

**SPRING 2025**



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## From the Manse

With Rev. Dr. Jamie Milliken

Dear members and friends of United Irvine, There's an old saying, "What you think, is what you become".

A blind man once asked St Anthony, 'What could be worse than losing your sight?' He replied, 'Losing your vision.'

You might say, "But, I have problems... I'm in debt... I'm lonely, I'm stuck in a rut." But don't let that image define who you are, because if you stay there too long then the image gets stuck and becomes a reality that is difficult to break free from.

Similarly, there's a lot of negativities going around about the Church of Scotland nationally, "We're broke, we've lost our way, we don't have enough ministers, we're not listening to our members". We certainly need to address these issues when they are the reality – but that's not done by simply accepting and passing them on unchallenged, or giving in to them, because then these negativities begin to shape our reality, we lose vision, and our downfall becomes a self-fulfilling prophesy.

In Bible times wine was stored in leather wineskins, but as they aged, they lost their flexibility. New wine always required new wineskins. And just like, 'You can't put new wine into old wineskins' (see Matthew 9:17), so God can't give you a new vision until you change the old images you've got stuck in your head. God says, 'I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?' God is ready to do something new in your life, God's ready to do something new in United Irvine's life.

I'm a member of the Church of Scotland's Seeds for Growth Committee and have the privilege of seeing God at work across Scotland as congregations grasp a new vision and come to our committee to fund doing the new thing (whatever that looks like in their context).

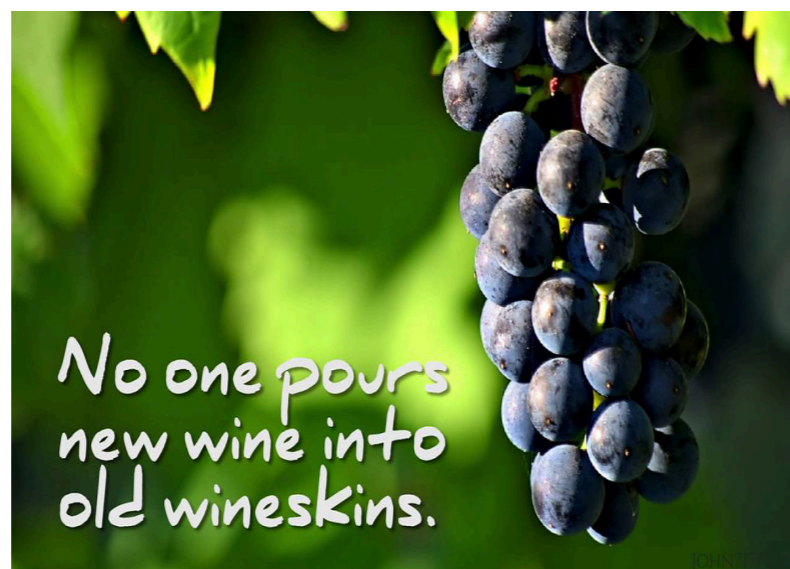
And our own Crossing Together currently has an application in to Seeds for Growth to part fund something called Bubble Church (I'm not allowed to assess my own application!). Bubble Church involves action songs, puppets, storytelling, a simple liturgy, prayers, and creative response activities. It is more intentional faith sharing and worship focused than Messy Church and should complement the great work already going on with Messy Church in United Irvine.

Regardless of whether this application gets the green light, we are trying, and God is moving. God is doing the new thing in and through United Irvine and is ready to do even more. A fresh new movement of God in Dreghorn, Irvine, and Springside. We recognise this and its great potential when we get behind our vision statement.

***"In United Irvine Church of Scotland, we are all about, sharing God's Love; helping people to step closer to Jesus and learn to follow Him; and reaching out with a vision of hope for the future."***

Are you ready to embrace God's change? Start praying and imagining it in your head. Start having vision for a better future and then together let's start living in to it.

God bless,  
Jamie



**What's your immediate thought when you see the United Irvine brand, 'United Irvine Church of Scotland' (UICS), or are invited to a UICS service or activity?**

Your first reaction might be anything from a feeling of loss for the way things used to be, through weary indifference, to excitement about what lies ahead... There is a considerable variety & diversity of activity across our respective centres which adds up to a remarkable in-reach & outreach (Youth & Schools' Work, Messy Church, Guilds, Food Bank, Christians Against Poverty, ConneXions' crossroads for caring relationships, Crossing Together's pioneer mission, & the hosting of community groups in our buildings, etc). It will take some time to grow a greater sense of allegiance & belonging to UICS among us, 'Me in your small corner & you in mine'; learning to rejoice in the good happening across our centres & praying, with concern & empathy, for each other. Undoubtedly, it is unfortunate that it is taking so long for Presbytery to survey our buildings (along with Irvine Old Parish's) and decide which to retain & release in the pursuit of Christ's Mission in Dreghorn, Irvine, & Springside. We're in a tough time of transition, but there have been mutually encouraging times when we've worked together (e.g. Shoeboxing, Weekends Away, Joint services, etc). Yes, we face huge challenges like reducing another large deficit budget and wonderful opportunities like our schools' work.

Buildings are important tools for God's work, worship & witness, but God's People are 'Church' & 'churches', not buildings. I was inspired and encouraged to learn the experience of a colleague & friend, Rev. Mike Fuccella, who was a pastor in Thailand. He served the Karen people on the Thai / Burmese border as one of only 4 ordained ministers serving 9 churches in a presbytery stretching through 300km of jungle. The Karen people are unwelcome on both sides of the border and face huge challenges of poverty. On a recent visit, after an absence of 20 years, he was amazed to see that the church has grown from nine to 25 congregations, each with its own ordained minister, and many more house churches are growing.

Mike is now a minister in Biggar, facing the union of 3 congregations. In the last few years of his ministry he hopes to help prepare that union for a similar growth. Here in United Irvine, I believe that, if we can get our eyes onto Jesus, and devote ourselves to the prayerful realising of our mission & vision statements, that, in 20 years (DV), a similar upturn & uplift can be witnessed to God's glory. It will likely look very different to the way we do church today. Like the seeds & bulbs sown in dark soil which rise into beauty & bloom, and Jesus' crucified & buried body which rose with the promise & hope of everlasting life, so also our lives given selflessly in service & sacrifice can give rise to beautiful people, places, actions & activities able to bless & transform lives & communities in Jesus name. Will you join in by giving yourself wholeheartedly to UICS and God's Kingdom purpose & plans, ready to invest your energy, time, talents, & money in a future which you may not see, but which will be seen and appreciated by many in the future?

It is my prayer (perhaps selfish) that I will return here in years to come to see what God has been doing and be as encouraged by what I see as Mike was in Thailand. As Hebrews 12:2-3 puts it,



***"Let's fix our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before him suffered the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of God's throne. Let's consider him who endured such opposition, so that we'll not grow weary and lose heart."***

Yours hopefully, your fellow minister & friend, *Neil*

It was a great pleasure to officiate the marriage of Ashleigh Fisher to Tommy Calderwood (pictured left with Rev. Neil) in the beautiful surroundings of Bransholm Park Country House near Hawick, on Saturday 8th March 2025.

#### 4TH IRVINE GIRLS' BRIGADE



The company resumed after the Festive break in January and increased membership by five girls in all three age sections. Our current role stands at 31 girls and all sections are happily navigating their way through our varied programme of events and badge topics. Official badge work will come to a conclusion at the end of March and the girls will break for Easter on Wednesday April 2<sup>nd</sup> with a sponsored silence to help our funding for the new session in August 2025.

We will encourage our girls and their families to join us in church on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday as usual and we will continue to focus on the season of Lent during devotions and Vespers.

We have had interesting topics to discuss and participate in together as well as speakers and a dance instructor who is one of our former Brigader Brooch recipients.

Our focus after Easter for the remaining weeks in our syllabus will be rehearsals for our annual display/ awards evening on Wednesday May 14<sup>th</sup> in the main hall to a packed audience. This special evening will be a chance for families to see what the girls have been participating in at company and to share with the girls as they are presented with their badges, certificates, gifts, medals and trophies for the session 2024/25. The first half of our evening will be a showcase of music, dance, drama and team games with the offer of parental involvement in the team games. Our girls love to involve their families, and this is so much fun. After a short interval with refreshments served, we will present the girls with their awards. Photographs will be taken to send to the local press and will be posted on our GB boards in church and for the church magazines.

**Prior to our annual display, Rev. Neil will conduct a special GB service in Girdle Toll worship Centre on Sunday May 11<sup>th</sup>. where our girls will be actively involved in the service by singing and reading the Scriptures.**

We are delighted to be presenting two very special awards during the service as one of our officers, Mrs. Heather Campbell-Goodall will be receiving her 20-year service bar and certificate after being commissioned as a fully trained officer in March 2005 in Girdle Toll Church by Rev Clare Sutcliffe, Heather joined our company at the age of five and progressed through the sections gaining many awards including the Saltire Award, presented by The First Minister at a ceremony in Motherwell, Brigader Brooch Award, Queens Award which was presented to her at a special ceremony in Clydebank by Her Royal Highness, The Duchess of Montrose and she was chosen to represent Ayrshire Girls' Brigade at the Queens Diamond Jubilee Parade in London.

We are all so proud of Heather who embraces her calling to Christian service through GB and encourages our girls to follow Christ and enrich their spiritual, physical, service to others and the enrichment of minds through the educational badge activity scheme. Heather has 34 years of service as a member of 4<sup>th</sup> Irvine GB and at present is the Ayrshire GB President. She has been Divisional Training Officer and Competitions Officer in past years.

In addition to Heather's presentation, Rev Neil will present our two Scripture Knowledge Teams who took part in the recent Ayrshire Division Competitions where the teams won both trophies. Our congregation enjoy seeing our girls succeed and we are given so much support by everyone at church.

We look forward to our special service and our annual awards evening. We have been blessed with new membership, happy faces taking on the challenges we set out in our syllabus, success and satisfaction of completing badge topics, gaining confidence and forming friendships. The support given to us by parents and congregation as well as our two ministers, Rev. Neil and Rev. Jamie is much appreciated by all at company.

The planting of seeds of Faith during our session and the welcome of families attending church services such as Harvest Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas and Easter as well as Messy Church must be celebrated and welcomed. It is our hope girls, and their families will continue to feel the need to find out more about Jesus and encourage others to follow Him.

Seeking, Serving, Following Christ - Elma Campbell.



#### 1st Irvine Boys' Brigade

We meet on Friday evenings at

Mure Relief Mission Centre, Bourtreehill

Anchor Boys (Primary 1 - Primary 3) - 6.00pm - 7.30pm

Junior Section (Primary 4 - Primary 6) - 6.00pm - 7.30pm

Company Section (Primary 7 - S6) - 7.45pm - 9.30pm

We've had a busy couple of months at 1st Irvine with our boys competing in Battalion and National competitions and hosting the Battalion Anchor Boy Fun day. The boys have taken part in a range of competitions with everything from chess to football, figure marching to bible knowledge, ten pin bowling to general knowledge quizzes. The enthusiasm and participation has been great across our different sections and there really is something for everyone to get involved in outside of our normal Friday night meetings (which are great fun as well!)

Looking forward we're now entering into the last part of our 2024-25 session. Coming up we are hosting the Battalion orienteering competition at Irvine Beach Park, climbing the Cobbler at the end of April, preparing for our annual display and award night and getting ready for our Anchor Boy day out and our summer camps and outdoor activities.

We would like to extend an invitation for our annual display and award night on 16th May, at Fullarton Connexions, 6.30pm, to join us in celebrating all the achievements of our boys over the last year.

For more information or to help support 1st Irvine Boys' Brigade, follow us on Facebook or contact Company Captain, Alan MacAulay at [1irvine@boys-brigade.org.uk](mailto:1irvine@boys-brigade.org.uk).



**4<sup>th</sup> Irvine** Anchor Boys have been working this session, on their crafts and learning new games. They took part in the Battalion painting competition and although no prizes were won, the sixty six Battalion boys who took part produced some very colourful paintings.

The next event was the Anchor Boys Fun Day at Mure/Bourtreehill church halls. It was a most enjoyable day with bouncy castles, parachute, Fire Brigade (with fire engine) and the K.A. Leisure van. These entertainments along with the craft building, was enjoyed by all of the North Ayrshire boys who participated, and returned home very tired.

The Junior Section have been working hard for their relevant badges with plenty of hard craftwork involved. They have been enthusiastic participants in Battalion competitions too. There has been General knowledge, Scripture knowledge, chess matches and a fun run, where two of the boys gained a silver and gold medal.



The next event will be orienteering at Irvine Beach Park, but boys are now getting ready for their weekend camp to Craggan and a parents evening.

Our Company Section have completed their badge work, with two boys, Andrew Syme and Max Bray gaining their President's Badge which will be presented to them in church on Sunday March 30<sup>th</sup>.

Another two boys are working for their King's Award, which will be the first in our Company. They also competed in several Battalion competitions, with orienteering being the next one. Along with the Junior Section, the Company boys took part in a Battalion church service at West Kilbride Parish Church.

*Company Captain - James R.T. Heron*

# The surprising holiness of Easter eggs

Everyone knows that Easter egg colouring and the egg hunt are activities tied to the celebration of the Easter story But why?

Where did the tradition actually come from? Is it based on Scripture or is it just a modern-day secular practice that people engage in for the mere fun of it?

Like the Easter Bunny, most of us assume that the eggs, though fun, are steeped in pagan history, not Christian. Lubow Wolynetz, curator of folk art at the Ukrainian Museum in New York City said "In pre-Christian days, eggs were associated with many different springtime rites". "In Ukraine, for example, where people were an agricultural society. A cold spring had an impact on crops, so people attempted to harness the power of the sun to bring about the resurrection of nature." Early Ukrainians would decorate the outside of eggs and then give them to family members and friends. Later, when Christianity arrived in Ukraine in the 10th century, old and new traditions collided

Eggs were once forbidden foods during Lent (which is why eggy pancakes and paczki are popular Pancake Tuesday treats). But, of course, chickens don't follow the liturgical calendar, so they kept on producing their eggs during Lent. Not wanting to waste food, farmers would hard boil the surplus eggs to keep them from spoiling. Thus, come Easter, many cultures would enjoy boiled-egg dishes and would dye and decorate the extra eggs.


As the significance of Easter eggs grew, each culture put its own "stamp" (sometimes literally) on Easter eggs, creating eggs ranging from the earthy to ornate, on tables in farmhouse to palaces (think Faberge). But a delicious Easter egg was created in France and Germany in the 1800s. Then in 1875, John Cadbury created a chocolate Easter egg with dark chocolate and filled with sugared almonds. The Cadbury Cream Egg as we know it arrived nearly a century later.

**Because of their importance as Easter food, the Church even had a special blessing for eggs:**  
**"Lord, let the grace of your blessing come upon these eggs, that they be healthful food for your faithful who eat them in thanksgiving for the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you forever and ever."**

Britannica notes that the first instance of painted Easter eggs dates back to the 13th century. The tradition in Orthodox and Eastern churches is that early Christians would paint the eggs red to symbolise the blood of Christ that was shed on the Cross. According to Good Housekeeping, early Christian missionaries dyed the eggs different colours to represent different aspects of the Easter story. Yellow was used to represent the resurrection, blue to represent love and red again was used to represent the blood of Christ.

Easter egg hunts can be traced back to Martin Luther, a key leader in the Protestant reformation. Men would hide eggs for women and children to find. It is believed that the joy the women and children experienced as they found eggs is meant to mimic the joy Mary Magdalene and the Apostles felt when they found Jesus' tomb empty and realised **He is risen!**





## LOVE

Janie Dunn

God's Love is like a dove  
 So gentle pure and white  
 And with his reins of love  
 He will hold you tight

## DREGHORN BROWNIES

This session we have been focusing on friendships to help the girls to recognise healthy relationships. This has led to them also looking at kindness and doing good deeds.

We celebrated thinking day by looking at our history we were able to create windows into guiding. We also made predictions for 10 year's time to see if girl guiding would change in that time. Some of the predictions were quite funny and a few girls wanted Brownies to go to space! We also had a huge celebration with almost 400 girls at Greenwood Academy. The girls had a fantastic day and even involved a Taylor Swift tribute!



Over the next few weeks, we are going to have a Brownie traditions night where we will look at all the old-fashioned ways that girls used to get involved in Brownies and also what they had as resources. We're also very excited that Mrs Carey who was a Brownie herself in the 1950s and became an adult leader is going to come along to give the Brownies a talk about what Brownies was like for her and also answer any questions they have. This will be so valuable to the girls!

We also have our trip coming up where we're going Tubing in New Milns. We have been to this trip several times before and it has always been the girl's favourite trip. I would also like to give a mention to three girls

that are going to receive their Gold award which is the highest award you can get in Brownies and we're very proud of them. They are Lucy, Lois and Emma. Well done girls!! Our Division Commissioner is going to come along to present the girls with their award which will make it even more special.

We currently have spaces in our unit so if your girl would like to join, please email us on email below or search Girl guiding/Join Us and put 3<sup>rd</sup> Dreghorn as your 1<sup>st</sup> choice.

Take care from 3rd Dreghorn Brownies. 😊 [3rddreghornbrownies1@gmail.com](mailto:3rddreghornbrownies1@gmail.com)

Thank you to the Dreghorn and Springside Church for their continued support!

We are pleased to announce that our Pastoral Assistant, John MacDonald, has been granted permission to serve home communion to parishioners. Because John was ordained in a different denomination, we had to wait for Presbytery to give approval for him to provide this service, which they have now done.

If you would like to receive communion at home (or in hospital etc) please get in touch with John by email at [john.macdonald@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:john.macdonald@churchofscotland.org.uk) or phone him on 07943120714.

To receive a pastoral visit please contact the pastoral coordinator at the worship centre you attend; they will arrange for someone to visit you. Contact details for Pastoral Coordinators are on page 31.



# A YEAR IN SCOTLAND



The Young Adult Volunteers (YAVs) are half of their way through a year in Scotland.  
(Left to right: Emma, Madalyn and Heather)

Emma, Madalyn, and Heather, who are all originally from the US, are currently serving as Young Adult Volunteers (YAV) with United Irvine. At the halfway point of their YAV year, they are deeply engaged in the community, while also discerning their next steps in their callings. On International Women's Day they consider the relationship of the Church with women.

If you read the gospels through the lens of "how does Jesus treat marginalised people," you may forget that a massive part of that group is women. Women are not a monolith, and Jesus interacts with women from every walk of life, from wives and mothers to holy women of God to prostitutes to women consumed by demons. This makes it easy to forget that while all of these women are marginalised in different ways, their experiences would have been similar because of their identities as women. While Mary, Jesus' mother, would have had a very different life than the sex worker who anoints Jesus in Luke 7, the world would have seen them both as a threat to the established patriarchal world order by virtue of them simply being women.

The cognitive dissonance between women simultaneously being treated as a universal threat to male superiority *and* being treated differently based on their station and "place" in life has certainly not gone away. Especially in the church, women are considered "good" if they fill roles such as cook, carer, mother, and wife. If we don't want to fit into those boxes, oftentimes people don't know what to do with us. Fortunately for us, Jesus' specialty is subverting expectations and taking people out of the boxes that society puts us in. Organised religion is a product of humans, and can, at times, separate us from God. Because the church is created by and for humanity, it is subject to the problems of humans, including misogyny. But when we look to Jesus' treatment of women from all walks of life in the Bible, we see women's power and dignity, and it is incredible.

Being a woman in the church means subverting expectations. It means proving that godliness does not solely correlate with masculinity. And it means expanding what femininity actually looks like. I'm very proud to be a woman pursuing a theological education because I know it's not what's expected of me. It is a path that I have been called to and am forging for myself. And that makes me feel empowered. I think everyone deserves to feel empowered in their church community. And I don't believe limiting where women can serve allows for that to happen. The church is more than just a certain group of people, and I believe church leadership should reflect that.

I think being a woman in the church requires taking special care to look out for the people who make you stronger. Some people would prefer women to be soft and nice in a way that allows men to have more power. But the truth, of course, is that women are not a threat to men's power.

## **“women are not a threat to men's power”**

Because we all perform at our best when we are challenged by others (iron sharpening iron). Keeping women weak is a way for some men to create their own illusion of being more powerful. But what's even more dangerous is that some women will do the same, believing that it will be easier to go along with the status quo than to challenge it. That's why promoting voices that support women is so important. Otherwise, who will envision that women can be and do more?

If I feel like a man, or anyone, is treating me differently because I am a woman, then I know it's in my best interest to find the people who will uplift me instead. Fortunately, people who support women in the church are not difficult to come across. I think churches have a long way to go in actualising what women in leadership looks like. But most people I come across at least want that to be the reality. Even though men have historically held more religious authority, the church needs to empower women to be at its best. I hope my journey will help to shape that vision in the future.

Originally from New York, I grew up in the state of Maryland just outside of Washington, DC. I recently graduated from University with majors in Religious Studies and Psychology. I was raised in the Presbyterian Church in the USA (PCUSA) and after University, I wanted to get some practical experience. The PCUSA sponsors the Young Adult Volunteer Program which hosts volunteers in a variety of locations for a year of intentional service. I am currently serving my YAV year in Irvine, Scotland.

Growing up, my mother was the senior pastor at the churches I attended. My father was a stay-at-home dad. As a child I did not understand the gender roles my parents were defying by doing what was best for our family. When I was four years old, Jim Forbes, a well-known pastor in our area came to our church as a guest minister. After the service, mom introduced me to Rev. Jim Forbes and instead of saying hello back, I looked up at my mother and said that I didn't know men could be pastors. I had no knowledge of the exclusion women faced from speaking up in church settings, let alone being the person in the pulpit.

## ***I didn't know men could be pastors***

When I tell this story to people, many of them laugh in amazement that a child could grow up with this misunderstanding and in joy that the misunderstanding occurred. The idea that women can be pastors is still controversial and thought of as uncommon. The role of Reverend is still seen to be a "man's" job by many. My hope is that one day that people won't laugh in amazement at my story but will be confused that there was ever a time in which women weren't allowed to be pastors.

Emma: I studied Psychology and Religious Studies at the College of Wooster, which has strong Scottish ties. Growing up in Maryland with my Mom as my Pastor. I applied to YAV to experience faith in action in Scotland, take on a leadership role, and discern my vocational future in an intentional Christian community.

Madalyn: I'm from Indiana and graduated from DePauw University. I joined YAV to explore God's call for my life and to experience a different cultural perspective on church, walking with people through their journeys.

Heather: I recently graduated from Davidson College with majors in history and political science. Originally from Indianapolis, I now have roots in North Carolina. I'm interested in the role of the church in social justice, and I'm enjoying witnessing how churches can use their social capital to serve those on society's margins during my YAV year.



The logo (left) shows the CAP national vision and at recent team meetings we created a Mission for our local centre which is listed below.

**COMPASSION FOR ALL  
PROMOTING COMMUNITY  
PRAYING FOR ALL**



This mission expresses what our team is all about as they contribute their talents and time to provide hope to people living in our community.

We have been delighted to welcome Elaine Adams as a Community Links Coordinator who has volunteered to help promote Money Coaching from CAP. Money Coaching is about giving anyone ideas and strategies on how to Budget, Save and Spend their money well in order to be able to enjoy life. The course can be held over three 90 minute sessions or can be delivered in a day if that suits better. It is informal and works best in groups of 4 to 12 people. We are keen to visit any local groups to deliver this excellent free training. If you know of a group that would be open to us attending then please get in touch with us.

As you know from our UICS base our CAP area also covers Kilmarnock. At a recent meeting with Lillian Jones MP for Kilmarnock and Loudon she was so impressed by our volunteers that she tabled the following motion at The Houses of Parliament.

***That this House commends the outstanding work of Christians Against Poverty (CAP) in providing free, expert debt advice and practical support to individuals and families facing financial hardship; acknowledging the invaluable role played by CAP in helping people escape problem debt, build financial resilience, and restore hope in their lives; recognises the increasing demand for debt advice services amid the high cost of living and economic pressures; expresses concern that many frontline debt advice providers face funding challenges that threaten their ability to support those in need; and calls on the Government to do what they can to help free face-to-face debt advice services to ensure that organisations like Christians Against Poverty can continue their vital work from the excellent Howard Centre in my consistency of Kilmarnock and Loudoun and in communities across the UK.***

We remain very grateful to everyone at UICS and beyond who helps us with their prayers, financial contributions and the time they give to support those who are vulnerable in our area. It is humbling to see that our work is being recognised in such a prominent place as The Houses of Parliament. Please keep praying for us and if you feel like the Lord calling you to join in with his work with CAP please contact us for a chat.

Finally if you know of anyone worrying about personal debt issues please encourage them to call our freephone number **0800 328 0006** to arrange a face to face chat with one of us in complete confidence.



Sandy Dickson, Christians Against Poverty Debt Centre Manager,  
[Alexanderdickson@capuk.org](mailto:Alexanderdickson@capuk.org).  
M 07474 295446

Alan McLaren, Christians Against Poverty, Debt Coach & Community Links Coordinator  
[alanmclaren@capuk.org](mailto:alanmclaren@capuk.org)  
M 07717 645804  
**Working Days Monday to Wednesday**



ConneXions has been in operation now for almost a decade, since the grand opening in February 2016, and it is remarkable how many people still come in for events and comment on the friendly welcome they receive, the peaceful atmosphere and how busy the place is. The phrase, 'I never knew all this was here' is still uttered by a new person seemingly every week and many comment that they have

driven past on numerous occasions and always wondered what goes on; they are surprised to find a vast array of groups and events and a whole thriving ecosystem of community activity taking place on a daily basis. Maybe you are one of those people, who reading this is unaware of the café that is open three days a week serving a cornucopia of delicious and nutritious food, drinks and home baking; or the range of social activities that go on here, from yoga and tai-chi classes, to creative arts, baby and children's groups, recovery support and sports.

We are a creative and caring community and whatever your interests or situation you can find a welcome and a space here. Our café, with adjacent children's soft play, is open from 10am til 2pm on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and is an ideal meeting place for families and friends to get together and/or meet new people. We also run a volunteer project, which is reported-upon elsewhere in this edition and this provides opportunities to get more directly involved in the life of the community.

As a proud member of the Poverty Alliance ([povertyalliance.org](http://povertyalliance.org)) we also get involved in poverty-alleviation initiatives both locally and nationally, including taking part in Challenge Poverty Week each October and providing ways to combat food poverty through our café schemes, including Kids Eat Free on Wednesdays and the Warm Welcome initiative in which we provide warm space, food and drink, power for charging devices and a fully stocked community coat bank. We partner with local organisations such as the Fullarton Community Hub and Choice Food Larder, North Ayrshire Council and the North Ayrshire Drug & Alcohol Recovery Service (NADARS) to provide support and compassion for people struggling with the affects of food poverty, isolation and addiction.

For more information on what is happening at Fullarton ConneXions visit our website on [www.fullartonconnexions.co.uk](http://www.fullartonconnexions.co.uk), call us on 01294 273741 or email [coordinator@fullartonconnexions.co.uk](mailto:coordinator@fullartonconnexions.co.uk). Feel free also to drop in and check out our notice board for news and information about groups, classes and upcoming events. There is a warm welcome here for you, whoever you are.

## **VOLUNTEER AT CONNEXIONS!!**

Do you have a few hours to spare every week or even just once a month? We are looking for volunteers to assist in the day-to-day running of our busy centre at Fullarton Connexions. Connexions officially opened in 2016 as the community wing of Fullarton Parish Church, now of course part of the UICS family. However, our volunteering opportunities are open to *anyone* in the local community. With a footfall of over 1600 visitors per week, there is always something needing done!

Our three main volunteering streams are: café, cleaning and caretaking. Volunteers support the paid staff team within Connexions and are invaluable in the support that they provide. Our specific volunteering needs at the moment are as follows:

**Café:** At this time our café is very well supported with a team of experienced volunteers; however, there can be a shortfall in ad hoc support to cover holidays, illness or additional event cover. If you have some hospitality experience and are happy to provide occasional cover, sometimes at short notice, please get in touch and we can arrange an induction to our kitchen.

**Caretaking:** We are in real need of volunteer caretakers who can take responsibility for the building outwith the hours of 9 till 5. This could be a regular evening or occasional weekend commitment and may involve: opening up the building, setting up rooms for groups, directing visitors, doing some cleaning tasks and locking up the building. If you consider yourself to be trustworthy and reliable and are happy to work alone (albeit in a busy building!) then get in touch and we can have a chat.

Please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Lorna McFadyean for more information about these positions by emailing [connexionsvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:connexionsvolunteers@gmail.com) or by telephoning 07882239706. Or... pop into Connexions and introduce yourself in person! The café is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10am until 2pm, and is a great way to familiarise yourself with the building if you have never been!

# Let Your Little Light Shine

Building God's people through education in Malawi



## LIGHTING UP LEARNING IN MALAWI

**Rev Dr Shaw Paterson, the Moderator of the General Assembly, has issued a challenge with the potential to transform the lives of students in Malawi.**

Can you spare some funds to support an appeal that helps children to do their homework and advance their education with the aid of small solar lights they can borrow from a school's 'light library'? The funds will also be used to help PhD students at Zomba Theological University to study during hours of darkness.

Dr Paterson was inspired to launch the appeal after his visit to Malawi last autumn where he saw the challenges children faced in studying during the dark evenings without lights in their homes and when he witnessed first-hand power outages at the university. Run by a local branch of the UK-based charity Solar Aid, the appeal we are supporting is named Let Your Little Light Shine – Building God's People Through Education in Malawi.

But he also noticed that there were barriers for students who were keen to learn. For children, without lights in their homes they could not study after it became dark. And for PhD students at Zomba Theological University they were frequently dealing with power outages, something the Moderator witnessed first-hand. His challenge aims to help students at both ends of the academic spectrum – primary school learners and PhD students.

### Let your little light shine - creating light libraries for primary schools

The Moderator saw an initiative at Thondwe CCAP Primary School which he believes the Church could help replicate. He believes 'light libraries' could hold the answer. It is lighting up homes to allow children to do homework by funding a simple 'light library' at their school, allowing them to borrow small solar lights to take home, potentially making a difference to their whole future.

The headteacher at Thondwe told him how the simple solar lights are allowing extra time for children to learn in villages where there is no electricity and so it is dark at 6.30pm. She has seen academic improvement in her pupils since this initiative has been in place. The light also becomes a resource for others in the household too as even one small light radiates a beam which allows others to see also. Before children were studying by using candles or kerosene lamps which are both expensive or indeed not studying at all.

It will also provide solar panels to allow PhD students to study during the hours of darkness. Nestled in the foothills of the majestic Zomba Mountain, Zomba Theological University (ZTU) has high ambitions.

As part of its strategic plan to advance and extend quality theological education, ZTU is embarking upon an ambitious renovation project to provide accommodation for new and expanding postgraduate programmes. The vision is that the new centre will become a hub of collegiality, creativity and collaboration that can generate transforming ideas and transformative leaders. The proposed development includes solar power provision and improved IT infrastructure throughout the renovated buildings to provide a variety of flexible working locations.

To ensure the students can make the most of their time of study, there needs to be a consistent electricity supply for lighting and internet access, something which a state-of-the-art solar energy system will ensure once installed – and it will also be more economical than buying from the grid.



The Moderator's visit to Malawi allowed him to see the steps from Early Childhood Development Programmes to the accredited University programmes of the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP) with whom the Church of Scotland have a long-standing partnership.

Talking after the trip he said: "I evidenced a real desire and enthusiasm for education and was so taken by the steps learners (of all ages) took in their thirst for knowledge. This challenge seemed to me to fit in well with my theme for my Moderatorial year of 'Building Together'. As much as I love a good DIY project, this theme is more about 'Building the People of God', allowing everyone at whatever level they are at, to be encouraged and supported to take the next step on their journey through life."

This appeal will help to keep lights shining and give students opportunity to shine too as they seek to enhance their learning.

## VITUMBIKO'S STORY

I am 10 years old and am a pupil at Thondwe Primary School in Zomba in Malawi. Malawi is in sub-Saharan Africa and so is near the equator. This means it gets dark between 6 and 7pm every day of the year. I walk to school and when I get home I help my Mum with the chores – I often go to the well to get water for her.

Sometimes I look after my little brother and sister too and they like to play with me. After our evening meal, it is time for me to do my homework. In the past my parents would try to buy some kerosene or candles so I had light enough to read but these are expensive, and they often can't afford them. Sometimes I would try to read by the light of the cooking fire outside the kitchen.

I want to be a nurse when I grow up but I need to get good grades so that I can go to high school and then to university. That is my dream. I want to work hard so that I can achieve this.

I was so excited when our school got a Light Library – our small solar lights are in the library of books at the school, and we can borrow a light as well as a book. It has been one of my favourite times of the day when I can get both and take them home with me. Once I finish my chores, I sit at the table and do my homework. It is so good to have the brightness of the lamp in our small home – even the small children can keep playing in the shadow of it.

Sometimes my Mum brings out her mending which she can see to do. After my homework, my Dad gathers us all together in the light and takes the family Bible down from the shelf and reads to us. Finally, when I curl up under my blanket, I take my story book from the library and fall asleep reading about adventures....and dream about my future as a nurse.



### How can you help?

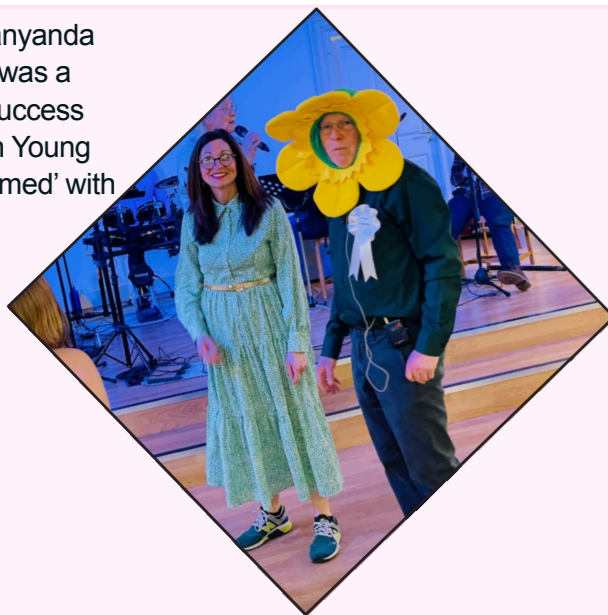
- Solar lights for light libraries, cost around £10 per light and can be bought locally in Malawi.
- The new PhD Centre needs support to install solar power and a modern IT system which would allow students to study at any time.
- No matter how little you can raise you will be helping to Build God's people in Malawi
- Be creative in your fundraising – let us know what you are doing

The Project will remain live until **May 2025**.

### PLEASE SEND ONLINE DONATIONS TO

Church of Scotland with Reference: Moderator's Challenge. Account No.: 00134859 Sort code: 83-06-08  
Or send a cheque to Church of Scotland with a covering note stating 'Moderator's Challenge' and your details.

The Kanyanda ceilidh was a great success and Ian Young 'blossomed' with delight



Mure Relief choir putting in the practice hours as they prepare for Easter



The Monthly Praise Nights are proving popular and along with the wonderful worship we are blessed with dynamic speakers.

Left is Bryan fisher sharing with us and right we have Rev. Jim Cowan opening up God's word.



Celebrating 28 years of Fr Willie Boyd serving the good people of Irvine, Rev Neil had the privilege of sharing towards the end of Mass at St Mary's on 30th January .



Training for Local Ordained Ministry, Simon Mann has been with UICS for a few months now, preaching and leading worship across our centres.

Simon is pictured here with his supervisor, Rev. Dr. Jamie Milliken



meet the man who rebuilt Perceton and Dreghorn Kirk



On Sunday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> Dreghorn and Springside welcomed a very special visitor to our morning worship. Mr Keisuke Takeuchi arrived from Japan to mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the relocation of the former Perceton and Dreghorn Church to the Sunrise Garden hotel in Japan.

Mr Takeuchi was charming and, having studied previously in the UK, fluent in English; he communicated, warmly, the gratitude & very best wishes of his family & SunLife.

In 1995 the church building was carefully taken down, stone by stone and rebuilt at Hiratsuka. In 1999 it opened as a popular venue for weddings, funerals, concerts & film sets.

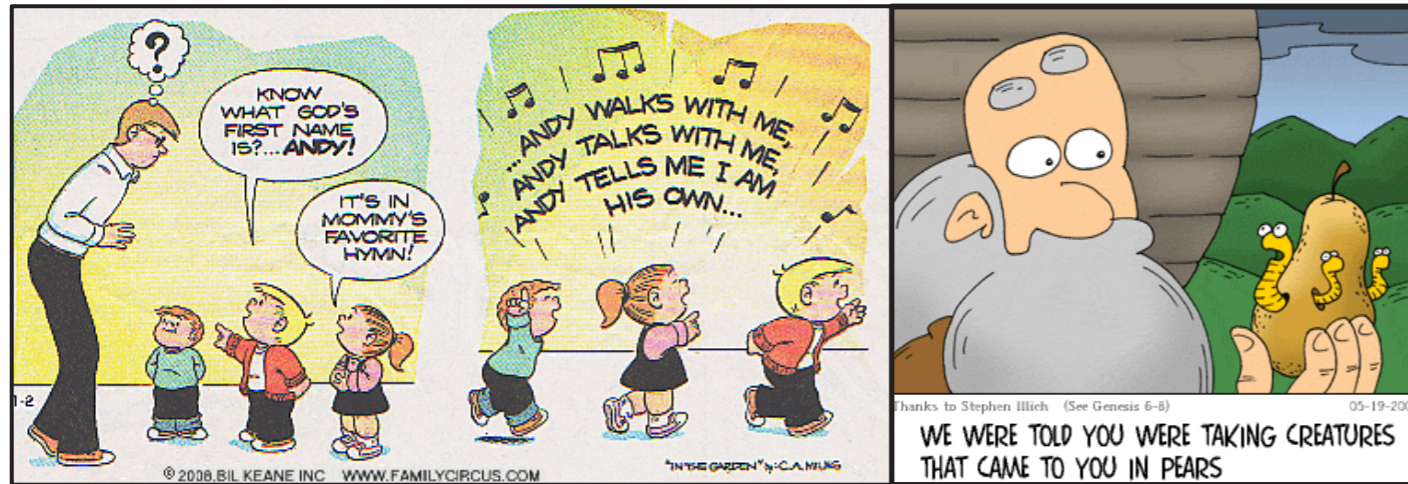
Mr Takeuchi's parents were mainly involved in buying the church but he remembers well his visit to Dreghorn with them at that time. Now, he is Chairman of the Board of Directors of Sun Life Holdings, the parent company which owns the Sunrise Garden hotel. To mark the anniversary he brought gifts of photographs, information about the church building and the hotel and a print of a famous Japanese painting 'The Lute and White Snake of Benten'. This is the year of the snake in Japan and the white snake is associated with good fortune.

Mr Takeuchi was happy to meet Rev. Neil and to chat to various members of the congregation after the service, including some former members of Perceton and Dreghorn who remember the church very fondly.

The church building looks beautiful in the photographs and it is heart-warming to think that a small part of Scotland exists, and is still well used, in Japan. Check out Ayumi Hamasaki's hit song & video on Youtube to see the sanctuary in its glory <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=03y-KyezDS4>

You can read more about this visit on the [Ayrshire Live page of the Daily Record](#).

**"Give me a sense of humour, Lord, give me the grace to see a joke,  
To get some humour out of life, and pass it on to other folk"**



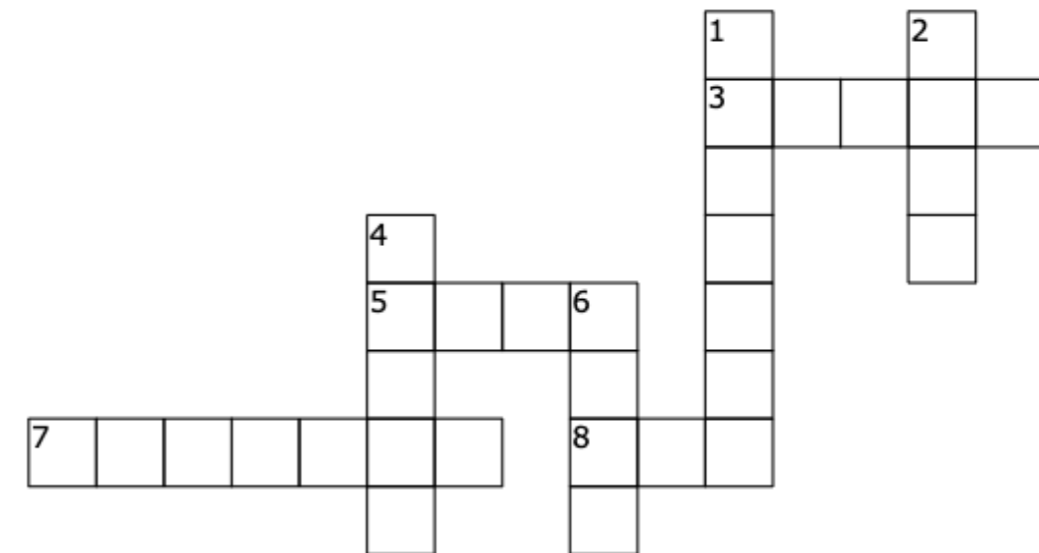
## Actual Announcements from Church Bulletins

- Thursday night – potluck supper. Prayer and medication to follow.
- For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
- This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs. Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.
- At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What Is Hell?" come early and listen to our choir practice.
- Miss Charlene Mason sang, "I will not pass this way again," giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.
- "Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Don't forget your husbands."
- Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.
- Barbara remains in the hospital and needs blood donors for more transfusions. She is also having trouble sleeping and requests tapes of Pastor Jack's sermons.
- The Rector will preach his farewell message after which the choir will sing "Break Forth into Joy."
- Eight new choir robes are currently needed, due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.
- The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7:00 p.m. The Congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.
- The outreach committee has enlisted 25 visitors to make calls on people who are not afflicted with any church.
- The Rev. Merriwether spoke briefly, much to the delight of the audience.
- Next Sunday Mrs. Vinson will be soloist for the morning service. The pastor will then speak on "It's a Terrible Experience."
- Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community.
- Bertha Belch, a missionary from Africa, will be speaking tonight at Calvary Methodist. Come hear Bertha Belch all the way from Africa.

## An Easter Surprise

The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Matthew 28:5-6

Answers on p.26



### ACROSS

3. "He is not here, he has \_\_\_\_\_."
5. A place where someone, especially an important person, is buried
7. The first or early part of a day
8. A period of twenty-four hours

### DOWN

1. To kill someone by tying or nailing them to a cross
2. A period of seven days
4. A hard solid substance found in the ground which is often used for building
6. The whole physical structure that forms a person

**Can you solve the anagrams below to reveal the names of hymns we might sing at Easter time?**

Answers on p.26

- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1. lla oyrlg audl and orouhn             | 11. i oknw taht ym rdemreee eilsv    |
| 2. lla nveaeh arlsdcee                   | 12. amke wya, amek awy               |
| 3. nda acn ti eb                         | 13. onrmnig ahs eonkrb               |
| 4. eb lstli nda nkwo hatt i ma ogd       | 14. deri no, ider no ni mateysj      |
| 5. eb tllsi fro teh erscnepe fo eht rdol | 15. Kroc fo gsae                     |
| 6. earebht no em tabahr fo gdo           | 16. eth dol rgdeug srcos             |
| 7. hrsict het rlod si eisnr ydaot        | 17. heter si a negre illh raf awya   |
| 8. ofmr anehev ouy ocme                  | 18. tnihe eb teh lgoyr               |
| 9. eh si rdol                            | 19. eerw ouy heter                   |
| 10. i ecandd ni eht grnnimo              | 20. enwh i rsevuy the dunroswo ocscr |

## Easter is about God's love and should not be 'domesticated,' says Bishop Robert Barron

While modern society and culture has made Easter about bunnies, baskets, eggs, candy and spring flowers, Barron said this actually gets to the heart of what ails us.

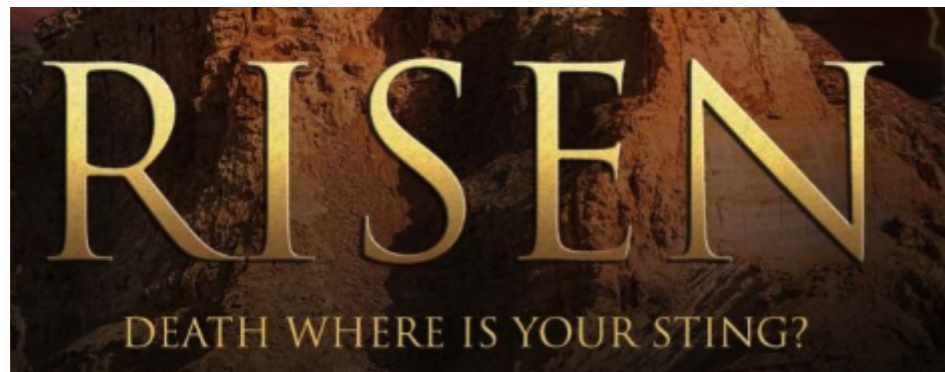
**"The route to happiness is not filling up the ego ...  
It's emptying out the ego. It's letting go."**

While the colourful decor and festivities are not in themselves wrong, they can camouflage our ultimate longings, he indicated. "Wealth, pleasure, honour and power. Thomas Aquinas says those are the four things we seek in place of God," said Barron.

But, he added, "what the soul is hungry for is God, right? God is love. Therefore, the route to happiness is not filling up the ego with these four things. It's emptying out the ego. It's letting go." Easter is the cornerstone of Christianity. Without the resurrection of Jesus Christ, there is no Christmas, no Pentecost, no saints of the Church ... and certainly no New Testament with its four pillars, the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, all bearing witness to Jesus' life, ministry, death and resurrection. As the Apostle Paul told the Corinthians, "And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith" (1 Corinthians 15:14).

**"God's love is more powerful than anything that's in the world."**

Barron said for that reason, "One of the worst things we can do is domesticate Easter." He cuts away the frivolity surrounding the observance of Easter to help people see it instead through the mindset of first century Palestine — that's in order to realise that this is a monumental event that changed the trajectory of human existence.



God's love created the world — and that same love is re-creating it through Jesus Christ, suggested the bishop during a conversation on "Lighthouse Faith." "What Easter means is someone who is put to death in the most brutal way possible by the powers of the world ... by the powers of hatred and cruelty and violence and oppression," said Barron. "This One who is done to death in the most brutal way — God raised from the dead. That means God's love is more powerful than anything that's in the world." And the power of that love, said Barron, is available to us in ways that it never was prior to 2,000 years ago. God's love created the world — and that same love is re-creating it through Jesus Christ.

**"Rediscover the radical reality of Easter."**

What he means: Easter is about saying early on Sunday morning, "The Lord is Risen!" and responding, "He has risen indeed!" And because of that, all life is forever changed.

A student of history, Barron compares Easter to a phrase coined by the Enlightenment, "Novus ordo seclorum." It is Latin for "New Order of the Ages." Barron said, "The Novus ordo seclorum happened on this grimy little hill outside Jerusalem, when they put this Young Rabbi to death. But God raised Him from the dead." That, he said, "is the new order of the ages. That's what Easter's about."

\* Robert Emmet Barron is an American prelate of the Catholic Church who has served as bishop of the Diocese of Winona–Rochester in Minnesota, since 2022



From community events to individual challenges, Christian Aid Week is seven days of action — your way, to fund lasting change. From fun runs to quizzes, coffee mornings to our 70k in May challenge, and everything in between,

start your own fundraising activity this Christian Aid Week. [Sign up](#)

### What is 70k in May?

70K in May is our fundraising challenge this Christian Aid Week. It's simple: travel 70K, in whatever way you want, throughout the month of May. By taking part in 70k in May you can be the starting point for change. Help more fund vital training so farmers are equipped to fight the effects of the climate crisis.

### Fundraise in your community, at work, at school, at church, at home, on your own

- **Quiz night:** get quizzical with your friends and hold a quiz night at your church hall, community centre or local pub.
- **Ceilidh:** pull on your dancing shoes, hire a good band and recruit a caller who knows all the dances and can help those with two left feet. Charge for admission and refreshments.
- **Talent show:** organise a Britain's Got Talent style event and charge for admission.
- **Supermarket/train station collection:** arrange a date for a collection at your local supermarket or train station. [Get in touch](#) for more information on how to do this.
- **Different dress day:** whether you dress up in your finest clothes, or dress down in your comfiest clobber, charge everyone to take part. Mix it up a bit and do a fancy-dress day or a wear your funniest shirt or tie day — be as creative as your boss will allow!
- **Car wash:** wash all the cars in your office car park and ask for donations.
- **Matched giving:** many workplaces match what you fundraise — ask yours if they do too! It's the easiest way to double your total.
- **World Food Day:** a great way to explore the work of Christian Aid, and our roles as global citizens. Invite members of the community to make a dish that means something to them and collect donations to support the work of Christian Aid.
- **Craftivism Fair:** get creative and get pupils to share their messages of hope with others. Selling their artwork to the wider community can be a great way to raise some money and to share the hope!
- **'Mini' Big Sing:** learn the [three Fischy Music songs created for Christian Aid](#) and host a concert for parents after school. Ask for donations on the door and you could even sell some refreshments with the proceeds going to support the fantastic work of Christian Aid.
- **Movie night:** bring Hollywood to your home! Organise a film night with DVDs, drinks and popcorn at your home — all for a small donation, of course!
- **Garden party:** hold a party or an open garden event. Choose your own or other local gardens that people would pay to visit, and have stalls, games and refreshments too.
- **Cook it:** invite your friends for a slap-up meal cooked by you, for a suitable donation. It could be a gourmet meal or a delicious BBQ; just serve up your signature dish.
- **Coffee morning or afternoon tea:** whether morning's your thing, or afternoon is more your cup of tea, invite your friends, family and congregation to join you for tea, coffee or cake in your church hall.
- **Sell it:** bake some cakes to sell after church, or get green-fingered, planting extra seedlings and holding a plant sale. Organise a car boot or tabletop sale in your church hall, get rid of your unwanted belongings and charge others for tables to sell theirs.
- **Choir concert:** ask your church choir to put on a concert and charge for admission.
- **Hair:** shave your hair or beard or dye your hair a bright colour and get sponsorship for ruining your treasured locks.
- **Give it up:** whether your favourite thing is chocolate, coffee or cheese, get sponsored to give it up for a month (or even longer!)
- **Yes day:** say yes to everyone's demands (within reason) and ask people to sponsor you to do so.



### Mure Relief Guild

As ever our guild has enjoyed a variety of speakers and activities this session. We began with an entertaining afternoon with Ayrshire Yukes which has become a regular start to our Guild year. We invited others guilds along and a good time was had by all.

We then took on the planning and organisation of Guilds Together Service which we arranged as a 'big sing' with each guild contributing their choice to the service. Betty McDonald told us about Recycle Saturday- Prestwick which takes place on the first Saturday of each month with a wide variety of items able to be recycled. We heard about the Brontë family from Wendy Sandiford.

In November we heard from Heather, Emma and Madeline our volunteer youth workers from America. It was very interesting to hear how they got from their home towns in America to join us here in Irvine. We continued towards Christmas learning about Christmas songs, St. Andrew's day activities and our annual Christmas meeting which included a visit from May Richmond's famous Christian Aid stall.

2025 started with a visit from our traditional first speaker of the year- Rev Andy Black. James Fraser from Hope Project- International Release, and Katherine Mills visited us in January. In February Sandy McFadyen told us about his interest in stained glass and had lots of interesting photos to show us, Sarah Johnstone told us about Whitleys Retreat- a family based retreat where all members of a family dealing with serious illnesses can come and relax.

Some members of Irvine and Dreghorn Brass Band entertained us and invited guests at the end of February. Paul Algeo told us all about Blythswood Charity and how he came to be working for them.

We look forward to the next few meetings left of this session and our final meeting which will be an Afternoon Tea at Riverside Hotel. I am hoping my new knee will be in full working order for that day!

Jane McLaren ( Convener )

## YOU'LL NEVER WALK ALONE

Janie Dunn

As a Christian we have to remember that we don't have to walk alone.

Life is a journey in which we have GOD walking beside us, so we aren't travelling alone.

You can go a walk by yourself but aren't alone as GOD is right there beside you.

You'll Never Walk Alone if you put your trust in GOD.

Isn't GOD the best companion to have right there beside you in Life's Long Journey.

## UICS Finance Matters

The UICS Annual Accounts for 2024 have been approved, independently examined and submitted to the General Church and Presbytery.

The General Fund, which includes all income and expenditure for the day-to-day running of the UICS, had an income for the year of £319,293 and the expenditure was £371,717. This gives a deficit of £52,424 and when we take into account the £12.8k income from St Andrews bank accounts the true figure is a deficit of £65,000 for the year. This would have been a lot worse had it not been for contributions from ConneXions, Dimwicks, Hall Lets and Church Organisations, especially for Heat & Light.

As it stands, UICS has assets of £1,169,057 with most of this being either designated, restricted or in an endowment, meaning that a surplus of only £94,914 was in the General Fund for day-to-day expenditure. This represents two and a half months of average expenditure.

The Balance Sheet as at the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 is shown on the next page.

Over the year UICS has raised £71,428 for other charities and organisations(see the Collections for Third Parties section) with the Kanyanda Health Project and Christians Against Poverty being the two main beneficiaries.

The summary income and expenditure for departments and organisations of the church is also shown in the section following.

As we complete the first quarter of 2025 we have forecast a deficit for 2025 of approximately £20,000 which is not ideal but pretty realistic. To achieve this we MUST try to increase our giving/income and keep a tight rein on expenditure.

### **To help increase our income we ask that our members and adherents prayerfully consider the following two actions**

**1)** For those who already give regularly and over the past few years have not reviewed the weekly/monthly amount given, please consider the tremendous increase in costs we have all encountered, and perhaps increase your tithe/offering if circumstances allow. By way of example the cost of energy has more than doubled in the past 3 years.

**2)** If you are a tax payer and do not Gift Aid your offerings and donation then we urge you to please sign up for Gift Aid and we can claim £25 from HMRC on every £100 you give. It costs you nothing and all we need is a signed declaration form. The church Finance Team will do the rest.

Both of these actions are excellent examples of good Stewardship!

### **Kanyanda**

The donations and fundraising for the Kanyanda Clinic continues to exceed expectations. The **Mardi Gras Family Ceilidh** held on the 1<sup>st</sup> March raised a total of £2,058.80 and a great night was had by all who attended.

### **Church Offering Envelopes & Gift Aid**

If you want to give regularly to the work and mission of the United Irvine Church of Scotland and would like either envelopes or to set up a Standing Order via a Bank or Building Society please contact either Sandy Dickson, Irene Stevenson, Lynda Shaw or Eric Grieg.

**Treasurer – Sandy Dickson** Email: [Treasurer@fullartonchurch.co.uk](mailto:Treasurer@fullartonchurch.co.uk) Mob: 07519 638 218

**The Finance Team**

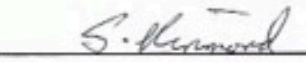

United Irvine Church Of Scotland.

Balance Sheet

At 31 December, 2024

		Total Funds 2024	Prior Year 2023
	Note		
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Fixed assets	9		
Investments	10	996,719	838,361
Total Fixed Assets		996,719	838,361
Current Assets			
Debtors	11	0	0
Virgin Money Account		0	85,000
FPC Current Account		81,646.39	157,216.44
D&S Bank Accounts		12,381.47	11,784.45
MR Bank Account		51,885.16	69,814.81
GT Bank Accounts		13,614.54	14,090.19
St Andrews Bank Accounts		12,810.25	0.00
Total Current Assets		172,338	337,906
Liabilities			
Creditors falling due within one year	12	0	-
Net Current Assets		172,338	337,906
Creditors falling due after more than one year		-	-
Net Assets		1,169,057	1,176,267
The Funds of the Charity			
Unrestricted Funds	15		
General funds		94,914	147,338
Designated funds		805,507	773,603
Unrestricted Funds		900,421	920,941
Restricted Funds		262,746	250,111
Endowment Funds		5,890	5,215
Total Charity Funds	15	1,169,057	1,176,267

The accounts were approved by the Trustees on 26th February 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

 Dr. S. Kinmond, Session Clerk  
 S. Dickson, Treasurer

Collections for Third Parties				2024	
				£	
Ayrshire Hospice				27	
Blythswood (Wednesday Packers)				1,355	
Breast Cancer UK				1,260	
Christians Against Poverty Debt Centre				20,017	
Christian Aid				335	
Collections for Charities Dreghorn & Springside Worship Centre				1,896	
Collections for Charities Girdle Toll Worship Centre				2,224	
Collections for Charities Mure Relief Worship Centre				903	
Community Choices (Larder)				119	
Compassion UK				160	
Diabetes Scotland				1,265	
EMMS Malawi				2,263	
Friends of Ludhiana ( Boxes )				100	
Kanyanda Clinic Project via World Mission Team				34,973	
Loudoun Montgomery Scripture Union				1,974	
McMillan Nurses				625	
Missionary Support Services				62	
St. Luke's Hospital/Child Sponsorship (Shubhro & Lis Mullick)				835	
TEAR Fund Scotland				269	
The Leprosy Mission				312	
The Haven				454	
				71,428	

SUMMARY OF ORGANISATION ACCOUNTS- 2024					
TheOffice of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) does not require that Churches include all of the annual accounts of their Organisations in the body of the main Church accounts. However, These accounts are audited within the Church, and are included here for information :					
ORGANISATION	Balance B/F 01/01/2024	Income	Expenditure	Donations	Balance C/F 31/12/2024
Fullarton Action Group	861.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	861.67
Fullarton Badminton Club	454.00	337.42	(30.42)	(268.00)	493.00
ConneXions	18,745.19	221,504.11	(223,247.64)	0.00	17,001.66
Fullarton Sewing Group	293.78	1,941.55	(1,650.33)	(400.00)	185.00
Fullarton Craft Club	687.49	674.00	(22.00)	(700.00)	639.49
Light Factory	138.79	400.00	(66.00)	0.00	472.79
Fullarton Owlets	567.96	0.00	0.00	0.00	567.96
Fullarton Guild	2,449.27	4,420.30	(3,358.61)	(1,100.00)	2,410.96
Crossing Together (Bank & Cash)**	1,514.52	2,650.01	(2,545.73)	0.00	1,618.80
Girdle Toll Girls Brigade	1,229.59	3,381.00	(2,908.34)	0.00	1,702.25
Mure Relief Sunday School **	355.16	698.41	(783.13)		270.44
Mure Relief Friendly Hour **	288.87	1,000.70	(1,118.14)		171.43
Mure Relief Guild **	350.24	1,694.00	(1,467.00)		577.24
Mure Relief Woman's Fellowship **	274.94	294.06	(265.00)		304.00
Note: ** the expenditure/income includes donation figures					

## KIRK SESSION TRIBUTES

### Funeral Tribute of Thanksgiving for Neville Ramsay, died on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2024, aged 99.

God called Neville home just short of his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in what has been a remarkable innings. He started life in Ayr, moved to Irvine in his teens where his dad built the Winlinton Garage. He met wife (of 60 years) Nan playing tennis on the Thornhouse Ave' courts, love at first sight!

A Nobel Explosives office boy, moving into Sales, he was called up to the RAF as a wireless mechanic 1946 – 1948, witness to India's declaration of independence on top of New Delhi's India Gate, wireless controlling the fly-past and snapping photos which got him on TV's One Show when it celebrated the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the declaration, once back home with an extensive career with Nobel & ICI.

Devoted Husband, Dad, Grampa, & Great Grampa, Neville was longtime member and elder at Fullarton Parish Church, founding member of The Action Group, which reached out to pensioners in the parish & congregation and got the attention of Life & Work & national news, visiting the special meals with his Scottish Country Dancing troupe, dancing till age 94! Dancing before the Queen at Edinburgh's CW Games, and performing abroad with teams in Israel & North America.

We fondly remember: how Neville always wanted to help address and solve issues & problems, was generous in charitable giving, & loved learning new dances in Spain, where 'Super Abuelo', a special tune & dance, was written for him; how daily Small Talk lunches were a great aid to getting Neville out & about; how Neville had a keen upbeat sense of humour to the end, in hospital asked, "Where's your hand dad?" replying with great comical timing, "At the end of my arm." how Neville had a concerned & caring heart, regularly saying, "What can I do to help?" even when he wasn't really able.

We thank you for this active, sprightly, old fashioned, positive, upbeat, sharp, clever, thoughtful, diplomatic, caring, kind, considerate, godly, generous, charitable, clever, Grateful Gentleman. Amen.



**Tribute Prayer of Thanksgiving for Mrs Ann Blower (nee Macaulay), died on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2024, aged 94.** Born in Scotstoun, Glasgow Ann grew up with siblings, a typical Glasgow lass joining in with shenanigans like 'Chap the door & run!' Evacuated to Kinloch Rannoch during the War she followed her mum in service. Studying Chemistry at Glasgow Uni she worked went on to work in Ardeer's ICI where she met husband Fred; married for 34 years they had 2 daughters & a son in Linda (ordained CofS minister), Aileen, & Gordon, 5 grandchildren & 2 great grandchildren.

Ann had an adventurous spirit illustrated by her readiness to wade through Jerusalem's Hezekiah's Tunnel with me & a small group, water up to our oxters; she was a faithful Congregational Board member & elder, with special care for members in Care Homes, a trailblazer as one of Fullarton's first lady elders, a presbytery elder, Action Group Convener and activist between 1978 & 96, also serving on the Fullarton Centre Café rota with the aid of grandchildren, with her compassion, keen sense of justice and heart for the ignored, underprivileged, & oppressed writing letters to politicians as an advocate & complainer, and supporting organisations like Amnesty International & Bethlehem's 'Al Shorouk School for the blind', attending May Day Rallies & ensuring her family were acquaint with the suffragettes' movement & importance of women's rights, someone who showed her faith to be live and real by what she did.

We fondly remember: how Ann was Christened Annie, but preferred Ann or a formal Mrs Blower.

Lord God we thank for this private, mischievous, disciplined, generous, inconspicuous, determined, resilient, independent, caring, organised, organising, courageous, undemonstrative, old school, daring, faithful, family loving lady. You knew Ann with all her strengths & weaknesses. We let her go into your hands, Amen.

**Betty McLeod Tribute** *This is an extract from Betty's own words which were shared at her funeral service:*

"Born in Riccarton Christmas Eve 1935 one of 4 children two older brothers John and Jim, and younger sister Agnes. We came to Dreghorn about the beginning of the war, when my Gran was ill, she died, and we stayed on with my granddad.

I started work as a hosiery machinist. I also started going out with Willie in 1951 and we were engaged in 1953 and married in 1955. We came to Dreghorn in 1960. I enjoyed home making and used to sew for myself and other people. I made my own wedding dress then the children's clothes, made soft toys, enjoyed knitting, and crochet. I worked part time in Woolworths and then Greenwood

Academy and Ayrshire Central Hospital. I retired from there.

I became an elder of the church on the 21st of November 2004 and felt humbled and honoured to be asked. Working with other elders and listening to what he said at meetings make me realise, in a broader sense, how we help and support each other always with the Church and God's work in mind and caring for others."

Over COVID Betty increasingly became housebound but continued to enjoy visits from members and friends. She was dearly loved and will be dearly missed.

**Tribute to Mrs. Agnes Matthews** who was a stalwart member of the former Relief Bourtreehill Parish Church. Attending every week until in recent years due to failing health she was unable to do so.

Agnes was born at Law Farm. One of 11 children. Later her family moved to live at Towerlands Farm in Bourtreehill. Once married she settled in Frew Terrace. However, life does go around in circles and being a member of the old Relief Church in West Road she transferred to the new church in Bourtreehill following the transportation of the old church there in 1976. Our Sunday School met in Towerlands Farm and many a church social event was also held there.

Agnes was a hard working committed member of the congregation serving on both the Congregational Board and the Kirk Session. Relief Kirk Session ordained female elders for the first time back in 1993. Agnes was ordained then. Agnes was frequently in great demand for church social events when she entertained everyone with recitations of poetry. She was a natural storyteller.

Agnes approached all her church endeavours with the same diligence, willingness, vigour, in a straightforward no-nonsense manner but always with a friendly, humorous, and cheery manner and with a glint in her eye. She served the church in many capacities and was an integral member of the Guild. Acting as both its President and Social Secretary. She continued to attend the Guild up until the last year or so when again due to her health she was unable to attend.

Recently, someone has described Agnes to me as spirited reminding me of the time when once more when there were problems with the church roof at Bourtreehill Agnes who would probably be in her late 60s at the time went up onto the roof to inspect it along with others. Nothing fazed Agnes. Agnes was a practical worker who epitomized service within the church.

Agnes also served for years as a member of the Irvine Christian Aid committee. She will be remembered fondly by many as a valuable asset of the Relief Church and its KS. A lady who served her church with an unwavering pragmatic commitment and dedication who was an example for us all to follow.

**UICS Kirk Session Tribute to Henry Ivan McQueenie, died on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025, aged 77.**

Youngest of 14, Ivan grew up in Fullarton's Merryvale, with the dubious benefit of a steady flow of 'hand-me-down' clothes; however he could add to his pocket money by ironing his brothers Saturday Night shirts. Jobs wise he was best known for his fair, but firm, handling of Bill Murray's Taxi business, retiring early due to ill health, and also as a Special Constable.

With beloved wife Cathy, he shared the pride of two sons and delight of 4 grandchildren & 2 great grandchildren. Longtime Fullarton elder & church officer, Ivan was my (Neil's) right hand man for Sunday services, funerals & weddings, an honorary role he fulfilled faithfully with great dignity, respect, & perverse humour, ever trying to wind me (Neil) up about how he was on the verge of chucking it all in & leaving. Along with Cathy he served in Summer Missions, Fullarton's Youth Café & Centre Café, nationally worked with Mission and Discipleship in other congregations, and with 'Reality At Work' supporting disadvantaged kids, evidence of his passion for the least, last & lost.

We fondly remember: how Ivan claimed that his parents ran out of names when they gave him the name Henry Ivan McQueenie, and that when people were looking for someone to blame it was 'H-I-M' HIM! how Ivan could snore for Scotland; how he liked to lounge around casually at home, but also liked his suits & to turn out smart for church & special occasions; how Ivan was a constant joker & wind-up merchant; how Ivan filled his role as Santa for Owlets' & Sunday School parties with great enthusiasm & didn't need any padding.

Ivan missed Cathy so much: his soul mate, wife of 52 years. He is now free from the frailty & frustration of ill-health and at home with God, Cathy & loved ones in Christ.

Lord God, thank you for this cheeky, canny, sarcastic, soft-hearted, determined, independent, straight talking, faithful, loyal, family loving, gentleman. You knew Ivan, all his strengths & weaknesses. We commend him to you and thank you for his years of dedicated service for your cause! Grant Ivan's family & friends, all who grieve and mourn today, your comfort and strength. Amen.





Weather permitting, United Irvine's 'Connexions Cycling' is back on Sundays, 2-4pm, leaving from Fullarton Connexions! Do join us!

#### Easter hymns solution

- |  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 1. All Glory Laud and Honour             | 11. I know that my redeemer lives  |
| 2. All Heaven Declares                   | 12. Make way, make way             |
| 3. And can it be                         | 13. Morning has broken             |
| 4. Be still and know that I am God       | 14. Ride on, ride on in majesty    |
| 5. Be still for the presence of the lord | 15. Rock of ages                   |
| 6. Breathe on me breath of God           | 16. The old rugged cross           |
| 7. Christ the lord is risen today        | 17. There is a green hill far away |
| 8. From Heaven you came                  | 18. Thine be the glory             |
| 9. He is lord                            | 19. Were you there                 |
| 10. I danced in the morning              | 20. When I survey the              |

#### Crossword solution

- | <u>ACROSS</u> | <u>DOWN</u> |
|---------------|-------------|
| 3. Risen      | 1. Crucify  |
| 5. Tomb       | 2. Week     |
| 7. Morning    | 4. Stone    |
| 8. Day        | 6. Body     |

### **The Long Way**

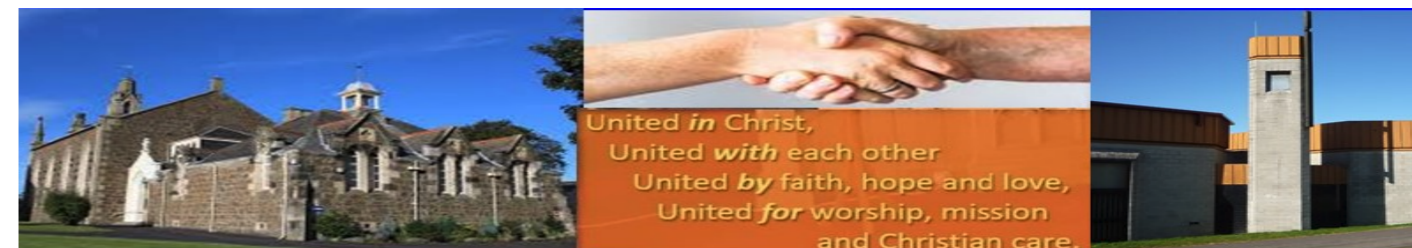
by Natalie Layne

I have seen your faithfulness  
in every mile so far.  
All that I have needed  
you've provided from the start.  
Your voice is always gentle  
and your love is evergreen,  
leading me to kindness  
that I never would have seen.

*So take me down the long way  
if that's where I'm meant to be.  
Take me down the back roads  
God, you know what's best for me.*

You're with me every moment  
even the ones I wouldn't choose  
Take me down the long way  
if the long way leads to you  
Cause you see more than I can see  
You've got good plans for me  
They're better than I dream.  
so I'm yours, and I believe,

*You'll take me down the long way  
if that's where I'm meant to be  
take me down the back roads  
God, you know what's best for me*



### **MURE RELIEF DIARY DATES**

**Messy church Easter Brunch:** Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April from 10am to 12 noon at the Mission Centre Bourtreehill. Join us for fellowship together over food, with the chance to hear the Easter story, sing songs and hymns, play games, make arts & crafts, solve quizzes and puzzles. Sure to be a fun morning!

**IRVINE FOLK CLUB:** Irvine Folk Club meet in Mure Church Hall every second Wednesday. The club starts at 8pm. Teas and Coffees will be available but bring your own soft drinks. Admission £6 for members £8 non-members. BYOB. Come along and support live music. The club is now in its 58<sup>th</sup> year. Details from Joyce Hodge on 07798 572 926 [www.irvinefolkclub.org.uk](http://www.irvinefolkclub.org.uk)

**NEW IRVINE COMMUNITY CHOIR :** The New Irvine Community Choir rehearsals are held on Sundays - 3pm-5pm in the hall of the Mission Centre, Bourtreehill. If anyone is interested, they can get in touch with us through the Facebook page or by emailing [NICChoir@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:NICChoir@yahoo.co.uk) where they can answer any questions and share further details.

*Sam Prescott*

**EASTER CHURCH CHOIR at MURE RELIEF, WEST ROAD:** If you would like to join our Easter choir, then please speak to Ann Miller our Organist. Rehearsal take place on a Sunday morning at 10am before worship, with a performance on Easter Sunday.

Please convey my thanks for the church flowers which were so uplifting and beautiful. Also, the visits, prayers and all the good wishes during my spell in hospital, all very much appreciated. With grateful thanks

### **GIRDLE TOLL FOODBANK**

The Foodbank continues to serve our communities throughout Irvine and beyond and has been extremely busy of late. We have been Blessed in abundance with a team of willing volunteers who work hard to ensure our clients visiting are treated with compassion, empathy and respect as well as a friendly face or if the need arises, a listening ear.

We provide a cuppa and toast/ biscuits to our clients, and they are invited to have a look at the many coats and jackets we have as well as new hand knitted garments to choose and take home. We work closely with agencies who refer clients to us with food vouchers and we also have a welfare officer from North Ayrshire Money Matters who visits Foodbank once every few weeks and is available to give advice on several important issues such as additional benefits that clients may be able to receive.

Our foodbank is open Mondays from 2pm- 4pm and Fridays 4pm – 6pm. The service can operate due to the kindness and generosity of our congregations and communities who donate freely to this essential service. We hope we will be able to continue sharing and giving to those in need of help in the future.

Please pray for the work of the Foodbank in our Girdle Toll Worship Centre and our volunteer teams who give of their time every week to provide an essential service as well as those who find themselves in need of support at the most vulnerable and challenging times in their lives.

Donations are always welcome, please get in touch to check what produce is needed.

**Proverbs 22:9 Be generous and share your food with the poor. You will be Blessed for it.**



## Dreghorn & Springside Church hall

We are having a busy time in our halls at the moment. We are fortunate to have two halls, one downstairs and one upstairs, and both are being used. We have Sunday teas after church and the Coffee Club on a Tuesday morning. Both organised by our Social Events Team. They are a lovely way to have a chat with others while you enjoy a tea/coffee.

Our children's organisations/groups who meet on a weekly basis are presently: Sunday School, 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Dreghorn Boys Brigade, Anchor Boys, Brownies, Rainbows, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Dreghorn Girl Guides and the Toddlers group.

Once a month we have our popular Messy Church for families in our community. This is a truly intergenerational event. We have Bible stories, prayers, song and dance. We always have messy art and craft and finish with a two-course meal together.

Come and relax with one of our Yoga Classes: Hatha Yoga, and Chair Yoga (where the less able can participate). The halls have ramp access to the front and rear. The rear toilet is adapted for accessibility. We have a new Yoga class on a Friday at 7pm. This is a small class for those who may need more support.

If you are looking for something a bit energetic, come and try one of our Line Dancing Classes. Monday at 7pm and Wednesday mornings at 10am. Both classes are for beginners and also more advanced dancers as the classes progress. They are suitable for adults and children over 13 years of age. Come along and meet the friends you never knew you had.

- Rainbows Bear Hunt Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March
- Messy Church Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March
- UICOS – Annual Stated Meeting. Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March.
- Guild A.G.M. Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March
- The Social Events Committee are hosting a Daffodil Tea/cakes with our Line Dancers to entertain on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April at 2pm. All welcome.
- Messy Church Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May.
- Dreghorn Gala day Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June. We will be supporting the Gala Committee on the day.

## Dreghorn & Springside Women's Guild

We ended 2024 by going to the Riverside Lodge Hotel for an early afternoon tea which was enjoyed by everyone.

Due to unforeseen circumstances our first meeting of 2025 had to be cancelled. We hope to include the Keep Fit Class, that was planned for this time, at a later date in the year.

At our next meeting we had Ruth Box and her mum from Chocolate Heaven. We were entertained with an interesting film followed by Ruth singing a beautiful song. We were able to purchase some of the delicious chocolate that they brought with them.

Our next speaker had to cancel so we had an afternoon chatting with each other over tea and biscuits.

At our next meeting we had the Rev. George Lind who showed us a film taken on his trip to Oberammergau. He gave a most interesting and enjoyable talk about his holiday.

We had a lovely visit from the Guide Dog Association to our meeting. Their Guide Dog Dexter came along also. He is a Guide Dog Ambassador.

We will end our year on 27<sup>th</sup> March with our usual A.G.M.



Messy Church is a church service for children of all ages and adults which is based on creativity, celebration and hospitality. It's a place where people can come together to discover Jesus, share food and have fun.

At Dreghorn & Springside, we have Messy Church on the third Friday of the month in our Church Hall. We start at 3.45pm and end at 5.30pm. Doors open at 3.15 pm when we welcome our families with a light refreshment. Our adult volunteers work very hard to make every session a success. A fabulous drama is always planned, along with very creative art/craft activities. The Food Team plan, cook, and serve the meal. We are very grateful to our young adult volunteers who support us at this busy time.

### November 2024

Our Messy Church families celebrated the birth of Jesus. We discovered how we could shine our light like the star the Wise Men followed to Bethlehem

### February 2025

We learned all about Daniel and the Lion's den and how God is our protector.

### March 2025

Messy Church rolls into Easter. We discovered why we roll eggs at Easter and why it is the most important time at Messy Church.

### May 2025

The Miracle of Jesus Christ. Our families will be learning about the Miraculous Catch of Fish.

A warm invitation is extended to families in our community to join us.



# WHAT'S ON @ UICS DREGHORN & SPRINGSIDE

<b>Monday</b>	
Alexis Wallace Yoga	5.30pm – 6.45pm
LeRoc Line Dance Class.	7pm – 9.30pm
Ladies of the Star	7pm – 9pm. (First Monday of the month).
<b>Tuesday</b>	
Coffee Club.	10.30am to 12noon
Brownies.	6pm – 7.30pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	
CLASP/Hope Line Dance Class	10.30am – 12.30pm
1 <sup>st</sup> /2 <sup>nd</sup> Dreghorn Boys Brigade	
Anchor Boys.	6.30pm – 7.30pm
Boys Brigade Junior Section	7pm – 8.30pm
Company Section	7pm – 8.30pm
<b>Thursday</b>	
Toddlers Group.	10am – 11.30am
Guild.	1pm – 2.30pm (Fortnightly)
Rainbows.	5.30 pm – 7pm
2 <sup>nd</sup> Dreghorn Girl Guides.	7.30pm – 9pm
Orange Order	7.15pm – 9.30pm (Every third Thursday)
<b>Friday</b>	
Messy Church.	3.45pm – 5.30pm (Friday once a month)
Yoga Class	7.00pm – 8.30pm
<b>Sunday</b>	
Sunday School/Young Church.	10.45am – 12 noon
Sunday Teas	12noon – 1pm

## KANYANDA UPDATE

There has been relatively little construction work on site since the last report, because, after a few false starts, the rains came and the villagers have been busy in the fields, with some of the crops shown in the photograph above. The land purchases for the staff accommodation are now completed, and the weather is now more conducive to digging and pouring foundations. Robert and the villagers are moving bricks from the kiln to the building site. In the meantime, further work has been done fitting out the clinic building.

This is a really difficult time for the nation and people of Malawi. These are the hungry months between the sowing and the harvest, when the rural people live on what they have stored. Unfortunately, the harvests have been poor for the last three years, and very little maize or cassava is stored, and people are suffering. To compound the problem, inflation is out of control at an estimated 31% per year, which is disastrous to the rural population who have not grown enough to meet their own needs, let alone sell produce at a profit.

If you would like to receive regular updates about Kanyanda, please let Ian Young know at [ianyoun763@gmail.com](mailto:ianyoun763@gmail.com)

The completed clinic building and water tanks; the housing site is in the background. Maize is growing in the foreground



# Helpful Information

Reverend Neil Urquhart	NUrquhart@churchofscotland.org.uk	01294 279909
Reverend Jamie Milliken	JMilliken@churchofscotland.org.uk	01294211893
Sheena Kinmond (Session Clerk)	s.kinmond@btinternet.com	01294 312022
Steven McLeish (Youth & Evangelism)	1.steven.mcleish@googlemail.com	07908606715
Sandy Dickson (Treasurer)	fpctreasurer@btinternet.com	01294 273625
Mike Rennie (Gift Aid)	giftaidtreasurer@fullartonchurch.co.uk	01294 275680
John MacDonald (Admin)	unitedirvinecs@gmail.com	07943 120 714
Sheena Henderson (Dreghorn & Springside legacy Clerk)	hendersons29.1982@gmail.com	01294 213142
Eric Greig (Girdle Toll legacy Clerk)	ericwgreig194@gmail.com	07500 959 754
Morag Cooper (Mure-Relief legacy Clerk)	moragkcooper@yahoo.com	01294 211235
Claire McDougall (St. Andrews legacy clerk)	clairemcdougall1@live.co.uk	

## PASTORAL CARE

John MacDonald	John.MacDonald@churchofscotland.org.uk	07943 120 714
Dreghorn & Springside	Joan Ballantyne joan.ballintyne@gmail.com	01294 214403
Girdle Toll	Elma Norwood elma.norwood2@gmail.com	
Mure-Relief	Lyn Thomson thomsonlyn@hotmail.co.uk	01294 272312
Fullarton	John.MacDonald@churchofscotland.org.uk	07943 120 714
Reverend Neil Urquhart	NUrquhart@churchofscotland.org.uk	01294 279909
Reverend Dr. Jamie Milliken	JMilliken@churchofscotland.org.uk	01294211893

## UICS WORSHIP SERVICES APRIL 2025 - JUNE 2025

Date	United Services	Dreghorn & Springside	Fullarton Connexions	Girdle Toll/St. Andrews	Mure Relief
06/04/2025		Jamie Milliken	Fullarton Worship Team	Shirley Bothwell	Tom Cant
13/04/2025		Jamie Milliken	Neil Urquhart	Les Kirk	Lyn Thomson
20/04/2025		Jamie Milliken	Neil Urquhart	Les Kirk	Shirley Bothwell
27/04/2025		Neil Urquhart	Jamie Milliken	Catherine Mills	John MacDonald
04/05/2025	Comfy Communion (FX 3pm)	Tom Cant	Fullarton Worship Team	Neil Urquhart	Jamie Milliken
11/05/2025		Lyn Thomson	John MacDonald	Neil Urquhart	Christine Stewart
18/05/2025		John MacDonald	Fullarton Worship Team	Shirley Bothwell	Jamie Milliken
25/05/2025		Shirley Bothwell	Tom Cant	Jamie Milliken	Neil Urquhart
01/06/2025		Jamie Milliken	Neil Urquhart	Shirley Bothwell	Tom Cant
08/06/2025		Lyn Thomson	John MacDonald	Neil Urquhart	Jamie Milliken
15/06/2025		Jamie Milliken	Neil Urquhart	Les Kirk	John MacDonald
22/06/2025		Jamie Milliken	Neil Urquhart	Catherine Mills	Shirley Bothwell
29/06/2025		Neil Urquhart	Jamie Milliken	John MacDonald	Lyn Thomson
dates in blue are communion services					



Irvine Mure Relief Church  
Presents  
**Dave Beatson's  
BIG BAND  
In Concert**

Featuring Vocalist John Griffin  
Friday 16th May at 7:30pm  
Tickets £8 available at the door



**Holy Week Services: 7pm at Irvine Old Parish Church Sanctuary**  
(Collections will be for Christian Aid)

Wednesday 16th April - led by Revs Neil Urquhart & Tom Cant

Thursday 17th April - Communion led by Rev Alec Wark

Friday 18th April - led by Rev Jamie Milliken

'Churches Together in Irvine' Good Friday Service - April 18<sup>th</sup> @ 12 noon  
Irvine's Bridgegate, next to Rivergate Mall. All Welcome!