

WESTBURN PARISH MAGAZINE



SPRING 2023

From the Editor

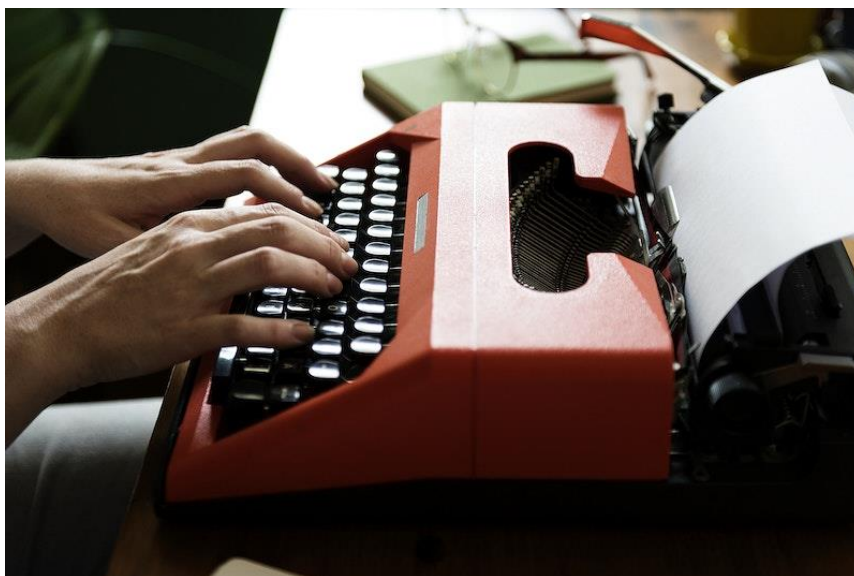
Spring is upon us now, the crocuses etc are in bloom, the days are getting longer and we can look forward to hopefully warmer weather.

As we look forward to Easter to hearing again the Easter Story including the resurrection of Jesus, to the disciples spreading the word, which is something we all should be doing. Let's make this our resolution for this year.

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





Bereavement Charter Mark - # because grief matters

Over the last few months our Pastoral Care Committee have been working with Alison Bunce of 'Inverclyde Cares' thinking about the things we do to support those in our congregation and community who are bereaved and to develop this aspect of our life together.

We realised that we were already doing quite a number of important things including pastoral visits, phone calls, prayers, cards, flowers, practical support, space in our memorial garden for reflection, Blue Christmas service and working in partnership with Ardgowan Hospice in the 'Light up a Life' service.

We want to make sure we continue with these and to develop other aspects of bereavement support for each other, our neighbours and all those we come into contact with.

We all watched a video presentation in church. Some members of our Pastoral Care team and others in the congregation participated in a bereavement awareness training session facilitated by Child Bereavement UK and a group worked on developing a Bereavement Charter for Westburn Parish Church.

The website for The Bereavement Charter for Scotland says: -

'Many of us will experience difficulties following the death of someone we know. When that happens, it is important that we

receive the support we need from the people around us. The people we know in our neighbourhood, at work, at school, through our faith or other communities we are part of, can help by being understanding of the situation, and by offering simple support. The Bereavement Charter has been created to raise awareness of the ways we can all support people who are experiencing bereavement. The Bereavement Charter describes a vision for how we can all work together to ensure adults, young people and children who are experiencing bereavement are supported.'

We have recently been awarded our Bereavement Charter Mark.

You can find out more from <https://scottishcare.org/bereavement> and from www.childbereavementuk.org

Holy Week & Easter

We look forward to sharing our worship during Holy Week and Easter with our friends from Lyle Kirk. We pray that our journey together through Holy Week may give us new insights into the last week of Jesus' life , nurturing us and sustaining us as we seek to live his way and leading us to a celebration of his gift of new life and hope.

Monday 3rd April – Holy Week Worship 7p.m. at Westburn Parish Church

Tuesday 4th April – Holy Week Worship (Café Church) 7p.m. at Lyle Kirk

Wednesday 5th April – Holy Week Worship (Taize Style) 7p.m. at Westburn Parish Church

Thursday 6th April - Holy Week Worship – Maundy Thursday Communion 7p.m. at Lyle Kirk

Friday 7th April – Good Friday Worship – gathered round the cross
7p.m. at Westburn Parish Church

Sunday 9th April – Easter Sunday Sunrise Service 7a.m. Lyle Hill
followed by breakfast at Westburn Parish Church

Sunday 9th April – Easter Sunday Celebration 11a.m. at Westburn
Parish Church

Warm Spaces

Looking for a wee bit of company and a friendly chat? or maybe just
a change of scenery for a little while in the middle of the week?

The Westburn Church Hub is open every Wednesday from 10:30am –
1:00pm and we would love to see you there. Come on your own or
bring a friend. Either way, you will be made very welcome. This is
open to everyone – you don't even need to have a church
connection.

We offer tea/coffee and toast from 10:30am or a bowl of soup from
around 11:00am.

The number of people attending is growing every week, but there is
always room for more. New friendships have started and old
friendships have been re-kindled – you just never know who you are
going to meet.

Also, if you would like to give us a hand and take a turn on the rota,
that would be good too. More information on our Warm Spaces
activity is available by speaking to Karen, Hazel Munro or Patricia
Robertson



West End Foodshare

Westburn Church is happy to welcome the West End Foodshare, who now use our premises on a Wednesday morning from 11am – 12noon.

The Foodshare is **not to** be confused with the Foodbank. Foodbanks provide emergency food supplies for people who are down on their luck and in a period of poverty.

The Foodshare is a scheme to stop perfectly good food from being needlessly binned and it is available for **everyone** to use. The local Foodshare team have joined forces with Belville Community Garden and supermarkets across Inverclyde to create a redistribution network. As a result, excess food does not get wasted and less waste being thrown into landfill is better for the environment - a win/win situation for everyone involved and for the community as a whole.

Come along and see how it operates and then you too can spread the word.



Sunday School Report

The Sunday school now have 4 children who are very enthusiastic. We continue to work through the spill the beans programme. Our board has now moved to the big hall. Please feel free to go and look at what the children have been busy doing.

Jennifer Lindsay

Connect



CONNECT

INVITES YOU TO
A FIVE WEEK LENT BIBLE STUDY

'ANOTHER STORY MUST BEGIN'
BASED ON
'Les Misérables'

STARTS THURSDAY 23RD FEBRUARY
7:30PM
(TEA & COFFEE SERVED FROM 7PM)

LYLE KIRK, UNION STREET



Thanks for being willing to be involved with BFFS

Our autumn events went well- Harvest Celebration, Film Night and Christmas Celebration and Party were great

The numbers for Peace Walk / Muddy Church event in November were very small.

Our Big Fun Family Saturday events in partnership with our friends at Lyle Kirk are continuing in the spring and summer

There's always room for everyone. There's always food to enjoy. There's always fun.

We have planned a variety of events so that there's something for everyone to enjoy – for families, to come to together, for people of any age to come to and meet friends. All are welcome. Come along and bring a friend. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Saturday 18th March – Messy Easter at Lyle Kirk 4.30-6.30p.m. with light meal

Saturday 22nd April – Bake Off – cake decorating (we'll provide the cakes and stuff) – also including crafts, blindfold food tasting and more Westburn 4.30 – 6.30p.m. with sandwiches and cake eating

Saturday 20th May – Family BBQ – at Lyle Kirk Garden 4.30 – 6.30p.m.

Saturday 17th June – Trip – meet at Lunderston Bay for games, beach exploring – bring your own picnic – time to be confirmed

Pastoral Care Report

It has been decided to hold an Afternoon Tea with Entertainment during May/June for any members of the congregation interested. When the committee meet later, under consideration will be a Songs of Praise afternoon in the autumn.

We have been awarded a "Bereavement Charter" and recently were involved in a bereavement training session which was opened to members of the congregation as well as the pastoral care committee. It was a good exercise.

All members under the umbrella of the pastoral care committee received a church calendar & card prior to Christmas. It was up to the individual committee members whether they had face to face visits or handed the gifts in at the care homes.

Further information about the Afternoon Tea will be passed on ASAP

Patricia Robertson

Venda Report

Vhutshilo opened after the Christmas break on 11th January.

At present there are 86 children which is just amazing, when you consider that when Susi started the school from her caravan, way back in 2004, she had 7 children. What a legacy Susi has left!

During the school holidays, Vhutshilo continued to supply the families with food parcels, mainly vegetables from the garden, to ensure the children were nourished during the school break.

During a recent inspection, Katu(who now runs the school since Susi's death) was informed that due to the number of children, the school required to provide more toilet facilities. There was great concern as to how this could be funded.

This is where Stuart and Patricia Robertson came in. Last year, as some of you will know, was their Golden wedding anniversary. As part of their celebrations Stuart and Patricia hosted an evening at the marina in Inverkip and instead of gifts, requested donations for the school in Venda.

The proceeds from this enabled the new toilet block to be built. Part of Vhutshilo school now proudly has 'The Robertson' toilet block. Without this extremely generous donation, this would not have been possible.

Khatu sends her thanks and gratitude to the congregation of Westburn Church for their continued support.

Monica and Les McNeill

Other South African Projects

Bill Dempster has received the following letters regarding our 2 other South African Projects. As you will read the donations that we send are making a difference.



Igniting potential through play

13 January 2023

Westburn Parish Church
c/o William Dempster
Nelson Street
Greenock PA15 1QG
Scotland

Dear William

Your generosity will make a huge difference to future generations

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Westburn Parish Church for the generous donation of R10 406.30 received on 14 December 2022.

Albert Camus said that "Real generosity towards the future lies in giving all to the present." This quote rings true for your church and it's parishioners' generous donation that enables us to ignite children's full potential through play-based learning for them to be successful in the future. Thank you for making this important long-term investment in our future generations.

We would like to wish you and Westburn Parish Church all the very best for 2023. Thank you for considering Cotlands as a preferred charity and enabling us to give young children the opportunity to thrive and reach their full potential. Thank you for trusting in us.

With sincere gratitude,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read "M Stach", written over a horizontal line.

Dr Monica Stach
Chief Executive Officer



22 December 2022

Attention: William Dempster
Elder and Member of Pastoral Care Committee
Westburn Parish Church
Nelson Street
Greenock PA15 1QG
Scotland

Dear Mr William Dempster and all members of the Westburn Parish Church

A heartfelt thank you for the very generous donation of R10,407.80 received on the 15th December 2022.

This donation will enable us to provide a reduction in school fees for 2 children with disabilities at the Sunshine Early Intervention centres. The children's families do have not money to pay for transport and school fees, so at least now we are able to assist the family and give them the good news that their child can start at Sunshine in the new year. We will keep you updated on their progress.

Through your support, it makes it possible for us to continue offering services, to our special children, their families, and communities.

Thank you for making a difference.

Yours Very Sincerely,


Shannon O'Keefe
General Manager
Sunshine Centre Association

Guild Report



The Guild once again has been able to meet in the lounge, every fortnight, for their meetings and are enjoying being back in their usual surroundings.

Since the last magazine we've had varied speakers, on 17th November we had our Dedication Service (which was at a Guild meeting not in the church) and on the same afternoon we celebrated 130 years of a Guild in this building although the name of the church has changed over the years. In attendance was Karen Gillon, General Secretary of the Guild, and Helen Eckford, National Convener. Helen presented us with a framed article from the Greenock Telegraph regarding the formation of the Guild. This framed article is now on the wall beside the notices in the Hub.

Sandra Downie made the cake which was cut by Lily Mitchell our longest serving member and myself.



Since the new year we've had Heart Start Inverclyde explaining how to operate the defibrillator, they even brought Brayden along. Cath Barbour shared her thoughts on Robert Burns.

We look forward to the remainder of our meetings for the rest of the session.

I include the rest of the syllabus and hope there might be something of interest that could bring you along. Our meetings start at 2pm and finish around 3.30pm, you will be more than welcome.

Feb

23 The story of the Underground Tunnel

March

9 Beat (Project)

23 At Home

April

6 Holy Week (Evening)

17 IGT ABM & Spring Gathering

Hamilton Bardrainney

May

4 Life & Work

18 Songs of Praise

June

1 Tea & Chat

15 Broomhill Hub

29 Afternoon Tea

July

6 Beetle Drive

20 Tea & Chat

August

3 Strawberry Fayre

17 Tea & Chat

31 Project

September

14 Tea & Chat

28 At Home

We hope if you're in the vicinity of the church you see the daffodils that the Guild donated for the church grounds in bloom as requested and fits in with the theme for this session "Wee seeds, big trees".

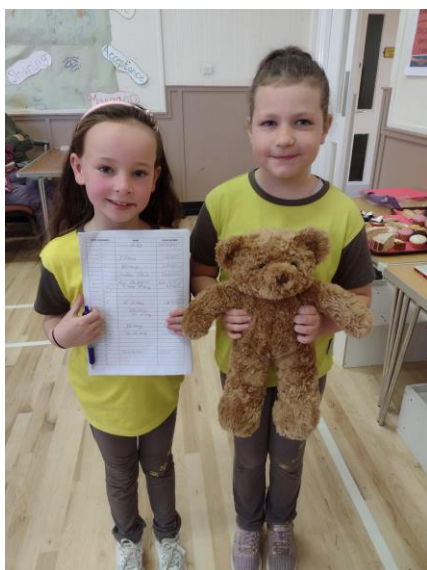
Hopefully we'll see you at our meetings in the future.

Patricia Robertson



Christian Aid Coffee Morning

Last autumn, Westburn hosted the Greenock & District Christian Aid Coffee morning. This was the group's first in person fundraiser since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic.



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

This coffee morning - combined with other local fundraising - raised £800 for the work of Christian Aid. Thank you for your support.

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

At the time of writing, our TV scenes are dominated by the news coverage of the earthquake in Turkey and Syria. The Disasters Emergency Committee - of which Christian Aid is a member - have launched a financial appeal to allow it to respond to people in need.

If you have not yet responded to this appeal please do so now if you are able by visiting **www.dec.org.uk**.

HOW WE COMMUNICATE

There are now a range of ways that we can communicate with you, and we would like to use the method that best suits your needs.

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 informed by post.

If your circumstances change at any time (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.

Session Clerk Contact details:

Elizabeth Irvine 01475 790369

Hazel Munro 01475 723691

Or email us on greenockwestburn@gmail.com

DIARY OF FUTURE EVENTS
AT WESTURN PARISH
CHURCH

Feel free to take out of the magazine for future reference

Church Calendar

Date	Event	Time
Thursday 23 February	Connect – Lent Bible Study – Lyle Kirk	7 pm
Thursday 2 March	Connect – Lent Bible Study – Lyle Kirk	7 pm
Sunday 5 March	Communion	11 am
Thursday 9 March	Connect – Lent Bible Study – Lyle Kirk	7 pm
Thursday 16 March	Connect – Lent Bible Study – Lyle Kirk	7 pm
Saturday 18 March	Messy Easter- at Lyle Kirk	4.30 to 6.30pm
Thursday 23 March	Connect – Lent Bible Study – Lyle Kirk	7 pm
Monday April 3	Holy Week - Westburn	7 pm
Tuesday April 4	Holy Week – Café- at Lyle Kirk	7 pm
Wednesday April 5	Taize Style Worship – Westburn	7 pm
Thursday April 6	Maundy Thursday Communion – Lyle Kirk	7 pm
Friday April 7	Good Friday around the cross - Westburn	7 pm
Sunday April 9	Easter Sunrise Service – Lyle Hill with Breakfast at Westburn	7 am
Sunday April 9	Easter Sunday Celebration- Westburn	11 am
Saturday 22 April	BFFS – Bake Off- at Westburn	4.30 to 6.30 pm
Saturday	BFFS - Family BBQ –	4.30 to 6.30 pm

20 May	Lyle Kirk Garden	
Saturday 17 June	BFFS -Lunderston Bay	TBA

Church Organisation Calendar

Date	Organisation	Event	Time
Thursday 23 February	Guild	Story of the underground tunnel	2 to 3.30 pm
Sunday 26 February	Scouts	Recruiting at Gourock Co-op	12 to 4 pm
Saturday 4 March	Scouts	Open day for recruiting in church	12 to 4pm
Thursday 9 March	Guild	Beat (Project)	2 to 3.30 pm
Thursday 23 March	Guild	At Home	2 to 3.30 pm
Thursday 6 April	Guild	Holy Week	2 to 3.30 pm
Monday 17 April	Guild	IGT ABM & Spring Gathering – Hamilton Bardrainney	2 to 3.30 pm
Thursday 4 May	Guild	Songs of Praise	2 to 3.30 pm
Thursday 18 May	Guild	Burns Celebrations	2 to 3.30 pm
Thursday 1 June	Guild	Tea & Chat	2 to 3.30 pm
Thursday 15 June	Guild	Broomhill Hub	2 to 3.30 pm
Thursday	Guild	Afternoon Tea	2 to 3.30 pm

29 June			
Thursday 6 July	Guild	Beetle Drive	2 to 3.30 pm
Thursday 20 July	Guild	Tea & Chat	2 to 3.30 pm
Thursday 3 August	Guild	Strawberry Fayre	2 to 3.30 pm
Thursday 17 August	Guild	Tea & Chat	2 to 3.30 pm
Thursday 31 August	Guild	Project	2 to 3.30 pm
Thursday 14 September	Guild	Tea & Chat	2 to 3.30 pm
Thursday 28 September	Guild	At Home	2 to 3.30 pm

Fundraising Events

Date	Organisation	Event	Time/Venue	Costs
Saturday 18 March	Scouts	Quiz Night	7 pm at Lady Alice BC	£7
Saturday 25 March	Scouts	Abbie	7 pm at Grosvenor BC	£5
Sunday 26 March	Squirrels	Sponsored Walk	Contact Ashley Rennie	
Saturday 22 April	Scouts	Coffee Morning	TBA	TBA
Sunday 30 April	Scouts	Kilt Walk	Contact Ashley Rennie	

Useful Numbers

Office Bearers		
Minister	Rev Karen Harbison MA BD	721048
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

Charity Number

SC005106