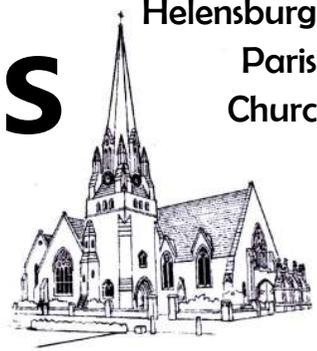


Connections

Helensburgh
Parish
Church



Cut Out and Keep Bookmark

Dear Lord,

Sometimes the world is a worrying place, so many problems, so much pain for so many.

We feel overwhelmed and don't know which way to turn. Help us to turn the right way - to you Lord.

Help us to hand over to you our worries, to exchange them for your peace in our hearts, no matter what's going on all around, knowing that you walk with us through it all, today, tomorrow and forever.

In Jesus name,

Amen

Daphne Kitching

Pastoral Letter

Serve One Another

'O God, who art the author of peace and lover of concord...whose service is perfect freedom' (Collect for Peace, BCP).

Paul wrote to the Galatians: *'It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.'* (Gal 5:1). To a church which consisted largely of slaves, he adds *'serve one another in love'* (13). How does Paul encourage us to use our freedom to serve others?

Free to serve unselfishly

All of us would prefer to be served by others, but Paul's challenge is *'do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh'* (13). If you want to understand the word *flesh*, take off the *h* and read backwards i.e. self! If we are serving one another, it's not about my needs, but looking to the concerns of others. How available are we to serve others? Do we offer the excuse of being too busy or resent the time? When stepping out of our comfort zone, be prepared to risk rejection and misunderstanding!!



Free to serve lovingly

Luis Suárez was sent home from the 2014 World Cup for biting other players! Paul warns of the danger of Christians falling into the same trap: *'If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other'* (15). We are called to love others, rather than using or exploiting them for our own purposes.



Are we prepared to think about people's needs and put ourselves in their shoes? Paul tells us to *'live and be led by the Spirit'* (16,18), for it's the Holy Spirit who will enable us to see others with the eyes of Jesus. *'A Christian is the most free lord of all, and subject to none; a Christian is the most dutiful servant of all, and subject to everyone'* (Martin Luther).

Paul Hardingham

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Worship Schedule

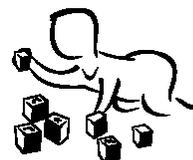
All services are in the church unless otherwise stated.

4th Oct	10:00 Communion	Charles Stewart
11th Oct	10:00 Morning Worship	John Christie
18th Oct	10:00 Morning Worship	John Christie
25th Oct	10:00 Morning Worship	John Christie
1st Nov	10:00 Morning Worship	Malcolm Wright
8th Nov	9:30 Morning Worship	John Christie
15th Nov	10:00 Morning Worship	Tina Kemp
22nd Nov	10:00 Morning Worship	John Christie
29th Nov	10:00 Morning Worship	Charles Stewart
6th Dec	10:00 Communion	John Christie



Crèche Rota

4th Oct	Barbie Paterson and Morag Kesson
11th Oct	Mary Burn and Lindsay McKechnie
18th Oct	Audrey Walker and Barbie Paterson
25th Oct	June O'Neil and Margaret Campbell
1st Nov	Barbie Paterson and Morag Kesson
8th Nov	Mary Burn and Lindsay McKechnie
15th Nov	Audrey Walker and Barbie Paterson
22nd Nov	June O'Neil and Margaret Campbell
29th Nov	Barbie Paterson and Morag Kesson
6th Dec	Mary Burn and Lindsay McKechnie



Bereavement Service

A Bereavement Service for all those who have lost a loved one during the past year or so will be held in Helensburgh Parish Church on Sunday 1 November 2015 at 3.00 pm. All are welcome and the service will be conducted by the Very Rev John Christie.



Notes from the Session Clerk:

District Elders/Visitors

We are now a very large parish which involves a huge undertaking for pastoral care via districts. Over the summer months a lot of work has been going on to establish the districts for Helensburgh Parish Church. We hope that over the months of November and December elders and district visitors will be making their pastoral visits: this may see a change for some, as new districts are assigned to different elders/visitors. I hope you all enjoy meeting your new elder/visitor or continue to enjoy the fellowship if unchanged. I would be delighted to hear from anyone who wishes to offer support to this vital part of congregational life by becoming a visitor.

Review of 10am services.

The Kirk Session will be reviewing the 10am services at a meeting on 1 November. To assist with this review it would be helpful to have comments from across all sections of the congregation. If you would like to have your thoughts/comments considered please post them in the comments box at the Church door (comment slips available) or leave in office in a sealed envelope marked "Session Clerk - 10 review". Please submit thoughts/comments no later than 25 October to ensure inclusion in the review.

Kirk Session dates for Diary:

18 October: Joint Kirk Session conference with Rhu & Shandon

1 November: Kirk Session review of 10am services.

17 November: Kirk Session business meeting.

Worship Leaders' Weekend

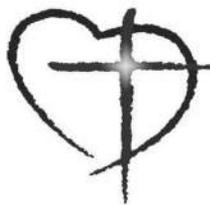
There is a fantastic opportunity for *anyone* in the congregation who may be interested in learning more about worship leadership.

The very Rev. John Christie is hoping to run a worship leaders' course Sat 20 - Sun 21 November. The Course will be 9.15 am - 4.15pm Saturday and 1.15pm - 4.30pm Sunday. Venue to be confirmed. If interested please contact office or Karen Lyall, Session Clerk, by 8 November.

The Kirk Session Worship and Discipleship Team will meet on Monday 19 October at 19.30 in the Church. The main item for discussion will be the change of service times during the past two and a half months.

Dates for Your Diary

1st Oct	Knitting Group 1:30—3:30 pm Bungalow
4th Oct	Prayer Group, 9:00—9:25 am, Bungalow Prayer Group, 9:30—9:45 am, Bungalow
5th Oct	The Link Group, 7:30 pm, Church
6th Oct	Guild, 2 pm, Charlotte St Halls Tuesday House Group, 7:30pm, Kati Byrne's house
7th Oct	Boys' Brigade, 6 pm, Church: 7:30—9 pm, Hermitage Primary
11th Oct	Prayer Group, 9:00—9:25 am, Bungalow Prayer Group, 9:30—9:45 am, Bungalow
13th Oct	Guild, 2 pm, Charlotte St Halls
14th Oct	Boys' Brigade, 6 pm, Church: 7:30—9 pm, Hermitage Primary
18th Oct	Prayer Group, 9:00—9:25 am, Bungalow Prayer Group, 9:30—9:45 am, Bungalow
19th Oct	The Link Group, 7:30 pm, Church



- 19th Oct Worship and Discipleship Team, 7:30 pm, Church
- 20th Oct Guild, 2 pm, Charlotte St Halls
Tuesday House Group, 7:30pm, Kati Byrne's house
- 21st Oct Boys' Brigade, 6 pm, Church: 7:30—9 pm, Hermitage Primary
- 25th Oct Prayer Group, 9:00—9:25 am, Bungalow
Prayer Group, 9:30—9:45 am, Bungalow
- 27th Oct Guild, 2 pm, Charlotte St Halls
- 28th Oct Boys' Brigade Games Night, 6 pm, Church: 7:30—9 pm, Hermitage Primary
- 31st Oct Messy Church, URC
- 1st Nov Prayer Group, 9:00—9:25 am, Bungalow
Prayer Group, 9:30—9:45 am, Bungalow
- 2nd Nov The Link Group, 7:30 pm, Church
- 3rd Nov Guild, 2 pm, Charlotte St Halls
Tuesday House Group, 7:30pm, Kati Byrne's house
- 4th Nov Eco-congregation Meeting, 10:30 am, Bungalow

Harvest for the Homeless

This year we are celebrating Harvest with a month of Harvest donations for the Homeless. We will be collecting donations each week for the Wellbeing packs. If you would like to donate items for the Wellbeing packs, these are the things we need. There will be a box for donations in the Vestibule.

Shampoo 250 ml	Shower Gel 250 ml
Soap	Toothpaste
Toothbrushes	Facecloth
Deodorant	Moisturiser 250 ml
Facial Wipes	Shaving Gel
Nail Brush	Combs
Nail Files	Hairbrush
Razors	Men's Socks

Wellbeing Packs

These are supported by local Churches in Helensburgh. The items are packed in a gym bag and then they are given to homeless people who are being placed in temporary housing in the area.

They are given out by the Council Housing Department to homeless men and women who need them. The Youth Housing Support services give packs to young people aged 16 – 24 who are either residing in temporary accommodation, under the threat of homelessness and/or who may have been recently looked after. The Woman's Refuge give packs to women and children being housed in a place of safety

For more information about Wellbeing packs contact Elizabeth Lambert.



"And, Father, I ask thee now for a good text to accompany this fantastic joke."

Message from the Nominating Committee

I welcome this opportunity to give you update number four on the work and progress of the Nominating Committee.

The Nominating Committee was elected to look for and recommend one person deemed to be suitable to be the minister of the linked congregations. We undertook this responsibility with confidence as a result of our careful planning but with humility and prayerful support.

In the six months since we were elected, we have met formally on twelve separate occasions, visited eighteen churches and heard twelve different ministers. We received four applications for our vacancy. We heard three of the applicants and interviewed two of them.

The result of this work is that the Nominating Committee has now made its choice of a sole nominee to recommend with confidence to the congregations.

The Nominating Committee recommends the Reverend David T Young who is currently Chaplain to the University of Strathclyde and is also the Interim Moderator at St James' Parish Church in Paisley. David is a very articulate individual with three university degrees but perhaps more importantly is a personable individual with the common touch. The Committee were impressed not only with David's preaching but with his enthusiasm and vision for the huge task in hand. He wants to be visible in our communities. The Committee share David's belief that God has called him to serve here in Helensburgh and Rhu.

Arrangements are being made for him to preach as sole nominee on Sunday 11 October at 10.00am in Helensburgh and at 11.30am in Rhu.

Our nominee knows that on paper we have a large combined membership roll. Let us therefore spread the word to all fellow members to turn this into a worshipping reality on 11 October to welcome, encourage and vote for him. Thereafter we must recognise that it is not just the minister who is called by God. We are all called to minister to one another. Let us not just sit back and wait for a new minister to lead us. Let us use the next few months to consider and pray about what we can do to assist him in his and our ministry.

Thank you all for your ongoing support and prayers.

Gordon W Whitelaw
Nominating Committee Convenor

- 4th Nov Boys' Brigade, 6 pm,
Church: 7:30—9 pm,
Hermitage Primary
- 5th Nov Knitting Group
1:30—3:30 pm,
Bungalow
- 8th Nov Prayer Group,
9:00—9:25 am,
Bungalow

Prayer Group,
9:30—9:45 am,
Bungalow

Boys' Brigade
Remembrance Day
Parade
- 10th Nov Guild, 2 pm,
Charlotte St Halls
- 11th Nov Boys' Brigade, 6 pm,
Church: 7:30—9 pm,
Hermitage Primary
- 15th Nov Prayer Group,
9:00—9:25 am,
Bungalow

Prayer Group,
9:30—9:45 am,
Bungalow
- 16th Nov The Link Group,
7:30 pm, Church
- 17th Nov Guild, 2 pm,
Charlotte St Halls

Tuesday House
Group, 7:30pm, Kati
Byrne's house
- 18th Nov Boys' Brigade, 6 pm,
Church: 7:30—9 pm,
Hermitage Primary
- 22nd Nov Prayer Group,
9:00—9:25 am,
Bungalow

22nd Nov Prayer Group,
9:30—9:45 am,
Bungalow

24th Nov Guild, 2 pm,
Charlotte St Halls

25th Nov Boys' Brigade
Games Night, 6 pm,
Church: 7:30—9 pm,
Hermitage Primary

28th Nov Messy Church, St.
Margaret's

29th Nov Prayer Group,
9:00—9:25 am,
Bungalow

Prayer Group,
9:30—9:45 am,
Bungalow

30th Nov The Link Group,
7:30 pm, Church

1st Dec Guild, 2 pm,
Charlotte St Halls

2nd Dec Boys' Brigade, 6 pm,
Church: 7:30—9 pm,
Hermitage Primary

6th Dec Prayer Group,
9:00—9:25 am,
Bungalow

Prayer Group,
9:30—9:45 am,
Bungalow

The minister stood up and said:
"Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. You'll be glad to know that when I asked the church secretary to type this sermon out for me I asked her to eliminate any thing that was dull or confusing. So in conclusion...."

Prayer Chain Ministry

Registered Charity No. SCO 20478

Charitable Aims

1. The Advancement of the Christian Religion through which we seek God's blessing on the British Isles by encouraging personal and public prayer.
2. The strengthening of our members in their Christian faith as they work for justice and righteousness for all sectors and people in their communities and in the nation.

Accomplishing our Aims

We believe that prayer changes things, helping people in all walks of life to make wise decisions, to cope with trials and to resist temptation. This is why Prayer Chain Ministry was set up 34 years ago.

Members agree to pray for the nation each week, following suggestions sent out every Monday from our central office in Glasgow. The prayer requests are for a wide variety of concerns regarding the well-being of people of all ages who are in need or vulnerable. In particular they are for the support of MPs and national leaders who have many challenges to face. Our desire is to bring about the best outcomes for our country.

Outcomes

There has been some progress in the efforts of many leaders to increase protection against pornographic images which are easily accessed even by children, sometimes unintentionally, on mobile phones. A few Internet Service Providers (ISPs) have now voluntarily set in place a block for under 18 year olds and others advise parents how to restrict access to over 18 sites. We are praying that the Government will bring in laws to compel all ISPs to put in place an opt-in system for adult sites with a robust system of age verification in order to allow access to adults only.

Over this last year we have seen answers to prayer in many areas e.g. the Commonwealth Games was a happy and successful event with no disruption by extremists despite suggestions in the media that there would be trouble. We have also seen some success in allowing Christians to state what the Bible says about topical issues without facing court proceedings. Some who lost their jobs last year for stating their opinions have been reinstated. We thank God that the implementation of equality laws seems to be less radical and more just than a year ago.

Activities

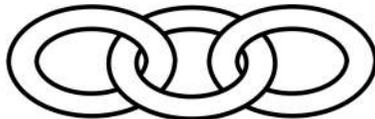
Our main activity is sending out the prayer requests by telephone and email every Monday morning. Ours is in many ways a hidden ministry. Many of our members are restricted by age and infirmity but they can still be involved in this ministry from their own homes. When they see answers to prayer they are encouraged and strengthened in their Christian faith.

A Leader's Retreat and an Annual General Meeting (at our conference) are held once a year. These provide a place to share our concerns and pray together for national needs. We also pray for each other, recognising Jesus' promise to answer our prayers and our need of guidance and strength from him.

Prospect and Outlook

As we read the press, watch the news and keep informed about the activities of our Government, we see a continued need for our ministry. Praying over issues in unity with members the length and breadth of Britain binds us together in our efforts to bring God's blessing to our nation. It strengthens us and encourages us as we see injustice addressed, and efforts being made to combat some of the ills in our present society.

If you have been inspired by this report to be part of such an essential ministry please contact Elisabeth Sammon for further information. Ed



Link Group

The first meeting of the Link Group will be on Monday the 5th October at 7:30 pm in the Church. This will be a surprise night with a light supper.

On the 19th October Mrs. Vivienne MacDonald is taking us to the sunshine with a talk and slides on the South Pacific, including Easter Island and the Galapagos.

Helensburgh Young Carers are coming on the 2nd November to tell us about the things that they do and on November the 16th Annie Bell will be talking about millinery and accessories. On the 30th November we have "Retired? Or Re-tyred?" with the Rev. F Booth.

All meetings will be held in the Church until further notice.

We have arranged an outing to the King's Theatre on Friday the 11th December to see Snow White. Tickets cost £22, which includes the price of the coach. We will leave at 11:30 am from West King Street, opposite the Bungalow, for the 1 pm performance.

Monday Prayer Group.

This has been meeting on Monday evenings 5-6pm but few people attend. During October and November we propose meeting for prayer from 9 - 9.25am on Sunday mornings in the Bungalow, then joining the 9.30 - 9.45am prayer meeting if able.

Prayer moves the hand which moves the world. Anon



The Guild

Helensburgh Parish Church Guild meets for the first time on 6th October at 2pm. Please note that, for the present, we will be meeting in the main hall of Charlotte Street Halls at Park Church. We look forward to meeting old friends and making new acquaintances.

October 6th Welcome

October 13th Music and Magic, with William Simpson

October 20th Members Afternoon

October 27th Communion Tokens, an explanation, with Sandy Kerr

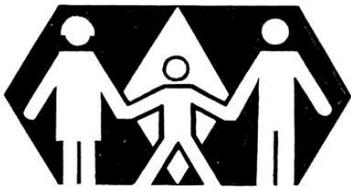
November 3rd Members Afternoon

November 10th "Glass Goes" with Karen Mason

November 17th The Silk Road, China with Karja Byrne

November 24th Afternoon Tea with Rhu and Shandon Guild

Worship is no longer worship when it reflects the culture around us more than the Christ within us. - *Tozer*



Helensburgh Child Contact Centre Coffee Morning

A date for your diaries – Saturday 10th October

10 – 12 noon, URC HALL

You may have read the article about the Contact Centre which was published in the June edition of Connections. When the new halls are finished, the Contact Centre will be located within them, operating every Saturday.

On October 10th we will be holding a fundraising coffee morning in the URC Hall. Please come along and bring a friend. All proceeds will go to the running of the Contact Centre.

If you have any goods you would like to donate, please contact Barbie Paterson.

Certain thoughts are prayers. There are moments when, whatever be the attitude of the body, the soul is on its knees.
Victor Hugo

Eco congregation

Lomond and Helensburgh Network

The members of this group, initially mostly inspired by the late Sue Vidits over 6 years ago, represent Churches in Helensburgh, Balloch, Alexandria and Jamestown.

Over the last few years we have helped in beach cleans and had guest speakers to our meetings including Rev Trevor Jamieson (chaplain to the Nationwide Network), to hear his views on fracking, and James Auld (funeral director), who gave us a talk on the options available for more eco-friendly funerals.

We have organised several trips to see what Eco measures are already in practice at Townhead Farm, the food waste recycling plant at Deerdykes in Cumbernauld and an eco new build house in Gartocharn. The Churches themselves have also inspired us with their Eco projects most notable are the meadow and orchard at Luss and the allotments at Alexandria Parish Church.

The work of the local Eco Schools has been amazing and each year at the June Coffee Morning, where the various schools have displayed their work, we have enjoyed seeing what they have done. The schools have also enjoyed competing by designing posters, making models and writing books for the annual Helensburgh and Lomond Network trophy for schools.

At our September meeting our guest speaker was Mr Stuart McCracken, performance manager of General Waste Disposal in West Argyll. Argyll and Bute Council manages the landfill sites on Mull, Islay and Tiree, but the mainland sites also have input from the company Shanks. General waste is first sorted at a composting plant but other waste goes to Jamestown for a later sort. Greenlight is the Helensburgh company in charge of recycling. Apparently Helensburgh holds the best record in Argyll and Bute for recycling, but we cannot be complacent, as the total amount of waste has risen in the last 2 years. It would be better for the environment if we first reduced the amount of waste we create: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle places the three in order of importance. It takes resources to manufacture and transport all products, even those made from recycled content, and spending resources leaves the world poorer.

If you would be interested in joining the Eco Congregation group please speak to Elizabeth Lambert or Jan Chisholm.

Our next meeting is on Nov 4th 10:30am in the Bungalow, Helensburgh Parish Church. All Welcome



Christmas Bags for the Women's Refuge

My apologies if this article seems rather like the Christmas catalogues which arrive in August, but now that Connections comes out every two months I felt it was necessary to put a reminder in this edition so that there is time for people to respond.

For many years our church has supported the Women's Refuge in Balloch by donating Wellbeing Packs. For the last three years we have also given each resident a Christmas bag filled with small, wrapped presents (a bit like a Christmas stocking). We hope to do the same again this year.

There are ten residents. The idea is to have identical presents for each resident and it makes it more of a surprise if each one of those presents is individually wrapped. The sort of items we are looking for are:



Mugs	Chocolates	Hairbrushes
Tea towels	Lip salves	Hand creams
Moisturisers	Teaspoons	Socks and bed socks
Warm scarves	Gloves	

I would be very grateful if any of you would like to give presents for these bags. I also appreciate cash donations as they help me to fill in the gaps if we don't have quite enough of an item. Please could you phone or email me to let me know what you would like to give so that we can avoid duplication.

If you wish to speak to me, I am often at the coffee after the 10 o'clock service. Alternatively, you can phone me on 672704 or email: barbiepaterson@hotmail.com

The women at the Refuge are going through very difficult times, many have fled their homes with the minimum of belongings. When they leave the refuge they often go to new accommodation where they have to set up home with only a few basic items of equipment; that is why I have included mugs, teaspoons and tea towels on the list. It would be good to brighten their Christmas Day with these bags: please help us to do this.

Barbie Paterson

After the Sunday service the minister stood by the door to greet the congregation. "Good morning, Jonathan," the minister said, as a little boy reached out and handed him something. "What's this?"

"Money," said the boy, with a big smile. "It's for you!" When the minister protested in surprise, the little boy continued: "But I want you to have it. My daddy says you're the poorest preacher we ever had, and I want to help you."

Songs of Friendship for Christian Aid

A Choral Concert by Scots and Swedes together

Sunday 4 October 2015 at 7.00 in Helensburgh Parish Church

Since 2010, a Helensburgh choir has been 'twinned' with a Swedish one, the Sollerökoren, and has now sung with it in Scotland, Sweden, Portugal, Romania and France. Sollerön is a village on an island in a beautiful lake in Central Sweden where Tony Kent of Helensburgh was born. It was he who established the connection, and brought about the formation of the Helensburgh Family Singers.

The most recent joint expedition, to Helensburgh's twin town of Thouars, was in April of this year and also involved a local French choir.

The concert on October 4 will consist of much of the same programme as was sung in Thouars providing a Helensburgh audience with the opportunity to hear what so delighted all those who came to L'Eglise St Médard.

The delightful mixture of Swedish and Scottish songs is enhanced by a more substantial work, the Mass in G by Schubert in which the soloists will be Elspeth Davis and John-Anthony Graham from Helensburgh and Ivar Murelius from Sweden. The specially formed orchestra will be led by Christine Sinclair which will also accompany flautist Louise Burnet in movements from Bach's Suite no 2. The conductor will be David Bruce.

The concert is being presented in support of Christian Aid, Helensburgh. Admission by donation.

MND Appeal

A dear family member of mine, Margaret Whitelaw, has sadly been diagnosed with motor neurone disease (MND). MND is a disorder that affects the neurons that control muscle activity. MND is a progressive, degenerative disease that causes muscle weakness, paralysis, and ultimately, respiratory failure and death.

Despite this, Margaret has been the strongest lady I've ever known in my life. I'm so proud of her each and every day and so in return I want to make her as proud of me as I can.

I have decided to run in the Great Scottish Run Half Marathon in Glasgow on Sunday 4 October 2015. I want to raise as much money as possible for MND Scotland so that they have the ability to help as many people as possible, as I know they have been brilliant with Margaret! This money means so little to us individually, but so much more when it's combined together and used to better other people's last moments.

Absolutely any sponsorship would be genuinely and honestly appreciated.

I can be sponsored online,, alternatively there will be sponsorship forms available in the church. Thank you so much.

Sarah Gilchrist

Inspirational Moments

Have I not commanded thee? Be strong and of good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest. Deuteronomy 31:8 (KJV)

Self-doubt and self-belief are emotions that are often imposed upon us by those who cannot appreciate our sense of purpose or determination.

A chemist was conducting research on what he hoped would be a new bonding agent: a glue. Despite his best efforts, the experiments failed to produce the desired result. The solutions, when applied, resulted in a 'tacky' surface but not one that resulted in permanent adhesion. His colleagues ridiculed him for continuing to modify his experiments claiming that he was wasting his time and energy. Perhaps 99 people out of 100 would have come to this conclusion and yielded to peer pressure but this young chemist was the one in a hundred who thought differently.

Instead of deciding that his work was a failure, he asked, "what if it's a success? Now he needed to modify his experiments to answer the question "what's the use of an adhesive solution that will not bond two surfaces together?" Eventually, with persistence, he made the discovery that became a huge commercial success. Thus the *Post-it* note was created.

Had he taken heed of his colleague's jibes and ridicule, he could easily have lost confidence in his abilities. Unwittingly or otherwise he had been guided and driven by a force greater than himself.

Sometimes it's the people nobody imagines anything of who do the things nobody can imagine.

Melville Matheson

Jars of Grace for UNICEF

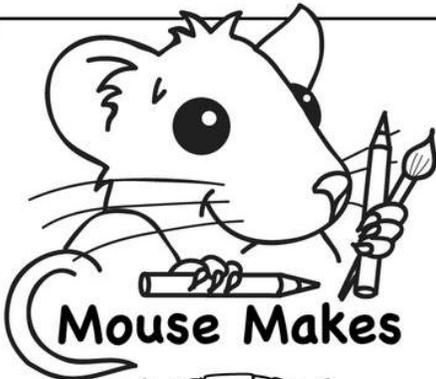
At the end of October I will total the amount of money received over the year so that our Treasurer can send a cheque off to UNICEF.

If you have filled a jar during the summer months I will be very happy to receive it. Please give your jar to any member of the Welcome Team any Sunday and it will be passed on to me. If your jar is heavy just give me a ring on 676866 and I will be happy to collect it.

Thank you for your continued support.

Rosemary McGinley





The Lord's teachings are perfect.

*They give **strength** to his people.*

The Lord's rules can be **trusted**.

*They help even the foolish become **wise**.*

The Lord's laws are **right**.
*They make people **happy**.*

The Lord's commands are **good**.

*They show people the **right way** to live.*



from Psalm 119:7-8

Do you have a favourite bible verse? Write it here:

.....
.....
.....
.....

Colour in the illustrated bible verse, cut out and use as a bookmark in your bible.



GOD'S

WORD

is a

LAMP

TO

GUIDE

my feet

and a

LIGHT

for my

PATH

PSALM 119:105

Law and Grace – Live on Stage

Translated into 22 languages, performed in 319 cities, seen by over 700 million people, the world's longest running musical, *Les Miserables*, was first staged thirty years ago this month.

The opening night received poor reviews, as did Victor Hugo's novel, on which it is based, when published in 1862. But its haunting, utterly human themes, memorable tunes and a profound Christian message have outlasted the critics.

A reformed ex-convict Jean Valjean, moved by the mercy shown him by a bishop whom he had robbed, went on to spend his life trying to improve the lot of the poor. Nevertheless, he is pursued relentlessly by a policeman for having broken parole years before. Interwoven with his life are stories of political hopes raised and dashed, affection spurned, grinding poverty and, and spite of all that, the endurance of divine love.

The theme is deeply biblical, encapsulated in John 1.17: "For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ."

Items for the next issue of Connections must be with the editor by 24th November. These can be handed in at the church office.

Connections will be available for delivery on the 3rd December.

Pastoral Register

Deaths

26/7 Mary Ferguson

2/8 Marion Young

29/8 Lynne Irvine

15/9 Peter McFarland

I am the resurrection and the life

Barnabas Fund

Many of us that hear the news of the terrible conditions of the refugees from the Middle East who are attempting to enter this country from Calais, or are entering Europe for safety, or a better life, wonder what can be done, whether by our government, or by ourselves.

While here is not the place to consider what the government can or should do, some may find it helpful to have their attention drawn to the Barnabas Fund. This Fund is particularly concerned with the plight of Christians not only in the Middle East, but also in a wide range of countries which makes life hard for believers in our Lord.

A bi-monthly magazine is published and there is an excellent web-site that tells of the courage of believers and the oppression that they face.

This web-site, www.barnabasfund.org can be accessed for more information, or the fund can be contacted by phone 0800 587 4006.

I am also happy to talk to anyone about this

John Stirling



	<p>THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND Helensburgh Parish Church Colquhoun Square, Helensburgh Scottish Charity: SCO12053 www.helensburghcos.org</p> <p>Church Office: Kirk Cottage, Colquhoun Street, HELENSBURGH G84 8UP</p> <p><i>Open: Monday–Friday 9:30am–12:00pm Thursday 5:30pm–7:30pm</i></p> <p>Tel: 01436 676880 E-mail: office@helensburghcos.org</p>	
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