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LINK MAGAZINE

SPRING 2022



Articles and letters

The Link welcomes articles and letters, which can be sent by e-mail to **cafairholm@outlook.com** or by post. All communications should bear a name and, if possible, a telephone number. Anonymous contributions will not be accepted.

Copyright

May I ask you to ensure that any article submitted is either one you have written yourself or one that you have had permission to reprint.

Editor

Hire of church hall

If you are thinking about hiring the hall in the future We have a new system available for booking the Church Hall. To enquire about renting the space, please visit the "[Bookings](#)" tab of the church website and fill out the enquiry form - the hall convener will get back to you as soon as possible. The new "What's On" calendar may also be useful to you in seeing what the Hall availability is like on your chosen date/s.

<https://www.standrewsmoffat.org>

I would like to thank all those who have contributed to this edition of the Link Magazine— Local businesses and of course our regular contributors. All the contributions make for an interesting and varied read.

Keep safe during Easter and over Spring . The summer edition of the Link is due out in July. The Editor.



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Crossword—solution next magazine

ACROSS

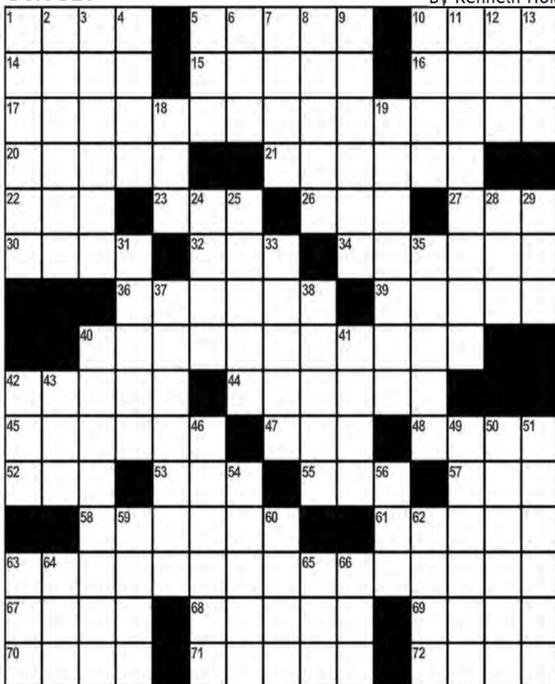
- 1) Carplike fish
- 5) Hired thugs
- 10) Recipe meas.
- 14) Primo rating
- 15) Judging group
- 16) Miscellaneous medley
- 17) Knocked out
- 20) Crumble to the sea, as shoreline
- 21) Tiger's rival, sometimes
- 22) Cigarette ingredient
- 23) "Good ___!" (praise for a batter)
- 26) "Yuck!"
- 27) Org. of Wizards and Warriors
- 30) Lip___ (mouth the words)
- 32) Letters on an ambulance
- 34) Light-headed?
- 36) Have great respect for
- 39) "___ on a true story"
- 40) Throwing a match, in the rmg
- 42) Iranian language
- 44) Give, as blood
- 45) Raises cattle
- 47) Game, ___ and match
- 48) Cleaning cloths
- 52) Drink refresher
- 53) Letters on a tachometer
- 55) Amniotic ___
- 57) '60s war zone, infonnally
- 58) Faunas' kin
- 61) What cats and rats do?
- 63) Give up
- 67) Flue dirt
- 68) Guided trips
- 69) Bulb measure
- 70) Identifies
- 71) "Forest and Dove" painter Max
- 72) Caustic materials

DOWN

- 1) Middies' opponents
- 2) Hip appendage?
- 3) Like new clothes on the rack
- 4) Assume a stooped posture
- 5) Where IRS forms are made
- 6) Small-boat mover
- 7) Not fooled by
- 8) 1960s jacket eponym
- 9) Santa's vehicle
- 10) Hammer, for one
- 11) Puritanical person
- 12) What God says not to do
- 13) It may call the kettle black
- 18) Professional payment
- 19) Share an apartment
- 24) Bigfoot's cousin
- 25) Correct a manuscript
- 28) Buzzing insect
- 29) Stick in
- 31) Stop
- 33) Lily family members
- 35) Four-time Wimbledon champ Rod
- 37) Hard-luck area
- 38) Currycombs comb them
- 40) Arboreal amphibian
- 41) Computer input or output
- 42) "Most Wanted" org.
- 43) Rainbow, e.g.
- 46) Elfish one
- 49) "As I was saying ..."
- 50) Reproductive cell
- 51) Runs a blast furnace
- 54) Bruce Wayne's home, for one
- 56) Old PC display part
- 59) Land parcels
- 60) Take aback
- 62) Wolfs wail
- 63) Little sister of 10-Across
- 64) Unharden a garden
- 65) Stats for sluggers (Abbr.)
- 66) Fish story suffix?

BOX SET

By Kenneth Holt



ST ANDREW'S PARISH CHURCH

(Charity registration number: SCO12236)

<https://www.standrewsmoffat.org>



MINISTER

Rev. Elsie Macrae



Elsie.Macrae@churchofscotland.org.uk

OFFICE BEARERS

Session Clerk: Donald Walker

Treasurer: Mrs Ann Sanders

Baruch Haba B'shem Adonai

On two occasions Jesus approached Jerusalem and was grieved by the thought of the disaster that would befall that city [see Luke 13:34-35 & 19:41-44]. As a result of the city's failure to recognize that Jesus was God Incarnate, the Prince of Peace, there would soon be no peace for Jerusalem. The city was laid waste by the Romans ca. 70AD, as they quelled a Jewish revolt against their rule.

John's first account of Jesus grieving over Jerusalem includes his statement, '..... you will not see me again until you say. **Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**' John's second account, on the day of the triumphal entry into Jerusalem, records the shouting. '**Blessed is the king of Israel who comes in the name of the Lord!**'

Sadly, such excitement and praise lasted less than a week. Then basically the same crowd shouted, "**Crucify him! Crucify him!**" Yet, on the following Sunday Jesus was raised back to life, having won victory over death, sin and Satan: a victory that offered anyone who wants it, eternal life with God, through faith in God in Jesus the Christ.

It is sad to think that the majority of the people then could not see the truth. They did not realise that the blessed one from the lord whom they longed for had come and was among them..... and they had crucified Him!

This same Jesus will return one day. Not in submission to the whims of humanity, not to suffer to pay the penalty for our sin, not to once more be the sacrifice that turns God's wrath away from our sin BUT, as the glorious resurrected, ascended Christ whom God will have told to come back to earth to mark the end of time; gather all surviving Christians to himself; and inaugurate the new heaven and new earth where all who have accepted Jesus as Saviour and Lord will reign with him in eternity.

...../cont



For the final time the existing Jerusalem, all her inhabitants and all people on earth will see and declare; *“Baruch Haba B’shem Adonai”- “Blesses is he who comes in the name of the Lord.”*

Have **you** recognized that Jesus of Nazareth is God Incarnate, The Prince of Peace, the one who has paid **your** penalty for your sin; the one who holds out to you the offer of salvation, the righteousness of God, eternal life with God?

Have **you** accepted him as your personal Saviour and Lord?

Have **you** promised to serve him and witness for him?

This Easter everyone of us will show where we stand in relationship to Jesus the Christ: everyone of us will cry out one of two statements:

“CRUCIFY HIM! Crucify him!”

Or

“Baruch Haba B’shem Adonai” – “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord”

I pray that as the people of God we will resound to the latter cry. I pray that God will move through his Spirit in each of our beings either bringing us to faith in him for the first time or deepening the faith in him that we already have.

Stay blessed always and may this Easter be a positive watershed in our relationship with God in Jesus Christ.

To God be the Glory

Your Friend Elsie



4th March—World day of prayer 2:30pm St. Johns

20th March we welcome speakers from Mary's meal and they will lead a joint service at St Andrews. A charity we support community wide and all are welcome

2nd April - Swing band coming to St Andrew's

3rd April- Youth choir

10th April Asaka Quartet (Iona Macdonald)

Look out for more concerts on Church FB coming in May- June

However, on my third visit, as I entered through the large arched doorway I realised that it was communion Sunday. I realised this because the male elders were all standing in dark suits with black ties, and cards were being handed in by smartly dressed people. Big mistake, I thought. I really shouldn't be here, I thought. Feeling very awkward and out of place, I muffled some sort of apology and attempted to extricate myself from the embarrassing situation. I would have succeeded had wee Nessie Wilkie not taken me by the arm, led me into the sanctuary and reassured me that I absolutely should be there and that my place at the table was as justified and welcomed as anyone else's.

What's this got to do with multi-functional worship areas? Well, it occurs to me that if someone like me, brought up in the church, can feel overawed and intimidated by the sight of a bunch of elders at the door of a large traditional church, what chance is there for the person who has never set foot in a sanctuary in their life? Opening up our worship spaces to other functions which can involve those of all faiths and none, has to be an important step on our journey of taking Christ's message into the world. And it's certainly not a 'bums on seats' move- I would argue that the chances of someone starting to come to church simply because they attended a music recital or social event in a church building are minimal.

But maybe, just maybe, the fact that a young man or woman is familiar with the inside of a place of worship, and not overawed or intimidated, because two years previously they had come to see a local rock band perform there might be the difference to them when, one Sunday morning, something draws them to go inside again.

Andy Shuttleworth



“In My Father’s House?”

As always, for the period between January and Easter, KJ church has moved itself lock, stock and barrel a mile or so along the road to the village hall. This annual temporary migration gives us an opportunity to worship in the heart of the village and also brings with it a different and very enjoyable atmosphere to our Sunday morning worship. As we sit in a horseshoe shape around whoever is preaching there is a real feeling of intimacy and fellowship which is sometimes difficult to maintain in large traditional church buildings.

It is perhaps ironic to consider that the village hall was once our church hall, although it is doubtful that the improvements it has enjoyed over recent years could have been afforded by the church. But it provides the sort of space more and more churches crave in this day and age, flexible and adaptable with modern facilities but also capable of being suitably atmospheric. And in the heart of the community- just where the church should be.

Real change is seldom easy and, in the church, is seldom more difficult than when we take steps to help our worship and welcome to become more relevant in meeting the challenges of a rapidly changing world. This should not be surprising. While some may glibly point out that the removal of a few pews represents no more than a change in the seating plan, it is important to remember the history embedded within the sanctuary; for many people a pew is not just an ornate bench but the place where they sat and worshipped for many years, surrounded by family. Such memories are precious and should not be lightly dismissed.

The planned alterations to our sister church of St Andrews will doubtless have stirred much emotion in the hearts of all those involved. I’m sure that the exciting proposals for a more accessible building with greater relevance to the community as a whole will still leave a tinge of sadness in the hearts of even the most fervent supporters of the project.

But in thinking of how our respective congregations are both striving to ensure God’s church has a key role within our communities I was reminded of the time when, in my early twenties, I started going back to church. Having been brought up in a Christian household, like many young people I got out of the habit of going to church after I left home. Then, for some reason, one Sunday morning I dropped into my local church where I was made to feel welcome; so welcome in fact that I decided to go back the following week. The church in question was Landsdowne Parish Church in Kelvin-dale, Glasgow, an impressive building with a very tall, slim spire. Built two centuries earlier by some of Glasgow’s merchants who had made their fortunes from tobacco and sugar, one might even describe it as a monument to the proceeds of slavery. But the welcome from and faith of the congregation in the early nineteen eighties were certainly genuine.



Easter Programme

LENT TALKS 2022—These will take place in St John's Hall on Tuesdays of Lent from 7pm till 8.30pm. Each evening is hosted by a different church/community.

The dates are: 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th March and 5th April

Theme being environmental following on from COP26

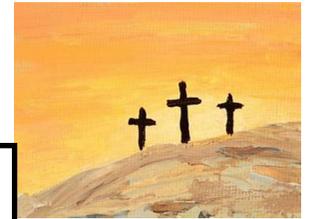
Maunday Thursday (14th April) 7:pm Juxta Kirkpatrick

Palm Sunday 6.30pm Ecumenical Service 10th April a culmination and conclusion of the Lenten Courses.

WALK OF WITNESS 2022 Good Friday morning 15th April at 8.50am The route is around the town centre beginning from the "boat" flower bed at the Station Park carpark.

Easter Sunday Morning Service 7.30am on 17th April Rev. Elsie McCrae

Easter Sunday—normal worship services at all churches



Local support services

Minister- Rev Elsie Macrae
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DRI. Hosp. 01387 246246

Dr’s Surgery Moffat 01683 220062

Citizens advice 01387 252456

Dumfries Council. 030 3333 3000

Social Work Dept. 01387 273660

Criminal Social justice 0303 333 3001

Dentist’s surgery 01683 220753

Chemist Moffat. 01683 220024

Town Hall 01683 221102

Food train. 01556 288427

Alcoholics Anonymous 03301 596 494

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St. Andrews has moved into the technology world! If you wish to give a donation all you have to do is use your phone to scan the QR code on this poster! You will find the poster displayed in the church. The scan to give is not a replacement for regular congregational envelopes or standing orders but for adhoc giving, perhaps in response to a particular event

Did you know——

During the Middle Ages and the Renaissance the child Jesus was painted accompanied by a goldfinch over 500 times. Many fables are attached to this colourful little bird. The main one is that at the Crucifixion, trying to remove a thorn from Jesus's head, it was splashed on its cheeks by Christ's blood. And so the goldfinch was left with the sign of this honour for evermore.

Taken from a small book by Dwin Capstick, we had the pleasure of his company in our Churches some years ago now and he wrote 'a collection of Reflections from the Manse' He was minister on the Isle of Jura from 1999 to 2003.

Spring – in your step?

I have no doubt that many people, like me, enjoy Springtime. Not only does it herald lengthening days, warmth, growth, colour, like and vigour, it manages to do it, at least in the early stages without midges! That means that early mornings or late evenings can be spent quietly absorbing the magnificence of the season. If you're too busy to find time over to do that, then maybe you are too busy?

To appreciate Spring you must now and again stop, only then will you **hear** the plants growing and **see** the birds singing.

I understand that to appreciate God you must stop now and again; only then will you **hear** the eloquence of silence and **see** the heartbeat of God.

Spring of course is seasonal, ghat's part of the delight. The grace of God is for all seasons and will keep a 'spring in our spirit' even when we have lost some of the 'spring in our step'.

To live content with small means

To seek elegance rather than luxury,

And refinement rather than fashion,

To be worthy, not respectable, and wealthy, not rich,

To study hard, think quietly, talk gently, act frankly,

To listen to stars and birds, babes and sages, with open heart,

To bear all cheerfully,

Do all bravely,

Await occasions,

Hurry never.

In a word, to let the spiritual, unbidden and unconscious,

Grow up through the common.

This is to be my symphony.

William Ellery Channing

Provided by Mary Brown

Flower rota Spring/Summer 2022

March 6th -		April 3rd	Mrs McWhan
March 13th -		April 10th -	
March 20th	Mrs T Boncey	April 17th	Mrs Christine Borthwick – EASTER
March 27th	Elders	April 24th	Mrs M Porteous
May 1st	Mrs M Rogerson	June 5th	Mrs Terry Saunder
May 8th		June 12th	Mrs J Carlton
May 15th	Mr P Newsome	June 19th	Mrs Lynda Gibson
May 22nd	Mr & Mrs Shuttleworth	June 26th	Graham Gardiner
May 29th	Mr D Taylor		
July 3rd	Mrs E McShannon		
July 10th	Mrs M Thorburn		
July 17th	Mrs M Brown		



David Boncey

It was with a true feeling of sadness and loss that we learned of the passing of our dear friend David Boncey on the 6th of February 2022. David was a stalwart of Kirkpatrick Juxta, a former Session Clerk and, with Thelma, a member of KJ for over 42 years. He was also a much-appreciated Reader who preached regularly in our three churches as well as at Tundergarth.

David did his national service in the RAF where he was a radar operator and was posted to Singapore and then Cyprus. He was a member of the local British Legion as well as being a keen participant in the Moffat Amateur Dramatic Society and the Old Well Theatre Choir. Always active and great with his hands David was a leading member of the Wood-turner's Guild which met regularly in his workshop at 'Redbrae'.

Among the things which gave him the greatest joy were his years spent in the Gambia where he and Thelma were involved in the growth of the local church. Having taken early retirement from his post as a lecturer at the Barony College, he had originally applied for a post as a welder in a church school in the Gambia. However, when the Bishop read his application form he immediately decided that rather than welding, David should take up the post of Headmaster and Head Reader for the local church. Shortly after his return to Beattock in 2000 and while serving as Session Clerk, he was called to the Readership here, a calling which he served faithfully for the rest of his life.

A man who lived his life by his faith, he will be sadly missed throughout presbytery and the wider Christian community in upper Annandale, but especially in our three local churches. Our thoughts and prayers are, of course, with Thelma and the family at this sad time.



Drop in Wednesday

Are you in need of a cup of tea or coffee a scone and a chat? Please consider coming along to **Drop in Wednesday**. We would be very keen to welcome you and your friends.

It takes place on a fortnightly basis in the church hall between 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. You will see the dates advertised on posters in the Church, Wallace's the Butcher and Grieve's Newsagents.

It is a very informal gathering which provides time for folks who are members and non-members of the church family, no matter their age, with an opportunity to share and stay connected. You can drop in and drop out, chat, listen, or just have a cuppa and a scone. A welcome awaits **You!**

Marth 9th and 23rd

April 13th and 27th

May 11th and 25th

St. Andrews hall activities

to book a space on one of the following courses please
contact Ally Kirkwood— 01683 478149

Monday: 7-8pm Pilate

Tuesday: 10-11am Tai chi

Tuesday: 4-5 D&G Youth

Wednesday: 7-9pm Yoga

Drop in Wednesday—see above

Every 2nd Wed 10-12am Drop- in

Thursday: 10-11am Easiearobics

Friday: 10-12am Mother and Toddler group



Spike Aware UK has been chosen for the next round of the Co-op Local Community Fund. The funding round will run for 12 months until 22 October 2022. During this time, Co-op Members will be able to select us as their cause.

<https://co-operate.coop.co.uk/groups/spike-aware-uk/>

This would be a great way of bringing in additional funding to support our campaign.

Janet's House, Malawi



Genuine religion is to take care of widows and orphans and do not let yourself be corrupted by the world James 1:27

Janet's house, Malawi was set up in 2012 in memory of Dr Janet Robertson, a popular GP in Moffat who passed away in 2012. It was set up as a safe home for some of the orphans in Central Malawi who did not have extended family who could look after them nor pay for secondary education (primary education is free).

As well as looking after 10 orphans, food was supplied regularly to 40 other children, and several adults, who were in need of a meal. Inevitably, with covid and price of maize increasing and ongoing droughts and floods, from climate change, this number is ever increasing.



Mairi Crosby (Janet's niece) and a photographer friend, Rowan Franks, produced a calendar at Christmas to help to support this charity and thanks to The Churches in Moffat, George and Alison Edward who sold the calendar in Cara Gael, and Fiona Paton who took the calendars into work, as well as many local Moffat folk, £1620 has been sent to KIT (Kingdom Impact Today, a charity set up by All Nations Church, Bedford) who support Janet's house all year round and have visited many times.

Editor note: Well done to everyone, this is an amazing amount to help our friends in Malawi

We are delighted to welcome Jackie Shuttleworth to the post of Treasurer. This is a new chapter for Jackie, having had no previous experience in finance or book-keeping, but when the post fell vacant she didn't hesitate to offer her services for this important part of God's work. Through hard work and welcome guidance and assistance from Adam Anderson from St Andrews, she has managed the challenging task of preparing the financial statement for the previous year. We would like to thank Jackie for taking on what was a daunting challenge and wish her well in her new role.

As we tentatively prepare for a return to 'normality' after the pandemic, we would encourage all members to get involved. The last two years have been very challenging for our church, and it would be easy to see the future as bleak. But with a new presbytery in a very different world to the one we left at the end of 2019, there will be opportunities for us to grow and spread God's love throughout our community. And that is something we must grab.

Easter blessings,

Mary

NB: Sunday Service is 10am



We were told in January by the Guild section of the Church of Scotland that we should cease meetings while there was Covid 19 around.

It was a shame we lost our meetings but we are really keen to prepare ourselves now for the coming opportunity to make a new start together.

We will commence regular meetings of our Committee as soon as possible and we will plan for when we should come together again at meetings.

We will get ourselves prepared for what is always a great opportunity to do God's work and to enjoy each others' company along the way.

There is always tea or coffee and cake available!

Our doors are open for all as soon as the meetings are open.

Pat Brown



KIRKPATRICK JUXTA PARISH CHURCH

(Charity registration number: SCO05701)

Minister: Rev. Elsie Macrae	Session Clerk: Mrs Mary Brown
	Treasurer: Mrs Jackie Shuttleworth

OFFICE BEARERS

Kirk session: Mrs Mary Brown, Mr Graham Gardiner and Mr Andy Shuttleworth

Church officer: Mr. Andy Shuttleworth	Fabric convener: Mr Andy Shuttleworth
Christian aid: Mrs Thelma Boncey	Organist: Mrs Nancy Anderson
Flower convener: Mrs Mary Brown	Gift aid: Vacant
Life and Work Magazine: Mrs Fay Paterson	Social/fund-raising committee: Andrew and Jackie Shuttleworth and Mrs Mary Brown.
Sunday Service 10am	World Church representative:

Session Clerk Report

As I write this update, we are all still shocked and saddened by the passing of our very dear friend David Boncey. A lynchpin of our church for over forty years, former session clerk, Reader and known to so many throughout the Beattock and Moffat communities, and indeed throughout the whole of Presbytery and beyond. As we come to terms with the loss, our thoughts and prayers are, of course, with Thelma and the family. May they find God's comfort during these difficult times.

We are currently worshipping in the village hall on Sunday mornings, as has been our habit for the last few years. While we love our church building, the way the village grew around the railway has meant that the church is about a mile outside the village. We move into the village hall from the first Sunday of the new year until Palm Sunday, and it is a thoroughly enjoyable experience. The space provides a different and intimate atmosphere which enhances worship and fellowship for all attending. Being right in the heart of Beattock we are also much handier for the community. So why not drop in one Sunday morning before Easter and enjoy the change of scenery? (And just to confirm, there is still the usual high-quality tea, coffee and home baking to be enjoyed!).

.../cont

Presbytery report Winter /Spring '21/22.

Along with all the presbytery changes that need to be prepared for at this time some ordinary business still happens.

At a presbytery meeting last November there was discussion had on the overture to amend the Church Courts Act(Act 111 2000) the solemnisation of Same Sex Marriage.

Votes were entered at the meeting via zoom and the overture was supported so that such solemnisations can be held in our churches, altho' ministers can opt out of leading such services if they so choose. The Clerk was instructed to add the following comment when submitting the figures to the Principal Clerks Office:-

“While Presbytery supported the Overture of the Solemnisation of Same Sex Marriage, concerns were raised regarding the level of inconsistencies for ministers, celebrants, and others involved and how this might be perceived outside of the church”

Vacancy : Good news was that a new minister ,Rev Wes Brandon has been inducted into the vacant charge at the Border Kirk, Carlisle. He has also recently been welcomed into our presbytery . Otherwise, all vacancies that were not filled prior to 31st Dec 2021 are now sisted until new Presbytery plans have been agreed.

There are now two committees driving forward the move to be integrated into the new Presbytery of the South West of Scotland.

The Governance committee which deals mainly with business and finance .

The Change committee whose main remit is to work up a new 5 year presbytery plan. The 3 main focus will be

1.The plan will outline ways in which congregations will shape aspects of their church life round mission.

ACT VIII,2021 Mission(Mission of the Church is the mission of Christ) is defined as follows:- (5 marks of Mission)

To proclaim the good news of the kingdom.

To teach, baptise and nurture new believers.

To respond to human need by loving service.

To seek to transform unjust structures of society,to challenge violence of every kind and persue peace and reconciliation.

To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

To this end there plans to be meetings for kirk sessions and congregations to join in Q and A sessions,and to join in zoom talks teasing out the meanings and opportunities this new missional plan offers each disparate congregation. Some of our church members have already attended such talks by zoom.

.../cont

2. The presbytery plan will also categorise each congregation's buildings as either

To be retained

To be sold/disposed within 5 year plan

Record designated historical properties

The plan will ensure, over the next five years, we have well equipped spaces in the right places.

3. The plan will show how the presbytery will make best use of the ministry posts allocated to it by the General Assembly.

As you will guess shaping the new plan is a difficult, sensitive and time consuming process which is on going over the next 3-4 months.

A consultative document on forming the new plan is due out and anyone who would like a copy is asked to email standrewsmoffat@gmail.com and it will be sent to them in due course.

And for any queries or comments please contact Rev Elsie Macrea or myself.

Your prayers are asked for those working on this process, and for our minister, whose working life is bound up in it, plus all her regular day to day ministerial responsibilities.

Laurie McVeigh (Presbytery elder) St Andrews Moffat.



Thoughts about Prayer

We are all somewhere along the path of a spiritual journey and along this journey we experience high points and lows and the lows are generally more frequent and last longer than the highs. The disciples couldn't stay on that mountain of transfiguration but had to come down again to the plain. When we experience the dark times, we when are depressed, overwhelmed with loss or pain, then we are least likely to have a sense of His presence, even though that is exactly what we long for most. Everything in us longs for some indication that we have not been abandoned. BUT God has promised that he will never leave us,

Even if we leave Him. When we wander away and God seems so far away, it is not Him who has moved, it is us.

When we are down near the bottom, that is the time when it is imperative to continue with the disciplines of prayer, worship and reading even though we seemingly get nothing in response. The old prayer 'Lord I believe: help thou mine unbelief' is deigned for just that time. With such discipline, we can look forward in faith to the dawn.

Community round up

We have carpet bowling held on a Thursday night in the Village Hall 7.30pm October to March. We have had a steady 18 members coming most weeks, just nice to be back together!

On a Wednesday night once a fortnight we have a knitting and natter group with a cup of tea/coffee. Numbers vary but on average 10 people can turn up. A great wee group with different people! Held in the winter months.



SWI(Rural) We meet the second Tuesday of each month September till May membership around 18. We celebrated 100 years in February 2022. Sandra Braid did the two course meal followed by tea/coffee and cake made by one of our members Linda McMinn., Jacqueline Hoggan another member made the gifts. Harp music was played by the last head teacher at Wamphray School Dr Maureen Milton.



CHURCH FLOWERS Spring/Summer

March 2nd		April 3rd	Lynn Scott
March 6th	Mary Starkey	April 10th	Denise Dempster
March 13th	Flora Stewart	April 17th	EASTER
March 20th	Linda McMinn	April 24th	Rosemary Cowan
March 27th	Caroline Dunbar		
May 1st	Nancy Anderson	June 5th	Mandy Welbourne
May 8th	Ann Braid	June 12th	Kirsty Scott
May 15th	Karen Currie	June 19th	Christine Dix
May 22nd	Helen Braid	June 26th	Sandra Johnstone
May 29th	Sheila Thomson		
July 3rd	Sandra Lairdlaw	August 7th	Elizabeth Harper
July 10th	Moirra Hogarth	August 14th	Fiona Richardson
July 17th	Lynne Thomson	August 21st	E J Wilson
July 24th	Helen Harrison	August 28th	Gayle Lamont
July 31st	Mary Scott		

WAMPHRAY PARISH CHURCH

(Charity registration number: SCO07536)

MINISTER

Rev. Elsie Macrae

OFFICE BEARERS

Session Clerk: Mrs Helen Braid

Clerk to Congregational Board: Mrs Linda McMinn

Treasurer : Mrs Sheila Thomson

Session Clerk Report

It's nice to be able to say the days are beginning to lengthen, nights and morning's becoming lighter. The snowdrops are stunning this year, lots around Crocuses and daffodils on their way as well. We hope this year will be better than the last two years.



On a bright note we were able to have a Christmas Eve Service at 7pm. Rev. Elsie McCrae took the service which was well attended. The Church was beautifully decorated with a lovely tree. Further pictures on Facebook page Wamphray Parish Church.

We held our Remembrance Service on the 14th November at 10.55am, led by Arthur Milton.



We welcomed David Mundell as a new member to Wamphray Parish Church on the 21st November 2022. Rev. Elsie McCrae conducted the service.

During January we gave donations to the Food bank in Moffat and we were able to have tea and coffee after the Service from the end of January.

February 7th 2022 we welcomed Gayle Lamont by Transference to the Church, also Graham and Nikola who were married on Saturday 11th February.



We had a very special lady in our Congregation on Sunday 13th February 2022 who was celebrating her 80th birthday. We enjoyed Cake and coffee after the Service.

Easter Services: Good Friday evening service.
Easter Sunday Service at 10am. Vases of flowers would be appreciated!

Communion Service to be held on 1st May 2022 at 10am

The Seekers 3:16 group have continued to meet during the service in the hall. However, we have really enjoyed being part of the services in church too, either in our Nativity, Readings, Prayers and Puppet Ministry or being part of the general working of the church on sound desk, music and creating bright entrance displays. We hope you have enjoyed what we have done as we plan to be very much part of worship in creative ways in the future.



The Scouts are thriving well. We have about 50 young people in all our sections and they are very keen to work. Our biggest problem is lack of staff. We have two more young people, Lowry and Kyle who are very suitable to help run our Scout and Explorer sections but staff for our younger sections are rather sparse and the older sections do need older Leaders as well.

Anyone who could help would be surprised at the fun and satisfaction they would get from their work. It does not have to be every week.

When we first restarted after Covid 19 we were staggered at the number of youngsters who were eager to be back and they have stayed with us.

The scouts all seemed ready to just get on with it. That's a great Scout ethic!

Our youngsters are giving all they have, they just need help along the way.

Badges are finding their way to sleeves at quite a rate! Pat Brown

Session Clerk Report

The Covid virus continues to rage with the new Omicron variant being very transmissible, but fortunately in most cases much less severe than previous waves of the virus. Our Christmas schedule of services was somewhat different this year, in that although they took place, attendances were lower than usual with people being wary of meeting and the daily need to conduct Lateral Flow Tests for Covid before attending church.

Now, at the time of writing this in March, attendances are increasing to almost normal levels with the restrictions being eased somewhat. It is such a pleasure and privilege to welcome some new faces to our weekly services and I think this is testament to the variety and style of services that we are now providing. This is greatly enhanced by the use of our, albeit simple, projector and screen and the technical wizardry which enables videos and music to be delivered to the congregation through this means. Thanks to all involved for making this happen. This is giving a lighter and enjoyable atmosphere to part of the service while still maintaining the Christian message as demonstrated by others. Our Puppet Ministry equipment is now here and our Seekers club youngsters provided a great initial demonstration of this in early February. It is great that these young people want and enjoy being part of the service.

One lady who had not attended church for many years told me recently “that she did not know church could be like this, and how much she was enjoying it”. Long may this continue.

The Millennium award was presented to Mrs. Margaret Buchanan who has done so much for our church since first attending after her arrival to Moffat in 1966. Well Done Margaret, very well deserved.

We still have not received planning permission for the proposed alterations. This is despite representations from our local Councillor and MSP being sent to the Planning department. In response to this a pledge was made to give our case priority, but two weeks on, there is still nothing forthcoming. Our architect tells me that he has 10 similar situations with projects all over Scotland, which does not help, but demonstrates that this is a National problem which is holding up so much development and innovation.

Several meetings have been organised by Eleanor McMahon who heads the Presbytery Change Committee, to try and demonstrate how the new Presbytery plan is going to work.

Consultation is still going on about this, but it would appear that in the Annandale and Eskdale Presbytery, there are currently 14.6 ministry posts, not all of which are currently staffed. This will be reduced to 7.5-8.5 under the new plan.

.../cont



Events

Saturday, 26 March

7:30pm

Moffat Movies

Thursday, 31 March

7:30pm

The Odd Couple

Friday, 1 April

The Odd Couple

Saturday, 2 April

8:00pm

The Odd Couple

Sunday, 3 April

7:30pm

Theatre Choir Spring Concert

Thursday, 7 April

7:30pm

The Odd Couple

Friday, 8 April

The Odd Couple

Saturday, 9 April

8:00pm

The Odd Couple

Saturday, 30 April

7:30pm

Moffat Movies

Wednesday, 25 May

10:00am

A Pie and A Pint

Thursday, 26 May

10:00am

A Pie and A Pint

Saturday, 28 May

7:30pm

Moffat Movies

Wednesday, 22 June 2022

4:30pm

Private Hire D&G Arts

Saturday, 25 June 2022

7:30pm

Moffat Movies

Saturday, 30 July 2022

7:30pm

Moffat Movies

Church Flowers



March 6th	Margaret Buchanan	May 1st	Christine Cameron
March 13th	Margaret Blacklock	May 8th	Aileen Hinchcliffe
March 20th	Anne Murray	May 15th	Marie McIntosh
March 27th	Laurie McVeigh	May 22nd	Anne Gibbard
		May 29th	Helen Moores-Poole
April 3rd	Ann Walker	June 5th	Margaret Richmond
April 10th	Anne Colledge	June 12th	Wendy Simpson
April 17th	Flowers for Easter	June 19th	Anne Johnstone
April 24th	Myrtle Little	June 26th	Hilda Saville
July 3rd	Margaret Bell	July 17th	Jane Crawford
July 10th	Joan Allan	July 24th	Sandra Taylor

On Saturday 16th April 9.30am we will be decorating the Church for Easter. If you would like to give a helping hand please come along. Anyone willing to put flowers once or twice a year or donate £20 for others to arrange your flowers that week, please phone me, Anne Colledge 220446. The flowers are taken out to the people most in need of some cheer and they are so much appreciated. Thank you all for your generosity. Wishing you all every Blessing for a Happy Easter and springtime.

Anne Colledge



The five marks of mission were paraphrased as the five "T"s. **Tell, tend, teach, transform, treasure.** These long standing guidance's are being incorporated into the Presbytery plan under the headings:-

Relational... To love one another

Intentional..... Go and make disciples

Transformational....e.g. Zacchaeus, Saul / Paul

Incarnational.....God (Jesus) on this earth as an example

As Easter and Spring approach, with the emergence of the wonderful spring flowers, I hope and pray that our Presbytery, Church local, Church national and International can transform and emerge successful for the years, generations and ages to come.

Have a Happy Easter, Donald Walker



EASTER IN SEPTEMBER

It was our minister's final day, the baptistry was open for Jean the lifebuoy leader to be baptised.

I'd had an awful summer; my mind was on the decision I wanted to make but couldn't quite make it. I was too young to be a proper Christian, I thought, five days off my thirteenth birthday.

It was the end of September and we were singing usual hymns in church, but the last hymn was a real surprise

'When I survey the wondrous cross', that's an easter hymn, you don't have that in September I thought.

God had a reason, when we got to the last verse, I was streaming in tears **'were the whole realm of nature mine, that were an offering far too small, love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life my all.'**

I joined Jean at the baptistry that night, and 60 years later I still know our lord. Whatever has been in my life good or bad I know His love.

Happy Easter and God bless you all. Pat Brown

Finance Report St. Andrews

As a Congregation we have come to the close of another challenging year over every aspect of Church life – not least our finances. Our financial results for the year ended 31 December 2021 have yet to be approved by the Kirk Session and reviewed by our Independent Examiner but the draft Accounts for the year to 31 December 2021 show that we finished the year with a surplus of income over expenditure of £1,087.

This is a satisfactory result given the difficulties of the last year but we have to bear in mind that the increase in the level of income from Offerings which amounted to £57,037 by comparison with £48,029 in the previous year in fact reflects the increase in income from the income tax reclaimed from Gift Aid donations. This income increased this year to £14,403 from £5220 in the previous year although part of this increase can be accounted for by the fact that we accelerated the timing of the repayment claims.

We do not anticipate being able to achieve a similar benefit in the coming year.

We continue to monitor our outgoings very closely so our day to day costs decreased over the year. However we are well aware of the increasing costs in prospect, from the increased costs of heating which are largely unavoidable to the increased financial contributions which the reorganisation of the Presbytery will bring

Our investments, the majority of which are ear-marked for the proposed project of redesigning the interior of the Church showed an increase in the year end valuation to £344,383 from £303,256 in 2021.

The continued support of our Members is crucial and we are very grateful for their faithful support but we live in challenging times and we have to recognise the financial demands of maintaining our Church and Church community show no sign of diminishing.

Anne Sanders

Treasurer

Areas of responsibility and those in charge St. Andrews

Church cleaning	Mr Donald Walker	220707
Church flowers	Mrs Anne Colledge	220446
Seekers 316	Mrs Fiona Paton	220164
Finance convener	Mr Adam Anderson	221164
Free-will offering	Mrs Marion Little	220922
Gift aid	Mrs Anne Sanders	222850
Guild president	Mrs Pat Brown	300688
Hall lets	Mrs Alison Kirkwood	478149
Keeper of the congregational roll	Mrs Hilda Saville	221827
Life and Work & “The Link”	Cheryl Fairholm	478367 (cafairholm@outlook.com)
Organist/Musical director	Ms Kate Durran	220742
Pastoral care	Mrs Hilda Saville	221827
Property committee	Vacant	
Session clerk	Mr Donald Walker	220707
Treasurer	Mrs Anne Sanders	222850



The Thursday Message



During “lock down” when we could not hold

“Drop – in -Thursday” we posted an online Message each Thursday which included a Reflection, a reading a prayer and an item of praise. However, we found that there were people in the congregation who could not access the material because they were not online so we decided that the material would be delivered to them by “hand post”. I

was delighted that Evelyn Atkins and her husband Bryan took on the task of printing and delivering the material on a weekly basis.

Once folks could attend the Church again it was decided that we would not put the material online. The Rev. Elsie suggested that we do a survey of those receiving the material by “hand-post”, several of whom are house bound, to see if this service was still required. As a result of the positive response from these folks we decided to continue with, what became “**The Thursday Message.**”

As a result of the change in circumstance of some of the members of our congregation the number on the list has grown and some other folks have also received it in E mail form.

This means that we are spreading the Word and keeping in touch with several members who find it difficult to attend Church or who simply wish this input.

Mission and outreach continue to be a major part of church life. If you know someone who would benefit from this service either on a short- or long-term basis, please feel free to contact Rev. Elsie, Evelyn Atkins, Jeff Brown or your District Elder.

Church calls for ceasefire in Ukraine

Published on 24 February 2022

As Europe wakes this morning to news that Russia has launched an invasion of Ukraine, the Church of Scotland is calling on all parties to renew peacemaking efforts and prepare to offer humanitarian aid to the people of that country.

The Faith Impact Forum has been in regular dialogue with members of our partner church, the Reformed Church in Transcarpathia, Ukraine (Egyházkerület Kárpátaljai Református) and will continue to support them through prayer and advocacy.

The Church is also joining with the World Communion of Reformed Churches, the Lutheran World Federation, the Conference of European Churches, and World Council of Churches to work together to collectively support the churches and people of Ukraine in seeking a peaceful solution.

Lord Wallace, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, said: "Our prayers are with the Ukrainian people who are now under attack and in fear of their lives.

"We call on the UK Government to join with governments across the world and together persuade all parties to agree to a ceasefire and immediately return to the negotiating table.

"At the same time we ask the UK Government to prepare a generous humanitarian response to assist people fleeing the war.

"As a matter of urgency the government should prepare a plan to receive and resettle refugees from the conflict and support neighbouring countries to respond locally to the crisis.

"The Covid pandemic and the intensifying climate crisis has shown us that no catastrophe can be isolated and what affects one region affects all of us.

"More than ever, national governments need to find a way to work together for the sake of our common humanity."

The Moderator and Very Rev Dr Susan Brown, convener of the Faith Impact Forum, are inviting all of us to join them in praying for those who are suffering from the violence in Ukraine.

christian
aid

Get Involved Locally

Make a difference to people living in poverty

Appeal for new members to join the Christian Aid Committee in Moffat. The function of the committee is to work together in planning and coordinating fund raising activities within Moffat, Beattock and Wamphray. The aim being to raise funds and awareness of the work carried out all over the world by the Christian Aid organisation, to help those in poverty, danger and need.

If you feel you can help, please contact Fiona McLean (01683) 220645 or

Cheryl Fairholm 07596049269 cafairholm@outlook.com.

The Paradox of Our Time

Prayer for Peace in Ukraine

O God, the refuge and strength of all,
You hold the people of Ukraine in the palm of your hand.
The name of each person there,
Is written on your heart.

In the darkness of invasion
And in the mire of political machinations,
Spread we pray, the light of hope and of justice
And of peace.
Encourage those who are frightened,
To find strength in you
And in those around them -
Near and far.

Help the worldwide family of nations
To respond in love
With outstretched hearts,
Open minds,
And with too, the wisdom needed
to effect a peace that lasts.

Save us we pray,
From not caring enough.
For your Son's sake.



Come to me all you who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest

Matthew 11.28

The Paradox of our time in history is that we have taller buildings but shorter tempers; wider freeways but narrower viewpoints. We spend more but have less; we buy more but enjoy less.

We have bigger houses and smaller families; more conveniences but less time. We have more degrees but less sense; more knowledge but less judgement; more experts yet more problems, more medicine but less wellness.

We drink too much, smoke too much, spend too recklessly, laugh too little, drive too fast, get too angry, stay up too late, get up too tired, read too little, watch too much TV and pray too seldom. We have multiplied our possessions but reduced our values.

We write more but learn less. We plan more but accomplish less. We have learned to rush but not to wait. We build more computers to hold more information and produce more copies but communicate less.

Remember to spend some time with your loved ones because they are not going to be around for ever. Remember to say a kind word to someone who each day as you do not know how they are feeling.

Remember to give a warm hug to the one next to you because that is something you can give with your heart and does not cost anything. Remember to say "I love you" and to mean it. A kiss or embrace can mend hurt when it comes from deep inside.

Remember to hold hands and cherish the moment, for some day that person may not be there. Give time to love, give time to speak and give time to share the precious thoughts in your mind.

Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but the moments that take our breath away.

Adapted from sermon by George Carlin in Barbados attended by Dr Janet Robertson who was at her friend's wedding there .

(Covid has brought out the worst and best in our society : people have never felt so isolated but never appreciated their friends, relatives and neighbours more; people have been unable to visit friends and relatives but have had such enjoyment seeing them again; people hate vaccinations generally but never been more delighted to receive one; the best of kindness and concern in the worst of times in recent years: the Churches were closed at times but have been even more active than ever .)



The Asaka Quartet will be making their debut performance in **St. Andrews Church, Moffat on Sunday, 10th of April!**

Scottish violinist Iona McDonald, born and raised in Moffat, will be returning to her

hometown with fellow musicians Guo Yu, Inis O'irr Asano and Ho Man Fong to play a colourful programme of Beethoven, Mendelssohn, and Danish folk music. The four young quartet members are all current students studying with scholarships at the Royal Academy of Music in London. Their quartet, Asaka Quartet, receives mentoring by Martin Outram on the prestigious Frost Trust Advanced Specialist Strings Ensemble Training Scheme.

The musicians' characterful choice of repertoire contrasts the turmoil of Beethoven's somewhat rigid C minor quartet, to the lyrical first quartet of Mendelssohn, and ending with the folky influences of Danish String Quartet's pieces. Opening the programme is the fourth of Beethoven's well-known Opus 18 quartets, a classic. Written in four movements, this work has all the drama and depth you would want to hear in a piece, along with some of the most beautiful melodies throughout. Unusually, this quartet is without a slow movement... perhaps a sign of Beethoven's agitation within this piece.

The second half of the concert sets a completely different mood; Mendelssohn's quartet in E flat major – the relative key of the Beethoven quartet, introduces a new lighter colour. The recurring melody in the first movement hints at nostalgia and influences by Beethoven himself, in the writing of the melody. This is followed by a dance-like second movement, which flies by with the impressive virtuosic first violin playing. The third movement 'Andante', a marking which essentially means 'at walking pace', hints at some melodic ambiguity, but leads directly without a break to the fourth and final movement. This last movement, coincidentally, is in the same key as our Beethoven – C minor! Towards the end of the piece, Mendelssohn references themes from the beginning movements of the piece, creating the full circle. There is no doubt that audiences will go home singing this beautiful melody!

The Asaka Quartet never end a concert without a little inspired piece; to end this programme is a tune written by the Danish String Quartet using the local melodies of Denmark. A little mystery in a concert is always fun so they will say no more about it here! The Asakas are very much looking forward to performing to a brand new audience, and we hope to see many of you there !





Kitega Community Centre | Let's make it happen

Kitega update During the pandemic, Gertrude's house was blown away by a heavy storm, she was homeless and all hope was gone. Because of

the difficult times, her local VICOBA group was able to set up a temporary structure for her to stay with her grandchildren. But today she celebrates hope; she now has a permanent structure...

This is just one of the many stories that have Inspired us to keep going in the past year. We are reminded that:

“Hope is certainty that God will fulfil His promise.

Hope is waiting expectantly.

Hope is a truth that hasn't happened yet...”

Hope has kept us going in 2021, the same Hope will see us in the new year! Thank you for your friendship and Partnership that has made Hope possible.

Blessings from all at the Kitega Community Centre



Many of you will know that I underwent my 5th surgery on my knee in Jan 2021 and as I left the hospital, the surgeon asked me what my goal was. When I told him I wanted to walk the West Highland Way he thought it was an excellent idea. As all our fundraising for Kitega has been severely curtailed over the last two years, I thought it would be a good idea to combine my goal and try and raise some much needed funds for Kitega.

With that in mind, on 20th April, my younger daughter Jenny and I will set out to “Walk the Way” + 4 miles, as pre surgery I could barely walk 100 steps. This time I will walk 100 miles. The money raised is going to help equip a treatment room at the new health centre which Kitega are involved in building in the neighbouring village of Katungalu. Currently many people do not have access to even basic health care. For many, the lack of services, added to the expense of getting to a hospital, as well as the expense of the treatment itself are huge barriers that can result in people struggling to cope with poorly controlled medical issues, which in turn can result in loss of income or even fatality. The provision of health care is something we take for granted but has such a huge impact on daily life for everyone.

.../cont

Please join us in trying to make health care just that little bit easier to access for the people of Kitega and Katungalu and surrounding communities.

Donations can be made via our sponsor sheets or directly to the bank account -

Friends of Kitega sort code 80 22 60 Account number 19283869. ref WALK

Thank you for supporting us Alison Kirkwood

www.kitegacc.org



As the words of the hymn “Servant Song” say, “We are pilgrims on a journey, and companions on the road; we are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.”

Our pastoral care is broader and wider than we imagine. In the past few months, our small dedicated group has been very busy in a myriad of ways.

We say a sad “farewell” to David Boncey who served us faithfully and we hold Thelma, his wife, and their family in our thoughts and prayers.

We wrote and hand-delivered over 70 Christmas cards in December. Cards have been sent to several people celebrating “significant” birthdays. Others received get well cards, cards on the loss of a loved one and cards to reassure and encourage at particular times of trouble and concern. Practical help is given too. Regular contact is maintained with those who enjoy a friendly chat and like to see a smiling face. (We like to think that we are a friendly lot!)

The church flowers are distributed after our services. We also keep people in our prayers when difficulties arise, in sickness, hospitalisation, grief and in times of personal trauma.

All this is done quietly and confidentiality is observed.

The wonderful and humbling fact is that many of our church family, outside the Pastoral Care Group, give of their time, resources and Christian love too, in the care and support not only of our church members but also the community.

We acknowledge them. Our sincere thanks go out to them all.

Hilda Saville

