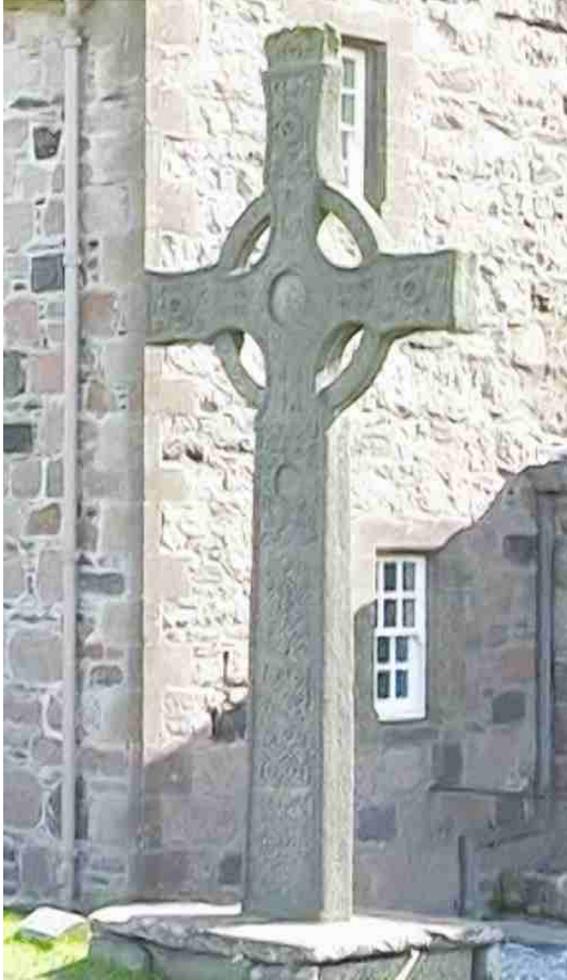


Bonkle Church of Scotland Magazine

March 2022

Communion -	20 March, 2022
Easter Sunday Communion -	17 April, 2022
Next issue	19 June 2022
Closing date for material	29 May 2022



Iona Abbey.

*From the manse...**Graham*

I am sure that most of you have seen or at least know about the TV game show Family Fortunes. The premise is that researchers pose the same question (eg name something that you take on holiday) to 100 people and note their answers. The contestants then have to try to work out the answer given by interviewees (in our case they might have answered, passport, tickets, suitcase, sunscreen, tea bags, or square sausage etc.) Over the years some answers have been somewhat baffling or indeed bizarre, like the contestant who was asked the question “name a bird with a long neck” answered “Naomi Campbell” or when asked “what should people in glass houses not do?” answered “take baths”!

I wonder if we were to use the same technique and ask people to name something associated with Easter. What answers would we get? Eggs, chocolate, bunnies, holidays, Jesus, then tomb, the cross? Clearly the answers would be somewhat subjective - if you were to ask a primary school class the question you would probably expect to get the first 3 or 4 answers. On the other hand if you were to ask the same question to a church congregation HOPEFULLY you would get the last 3 answers.

One of the methods Jesus used whilst teaching parables was to take objects from everyday life that his listeners were well acquainted with and use them to explain spiritual truths. Perhaps we should do likewise. What then does an egg have to say about Easter? And how can we use that simple illustration to speak of the gospel? Eggs remind us of new life - in pre-Christian times eggs were a symbol of fertility and restoration; a symbol of regeneration that came in springtime. In Christian terms the symbol of the egg reminds us of new life in Christ brought about by His resurrection; rolling our eggs is a symbol of the stone being rolled away from the tomb. Instead of bemoaning about the lack of knowledge that people have of the bible stories most of us were brought up with, let us do as Jesus did and start where people are, and use that things they are familiar with to explain the deeper meaning of the Christian story., which is God’s love for us shown in Jesus Christ.

As much as we would wish it were not so, we live in a post Christian world (or more accurately a post-Christendom world). During that period we lived in a world where the church was at the centre of everyday life, a time when the church was respected and had great influence on society. Many years ago, this land of ours was known as the Land of Knox, we were referred to as the People of the Book. Whilst most people would recognise the motto of Glasgow as “Let Glasgow Flourish” fewer would know that this was an abbreviation of the original motto which is “**Lord let Glasgow Flourish by the preaching of Thy word and the praising of Thy name.**” - a line drawn from a sermon preached in 1866 by godly man called Kentigern, who we now know as Mungo and who is regarded as the patron saint of the city.

Those days are well gone, the church no longer inhabits that place in modern society. However, we serve a God who is the same yesterday, today and forever. As Bill Hybels former pastor at Willow Creek Church once said “The local church is the hope of the world” God has a plan and a purpose for our world, and that plan and purpose haven't changed in 2000 years. The cry of Kentigern should be the cry of our

hearts (though we might want to substitute Glasgow with Newmains, Bonkle or Scotland!) that the church might flourish, that society might flourish by Godly means. We don't need to coerce God into a work in our community, He is already at work - our job is to discern what He is doing and partner with Him. For as the Psalmist reminds us in Ps 127 “ **Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labour in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain.**”

As we cry out for revival may we pray that God will have His way in our lives, churches, community, nation and world. It's His world, and for the world Jesus died. We may have lost our way, but God is faithful, as Paul reminds us “He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” The early church operated at the margins of society, and thrived. In our generation, in a time when the church is so marginalised might we see the church thrive again? It is my prayer, and I'm sure yours also that this may be so.

Wishing you all a happy Easter, Graham

Sunday School

We're delighted to be back at Sunday school now that covid restrictions are easing. However, with the children's safety as top priority things have to be a little different. We are maintaining the physical distance rule of 2m and when unable to adhere to social distancing adults will continue to wear masks. Children have their own resources and hands are sanitised as required. Tables and chairs are also wiped down before and after use.

Whether you're an old or new member we'd love to welcome you.

For more information or to let us know whether or not your child will be in attendance (so we can organise resources for them) you can email us: bonklesundayschool@gmail.com

Computer Club

We are having considerable trouble trying to get a suitable connection as the club is considered as a BUSINESS so we were unable to pay the supplier of choice as we don't have a bank card. Hopefully this will be resolved soon so we should restart in March. This will be in the Sunday announcements and existing members informed by phone/email.

If you require help with computing please come along. Bring your own OR use one of the clubs various types of computer. We have desktop and laptop computers running Windows 10, Android and Apple ipads which you can use or “try before you buy”

Ian

Walking Group

All walks will leave Bonkle Church car park at the stated time.

6th of March: Polkemmet Park 2.30pm

3rd of April: Strathclyde Park 2.30pm

1st of May: Cambusnethan Priory 2.30pm

5th of June: Dura Road, Allanton 2.30pm

3rd of July: Peden's Stone, Harthill 1.30pm

7th of August: Falls of Clyde 1.30pm

4th of September: Coatbridge Canal 2.30pm

2nd of October: Lanark loch 2.30pm

If you are interested in joining with us please let Matthew Gray know on 07881778991

Art Group

Doesn't time seem to fly past very quickly now ? Christmas is only a few weeks gone, and already the Easter eggs are in the shops ! What a rush !!

It's been such a difficult time for everyone over these past 2 years, but surely life will get easier now, and we can look forward to getting back to normal and having more contact with friends !

I'm delighted to report that our Bonkle Art Group will be returning on Tuesday evening 26th April in Bonkle Church Hall, as usual, between 7pm and 9pm.

New members will be made very welcome, because, sadly, several of our long time members won't be returning .

For Information anyone interested in joining, please contact

Nicky, our Secretary at 01501 752931

or Carol, Treasurer, at 01698 384107

Take care everyone, and have a safe ,healthy 2022.

Coltness Memorial Guild

Coltness Memorial Guild are holding their (long awaited) annual trip to Oban this year. It's on Wednesday, 22 June 22. The bus is leaving the car park at Newmains Primary at 10am. There will be a wee stop in at the Green Welly in Tyndrum on the way up.

Evening meal will be at the Cuan Mor Restaurant in Oban. We aim to leave Oban at 6pm and be home by 8:30pm. Everyone is welcome.

Anyone wishing to join us can give their name to Elizabeth Smith on 07368 368340 or Kay Rodger on 07508386004. Come join us for a great day out.

Badminton Club

The badminton club will restart on Monday the 2nd of September at 7.30pm. Old and new members will be made most welcome. If you want any more information you can contact Matthew Gray or Marion Allison

Wishaw CAP Debt Centre

I hope you are all keeping safe and well. Home visits to clients have resumed. However, the system of phone/video call consultations is still in place at all stages for those clients who prefer it. This is particularly useful for clients who live in remote locations, as it enables us to support them more easily.

At present we are supporting 18 clients and their families, with 4 more booking in since the start of the year. The great news is one client recently went debt free, and most of the people who booked in recently are progressing well.

The callback diary with Motherwell Jobcentre continues each Monday morning; this began at the start of March 2021. This allows me to contact people who have been identified by the work coaches as possibly requiring our service. I have continued to engage with local referral agencies and networks, to ensure that as many people as possible know where to access debt help.

Our monthly prayer meetings have resumed. They are normally held on the **second Tuesday of the month**. These are now online via video call and the next one is on **Tuesday 8 March 2022 at 7pm**. If you would like to join in, please click on this link: meet.google.com/xpf-qrxh-crd

We also have a **WhatsApp prayer chain** which we use to pray for our clients. If you would like to join in the group, just text me your number and I'll add you to it.

If you would like to support the centre financially, why not make a regular payment via standing order? It is a quick and easy way to support us, and regular gifts help us plan for the future. The account is **Christians Against Poverty Wishaw**, and the sort code is **83-28-08** and the account number is **00173460**. We would certainly appreciate your support.

We've registered **Christians Against Poverty - Wishaw with easyfundraising**, which means over 6,000 shops and sites (such as Amazon, Boots etc) will now donate to us for FREE every time you use easyfundraising to shop with them. These donations will help so much, so please sign up to support us – it's completely FREE and doesn't take long.

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/capwishaw/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_source=social&utm_medium=whatsapp&utm_content=gs-w1

Simply register with the site; choose ‘Christians Against Poverty Wishaw’ as your preferred charity, and then when you shop, login, and select the shop you want to use. You can download the app from Google Play or the Apple Store so you can shop on your tablet or phone.

Live Well Foodbank

The foodbank is still open, and people have been incredibly generous in donating food, money and vouchers to ensure it operates effectively. Many thanks to all who have contributed; it’s really appreciated!

Again many thanks to all at Coltness Memorial & Bonkle Churches who have contributed goods and money to make this possible. We continue to require some items such as tinned meat, tinned veg, rice, noodles, beans, tea and coffee. If you want to donate, please bring them along to the foodbank during opening hours, or the church any Sunday.

The demand for the foodbank has remained steady and we have been able to help those in need in the local community. We are making deliveries to those who are shielding, ill or otherwise unable to attend when we are open, so that no-one who needs help is left out.

It is open every Wednesday between 1pm and 2.30pm at Coltness Memorial Church in Newmains. Referrals can be obtained via the Scottish Welfare Fund (0300 555 0405 crisis grant option).

Finance

General Fund as at 4th MARCH 2022

Balance Brought Forward 31/12/2021		22235
Income		5623
		27858
Expenditure		3753
Balance General Fund		24105
Fund Raising Special Purposes	6285	
Outgoings Nicholas Cowan Tree Surgeon	960	5325
Young/Parkin/Forsyth		1537
Total Bank Balance		30967
Church of Scotland Investors Trust		
Smith Bequest		309
Fabric		
		11042
Special Purposes		1068

. GENERAL FUND BUDGET 2022 BUDGET	2021	ACTUAL
INCOME		
OFFERINGS		
WFO SCHEME (NON GIFT AID)	1200	2849
GIFT AID DONATIONS	20000	21405
TAX ON GIFT AID DONATIONS	4000	5799
ORDINARY OFFERINGS	0	86
DONATIONS	0	590
NATIONAL GIVING DAY	0	2295
OTHER ORDINARY GENERAL INCOME		
CONTRIBUTIONS FROM ORGANISATIONS	0	248
WEDDINGS/FUNERALS	0	250
USE OF PREMISES	0	900
SUNDRY INCOME	0	21
TOTAL ORDINARY GENERAL INCOME	25200	34443
EXPENDITURE		
MINISTRIES & MISSION ALLOCATION	21810	19473
Less Endowment Income	-112	-65
PRESBYTERY DUES	600	346
SUBTOTAL	22298	19754
LOCAL STAFFING COSTS		
MINISTER'S EXPENSES	1200	950
PULPIT SUPPLIES	180	180
OTHER SALARIES	3160	1283
SUBTOTAL	4540	2413
FABRIC REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE	2000	2234
HEATING & LIGHTING	3000	2867
INSURANCE (CHURCH)	2500	2333
MANSE COUNCIL TAX	1400	1322
SUBTOTAL 8900 8756		
PRINTING STATIONERY PHOTOCOPYING	700	671
OTHER EXPENSES	1000	480
TOTAL ORDINARY GENERAL EXPENSES	37438	32074
GENERAL FUND DEFICIT // EXCESS FOR YEAR	-12238	2369

STATED ANNUAL MEETING Summary: GENERAL ACCOUNT

EXPENDITURE	2021	2020
	£	£
Ministries & Mission Allocation	19408	21969
Presbytery Dues	346	628
Minister's Expenses	950	869
Other Salaries	1283	1125
Pulpit Supply	180	90
Fabric Repair & Maintenance	2234	2660
Heating & Lighting	2867	2865
Insurance / Council Tax	3655	3596
Printing / Stationery	671	1027
Miscellaneous	480	787
Total	32074	35616
INCOME		
Offerings including Open Plate	24340	24681
Tax Recoveries on Gift Aid	5799	5832
Gift Day	2295	1385
Donations & Sundry 611 788		
CONTRIBUTIONS FROM ORGANISATIONS		
Ladies Fellowship	148	0
Men's Club	0	0
Thursday Club	0	0
Badminton Club	100	100
Art Club	0	0
Computer Club	0	0
Weddings and Funerals	250	0
Outside Agencies	900	750
Total	34443	33536
Excess // Loss	2369	-2080
General fund Balance 1 January 2020	19866	21946
General fund Balance 31 December 2020	22235	19866