



Kelton Kirk by D McCubbin



Auchencairn Kirk by D McCubbin

**D**ear Friends,

**O**ne night Toscanini, the famous Italian conductor, led the Philadelphia Symphony Orchestra in Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, a very difficult piece to direct. So majestic was the music that after the finale the audience stood for ten minutes applauding. Toscanini took his bows again and again then turned to the orchestra who also bowed. The audience continued to clap and cheer. Finally Toscanini turned his back to the audience and, speaking only to the orchestra, said, "Ladies, gentlemen, I am nothing. You are nothing. Beethoven is everything!"

**T**he orchestra and conductor were faithfully following the instructions of the composer, but the credit for the beautiful music belonged rightly with Beethoven. That is an instructive lesson for us all. The creator has placed us all in this beautiful world and given each one of us gifts and talents. Sometimes we can be guilty of taking all the credit for our successes and ignoring the one who gave us life. We try and pretend that he has no call upon our life. But the reality is that he loves us and wants to live his life through us, so that our lives become a symphony of beauty and harmony. Too often we try and live our lives out of our own resources and end up with too many discordant notes! Regardless of how eloquent or gifted we may be, we are called to throw ourselves at the feet of Jesus Christ and say, "I am nothing, you are everything!" And it is when we acknowledge his call upon our lives and open up our lives to him, as a home where his Spirit may reside, that we will find the greatest inner harmony and purpose for our lives.

**W**hen men first learned to navigate the seas by using the stars, a whole new world opened up to them. It was said, "He who is a slave to the compass enjoys the freedom of the open sea."

**C**ommitment to Christ is our compass. It opens the door to God's kingdom for us. When we commit our future to Him and let Him set our course, He will direct us to places of freedom, fulfilment and blessing that we never knew existed. But first we must be willing to say, "It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me."

**W**e are called to bow before Him and declare, "I am nothing, you are everything. Here are my gifts, my abilities and my dreams. I lay them at your feet. I give them all to you. Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee. Take my moments and my days. Let them flow in ceaseless praise." That is the way to the greatest fulfilment and contentment. This is not something that we do once, and from then on all is plain sailing. There needs to be a daily resolve and desire to live in relationship with the Lord and walk with him where he leads. And we find that in the

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## Notes from the Session

Well, we are finally starting the search for a new minister. Those of you in Church recently will recall the number of official intimations which have been read, and the number of actions the Kirk Session has had to carry out. We now have an electoral roll duly attested by Presbytery, and we have elected four members to serve alongside seven from Castle Douglas on the nominating committee. This is the committee which will try to find a suitable candidate to bring forward to our congregations. Our four representatives are --- Nicky Smith, Jean Brown, Frank Twiname and Donald Henry. We wish them good luck and pray for a successful outcome.

The Kirk session have resolved to increase their number and we will shortly be bringing forward some prospective new elders.

Our interim moderator Rev D. Bartholomew and our preaching team of Rev J. Lochrie and Rev O. Dee have been serving us well, and we thank them for their continuing support.

We would also ask you to note that the next communion at Kelton will be on the 29<sup>th</sup> October. The date has been moved owing to other commitments of our preaching team.

Our Safeguarding Panel and our two youth leaders have all recently attended Safeguarding training organised by the Presbytery.

Thank you all for your support at this time.

Peter Gladstone Session Clerk

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## Holiday Club

Kirkcudbright Parish Church is holding a Holiday Club for 5—11 year olds from 14—18 August, 10 am—noon. Further information from their church office, website and on posters displayed in our church premises.

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## Bengairn Word Alive

We are on a break now for the summer but have had many interesting discussions not only on our selected books of the bible but also on a variety of topics from current everyday life. Our dates

Sep 4 Word Alive Kelton 1.30 pm  
 17 Presbyter Sunday (Pulpit Swap)  
 18 Word Alive Kelton 1.30 pm  
 Oct 2 Word Alive Kelton 1.30 pm  
 8 Harvest Auchencairn  
 11 Guild Kelton 2pm

Nov 1 Guild Kelton 2.00 pm  
 12 Remembrance Auchencairn,  
 Dundrennan, Palnackie and Gelston  
 13 Word Alive Kelton 1.30 pm  
 18 Guild Christmas Sale 10 am—12 noon  
 in CD Parish Church Hall

## Bengairn Parish Duty Rota

Please arrive 20 minutes before the start of the service.

Jul

02 (K) (L) P Davis, F McCubbin  
 09 (A) (L) B Wright, J Brown  
 16 (K) (D) D Henry, K Ross  
 23 (A) (L) R Bellamy, R Gladstone  
 30 (A) (L) W Hean, C Ashton

Aug

06 (K) (L) A Campbell, A Ross  
 13 (A) (L) W Kennedy, A or M Dunlop  
 20 (K) (D) M Shanks, F Twiname  
 27 (A) (L) A Hyslop, E McArthur

Sep

03 (K) (D) R Ramsay, J Jardine  
 10 (A) (L) N Smith, J Hendry  
 17 (K) (?) K Smith, J Walker Presbytery Sunday  
 24 (A) (L) P Davis, F McCubbin

Oct

1 (K) (D) B Wright, J Brown  
 8 (A) (D) D Henry, K Ross  
 15 (K) (S) R Bellamy, R Gladstone  
 22 (A) (L) W Hean, C Ashton  
 29 (K) (L) A Campbell, A Ross (Communion)

Nov

5 (K) (L) W Kennedy, A or M Dunlop  
 12 (A) (D) M Shanks, F Twiname  
 19 (K) (L) A Hyslop, E McArthur  
 26 (A) (L) R Ramsay, J Jardine

Dec

03 (K) (B) J Hendry, N Smith  
 10 (A) (?) K Smith, J Walker  
 17 (K) (?) P Davis, F McCubbin  
 24 (A) (?) B Wright, J Brown  
 31 (A) (?) D Henry, K Ross

(K) Kelton (A) Auchencairn (B) Rev Dr Bartholomew (D) Rev Dee (L) Rev Dr Lochrie (S) Mrs N Smith

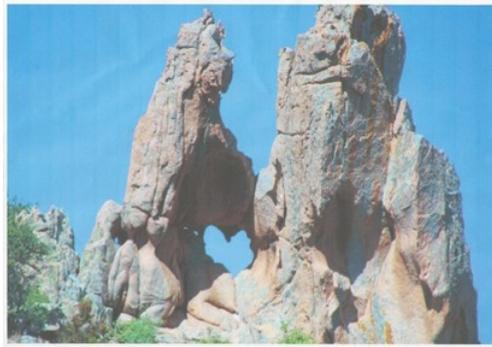
## Parish Register

Funeral—With sadness we record the passing of Lilian Love on 9 April, Pamela Hunter on 22 April. Also Jeanette "Jenny" Sturrock, 8 May and Mark Skeffington 19 June (dates of funerals).

Wedding - Congratulations to Fiona Glendenning and Raymond Carson at Auchencairn on 17 June.

Reception - Wedding at St. Andrew's Kirk, 21 May at Kelton

fortunate to be able to travel and many is the occasion when we have simply stopped to look at each other and think, "How great thou art!", when confronted by a spectacle of nature. We saw an example of this on holiday this year when we visited Corsica. We drove up the west coast of the island to Piana Calanche. There the rose granite rocks have been eroded over the centuries in to many weird and wonderful shapes. One in particular stands out as a tourist attraction. At one spot a hole has been eroded right through a pinnacle. In itself that is not unusual as there are many holes in the rocks. This one is different because it is in the shape of a heart. Looking at it, it almost felt as if the Creator was making a declaration of his love.



The bible does make two things quite clear. One is God's love for his creation and the other is that when God first looked on creation he saw that it was good. Sadly the way things are now much of that goodness has gone. Perhaps we should be remembering the rest of the Genesis story. What God did was and still is good, but sadly mankind is still following Adam. The dreadful events of these last months have all been the work of people who do not and seemingly cannot understand that violence and terror achieve nothing, other than strengthening the resolve of the rest of us to carry on our lives as normal. Perhaps in times like this we do need a reminder of God and his love and a reassurance that despite anything we might do, the world is still truly a wonderful place.

Finally, I want to emphasise the need to keep Oonagh and myself informed about anyone in need of a pastoral visit. Unfortunately I have recently learned of more than one instance where someone has been unwell for quite a long time, but was not visited because neither of us knew. We would far rather hear several times than not at all. John S. Lochrie

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## Guild

At our closing meeting in April we were delighted to have with us May and Vivian, present and past conveners of Carlisle Guild with whom we are linked. In May, under the leadership of Wendy, our outing took us firstly to Creetown Museum. So much interest to enjoy, for all ages. Lunch at the Gem Rock Museum was a lively hour followed by a video and tour of the wonderful array of gems from all over the world. The weather was lovely showing us Galloway in spring time colours, our own dear "gem". Three of our members attended Annandale and Nithsdale Guild rally in June by invitation of Carlisle Guild. Rev Angus Morrison, a past Moderator was an inspirational speaker.

In July we look forward to a walk through the gardens of Gelston Castle. A date to note in your diary is 18th November when we will hold a Coffee morning in Castle Douglas Parish Church Hall 10.00 am to 12.00.



Photos from the Guild Outing in May and Orroland Garden Opening in June which raised over £900 for funds.

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## 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

**Session Clerk** Mr Peter Gladstone  
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**Clerk to the Congregational Board**  
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**Treasurer**  
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**Gift Aid Administrator**  
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**Presbytery Elder**  
Mrs Rosemary Gladstone  
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**Bengairn Guild**  
Secretary - Mrs Margaret Shanks 01556 502956

**Church Website** - [bengairnparishes.org.uk](http://bengairnparishes.org.uk)  
Editor Mr R Bellamy  
e. enquiries@bengairnparishes.org.uk

**Newsletter Editor and Safeguarding Officer**  
Mrs Rosemary Gladstone

Our family commemorations are starting at 11am on Saturday 29th July 2017 at Buittle Church/burial grounds. This is a week later than the actual date due to family commitments. All are welcome to be present, as you did with our father's ashes and the rain inside the old kirk in 1997.



John Davis, born 31st Dec. 1878 was the son (fifth child) of Rev John Davis (1819-1895) Irish minister of Third Presbyterian Church, Ballynahinch, Co Down who had five children with his second wife Elizabeth (married 1867).

John was educated at Campbell College (1894-1895) and Queen's College, Belfast; obtaining his B. A. degree in 1899 (Royal University of Ireland). His mother had left Ballynahinch for the family to live in Belfast near Queen's.

John moved to Edinburgh; studying at New College and Edinburgh University. He was licensed by Presbytery of Edinburgh 30th Nov. 1904. Prior to Buittle, he had been for two years assistant to Rev Dr Blair, minister of St John's Parish Church, Victoria Street, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh. The Church has since gone.

On the 12th July 1907, he was ordained (assistant and successor) and inducted to Buittle by the Presbytery of Kirkcudbright. Less than a year later, he returned to Belfast to marry Margaret (Madge) on 29th April 1908; second of the seven daughters of Thomas Kernahan. He brought his new bride home to the manse in Buittle. Their three children born in the manse were John Sydney St Inan (15.12.1909), Arthur Douglas (14.03.1912) and Dorothy Noreen (17.06.1913).

In his leisure time, 'the genial minister of Buittle' ' proved himself a useful match player' in the Dalbeattie's Golf club's Gentlemen's match team and on its Executive Committee (1912). He also played at Castle Douglas G.C.; winning the Law medal in Sept. 1911.

My father (Sydney) had his baptism in the manse in a special ceremony as he was the first child to be born in the manse for over a century. Saint Inan came from Kirk-ennan.

At a meeting of the Presbytery of Kirkcudbright on 6th Dec. 1915 at Castle Douglas, the Rev J Davis, by then the Moderator, was granted leave to enlist under Lord Derby's group scheme. He joined the Royal Army Medical Corps as a private. He occupied his pulpit for the last time on Sunday 17th September, 1916.

He sailed from Southampton on 24th Sept.; taking up his duties on the river boats (River Sick Convoy Unit, Basra) on the Tigris in Mesopotamia. It was expected that he would be appointed to a chaplaincy (as a padre); having had his papers signed; with a delay for fresh papers to be endorsed.

However, the trying heat of the climate had proved too much; dying of heat-stroke after a short illness on 22nd July, 1917. He is buried in Amara War Cemetery. In 1933, all of the headstones were removed (due to salts in the soil). A screen wall was erected with the names of those buried in the cemetery engraved upon the wall.

Often we went to Gullane and this seemed to us to be a long way from Peebles. We all gathered at the foot of the church steps clutching our mug in one hand and our packet of streamers in the other and in my case a bag of barley sugar in my pocket (just in case). Mums carried the bucket and spades and so we were ready for our big annual adventure.

As my mother was Sunday school superintendent I was an abandoned child on these occasions! I was left in the care of my friend Isobel's mother.



We all got on the bus, or sometimes buses, and set off on our adventure. The most important thing of course was to hang out the window and unwind our streamers, this would be considered unsafe these days but Health and Safety had not been invented then. We must have left quite a trail of streamers because I am sure that by the time we reached Eddleston (6 miles away) there were no streamers left.

The rest of the journey we sang songs. Since the picnic was always held the Saturday after Beltane Saturday the song we sang most was the Beltane song. The adults must have been really sick of it as we sang it for about the tenth time. Eventually someone would shout out "I can see the sea". The excitement level rose - we grabbed our belongings - and at last we were there.

Of course the sun was shining as it always did in the 1950s!

Leaving all our belongings with the adults we ran down to the sea to paddle, swim and play in the sand. After we were nicely sun burnt and covered with sand we returned to the rugs and the adults to have our picnic which was provided by the teachers and members of the congregation.

This was followed by a very important event - The Races. Several different running races for the various age groups (age range from 3 yrs to 30 plus), egg and spoon, sack race and the three legged race. The prizes were always 3d for first, 2d for second, 1d for third and 1/2d for the also rans. I collected a lot of 1/2ds. As soon as we got our prize money we immediately went to the little "shop" run by two of the mums and spent our winnings on 1d chews, sherbet bombs and other delightful goodies.

All too soon it was time to go home. Singing was not done with quite the same enthusiasm. We did sing the Beltane song but only a few times. Reaching Peebles we wearily got off the bus ready for bed.

We had to be up bright and early the next morning as the picnic was always followed by the Prize Giving then we had a whole summer to play before school and Sunday school started up again.

Jean Brown

proclaim our faith in you, consecrating  
our lives to you and asking your help in  
all we do. Amen

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Hello fellow travellers!

Last month a young couple from Auchencairn got married in the Church and it was such a delight. There were 7 bridesmaids, all in different pastel colours; simple white flowers at the ends of the pews; a groom in his kilt and a gorgeous bride in her dress. Their children took part, local folk came to wish them well and we all sang the hymn, “One More Step”, chosen because the children sing it at school!

And that’s what’s so good—the wedding children were comfortable in the Church because of the links that we are all helping to build; they felt at home.

Last week I was doing the rounds of the Nursery and School end of term assemblies, and I too am feeling at home there, welcomed into their bustling environments. One step at a time we are sharing the road, talking about the Good News of Jesus with the same ease as talking about who won the House netball trophy.

As a local congregation you know that talking is the beginning and the sustaining heart of friendship; that there is no joy in journeying in silence!

And that’s what’s so good---it’s when you interface with the local community; helping neighbours, supporting activities, taking an interest (and all the while being known as members of our Church), that your lives proclaim our faith. That for us, the words of the hymn are a prayer;

Lord help us as we travel along the road, “from the old things to the new” please, “keep us travelling along with you”, our gracious, faithful God!

Enjoy the beautiful flowers of summer and the odd day of sunshine! Yours as ever, Oonagh.

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**Rev Jack Owen**

At my last Presbytery meeting on Wednesday 28th June, as I sat beside Jack Owen, the Presbytery's Clerk read out, to the assembly of ministers and elders, a glowing tribute of congratulations to the Rev Jack Owen (ordained 28th June 1967).

Everyone applauded the tribute. Jack Owen acknowledged the efforts made by our Parish(es) during our two previous vacancies over the past decade.