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Summer
2015



“ WORSHIP, FRIENDSHIP, ACTION – a kirk that cares. “

Welcome to the Summer Magazine 2015

As we always say, the summer magazine comes out quite early, but this year with all the lovely sunshine we have been having, it seems quite fitting to be writing about summer, and wouldn't it be good if this is a taste of what is to come, let's hope so.

All the convenors of committees, and leaders of organisations and our church officers have been working hard since the Autumn making sure our property, our business and our organisations are all in good shape.

Our church officer team of Jason and Danny has been increased by the appointment of Gillian earlier this year.

Cruise Ships - This year there are a large number of Ships visiting Greenock and once again Westburn is planning to open from 10am – 12.00 to welcome any visitors.

Whether at home or on holiday have a great summer hopefully enjoying lovely weather.

Jason our Church Officer now produces the magazine and material for the Autumn magazine is due by Sunday 19th September to churchofficer@greenockwestburn.org.uk

From the Manse

Dear Friends,

On Sunday May 17th Princes Street Garden in Edinburgh will be a busy place as people of all ages from congregations up and down the land meet together to worship God and celebrate the life of the church, and some folk from Westburn Parish Church will be there. On the Sunday of General Assembly Week, it's good for people to celebrate the life of the church, to learn more about what's going on and to join together in a time of worship.

Heart & Soul 2015 has as its theme 'Living Stones'. Peter wrote in his letter, about 'the Lord, the living stone, rejected by the builders but chosen by God as valuable' and as well as inviting his readers to come to the Lord, he called the Christians he was writing to 'come as living stones' so that they could be built together by God and for God, not bricks, uniform in shape and size and colour, but stones, different in every way and shaped by the experiences of their lives and the grace of God and now living together to proclaim God's love. Today we are the living stones in our time and place, coming to God, being built together by and for God, living together to proclaim God's love.

And it's good to remember that we are part of something that is bigger than our own congregation. It's not too late to join those travelling to Heart & Soul but if you can't manage, find out more about it by asking them when they return, by looking out for photos on the website or the notice boards or even watch on line on the day – you might even see someone you know.

I'll be in the 'Spill the Beans' marquee that day and I'm looking forward to meeting people who pop in there.

I hope that in one way or another, you will be encouraged by what you learn of and from Heart & Soul and that God's call to you to be a living stone is strengthened and renewed.

Yours

Karen

See website www.heartandsoul2015.org.uk for more details

Presbytery of Greenock and Paisley

FEB/MAR/APR

NOTICES: – GUEST SPEAKER – THE RIGHT REVEREND JOHN CHAMBERS, MODERATOR OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND. On his visit to our Presbytery Mr. chambers spoke about the challenges facing the church at this time and encouraged us to continue to work for the glory of God. He visited among others, Greenock Prison, Ferguson's Shipyard and Inverclyde Family Contact Centre. He also preached at the Greenock Wellpark Church.

COMMISSIONERS TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2015:- Rev. Karen Harbison and Mr. Alan Gallacher, Elder were nominated and appointed to attend.

BUSINESS COMMITTEE: - Rev. Dr. Ken Forrest was nominated as the next Moderator for the Presbytery of Greenock and Paisley from September 2015.

VACANCY PROCEDURE COMMITTEE: - Greenock Lyle Kirk was granted an extension of permission to call for a further 6 months.

COMMUNITY INTERESTS COMMITTEE: - The Counselling Service at the Wynd Centre Paisley provides confidential, professional counselling to those with family troubles, work relates stress, health issues or bereavement. There is a counselling manager and 35 counsellors who volunteer their services. The service depends on donations from users and grants from various organisations. We pray for the continued success of this service. The committee encourage us to read "The Lies we tell Ourselves: ending Comfortable myths about Poverty." A copy is available if wanted. It challenges prejudices and assumptions we all make.

ZIMBABWE:- A survey is being conducted to decide the future of the covenant both presbyteries have. Kirk Sessions are asked to give their views and decisions will be taken at June Presbytery.

MISSION AND DISCIPLESHIP: - The committee notes that for Pastoral care volunteers best practice would be that everyone visiting on behalf of the church should be a PVG member. It was agreed this is a very grey area and it was remitted back to the committee. Pray Across Scotland meeting will take place at Lyle Kirk, Union St Wed. 13th May at 7.30 p.m.

Guild

Coming towards the end of our season we again had to call off our speaker Mr.N.McCarey because of the snow. Hopefully he will be able to come and speak about Norway next season.

We have had very interesting speakers some serious some with humour. Our ABM and Bring and Buy, the proceeds were sent to the W Evolution project in Greenock which is one of the National Guild projects, was very well attended. Mr. T. Ferdinand and Mr. Wm. Malcolm our liaison elders were in attendance.

Our minister Rev. Karen Harbison spoke on our theme for this session 'A World to serve ' for our bible study. Karen gave a very good description of the meaning 'A world to serve' and she certainly gave us a lot to think about.

The Presbyterial Council Spring Rally which was held in Inverkip was well attended. The speaker was Sheena McFarlane who gave a very good and interesting talk on 'How to share' which was the discussion topic of the Guild for this session.

At our final meeting, we were entertained by The Kedron Singers, a Christian group from Glasgow who not only sang but gave us readings about Billy Graham when he was in Glasgow. They were very entertaining. Our thanks to church members who came along and members of other guilds.

We finished the session with a lovely meal in The Tontine Hotel.

Again we are holding informal meetings every fortnight when you can bring your knitting if you wish, have a chat and a cup of tea. Anyone in the congregation is welcome to come along and join us on these evenings; they will take place every 2 weeks starting on 5th May. Reminders will be included in the Sunday Order of Service.

The new co-ordinator for the Guild for the next 3 years is Senga Currie, we are grateful to Senga for taking on this position and wish her well. The committee under Senga's direction will have met to plan the syllabus for 2015/16 considering the new strategy "Be bold be strong" with the theme "Go in peace"

Hope you all have a good summer.

Senga Currie

National Guild News

The new 3 year strategy is “Be bold, be strong” with the themes for this period “Go in peace”, “Go on joy” and “Go in love”.

Also the 6 new projects for the next 3 years have been announced they are Street Pastors (*Ascension Trust*), Breaking the Cycle of FGM (*Feed the Minds*), All Friends Together (*Prospects*), Caring for Mother Earth in Bolivia (*Christian Aid*), Haiti Project (*Mission International*) and Let’s Stick Together (*Care for the Family*). Further information will be available in the next magazine.

The final totals given for the projects just completed are as follows:- Comfort

| | |
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| Rwanda – Building a better Rwanda | £ 97,522.60 |
| Cross Reach/Social Care Council (Church of Scotland) – Heart for Art | £139,961.52 |
| Mary’s Meals – Making a difference in Liberia Ministries Council (Priority Areas) | £117,786.72 |
| (Church of Scotland) – WEvolution (previously – Passage from India) | £ 92,672.91 |
| Scottish Churches Housing Action – Julius Project | £109,475.47 |
| World Mission Council (Church of Scotland) Out of Africa Into Malta | £113,247.71 |
| Total to date | £670,666.93 |

Since the last magazine I have attended various meetings, 2 Theme and Topic Days in Glasgow and Ayr where those attending looked at the new Theme and Topic for next session and shared ideas from their own Guilds. A meeting was arranged for the Men in the Guild, which was interesting to hear what they thought about the Guild. The one thing that they all said was the Guild women know more about the work of the church. At the Spring Break in Kincaig recently, I along with the National Vice Convener,

were the cooks. There were 21 ladies and 1 gentleman attending; a good time was had by all. As well as cooking for the party, we took part in a 6 mile walk around the area in glorious weather with beautiful scenery. We were very fortunate as the following week the weather deteriorated.

I have also attended National Leadership Team and Executive meetings. We were joined at lunchtime at the executive meeting by some of the women from the delegation who had come over from Nigeria for the dedication of the Commemorative Stone at the Steeple Church in Dundee (her home church) to mark

the Centenary of the death of Mary Slessor. It was gratifying to hear the esteem in which she is still held in Nigeria.

The Guild report at the General Assembly will be heard on Wednesday 20th May and the Action Plan looking to the future of the Guild will be presented.

The new National Convener and Vice-convener will take office for next year.

Attending these meetings is a privilege and an opportunity to learn more of the work of the Guild.

Patricia Robertson

Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults at Westburn

First of all, a huge thank you to Norman Paterson who has for many years looked after the Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults at Westburn. He is now taking a well-earned retirement and we wish him well. The new Safeguarding Co-ordinators are Jennifer Boag and Sheila Tait and we hope that we will be able to carry on Norman's good work.

Norman had completed the PVG (Protection of Vulnerable Groups) checking of all those who work with children and vulnerable adults in Westburn, well ahead of schedule, and we want to continue to ensure that all children and vulnerable adults in our congregation, our Youth Organisations or who visit us, are safe and secure.

For those of you in the congregation who don't know about Safeguarding, the church is required by law to ensure that all those volunteering to work with children and vulnerable adults have received a PVG check and no one is allowed to work with these groups until they have had such a check. Sadly, there are a few people who present a danger to children and vulnerable adults and we must ensure that these people do not work with them.

If you have not already done so, and you are one of the people who have received a PVG check, we would strongly encourage you to attend one of the Volunteer Training courses which are held throughout the year across Presbytery. If you haven't been to one recently, it is recommended that you attend a refresher course every five years. We plan to intimate these courses in the Order of Service when they are held locally and would like to be able to say that all the volunteers in Westburn have been trained.

We would also strongly encourage all Elders who have not yet attended the Elders' course to do so. The Kirk Session has a particular responsibility to ensure that our church meets its responsibilities in this area, and the training course helps elders to understand the issues and their responsibilities. Some Kirk Session have 100% of their elders trained, it would be good if Westburn could join that number.

If everyone involved in this area of work has been trained, then the church will be in a good position should there ever be any issues regarding the protection of children or vulnerable adults in our congregation.

We hope to visit all our youth organisations over the next few months to introduce ourselves and let everyone know that we are here to help. New posters will shortly be appearing in various halls and rooms where our organisations meet giving more information and our contact details. We will also be carrying out a health and safety check to ensure that all rooms in our buildings where children and vulnerable adults might have access are as safe as they can be.

If you need any advice or help or have any concerns, please contact us:

Jennifer Boag - Tel: 01475 720125 e-mail: jenniferboag@hotmail.com

Sheila Tait - Tel: 0797 901 6646

Jennifer Boag and Sheila Tait
Safeguarding Co-ordinators

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Recently, rising damp repairs were carried out in the Sanctuary foyer. Paintwork repairs have still to be carried out

Over the summer months, it is intended to carry out the following work:-

Sanctuary:-

- * External Window painting and mastic
- * Lower Area painting
- * Rear Window painting
- * Link Corridor repairs
- * Roof and Tower - water ingress

A range of minor work is continually ongoing. Volunteer labour contributes to a substantial cost saving in church expenditure. If any member would like to assist in any way, please contact Jim Bell (Tel No 799381)

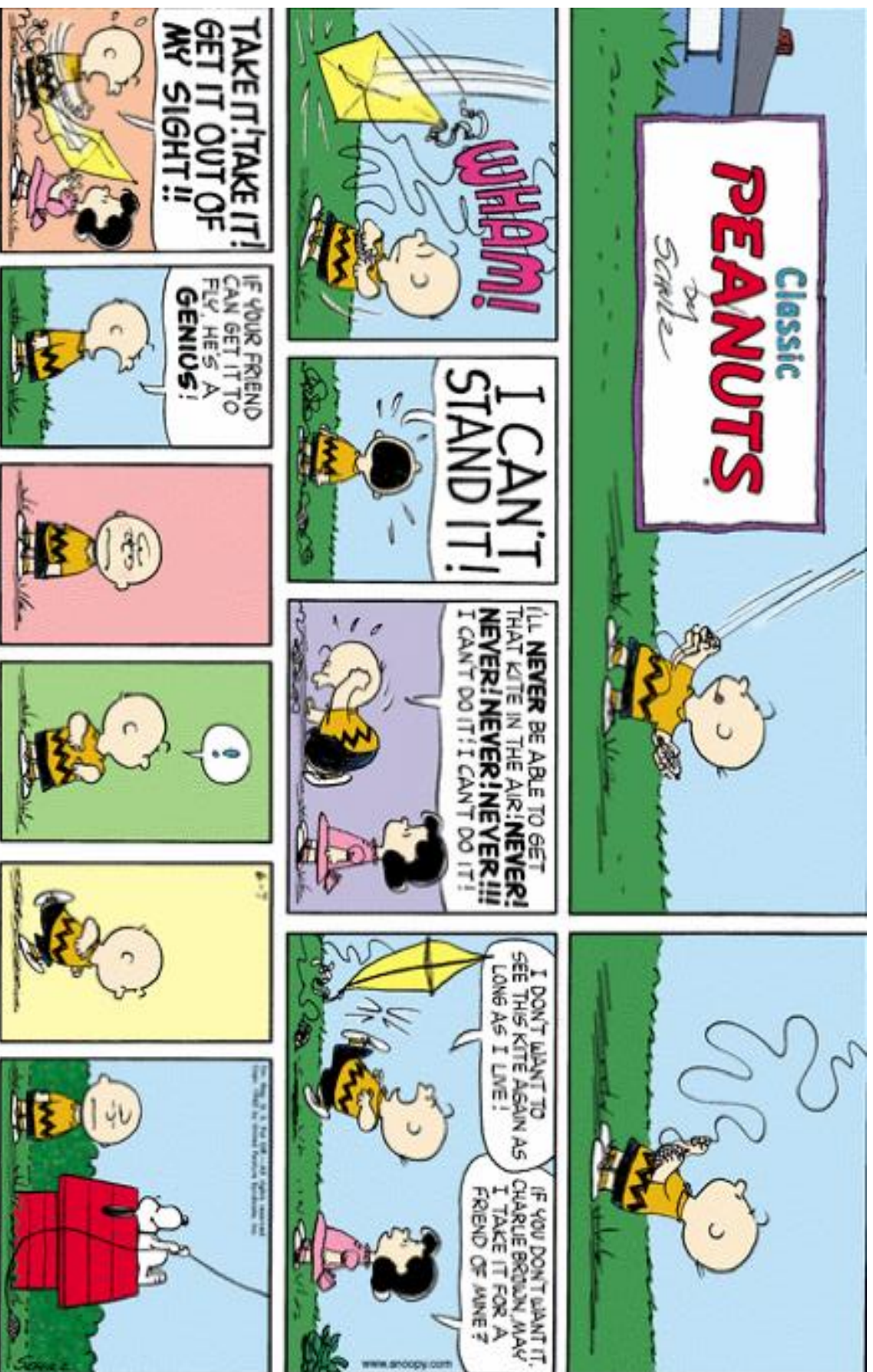
39th Greenock Guides

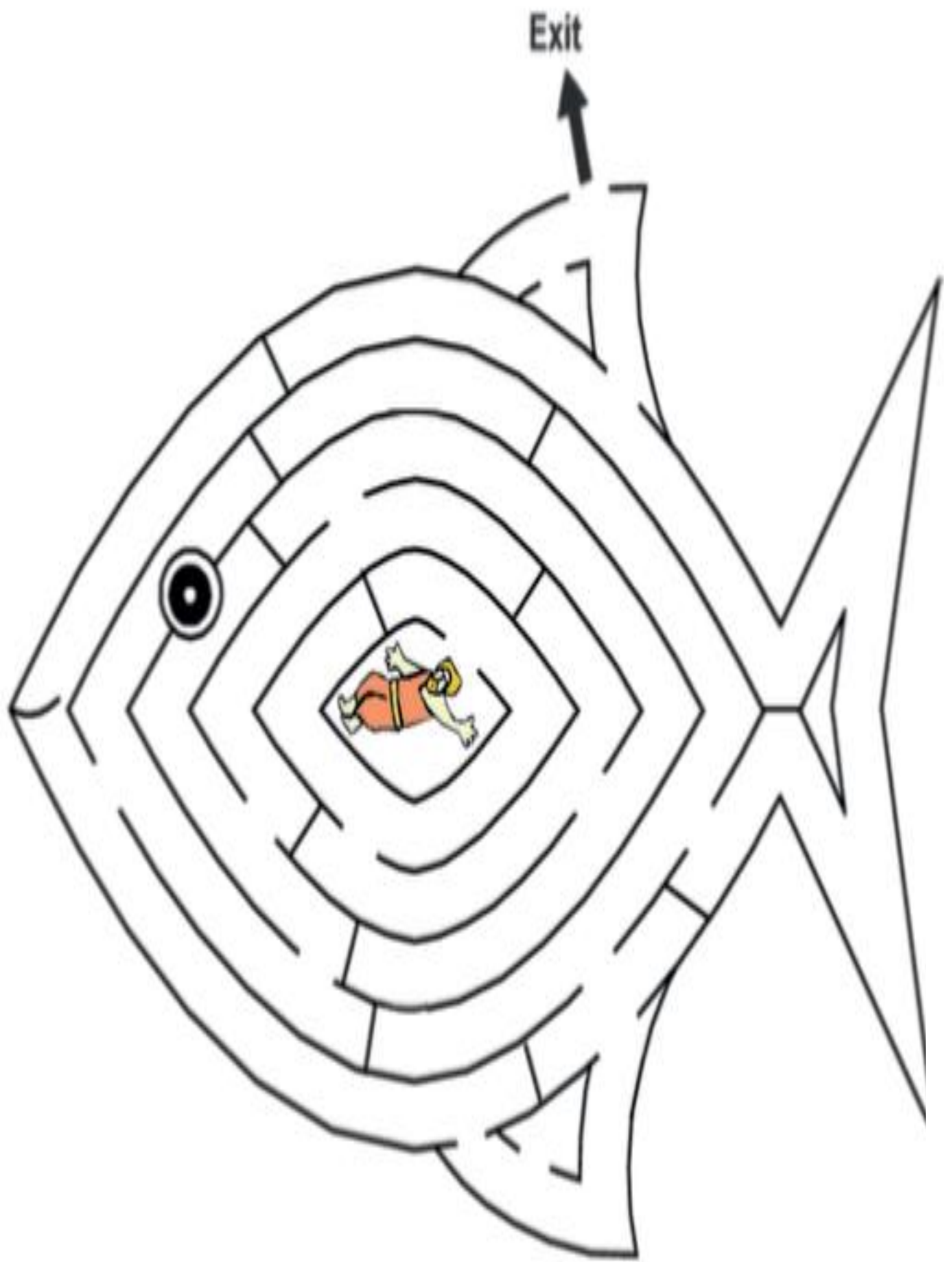
As summer is fast approaching we only have a few more nights of guides left for this term. We have enjoyed lots of fun and exciting activities. Recently we had a very interesting night at the Fire Station where we got to press all the noisy buttons on the fire engines. We have also taken part in team building activities, craft nights, a night full of fruit activities and 2 nights where 2 of our older guides organised the programme. We are now looking forward to our last night before the summer - a night of "Shorts and Shades". If you are aged between 10-15 and would like to join us, then come along on a Tuesday night from 7:30-9:15pm or phone Marjorie on 01505 612521.'

Thank you very much

Marjorie

Just a thought!





jonah



Jonah's Prayer

Now the Lord provided a huge fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the Lord his God. He said: "In my distress I called to the Lord,
and he answered me.

From deep in the realm of the dead I called for help,
and you listened to my cry.

You hurled me into the depths,
into the very heart of the seas,
and the currents swirled about me;
all your waves and breakers
swept over me.

I said, 'I have been banished
from your sight;
yet I will look again
toward your holy temple.'

The engulfing waters threatened me, a
the deep surrounded me;
seaweed was wrapped around my head.
To the roots of the mountains I sank down;
the earth beneath barred me in forever.

But you, Lord my God,
brought my life up from the pit.
"When my life was ebbing away,
I remembered you, Lord,
and my prayer rose to you,
to your holy temple.

"Those who cling to worthless idols
turn away from God's love for them.
But I, with shouts of grateful praise,
will sacrifice to you.

What I have vowed I will make good.
I will say, 'Salvation comes from the Lord.'

And the Lord commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.



A Child's Bedtime Prayer

**Now I lay me down to sleep,
I pray the Lord my soul to keep:
May God guard me through the night
And wake me with the morning light.
Amen.**

Create a “Patch” for Peace

Suggested by a member of the congregation

Our world is in turmoil. Countries are at war internally or suffering from invasion. Huge numbers of families are homeless as a consequence. Whatever happened to “Peace in our Time”.

As Christians we believe in the power of prayer. This is the time of year when for example a large group of Westburn members have jointly, but separately “Stepped out in Faith”, etc. This year it’s been suggested that jointly, but separately we each create a “Patch of Peace” and we link our “patch” with Prayers for Peace!

Ideally, as many of Westburn congregation as possible, could create a spot for a plant. This could be in a garden, a pot at a door, a window box, a allotment, etc.

When the plant is tended a Prayer for Peace could be said. As our plant grows our Peace Prayers should get stronger. When in full bloom, (or our veggie plant is ready) take a picture and bring it to the Church. Ideally these pictures can be displayed giving all the participants the benefit and pleasure of each other’s efforts.

Thank you Westburn Church.

Submitted by Douglas Scott, Presbytery Prayer Coordinator

59th G & D Beaver Scouts Faith badge



Beavers from the 59th Beaver Scout Colony completed part of their Faith badge by going along to Westburn Church and meeting the Rev Karen Harbison who kindly gave them a tour of the Church.

They learnt about the history of the Church and how it has changed names over the years. It was also a great opportunity for those who have still to complete their Friendship Challenge badge to meet someone who serves in the community.

They all had a very interesting and fun night.

5th Greenock and District Scouts

As I write this 6 of our boys are recovering from yet another successful trip up the West Highland Way. I can't remember how many years they been doing this but it's good to see the enthusiasm of the Scouts section in keeping up this activity which is surely now a tradition. We've also got 2 Queens Badge candidates, the highest award a Scout can achieve. More on that in the next magazine.

Numbers in our Beaver colony have risen to 9 which is great news considering we were down to 2 just a couple of summers ago. Cubs are just 3 but, again, an improvement on 1!

However, the Group desperately needs leaders to survive and we're shortly going to be 4 leaders down. Clearly this puts the existence of the Group in jeopardy and as the oldest Group in the District, it would be a shame to have to close after 107 years. If you would like to become a leader, or know of anyone willing to become one, please let me know. Our children have such fun in all sections and as a leader myself I know the fun and joy to be had just watching and helping them at play and doing activities. Our young people need us to be there for them and the more help that's available, the less each individual has to do. It really is great fun. Leaders helped all of us when we were young, so now it could be your turn to help today's youngsters!

Contact me on land line - 790840 or mobile - 07502372814

Many thanks,

Yours in Scouting

Ricky Martin, Group Scout Leader.

Pastoral Care Committee

- 1) The Committee met on 30th March 2015 and the next meeting will be on Monday, 25th May 2015.
- 2) **District 22** – all members who are in nursing or care homes are regularly visited by the Committee. In addition, our Minister is also visiting Members in hospital and at home.
- 3) **Harvest** – Sunday, 27th September 2015, when the Congregation will once again be invited to put a monetary gift in an envelope marked “South Africa” during the offering. There will be an opportunity to donate up to and including Communion on Sunday, 4th October 2014. The money will go to Venda, Cotlands and Sunshine Centre
- 4) **South African Projects** – Cotlands and The Sunshine Centre have now acknowledged the donations received. Thank you letters are on the next two pages.
- 5) **Annual Car Run** will be held on Wednesday 24th June 2015. Pro Formas will be issued in the Elder’s information pack.

Bill Dempster

On behalf of The World Mission Committee may I thank all the members and friends who have donated used stamps for the past year for the Dorcas Home in Greece. The final amount raised was £4,627 a wonderful sum for just putting used stamps in the little red basket and your help is very much appreciated. The project for 2015 – 2016 will be the Church of Scotland HIV Programme – more details on the notice board – and I know they can depend on your continued support



Thank you Evelyn Taylor



09 December 2014
Receipt number: 256357

Your reference number: 83753

Westburn Church of Scotland
Rev Karen Harbison

Dear Reverend, Bill and Congregation of Westburn Church of Scotland,

Thank you for supporting Cotlands this festive season! We sincerely appreciate and value your generous donation of R8, 308.85 received on 03 December 2014. Your contribution will provide vulnerable children with access to our early learning programme where they will develop pre-literacy and pre-maths skills, building a good foundation for formal schooling.

This time of the year is one of celebration, but too many vulnerable children in our country go without more than just a gift on Christmas day. It is with your help that we have been able to serve the thousands of children we've reached with crucial early education, nutrition and psychosocial care.

As we start to gear up for the new school year, we ask that you connect with us on our social media platforms to hear more about our fundraising and awareness campaigns.

Wishing you and your family a Merry Christmas and happy 2015!

With sincere gratitude,

Kelsley Sharpley
Investor Relationship Manager
Tel: +27 11 683 7200
e-mail: kelsley@cotlands.org

In terms of Section 18a of the Income Tax Act, 1962, this letter serves as an official Tax Receipt Reference no 18/11/13/2029. Your donation will be used exclusively for Cotlands. We hereby confirm that more 75% of our beneficiaries are black South African women and children.

19th January, 2015

Bill Dempster
Convenor, Pastoral Care Committee
Westburn Church of Scotland
Nelson Street
Greenock PA15 1TP

Dear Mr. Dempster,

Donation - R 8,189.75

Please accept our heartfelt thanks for the magnificent donation of R 8,189.75 received by our Association.. These funds will make it possible for us to offer the much needed Early Intervention services to our children with special needs.

Thank you once again.

Yours sincerely



Ruth Phiri
Executive Administrator

supporting and strengthening families and communities of children with special needs

funded by



**Head Office / Training /
Community Development**

Tel: +27 11 642 2005/6/7
Fax: +27 11 642 2008
Email: info@sunshine.org.za

**Craighall
Early Intervention Centre**

Tel: +27 11 788 7289
Fax: +27 11 788 1603
Email: craighall@sunshine.org.za

**Elsburg
Early Intervention Centre**

Tel: +27 11 827 1738
Fax: +27 11 824 1007
Email: elsburg@sunshine.org.za

**Soweto / Eldorado Park
Early Intervention Centre**

Tel: +27 11 984 9161
Fax: +27 11 984 8542
Email: soweto@sunshine.org.za

PO Box 411567, Craighall 2024, Johannesburg www.sunshine.org.za

NPO Number: 009 281 NPO • Fundraising Number: 01 100135 0009 • PBO: RG/0225/08/04

TIME FOR PRAYER

Jesus prayed: "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will but yours be done." (Luke 22:42)

It is not always easy to follow God's way; the temptation can sometimes be strong to do the opposite. So we always remind ourselves in the Lord's Prayer: "Your will be done."

Here is how Dag Hammarskjöld, former United Nations Secretary-General, expressed this dilemma in prayer.

Hallowed be your name – not my name.
Your kingdom come – not my kingdom.
Your will be done – not my will.
Give us peace with you,
Peace with other people,
Peace with ourselves.
And free us from fear.

Have mercy on us.
Have mercy on us as we strive to follow you
In love and faith,
In virtue and humility.
Help us to be selfless and loyal, brave and calm,
As we try to approach you.

Make our hearts and minds
Pure enough to see you
Humble enough to hear you
Loving enough to serve you
And faithful enough to always love you. Amen.

From Douglas Scott, Presbytery Prayer Coordinator

Living Stones Review Article

The latest book in the popular Pray Now series will soon be available to buy. Based on the theme 'Living Stones', the book explores through prayer and meditation the ways in which architecture and people inspire us in our relationship with God.

Living Stones 2015 guides the reader through the year with 52 chapters, offering both weekly and daily prayer resources of a Bible verse, meditation morning and evening prayers additional Scripture reading suggestions and a blessings. There are also prayer activities and a space for users of the book to make their own personal notes and observation.

Rev Carol Ford, convener of the Pray Now Writers' Group, says "Living Stones prompts us all to meditate and pray about our personal and communal response to God's love in our daily living. Hopefully, the content of this book offers comfort, reassurance, challenge and food for thought as well as providing a structure for daily devotions and stimuli for our own prayers."

The book will be launched to coincide with the Church of Scotland General Assembly's Heart and Soul event which also focuses on the theme Living Stones.

Living Stones can be purchased directly from St Andrew Press[<http://www.standrewpress.com/books/9780861538881/living-stones>] at a cost of £9.99 (discounts on bulk orders are available from St Andrew Press).

Venda Update

We have an update on the notice board with the report cards of our sponsored children, please take a few minutes to have a look at how well they are progressing.

Parish Register

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Baptism | 22/03/15 | Callum Thomson |
| | 05/04/15 | Murray Scott |
| Funerals | 30/01/15 | Nora Bryce |
| | 03/02/15 | Margaret Anderson |
| | 07/02/15 | Angus Leslie |
| | 07/02/15 | John Knox |
| | 17/02/15 | Charles M^cManamie |
| | 06/03/15 | Rosina Barbour |
| | 13/03/15 | Robert Macnaughton |
| | 19/03/15 | Marion Elvy |
| | 25/03/15 | Elizabeth M^cKenzie |
| | 30/03/15 | Jessie Loch |
| | 02/04/15 | Donald Ramage |
| | 07/04/15 | Alan Cameron |
| | 07/04/15 | Nan Osborne |
| | 07/04/15 | June M^cIntosh |
| | 14/04/15 | Catherine Sorley |
| | 16/04/15 | Stephen Sweeney |

Office Bearers

| | | |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|
| Minister | Rev. Karen Harbinson MA.BD. | 522677 |
| Session Clerk | Mr Stuart Robertson | 725451 |
| Assistant Session Clerk | Mr Alan Gallacher | 732634 |
| Treasurer | Mr Alastair Munro | 801057 |
| Organist | Mr Neil McPhee | 07903 106628 |
| Roll Keepers | Mr Jim Barbour | 723861 |
| Church Officers | Mr Jason Goodwin | 648683 |
| | | 07772 312547 |
| | Mr Danny Cairns | 07505 826037 |
| | Mrs Gillian McAlister | 07968 942438 |
| Presbytery Representative | Miss Margaret Crawford | 633027 |
| Church Secretary for magazine | Mr Jason Goodwin | 648683 07772 312547 |
| Church Telephone | | 720257 |