



Wanderings

Isn't it strange how, without really noticing it, we've wandered into autumn? It certainly was the season of mist and mellow fruitfulness in the Scilly Isles where we have just spent an idyllic week.

Wandering about---wild agapanthus growing by the roadside; vivid blue seas and white sandy beaches. On the boats that took us from island to island—to stop us feeling queasy! -- we were told to, “keep your eyes on the horizon”. On the smaller islands there are no cars and blissful quiet. The local Church talks about this place being, “an open window for the soul, where the light of Christ and the wonder of God can shine on the human heart”.

It's a vision to hold close and dear but as we commemorate Remembrance Sunday, no matter how beautiful the place; that has to be held alongside the confusion and pain in the world. Joy and sorrow, beauty and ugliness, great sacrifice and selfishness are so often intertwined they seem impossible to unravel. It certainly makes for unease!

So my wandering thoughts brought me back to the, “keep your eyes focused” call! To cope with the ups and downs of life I certainly need a fixed point and Scripture says that if Jesus is always the fixed point; the guiding principle, then there will be safety in the storm, and His light will indeed penetrate even the darkest and most confusing times. What a blessing to have this assurance for the rest, and all of our wanderings. What a blessing to be able to focus on these good promises of the Lord as we journey together.

Dear Friends,

On a bright Sunday morning in 18th century England Robert Robinson was walking despondently down a busy London street. The sound of church bells reminded him of past years when his faith in God was strong and the church was an integral part of his life. It had been years since he had set foot in a church – years of wandering, disillusionment and a gradual drift from the God he once loved. That love for God – once fiery and passionate – had slowly died within him, leaving him dark and cold inside.



Quilted by Marleen Jardine

Robert Robinson heard the clip-clop of a horse-drawn cab approaching behind him. Turning, he lifted his hand to hail the driver. But then he saw that the cab was occupied by a young woman dressed for the Lord's Day. He waved the driver on, but the woman in the carriage ordered the carriage to be stopped. "Sir, I'd be happy to share this carriage with you," she said to Robinson. "Are you going to church?" Robinson was about to decline, but then he paused. "Yes," he said at last. "I **am** going to church." He stepped into the carriage and sat down beside the young woman. As the carriage rolled forward, Robert Robinson and the woman exchanged introductions. There was a flash of recognition in her eyes when he stated his name. "That's an interesting coincidence," she said. "I was just reading a verse by a poet named Robert Robinson." He took the book, nodding. "Yes, I wrote these words years ago."

The words would one day be set to music and become a great hymn of the faith, familiar to generations of Christians: 'Come, Thou Fount of every blessing Tune my heart to sing Thy grace. Streams of mercy, never ceasing, Call for songs of loudest praise.' His eyes slipped to the bottom of the page where he read: 'Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it. Prone to leave the God I love. Here's my heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for thy courts above.' He could barely finish reading the words. "I wrote these words – and I've lived these words. 'Prone to wander...prone to leave the God I love.' "

The woman suddenly understood. "You also wrote, 'Here's my heart, O take and seal it.' You can offer your heart again to God, Mr Robinson. It's not too late." It wasn't too late for Robert Robinson. In that moment he turned his heart back to God and walked with him the rest of his days.

We can all wander from the way. We can all feel that coldness and emptiness within when we have tried to live our lives without God. But with God there is always the possibility of new beginnings; his grace and love is always there to greet us when we turn to meet him in our hearts. God made us to know him and love him, and live in relationship with him. And when we try and live our lives independently from him it makes for unfulfilled lives and a restlessness of spirit. If you have not been to church for a while, I encourage you to come back with a new openness and desire to engage with God. And even if you are a regular churchgoer, seek to meet him at a deeper

named as new elders. The service was conducted by Rev. Dr. Lochrie. We welcome them and look forward to a long association with them.



The search for a new minister continues and we hope and pray for a successful outcome. While we hope for an end to the vacancy, we are constantly grateful to our preaching team under our interim moderator Dr David Bartholomew. Dr. John Lochrie and Rev Oonagh Dee are doing an excellent job. We must also recognise that with our linkage to Castle Douglas, there can at times be a heavy workload for funerals and pastoral work, which is carried out in a caring way by our team.

Perhaps you should note that Oonagh and her husband John are having an extended holiday in the New Year to visit family in New Zealand. We wish them well for their trip. John Lochrie is happy to fill the breach for a couple of months, please support him in his work.

As we approach another Christmas let us go forward together for a time of renewal and new beginnings.

Peter Gladstone Session Clerk



How lovely to have a baptism at Auchencairn on 22 October.

Bengairn Word Alive

Bengairn Word Alive is growing in strength - we have been known to run out of comfy chairs on a Monday afternoon! If you haven't been along yet please consider giving it a try after Christmas. Don't worry if you can't manage every date just come and go when you're able. We will be taking a break over Christmas and the next group of meetings begins on January 15th at 1:30pm in Kelton Kirk meeting room. We will meet every other Monday as follows:

	24	Nativity	Kelton	4.00 pm		14	Guild	Kelton	2.00 pm
	24	Watchnight	Auchencairn	11.30 pm		26	Word Alive	Kelton	1.30 pm
	25	Christmas Day	Castle Douglas		Mar	12	Word Alive	Kelton	1.30 pm
						14	Guild	Auchencairn	2 pm
Jan	10	Guild	Kelton	2.00 pm		26	Word Alive	Kelton	1.30 pm
	15	Word Alive	Kelton	1.30 pm					
	28	Communion	Kelton	9.30 am	Apr	11	Guild	Kelton	2.00 pm

Bengairn Parish Duty Rota

Please arrive 20 minutes before the start of the service.

Jan				
07	(K)	(L)	R Bellamy, R Gladstone	
14	(A)	(B)	W Hean, C Ashton	
21	(K)	(L)	A Campbell, A Ross	
28	(A)	(L)	W Kennedy, A or M Dunlop	Communion

Feb				
04	(K)	(L)	M Shanks, F Twiname	
11	(A)	(L)	A Hyslop, E McArthur	
18	(K)	(L)	R Ramsay, J Jardine	
25	(A)	(L)	N Smith, J Hendry	

Mar				
04	(K)	()	K Smith, J Walker	
11	(A)	()	P Davis, F McCubbin	
18	(K)	()	B Wright, J Brown	
25	(A)	()	D Henry, K Ross	

If you are unable to attend please arrange a substitute.

Apr				
1	(K)	()	R Bellamy, R Gladstone	
8	(A)	()	W Hean, C Ashton	
15	(K)	()	A Campbell, A Ross	
22	(A)	()	W Kennedy, A or M Dunlop	
29	(K)	()	M Shanks, F Twiname	

May				
06	(K)	()	A Hyslop, E McArthur	
13	(A)	()	R Ramsay, J Jardine	
20	(K)	()	J Hendry, N Smith	
27	(A)	()	K Smith, J Walker	

Jun				
03	(K)	()	D Henry, K Ross	
10	(A)	()	P Davis, F McCubbin	
17	(K)	()	B Wright, J Brown	
24	(A)	()	R Bellamy, R Gladstone	

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

Parish Register

Deaths

With sadness we record the passing of these members of our congregation

Claire Smith 10.8.2017 (date of funeral)

Marleen Jardine 27.9.2017 (date of death) The family would like to thank everyone who donated to church funds in Marleen's memory . The sum of £677 was received.

that came to be the reformation. Luther had become increasingly unhappy with certain of the practices of the Catholic Church, especially the selling of Indulgences to forgive and absolve sin. This practice had been encouraged as the money raised was intended for the rebuilding of St Peter's in Rome. In the 95 Theses Luther asked, "why does not the Pope, whose wealth today is greater than the wealth of the riches Croesus, build the basilica of St Peter's with his own money rather than with the money of poor believers?" The 95 Theses also contained two central beliefs – that the Bible, not the Church was the supreme authority and that salvation can only be attained through faith, not by deeds. Luther's views quickly spread and in 1518 he was condemned by the pope as a heretic. To protect him his friends took him to the castle at Eisenach where he remained for a year. While there he began work on his major life's project, the translation of the Scriptures into German.

In those days the only authorised version of the Bible was the Latin Vulgate. Others had made translations from the Latin before Luther, most notably John Wycliffe, who made an English translation in 1382. Wycliffe's translation was banned by the Church and he only was saved from execution by having influential friends at court, especially John of Gaunt.

It was Luther who essentially began the process that would lead to translations being available for people in their own language. He was a particular influence to the Dutch scholar Erasmus who began a study of the Scriptures in the original Greek and Hebrew. In turn he influenced William Tyndale who produced the first English translation from the original languages. It was also the first English Bible to be printed and so became more widely available. Later it became the basis for the great translation authorised by King James that we now know as the Authorised Version.

Though Martin Luther is today mainly recognised as the father of the reformation, his greater achievement is perhaps beginning the process that in time saw the scriptures being available to all in their own languages. That was a slow process that cost many their lives, for the Catholic Church strongly resisted the opening up of the scriptures seeing this as an attack on its authority. It is unfortunate to say the least that now the courage and scholarship of these early translators is not valued more highly. Unfortunately today the scriptures, which are still for us the supreme rule of faith and life as Luther claimed in the 95 Theses, are no longer valued as they ought. Sadly the book that was once a best seller is now probably the least read.

John S. Lochrie

REV JOHN DAVIS, B.A. 1878-1917

His grandson Peter and family would like to thank all friends for supporting the Centenary Commemoration service held on 20 July. Special thanks to Rev. Dr John Lochrie, George

The Service was a little different, but a good Choir and Organist made it very moving and we enjoyed coffee, biscuits and a blether afterwards. We presented the Minister Rev Fraser McNaughton with a Kelton Kirk mug. He thanked us very much and remarked he had just returned from a golfing holiday at Southernness and Powfoot.

On Sunday evening we went to St Magnus Church, Birsay and were really impressed with an evening entitled Psimply Psalms (yes, correct spelling), a history of Scottish Psalms, their singing led by Rev. June Freeth, St Magnus Cathedral Choir and organist Heather Rendall. This was a very interesting and enjoyable evening. The following words were received as we entered the Cathedral

You enter this Cathedral
Not as a stranger, but as a guest of God
God is your Heavenly Creator
Come, then, with joy in your heart and thanks on your lips,
into God's presence, offering God your love and service.
Here may the faithful find salvation, and the careless be awakened.
Here may the doubting find faith, and the anxious be encouraged.
Here may the tempted find help, and the sorrowful comfort.
Here may the weary find rest, and the strong be renewed.
Here may the aged find consolation, and the young be inspired.

Frank Twiname

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dedicated. On 11th October our speaker was the Rev Marion Dixon who shared ecumenical reflections. At this meeting tribute was paid to Mrs Marleen Jardine whose sudden death bereft the Guild of one of its most loyal members. On November 8th Rev John Lochrie spoke to us about Nepal and on 18th November our Coffee morning with sales tables was held in Castle Douglas Church hall. December the 15th is Panto time. January 10th - this T.B.A. February 14th we look forward to learning about the craft of Wood Turning. Note, 14th March meeting will be held in Auchencairn hall when Mrs Jane Maitland will be our speaker. April 11th Mrs Hazel Campbell will lead us along the Artist Trail in Galloway. We would be delighted to welcome men and women of the congregation at any or all of these meetings. Please come and join us at 2pm on the second Wednesday of the month. Margaret Shanks

The Bengairn and Castle Douglas Parishes Nominating Committee

As you are aware our work is bound by confidentiality and we would ask that you don't approach members of the committee for information,

Committee members from both churches are working well together and you can be assured that we will keep you updated of our progress when there is something to report. We have prepared an updated advert for Life & Work magazine. The updated Parish Profile published on the church websites and the vacancy has already been advertised on the Church of Scotland website for some time.

The most important thing that we as a committee, and you as the wider congregation, can do is prayerfully seek God's will and wisdom, for He knows our needs and wants to guide us to the person he has already prepared to fill the role of our new minister.

Please pray for the members of your Nominating Committee by name: Annie Breton, Ann Brown, Jean Brown, Richard Brown, Louise Clark, Jim Figgis, Donald Henry, Jack Heuchan, Colin Kennedy, Nicky Smith, Frank Twiname

The work of the committee is ongoing and we appreciate your prayers as we continue the search for our new minister.

Rev Dr John Lochrie

We have to record many congratulations to John who recently celebrated 50 years as an ordained minister. Although officially retired we are indebted to the contribution he has put in to keeping our congregations active during the current vacancy.

Watch out for posters with further information and be sure not to miss out.

Carols at Auchencairn

If you can't make it to Gelston or would like more, the annual Carol Service takes place at Auchencairn Church on 10 December. This service is always well attended and everyone is welcome.

Christmas Nativity Service

Last year's Nativity Service was so well attended that we are doing it all again. It's lovely to see Kelton Church full of children and their parents and everyone who wants to joining in. Take a break from the rush and bustle and come along on Christmas Eve at 4.00 pm.

Watchnight Service

The Watchnight Service will be at Auchencairn this year at 11.30 pm. Come along and listen to the story of Christ's birth. The whole reason we welcome in Christmas Day. Bring your house guests with you.

A QUIZ FOR THE CHILDREN

1. What guided the Three Wise Men to the birthplace of Jesus?
2. Santa Claus is also known as Saint who?
3. What type of play, beginning with the letter 'N', is performed by children at Christmastime?
4. What is the name of Kristoff's reindeer in the Disney movie 'Frozen'?
5. What date is New Year's Eve?
6. True or false: Christmas Day occurs on the same day every year?
7. What was the first name of Jesus's mother?
8. 'Feliz Navidad' means Happy Christmas in which language?
9. Can you unscramble the following letters to reveal a type of sweet that resembles a walking stick: DANCY ECAN?
10. What gifts did the three kings take to baby Jesus?
11. How many doors would you open on an advent calendar before Christmas Day arrives?
12. How many lords are leaping in 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' song?
13. What date is Saint Stephen's , also known as Day Boxing Day, celebrated?
14. Can you unscramble the following word to reveal an item that you might place on top of a Christmas tree: RATS?