

Kilsyth Anderson Parish Church News

February / March 2024



Dear Friends,

“Pride comes before a fall ’ How many of us grew up with these words ringing in our ears? The phrase needed no explanation, for deep down we all knew its meaning. But how did that saying find its way into our forefathers’ consciousness and why did they feel compelled to impress it upon the hearts and minds of the younger generations?

It could be that our spiritual fore-bearers knew their Bible far better than we do, and realised that life could be tough, with many disappointments encountered along the way. I think of Proverbs 16:18.... “Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.” Or, the well known passage from 1 Corinthians, ch.13, “Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful.”

If we delve back into Classical Greek philosophy and the teaching of the early Christian Church, we discover that pride, along with wrath, greed, lust, envy, gluttony and sloth were included in the concept of the ‘Seven deadly sins.’ Pride being considered as the most destructive of the group.

Yet, it is that very word that some vocal elements within society have borrowed and use to identify themselves, as they seek to promote a certain lifestyle and to ‘re-educate’ our youth into adopting and supporting this so called, progressive ideology.

So what does the Scriptures have to say to us today on that very matter? For the answer, I must confess that I was drawn to the manse in Barvas, sometime in the mid to late seventies, when, as a Youth Fellowship we sang choruses to the accompaniment of crackly cassette tapes, one comes to mind,.... ‘He hath shown thee O man what is good,’ A couple of verses taken directly from Micah 6:8.

.... “He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”

There has never been a time when it was easy ‘to walk humbly with your God’ and the challenges we now face will always be there. But the marvel of Redeeming Grace is that God has revealed to us in His Living Word, that which is good for His people, but also for humanity as a whole.

‘To do justice’ basically means to act in a fair and equitable way, ensuring that everything one does is above board, unbiased and transparent, be that in government, business, community, church or family life. ‘Loving kindness, or mercy’ as some translations render the phrase, is a practical expression of God’s love, which may be readily shown to people who are easy to love, but less so, to the seemingly awkward. The ultimate example of this kind of kindness or mercy is wonderfully displayed in the life, suffering and death of Jesus on the cross; for no one deserves Salvation. Yet, because of God’s ‘Loving kindness,’ or mercy, and Christ’s sacrifice, sinners have the opportunity to be saved if they accept Christ Jesus as their Saviour.

Hebrews 11, powerfully reminds us that without faith it is impossible to please God. The chapter presents us with many examples of OT believers, whose faith and life commended them to God. In Gen.5:24. Enoch is specifically mentioned because he did not taste death, but was taken directly to glory. A Christian preacher of a past generation, described Enoch as taking a daily walk with God, with whom he communed as friend to friend. One day, God said, ‘Today, my friend, we’re not returning to your home, rather, we’re going to my house.’ The ultimate goal of walking with God, said Jesus, “In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.” John 14:2-3

A Christian author, Peter Lewis by name, once wrote, “As believers, we live in a world whose atmosphere is often inimical to our faith. We have to survive spiritually in an alien environment and can only do so if we take from a regular prayer-life and reading of God’s word our spiritual oxygen into that environment with us.

A walk with God has its own atmosphere and brings its own strength and perspective into a world which has never made a life of faith easy for the Believer.”

Abundant blessings from your fellow traveller,
Kenneth.

Do You Know Your Hymns?

Dentist's Hymn	. . .	Crown Him with Many Crowns.
Weatherman's Hymn	. .	There Shall Be Showers of Blessings.
Contractor's Hymn	. . .	The Church's One Foundation.
Tailor's Hymn	. . .	Holy, Holy, Holy.
Golfer's Hymn	. . .	There's a Green Hill Far Away.
Politician's Hymn	. . .	Standing on the Promises!
Optometrist's Hymn.	. . .	Open My Eyes That I Might See.
IRS Agent's Hymn	. . .	I Surrender All.
Gossip's Hymn	. . .	Pass It On.
Electrician's Hymn	. . .	Send The Light..
Shopper's Hymn	. . .	Sweet Bye and Bye.
Realtor's Hymn	. . .	I've Got a Mansion, Just Over the Hilltop.
Massage Therapist's Hymn.		He Touched Me.

AND for those who speed on the highway - a few hymns:

55 mph	. . .	God Will Take Care of You
75 mph	. . .	Nearer My God To Thee
85 mph	. . .	This World Is Not My Home
95 mph	. . .	Lord, I'm Coming Home
100 mph	. . .	Precious Memories

Give me a sense of humor, Lord, Give me the grace to see a joke,
To get some humor out of life, And pass it on to other folks.

Thanks to Jean Chalmers for this contribution

Funerals

I am the resurrection and the life

November – Winnie Leishman

December - Moyra Leishman

January - Elizabeth Mitchell (formerly of Twechar Parish Church)

Scripture Union (SU)

We have been very fortunate to have the assistance of Karen Stangoe, our Scripture Union Regional officer for Lanarkshire (a huge area) for the Holiday club in the Summer and our Christmas Unwrapped day in December.



So many children today do not even know the bible stories that so many of us heard in our childhood. The work of SU is so important in schools, evening activities especially for teenagers, holiday clubs and the running of camps are so very valuable.

We are looking forward to having Karen speak to our Guild on the 19/2/24 to hear more about her work. SU was a very important part of my teenage years and I can never thank the leaders who led activities for us and took us to camp. Please remember SU in your prayers.

There will be some leaflets about SU summer camps on the table at the church door

Jean Ewen

Boys' Brigade

We hope everyone had joyful and relaxing Christmas period and wish everyone a wonderful 2024!



The BB has started back with a bang this year, with all sections continuing to work towards their badge work in advance of our parents' nights in May. Dates will be confirmed nearer the time. Our seniors are working with Simon as they progress towards their Queen's/King's Badge. We also have another trip along with the Girls' Brigade, to Dalguise in May which the Boys are all very much looking forward too.

Thank you again to all the parents and guardians for sending your boys along each week and to the congregation for all your support.

Mark: The Time has Come uses the easy-to-read translation of the Bible. The SBS has given great thought to the design, images and layout to help the reader discover this world changing book in a fresh way – whether it's your first time reading or have known this story for many years.



Share the Bible with others

You are encouraged to take a number of copies of Mark's Gospel – to give away. What would it look like if two Christian friends met once a week and read Mark together? Or what would it look like if you prayed for a friend or family member you could give your second copy to, so they could be introduced to Jesus Christ through Mark's biography.



Copies will be available in the vestibule for members to take and share.

Services

February 4th Youth Service

February 11th Joint service in Anderson

March 3rd Youth Service

March 10th Joint service in Burns and Old

March 17th Communion

March 24th Palm Sunday

March 28th Maundy Thursday – Communion

March 31st Easter Sunday



The Guild



I cannot believe that we are halfway through our Guild session. We have enjoyed lovely fellowship and the varied programme.

Now we are focusing on our first Soup and Sandwich Lunch on Sunday, 4th February. The donations received will go to the Guild's National Projects which are in their third and final year.

There have been six projects both national and international. At our Guild meetings we have had speakers and watched presentations on these very interesting and worthy ventures.

Beat - Let's Beat Eating Disorders. [UK]

Home For Good - Finding a home for every child who needs one. [Scotland]

The Vine Trust [Scotland] - Building at Kayuzna, Tanzania, a Village of Hope.

Starchild - Finding the Light in Every Child. The inclusion of disabled, autistic children in their communities. [Uganda]

Pioneers Chocolate Heaven - Making chocolate and working with the community who produce it. [[S.E.Asia](#)]

Unida - Hear our Voice. Training young women for ministry and service. [Brazil]

The amazing amount of £311,965.29 has been raised so far by Guilds all over Scotland.

We are hoping that our fundraiser on Sunday, 4th February will be well supported. Our grateful thanks goes to William Shaw who will prepare the lunch.

Our Guild motto is 'Whose we are and Whom we serve' and as members of this great organisation we continue to strive to live up to Jesus' example of serving others.

Margaret Brown, convener.

FAQs (frequently asked questions) about Lent and Easter

When does Lent begin in 2024?

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on Wednesday, February 14, 2024.

Why is Lent 40 days long?

Lent lasts for 40 days because Christ suffered in the desert for 40 days.

How is the date of Ash Wednesday determined?

Ash Wednesday always falls six and half weeks before Easter.

When is Fat Tuesday?

Fat Tuesday is the final day before Lent. In 2024, it takes place on February 13th. Fat Tuesday is also known as Shrove Tuesday or Pancake Day.

How is the date of Easter determined?

Easter is a moveable feast as opposed to a fixed date each year. Easter being celebrated on the Sunday following the first full moon of spring (March 21 or later) dates back to the Council of Nicea in 325.

How long is Lent?

Lent lasts 40 days from Ash Wednesday to Holy Thursday, excluding Sundays. Sundays are an important part of Lent, but we do not include them in the “40 days” because on every Sunday we remember and celebrate the Resurrection of Christ.

When is Palm Sunday?

Palm Sunday, the last Sunday during Lent, takes place on March 24 in 2024. It signifies Jesus’s triumphant return to Jerusalem after spending 40 days and nights in the desert

When is Good Friday?

Good Friday takes place between Palm Sunday and Easter, and will occur on March 29, 2024, one day after Maundy Thursday.

When is Easter in 2024?

Easter falls on Sunday, March 31, 2024.



Lent and Easter

For many of us, the life changing significance of Easter is all too easily obscured amidst the marketing messages for chocolate or the antics of the Easter bunny (not to mention monkeys), and it's easy to lose sight of the profound message that Easter carries.

The act of giving up something during Lent is intended to create space for spiritual growth. The idea is that by removing distractions and worldly attachments, we can devote more time and energy to prayer, meditation, and contemplation of our relationship with God, however if you've given something up (food or drink) then it's all too easy for the focus to shift on to the act of abstinence itself rather than the spiritual discipline. Easter then turns into a deadline or target date for when you can over indulge rather than an opportunity to reflect on the personal growth, self-awareness, and spiritual insights gained during the Lenten season. It becomes a time to assess the impact of the chosen abstinence on their lives and to appreciate the journey of self-discipline.

We must never forget that Easter, at its core, is the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is a pivotal moment in Christian faith, marking the triumph of life over death and symbolizing hope, redemption, and forgiveness. As we approach this sacred season, it's essential for Christians to reflect on the profound impact of the Easter story on their lives and to rekindle the flame of passion for their faith.

We suggest some ways you might go about this:

Reflect on Personal Faith: Take a moment to reflect on your own faith journey. Consider the ways in which your beliefs have shaped your life and provided guidance in times of challenge. Rediscover the personal significance of Easter by revisiting the scriptures that recount the resurrection.

Engage in Prayer and Meditation: Dedicate time to prayer and meditation during the Lenten/Easter season. This spiritual discipline can help reignite a sense of awe and gratitude for the sacrifice made on the cross. Seek a deeper understanding of the love and grace extended through the resurrection.

Preparation for Sharing:

Know Your Testimony: A powerful way to share your faith is through your personal testimony. Take some time to articulate the story of your journey with Christ – the before, the encounter, and the transformation. This authentic narrative can resonate deeply with those who may be seeking spiritual connection. We heard only a few weeks ago from the Gideons about how, if you're in tune with what God is saying, amazing opportunities

to share and help others may arise. Be prepared to share your faith at all times – you never know when the right words could help someone else. There's nothing worse than rueing the fact that you missed an opportunity because you weren't prepared.

Stay Informed: Familiarise yourself with the foundational principles of your faith. Being well-informed about the central tenets of Christianity equips you to address questions and engage in meaningful conversations with others. Knowledge is a powerful tool in conveying the richness of your beliefs.

Practice Humility and Empathy: Approach conversations with humility, recognizing that faith journeys differ. Be empathetic and open-minded, creating a space where others feel comfortable sharing their perspectives. A gentle and respectful demeanour can foster constructive dialogue.

As Easter approaches, let us rise above apathy and rediscover the profound significance of this season. By reflecting on our own faith, engaging in prayer, and preparing to share our beliefs, we can actively participate in the Easter story and inspire others to do the same. May this Easter be a time of renewal, rekindling the flame of passion for our faith and a genuine desire to share the transformative power of the resurrection with those around us.

Compiled with help from AI.

A Gaelic blessing from Carmina Gadelica



TOIRT TAING

[225]

AING dhuit, a Dhé, gun d'éirich mi 'n diugh
Gu éirigh na beatha seo féin ;
Gum b'ann gu d' ghlòir féin, a Dhé na frithcail,
Agus gu glòir m'anama d'a réir.

Dhé mhóir, déan comhnadh air m'anam
Le comhnadh do thròcair féin ;
Mar tha mis a' comhdach mo chuirp le olainn,
Comhdaich m'anam le faileas do sgéith.

Cuidich dhomh gach peacadh a sheachnadh,
Is ceann adhbhair gach peacaidh a thréig ;
'S mar a sgaoileas an ceò air ceann nam beannaibh,
Gun sgaoileadh gach sgeòthaich bharr m'anam, a
Dhé.

*Thanks to thee, O God, that I
have risen to-day,
To the rising of this life itself;
May it be to Thine own glory,
O God of every gift,
And to the glory of my soul
likewise.*

*O great God, aid Thou my soul
With the aiding of Thine own
mercy ;
Even as I clothe my body with
wool,
Cover Thou my soul with the
shadow of Thy wing.*

*Help me to avoid every sin,
And the source of every sin to*

Accounts

This is the time when all Church organisations' accounts must be submitted for internal audit. Those accounts which have been audited show that the organisations are in a healthy position financially.

The Church accounts have also been balanced and I am pleased to say that we are in a healthy position – bank balance up on last year's. This is partly due to the rental income from the Manse, but is also due to the generosity of people's givings. Thanks to all who have supported the Church financially over this past year we have been able to give sizeable donations to areas of the world which have been struck by natural disasters – Syria, Turkey, Libya and Morocco.

Thanks to those tax payers who have signed Gift Aid forms we were able to claim back over £12,000 from the Government.

Christine Johnston

Have you made any New Year's resolutions for 2024? Here's one that you can keep.

The clothes that once made you look good can now make you feel good too. Make a pledge to donate to a Shelter shop at least three times a year. Not only will you be giving your clothes a second life, but you'll also be raising funds to fight the housing emergency.

You can make your first donation of 2024 now. Bring your donations to your local shop any time during their opening hours or post your donations for free.

Your unworn and unloved styles could be amazing finds for someone else. When you pledge to donate your preloved items to our shops at least three times a year, you'll be helping people at the sharp end of the housing emergency as well as making space in your wardrobe.

“Join us in committing to sustainable fashion this year by donating rather than wasting those forgotten clothes. Your wardrobe will thank you. So will we.”



Christmas round up

Gift Service

Many thanks to all who donated gifts which were given to the Preschal Trust. There were so many we struggled to get them all in the van. Once again a wonderful response from our members. We also received a very generous donation of gifts for all ages, for men and women too from Kirsty MacMillan – the funeral director in West Burnside Street. Alan was ‘blown away’ by our generosity.

Nativity

Thanks to the Jam Club for presenting the Nativity story again. I’m sure everyone appreciated the work which had gone into preparing for this service.

Christmas Eve

Thanks to those who gave so generously at the Christmas Eve service. An offering amounting to £358 was uplifted on behalf of the Lodging House Mission. This was raised to £400 which has been sent.

Families in Quiché, Guatemala, spend a lot of time outside. It’s their playground, but also their workplace. So they are seriously affected by increasingly destructive storms, one of the many consequences of the climate crisis.

Anabely, aged 11, said “The storm made me very sad because many people died, many others lost their homes.” In the face of this experience, her beautiful poem and love for the world around her takes on even greater meaning.



Save the Children

Thank you, planet Earth!

I live in a beautiful planet that gives
us water, air, sun every day,
and many other things.

I admire its rivers and mountains, the
clouds I see passing by,
all sea and land animals,
as well as those I see flying.

Dear planet Earth,
our great thing and home,
with love and respect,
I will always take care of you.

Thank you, planet Earth,
for allowing us to live in this beautiful
place.



2nd Kilsyth Girls' Brigade

The girls have been enjoying being back at Girls Brigade and are busy with their badge work. We had to cancel on Tuesday 23/1/24 because of the bad weather.



Some of our girls are looking forward to going to camp with the BB's again this year to Dalguise at Dunkeld the first weekend in May. For some it will be the first time and so we are hoping they have a wonderful experience and the weather is kind to us. The bus for our day trip in May is booked but the destination is still to be confirmed.

We appreciate the donations we received at our GB lunch in the church hall which enables us to offset some of the cost of our day trip for the girls. Thanks from all the leaders.

Jean Ewen

In August 2012 Josh Littlejohn and Alice Thompson co-founded the Social Bite, a chain of cafes that provides employment and free food to homeless and vulnerable people.

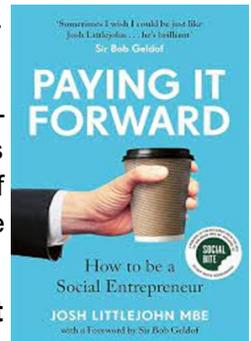
In 2016, he co-founded a social enterprise beer company called Brewgooder, where the profits go towards providing clean water. The brewery set out an aim of providing clean drinking water for one million people in five years.

By 2018 they were able to fund building the Social Bite Village from reclaimed wasteland in Edinburgh to provide shelter and support for up to 20 homeless people at any one time.

In December 2019, they launched the World's Big Sleep Out, which took place in 52 cities including London, Edinburgh, New York, Delhi and Hong Kong.

In 2023, Social Bite opened the doors to a new Glasgow coffee shop on Sauchiehall Street. To date, 3,175 customers have paid forward a coffee or meal for others. By the end of 2023, the Social Bite Village in Edinburgh had supported more than 100 people who had experienced homelessness.

You can read more about Josh's amazing journey in **Paying it Forward**, available in all good bookshops.



Thanks

Grateful thanks for the beautiful arrangement of flowers Willie and I received from the church. They have been very much appreciated.

Thanks you all.

Cathie & Willie McIlwain.

I would like to thank everybody for all the flowers, cards and messages of encouragement after my long stay in hospital. It's going to be a long road to full recovery but I'm determined to get there. I would like to say a big thank you to Kenneth for his frequent hospital visits and of course my home visits too. I was glad I was able to attend the Dinner on Saturday and have a catch up with everybody. Hope to be back to church soon.

God bless, Annabelle

Just to say thank you so much for the beautiful flowers that Christine delivered last Sunday, they really brightened up my day.

Sheena Muir

Thank you for flowers received in January. They really brightened up my days.

Elizabeth McLachlan

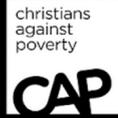
Thanks to Margaret and the church family for the beautiful floral display received on 21st January.

Agnes and Walter Jarvie.

Thanks very much for the flowers my mum and I received from the church—they were very much appreciated.

Donna and Betty Cook.

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) are running their first Steps to Employment course of the year commencing 31st January - the course runs over 6 sessions in Kirkintilloch Baptist Church each Wednesday 10am-12pm.



We are really energised as we had great news at the end of 2023 about a number of our course participants securing work opportunities.

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 CV's, 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

Euan Hutchinson euanhutchinson@capjobclubs.org

Manse

Our new tenants have settled in well to the Manse. During their first month of occupancy there were a number of minor repairs/adjustments done. Now all seems to be well.



Gardens

The trees in the grounds have grown very tall. Before we can reduce them in height, we had to seek permission from the Scottish Government as these trees are under a protection order. A few of the trees have been identified as diseased and so will be removed, but will need to be replaced because of the protection order. It is proposed to replace them with fruit trees - so, sometime in the future we may have apples, pears or cherries to give away! Work should begin on the trees in the near future. Availability of fruit may take a bit longer!!!

The Guild Burns Supper

This year's Burns Supper was a very happy affair, with a tasty supper cooked by William Shaw



The haggis made its way into the hall led by the piper and was well and truly addressed and toasted.

Thanks to everyone who made it an enjoyable night.



Last deadline for the April/May edition will be Sunday 31st March for publishing on Sun 7th April. Please note this is Easter Sunday so you may want to send articles earlier if you will be away.

Please send emails to andersonchurchmagazine@outlook.com or give your articles to Rona McFadyen on a Sunday.

Rotas

Week ending	Door Duty	Reading	Cleaning	Flowers
4 Feb	J Gordon J Millar	John Gordon	Team 5 (Thurs)	Jean Ewen
11 Feb	H Provan, C Clark, B Clark	Kathleen Ross	Team 1 (Sat)	Hilda Dodds
18 Feb	Mr & Mrs Smith	Rona McFadyen	Team 2 (Thurs)	Gayle Sturridge/ Evelyn Sneddon
25 Feb	Mr & Mrs McFadyen	Jim Millar	Team 3 (Thurs)	May Hamilton
3 Mar	Mr & Mrs An- derson	Olivia Brittian	Team 4 (Sat)	Dorothy Barrow- man
10 Mar	n/a Burns & Old	Jean Ewen	Team 5 (Thurs)	n/a (Burns & Old)
17 Mar	C McIlwain B Reynolds	George Ewen	Team 1 (Sat)	Jan Bateman
24 Mar	A Mitchell A Sneddon	Jean Chalmers	Team 2 (Thurs)	Anne Stevenson
31 Mar	E Graham O Brittian	Margaret Brown	Team 3 (Thurs)	Hazel Gordon

Rona apologises that the cleaning rota is 1 day out from March onwards—her excel formula didn't take account of the leap year!