

# Kilsyth Anderson Parish

## Church News

### August/September 2023



Dear Friends

I vividly recall some years back, while visiting an elderly relative in a Stornoway Care Home, that our youngest (now herself being a nurse, wife and mum) being asked by a kindly support worker, *'And how are you liking your holidays? To which Ruth answered, 'I'm not, I'm fed up of visiting people!' Her response was not what the carer expected, but we can perfectly understand that her patience was sorely tried as mum and dad dragged her from one home to another, visiting people that she had only heard about and never met before in her life.*

Well, if I had been asked the same question a number of summers past, I would have had no hesitation in responding in the affirmative. Why? Because the first part of our summer break included a day trip for Mairi (our second born) and myself, courtesy of Mrs MacLeod, to the Island of St. Kilda, or 'Hiort' as it is known in Gaelic. The island is situated some forty miles of the West Coast of North Uist. However, sailing from Uig in Lewis, we covered a distance of between fifty and sixty miles, there, and the same back again, in what was a comparatively small boat. In all, time spent on board the vessel amounted to eight plus hours. And what an unforgettable journey it was; the crew assured me that we had a 'good' crossing!

Firstly, the sail reminded me that both crew and passengers were heading towards a fixed position on the chart; there was absolutely no ambiguity about our destination, nor how we were able to get there.

Secondly, we were on a small and relatively cramped craft, and like it or not, we had to get on with one another, indeed, we were encouraged to assist each other. The option of not *'loving your neighbour'* was not available, nor should it have been, as we were there in the boat, .... together, for the duration of the trip.

Thirdly, our trip was an act of faith. Not one single passenger imagined that they knew better than the skipper; he was in charge, he was responsible for our safety, he gave the instructions, and we, realising how puny &

vulnerable we felt when surrounded by the restless power of the Atlantic Ocean, willingly submitted to his commands. There were no dissenting voices, no, we all placed our full trust and confidence in the skipper's knowledge and skill and the boat's seaworthiness.

Finally, we all agreed that the actual experience of witnessing a place and experiencing its almost, pre-historic delights, far exceeded our expectations, or stories we had been told by others who had been there before us. The area's amazing geology, centuries of history, spectacular bird life, acrobatic aquatic mammals and the ever changing mood of the weather provided endless topics for discussion, indeed, the whole area was an amateur photographers paradise.

Christian believers recognise they are pilgrims on a journey, but unlike some who appear to wander aimlessly in a trackless desert, they journey on the 'narrow road' that leads to certain glory. The terrain may on occasions be tough, the nights inky dark, and the trials and temptations very real, but the 'desired haven' they long for is real. And though the road may be narrow and fellow travellers few, pilgrim believers understand that Christian love, expressed through practical action, strengthens and enriches fellowship as we journey together.

They also accept their many failings and frailties, and so place their unquestioning trust and confidence in the One who has promises to take them safely to their destination. Jesus said, *"I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."* (John 14:6).

We often hear the phrase, 'The best is yet to come.' Within the context of our Lord's victory over sin, death and hell, that is certainly the case. Listen to the old apostle John as he seeks to encourage the church family, *"Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure."*

The Apostle Paul was given similar revelations, *"However, as it is written: 'What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived' – the things God has prepared for those who love him – these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit.."* 1 Cor. 2:9-10.

Your friend and fellow-traveller in the Faith,  
**Kenneth.**



We would like to invite all Primary aged children to join us for this year's holiday club. Registration forms are available from the church, or contact Hazel (07986861834) or Jean (07816872026) to book in advance.

Jungle themed decorations would be welcome – animal toys, fake foliage, silk flowers etc.

Get in touch for more information or to volunteer as a helper (PVG required).

## Funerals

*I am the resurrection and the life*

Janice Binnie

Marion Docherty (of Twechar)

## St Bride's, Arran

Having holidayed on Arran for many years, this year was no exception, so off we went at the beginning of June to a wee cottage we hire in Whiting Bay. The weather was exceptional – sun, sun and more sun. With all this fabulous weather it took Bill and me into the sea to cool off. We were in the sea six (yes six) times, all at Whiting Bay. Many joined us to cool off, families were out on their paddle boards, it was fabulous and quite honestly, we could have been on the Mediterranean the weather was so good.

Arran has so much to offer all tastes in holidays, from visiting castles, the museum, coffee shops, lots of wee independent shops, lots of outdoor pursuits from climbing to water sports. But it was our visit to our usual church in Brodick, St Bride's, that I really want to share with you all. Many of the congregation recognise us from previous years and visits and we always go over to the hall for a cuppa after the service.

Just like other Church of Scotland churches including ourselves in Kilsyth, St Bride's is facing an unsure future. But I got the opportunity to share a bit about my church, expressing 'Greetings from Kilsyth Anderson' and going on to tell them some of the very exciting events and on goings from the Anderson. St Bride's does not have a Sunday School, so they were thrilled to hear our Sunday School has doubled in size in the last year. Another case of increased numbers is in our Girls' Brigade, God is moving amongst our younger members.

The very weekend I was sharing with St Bride's Church, our Boys' Brigade were flying off to Malawi, where the boys and leaders have been supporting for many years financially and carrying out work in an effort to improve living standards and keep young people in education.

I also shared that we have a Drop-in on Fridays, Guild meeting on Mondays, Bible Study on Thursdays and we also support our Local Foodbank. Much more goes on at the church I know, but those were the main items I shared with the group having a cuppa after service.

When I sat down, one of the company announced to everyone he was coming to Kilsyth for his holidays!

The main reason for sharing events from the Anderson was to encourage this congregation that despite all the gloomy headlines about the Church of Scotland nationally, God is still moving and Blessing.



## Malawi 2023

Our trip this year was eventful! After leaving the Church on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> we checked in, luggage checked all the way to Blantyre! Despite a slight delay before take off, we had plenty of time to get our connection in London, however our first problem was just moments away from landing at Heathrow: thunderstorms meant that we were diverted to Birmingham. We sat on the runway, doors closed, sweating, without food and only a bottle of water for over 6 hours. Our 9pm flight to Ethiopia left without us as we only arrived in a deserted Heathrow at 11.15pm. The next flight was 9pm on Monday night. Numerous phone calls to hotels for the night were made without success – so many delayed flights every hotel room was taken. However, on Monday morning we were able to book rooms at the Marriott for the day. Onward flights to Blantyre were uneventful. However, on arrival on Tuesday night we discovered that 9 of our 17 bags were missing. We had regular visits to the airport – Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday before we had secured all our bags. Poor Lewis C and Callum had no luggage and so we had to go clothes shopping for them.

All went smoothly until Friday when Craig and I were sorting through clothes, games etc. to be taken to the school. I stepped over a bag, my foot caught it, I fell hitting my head on a raised bit of the floor and ended up with a cut above my eye. This resulted in a hospital visit to get ‘stitched up!’ I was fine – no great damage or concussion.

Again all went well, we finished painting and had our farewell from the school on Tuesday. Wednesday saw us heading out on safari. Before travelling the long distance to Liwonde we called into the Orbis office. It was lucky we did – the minibus was leaking either water or oil. We had a five hour wait while a mechanic identified the problem, obtained the part and duly repaired the bus. At least the problem arose while we were in town and not out on some of the remote country roads!

There were no further problems until our last night, Saturday, when our driver, Ozzie, announced that he had tested positive for malaria and was taking drugs which were making him drowsy. He was not going to be fit to drive us the 6 hour journey to the airport at 7am on the Sunday morning. Were we going to be delayed by a day coming home as well? We couldn't be! I HAD to get a boy home on time as he was going on a family holiday just a day or so later. Fortunately, Orbis have drivers in the Lake area on whom they can call in an emergency. A substitute driver arrived and drove us to the airport in time for our flight. PHEW!!! And do you know.... despite all of this, there was NOT ONE COMPLAINT OR GRUMBLE from the boys. I cannot praise them enough. This trip will certainly be a talking point for years to come.

We'll share some of experiences and photos with you in the next magazine.

CJ

## Thanks

Many thanks to all at the church for the lovely flowers I received.

### Margaret Williamson

*We would like to apologise for Margaret for omitting her note of thanks in the last magazine.[Ed]*

I would like to thank you on behalf of the family for the care and compassion shown to us on the passing of my sister Janice. Also for the flowers, cards and visits. It was very much appreciated

### Aileen & family

I have been in the Cottage Hospital for a few weeks now and was delighted to receive the Church flowers last week. They brighten up the space around my bed and I love looking at them. Thank you for remembering me.

### Christine Roberts

I was surprised, but delighted, to receive flowers last week. I wondered.....why me! But I really appreciate their brightness in my living room. Thank you.

### Christine Johnston

Thank you to everyone at the Anderson for the lovely flowers I received recently.

### Elizabeth Jarvie

Thanks to the congregation for all your congratulations on the occasion of our wedding recently and for the cards you sent. We had a lovely day and appreciate all your kind thoughts.

### Ian & Rona McFadyen

## Trees for Life

Tree planting supports the restoration of Scotland's Caledonian forest in areas where natural regeneration is not possible. But did you know that

there is a shortage of native tree seeds to make this happen?

**Trees for Life need your help to raise £25,000 to fully fund our new project to collect wild tree seeds, especially from Scotland's west coast.**

The Wild Seed Collection Project is a collaborative three-year project between Woodland Trust Scotland and Trees for Life. Starting this autumn, we will recruit and train more than 100 volunteers to collect seeds from targeted areas on the west coast, including temperate rainforest, where future planting is planned.

## **Lanternhouse Theatre Cumbernauld**

<https://lanternhousearts.org/take-part/> ph 01236 732887

### **People's Theatre Company**

Wednesdays: **19:00 – 21:00** Autumn Term: **23 Aug – 25 Oct 2023**

Our People's Theatre Company offers adults interested in the performing arts the opportunity to collaborate with leading creative practitioners and build confidence in theatre, film and creativity working with text. Participants will develop skills in acting, writing and devising for stage with the opportunity to showcase their work in public performances.

### **Adult Dance Club (55+)**

Thursdays: **11.15am – 12.15pm** or **12.30 – 1.30pm**

Autumn Term: **24 Aug – 2 Nov 2023**

Come along to up your exercise levels and have fun in these creative movement sessions for older adults of all abilities. Covering a range of dance and movement techniques and styles, these sessions are a wonderful way to keep fit and have fun working together in an open, friendly relaxed space.

## **The Manse**

We have just received notice that the family who were renting the Manse will move out in the middle of August. Their own house which was under repair is almost ready for occupation. Kelvin Valley will deal with all of the formalities and will then be trying to find us another tenant.

## **Church and Halls**

A leak in the roof above part of the hall had caused a hole to form in the ceiling. The artexed ceiling contained asbestos. When the property convenor at Presbytery heard this I was told 'Get it fixed!' I explained that that would mean removal of cupboards, plastering of walls etc. but still the answer was 'Get it fixed!' Well...the job is under way and what a difference it is making. The ceiling has been lowered, new cupboards in place, new doors and a new floor covering will be laid. Next magazine – I'll pop in some photos.

## **Presbytery Plan**

It looks as though the proposals for linkage leading in time to union with Burns and Old have been accepted. Meeting will start soon with Presbytery office bearers who will advise us on the procedure to be followed. Linkage is supposed to be in place by Easter 2024.

**Christine Johnston, Session Clerk**

## Malawi continued—the boys' accounts

I enjoyed my time in Malawi. I met some lovely people and got to know their way of life which I found very different to how we live. My favourite part was playing football against the Malawi team even though they beat us.

I also loved the safari, being so close to the animals was amazing. It was definitely an experience I will never forget and have learned how lucky I am to have the luxuries in life that I do.

**Lewis Cook**



Being in Malawi was an experience that, for me, will never be forgotten. The welcome we received was amazing – so many children had come to greet us as we arrived. The school and the people we met really made me think about how much we take for granted, while others have so little. From painting the classrooms to talking to the teachers and learning some of the local language, I enjoyed my time there immensely.

I think that the safari was one of the highlights of our trip, as we were surrounded by animals many of us had never seen before, at least in person.

Lake Malawi was our final destination which provided a quiet end to our slightly chaotic and busy trip. I thought it was a great way to finish and enjoyed being able to lay in the sun.

Overall, I found our time in Malawi to be incredible. I mostly enjoyed meeting some of the people and trying local foods. If the opportunity to go again were to come up, I would definitely take it and recommend the experience to others.

**Adam Donnelly**



What a time I had at Malawi! Being there felt like a whole new experience. The school we went to was quite humbling in comparison to my schools as there were no fancy smartboards and projectors, and the stationery they had was limited compared to over here. The best thing during my experience had to be the people.



The teachers and children were very nice and respectful and we got a chance to learn each other's languages a little. Even strangers we encountered were open and friendly and I felt comfortable being around most people. The food they had was amazing and quite ingenious as they used food with bad taste but filling and combined it with small quantities of strong flavoured food. The staff at Gold Card Lodge were stunning too as everything they did, they went above and beyond and it was a very pleasant and incredible experience. I wish the flights were smoother as the connections and flights weren't the most enjoyable, but overall, it was outshone by the stunning views and memories I experienced at my trip in Malawi.

**Lewis McLaren**

My time in Malawi was an excellent experience. I loved the scenery and the people from the town and the school, who were all so polite and grateful for our visit. The teachers and students in Katete were incredibly welcoming to me and all the others.

The painting was hard work even with all the boys and help from the locals, including the 2 painters that joined us, but the difference we made to the school and the appreciation of the students was worth it. We were offered the staple foods of Malawi after our work, and it was extremely different to what I had imagined. I don't think I'll try the small fry fish that they gave us again any time soon!

Staying in Blantyre was excellent and the staff at the Gold Card Lodge treated us kindly. Our driver Ozzie was a good help, in terms of learning from and communication with the locals. He aided with the paint work and by transporting us to and from the school each day. He also took us around the city and surrounding areas! Dez, who works for Classrooms for Malawi, was lovely and gave us gifts to bring home.

I appreciated the standard of English the people spoke and the beautiful landscape of the lake and safari. Overall, my final impressions of Malawi are very positive, though, very warm and divided by poverty I thoroughly enjoyed my time there with my group.

**Callum Gordon**



## 2nd Kilsyth Girls' Brigade

We are excited to be starting our new session of Girls' Brigade on Tuesday 29th August with a games evening.

The Explorers: Primary 1-3 meet from 6 -7.15 PM,

Juniors. P4-7 and Brigaders S1-6 will meet from 7-8.30pm.

We welcome all new girls who would like to join us and very much welcome back the girls we know already.

**Jean Ewen**



## The Guild

Although the Guild does not restart until 2nd October the compiling of the syllabus for 2023/24 is almost completed. It is looking like we will have a varied and interesting programme for our Monday evening meetings which will start at 7pm.



This session sees us conclude our Guild strategy 'Look forward in Faith' with our theme being 'New wine, new wine skins'. Amongst other things we will seek to consider what place the Guild has in the emerging new congregations and new presbyteries of the Church of Scotland. However we as Christians have the assurance of knowing who holds the future and God will guide us in his path.

The committee looks forward to welcoming Guild members old and new as we ever remember 'Whose we are and Whom we serve'.

**Margaret Brown, convener.**

## Over 70's dinner It's back...after covid!

Thanks to William Shaw who always does the catering for this event and whose suggestion was that we should have it, the date for your diary is **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September**. It has been proposed and accepted that this be a joint venture with Burns and Old as a lovely way to celebrate together. More information will come out soon.

**Pastoral** - We continue to remember those of our members who are in need of prayer. We think and pray for Alan Brett who is receiving palliative care in Strathcarron Hospice, Christine Roberts who is currently in the Cottage Hospital, Winnie Leishman, Babs Fleming and Jenny McDonald who are in Craig-en-Goysne, Elspeth Strang who is still in hospital but now in the Bellfield Unit at Stirling Royal to receive intensive therapy, and those known to us who are at home. Sheena and Jim Wilson have both been in hospital, Margaret Martin had a short spell in hospital but is now at home with her sister and Rev. Alex Fleming who was in hospital too, but is now staying with Alistair. I am sure that there may be others about whom I have no information – please forgive me if I have not mentioned you. **CJ**

**The Clyde Climate Forest By 2030:**

Aims to plant 18 million trees – that's 10 trees for every person in the region over the next decade

- Canopy**  
Increase the average tree canopy cover in urban Glasgow to 20%
- Connectivity**  
Increase the average broadleaved woodland network area to 142 ha – an increase of 30%
- Carbon**  
Increase forest and woodland cover in Glasgow city region to 20%

The Clyde Climate Forest will see 18 million trees planted in both urban and rural parts of Glasgow City Region over the next decade.

Trees, woodlands and forests are recognised as essential if we are to address the climate crisis by reducing damaging atmospheric emissions and are crucial to assist in a recovery for nature.

### **You can help us plant trees**

Come to a tree planting event with your family and friends - We're keen to involve local people in planting trees in neighbourhoods with low levels of tree cover, especially young people as they will gain most from seeing these trees grow and thrive in years to come.

To find out what is happening in your area contact us: **[community@clydeclimateforest.co.uk](mailto:community@clydeclimateforest.co.uk)**

christians  
against  
poverty

**CAP**

## **Christians Against Poverty (CAP)**

CAP are running their autumn Steps to Employment course commencing 23rd August - the course runs over 6 sessions each Wednesday 10am-12pm.

Perhaps someone you know may have been out of work for some time, perhaps recently unemployed or out of the workforce with caring responsibilities for some time - then this course could be perfect for them.

Is this course different? Well we do focus on CVs, applications and interview readiness but perhaps more importantly we spend time thinking about;

- Motivations and barriers to work
- Finding (or perhaps rediscovering) strengths, skills and experiences
- Encouraging everyone that they are unique, special and valued by God

The course is called Steps to Employment for good reason:

- for some attendees a perfect outcome will be a job: this has thankfully happened on quite a few occasions
- for some it may be taking on voluntary work
- for some it may be leaving with a new found sense of value and purpose.

For more information email [euanhutchinson@capjobclubs.org](mailto:euanhutchinson@capjobclubs.org) or click <https://capuk.org/scotland>

**Euan Hutchinson**  
**CAP Job Coach**



## **Christian Aid**

Christian Aid would like to thank Anderson Church for the generous contribution to Christian Aid week in May 2023. You raised a magnificent sum of £553, which is greatly appreciated.

The total raised this year for Kilsyth Churches was £1380, which is a great effort for this very important work.

## Gardens open to the public in Kilsyth

(scotlandsgardens.org)

**Aeolia** Allanfauld Road, Kilsyth G65 9DE (Mr George Murdoch): A third-of-an-acre woodland garden developed since 1960 and designed to have something in flower every month of the year. The garden contains a large variety of mature specimen trees and shrubs, maples, primulas, hardy geraniums and herbaceous plants. There are a couple of small ponds for wildlife, two greenhouses and a fruit production area. Areas of the garden are often under development to provide something new to see and provide material for the extensive plant sale, which is all home grown.



**Blackmill** Allanfauld Road, Kilsyth G65 9DE (Mr and Mrs A Patrick): Across the road from Aeolia is Blackmill through which the Garrell Burn flows. The garden includes the magnificent seven-metre waterfall with its ever-changing moods throughout the year. On one side of the property is an acre of mature specimen trees, rhododendrons and shrubs with an ornamental pond and a rock pool built into the remains of the old sickle mill building. A large area of



wildflowers has been newly introduced alongside the burn. A micro-hydro scheme is on view, along with many different examples of dry stone walls. Visitors remark on the sense of tranquility and peace they experience in the garden and appreciate the works of art created from repurposed stone and salvaged material.



## Sustainable Shopping

Many readers will have seen the Locavore shop in Kirkintilloch but if you've not been in, you may have wondered what it's all about. Locavore is a social enterprise which exists to help build a more sustainable local food system which is better for our local economy, the environment and our communities. They're about making the money we spend on food do more for the benefit of society and our environment.

Since 2011 they have opened a shop, developed a market garden, established a veg box scheme and got lots of people more engaged in thinking about issues around food, where it comes from, and the fairness and sustainability of mainstream supply chains.

Everyone eats food, and the food they choose to eat has far reaching impacts which shape our landscapes, streetscapes and local economic situations. What we eat impacts our health, but also everything else in the world with issues as wide ranging as deforestation, climate change, animal welfare, public health, exploitation of the global poor and workers' rights.

Locavore think at the root of all these big overwhelming global and local problems is the basic model of the big corporations who run the food system. They exist to extract as much money as possible from customers for the benefit of their shareholders. Locavore offer something different: they believe in a fair price for the shopper as well as fair pay for employees, producers and farmers; promoting a healthy environment with local suppliers and organic growing methods, and doing good by reinvesting profit in local communities.

You can take your own containers to the shop and have them filled with goodies (dried fruit, pulses, grains, cereals etc) or buy eco friendly (lavender/ juniper flavour) washing liquid – again refill your own container to save buying more plastic. Organic and locally grown produce is available for delivery in veg boxes, so even if you can't get to Kirkie, they can come to you – if you don't want a whole box, share with a friend.

Find out more at <https://locavore.scot/> or visit the Kirkie shop.



## Church Fayre 2023

The church fayre took place just after the last magazine came out, but we received a note from Helen Provan to say,

“Grateful thanks to those who donated to the fayre, the many volunteers who made it possible and those who came along to support us on the day.

The total sum raised was £2,368 which will go the Fabric Fund to help with the upkeep of our Church and halls.”



Pictured: the ladies on the cake stall, David helping out at the toy stall and D/M Andy Lyon leading the local pipe band.

All taken by Rev K MacLeod



**Last deadline for October/November edition will be Sun 24th September for publishing on 1st October**

Please send emails to [andersonchurchmagazine@outlook.com](mailto:andersonchurchmagazine@outlook.com) or give your articles to Rona McFadyen on a Sunday.

If you're going away on holiday and attending a church take our greetings with you — and why not write us an account of your experience?

NB New cleaning rotas will be available on 6th August on the vestibule table. Please contact Rona if you would be willing to join the happy band of cleaners carrying out an essential task around the church. It's only one week in every five!

## Rotas

Week ending	Door Duty	Reading	Cleaning	Tea & Coffee
6 Aug	Mr & Mrs Ewen	John Gordon	Team 4	M & J Brown
13 Aug Joint (Anderson)	Mr & Mrs Brown	Jean Chalmers	Team 5	G & J Ewen, A Mitchell, E Gordon, M Whitelaw, A Nico-
20 Aug	Mr & Mrs McFadyen	Ian Ross	Team 1	H Provan, A Sneddon, H Gordon
27 Aug	Mr J Gordon Mr J Millar	Ann McManus	Team 2	M & J Brown, M Laird
3 Sept	Mr & Mrs Smith	Rona McFadyen	Team 3	A Sneddon, E Gor-
10 Sept Joint (B&Old)	N/A	Jim Millar	Team 4	N/A
17 Sept	Mr & Mrs Clerk / H Provan	John Weir	Team 5	J & G Ewen, A Nicolas, A Mitchell
24 Sept	Mr & Mrs Ross	Jean Ewen	Team 1	C Clark, H Provan, M Laird, M Whitelaw
1 Oct	Mr & Mrs Anderson	George Ewen	Team 2	