



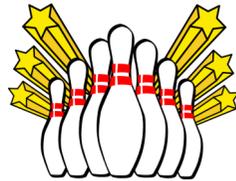
8th Ayr Boys Brigade

Unfortunately, the Junior Section Outdoor Day Competition was cancelled due to bad weather.

Our Annual Parents Night will take place on Thursday 2/5/2019 in the Church Hall at 7pm. I will do a report on this in the June Newsletter.

The Junior & Company Sections Boys and Leaders will be attending the Battalion Church Parade & Service on Sunday 5/5/2019 at Monkton & Prestwick North Parish Church. The Anchor Boys are going to the Heads of Ayr Farm Park on Saturday 18/5/2019. The Junior and Company Sections will be going to LA Bowl, Ayr for ten pin bowling and Lazerzone, on Friday 31/5/2019.

Stuart Hyslop
Company Captain



Newsletter

The Board and Kirk Session have asked me to see if there is interest to receive this Newsletter per email, rather than as a paper copy to save on our carbon footprint as well as on costs. So if you are interested in trying a new format, please email the minister under:

BSuchanek-Seitz@churchofscotland.org.uk.

Please note that there is no obligation for this and we are more than happy to deliver a printed Newsletter in the usual format. You do not need to do anything if you prefer a printed copy.

Thoughts from the Manse



Dear All

What an eventful month lies behind us as a church family: We had our first Easter festival with and for the Brownies and Girl Guides, we commemorated Holy Week together with our friends throughout North Ayr and while some faces such as our friends from Newton Wallacetown and Dalmilling/Auchincruive or the Salvation Army were familiar and celebrating with them has become a cherished tradition, some congregations such as the Baptist Church of New Prestwick and the United Free Church in Kirklandholm Avenue participated for the first time. Our Easter Messy Church counted nearly 40 children. And now communion Sunday is here again.

It is certainly good to be busy as a Church. It shows us that we are alive, it gives us all a buzz, can give us the feeling that we are part of something bigger, that we are part of a community and this is as it should be. A church, a congregation, after all, never exists only for itself; it exists to spread the good news of Jesus and at this Easter time especially, to tell of the forgiveness of our sins. This is what the first apostles did: They went out – some of them travelled around half the globe, others spread the word in their neighbourhoods, but all of them went beyond their circle of friends, beyond their comfort zone to tell people about Jesus. And the first congregations supported them in this. I believe as a congregation today we are called to do the same.

As a church and as a congregation, especially in these secular and unchurched times, I believe we have come full circle: Like the first Christians we are no longer “mainstream”, can no longer take a central position in society for granted, and so the life and experiences of the first Christians, their drive and their

Cont/ enthusiasm for Jesus' cause become more relevant for us than ever when they tried to obey Jesus words: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." (Mathew 28). AMEN

Every Blessing

Barbara



Junior Church

Thank you all who came to our Easter Brunch on Palm Sunday. It was lovely to share our Brunch with you all. The sum of £174 was raised for Junior Church Funds.

Our current series of lessons are continuing from the 'Spill the Beans' and we are utilising our resources and finding different approaches to the lesson and activities. The activities continue to be varied and have been different for all ages.

Our Annual Picnic and Prize giving will be held towards the end of June as usual. We have yet to finalise where we are going but you will be informed in next month's Newsletter.

Gillian Cunningham
Secretary



12th Ayr Guides

We are coming into a busy time of year at 12th Ayr Guides and May is jam packed with all sorts of fun events.

We would first like to thank everyone who came out to support our coffee morning on the 27th April, it was a great success and the proceeds will be going towards our upcoming camp and the end of session outing.

Parents night will be held on the 7th May this year, the girls will be show casing lots of fun badge work and activities they have been completing both at home and at meetings throughout this year as part of our new programme. The girls are also looking forward to receiving their badges for all their hard work throughout the session.

On the 10th May, we head off on our summer camp at Nether Auchendrane for two nights. The weekend promises to be packed full of lots of exciting outdoor activities and I, for one, cannot wait!

Our final night of the session will be on the 28th of May and this will be a joint event along with all the other units in our district. We are going to be heading to the outdoor heated pool in New Cumnock for a pool party and sounds like it will be lots of fun for the girls.

Isla Ferguson
Assistant Leader





12th Ayr Brownies

What a busy time we've had!

Our Easter Event, organised by Barbara, was a great success.

Following on we had an evening making a beautiful Floral picture for Mother's Day.

On our last night before the school holidays, the Brownies made an Easter card to give to someone, of their choice, in the hope that it would lift the spirits of the recipient.

Since we have started back we have been working on our Take Action Theme badge and now only have a few more hours to complete it.

On Wednesday the 24th April, 20 of our Brownies attended a District Party at the Baptist Church Halls in Ayr.

A great time has been had by all!

Louise
Brown Owl



Treasurer's Report

Offerings etc. for April 2019

	7th	14th	21st	28th
Freewill Offering	379.00	314.00	515.00	746.00
Open Plate	23.50	23.50	42.50	48.00
Donation		50.00		50.00
Fabric				32.67

This month we received a donation of £50.00 from the Chit Chat Group and also £50.00 from the Computer Club. Thank you very much to both groups.



Alison Hyslop
Treasurer

Kid's Time Community Playgroup

The Playgroup continues to be popular for during April we had a number of new children placed on the register. Some of our children have started attending our Messy Church.

SPREAD THE NEWS!!! WE ARE IN THE HALL EVERY THURSDAY FROM 10 AM TILL 11.45. ALL PRE-SCHOOL KIDS AND BABIES MOST WELCOME TO COME ALONG.

Moyra Smith
Playgroup Leader



Fundraising/Social Committee

The Committee sincerely thank everyone who supports their efforts to raise money for the church.

We have a Sponsored Walk/Event pencilled in for June but firm arrangements have still to be finalised: more information will be available in the next Newsletter.

Social Event:

Our Annual Pentecost Lunch is on Sunday 9th June after the service. Donation sheets for the items required will appear in the vestibule soon and we look forward to your usual wonderful support. All church members are invited to attend. If transport is required please contact Moyra Smith.



Fundraising Wheelbarrow in aid of Manse Roof

The barrow is in the vestibule every Sunday morning and your contributions are very much appreciated. The total raised so far is nearing £1000; please help make this total a reality.

Helping Christian Aid:

The date of the Big Brekkie has had to be changed to Saturday 18th May in the church hall 10 am till 11.30 am.

PLEASE SUPPORT THE WORK OF CHRISTIAN AID

Moyra Smith
Fundraising/Outreach Convener

Ministry of Flowers

Thank you to each and everyone who so kindly donate to the flower fund month by month.

If anyone wishes to commemorate a special event by contributing to a pedestal arrangement there are still a few dates available.

Please see Christine who will explain the procedure.

Many thanks to Agnes for arranging the baskets of Spring Flowers which adorned the window ledges over the Easter Period and to the willing helpers who give their time each week.

Lilian Kerr



Church Garden Group

Spring is well and truly here and once again the church gardens need attention. If you can spare a couple of hours a week, during the Spring & Summer please contact Moyra or Jenny who can give you more information. We normally meet every Monday evening from 6pm onwards.

**PLEASE VOLUNTEER
TO HELP KEEP OUR GARDENS
LOOKING GOOD**

The Guild



Boys Brigade Coffee Evening

National Guild Project Coffee Evening for Boys Brigade funds will be held in Church Hall on Thursday 9th May 2019 from 7.30p.m. Tickets are on sale and cost £2.50. There will be a Cake and Candy Stall. Please give this event your support.

Outing

The Ladies of the Guild are holding an outing on Thursday 16th May 2019. The coach leaves the Church Hall at 11.30 am and proceeds to Gretna Green and then Gretna Outlet before going to Hetland Hall hotel for a meal before returning home. The cost is £25. Seats are still available - if interested contact Sheila Wyllie or Anne McNaughton



Thank You

I would like to thank everyone who sends cards, flowers, phone calls and visits after the death of Stewart.

£440 was collected for the Brain Tumour Charity.

Nan Tuton



Session Clerk's Message

Dear Friends

This is the season of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. Many discussions will take place, essentially for the benefit of members of Congregations. Important decisions will in due course filter down to us. At our level we must be up front with our members as to how we are going to cope with the instructions handed down to us.

Most of us are realistic in what is ahead of us in the next few years. How do we increase membership!!! How do we encourage members to review their commitment both by attendance and our financial giving. How do we ensure a future for us as a congregation. This is the challenge facing us collectively and individually.

What must be remembered is that we are not living in isolation. The Church as a whole is well aware of the situation facing us today, and is very much concerned to find solutions for the way ahead.

May I take this opportunity to commend all the leaders and office bearers of organisations who are committed to the work of their groups in order to benefit us as members and considering the approach we should take in what lies ahead.

Within these challenges it is for each and every one of us to accept our responsibilities for what is the best for us here at St James'.

Yours in friendship
Bill Mackie
Session Clerk



Outreach Group



Foodbank (Christ in Action)

Our volunteers continue to work with Newton School, Seascope, Ayrshire Housing, the three homeless hostels in Ayr and one in Troon and we continue to supply butcher meat and other food items to the Women's Aid Refuge in Ayr on a weekly basis.

Recently released figures show that one in every four children in Scotland is living in poverty and as an organisation Christ in Action is trying to show the love and compassion of our Lord Jesus Christ to those in need.

Once again sincere thanks to all caring folks at St James, Kingcase, Monkton and Prestwick North and St Quivox Roman Catholic Church, Prestwick who continue to support the work of the food bank by giving donations of food and money on a regular basis. Thank you all for supporting the Christ in Action Foodbank which is a partnership of four churches mentioned above.



Messy Church

Our Messy Church on Saturday 27th April was a great success, 38 children attended plus numerous parents, friends, carers. Great fun was had by all!! Next Messy Church will be some time in June.

PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD

Moyra Smith
Outreach Convenor

Christian Aid



“BIG BREKKIE Saturday 18th May 2019”
(In support of Christian Aid week 12th to 19th May 2019)

We are sorry that we have had to change the date of this event; this was due to circumstances beyond our control.

Once again this year we will not be participating in the door to door collection but in order to raise money to cover the shortfall The Fundraising/Social Committee have arranged another “BIG BREKKIE” in the hall on Saturday 18th May 10 am till 11.30 in the hall, however, Christian Aid Donation envelopes will be available in the church during the two weeks previous to Christian Aid week. Donation envelopes can be returned via the offering plate or given to your elder who will hand into the church office.

Please support the work of Christian Aid by giving generously via the envelopes and by coming along to the Big Brekkie on 18th May. In this way we will show our love of people who are living in poverty and suffering injustice around the world.

Moyra Smith/Janey McIntyre
Christian Aid Convenors

