- 30.07.18 - ALASTAIR McEWAN,  
6 Blair Street, Galston.
- 31.07.18 - WILLIAM PATON and  
JEANIA PATON,  
61 Gateside Road, Galston.
- 09.08.18 - HELEN WRIGHT,  
23 Catherine Drive, Galston.
- 16.08.18 - MARGARET McWHIRTER,  
14 Belvedere View, Galston.
- 29.08.18 - JOHN WYPER,  
7 Milrig Crescent, Galston.
- 30.08.18 - MARGARET RICHMOND,  
Dalhanna, Clockston Road, Galston.
- 31.08.18 - ROBERT McWHIRTER,  
14 Belvedere View, Galston.
- 07.09.18 - WILLIAM CONNELL,  
Ross Court, Galston.
- 28.09.18 - SARAH KILPATRICK,  
West Park Nursing Home, Galston.
- 12.11.18 - BILL McMAHON,  
1 Cairn Place, Galston.
- 23.11.18 - RICHARD GLADWELL,  
45 Gateside Road, Galston.
- 28.11.18 - JOHN (IAN) FALCONER,  
10a Garden Street, Galston.
- 29.11.18 - ELAINE GREENSHIELDS,  
40 Barward Road, Galston.

# pray, work, hope and **REMEMBER**

**2018** marked the centenary of the end of World War 1. On Remembrance Sunday 11 November 2018, people around the Commonwealth reflected on the lives that were changed irrevocably, and those that were lost. Some 65 million men were mobilised across Europe during World War 1. Nearly a third of them – some 21 million – were wounded. Another 8.5 million were killed and some 7.7 million were taken prisoners of war. All of them had family and friends whose lives were changed forever by the events of 1914-1918. This year gave us in Galston the chance to remember, but also to pray and work for peace, looking forward with hope.



# original appearance of our **NEW WINDOWS**

**A**QUINQUENNIAL Report undertaken in July 2014 highlighted the necessity to carry out further investigation of the church windows and frames to determine the extent of all necessary repairs. It was noted that numerous patch repairs had been undertaken to the original windows over the years and so complete replacement may be required. Additionally it was recommended that any works to the windows should be completed in the shortest possible timeframe in order to prevent further internal damage to the plaster due to ingress of water.

As part of a new repairs project to Galston Parish Church, a Category B Listed Building, the existing windows were surveyed by specialists and will be repaired/replaced as necessary; matching the size, shape, design and proportions of the existing windows as well as replicating the pattern of design profiles, the materials and details of construction, the method of opening, the finish, and associated fixtures. Slim double glazed units in the sashes are also to be incorporated to improve energy efficiency as the existing astragals profile is sufficiently robust to enable slim units to be incorporated by modifying the existing glazing check.

The window sections will otherwise be the same section profiles as existing. The new windows have been approved with Planning Permission and Listed Building Consent following formal consultation with East Ayrshire Council, Historic Environment Scotland (formerly Historic Scotland) and the Scottish Civic Trust.

The importance in visual impact of any remaining historic glass panes was recognised in the decision to select modern plate glass for the inner face of the slim double glazed units with Restover Plus glass to the exterior to complete the slim units in order to maintain the character of historic glass. It was proposed that the replacement with the above double-glazing combination would restore the windows to their original appearance.

In order that we could visualise the appearance of the proposed replacement glass, Ventrolla replaced two panes of glass on the south elevation of the church with a sample of Restover Plus glass and one of drawn glass. A Site Meeting was then convened with the Architect and Planning Officer from East Ayrshire Council to inspect the sample panes of glass. This meeting took place during the Planning process with the Council.

At the same time the appointed specialist window manufacturer, Ventrolla Scotland, was involved in providing replacement windows as part of the

restoration of Glasgow School of Art and advised us that the proposals to use Restover Plus glazing, which emulated the original crown type glass, had been changed with the consent of the local planning authorities and Restover glass, which has less distortion, was being used instead. The Restover glass was considered a closer visual match to the original fire-damaged glazing. The range of surface irregularities, from virtually none to significant distortion flaws, of Restover glass would provide a more authentic look and sustain the character of the historic windows. Consequently the slim double glazed units in the sashes for the church will comprise modern plate glass to the inner face and Restover glass to the outer face of the units.

*Munro Architects Limited*

## a new fit for purpose **KITCHEN**

**O**UR new kitchen is planned to cater for a variety of functions and will be suitable for outside caterers. The works are being funded by a local private donation, by a small grant from Heritage Lottery Fund and by a grant from the Renewable Energy Fund, which is administered by East Ayrshire Council. Work is progressing well with the new kitchen.

The kitchen units were delivered pre-assembled, by our chosen supplier Howden, and most are now in position. While the corner units have been kept as deep storage cupboards, all other units are now deep drawer units which will provide easier access and be more accessible for people with varying degrees of mobility.

There will be two ovens, a microwave and an energy efficient, safe, six-ring induction hob to maximise cooking capacity. A hatch has been sited to open directly on to the hall area and will be served by an instant hot water tap to provide constant tea and coffee. Two fridges are incorporated, one for raw and one for cooked foods promoting good food hygiene. There will be a designated handwash tap and bowl separate from a double sink/drainage unit.

A commercial dishwasher with an extremely short dishwashing cycle completes the appliances required to refurbish, upgrade and greatly improve the kitchen facility. This will be particularly useful on Sunday mornings.

Under the conditions of the Heritage Lottery Fund, it is our intention to extend the use of the kitchen to the community for outreach, and functions, and to enhance the use by the existing organisations who currently use the hall.

# historical works and **TODAY'S REPAIRS**

## **RESTORATION WORKS 1998-99**

**D**URING the restoration of the church building at this time there were two occurrences which affected the outcome of all the hard work which had gone into the project. The first problem occurred as works were about to commence. Extensive rot was found at the end of the main timber beams which span the width of the church and support the roof and the suspended ceiling. The beams had been built into the stonework on the top of the north and south walls and, as the ends of the beams were not visible, the rot had gone undetected for a number of years.

Extensive emergency works were undertaken to fix the problem. The ends of each beam were exposed and cut off and replaced with manufactured steel sections which were spliced on to the timber beams to replace the rotted sections. To gain access to the rotted ends of the beams, several rows of slates and sarking timbers had to be removed on both the north and south sides of the church and the exposed gap protected with tarpaulins.

Unfortunately at this stage of the works, Galston was hit with a prolonged period of rain and despite the best efforts of the contractor, the rain got past the tarpaulins and into the church. Restoration works were then undertaken and when the contractor left site, drying operations commenced for several months. The legacy of the ingress of water remains evident at the edge of the ceiling and on the walls.

The second problem was that Historic Scotland (now Historic Environment Scotland) insisted on lime mortar being used for all pointing works on the building, including the steeple which is exposed to extreme and harsh weather conditions. The result of using lime mortar was that within a few months wind driven rain started to dislodge the lime mortar in the steeple. This continued until daylight could be seen through some of the joints.

In 2014 the steeple was inspected and declared unsafe and emergency works were undertaken to stabilise the stonework. Munro Architects approached Historic Scotland and obtained agreement to use a stronger lime mortar mix and the steeple was stabilised.

## **CURRENT REPAIRS**

Work is currently underway to complete the works to the stonework on the lower section of the steeple (bell tower). The clock faces will be refurbished and painted and the hands re-painted. The louvres in the bell tower are being replaced with easier to maintain louvres and a lead tray is being installed on

the floor of the bell tower to prevent ingress of rain which has, in the past, penetrated the ceiling on the landing. Stone repairs and pointing are being undertaken at a number of locations on the walls, which have been identified by the project Architect. Lead work is being undertaken on various sections of the roof to prevent ingress of water which has been particularly obvious where the chancel meets the main building, with rainwater getting into the organ chamber when the wind blows in a certain direction.

The windows are being replaced with units, manufactured to match the original windows - but which will have slimline double glazed panes to replace the single panes of glass. We understand this is the first Church of Scotland church building to receive permission for double-glazing.

As part of the conditions attached to the grant provided by the Heritage Lottery Fund, we have to undertake a Programme of Heritage and Community Engagement. To enable this to happen, a purpose built kitchen is being installed to replace the existing scullery. This is located in what was the office and the new office will be located where the old kitchen was.

The Congregational Board had identified the need for additional toilet facilities and these are being constructed in the space where the Hogg Hall cupboards were, with access through the old blocked up windows in the Session House via a newly constructed corridor.

The Session House is being reduced in size to allow the corridor to be constructed and it will connect the side entrance to the former kitchen area with doors leading to the Session House and the new toilets.- *Jim Davidson*



# stewardship and finance

## CHURCH'S WORK

110641 - GALSTON

Total contribution to  
Ministries and Mission for 2018

£67,790

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I write to thank you most sincerely for supporting the worship, mission and service of the Church through the money you give in your offerings. It is important that you should know what happens to this money and this letter intends to explain how your congregation's Ministries and Mission Contribution will be used to enable the work of the Church in 2018.

### **MINISTRIES (83.5%)**

**£56,605 of your total contribution** will go towards the costs of providing over 750 ministers and other parish workers in communities throughout Scotland and further afield. This contribution also assists with the costs of recruitment and training.

The 2018 cost of a parish minister at the top of the stipend scale is £42,362 (stipend plus employer's National Insurance and pension contributions). If your contribution to Ministries is above this figure, then your church is meeting the full cost of your ministry and supporting other contributions. If it is less than £42,362, your congregation (or linked charge) is being supported by other congregations.

### **MISSION (16.5%)**

**£11,185 of your total contribution** will be used to support the Church's work in:

- resourcing congregations for Christian education and outreach;
- providing social care services in Christ's name to further the caring work of the Church to people in need;
- accompanying partners around the world on our shared Christian journey;
- contributing the Church's opinion in public debate and on issues affecting Scotland and the World;
- providing central day-to-day service work in administrative, financial and legal matters;
- and in planning the General Assembly and ensuring the Moderator represents the Church.



# The Church of Scotland

## Stewardship & Finance

Charity Number SC011353

As you will see, the contribution from your congregation ensures a very diverse ministry is maintained and that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is shared in many ways and in many places. Many churches have made additional Ministries and Mission contributions throughout the past year and these have also been gratefully received.

Should your church wish any support or resources from the Stewardship and Finance Department please do not hesitate to contact me. The National Stewardship Programme has been running for several years and our team of consultants is willing to guide your church through a stewardship programme, or simply to provide you with some ideas and advice. Please remember that the consultants will work with your church free of charge - there is no cost for their time.

I look forward to assisting you in any way I can.

Yours in Christ,

*Archie McDowall*

Deputy Treasurer, Congregational Finance

## Do you have a hand to help?

**Giving your time and talents to your church makes a real difference - there are many ways to serve**

*There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit;  
different kinds of service, but the same Lord; different kinds  
of working, but in all of them it is the same God at work.*

1 Corinthians 12: 4-6

# looking ahead to evening of **CELEBRATION**

**WE** will all be aware that we are half way into the works to refurbish our church. This has been a huge undertaking commenced in September last year and will hopefully give us a complete building fit for future generations to continue to worship in and also use the new facilities added. These include a new modern kitchen so that the Hogg Hall can be used for different types of functions, meetings etc; two additional toilets alongside our existing disabled one; and we have relocated the church office which will enable the office staff who volunteer to undertake the church's business to have a more comfortable custom built space to work.

The outside of the building will be repaired where necessary and louvre windows put in the clock tower. The most important task will be the replacement of all the church building's main windows, which have to comply with regulations regarding a listed building.

This is a major undertaking with a lot of planning, numerous meetings by all involved and many letters written in an attempt to procure grants from many bodies in order for us to proceed. Many of these have been successful and we are grateful for their support.

However, they will not cover the full costs of the work needed so we have had to contribute a substantial sum from our reserves which have been built up over the past years by our previous treasurer and his team so that when the time came for this project we had the monies in house.

When the project is complete and all the costs are finalised and paid, a complete breakdown will be published to all members and adherents so that we can plan for the future. Your contributions to the church which sits in a prominent position in our town and has served former generations for over 200 years are the reason we are able to maintain its place in Galston.

There will be an opportunity for everyone to come and see the finished project once we can reopen as we are planning a celebration evening which everyone is welcome to attend.

***The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.***

**2 Corinthians 9:6/7 NRSV**

# prayer reminds us that we **WORK WITH GOD**

**T**HE end of the project will coincide with the latest Planned Givings Campaign. The last one, *Growing Together*, was held in 2015 and featured *The Gathering*.

Details of the 2019 Planned Givings Campaign have yet to be finalised but will be along the lines of past campaigns, with invitations to presentations, question time, not forgetting the planning meetings involving the Kirk Session and Congregational Board who will be calling on all members and adherents of the congregation and asking them to increase their offerings.

Our giving really does make a difference by enriching individual lives and the lives of communities at home and abroad - see pages 9 and 10.

In the weeks leading up to the Planned Givings Campaign we should be thinking about our attitude to money and possessions and about our giving to God for the work of his Church, in Galston and worldwide.

How generous is God's giving to us?

How generous is our giving as a response to God's giving?

How generous is our giving as a desire to share the good news of God's love through the work of the Church?

Past Planned Givings Campaigns have been very successful so hopefully a similar response from the congregation on this occasion will help us get back on our feet.

According to the Church of Scotland, the core ingredients for any stewardship programme are: commitment and enthusiasm from all office-bearers; prayer to remind us that we are working with God and that we need God's strength and direction; careful preparation and planning; teaching Christian giving as a response to God's giving and a means of sharing the gospel through the life and work of the Church; imaginative material to communicate the message; an opportunity for everyone in the congregation to make a personal response.

Let's do it!

*David Gray*

***In all this I have given you an example that by such work we must support the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, for he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive'. When he had finished speaking, he knelt down with them all and prayed.***

**Acts 20:35-36 NRSV**

# the unitary constitution

## DO WE CHANGE?

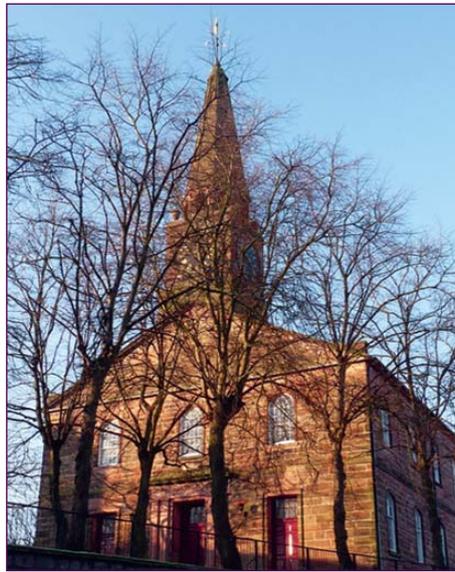
**KIRKS** in the Church of Scotland have been governed largely by two constitutions: the 'Unitary Constitution' and the 'Model Deed of Constitution'. We are united under a nationally recognised Constitution enacted by Parliament. But, we are not unified under a single constitution recognised by every congregation. The kirks with the 'Unitary Constitution', known as quoad omnia (for all purposes) parishes, allow the single body of the Kirk Session and its constituent committees to oversee both civil and ecclesiastical issues, which include everything from property to pastoral care and from finance to vision for the future.

On the other hand, the 'Model Deed of Constitution', known as the quoad sacra (for ecclesiastical purposes), represents the separation of matters temporal and matters spiritual. Issues such as property and finance are taken care of by the Congregational Board ([link](#)), while the Kirk Session ([link](#)) is left to oversee the spiritual life of the congregation. This Congregational Board has been called by various names, as the churches in Scotland went through diverse divisions and unions: e.g. the Board or Committee of Management (in the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland) and the Deacons' Court (in the Free Church of Scotland).

The Great Union in 1929 of the Auld Kirk (the congregations which had never left the Church of Scotland) and the United Free Church of Scotland (the union of the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland and the Free Church of Scotland in 1900) brought to birth the modern day Church of Scotland. This was done under an 'Act of Parliament' (The Church of Scotland Act, 1921), which acknowledged that the Church was not 'established by law' but was established by the Lord Jesus Christ, and a nationally recognised constitution. This finally purged the Church of any interference by the State in all spiritual matters. The Schedule to the 1921 Act, the Articles Declaratory of the Constitution of the Church of Scotland in Matters Spiritual, spelt out the basis of the Church's independence in 'matters of doctrine, worship, government and discipline'. The Articles Declaratory also ensured that no one party or group or point of view could claim a monopoly of the truth.

As recently as 2008, the General Assembly urged congregations, which were not already using the Model or Unitary Constitution, to review their practice and consider adopting one or the other. This was prompted by the need for local congregations to comply with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 which placed upon members of Kirk Sessions,

Congregational Boards, Deacons' Courts and Committees of Management the additional responsibility of Charity Trusteeship. With this comes a far greater need for transparency and simplicity in governance. In that context, the provision of a written constitution for the congregation and a single agency responsible for governance is greatly to be desired. In order to comply fully with this burden of Charity Trusteeship, there has been a healthy trend towards the adoption of the 'Unitary Constitution'. This arrangement provides the necessary written constitution, but at the same time, eliminates the possibility of Charity Trustees being constituted in separate meetings and coming to different views on matters of common interest.



The General Assembly of 2016, while not compelling every congregation to adopt the Unitary Constitution, decided that from 1st January 2017 the Delegation of Assembly would, in cases where a new constitution was requested, only issue constitutions in the Unitary form. So, it is that 2016 saw the very last issue of the Model Deed of Constitution.

*Extracted from the Church of Scotland website where you will find lots more about the Unitary Constitution.*

**G**ALSTON Parish Church adopted the Model Deed of Constitution at the time of the Union of Galston Old and Galston New in 1980. In November 2009 the Kirk Session was presented with a Paper on the Unitary Constitution and agreed that this would make a good subject for a special Kirk Session Conference. This took place in May 2010 when visitors from a Church already using the Unitary Constitution proceeded to highlight the benefits of changing. However, at a meeting of the Kirk Session in September 2010, nearly a year after first being presented with the Paper, the Kirk Session agreed that no useful purpose would be served by the change.

The matter is to be considered again in 2019 at a Kirk Session Conference yet to be arranged. If a decision is taken to make the change then this would have to be agreed at a meeting of the congregation after appropriate edicts were read.

# our volunteer teachers in **MALAWI**



**G**REETINGS from the Tropics! These two photographs are from Diana Stewart who recently visited Malawi. In the photo left are Emmanuel and Geoffrey, two of the three volunteer assistant teachers funded by members of the Galston congregation. The third assistant was nabbed by the government to train as a permanent teacher, good news for him but it leaves the staff on the look-out for another volunteer. That teacher money will be kept aside until another volunteer teacher is in post. The other photograph is of Charles Chilambula who is highly regarded at the hospital and at Nkhwazi school. Says Diana, "We had a long meeting at the school and it was clear that from various donations from Scotland much is being accomplished to provide textbooks, exercise books, pens, etc . Charles with his academic brain is such a support to the staff and he visits many schools." Says Charles, "I am very grateful to the people of Galston. You are the people who introduced me to the medical field and you are part of the source of my success. I was a nobody without school fees when I secured a place at Malamulo College of Health Sciences to do my Diploma and you people came to my rescue. Some of you also contributed towards my B.Sc. which I have just completed. Now I am planning to look for a Scholarship so that I should do a Masters Degree within the next three years since most scholarships have age limits. I am grateful to God for introducing me to great people like you."



**M**ATERNITY ward was full, some had just hobbled to the WC. One mother had to endure being in a bed between two nursing mothers but she had the sad misfortune of having suffered a stillbirth.



**W**HERE the babies are born. One lady was stretchered out of here having just had an emergency Caesarean section. "I nearly burst into tears when I saw her and her surroundings."

**T**HIS is Stanley Chilota. Says Diana, "Today we gave Stanley the good news that I had found a private donor who is funding a two year course as a pharmacy assistant. The hospital has no pharmacist. The funding includes books and clothes. The necessary



laptop computer is to be funded by the additional recent donation from Galston Church. This morning I'm leaving at 8am. I walked the hour to the hospital, returning at 1pm. In many respects a gruelling few hours. How fortunate we are living in Scotland."



**C**HARLES in the lab where he works with the chairs gifted by Galston (£300). Diana made sure they were on the island by the time she arrived!



**T**HIS is where the washing takes place, by hand!



**H**OSPITAL laundry out to dry. Green ones signify Theatre.

# what kwachi is buying in **MALAWI**

**M**ATERIALS for Nkhwazi School, including security measures and the training for Stanley Chilota (see page 15) all came from monies gathered by Diana from family and friends.

The donations for the Likoma Hospital furniture came from Galston as did the laptop computer (£300) for Stanley, along with the continuing support for volunteer teachers at Nkhwazi School.

Says Diana, "It's wonderful that another trainee in medical matters (pharmacy assistant) has started work. Within two years, when his training on the mainland is completed, the Likoma Hospital will have additional vital knowledge. Even before then because Stanley will return to the Island every holiday break from college, bringing with him knowledge to spread among the hospital employees. Currently there is nobody with formal pharmacy training."

Diana concludes, "What terrific, small but important strides Galston has contributed towards life on Likoma Island down through the years. I am the lucky one that witnesses the progress and their appreciation."

Diana also sent a copy of the letter received by Stanley Chilota, from E. A. Kasonda, Principal to Ekwendeni College of Health and Sciences, informing him that he had been offered a place to pursue a Certificate in Pharmacy. The letter gives a list of some of the costs involved: Administration costs - £190, clinical placement - £160, overheads - £35; teaching and learning materials - £40; students welfare - £35; clinical supplies - £20; examination moderation - £5; staff costs - £105; sports - £5; development fund - £10; board and lodging - £415; Total - £1020. Stanley's registration is only confirmed when £510 has been deposited in the college bank account. (The above calculations are approximate with 1 Malawi Kwachi equal to £0.0011.)

Among items to be supplied by the student are: bedding, spoon, fork, plate, cup, bucket, stationery, two sets of uniform (white) to be bought at the college, shoes and a church removal certificate.

Diana ends with an amusing story about the Kwachi, the highest denomination for which is a 2000mk note (approximately £2). "You can imagine the huge bundles of notes I was counting and recounting, all laid out on my bed under a mosquito net. No safe available so I carried the money about wherever I walked in a haversack!"



**J**ACK Adams and Alistair Cunningham photographed with Rev. Kristina Hine after being presented with Church of Scotland Long Service Certificates signed by the Moderator of the General Assembly, Right Rev. Susan Brown, in recognition of 30 years' service as Ordained Elders. Jack and Alistair were Ordained on 29 March 1987.

**T**HE KIRK SESSION is grateful to the following for offering their time and talent in filling necessary and important positions within the Congregation:

PVG Coordinator: Laura Lang who replaces Jill McCall

Rollkeeper: Marilyn Thomson, assisting Elizabeth and Joann in the Church Office

Data Protection Officer: Alastair Blair - to be approved by Kirk Session.

Flower Convener: Margaret Gorman - to be approved by Kirk Session.

*(Our thanks to Wilma Scade for carrying out the duties involved in this post over many years.)*

Other Kirk Session appointments still vacant are Church and Society Contact, Partner Plan Correspondent, Twinning Coordinator and World Church Representative, Eco Congregation Contact. The Congregational Board is also looking for someone to serve as Health and Safety Officer - contact the Clerk to the Board if you are interested in serving in this way.

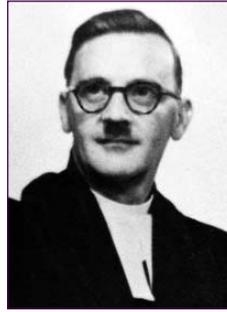


*So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!*

2 Corinthians 5:17

# a happy life ready to go **HOME TO DAD**

**REV. HERBERT MACLEAN** was inducted to Galston on 29 November 1944, a son of the manse, coming from Coldstream as a young man with a young son. Two more sons were born in Galston, the only children of the manse to be born in Galston Parish Church in the 20th century. Mr MacLean accepted a call from the Presbyterian Church of New Zealand in August 1947, leaving Galston on 15 April 1948. He served the parishes of South Clutha, Epsom and Winton before retiring to Gore in 1973 and dying in 1974. The photograph which hangs in the Session House was given to the church by Mr and Mrs Andrew Clark, lifelong friends of the Macleans. Mr MacLean's wife, Margaret, or 'Granny MacLean' as she was known, outlived her husband by 44 years and died on 3 September 2018 at the age of 98. Granny's eulogy was delivered by one of her sons, Norman, but Margaret also wrote down a few notes three years before her death. *Margaret is photographed on the page opposite at the Queen's View in Perthshire and below she crowns the Queen at the 1947 Cessnock Castle Fete (Herbert is on the left of the photo). You can read more about the Fete elsewhere in Kirk News.*



**WAS BORN** on 5 May 1920 in a farmhouse in Pitlochry Scotland (Edradour Mains), the fourth and youngest child of Mr and Mrs Peter McIntosh. We walked everywhere - to school and church. I joined the Moulin Presbyterian Church in Pitlochry. I began nursing at Princess Margaret Rose Hospital in Edinburgh in 1939 caring for handicapped children. When World War 2 broke out we were evacuated to Coldstream and during my time there I met a young Minister,



Herbert MacLean who was the assistant in the West Church. We married in Moulin near Pitlochry on 14 April 1942. Our wedding breakfast cost my brother, John, £7! David was born in 1943. We moved to Galston Parish Church where Norman and Alastair were born. During 1948 we sailed for New Zealand on HMS Rimutaka, the trip taking six weeks and included a stop at the Pitcairn Islands. We were sent to a parish in South Otago, centred on Waiwera South where we were very happy. The parish had seven preaching churches and dad took three services every Sunday. After five years in the south dad was called to Epsom parish in Auckland where I found the humidity difficult. We returned south to the Winton parish in 1956 where we again were very happy. I sang in the church choir, taught Sunday School and visited parishioners with dad. Dad became unwell at this time and suffered a number of heart attacks and we retired early. We moved to Traford Street, Gore but dad died soon after. The Waiwera, Winton and Gore people were exceedingly kind during that time. A year later I flew to Scotland where Norman and Diana were living and working in Dundee. I was able to spend good times with my sister, Grace, in her wee home in Pitlochry. David and Rhonda settled in the Hawkes Bay area and Alastair married Susan in Bendigo in Australia. I then settled in Gore and attended St. Andrew's Parish where I was again very happy and had many generous friends. I made a further three trips home to my sister in Scotland. Nearly 30 years ago I moved to George Street, Invercargill to be nearer Norman and family and attended North Presbyterian Church. I came to Calvary Hospital during 2013 and am very pleased to be here. I enjoy the crosswords each day, the books from the library, the knitting and the kind staff, also my fellow 'inmates'! Looking back I have enjoyed spinning and in particular Fair Isle knitting. I have also enjoyed gardening and especially loved the roses. I am a proud mother, proud of my seven grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren. I have had a happy life and I am now ready to go home to be with dad once again.

# a day to remember at **CESSNOCK CASTLE**

**D**ID YOU KNOW that in June 1947 Galston was in festive mood? The war had been over for two years, things were beginning to look brighter and the "Big Kirk" was needing money to refurbish and renew hall accommodation for the children of the Sunday School and other organisations of the church. At the end of 1946 an idea was floated to hold a fete. The idea grew legs and the main characters appointed to take the idea forward were Rev. Herbert MacLean, Minister, with three elders - Robert Hendrie of the lace factory, secretary and William Paton and Alexander Paterson, respective managers at The Union Bank and the British Linen Bank as joint treasurers. Three more members were added to the committee, elders Alex McNair and Andrew Emery and Guild Secretary Anna Clark.

Their ideas were big and they followed through in a magnificent manner. Captain Baron de Fresnes and Lady Flora de Fresnes offered to allow the fete to be held at Cessnock Castle and ground at the front plus a room and use of the kitchen in the castle itself became the chosen site. Meantime Messrs Hendrie Bros. (Millands) offered to set out the ground with stakes and ropes and place the various stalls, marquees and tables necessary, as they had done in the past for cattle shows. That offer was gratefully received. Elder Andrew Clark raided his garden of flowers and some of his neighbours' gardens as well and lady church members baked like mad, often using donated provisions.

This was to be a grand affair. It was a full day of celebration from 10.30am.until 10.30pm. There were all the usual attractions such as cake and candy stall, garden produce, bottle stall, wheel of fortune, bric-a-brac etc. But there were also more unusual attractions.

There was a "baby show" for not only babies but classes for young children up to ten years of age. (The under six months class was won by Robert Miller of Cessnock Farm). A dog show with various classes was also held and the gun dog class was won by a man from Bellshill, so not only local people participated.

Anna Pearson won the best dressed doll class for those aged between five and eight. There were donkey rides with local farmers supplying the donkeys. There was a miniature locomotive provided by the Kilmarnock Model Engineering Club which could carry up to eight young people at a time. There was pony riding and a jumping competition as well as all the normal races of a sports day and five-a-side football.

When that Saturday arrived it was a bright sunny morning, not too hot, but a welcome relief after the grey skies and drizzle of the week before. From noon shuttle buses ran from the Cross to Cessnock Castle gates and a procession of walkers snaked up the hill to join the gathering crowd, and a crowd there was; just under 4000 people paid the admission to the grounds and most stayed till the end.

At 1pm promptly the events began with the procession up the drive towards a flower bedecked platform and the subsequent Crowning of the Queen. A piper, John Yeudall, led the Queen, Mollie Speirs, and her escort Allan Wilson, chemist in the town. Her train was carried by Susan Wilson and Christine Christie and behind came Morag Smith as flower girl and four ladies-in-waiting, Ray McHoull, Ella Millar, Nan Anderson and Mary Yeudall. The rear was brought up by Crown bearer William Paton, Trumpeter Billy Stewart and Herald Ian Aird. At the ceremony the crown, kindly lent by the Countess of Loudoun was placed on Mollie's head by Mrs MacLean, the minister's wife, and the Sceptre, lent by Saltcoats, was given by Lady Fiona de Fresnes. Some short speeches followed, Elizabeth Logan presented flowers to the two ladies and then the fete was declared open by Doctor Alexander Senior.

What to do first? Purses were opened, luck was tried, skill was tested and everyone was in the best of moods and participated to the full. If one got tired from going round all the stalls there were other things more sedentary to do. It was possible just to sit and listen to the music provided by the Galston Burgh Band and also by Auchinleck Boys' Brigade Pipe Band. Or you could watch the gymnastic display by boys of the 1st Company Galston Boys' Brigade. Or better still treat yourself to a refreshing cup of tea and some home baking. As evening drew in there was an open air concert organised by the Choir of the Old Parish Church. There were solo singers, an accordionist, a conjuror, six Highland Dancers and choral singing. The accompanist was Belle Sutherland.

There was an opportunity to have a last cup of tea and the remains of the home baking or consume the picnic brought from home before rounding off the day. Prizes were presented, booty was gathered and most of the older people wended their weary way homewards. But the ending was still to come. Eight o'clock saw the start of an open air dance held in front of the Castle to music provided by Grace Goldie's band. This was thoroughly enjoyed by many younger people and it lasted until 10.30. Then an amazing day was over. When all the takings had been counted, the expenses subtracted and all borrowed goods returned safe and sound it was discovered that the Fete had cleared just over £500. If we use a money converter and allow for inflation this equates to almost £20,500 in today's money!

*Irene Hopkins*

*See photographs on the next page*



### **LOUDOUN CASTLE FETE 1947**

*Above: left to right: Mary Yeudall, Alan Wilson, Morag Smith, John Yeudall, Susan Wilson, Andrew Emery, Ella Miller, Anna Clark, Mollie Speirs, Ian Aird, Ray McHoull, Alex McNair, Christine Christie, Billy Stewart, Nan Anderson.  
Front - Billy Paton, Elizabeth Logan.  
Below: Piper John Yeudall leads the parade.*





## does galston have a **KIRK MOOSE?**

A puir wee kirk moose a' forlorn  
Its furry coat fair sairly worn  
Sank doon upon its bony knees  
An' prayed - for just a wee bit  
cheese

The tears ran doon its wee thin  
cheeks  
But nane could hear the saddest  
squeaks  
That drifted oan the cauld nicht air  
Till whiles it couldnae pray nae mair

Syne daylight cam, the kirk bells  
rang  
The doors swung open wi' a bang  
Communion day had come oan by  
Wi' wine and plates o' breid piled  
high

The wee moose lay as still as daith  
And watched it a' wi bated braith  
Then thocht - "if I keep awfu' quate  
A bit micht jist fa' aff a plate"

And so it gazed as roond they went  
Then jist as tho twas heaven sent  
Whit landed richt upon its heid  
Bit twa lumps o' Communion breid

The staff o' life lay oan the flair -  
Then, bounteous answer to his  
prayer  
Jist as he thocht, 'It looks fell dry'.  
Ae body couped some wine forbye

The wee moose stoated up the aisle  
Wearin sic a boozy smile  
The folk stopped singin', fair aghast  
Tae see a drunken moose walk past

The organist fell aff her chair  
The meenister could only stare  
Tae see this drunken, sinfu' moose  
Cavortin' in his sacred hoose

At last it staggered up the nave  
Then turned and gied a happy wave  
"I ken noo when its time to pray  
I'll do it oan Communion Day



# smith ancestor and famous **CONNECTIONS**

**A**RTHUR CLARK (RWM Lodge St. Peter) was contacted by John Walker of Glasgow through their joint interest in amateur radio. John had heard from Stephanie Walker of Winchester (pictured), who had been researching her family history and found John a hitherto unknown cousin. Stephanie's enquiries also threw up her connection with Galston Parish Church and she learned that the minister at the time the church was built (1809) was Rev. George Smith, her four times removed great



grandfather. Stephanie and her husband Mark visited Scotland and wished not only to meet her "new" cousin but also visit the church where her ancestor preached. Arrangements were made through Arthur for everyone to meet up at the church and with Jack Adams and Stephen McDougall representing the congregation. The visit started in the Session House and Stephanie, delighted in seeing a photograph of Rev. George Smith, remarked on the "same nose" she shared with him! A brief history was given and attempts made at informing Stephanie on how the church building would have looked in 1809. Outside, the grave of Rev. Smith was found, and although in an extremely poor condition, Stephanie appreciated seeing the minister's last resting place.

Dr. Peter Freer Smith, a great-great-great grandson, of Rev. George Smith has also visited the church and his visit is recorded in Kirk News 156 page 10. From the number of children Rev. Smith had (eight) it is entirely possible that Stephanie's visit will not be the last visit of a similar nature.

Kirk News 154 page six tells us about the ministry of Rev. George Smith, mentioned in the poems of Robert Burns and a great grandfather of the author and poet Robert Louis Stevenson, minister of Galston Parish Church 1778-1823, remembered on a plaque on the south wall of the church and, of course, in the ruined grave on the north side of the Kirkyard.

# who is responsible for **THE TOWN CLOCK?**

**A N ONGOING SAGA!** That's how the issue of the town clock was described as Galston Parish Church's Congregational Board sought to persuade East Ayrshire Council of their inherited responsibilities. A letter addressed to



the late Rev. Loudon Blair dated 17 February 1983 from Kilmarnock and Loudoun District Council's Administration Manager, James McAndrew, confirms that a Minute of the Town Council of the Burgh of Galston of 5 February 1912 states that the "Council agreed to undertake the duty of regulating the clock and maintaining the dials in a satisfactory manner provided the heritors gave their sanction." In a subsequent minute of 5 May 1913 mention is made of a letter submitted from the heritors "intimating acceptance of the Town Council's offer to undertake the regulating of the Parish Church clock with railway time and also to maintain the dials in good repair and that it presumed the offer included the winding up to the clock and keeping it in order." The letter concludes that "the position is quite clear that the District Council's liability relates solely to the clock and that there is no liability in respect of the steeple." Further facts in Church records were found. *From 27 November 1945:* "The four faces of the clock are needed to be painted and on the motion of Mr J. Barr it was agreed that the Town Council be asked to pay for this work as it is the townspeople as a whole who benefit. The Town Council agreed to this." *From 2 August 1966:* "A letter was read from Galston Town Clerk asking if the Kirk Session would be agreeable to sharing the cost of scaffolding required for painting the clock faces. After discussion, owing to our present commitments we were not in a position to assist."

In the most recent twist in the saga Property Convener Jim Davidson was in contact with East Ayrshire Council asking them how they wanted to deal with the painting of the clock faces and hands while scaffolding is in position for the current restoration project. Local Councillors, our MP and MSP were also contacted as were Church of Scotland lawyers and as a result the cost of painting the clockface - £1850 (plus VAT) will be paid by the Council!

# visit to ahrensfelde for **MATCHSTICK MAN**



**KILWINNING'S** *Matchstick Man* has travelled to Germany to see one of his amazing creations in its new home. Jim Miller and his wife Janet went to Germany on holiday last month and took the opportunity to visit the Ahrensfelde Church, near Berlin to see Jim's matchstick model of the church. Jim, of Underwood in Kilwinning, made the model two years ago, but was unable to travel to hand deliver it at the time. Instead the talented artist posted the model overseas and it was gifted to the Ahrensfelde congregation. But last month Jim and Janet went on a coach tour of Germany and realised that, during their trip they were staying just a 20 minute drive away from the church and were delighted to be able to go along and pay a visit. Jim said, "It was a lovely evening at the Church with a few members who had come along and I saw my church model in situ. The evening ended with a glass of wine and Jörg-Arno, the Session Clerk, picking up his guitar and all of us singing *Auld Lang Syne*. It was a lovely memory of our visit to Ahrensfelde."

*Photograph: Left to right - Annette Gnilitza, Jörg and Heike Zilch, Jim and Janet Miller and Paul Plume.*

# anne's medal left her **SPEECHLESS!**

**A**NNE AITKEN, who retired from Kilmarnock Sheriff and JP Court earlier this year, has been presented with the Imperial Service Medal. The ceremony was attended by family, friends and colleagues when around 40 people saw Anne receive the medal from Sheriff Iona McDonald, in her role as HM Lord Lieutenant of Ayrshire and Arran, with Chief



*Anne, daughter Hazel and husband James with Eric McQueen and Iona McDonald.*

Executive Eric McQueen also present. The Imperial Service Medal was established under the statutes of the Imperial Service Order by King Edward VII in 1902, and is awarded by HM The Queen. Anne was nominated for the medal by the Scottish Courts and Tribunal Service in recognition of her long and dedicated service. The Imperial Service Medal is awarded to Civil Service staff for 'long and meritorious service', usually over a period of 25 years.

Anne said, "It was a complete and total surprise and I was speechless on being told by Chris about the nomination and approval of the award. I confess I had never heard of this award before the nomination. I looked it up and established that it was for meritorious service. If I have in any way been meritorious in my career it is down to the help and support I have received from Sheriffs, managers, colleagues, PFs and members of The Faculty over the years. I thought being asked to collect the Customer Service Award on behalf of the Sherifffdom at the Park Hotel was the highlight of my career but the award of the medal surpassed that by quite some way. Over the years on the more challenging days I had thought that I deserved a medal for working in the Court Service but here, today, I have actually received one and I am proud and honoured to be the recipient thereof."

Anne completed 37 years with the Civil Service, including 20 years in the Courts Service. Anne started work with the DWP before transferring to the Court Service in 1998 as a Court Officer. She quickly went on to work as an Administration Officer in both the Criminal and Civil Departments, as well as undertaking substitution at Executive Officer level. She has seen many changes down the years, with new procedures and new technology in particular, working with many sheriffs and staff, all of whom respected her for her hard work and the experience she shared.



**L**ADIES of the Make, Do and Mend Group (above and below) show off some of their work created in their temporary home in the Community Centre. Liz Purdie is now Convener of the group and Anne Aitken is Deputy Convener.



**B**ETTY Black (right) pictured with guest Barbara Graham who gave a delightful talk and presentation on the life of Marie Curie at the Guild which is meeting at the LWM Green.



**I**T'S hard to believe that the Friendship Club has been going for eight years. Entertainment at the Club's Birthday Party was provided by the ever elegant and colourful Tartan Ladies who delighted their audience with an afternoon of song, Scottish dance and recitations. The usual half time interval for Tea/Coffee was further enhanced for the occasion by sausage rolls and a handsome birthday cake. In addition, everyone received a small gift. Altogether a lovely afternoon of entertainment and fellowship.



# alfie's strictly-style **DANCE JOURNEY**

**A**LFIE GRAY, great-grandson of David and May Gray, is making a name for himself in the dancing world. As we go to press, Alfie is gearing up for a gala night finale in Glasgow on 9 December when he and partner Lucy hope to walk away from the event crowned Junior Strictly Come Dancing champions. Ten-year-old Alfie is taking part in the event as part of the STV Appeal. And he has done brilliantly to get this far.

The Darvel Primary pupil joined thousands of young hopefuls who applied for the charity event and having made it through the initial try-outs, he joined 300 youngsters at a secondary stage of the competition before being whittled down to the final 40. And, having progressed through a nail-biting penultimate round, he made it to the top 20 of the competition. Now he will perform at the final in the glamorous Crowne Plaza hotel in Glasgow. Alfie's Strictly-style dance journey, for children aged between six and 12-years old, has seen him teamed up with Lucy Slavin from Coatbridge and the pair are working hard to make sure they are on top form come the big finale.

Alfie and Lucy meet up each week at different venues to learn the Jive. He raised £1000 including £300 from a Danceathon held in Galston Primary School where he did a display of street dancing, the children joining in to dance with Alfie and his teacher. Alfie and Lucy, along with another young couple, entertained the residents of an Uddingston Care Home with a dance the girls devised and taught the boys. Alfie also went round the classrooms at Darvel Primary School to tell fellow pupils about the appeal.

A Jam Street Dance Studios student in Kilmarnock, Alfie has been dancing for four years now and loves the hip-hop genre. However, there wasn't too much of that in the build up, training ballroom and Latin twice-a-week in the run up to the final. The pair have raised money on their Just Giving page, with donations from elsewhere helping to push that to more than £500. Galston Primary School, where Alfie's mum, Katy Scott, works, hosted a danceathon to help raise more towards the pair's total.

Head to <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/katy-scott4> if you would like to add to the total. Glitz, glamour and entertainment - all in aid of a wonderful cause!



# a new plan sought for **PRESBYTERY**

**T**WO Conferences have been held by Presbytery to review the Presbytery Plan as it involves the Churches in Kilmarnock and surrounding areas (excluding Irvine and Dreghorn). The Presbytery had instructed the Minister and up to four key office-bearers to attend the Conferences which were held in Kay Park Parish Church.

Three people from Galston - Session Clerk, Depute Session Clerk and Presbytery Elder - attended the first of these Conferences (19 November) which encouraged congregations to look at where they would be in five years' time and also to look at the current Presbytery Plan and decide on "robust, imaginative and courageous" ways in reducing the number of charges.

The total Ministry numbers in the current Irvine and Kilmarnock Presbytery Plan is 20.8 which include 3.8 MDS (Ministries Development Staff) posts. There are currently 14 Parish Ministers in post plus three vacancies and the projected Ministries in post by 2023 are 9.4.

The first Conference considered how to reduce the number of Parish Ministers to 12 in the Kilmarnock area. It has been suggested that in the future there will be different types of local churches and in the leadership patterns within them. These might include:

- Churches continuing to be served by a stipendiary minister, with the minister present for Sunday worship each week.

- Churches functioning largely without a stipendiary minister but continuing to meet weekly for worship. This might include the deployment of Ordained Local Ministers or the development of a Lay Team.

- Fresh Expressions of churches whose patterns of meeting and worship would differ from the "norm."

- "Hub Churches, satellite congregations or parish groups" who are well resourced with ministers and other staff and who act in the same way as cathedral churches - resourcing churches in the local area and holding worship services and events which draw people from that area.

Even for those congregations who continue to function as at present with a stipendiary minister it has been suggested that the current patterns of church life are not sustainable. Notes were collated and the results presented to the second Conference held on 26 November. Four options were presented and these were first discussed in the congregational groups. The options were then further discussed by mixed groups made up from a variety of congregations, each group submitting their preferences.

**T**HE FATE of Galston Parish Church appeared in all four options. One of the options kept Galston as it is but up to nine congregations were to be dissolved if that option was to be successful. Another option linked or united Galston with Darvel; a third grouped Darvel, Newmilns, Galston and Hurlford; and a fourth had the same grouping but with Kay Park Parish Church as the hub and the others as satellites.

The options were collated at the end of the evening and in due course we will learn what proved to be the most popular.

It should be noted, however, that a "sitting" Minister cannot be removed from his or her post and any plan agreed would need to wait until that Minister left.

A third conference is planned for Monday 21 January.

**3**RD Galston Boys' Brigade Company organised a lunch to raise funds for the hospital on Likoma Island, Malawi. Because of the alterations at the Church it was decided to have our short enrolment service at the lunch. The Company celebrated 135 years of the Boys' Brigade. The youngest member of the Junior Section cut the cake made by Brownings. The Lunch was well supported by parents and the congregation with the amount raised at the Lunch being £189, which along with the 5ps from the Smartie tubes should mean we will be able to send a cheque to Malawi for at least £400.

The Company has invested in equipment and training and has turned the Mission Hall into an archery range. Five members of staff attended a three-day course in August to become Archery UK instructors. A grant of £1000 from East Ayrshire allowed the Company to buy safety netting, targets and bows and arrows. All sections of the Company are enjoying archery. We are also offering the facilities to other groups. A BB group from Kilmarnock has enjoyed instruction and a disabled group from the Sir Alexander Fleming unit in Kilmarnock has been coming every Wednesday for eight weeks. At only £3 an hour it is a bargain to get started in archery - anyone or any group interested should contact the Captain on 07771606393. The Company was given the opportunity to attend a Star Party at the Whitelee Visitor Centre. Organised by the Glasgow Science Centre, 18 boys from the Anchor Boys, and Junior Section along with eight staff enjoyed an interesting evening viewing the stars on a cold evening, making a planetarium and launching a rocket.

*See photographs on page 39*

# moving into a **NEW MANSE**

**T**HE DECISION to consider an alternative manse came in November 2014 when a property at 3 John Knox Street, Galston was brought to our attention which resulted in an inspection by not just some of the Congregational Board, but members from Irvine and Kilmarnock Presbytery and the General Trustees of the Church of Scotland.

The property was deemed to be unsuitable but the thought process had started to consider an alternative manse. This was never going to be an easy task as the Church of Scotland's manse requirement was for a detached house of seven apartments and there were not many in the Galston area of that size that, more importantly, were within our budget range of circa £200,000.

In September 2015 it was agreed that we would sell the existing manse and start to search in earnest for an alternative. New builds were considered but none could provide, even with additional work, a seven apartment house to meet the Church of Scotland requirement. Some existing houses were considered but were out of our price range.

K G Building, who had purchased the Glebe many years previously, had built some 4 bedroom houses in Manse Gardens, split level with an integral garage that could, with adaption, meet the required standard of accommodation but it would have meant the loss of a garage and the split level arrangement was not ideal. The builder did have plans to build a four bedroom house with integral garage on Plot 23 which could allow a separate detached garage to be built after converting the integral garage into a study for the minister and thus providing seven apartments.

Board approval was obtained to proceed with a purchase and a price was agreed with the builder for £215,000 to include the detached garage and an offer to that effect was received in October 2016. The anticipated build period was to be around 12 months which hopefully would tie in with a sale of the existing manse which had been put on the market in February with an asking price of £280,000.

As with most things not all went according to plan!

The builder's planning and building consents had all lapsed which required completely new applications and significant changes in Building Standards meant an increase in specification to insulation and other factors. This delayed the start of building but at that time it suited us well as there had been no interest expressed in our existing manse.



That all changed dramatically at the turn of the year when two local people expressed an interest to buy. We had been marketing the property as a development site as the house itself only had a Home Report Valuation of £220,000 and we needed someone to buy the house and adjoining ground to achieve a price approaching £280,000. This did limit purchasers looking just to buy the house as a mortgage would only cover up to the value of the Home Report. A closing date for offers was set for 23 February 2018 and three offers were received.

The successful offer was from a local couple at £283,000 with no conditions and this was accepted with entry at 29 September, 2018. That was the good news. The problem, however, was that the build out of Plot 23 was not going according to plan and constant delays meant the proposed entry of August 2018 was never going to be achieved.

Fortunately a Plan B had been formulated and whilst we have been fortunate that the purchasers of the existing manse have allowed our Minister to remain in residence beyond their date of entry, a more permanent home is required in the short term.

Ken Gaston's daughter, had an existing four bedroom house in Manse Gardens which had been let but was currently vacant and this was offered to the Church, rent free, until such time as the new manse was completed and ready for occupation. This would have been ideal, with our Minister moving closer to her final destination, but it was not to be!

Ken's daughter received an unexpected offer for the house with immediate entry and it was too good to refuse so a Plan C was needed especially as removers had been booked to move Kristina on the 15 November.

Cessnock Lodge had just come on the market for sale and it was vacant and we are grateful to Karen Warnock, the owner and John Miller's daughter-in-law, to allow us to rent the property during the period whilst the new manse is completed.

The good news is that the new manse is progressing and we hope that Kristina will be moving for the final time after the New Year.

*John Sharp*

# recognising and nurturing **HOW WE PRAY**

**QUESTION:** "How do you eat yours?" That was the question in a certain egg-shaped confectionery advert. The implication being that there is no right way to do it, but rather it's about how you best experience the egg.

How do you pray?

Perhaps you haven't really thought about it too much. Perhaps it's now hard to concentrate because you're thinking about chocolate, but regardless of appetite, past experiences, how we wrap it up or try to explain it, Prayer can be rather confusing. It can often be a mystery. It can at times seem like a chore. It can even be a blessed relief.

So then, how do you pray?

Are you a morning person? Do you greet the sunrise with thanks and praise to our God? Do you utter hopeful words and try and live them throughout the day to come? Are you more spontaneous? Do you respond to life with a 'breath prayer', off the cuff, as life makes you dance to its tune and in each moment you seek the steadying hand of our Creator and Sustainer?

Perhaps you find yourself needing space. Like a free-diver coming up for air after plumbing the depths. Maybe you carve out some time in your day to be still and know the presence of God. You may prefer to reflect on your day in the presence of God, as was the practice of Ignatius of Loyola, who gave us the daily examen - a way of praying that helps us recognise God's presence in the midst of the day just lived.

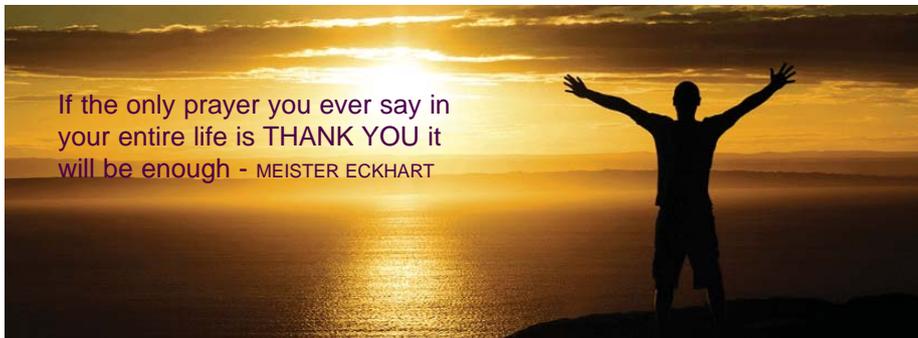
The practice of prayer is part of the lifeblood of our faith. We may find ourselves in the darkest of circumstances, when prayer is the only thing that we can turn to for comfort. We might see prayer as that thing we do together on a Sunday, or as the words said on our behalf by a minister or worship leader. Maybe it is the one thing that keeps us going, those times when we can just let God know how we are feeling. It might even be that thing that happens by accident or that we're unaware of until, looking back on a time of quiet, perhaps with a cup of tea or watching the world go by from our living room window, we realise that in the stillness, God was there the whole time.

Whatever your habit or preference may not really matter. What is important is that we are having the conversation, that we are opening ourselves up to God in whatever moment we can manage, that in some way prayer is part of our life. Prayer may be a constant companion on the journey, or a friend that visits once in a while, to bring comfort and solace. It may be something

*continued at the foot of the next page*

**W**ITH the work now underway to repair and restore the church, the Outreach Committee has had to expand dramatically to give us a chance to fulfil our pledges to the HLF in terms of growing visitor numbers to the church and our facilities. Obviously, until the restoration is complete we can't demonstrate increased numbers, but we need to prepare so that when we re-open we don't just get interest for one week but look to sustain and develop the use of our improved facilities in ways that we have not traditionally considered. Fortunately, a reasonable number of people came along to at least one of our two meetings in October and hopefully they will maintain their involvement over the coming months. There is so much to do, not just in terms of our Online and Social Media presence but also with more traditional outreach / marketing via press, posters, leaflets etc. More importantly, the groups that met in October agreed that as well as the traditional 11am service we need, as a matter of urgency, to investigate alternative times and ways of worship. The continuing decline in Church numbers across Scotland demands drastic action and if anyone wishes to help with our Outreach work they will be most welcome.

*Alastair Blair*



*continued from previous page*

deeper, more mysterious that is largely left unspoken, something felt, yearned for, grieved over or something long-forgotten brought to mind. How we pray then, is not the most important thing, but rather that the experience of prayer and the encounter with God is recognised. That our faith is tended and our relationship with God is nurtured, in precious moments. No fancy wrapping is needed and it may not always taste sweet but, in the midst of life, listening for and opening our hearts to God is indeed food for the soul.

*Resourcing Worship Team, Mission & Discipleship Council. Matthew 6:7a*

# a tribute to **BILL MCMAHON**

*Tribute to Bill McMahon made at morning worship on Sunday 11 November, by the Session Clerk.*

**I**t was with great sadness and deep regret that we learned of the death last Sunday of Bill McMahon, at the age of 86. Bill was admitted to the Kirk Session here in Galston 35 years ago in 1983, having been Ordained as an Elder in 1966 in Glasgow. His contribution to the life of the Church there and in Galston and in two Kirk Sessions was recognised 50 years later when he received a Long-Service Certificate signed by the Moderator of the Church of Scotland.



Bill retired from active service to care for his wife, Tilly, but remained as a member of the Kirk Session. He had served in the Finance Committee and as Assistant Treasurer, was active in Kirk Session debate and in committees and sang in the Church choir. Bill showed a keen interest in our partnership with Ahrensfelde Church in Germany, he and Tilly visiting in 1998 and Bill returning with a small party in 2001 to celebrate the restoration of Ahrensfelde Church.

Bill was born on 31st December, 1931 in Blantyre to parents Anne and William McMahon. He was the oldest of 10 children. When his father suddenly left, he became the father figure of the family and helped his mother in raising his siblings. As a young man, he became involved with the Boys' Brigade and it became an important part of his life for many years.

After finishing school in Blantyre, he did various jobs up until the time that he met Tilly. They were married on 7th March 1957 in the church at Croftfoot in Glasgow. Bill continued working but began attending night school at Stowe



**W**E remember Mrs Eileen Symington, wife of Rev. Alastair Symington, our Locum during the last vacancy. Eileen was unashamedly “the Minister’s wife” and she supported Alastair and the Galston congregation faithfully, appearing with him as and when required at all sorts of functions. The couple celebrated their Ruby Wedding while at Galston and the Baptism of grandson Hugo was held in the Church. Eileen died peacefully at home, on 16 November 2018, dearest wife to Alastair, loving mother to Karen and Fiona and mother-in-law to Neil and Keith, devoted granny to Olivia, Chloe, Sophie,

College for Accountancy. He then moved into the Accountancy field as his family began to grow. He spent time working at Fenners and then at Wyco Bearings. The family moved to England for a couple of years when Bill went to help his brother Eric with his upholstery business. It was after their time in England that the family ended up moving to Galston.

I knew many things about Bill but I didn't know that he had started his working life in a hairdressers! Maybe he also had green fingers because I remember a story about him in the local paper photographed with a giant lily. After being made redundant, Bill made a career change into the Security Industry. It was a change that he fully enjoyed and he continued working until he was 75.

A keen footballer, Bill played for a variety of teams at amateur and junior level, including Royal Albert, and for many years was Secretary of the Scottish Junior Football Association. He also served Ayrshire Junior Side Hurlford United as Treasurer and was always happy to talk about their Scottish Cup win in 2014. Bill was also linesman for Hurlford when only one official was available. He was also fond of golf and of his garden.

Tilly and his children will always hold fond memories of caravan holidays, weekends spent serving Bovril at football matches, washing football strips, and his inability to throw anything away.

Bill and Tilly had four children - Andrew, Linda, Sandra and Steven. They were proud grandparents to 13 and great-grandparents to eight. Bill has faithfully cared for his wife with devotion for more than five years and we have all missed him at Church. His devotion to duty, his pawky humour and his advice and fellowship will long be remembered.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all in his family at this sad and painful time. As we read in the Revelation to John: "God himself will be with them, he will wipe every tear from their eyes; death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for former things have passed away."

Bill's funeral will take place in the Hogg Hall tomorrow at 12 noon followed by burial at Galston Cemetery at 12.45pm.

**Natasha, Elle, Daniel and Hugo. Eileen's funeral service was held in Troon Old Parish Church on Wednesday 28 November, her burial thereafter in Troon Cemetery. Informing friends of her death, Alastair said, "Eileen passed with Karen, Fiona, Neil and me beside her. It was very peaceful and we were glad to see her pass from the torment of this cruel illness to the joy of what she knew was to be hers in the new life which now is her experience. I have been unbelievably fortunate to have had 45 years with a remarkable, loving and talented wife."**

**She will be sadly missed by the Galston congregation.**



# remember and sign our **VISITORS' BOOK**

**Y**ou will read in our Sunday Order of Service a request for visitors to sign our Visitors' Book. I am often asked why we ask this and why do we ask for the visitor's full name and address, including postcode. The answer is that in being a 'friendly church', we send a card to the visitor. Apart from including a Bible quote, we thank them for visiting us; hope they felt welcome; found some peace and joy and hopefully we will see them again in the future. The card is signed on behalf of the Minister, the Kirk Session and the Congregation. Noting the number of visitors assists us with Heritage Lottery Funding. Its requirement is for numbers only, and not for names and addresses. I hope that this explains the reason for the Visitors' Book, and encourage you to ensure that visitors sign our book. - *June Ramsay*

❑ EACHa is an ecumenical grouping of more than 20 churches throughout East Ayrshire. The aim is to work together, putting faith into action for the benefit of the most vulnerable and marginalised members of the community. The motto - Each Person Matters. An EACHa collection box is available for donations suitable for hygiene packs - shower gel, shampoo, conditioner, roll-on deodorant (no aerosols), hair brush, face cloth, sponge, toilet bag, hand towel, nail brush, emery boards, toothpaste, toothbrush, nappies, baby lotion, baby wipes, nappy cream, shaving gel, disposable razors, moisturiser and sanitary items.

❑ The Kirk Session respectfully advises that mobile phones should be switched off during morning worship.

❑ Galston Parish Church's Data Protection Policy has been posted on the church website: [galstonkirk.com](http://galstonkirk.com)

❑ Collections of donations for the Salvation Army Foodbank are taken on the first Sunday of each month.

❑ Facebook: Find us and Like us!

❑ You will find the Galston Parish Church website at: [galstonkirk.com](http://galstonkirk.com)

❑ The Magazine website is [www.kirknews.org.uk](http://www.kirknews.org.uk) where, among other things, you will find lots of church and other local historical items.

❑ The latest item of historical interest to be added to the [www.kirknews.org.uk](http://www.kirknews.org.uk) website is this Portrait Souvenir of "Who's Who" in the Valley. It was found amongst the possessions of the late Sam Kay in a Fyffe banana box and found its way to Irene Hopkins via John Lennon. You will find it in the Kirk Publications 2 page of the magazine website.

❑ If you need Wifi in the Church or Hogg Hall the code is 9R84TRNA.



Boys' Brigade report is on page 31



Christmas 1999



# pastor kristina has the **LAST WORD**

*"My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,  
For he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant.  
From now on all generations will call me blessed,  
For the Mighty One has done great things for me  
Holy is his name."  
Luke Ch. 1 vs 46b-49*

**P**RESENTS, family, parties, cooking meals, children's nativities, decorations, church, shopping, visits to Santa, baking . . . . so many things that can make us absolutely frantic during the Christmas Season. It's easy to lose the reason why the season is there in the first place. That one day, long, long, ago, on a day lost in time, a little baby was born. And with his birth, prophecies were fulfilled, the alignment of the stars brought both kings and shepherds to see a child born in the humblest of circumstances, a child with the biggest of hopes resting on his shoulders. That with his birth, the distant and far away God of the mountain was now alive and present with humanity. That God would show how much he loved us by being physically present and fully living out all of the breadth of life, with all its joys and pains, with us. This little baby would grow up and remind all those he encountered that the greatest things in this world are hope, peace, joy, and love. So in the midst of your busyness over Christmas and New Year, may you remember that it isn't about having the latest and greatest or the most perfect family gathering, it is about bringing Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love (sometimes in the smallest and simplest ways) to all that we encounter each and every day.



We hope that you might join us for our Advent services looking at God with Us: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love; or our Longest Night Service for those who are bereaved; and our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services.

***Pastor Kristina.***

*Galston Kirk News is printed by Cann Print Crookedholm Kilmarnock  
Telephone 01563 572440 Fax 01563 590250 Email [info@cannprint.com](mailto:info@cannprint.com)*