

# *Westburn Parish Church Greenock*



*Summer*  
*2016*



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

Welcome to the Summer Magazine 2016

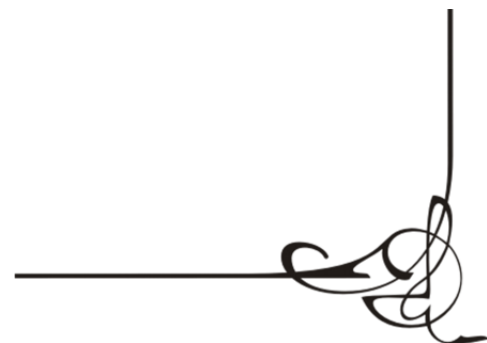
As you receive your magazine with your Elder's visit you may not be thinking yet about Summer, or maybe you are well organised with holidays booked and plans made.

It seems no time since you received the Spring edition and yet a lot has happened in the church since then. All the services through Holy Week and Easter Sunday, Messy Church is very successful and extended their season. All our organisations planning their closing socials or finishing for the summer break, but that doesn't mean things stop, there is always more to organise and plan. Westburn doesn't stop for the summer, our buildings have to be looked after, Convenors and Committees are still organising events. Our usual Car Run will be on 22<sup>nd</sup> June, your Elder will speak to you about that. We will also participate again in Doors Open Day in September. Details of all our events will be detailed in the Orders of Service.

Hope you enjoy the cover of the Magazine which is a colourful picture of our front garden, our gardens are enjoyed by many passers-by and by our congregation.

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 19<sup>th</sup> September to  
[churchofficer@greenockwestburn.org.uk](mailto:churchofficer@greenockwestburn.org.uk)



# From the Manse

Dear Friends,

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April sees the arrival of this year's 'Blue Book' at my house – so thick , so many pages that it cannot be put through the letterbox. I imagine the post man was glad to get rid of that out of his bag. It is a big volume in more ways than one, for it contains the reports of all the councils and committees of the church, reports that reflect the life and work and worship and witness of the church at this time and which try to steer the church forward to engage with the challenges and possibilities of and for the church in the days ahead. These are the reports that will be debated and discussed at this year's General Assembly which begins on Sat 21<sup>st</sup> May. Some members of Westburn Parish Church will be there that day, supporting Rev. Russell Barr , who was minister of St Luke's for a while and well loved by many in Greenock.

I'm not a commissioner to this year's General Assembly and so the pressure to read the 'Blue Book' isn't so great as in other years but I always try to read a fair bit of it because it's important to keep up to date with current thinking and to understand at least something of the wide ranging work that our Church of Scotland is involved in.

This year's title for the 'Blue Book' and the theme for much of the work of the General Assembly and for the Heart and Soul Celebration is 'People of the Way'. The Report of the Mission and Discipleship Council introduces this theme "People of the Way serves as a clarion call for the Kirk to be in step with God's mission in the world" The church at all levels and we as the church in our time and place have to find ways of being in step with God's mission, with each person being enabled to use their gifts in that work. Our Kirk Session, in preparation for a visit from Presbytery's Local Church Review Team, has been doing some thinking about our priorities for the next few years. Each one of us is needed as we walk out in step with God's mission in our community.

This year's 'Pray Now' book also follows the same theme and includes the following prayer: -

"Guide me, so I may step boldly forward in faith and find all that you want me to discover today. Go beyond and behind, to my left and my right, that wherever way I seek to go, I will surely find You in everything and everyone I meet. Amen "

Yours

Karen

# Ann Knox

In November 2014 when I first set foot in Westburn Parish Church I never thought that, between the Ministers in Training process and Probation – a total of 23 months, time would fly past so quickly. As I write this article I find it almost unbelievable that only six months remain. On the 5<sup>th</sup> August I have a final review, that will determine whether I can go on for Ordination or not (prayers will be appreciated). If the Ministries Council says 'yes' then this allows for a three month period where I can apply and nominating committees can approach me with a view to calling me to preach as a Sole Nominee to their congregation whilst I am still here, although once I leave on the 31<sup>st</sup> October this process continues until I am hopefully called to a Charge.

This is an exciting, and slightly daunting, time and I feel sure that I am going to miss everybody, and especially Karen for the very encouraging and supportive supervisor that she is, drawing on her own experiences over the years whilst allowing me the scope to develop my own style of ministry; however I still have her phone number.

Within the probationary time I have been organising the Sunday Evening Services and the Lent Reflection Time, and the Worship Group will be looking at how to facilitate these, and what form they will take, once I leave (see their report). But just as importantly I have been getting to know people (although my dreadful memory for names sometimes lets me down), visiting in their homes, chatting over tea and coffee, assisting at Messy Church and Holiday Club, attending Guild meetings and so on. The more I learn about the great variety of work a minister undertakes the more I realise what a privilege it is to be able to take the time to be with, and walk beside, people, and that the 23 months will not be enough time to get to know everyone as well as I would like.

Karen, Stuart and so many others have been supportive and encouraging however I would encourage everyone to give more feedback as this allows both myself, and any future Candidates\Probationers, to reflect on their growth and development, for example: did something work well, what could be changed/improved, was something understandable or confusing.

*Philippians 3:12 I don't mean to say I am perfect. I haven't learned all I should even yet, but I keep working toward that day when I will finally be all that Christ saved me for and wants me to be.*

Blessings

Ann

# **Presbytery of Greenock & Paisley**

**Notices** – Greenock Westburn will show the “Big Sing” organized by The Guild from The General Assembly on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May. Anyone interested is welcome to come and share this event, starting at 7.00 p.m.

The Moderator congratulated Rev. Owen Derrick on his recent appointment at Greenock Lyle Kirk and wished him well.

Rev. Ann McCool was nominated as Moderator Elect from September 2016

**Vacancy Procedure Committee** – The vacancy at Langbank linked with Port Glasgow St Andrew’s has not been filled and an extension was agreed.

**Business Committee – Local Church Review** – The Annual Inspection of Records has taken place and a high level of record keeping has been noted.

**Community Interests** – Application are invited from community based projects for funding from Presbytery’s Bequest Fund. The relaunch of the TALK IT OVER GROUP was acknowledged.

**Ministry Committee** – Job specification for the youth and children’s worker in the Greenock Parish Group was approved.

**Ministry and Discipleship Committee** – General Assembly 2016 Youth Representative – Ailie MacDougall has been nominated for this position. She attends Old Gourock and Ashton church and is fully involved in all aspects of church life.

**Pray Across Scotland** – Prayer meeting for General Assembly will be on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30 p.m. in Westburn Church. The speaker will be Rev. Owen Derrick.

**Time for Mission** – Path of Renewal Pilot Scheme. Rev. L Crumlish will be the Facilitator and Co-ordinator of this scheme.

Margaret Crawford

Representative Elder

# Property Committee

As mentioned in the last magazine, there is water ingress in the roof and tower the north & west tower windows will be replaced / repaired in June 2016

In the high area of the tower, the top hatch has been replaced and an area of the wall requires to be treated for fungus. It is thought that this contamination has been caught before it has become serious.

This work has revealed that there is further water penetration in the spire south louvre. Steeplejacks have attended to investigate and a full report is awaited.

In the lower corridor - on the floor (at left hand window), wet rot has been discovered. This has been stripped off and repaired by volunteer labour.

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 are in the process of being completed, again by voluntary labour.

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

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

## Community Links Committee



There will be an opportunity to contribute to the work of Christian Aid during three Sundays in May (8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>). Please give as generously as you are able and please remember to 'Gift Aid' your donation if you are a UK taxpayer. Last year Westburn raised a fantastic sum of £1388 during Christian Aid week.

For more information visit:

[www.caweeek.org/story](http://www.caweeek.org/story)

# Pastoral Care Committee

- 1) The Committee met on Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> March 2016. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at 2.30pm.
- 2) **District 22** – there are currently 23 members who are in nursing or care homes Newark Care Home in Port Glasgow down to Seabank Care Home in Saltcoats. These Members are regularly visited by the Committee and in addition, Karen Harbison, our Minister and Ann Knox have visited the Nursing Homes, Members in hospital and at home. A Pastoral Care Card has been designed and printed and will be left during visits to the Care and Nursing Homes.
- 3) **June Communion Afternoon Service** – Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> June 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.

**Harvest Thanksgiving Service** – will be held on Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> September 2016. As in previous years, the Congregation will be asked to donate to the South African Projects, which are Venda, Cotlands Baby Sanctuary and the Sunshine Association for Children with disabilities. Donations can be placed in an envelope marked South Africa and placed in the offering. Members will have an opportunity to donate from Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> September up to and including the October Communion on Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2016.

Bill Dempster



# Guild News

We started 2016 with a Burns night which was an in house event.

We had a visit to Lyle Kirk Guild at the end of January when the speaker was from the local branch of "Street Pastors".

Our Presbyterial Council meeting in February held in Westburn had as a speaker Ross McFarlane speaking on the Project – Mission International – the Haiti Project.

We went to Peru with Mrs Fiona Stevenson and her Dad also on this trip to Machu Pichu.

We had a speaker from another one of the National Projects – "Caring for Mother Earth in Bolivia."

We had our Annual Business Meeting in February where our Minister Karen led us in Bible Study. We also had at this meeting our usual Bring & Buy which raised £100 which was donated to "Dreams Come True."

In March we heard from Mrs Alison Anderson about work she was involved with in France to recover and identify remains of soldiers from World War 1.

Brownies came along and put us to the test, we made a card for St. Patrick's Day, had a quiz which I am sure the Brownies did better than the Guild and they played a game.

We had a Holy Week service led by Karen.

We had Fraser Donaldson who gave a very interesting and possibly thought provoking presentation on Inverclyde Foodbank.

Since we did not begin after the New Year until the end of January we decided to carry on into April.

We had a husband and wife team who came and spoke about Gideon's International.

Our closing social had as the entertainment Frances Dunlop and the Gaelic Waulking Group.

We finally closed with an evening out at the Tontine Hotel where we enjoyed a meal and fellowship.

We will be commencing our informal meetings on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May where we meet for a chat and a cuppa. Some of us bring our knitting and others like to come for the chat. Anna Seggie

# Presbyterial Council News

Greenock Presbyterial Council has held its Spring Rally and Syllabus Planning meeting since the last magazine. At the Spring Rally our speaker Vicki McCarthy was unable to attend due to illness but we were fortunate that Ian Milne at short notice was able to come along. Our Syllabus Planning meeting gives all the local Guilds a chance to share ideas from the previous session to help arrange speakers and ideas for the forthcoming session. This year was different as we looked at the Future Plan for the Guild and also discussed what Guilds were looking for from the Council. Business Committee have been looking at ways we could take to encourage Guilds to come together oftener. To this end we have arranged to hold 4 "Tea & Chat" afternoons during the summer months. The idea is members of the local Guilds can drop in, enjoy a cup of tea and have a chat with friends. This venture will be reviewed after the summer break. The committee have also decided to hold 2 evening meetings and 2 afternoon meetings during the session, the evening meetings will be at the start before the nights get too dark for members to come out. The final meeting will be in the form of an entertainment evening.



# National Guild News

I've attended several venues since the last time I reported in the magazine, a Roadshow in Motherwell, the Resource Co-ordinators meeting in Stirling which I found interesting (ideally I would like someone within the council to take on this task), I've also attended 2 Resource days (Glasgow & Ayr) these replace the former Theme & Topic Day. I've also been attending various meetings in Edinburgh on behalf of The Guild, nationally & locally. I stated in the last magazine the connection that has been forged with Malawi and the offering at the "Big Sing" in November 2015 was to go to Loudon Training College in Embangweni to furnish the rooms in the hostel. At a recent National Executive meeting it was passed that the rooms would be named after people connected with the Guild including Archibald Charter who is the founder of the Guild. If any more money is raised from events it will be used to further the connection of The Guild with Malawi.

The Guild Annual report will be given at the General Assembly on Tuesday 24 May probably in the afternoon. It has been agreed that there will be a "Big Sing" in Edinburgh during the General Assembly on that evening, this will be streamed. Our church is to be the venue for anyone wanting to share in this event on the evening at 7pm. This is not just for Guild members, if you enjoy a sing please feel free to come along. Unfortunately the Moderator designate, Rev Dr Russell Barr will not be attending as he & Margaret are to have dinner at the Palace of Holyrood that evening. This event has been well supported and at present there are 130 on a waiting list. Once again the offering at this event will be going to the Loudon Training College.

I'm delighted to say that the next "Big Sing" during Guild Week in November is coming to Westburn Parish Church it was decided that it should come to the west coast and I suggested, with the Kirk Session's approval, that our church was suitable as it could accommodate around 1100 people. So let's hope we have a good turnout and have an enjoyable sing.

Before The Guild event at the General Assembly, I'll be attending the meetings in Edinburgh including the Project Co-ordinators Meeting where those attending will receive the latest news on all the projects.

Also on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April I'll be in Kelso for the Borders Gathering, the idea behind this event is to enable those who cannot for many reasons attend the Annual Gathering in Dundee a chance to participate in something similar in their own region.

As well as that taking place the Guild organisation, due to the Action Plan that was set up, have decided to make alterations to the national format. In future the National Executive will be known as the National Council. It was felt that this would fit in better from the grass roots as we start with the Guild→Presbyterial Council→National Council. The 4 committees are being renamed - Events, Communications and Marketing, Resources and Outreach. So as this session comes to a close the Guild nationally are moving forward under the strategy “Be bold, be strong” in faith.

The amount raised for the first year of the projects for 2015-2018 is as follows:

Ascension Trust (Street Pastors Scotland)	£ 11,838.39
Care for the Family (Let's Stick Together Scotland)	£ 10,006.67
Christian Aid (Caring for Mother Earth in Bolivia)	£ 7,029.06
Feed the Minds (FGM in Kenya)	£ 8,426.75
Mission International (Haiti Project)	£ 4,851.38
Prospects (All Friends Together Scotland)	£ 6,952.85
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 49,952.10</b>

Once again I'm grateful to have this opportunity to share with you all that is taking place within the Guild organisation

Patricia Robertson

## Vhutshilo Mountain School

PO Box 737  
Sibasa 0970  
Tshikombani  
Limpopo Province



Tel: 015 973 0284  
Cell: 072 456 8929  
Fax: 015 963 1386  
[vhutshiloschool@gmail.com](mailto:vhutshiloschool@gmail.com)

NPO 021-664

Dear Stuart,

Please thank the congregation for the generous donation that they gave to the school. It could not have come at a better time as the school water pump broke and we have to get it repaired and clean out the huge water tank. We will also be able to service the school car which is long overdue, and paint the classrooms as they are dirty and grimy. Luckily most of the labor will be done by the older children from the support group who are only too happy to "give back" to Vhutshilo.

At present we have 73 babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers. My one teacher resigned with no notice, which was a huge disappointment as we had trained her up over the past 4 years. I do understand though, as she was offered employment with a much higher salary than we can afford. My other teacher was ill for a while, so it was more chaotic than usual as my gardeners and cooking staff had to take turns to supervise the youngsters while we advertised and interviewed for a new teacher. Thank goodness we are back on track and the children are once again having proper classes.

As usual I am at a loss to express my gratitude for your kindness and ongoing support.

Warm regards and God bless you all.

Sue Anne, staff and children.

# Time for Prayer

None of us fully understands God. We understand only partially, in different ways, based on our own background and experiences. Sometimes we have to be ready to see and understand God in different and maybe startling ways. Such thoughts are reflected in this French prayer from the 17<sup>th</sup> century by Francis de Sales.

I cry to you

Oh my God

I call out your holy name,

But can never fully grasp you!

Lord my God,

You are greater than all our words

And more silent than our silence,

Deeper than any of our thoughts

And far above all our desires.

Give us, O sovereign God,

So great and yet so near,

New eyes to discover you

And a living receptive heart,

To welcome and accept you

Whenever you come to us.

Amen.

Douglas Scott



# Cruise Ships

This year Greenock will once again welcome many cruise ships. 59 ships in all will berth in our port. 18 of the ships are for embarkation, of the 41 others we at Westburn will open the church to welcome visitors from about half of them. On the chosen dates Westburn will be open from 10.00am till noon on week days and from 10.30 on Sundays

We did this last year and those who visited enjoyed their visit, over 300 people signed our visitors' book. We have a leaflet available in several languages which details the history of various parts of the church which the visitors found helpful.

To open the church we need at least 2 volunteers each day. If you have time and would be interested in volunteering there is a list of dates in the centre vestibule, please add your name. All you need is a cheery smile.

If you would like any further information please speak to Cath Barbour or contact by telephone at 723861 or e-mail [cathbarbour1@btinternet.com](mailto:cathbarbour1@btinternet.com).



WILL YOU PLEASE PICK UP ALL YOUR CLOTHES?



# Worship Group

Over the last year, the Worship Group has been discussing the Sunday, and one Thursday, Evening Services, the Wednesday Lent Time for Reflection, Advent and Holy Week Services, discussing any feedback given and how to respond to that.

Over this year we have had Favourite Hymn and Psalms Services, Taize Worship, Prayer Stations, Church Café and a Soup'er Service as it was hoped to offer a variety of worship styles for people to experience.

We would hope to have an outline of any services to be held next year in the Summer Magazine. In the meanwhile there will be a 6:30pm Sunday evening service on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, a prayer evening for the General Assembly, and June 26<sup>th</sup>, a Worship and Quiz Night.

We are also looking at providing Prayer Cards for use by Elders, recording services so that they may be distributed to housebound members, and how to get more people involved in leading worship.

If you are interested in leading prayer, or another part of worship, or would think that you may use a recording of worship then let a member of the Group know they are: Karen Harbison, Jennifer Boag, Tom Ferdinand, Alan Gallacher, Ricky Martin, Hazel Munro, Sheila Tait, and Ann Knox



HOW COME THE WAITRESS GETS 15% AND GOD ONLY GETS 10%?



## **5<sup>th</sup> Greenock and District Scout Group, Beaver and Cub Section**

The Beavers and Cub sections continue to be combined but we are fortunate in having 6 young people who have agreed to take on leadership roles so we will shortly have a dedicated Beaver Leader and Cub Leader in situ. I am hoping this will allow us to once again split these two sections back into two operating sections. The numbers have increased to fourteen although we are going to lose 3 youngsters as they are shortly going to move away from the area. However, with leaders to cover these sections I am hopeful we will be able to increase numbers again. The kids we have always enjoy their nights of games and activities and all current Cubs and Beavers have been with us for some time. Although our numbers aren't great we are at least managing to hold on to the ones we have. If you know of any youngsters looking for a Beaver or Cub placement please do encourage them to come and join our ranks. All are welcome.

Seems such a short time ago we celebrated Christmas and the New Year; Easter has come and gone and we're now looking forward to bright summer nights (I hope!). I hope you've had a pleasant winter of fun and activity within Church life and summer sun comes to help you smile. The Beaver motto is 'Fun and Friends'. I hope this applies to all of us. With so much turmoil in the world it's good to be able to smile and see our young folks grow and develop into teenagers and young adults. With Westburn Church being part of the 5<sup>th</sup> Scout Group life, this gives us all the chance to see these youngsters grow and develop. If you would like to be involved in leadership and be closer to 'the action' please feel free to contact me. The more the merrier.

Yours in Scouting,

Ricky Martin, GSL

# **5th.Greenock Scout Group and Westburn Explorer Unit**

The group has had another year of low numbers in the beaver, cub and scout sections. Numbers have just started to increase in the beavers and cubs. Hopefully this will continue. The group will start a recruitment campaign in the local schools after the Easter break.

The Westburn Explorer Unit has had another successful year and are currently the holders of the Mark Muir Challenge. Six of them are in the process of completing their Gold Duke Of Edinburgh Award and Queen Scout Award and five of them are in the process of becoming leaders with the group.

A number of the group completed the West Highland Way in 5 days over the Easter Break to raise funds for their 11 day summer camp in Prague at the end of June. Photographs attached show the group at the end of the West Highland Way and with the Mark Muir Trophy

Campbell Cairns



PRESBYTERY OF GREENOCK AND PAISLEY

# PRAY ACROSS SCOTLAND 2016

We will gather together

On Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2016 at 7.30pm

At Westburn Parish Church, Nelson Street, Greenock

To worship and pray together for those attending the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Guest Speaker: Rev Owen Derrick

ALL WELCOME

TOGETHER IN PRAYER-EVERY VOICE COUNTS



Date for your Diary

Westburn Parish Church's

***'Early-Bird'***

***Christmas Fayre***

Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> September



**10am to 2pm**

Stalls, coffee, teas, home-baking, fancy goods,  
charity stalls, Christmas Cards, and so much more.

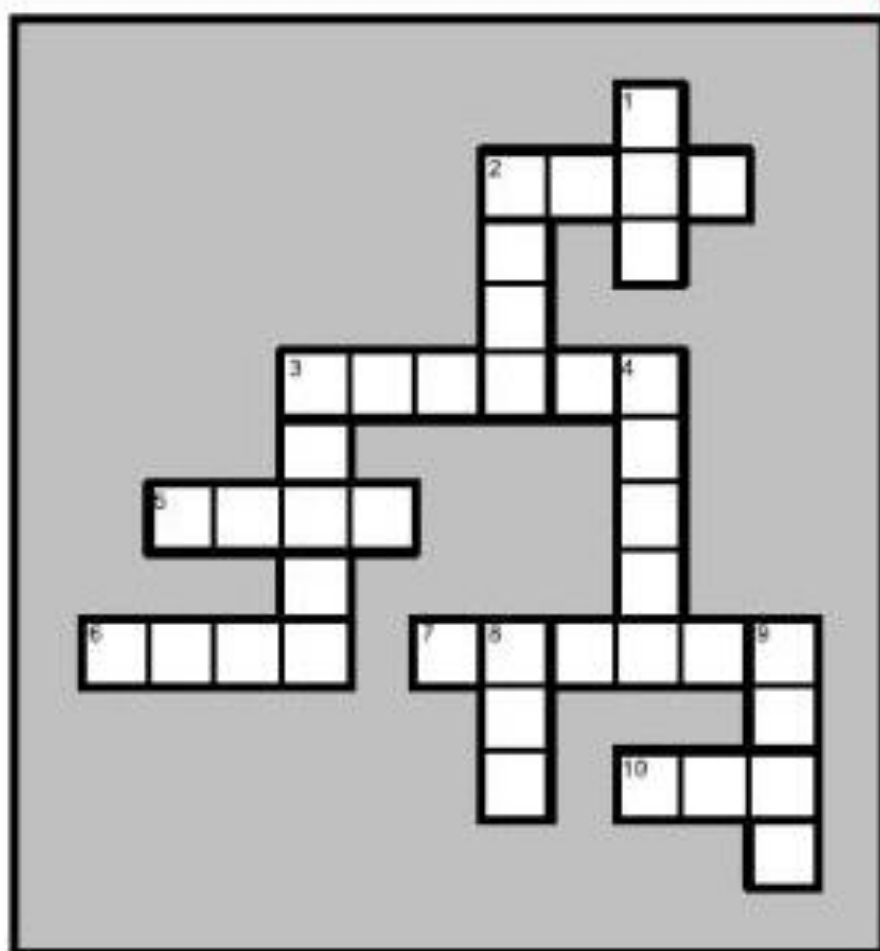
A chance to get some early presents, calendars, cards  
(even a mince pie!)

See weekly intimations and next magazine for more details.

But in the meantime if you are able to make craft items: handmade  
cards, knitted goods for example that could be sold on a stall.

Hopefully this gives more you time!

# Seaside Crossword



## Across

2. It may have a sail or oars
3. Perhaps you could collect water in this?
5. Watch him scurry down his hole
6. They swim in the sea and have scales and fins
7. She sells sea \_\_\_\_\_ on the sea-shore
10. I hope this is out for your holiday

## Down

1. Carry your beach things in this
2. A good read!
3. The strip of sand along the sea shore
4. Dry yourself with this
8. Wear one of these to keep the sun off your head!
9. It feels funny under your toes



# Summer Alphabet Challenge

Can you come up with a summer themed word for each letter of the alphabet?

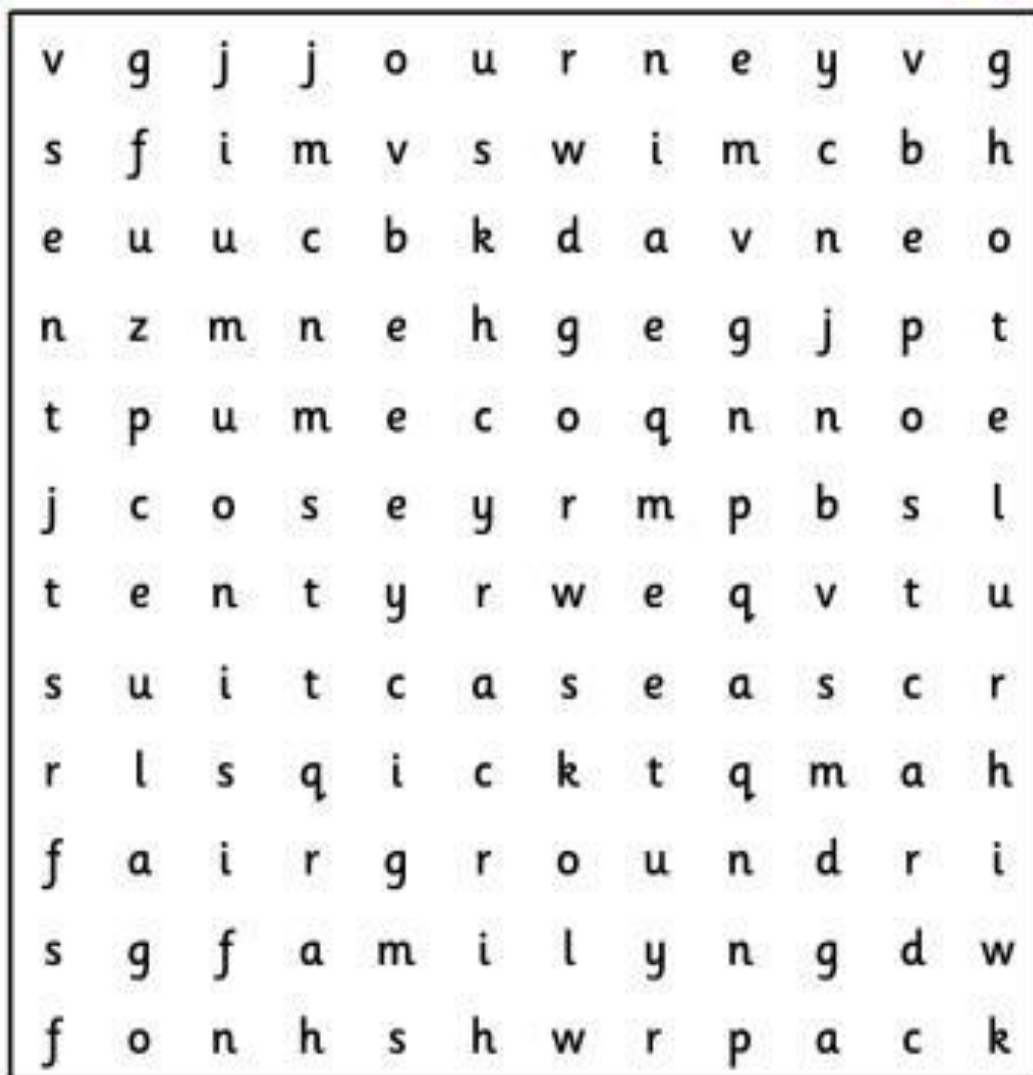


A \_\_\_\_\_  
B \_\_\_\_\_  
C \_\_\_\_\_  
D \_\_\_\_\_  
E \_\_\_\_\_  
F \_\_\_\_\_  
G \_\_\_\_\_  
H \_\_\_\_\_  
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U \_\_\_\_\_  
V \_\_\_\_\_  
W \_\_\_\_\_  
X \_\_\_\_\_  
Y \_\_\_\_\_  
Z \_\_\_\_\_



# Summer Holiday Word Search



fairground

family

fun

hotel

icecream

journey

pack

postcard

suitcase

summer

swim

tent

## Useful Numbers

<b>Office Bearers</b>		
<b>Minister</b>	<b>Rev. Karen Harbison MA.BD.</b>	<b>721048</b>
<b>Session Clerk</b>	<b>Mr Stuart Robertson</b>	<b>725451</b>
<b>Assistant Session Clerk</b>	<b>Mr Alan Gallacher</b>	<b>732634</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Mr Alastair Munro</b>	<b>801057</b>
<b>Organist</b>	<b>Mr Neil McPhee</b>	<b>07903 106628</b>
<b>Roll Keepers</b>	<b>Mr Jim Barbour</b>	<b>723861</b>
<b>Church Officers</b>	<b>Mr Jason Goodwin</b>	<b>07772 312547</b>
	<b>Mr Danny Cairns</b>	<b>07505 826037</b>
	<b>Mrs Gillian McAlister</b>	<b>07968 942438</b>
<b>Presbytery Representative</b>	<b>Miss Margaret Crawford</b>	<b>633027</b>
<b>Church Secretary for magazine</b>	<b>Mr Jason Goodwin</b>	<b>07772 312547</b>
<b>Church Telephone</b>		<b>720257</b>