



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

www.largscolumba.org

Scottish Charity No. SC002294



LANDMARK

VOLUME XIV NUMBER 10

DECEMBER 2016 and JANUARY 2017



**A MESSAGE FROM THE LOCUM
MINISTER**

My dear friends

"Tis the season to be jolly." So says the traditional carol. Certainly, it is a time for each of us to be "jolly busy"! And yes, it is good to have an agenda, something to work on, something to achieve. All this helps to occupy

us, enabling us to move through the darker days of winter. I want to record my personal appreciation of everyone who is doing something for the life, work and witness of our linked churches at this busy time in all our lives, making it a season for being "jolly busy together"! I do hope that everyone who reads this edition of the Largs Landmark will be able to support some of things which are happening in and around our churches and communities. Yes, of course, there are the services but also festive sales and concerts, maybe a few parties too! I look forward to sharing some of these with you.

From Luke's Gospel, we know that both the time and the place in which Jesus was born were busy for everyone, not least of all his earthly parents. They were obliged to do what some of us choose to do at this time of year and that was to make a journey. The net result for them, and for the people with whom they shared in the good news of Jesus' birth, was the assurance of God's peace amongst them, upon them and for them. Of course, that peace did not last very long. Very soon they had to be on the road again, seeking asylum, like so many people in our modern Middle East, in their case in nearby Egypt.

Amongst all our busy-ness, it is my prayer that each of us will find a moment of personal "peace on earth" at some point in this festive season. This is something for which I wait with faith every Christmastime. I never know when it will come. And no two years are ever the same. Then, suddenly, there is a special moment in which everything comes into fresh, new focus, when the reality of what Almighty God has done for me in the baby of Bethlehem speaks to my heart and life. This is not always at a service of worship!

I call it "my Christmas moment". I do not believe that I am unique in this and so, I believe, that we can be looking forward together to a time of fresh insight, understanding and feeling. For...

"How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts, the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming but, in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in."
I offer you and your families my very best wishes and the assurance of my prayers for a blessed Christmas and a happy New Year 2017.

Yours sincerely

*John Purves - Locum Minister
Tel. 01475 676180*



DATES TO NOTE

December

| | | |
|------------------|---------|--|
| 4 th | 11.30am | Morning Worship: 2nd Sunday in Advent |
| 5 th | 2pm | Guild Meeting |
| | 7pm | GiG Meeting |
| 7 th | 7.30pm | Session Meeting |
| 10 th | 7.30pm | Stedfast Silver Band Concert |
| 11 th | 11.30am | Morning Worship: 3rd Sunday in Advent Young Church Christmas Party |
| 12 th | 2pm | Guild Meeting |
| | 8pm | MAC Meeting |
| 18 th | 11.30am | Morning Worship: Nativity |
| | 3pm | Haylie House Residential Care Home |
| 19 th | 2pm | Guild Meeting |
| | 8pm | Young Church Games Night |
| 20 th | 7pm | "An evening of Christmas celebration" at Fairlie Parish Church |
| 24 th | 5.30pm | CHRISTMAS EVE Cradle Service <i>A light tea will be served after the service</i> |
| | 11.30pm | CHRISTMAS EVE Watchnight Service at Fairlie Parish Church |
| 25 th | 9.45am | CHRISTMAS DAY Service at Fairlie Parish Church |
| | 11.30am | CHRISTMAS DAY Service |



continued over >

MINISTER:

Rev Christian J Vermeulen MA, BTh, DipLT
14 Fairlieburne Gardens, Fairlie
Tel: 568515

SESSION CLERK:

Mr John Lewis BSc
40 Gogosite Road, Largs
Tel: 686631

TREASURER:

Mr J Donald Wallace CA
2 Fife Place, Fairlie
Tel: 568489

CHURCH SECRETARY:

Linda Beveridge
St. Columba's Parish Church
Gallowgate Street, Largs
Email: secretary@largscolumba.org
Tel: 686212

ORGANIST:

Mrs Rhona Gourley L.T.C.L., L.T.C.L. (CMT)
2 St Beya Gardens, Millport
Tel: 531282

CHURCH OFFICE: Tel: 686212

**REMEMBRANCE SERVICE SUNDAY 13TH
NOVEMBER 2016**

“THE GUNS HAVE FALLEN SILENT”

Exactly one hundred years ago today, the allied forces of the United Kingdom and France began the final phase of what is remembered now as the Battle of the Somme in north east France. For the previous four months, those same forces had been trying to break the resolve and the defensive line of the German army. More than half a million men had perished on both sides, sometimes as many as 50,000 per day. No other battle in the field of human conflict has consumed so many lives. Historians continue to debate its significance. The jury is still out. Yes, the allies had progressed but the German defensive line had held. The hoped-for break through did not happen.

Two years later, almost to the day, the guns finally fell silent. All was quiet on the Western Front. The peace treaty of Versailles had been signed and sealed. The Great War, that “war to end all wars”, was over. What most historians do agree upon is that the terms of that treaty were far too punitive, thus obliging the nations which had fought their way through that First World War to do it all again twenty years later. That too is a long time ago, some 70 years and more. There have been many more costly regional wars in the time which has elapsed since then. They too have obliged a call to frontline service upon British servicemen and women but at this moment in time, as a nation, we are enjoying a welcome breathing space when, to my understanding, very few of our service personnel is involved in an active conflict. We give thanks for that. I know that there is something called “special operations” about which we know next to nothing but, praise God, almost all of our guns, great and small, have fallen silent. Long may that continue.

In this period of welcome peace, the call goes out again for us to remember, with thanksgiving, the sacrifice made by those who went into battle to ensure that this might be so for us and for so many others in different parts of the world. We do not forget to give thanks for them and for those who serve in our armed forces today. Of course, we are not closing our eyes to what is happening in our world, to the ongoing horrific devastation being poured down on the peoples of Syria, The Yemen and Iraq. But, like all wars, one day they too will come to an end.

Not only do all wars come to an eventual end but those who were once bitter enemies become friends. Once upon a time, on this coast, people lived in constant fear of a Viking invasion. Today, most of us have some Scandinavian blood in our veins! Once upon a time, the United States of America was our greatest enemy, now it is our closest ally. Once upon a time, British prisoners of war suffered at the hands of fierce East Asian adversaries, now Japanese car companies are seen to be the saviours of the British economy and welcomed with open arms. Yes, once the guns fall silent, former enemies can be friends. Enemies will be friends!

The wonderful thing is that because God is at peace with each one of us, we can be at peace with each other! Former enemies at a personal level can become friends.

In the Middle Ages, Jews were expelled from many countries in Western Europe. Scotland was an exception to that rule. Then, through the 19th Century, an even harder time followed for Jewish communities in Eastern Europe where pogrom after pogrom was launched against them. All of that paled into insignificance in comparison with the Final Solution, the Holocaust, obliged upon them by the Nazi regime.

Amongst those carried away to the appalling conditions of the concentration camp at Auschwitz in Poland was a group of Jewish school girls who attended the Church of Scotland Mission School in Budapest, Hungary. Going with them to the death camp was their Gentile teacher, a Scottish woman from Dunscore in Dumfriesshire. She had turned down the opportunity to return home to the relative safety of Scotland so that she could continue to bring a measure of normality to the lives of her pupils. When that normality ended with their removal to Auschwitz, Jane

January

| | | |
|------------------|---------|------------------------|
| 1 st | 11.30am | Morning Worship |
| 8 th | 11.30am | Morning Worship |
| 9 th | 2pm | Guild Meeting |
| 15 th | 11.30am | Morning Worship |
| 16 th | 2pm | Guild Meeting |
| 22 nd | 11.30am | Morning Worship |
| 23 rd | 2pm | Guild Meeting |
| 29 th | 11.30am | Morning Worship |

February

| | | |
|------------------|---------|--------------------------------|
| 5 th | 11.30am | Morning Worship |
| 6 th | 2pm | Guild Meeting |
| 12 th | 11.30am | Morning Worship |
| 13 th | 2pm | Guild Meeting |
| 19 th | 11.30am | Morning Worship |
| | 3pm | Burnlea Nursing Home |
| 21 st | 2pm | Joint Guild Meeting in Fairlie |
| 26 th | 11.30am | Morning Worship |
| 27 th | 2pm | Guild Meeting |

Unless otherwise noted, our Sunday Morning Worship services will be led by Rev. John Purves

ELDER DUTIES

December

| | |
|------------------|---|
| 4 th | Mr Laurie, Mr Rankin, Mrs Bell, Mrs Butler, Mrs Jackson, Mrs Laurie, Miss McFarlane |
| 11 th | Mr Boyle (Convenor) , Mr Hendry, Mr Murdoch, Miss Black, Mrs Counter, Mrs Houghton |
| 18 th | Mr McNaught, Mr Jamieson, Mr D Jenkins, Mr I Jenkins, Ms Gallettie, Miss Kennedy, Mrs Lyon, Mrs McEleny |
| 25 th | Mr Wallace (Convenor) , Mr Currie, Mr Hewitt, Mr Lewis, Mr R Rae, Mr Welch, Mrs McManus, Mrs Rae |

January

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

February

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

March

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

CHURCH REGISTER

Deaths

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| 3 rd Nov | Ian Chalmers Laing, The Moorings |
| 15 th Nov | Eileen Anderson, Dunoon, formerly of Fernside, Brisbane Street |

Haining chose to go with them. She died there in 1944. We might ask why? Well, as far as she was concerned, in Jesus the Jew, God's guns had fallen silent for her, a Gentile. That meant that these girls, her pupils of a different faith were her friends. She believed that the best way to resist those who intended evil toward them was to continue to serve God and the children in her care, that "To serve is to resist".

For this, her ultimate sacrifice in a time of war, Jane Haining has been recognised not only as "a Hero of the Holocaust" by the British government but also as "One who is Righteous among the Nations" at Israel's memorial to the victims of the Holocaust, the only Scottish person so to be honoured. Jane Haining would have been amazed and amused to be held in such high esteem. She was a teacher, a farmer's daughter. For her, the issue was simple. As a Christian, she was at peace with the God who had made his peace with her in Jesus. She, in turn, was at peace with the Jewish children entrusted to her care and at peace, also, with those who intended ill toward them.

"For Christ himself has brought us peace by making Jews and Gentiles one people. With his own body, he broke down the wall that separated them and kept them enemies."
Ephesians 2 verse 14

Rev. John Purves



GUILD

As a Guild, we were privileged to lead the service on Sunday 20th November 2016 to mark the end of Guild Week. The topic for the service was our theme for this year, 'Go in Joy'. Hopefully, we sent the congregation on their way rejoicing!

We would like to thank all who took part in or supported, in any way, our Autumn Tearoom and Christmas Cracker. Both events were very successful and we were able to give Peter McEleny a cheque which we presented to him at the Guild service.

The church will be the recipient of the proceeds of our Christmas Cracker. The breakdown of the monies made by each stall and the total is on the noticeboard.

We had a most inspiring talk on the work of Malawi Fruits, a relatively small charity which supports farming communities in Malawi, when we attended the joint meeting of Guilds on 7th November at St John's church. We enjoyed this meeting as it enabled us to spend time with the members of our neighbouring Guilds.

We are looking forward to our Afternoon Tea at Dobbie's, Braehead, where we can enjoy the delicious eats, have a browse around and purchase a few more gifts for Christmas. Our Christmas Party will be arranged by the members and we should have a happy, fun filled afternoon.

We wish all our members and friends a very happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

Christine Gallettie



AN EVENING OF CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION in Fairlie Parish Church

Everyone is welcome to join us on Tuesday 20th December at 7pm when we will open Fairlie Parish Church doors for a community event. I plan to feature music that most people will know, and we will take part in community carol and music singing.

*Chris Kelly
Music Director, Fairlie Parish Church*

YOUNG CHURCH

We have now started working on our nativity and are practicing our songs. This year we are doing "A present for the baby". So far we have filled most of the parts, but are still short of a King if anyone feels they could help out? Two kings doesn't feel quite right! We are also short of a volunteer for Joseph this year, but his part is going to be taken by a special guest.....wait and see who on 18/12!

Thank you for your ongoing support for the North Ayrshire Foodbank. We are continuing to receive a steady flow of donations which we store and take down on a monthly basis. Can I remind everyone that the Foodbank is unable to accept any fresh food that would require refrigeration? For information, there is frequently an urgent appeal for tins of meat and meat meals such as chilli, curry, mince, chicken or beef in sauce etc as this is something that is donated less often. Rice is donated less than pasta and coffee donated less than tea. These are some things to consider when donating goods. A full list of current priorities can be found on the North Ayrshire Foodbank website.

As well as our Sunday Young Church we continue to run a monthly games night which is always a busy fun-filled evening. Our next games night is on Monday 19th December which will be a Christmas party night.

Our first GiG evening supper meeting this session was at Fulton's and was well attended. Our topic was "Light", and after a talk by Ian we sat down to pizza, garlic bread, salad and malteser traybake and some great conversation. Our next GiG meeting is on Monday 5/12 at my house, menu to be agreed.

Our Young Church Christmas party will be on Sunday 11/12 with our special visitor arriving about 1.15pm. Our Nativity dress rehearsal will be Saturday 17/12, 10am-12noon.

Alison Tunnicliff

MONDAY'S ALTERNATIVE CLUB

On 31/10 Amanda Corrigan came along to our meeting to tell us about Brisbane Evangelical's "Teen Challenge" bus and how the team are reaching out to some of the most vulnerable members of our community. Initially set up to help support people affected by drug and alcohol addiction, it also reaches out to some who are simply lonely. What a fantastic idea to take your "church" out in a bus into the community. I was also inspired to hear how their congregation welcomes everyone into their church service and the success stories that have come out of this initiative. A very thought provoking and interesting talk.

We also met on 14/11 for a games night. We meet on 28/11 at 8pm in the Session room for a Christmas Craft evening and then on 5/12 at 7.30pm for our Christmas meal.

For more information about our group please contact me. New members always welcome.

*Alison Tunnicliff
Tel. 673567*

PEREGRINES

On the 26th October a group of Peregrines revisited one of our previous outings to the Collegiate Chapel and 'Temple' at Castle Semple. The weather was not promising but after a fortifying mug of coffee we walked along the side of the loch to a point at which the path crosses the cycle track. Most unexpectedly we were greeted by the sight of some recently completed seating carved out of solid timber, incorporating a delightful variety of images of nature which had been produced with great delicacy. I cannot recommend too highly a visit to see and enjoy them! After passing a further example of this work we visited the chapel, established in 1504, where the Semple family retained a number of clerics to pray for them. Does this suggest the Semples were particularly wicked?!



In deteriorating weather we rejoined the cycle track, reaching the access point of the climb to the Temple. As the rain had become steady we decided to forgo the climb but proceeded along the track to a point of access to what might be a more extensive future walk. We returned to the centre and enjoyed our packed lunches observing the birdlife on the loch. Do make the effort to see the seating. It is only 1 km up the cycle track.

Bill Puckrin

Surprisingly, October turned out to be the sunniest month of the year and it appears this might continue into November as the Peregrines set off under clear blue skies and in bright Autumn sunshine on Wednesday 2nd November. We began with coffee and scones and then started up a fairly steep track towards Greta Falls. At the start we noticed the new housing development named 'Rae Court' as a mark of respect for our friend, elder of the Kirk and former Provost of North Ayrshire, Bobby Rae.

Not being in the first flush of youth some of us needed a stop or two 'to admire the scenery'. Well, to be honest, it was more a case of simply trying to catch a breath and calm the pounding pulse! The original track has been widened and strengthened in order to cope with the heavy tractors which were required for the construction of the new bridge, the hydro dams, turbine sheds and presumably for the vehicles which will soon be used in the planting of the new forestry development. Yes, the track has been widened, strengthened, and lengthened to reach away around toward Blairpark Farm on the Haylie Brae but the first twenty minutes or so in this walk are quite steep uphill, a challenge to start with, but soon levelling out to a more gentle slope and then slowly descending down to the bridge.

The views over the Firth and across the valley towards Cockma-lane were splendid as ever enhanced, at this time of year, by the display of autumn colours on the deciduous trees alongside the Gogo burn as it meanders through what used to be the lands of Halkshill Estate. We enjoyed seeing the new dam which has been built across the Greta Water to provide the driving power for the turbines lower down. Yet there was perhaps a touch of sadness to see the once lovely, rickety old bridge now straddled by a brand new heavyweight concrete bridge, the trees on either side of the bridge either dead or dying and the once popular picnic spot and pool obliterated by the development of the land and the floodwater behind the dam. Change always comes at a price.....mmmm, food for thought here.

Sandy McCallum

CHRISTIAN AID

Christian Aid are going to be singing in Morrisons on Friday 16th and Tuesday 20th December from 4pm-6pm on both days. If you would like to join us for either of the sessions please come along. It is always a lot of fun and it provides a nice festive atmosphere to Morrisons, which the shoppers enjoy. We will be having some musical accompaniment along with mince pies at the break, so do come along and enjoy!

Jean Jackson



Simon and Leanne Ramage present their daughter, Lydia Sadie, for Baptism by Rev. John Purves



Floral tributes from Remembrance Sunday

FAIRLIE WORLDWIDE CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Fairlie Bowling Club

Saturday 3rd December 2 - 5 pm.

*including -
Touchstone Jewellery
Hadeel - Palestinian Crafts
Rainbow Turtle, Paisley
Just Trading, Paisley*

**FAIRLIE
FAIRTRADE
INITIATIVE**

*Fighting
Poverty
through Trade*



Free Admission and Refreshments

NEXT ISSUE

Articles for the next issue of Landmark to be with the church office by Monday 16th January at latest, which will be available for uplift on Sunday 29th January.

Linda Beveridge, Church Secretary

Views expressed in articles in Landmark are those of the contributor and do not necessarily represent those of the editor, minister, or church generally. Other editors are welcome to use dates & events for publicity purposes, but articles remain the intellectual property of the writer and may not be distributed without consent.

DATA PROTECTION

Would members please let their Elder or the Church Secretary know of any changes to their personal details, to ensure they are kept up to date. All information held about individuals will continue to be held securely by the Church for purposes connected with the Church. Individuals have a right to opt-out of their records being held.