

Westburn Parish Church Greenock



Spring
2016



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

Welcome to the Spring Magazine 2016

Easter is a little early this year, we at Westburn are making plans in preparation for our easter journey through Holy Week. There will be lots of opportunity during Holy Week to help us be prepared with evening services, Early Dawn Service to celebrate our Risen Lord , and our usual 11.00 am worship on Easter day. So lots going on in Westburn to prepare us for our journey through Holy week so that we are ready to celebrate our risen Lord. The preparation is being taken care of, the services are in hand. **Will you be prepared? Will you have taken that journey.? Will you be there ?** Lets hopes so.

Full details of all Holy Week Services are detailed in this magazine.

Wishing all at Westburn a happy Easter.

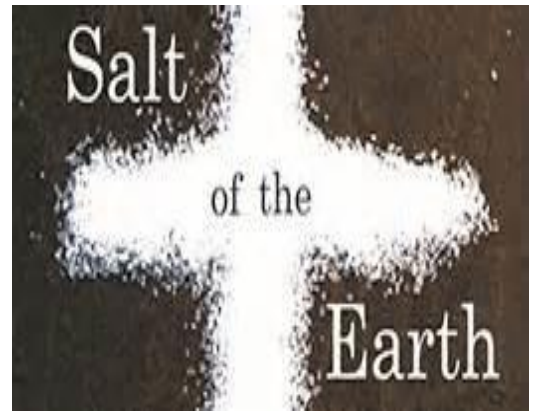
Jason our Church Officer who is the Church Secretary for the magazine will advise date of material for next magazine. If you have something of interest which would be suitable for the magazine or a report about your committee or organisation Jason wants to hear from you. Send it to churchofficer@greenockwestburn.org.uk

From the Manse

Dear Friends,

I am writing these words in the middle of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18th – 25th Jan). In our town during this week we are having an event to bring people together to learn more about what congregations are doing in their parishes and what the churches together are doing and supporting in our communities. And it's amazing – only a few examples would include things like Inverclyde Foodbank, Starter Packs, Supporting Parents Project, Family Contact Centre... and the list goes on. In all of these things we are responding to Christ's call to be the salt of the earth and light to the world. These words of Jesus have been chosen by Christians in Latvia as the theme for this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and we remember these words and celebrate our life together in a special service in St Mary's RC Church. At the end of the service there is a call to commitment to be salt and light.

'We have listened to the Holy Word of God which we honour and treasure, We will carry this Word out into the world, For we are joined in one mission, To be Salt of the Earth, to be Light to the World and to proclaim the Lord's mighty acts. As a sign of this common mission in which we share, we invite you to light a candle and to taste salt.



The next time you light a candle in the house or put salt into something you are cooking, remember the call of Jesus , give thanks for those who respond to this call alongside you in this place and celebrate that together we are making a difference in our community. For this work is not only for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity but for all the days of our living.

Yours

Karen

Presbytery of Greenock & Paisley

September / October 2015

Retiring Moderator – Rev. Ritchie Gillon was thanked for his services to Presbytery over his year in office and was presented with a gift by Rev. A Shaw, Business Convener.

Election and Installation of New Moderator – Rev. Dr. Ken Foster, Auxiliary Minister was approved and resolved by Presbytery as their next Moderator. Dr. Foster took the chair and thanked presbytery for the privilege entrusted to him

Guest Speakers – Four delegates from Johnstone High Church attended The national Youth Assembly and gave an interesting talk on the various topics discussed. All had enjoyed the experience and encouraged other young people to attend if they got the opportunity.

Tribute – was paid to the late Rev. Andrew MacLean, Deputy Clerk and retired minister. Regret was expressed that he had so little time to enjoy his retirement after a committed service to the church both nationally and locally.

Presbytery Plan Review – Presbytery is proposing a Pioneer Minister for Ferguslie Park. Pioneer Ministers will work outside the existing church structure and be community facing. A formal presentation will go before Ministers Council in November.

Zimbabwe – The Zimbabwe Committee has decided after consultation within Presbytery that it is time to bring the covenant to a close. It is now proposed Presbytery's Zimbabwe Committee be brought under World Mission and Ecumenical Affairs Committee and renamed Zimbabwe Network. This would be a resource to help with the future and existing twinings. Kirk Sessions are encouraged to consider some form of twinning with Zimbabwe now the covenant has come to an end.

November / December 2015

Presentation to Students – The Moderator presented a gift from the Weddell Book Fund to ministry students including Ann Knox and hoped this money would help with their studies

Presentation of readers – The Moderator thanked those present including Jennifer Boag for their preaching and pastoral care within Presbytery.

Business Committee – John Wilson has been appointed as a trustee at Inverclyde Family Centre. This project is under Presbytery's oversight and as such is kept appraised of their work and changes in trustees.

Local Church Review – Convenor Rev. Alan Sorenson and committee intend to conduct reviews into various congregations including Greenock: Westburn.

Overture Amending the Ministers and Deacons in Civil Partnership Act (2015)

– While at the moment nothing in the Act implies that the church will permit its ministers or deacons to register civil partnerships or solemnise same sex marriages, the Theological Commission is due to report to 2017 Assembly on this subject. The debate centred on whether or not ministers in the same sex marriages should be allowed to remain as ministers. A lively debate followed for and against, but the general feeling was that apart from legal implications to remove ministers from their charge was a form of discrimination. The vote for the overture was 50 for and 38 against with 1 recorded dissent.

Community Interests – The Star project in Paisley supports individuals and families with a programme of services and activities. They work in partnership with Renfrewshire Council and are supported by Presbytery. They are looking for new members for their Board so if you are interested you can contact Sharon McAulay

Margaret Crawford
Representative Elder



The whole church watched with nervous anticipation
as the visitors sat where the Martins have sat for 42 years.

Property Committee

In the last magazine, it was there was mention of Roof and Tower - water ingress. It is intended to replace/repair the North & West tower windows

In addition, in the high area of the tower, there is a need to replace a hatch found to be rotten and to treat an area of fungus. It is thought that this contamination has been caught before it has become serious.

In the Lower corridor - on the floor (at left hand window), wet rot has been discovered. Currently, this is being stripped out by volunteer labour. It is hoped that the work can be completed using our own resources.

In the Centre rear stairway (on the landing floor outside Room No 1), the tiles have been removed due to dampness. Again, repair work is in hand by use of voluntary labour

With the intent of helping to contain heat in the Sanctuary, the Guild has agreed to fund the provision of heavy curtains for the three lower doors and two Gallery doors. The curtains will be made by volunteer labour.

A range of other minor issues have been identified and are being addressed

Since before Christmas, and as many members have commented, the time shown on the clock face has been incorrect. The chiming mechanism does operate correctly. Maintenance of the clock is the responsibility of Inverclyde Council who are awaiting supply of replacement parts.

At the Manse, It is proposed to carry out redecoration of the hall (upper & lower). In addition, there is a need to carry out roof repairs involving replacement of lead and pointing of stonework.

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)

Jim Bell

Time for Prayer

The words of this prayer, written about 500 years ago by Martin Luther, can still help us today to set our priorities.

Lord,

Give me not gold and silver, but a strong, firm faith. I don't seek worldly joy or pleasure, but rather the reassuring comfort and strength of your holy word.



I've no wish for worldly treasures or fame, which only distract me from what matters.

Rather, may your spirit enter my heart and mind, to strengthen and comfort me at times when I'm anxious and afraid.

And help me to trust in your loving grace till the end of my time on earth. Amen.

(from Douglas Scott)

Douglas Scott

Fellowship Committee News (Dates for your Diary)

There are a couple of events coming up in the next few months.

Concert

Firstly we hope to have a concert involving a trio of professional musicians from Germany called "Heavy Classic" who play Mandolin, Banjo and Guitar. The concert is proposed for the 13th March and the tickets cost £8.00 and £6.00 concession. There will be tea and coffee.

Film Night

We are planning another film night and hope Mamma Mia will be a winner. Proposed date is Sat 23rd April details to follow. Once again costumes at the ready if you're brave enough or come as you please. Details to follow.

Bowling Night

Last years was by far the best attended and the best fun, it even stayed dry, so come along and join in the fun . We're looking into confirming a date for this event.

Linda Murray

Pastoral Care Committee

- 1) The Committee met on Tuesday, 10th November 2015 and Tuesday, 12th January 2016. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, 29th March 2016 at 2.30pm.
- 2) **District 22** – there are currently 22 members who are in nursing or care homes. These Members are regularly visited by the Committee. In addition, Karen, our Minister has visited the Nursing Homes, Members in hospital and at home.



- 3) **Christmas Gifts for Housebound Members** – the Prayer Shawl Group have knitted shawls for all the Members who are in Nursing Homes and these were distributed along with a prayer from the Prayer Shawl Group before Christmas. We have received many thanks from the Members and appreciative relatives. The shawls were very well received. The following photographs show the shawls packed ready for distribution and the Pastoral Care Committee:



- 4) **March Communion Afternoon Service** – Sunday, 6th March 2016 in the Lounge at 3.00pm. Elders are encouraged to ask members who would like to attend the afternoon Communion. Anyone wishing transport is asked to contact any member of the Pastoral Care Committee.

Bill Dempster

Guild

Guild report for magazine January 2016

The first half of our syllabus has flown past. We opened with a concert from the Clyde Coast Strathspey and Reel Society who had our feet tapping albeit a little shyly. Our Autumn Rally held in St. Andrews Port Glasgow had as the speaker our National Convener. Mrs Linda Young.

We have been to Norway in the company of Mr. Norman McCarey had a food demo with a difference—the difference between our usual tastes and the taste of gluten free.

We have listened to Mr. Chris Jewell speak about “Dreams come True”.

We usually have speakers from two of the Guild Projects each year and this year is no different. We had a speaker from “Prospects” – All Friends Together- about helping churches to welcome people with learning disabilities and include them in all aspects of worship.

We had a very successful Coffee Morning in November when we raised the magnificent sum of £984.20. We held a Beetle Drive which was fun. We took part in the Presbyterian Council “Songs of Praise” at the start of Guild Week where the offering raised £240 and this was donated to “Robin House and at our Christmas Celebrations in St. John’s in Gourock we had a representative from C.H.A.S. come to receive the cheque.

We finished off the 2015 part of our syllabus with a Christmas Meal and some lessons and Carols.

We open with a Burns Night in 2016 and we have some interesting meetings coming up in 2016. All are welcome men as well as women.

Anna Seggie

Guild Syllabus for 2016

2016

January

26th Burns Night

28th Visiting Lyle Kirk Guild

February

2nd Presbytery Council ABM (Westburn)

9th A trip to Peru – Mrs F. Stevenson

16th Project – Caring for Mother Earth in Bolivia

23rd ABM & Bring & Buy- Rev. K. Harbison

March

1st WW1 Recovery & Identification – Mrs A. Anderson

8th Presbytery Council Spring Rally (Lyle Kirk)

15th Brownies & Guides

22nd Holy Week

29th Inverclyde Foodbank – Mr F. Donalson

April

5th Gideon's International

12th Closing Social

National Guild News

Since the last magazine I have attended the Annual gathering in the Caird Hall, Dundee in September when we had a most enjoyable day, learning new songs with the Guild Choir (those attending wondered who the choir was, little did they know until we started that in fact it was everyone attending). The group arranging the meeting decided that the singing at these meetings is always uplifting and felt this should be part of the day as well as the hymns during worship. The Moderator, the Right Rev. Dr. Angus Morrison in his address stated that in many ways the Guild is the backbone of the church. We also heard from the Rev John McMahon, Head of Spiritual and Pastoral Care at West London Mental Health Trust. He is also a Church of Scotland minister.

I have attended the "Big Sing" in Dunfermline Abbey on 20th November 2015 which was a great success and well supported. In fact there were several Guild members disappointed as they were unable to get tickets. They have been told if the Songs of praise evening during the General Assembly that the Guild hopes to host they will first in line for tickets. This event if the Guild get the go ahead will hopefully be streamed in the same way as the rest of the Assembly. The offering at the "Big Sing" amounted £1900 with more money still coming in. I'm sure that the total will be over £2000 by now. This money is being sent to Loudon Teacher Training College in Embangweni in Malawi to furnish the rooms in the hostel. The recommendation for sending the money came from Linda Young, National Convener, Iain Whyte, General Secretary and Eilidh Marks, Associate Secretary after their visit to Malawi in July 2015. They saw this as a way for the Guild to further the link with Malawi in a positive manner.

I have been involved with 2 Roadshows where the Action Plan for the future of the Guild is explained to members, one was in Aberdeen and the other in Dingwall. (An aside to the roadshow in Dingwall, Stuart and Jim Bell came along to visit the folk of St. Clement's. We spent an enjoyable evening with some of the members, unfortunately we didn't manage to attend Morning worship the next day as it started snowing and it was felt we should make our way back home. It is hoped we will go back when the weather gets better. When will that be?)

Continued over the page

I'm also taking part in another Roadshow in Motherwell on Wednesday 3rd February with the National Convener. I also hope to

Share the Action Plan with the Kirk Session that evening as Kirk Sessions have been instructed by the General Assembly to look at the Guild Action Plan.

On Saturday 6th February I will be attending the resource Co-ordinators Conference in Stirling, followed by Theme and Topic days in Glasgow and Ayr in March. Before then however my visits to Edinburgh will have begun again after the Christmas/New Year period, when we will begin to plan the Annual Gathering for September this year and we just heard in the middle of January one of our main speakers will be Sally Magnuson. Her mother was a great supporter of the Guild and wrote the book "Out of Silence". Of course, I'm also sure the other members of Westburn Guild who will be attending the Gathering will be looking forward to hearing what the other main speaker has to say, Rev. Dr. Russell Barr. Of course I will report back to you after the meeting.

I have been given permission by Greenock Presbyterial Council to continue as the representative to enable me to complete the third year of the strategy for the Theme Guide, "Go in Love"

Patricia Robertson

“ A Mother, her daughter and the School that changes teens lives”

That's the heading which accompanies this picture.

The picture is of Sue-ann Cook (Susie) and her 16 year old daughter Vhuhwavho (Woo) from the Vhutshilo School in Limpopo, Venda, which is one of the South African Appeals we support.



Many may remember Susie and Woo visited Westburn and Woo, as a very young girl, spoke very confidently and bravely about how she deals with being HIV positive, about her medication and how she encouraged and helped other children who were also HIV positive.

It's interesting to hear of the amazing progress at the school since Susie started a crèche in her mobile home in 2002. One of those early children was Woo who was a sickly orphan. Susie adopted Woo when she was very young and over the years as the school extended Woo served as the perfect measure as to what worked and didn't work in the school.

Susie and Woo together with a family of teachers and support staff have managed to break down the stigma around HIV and Aids, getting teenagers to stop defaulting on their medication and to teach skills to older teens.



The outcome of hard work, dedication and this inspiring mother, daughter partnership, together with lots of help and support, the school now incorporates a preschool and crèche and has made a name for itself in the area as a place to learn English, as a result even kids who don't have the virus are sent by their paying parents, further breaking down the barriers that exist between children who have HIV and those who don't.

The continuing success of the school since 2002 to 2016 is amazing and will continue to grow as their aim is ***that through brave education initiative to banish aids stigma.***

Woo contributes greatly in this aim as an educational speaker on HIV issues at surrounding schools.

It is very heartening to have this update and to hear of the achievements and success of Vhutshilo Mountain School.



The Congregation of Westburn Parish Church Greenock

Dear members

A huge thank you for your generous contributions that have been donated to Vhutshilo Mountain School.

This year we had 73 children ranging in age from 18 months to 5 years. Thanks to Memory and Fhathu, my two qualified teachers, our reputation has grown to such an extent that we are now enrolling children from the wealthier middle class who are willing to pay the higher fees than those required at the local community crèches. This not only helps to cross subsidise our vulnerable students but is also helping to alleviate the dreaded stigma associated with HIV/Aids as they all know VMS caters for HIV+ children, and AIDs orphans.

Last week we held a graduation ceremony for the 29 children who “graduated” from pre-school and the parents/guardians and guests were amazed at the high standard of education, particularly their command of the English language. It is always a very festive day with lots of singing, drama and dancing.

Our outreach program has almost 200 HIV+ youngsters that are regularly monitored to check their adherence to the ARV drug regime. To date about 30 home gardens have been started to ensure food security, and certificates are handed out to the most productive gardens by officials from the Dept. of Agriculture who kindly judge the gardens every year. Next year the older members of the group are going to form an NGO for a “young adults” support group. Some of these youngsters although in their early twenties, are still in low grades at school due to absenteeism through illness or days spent at local clinics waiting for their meds. As part of a vibrant support group their self-esteem and confidence has improved radically and they are already making an impact by talking publically about their status, and encouraging and educating their peers about HIV/Aids

Skills training has become our focus as these young adults face a bleak future with unemployment at its highest in years: four of them spent time being trained in sewing and we were donated 2 machines and an overlocker. They are producing beautiful cushions, aprons, dresses etc. from the colourful Venda cloth and we hope to assist them in finding markets next year. Another workshop concentrated on basic home maintenance and the youngsters were taught the rudiments of plumbing, carpentry, painting and tiling. A few have started small businesses from home.

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A Peace Corp volunteer started a marathon running club and 12 of these young men and women have been competing in marathons around the country. They wear t/shirts printed with "positive teens" and "taking strides against stigma and discrimination" and because they are so fit and healthy are great examples of living positively with HIV. Philly (an orphan that came to the school when he was 5 years old) is now 19 years old and is still being sponsored by a member of your church. He hates school as he is constantly teased and bullied as he is in a very low grade. He runs 20kms twice a week and made me weep when I watched him compete in his first official marathon. He was "king of the road" and I could not believe this well built, confident young man was that sickly, depressive child. We are now trying to find a marathon club that will "adopt" these youngsters and give them encouragement and guidance, and maybe sponsor them so that they can compete in more races in the new year.

I would like to apologize for my long silence. I have not written a newsletter for the past two years and due to illness was away from school for a few months. Although the school was well managed under the competent guidance of Khathu, I have been battling to get back on track. Oxfam, our funders since 2007 are pulling out of S.A. in April next year and we are desperately trying to find new funders to take their place. A time consuming and daunting task... It would be a great pity if all our outreach projects have to stop especially when we are beginning to see such great results.

Thank you for your continued support. It is amazing that some members of your congregation have been sponsoring individual vulnerable children from VMS since 2004.. I don't know what we would have done without you including your prayers.

The staff and children from VMS wish you all a very merry Xmas and a prosperous and healthy new year of 2016.

Love and blessings

Sue Anne

Bird Nest Collage

This delightful birds nest collage can be enjoyed by all ages. Younger children can be given the shapes pre-cut and can take charge of decorating the paper plate nest and adding wiggle eyes and beaks to the baby birds. For older children you could adapt the craft to make the birds much more lifelike (study a real nest from a distance, or search for photos on the internet) and by using real nest materials in the collage.



You will need:

- Large paper plate
- Brown paint
- Thin brown paper (tissue, greaseproof or packing will all work)
- Brightly coloured card
- Wiggle eyes
- Scraps of yellow card or foam
- Glue



Instructions:

Paint the back of the plate brown and leave to dry. Cut in half.

Cut the brown paper into strips and glue them to the plate. Don't worry about gluing all the edges as you are looking for texture.

Cut 3 ovals from coloured card and glue them along the edge of the plate.

Add a yellow beak and two wiggle eyes to each.



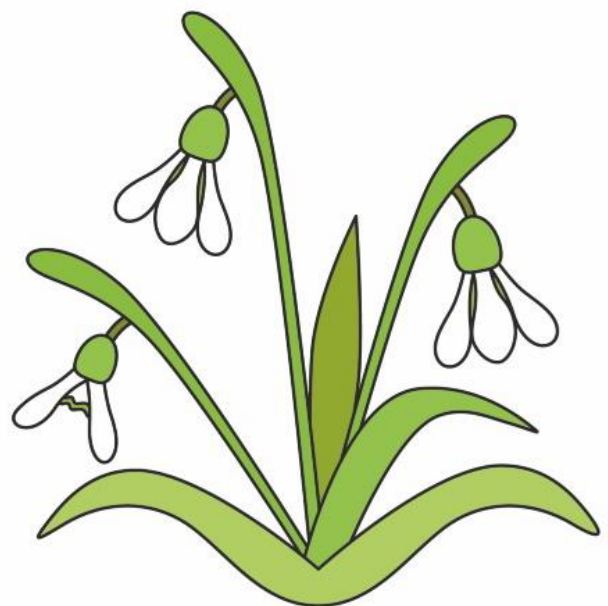
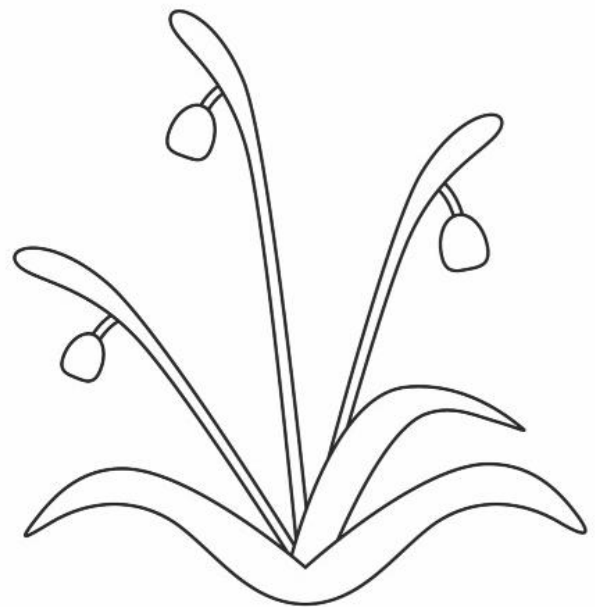
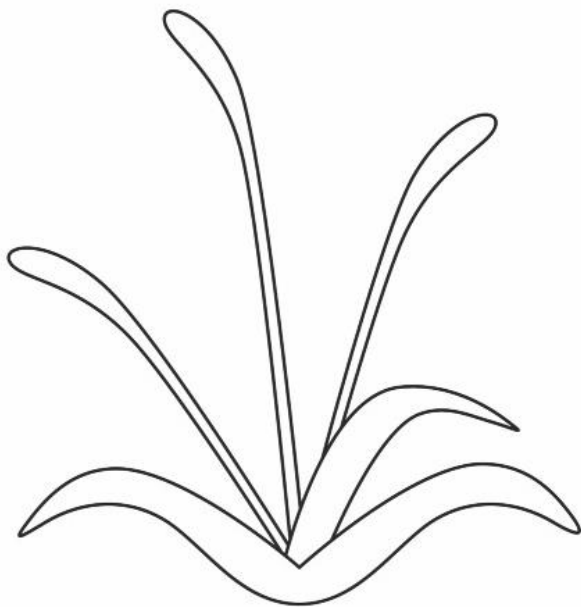
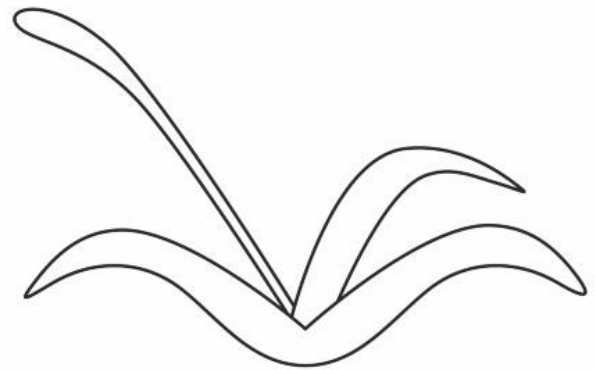


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Children's Corner- Learn to draw a snowdrop



Useful Numbers

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