

**Margaret Whitelaw**

I should like to thank all who attended my wife Margaret's uplifting funeral service on 12 August. A full church was a wonderful tribute to an inspirational lady who fought such a brave battle against motor neurone disease. The retiring donations in her memory raised £1,600 for St Margaret of Scotland Hospice.

Thanks also to all who visited her at home, in hospital or in the hospice. The 200 sympathy cards I have received have been a great comfort and remind me of how much she was loved.

*Gordon W Whitelaw*

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The Editor would appreciate any feedback, positive or negative or suggestions on the new style of Connections. Please send your comments to **magazine@helensburghcos.org** or hand in to the Church Office addressed for the attention of the Editor.

If you do not wish Connections to be delivered to your home it can be viewed on the church **website www.helensburghcos.org** or leave your e-mail address at the Church Office where it will be forwarded to the appropriate person.

To be able to produce a magazine it is essential to have items to put in it therefore the editor would be delighted to receive newsworthy items. It would really be appreciated if some of the Young Church members could send in items too!

Items for the next issue of Connections to be in the hands of the Editor by **14th November**. Items can be sent to the dedicated magazine address **magazine@helensburghcos.org** or be handed in to the church office addressed to the Editor. **Please do not send items to the office e-mail address but use the dedicated Connections address.** Thank you.



**THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

**Helensburgh Parish Church**

Colquhoun Square, Helensburgh

Scottish Charity: SCO12053 [www.helensburghcos.org](http://www.helensburghcos.org)

**Church Office, Colquhoun Street,**

**HELENSBURGH G84 8UP**

*Open: Monday—Wednesday 9:30am –12:30pm*

*Thursday 9:30am-12:30pm and 5:30pm-7:30pm Friday 10:00am-12:30pm*

*Tel: 01436 676880 E-mail: [office@helensburghcos.org](mailto:office@helensburghcos.org)*



# HELENSBURGH PARISH CHURCH

## CONNECTIONS

SEPTEMBER 2016



## From the Manse...

Dear Friends,

The Olympic Games have closed for another four years. Millions of people around the globe watched enthralled as more than 11,000 athletes from 207 National Olympic Committees pushed themselves to the very limits of endurance and beyond. Indeed, these games were the most successful for Great Britain since 1908, winning a total of 67 medals! August was indeed a sporting marvel! Without a doubt, there is an idealism still about the Olympics.

That idealism began with the ancient Greeks who saw the Games as a celebration of the human body and a way of honouring the gods. The Olympic idea was revived in 1896 by Baron Pierre de Coubertin. He was the founder of the modern Games, and it was he who said, "It's not the winning that counts, it's the taking part."

Ever since, the Olympics have been an enthralling narrative of the heroic. They are stories of courage, tenacity, commitment, but above all of sacrifice - revealing what can be achieved by those who stop at nothing in their pursuit of excellence.

It is strange to think that the Games were being played in St. Paul's day, and he wrote about them in his letter to the Corinthians. "Do you not know," he told them, "that in a race all the runners compete, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it!" But then he went on, "I do not run aimlessly, nor do I box beating the air." He seems to be urging them to live with a sense of purpose, just as runners and boxers compete with a sense of purpose. Sport is an example for us all on how to live. What is it that we will strive and compete for, make sacrifices for and stretch ourselves to the limits of endurance? What is the purpose?

The beginning of a new session is a good time to ask about the purpose of things. Being part of a church makes us part of a community that sees other purposes worth striving for. In a world that values money more than anything else, we hold different values to be cherished. In a society that tells you the things that matter are status, success and the freedom to do what you want, we dare to disagree. When governments think they can create peace by waging wars, we beg to differ.

We believe that **ALL** men and women, especially the poor, are our brothers and sisters. We are the sworn enemies of the win-at-any-price philosophy. We say there is a far deeper mystery at the core of life. We believe that justice, compassion and forgiveness are the gold, silver and bronze awards to be prized more than anything else. We run a different race.

## Pastoral Register

### Baptisms

*Let the little children come to me*



3<sup>rd</sup> July Innes John Inglis  
31<sup>st</sup> July Callie Marie Walker (at Rhu & Shandon Church)  
Sophie Lindsay Oxnard

### New Members

Mrs Mary McKenzie  
Mr David Bell



### Disjunctions

*Go now in peace, may the love of God surround you everywhere you may go*

Mrs J Campbell  
Mr & Mrs A Carson  
Mr & Mrs A Cawkwell  
Mr R Jeffrey  
Mr & Mrs D MacLeod  
Mrs S Newall  
Mr & Mrs N Plenderleith  
Mr & Mrs C Rettie  
Mrs D Rintoul  
Mr D Taylor to Alloway Parish Church  
Mr R Trail to Cardross Parish Church

### Deaths

*I go to prepare a place for you*



10<sup>th</sup> May Myra Stoupe, Northwood House, Helensburgh  
17<sup>th</sup> June Rae Aird, Argyle Lodge, Helensburgh  
13<sup>th</sup> June Fiona Brough, Campbell Street, Helensburgh  
2<sup>nd</sup> July Marjory MacDonald, Drumfork Road, Helensburgh  
11<sup>th</sup> July Eileen McKechnie Wark, William Street Helensburgh  
1<sup>st</sup> August Geoffrey (Geoff) Arnott Brewster, Abercromby Crescent, Helensburgh  
2<sup>nd</sup> August Margaret Whitelaw, Loch Drive, Helensburgh  
2<sup>nd</sup> August Agnes (Nan) Forsyth, Glen Drive, Helensburgh  
11<sup>th</sup> August May Rae, Baird Avenue, Helensburgh

### We extend our deepest sympathy to those who know the pain of loss

Due to the number of deaths within the community of Helensburgh, and to ensure that no family is ever left out, the Ministry Team have decided not to announce individual deaths during worship. Funeral details - if required - will continue to be announced. All other information can be obtained either from your Elder or from the Church Office.

## Why Change?

"If something isn't broken don't fix it" we do not like change we want things to stay the same, or do we? When it comes to the house we all like a vacuum cleaner instead of a broom well before 1908 we couldn't since James Spangler only just invented it. Had it not been for the sales promotion of Mr Hoover it might never had made it to the commercial market place. Before 1880 we would not have got stuck behind a caravan and imagine before 1892 there was no such thing as a tractor, imagine how fast we could travel then, except most of us were only able to walk as cars were a rarity the first mass produced car the Model T Ford not being produced until 1908.

When it comes to church most of us are even more certain that we do not want change, things are all right as they are. Well if we do not want change, the average preach in the seventeenth century was at least an hour and the congregations usually stood or if we go back even further services were in Latin or further still the early church services were in homes and hired rooms no sense of a Church building then.

What we really mean is we like what we like and do not like anything else but think back to the Golden Age when Sunday school was a must, two services a day were the norm and nothing else happened on a Sunday ever. As a youth I recall serving at a minimum of three services a morning every Sunday and then once on a Wednesday before School. So really we do not usually mean "we do not like change that has taken place", we are concerned about where change might lead us to or what might happen to the bits we like now?

First I have to ask a question for whom does Church exist? Certainly not for those of us who are members!! The church is the body of Christ on earth here to do the work of Jesus which as he said Himself "is to preach good news..... and the recovery of sight to the blind" We exist for those who are not yet members therefore our question should be what must we do to reach the others who do not come? Once we have the answer to that question the next stage is simple, do it!!

So before we next complain about change ask this question is it having an effect? Are new folk coming in? If not perhaps we try something else or would you prefer the hour glass back in the pulpit! K V Beaumont FCMI

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*It is with sadness that Les Charters would like to inform members of the congregation that his wife Margaret (nee Kerr) passed away after a short illness early in August. Les and Margaret were married in the church in 1958 and were members of St. Andrew's Kirk. Les now lives in Dumfries.*

Fred Craddock, an American preacher, swears this really happened to him. He was visiting a home where the family had adopted a racing dog. He was a big, spotted greyhound and he lay contentedly on the carpet while the children pulled his tail or used him as a pillow. The dog seemed so happy. So Fred Craddock said to the dog, "Are you still racing?"

"No, no," said the dog, "I don't race anymore."

"Don't you miss the glitter and excitement of the track?"

"No," he replied.

"Well, what was the matter? Did you get too old to race?"

"No, I still had some race in me."

"Well, what then? Did you not win?"

"I won over a million dollars for my owner."

"Well, what was it? Did you get injured?"

"No"

"Then why?"

He said, "I quit."

"You quit?"

"Yes", he said, "I quit."

"Why did you quit?"

"I discovered that what I was chasing was not really a rabbit, and I quit. Ten years of running around that track day after day, seven days a week with others chasing that rabbit. Well, one day, I got up close; I got a good look at that rabbit. It was a fake! I had spent my whole life chasing a fake rabbit! I didn't retire; I quit!"

With every blessing,

David T. Young



## Worship September - December 2016

### September

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup>** 9:30am Contemporary Worship : Worship Team  
11:00am Morning Worship : Rev. Dr. Charles E. Stewart

**Sunday 11th** 9:30am Contemporary Worship : Rev. David T. Young  
11:00am Morning Worship : Rev. Dr. Charles E. Stewart

**Sunday 18th** 11:00am Family Service Re Dedication of Organisations  
Rev. Tina Kemp

**Sunday 25th** 9:30am Contemporary Worship : Rev. Tina Kemp  
11:00am Morning Worship : Rev. David T. Young

### October

**Sunday 2nd** 11:00am Family Harvest Communion Service : Rev. David T. Young

**Sunday 9th** 9:30am Contemporary Worship : Rev. David T. Young  
11:00am Morning Worship : Rev. David T. Young

**Sunday 16th** 11:00am Morning Worship : Associate Minister

**Sunday 23rd** 9:30am Contemporary Worship : Associate Minister  
11:00am Morning Worship : Rev. David T. Young

**Sunday 30th** 9:30am Contemporary Worship : Worship Team  
11:00am Morning Worship : Rev. David T. Young

### November

**Sunday 6th** 9:30am Contemporary Worship : Rev. David T. Young  
11:00am Morning Worship : Rev. David T. Young

**Sunday 13th** 11:30am Remembrance Service : Associate Minister

**Sunday 20th** 9:30am Contemporary Worship : Associate Minister  
11:00am Morning Worship : Rev. David T. Young

**Sunday 27th** 9:30am Contemporary Worship : Worship Team  
11:00am Morning Worship : Rev. David T. Young

### December

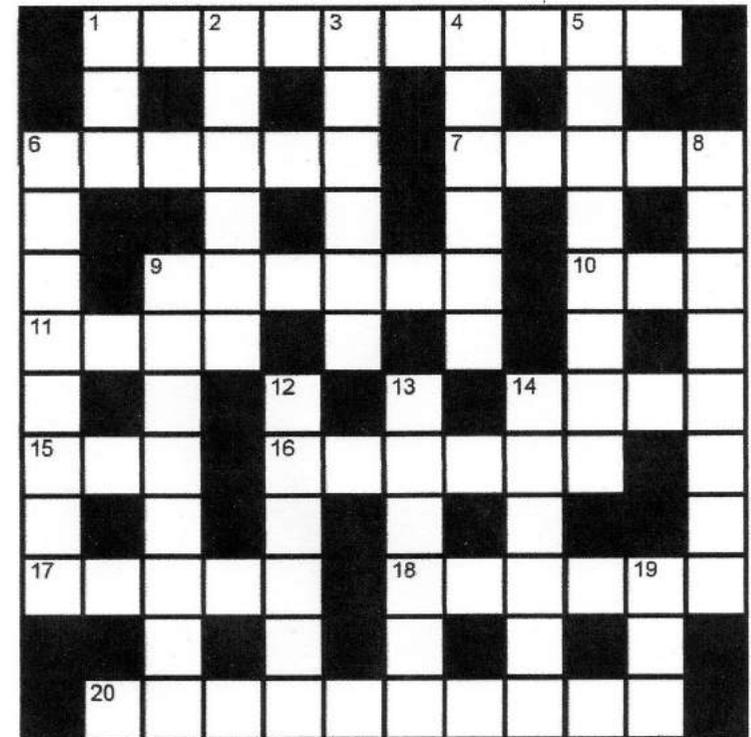
**Sunday 4th** 9:30am Contemporary Worship : Rev. David T. Young  
11:00am Morning Worship : Rev. David T. Young

**Sunday 11th** 9:30am Contemporary Worship : Associate Minister  
11:00am Morning Worship : Rev. Tina Kemp

**Sunday 18th** 11:00am Nativity & Gift Service : Rev. David T. Young

**Sunday 25th** 10:00am Christmas Day Service : Rev. David T. Young

## Tea break Bible Crossword



by *Philologus*

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#### Across

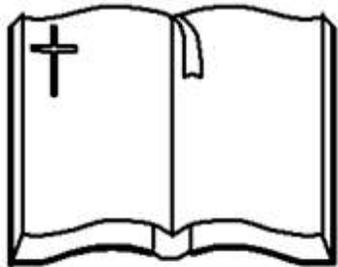
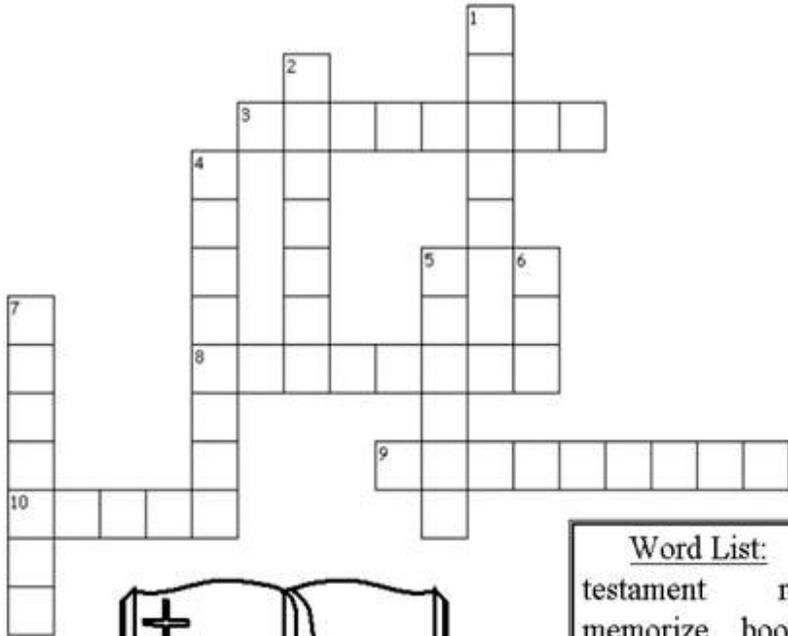
- 1 Remorse (10)  
6 Consecrate (6)  
7 Break a Commandment (5)  
9 Make a hole (6)  
10 Pot (3)  
11 What Ai became (4)  
14 This initially watered the earth (4)  
15 Samuel's mentor (3)  
16 Small river (6)  
17 Mount that Moses climbed (5)  
18 Prophet in David's time (6)  
20 Biblical garden (10)

#### Down

- 1 Take flight (3)  
2 One of the twelve (6)  
3 All living things (6)  
4 Response (6)  
5 Guardians of Eden (8)  
6 The father of Levi (8)  
8 Grow (8)  
9 Forbearance (8)  
12 Second longest book (6)  
13 Statue metal (6)  
14 Sister of Lazarus and Mary (6)  
19 Wood splitter (3)

## For Young Church

# Bible Crossword



### Word List:

testament	red
memorize	books
inspired	guide
promises	letters
parable	verses

### Across

3. The best way to keep the Word of God in you heart is to \_\_\_\_ it.
8. Every word in the Bible (no matter who wrote it) is \_\_\_\_ by God.
9. The Bible is separated into the old and new \_\_\_\_.
10. There are 66 of these in the Bible.

### Down

1. The Bible is our biggest \_\_\_\_ in helping us know how to live.
2. Some of the books of the Bible are \_\_\_\_ written to help and encourage others.
4. The Bible is full of these just for you.
5. Each chapter has a number of these in it.
6. In some Bibles Jesus' words are printed in this color.
7. Jesus' favorite way to teach and tell stories was by telling these.

## Creche Rota September to December 2016

### September 4th

June O'Neil  
Lindsay McKechnie

### September 11th

Barbie Paterson  
Morag Kesson

### September 18th

Mary Burn  
Audrey Walker

### September 25th

Louise Hughes  
June O'Neil

### October 2nd

Barbie Paterson  
Morag Kesson

### October 9th

Barbie Paterson  
Lindsay McKechnie

### October 16th

Audrey Walker  
Mary Burn



### October 23rd

June O'Neil  
Louise Hughes

### October 30th

Barbie Paterson  
Morag Kesson

### November 6th

Lindsay McKechnie  
Barbie Paterson

### November 13th

Audrey Walker  
Mary Burn

### November 20th

Barbie Paterson  
June O'Neil

### November 27th

Morag Kesson  
Barbie Paterson

### December 4th

Louise Hughes  
Lindsay McKechnie

## Worship on Wednesday



The short services at 12.30 each Wednesday, followed by soup and bread, have been a well supported success, with over 30 people attending regularly. These services will continue into the autumn. Warm thanks go to Helen and Neil Turnbull, Helen and Bobby Caldwell, Mary Loudon, Shany Newall and Graham Philips for providing delicious soup week by week. More volunteers have come forward but there is always room for more. Why not brighten up your week by joining us on Wednesdays?

Mike Loudon, Convenor  
Worship and Discipleship Team

**The Sunday at Seven** concerts start again at the end of October, and the details for the first three concerts are as follows:



**October 29** - Piano Extravaganza Mark 2

Following the success of their concert two years ago, Derek Clark and Walter Blair present another programme of music for four hands on one and two pianos.

**November 26** - Scottish Opera Emerging Artists

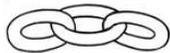
A programme of operatic extracts and other vocal music presented by the current crop of up-and-coming singers from Scottish Opera.

**December 11** (Note earlier-than -usual date!) Come and Sing!

The 30th annual Carol Concert featuring augmented choir, with Saltire Brass and Walter Blair (organ). There will be a retiring collection in aid of Macmillan Cancer Care, and mince pies and mulled wine will be served in the halls after the concert.

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**LINK GROUP**



The Link Group has enjoyed two events during the Summer months. On 14<sup>th</sup> July we had a lovely trip to Cardwell Garden Centre. A beautiful day for a journey by coach, followed by a browse around the shops ,then a delicious afternoon tea, served by helpful and caring staff. Two days later, the Link Group hosted the Saturday Coffee Morning. With a fine cake stall and lots of customers, the Link Group Ladies served tea and biscuits, with a smile, and chatted to all those who turned out to enjoy the social chat, in company of good friends.

**The Link Group starts** up again for the new session, on **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October at 7-30 p.m.** in the Small Hall, when Margaret McAllister will test our knowledge of Scotland, with a Quiz entitled " Scottish Place Names Through Music."

The titles of talks for the next few meetings thereafter are -

17 <sup>th</sup> October	Andrea Steele	Cardross Church Organist
31 <sup>st</sup> October	Betty Balfour	Bletchley
14 <sup>th</sup> November	P.C. Henderson	Crime Prevention
28 <sup>th</sup> November	Corrie Smith	Lomond Soaps

We look forward to welcoming everyone to our meetings.

*Eileen Drummond.*

**Congregational Life**

It's been a busy year for the Congregational Life Team. The website has been given a new look which has involved a lot of work, we hope you enjoy using it. The Magazine is also undergoing changes, now being published quarterly. Of course the opening of our new halls was our big project and was a great success. Many groups are enjoying new members because of the interest generated on the day, with many folks amazed at all we do. We have also started Saturday morning coffee mornings during the summer months, with different groups hosting week by week. These have been enjoyed by those attending and those serving, we have also raised some funds along the way too. Total to follow. Thank you to everyone who has helped with all our endeavours.

**Romans 12:10-11** *Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honour. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.*

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**Knitting Group**

The Knitting Group meets the first Thursday of the month in Room 2. The group have been busy producing different items for various charities. If you enjoy knitting and having a 'blether' at the same time come along to the next meeting on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October 1.30pm-3.30pm – we would love to see you there. For further information contact Liz Glover 671068



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**Church Flowers**

There are flowers in church every week because of the generosity of numerous people who donate them and also the ladies who so willingly arrange them. At the moment there are still a few dates which need to be filled. If you are willing to donate flowers please leave your name and telephone number on the Flower Calendar in the church vestibule. If you have any questions about flowers or the calendar please do not hesitate to get in touch with Dorothy Reid 673546.

## Helensburgh's Tennis Ace



Huge congratulations go to Gordon Reid on becoming the first Wimbledon Men's Wheelchair Singles Champion.

This gave Gordon his fourth Grand Slam victory this year. He also won a thrilling Wimbledon Men's Doubles following on from similar success at Rolland Garros. He took the Australian Open Singles title in January.

Gordon's grandparents, Morven and Elizabeth, Helensburgh Parish Church members, are fast becoming the Helensburgh equivalent of Dunblane's Roy

and Shirley Erskine!

We look forward to watching Gordon compete in the Para Olympics in Rio in the hope he will add further to the success of this year.

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### Coffee Morning

Saturday 8th October 10am - 12 noon

Helensburgh Parish Church Hall, Colquhoun Square Helensburgh

Entry Adults £2 Children 50p.

Raising money for Helensburgh Child Contact Centre.  
Providing a safe place for children to re-establish contact in a safe  
and  
welcoming setting.  
which encourages supportive family relationships.

Usual stalls including Home baking. Gifts. Books and Jewellery

All Welcome for more information contact Elizabeth 679565



## Helensburgh Parish Church Guild

The new session of our Guild starts on **11<sup>th</sup> October at 2:00pm** in the Small Hall when we will talk through our programme and collect enrolment fees.

On 18<sup>th</sup> October we have our minister Rev. David T. Young as our speaker. The meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> October will take the form of a Tea and Chat. We look forward to seeing you and new members will be made most welcome.

Ethne Yule

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### A Note from the Session Clerk

I hope you have all enjoyed the summer. The working teams of session are having their first meetings after the summer in preparation for the Kirk Session meeting on Thursday 22 September. Ever wondered what the Kirk Session get up to? I would like to remind the congregation that Kirk Session meetings are public (unless otherwise stated) and members are more than welcome to come along and observe.

One thing to report since the last edition of Connections, is that the Moderator has established a Core Team. Today's society is more instantaneous, and as such we must have the tools to deal with this. Before I go any further, I would like to assure everyone that this is **NOT** a decision making group (unless there is a situation that requires an immediate response). This group is about supporting the Minister and Associate Minister day to day.

#### The Core Team:

- \* will consist of Minister, Associate Minister, Session Clerk, Depute Session Clerk, Chair of the Congregational Board, Clerk to the Congregational Board, Church Treasurer and Finance Convenor;
- \* is a forum for support, particularly to the Minister and Associate Minister;
- \* is responsible for providing strategic leadership for the Church, particularly in areas of vision, innovation, growth and development; and church HR matters
- \* acts with the full authority of the Kirk Session to take business critical decisions that are deemed to be urgent and time specific, and will seek homologation from the wider Kirk Session as soon as is reasonable;
- \* is not a decision making body per se and will ensure that emergent items are appropriately assessed and directed to the correct team or committee within Kirk Session or Congregational Board respectively.

Karen Lyall  
Session  
Clerk

At the **Young Church annual Promotion Service** in June

the winners of the St Bride's Cup for attendance, attitude and application were the Columbans from left to right Anna Besenyei, Dylan Stephen, Esther Lopez, James Field, Sophie Reid and Matthew Lambert (not pictured.)

**Well done Columbans!**

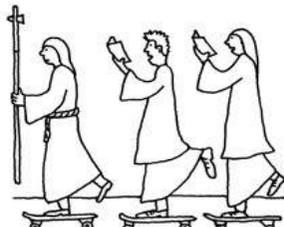


**YOUNG PEOPLE**

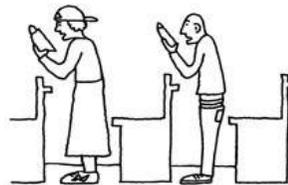
HOW TO STOP THEM LEAVING THE CHURCH



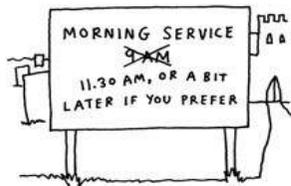
GET THEM INVOLVED



LET THEM LEAD THE SERVICE



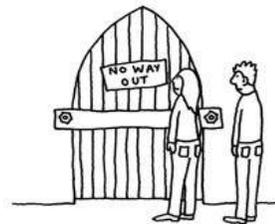
ENCOURAGE THE CONGREGATION TO BE MORE YOUTH-FRIENDLY



ADJUST THE SERVICE TIME



SEND THEM ON A LIFE-CHANGING TRIP



LOCK THE DOORS

CartoonChurch.com

**Church Grounds**

Understandably, we have been focussed on the completion of the halls complex for a long time now. During construction the church grounds became inaccessible and then they were given a modest landscaping treatment. Now, there is an opportunity to bring the whole of our grounds to a standard matching the quality of the Halls. The Congregational Board agreed to a proposal for working up a design brief for the use of the grounds as a Gospel Garden. A draft brief has been exhibited to the congregation on one occasion and some useful ideas added in. During September, the Board will consider the matter again and take a view on how to proceed. There will be scope for further changes. I know that some parts of the grounds had been planted or landscaped as a memorial to people. It may be possible to encapsulate a tribute to them in the new works. If you know of any such previous memorials, please let me know. Similarly, it could be open to people to sponsor a plant or some new planting in the future. Meantime, we need a few work parties just to keep on top of the luxuriant growth that our climate produces. There are dedicated bands of folk who have volunteered to water pots or mow the grass. Depending on the Board decision, we may be able to have some work parties this autumn to clear the way for larger works. If you are interested in helping out, please contact me and we will organise a few work parties.



Sandy Kerr  
675421

**Weekly Offering Envelopes**



I have a good stock of Weekly Offering Envelopes and should you wish to adopt this method of giving, I would be delighted to supply a set to you.

Jean Ramsay  
F.W.O Convenor

Tel: 672656

## **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 three 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. For the last four 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.

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.

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	lip salves	socks and bed socks
chocolates	handcreams	warm scarves
hairbrushes	moisturisers	gloves
tea towels	teaspoons	

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. (In 2015 I received enough money to buy each resident a matching bath towel and hand towel as well, a really useful addition to the gifts.)

**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 Contemporary Worship or at the coffee after the 11 o'clock service. Alternatively, you can phone me on 672704 or email: [barbiepaterson@hotmail.com](mailto:barbiepaterson@hotmail.com)

*Barbie Paterson*



**Messy Church** is a not-on-Sunday special time for families of all shapes and sizes on the last Saturday of the month 10:30am -12:30 pm. All children must be accompanied by an adult who is responsible for them. We enjoy crafty fun activities with a story, prayer and song and finish with a hot meal together. Messy Church meets alternate months in St Margaret's Churchill Square and United Reformed Church, West Princes St.

These are the dates for this session. To be able to run these sessions we need more volunteers, you do not need to do every month. You do not need PVG or disclosure, you will not be alone with children. If you can sit behind a table and chat to people please volunteer.

27th Aug 16	URC	Joseph
24th Sept 16	St Margaret's	Joseph
29th Oct 16	URC	Joseph
26th Nov 16	St Margaret's	Christmas
28th Jan 17	URC	Feeding 5000
25th Feb 17	St Margaret's	Jairus Daughter
25th Mar 17	URC	Easter
29th April 17	St Margaret's	Elisha
27th May 17	URC	Hannah

If you would like more information please contact :-

Phone: Elizabeth 01436 679565

[Reclyffe\\_lambert@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Reclyffe_lambert@yahoo.co.uk)

Please visit our Facebook page which will show you what kind of activities we get up to:

[www.facebook.com/Helensburgh Messy Church](http://www.facebook.com/Helensburgh_Messy_Church)



## HELENSBURGH BOYS' BRIGADE 100 YEARS CELEBRATIONS

To mark 100 years of Boys' Brigade in Helensburgh the following events have been planned.

**10th September** : Opening Fete at Helensburgh Parish Church between 11.00 am and 2:00pm. There will be tea, coffee and cakes available. Stalls. Photographs of some of the Boys' Brigade history, games for the Boys' and the original design of the 100 years BB Badge which was designed by two of the Boys. **EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

**18th September** : The opening of the Boys' Brigade Time Capsule will take place during the Church Service at Helensburgh Parish Church at 11:00am

**OCTOBER** : During this month, the top floor of the library will exhibit photographs of the past, and the contents of the time capsule. The new 100 Years Badge will also be on show.

**29th October** : A Boys' Brigade Big Breakfast will take place in the Helensburgh Parish Church large hall between 10.00am and 12.00noon

**A programme** detailing our history has been produced and will be available within the next couple of months. If anyone has further information to add, please contact us so we can have as full a history as we can.

**A 100 Years Badge** has been designed by two Boys' from the company and these will be available to anyone who would like to make a donation to the company.

The company is hoping to end this year's celebration by making a donation to CHAS.



You are cordially invited to attend Scottish Churches Housing Action's Autumn Event

**'Homelessness in Scotland: the challenges of uncertainty'**  
**10.15 am-2.15 pm, Friday 7 October 2016**  
**at the Church of Scotland Offices, 121 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 4YN**

We are delighted that our speakers will be Rt. Rev. Dr Russell Barr, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland; and Kevin Stewart MSP, Minister for Local Government and Housing.

This year has been marked by change and uncertainty: with the vote for Brexit, a new Prime Minister, continuing austerity, devolved social security, and possibly another Indyref in the near future. In this changing and challenging economic and political climate how do we continue to find ways of tackling homelessness? The programme will include a panel discussion and an afternoon session 'Spotlight on Homelessness' – highlighting particular aspects of the work of Scottish Churches Housing Action. The event will be followed by the AGM of Scottish Churches Housing Action, to which all are welcome.

Cost: £15.00 per person. Lunch will be provided. To register for the event, e-mail [info@churches-housing.org](mailto:info@churches-housing.org) or contact Elizabeth Lambert 679565





## Autumn Events For Christian Aid

Today, 6.5 million people in Malawi are going hungry, more than the total population of Scotland. Drought, erratic rainfall and devastating floods have led to a life-threatening situation. Harvests have failed and prices have soared.

In the hardest-hit communities, desperate parents, whose crops were nearly ready for harvest, are cooking whatever they can find so that their hungry families have something to eat. As ever, it is the youngest, oldest and the vulnerable who suffer most. Hundreds of thousands of pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers and young children are at particular risk of malnutrition. This is what their today looks like, but it doesn't have to be their future. Christian Aid has released an initial £70,000 of emergency funds to support 1,000 families in Nsanje – one of the poorest regions. This will help families pay for water, meals and other essential supplies. But Christian Aid Scotland needs your help so we can reach more people struggling to feed their families. Our partners have worked in Malawi for many years, helping communities to improve their harvests. We've provided farmers in Nsanje with solar-powered irrigation schemes to combat the effects of climate change. However, the present food crisis is jeopardising all the progress we have made, leaving communities more vulnerable than ever. Hunger today is starving Malawi of its tomorrow. Please help us address the immediate food crisis and continue to boost the longer-term resilience of communities in Malawi.

### Sunday 2nd October

Christian Aid Congregational Lunch  
After the Harvest Service in the Main Hall Helensburgh Parish Church  
Entry by Donation

**Thursday 6th October 7pm-9pm** M&Co Fashion Show for Christian Aid  
M&Co Store Sinclair Street  
Autumn and Winter Fashion for Women, Men and Children.  
includes light refreshments

Tickets available at M&Co shop and Helensburgh Parish Church Office  
All money raised goes to Christian Aid, Malawi Appeal.  
£5 adults £2.50 Child



## Girls Brigade

The 1st Helensburgh Girls' Brigade meets on Friday nights in the halls of Helensburgh Parish Church.

P1-P3 from 7 to 8 p.m.

P4-P7 from 7:00pm to 8:30 p.m.

S1-S6 from 7 to 8.30 p.m.

Our activities include games, crafts, cooking, baking and stories, etc. Girls' Brigade is an interdenominational organisation for young girls. Enrolment and games night for new session is on **Friday 9th September** at 7 :00p.m. For more information visit the Girls' Brigade website at [www.girls-brigade-scotland.org](http://www.girls-brigade-scotland.org) or call 01436673929

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## HOUSEGROUPS

These are informal meetings where a Bible passage is read and discussed, usually following a study guide. No prior knowledge of the Bible is needed. The discussion helps us to learn about God and about Jesus Christ, his life and teaching. We find it **strengthens** our faith, is **supportive**, and **encouraging**. There are two groups at present.



On the **FIRST MONDAY** of every month 2.00pm-3.30pm the meeting is in the Church in Room three. If there is a public holiday on that Monday it moves to the following one. A series on the Parables has just been completed. The subject for the autumn meetings is yet to be chosen. We plan to restart in September.

On **TUESDAY EVENINGS** fortnightly 7.30pm-9.00pm. The September meeting will be held at Elisabeth's, 10 Kidston Drive. We plan to start with a pot luck supper and decide what we want to study this session. Details will be in the intimation sheet.

Anyone who is interested will be most welcome to come to any of our meetings.

For more information contact Jean Call 670936 or Elisabeth Sammon 675340.

## CHURCH LIBRARY

The bookcases in Room 2 ( on your right as you enter the main doors to the halls) house a variety of books which we may all borrow. Do explore the variety of titles. There are some reference books such as Bible Commentaries plus a number of different versions of the Bible and Bible Study guides. Books are arranged in alphabetical order for ease. Chosen at random from the many interesting titles:-

**'Everybody's Normal Till You Get to Know Them '** by John Ortberg which is an amusingly written guide to encountering God's love in tangible ways.

**'Miracles from Mayhem'** by May Nicholson in which May Nicholson tells us how she went from a dissolute lifestyle to establishing the Preshal Trust in Govan where she and others offer help and friendship to many. This is a book full of tragic but refreshing situations as we see faith and hope being built up. May Nicholson has come to Helensburgh on several occasions to speak about her work and has been warmly welcomed.

**'The Lord Our Shepherd'** by J. Douglas Macmillan. Here Psalm 23 is the theme taken by one who early in life was a shepherd in Ardnamurchan. The psalm takes on a new significance as the author adds anecdotes and illustrations from his own experience. This is an inspiring book. takes on a new significance as the author adds anecdotes and illustrations from his own experience. This is an inspiring book.

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## Vale of Leven Hospital Tea Bar

In June this year, celebrations were held marking 20 years of service by the volunteers running Vale of Leven Hospital Tea Bar. Open from Monday to Friday each week, it provides a warm welcome and refreshments to patients, visitors and staff. Over these 20 years, more than £200,000 worth of equipment has been donated to the hospital from Tea Bar profits. In addition, £7,000 has provided gifts to the wards at Christmas – this mainly coming from the “donations” tin. Volunteers from local churches and other organisations in Balloch, Alexandria and Helensburgh were warmly thanked for their support. My particular thanks go to the team from Helensburgh Parish Church who faithfully take their turn during two weeks every three months. Several of our volunteers have been involved from the start and others have retired after many years of service. To all of you, I convey the appreciation of the hospital staff for your part in the success of this venture. The Tea Bar is open weekdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and we work two shifts each day (10am - 1pm and 1pm to 4pm). If you would like to be involved in this work, please contact me (675421) for further details

Jinty Kerr

## THE JOURNEY

Six years have passed since our son died and anyone who knew Steven would know that he was always scribbling with pen and paper. He wrote the following poem dated October 2009 which was read at his funeral service in February 2010. Although I read it often I also know that it is a poem to be shared rather than kept hidden and – who knows? - it may help another from always travelling “on that bus”.

As I left the house one wintry morn,  
Like my journey, a dream was born.  
I trudged along my usual way,  
The road I followed every day.  
I joined the quickly growing queue  
That waited in vain for twenty-two.  
It didn't come, the route was blocked,  
So down the road I grimly walked.  
The air was cold, my pace was slow,  
I didn't know which way to go.  
You see, although this road I knew  
The bus had given a different view.

I wandered on past fields and farms  
Becoming aware of nature's charms.  
I heard the birds in bushes sing,  
Felt the joy their song could bring.  
Lost in thought I travelled free,  
And many wond'rous sights did see.  
Far from the city and all it's noise,  
Away from man's mechanical toys.  
A stream was bubbling down the hill  
Where I took a rest, and drank my fill  
Of water, free from chemical waste.  
It lacked that strange familiar taste.

I lay on the grass and fell asleep  
My appointment, I decided, I wouldn't keep.  
I liked it here in the open land  
Where one could let their lungs expand  
And take in gulps of clean fresh air.  
Breathe in free, without a care,  
It grieved me so to think that soon  
This place would be just like the moon;  
For man is stripping off the land  
Leaving only dust and sand.  
I looked at what I have and had  
And knew my life needn't be so bad.

I knew I'd found the road I wanted,  
And now I face this life undaunted.  
So I say to you, my friends,  
When you come upon life's bends,  
Choose your path with careful duty;  
Take the one which has most beauty,  
For in this life no one can know  
Where, in time, each path will go.  
Each must decide what's right for us,  
Not travel always on that bus.  
Now I must go and this story ends.  
Be aware, on you, your life depends.

Steven Mark Wright  
3.4.1967 – 19.2.2010

Submitted by C. Wright