



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

Welcome to the Easter Magazine 2015

How time flies, and as usual we think it is too early to think about Easter. The main reason for the Easter magazine being early is to allow elders time to deliver them before Communion.

While a little early, it is good to think and plan for Easter, a very important time in our Christian Calendar, as we journey through lent in preparation for Holy Week. As with any important date in our calendars, planning and preparation are important, making sure we are ready, ready and prepared. And after the preparation it is good to be there. Lets all try to **be there** taking part in our Holy Week services completing our journey celebrating Easter Day.

Wishing all at Westburn a happy Easter.

Jason our Church Officer is taking over the editing of the Church Magazine. If you have an interesting story, photo or verse you would like to share please pass it to Jason and he will try to include it.

Send to churchofficer@greenockwestburn.org.co

Date for material for next communication will appear in the order of Service.

TRANSFERRED TO SUPPLEMENTARY ROLL

Mrs. H. Dinnie	45 Denholm St.	3
Mrs. V. McKirdy	7 Marine Ct., Inverkip	20

IN ORDER TO KEEP CHURCH RECORDS UP TO DATE, IT WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED IF MEMBERS WHO ARE MOVING INFORM THEIR ELDER, THE SESSION CLERK OR THE ROLL KEEPER OF THEIR NEW ADDRESS.

From the Roll Keeper

Deaths

Mr. D. Scott	26 Stewart House	1	died Nov.
Mrs. D. Coull	72 Fancy Farm Rd.	12	died Dec.
Mrs. E.J. Swan	4 East Shaw St.	18	died Dec.
Mrs. J. Inglis	Balclutha	22	died Nov.
Miss E. Paul	Bagatelle	22	died Jan.
Mr. G. Thomas	Alt-na-Craig	22	died Sept.

Changes of Address

Mr S Dobbin	Lorne Ct., West Blackhall St.	1	from D16
Mrs. V. McKechnie	F2/1 Heritage Ct., Campbell St.	7	from D14
Miss J. Haw	Barrhill Hs. 31, Barrhill Rd.	10	from D11
Mr W. Hamil	38 Mearns St.	17	from D13
Mrs. E. Creelman	F , JGH, St.	18	from D 17
Ms. F. Sinclair	24 Carron Rd.	20	from D13
Dr. C. Barbour	63 Arundell, Ely	21	from D6
Miss E. Paul	Bagatelle	22	from D5

From the Manse

Dear Friends,

I am writing this wee note to you on 13th January 2015. Today the 100th anniversary of the death of the Scottish missionary Mary Slessor , is being marked in the place of her birth, Aberdeen , and in the place where she grew up , Dundee. A memorial plaque is being unveiled outside the Steeple Church in the city centre . Her life, work and legacy both here in Scotland and in Nigeria, where she is buried, and the way she continues to inspire and touch the lives of other people will be celebrated in different ways during this year. The Moderator of the Church of Scotland is visiting Nigeria, the Church of Scotland is organising a postcard competition for children and young people and there will be an exhibition in the McManus Galleries in Dundee.

I am particularly interested in Mary Slessor because I lived in Dundee for a while and was involved in voluntary work in the Steeple Church and the Slessor Centre. The work of the Slessor Centre tried to adopt the ethos of Mary Slessor , which combined care, compassion, justice and teaching for Mary Slessor, like David Livingstone whom she had admired and looked up to, was someone who put her faith into action in practical ways. Mary, by living among the people and being there with them in all their struggles and by learning the local languages and customs , was able to make changes and was someone the people grew to love and trust. In particular she supported women and improved their conditions and those of their children. At that time it was the norm that if twins were born , they would be killed as it was thought that one of them would have an evil spirit but as it was not possible to say which of the twins that was, both were killed. Mary was called on when twins were born and often she was able to save them Mary herself adopted children and looked after many more. Her faith was lived out and she was affectionately known as Ma Slessor by many.

As we live as God's people here in our place in 2015, may we be inspired by Mary Slessor and folk around us and may we be people who live out our faith in ways that let God's love shine.

Yours Karen

An introduction to Ann

Since November 2014 I have been pleased to be part of the Westburn family as Karen had graciously agreed to take on the task of supervising me as part of a new trial process for candidates training for the ministry. Being reasonably local, (living on Gourrock with husband Alan, daughter Seonaid, sons Murray and Garath, and Molly the dog), there are some faces I knew already, however, I am (slowly) getting to know more of you as I sit beside you during coffee and tea after worship, helping at Messy Church, or visiting homes and groups, and I am enjoying every minute of doing so – even if my indoor bowling skills are somewhat lacking!



The new process I spoke of goes under the name of MIT – Ministers in Training, and there are only three candidates in Scotland participating in this trial which has been set-up for students who already have their Theology Degree prior to entering candidacy. Anyone how would like to know more about the difference between old and this trial process please feel free to ask me. What it means for my time at Westburn is that for eight months I will be on a part-time basis of 20hrs a week before entering full-time probation for 15 months, so if all goes well I hope to be around for just under two years.

Apart from my church and family interests I have a season ticket for Glasgow Warriors RFC, I also enjoy taking Molly for walks around Coves Reservoirs, and am the chief painter and decorator in our house.

That's a little information about me, hopefully we can have longer conversations and get to know each other better over the next 23months.

Yours Ann Knox

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

As we enter into 2015 , it is intended to continue with work required to maintain our church buildings. At the recent meeting of the Property Committee meeting, it was agreed to proceed with:-

- a) Rising damp repairs in Sanctuary foyer. It is anticipated to be carried out early February and be completed within one week.
- b) Sanctuary front staircase flooring to be cleaned. To be carried out on completion of rising damp repairs.
- c) Link corridor - repairs to timbers on east side.

As we enter in to the summer months. identified work is mainly relating to external painting of Sanctuary side windows, windows at rear (Nicholson St) and decoration of office & lower toilet.

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)

An introduction to Gillian McAlister

Just a few short words to introduce myself to anyone who doesn't know me.

My name is Gillian McAllister. My husband Findlay and I began attending St Lukes 17 years ago and have been members of St Lukes and Westburn for 16 years. We were married in August 2000 and have been blessed with three wonderful children Scott, Andrew and Sam.



I am very excited to be starting my post as one of the Church Officers at Westburn Parish Church. I feel honoured to have become a part of the church team and am really looking forward to the new challenges facing me and getting to know everyone a little bit better.

TIME FOR PRAYER

What unites us is infinitely stronger than what divides us! God created the universe. God created us all, and we are united in God's love, even though we have different ways and traditions of worshipping and expressing our faith in the one God. Here is a short prayer written by Mohammed. The words of this prayer could surely be spoken by any Christian.

Lord, put courage into my heart, and take away all that may hinder me serving you. Free my tongue to proclaim your goodness, that all may understand me. Give me friends to advise and help me, that by working together our efforts may bear abundant fruit. Above all, let me constantly remember that my actions are worthless unless they are guided by your hand.

Lord, in you we put our trust. To you we turn in times of need. To you we shall go at the moment of death. Do not allow us to be deceived and misled by the designs of those whose hearts are evil. Forgive us for the evil in our own hearts. You alone are mighty; you alone are wise. Amen.

from Douglas Scott, presbytery prayer coordinator

Guild

The Guild held a very successful Coffee Morning in November, when the sum raised was £801. After our commitments to the Guild nationally and the projects, we have been able to donate £600 towards new tables for the centre hall. Once again we would like to thank members of the congregation for their support at the Coffee Morning.

By the time you receive this magazine we will have heard about the last 2 projects for this 3 year strategy, namely Out of Africa Into Malta and Julius Project (a helping hand in homelessness).

Our first meeting of the New Year was cancelled due to the weather but is hoped that we will be able to invite Chris Jewell back next session to hear about Street Pastors.

There was a good attendance of our members at the Christmas Celebrations meeting in Wellpark Mid Kirk in early December. At this meeting Presbyterial Council handed over a cheque for £414.50 to Inverclyde Foodbank and again many thanks to the congregation for their support. The AGM of Presbyterial Council will be held in Old Gourrock & Ashton in February and our Spring Rally will be held in March in Inverkip when our speaker will be Sheena McFarlane, who will talk to us on our topic for this session "How to share".

The Guild nationally has been busy, I along with other members from Greenock attended "A Big Sing" in Perth North Church on Friday 21st November to mark the end of Guild Week. There was a good attendance, those taking part linked the hymns to the Guild theme for this session and explained a little of the work their committees and the wider work of the Guild. This was the first venture of this kind and it has been suggested that there will more with different venues as it is felt Guild folk should come together more often and not just for the Annual Meeting in September.

Our National Convener, Kay Keith, was in Nigeria in January for the Mary Slessor celebrations to mark the centenary of her death in 1915, 2 members from the Steeple Church, Dundee were also in attendance as that was her home church. Our General Secretary, Iain Whyte, attended a gathering for Mary Slessor in Dundee at the same time. In connection with this all youth organisations in the church have been given the chance to design a postcard to illustrate the one thing they think would make the biggest difference in the world today. A selection of entries, including those of the winners in each age category will be on display at a special Mary Slessor Exhibition at the Verdant Works in Dundee in April 2015. If any of you are in the area at the time perhaps you will be able to pay a visit to the exhibition.

Guild - continued

The total raised to January 2015 for Guild Projects is as follows:-

Comfort Rwanda – Building a better Rwanda	£81,760.22
Cross Reach/Social Care Council (Church of Scotland) – Heart for Art	£123,407.63
Mary's Meals – Making a difference in Liberia	£99,672.55
Ministries Council (Priority Areas) (Church of Scotland) – Passage from India	£72,629.21
Scottish Churches Housing Action – Julius Project	£92,205.49
World Mission Council (Church of Scotland) – Out of Africa Into Malta	£90,543.97
Total to date	£560,219.07

This is a great result so far when we think of the financial difficulties many are in at this time. I will give you an update in the next magazine and will also give you the six new projects for 2015-2018 which will be launched on 23rd April in Edinburgh.

As has been said before all our meetings are open to any member of the congregation so if you feel you would like to join us on a specific night when the speaker is of interest to you please be sure that you will be given a warm welcome.

Patricia Robertson

PRAYTIME

Listen and Hear

Do you sometimes get the impression when you're talking to someone that they're just ignoring you, not paying the slightest heed to what you have to say? When we pray, we can be sure that God is always attentive.

A parishioner once asked the minister: "Why when you're preaching do you always shout and rant and rave, yet when you pray we can hardly make you out?"

And the minister answered: "Well, when I'm preaching I'm usually talking to a bunch of sleepyheads, whose minds are elsewhere. But when I'm praying, talking to God, I know that he always listens, even if I'm spouting rubbish!"

Wherever, whenever we talk to God, he is beside us, and hears us, even if we're spouting rubbish. Let's make sure that we too are always ready to hear God.

Easter Joy

Jesus came to earth,
To show us how to live,
How to put others first,
How to love and how to give.

Then He set about His work,
That God sent Him to do;
He took our punishment on Himself;
He made us clean and new.

He could have saved Himself,
Calling angels from above,
But He chose to pay our price for sin;
He paid it out of love.

Our Lord died on Good Friday,
But the cross did not destroy
His resurrection on Easter morn
That fills our hearts with joy.

Now we know our earthly death,
Like His, is just a rest.
We'll be forever with Him
In heaven, where life is best.

So we live our lives for Jesus,
Think of Him in all we do.
Thank you Savior; Thank you Lord.
Help us love like you!

By Joanna Fuchs
www.poemsource.com

To the Congregation of Westburn Church.

Many thanks for the generous amount of money that you so kindly donated to our school. We will be able to buy much needed toys and stationary when the school opens in January. Our aging school vehicle is also in need of maintenance, new tyres etc which has been a constant worry. Our prayers were answered, thanks to you all, and we will now be able to repair it properly.

Once again I am astounded at the ongoing generosity of our Scottish supporters. Without your donations and monthly sponsor fees I am not sure how we would have managed to keep going all these years. It is said that if hands reach out to give, they are also open to receive... so I know you will be given blessings in abundance for helping our vulnerable children.

The 2013 newsletter was eventually sent out but apparently many people did not receive it. Please read it on our website: hopeforlimpopo.org. so you can see what you have helped us to achieve.

On behalf of the children and staff we wish you all a very merry Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year.

Warm regards – Sue Anne

The children and Staff of VHUTSHILO MOUNTAIN SCHOOL (VMS) Thanking all that have supported and helped them develop over the years



Below the class of 2013 / 14



School children getting started with work in the garden planting sowing and erecting fencing so that they can protect their crops from maruding goats chicens and cow.

VMS plans to start 12 new gardens every year

Pastoral Care Committee

- 1) The Committee met on 19th January 2015.
- 2) **Christmas Gifts** – as agreed, the Committee purchased a gift up to the value of £5 for each Member in District 22 and distributed them during December. The gifts were well received and the Committee has had very positive feedback from relatives.
- 3) **District 22** – all members who are in nursing or care homes are regularly visited by the Committee. In addition, our Interim Moderator is also visiting Members in hospital and at home. Joyce and I visited Megan Robertson on 4th December 2013 in the nursing home in Saltcoats.
- 4) **Christmas Cafe** on Christmas Eve was another success. The Committee would like to thank the Members who donated Christmas pies, shortbread, homemaking etc, which was very well received. We would also like to thank the Ladies who manned the kitchen.
- 5) **South African Projects** – Cotlands and The Sunshine Centre each received £500. Cotlands have acknowledged their grateful thanks and a letter of thanks attached.

Bill Dempster

Can you
find
these
words



LENT

Jesus is tested in the wilderness - Luke Ch 4

O	T	S	E	S	E		WILDERNESS
N	G	R	Y	S			
F	A	S	T	E			
G	N	A	S	N	E		FORTY
T	A	S	E	R	V		HUNGRY
E	T	P	M	E	T		STONES
T	A	L	F	D	I		LOAVES
R	S	O	T	L	L		ANGELS
A	O	L	O	I	E		FOOT
T	E	W	O	W	L		SATAN
							WORSHIP



Childrens Corner



tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone.'"

The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to him, "I will give you all their authority and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. If you worship me, it will all be yours." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'"

The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down from here. For it is written: 'He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'" Jesus answered, "It is said: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.