



Welcome to the September Magazine. It is good to be reporting all is well in Westburn and we have no more ministerial moves to report.

Our Interim Moderator Rev. Bill Armstrong is in charge and has settled in well, many of you have had a visit or a chat with Bill as he continues to get to know the congregation. One way of helping the minister is to be sure to let him know of any members who are ill or in hospital, by putting a note in the News Book.

Bill and his wife Laura are very much part of the family of Westburn and will be with us till June 2010, when Bill Hewitt's Moderator's year will be finished and he will return to Westburn.

But that's 2010. This is 2009 and the start of our winter activities, when the church becomes alive, there is plenty going on, check out 'What's on at Westburn' in the centre of the magazine and support our organisations and leaders. A warm welcome awaits you.

You will read in the magazine that we are vacating the Sanctuary to worship in the hall while a much needed new central heating system is being fitted. We are all asked to support these services and enjoy the fellowship in warmth and comfort over the winter months.

The next Magazine material is due by 18th October

Material to either Cath Barbour or Joe Craig or e-mail Cath at cathbarbour@btconnect.com.

The Magazine team.



Forecasting The Future

Dear Friends,

The long-range weather forecasters promised a "barbecue" summer and so it turned out to be, at least in part. For those of us who remember the good days, we did enjoy an above average share of sunshine, particularly in July, and I hope you were cheered by brighter and warmer days; but August brought us back to reality with incessant rain.

Despite the "credit crunch", whether you managed to explore far away places or, like us, you spent some free time at home, I hope the escape from routine, if that was available to you, has been to your benefit.

We have been in the process of renovating the house we moved into last October; and the saga continues. We feel as though we have been living on a building site for the last few months waiting for tradesmen to do work that is far beyond the capabilities of even a DIY enthusiast. Thankfully, throughout our holiday, much of the work has seen a major advance, but the end is not yet in sight.

In another sense it has been a barbecue summer for us. My family conspired to invest in a small, charcoal-fired contraption, perhaps just to encourage me to eat *al fresco*; but after initial attempts at barbecuing I managed only to produce a succession of burnt offerings.

Forecasting the future of the Church can be as unpredictable as forecasting the weather. The routine work will continue as long as there are people who are prepared to accept the responsibilities of leadership. I have discovered a wealth of gifted and committed people in Westburn who give a great deal of time and effort to ensure that the work of the Church goes on unabated; and I will also do my level best to fulfil my obligation to the congregation throughout the remainder of my time with you.

In the five months I have been in Westburn I have made my own brief assessment of the life of the congregation. I have sensed an acceptance of my ministry, for which I am very grateful, and gradually I'm getting to know a fair number of people – if only I could remember all the names!

My main concern is that such a relatively small proportion of the membership attends worship. On average less than three hundred out of a membership of nine hundred appear in Church Sunday-by-Sunday. In some instances this may well be due to circumstances. Those who are housebound or infirm and unable to attend are kept in touch with the congregation through pastoral support; but there are many who rarely appear for a variety of reasons which would be impossible to enumerate.

Another related concern is the lack of children in Sunday School. Nowadays there may be many counter attractions that may have greater appeal, but the commitment made by parents in Baptism is that children would be brought up in "the life and worship of the Church"; and it is also discouraging for the Sunday School staff who prepare lessons week-by-week often in the vain hope that some children will turn up.

We often think of the Church as a family, the "Family of God". In normal family life there is an understanding that everybody "belongs" and an expectation that everybody has a part to play. If you stay away, chances are you will lose contact.

As we begin a new session in congregational life there is the opportunity to make a fresh start. If, for whatever reason you have become estranged from your Church family, a welcome awaits you.

What is the long-range forecast for Westburn? The future could well be in your hands.

God bless you all,
Bill Armstrong



50 Ardgowan Street
Greenock
August 2009

Dear Friends,

We are staying in Greenock for a couple of days at the end of our holidays before returning to Edinburgh and I can't believe that I am already three months into the year. If you have been following the website then you will know that we have been very busy and very privileged to have received so many wonderful invitations to a wide variety of events.

Our visit in July to South Africa was very special for we were able to combine some national church business with private visits to two of the projects that we support as a congregation. On our first day we were met by Chris Goosen who runs the Family Upliftment Centre, providing accommodation for homeless white families in Johannesburg. That in itself was an eye opener for me for we normally associate poverty in South Africa with the black community but especially within the cities there is a growing number of whites who have nothing. Many choose to sleep in shanty towns with little more than a box or a blanket and the Family Upliftment Centre will provide very basic but safe accommodation allowing the family to try to get their life back on track. As well as food and shelter Chris will try to find work for those who come to the centre and literally give them an up-lift, recovering something of their dignity and self worth. After staying in the centre for some months many of these families can move back into the community having found work and a home of their own. Chris was an inspiration, a man with a vision and the skills to help others. Our contact with him came through Billy and Joyce Dempster who met his step-daughter while they were living in Ireland. She is a Presbyterian minister and I hope that she will be able to come and visit sometime next year.

Later in the trip we were also able to travel to Venda, situated in one of the poorest regions of South Africa, to visit the Vhutshilo Mountain School which has a special place in all our hearts. We drove from Johannesburg to the school and I had to check the boot before I left the school to make sure that Moira hadn't brought a couple of kids back home with her. They were absolutely wonderful and you can picture the bright eyes and happy smiling faces that waved us away. What Suzi and her team have built from virtually nothing is astounding and it was great to see for ourselves what she has

done. It was also good to be able to welcome her and her daughter to Edinburgh earlier in the summer and I know that the Sunday they spent with you was very special.

There are many stories to tell of wonderful people overcoming difficulties to help others in need and no doubt more of these will be revealed in the months to come. We turn our attention to home for a little while and after engagements with the Guild and the Children's Assembly on Iona and the Navy in Plymouth we will have our first Presbytery visit spending ten days in Caithness and trying to support and encourage the churches up there who are struggling with a real shortage of ministers.

It is a real privilege to be able to represent the Church of Scotland in so many different places and I hope and pray that our visits do encourage the local congregations and also strengthen bonds that exist between the National Church and other Churches and organisations all over the world.

I know that you are in good heart thanks to Bill Armstrong and all those who are leading the Church at this time.

May God bless you and may you feel that you have a vital part to play in the work for His Kingdom.

Bill Hewitt

Penilee
Glasgow

August 2009

Hi Folks,

I write this letter to you from our new house in Penilee. We are just about totally settled in. The garden is about to be "modified" so that we can have flowerbeds and hence a bit of colour to look at.

With the alterations that we have made we've had to rely on a variety of workmen – enough said. But it has been worth it.

We have found a new Church fairly close by and feel happy in it. It is weird, though, sitting in the pew but I am rapidly adjusting to that new situation.

Nancy joins with me to once more thank you for your wonderful generosity to us in my retiral events. I was overwhelmed by the magnificent cheque that you presented to me and Nancy just loves the gifts that she received. Most of all thank you for the love that you have shown to both of us. We will remember that, and you, for all our lives.

God bless you all.

Love

Douglas and Nancy Hamilton



Greenock Westburn Church Web Site

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

Each Church Organisation has it's own individual page. As the winter session is about to commence, the Organisations are encouraged to use their page to advertise their syllabus or activities.

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

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

Life and Work

Life and Work is available the last Sunday of every month priced £1.60
Subscriptions available.

Please contact **Shelagh Hendry Tele. 794667.**

Delivery can be arranged if you are unable to get to church.

CHURCH NEWS BOOK

The Church News Book can be found on the table at the front of the Church, please use this as a communication to help keep the ministers informed of anyone who is ill or in hospital, or of any news of special birthdays and anniversaries.

Be sure to add the person's address even if they are in hospital.

If the minister doesn't know he can't do anything about it.

Pastoral Care Committee

1. **Annual Car Run** – was held on Wednesday, 24th June 2009. 29 members in 12 cars were transported around Inverclyde, Ayrshire and Helensburgh. The Members then enjoyed supper and fellowship in the Church Hall later in the evening. Many thanks to the drivers for giving up their time to be chauffeurs for the night and to the Ladies who prepared and served an excellent supper. The Committee has received cards and letters of thanks from Members who appreciated the night and the fellowship. Two of the drivers received gifts, one driver got a bouquet of flowers and another got a rainbow , big enough to feed an army.
2. **Harvest Thanksgiving** will be on Sunday, 27th September 2009. The Kirk Session has agreed that Westburn Church will continue to support the South African Projects. You are invited to put a monetary gift in an envelope marked "South Africa" during the offering. There will be an opportunity to donate up to and including Communion Sunday, 4th October 2009
3. **Church Visitors** – the committee is still looking for volunteers to be Church Visitors. If you are interested, please contact Bill Dempster, Ruth Gillies or any member of the Pastoral Care Committee.

Bill Dempster

SANCTUARY HEATING

As noted in the Order of Service, due to lack of heating it will soon be necessary to vacate the sanctuary and transfer to the hall where worship will be held until the new heating system is installed. The timing of the services will not change, but the space available will be restricted. This does not mean that members should stay away from Church, but that more may be encouraged to attend the earlier services.

General Assembly 2009

Many years ago, when Rev Bill Johnstone, the former minister of St George's church, was the Moderator, my father asked if he could go the General Assembly that year. So I thought I would follow my father's example this year when our own Rev Bill Hewitt elected as the Moderator. As there are often congregations who can't find someone to attend as a Commissioner, it is usually possible to take up a spare place.

So on the opening morning of the Assembly, I was sitting among the Commissioners and not in the gallery with the many people from Westburn who went through for the election of the new Moderator. It was a very proud moment for all of us and a huge privilege to be able to say that I was a member of the Moderator's church.

One of the advantages of being from the Moderator's church was the number of extra invitations which I received to events during the Assembly. Along with others from Westburn, I went to the Moderator's Reception on the Thursday night and I was also invited with other Commissioners from our Presbytery to the Lord High Commissioner's Reception at Holyrood Palace – where I met an old friend of Douglas and Nancy Hamilton from their courting days in Glasgow.

I was asked to be a greeter for the Lord High Commissioner, something I didn't even know we did. Every session when the Lord High Commissioner arrives, he is met by a small delegation of Commissioners and introduced to them. They then provide an escort for his entrance to the Assembly Hall and are to be seen lurking behind his chair in the Hall for the first part of the session. This year's Lord High Commissioner was again George Reid, the former Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament. He proved to be a most interesting man and an honour to meet and greet.

It also gave me great satisfaction to be invited to take part in the Sunday evening Assembly worship. I took part in a dialogue with Alison Bennett, the Presbytery Youth delegate. We played the roles of mother and daughter on the day of her daughter's wedding.

Although the media coverage of the Assembly was dominated by discussions on the issue of the appointment of Rev Scott Rennie to Queens Cross Church in Aberdeen, for those of us attending the Assembly, this did not overshadow the debates and other business. If anything, it served to make Commissioners more attentive to the views of those with whom they disagreed. It became quite a

theme of the Assembly for Commissioners to offer to meet those they disagreed with over coffee to discuss their differences and try to reach an understanding, if not an agreement.

The most moving event of the Assembly was on Chaplains Day when we had a live radio link with Camp Bastion in Afghanistan. The lesson for morning worship was read to us by one of our Chaplains with the Army there. The Moderator was also able to speak with two of the Chaplains during the service. We then had a presentation in which we were shown, in a series of slides, images of a simple memorial service for a young soldier killed in combat there just a few weeks before the Assembly. Few failed to be moved by its simplicity and poignancy.

I think for many people, myself included, the highlight of this year's Assembly was the visit from the Most Rev Desmond Tutu, Archbishop Emeritus of Cape Town. When the Assembly Business Convenor announced his visit, a very audible Oooooo! went round the Assembly (to be contrasted with the polite silence which greeted the news that we were also to be addressed by Alex Salmond, the First Minister). Archbishop Tutu was inspiring, enthusiastic, just amazing, with his theme that "We are family" and that God calls us to help Him to make this a more compassionate world – He has no one else but us to do it.

If you have access to the internet and haven't already watched the clip (about 25 minutes) of the Archbishop's address, please do make time to watch it and be inspired!

http://stream1.churchofscotland.org.uk/generalassembly/archive/2009/video_w.php?vf=adt

At the final session of the Assembly, the roll of deceased ministers is read by the outgoing Moderator, and Westburn members will want to know that the name of Rev Stewart Pyper was one of the first to be read out this year.

On the Saturday night, the Assembly sat as a court of the Church, to judge the Scott Rennie case. The case before us was not on the rights and wrongs of gay ministers, but whether or not the Presbytery of Aberdeen was correct in sustaining the call to Mr Rennie, as church law stood when they took the decision in January. The Moderator made it very clear in his opening remarks to the session, that we should only consider the case as it was put before us and not be influenced by any views or prejudices which we held.

The debate itself was conducted in a very measured and reasoned way. The cases for and against were put and opportunity given for replies. The two

parties were then questioned by Commissioners and the matter was debated for several hours once the parties had been removed. Finally, a vote was taken and the Assembly voted, as I am sure you know, to allow the call to Scott Rennie to be sustained.

I heard many people complimenting the Moderator on the way in which he chaired what was a very challenging evening, which could, with less astute guidance from the chair, have been a much more fraught and strained occasion.

Although I was not representing Westburn church, I feel that I have to tell you how I voted, as the only Westburn member with a vote that evening. I voted in favour of Scott Rennie's appointment for two main reasons.

Firstly, the Assembly was sitting as a court of the church and the case was, as I said before, whether or not the Presbytery of Aberdeen was correct in sustaining the call to Mr Rennie, as church law stood when they took the decision in January. My understanding of the paperwork which I was supplied with, and which I read carefully, and from the debate, was that the Presbytery of Aberdeen was correct in its decision. Whatever my views on the gay ministers, I could see no way in which the decision taken was wrong.

Secondly, coming from a Free Church background (my great-great-grandfather – hope that's the right number of greats! – walked out of the Mid Kirk in Greenock in 1843 at the Disruption to form the Free Middle which later became St George's and now Westburn) I feel quite strongly about the rights of individual congregations to call the minister of their choice. It appeared to me that Queens Cross Church in Aberdeen chose Scott Rennie as their new minister and they were aware, from a report which was circulated to them on the day he preached as sole nominee, of his personal circumstances when they made that choice. On that basis, I believe they were entitled to the minister of their choice, although it might not have been my own choice.

Altogether a very memorable Assembly and one which it was a particular honour and pleasure to attend.

Jennifer Boag

Property Update on the Sanctuary Heating System

I write this on the day that the intimation was given to the Congregation that the Services would be held in the Main Centre Hall from mid September until the existing Sanctuary “collapsed” heating system has been removed and replaced by a new, modern, much more comprehensive and energy efficient system.

In July, the Kirk Session, following the Church receiving a professional report confirming the difficulty and continued uncertainty of repairing the existing system, endorsed replacement.

A Design and Consultancy Engineer was appointed and, drawings of a design incorporating radiators and under pew heating pipes have been received prior to issuing specifications to several qualified and experience contractors. The appropriate submissions are being sent to the Presbytery and the Church of Scotland Trustees in Edinburgh to be considered in early September. Contact has also been set up with Church Art and Architecture Committee which will recommend acceptance or amendment of these plans to the Trustees. All these committees and their like can sound quite bureaucratic, but fortunately they are staffed by helpful folk with whom we have a good relationship. We have been pushing on as fast as circumstances and processes permit.

Only when tenders are received will the actual costs, lead in supply times, and the likely installation start, completion and testing dates be known.

Be assured, progress will be attempted on every day between now and then!

Downstairs Hall and Basement

The extremely dirty work of stripping out the lath and plaster covering to the basement hall stone walls in order to determine the extent and type of rot is now only a memory for Bob Seggie, Ronnie Mackay and others. This however was necessary to allow the exposure and removal, or cutting back of several rotted floor joists. Following this stage the draining of the Sanctuary leaks and the system itself could be undertaken.

By June with wet rot confirmed, the treatment of the walls, floor and joists was completed by Millar Preservations. The fitting of several new joists and joist ends joined by metal sole plates, hammered-out by George Anderson, were fitted, Cast iron heating pipes and radiators in the hall were removed prior to the new separate, inner wall framing being put in place.

Additional electric ring main and sockets have been installed and new pipes and radiators of the separate heating system for the basement facilities put in place as has replacement of some rotted flooring boards. The internal walls have now been re-boarded and plastered.

It is clearly still a work in progress with painting and floor covering the major items outstanding but, hopefully, by the second week in September this area can be used by some specific groups.

Andrew Borland Property Convenor

QUEST STUDY GROUP

The first meeting will be held on Thursday 17th September at 7.30p.m. in the Blue Room.

"Singing in the Rain "is the title of the six week study which uses the Jeff Lucas material-----DVDclips, Bible readings and group discussions.

All are welcome to come and join in this faith exploration.

Margaret Dempsey

COMMUNION

Communion Services on Sunday 4th October 2009 will be at 9.30am and 11am in the Centre Hall due to a new heating system being installed in the Sanctuary.

There will be no afternoon Communion Service but the Rev. Bill Armstrong is willing to visit members who normally attend this service and celebrate Home Communion.

The Common cup will not be available on this occasion complying with advice from Edinburgh and to suit our particular needs at this time.

Stuart Robertson

Session Clerk

Venda Visitors

On 25th June, Sue-Anne Cook and her foster child Vhuhwavho, made a short visit to Greenock, to say thank-you to all the people who helped raise the money to build Vhutshilo Mountain School in Venda.

It was a hectic 4 days, making time to meet up with sponsors, visiting Bill and Moira Hewitt for the day in Edinburgh, a fun filled day in Millport with Ian and Olive McCrorie and a barbecue with the Nimmo family and friends in Gourrock.

On the Sunday, the African themed service was enjoyed by everyone. Vhuhwavho agreed to speak at the church service, and listening to this little 9 year old was very moving.

For those who missed her that day, the following is what she had to say.

“Good morning

My name is Vhuhwavho, my surname is Nevhungoni. I live in Tathe Vondo in South Africa and I am nine years old. My birthday is on the ninth of August 1999.

My mummy died when I was two and I stayed with my old gogo (grandmother).

I was very sick and the sister at the clinic took me to Susie's school. After a while Susie took me to her doctor and he said I had chronic washiokor(it means I wasn't eating properly). They did lots of blood tests and found I was HIV positive. After a while they put me on medicine and the TB was better. I was put on ARV medicine in February 2004.

I stayed with Susie in the week because my gogo was too old to do my medicine. When my gogo died I then became Susie's foster child.

I had to learn to do my medicine when I was little because Susie was a crazy mother to learn how to give me my medicine in time. When other little children were sick with HIV, the doctor would ask me to go and teach them how to take their medicine.

At the new school in Tshikombani, which the church in Greenock gave us the money to build, we have workshops on Saturdays every term, where we learn about medicine and good food, and give each child a watch to help them keep the right time. The children have to learn to look after themselves because their gogos are too old to look after them. The doctors are very happy that the children come to these classes because it keeps them well.

Thank you all for helping the children in our community.
Thank you, Thankyou, Thank you.

It was a real privilege to have Susie and Vhuhwavho with us and they were amazed at the kindness and generosity shown to them in Westburn.

Monica and Les McNeill

A thank you note sent from Sue Anne

Dear Rev Bill

Vhuhwavho and I would like to thank everybody for making us feel so welcome at the Sunday Church Service when we visited Greenock. There were too many kind generous people to thank personally, but I would like to make special mention of the "Shawls full of love, support and healing hugs" that we received from the Westburn Shawl Group.

Please thank your wonderful congregation for their ongoing generosity and support for our little school.

Warm Regards Sue Anne, wawoo.

Monica & Les McNeill would like to say a huge "thank you" to everyone who contributed so generously to **the clothes appeal for the school in Venda**. The clothes were boxed and taken to Glasgow Airport last Saturday and are now on there way to Venda. Again, many thanks.

Continuing on the African theme Neil Hewitt has returned from his trip to Malawi – he writes:-

A day in Malawi

Wake up around 6.30 and climb out of bed from under a mosquito net (an essential piece of equipment in malawi), slowly waking up I head outside and across the garden for a morning shower in ice cold water, it doesn't last long. The house I am staying in has 3 bedrooms, a bathroom and basic cooking facilities, looking out the front window over an incredible uninterrupted view of the surrounding landscape. Breakfast is a bowl of likuni phala, a porridge like meal made from maize and soya flour. Leaving the house around 7.00 and heading on the familiar walk through the woods to Ekwendeni Mission Hospital, a five minute walk. On the way greeting the familiar faces of friends and colleagues on their way to work. Arriving in time for morning prayers which is a short service given in the hospital in the local language of tumbuka. After the service I head through to the meeting room where a clinical meeting takes place everyday before starting work, a chance for nurses to give their report from the night and patients to be discussed. After the meeting I head to the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) department as today I will be joining them to an outreach clinic in Baula.

We begin by loading all the equipment and supplies for the day into the 4x4, then there is chance to buy food for lunch as we will have no chance to buy anything in the village. Most opt for chips and salad which will be cold by the time they are eaten. The journey to the clinic is over rough terrain and dirt tracks and takes about 30 minutes, arriving to a sea of women and children waiting at the empty brick building which will be used today. After unloading all the equipment people begin doing their various jobs. Nurses checking over mothers and young children and then sending them to different rooms for vaccines and drugs. Today I am helping with the antenatal mothers checking how their pregnancy is progressing, taking blood pressure, weight and asking general health questions. Without the mobile clinic many of the women would not travel to the hospital for vaccines or drugs due to the distance. After all the women have eventually been seen it is time for a late lunch of cold chips. Arriving back at the hospital mid afternoon, I find odd jobs to keep me busy until work finishes at 5.pm. Today I have decided not to cook dinner so instead head into the market to a local restaurant with a friend where we have chicken with nsima (like thick porridge made from maize and the staple food in Malawi). Once the bill has been settled, 250 kwacha (about 1 pound), I head back home to do some reading and then finally at about 8.30 tuck myself back under the mosquito net and off to sleep ready for another day.

I would like to thank members of the congregation for supporting me on this trip which was an incredible experience and hopefully I will return to Ekwendeni in the future.

Neil Hewitt

While walking near his church a minister heard what sounded like a prayer. His five year old son and his playmates found a dead robin. Feeling that a proper burial should be performed they dug a hole and prepared for the disposal of the deceased. The minister's son was chosen to say a prayer so in an appropriate voice he spoke the words of what he thought his father always said : 'Glory be unto the Faaaather and unto the Sonnn and into the hole he gooos.'



TIME FOR PRAYER

I don't know whether many people nowadays would see themselves as full-blooded Calvinists. Nonetheless, it is above all to John Calvin that we owe the foundation and development of our reformed Scottish Church, and since this is the year in which we commemorate the 500th anniversary of his birth, let us pay our own tribute by featuring for this quarter one of his prayers.

This brief prayer by Calvin helps us to remember that even when we are asleep and at rest, God remains with us, caring for us and protecting us. If we can grasp and keep hold of that notion, we shall surely be the better for it.

**O Lord God, who has given us the night for rest,
I pray that in my sleep my soul may remain awake to you,
steadfastly adhering to your love.
As I lay aside my cares to relax and relieve my mind,
may I not forget your infinite and unresting care for me.
And in this way, let my conscience be at peace,
so that when I rise tomorrow,
I am refreshed in body, mind and soul.**

Amen.

Douglas Scott

THE GUILD

I can hardly believe that the summer is almost over as I write this article for the Autumn magazine I feel that it has flown past quickly in some ways. I thought we were in for some good weather as at the end of June there was a really nice spell, however I should have known better living in this country it doesn't always follow.

The national programme for the next 3 years is "What does the Lord require of you?" and the theme for this year is "To act justly". I hope the committee has managed to compile a syllabus relating to the theme. Once again we are indebted to our secretary Ida McKenzie for undertaking this task and bringing everything together.

There will be a copy of the syllabus included in the magazine for the first half of the session and would be very pleased if any member of the congregation would like to come along and join us.

One special date for your diary is Saturday 14 November when we will be holding our Coffee Morning and the members would be grateful for your support on that day.

There are 6 new projects for the Guilds to support but I will tell you about them in the next magazine.

As I told you this time last year Moira Hewitt was the new Convener of Greenock Presbyterian Council, she had to be given leave of absence to accompany her husband during his Moderatorial year. She will return to this office on her return to Greenock.

The first meeting of Council is Monday 19 October in St. Andrew's Church, Port Glasgow when the speaker will be Rev Neil Galbraith, who I'm sure some of you will remember as his mother is a member of Westburn and Neil himself was a member of the Boys' Brigade and attended Martyrs' and North Church as a boy. He will be telling us about the overseas work he undertakes in Glasgow.

The committee looks forward to seeing our members at the first meeting on Tuesday 29 September and will be delighted to welcome any new members on a Tuesday evening and ensure them they will be given a warm welcome.

Patricia Robertson

GUILD SYLLABUS for 2009 – 10

September

29 - At Home

October

6 – Opening Social – Greenbank Singers

**13 – Mrs. Kathleen MacPherson – Hollywood -
A Presbyterian Perspective.**

20 - Autumn Rally – St.Andrew's Port Glasgow

27 - Colin Campbell – Education in the West of Scotland

November

3 – Graham Eadie – A trip to Malawi

10 – Duncan Winning – A trip to Greenland

14 - Saturday – Coffee Morning

17 - Joint meeting in Ardgowan Parish Church

24 – Disbursement of Funds – Mrs. Joan Taylor – Theme

December

1 – Mrs. Margaret Foggie – Zimbabwe

8 - Christmas Council Meeting – Ardgowan Parish

15 – In-House Christmas Meal

Brownies

The brownies enjoyed a busy year ending up with a trip to Fun World and, for some, their annual Pack Holiday in June. A big thank you to all of you who donated old round tins. They were recycled by making them into treasure boxes for the girls to take home souvenirs and things that they made over the weekend. The theme for the weekend was Hollywood so they decorated the tins to look like the tins that film reels are kept in. Each girl got the chance to direct, act, film and even work the clapper board. Everyone also went home with an Oscar, which they had to collect after walking up the red carpet accompanied by loud cheers and applause. Great Fun. Some really made a meal of it. Brilliant!

A.McKerlie



Girlguiding

Greenock Ranger Guides

girls in the lead

Our Rangers have enjoyed a busy summer. In July, along with 3rd Greenock Guides, we spent a week in Switzerland. Some of the highlights of our stay included a visit Our Chalet (one of the four Guide World Centres), summer tobogganing & we took a mountain railway to the top of the Jungfrau, 3454m, where the girls enjoyed a husky pulled sled ride.

Just before the school session started in August we spent an evening climbing on crags outside Neilson. This outing was lead by one of our leaders, Louise Lindsay, who recently gained her level 2 climbing & abseiling qualification.

The next 14 months could prove to be very busy too. In September Girlguiding UK will launch their centenary celebrations that will run until 20 October 2010. There are many events planned, both locally and nationally. Amongst the local events which may interest you is a production at the Arts Guild Theatre called Guidespell, this is similar to a gang show but with girls in the lead. This is being staged with lots of help from the team who produce

Greenock Scout Gang Show and promises to be a very entertaining show. Guidespell opens on 18 November and runs until 21 November. Why not come along and see how many familiar Westburn faces you can spot both on stage and in the production team.

If you know of any young women between 14 and 18 years of age who would like to find out more about Ranger Guides please speak to me. Wouldn't it be terrific if we could increase our numbers during our centenary year?

Sheila Tait
Ranger Guide Leader

Girlguiding Centenary Celebrations

Numerous local & national events are planned for this starting in September.

Sept	Local & national launches
Nov 18-21	Guidespell (Arts Guild Theatre)
Jan 16	Ceilidh
Feb 21	Thinking Day
Mar 28	Walk the Division
April	Museum Display
May	Division Camp
June 24	Waverley Cruise

Please look out any Brownie and Guide memorabilia that you may have for the Museum Display. Arrangements to collect this will be made nearer the time.

7th. Greenock Company The Boys' Brigade

The Company will begin the 2009/10 session on Friday Sept. 11th. The Anchor Boys and junior section will meet in the church hall between 6 pm and 7.15 pm. The Company Section will also meet in the church hall between 7.30 pm and 9.45 pm. New boys will be made very welcome to all sections. Parents requiring information regarding age ranges etc. should contact Company Captain John Murray [phone 638579] or any Company Officer.

Billy Dempster

The congregation and friends of the Company should be aware that at the end of last session Billy Dempster after 50 years of service announced his retirement. We in the Company are hoping to treat this as a slight scaling down of his activities and are sure as always we will be able to rely on Billy when help is needed. The Colonel's commitment to the 7th Company in particular and the Boys Brigade in general is the stuff of legend. Within the Company he has held every rank and fulfilled every job asked of him.

He has been the Secretary to the Greenock Battalion, the last President of the old Greenock Battalion and the first President of the new Inverclyde & District Battalion, Adjutant at international camps and just about everything else anyone has asked him to do. However it's the example he has set and the impression Billy has made on the boys that have passed through the 7th that show his worth. No conversation about the Brigade by ex 7th boys is complete without the mandatory enquiry or story about the Colonel.

We therefore would like to thank Billy for all his help in the past and he can be assured that we will make use of his experience and expertise in the future.

Company Captain
John Murray.

THE BEAVERS

The Beaver Colony recommenced activities on Friday 11 September. We currently have 8 boys and one girl. We are looking to increase our numbers this year to at least double our current role so if you know of any youngsters between the ages of five years and six months to eight years old please send them in our direction. As an organisation, sponsored by our Church, this is an ideal opportunity to encourage kids to be involved in activities in and around the Church. As part of our support to the community it's good to get kids within our doors within any of our organisations. This hopefully will help to sow some seeds for future years and encourage the health of our Church and community. Please feel free to contact me, or any of our leaders, for further details. We meet in the Youth Hall every Friday night , 6.10 - 7.15.

I hope you all had a good summer and are recharged and ready for the winter activities ahead. Early autumn and we're thinking of winter already! Oh well, role on next summer.

Yours in Scouting, Ricky Martin (Beaver Leader)

THE CUBS

The Cubs start back on Friday 11th September, in the Youth Hall 7.30 – 9pm. If you are interested please come along, for further information contact Maureen Bain.

COUNTRY DANCING

The Country dancing starts again on Thursday 1st October at 7.30pm.

Why not join with the ladies for an evening of friendship and exercise and enjoy a cup of tea and a chat.

You will be very warmly welcomed.

FIRST FRIDAY GROUP

The First Friday Group will meet on the first Friday in October. Details for the first meeting will be given in the Order of Service.

If you have no plans on 2nd October why not join the group for an interesting evening with warm fellowship and yes a cup of tea.

CHURCH FLOWERS

The Church Flowers are donated by members and beautify the sanctuary every Sunday, they are then sent to members of the congregation for various reasons, bereavement, illness or to mark a special celebration. If you can help any Sunday by delivering the flowers, please speak to Patricia Robertson.

From the Roll-Keeper

Deaths

Mr. J. Dick	F1a, 1 Greenbank Mews, 24/6 South St.	2
Mrs. G. McKinlay	31a Newton St.	2
Mrs. C. Thomson	5 Newton St.	2
Mrs. N. Brown	112 Old Inverkip Rd.	14
Mrs. C. Douglas	2 Maple Rd.	14
Mr. J. Fox	40 Mount Pleasant St.	16
Mrs. J. Arthur	Larkfield View Burns Road Care Home	22
Mrs. I. Clark	Alt-na-craig	22

New - by Resolution of Kirk Session

Mrs. J. Lewis	Glenfield Nursing Home	22
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New - by Transference

Mrs. M. McIntyre	94 Royal Ct. From Clark Memorial Church, Largs	18
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Disjunctions

Mrs. A. McCallum	95 Waverley St.	15
Mr. & Mrs. A.G. Morrison	95 Waverley St. To Wellpark Mid Kirk	15
Mr. C. Mwenebungu	F22, 17 Ripon Dr.	21
Mrs. Y. Gondwe	F22, 17 Ripon Dr. To St. David's Church, Knightswood	21
Rev. & Mrs. W.D. Hamilton	5 Corse Rd., Penilee To St. Mark's Oldhall Church, Paisley	21

Transferred to Supplementary Roll

Mrs. R. Jack	14 Sutherland Rd.	12
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Changes of Address

Mr. & Mrs. J. Dobbin	F21, JGH, 19 Inverkip St.	18	from D15
Mrs. M. Fulton	62 Royal Ct.	18	from D2
Mr. & Mrs. G. Eadie	3 Chatton Ave., Causewayhead, Stirling	21	from D8
Mrs. D. MacDonald	Balclutha Nursing Home	22	from D6
Mrs. M. Webster	Marcus Humphrey Hs., Quarriers.	22	from D8
Miss G. Williamson	Marchmount, 1 Alderwood Rd.	22	from D17

Moved leaving no forwarding address

Mrs. S. Stevenson	c/o Stewart 13 Wellington Way	from D17
Mrs. F. Sweeney	37 Nelson St., to Ireland	from D2

SNIPPETS FROM " WHY WE DO LOVE CHILDREN "

Starting School

Having just finished her first week at school a little girl said to her mother "I'm just wasting my time, I can't read, I can't write and they won't let me talk!"

A woman was struggling to get the ketchup out of the bottle when the phone rang, she asked her four year old daughter to answer it - "My mum can't come to the phone just now - she's hitting the bottle"