

# Connections

Helensburgh  
Parish  
Church



## Cut Out and Keep Bookmark

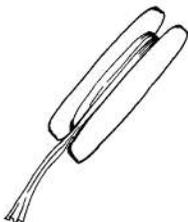
### The Divine Weaver

My life is but a weaving  
Between my Lord and me  
I cannot choose the colours  
He weaveth steadily

Ofentimes He weaveth sorrow  
And I in foolish pride  
Forget He seeth the upper  
And I the underside

Not till the loom is silent  
And the shuttles cease to fly  
Shall God unroll the canvas  
And explain the reason why

The dark threads are as needful  
In the weaver's skillful hand  
As the threads of gold and silver  
In the pattern He has planned  
~ William Sutcliffe ~



## Pastoral Letter

Why do you think Jesus choose 12 men to be His disciples?' What was the point? He could walk on water; change water into wine; multiply food for thousands of people; heal the sick and forecast future events. So why did Jesus choose some fishermen, a tax collector and a few lesser known guys to be with Him everywhere?

Doesn't it appear odd that Jesus wanted disciples who, as time passed, were slow to learn; argumentative; frightened; amazed and puzzled? Right from the start of His ministry Jesus must have known He was bringing together a motley group of characters who would not understand Him; doubt Him; and let Him down. Surely, Jesus would have been better off going it alone without having the hassle and frustration!

Well, what is amazing, is that Jesus decided to limit Himself. He wanted the fellowship of close friends to share their good and bad times. He wanted to be involved with them. He enjoyed meal-times, discussions and, no doubt, a joke or two! Jesus came from Heaven to show that in God's Kingdom there is *togetherness*.

This world can get messy, troubled and nasty, and it is into this cauldron that Jesus came to be involved with its problems. He wanted to share His mission of love and compassion, participating with others, to change places of darkness into God's healing light.

He chose ordinary people, with their weaknesses, anxieties, and faults to fill them with His Spirit and transform them into workers for God. Today, Jesus works with *us*, despite our frailty and stubbornness. He patiently draws alongside us to change our attitudes and behaviour so that we show God's love wherever we are.

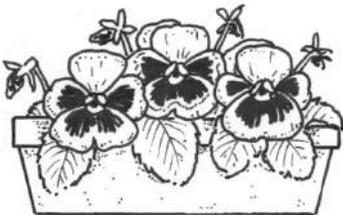
Jesus came to build His church: a community of believers who would work and serve together to change society for good. So let's be aware of the Holy Spirit's direction and be encouraged that we are all partners together.

*Help to carry one another's burdens, and in this way you will obey the law of Christ. (Galatians 6:2)*

Lester Amann

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A pastor, known for his lengthy sermons, noticed a man get up and leave during the middle of his message. The man returned just before the conclusion of the service. Afterwards the pastor asked the man where he had gone. "I went to get a haircut," was the reply.

"But," said the pastor, "why didn't you do that before the service?"

"Because," the gentleman said, "I didn't need one then."

## Worship Schedule

All services are in the church unless otherwise stated.

7th Jun	9:30	Early Service, Kirk Cottage
	9:30	Easy Worship Communion
	11:00	Communion
14th Jun	9:30	Easy Worship
	11:00	Morning Service
21st Jun	11:00	Morning Service
28th Jun	11:00	Morning Service
5th Jul	11:00	Joint Summer Service (Rhu)
12th Jul	11:00	Joint Summer Service (Rhu)
19th Jul	11:00	Joint Summer Service (Rhu)
26th Jul	11:00	Joint Summer Service (Helensburgh)
2nd Aug	11:00	Joint Summer Service (Helensburgh)

## Crèche Rota

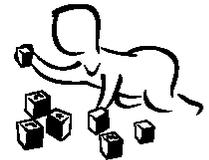
7th Jun	June O'Neil and Margaret Campbell
14th Jun	Mary Burn and Lindsay McKechnie
21st Jun	Barbie Paterson and Morag Kesson
28th Jun	Audrey Walker and Joyce McLean
5th Jul	June O'Neil and Margaret Campbell
12th Jul	Barbie Paterson and Morag Kesson
19th Jul	Mary Burn and Lindsay McKechnie
26th Jul	Audrey Walker and Joyce McLean
2nd Aug	June O'Neil and Margaret Campbell



John Christie  
Malcolm Wright

Easy Worship Team  
Charles Stewart

Ian Miller



## Messy Church

Sat 27th June

St Margaret's Churchill Square

10-30am -12.30pm

Craft and stories with a theme of "Jonah and the big fish" for children 0-11yrs, parents and carers. All children must be accompanied by an adult who is responsible for them. Register on the day admission free. Includes soup and light lunch.



## Sierra Leone and Ebola

The Crisis looks to be receding; but a long hard road to recovery lies ahead.

There is only a trickle of new cases now and some treatment centres are being wound down. We will continue to send support to the congregation of St Columba Church Calaba Town and the three teachers of the church school for another two months.

Many thanks and well done to those of you who have contributed to make this possible, especially the Young Church with their spectacular cake sales !

Schools in Sierra Leone re-opened on 14<sup>th</sup> April. The situation of the street children's school run in the Calaba Town church needs reviewed before I can recommend it for further support: there are a variety of 'logistic' problems. Efforts are being made to obtain a proper Needs Assessment and a costed Project Proposal.

I had hoped to receive more feedback from the church administrator but I had a message that " his wife had to through a C-session (sic) to give birth. Thank God she has been discharged from the hospital and is improving ". Let us pray that she recovers fully and that the baby is OK; you will know that complication rates for mother and baby remain very high there. Martha Bangura writes to us (email 20<sup>th</sup> April) –“Many thanks for remembering me and the children again. May God bless you.”

Douglas Sammon.

## Boys Brigade

The 1<sup>st</sup> /2<sup>nd</sup> Helensburgh BB Company enables you to take part in numerous events and activities such as: parades, hill walks, football and swimming tournaments, cross country races plus a range of courses designed to help young people gain useful skills. Learning about God and instilling strong values to help you make good choices in life is another important aspect. One event I have been on recently was a sponsored cycle round the Isle of Cumbrae. I also took part in the cross country race at Levensgrove Park in Dumbarton against boys from other BB companies. This summer we are heading off to summer camp which will involve numerous problem solving and outdoor activities. The best thing about the Boys' Brigade is getting to meet new people and learning about something new. I would definitely recommend that people join up as it is tremendous fun.

Benjamin McArthur

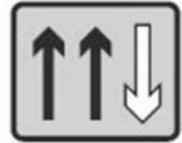


## Dates for Your Diary

1st Jun	Healing Rooms, 8—9pm, Charlotte St Halls  Prayer Group, 5—6pm, Kirk Cottage  Financial Administration Committee, 7:45pm, Kirk Cottage
2nd Jun	Meeting Place, 10am—11:30am Kirk Cottage
3rd Jun	Congregational Board, 7:30pm, Sanctuary
4th Jun	Meeting Place, 10am—11:30am Kirk Cottage  Knitting Group 1:30pm-3:30pm Kirk Cottage
5th Jun	Biscuit and Blether, 10am—12 noon, Charlotte St Halls
7th Jun	Prayer Group, 10:30—10:45, Bungalow
8th Jun	Healing Rooms, 8—9pm, Charlotte St Halls  Prayer Group, 5—6pm, Kirk Cottage  Nominating Committee, 7:30pm, Bungalow (RHS)
9th Jun	Meeting Place, 10am—11:30am Kirk Cottage

- 11th Jun Meeting Place,  
10am—11:30am  
Kirk Cottage
- 12th Jun Biscuit and Blether,  
10am—12 noon,  
Charlotte St Halls
- 13th Jun Eco-Congregation  
Coffee Morning,  
10am—12 noon, URC
- 14th Jun Prayer Group,  
10:30—10:45,  
Bungalow
- 15th Jun Healing Rooms, 8—  
9pm, Charlotte St  
Halls  
  
Prayer Group, 5—  
6pm, Kirk Cottage
- 16th Jun Meeting Place,  
10am—11:30am  
Kirk Cottage
- 18th Jun Meeting Place,  
10am—11:30am  
Kirk Cottage
- 19th Jun Biscuit and Blether,  
10am—12 noon,  
Charlotte St Halls
- 21st Jun Prayer Group,  
10:30—10:45,  
Bungalow  
  
Sunday at Seven  
Season Finale, 7pm,  
Sanctuary
- 22nd Jun Healing Rooms, 8—  
9pm, Charlotte St  
Halls  
  
Prayer Group, 5—  
6pm, Kirk Cottage
- 23rd Jun Meeting Place,  
10am—11:30am  
Kirk Cottage

## Contraflow



One of the aims of Contraflow (Helensburgh Area Christian Youth Project) is 'to encourage children and young people to link into activities at both a local and national level including weekends and residential events'. This aim was very amply achieved at the beginning of May when 60 young people (from P6 to S6) went away to Lendrick Muir for a weekend organised by Andy Lang the Contraflow Youth Worker and assisted by young leaders from this area, including Chip Charters, Ben Brown and Niall Cook. It was very encouraging that as many as 40 young people came from Helensburgh and the wider area. There were lots of games and group activities, and also four talks with a Lego theme on building life as a Christian.

Another aim of Contraflow is 'to be a resource to local schools as they tackle the requirements of religious observance'. Before Easter, children in P7 from seven primary schools in the wider Helensburgh area attended the 'Easter Code'. This gave children the opportunity to learn about what happened at Easter when Jesus actually walked on this earth. With help from volunteers in the local churches, they were able to hear about Jesus in garden of Gethsemane, his trial before Pilate, his time when he washed the disciples feet, the last supper, as well as his eventual death and resurrection. The children went away knowing that Easter is far more than chocolate and fluffy bunnies, .

Helen Buchanan is the new full time Christian youth worker taking over from Andy Lang. We look forward to getting to know her in the months that lie ahead. Please pray for her and the work of Contraflow, which covers Helensburgh and its wider area where there are 2000 children and young people aged 10 to 18 in the schools.



"I can't stand to listen to anyone else preach.  
You reckon that means the Lord is calling  
me to the ministry?"

## Helensburgh Child Contact Centre

*Helping Reunite Parents and Children*



Can you help us raise funds for this local charity which was set up by Helensburgh church members?

Helensburgh Child Contact Centre was the vision of Helensburgh Parish Church member, Mrs Margaret Ashman. In her job as a social worker in Glasgow she was aware of the negative effect that family breakdown has on children, and of the numbers of parents who had been given court orders for contact with their children but who were unable to find anywhere for this contact to take place. She felt it would address an unmet need to set one up in Helensburgh. In 2006 she approached the Burning Issues group at St Columba with her idea and two years later, in 2008, after a lot of hard work, our Contact Centre opened.

Originally based in St Columba Church, currently in Park Church and hoping soon to be in the Parish Church, the Centre is open almost every Saturday of the year as a safe, neutral and welcoming place where children of separated parents can meet the parent with whom they no longer live. The children who attend our Centre have often had little contact with their non-resident parent. The centre affords them the opportunity for this contact, which helps the children realise that they are loved by, and important to, *both* their parents.

This last year we have helped 28 children meet their parents. Many of these contacts are ongoing and we have a steady flow of new requests coming in. By being open almost every Saturday we can ensure the continuity needed to build up a relationship. Sometimes, as a result of a series of contacts at our centre, parents agree to continue the contact unaided, which is a most satisfactory outcome.

We are a registered charity and have a management committee of nine including a Convenor, Vice-Convenor, Secretary and Treasurer. Apart from our paid Co-ordinator, all staff are volunteers, two being present every Saturday to work with the Co-ordinator. Many of our staff are members of Helensburgh Parish Church but we also have representatives from other churches in Helensburgh.

Helensburgh Child Contact Centre is almost totally dependent on charitable donations for its running costs. We are always seeking funding so that we can continue our important work from year to year. If you would like to help this charity by making a donation, please contact our Treasurer Allan Heath

Barbie Paterson, Convenor

25th Jun	Meeting Place, 10am—11:30am Kirk Cottage
26th Jun	Biscuit and Blether, 10am—12 noon, Charlotte St Halls
27th Jun	Messy Church, 10:30—12 noon, St Margaret's, Churchill Square
28th Jun	Prayer Group, 10:30—10:45, Bungalow
29th Jun	Prayer Group, 5— 6pm, Kirk Cottage
5th Jul	Prayer Group, 10:30—10:45, Bungalow
6th Jul	Church office closed for 2 weeks
10th Jul	Biscuit and Blether, 10am—12 noon, Charlotte St Halls
12th Jul	Prayer Group, 10:30—10:45, Bungalow
17th Jul	Biscuit and Blether, 10am—12 noon, Charlotte St Halls
19th Jul	Prayer Group, 10:30—10:45, Bungalow
20th Jul	Church office re- opens
24th Jul	Biscuit and Blether, 10am—12 noon, Charlotte St Halls
26th Jul	Prayer Group, 10:30—10:45, Bungalow

31st Jul Biscuit and Blether,  
10am—12 noon,  
Charlotte St Halls

2nd Aug Prayer Group,  
10:30—10:45,  
Bungalow



The graduation banquet was about to begin when the master of ceremonies was informed that the invited minister would not be able to attend. He quickly asked the main speaker to give the blessing. The speaker nodded, rose, bowed his head and in all sincerity, said: “There being no minister present, let us thank God.”

### Knitting Group

The last meeting of this session takes place in Kirk Cottage on

*Thursday 4th June*

from 1:30pm—3:30pm

The group recommences on

*Thursday 3rd September*

when we hope to welcome new members.

Come and join us!



The world is the first Bible that God made for the instruction of man. *Clemens Alexandrinus*

## Inspirational Moments

Lord God, our Father,

Thank you for our church.

Thank you for the leaders in the church like Young Church leaders and worship leaders, and the people making important decisions. Care for everyone in this church who is elderly, ill or having problems that are kept a secret. Look after those who have lost a special person, and are struggling with the loss. Help us all to care for each other and to all be kind.

Thank you for our community.

We thank you for the people who work very hard to keep us safe, like police, the fire brigade and doctors/nurses. Care for everyone in Helensburgh, for people who have family problems or who can't find a job. We pray for children who have difficult times at home. Let them know and help them understand that you can get them through all their worries.

Thank you for our stunning world.

Thank you for our beautiful world we live in, with all its amazing places, creatures and people. Please care for people, who are suffering because of disease, war, natural disasters and unfairness, across the planet. Look after and comfort the people in Nepal who have lost families and friends in the terrible earthquake, which took place not long ago. We pray for people in Sierra Leone, who are suffering from Ebola. But we thank you for the doctors and nurses who work in Africa to help those people. Care for Christians who are being treated unfairly and persecuted because of their belief, all over the world.

Thank you that we can worship you freely in our country, Lord, but we remember the people who cannot.

Bless us all, and our friends and family, in Jesus' name, Amen

Esther Lopez

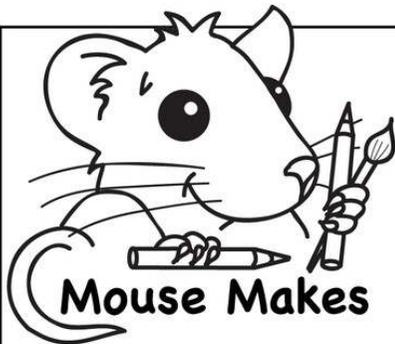


## Prayer Groups

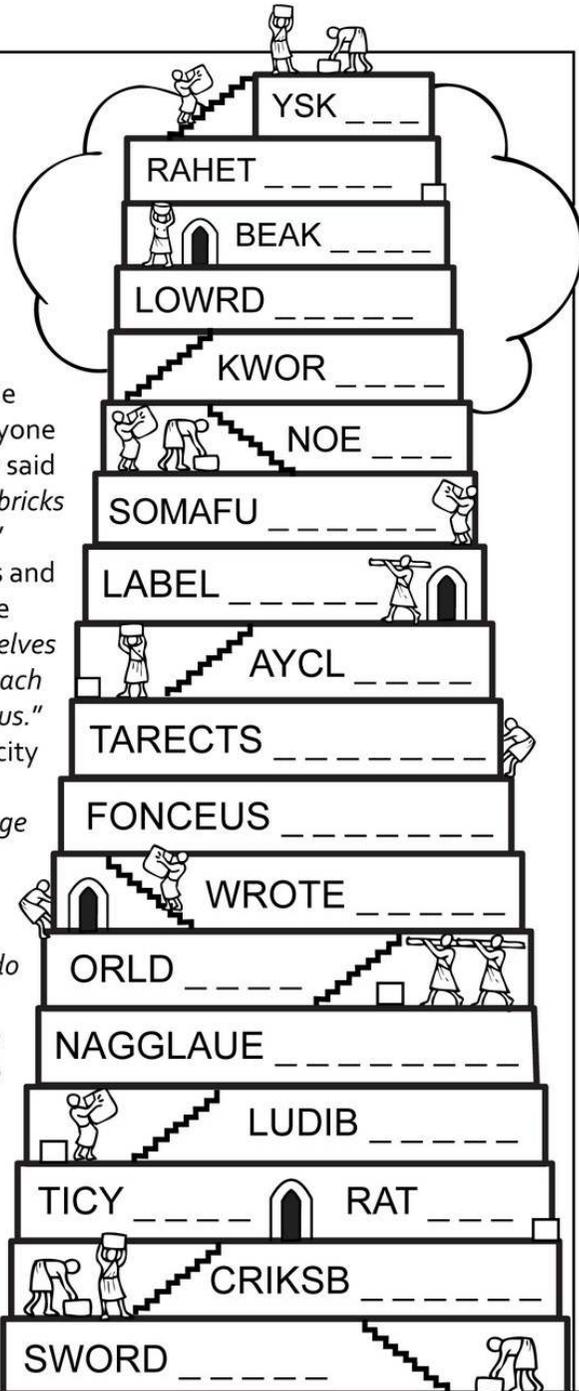
The Monday Prayer Group will continue to meet from 5pm to 6pm in Kirk Cottage until the end of June, starting again after the summer as will be announced. This is an open time of prayer when activities of the church, the community and beyond are prayed about.

The Sunday Morning Prayer Group continues to meet in the Bungalow each Sunday from 10.30am - 10.45am - as intimated.

All are very welcome to join in.



There was a time when the whole world spoke one language. Everyone used the same words. Then they said to each other, "Let's make some bricks of clay and bake them in the fire." They used these bricks as stones and they used tar as mortar. Then the people said, "Let's build ourselves a city and a tower that will reach the sky, then we will be famous." The Lord came down to see the city and the tower and said, "These people all speak the same language and I see that they are joined together to do this work. This is only the beginning of what they can do, soon they will be able to do anything they want. Let's go down and confuse their language then they will not be able to understand each other." So people stopped building the city and the Lord scattered them all over the earth. That is the place where the Lord confused the language of the whole world. That is why it is called **Babel**.



Some words in the story have become jumbled up on the tower, can you unjumble them?

DARESTUDNN

READ Genesis 11:1-9

## Eco-Congregation Coffee Morning

Sat 13th June 10am—12 noon  
United Reformed Church,  
Helensburgh

Entry adults £2, children 50p.

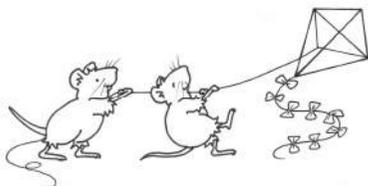
Creative displays of work being done in local schools and churches to enhance our environment and encourage a more caring attitude to our surroundings.

Interesting activities for adults and children.

Plus displays about Beekeeping, Fair Trade stall and home baking.

There will be judging of the Networks schools competition.

Various other stalls.



What a father says to his children is not heard by the world, but it will be heard by posterity. – *Richter*

Items for the next issue of Connections must be with the editor by 21st July. These can be sent to the editor or handed in at the church office.

Connections will be available for delivery on the 30th July

## Pastoral Register

### Deaths

Colin McIntosh

Rena Anderson

2/5 Rhoda (Mary) Barr

John Mair

12/5 Mary Taylor

16/5 Ken McFarland

Elsa O'Neil

### **I am the resurrection and the life**

### New Members by Transfer

Vivienne Murray

## Summer Holiday Clubs

Monday 29th June to Friday 3rd July

Mornings 10:00am to 12:00pm

Park Church Charlotte Street. Helensburgh

*Seaside Special* for those joining P2 - P6

All children are invited to come along for a fun filled week. With games, quizzes, music, craft, Bible stories and drama

Plus *The Beach Club* for those joining P7 -S3  
Games, challenges, and other crazy fun stuff.

Registration forms available on the day. All leaders are disclosure checked.

Children are welcome to attend individual sessions. The club is funded by the churches— there is no charge to attend.



### **THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

#### **Helensburgh Parish Church**

Colquhoun Square, Helensburgh

Scottish Charity: SCO12053

[www.helensburghcos.org](http://www.helensburghcos.org)

**Church Office: Kirk Cottage, Colquhoun Street,**

**HELENSBURGH G84 8UP**

*Open: Monday—Friday 9:30am—12:00pm*

*Thursday 5:30pm—7:30pm*

Tel: 01436 676880

E-mail: [office@helensburghcos.org](mailto:office@helensburghcos.org)

