

WESTBURN PARISH MAGAZINE



AUTUMN 2022

From the Editor

I hope that all of you are getting back to normal and again enjoying doing the things that you were used to do prior to Lock Down in 2020.

It's great being able to go to the shops, watch sporting event, go to the theatre, go on holiday whether at home or abroad with no restrictions and see friends and family. If you have been on holiday I hope you had a good time and your batteries have been recharged

Articles for the magazine are not just for the organisations and Church Committees reporting on what is going on in their area of responsibility. I am sure that you may have stories that you would like to share with the Congregation. You can send me items anytime by email to brian_lindsay22@yahoo.co.uk or in writing care of the Church.

I hope that you enjoy the magazine and if you have comments of any kind please let me know.

Brian Lindsay
Editor



“Five Marks of Mission”

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
2. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
3. To respond to human need by loving service
4. To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation
5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth

These can be summarised by the five ‘t’ words

Tell

Teach

Tend

Transform

Treasure

These five marks of mission are helping to guide us all through the Presbytery Mission Planning Process as we think about how we as a congregation and we together with other congregations in Inverclyde live out the gospel in our time and place. Across the whole of the Church of Scotland Presbyteries have been instructed to develop plans for the next five years, plans which have mission at their heart and which at the same time fit with the reducing number of ministries, both Ministers of Word and Sacrament and Ministry Development staff we have, and with the buildings which are in the right places and well equipped places for the worship and life of our congregations and our service to and partnerships with our communities. Our Kirk Session and congregation have already been involved in discussions, conferences and conversations in recent months and this will continue in days to come as Clyde Presbytery tries to bring a Mission Plan together by the end of this year, as instructed by the General Assembly. This is a challenging process with many different layers involved and factors to be taken into account. In our own local area, the consultation document indicates that there will be 6 ministries to cover from Port Glasgow to Skelmorlie. The process will mean changes for all of us, changes to the way we are together as church and our links with other congregations. Let us be ready to work together for God's kingdom so that God's love may be known and shared.

Karen



Breakfast and Holiday Club with Chef Munchie

We all had fun!

'I liked having toast' E – age 9

'Everyone was nice' P – age 7

'I liked crafts – making the water into wine cup' C – age 9

'I liked singing the Chef Munchie song' S – age 8

'I liked Chef Munchie's cooking' K – age 6

I liked playing Guess Who and all the parachute games 'A – age 5

These are some quotes from the children who came along to the Breakfast Club and Holiday Club which we ran during the first week of August with our friends from Lyle Kirk. Each morning at Westburn Parish Church, after breakfast, we explored a gospel story which featured food through games, activities, songs, stories, crafts, worksheets and of course a

little bit of cooking – usually messy – with Chef Munchie. We learned about welcome, sharing, generosity, acceptance and moving on.

In the evenings at Lyle Kirk we had family fun events – a quiz, a film night and a barbeque, each accompanied by delicious food and lots of people came along.

All the children, families and volunteers had a great time, with friendships being made along the way. See the article on BFFS to hear about how we are developing this work over the next few months and come along and join in.

Karen



BFFS

BIG FUN FAMILY SATURDAYS

BRING YOUR BFFS!



We are excited to announce a new program for this autumn. Building on Messy Church, Big Saturday and Holiday Clubs of Westburn, on Messy Church, Holiday Clubs and Muddy Church of Lyle Kirk and on the Big Messy Picnics of previous years and developing work, partnerships and relationships from this summer's Holiday Club and Family Fun Nights, we are planning events for the autumn session.

On the third Saturday of each month, a family fun event will be held. We are working with our friends in Lyle Kirk to provide a variety of events for families to enjoy together. Each event is free and includes food to share. We have crafts, games, stories, walking, talking, songs, films, parties and more.

We hope that there will be something that everyone will enjoy.

So tell your families and friends and come along yourself.

Saturday 17th September – Messy Church – Harvest Theme @ Westburn 4.30 – 6.30p.m
with light meal

Saturday 15th October- Film Night @ Lyle Kirk 4.30 – 6.30p.m.
with hotdogs and popcorn

Saturday 19th November – Muddy Church – Remembrance/ Peace theme starting and finishing at Westburn 11a.m. – 1p.m. – soup and rolls

Saturday 17th December – Christmas Celebration – including crafts, storytelling, songs, food, Santa, party games and a few ceilidh dances @ Lyle Kirk 4.30 – 7p.m.



Sunday School Report

The Sunday School children have been having great fun following the “Spill the Beans” programme used by Karen. They have been doing lots of varied activities including making Empire biscuits, crafts, games and learning how to be kind.

The children enjoyed their Easter outing to Eliv8. They loved jumping around and the adults enjoyed the peace and quiet.



Although our numbers are small, they are regular and all get on well together.

Please take time to look at our noticeboard in the Youth Hall and hopefully soon in the Hub to see what the children have been up to in Sunday School

Jennifer Lindsay

Pastoral Care

Although we've been unable to visit the Care Homes since early 2020, the Pastoral Care committee have been keeping in touch with the members by handing in cards at various times throughout the year e.g., Easter, Harvest & Christmas as well as postcards when many of the committee were on holiday. This was to let the members & their families that they had not been forgotten.

The committee have met recently and decided with the Worship committee to hold another Songs of Praise & Afternoon Tea on Sunday 9th October 2022. The previous one was a success and we feel this would be an opportunity to hold another one & hope members will feel like coming back to church after all we've been through during the last 2 years.

The committee will be meeting again on 21st September when as well as our usual business to attend we'll be looking at a Bereavement Charter, at our last meeting Alison Bunce spoke to us on this subject. We feel it would good if the church could be accredited with a charter, showing we are a "church that cares".

Patricia Robertson



Guild Report

It is such a long time since there has been a report from the Guild, changes have taken place. The members have decided we will become an afternoon Guild meeting every 2nd Thursday throughout the year with a break during December & January. During the summer months there will not always be a speaker but we will still meet for “tea & chat”. These meetings are open to anyone, please consider coming along to join us. WE ARE A FRIENDLY BUNCH.

We restarted back when the Church allowed us to use in the Youth Hall but we are now meeting in the Main Hall, once the kitchen & Lounge are back in operation we will once again meet in the Lounge.

We held a successful Afternoon Tea in July which raised £266, the committee & members are grateful to all who supported this venture the first since November 2019.

Our secretary Margaret Mackay has been busy organising our syllabus and its near completion, I include what has been

arranged till the end of the year below.

Although we've not had any fund-raising events, we have through donations from members been able to give money to the church for a new dishwasher for the kitchen. Originally it was to buy a new cooker, but as it was included in the purchase of the replacement kitchen, it was decided we would pay for the dishwasher.

The Annual Gathering of the Guild will have taken place in Edinburgh on Saturday 10th September, when the new National Convener (NC) Helen Eckford will be installed (different from when I was NC). Helen is a member of New Parish Church, Port Glasgow. The retiring NC's Challenge was a traybake which was judged on the day of the Annual Gathering, I'm pleased to tell you that Senga Currie's, a member of our Guild, traybake was chosen to represent Inverclyde Guilds Together (IGT). The following day sees the start of Guild Week, we were given suggestions how we could celebrate the week. Our members decided on Sunday 11th September the Guild would supply home baking for coffee & tea before & after Morning Worship. One of the other suggestions was to plant bulbs, IGT suggested that each Guilds in our area plant daffodils bulbs in their church grounds – look out next year for more daffodils appearing in the church grounds. If we decide to take up any of the other suggestions, I will let you know in the next edition of the magazine.

SYLLABUS – October 2022 – February 2023

Oct 6th – IGT Autumn Gathering – Speaker Ruth Box – Chocolate Heaven Project & Communion

20th – still to be confirmed

Nov 3rd - Kenny Wilson – Scouting & the Wherries

17th – Dedication Service & Disbursement of Funds – Rev

Karen Harbison

Dec 6th – Christmas Celebrations (**Tuesday afternoon 2pm Old Gourock & Ashton**)

Jan 12th – still to be confirmed

26th – Burns Celebrations

Feb 9th – ABM Rev Karen Harbison

23rd – Anne Chalmers – Underground Tunnel

Patricia Robertson

Church Calendar

Date	Event	Time
Saturday 17 September	Messy Church at Westburn Church	4.30 to 6.30pm
Sunday 2 October	Communion	11 am
Sunday 9 October	Harvest Thanksgiving	11 am
Sunday 9 October	Songs of Praise and afternoon Tea	2 pm
Saturday 15 October	Film Night at Lyle Kirk	4.30 to 6.30 pm
Sunday 23 October	Joint Service with Lyle Kirk at Westburn	11 am
Saturday 19 November	Muddy Church at Westburn Church	11 am to 1 pm
Saturday 17 December	Christmas Celebrations at Lyle Kirk	4.30 to 7.30 pm

Church Organisation Calendar

Date	Organisation	Event	Time
-------------	---------------------	--------------	-------------

Thursday 6 October	Guild	IGT Autumn Gathering with Ruth Box	2 to 3.30 pm
Thursday 20 October	Guild	To be confirmed	2 to 3.30 pm
Thursday 3 November	Guild	Kenny Wilson – Scouting and the Wherries	2 to 3.30 pm
Thursday 17 November	Guild	Dedication Service and Disbursement of Funds -Rev Karen Harbison	2 to 3.30 pm
Tuesday 6 December	Guild	Christmas Celebrations at Old Gourock & Ashton	2 pm
Thursday 12 January	Guild	To be Confirmed	2 to 3.30 pm
Thursday 26 January	Guild	Burns Celebrations	2 to 3.30 pm
Thursday 9 February	Guild	ABM Rev Karen Harbison	2 to 3.30 pm
Thursday 23 February	Guild	Anne Chalmers – Underground Tunnel	2 to 3.30 pm

Fundraising Events

Date	Organisation	Event	Time/Venue	Costs
Saturday 24 September	Christian Aid	Coffee Morning	10 am to 12 noon Church	Donation Ticket £2.50

Saturday 1 October	Scouts	An Audience with the 5th	7.30 pm Cruden Hall	Tickets £10 Contact Ashley on 07903 445955 for details
Saturday 3 December	Scouts	Christmas Fayre	11 am to 3pm Youth Hall	Donation Ticket £3.00 £10 for a table to sell items. Contact Ashley



COMMUNITY LINKS - Christian Aid

Events

On Sunday, 22nd May, our congregation held the 'Big Breakfast' fundraising event for Christian Aid week.

Members of the congregation gathered before Sunday worship to enjoy a buffet breakfast and raise money for the Christian Aid week appeal.

Thank you to all volunteers who helped on the day as well as all who attended and donated.

This CA Week Westburn raised £1046.90. Thank you for your generosity.

Christian Aid works in the world's poorest communities to tackle the devastating effects of climate change, war and disease.

Please note that the Greenock Christian Aid Committee are having a Coffee Morning on Saturday 24th September in the Church Halls and your support would be appreciated.



Update from Venda

Khathu started her update by thanking everyone for their continued support.

The 3rd term of the year started on 19th July. The school was relieved that the previous ruling for mandatory mask wearing has now been lifted. I am sure, especially for the younger children, that this will make life a lot easier.

At present, the school role stands at 81 students. 51 of these are children are HIV/AIDS positive (15 are from a local orphanage and have been abandoned by their parent) The remaining 30 children are from middle income families.

The children are divided into 3 groups. 1-2 years, 3-4 years and aged 5 pupils.

The school also continues to try and support the local community, by providing clean water from their supply and vegetables from their community garden.

Some members of the local community also volunteer in the garden and in return receive a healthy meal when they are there.

Winter Uniform



From where it all started, the support from Westburn continues.

As many of you will be aware, Stuart and Patricia Robertson have recently celebrated their Golden Wedding. As they celebrated with family and friends, Stuart and Patricia asked if people would donate to the school, rather than any gifts.

They raised over £1000 and have been in discussion with Khathu on how this amazing amount of money will be spent at Vhutshilo. It has been decided the money will be used to provide a septic tank & drainage for the new toilet block and the remainder to replace the wire fence round the school which is the original when the school was built 2005.

A huge thank you goes to Stuart and Patricia for their kindness and to everyone from Westburn for their ongoing support.

New Toilet Block



Monica McNeill

Report on 2022 General Assembly

It was my privilege to be a Commissioner to this year's Church of Scotland General Assembly in Edinburgh in May. This was a busy Assembly which took many important decisions. The Assembly was a hybrid one this year with about two thirds of Commissioners in the Assembly Hall in Edinburgh and the rest online in their homes.

The Assembly began on Saturday morning with the usual ceremonial and the installation of Rev Ian Greenshields as the new Moderator. We had an interesting speech from the retiring Moderator, Lord Wallace, who brought something new to the position with his many contacts through his previous roles in politics. The Queen's representative, the Lord High Commissioner, was Lord Hodge.

A new Principal Clerk Rev Fiona Smith, the first woman in the position, was appointed.

We then moved on to business with the Reports of the Assembly Business Committee and the Assembly Trustees. There were proposals to look at changes to the operation of the Assembly and there was a debate on whether the ceremonial aspects of the Assembly should be reviewed with some arguing that these were outdated and gave the wrong message about the Church.

Sunday's business consisted of the main service in St Giles' on Sunday.

Monday morning began with Assembly Communion. The singing as always was wonderful. We were then treated to a short speech by Professor Jason Leitch who was a guest at the Assembly and commended the Church for its reaction to the pandemic.

We moved on to the Report on Returns to Overtures which covered the most controversial item of business. Presbyteries had approved by over 2:1 allowing ministers to solemnise same sex marriages, and this required the final approval of General Assembly. There were several speakers both for and against, and although there were strong feelings, the debate was measured. As you are probably aware, this was passed by a good majority.

The afternoon session began with the Ecumenical Relations Committee Report, and we had contributions from several of our guests from other churches. The previous Moderator, Lord Wallace, had signed what we agreed to call the St Margaret Declaration of friendship with the Roman Catholic Church, and we welcomed Archbishop Leo Cushley to speak to us. On St Andrew's day on 2021, Lord Wallace had also signed the St Andrew's Declaration with the Scottish Episcopal Church.

Tuesday began with the Assembly Trustees presentation of a number of videos of faith in action across Scotland.

This was the day on which the two new Forums – Faith Nurture and Faith Impact - presented their reports. Faith Nurture deals with the organisation of the Church.

The Faith Impact report was very wide-ranging dealing with important issues such as climate change. We called for a windfall tax on oil and gas companies which was very much in

the news at the time. The report also looked at work with refugees, and an end to conversion therapy. There was a supplementary report of the situation in Ukraine.

In the evening, I attended the Guild Big Sing where we heard first hand reports from Rt Rev Susan Brown who had recently visited Ukraine.

Wednesday was Chaplains' Day which is always an interesting occasion as we consider the work which Chaplains do on behalf of the Church, especially those in the armed forces. Several other reports were discussed including from the Guild, Safeguarding and Social Care which covers the work of CrossReach. This shows some of the breadth of the work of the Church which we don't always see.

Thursday was the final day of the Assembly. The highlight was a speech from Archbishop John Sentamu who is now head of Christian Aid. Of particular interest to us in Greenock:Westburn was the Report of Deceased Ministers, Missionaries and Deacons when Lord Wallace read out the name of our former minister Rev Douglas Hamilton.

The Assembly concluded with worship as we all went back to our congregations to carry on the work of the Church.

This report covers only the highlights, many more issues were discussed. If you want to know more about the General Assembly, there is plenty of information available on the Church of Scotland website <https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/about-us/general-assembly/general-assembly-2022>

Jennifer Boag



Rainbow, Brownie and Guide Report

What a busy year the 1st Finnart Rainbows, the 39th Greenock Brownies and Guides have had this year. To start of our first term, we started off the year making our traditional calendars to take home so we remember all our important activities throughout the year. Burns night was celebrated with shortbread decorated to look like a kilt, while learning some Burns poetry.

February started with Chinese New Year celebrations, making Chinese lanterns and dragon puppets which linked in with a few of the Girlguiding Unit Meeting Activities. Of course, our girls loved taking part in the Inverclyde Monopoly run and gaining their badge. Thinking day activities were a great success. From the Rainbows completing their Thinking Day scavenger hunt to the Brownies recycling and empty jar and designing a new Brownie uniform to the guides making the trefoil using Hama beads, huge fun was had by all. They all gained their Renfrewshire County Thinking Day Challenge badge.

March and April saw St Patricks day handprint poems from the Rainbows. Pancake making and decorating for all sections to enjoy. Easter crafts were a big success. The Brownies made special Rainbow cards to be given to members of Westburn Church community.

Our second term we celebrated the girls completing many Unit Meeting Activities, and Skill Builder badges and some interest badges. One of our girls completed her Rainbow Bronze award (she had moved to Brownies before receiving it). Fireworks crafts, Halloween parties Christmas crafts and a party finished off term two.

As spring and summer approached, we utilised outdoor space by having a sponsored walk around the local Battery Park raising unit funds. All sections created lovely pieces of natural art using shells, stones and leaves to earn the Girlguiding Scotland Get Creative badge. We celebrated the Queens Platinum Jubilee in style by having a garden party at the Ardgowan Bowling Club. The Rainbows decorated and made their own bunting. All sections came together to make their own Queen out of cardboard tubes, take part in a Royal scavenger hunt, make their own crown and have a Royal tea of cake and Juice. The Rainbow even sent the Queen some lovely homemade cards to congratulate her. We were very lucky to receive a beautiful reply from Buckingham Palace. Some of our girls also came along to the planting of Greenock divisions tress as part of the Queens canopy.

What a busy year but lots of fun. Next year we will hopefully have lots of new and exciting adventures and badges to complete.



Morag

5th Greenock Scout Group

The last year has been a busy one for the 5th G&D. The scout group has gone from strength to strength. At the end of 2021 we opened our own squirrel scout section. The group as a whole has seen an influx of youth members. In total we have 70 young people in the group and counting!! This year has been extremely busy with many camps, hikes and scouting activities. As we reach the start of a new term we are excited for gang show and earning lots of badges. If you want to join us get in touch.



DISTRICT RE-ORGANISATION

The exercise to re-organise the Districts has now been completed and there are now a range of ways that your Elder may communicate with you, depending on what you requested. The Districts have now been arranged by category, and Elders have been appointed on this basis to make better use of their time and talents.

The list of categories is as follows:

Your Elder may still visit you 4 times per year.

Your Elder may visit you twice per year and deliver your church

magazine on the other occasions.

Your Elder may deliver your church magazine on all occasions during the year.

Your Elder may communicate with you by email and your church magazine will be sent direct to your email address.

Your Elder may contact you by phone and your church magazine will be posted to you.

Members of the congregation who live out of the local area will continue to be kept updated by post.

If your circumstances change at any time in the future (e.g. new postal or email address) and/or you wish to change the way that we communicate with you, please inform your Elder or get in touch with either of the Session Clerks, who will be happy to arrange this for you.

Contact details:

Elizabeth Irvine 01475 790369

Hazel Munro 01475 723691

or

email us on greenockwestburn@gmail.com

Useful Numbers

Office Bearers		
Minister	Rev Karen Harbison MA BD	721048
Joint Session Clerks	Miss Elizabeth Irvine	790369

Joint Session Clerks	Miss Elizabeth Irvine	790369
	Miss Hazel Munro	723691
Treasurer	Mr Alastair Munro	801057
Organist	Mr Neil McPhee	07903 106628
Roll Keeper	Mr Jim Barbour	723861
Church Officers		
	Mrs Gillian McAlister	07968 042438
	Mr Duncan Harbison	721048
Presbytery Representative	Mr Douglas Scott	795279
Church Telephone		720257