

WESTBURN PARISH MAGAZINE



AUTUMN 2023

From the Editor

Summer is nearly over and autumn days are fast approaching, with the leaves on the trees changing colour and producing their blanket of colour.

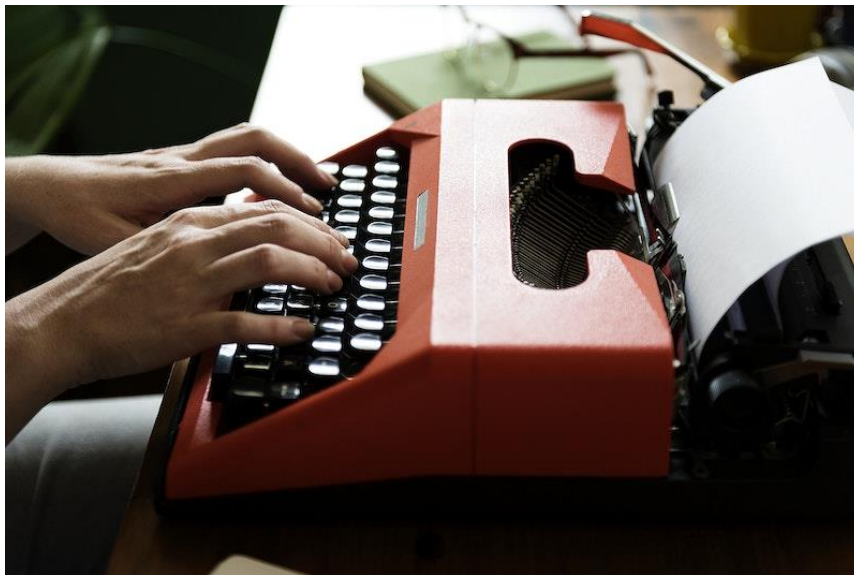
The summer started very hot, but by the time the school holidays arrived the weather had become very mixed. However, I hope that no matter whether you managed to get away for a holiday or not, you were able to relax and enjoy some good weather.

Schools are back and organisations are starting up again for their new session. Details of these are included in the magazine and in the "What's on" insert. If you want more information about what's on, please make contact with the church and we will be happy to put you in touch with the right people.

Articles for the magazine are not just for the organisations and for church committees reporting on what is going on in their area of responsibility. I am sure that you may have stories that you would like to share with the congregation – we would certainly love to hear more about what our members are doing.

You can send me items anytime by email to brian_lindsay22@yahoo.co.uk or in writing care of the church.

I hope that you enjoy the magazine and if you have comments of any kind please let me know.



HARVEST

Our Harvest Thanksgiving Service will take place on Sunday 17th September. We celebrate God's gifts to us in creation and the food we enjoy.

We show our gratitude in the giving of plants and in bringing items for Inverclyde Foodbank to share with our neighbours in need in our community.

ARDGOWAN HOSPICE SINGERS

The Hospice Singers are a well known and well loved choir in our community, singing, entertaining and raising funds for the work of Ardgowan Hospice. They are holding a series of short concerts and one will take place in Westburn Parish Church on Wednesday 25th October at 7p.m. Entry is by donation. We look forward to welcoming you to this concert.

SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT

The Sunday School have continued to enjoy the different activities planned for each week. Some of these include making cake pops, love heart iced biscuits and lots of colouring in. For the annual Sunday School outing this year, we went to the Ravenscraig climbing centre where the children got to climb up different walls of varying difficulty. The kids had great fun and also got to play in the soft play area.

Jennifer Lindsay

TWIST AND TURNS



We had a great week in August as we worked together with our friends from Lyle Kirk on a Breakfast Club, Holiday Club and Family Events.

Each morning a breakfast of cereal, toast and juice was available in the Hub of Westburn Church for anyone coming along to the Holiday Club.

The children enjoyed this time together and leaders seemed to enjoy a quick slice of toast before starting the next part of a busy morning.

The Holiday Club for primary school aged children was fun packed from beginning to end with games, songs, stories, crafts, worksheets and even snacks that fitted in with the theme of the day. Thinking about all sorts of games from running about games to board games to video games and everything in between we were reminded that Jesus is with us in all the Twists and turns of life and that with God it's never game over. we learned about the story of the disciple Peter. Over the week we had 42 different children come along to the Holiday Club with about 30 each day. The children all participated really well and had a great time. They loved getting their prizes on the last day and taking home everything they had been making.

We had three family events in Lyle Kirk with a quiz and sweet making, all with a games theme on Monday and we had buffet snacks. On Wednesday we had a movie night with popcorn and hotdogs..On Friday lots of people got together In Lyle Kirk Community Garden for a BBQ.

On Sunday we had a special joint service to celebrate all that the children had been learning and it was great to see many of the families come along. Everyone had the Twists & Turns theme tune running through their heads.

Thanks to all the children, families and volunteers for a great week.



Karen



Big Fun Family Saturdays

Activities for all the family - look out for our new BFFS facebook page coming soon.

16th September

Fischy Music celebrate their 25th birthday this year and are having a concert in the Royal Concert Hall, Glasgow at 3p.m. Why not get a ticket and go along to sing some of your favourite Fischy songs - some BFFS families are already booked in . We look forward to seeing you there. Go to <http://www.fischy.com> for more information

7th October

A little early so that those who are going away for the October Week don't miss out Cocoa, Crafts and Catch up from 4.30p.m. - 6.30p.m. at Westburn Parish Church. Lots of things to make, hot chocolate, tasty snacks and good conversation with friends

18th November

Movie Night from 4.30p.m. - 6.30p.m. at Lyle Kirk
Popcorn and hotdogs

16th December

Christmas Celebration Event from 4.30p.m. - 7p.m. in Westburn Parish Church
Christmas crafts, stories, songs, Christmas food and a wee party

NEWS FROM PRESBYTERY

After the resignation of Peter McEnhill a new presbytery clerk has been appointed, Rev Robbie Hamilton, who is currently minister of New Wellwynd Parish Church in Airdrie. He will take up his appointment on 23rd October.

The Presbytery Plan has finally been formally approved, so congregations now have some clarity over their future place and role, so this provides us with an opportunity to focus our attention on developing our mission and pastoral activities. Here at Westburn we are not involved in any unions or linkages although of course we still have to address some structural issues with our building.

Douglas Scott

THE REV ROBERT A HAMILTON



Robbie is currently minister of The New Wellwynd Parish Church Airdrie and has been there for 22 years. After graduating from New College, Edinburgh in 1993 he served as Probationer Assistant at Hamilton Old after which he took up his first charge in Irvine at the Relief Parish Church, Bourtreehill in 1995. As a parish minister he has continually aspired to giving folk a good experience of church and of faith - as a worship leader and pastor, enabler and encourager. This has extended beyond the immediate congregation with his involvement as a chaplain to two schools and the Air Training Corps as well as bodies such as Airdrie Citizens Advice and Airdrie Savings Bank. He has served in various roles within the Presbyteries where he has served including as Depute Clerk, Ministries Convener and Moderator. He has also served nationally continuing his support of ministers and ministers in training - the Board of Ministry, the

Ministries Council and Faith Nurture. He is currently Convener of the Registration of Ministries Committee. Ongoing training through the Study Leave Scheme has been important to him with a particular interest in Christian nurture.

Robbie grew up in Saltcoats and has been married to Carol for 32 years. They have one son Daniel who is 24 and a crazy but cute dog called Rosie. They enjoy travel both at home and abroad and are getting back into caravanning having bought a new van last year. Robbie counts as a passion music - listening and playing (attempting to play the piano). He is looking forward to getting back to regular concerts in Glasgow and is hoping to get back to choral singing again having been in various choirs since schooldays including the Phoenix for a short time.

Robbie is looking forward to this new chapter and hopes that his experiences of church and community as well as his style of ministry which seeks to encourage and enable will stand him in good stead.

PASTORAL CARE

Although we've been unable to visit Care Homes since early 2020, the Pastoral Care committee have been keeping in touch with members by handing in cards at various times throughout the year e.g. Easter, Harvest & Christmas as well as postcards when many of the committee were on holiday. This was to let the members & their families know that they had not been forgotten.

The committee have met recently and decided with the Worship committee to hold another Songs of Praise & Afternoon Tea on Sunday 9th October 2022 at 2pm. The previous one was a success and we feel this would be an opportunity to hold another one. It is hoped members will feel like coming back to church after all we've been through during the last 2 years.

The committee will be meeting again on 21st September when as well as our usual business to attend we'll be looking at a Bereavement Charter. At our last meeting Alison Bunce spoke to us on this subject. We feel it would be good if the church could be accredited with a charter, showing we are a "church that cares".

Patricia Robertson



OUTING TO SUMMERLEE



The weather did not look promising as our party of 24 gathered on a wet Saturday morning in August for our annual church outing. This was our first outing since 2019 and would take us to Summerlee Museum of Scottish Industrial Life in Coatbridge.

Once we arrived at the museum most people started with a tour of the main exhibition hall as this was indoors. Come lunchtime, although dry, it was still very blustery and most of us gathered in an indoor pavilion for lunch. Young Jonathan did his best to have an outdoor picnic, armed with his groundsheet, but the high winds drove him indoors to join everyone else.

After lunch the sun came out and we enjoyed a very pleasant afternoon exploring the outdoor aspects of the museum. These included visiting miners' cottages through the decades from the 1800s up to the 1960s. There was lots of reminiscing about décor and household items that we had in our own home or in our granny's home.

A brave few got kitted up for a trip down the mine. This was almost in complete darkness and any intrepid explorer forgetting to duck risked bumping their head. There were a few "cracks" heard as safety helmets came into contact with the props supporting the very low roof!

There was plenty of time to have fun in the playpark, stroll along the Monklands Canal, enjoy coffee and cake in the café or just sit in the sun.

Ideas for next year's trip welcome.



GUILD REPORT



The next session of the Guild starts on the 12th October at 2pm in the Lounge, although we haven't really stopped as it was decided last session that we would meet every 2nd Thursday during the year. Margaret Mackay is busy working on compiling our syllabus for the upcoming session. The theme for this session is "New Wine, New Wineskins"

We held a successful Afternoon Tea in June when we raised £434 which will go toward donations to the Guild Projects. A Strawberry Fayre will have taken place by the time you receive this magazine on 31st August, we raised £315 bringing our total for the 2 events to £749. Once again this will allow us to disburse money to the Guild Projects. The committee, with the agreement of the members, have decided that numbers don't allow us to hold Coffee Mornings. Therefore the committee agreed that we would hold an Afternoon Tea, Soup Lunch in the autumn and a Christmas Stall in December after Sunday Worship. We are always grateful for your support.

Since the last magazine we had a speaker from Broomhill Hub which resulted in a visit to the Hub, unfortunately I was unable to attend. Everyone was glad to see the project in action.

In conjunction with Inverclyde Guilds Together we will be collecting this Christmas (sorry to mention this subject) for Carraig House and the Waterfront Campus, Erskine. These are run under the umbrella of CrossReach which is part of the Church of Scotland. Further details will be intimated at a later date.

Inverclyde Guilds Together have arranged a Get Together on 13th September in New Parish Church Port Glasgow, when we will be joined by members of Cowal Guilds Together & Bute Guilds Together. With the new Presbytery Structure these Guilds could be travelling to Campbeltown, Oban or even further afield. It was suggested by Karen Gillon, Guild General Secretary that it would be easier for them to come to us. Further discussions will be taking place regarding this subject, as our previous theme's title Wee seeds, big trees, watch this space.

As stated earlier Margaret Mackay is working on the syllabus, but it is not available to be included in the magazine. It will be pinned on the Guild Noticeboard when ready.

Update on Projects 2021-2024

| <u>LOOK FORWARD IN FAITH</u> | | <u>TOTAL</u> |
|-------------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| BEAT | There is Hope (UK) | £50,953.06 |
| PIONEERS | Chocolate Heaven (South East Asia) | £39,869.74 |
| STARCHILD | Finding the Light in Every Child (Uganda) | £50,476.94 |
| VINE TRUST | Kazuznu Village of Hope (Tanzania) | £54,701.15 |
| HOME FOR GOOD | A Home for Good (Scotland) | £67,735.02 |
| UNIDA | Hear our Voice (Brazil) | £27,056.83 |
| TOTAL | | £290,792.74 |

This is an amazing amount considering the times we are living in at present, these projects will run until December 2024 instead of September 2024. This means that the final date corresponds with the Financial Year in the Church.

Can I remind you that everybody is welcome to attend any or all of our meetings, please check the Guild Noticeboard or listen for intimation at Sunday services. You will be most welcome.

As I end this report, I felt I should mention the passing of our treasurer, Anna Seggie. Anna was a stalwart in looking after our finances for many years as well as a member of the Leadership Team. She attended our meetings until the end of January. Our thoughts are with Bob and family.

Patricia Robertson

VENDA SCHOOL UPDATE

Dear All,

Greetings from Venda, where I am currently on a research visit for August. I have been spending time at Vhutshilo School during my stay here, and it is bustling with life as usual! Our numbers just keep on growing, and the support from the Church of Scotland is absolutely fundamental to our continued success. We now have a total of 93 children spanning from pre-school age to Grade 2 (from age 7-8), and we have recently employed a new teacher to help with the increase in numbers. Of course, infrastructure needs to grow at the same time, and the ablution block built by the very generous donation from Stuart and Patricia Robertson is being put to good use!

We had some sad news with the passing of a longtime supporter and Board Member, Mr Elias Nengwenani. Those of you who visited here on one of the visits may remember him – a gentle and generous soul who will be missed. At a meeting last week, we voted in a new Board member and I am delighted to report that Mr Nengwenani will be replaced by Ms Wavhoo Nevhungoni. Wavhoo was adopted by Suzi Cook (the school founder) when she was 3 years old and has been central to setting up support groups for young people living with HIV in Venda. She spoke at Westburn during a visit when she was 10 years old and is now a Social Worker. She will be a breath of fresh air in the running of the school, and we are looking forward to having her officially on board.

Thank you so much for your continued and generous support and sponsorship. The consistent financial injections from Scotland every month are put directly into feeding, clothing and teaching the children, and we are truly grateful. Thanks also to my mum (Monica McNeill) for coordinating the nuts and bolts of the Church sponsorship, and please feel free to contact her if you would like to sponsor a child or make a donation to our wonderful school, which was built by donations from church members in and around Inverclyde.

Best wishes,

Fraser.



A very big thank to all of you who collect your used postage stamps and leave them at the church for me. I have sent away 4 packages already this year to the Church of Scotland World Mission Stamp Project to assist with their work, which is amazing.

The project that is being supported for 2023-24 is called Firmly Planted. It is a community-based agroforestry initiative with the ambition of making a sustainable impact across Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe. It is spearheaded by our partners in the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP), and built around the church's community structures. This year stamp appeal proceeds will go towards establishing new tree nurseries. The Church of Scotland Guild is also supporting this project.

If you have not been involved with this work before, it is really easy. All you need to do is cut off any used postage stamps from the mail that you receive, leaving a 1- centimetre border of paper around the edge of the stamp. Please make sure that the stamp is only on single thickness of the envelope as double thickness just adds unnecessary weight to the packaging. Pre-paid or pre-printed stamps aren't accepted - it has to be physical stamps. It is helpful if you can put foreign and UK stamps in different envelopes, as I have to separate them before sending.

Then pop your collection of used stamps in an envelope or polythene bag and

- place them in the red basket in the foyer of the church centre,
- leave them on the table on the way into the sanctuary or
- hand them directly to myself at any time.

If you are not able to attend church, but want to collect stamps for this project, that is also fine. Just give me a call on 01475 723691 and I can make arrangements to collect them from you when you are ready to pass them on.

Thank you very much.

Hazel Munro



1st FINNART RAINBOWS AND 39th BROWNIES AND GUIDES



This year has been a bumper one. We started in September with our Brownies helping out at the Christian Aid coffee morning, raising £38 with “Guess the teddy bears birthday”.

The Rainbows, Brownies and Guides all attended a day out at Blair Drummond Safari Park. We visited all the animals, saw the sea lion show and met some dinosaurs along the way.

October saw all sections take part in the Pencil Express badge with Girlguiding Scotland. All the girls picked a theme and created some fabulous drawings.

October also saw some great Halloween costumes, crafts and activities during our Halloween parties. The Guides also had a fabulous times pumpkin carving.

In November the Rainbows had a great time, creating great Guy Fawkes crafts. All sections made some fantastic poppy wreaths, while learning about Remembrance Sunday. We had a great time at South Newton on Brownie pack holiday. The girls had a great time, taking part in Archery, crafts and a Saturday night disco. The Guides also had a great time at the Greenock Scout Gang Show.

The fun continued in December with all sections going to the Greenock Division cinema trip to see Matilda. All sections collected 151 packs of pants for Smalls for all charity, to help give garments to people who need them. The Rainbows had an amazing Christmas party. The Brownies and Guides had a film night with pizza and crafts.

January saw the Guiders attend the Greenock Division afternoon tea, where one of our leaders, Kirstie, received her five year service award, well done Kirstie.

The Guides attended Renfriends Thinking Day event at Paisley, taking part in a selection of activities, before renewing their Guide promise. The Brownies and Guides also took part in the Think Resilient peer education sessions, earning themselves a badge.

In March we held a Beetle Drive, raising money for resources and treats for each unit. The Rainbows and Guides drew pictures which were then displayed in RAH and IRH hospitals as part of Nutrition week.

In April and May the girls earned a selection of badges before celebrating the Kings Coronation with a selection of crafts and games. The Guides had a weekend away at South Newton, having a mocktail party and earning the Mixology interest badge. We finished off the session with an activity night held at the Ardgowan Bowling Club.

SUMMER SUCCESS AT THE BOWLS



A team of lady bowlers from Ardgowan Bowling Club, who are all members of Westburn Church, were successful at this year's Greenock and District Women's Bowling Championships.

Evelyn Robertson, Shelagh Hendry and Wilma Leslie beat triples from Inverkip and Kilmacolm Bowling Clubs in order to qualify for finals day. Unfortunately, Evelyn tested positive for covid and was unable to play in the final, but another Westburn member, Hazel Munro, was called in as a late substitute and made her debut in the competition.

The new combination jelled very quickly, taking the lead right from the first end. They went on to comfortably beat their opponents from Gourrock Bowling Club with an end to spare. Well done ladies!

CHRISTIAN AID BIG BEAKFAST



Our Big Breakfast event with Lyle Kirk raised a fantastic £1700 for our Christian Aid week appeal.

Thank you to the Steadfast Silver band for their music and all the volunteers who helped on the day.

Your generosity supports Christian Aid projects in the world's poorest communities. These projects help the devastating effects of climate change, war, natural disasters and disease.

Our next event will be the Greenock Christian Aid Coffee

Morning held in the Westburn Church hall on Saturday, 7th October 2023 from 10am - 12 noon.

Donations of home baking or support on the day would be most welcome. Please contact Simon Hutton (simonhutton2007@googlemail.com or 07513 838 590)



Aye, Those Were the days

Back in the days of tanners and bobs,
When Mothers had patience and Fathers had jobs.
When football team families wore hand me down shoes,
And T.V. gave only two channels to choose.

Back in the days of three penny bits,
When schools employed nurses to search for your nits.
When snowballs were harmless; ice slides were permitted
And all your jumpers were warm and hand knitted.

Back in the days of hot ginger beers,
When children remained so for more than six years.
When children respected what older folks said,
And pot was a thing you kept under your bed.

Back in the days of Listen with Mother,
When neighbours were friendly and talked to each other
When cars were so rare you could play in the street.
When Doctors made house calls and Police walked the beat.

Back in the days of Milligan's Goons,
When butter was butter and songs all had tunes.
It was dumplings for dinner and trifle for tea,
And your annual break was a day by the sea.

Back in the days of Dixon's Dock Green,
Crackerjack pens and Lyons ice cream.
When children could freely wear National Health glasses,
And teachers all stood at the FRONT of their classes.

Back in the days of rocking and reeling,
When mobiles were things that you hung from the ceiling.
When woodwork and pottery got taught in schools,
And everyone dreamed of a win on the pools.

Back in the days when I was a lad,
I can't help but smile for the fun I had.
Hopscotch and roller skates; snowballs to lob.
Back in the days of tanners and bobs. (Annon)

DISTRICT RE-ORGANISATION

The exercise to re-organise the Districts has now been completed and there are now a range of ways that your Elder may communicate with you, depending on what you requested. The Districts have now been arranged by category, and Elders have been appointed on this basis to make better use of their time and talents.

The list of categories is as follows:

Your Elder may still visit you 4 times per year.

Your Elder may visit you twice per year and deliver your church magazine on the other occasions.

Your Elder may deliver your church magazine on all occasions during the year.

Your Elder may communicate with you by email and your church magazine will be sent direct to your email address.

Your Elder may contact you by phone and your church magazine will be posted to you.

Members of the congregation who live out of the local area will continue to be kept updated by post.

If your circumstances change at any time in the future (e.g. new postal or email address) and/or you wish to change the way that we communicate with you, please inform your Elder or get in touch with either of the Session Clerks, who will be happy to arrange this for you.

Contact details:

Elizabeth Irvine 01475 790369

Hazel Munro 01475 723691 or email us on greenockwestburn@gmail.com

Useful Numbers

| Office Bearers | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| Minister | Rev Karen Harbison MA BD | 721048 |
| Joint Session Clerks | Miss Elizabeth Irvine | 790369 |
| | Miss Hazel Munro | 723691 |
| Treasurer | Mr Alastair Munro | 801057 |
| Organist | Mr Neil McPhee | 07903 106628 |
| Roll Keeper | Mr Jim Barbour | 723861 |
| Church Officers | | |
| | Mrs Gillian McAlister | 07968 042438 |
| | Mr Duncan Harbison | 721048 |
| Presbytery Representative | Mr Douglas Scott | 795279 |
| Church Telephone | | 720257 |

DIARY OF FUTURE EVENTS
AT WESTURN PARISH CHURCH

Church Calendar

| Date | Event | Time |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| 17/9/23 | Harvest | 11.00 a.m. |
| 1/10/23 | Communion | 11.00 a.m. |

Church Organisation Calendar

| | Organisation | Event | Time |
|---|--------------------------|---|--------------------|
| Mondays Weekly Starting 2/10/23 | Indoor Carpet Bowling | Main Hall | 7.15 to 9.15 pm |
| Tuesdays Fortnightly Starting 19/10/23 | Prayer Shawl Group | Hub | 10 a.m. |
| Tuesdays weekly | Rainbows | Weekly meeting – Youth Hall | 5.30 to 6.30 p.m. |
| Tuesdays weekly | Brownies | Weekly meeting – Youth Hall | 6.30 to 7.30 p.m. |
| Tuesdays weekly | Guides | Weekly meeting – Youth Hall | 7.30 to 8.30 p.m. |
| Wednesdays Weekly | Senior Badminton | Youth Hall | 7.00 to 10.00 p.m. |
| Thursdays Fortnightly Starting 12/10/23 | Guild | Lounge | 2 p.m. |
| 16th September | BFFS | Fishy Music, Royal Concert Hall Glasgow | 3 p.m. |
| 7th October | BFFS | BFFS at Westburn | 4.30 to 6.30 p.m. |
| 18th November | BFFS | Movie Night at Lyle Kirk | 4.30 to 6.30 p.m. |
| 16th December | BFFS | Christmas Celebration in Westburn | 4.30 to 7.00 p.m. |

Fundraising and Other Events

| Date | Organisation | Event | Time/Venue | Costs |
|--------------|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| 7th October | Christian Aid | Coffee Morning | 10 a.m. to noon | £2.50 |
| 25th October | Ardgowan Hospice | Concert | 7.00 p.m. in Westburn | Donation |

