



**THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND,  
LARGS: ST COLUMBA'S PARISH CHURCH**

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

Scottish Charity No. SC002294

# LANDMARK

VOLUME XIV NUMBER 3

APRIL 2016



*Chris, at Clark Memorial Church, reading during the Walk of Witness*



*Largs Churches Together Walk of Witness on Good Friday*



*Chat at the Guild Daffodil Tea*



*All smiles at the Daffodil Tea*



*The Toddlers' Easter Bonnet Parade*

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**MINISTER'S LETTER**  
**Our Lenten Journey through Luke.**

This year our Lenten journey has been through Luke's Gospel as we follow Jesus on his journey to Jerusalem. It began with the period spent by Jesus in the wilderness where he emerged with a plan and a determination to see it through as a travelling prophet and preacher. What was the main purpose in his work? Jesus described this overarching aim as the coming of the kingdom of God.

How was Jesus going to frame this message and communicate it effectively to his hearers? The approach he adopts is aimed at removing oppression and injustice, and accepting sinners and social misfits, which Luke tells us John seemed to find puzzling, if not contradictory (Luke 7:18-23)? In the Sermon on the Plain (Luke 6:17-49) Jesus is depicted as primarily encouraging the poor, the hungry and those people persecuted in his name to rejoice at being favoured by God, while by contrast warning those who are satisfied at being rich and comfortable and well thought of that they faced a very different future. However, Jesus chose to teach mainly through parables about everyday life with religious or moral application, which conclude with a discomfiting challenge about how they should react in such circumstances. The parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32) for example posed huge challenges for his hearers as he challenges even the customs by allowing the despicable brother back into community.

Luke points out: 'the kingdom of God is among you' (Luke 17:21). Jesus takes up the role of a traditional prophet in Israel (Luke 7:17; 24:19) and challenges the religious, Jewish and Roman establishment who had authority and power over others.

Jesus did not restrict himself to simply a Jewish audience: he embraced everyone and tore down the barriers that determined who was "in" and who was "out". God's kingdom embraced everyone. In Luke he says that 'people will come from east and west, from north and south, and will eat in the kingdom of God' (Luke 13:29). In Luke's second volume, the Acts of the Apostles is devoted to describing the spread of the Church among Jews and Gentiles alike around the Mediterranean.

By attracting a following Jesus became a threat to the religious and political establishment. As his mission unfolded, he was well aware that he was going to meet opposition from hostile individuals and with all sorts of vested interests in Israel, and that he would experience disappointment, disapproval, frustration and ultimately rejection.

Trying, as I have been doing, to explore the human thinking of Jesus in Luke's Gospel is to come face to face with the profound mystery of the Word made flesh (John 1:14). In this Lenten series we are called to respect the humanity of Jesus, learn from it, and ask ourselves if we would follow.

*Chris*

**CHURCH REGISTER**

**Baptisms**

13<sup>th</sup> Mar Amelia Paige Elizabeth Bonnar

**Deaths**

27<sup>th</sup> Mar Anne Berry, Chapelton Way

29<sup>th</sup> Mar Ellen (Ella) Robinson,  
Moorburn Manor Nursing Home

**Marriages**

18<sup>th</sup> Mar Frances Thomasson & Brian Greenhalgh

**2016 DATES TO NOTE**

**April**

3<sup>rd</sup> 11.30am Morning Worship, Archie Currie  
10<sup>th</sup> 11.30am Morning Worship  
13<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm Kirk Session Meeting  
17<sup>th</sup> 11.30am Morning Worship  
17<sup>th</sup> 3.00pm Haylie House Residential Care Home Service  
24<sup>th</sup> 11.30am Morning Worship

**May**

1<sup>st</sup> 11.30am Baptism & Morning Worship  
2<sup>nd</sup> 12 noon Heritage Centre Opens  
7<sup>th</sup> 11am - 3pm MAC Tearoom for Calum's Cabin  
7.30pm Variations Concert  
8<sup>th</sup> 11.30am Morning Worship  
15<sup>th</sup> 11.30am Morning Worship  
6.30pm Largs Churches Together for Christian Aid at St John's Church  
22<sup>nd</sup> 11.30am Morning Worship, Archie Currie  
24<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm Heritage Centre Concert with Octave  
29<sup>th</sup> 11.30am Morning Worship, Archie Currie  
*(unless otherwise noted, our Sunday Morning services are led by Rev. Chris Vermeulen)*

**ELDER DUTIES**

**April**

3<sup>rd</sup> **Mr Boyle (Convenor)**, Mr Hendry, Mr Murdoch, Miss Black, Mrs Counter, Mrs Houghton  
10<sup>th</sup> Mr McNaught, Mr Jamieson, Mr D Jenkins, Mr I Jenkins, Mr Laing, Ms Gallettie, Miss Kennedy, Mrs Lyon, Mrs McEleny  
17<sup>th</sup> **Mr Wallace (Convenor)**, Mr Currie, Mr Hewitt, Mr Lewis, Mr R Rae, Mr Welch, Mrs McManus, Mrs Rae  
24<sup>th</sup> Mr Laurie, Mr Rankin, Mrs Bell, Mrs Butler, Mrs Jackson, Mrs Laurie, Miss McFarlane

**May**

1<sup>st</sup> **Mr Boyle (Convenor)**, Mr Hendry, Mr Murdoch, Miss Black, Mrs Counter, Mrs Houghton  
8<sup>th</sup> Mr McNaught, Mr Jamieson, Mr D Jenkins, Mr I Jenkins, Mr Laing, Ms Gallettie, Miss Kennedy, Mrs Lyon, Mrs McEleny  
15<sup>th</sup> **Mr Wallace (Convenor)**, Mr Currie, Mr Hewitt, Mr Lewis, Mr R Rae, Mr Welch, Mrs McManus, Mrs Rae  
22<sup>nd</sup> Mr Laurie, Mr Rankin, Mrs Bell, Mrs Butler, Mrs Jackson, Mrs Laurie, Miss McFarlane  
29<sup>th</sup> **Mr Boyle (Convenor)**, Mr Hendry, Mr Murdoch, Miss Black, Mrs Counter, Mrs Houghton

**June**

5<sup>th</sup> Mr McNaught, Mr Jamieson, Mr D Jenkins, Mr I Jenkins, Mr Laing, Ms Gallettie, Miss Kennedy, Mrs Lyon, Mrs McEleny  
12<sup>th</sup> **Mr Wallace (Convenor)**, Mr Currie, Mr Hewitt, Mr Lewis, Mr R Rae, Mr Welch, Mrs McManus, Mrs Rae  
19<sup>th</sup> Mr Laurie, Mr Rankin, Mrs Bell, Mrs Butler, Mrs Jackson, Mrs Laurie, Miss McFarlane  
26<sup>th</sup> **Mr Boyle (Convenor)**, Mr Hendry, Mr Murdoch, Miss Black, Mrs Counter, Mrs Houghton

## BRIAN MCLAREN VISIT TO LARGS

Wednesday, 12 October 2016



Brian McLaren is one of the most influential Christian voices in the West. He has accepted PCN's invitation to tour Britain this year, to coincide with the launch of his new book, *The Great Spiritual Migration: Re-imagining a Faith that will Save Us*. He will be doing a lecture at Largs, St Columba's on Wednesday, 12 October 2016 at 7.30pm. Further details of the visit will be made known as soon as we have it.

Brian McLaren invites open-minded Christians to undertake the task of shifting the faith to be more in sync with its founder - Jesus. He asks what it would mean for Christians to rediscover their faith - not as a system of beliefs, but as a just and generous way of life.

Tickets have not yet gone on sale but if you would like to go on the mailing list to be informed when they are available please write to [info@pcnbritain.org.uk](mailto:info@pcnbritain.org.uk), saying you want tickets for the Largs, St Columba's venue. Tickets prices are likely to be £10.00 per person and will be available at both Fairlie Parish Church and St Columba's Parish Church.



### TREFOIL GUILD

Kelburn Trefoil Guild is holding a Cream Tea on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May in the St John's Church Hall from 10am to 12 noon. Tickets, price £2.00, can be obtained from Trefoil Guild members or at the door. There will be baking and fancy good stalls.

*Margaret Kennedy*

### YOUNG CHURCH

We hope you enjoyed our tearoom after church in aid of Fairtrade. Thanks to your generosity we managed to raise £105 which we are donating to The Fairtrade Foundation to help with their current projects. The children were enthusiastic about this idea and very much enjoyed helping, thanks to your support. They have also been learning about Fairtrade in Young Church so they can learn why the money they helped raise is so important.

Our monthly games night continues to be popular with those from P6 and up. Our next games night will be on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April and the children are welcome to bring a friend.

We delivered 100 items to North Ayrshire foodbank last month which was a great start to the year. Our next delivery will be taken down on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April. I now have two volunteer drivers to take the donations down to Ardrossan in addition to myself. I am still looking for 2 or 3 more volunteers who could commit to delivering the donations about two or three times a year. Please let me know if you could help with this. The Foodbank stores remain low due to demand. We recently handed out the most up to date shopping list, a copy of which is on our noticeboard. They are particularly in need of the items under the heading "Urgently needed". Thanks for your continued support.

We are also continuing to collect small change for Water Aid. Change collected can be given to any of the Young Church Leaders.

*Alison Tunnicliff*

## NEXT 'LIVING THE QUESTIONS' COURSE UPDATE



The Living the Questions Course has recently been updated to include Diana Butler Bass, Brian McLaren (who will be visiting us in October) and Robin Meyers. This is a popular DVD small group exploration of progressive Christianity featuring premier religious voices of our day.

*"I have been a minister for 16 years and this is by far the very best study I have ever participated in."* Rev. Teri Johnson

*"I've seen no tool that matches LtQ for in-depth discussion."* Rev. Dr. Steve Wayles

*"This is the very best study we have ever done at our church."* Bonnie Frost

LtQ is an open-minded alternative to studies that attempt to give participants all the answers and instead strives to create an environment where participants can interact with one another in exploring what's next for Christianity. Featuring thirty acclaimed scholars, theologians and other experts, LtQ consists of 21 sessions which may be offered in sequence or as three independent flights of seven units each: "Invitation to Journey," "Reclaiming the World" and "Call to Covenant." For each session you will receive participant notes with discussion questions. Each session evening lasts two hours and includes some light refreshments. The 20-minute DVD segments include conversations with leading voices of faith, digital stories illustrating aspects of an evolving faith, and concrete spiritual practices and disciplines.

**Starting When?** Wednesday, 20 April, 2016

**Where?** Alternating between the homes of Christine Gallettie, 2 Park View, Largs and Liz Clark, Broomcroft, 138 Irvine Road, Largs.

**How Often?** Approximately every two weeks, depending on holidays.

**What Time?** We start at 7.30pm.

**How Long?** Each Session lasts about 2 hours.

**Limit?** The course is limited to 14 places.

**Why you?** Perhaps the question should be: why not you? Some have expressed interest in the past. So why not give it a go? You have more to gain than to lose. Please let me know either by email: [CVermeulen@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:CVermeulen@churchofscotland.org.uk) or drop me a note to secure a place.

*Rev. Chris Vermeulen*



I would like to thank the ladies who kindly volunteered as waitresses during the Lent lunches. We got a really good response from the Guild and it is very much appreciated. Also thank you to everyone who came along and supported us. We raised the sum of £2,650 over the six weeks. A big thank you to everyone involved, we could not have done this without your support.

Our next fundraiser will be Christian Aid Week. There will be a quiz on the 16th May (more about this later) and the Coffee Morning will be on Saturday 21st May in the Dunn Memorial Hall, from 10am to 12 noon. Can I ask for donations of plants and home baking for this event? Thank you.

*Jean Jackson*

### MONDAY'S ALTERNATIVE CLUB

We met on 7<sup>th</sup> March for a "Treat night" since it was just after Mother's Day and pampered ourselves with various products for hands and feet including bubbling footbaths! We also had a range of edible treats. On 21<sup>st</sup> March Fulton gave us a talk on "In Caffeine we trust!" which was about his latest trip to America and in particular about some of the coffee shops he visited. Our next meeting will be on April 18<sup>th</sup> when we meet at Joanne's for a film night. Followed by 2<sup>nd</sup> May in the Session Room. Anyone wishing to join us will be most welcome.

*Alison Tunnicliff*

### PEREGRINES

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February was an ideal day for a walk, cold but with a blue sky. Unfortunately, there were only four of us but we set out from Vikingar and drove to the Scottish Maritime Museum café on the harbour side at Irvine where we had our coffee. Through the window we could see Canada Geese and deer on the marsh lands on the other side of the estuary.

We headed for the starting point of our walk by going through the Rivergate shopping mall till we reached the Town House in the High Street. From there we walked down Kirk Vennel to the oldest part of the town, through the grounds of Irvine Parish Church and through the graveyard, then the Glebe and onto the path which took us along the banks of the River Irvine. The banks were a profusion of snowdrops and crocuses.

We continued on the path till we reached the main road near what had originally been the Baillie Bridge and crossed into Milgarholm Park. Through the park, again following the course of the river, we crossed a bridge which led us to the outskirts of a housing estate.

After circling a small lochan we crossed another main road and onto the path alongside the River Annick, where we stopped to take in the view and have our picnic lunch.

Eventually, we had come full circle and retraced our steps through the Glebe and churchyard which led us back to the shopping centre. This walk was five miles long, not too taxing and was one of the Easy Health Walks found on the internet.

If you feel you would like to join us on any of our walks, you will be made very welcome. Our programme is on the church noticeboard outside the Session Room.

*Christine Gallettie*

### GUILD

The Guild Summer Outing this year is being held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2016. The bus will leave the church at 11.30am and will drive to The Chartroom Restaurant at Kip Marina for a two course lunch, after which we will continue to Glasgow Green for a visit to the People's Palace. We will be back in Largs around 5.00pm. The cost per person is £18.50 and, as we have a number of seats left in the bus, if you would like to join us, please contact Christine Gallettie on 689024.

*Christine Gallettie*

### PRAYER

Prayer is the greatest privilege  
That we on earth are given,  
To converse with a Holy God  
Our Maker, God of Heaven.  
God promises to answer  
Each request that we make,  
And it is quite astounding,  
When we ask, for Jesus sake!  
He may be quick, He may delay,  
But He gives answers sure,  
Then why are we not using more  
This real fantastic power?  
Awaken! seize the offer,  
Its value can't be told;  
And you'll be overwhelmed  
At the wonders God unfolds.

*from 'Sermonettes for You' by May Gorrie*

### NEXT ISSUE

Please send articles for the next issue of Landmark to the church office by Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April at the latest. The May edition of Landmark will be available for uplift on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May.

*Linda Beveridge, Church Secretary*

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*Our Church ready for celebrating on Easter Sunday*