



BARK

Dear Friends,

We live in uncertain and troubled times. We do not know what lies ahead for the world in the next few years, and many people are anxious and fearful when they look to the future. There are many prophets of doom predicting financial crashes, environmental catastrophes and political instability. Extremists and fundamentalists are causing whole nations to become engulfed in destructive conflict, with many vulnerable people forced to flee to save their lives – and this violence is even reaching into our own public places, making many feel vulnerable and insecure.

But God calls us to find peace and security in him even in the midst of the storms of this life. He calls us to put down deep roots into Christ that we might draw nourishment from his love to sustain us on life's journey (Eph. 3.17-19). He calls us to find a new meaning and identity in him, in which we are built together as members of his body and grow up more and more into him, allowing his power to transform us more into his image – 'until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work' (Eph. 4.13-16). So, rather than throwing up our arms in helplessness, we are called to work together in the strength of the Lord to build that better world that we long for.

In Proverbs 3.5-8 we read, 'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil. This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones.' Trust in the Lord. Have faith in him, and he will direct your paths. We need to look up to the horizon of God's promises and rest in the assurance that he is with us and will not abandon us, rather than focussing on the things around us that can too easily fill us with fear and anxiety and disappointment.

As your interim moderator I have been encouraged by many of the things that are going on in the life of both congregations of the charge. There is much for which to give thanks, and the churches are blessed with many dedicated and committed office bearers. There are a few issues to address, but I am confident that these can be overcome and both congregations can leave behind the disappointments of the past to seek God's help in moving forward and building afresh.

I pray that each one of you will know God's blessings in the days ahead.

With all good wishes,

David Bartholomew.

Christmas Celebrations

Sun 11 Dec	Auchencairn Carol Service	6.00 pm
Sat 24 Dec	Kelton All Age Service	4.00 pm
Sat 24 Dec	Auchencairn Watchnight Service	
Sat 24 Dec	Kelton Watchnight Service	
	Both	11.30pm
Sun 25 Dec	Auchencairn Christmas Day	9.30 am

Hello and Thank You

Charlotte and I would like to thank you all for the welcome we have received. We are now getting settled in at the Manse. We even have a phone number at last and it is the same as it was before—01556 505983.

Since Locums work for a Sunday and two days a week it is important that I am kept in touch with any pastoral requests. If you let me know about anyone requiring a visit, I shall do my best to attend to it as soon as possible. In this regard it has to be borne in mind that I have a responsibility for two congregations, so depending on the circumstances at the time it may not be possible to respond to requests immediately.

The intention is that I shall be coming to Castle Douglas on Friday afternoons and returning home on Tuesday afternoon or Wednesday morning, though so far things have not worked out like this. Flexibility is the watchword for a Locum!

Christmas will soon be upon us and I am looking forward to being involved with Oonagh in the various Christmas activities and services.

John Lochrie

Ministry Arrangements

We are pleased that Rev Oonagh Dee has been able to continue as OLM attached to the charge. She will conduct worship three Sundays a month and will work two days a week in the parishes - normally Thursday and Friday. We are also pleased that Rev Dr John Lochrie has been appointed as locum, and he will conduct worship every Sunday and will work three days a week in the parishes - normally Saturday, Monday and Tuesday. There will be flexibility however, on days of working as required.

Presbytery approved the recommendation of its Superintendence Committee that two assessor elders be assigned to the charge to help both congregations forward to the point where they are ready to seek a new minister. Both Violet Service and David Gibson are also past Moderators of the Presbytery and are individuals of wisdom and experience. However, because of commitments in their own congregations they won't be able to attend worship every week. They are with you to be a support and want to help you find the best way forward.

Rev Dr David Bartholomew (Interim Moderator)

Church Personnel

Interim Moderator

Rev Dr David Bartholomew
Tel: 01644 430380

Locum Minister

Rev Dr John Lochrie, 01556 505983

Attached Ordained Local Minister

Rev Oonagh Dee Tel: 01556 620001

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Miss Jean Brown (Minute Secretary) 01557 500268

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Bengairn Guild

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Church Guild

On Tuesday 18 October members of the Bengairn Parishes and Castle Douglas Church met with the residents of Carlingwark Care Home to share in a Harvest Thanksgiving service led by Rev Oonagh Dee. From her well known basket, Oonagh produced harvest fare and three "knitted" friends who as Naomi, Ruth and Boaz and Oonagh's skillful story telling, took us to the harvest fields of Bethlehem. With music from Eileen and George to lead our singing and Oonagh's joyful approach to all present, it was a time to rejoice in friendship.

Bengairn Parishes Guild Dedication Service with participation by Guild members, gave us all the resolve to take our Guild vows into all we do in the coming months. Rev Oonagh Dee, our October speaker, held us enthralled with her 'life story. We were pleased to welcome Rev John Lochrie and his wife Charlotte to our November meeting when we heard of another life story from Mrs Margaret Whitton, which took us to 1952 and Rhodesia as it was then. This talk gave an insight into what has led to present day unrest. Christmas brings a meal out and the Pantomime.



Our meeting on January 10th with Kathryn King the jeweler from Kirkcudbright, will be most interesting. January 17 and the Guild will be 100 years old. This will be marked at our service on 15 January. Look out for further news of how we mean to celebrate.

Back in November we were engulfed in a sea of red as we crocheted poppies to sell to congregation and friends in aid of the Poppy Appeal. We were delighted to realise almost £130 which has been sent on to Poppy Scotland. Many thanks to everyone who supported this.

Come along and join us. A warm welcome always awaits you.

Margaret Shanks

An Invitation to a Family Celebration
of the

Christmas Nativity On Saturday 24th

Christmas Eve afternoon



Kelton Parish Church
4pm at Kelton Church.

Come and share in the story of Christmas
with Christmas carols.

Young ones are invited to come dressed, if
they wish, as an Angel or a Shepherd or a
Wise Man and be part of those gathering
round the Christmas crib.

All are welcome

Celebration of Carols
At Auchencairn Church
6pm Sunday 11 December



Featuring Auchencairn Primary
Auchencairn Community Choir
Kirkcudbright Handbell Ringers

Refreshments in Murray Hall afterwards
thanks to Helen and friends.

This is always a well attended service so
come early to be sure of a seat!

Church Diary

December

Thurs 8 Word Alive –Kelton–1.30 pm
 Fri 16 Guild Christmas Outing
 Sat 24 Family Service–Kelton 4.00 pm
 Watchnight Service–Kelton
 11.30pm
 Watchnight Service–Auchencairn
 11.30pm
 Sun 25 Christmas Day–Auchencairn
 9.30 am

January

Tues 10 Guild–Kelton Church Hall 2.00 pm
 Sun 15 Celebration of Guild Centenary
 Sun 22 Communion–Auchencairn 9.30 am
 Thu 26 Word Alive –Kelton–1.30 pm

February

Wed 9 Word Alive –Kelton–1.30 pm
 Tues 14 Guild–Kelton Church Hall 2.00 pm
 Wed 15 Session and Board meeting -
 Kelton 7.00 pm
 Thu 23 Word Alive–Kelton–1.30 pm

March

Fri 3 World Day of Prayer
 Thu 9 Word Alive –Kelton–1.30 pm
 Tue 14 Guild -Auchencairn Village Hall
 2.00 pm
 Thu 23 Word Alive –Kelton–1.30 pm

April

Sun 2 Communion Kelton 9.30 am
 Wed 12 Guild–Kelton Hall 2.00 pm
 Thu 13 Maundy Thursday Service–CD
 Fri 14 Good Friday Service- Kelton

May

Tues 9 Guild–Outing
 Jun 25 Communion Auchencairn 9.30 am
 Oct 15 Communion Kelton 9.30 am

Bengairn Parish Duty Rota

Please arrive 20 minutes before the start of the service.

If you are unable to attend please arrange a substitute.

Jan 01- (K) (L) J Jardine, Jeanette Walker
 08- (A) (L) Nicky Smith, J Hendry
 15- (K) (D) P Davis, Freda McCubbin
 22- (A) (B) Dawn Campbell, Jean Brown
 29- (A) (L) D Henry, K Ross
 Feb 05- (K) (L) R Bellamy, Rosemary Gladstone
 12- (A) (L) W Hean, Carol Ashton
 19- (K) (L) A Campbell, Agnes Ross
 26- (A) (D)W Kennedy, A or M Dunlop
 Mar 05- (K) (L) Margaret Shanks, F Twiname
 12- (A) (L) A Hyslop, Evelyn McArthur
 19- (K) (L) R Ramsay, J Jardine
 26- (A) (D) Kate Smith, Jeanette Walker

Apr 02- (K) (L) Dawn Campbell, Jean Brown
 09- (A) (L) P Davis, Freda McCubbin
 16- (K) (D) Nicky Smith, J Hendry
 23- (A) (L) D Henry, K Ross
 30- (K) (D) R Bellamy, Rosemary Gladstone
 May 07- (K) W Hean, Carol Ashton
 14- (A) A Campbell, Agnes Ross
 21- (K) W Kennedy, A or M Dunlop
 28- (A) Margaret Shanks, F Twiname
 June 04- (K) A Hyslop, Evelyn McArthur
 11- (A) R Ramsay, J Jardine
 18- (K) J Hendry, Nicky Smith
 25- (A) Kate Smith, Jeanette Walker

(K) Kelton (A) Auchencairn (B) Rev Dr Bartholomew (D) Rev Dee (L) Rev Dr Lochrie

Bengairn Word Alive is now up and running!

It is a Bible Study group open to anyone who wishes to come along - you just need to bring yourselves and a Bible.....and a sense of humour helps!

The last meeting before Christmas is on December 8th.

Bengairn Word Alive will be led by members of our church and will be held on Thursdays between 1:30 and 2:30 in Kelton Kirk Room.

We have begun reading together the Letter of James, discussing how his practical advice on the Christian life impacts on our own day to day lives, issues we face and challenges that may lie ahead.

The next group of meetings will begin on Thursday January 12th and we will then meet fortnightly on the following dates: January 26th, February 9th, February 23rd, March 9th and March 23rd. We'll then take a break until after Easter.

Nicky Smith

Flower Festival

A very happy weekend was held in September when so many members of our congregation joined together to put on a display of talents and flowers in Auchencairn Church. A lot of hard work and laughter went into making it a big success. Members displayed their talents in spinning, cross stitch, embroidery, quilting, crochet, petit point, long stitch, bell ringing, knitting, painting, writing, tapestry, photography, baking, preserves, model making, miniatures,



etc. Every item on show was complimented by a beautiful floral arrangement and the whole weekend was accompanied by organ music played by our own two resident organists, Eileen and Peter with spots from Nicky Smith from Bengairn and other seven local organists—Sze Ying and Callum Wyllie, Forbes and Gordon Kinghorn, Sue St Joseph, Glan Jones and Stephen Crosbie. Stephen was also playing at a wedding on Saturday afternoon so huge thanks to all of them for taking part, especially as most of them were also involved in services elsewhere on Sunday morning.

Lots of photographs were taken over the weekend and it was suggested that we produce a calendar to sell in aid of church funds. So far the first print run of 50 has sold out but orders can be placed up to 12 December at church or by phone to 01557 330158. The cost of the calendar is £5.00.

Search for Ancestors

A letter was received recently addressed simply to Glebe Cottage, Kelton, Castle Douglas. This came from Canada from a Karen Clark, who is trying to find information about her Grandparents who were married on 25th January 1918 at Glebe Cottage.

Having been given the letter by the owner of Glebe Cottage, I have looked in the old registers which are kept at Kelton Church and could find no records.

I am interested in Family history and was curious to see if I could help. Scotlands People website found me the marriage certificate of the couple, who were Janet McGhie Glendinning and Albert Bell Wilson. Her address was in Moffat, but he was a Sergeant Major with the Canadian Foresters. I knew from looking at the old Proclamation of Banns Register at Kelton, that there had been several marriages between 1916 and 1918 of local girls and Canadian Forester soldiers. I have also discovered that they were stationed at what we, now, call Talisien Wood, which is on the Castle road from Gelston to Auchencairn.

I have been corresponding by e-mail with Karen and having researched the names on the marriage certificate, we know the witness to the wedding was a Jessie Jane Raphael, whose father was a coachman to the Wallet family and whose wife's maiden name was McGhie and who all lived at Glebe Cottage. Jessie Jane Raphael was married in July 1918 to another Canadian soldier, perhaps she introduced her cousin to Albert Wilson.

Karen lives in Stouffville, in Ontario, Canada and she has agreed to me putting this request in the Winter "Bark" magazine. We would be interested if anyone can give us more information about the Raphael family. If so, please contact me at 01556 680251 or on my e-mail at wrightbrownie@gmail.com.

Brownie Wright, Old Farmhouse, Airieland, Castle Douglas, DG7 1SS

Tubby Clayton Toc H First World War

At the end of 1915, the Rev. Philip 'Tubby' Clayton, an army chaplain in Poperinge, Belgium opened Talbot House, known by its initials T.H., which were TOC H in the signallers language of the day.

The House sat a few miles back from the battlefields of Flanders around Ypres, known as 'Wipers' by the British troops.

The TOC H symbol is an oil lamp called the Lamp of Maintenance and featuring the cross of Ypres. A popular phrase was 'He's as dim as a Toc H lamp'

The people who used the House came from all sorts of civilian backgrounds and army ranks. A sign above the chaplains door proclaims: 'All Rank Abandon, Ye Who Enter Here'

At the Remembrance service on the Sunday the Rev. Oonagh Dee talked about 'Tubby' giving Woodbine cigarettes to the troops. However, there are greater tributes to 'Tubby'; some listed as follows; -

'Tubby' ensured Talbot House was open to men and officers alike. Also, he created a library where soldiers could check-out a book by leaving their cap behind as a ticket. There was a large kitchen where much tea was consumed; a beautiful walled garden where men could sit and forget about the war for a while; a chapel, Upper Room in the attic where regular services were held; the House offered an oasis of sanity to the men passing through Poperinge.

In the 1990s, Thelma and myself visited Talbot House; at that time, we were the only visitors, nevertheless we were made to feel very well welcome.

In 1957, my parents left Derby for Watford. I lived in the Derby Toc H hostel (Toc H Mark XXI) for nine years. The hostel had a lovely wee chapel for services and quiet reflections.

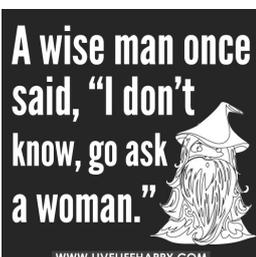
Peter Davis

Wise Men or Wise Women?

Do you know what would have happened if there had been Three Wise Women instead of Three Wise Men?

- ✚ They would have asked directions?
- ✚ Arrived on time
- ✚ Helped deliver the baby
- ✚ Cleaned the stable
- ✚ Made a casserole
- ✚ Brought practical gifts
- ✚

Oh yes, and there would have been peace on earth!



Contributed by
Jean Brown

Money Matters

Did you know that you can increase the amount of money you give to the Church without any extra cost to yourself? By Gift Aiding whatever you can afford, if you are a tax payer the government will add 20% to the amount the Church receives.

Declaration

Our Gift Aid Convenor, Dawn Campbell asks everyone who Gift Aids currently to complete a new Gift Aid Declaration as soon as possible. A box of forms is in Kelton Kirk for you to pick one up.



If you don't already Gift Aid and would like to do so please call Dawn on 01556 680309. The extra income this brings is greatly appreciated.



HISTORY OF THE POPPY

Reproduced from the website of the Royal British Legion

During the First World War (1914-1918) much of the fighting took place in Western Europe. Previously beautiful countryside was blasted, bombed and fought over, again and again. The landscape swiftly turned to fields of mud: bleak and barren scenes where little or nothing could grow.

Bright red Flanders poppies (*Papaver rhoeas*) however, were delicate but resilient flowers and grew in their thousands, flourishing even in the middle of chaos and destruction. In early May 1915, shortly after losing a friend in Ypres, a Canadian doctor, Lt Col John McCrae was inspired by the sight of poppies to write a now famous poem called '**In Flanders Fields**'.

McCrae's poem inspired an American academic, Moina Michael, to make and sell red silk poppies which were brought to England by a French woman, Anna Guérin. The (Royal) British Legion, formed in 1921, ordered 9 million of these poppies and sold them on 11 November that year. The poppies sold out almost immediately and that first ever 'Poppy Appeal' raised over £106,000; a considerable amount of money at the time. This was used to help WW1 veterans with employment and housing.

The following year, Major George Howson set up the Poppy Factory to employ disabled ex-Servicemen. Today, the factory and the Legion's warehouse in Aylesford produces millions of poppies each year.

The demand for poppies in England was so high that few were reaching Scotland. Earl Haig's wife established the 'Lady Haig Poppy Factory' in Edinburgh in 1926 to produce poppies exclusively for Scotland. Over 5 million Scottish poppies (which have four petals and no leaf unlike poppies in the rest of the UK) are still made by hand by disabled ex-Servicemen at Lady Haig's Poppy Factory each year and distributed by our sister charity Poppyscotland.

Acts of Remembrance



Inside Buittle Church, by kind permission of Carol-Ann Brown there was an act of remembrance starting with a verse from Binyon's poem For The Fallen; followed by the two minute silence.

Our Locum Dr John Lochrie read out the names from the first and second world war plaques; with our Buittle member Richard Bellamy laying the wreath and Peter Davis reading St John 15 v 13, The Message; followed by a remembrance prayer and The Lord's Prayer.

We also led Acts of Remembrance at the War Memorials in Auchencairn, Dundrennan, Palnackie and Gelston.

Peter Davis

Parish Register

Funerals

Our sympathies go to the families of the following who have died since our last issue.

August	Donald MacDougal Ian Semple
September	Betty Douglas (Castle Douglas)
October	Agnes Gaw (Castle Douglas)
November	Margaret Owen-Smith William Richardson (Birmingham)

Wedding

Congratulations go to Kate Wardman and Gordon Milby who married in August.

A Christmas prayer

Lord Jesus,

Please forgive me for being so grumpy as I trudge through the never-ending tasks set before me this Christmas season...

My to-do list seems to keep growing with shopping, church services, and family

gatherings---
and I'm running short of time!
Restore the joy of Christmas
to my heart . . .
and help me to relax each day
and make time for
YOU--
my one true Source of Joy.
Amen



Dear One and All,

So here we are at Advent time again, are you like me, wondering where on earth this year has gone? I feel though, that we have certainly done well in coping with unexpected change and disappointment and pulling together with a positive face to the future. I am both humbled and encouraged by the calibre of Bengairn's worshipping community. Just because I'm a retired teacher, may I be so bold as to award you all, a well- deserved Gold Star?!

Talking of which, himself and I have just come back from a mini- trip to Iceland, not looking for stars but for the Northern Lights. We didn't see the Aurora but we did see lots of stars, both in the sky and on the ground! All the children learn 3 languages at school and we didn't meet anybody who didn't speak 4 or 5. They are a commendably hard working lot, but almost entirely secular; sadly not many of them looking for the Light of Christ in their lives.

Our faith is such a blessing, it really is the best "Gift"; to have the real message of God's love for us, in the birth of Jesus. The simplicity of Love and compassion are in such stark contrast to the commercialism and hype of Xmas that it's hard to keep the focus on the wonder of the Incarnation, especially for the young ones.

That's why, at Kelton this year we are trying out an "all age" Nativity. It will be on Christmas Eve, at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, hopefully when all the shopping will be done! In that little lull, when the day is drawing into evening, please come and join in the celebration of the Nativity with us. It really is for all ages, an invitation to come and enjoy the carols and The Best Story Ever Told! PS of course, if anyone could possibly help I'd be very grateful!

Thank you as always for your friendship and fellowship, for encouragement and support, your kindness keeps me going into the year ahead! May our hearts be filled with joy as we journey together to see the Bethlehem Babe.

Yours as always, Oonagh.

So what do you think?

We're trying out a smaller, neater format of Bark this time. Do you like it?

Do you have problems reading the small print?

If you don't find it interesting or informative try sending in something yourself for inclusion in the Spring edition.

Please let me know. It's not much use if there is something about it that stops you reading it. Remember too, that if you would like to receive the Newsletter electronically you can. Just send an email to the address given below headed BARK NEWSLETTER.

Editor

Items for the next newsletter should be given to the Editor **IN WRITING** at Church, by e-mail to rosemarygladstone@gmail.com or by post to Mrs R Gladstone, Lansdowne, 93A St Mary Street, Kirkcudbright, DG6 4EL. Contributors should give contact details in case of any queries.