

CROSSWIND

The Journal of St Michael's Parish Church

Spring 2017

Vol 20:1



Jesus said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me. MATTHEW 18:3-6 NIV

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SUNDAY SERVICES



Communion

Sunday 30th April

All-Age Communion at 9:30am.
Traditional Communion at 11am
in the church
3pm in the Kirk Hall
with common and individual cups

Weekly Services

9.30am First Morning Service
Crèche in Cross House

9.45am All-Age Worship
Term time in Springfield School

11.00am Second Service

6.30pm Evening Service
in Kirk Hall

Monthly Communion

Sunday 28th May
at 12:15pm
Individual Cup

Cover photograph: Fun at Messy Church, courtesy of Gordon Young

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The deadline for the Summer 2017 issue is 6th May 2017.

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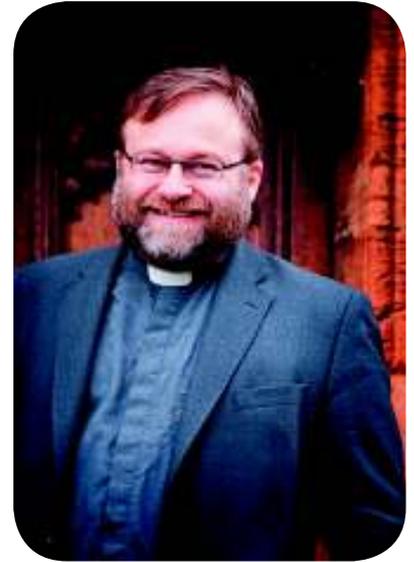
VIEW FROM THE MANSE

Dear Friends,

This year we celebrate the 775th anniversary of the consecration of St Michael's, giving us time for thanksgiving and reflection. I wish to share things already in the planning stages for our celebration. The list is short – feel free to add to it!

Pentecost Sunday

Bishop David de Bernham consecrated St Michael's at Pentecost 1242, and so on Pentecost Sunday, 4 June, we celebrate that blessed act. The Moderator of the 2017 General Assembly, the soon-to-be Right Rev Dr Derek Browning, will join us, bringing greetings of the whole Church and leading us in our reflections. There will probably be one joint service, beginning with our Pentecost Party, with children front and centre. For lunchtime, we are working on a new kind of participation of the churches during the Civic Festival. We have booked the marquee for 'Breaking Bread Together', a meal the churches will share focussing on interplay between our spiritual journeys and our work for social justice. For the actual breaking of bread, I intend to work with ministry colleagues in the churches on a Linlithgow Liturgy. It will be simple, responsive – not a sacrament in the formal sense, meaning we will be free to partake together. That said, it will have sacramental qualities, as do all meals we share together in Jesus' name.



Exploring Faith and Fabric Project, Seven Studies in St Michael's Parish Church

St Michael's is rich in story and symbol, both in architecture and liturgy. First-time visitors experience a delight largely unexpected, given that the external fabric does not give away the splendid secret of its interior beauty and majesty. A welcoming space, it is created for the worship of God, the nurturing of faith and fellowship, and the service of all in sorrow and celebration.

Religious symbols, like the God to whom they bear witness, are not tame and reaction to them varies greatly from person to person. In St Michael's, the very light in which we see the fabric varies with the time and type of day, and indeed the season of the year, the chief example of which is the direction and reach of the Crear McCartney window's colouring rays, painting stone and viewer alike in rich reds and blues.

Cast as a series of explorations of our faith and fabric, the project will focus on seven symbols and fixtures, inviting people on a journey of faith, with the

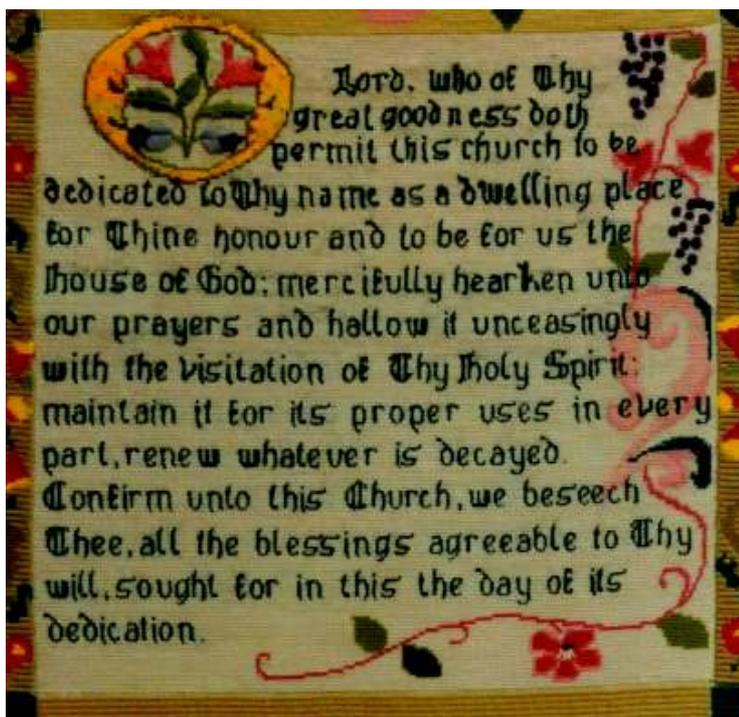
accent on image and narrative. It will seek to enhance an appreciation of St Michael's and serve as spirit guide. We hope to have outcomes in print and digital media, including our website and Facebook page, for adults and children.

I have been liaising with Brian Lightbody regarding the project as a whole, and he has already begun work on the first study, 'What the Architecture Says.' Trish Lightbody has agreed to bring people of all ages together, to produce new art in various media, and to contribute new art herself. On the Crown Spire, I will work with Chris and Jean Long, who gave wonderful leadership regarding its 50th anniversary. On the McCartney window, the materials gathered for Michaelmas, following Crear's death, will be our starting point. On the Creation/Challenger window, we are working with Prof Iain Woodhouse, who gave an excellent talk on the window last year. On the statue of the Archangel Michael I will consult with historians of the Reformation, including Prof Jane Dawson of New College, Edinburgh. On the Bells, the firm that refurbished them recently will be an early port of call, as will our bell ringers, drawing on their font of stories, not least about Fred. Bruce Jamieson has agreed to research the War Memorial and has already produced an early draft.

We aim to have the first study, 'What the Architecture Says,' available for the 775th Anniversary at Pentecost. At the end of the project, I hope that we can publish all studies in one volume. Many of you have memorabilia, photos, and stories you love to tell of your own experience of St Michael's, so please feel free to contribute.

St Michael's, Linlithgow and Passchendaele, A Public Presentation

The Society of Friends has approached Bruce Jamieson and he agreed happily to produce a presentation on the role of St Michael's and the local community during WW1 with special emphasis on the Battle of Passchendaele, 1917. There will be more about this in our next magazine.



I leave you with a question, on the road to Pentecost. Bishop de Bernham's Prayer of Consecration on 19 May 1242, included the petition: 'Maintain this church for its proper uses in every part, renew whatever is decayed.' How might we reword this prayer for St Michael's today?

Your friend,

STEWARDSHIP OF TALENTS 2017



by Anne Law

Can't believe it's 2017, third year of our stewardship series? Neither can I!

During 2017, we will focus on the stewardship of **talents** as part of the three-year cycle of review mentioned in previous articles – having considered **time** and **treasure**.

The Bible teaches us that the church is like a body where all parts are needed for it to function properly. All members should feel encouraged to play their part. It is stated in 1 Corinthians 12:27 *'All of you are Christ's body, and each one is a part of the whole'*.

The skills and talents that we have been given are offered back to God as we use them within the Church. This is true of musical, teaching, practical, and academic talents, but it is also true of the spiritual gifts we have received. *'For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, each member belonging to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us'*. Romans 12 v4-6

Why does God give us these talents? His main purpose is for us to use our talents to bless and benefit others. If our talents are given to build up the body of Christ, as we use them all are enriched and our congregation will become more effective and relevant. In John 15, in the upper room on the night before his death, Jesus characterises himself as the true vine and the disciples are branches that he wants to see bearing abundant fruit. However, there is also a warning that they cannot be fruitful unless they remain in Him.

In his book *'Fruitfulness on the Frontline'* Mark Greene, the Executive Director of the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity, challenges us to *'make a difference where you are'*. He reminds us that good fruit is any attitude, any word, any action that pleases God – an animal properly cared for, a local park cleaned up, a person saved, healed, fed, given a cup of water, rescued from injustice, or loved in a godly way. *'The most mundane action can carry the fragrance of Christ'* says Mark Greene.

God has given us all different abilities and talents to complement each other. Our challenge in 2017 is how we might use our talents for the benefit of St Michael's and our community.

UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT

Under the spotlight this edition of Crosswind is Alan Bennie, Keeper of the Roll. Alan keeps all our record of members and adherents up to date.



Describe being Keeper of the Roll in three words. Hopeful (for new members to add to the Roll); Participative (because like any data base it relies on user input for accuracy); Open-minded (because there are always ways to improve the presentation of the information).

On the subject of 'roll' do you have a favourite 'roll'? Bacon? Hamburger or... ? It would have to be a bacon roll. Crispy. It is an infrequent treat though.

Tell us about your family? Where did you meet your wife Anne? Do you remember your first date? I have been married to Anne for 40 years. Anne is well known in St Michael's. We met at Anne's 21st birthday party a couple of years ago. We have two grown up children. Michael

is 34, lives in Dubai and works as a business consultant with Emirates Airlines. Caroline is 30 and lives in Edinburgh where she works as an HR Manager.

How long have you lived in Linlithgow for? I was born at Kingscavil and grew up in Linlithgow. Anne and I settled in Fife when we were first married and moved back to Linlithgow in 1989 to take advantage of the easy access to transport links as work took me to various parts of the UK at that time.

What is your first memory of St Michael's? I went to Sunday School at St Ninian's Craigmalen because that was my parents' church. In terms of St Michael's it would be either being part of the Youth Fellowship group or singing in the Linlithgow Academy school choir at a BBC Songs of Praise.

When you are not 'keeping our Roll' what is your favourite pastime? Nowadays mainly watching sport. Rugby would come first although the modern game is nothing like the game that I played. Cycling would be next.

Can you cook? And if so what three course meal would you prepare if you were on 'Come dine with me'? Being married to a Home Economics teacher I have been spoiled throughout married life and have never really been called upon to cook. If pressed, my menu would be Figs and Parma Ham for starter, followed by Steak Diane, then Crème Brulé for dessert. I love to use that mini blow torch thingy.

If you could wake up tomorrow having gained any one superpower, what would it be? The power to render all weapons, physical and verbal, inoperative.

For what in your life do you feel most grateful? The education that I was fortunate to receive and continue to receive.

Do you have a favourite hymn? Any of the well-known Charles Wesley hymns.

What would constitute a 'perfect' day for you? A day when I have helped someone achieve their own objective.

Name one movie you can watch again and again? Why? Zulu. When I was young, I went to see it for several weeks in a row at the Victoria cinema in Linlithgow. Zulu is often referred to as 'the first British western'.

If you could wake up tomorrow having gained any one ability, what would it be? To speak a foreign language fluently.

What is your most treasured memory? Being present, but totally useless, at the birth of our children.

What is your favourite website/s? www.ted.com. Watch and be amazed at the knowledge and talent that exists in the world.

Which male character from the Old Testament would you most like to have dinner with? I must admit that I prefer the Bible of the New Testament but it would be interesting to speak to Elijah.

Do you have a childhood memory that makes you smile every time you think of it? Waking up on Christmas morning and being taken by my Dad to see the deers' footprints outside our house at Kingscavil.

If you were given a round the world ticket with five stopovers, where would you go? 1. Dubai to visit our son Michael (if he is there at the time); 2. Colombo because Sri Lanka has been on the 'bucket list' for a while; 3. Auckland to watch the Lions v All Blacks test; 4. San Francisco because Anne hasn't been there; 5. New York to stop off at Trump Tower to hand deliver a letter because The Donald won't respond to my Tweets.

And the Knock Knock joke?

(in line with my starter for the 'Come Dine With Me' menu):

Knock knock

Who's there

Figs

Figs who?

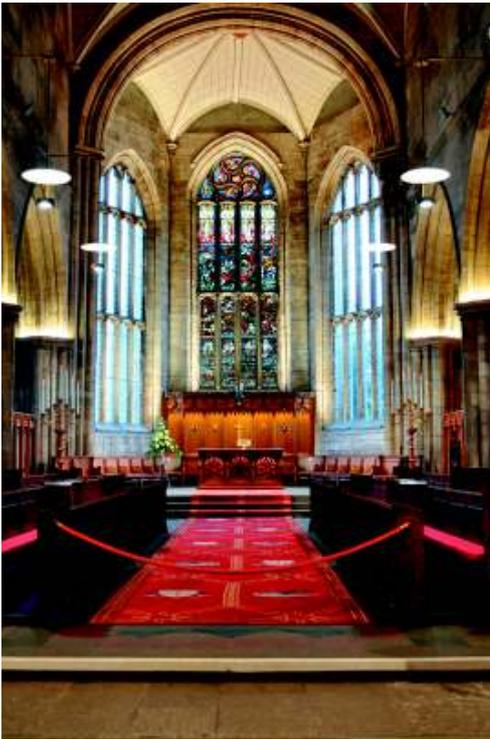
Figs the doorbell, it's broken!

GRAND DESIGN?

by Brian Lightbody

'We shape our buildings, but afterwards they shape us' (Winston Churchill)

One architectural guide describes St Michael's as 'Perhaps the finest parish church in Scotland' and it is widely recognised as a wonderful piece of architecture. But, as an architect myself, I have often wondered – so who designed it?



In its present form it has stood for over 500 years, still being used for the purpose for which it was designed. I wonder how many of my buildings will come close to that! It is a beautiful building, with an interior that one scholar describes as 'luminous', but it is also an extraordinary example of sustainability. It has coped with a variety of forms of worship, even housing two congregations at one point. It has been a timber yard, an army barracks and a stable. It has accommodated Edinburgh University during a plague, the General Assembly of the Kirk and it has continued as a place of worship for centuries. It is much admired and, indeed, much loved, but whose genius and skill gave us our building? Who shaped this building that continues to shape us?

The Historic Scotland information board outside suggests it was a mason called Thomas Frensch.

He is also mentioned in 'Ecclesia Antiqua' the encyclopaedic history of the church written in 1905. He was a Royal master mason but there is a record of him being paid for work on the church in 1530, long after the fires of 1424 and 1447 which necessitated the re-building of the church. So he could not have been the original designer.

The work was done in three phases, first the nave, transepts and tower, probably completed by 1490, then the chancel, in progress by 1506, when the accounts record a gift of drink-silver to the master mason for his work on the church (I'm sure the property team would consider this a fine practice!) Finally, the apse, with its wonderful perpendicular gothic windows, completed by 1532. The chancel is simpler in design than the nave but the apse is masterly, contributing much to the luminous quality of the interior.

There seems no doubt that these later phases were the work of Thomas Frensch or French who was also working for the King on the Palace next door at the time. A number of records confirm his work in Linlithgow and elsewhere, most notably at Holyrood, and, for giving us the stunning east end of the church, he is due our thanks and admiration. But who designed the rest?

I had been told that the original stone masons were probably French, brought over by the king. Well, it turns out that this is right – partly, but they were French by name not necessarily by nationality. The original master mason actually seems to be Thomas's dad – John Frensch or French – and it turns out that the French family was a veritable dynasty of royal master masons – John, his sons, and grandsons, all active on royal projects in the 15C and 16C. Also, given their surname, John may very well have come from France to work for the king.

I am indebted to a book 'The Master Masons to the Crown of Scotland' for much of this information, written in 1893. But my real surprise was to find in it a record that John French was actually buried in the north aisle of St Michael's in 1489. His final resting place within one of his greatest works. An inscription is recorded –

'Heir lyes Jhon French, fadder to Thomas, Master Mason of Brig of Dee'

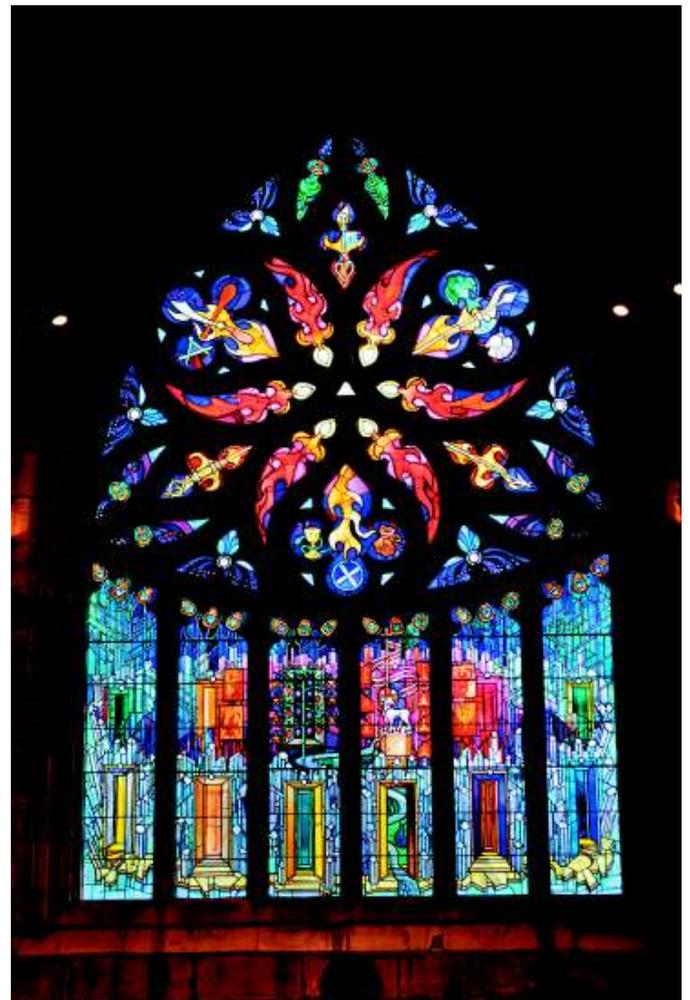
Oblit anno Domini MCCCCLXXXIX

Sadly no trace of the inscription remains, perhaps due to later post-reformation works when the interior was heavily altered, before being returned to its original medieval form in the major restoration of 1894-1896 by the architects Honeyman and Keppie. Interestingly, Charles Rennie Mackintosh worked for the firm at that time. I wonder whether he too worked on St Michael's?

If indeed John French was the original designer, all are agreed that his greatest achievement is the flamboyant stone tracery of the window in St Katherine's Aisle. There is no other like it in Scotland, a 'Tour de Force' of the mason's skill. It is thought that the ruined west window of Dunkeld Cathedral came close, and we know he also worked there. Similar windows are in south east France in the cathedrals of Lyons and Vienne, supporting the view that he was French by birth.

So it seems it is both John and Thomas French we should thank for our much loved building. The building they shaped centuries ago continues to shape our worship today.

Thanks are due to Professor Richard Fawcett of St Andrews University for help with this article.



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CHRISTIAN AID, LINLITHGOW

by William Ross

'When did we see you hungry, thirsty, homeless... in prison?'
'When did we feed you, give you something to drink, provide shelter, clothes, medicines, and release you from conflict, discrimination, and inequality?'
By gifts to the Food Bank, Bethany Night Shelter, Fair Trade and Christian Aid, caring for the 'least of our brethren'.



Last year Christian Aid responded to 33 Emergencies: supplying basic necessities to refugees fleeing conflict in the Middle East, Afghanistan and Myanmar, rebuilding homes after earthquake, wind and flood and combating epidemics like Ebola and Zika. It also responded to severe food shortages in South Sudan, Malawi and the Central African Republic, confronted drug-fuelled violence in Central America and generally stood up for human rights.

Thanks to Christian Aid and similar organisations, the lives of many poor people have been greatly improved over the last few decades, eg education of girls, health of mothers, mobile phone and solar technology for small farmers and empowerment of groups previously ignored because of culture or disability. If, however, the US pursues its 'America First' policy, the rest of the world must assume a larger share of responsibility for world development, meaning we need more door-to-door collectors in Christian Aid Week. So if you can spare some time for this vital work between 14-20 May 2017 please contact wandeross@hotmail.com or telephone 842646 and help us continue to raise £12000 annually.

Christian Aid works with other charities pressing Government action on issues like: tax dodging by multi-national companies, robbing poor countries of funds which they could invest in their own economies; climate change, which can wipe out crops, put up food prices, forcing many back into the poverty trap. Christian Aid is currently asking its supporters to petition their banks to move lending from fossil fuel industries into planet friendly activities.

Christian Aid firmly sees the UN Sustainable Development Goals (agreed upon by 189 countries in 2015) as a blueprint for a world free from conflict, discrimination and inequality. Pray that Trump does not renege on this world-changing commitment! Pray also that schools will teach pupils these Goals, so that targets will be achieved by 2030 as hoped.

Please join us as we strive to see the poorest thrive, rather than merely survive. 'This would be pleasing to God'.

PROPOSED PEACE GARDEN PROJECT

by Councillor Tom Kerr, Provost of West Lothian Council

During December 2016 I was approached by a member of the Kirk Session who advised me of a proposed Peace Garden in the grounds of The Manse. A great deal of work had been carried out by members in terms of design and proposed financing. They had encountered one or two difficulties and wondered if an alternative location could be the Rose Garden to the rear of the Burgh Halls. The Rose Garden is in the ownership of West Lothian Council, having been handed over from Historic Scotland to the Council at the time of the refurbishment of the Burgh Halls in 2011. Since the refurbishment, it has raised the profile of the Rose Garden area; quiet, potentially attractive, a hidden away corner from a busy High Street, a bit tired, unloved area lacking a consistent design approach and a lack of roses.



The Rose Garden holds some very pleasant past memories for myself and many other folk in the town. It was a well maintained area with thriving roses and other plants. The garden was set up in the early 1900s and the soil is now suffering from rose sickness so alternative plants may be preferable. West Lothian Council with help from Burgh Beautiful and the Linlithgow Town Management Group have tried to bring it back to life, but either because of soil condition and/or lack of light, they have been

unsuccessful, hence the proposal to develop a Peace Garden gives us the opportunity to start again from a clean sheet.

I have to thank Stewart Gillan for liaising with St Michael's RC Church, St Peter's, St Ninian's Craigmillen and St John's who all have shown support for the Peace Garden project at the Rose Garden. This project will be for people of all faiths and no faith and hopefully a project supported by the whole community.

We had our first meeting on 17th January which was well attended by representatives of all interested areas. We also appointed office bearers for the way forward and were delighted that Rev Gillan accepted the appointment of Chair. The main group to take forward the project consists of Rev Gillan, myself as vice-chair, Chris Gunstone (Chair of Burgh Beautiful) as secretary, Elma Birrell as the treasurer, all three elected Councillors for Linlithgow, Jim Innes (St Michael's Church), Chris Long (Chair of Linlithgow Civic Trust), Sarah Collings (urban design planner, WLC), Tony Fleming (WLC NETS and land services) and Thirsa Hockaday (Burgh Halls Manager). We also set up a smaller project team who will report to the full group each month.

We appreciate that the above group does not have all the ideas and wisdom; therefore we would encourage views, experiences and comments from other groups or individuals in the town. There are many examples of Peace Gardens throughout the world, from the very large as in Nagasaki and Hiroshima, to smaller community gardens in towns throughout the UK. An example of one near at hand is Beveridge Park in Kirkcaldy. Please send in any comments or photographs you may have to Stewart Gillan.

Suggested usage of the Peace Garden is to be a place of/for:

- a) Symbols of peace from the local community and international places of peace.
- b) Quiet reflection.
- c) Wedding celebrations/photo opportunities; open air church services; small community events.
- d) Enjoying nature, sunny corner, picnicking.
- e) Special garden style and plants for locals and visitors alike.

Our Project target dates (indicative only) are:

Winter/Spring 2017	Draft briefing, site analysis and concept design stage.
Spring 2017	Refine to concept design/project plan stage i.e. scope of project, implementation and funding approach.
Early Summer 2017	Feasibility check ie ballpark costs/budget; long term maintenance arrangements and construction.
Late Summer 2017	Agree preferred option.
Late Summer/Autumn	Review progress/set project plan for 2017/18.

The above programme is ambitious and may change depending on the outcome of our initial investigations, required permissions and preparation work.

What we hope to achieve through regenerating the Rose Garden is to improve access between the town centre and the site, support existing access routes with better delineation, demonstrate improved disability and multi user access.

We had our second meeting on 14 February when we firmed up on preparatory actions and tasks in respect of overhanging trees, freeing up access from the Burgh Halls and other routes. This is an ambitious project which I hope the community of Linlithgow will support. There will be hurdles to overcome but with support from the town, a positive attitude, cooperation and at times patience, the Rose Garden can again be another asset to the Town.



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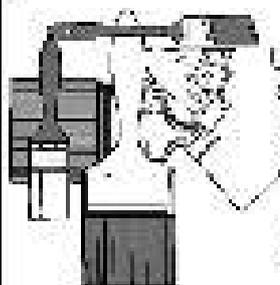
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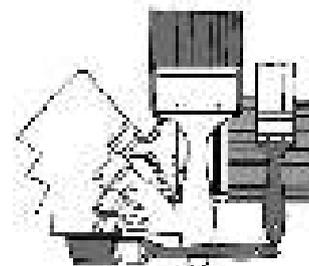
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DO YOU HAVE TIME TO VOLUNTEER?

by Jim Rae, Property Convener

If you have, then read on, as this might give you an idea on how to assist our busy Property Team! There are twenty permanent members in the team and they enthusiastically use their particular skills to look after our property portfolio.

We invite, perhaps, but not exclusively, younger and fitter members of our congregation to become part of two new teams of volunteers. These teams will operate independently from the Property Team, but under our guidance.

If you have gardening skills, then this is an opportunity to be part of our new garden team, which will look after the general maintenance of the Manse garden and the grounds around the Kirk Hall. This team will operate between spring and autumn and will involve sweeping up of leaves, pruning shrubs and weeding of borders and beds. If enough volunteers come forward, this would allow for tasks to be spread throughout the group on an agreed rota.

The photograph shows some members of the Property Team who took part in the Manse garden tidy up during February and gives a flavour or what might be expected.



If your skills are not of the green fingered variety, our new painting team may be more suited to your skills and talents. The Kirk Hall and Cross House meeting rooms and general circulation areas require continual freshening of the gloss and emulsion paintwork. This second team, again operating independently from the Property Team but under our guidance, will work on a rolling programme. This will ensure that the room decoration is always fresh and in good order for our own organisations and also for external organisation users.

I look forward to hearing from all gardeners and decorators who want to put their skills and talents to use. Volunteering brings worthwhile benefits such as the satisfaction of a job well done and belonging to a team brings friendship and fellowship. To register your interest in either group, please contact me by email, jimrae50@gmail.com or leave me a message at the church office on 01506 842188. A short meeting will be arranged to discuss this initiative with everyone who expresses an interest.

MESSY CHURCH: A NEW LOOK

by the Messy Church Team

Have you been to our Messy Church lately? If not why not come along? We've put our heads together and come up with a completely new look for Messy Church at St Michael's. Messy Church is for everyone and no previous church connection is needed.



The great big red messy church splodge on our banner and posters which tells you Messy Church is on, isn't new, that's still there, as are the messy crafts, but we've upped our game and they are extra special now. We've also introduced new 'all age' action songs and an amazing light train which we all dance to. Then there is a new heads or tails quiz for adults and children, although the children seem to

be beating the adults! Then we have a video story which John and Russell help organise for us and we even had a Minecraft Nativity at Christmas! Our Easter Messy had an egg hunt as well as an extra special prayer with nails!

The Messy Meal has had a revamp too! Our wonderful Messy Chefs – Alison, Barbara and Sheila – have come up with a whole range of delicious new meals and every messy church now has a different menu. For our October Halloween Messy Light Party we tucked into soup and crusty bread, beans on toast and delicious chocolate cake for dessert. For our Christmas Messy, we served macaroni cheese or bowls of tasty Bolognese pasta followed by ice cream and sprinkles and mince pies and Christmas crackers too. In February we served up soup and crusty bread for the grown-ups and sausages with home-made mash with beans for the young ones. Even those in high chairs tucked in and got messy! And last but not least our Easter Messy Church can only be described as the most delicious so far!



Messy Church has something for everyone and the 'messiness' is not just in the crafts and the fun we have, but also in the way we as a church, appreciate the



'messiness' in how we define church nowadays. We understand that not everyone has the chance or time to come to church on a Sunday, and we know some people have not been involved with church before, so we are offering church on different days and in different ways. Thus we can meet with you in a way in which you feel comfortable, but the message and welcome on a Sunday or at Messy is the same; it never changes and that's the message

of God's love for you and His presence in your life. So why not give it a try?

You might not ever have been to church before or been a long, long time ago. None of that matters! Just come along and see what you think. Our numbers soared from 8 to over 80 adults and children, and have now settled at a steady 50 – so we feel we are on the right track. We've got loads more to offer and lots of ideas to add to what's already happening. Those who come along tell us not only is it a great family afternoon, great food and lots of fun but that our Messy Church is an opportunity also for them to come along and just be themselves, have conversations about life and take time out to be reminded about what really matters. Others have told us they are learning about God for the first time alongside their children and one family mentioned how our Messy Church has given them a real sense of belonging.



If you used to come to Seedlings, our church for tots and toddlers on a Thursday, and your children have now moved up to school, come to Messy Church – Cheryl has got involved now and she would love to see you again.

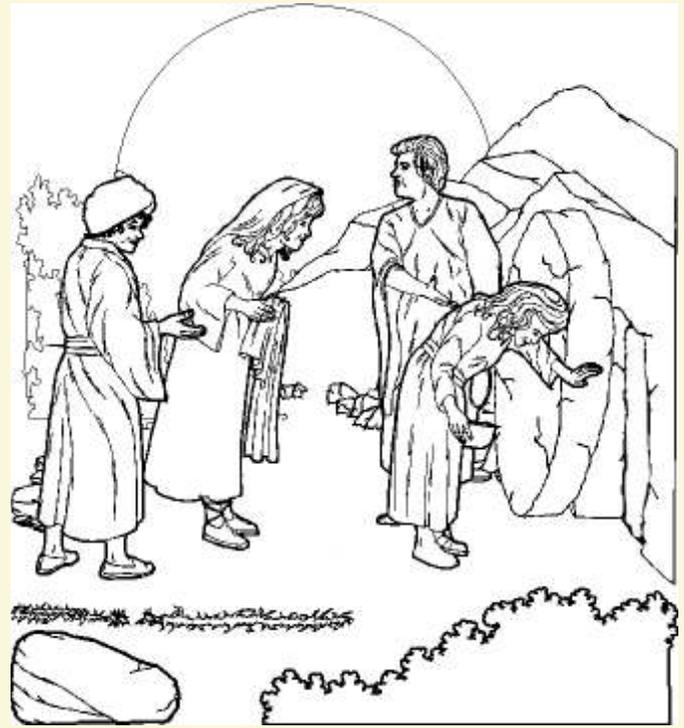
Whoever you are, whatever your journey, if you'd like to come along we assure you that a very warm welcome awaits you at the door.



You'll get more info on our new website which will tell you when Messy is on, but our next one is on Saturday May 27th at 4.30pm in our Kirk Hall. Maybe we will see you then? All of us here at the Messy Church look forward to meeting you!

CHRIST IS RISEN!

Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!



Can you find 10 differences between these two pictures?

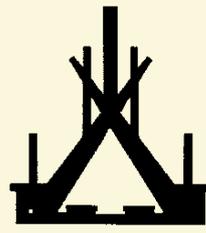
M	S	G	N	I	P	P	A	R	W
G	A	S	A	L	O	M	E	O	N
A	N	G	E	L	S	V	E	E	Y
R	A	U	D	J	O	H	N	R	E
D	N	A	E	A	B	I	A	S	S
E	N	R	L	M	L	M	E	R	I
N	A	D	E	I	P	E	O	E	R
E	O	S	L	G	V	T	N	T	N
R	J	E	S	U	S	E	Y	E	U
E	N	O	T	S	E	C	I	P	S

The following words can all be found in the Gospel accounts of the first Easter morning.

Find them in the word square – they may run in any direction.

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| alive | Mary |
| angels | Magdalene |
| empty | Peter |
| gardener | Salome |
| guards | spices |
| Jesus | stone |
| Joanna | sunrise |
| John | tomb |
| linen | wrappings |

HE IS RISEN INDEED!



PARISH

BAPTISMS

Let the children come to me

December

Imogen Elizabeth Holm, Priory Road
Archie John Lockett, Bo'ness

January

Sylvia Kate Carella, Burghmuir Court
Malcolm David Marshall, Bailielands

February

Lewis William Rhind, Huntburn Avenue
Jessica Roberta Florence Henderson, Durham
James Alexander Ferrario, Deanburn Park

March

Lewis Shaun McVay, Polmont



WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to Annette and Graham Wilson who were married in St Michael's on 2nd March 1957 by Rev C. Rutherford and so have just celebrated their Diamond (60th) Wedding Anniversary.



REGISTER



FUNERALS

I am the resurrection and the life

December

Alexander Wood, The Vennel
David Turner, Springfield Road



January

Clive Davidson, Champany Inn (*Memorial Service*)

February

Thomas (Tam) Cherrie, Old School Court
Margaret Campbell, Linlithgow Care Home (*St Ninian's Craigmillen Parish*)
Catherine (Irene) McNeill, Avon Drive
Audrey Johnston, Deanburn Road
Tam Dalyell of The Binns (*Memorial Service*)



March

William (Bill) Millar, Dollar
Helen Morrison, Linlithgow Care Home (*St Ninian's Craigmillen Parish*)
Mary (Ray) Adams, Kettil'stoun Mains (*St Ninian's Craigmillen Parish*)
Charles Grant, Sheriffs Park

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

COFFEE MORNINGS

All Saturdays from 10am to 12 noon in the Kirk Hall

13th May Linlithgow Reed Band
20th May Linlithgow Link Fundraising Event



OTHER EVENTS IN THE CHURCH

21st April 6pm Collegium Vocale München
23rd April 3pm Scouts Annual St George's Day Parade
29th April 7.30pm Cadenza Choir
18th June tbc NYCOS Summer Concert
25th June tbc Linlithgow Ladies Choir

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Rev Dr JunSoo Park on his appointment as a Research Assistant at New College, Edinburgh. We wish him, Bora, Daniel and Timothy every blessing in their new home in Marchmont.

NEED A ROOM FOR YOUR EVENT?

Looking for a venue for a children's party?

Need a room for a meeting?

Have you thought of using the Kirk Hall or Adam Room or one of the smaller meeting rooms in Cross House? The rental rates are very reasonable.

Please contact the Church Office to discuss availability – phone 01506 842188 or email info@stmichaels-parish.org.uk.

WEBSITES

www.stmichaelsparish.org.uk – See Crosswind in full colour! Also find podcasts of sermons, current intimations, details of upcoming events and all other church activities.

www.helpcentre.org.uk – For information on support available for most situations.

ST MICHAEL'S FELLOWSHIP TEAM

by Margaret Johnston



At St Michael's we have a very busy and very dedicated group of Elders who make up our Fellowship Team. We follow a remit to promote the development and enrichment of the fellowship life of the whole Church and everyone affiliated with it. This is no small task when we think about the size of our church and the many organisations within it.

However, for most people their first thought of what Fellowship looks like in our church is Teas and Coffees. And, of course, this is a big part of what we do; providing refreshments and catering for different events most notably in between our Sunday Services, allowing congregations and visitors to talk and get to know each other better. After all fellowship is an important part of our faith. Coming together to support one another allows us to learn, gain strength and show the world exactly who God is.

But this is not the only activity that we spearhead. We also maintain records of Sunday attendance, welcome new members, organise transport, distribute service recordings, and identify the gifts and the interests of members, which helps to engage them more actively in the life of the church. And it has been this final responsibility that has become a focus for us over the last few months as we have been organising an event we hoped would encourage partnership and camaraderie – not only within our number but also to encourage others within the town with little or no contact with St Michael's to make a connection with their Parish Church.

The Brides of St Michael's Exhibition had a very simple origin; let's show a collection of beautiful bridal dresses worn by brides on their wedding days in St Michael's Church. The call was put out and we were overwhelmed with the response from brides willing to donate their dresses. A post on the 'Linlithgow' page on Facebook saw women from all over the country nominating their dresses as well as their friend's, sister's and mother's dresses too! By the week of the event we had 90 dresses from over 67 years (1950-2016), along with countless photos from other brides.



Now the hard work was to begin. In February, on Sunday afternoons, over 25 women came together in the Kirk Hall to work with bin liners and duct tape to help form the 90 mannequins that were needed to display the gowns. These afternoons were great fun and many commented on the amount of laughter coming from the hall as women from the age of 10 to 80+ were being enclosed into their silver shells. The next step was to stuff the forms with old duvets, blankets, pillows and any other material we could get our hands on; their stands were being made from wood donated by a local business.



In the week of the event, Open Church became a drop-off station for dresses and photographs with brides reminiscing about their Big Days and the special part our magnificent building had played in them. As the dresses came in, a small army of volunteers started to transform the church into a museum of bridal dresses, complemented beautifully with wedding bouquets and flower arrangements adorning the pillars and walls. It was wonderful to see all of our plans and hard work start to come together.

And before we knew it the weekend was upon us and finishing touches were put into place. Visitors were so eager we opened early and from that moment on a sea of people came into the church, while the bells rang at 1pm to welcome them. The excitement and enthusiasm was undeniable as family and friends recognised their loved ones' dresses, as strangers noticed details on gorgeous gowns, and as children chatted trying to decide on their favourites. On both Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 March, over 900 visitors viewed the exhibition with delightful wedding music being provided by our organists Andrew and Angus, adding to the charming experience. Much needed refreshments were served in the Kirk Hall as everyone gathered to talk about the dresses, the stories behind them and the building that housed them as they drank their teas and coffees and ate their cakes.



This event has left a buzz in the town and many memories that will stay with those who were a part of it for many, many years. It has fully encapsulated what it is to have fellowship with each other; finding our talents and using our mutual experiences to build relationships within St Michael's and with those in our communities who are part of our wider church family.

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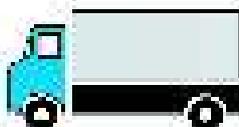
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IN THE FRAME

by Pat Brough

Photography plays an important part in our lives. It commemorates special events like weddings, christenings, holidays; it records a child growing up. How many people are attracted by the photograph on the cover of a magazine or book?

Crosswind is extremely fortunate to enjoy the expertise of a professional photographer and also some talented amateurs. Grayscale photographs generally illustrate every article in the magazine.

Some articles merit several photos and occasionally, for special events like 'Music@theMarches', Flower Festivals and dramatic productions in the Church, colour is used. Colour photographs are more expensive to reproduce and thus appear in Crosswind infrequently.

We are grateful to Alex Adam, Stephen Blake and Ian Musgrave who photograph various people and parts of the Church for use in the magazine. There is also a large library of logos and drawings which can be accessed on the Internet. Occasionally, articles concerning visits to other parts of the world are illustrated by the writer of the article.

Twenty years ago when the magazine was first produced in its present format, Gordon Young – a professional photographer – was the guiding light and many front covers are Gordon's work or from his considerable library.

Sometimes a cartoon appears at the start of an article. These are the work of our Property Convener Jim Rae, who has a genius for turning a few lines into something clever and funny.

Choosing a front cover for Crosswind suitable for the season and depicting some aspect of the Church has to be thought of well in advance. Quite often Myra has to think ahead and organise a photograph to be taken for use in a year's time. For example, when the fall of poppies was hung from the pulpit in November 2016, it was photographed ready for the front cover of the October 2017 magazine.

If you look at page 2 of the magazine, you will find the name of the cover photographer.

Cover photographs have to be portrait format rather than landscape and over the years several members – including one Academy pupil – have contributed some beautiful front covers for Crosswind.

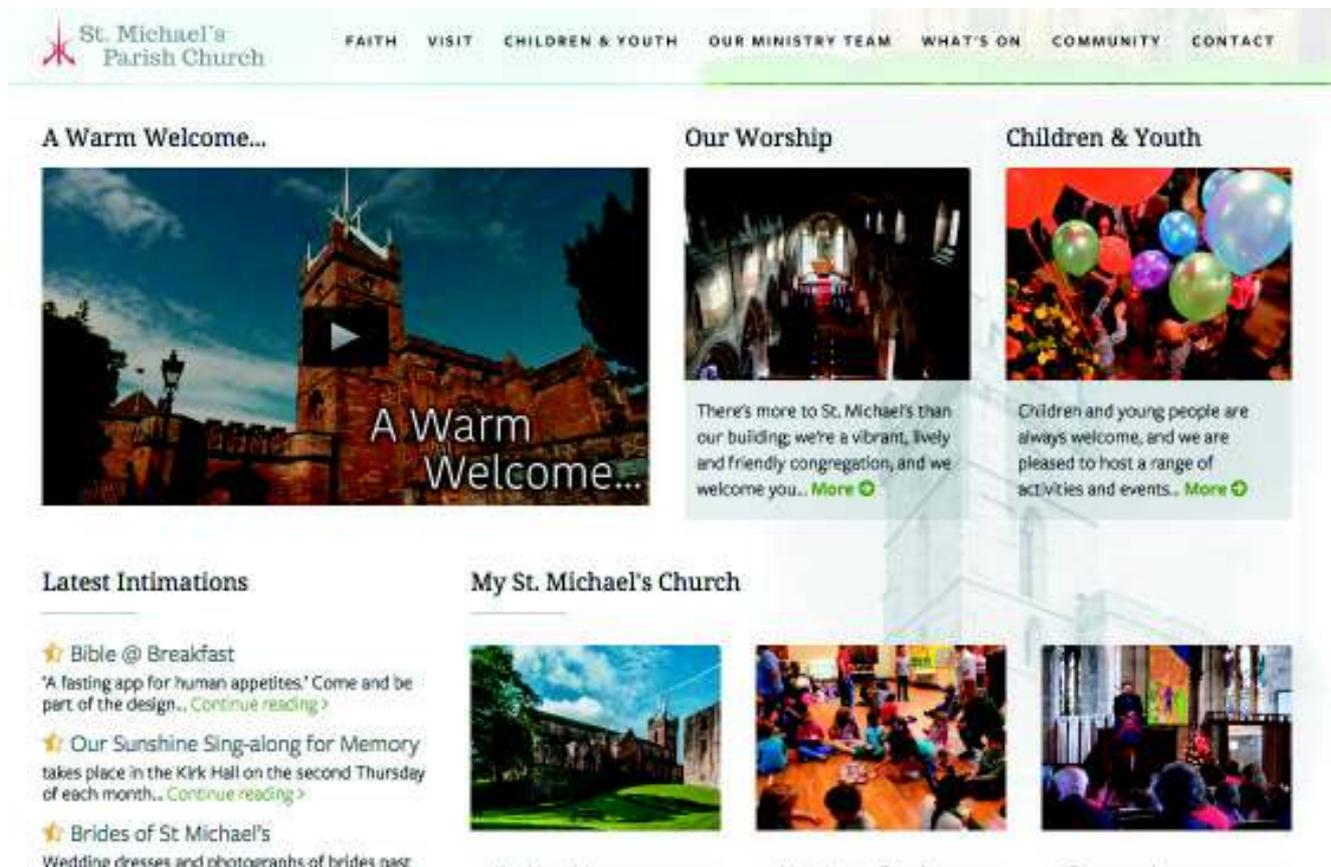
Please note: Permission is always obtained from parents when children feature in any photographs.

OUR NEW WEBSITE: WWW.STMICHAELSPARISH.ORG

by Ivan Coyle

It's been a long time coming but finally St Michael's has a new website. The old website had served the church well but was looking a bit tired and dated compared with other church sites. The new website went 'live' in December after many months of work. It was developed in conjunction with Sanctus Media in Bo'ness, a specialist digital media company primarily serving churches and charities.

Sanctus Media was approached initially because of their Church of Scotland involvement. An agreement was reached to allow them to develop the site. A small group was set up to co-ordinate the project.



The task was immense. Developing a new website takes time and can't be done overnight. It was not simply a case of transferring the content from the old site to the new. A lot of content was out of date or needed editing. Most of the organisations hadn't updated their information for a long time and pictures on the site needed to be replaced for various reasons. We wanted to add video clips which needed to be filmed and edited. All in all, there was a huge amount of work to be done.

It has to be said that most of this work fell on Chris Collen who was one of the people maintaining the old site. His knowledge of the site, along with his technical understanding of the processes involved, was invaluable. The program used to run the site is different from the old one, and so training had to be given to a small group of people who were likely to be involved in updating the site. Elaine Laing took on the job of trainer.

The site went through various changes before we settled on the one you see today. The website is still evolving so you may see changes from time to time until we are satisfied that we have the website running to its full potential. We hope you find the new website fresh, bright, colourful and more dynamic than the 'old' website. We hope it will prove interesting, informative and helpful to both members and visitors alike.

However that's not all we've have been doing.

The use of social media is firmly established in our culture. Facebook, Twitter and Instagram now play a prominent part in how organisations, businesses and media outlets engage with their members, clients and customers and so St Michael's should be no different. Social media gives churches another source of outreach.

And so, in addition to the new website, St Michael's now has a Facebook page. When we looked at what other churches were doing, it was obvious that lots of churches had embraced social media in many ways. St Michael's only presence on the internet was through the website so it was decided to dip our toe into the world of social media.

Our Facebook page has now been running for several months and has proved to be a simple way of communicating with people. The monthly prayer diary is a good example of this. The daily prayer is posted on Facebook and people are notified when the post goes up. This gives St Michael's daily contact with our Facebook 'friends'.

It gives us another channel for pushing our news out to people who might prefer to look at Facebook on their phone rather than consult our website. We post details of our services, events, news and provide links of interest to other sites. We are able to schedule notifications to promote events.

An excellent example of this is the Brides of St Michael's display. When Margaret Johnston asked for Brides of St Michael's to go on Facebook she was inundated with replies from people offering their dresses and photos. This post alone generated 295 comments, 3000 clicks and potentially reached a staggering 14,222 people. It showed that, if used properly, social media is a powerful tool that we could be embracing as a way of outreach.

We welcome any comments and feedback you may have about the new website or the Facebook page, so please feel free to contact me at ivan.coyle@virgin.net.

REFLECTIONS

by Mukami McCrum

I have been recently reflecting on two highlights of my experiences and contribution as a member of World Mission. One is the ongoing work with leaders of the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan in exploring trauma healing and mediation in their war-torn country – I will write about this another time. The subject of this article is my participation at the 12th General Assembly of the Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa (UPCSA) on behalf of the Church of Scotland. The Assembly was held in East London, East Cape Province, with the theme of 'The Spirit Driven Church'. (East Cape is the birthplace of many famous politicians including Nelson Mandela.)



*From Left:
Rev. Lungile Mpetsheni
(General Secretary),
Rev. Dr Robert Munthali
(Moderator of the Assembly)
and Mukami McCrum
(Church of Scotland)*

UPCSA membership reflects the diversity of the peoples of the Southern African region and their particular religious history. In 1999 the Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa (PCSA), composed predominately of white membership, and the Reformed Presbyterian Church (RPC), of predominately black membership, joined together to form the UPCSA. One could often sense unease during discussions in the business sessions of the General Assembly.

UPCSA defines itself as, 'a diverse community of reformed Christians led by the Word of God and the Holy Spirit, prayerfully seeking the will of God for our lives together and the world'. The people, from several countries including Zimbabwe and Zambia, share racial and cultural experiences, socio-economic status and a variety of languages.

Assembly is held every two years but the Executive Commission meets between assemblies to follow up decisions taken. The business includes induction of Moderator and election of Moderator Designate. The current leadership of UPCSA includes the Moderator of the Assembly Rev Dr Robert Munthali, Moderator Designate Rev Peter Langerman and General Secretary, Rev Lungile Mpetsheni.

The Assembly started every morning with devotion and singing that uplifted my soul. Each day's business was listed in a detailed agenda and programme of activities. They prefer a consensus model in decision making, but when this fails the moderator calls for a Westminster model.

First is the listening session where questions may be asked to clarify points in the report. The report's proposals are separated into two categories 'Transactional' and 'Missional'. Transactional categories (eg receiving the report) are quite straightforward, but Missional can require discussion before agreement. The next stage is discussion where the report is given to the Insaka, small group sessions, which can make changes. Transactionals can be changed to Missional but not the other way around. At the end of the Insaka stage all changes suggested are collected and homogenised. The final session is the decision stage, where the changes are agreed by consensus. I perceived a remarkable desire for inclusiveness in the Insaka model.

As one of the ecumenical visitors, I was overwhelmed by the warm welcome I received from leadership and from delegates. I was able to speak to many people, especially women, and I was impressed by their commitment and deep sense of hope despite the many challenges they still face. It was touching that they considered me one of their own and several people commended the Church of Scotland for sending an African woman (a daughter and sister) which they had never experienced before. Interestingly, many people asked me about BREXIT and the future of Scotland.

In giving greetings from Scotland, I presented two gifts to the Moderator – the first, a St Martin's Cross on behalf of the Church of Scotland and I told the story behind the Cross. I also gave him a framed photograph of the beautiful interior of our church, and invited any visitors to Scotland to come and worship with us.

Other activities included lunch with the Moderator at one of the churches in the township – a good reminder of the harsh reality of life for many South African people. Their faith, which keeps them strong, is evident in the efforts they make to build communities and serve in the name of God.

I also attended a wonderful and moving ceremony to celebrate the Legacy of Rev Tiyo Soga – the first African to be ordained as a minister 160 years ago in Glasgow. He married a Scottish woman and served as a preacher, translated Pilgrim's Progress and helped revise the Xhosa Bible among many other achievements.

On the whole the Assembly went very well and important decisions were made though consensus. However, there were difficult moments especially a discussion about human sexuality, disability issues and action UPCSA should take about concerns about the cost of the President's house.

It was not all hard work and a lunch on the river boat, under the big blue African sky, gave me a chance to reflect and enjoy the beauty of the earth.

JUST A MINUTE

Donald Burgess continues
to dip into the pages of the
Kirk Session minutes...

100 years ago

Sun. 27th Feb. 1917 [At Linlithgow and within the Vestry] The Moderator reported that the death of the Rev. Thos. Lugton MA had taken place at Edinburgh on Friday the 23rd inst. The Session resolved to place on record an expression of the Session's great sorrow at the death of the Rev. Thos. Lugton MA and their high appreciation of his services as Missionary Asst. and at Kingscavil. For seventeen years he had served in that capacity and had greatly endeared himself to the people. A man of marked intellectual ability and of scholarly interests he could have filled a wider sphere and done fuller service for the Church, had he been granted the physical strength. But he bore his weakness uncomplainingly and was content to serve Christ in the sphere God assigned him, and to the limits of the strength which it pleased God to give him. He took a bright interest in the young and showed a kindly care of the Old – was ever attentive to the suffering and the sick. He was a man – Genial, Unobtrusive, Sagacious and Kind and his memory will abide in many a heart.

50 years ago

Tues. 21st Mar. 1967 Arising from the Minutes of the meeting of 21st Feb. 1967 it was reported that the new electric lighting system would be dedicated on Easter Sunday to the glory of God and the memory of the late Robert Crichton.

It was also reported that the Session Clerk had submitted his resignation in writing, that the sub-committee appointed at the last meeting had met and recommended that Mr. David Morrison be appointed Session Clerk in place of Mr. Glennie, and that Mr. Morrison had indicated that he would be prepared to serve the Session in this capacity. Mr. Beattie moved that the Session invite Mr. David Morrison to become Session Clerk. The Session approved and decided that Mr. Morrison would take the oath 'de fideli administratione officii' at the next monthly meeting.

The Session next considered the desirability of electing new elders. Mr. Cook Jnr. recalled that the 1964 General Assembly had ordained that women could now be appointed as elders. He therefore moved that at its April meeting the Session should accept nominations of both men and women. Mr. Marshall seconded. Mr. Cook Senr. moved that at its April meeting the Session should accept the nomination of men only. Mr. Leslie seconded.

On a show of hands thirteen voted for the motion of Mr. Cook Senr., and eighteen for the motion of Mr. Cook Jr. which was therefore declared carried.

25 years ago

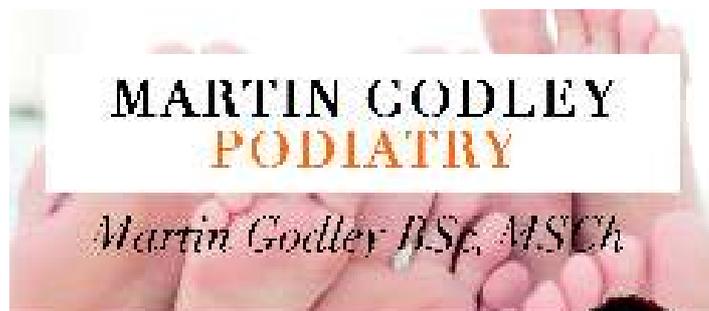
Tues. 18th Feb. 1992 [*Christian Education*] The Crieff weekend was attended by 30 members of the congregation on the theme 'Sharing our Faith'. This was an enjoyable weekend organized by Mrs. Doreen Baxter and the Christian Education Committee, with pleasant company, good speakers, excellent discussions and recommended to all as an experience not to be missed.

Rev. Ranald Gauld reported on the Youth Fellowship Weekend in January at Dounan's Camp, Aberfoyle. This was organized by 'Brainstormers' with excellent seminars and workshops. Kirk Session was thanked for funding this enjoyable course.

Tues. 17th Mar. 1992 At this meeting Kirk Session marked the 15th Anniversary of the Induction to St. Michael's Church of the moderator, Mr. Paterson. Members of the Kirk Session wished their appreciation of Mr. Paterson's efforts and contribution to be minuted.

Tues. 21st Apr. 1992 [*750th Anniversary of the consecration of St. Michael's Church*] A short service of Holy Communion would be held in the church on the morning of 22nd May 1992 to celebrate the 750th anniversary of the consecration of St. Michael's Church. This would be followed by the ringing of the bells at 12 noon.

A family day of Celebration of the Consecration of St. Michael's would take place on Saturday 23rd May 1992. Kirk Session was indebted to Mr. William Ross for the arrangements of this day.



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Holiday Club 2017

by Russell Shields

Avast, me hearties! I bring good news!

Plans for this year's Holiday Club are underway and we're taking to the seven seas in Landlubbers. Our Pirate ship will set sail on Monday 14 August and sail through to Friday 18 August 2017. So dig out your peg legs, parrots and join us aboard the ship.



The programme will be slightly different to previous years but we'll still have our favourite activities involved. Our age range has changed to offer more opportunities for young people. So if you've just finished P1-P7 and enjoy games, songs, crafts, challenges, stories, dramas and more, then Landlubbers is the place to be. We'll be spending more time in groups with a programme right for each age range. We will hear from Paul as he wrote to Christians from different counties, encouraging them in their faith all whilst he himself was in jail for believing in Jesus.

It's a great time with friends and a great chance to meet new people. We'll set sail at 10am and land ashore at 12.30pm in Cross House on all 5 days that week, with plans for another Family Day on Saturday 19 August. If you'd like to know more then please get in touch with Captain Russell at: russell@stmichaels-parish.org.uk

By changing the programme slightly we hope to make helping at the club a lot easier and keep all the fun for both children and leaders. Young people in S1-S6 will be able to help as runners or youth helpers, or if you're 18+ then there are loads of different roles that we'd appreciate your help with!

We'll also be running a programme for anyone who's just completed S1-S6 on a few of the afternoons that week so keep alert for more information about that.

For now, fare well, and we hope to see you aboard!

WHERE DO WE TURN OUR FACE?

by Ali Pandian

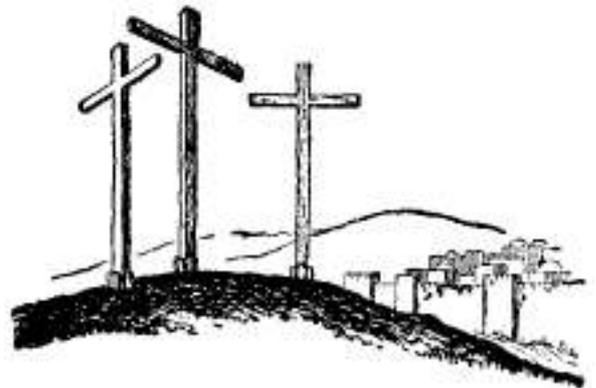


How lovely as Spring begins to peep out of Winter that we can have moments when the warm sun appears. It is natural to turn our faces towards it, to enjoy the way it feels, allowing it to stop us in our tracks for an all too brief moment. I wonder what other things we turn our face towards, what other things capture our attention and stop us in our tracks? With a Society that seems to dictate that there is so much noise and colour it can be hard to grab our attention in the first place, and then our faces can turn from screen to screen with only the occasional human contact in between. We turn our

faces to things that appear attractive, necessary or exciting.

If you're anything like me, you may swing between being very focused on a task at hand and blocking everything else out, to being distracted and turning your face any and every which way. The former means we can miss spontaneous moments and the latter means we can feel like we are drifting rather than travelling forwards on our journey of faith.

In the run up to that first Good Friday, we learn in Luke's Gospel that 'Jesus set his face towards Jerusalem' (Luke 9: 51). This is a place which he knew would bring danger, loneliness and ultimately death. Yet he kept his face set in this direction because of a deep love that he had and has for each one of us.



Could we, I wonder, challenge ourselves to join Jesus on the final steps of this journey?

Could we too set our faces towards Jerusalem? Even if our instinct compels us to turn the other way until it's time to celebrate? Let us turn our faces away from other things to focus our eyes on the cross and Jesus, our Saviour and Lord.

Heavenly Father,

As we near the end of our journey through Lent may we seek you and find you, may we turn our face with Jesus towards Jerusalem and remain with him on his journey to the cross. Focus our hearts on you. Dust out the distractions of our day to day lives and fill the space with thoughts of you, with knowledge of you, with your loving presence.

And breathe your peace in us we pray.

Amen.

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