



Kelton Kirk by D McCubbin

BARK



Auchencairn Kirk by D McCubbin

Dear Friends

Over the past few weeks, on a Sunday, we have been thinking about the valuable resource we have in our own dedicated 'church' building.

In this day and age, church buildings do not have the security they once had. State of repair; heating and lighting costs; a lack of ordained ministers and a decrease in those attending on a Sunday mean church buildings have to show that they are 'well-equipped spaces, in the right places and fit for purpose' to be able to stay open.

Keeping a building open to be used once a week is no longer considered a responsible use of our money - or the time given by volunteers to keep the building in as good order as possible.

Yet we know we are important in our communities. We know our church building is a visible sign to the people of our Parish that God is active and working right here among us. A sign that his is a love that is meant to be shared. Coming to our church building for Sunday worship is one sign that God's love is present. Coming to our church building enables us to meet with others, to learn more about God and Jesus' love for us.

We know Jesus did not use church buildings - but we also know that worship in the rain and midges would not be much fun for us (Jesus didn't have Scottish rain or Scottish midges!). We need our buildings.

Yes, we could go to village halls or community centres or schools as some congregations currently do - but if we do that it restricts when we can come together and what we can do. Plus we feel a certain something when we come in to our church - we feel God's love, we know God's presence, we experience His peace. These are too special to lose.

So, now is the time, before Presbytery or the National Church make or enforce decisions, to make our own decisions to ensure that our church is ALWAYS God's house - where God's children can come together. And we need to be excited and inspired by the Holy Spirit - not be afraid of change - as we look to the meaningful things we can do in the church and ways God can use this resource to enable our faith to grow and others to hear: you know, God loves you too.

Yours in Christ, Alison

Worship Course

Three of our members recently joined approximately 40 others from other churches of this Presbytery at an 8 weeks course where we were given tips on leading worship. This included the different types of prayer and what should and shouldn't be included in each; preparing an order of service; discussion of quotes from famous people about various aspects of worship; music in the church etc. We even had a couple of vidoes featuring Mr Bean!

Did you know that in some churches the only thing the minister prepares is the sermon? There several people are involved in putting together the service. As well as the minister someone will choose the readings and someone else the hymns sometimes with very little communication between them in advance apart perhaps from a reference to a theme for the day. I'd always thought that the minister made up everything her or his self including composing the prayers but I found that it is quite acceptable to use a sermon that someone else has published or a prayer that someone else has written - perhaps better if changed to your own normal style of speaking though. Other things we were advised about were not speaking or reading too quickly; giving a long enough pause in a prayer for the congregation to think of people or situations they'd like to include in their prayer, using the microphone properly - remembering if it is fixed in front of you not to turn your head too much to right or left as it may not pick up your voice - and even with a microphone you need to speak clearly and don't drop your voice at the end of sentences or important points. Oh and No, don't use a 'holy' voice.

None of us knew what to expect but we all had to agree that it was a very informative, friendly gathering with lots of laughter included. Thought for the day—even those who are willing to take part in a service are likely to find it daunting and feel nervous—even sometimes the minister.

Church Diary

Communion Services at Auchencairn on second Sunday of September and at Kelton on first Sunday of November.

18 Aug Dundrennan Abbey Annual Ecumenical Service 3.00 pm

8 Sept Communion

Bill and Cheryl Steele will join us. Bill is the Convenor of the Church of Scotland's Social Care Council which is celebrating 150 years this year. The Council is perhaps better known as Crossreach.

29 Sept Dundrennan Village Hall

9 Oct Guild Kelton 2pm

3 Nov Communion Kelton 9.30 am

13 Nov Guild Kelton 2pm

Presbytery

This month's Presbytery meeting was quite a busy evening including many of the usual committee reports but also had some extra items. After opening devotions there was a very interesting, disturbing and thought provoking talk from Catriona Thompson from the New Life Church in Castle Douglas. Catriona is manager of the CAP service in the Stewartry. More of that elsewhere. The Moderator of the Presbytery for the past year (Rev Stuart Mill) reported on his year in office which he said he would remember as a great privilege. He spoke of the various events he had been invited to during the year such as the opening of the new Dumfries Infirmary and special services he had led or taken part in including the induction of our own minister last September. On the conclusion of his report he demitted office and the new moderator for the coming year was elected. She is Mrs Sylvia Livingston who is an elder at Crossmichael, Parton and Balmaghie and living in Castle Douglas will be known to many of our members.

Having attended Presbytery on behalf of the Session for the last two years this month's meeting was a much more comfortable affair than previous meetings. They are usually held in St George's church in Dumfries which has just been refurbished inside. All of the pews have been removed and replaced by very nicely upholstered chairs. Every alternate chair has arms so those who need it can lean on them and use them to help get up and down when singing hymns. What a difference it makes and apart from comfort they also serve to make the church look much less gloomy inside and a more inviting, useful space.

Rosemary (Presbytery Elder)

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A Cuppa and A Chat



During the few days up to Easter volunteers offered a Cuppa and Chat in Auchencairn church. We said if people liked it we might do it again. Well, having been asked if this would carry on we again invite you to come along and join us for a blether. We are there from 10.30 am to Noon on Wednesday mornings over the summer. We've only been open for three weeks but numbers have gradually increased each week and it's been lovely to welcome people new to the village and others who find it difficult to attend our early services. Speaking of which it has been mentioned by one or two people that we should have disabled access. In actual fact we do. There is level access through the door at the back of the church and we also have a portable ramp which can be used at the front door. Anybody who needs it just needs to ask and it will be put in place.



Our Cuppa and Chat isn't in opposition to any other facility in the village. We only serve a drink and a biscuit or traybake so don't come expecting soup and sandwiches for an early lunch. What we do offer as well as a friendly chat with the opportunity to meet other people is the space to sit in the quietness of the church, (on your own (while not alone) for a time if you wish) and then when you're ready come and have

a cuppa with the rest of us. We do have a few items for sale to help raise funds and we're experimenting with a library corner. Everyone is welcome. Members and non-members, holiday makers, young children (we have a few toys and activities for their use) and we even have jigsaws which can be borrowed or bought for a donation.

Please come and join us if you can.

The Guild

We returned to Mossyard Pottery for our outing in May as members had enjoyed using their artistic skills so much last year. Once seated round the tables, brushes and colours at the ready, we were soon showing our creative abilities on plates, mugs etc. Much admired were a dog's feeding bowl, a "love" candle holder, a delicately coloured angel and destined to be a family heirloom a plate for a special granddaughter. Leaving the sands of Mossyard Bay we headed to Base Camp at Laggan for lunch where we enjoyed a pleasant meal. As one of our members was celebrating her Birthday, a rousing chorus was sung to mark the occasion. Luckily it was too windy to venture the Zip Wire !!. Many thanks to Wendy for her organisation. We were delighted that Rev Allison came along to join us and share the fun. We look forward to a walk in Gelston Castle Gardens during the summer months. Leaders are busy working on our syllabus for next session which will be full of interest for all. A warm welcome awaits you on the second Wednesday of the month, October to April, in the kirk room Kelton.



Margaret Shanks

Session

As you read this newsletter, we approach the first anniversary of the induction of our minister. In this year we have been introduced to a variety of ways of doing things. We have been encouraged to participate in ecumenical services which bring us together with Christian friends. We are undertaking a review of our buildings and the way we do things, the recent questionnaires are being collated and examined. There have been problems in our property maintenance which the property committee are getting to grips with. We have also been introduced to some video presentations to assist in our worship.

Alison, our minister, has been indefatigable in getting about our joint parishes and attending fund raising events while coping with the demands of her family. She is doing a grand job, although it will perhaps be a bit more difficult in the future. Our attached OLM Rev Oonagh Dee has decided to retire. Oonagh has been a tremendous asset to this linked charge. She has carried out duties beyond what is expected of her post and has been a particular help in pastoral work. In short she has been a shining example of what an OLM should be. She will be sorely missed, and I hope she will come back and see us now and again once she is back to full fitness. We look forward to the future and let us say onward and upward is the way to go.

Peter (Session Clerk)

17th Century Nun's Prayer

Lord, Thou knowest better than I know myself that I am growing older and will some day be old.

Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and on every occasion. Release me from craving to straighten out everybody's affairs. Make me thoughtful but not moody; helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom it seems a pity not to use it all, but Thou knowest Lord that I want a few friends at the end.

Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details; give me wings to get to the point. Seal my lips on my aches and pains. They are increasing and love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by. I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of others' pains, but help me to endure them with patience.

I dare not ask for improved memory, but for a growing humility and a lessening cocksureness when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken

Keep me reasonably sweet; I do not want to be a Saint - some of them are so hard to live with - but a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the devil. Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places, and talents in unexpected people. And, give me, O Lord, the grace to tell them so,

Amen.

Peebles Beltane Festival

The origins of this ancient festival are lost in the mists of time but the “modern” festival began in the 1880s when the first cornet was installed in 1897 and the first Beltane Queen was crowned in 1899.

Beltane lasts for a whole week in the middle of June with various events happening every evening. The first main event is on Wednesday when the Cornet is installed before he leads a mounted cavalcade of over 200 horses around the marches of the town before arriving at Neidpath Castle. Here the Warden of Neidpath is installed. This is usually somebody who has worked hard for the town or has had a strong connection. He makes a speech and the Beltane song is sung before he sends the cornet out to finish riding the marches. The ride out ends with the fording of the River Tweed before the various horse races on the edge of the Golf Course. A long and tiring evening ends with the Cornet, his lass and immediate supporters dancing the reel in the middle of the High Street.

Friday is the evening of the Fancy Dress Parade or Cycle parade as it was once called, and still is by members of the older generation (my generation?). This is similar to many such parades in other towns. One exception might be that we have a penny farthing in the parade ridden by the fourth generation of the same family.

Saturday is the Red Letter Day and is the day when many ex Peebleeans come back to the town - be they Gutterbloods or Stoorifits!!

300 school children in costume made and maintained by the Beltane Committee, march through the streets to the Parish Church steps before the crowning ceremony begins. The sword bearer and first courtier come down the red carpet to escort the crowning lady to her place. This person is usually someone who has helped the Beltane committee or has been involved in youth activities in the town.

Then the Queen arrives in her horse drawn carriage accompanied by her maid and pages. She is escorted to her throne at the top of the steps where she is crowned in front of over 300 “loyal subjects”. Then we sing the Beltane song again and the Coronation Ode before the Heralds read the PROCLAMATION and the telegrams for the Queen. These come from all over the world - Australia, South Africa, New Zealand, Canada.

The Queen, her maids and pages are escorted to their carriages and the 300 school children make their way to the lorries. The costumes include Robin Hood and his merry men, soldiers and sailors, little mice, cowboys and Indians etc. etc. I always wanted to be a fairy in the Beltane Parade but it never happened - why not?

The parade then goes around the town and is joined not only by our own Bands but many from other towns. It is supposed to be the largest parade in Scotland outside Edinburgh. The whole week ends with the beating of the retreat on the Saturday evening oh, and a visit to the “Shows”.
Jean Brown

What's been happening?

Concert

There always seems to be something happening these days and in May we had a visit from the local Ukelele Band. This was a very happy evening where we were able to join in songs from our youth!! There was a variety of types of song from Rock and Role to folk songs and it was just a shame that there wasn't a bigger audience because those who were there thoroughly enjoyed their evening - as did the musicians who have promised to return later in the year for another evening filled with music - and who knows—maybe this time we'll be dancing in the aisles.



Garden Open Day

In June we were again invited to a garden open day at Orroland which was shared with Dalbeattie Men's Shed who brought along their version of a Skeoch Car the original built in Dalbeattie in the 1920s. They also organised the visit of several classic cars. Hundreds of people enjoyed the sunshine and the beautiful gardens and were thankful for the chance



to rest and have some very welcome refreshments. Many thanks to the Kennedy's for opening their garden, members of the Men's Shed for arranging the cars and the numerous helpers who made this a very special afternoon, raising a good some of money towards the repairs required to our churches and the work of The Shed.

Bengairn Parish Duty Rota

Please arrive by 9.10 am

Jul

07	(K)	D Henry	K Ross
14	(A)	R Bellamy	R Gladstone
21	(K)	W Hean	C Ashton
28	(A)	A Campbell	A Ross

Oct

06	(K)	A Campbell	A Ross
13	(A)	Kennedy	A or M Dunlop
20	(K)	M Shanks	F Twiname
27	(A)	R Ramsay	J Jardine

Aug

04	(K)	W Kennedy	A or M Dunlop
11	(A)	M Shanks	F Twiname
18	(K)	R Ramsay	J Jardine
25	(A)	N Smith	J Hendry

Nov

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

Sep

01	(K)	P Davis	J Walker
08	(A)	B Wright	J Brown
15	(K)	D Henry	K Ross
22	(A)	R Bellamy	R Gladstone
29	(D)	W Hean	C Ashton

Dec

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

(K) Kelton (A) Auchencairn

(D) Dundrennan Village Hall

Every Day a joy to live

Don't wait and hope that some fine day life's going to **bring** true joy your way, but give instead and, as you do, you'll find that what they say is true -

It's only what you give that counts
not getting things in large amounts;

For those who live so selfishly
that everything is "me, me, me"
walk in darkness, never light
with happiness just out of sight,
while those who truly love to give



C A P - Christians Against Poverty

Like me you may know little or nothing of this organisation but it does a great deal to help many people. At the June Presbytery meeting we were given an insight into why it is needed and what it can do.

Debt can creep up on anyone for so many different reasons. We heard just a few typical stories from some of the people CAP has helped. The organisation was started in Bradford by someone who himself had been in debt and new the dreadful feeling of despair but also the relief of becoming debt free again. There are now CAP Services in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the USA. It is run by trained volunteers and is free to its clients. The people they help are ordinary people. They may be unable to find work or have lost their jobs often through no fault of their own. Other causes can be bereavement, bad health, marriage break up, addiction - gambling, drink, illegal drugs, shopping, clubbing, prescription medication - or credit cards and other borrowing.

CAP's help has been shown to turn people back from the brink of suicide.

When someone turns to CAP they are visited in the privacy of their home. There are a variety of services and programmes offered. CAP will help them with a weekly budget, will contact their creditors to arrange affordable payments and stop interest being added to debts and they will offer support for as long as is necessary to get debt free. Programmes include job clubs where clients can gain skills - there is one in Dumfries. Their Fresh Start programme helps those with addictions who want to change their habits and their Life Skills programme helps with essential skills from money management to health and well-being.

This is a service for anyone who needs it be they church goers or not. Contact number is 0800 328 0006 and the service is completely free and confidential.

We are looking for a volunteer Christian Debt Counsellor to work with the project. If you would be interested in this aspect of the scheme please get in touch with the minister.

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
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