



CRAFTY STRAWBERRY



CREATIVE CRAFTS CLUB

NEXT MEETINGS

Mondays
2nd & 16th September
7-9 pm

Any questions, please contact Gillian Hay
Tel:- 01292 283924/Mob:- 07763 821013
Email:- gill.ayr@btinternet.com



Thoughts from the Manse



Dear all,

It always amazes me, how much nature can be found in an urban area like ours. Our family have seen foxes play in our back garden, much to our delight, (I strongly suspect they live in the “wilderness” behind Newton-on-Ayr station), we have seen hedgehogs curled up behind our bins and of course, there are masses of birds looking for worms and insects on the lawn. A blackbird living in our hedges is my favourite. When I came back from a visit in town recently, a fox looked at me from a touching distance, a freshly caught mouse in his mouth, before he scarpered across the railway tracks. (I was sad for the poor mouse, but then I do like a ham sandwich myself- and pigs can be quite nice, too, after all). It is as though God’s creation asserts itself in the midst of the hustle and bustle of our urban life, between our houses and among the cars and buses of our busy Prestwick Road.

Rev David Coleman recently published an article on the Church of Scotland website, encouraging churches to join in the “Season of Creation” and to “hope and act with Creation” this year. Rev Coleman finds that engaging with the world around us and with our fellow creatures and acting out of love for them “deepens faith and enriches community”. It is a chance to nurture our spiritual resilience and hope through an aspect of our faith that is often forgotten or neglected in our technology dominated world.

I am reminded of Psalm 24 (a scripture passage we used as inspiration for our summer messy church this year): “The earth is the LORD’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it on the seas and established it on the waters”. And so, caring for our world, observing the gift of nature around us, is not only good for us and for the planet we live on, it is a chance to connect with God afresh and to understand ourselves as part of a bigger picture - and it makes us good stewards of God’s creation, as well – because the earth is not ours, it belongs to God. AMEN

Every blessing,

Barbara

**Treasurer's Report
April to July 2024**

Offerings etc. for April 2024, May 2024, June 2024 and July 2024

Month	Week	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	Total
April	Freewill + Open Plate	£254.55	£196.00	£204.01	£359.50	-	£1,014.06
	SO / DD						£1,700.00
May	Freewill + Open Plate	£205.50	£215.00	£254.60	£155.00	-	£830.10
	SO / DD						£1,709.00
June	Freewill + Open Plate	£166.30	£248.00	£374.00	£194.20	£148.50	£1,131.00
	SO / DD						£1,672.00
July	Freewill + Open Plate	£230.00	£251.00	£164.00	£381.00	-	£1,026.00
	SO / DD						£1,482.00
Total							£10,564.16

CHURCH ROLL

Blessed are those who die in the Lord, for they rest from their labours and their works will follow them.

Since the last Newsletter the Church has lost 2 members, Mrs M Welsh and Mrs C Maddox.

Our thoughts are with their family and friends.

Gillian Cunningham, Roll Keeper

CARPET BOWLS CLUB

It is hard to believe that it is that time of year again. Our Winter Session begins on MONDAY 2nd SEPTEMBER 2024 in the Church Hall @ 2.00 pm.

All are welcome. No experience necessary. New members will be made welcome.

If you have difficulty getting to the Hall arrangements can be made.

Further information from:

Bill Mackie T: 01292 281163. M: 07925 292726
E: bill.ayr130443@gmail.com

TREASURER'S REPORT

CHURCH FLOWER FUND

I hope everyone has enjoyed a relaxing summer break.

Thanks to everyone who has donated money for flowers in the Church. I am pleased to hear the lovely comments about the flowers from the congregation.

We have given flowers to a number of members who have been celebrating significant birthdays and also to members who have spent time in hospital. We hope they have been cheered up by these thoughtful gifts.

Thanks to Jean for her beautiful flower arrangements and to Lorna and Ina for helping make up the flowers for our members. Thanks also to our Elders for delivering the flowers.

Do you know someone who is unwell, unable to attend Church, has a special birthday or anniversary and would appreciate some flowers from the Church, please let me know.

If you would like to have flowers placed in the Church, please check the Flower Lists, in the Vestibule for availability. Contributions/donations to the Flower Fund can be made in cash or by bank transfer (please contact me for bank details).

Any questions, please get in touch.

Gillian Hay
Flower Convener
[Tel:- 283924](tel:283924)/Mobile:- 07763
821013
Email:- gill.ayr@btinternet.com
Address:- 5 Falkland Road, Ayr. KA8 8LN



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Grateful thanks are extended to the Chit Chat Group, Boys Brigade, Kids Time, Junior Church and the Ladies Badminton Group for generous donations to Church funds during the period.

The sum of £210.00 was collected for and forwarded to Christian Aid for the annual collection on its behalf.

A Rummage Sale during May raised £205.40 for Church funds.

I am also grateful to the Line Dancing Group, the Tai Chi Group, Senjokai Karate Club, Ayr Arts Circle and Crafty Strawberry Creative Crafts all of which used the Church Hall premises in the period and contributed to Church funds.

Thank you once again for all financial contributions to the Church.

Henry Murdoch,
Treasurer
August 2024



OUTREACH (INCL KIDS TIME AND CHRTIST IN ACTION)

CHRIST IN ACTION FOODBANK

As we have intimated to members of St James some months ago that Christ in Action would be winding up. Sadly I have to inform you that after 12 years of helping people in need the foodbank will close at the end of September but until then we will continue to deliver help to our regular customers - Housing First, Viewfield Gate Hostel, Elba Gardens Hostel, Sucession House Hostel, Blue Triangle Housing Association, Womens Aid Refuge , Newton School, Dalmilling School.

We have received communication from a number of our regular customers I include one of them below.

Moyra Smith
Outreach Convenor

Kids Time Community Playgroup.

The group re- starts on Thursday 22nd August 2024 at 10 am. If you know of anyone with kids from birth to nursery school age please let them know we are in the Church Hall each Thursday at 10 am.

Moyra Smith
Playgroup Leader



8th AYR BOYS' BRIGADE COMPANY

Our opening night of the new session is on Friday 6th September 2024.

If anyone knows of any boy in the P1, P2 or P3 age group who would be interested in coming along to the Anchors then please let us know. Also, any P4 to P6 boys for the Juniors.

Anchors 6 pm until 7 pm
Juniors 7 pm until 8.15 pm
Company 8.15 pm until 9.45 pm

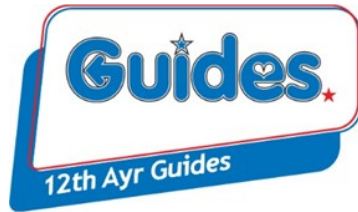
Stuart Hyslop
Company Captain



THANK YOU ALL SO VERY MUCH!

I would just like to thank all of you who gave cards, presents and 'Good Wishes' for my 60th Birthday in May and on my Retirement from Teaching on 15 August 2024 after 37 years. Your kindness and generosity is very much appreciated and added to my celebrating these recent milestones.

Thank you
Gillian Cunningham



Unfortunately, our Brownie Unit has had to close. As we have not had a Rainbow Unit for a few years, there have been no younger girls moving on to Brownies. This is very sad as we had celebrated our Brownie and Guides 90th Birthday last October. We will keep our fingers crossed that they may return in the future. We would like to thank Jo and Eloise for all their hard work over the last two years and wish them every success in their next adventures.

If you know any girls aged 10-14 years, who would like to join us; contact us through the Girlguiding website or through Gillian Hay, Guide Leader – 5 Falkland Road, Ayr. KA8 8LN. Email:- 12thayrguides@girlguidingayrshiresouth.org.uk Tel:- 01292 283924/Mobile:- 07763 821013.

Gillian Hay
Guide Leader

FUNDRAISING/SOCIAL COMMITTEE

HARVEST LUNCH IN AID OF CHURCH FUNDS will be held on Sunday 6th October 2024 after Church Service.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FAYRE will be held on SATURDAY 30th NOVEMBER 2024 10 am till 12 noon.

Details to follow.

Moyra Smith
Fundraising/Social Convenor

GARDENING

I would like to thank the kind person (fairy) who donated new gardening tools for us, unfortunately we don't know who it was so we can't thank them personally. The gift was very much appreciated and will be well used.

I do hope everyone is enjoying the Church Gardens, we are a very small team (4 of us) who have worked hard in the gardens.

Lorna Finlayson
07751108688



ST JAMES' JUNIOR CHURCH

St James Junior Church will restart on Sunday 25th August 2024. All our previous kids and young folks plus anyone new will be made most welcome. The time is 11 am till 12 noon each Sunday . I would encourage Church Members to invite any kids they know to come along and join us.

The following Sunday , 1st September the Junior Church invite you to join them at 10 am when they will be serving Sunday Breakfast, before the church service. Any money raised will be for Church Funds.

Moyra Smith
Junior Church Leader

CHIT CHAT GROUP

Hello everyone! I hope you have had a pleasant summer break and are looking forward to a new session of activities!

A warm welcome is extended to everyone (ladies and gentlemen) to join us on Wednesday afternoons at 2.15 pm in the Church Hall – enjoy a cup of tea/coffee and a blether.

Date for your Diary:

Wednesday 2nd October 2024 when our guest speaker will be Sandra McCallum(Margaret McGregor) – a local author who will be telling us to: *“To Put It in Writing”*



Further details from: Ina Mackie, Tel: 01292 281163

Ina Mackie - Group Leader

12TH AYR GUIDES



We hope everyone has enjoyed a great summer break.

Our Guides return on Tuesday 3rd September, in the Church Hall from 7.30-9.00 pm. We are hoping all 15 girls from last session will return and are looking forward to some Brownies joining us from St. James' Church and Kingcase Brownie Units. We might have between 20-25 girls which I am sure will make Tuesday nights quite noisy! The girls will be working towards their Themed Awards with Badges, Skills Builders and Unit Meeting Activities – a busy time ahead!

In September, we will take part in the Dedication Service. In November, we will attend the Remembrance Service, parading Colours – a special honour.

We are organising a Hallowe'en Beetle Drive on Tuesday 22nd October from 7.30-9.00 pm. The cost will be £2.00 for adults and £1.00 for children. Teams of 4 can play for exciting prizes. Please come along for some Hallowe'en fun.

We will be helping at the Church Christmas Fayre on Saturday 30th November from 10.00 am – 12.30 pm, in the Church Hall.

We are planning a Christmas Fun Holiday Weekend in November at Nether Auchendrane (Girlguiding Activity Centre, Alloway). The girls will get the chance to make some crafts and enjoy other activities, including a Christmas Dinner.