



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

Welcome to the Spring Magazine 2014

As the constant rain and wind continues, I am sure we are all looking forward to spring and hopefully some dry and bright weather. Even with all the bad weather we already have the early signs of spring with some snowdrops through and many of the bulbs appearing, reminding us of what we have to look forward to. Of course in Westburn we have a lot to look forward to, as we get to know and work with our new minister Rev. Karen Harbison together with her husband Calum, son Duncan and daughter Eilidh. Karen was inducted on 6th February when we had a wonderful evening and social to welcome her.

Yes we have a lot to look forward to bright spring flowers, lots and lots of daffodils, and in Westburn all the expectations of Easter under Karen's ministry

Material for next magazine is due by Sunday 20th April 2014
e-mail to cathbarbour@btconnect.com

Greetings from the new folk in the manse to all members and friends of Westburn Parish Church !

The Harbison family – Karen, Calum, Duncan and Eilidh - have recently moved 'doon the water' from Hamilton to Greenock and we are making our way through all the boxes, unpacking and sorting and finding places for everything. We keep thinking that we have lost things and then when we open another box, the very thing we thought we'd lost appears.

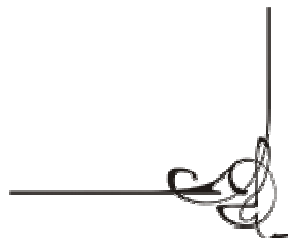
We are grateful for the friendliness and welcome of those we have already met and look forward to meeting many more of you over the coming months. Please introduce yourselves to us and keep on reminding us of your names as it will take quite a while to get to know you all.

By the time you receive this magazine , the Induction Service and Social Evening will have taken place and we will truly be at the beginning of a new chapter in the story of Westburn. The story of any congregation is the story of the people, of the place, of the past , of the present and of the future but most importantly it is God's story ,God's story which we are privileged to be part of .

We look forward to being part of God's story with you in the days to come.

Yours,

Karen, Calum , Duncan and Eilidh.



From the Revd. Morris Coull

I am pleased to have this opportunity to say what a joy and delight it has been for Ann and me to have had the opportunity of spending some two years with you in Westburn. The time just seems to have disappeared which is a real sign of just how much we enjoyed being here. The warmth and affection that we have experienced will go with us.

My thanks go especially to the Kirk Session and Session Clerk for the great support they offered this Interim Moderator! You are richly blessed in the quality of your office-bearers and it gave me particular pleasure as one of my last acts as Moderator to ordain seven members of Westburn to the Eldership.

Ann and I are delighted that for you now there is the excitement and anticipation of going forward with Karen as your Minister and together enjoying God's richest blessings.

I am, your friend,

Morris Coull

Pastoral Record

Baptisms

3.11.13 Kenneth & Heather's son : Brody

26.01.14. Sinclair & Louise's daughter: Lucy Elizabeth.



New Elders Inducted 12th January 2014.

Douglas Pilkington, Mina Mitchell, Simon Hutton, Interim Moderator Revd Morris Coull, Findlay McAllister, Irene MacDonald, Craig Lindsay and Jennifer Lindsay.

CHURCH NEWS BOOK

If you are aware of anyone who is ill or would benefit from a visit from the minister, please make an entry in the news book with their name and address. It is helpful if you sign your entry.



Life and Work

LIFE AND WORK

Life and Work is available on the last Sunday of every month priced £2.00 Subscriptions available.



CARING SPECIAL

THE SUNFLOWER GARDEN

Working with the young carers
THE CHURCH'S ROLE IN SUPPORTING
SCOTLAND'S CARERS

Please contact **Shelagh Hendry Tele. 794667**.
Delivery can be arranged if you are unable to get to church.

Find us on FACEBOOK



Search on FACEBOOK for
“**Greenock Westburn Church of Scotland**” and
join the social media
revolution.

Greenock Westburn Church Web Site

Have you put your syllabus, planned activities, or interesting comments about your organisation or group on your web page. If not it may look as though you're not doing anything interesting. Have you looked at your page on the web, can you make it more interesting, add photographs, make comments, ask one of your members to write about what it is they enjoy about your group. Jim Bell will be happy to update your page.



A similar invitation is made to any church member who feels that they can assist in making the web site more interesting.

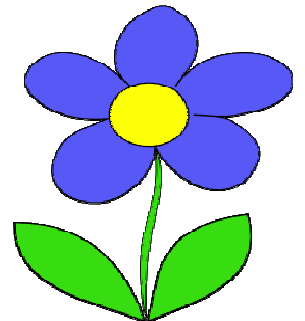
Our church web site can be found at - <http://www.greenockwestburn.org.uk/>
Please visit it and view it's contents.

Further information can obtained from Jim Bell (01475 799381 or all.the.bells@ntlworld.com)

CHURCH FLOWERS

There are a lot of spaces in the Flower Calendar for delivering flowers after Worship . If you can help out with this important task please add your name to the delivery lists, unfortunately it is always the same people who willingly deliver, it would be good to have more volunteers.

Your help would be greatly appreciated.



PRESBYTERY OF GREENOCK AND PAISLEY Nov/Dec REPORT

NOTICES - Lay Readers were presented, including our own Jenniferr Boag, and were thanked for their input to preaching and pastoral care within Presbytery.

VACANCY COMMITTEE - Presbytery sustained the call from Greenock: Westburn to Karen Harbison, minister at Hamilton Trinity.

BUSINESS- Rev.David Stewart was appointed as Presbytery chaplain to work with Rev. Maureen Leitch.

MISSION AND DISCIPLESHIP – Safeguarding for Kirk Sessions – Sunday 27th April – 2 – 4pm Cornerstone.

Presbytery agreed to grant £100 for a gathering of Safeguarding Co-ordinators in late May early June.

We are asked to pray specifically for our local Foodbanks and give thanks for them within the Presbytery.

COMMUNITY INTERESTS – It was noted Inverclyde Family Contact Centre are appealing for volunteers to add to their team. Please contact Margaret Sinclair on 07890520196 for more info.

WORLD MISSION AND ECUMENICAL RELATIONS – Presbytery give thanks for the Interfaith Renfrewshire Group and it's witness to the Christian faith. The Spiritual care team is based at Reid Kerr College and has outreach to students and conducts inter-faith services.

PRESBYTERY PLAN REVIEW – The current Presbytery Plan calls for a linkage with Greenock Mount Kirk when Greenock East End achieves full status. From the date of this linkage the minister of the Mount Kirk will be granted unrestricted tenure.

ZIMBABWE – It was agreed that a Zimbabwean delegation visit either March or October. There will be updates on progress of this proposed visit.

PROPERTY – Greenock: Lyle Kirk intend to employ architects approved by the Church of Scotland to manage their proposed extensive upgrade. Formal Presbytery approval will be sought as each stage is embarked upon.

SUPERINTENDENCE – The Committee was instructed by Presbytery to offer support to the office bearers and congregation of Lyle Kirk after the Case of Dissent was heard at Sep. meeting. The Committee's visits were appreciated and will offer ongoing support as needed. More info. on Presbytery reports is available on website [www.presb@greenockand paisley.org](http://www.presb@greenockandpaisley.org)

Margaret Crawford Representative Elder

Pastoral Committee

1. The Committee met on 2nd December 2013 and the next meeting will be a short meeting after the morning service on Sunday, 2nd February 2014.
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, Margaret Forbes 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.

Bill Dempster

Careful

There was a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country.

“Is there anything breakable in here?” asked the postal clerk.

The lady thought for a moment, and replied:

“Only The Ten Commandments.”

PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT MAGAZINE – Spring 2014

All necessary work has been completed at the manse. The Harbison family are delighted with the facilities available in their new home.

Refurbishment of the Gent's Toilet was completed in January 2014

In the coming year, the main work proposed is redecoration of the Main Hall, Youth Hall and painting of external down pipes.

Investigation is continuing with regard to the work required to address external stonework repairs as identified in the Presbytery Quinquennial Report.

Proposals regarding the installation of an audio/visual system have been finalised between the Property Committee and the Future Focus Group. This has been endorsed by the Executive Committee. Three representatives of Church of Scotland (CARTA) have visited the church and subsequently given their approval. A presentation will be given to the Kirk Session on Wednesday 12th February with the aim of securing final approval to allow us to proceed.

The Quatercentenary Board was removed from the walls prior to redecoration. This board reflects the timeline from 1591 to 1991 of Greenock's First Protestant Congregation. Due to aging, the colours were faded. Bill Millar (a member of our congregation) who assisted with the preparation of the original has supplied a copy with full colour. The Board has now been restored and put in place on the foyer wall.

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)



Messy Church at Westburn

Messy Church takes place on the second Saturday in the month and runs from **4 pm to 6 pm** it is for all ages and all family and friends will be made most welcome.

The afternoon starts with tea, coffee, juice and a biscuit and we then have around 8 activities that we can all take part in, these have been decorating cakes, folding and flying paper aeroplanes, making an edible Eden, decorating an egg to name only a few.

We then all move through to the lounge for a worship celebration of our theme and activities and from there back to the main hall where the tables are set for a meal and we all sit together and share in the food that has been prepared for us.

The remaining Messy dates for 2014 are as follows

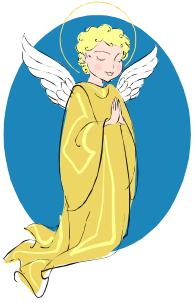
8 March

12 April

Please free to join us for one or all of our Messy Church celebrations. We look forward to seeing you there.

**Messy Ch ch
What is missing from Messy
Church?
UR !!!**





TIME FOR PRAYER

Our congregation now has a new minister, and so we embark on a new chapter, a new phase, in the life of our church. This is an opportunity for renewal, for facing up to the realities and challenges which face us today.

We will meet these challenges buttressed and sustained by the eternal message of salvation and redemption which is conveyed to us by the story of our Lord's resurrection, the final triumph of the power of goodness.

In that spirit, and looking forward a little, here is a prayer for Easter, adapted from an 18th century Swiss prayer.

Eternal God, merciful Father,
You have shown us such love that through Christ you have offered us everlasting life, over which death has no dominion. Impress in our hearts the mighty potential of the first Easter day, which helps us to sustain hope and optimism throughout our lives.

May we focus all our thoughts and actions on refreshing our lives through the example of our Lord and Saviour, whose power and strength can invigorate us and lead us to eternal life. Amen

Douglas Scott

PRAYTIME

PRAYER IN ACTION

At the village church hall, those present wondered why the minister had failed to turn up for the scheduled prayer meeting, but they decided to proceed without him, as he had advised them to do on such an occurrence.

Just as the meeting was ending, the minister finally arrived, and the people asked him why he had neglected to arrive on time. "Well", he replied, "I was on my way here and I passed a house where a little child had been left all alone, and was crying. His mum had left him alone to go to the prayer meeting. So I stopped off for a bit and played with the little boy till he became tired and fell asleep. Then I made my way here. Sorry if I'm a bit late."

REAL PRAYER GIVES US STRENGTH TO GET INVOLVED, LIKE THAT MINISTER- NOT TO AVOID RESPONSIBILITIES. PRAYER FREES US UP TO FACE REALITY AND COPE, NOT TO EVADE IT.

(from Douglas Scott, presbytery prayer coordinator:)

BIBLE STUDY

The Adult Education Committee has arranged a series of meetings for bible study based on short DVD films by Philip Yancey: "What's so amazing about Grace?"

Yancey's books and videos on Christian faith sell in millions. He has a reputation as a brilliant spokesman for Christianity for our times, but we reckon that some of your thoughts could be even more interesting.

So we hope that you will join us for some or all of these meetings, which will take place at Westburn at 7.30 on five Thursday evenings, beginning on Thursday, 13th March.

It is always good to reflect on what our faith means to us now, so if you can make it, we hope to see you there.

Adult Education Committee

Don't Panic we know Christmas is over, this is a nice message from Christmas but we can find comfort in being close to Jesus at anytime and anywhere let's all be close to Jesus in 2014.

This Nativity Scene was erected in a church yard. During the night the folks passing came across this scene. An abandoned dog was looking for a comfortable, protected place to sleep. He chose baby Jesus as his comfort. No one had the heart to send him away so he was there all night.



We should all have the good sense of this dog and curl up in Jesus' lap from time to time.

This is too sweet not to share. No one mentioned that the dog breed is a "shepherd!"

OUR NEW SLOGAN

Life is as it is. We know that life can be good, we know that life can be rotten, we know that life can be something in between. So we get on with it, we take it as it comes, we try to cope. We congratulate or feel jealous towards those who seem to succeed, and we sympathise with or despise or ignore those who cannot cope.

Yet we like to gather regularly together in church, and praise God. So we must think that there is more to all this. By gathering together to pray and to worship, we are making a statement. We are saying that life is good, that life has a purpose.

We all know that there are many problems, that bad things happen, but bad is not the last word.

On the road to Jericho, a man lay dying.; he lay there wounded, thinking that the end of his life had come. Maybe he thought about his family, his wife and children: what would happen to them. Maybe he pondered how unfair life was. Maybe he thought about how he had let people down. Maybe everything had been going really well for him up till then. Maybe not.

But then along comes the stranger. The foreigner, the Samaritan, turns up, and all ends well.

Somebody came along and acted in time of need, and the man was saved. Jesus told that story to show us what it is all about.

We are Christians, the followers of Jesus.

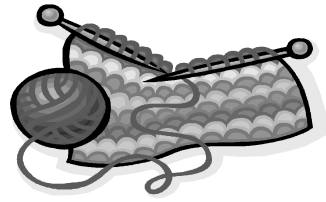
At Westburn we have adopted a new slogan:

WORSHIP, FRIENDSHIP, ACTION: A KIRK THAT CARES

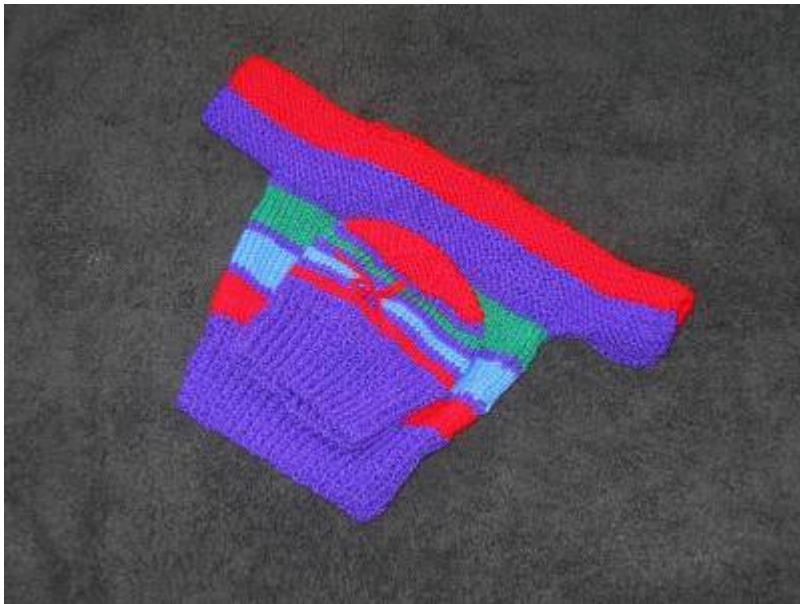
We hope that that slogan will remind us of what we are about and inspire us to bring God's message to our world. What do you think? Are we all parts of a kirk that cares?

Future Focus Group

Fish and Chip Babies.



Fish and Chip Babies were so called because babies were wrapped in newspaper. The Fish and Chip Baby Project was set up to knit baby outfits of a simple dress and hat to clothe the babies when born.



Since March 2013 1800 sets had been collected and this year more outfits have been gathered. These outfits are distributed by Christian Aid to areas of India and Africa. Apart from our own members in Westburn, we collect from the Hospice, Genfield and other churches.

Another shipment has just gone and knitting is continuing.

We have a special request from the distributors for knitting to be in dark colours as the items do not get washed (so no white or baby pastel shades, please). Dorothy Murray always has examples of dark tops with her on Sundays.

We thank everyone for their continued support, for further information please contact **Anne or Susan Skedd (724367) or Dorothy Murray (724791)**

Church of Scotland World Mission Used Stamps.



This year's project is " The Living Water Project " in the Czech Republic.

There is a great amount of money collected each year through the Church of Scotland World Mission Used Stamps. Many churches are involved , simply by bringing our used stamps to church we can support this very worthwhile project. There is a small red basket in the centre vestibule, please continue to bring your used stamps. **Evelyn Taylor** keeps us up to date with current projects and monies raised.

GUILD

The Guild held a very successful Coffee Morning in November, just at the time when the Philippines disaster took place. The committee decided that once the monies had been deducted for Guild purposes we would send the rest to the Philippines Disaster Fund via Christian Aid. The final sum sent was £1057.55. We would like to thank most sincerely all those who helped by donating for the Coffee Morning and those who supported the appeal on the following Sundays.

This session we will have heard about another 2 projects which the guild is supporting, Mary's Meals (Making a Difference in Liberia) and Passage from India.

Everyone at the meeting thoroughly enjoyed learning more about "Passage from India" and gave the ladies a very warm reception. Those projects will receive a donation from our funds this session.

We attended the Christmas Celebrations meeting in St.John's Church, Gourrock in early December. Everyone attending enjoyed the afternoon and also the chance to see the sanctuary of St. John's, as it has been decorated for the Christmas Season. Every organisation is invited to decorate a window ledge.

Our first foots were the members of the Girls' Brigade at our first meeting in January, I think everyone enjoyed the night. It was great to involve the youngsters and as is the norm there were one or two who caught our attention with their enthusiasm. At the end of January we had our Burns' Night (no longer a full Burns' Supper)

The theme of the Guild this year is "A Fellowship to Build" and we decided we would invite ladies from other denominations to join us, the speaker for the night will be Sheena McFarlane, (former head teacher of Ardgowan Primary School). Her topic is our theme.

Our new minister Rev Karen Harbison will attend our ABM and will lead us in our Bible Study.

By the time you receive this magazine we will have had Presbyterial Council ABM, in Lyle Kirk (Ardgowan Building) Mr John Burleigh will address us on his trip to China in connection with Peking Medical School which was set up by a Greenock man. Our final Council meeting will be held in St.Andrew's Port Glasgow at the beginning of March when a speaker from the project "Comfort Rwanda " will address us.

The Total raised at 31st December 2013 for Guild Projects is as follows :

Comfort Rwanda – Building a better Rwanda	£50,050.39
CrossReach/Social Care Council (Church of Scotland) – Heart for Art	£80,340.39
Mary's Meals – Making a difference in Liberia	£56,103.01
Ministries Council (Priority Areas) (Church of Scotland) – Passage from India	£23,741.19
Scottish Churches Housing Action – Julius Project	£43,462.69
World Mission Council (Church of Scotland) – Out of Africa Into Malta	£42,072.16

Total to date **£295,769.83**

Anyone wishing to attend any of our meetings will be given a warm welcome.

Patricia Robertson

The Rotary Club of Greenock
And
The Stedfast Silver Band
Present a Concert in aid of End Polio Now



Saturday, 8th March 2014: 7pm for 7:30pm
In Westburn Church, Nelson Street, Greenock
Tickets only £6 each—available from
The Rotary Club Members
Or Bob on 01475 520428
Or Bill on 01475 784317

All proceeds from this event will be donated to Rotary's “End Polio Now” Campaign

FROM THE ROLL-KEEPER

DEATHS

Mr.	A.	Kemp	5 Houston St.	1	died Jan.
Mrs.	I.	Wilson	14 South St.	2	died Jan.
Mr.	G.	McEwing	197 Finnart St.	4	died Nov.
Mrs.	M.	Bell	68 Brisbane St.	5	died Dec.
Mrs.	M.	Ferdinand	66 Brisbane St.	5	died Nov.
Miss	M.	Kerr	13 Clyde Rd.	12	died Jan.
Mr	D.	McEachran	62 Davaar Rd.	12	died Jan.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Mr.& Mrs.	U.	Mukherji,	11 Ash Wynd, Cambuslang	21	from D2
Mrs.	S.	Williamson	4 Bayview Rd.	10	from D7
Ms.	J.	Lindsay	2 Brachelston St.	14	from D6
Mrs.	M.	Cabrie	4 Regent Ct.	17	from D19
Miss	J.	Parnham,	F12, John Galt Hs., Duncan St.	18	from D17
Mrs.	E.	Pow	Bagatelle, 47 Eldon St.	22	stays D22
Mr.	I.	Gillies	Mariner's Hm	22	from D

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