

Kilsyth Anderson News



February/March 2018

From the Manse...



It was about 4pm on the 15th of January when the telephone rang. A nurse from the hospital my mother was a patient spoke, “You should come into the hospital immediately....” The words were unexpected; my mother was not gravely ill. The message, behind the words, was clear. After a flurry of phone calls made to my wife and brothers I jumped into the car to make the journey to St. John’s hospital in Livingston. My heart was racing, my mind was confused and sitting in the car I was conscious of being by myself wondering what was ahead of me.

Besides the noise of the engine, the only other sound I heard was the car radio playing. The station which I often listen to, ‘Premier Praise’, was playing some music and at that moment the repeated words of the chorus of a song I didn’t know broke through my fear and confusion – ‘You are not alone...you are not alone...you are not alone’. It was like an audible direct message from God. A reminder of the promise of Jesus, ‘I am with you always’. The sense of assurance that message brought was unmistakable and so very welcome.

I soon learned the truth of what I had feared – my mother had died. It was a shock and I was overwhelmed by that sense of deep grief which so many experience in the loss of someone loved and significant. I knew, however, I was not alone – God was ‘my refuge and strength’. In the days which followed this was confirmed again and again. When the time for the funeral arrived, I sensed the peace and presence of God very clearly in the church service. My mother’s minister Rev. Roger helped to underline that reality in his words, prayers and in pointing us to the Christian hope in the Christian Gospel. My mother was clear about her Christian faith. I came out of the service knowing that God had met with me to mediate his comfort.

Apart from the immediate family I didn’t see too many people in the midst of funeral arrangements and seeing to the business that surrounds loss. The message ‘You are not alone...’ was also given a wider meaning as I became aware of the sympathy, prayers and love that were offered and expressed through the cards, phone calls and social media messages. In more recent days many words of kindness have also given voice to the wonder of a caring community, most notably the wonderful, caring faith community found in the church. God’s grace was mediated afresh to me through your compassion. As I reflect on these past weeks, I thank God that I am not alone and I can testify with the psalmist

**Even though I walk
through the darkest valley
I will fear no evil,
for you are with me; (Psalm 23)**

This message of God’s presence is not one particular to me. God is with you – you are not alone in whatever you are going through or dealing with. He walks

with you too. Through faith then can I simply encourage you to trust in him for your help and strength.

**Do you not know?
Have you not heard?
The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He will not grow tired or weary,
and his understanding no one can fathom.
²⁹ He gives strength to the weary
and increases the power of the weak.
³⁰ Even youths grow tired and weary,
and young men stumble and fall;
³¹ but those who hope in the Lord
will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint. (Isaiah 40)**

Let me finish by expressing heartfelt thanks from Lynne and I for your continued care and support. It is good to know we have around us such a genuine Christian community. Blessing to you all, **Allan**

.....
PS, I recently came across a lovely song, this time by the singer Ed Sheeran called 'Supermarket Flowers' which is a poignant expression of the loss of a mother /grandmother. You can find it online via the link <https://youtu.be/3Mk0F6mLKik>



Bible Quiz: Plants in the Bible



- 1. From what kind of lumber did Noah build the ark? (Genesis 6:14)**
Gopher Oak Cherry Elm
- 2. When Aaron put his rod inside the tabernacle, what grew on it? (Numbers 17:8)**
Almonds Olives Moss Figs
- 3. In a parable, Christ compared the signs of His coming to the branches on a(n) _____ tree that show when summer is near. (Mark 13:28)**
orange fig sycamore olive
- 4. In an allegory, Isaiah prophesied that Israel will become desolate even as a tree that brings forth wild _____ will be allowed to be destroyed. (Isaiah 5:4)**
olives grapes figs almonds
- 5. The passover meal included lamb meat, unleavened bread, and _____ . (Exodus 12:8)**
olives bitter herbs figs oranges
- 6. What happened when Moses cast a tree into the waters of Marah? (Exodus 15:25)**
the children of Israel were able to use the tree as a bridge
the tree caught fire
the waters were made sweet
the water dissolved the tree completely
- 7. Paul compared the Gentiles to wild branches grafted into a good and healthy _____ tree. (Romans 11:17)**
date walnut orange olive
- 8. Jesus compared the kingdom of heaven to a _____ seed, which would grow from the tiniest seed into a huge tree. (Matthew 13:31)**
pomegranate mint mustard mallow
- 9. In a parable, Christ compared the separation of the righteous from the wicked to the harvesting of _____ from the tares. (Matthew 13:30)**
corn olives grapes wheat
- 10. Fill in the blank: The Pharisees ridiculed Christ because His disciples plucked and ate _____ on the Sabbath. (Matthew 12:1)**
corn plums oranges figs
- 11. What plant did Rachel beg of her sister Leah because it was said to help with fertility? (Genesis 30:14)**
mandrakes hyssop
coriander pomegranates
- 12. Prior to His crucifixion, what piece of attire was placed on Christ's body to humiliate Him? (Mark 15:17)**
a crown of thorns anklets of rotten fruit
a sash of ivy flaxen manacles
- 13. What did Jacob give Esau in exchange for his birthright? (Genesis 25:34)**
some pottage of lentils incense of cinnamon
a drink of mint an elixir of lavender
- 14. Fill in the blank: Christ taught that even as the _____ of the field are cared for by God, He will take care of His people. (Matthew 6:28)**
pansies lilies roses lilacs
- 15. Fill in the blank: Christ called Himself the true _____ and His apostles the branches. (John 15:1)**
vine bush grove tree

Answers on back page

Our Anniversary Service

A special Anniversary Service was held on Sunday 21 January 2018 to celebrate the 250th anniversary of our congregation and the 125th anniversary of our present church building. Despite possibly being worst weekend of weather all year a large congregation met to give thanks for the past and look forward to the future work of Kilsyth Anderson.



In attendance were previous ministers Rev James Ross and Rev Charles MacKinnon, MSP Stuart McDonald, (Who's grand-father, The Rev James McDonald was minister here), Provost Jean Jones and Councillors Heather McVey and Mark Kerr as well as members of the Boys and Girls Brigades.



The service was conducted by the Rev Albert Bogle who spoke of his internet based ministry and challenged all present to become "living stones".

During the service Provost Jones presented the congregation with a new lectern on behalf of North Lanarkshire Council and a special anniversary cake was ceremonially cut by Mr Ronnie Swan in recognition of his many years of service to the church.

Following the service everyone was invited through to the hall where they were able to share their memories of the church and enjoy refreshments courtesy of the ladies of the Drop-In.

Here is a copy of the link to the service: <https://youtu.be/8enltbBquDY>



**Remember to Change your Clock
British Summer Time officially starts
on Sunday 25th March**

Prayer Afternoon

The annual "Prayer Afternoon" was held on Sunday, January 14th. It began with serving soup to all those who wished to attend – to prepare them for what was to follow.

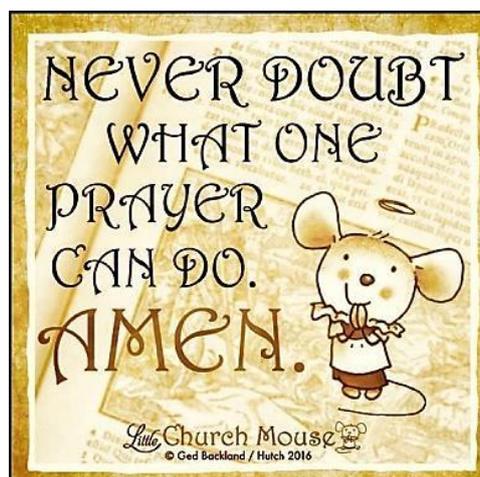
The pattern of the afternoon was as in previous years. Each organisation or activity that takes place under the banner of the Anderson Church was prayed for in turn. The day was divided into periods of ten to fifteen minutes so that everything could be fitted in.

We started with the work among children and young people and then moved on to adult groups like the Guild and the Midweek Fellowship and the Drop In. Finally we prayed for the work of the Managers and the Session, including personal prayers for our minister and his family, finishing up with prayers for the local Christian Community and the wider world. Each of these sections ended with a brief pause for a cup of tea. Members were coming and going all the time as they had been encouraged to do. Many chose to make particular effort to be present while their group or organisation was being prayed for.

There were many pleasing aspects to the afternoon but we must mention the lovely and moving prayers specially written by the members of the JAM Club and read out by children who had come along specially to do this. It was also gratifying to hear so many take part for it meant that the prayers were firmly grounded in the experience of people praying warmly for their own organisation and its place within the wider work of the Church.

Throughout the afternoon we had between thirty and forty people in total attending for some part of the time. The poorest attendance was toward the end when we went down to around ten.

The overall impression of the afternoon was that it had been stimulating, helpful and very encouraging, setting all our work in the church throughout the new year in a God centred, Christ honouring context



The Hinge of History

There are two great poles around which the Christian Year rotates. We have recently celebrated the first of these, namely Christmas and it's time of preparation in Advent. This, of course, deals with the wonder of God coming in human flesh, identifying with our world of pain and sin and loss and so saying a huge yes to our seeking an answer to our search for a source of hope and peace.



The second pole centres on Easter, the Resurrection and the Ascension of Christ and the associated period of preparation for these "Mighty Acts" in the days of Lent. Here the Christ who had come as a babe to Bethlehem takes of himself the sins of the world and dies as a sacrifice in our place thereby offering us the long sought way of life and peace by being reconciled to God.

Now these are not to be viewed as two separate and unconnected events but two parts of one whole; together making up the climax of the story of our redemption.

To understand the importance of Christ's birth and his death and resurrection all we need to do is see the amount of space Luke gives to these events in his Gospel.

That is why we have picked out memory verses for these three months that recall just a little part of that great drama.

February: Luke 4 Vs 13

The temptations at the beginning of Christ's ministry

"When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time".

March: Luke 19 Vs 38

On the day of the "Triumphal Entry" to Jerusalem on Palm Sunday

"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord" "Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

April: Luke 23 Vs 34

Word from the cross. Not words of regret or anger, but gentle words of forgiveness and love. Jesus said "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." and they divided up his clothes by casting lots

OVER 70'S DINNER



will take place on Saturday 24th March. Invitations are being sent out. Please make sure you contact Cathie McIlwain if you or someone you know in the congregation has recently reached that magic number so that she can send an invitation. We will advise you of the time nearer the date.

The Story Behind The Hymn

How Great Thou Art:- Carl G Boberg

"**How Great Thou Art**" is a Christian hymn based on a Swedish traditional melody and a poem written by Carl Boberg (1859–1940) in Mönsterås, Sweden in 1885. Boberg wrote the poem "O Store Gud" (O Great God) in 1885 with nine verses. It was translated into German and then into Russian and became a hymn. It was translated into English



from the Russian by English missionary Stuart K. Hine, who also added two original verses of his own. The composition was set to a Russian melody. It was popularised by George Beverly Shea and Cliff Barrows during the Billy Graham crusades.

The inspiration for the poem came when Carl Boberg and some friends were returning home to Mönsterås from Kronobäck, where they had participated in an afternoon service. Presently a thundercloud appeared on the horizon, and soon lightning flashed across the sky. Strong winds swept over the meadows and billowing fields of grain. The thunder pealed in loud claps. Then rain came in cool fresh showers. In a little while the storm was over, and a rainbow appeared. When Boberg arrived home, he opened the window and saw the bay of Mönsterås like a mirror before him ... From the woods on the other side of the bay, he heard the song of a thrush ... the church bells were tolling in the quiet evening. It was this series of sights, sounds, and experiences that inspired the writing of the song. Boberg first published "O Store Gud" in the *Mönsterås Tidningen* (Mönsterås News) on 13 March 1886 .

The poem became matched to an old Swedish folk tune and sung in public for the first known occasion in a church in the Swedish province of Värmland in 1888. Eight verses appeared with the music in the 1890 *Sions Harpan*.

DROP IN 2017

Thanks to the generosity of our lady hostesses who freely give their time & baking and to you, our guests who come faithfully every week. They have kindly donated £800.00 for heating & lighting, £300 to Strathcarron and £1600.00 to the Fabric Fund for maintenance of the Church and buildings.. Thank you to the mid-week fellowship who set up the Wyper hall on a Thursday night. All this helps in the smooth running of the Drop In and helps to create a friendly, cheery atmosphere. The Drop In is open from 10.00am to 12.00 noon and you can "Pause for Prayer if you so wish at 11.00am when you can go through to the Reading Room, returning at 11.15am and join us once more for tea, coffee & fellowship, so please drop in where you will receive a warm welcome.

THE DROP IN RE-OPENS ON FRIDAY 9th February



Mid-week Fellowship :

Something I look forward to weekly.... a time set aside in the middle of a busy week, a time to come together with members of our Church Family.

So, a few questions some might have about our time together at the Mid-week fellowship :

- 1) What is the Mid-week Fellowship ?
- 2) Why do we have Mid-week Fellowship ?
- 3) What do we do on a Thursday Night ?

All questions worth asking and I will try and answer.

The first question is 'What is the Mid-week Fellowship', The Mid-week fellowship is an opportunity for the Church Family to come together to open the Bible together, examine passages and have discussion to help us grow as Christians, to help our understanding of the Bible. A time to build up relationships in our Church Family.

Then there is a time for Prayer, the powerhouse of the Church is Prayer.

The Second Question ' Why do we have Mid-week Fellowship', well I see it as an opportunity to come together in the middle of a busy week to re-charge your batteries, to focus on God in the midst of a demanding life. A time to have fellowship with others in the Church Family, a time to Pray for the work of the Church and those in our Church Family who are unwell, going through rough times or just need prayer. It is also a time to give thanks for all God is doing for us as a Church Family and for answered Prayer. As the Chorus says, ' let's forget about ourselves and concentrate on Him' for a wee while, taking time to remember those in need worldwide. Coming together is a great encouragement to grow in your Faith, building each other up as we discuss and Pray.

The Third Question ' What do we do on a Thursday Night', we start the night with a Chorus and also have another Chorus before we go into Prayer. Sometimes we watch a Video of meetings / teaching from the Keswick Gathering (annual coming together of Christians for a week of teaching and Prayer) and have a time of discussion after. Other times we follow a series of studies /reflection from a study book, looking at various topics. Currently we are looking at a booklet with the topic 'Church Matters', this has had us looking inward to our own Church matters / issues and scriptures related to the establishment of churches in Paul's time.

Some of us attending are happy to participate and others just site and enjoy the fellowship, there is no pressure to participate. After discussion we turn to Prayer, praying for needs locally and nationally and praying for individuals. Prayer is very personal and can be silent or aloud, there is no right way except the way you feel most comfortable with. As you read this article / report, be assured The Mid-week Fellowship has a space for you to come along and experience a time of fellowship in the middle of the week, I and others in the Fellowship would be delighted to welcome you, so as Easter approaches, why not give it a go and join us on THURSDAY NIGHTS in the WYPER HALL @ 7.30PM. Look forward to seeing you there.....





Our Family

Deaths:

Psalm 23:4 *Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil,*

Mrs Lizzie Ross on the 1st January
Mrs Edith Docherty on the 9th January
Mrs Anne McLean on the 20th January

We send our sympathy to Allan, Lynne and the Vint family on the death of Allan's
mum, Cathie on the 15th January.

The funeral was held at Brucefield Church, Whitburn on 26th January

Birthdays

A happy 93rd Birthday to Mrs Betty Gordon on the 18th February

With Thanks

The Kirk Session would like to thank those that helped at the Anniversary service on the 21st January....

Rev Martin Allen for deputising for the Minister

Christine Johnston for deputising for the Session Clerk

The ladies who provided and set up the refreshments, Anne Lauder for setting up the exhibits and the order of service. To Walter, Calum and Anne for sound and vision. To William Shaw for providing the Anniversary cake. To Hugh Smith, Bill Smith, John Brown & Allan Strang for clearing the snow for the service and for the two funerals during the week. Thanks to everyone for making the day such a success despite the inclement weather.

Clem Bryden would like to thank the Church for the lovely flowers she received recently and to Margaret Martin for her cheery wee visit while delivering them.

Billy & Beth Hamilton would like to thank all our family and friends from the Anderson Church for their kindness and support during Billy's recent stay in hospital, and to Elizabeth for the lovely flowers received Many thanks
(I'd like to apologise to Billy and Beth, this thank you should have been included in the last newsletter, Sorry. Helen x)

Jane & George Barclay would like to give a big thank you for the flowers they received recently, delivered by Elizabeth. We send our grateful thanks for all the support and prayers we have had from Allan and our friends throughout George's health problems. We can now see light at the end of the tunnel. Sincere thanks

Helen Provan sends many thanks for the lovely church flowers she received. They were very much appreciated

COLUMBAN SINGERS

Thank you to the Columban Singers for their superb concert on Sunday 10th December. Lovely to see the children of Balmalloch Primary taking part. Quite an emotional evening as Margaret Waddell retired after many, many years as their accompanist. We wish her well in her retirement. The great sum of **£510.00** was raised and was sent to Social Bite: Sleeping in the Park, a charity that is trying to help eradicate homelessness

Church Flowers

11th Feb: Anne Strang
18th Feb: Christine Roberts
25th Feb: Ann McCallum
4th Mar: Clem Bryden
11th Mar: May Hamilton
18th Mar: Communion
Jane Barclay
25th Mar: Dorothy Barrowman
1st Apr: Jacqueline Brown



LODGING HOUSE MISSION

At our Christmas Eve Service we collected for the Lodging House Mission in Glasgow. £260.00 has been sent to LHM for the continuation of the fantastic work that they do. Thank You

KILSYTH COMMUNITY FOOD BANK

We are still accepting non-perishable donations especially meat that could be used for dinners and have a box out in the vestibule or goods can be handed in at the drop-in on a Friday or put in the box in the vestibule on a Sunday morning.



For Mother's Day – 11th March

A Mother's Love

A mother's love is something that no one can explain
It's made of deep devotion and of sacrifice and pain
It is endless and unselfish and enduring come what may
For nothing can destroy it or take that love away....
It is patient and forgiving when all others are forsaking
And it never fails or falters even though your heart is breaking
It believes beyond believing when the world around condemns
And it grows with all the beauty of the rarest, brightest gems
It is far beyond defining it defies all explanation
And it still remains a secret like the mysteries of creation
A many splendored miracle man cannot understand
and another wondrous evidence of god's tender guiding hand



Best Wishes to All from 2nd Kilsyth Girls' Brigade Company



All three sections of the company continue to thrive, if not in numbers, in discovery through weekly learning. The girls bring fun, friendship and enquiring minds to our small but close company. At this point of the session we start planning for our Parents' Evening; invitations will be extended to everyone in the church community.

This seems to be the year of anniversaries- many of them in our local churches! The Girls' Brigade celebrates 125 years this year and we recognise that a large number of ladies from our community have been part of the Girls' Brigade here in Kilsyth or elsewhere in the UK. We will be planning an event to help celebrate this, coinciding with our soup and sandwich lunch (date to be confirmed). We asked for folks to hand in old vintage crockery- Thank you!-we have been working hard turning these into something lovely. If anyone has stemmed 'sherry size' glasses they are finished with, we could do with some more of these to support our wee venture.

Our fund raising this session will support Bliss (support prematurely born babies and their families) and Water Aid. We enjoyed a visit from Mr John Brown who explained and demonstrated how simple, yet effective pumps can help provide filtered water for communities. This really raised awareness in the girls about how relatively easily an impact can be made. The girls collect small change in a jar each week- if you would like to contribute to this, please just hand over any small cash to any of the girls or leaders. The leaders and girls recognise and are grateful for the sustained support of the church community and the Kirk Session.





This year the staff felt that we could no longer provide a Christmas Card delivery service to Kilsyth and the surrounding villages. However, thanks to an initiative by Ena Graham and Olivia Brittan, whereby people just sent ONE card to Church friends to be displayed in the Church and then made a donation to the Malawi fund, we

raised almost £600. Many thanks to those who supported this idea and donated - a marvellous response.....but then, the good folks of Anderson are always very generous in their giving.

Thanks to the Boys and parents who attended the Anniversary service in the Church on 21st January. As ever, the Boys were great - well turned out, well behaved and willing to participate in the service. I think a few hearts were in mouths when Rev. Albert Bogle, an

Ex- Moderator of the Church of Scotland request 6 Boys and 6 men to help. 5 of the men who offered help were BB officers and they had to put the Boys on their shoulders to form a structure like a Church. Glad to say that all men were strong enough and no Boy was harmed in the exercise! The service was recorded and is on YouTube if you wish to see what happened!

Our Anchor Boys and Junior Section are looking forward to a trip to Adventure Planet on Wednesday 14th February. This is a school in service day, so we are able to get a couple of hours in the play area before they close.

The Company Section give our best wishes to Scott and Ellie Anderson who, as I write this, as preparing to undertake a trek across the North of Finland, into the Arctic Circle. They will experience VERY low temperatures, but I believe that they have specialist clothing to combat the cold. They have to pull all their equipment, food etc. on a pulk - a kind of sledge which is tied around their waists.....no huskies to help them, no skidoos, just their own strength. They are undertaking this extreme challenge to celebrate Scott's 30th birthday which is on 4th February, while they are away! Both have sought sponsorship from their friends, work colleagues and even their bosses - all proceeds to go to the Malawi fund. At present, including Gift Aid, the total is in excess of £1500. They tell me that some people are going to donate on their return.....perhaps they don't trust them to complete the challenge. I have no doubt that the two strong characters that Scott and Ellie are will succeed in this expedition (throws a new light on DofE expeditions!) Good luck to both and Happy 30th Scott - you won't forget that one in a hurry.

Speaking of Malawi - I am just about to call a meeting of those who will travel to work on this year's project - to build classrooms. The speed at which January has flown by is quite scary - we leave on 7th June which at this rate will soon be here. I will keep you updated on our plans. Thanks to those Boys who have already raised money to help pay their fares and accommodation, to people who have supported us and to those who have attended fund raisers. Thanks to Douglas and Lynda Anderson who have organised a ceilidh on 3rd March (don't look for tickets as it's a sell out!). The last ceilidh was a great night, so.....sorry.....you've missed the boat this time.



Church Diary

| | | |
|------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Sunday: | <u>Morning worship</u> | 11.00am |
| | <u>Evening worship</u> | 6.30pm |
| | (fellowship after both services) | |
| | Time for prayer | Wyper Hall 6.00pm |
| Monday: | <u>Ladies Bowling</u> | 10.30am |
| | <u>The Guild</u> | 7.30pm |
| Tuesday: | <u>Girls Brigade:</u> | |
| | Explorers (P1-P3) | 6.00pm |
| | Juniors & Brigaders (P4 +) | 7.00pm |
| Wednesday: | <u>Praise Group</u> | 7.30pm |
| | <u>Boys Brigade:</u> | |
| | Anchor Boys (P1 -P3) | 5.45pm |
| | Junior Section (P4 -P6) | 6.30pm |
| | Company Section (P7 +Secondary) | 7.30pm |
| Thursday: | <u>Mid-week Fellowship</u> | |
| | Wyper Hall | 7.00pm |
| Friday: | <u>'Drop in Café</u> | |
| | Wyper Hall | 10.00am - noon |

Contact for urgent Pastoral Care

Minister: **Rev Allan Vint** 01236822345

Session Clerk: **Mrs Elizabeth Strang** 01236824875

Dates for your Diary

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Friday 9 th February | Drop -In re-opens | 10.00am to 12.00noon |
| Wednesday 21 st February | Praise Group Practise | 7.30pm |
| Sunday 25 th February | Anniversary Meal in Coachman | |
| Monday 26 th February | Guild 70 th Anniversary | |
| Sunday 18 th March | Communion Services | 11.00am & 6.30pm |
| Wednesday 21 st March | Manager's meeting (In Church) | 7.00pm |
| Saturday 24 th March | Over 70's Dinner | |

Holy Week

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------|
| Sunday 25 th March | Palm Sunday Joint Service | 11.00am |
| | Kilsyth Anderson, Rev P Whyte | |
| Thursday 29 th March | Communion | 7.30pm |
| | Twechar, Rev B Johnston | |
| Friday 30 th March | Walk of Witness | 10.00am |
| | Meeting at St Pats | |
| | Good Friday Service | 7.30pm |
| | Burns & Old, Rev A Vint | |
| Sunday 1 st April | Easter Sunday (In Own Churches) | 11.00am |

Places to find us

FACEBOOK/ TWITTER

www.facebook.com/kilsythanderson

Twitter@ Kilsyth Anderson

WEBSITE/INTERNET

www.kilsythandersonchurch.org

[If you wish to listen to the morning service again,
it can be found on the church website](#)

CD MINISTRY

A copy of the morning service can be provided.
Please speak to your Pastoral Care visitor
who can arrange for a copy

Items of news, special occasions, etc. for the next
Newsletter should be given to
Helen Shaw by Sunday 25th March 2018

Contact: 07505436532

E-mail: abicom111@aol.com

1. Gopher 2. Almonds 3. fig 4. grapes 5. bitter herbs
6. the waters were made sweet 7. olive 8. mustard
9. wheat 10. corn 11. mandrakes 12. a crown of thorns
13. some pottage of lentils 14. lilies 15. vine