

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

Welcome to the Autumn Magazine 2017

Over the Summer Westburn has been active with several of our community groups and classes still meeting. Visitors from the cruise ships were welcomed by volunteers. Our Annual Church Outing took place and our Holiday Club for primary school age children also took place.

It’s now time for Westburn to get into full swing for the winter. With all the organisations and groups starting up, the leaders and convenors are preparing for the new session. In the centre of the magazine is a pullout leaflet with all that is happening here at Westburn, with lots going on for all ages. Please study the leaflet and see what interests you and support our organisations and groups. You will be assured of a warm welcome.

Also in the magazine Brian Lindsay has collected information from groups and events to keep you informed. We hope you enjoy our Autumn Magazine.

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Dear Friends,

I am writing this on Thursday 17th August, the day when pupils in Inverclyde, as in many other parts of Scotland, start a new school term. For them, this is a day of new beginnings – new pencil case, new shoes and new uniform but more importantly, new term, new teachers, new friends, new challenges, new opportunities and for those beginning Primary or Secondary school so many new things.

In the church we are also at the beginning of a new session and we hope and pray that all the groups and organisations which meet in the church halls will welcome new people and continue to support and encourage those who return. Take a look at the information in the magazine and see if there is something new that you could be part of this year and invite someone else to come along too. There is a great variety of things on offer, sometimes a one off event, sometimes things that last for a few weeks, sometimes things which happen on a weekly basis. It would be great to see you at any of these and I’m sure will find a place of welcome, friendship and encouragement.

As disciples of Jesus, we are always in a day of new beginnings as love, forgiveness, acceptance and grace are freely given to us each and every day. Together as disciples, we are called to share new beginnings with friends, neighbours and strangers for the living Christ goes before us giving an example of the amazing things that love can do.

May the day you read this, be a day of new beginnings and may we, as the church, be and find new beginnings together.

Yours

Karen

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Audrey Fraser BEM



Audrey pictured with the Lord Lieutenant

Audrey was this year awarded the British Empire Medal in the Queen’s New Year Honours List. Audrey was awarded this award in reconition of her fundraising work with the Beanfeast Café at Greenock Sheriff Court and for her services to the children and community in Inverclyde.

In her time with Café Audrey raised over £25000 for various good causes throughout Inverclyde from 2009 when she took over the running of the Café.

Audrey is still active in thr Café and this year a further £6000 is going to local charities including our local hospice, Calums Cabin, Port Glasgow Otters,Craigmarloch School and the Nursery at Wemyss Bay Primary.

Secretary of State for Scotland , David Mundell, said “ Scotland’s honours recipients are superb ambassadors, They truly deserve their recognition today, and I congratulate each and every one of them.”

I am sure that all of us will also congratulate Audrey for her award.

Well done Audrey.

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**Cruise Ships**



As in previous years Westburn opened it’s doors to visitors from some of the cruise ships. We chose some of the bigger ships again this year, some days there weren’t too many visitors other days were very busy. There were over 200 visitors from various countries and all enjoyed their visit to our church. They appreciated the leaflet detailing the history of the church and the sanctuary was well admired. A big thank you to our volunteers who willingly gave up 2 hours of their time each visit to welcome the visitors. The visitors and the volunteers enjoyed the many conversations which took place, and it was interesting to discover the number of times one of us had visited their country and or town. It was also interesting to hear from many of their Scottish ancestry.

We hope to repeat this again next year, but we would need more volunteers. We open from 10am to 12noon on particular dates and even if you are free on just one of the dates this would be greatly appreciated.

Cath Barbour

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**Whats been happing in Westburn over the summer**

**Messy Church**

June started with the Messy Church’s Summer Picnic with other Messy Churches in our area. This year it was held in the Lyle Kirk grounds in Newark Street. This was enjoyed by all who attended.

**Annual Church Car Run**

Then we had the Annual Church Car Run and Bill Dempster of the Pastoral Committee writes

A very successful event was held on Wednesday 21st June 2017, with Members being taken to all points of the compass. A special thanks to the drivers for looking after our Members and to the Ladies who provided the light supper on their return to the Church.

**Annual Bowls and Quiz**

In July we had our Annual Bowls and quiz night at the Ardgowan Bowling Club. Linda Murray of the Fellowship Committee writes.

Bowling Evening Saturday 8th of July was a pleasant sunny midge free evening enjoyed by around 40 young and not so young members. Teams were organised and aided by our club members .Those spectating enjoyed a warm sunny evening. Afterwards we enjoyed a delicious Fish Tea followed by a Quiz and prize giving. See Pictures on page 20

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**Annual Church Outing**

On Sunday 13th August after our Church Service around 50 members and friends journeyed to Finlaystone Country Park at Langbank. We all enjoyed our packed lunches in the open air as the rain stayed away. Around 2 o’clock a Ranger took those interested on a “Bug Hunt” which left the rest to have some quiet time . There was time for all to have a coffee and wander around the estate in the sunshine. At 4 o’clock we had our traditional races. There were the usual races , Running , Obstacle , 3 legged, mothers and fathers races. A big thanks to those who organsed the day which was enjoyed by all.

**Mini Holiday Club**



This year we decided to run a mini Holiday Club for three days, just before the new school term started. We had 18 primary school aged children on our register with at least 15 attending each day. The children took part in games, activities, crafts and singing and had lots of fun with the animal puppet characters who told them stories from the bible about courage and trust, friendship and welcome. We met Claude the Lion, Snappy the Crocodile, Chuckles the Monkey and Ringo the Rat who helped the children find the characters. If you are in the main hall, please take a moment or two to look at the Holiday Club display. On the last day the children shared the song ‘Creator God’ with their parents and grandparents, complete with all the actions. Thanks to those who helped to run the club.

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**TIME FOR PRAYER**

Not many of us probably remember being baptised! But do we consider the baptism that we received to be a precious gift? Here is a prayer about baptism.

Dear God,

You gave us a gift, and this gift can accompany us through our lives: we are baptized in your name.

It is up to us what we do with this gift – respond in faith or ignore it with indifference.

Maybe sometimes we do a bit of both.

Help us to stay open and attuned to your pledge of love, and not to toss it away during the bustle of daily distractions.

May our faith, hope and trust continue to grow, so that we can become what you intend: your beloved sons and daughters.

Be and remain with us always: this we ask in Jesus’ name.

Amen.



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**NEWS FROM PRESBYTERY**

The committee responsible for the Presbytery Review Plan will reconsider the current plan. This has been prompted by an acute shortage of Ordained Local Ministers (OLMs), and perhaps a reluctance of OLMs to accept certain postings. This review will involve a consideration of the new concept of hub ministry.

OLMs work within some congregations as support to busy parish ministers. The current shortage is another reminder that we need to encourage young people to consider a vocation in ministry

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Presbytery hears an account of the initial implementation of a new programme “Pathway to Renewal”, which is being piloted in 40 parishes in Scotland. One of these in our presbytery is Linwood Parish Church, and the minister there, Rev Eileen Ross, gave an optimistic account of how this programme is offering opportunities to reinvigorate parish life. The hope is to apply flesh and blood to the concept of a church without walls.

World Mission and Ecumenical Relations Committee invites congregations to consider contributing to the “Let’s build a house” appeal for Nepal in response to the devastating earthquake there in 2015.

Presbytery commends prayers for the desperate situation in South Sudan. Church of Scotland World Mission Council is working with the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan. Congregations are asked to consider hosting visitors or providing long term support for congregations in South Sudan, where there is a desperate situation, arising from division, conflict and lack of infrastructure.

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**General Assembly 2017**

This year it was my privilege to attend the General Assembly in Edinburgh, filling in a place on behalf of our Presbytery for a church which was unable to find a representative to attend on their behalf.

The Assembly began on Saturday 20th May with the election of the new Moderator – Rev Dr Derek Browning, and of course the retiral as Moderator, after his year in office, of Very Rev Dr Russell Barr, the former minister of St Luke’s. This year’s Lord High Commissioner was the Princess Royal and she carried out her duties with grace and wit.

Two overseas delegates, one from Lebanon, Rev Rola Sleiman, and one from South Sudan, Rev James Choul, were refused visas by the British Government to attend the General Assembly. Two chairs with their names on them were kept vacant throughout the Assembly in solidarity. It is disappointing that the Church’s word regarding their attendance at the Assembly was not accepted.

For some reason, which I still do not understand, I found that I had been appointed to the Assembly Business Committee/Panel of Tellers for the duration of the Assembly. However, our only duties appeared to be act as Tellers if the electronic voting system failed to work – it didn’t – or if a vote was required for membership of the Committee to elect the next Moderator which is nominated by those attending that year’s Assembly – it wasn’t. So it only involved a short lunch time meeting on the first day. However, it did get my name in the Order of Proceedings!

I was not able to attend the service in St Giles on the Sunday morning as I had agreed to take the service in Inchinnan Church for Ann Knox who was attending her first Assembly as an ordained minister – and was recognised, along with all the other newly appointed ministers, at the closing meeting of the Assembly on the Friday.

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On the Sunday afternoon I went to Heart and Soul in Princes Street Gardens. My impression was that this was less well attended than in previous years and I wonder if it may have just about run its course, although it is still a useful reminder of the many things which our Church of Scotland and its congregations are involved in.

Monday began with Communion, always a solemn but joyous occasion. This was followed by the Report of the World Mission Council and its supplementary report, jointly with the Church and Society Council, on the centenary of the Balfour Declaration, which was the letter sent by Lord Balfour the British Foreign Secretary which stated that the British Government favoured the establishment of a Jewish State in Palestine.

This provided one of the more controversial debates of the week. The deliverance was amended to more forcefully condemn illegal actions by the state of Israel, but a motion to call for economic sanctions against Israel was rejected.

The other controversial debate once again centred on the issue of same-sex relationships. This debate on the report of the Theological Forum took over three hours. The section of the deliverance inviting the church to take stock of its history of discrimination against gay people, apologise for that discrimination, and seek to do better was passed without objection. The instruction to the Legal Questions Committee to look at the matters which would have to be addressed in any legislation to permit ministers and deacons to conduct same-sex marriages was also passed.

The longest debate concerned whether the views of those who take a traditional view of marriage were reflected in the report and an additional preamble to the main deliverance “Recognising the Church’s doctrine and practice in matters of human sexuality and marriage:” was added to incorporate these views. It appears that the church is very slowly moving to a more liberal position on same sex relationships, although there remain large minorities against each step forward.

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The Guild “Big Sing” event on Tuesday evening was an opportunity to raise the roof and featured our own Patricia Robertson giving one of the readings. It was a shame that it could not be streamed live this year so that you could all have had the opportunity to join in.

As a Safeguarding Co-ordinator in Westburn Church, I was particularly interested in the report of the Safeguarding Service and in the work which they do. It was good to see support for the work of Safeguarding from several speakers from the floor.

There was the usual selection of reports of the work of the Committees of the Church, the most important being the Social Care Council, which looks after Crossreach, our social services organisation; the Church and Society Council with its wide range of issues this year concentrating on the EU and asylum and refugees; World Mission, already mentioned; Ministries Council which looks after our ministers and all other ministries of the Church; but including others like the Iona Community, Church Hymnary Trust and the Chaplains to HM Forces. It is always fascinating to see the reach of the Church into society to counteract the naval gazing which we seem to do so often in the church.

As usual, the Assembly welcomed a number of guest speakers including His Royal Highness Prince Ghazi bin Muhammad of Jordan who had a rather apocalyptic view of the future, Air Marshall Stuart Atha Deputy Commander of Operations RAF and Loretta Minghella, the Chief Executive of Christian Aid. We also joined in a minute’s silence for the victims of the Manchester bombing which took place during Assembly week.

At the final session of the Assembly, the roll of deceased ministers is read by the outgoing Moderator, our own Very Rev Dr Russell Barr, and one of the names he read out was that of his predecessor in St Luke’s Church, Rev J Marshall Scoullar.

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Once again it was a privilege to attend the Assembly, meet old friends and make some new ones, and take part in the governance of the Church of which Westburn is a part. It is encouraging to be among so many Christians seeking to share the gospel and live out our lives as part of God’s church here in Scotland.

Jennifer Boag

**News from the organisations and committees**

**The Scouts**

This short input is just to confirm that group numbers are still growing, all be it fairly slowly. The good news is we have a good number of explorer boys who have taken on the roles of leadership with PVG's being attained. This is surely the step in the right direction we have been needing for some time. This is my last input as I have now stepped down as GSL so I wish Matthew Thorburn (new GSL) and all the other leaders all the best for the Group's future. I will be keeping an eye on progress and giving help if and when needed, but am confident I'll have some extra time on my hands from now on. My thanks to all who have support me during my involvement with the Group over the past 27 years. It has been greatly appreciated and I've had great fun.

Ricky Martin (GSL, Retired)

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**GUILD**

Although the Guild finished at the end of March, about a dozen ladies have been meeting fortnightly ever since, to knit, to chat and to have the inevitable cup of tea.The new session starts on Tuesday 26th. September with what we like to call our “At Home” evening where we catch up on things that have been happening over the summer break.

The Guild theme for 2015-2018 is “Be Bold, Be Strong” and the particular theme for 2017-2018 is “Go in Love”. We have been putting together our programme for 2017-18 and hope that it will appeal to members old and perhaps some new. Come along and join us at all or any of our meetings whichever appeals.

The Presbyterial Council Autumn Rally will be held in Westburn Church on Tuesday 10th. October 2017.

The Projects for 2015-2018 are:

Care for the family Scotland- Let’s Stick Together

Ascension Trust -- Street Pastors

Feed the Minds -- Breaking the Cycle of F.G.M.

Christian Aid -- Caring for Mother Earth in Bolivia

Prospects -- All Friends Together

Mission International – Haiti Project.

We have heard speakers from four of the above projects in the last two years and we will be hearing from the final two : Ascension Trust – Street Pastors and Mission International – Haiti Project in 2017-2018.

Date for your diary is the Guild Coffee Morning on Saturday 11th. November 2017, 10am – Noon. We have been very appreciative of the support given at this annual event and hope it will continue.

Anna Seggie

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**News from the National Guild**

Since the last magazine I’ve attended a Presbyterial Council meeting in Bishopbriggs when 2 councils united to form one. This was a very good meeting and a good example of the Action Plan, set up earlier, taking place. This was my first invitation since being appointed National Vice-convener of the Guild.I’ve not attended any meetings in Edinburgh during the summer, although that is about to change as by the time you receive this magazine, meetings will have started.

It has now been decided to hold an annual National Convener’s Challenge and the first is in the form of a bowling competition which will have been held on 24th August at Kelvingrove Park on the rinks used at the Commonwealth Games. Greenock Presbyterial Council has entered a team which includes 2 members of our Guild, Senga Currie and Anna Seggie. I’ll let you know the outcome in the next magazine.

We are looking forward to the Annual gathering in Dundee on 2nd September, when the speakers will be the Right Rev. Dr Browning, Moderator and the author Pam Cairns. I’m sure it will be a good day.

I’ve been invited to address St. John’s Church Guild in Dalkeith on 19th November which will be their Dedication Service at the start of Guild Week. At the end of Guild Week the “Big Sing” will be taking place in Inverness on 24th November, I’m sure we will be in for another good sing in another part of the country. I’m sure those of you who attended the event in our church last year will be interested to hear how it goes. Unfortunately the church where it is being held does not have the facilities to record the event as we did last year so I’ll not be able to share it with you.

I will keep you up to date with what is happening nationally in the next edition of the magazine.

Patricia Robertson 14

**Pastoral Care Committee**

1. The Committee met on Tuesday, 8th August 2017 and will meet again on Tuesday, 10th October 2017.
2. **District 22 –** the Committee regularly visitour Members who are in nursing or care homes stretching from Marchmont Care Home in Port Glasgow to Seabank Care Home in Saltcoats along with Bagatelle Nursing Home, Balclutha Nursing Home, Alt-na-Craig, Bellaire Nursing Home, Glenfield Nursing Home, and Ravenscraig Hospital in between. The visits can be hard, but all are rewarding, although a small bar of chocolate does help on occasions.  
     
   In addition, Karen, our Minister is also visiting Members in hospital and at home.
3. **Annual Car Run –** very successful event was held on Wednesday 21st June 2017, with Members being taken to all points of the compass. A special thanks to the drivers for looking after our Members and to the Ladies who provided the light supper on their return to the Church.
4. **Harvest Thanksgiving –** is on Sunday, 24th September 2017, 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, 1st October 2017. The money will go to Venda, Cotlands and Sunshine Centre
5. **October Communion Afternoon Service** – is on Sunday, 1st October 2017 in the Lounge at 3.00pm. If you wish transport to and from Church in the afternoon, can you please contact your Elders or any member of the Pastoral Care Committee.

Bill Dempster

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**Community Links Report**



The Westburn Community Links Committee meets a couple of times a year and helps runs various projects and events in the church including -fair trade, Christian Aid fundraising, charity appeals and recycling.

For more information and an informal discussion please contact Simon Hutton ([simonhutton2007@googlemail.com](mailto:simonhutton2007@googlemail.com) or 07513 838 590).

**Coffee Morning – Saturday, 23rd September 2017**

10am – 12 noon



Westburn Parish Church will host the 2017 Greenock Christian Aid Coffee Morning. Tickets priced £2.00 will be on sale after Sunday worship or at the coffee morning.

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**Safeguarding at Westburn**

At Westburn Parish Church we aim to have a church which is safe for all who attend our services or organisations and make use of our premises. In relation to those in what are called vulnerable groups, including children, we have to ensure that those working with these groups have had the appropriate PVG (Protecting Vulnerable Groups) checks and have attended training. Any group with new helpers starting this autumn needs to ensure that the PVG checks have been completed before anyone starts helping in your group.

The Presbytery now requires us to record the dates on which people attend training. If you are on the church’s register of those working with vulnerable groups and have attended training in the past, it would be helpful to let us know the dates for our records – if you can remember! The General Assembly has also ruled that people should attend refresher training at least every five years in order to keep up to date with changes in legislation and practice. A number of people involved in working with vulnerable groups have attended refresher training recently and we would encourage others to do so. We will continue to intimate training dates in the Order of Service when we get them.

The two Safeguarding Trainers in Greenock and Paisley Presbytery are retiring shortly and Presbytery needs to recruit at least two to replace them. The work involves arranging and deliver safeguarding training for Kirk Sessions, Safeguarding Coordinators, and volunteers working with children and adults at risk. This is a very rewarding opportunity and if anyone is interested or knows of someone who might be interested, please contact us in the first instance for more details.

The Church of Scotland has recently produced a Safeguarding Handbook related to Domestic Abuse. While this is not specifically covered by the Safeguarding Service, it is a useful guide for anyone who suspects that someone they know may be being abused.

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You can view a copy on the Church of Scotland website:

<http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0012/40107/Safeguarding_Handbook_6_Responding_to_Domestic_Abuse.pdf>

If you need any advice or help on Safeguarding please contact us:

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

Sheila Tait - Tel: 0748 418 2757 e-mail: sheilatait172@btinternet.com

Jennifer Boag and Sheila Tait

Safeguarding Co-ordinators

**Intimations**

**Interim Moderator**

Just a wee note to advise you that I have recently become Interim Moderator at St. Ninian’s Parish Church, following the retirement of Rev Allan McIntyre, who was Minister there for over 30 years. I and the folk at St Ninian’s are delighted to have Rev Eileen Manson as Locum Minister. You might see Eileen at Westburn some Sundays when I go to lead worship at St Ninian’s. I’m sure that you will want to keep the folk at St Ninian’s in your prayers as they face both new challenges and possibilities and seek how best to be the church in their community at this time.

**Fellowship Committee**

We hope to hold another Film and Afternoon Tea on Saturday 28th October at 2.pm. If you would like to come along please get in touch with Linda Murray on 796736 or any other Fellowship committee member. We look forward to seeing you there.

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**Messy Church**

We have a Messy Christmas project in mind that will need some cream, brown and black arran wool.   If anyone has arran wool of these colours which they will not use and would like to donate could you please contact Morag so that she can arrange to collect it.  Contact 07963871810.

There may be other ways to sponsor this project in the future months - Watch this space! ...

**From Venda**

A Certificate of Appreciation for all the ongoing support from Westburn Church, has recently been received from Susi in Venda.  Unfortunately, it could not be reduced in size to allow it to be printed in the magazine. It has therefore been displayed on the notice board in the vestibule of the Church, and I would encourage you, if possible, to take a few minutes to read it.

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**Pictures from the Bowling**

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