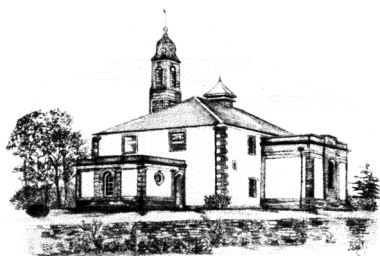


November 2011

MEARNS KIRK

NEWS



Letter from our Minister

Hi Folks,

The nights have now drawn in ! Winter awaits us, and I really hope that it is not as bad as last year.

With the coming of the cold and dark please remember to look after yourselves and those you love and your neighbours. We really do need to be mindful of how such a time impacts upon people, in lots of ways. And the church family should be extra mindful too. So, Elders make these months the time when you drop in and see, particularly, the elderly and housebound; Sunday and Wednesday worshippers, if someone who sits with you "disappears" find out how they are doing; church family in all the ways in which we meet, be aware of who might be struggling.

But also, through our pastoral care group, people who are restricted in getting out by the Winter or who would like a wee extra visit, can be visited if they make their needs known. Please do not spend too much time on your own when a



Church of Scotland

Mearns Kirk

**You are invited to share in the celebration of
The Lord's Supper
in Mearns Kirk
at 10.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m.
on Sunday 6 November 2011**

Elder:.....

phone call can bring a friend to spend some time with you, in these Winter months.

In the midst of the dark, Winter light can still shine if we look after each other in a spirit of Christian love and care. Light always shines because Christ is always with us too. His presence is promised to us, and of course symbolically the celebration of His birth in the midst of the dark Winter months, speaks of how He lights up even the darkest of times.

Mearns Kirk - Charity Number SC007125

Letter from our Minister (continued)

Please let no one in our church specially need companionship until the family feel that they are on their own. During the Winter we especially need companionship until the days lengthen. Blessings, Joe

At the Altar

Weddings: Jesus said: "And the two shall become one."

24 Sept : Jenny Mitchell and Alastair Forbes, Glasgow



At Rest

Funerals: Jesus said: "I am the Resurrection and the Life."

23 Sept : Ken Durie, Mearns

7 Oct : Esther Davidson, Mearns

7 Oct : Christian Carvel, Mearns

10 Oct : Wallace Cunningham, Auchlochan

13 Oct : Dennis Clark, Mearns

Church Services

WORSHIP

Wednesday 2 November

Midweek Worship at 10.30 in Hall

Friday 4 November

Preparatory Service at 7.30 p.m. in the Hall

Sunday 6 November

Communion Services at 10.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m.

Wednesday 9 November

Midweek Worship at 10.30 in Hall

Sunday 13 November

Remembrance Services at 9.15 and 10.50 a.m.

Wednesday 16 November

Midweek Worship at 10.30 in Hall

Sunday 20 November

Traditional Early Service at 9.30

Main Morning Worship at 11 a.m.

Wednesday 23 November

Midweek Worship at 10.30 in Hall

Sunday 27 November

Back to Church Services at 9.30 and 11 a.m.

Remembering Those We Love at 6.30 p.m.

Tuesday 29 November

Worship With The Senses at 7.30 p.m. in the Hall

Wednesday 30 November

Midweek Worship at 10.30 in Hall

Back to Church Sunday

Sunday 27 November is our Back to Church Sunday. It is the first Sunday of Advent and so begins our journey towards Christmas as a Church.

Back to Church Sunday is a way of encouraging people who perhaps are members, or folks who haven't been to Church for years, to come back. There are a good number of our members who for whatever reasons, have not come to worship for a long time. Here is an opening to return to Church and find your way back into the life of the Kirk. On Sunday 27 November no one will ask : "where have you been ? " but only give you the warmest of welcomes, glad that they will be to see you again. But such a Sunday is really for everyone we know who

doesn't come to Church. This being so, I want to encourage you to INVITE people to Church on that day. If everyone brought 1 person what a congregation we would have! All you have to do is INVITE and let God do the rest.

On that Sunday the service will seek to be inclusive, in that whoever comes will be helped to feel part of what is going on. It will begin our Christmas preparations and as such be a great service to INVITE people to. Please play your part. I am going to see who I can INVITE as well.

This could be a time for renewed faith or even new faith to take root in someone's life. God wants to reach out to everyone, will we help Him do it ?

Worship With The Senses

Worship With The Senses is a time set aside for peace in God's presence. Silence and reflection are the essence of this hour. 7.30 until 8.30

p.m. on Tuesday 29 November in the New Hall. Why not come apart from all that you need a break from and find God in this special time.

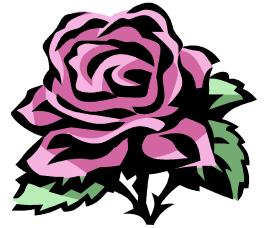
Pastoral Needs

Please inform the Minister if you are ill, in hospital or facing particular difficulties. If the Minister knows about your needs he will endeavour to offer every possible assistance. Contact him at the Manse or by phone on 616 2410.

The Pastoral Group makes visits to the elderly, infirm, housebound, those in a care home etc. Please call Jean Henderson on 639 3607 if you know of anyone who should be on our list. We will be delighted to visit them.

Church Flowers

- Nov 6 Mrs I. Dodds - Communion
- 13 Mrs C. Murchie - Remembrance
- 20 Ms S. McMurtrie
- 27 Mrs A. Lewis and The McCarrol Family



Arrangers' Rota

- | | | | |
|-------|----------|----|----------|
| Nov 6 | Margaret | 13 | Rosemary |
| 20 | Ella | 27 | Jessie |

Margaret and I would like to thank everyone who helped at Harvest Thanksgiving - the flower arrangers who worked so hard decorating the church and of course the volunteers who stayed behind after the service to deliver the flowers. It is very much appreciated. Many thanks also for donations amounting to £80 left during the last month for the Flower Fund.

Rosemary Baillie 01560 600322 Margaret Withycombe 638 0672

Dates for your Diary

Friday 4 November

Preparatory Service in the New Hall at 7.30 p.m.

Sunday 6 November

Communion Services at 10.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m.

Sunday 13 November

Services of Remembrance at 9.15 and 10.50 a.m.

Monday 14 November

Kirk Session meets at 7.30 p.m. in the Hall

Thursday 17 November

Contributions required for December/January 'News'

Saturday 26 November

Woman's Guild Coffee Morning in the Hall from 10 a.m. to 12 noon

St Andrew's Social Event in the Hall at 7.30 p.m.

Sunday 27 November

Remembering Those We Love in the Church at 6.30 p.m.

Tuesday 29 November

Worship With The Senses at 7.30 p.m. in the Hall



Joining the Church: A meeting for anyone interested in joining the Church will take place at 9 a.m. on Saturday 12 November in the New Hall.

Remembering Those We Love

A service for those who have lost a loved one will be held on Sunday 27 November at 6.30 in the Church.

Christmas brings lots of memories and some difficulties for those who have been bereaved irrespective of how long. This service is a way of making a space to remember, and that with others who are on the same journey, those who we still love and want to acknowledge as still being

bound up with us.

The service is a time for quiet reflection, hymns and prayers, and an opportunity to light a candle in memory of our loved one. Many have found this not to be a sad service but a very helpful service in the run up to Christmas. If you know of anyone who might be helped in this way please let them know.

Church Twinning

As a Church the idea of twinning has been thought about for a while now.

Recently the Rev Levi Nyondo from Malawi, came to preach and was warmly received.

After the service a few of us met with Levi to discuss a possible twinning with a Church in the north of Malawi. Encouraged by him to think of Ifumbo Presbyterian Church, the Kirk Session discussed the matter and decided to proceed.

Where we are now is at the beginning of a journey. We are entering into a partnership which will mean getting to know each other and getting caught up in each other's life.

Please do not think it will be about us simply giving money. No, not at all ! It is about learning from each other, sharing in faith with each other, building a relationship which will be mutually beneficial. What will happen is unknown at the moment but that is exciting, that is the journey of faith we are called to embrace.

We will journey slowly. We will reflect and pray and see where God leads. And we will do this as a Church, not seeing it as something for the interested few. So listen out. More will be said through the Pulpit and Magazine in due course.

Bible Study Group: The next meetings of the Bible Study Group are at 10 Meadowburn Avenue at 1.30 p.m. on Tuesdays 1 November (John 5: 16-47), November 8 (John 6: 1-24), November 15 (John 6: 25-71), November 22 (John 7: 1-24) and November 29 (John 7: 25-53).

Sunday Duty Rota

- Nov 6** 10.30 & 2.30 Communion Duties
- Nov 13** 9.15 Stewart Lothian, Ian Stubbs, Heather Gilchrist,
Lesley Anne Sutherland
- 10.50 David Arthur, Isobel Dawson, Jane Dunning,
Liz Gourlay, Jim Milroy
- Nov 20** 9.30 Mary Deas, Bryan Robertson, Marshall Wyllie,
Harriet Reid
- 11.00 Donald Fraser, Elizabeth Harris, Violet Kimble,
Alan Wilkinson, Arthur Gardner
- Nov 27** 9.30 Barbara Bremner, Eleanor Boyd, Sandra McFarlane,
Ramsay Withycombe
- 11.00 Ann Campbell, Arthur Croall, Stewart Drummond,
Louise Macaulay, Sandy Watson

Names underlined are scheduled to read the lesson.

Minibus Rota

On Sundays 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th November, Peter Boyd (639 7544) is scheduled to drive the minibus to the Main Service each Sunday. If you are a regular user of the

bus, please contact Peter if you will not be at Church, to avoid the bus waiting at pick-up points for passengers who are not coming!



Bereavement Support

The Support Group meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the New Hall, so the next meeting is on 1 November. These are very down to earth meetings where folks come together and offer friendship in and through the difficult experience of the loss of a

loved one.

Please, if you know of anyone who would benefit from spending time with folks who are going through a similar experience, tell them about it. People have found the Group to be very helpful. Any questions, phone Joe.

Disc Deliveries: If you are able to help deliver the sound recordings to housebound members after the 11 a.m. service, please contact Campbell Scouler on 639 1006.

Mission Group

When I wrote last month's article we were preparing to be assessed for an Eco Green Flag award. In the event we were given a full award by the assessors and are now considered a "green church". We will receive a plaque and the full report on our efforts soon. This report is eagerly anticipated for it will contain the requirements for proceeding to the next level in the "greening process"! The assessors were fulsome in their praise for the Kirk's sustained efforts over all the criteria and particularly noted the wide range of endeavours undertaken; the attention to Eco issues in worship; the links with the wider community; and the fact that so many of the Kirk's individuals, groups and organisations had given willing commitment to the task. I offer my gratitude again to our Eco Warrior, Alan Wilkinson, for his drive; to the members of the Mission Group for their support and belief; and to all those of you who contributed to the extended and protracted challenge. Well done to everyone involved!

As I have hinted above, this work will continue and increase over the next few years as will the other tasks of taking the Gospel on to which the Group is committed. It would be an appropriate time, therefore, to add new ideas and

strength to the Group. If you would like to join us, please let Joe, Marje or any member of the Mission Group know. You can be assured of a very warm welcome.

Jean and I represented the congregation at the annual meeting of the Lodging House Mission recently to hear their plans and challenges for the year ahead and to spend some time in fellowship with them. They asked us to convey their thanks to you all for the various gifts of plate offerings, goods and long-term pledges which have enabled them to guarantee feeding and friendship for the many homeless and hungry folk who increasingly come to them. As you know from last month's News, we are responding to their stated needs this Christmas in a new way. There will be no Shoe Box gifts. Instead, there will be an opportunity each week to place types of food and drink in a box in the vestibule. Details of their most pressing needs are on the box. The Mission Group will collect your contributions each week from now until just before Christmas and take them to our friends at LHM. Thanks to all who have already so generously given. Please remember the hungry and the homeless in your prayers and in your hearts.

Tom Greig

Social Event - St Andrew's Night

Saturday 26 November - 7:30 p.m. - Church Hall

A St. Andrew's Night for the whole family - a Scottish Night with a difference ! A Quiz night with a variety of challenges. Teams up to six people can be registered by 20 No-

vember on a Sunday morning or at the Church Office or by phoning Liz Gourlay on 639 8894. Only £2 per adult / £1 per child – on the night. Snacks and soft drinks will be provided - feel free to bring your own bottle!

Social Committee

The Social Committee is looking for more members - to help with ideas and organisation of 3 - 4 social events every year. Our next meeting

is on Wednesday 2 November at 7.30 p.m. at Liz Gourlay's house - Tel. 639 8894. Transport is available. Come and join our gathering!

2013 Celebrations - Comments Box

2013 is getting ever closer and a final list of activities and events has been drawn up. What we do need is to hear from everyone in our church family - and find out what **YOU** think and how **YOU** will support the celebrations.

We would ask you to take 5 minutes to read the flyer and then tick

the appropriate boxes on the reply card, note your own comments and drop the card in the Comments Boxes which are located in the entrance hall at the Kirk and in the entrance of the church halls. Please reply - this is **YOUR** church - **YOUR** voice is important !

Blythswood Care

The Blythswood Care Round Scotland lorry will be stopping at our church car park from 1.30 to 2 p.m. on Wednesdays 16 November and 14 December to uplift donations of clothing, bric-a-brac and small items of furniture. Soft furnishings must be labelled with a BS7177 coded tag,

and Blythswood Care are sorry they cannot accept books, bikes, carpets, coat hangers, gas or small electric appliances, prams, tvs, exercise equipment and wall units.



Prayer Diary

Pray for:-

- Guidance and support for Joe in his endeavours to help us reach a deeper spiritual awareness.
- Support and encouragement for our church elders.
- The various organizations in our church.
- Support for Emma and her team in their work with the young in our church family.
- Those members of our church family who are experiencing physical or emotional pain.
- The church grouping in our community.
- Support for young people studying at school.
- Young people in particular and others who are feeling discouraged through the effects of unemployment.
- The homeless who can't seem to escape their situation.
- Wisdom and guidance for the Scottish government and the work they do in our society to support the weak and infirm.
- A peaceful outcome to the troubles in Libya.
- A peaceful solution to the war in Afghanistan.
- The Church's plans to increase the awareness of the Christian message and the support that we bring by working together as a congregation.
- Christians throughout the world who are suffering because of their faith.



Poem by Pynson's Horae (1514)

God be in my head, and in my understanding;
God be in my eyes, and in my looking;
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;
God be in my heart, and in my thinking;
God be at my end, and at my departing.

Health & Safety: We are looking for someone to join a small group which will look at our Health & Safety arrangements and make sure we're doing everything we need to. It would be good if the person has some H&S knowledge but an interest in this area would also be fine. For more information contact Eleanor Boyd on 0141 639 7544.

Ladies' Walking Group

Whilst England basked in glorious sunshine, 8 of us sat in Parklands on the first Wednesday of October sipping coffee and bemoaning our missed walk. Yes, gales and monsoon rain caused yet another upset in our plans.

Walking in coastal Murcia, Spain

To cheer us up there was news of an opportunity for 4 ladies to stay for a week in self catering accommodation at the end of April/beginning of May. Costs are being kept to the minimum – about £250. Morning walks will be around the Mediterranean or Mar Menor inland sea area. Afternoons can be spent sightseeing in Cartagena (historical Roman city), as free time or on the beach. La Manga del Mar Menor is a resort

where the Spaniards go and little English is spoken there. Final dates will be decided once Ryanair announce their summer schedule. To express interest contact Celia.

End of Year Lunch

This will take place at Parklands on Wednesday 7 December at 1 p.m., cost £13. Ladies who have not managed to join in a walk for a while, or anyone considering coming to try a walk in future, will be welcome to join us. Names to Celia (639 8366).

Diary Dates

| | |
|-------|---|
| Nov 2 | Glennifer Braes (led by Anne McGhee/Irene Graham) |
| Dec 7 | LUNCH, Parklands, 1 p.m. |
| Jan | NO WALK |
| Feb 1 | Clyde II |

Friendship Club

8th November Penny Farthing and Candles and Gifts

22nd November Some Surprises – Arthur Gardner

6th December Christmas Party – Jean Binning and Friends

We meet every second Tuesday from 1.45 p.m. - 3.15 p.m.

Louise Macaulay (Secretary)



Mixed Badminton Club

Play has now resumed every alternate Wednesday evening from 7.30 p.m. and we would welcome anyone who would like to come and join us - just turn up as we have spare racquets - all you need are trainers

with white soles that will not mark the floors in the Hall. Our meeting dates are 9th & 23rd November and 7th December.

William & Lyn Black (639 3003)
househill2@gmail.com

Woman's Guild

2nd November Yorkhill Children's Foundation

16th November Guest Night, with representatives from other Guilds and Ladies' Groups. Speaker - Mr John Phillips, Former Guidance Principal of John Street Secondary School, Bridgeton. Subject - "The Happiest Days of My Life".

26th November Coffee Morning in Church Hall 10 a.m. - 12 Noon.

Various Stalls - Do your Christmas Shopping and enjoy our home baking.

Adults £1.50 Children 75p

30th November Waitrose of Greenfarm

7th December Christmas Lunch at Uplawmoor

BA

Mearns Kirk News

Contributions for the next issue of the Church Newsletter should be handed to Gordon Wilson or e-mailed to him on gwilson@giffnock128.fsnet.co.uk by Thursday 17 November. Magazines will be available for uplift by distributors on Sunday 27 November.

Distributors are asked to contact the Church Secretary if they require to alter the number of magazines allocated to them.