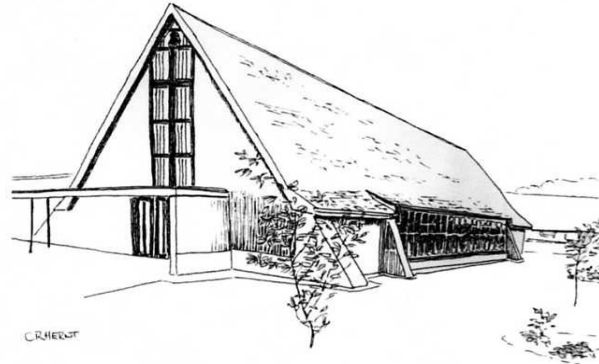


# KIRK OF THE HOLY ROD

## KIRK MESSENGER



*MAY YOU ALWAYS BE JOYFUL IN YOUR UNION WITH THE LORD, I SAY IT AGAIN –  
REJOICE. (PHILIPPIANS 4 V4)*

## **JUNE 2017**

- 2 Parish Register/World Mission/Stroke Club
- 3 Women's Association/Bible Study Group
- 4 Prayer Promoter/Community Kitchen
- 5 Gift Aid/Fund Raising
- 6 The Vacancy – What Can I Do? Arthur Priestly, Interim Moderator
- 8 Treasurer
- 9 Drop-In Group/Gardeners
- 10 The Goose Story
- 11 Ecumenical Holiday Club
- 12 Outreach/Diary Dates

### **World Mission – 2017 Stamp Appeal**

This year the money raised will be donated to the Griffen Institute of Theology of the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan. Despite training 75% of the PSCOSS ministry workers GIT has not avoided the troubles faced by South Sudan in recent years. The institute itself has had to relocate twice because of violence and insecurity. They are now based in Kakuma in a refugee camp in Kenya. In the midst of the violence their library was burnt to the ground and all books lost. The money raised from stamps will go towards providing books for students.

Thanks to all who keep donating their used stamps, the stamp box can be found in the hallway at the middle door of the Church.

### **Grangemouth Stroke Club – Appeal**

We are in need of volunteers to help us on a Thursday 10am – 1.30pm. We meet in Zetland Church in Ronaldshay Crescent. So if you can spare some time, not necessarily on a weekly basis, even once a month would help. Transport, setting up the hall, lunch preparation, dishwashing or even more importantly just to chat to clients or take part in activities. If interested contact Sheena Duggan on 473329 or in the hall after Sunday morning service.

## **Women's Association**

We have come to the end of our 2016/17 syllabus. The members all thoroughly enjoyed our closing concert on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April when we were joined by over 20 members of the Linlithgow Rugby Club Male Voice Choir.

Our last event was the outing to Largs on 26<sup>th</sup> April. 47 members and friends shared time together as we admired the beautiful scenery on route and spent some of our time in Largs visiting the shops. We then boarded the coach which took us to the Willow Bank Hotel for high tea.

We are now looking to the future and planning the syllabus for 2017/18. The new committee will be meeting soon to take our plans forward.

Thank you to our committee members, congregation and guests for their support of the Women's Association.

I am looking forward to welcoming you all again in September. New members are always welcome on a Wednesday evening at 7.30pm.

Please contact me if you would like more information of the work and how you can be a very welcome member of the Women's Association.

Mary Wood  
President  
01324 870520

## **Bible Study Group**

The Bible Study Group will begin meeting again on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June in the Session Room and you are invited to come along to an informal discussion as we learn more about the Bible together. The meeting starts at 7.30pm. We hope you will be able to join us. There will be no expectation for you to do anything other than, hopefully, continue to learn about the wisdom and guidance contained in our Holy Book.

## **Prayer Promoter KHR**

Lord make me thoughtful but not moody, helpful but not bossy.

With the wisdom you have given me help me to use it all.

Seal my lips from all my aches and pains but to be patient when others complain.

To be kind and understanding especially when I am hurrying out the church door.

Thank you for bringing us through another celebrating Easter with the cross held high.

For the fellowship and support from others.

Help us to encourage one another each day and give thanks for this.

Lord remind us you rule over us all as we bring our congregation before you

Amen!

## **Prayer Co-ordinator Eleanor Neilson**

### **Community Kitchen**

Friday 12 noon to 1.30pm in K.H.R hall.



We have a steady group of folks coming along who really appreciate the bowl of soup and the company.

This is open to everyone, if you feel like a bit of a chat pop in.

A thank you to everyone who supports this in attending and prayers which would not happen without them.

## **Gift Aid**

This year January to March we have received £1676.22 in recovered tax from HMRC. Anyone who is a taxpayer and has not applied for Gift Aid, see Stuart Blackwood on a Sunday morning. All you have to do is sign a declaration form - that's it - no information needed about your finances.

Under Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme, charities can claim on donations up to £20. This means that for members who are not taxpayers their offerings and donations can be included in claims to HMRC without having to complete a declaration form. This will cover offerings, open plate, small donations and giving day.

Last year January to December 2016 we received £7450.86 in reclaimed tax.

## **Fund Raising**

Floral Tea - was very successful and raised the grand sum of £619.25

Thank you to our helpers for their hard work organising everything, for donations and to everyone who came along and enjoyed their tea and cake and a chat.

Nearly New Shop - 7th to 12th August 2017

Donations are still required. See Allyson Black if you have any queries.

Christmas Fete - Saturday 12th November 2017



## **The Vacancy – What can I do?**

When the Kirk of the Holy Rood became vacant by the translation of Rev David Smith, the Presbytery of Falkirk appointed me to be your Interim Moderator and I look for your support in carrying out this task. I am still an active elder in Larbert West and also have Presbytery duties but I hope to be involved as much as possible with the Kirk and look forward to meeting and working with many of you. A Vacancy can exist for quite a long time these days, but let me say that a couple of congregations in this Presbytery have had their vacancies filled and a new minister in place in less than a year!

Meantime, the Kirk Session has appointed Rev Colin Mailer as Locum Minister. He is not a full time Parish Minister, however, so what will he be doing? He will be preaching most Sundays, including administering the Sacraments when required, and carrying out pastoral visits to those in the congregation who need to be visited. Please remember that neither Colin nor I know your congregation well and we need to be told who to visit.

SO, WHAT YOU CAN DO IS, tell Colin about those who are ill or housebound, or who may appreciate a visit, or who might welcome home Communion. His telephone number is 712401.

He is also concerned with those who have been bereaved and will usually carry out funeral services, and if you know of anyone who wishes to have their child baptised, or those who wish to be married, please tell Colin and he will usually carry out these duties.

SO, WHAT YOU CAN DO IS, refer anyone who needs these services to Colin or to me. My telephone number is 557142.

During a vacancy, there is a tendency for members to treat the Church as though this was some kind of long term holiday. This is not in accordance with the vows of membership which talk about being “faithful in worship”. A Vacancy is also a time when YOUR attendance will strengthen the others in their attendance and the congregation will grow.

SO, WHAT YOU CAN DO IS, attend Church regularly, preferably every Sunday and remain involved in the rest of the life of the Church. Look forward to the day when you elect your new Minister!

If you are unable to attend however the Church still needs your offerings on a regular basis – a vacancy is an expensive time for a congregation, especially in the costs of preparing the Manse for occupancy by your new minister .

SO, WHAT YOU CAN DO IS, use your freewill offering envelopes each week even if you are not at Church, so that you make up the “arrears” when you do return. Better still, use a monthly bankers order and be sure that we will have your donations regularly!

Your children and grandchildren would enjoy the Sunday School. Numbers are low at the moment but the Sunday School can be strong again, and, just to remind you, parents take baptismal vows to the effect that they will encourage their children to attend.

SO, WHAT YOU CAN DO IS, bring your children to Sunday School every week so they don't miss out on what they will like doing.

A Parish Minister works full time for the Church. When he's not there, someone has to fill the gap. Colin does some of that, Helen Scott and I do some of it, but we can't cover it all.

SO, WHAT YOU CAN DO IS, offer to help in whatever way you can, and, guess what, after the vacancy is finished, you get to keep the jobs you are doing! Please also pray for us and for each other.

Lastly, if you're thinking of retiring, giving up an office, or just slackening off during the vacancy,

WHAT YOU CAN DO IS, **DON'T!**

I pray for God's blessing on this congregation of the Church of Jesus Christ as you enter this new chapter in your lives.

**Arthur Priestly, *Interim Moderator***

## Treasurer

You will hopefully be pleased to hear that our accounts have been approved by the joint Board and Session, and audited by our independent examiner. They will now be sent to Presbytery for attestation before being lodged with the trustees at 121 George Street, and also with OSCR (Office of Scottish Charity Regulator). May I take this opportunity to convey my sincere thanks to all who submitted their accounts to me, and to Susan, our independent examiner.

It is a legal requirement that I must make the accounts available to anyone who wishes to see them, and I am also quite happy to answer any questions that you may have about the church finances. Please let me know if you have a question.

With David moving on, we now have some extra work to do, with pulpit supply covering the Sundays before Rev. Colin Mailer will begin his role as locum. There will also be a fair bit of work in the manse which is a requirement of having a vacancy. This, along with the remedial work required to address some of the items reported by the quinquennial inspection of the manse, will put a further strain on our finances. However, our fundraisers never fail to disappoint with their innovative ideas for events, and inspiration and hard work. Hopefully the fundraising events get the support they richly deserve.

Talking of Fundraising, our recent Floral Tea was a resounding success, raising over £600. The latest total I have is £619.25, which is a magnificent sum. Just as important, however, is seeing the event so well attended, and with so many hard-working volunteers. There seems to be a buzz about the church at fund-raising events and long may that continue. I certainly had fun when I was helping, and I hope you all enjoyed it too. My apologies to those of you who caught a glimpse of my shirt without their sunglasses on. I will try and find a less “catchy” outfit next time.

A huge well done to all of those who worked so hard, whether before during and/or after, and to those who came along to support the event.

Our Day of Christian Giving Day is fast approaching.

There will be a combined celebration of Communion and Giving Day on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June this year, and a light lunch will be served in the Hall after the service. Donations towards the lunch will be gratefully received.

We raised the grand total of £2163.19 from Giving Day last year (down from £2557.34 in 2015). Thank you to everyone who returned their envelopes.



**Please help our church at Giving Day, one of our major fundraising events.**

In closing may I thank you all for your help so far this year.

**Stuart Blackwood  
Treasurer**

### **Drop-In Group**

The group finishes on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May and re-starts on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2017 10am – 12 noon. Many thanks are due for their help and assistance with fundraising events in the Church. Come along and enjoy tea and biscuits and the chat. See you in August.

**Elsbeth Irvine**

### **Gardeners**

As usual the gardeners have been very busy. A really big. thank you to them for their hard work looking after the grounds and creating a beautiful show of flowers and plants. Thanks boys and girls.

**Elsbeth Irvine**

## **THE GOOSE STORY**

It's not unusual for articles to work their way round the Church from one Church magazine to another. This one comes from "Focus" the monthly newsletter of Shawlands Kirk in Glasgow.

When you see geese flying along in a "V" formation, you might like to consider what science tells us is the reason for their flying that way. As each bird flaps its wings it creates an uplift for the bird immediately following. By flying in this way the whole flock adds at least 71% greater flying range than if each bird flew on its own. People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going more quickly and easily because they are travelling on the thrust of one another.

When the lead goose gets tired, it rotates back in the wing and another goose flies point. It is sensible to take turns doing demanding jobs, whether with geese flying long distances or with people working together. Geese honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their pace. Are we passing on this message by "honking from behind" and giving encouragement to those who are leading?

If a goose gets sick or is wounded and falls out of formation, two other geese will fall out with that goose and follow it down to lend help and protection. They stay with the fallen goose until it recovers or dies and only then do they launch out again on their own or with another formation to catch up with their own group. If we have as much sense as a goose we will stand by each other like that.

**Arthur Priestly**



## **Ecumenical Holiday Club**

The Scripture Union will be holding an Ecumenical Holiday Club in Abbotsgrange Church from Monday 14th August to Friday 18th August. It will be held each morning from 10am till 12 noon.

Volunteers are needed for the set up at 9am and registration at 10am as well as helping with the activities, these will tell a different Bible Story each day through play and craft.

Group leaders will be appointed and the morning will consist of :

Time together  
Warm up  
Introduction of leaders  
Find a clue  
Songs  
Story of the day  
Back to Groups  
Workbooks on story  
Juice Break  
Games  
Craft

Abbotsgrange Hall will be decorated.

Volunteers will need to be PVG checked and this can be done online through Scripture Union. I have details of how this can be done online. If anyone would like to take part in what will be a fun week of activities either every day or perhaps just one day please contact me.

**Helen Scott Tel: 486780**



## PARISH REGISTER

### Deaths:

Mrs Mary Redpath	55 Franchi Drive, Stenhousemuir
Mrs Moira Greenhorn	Montrose Care Home, Paisley
Mrs Elizabeth Watt	Wheatlands Care Home, Bonnybridge
Mrs Janet Conry	Caledonian Care Home, Larbert
Mrs Sheila Rae	72 Moriston Court, Grangemouth
Mrs Nancy Spowart	51 Oswald Avenue, Grangemouth

### Monday 7<sup>th</sup> August to Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> August

K.H.R. Charity Shop

Mon – Fri: 10am – 4pm

Saturday 10am – 12 noon

### Outreach

Your donations over many years have helped Buskit to work with the children affected by Chernobyl and to improve the conditions in the hospitals in Belarus. This association will come to an end with this year's donation from your Smartie tubes which totalled £387. This money will again go to help make life a bit better for these children. Many thanks for your generosity, and congratulations to Buskit for the wonderful work they have done.

Our Harvest Thanksgiving gift will be for Maggies, especially appropriate now that they have opened their new place at Larbert Hospital supporting patients and families affected by cancer.

The folks at the Foodbank continue to be delighted by your regular generous gifts. Although the Foodbank from time to time receives large amounts of food from the supermarkets, they rely on donations such as ours to top up their supplies month by month.

**Betty Sutherland**