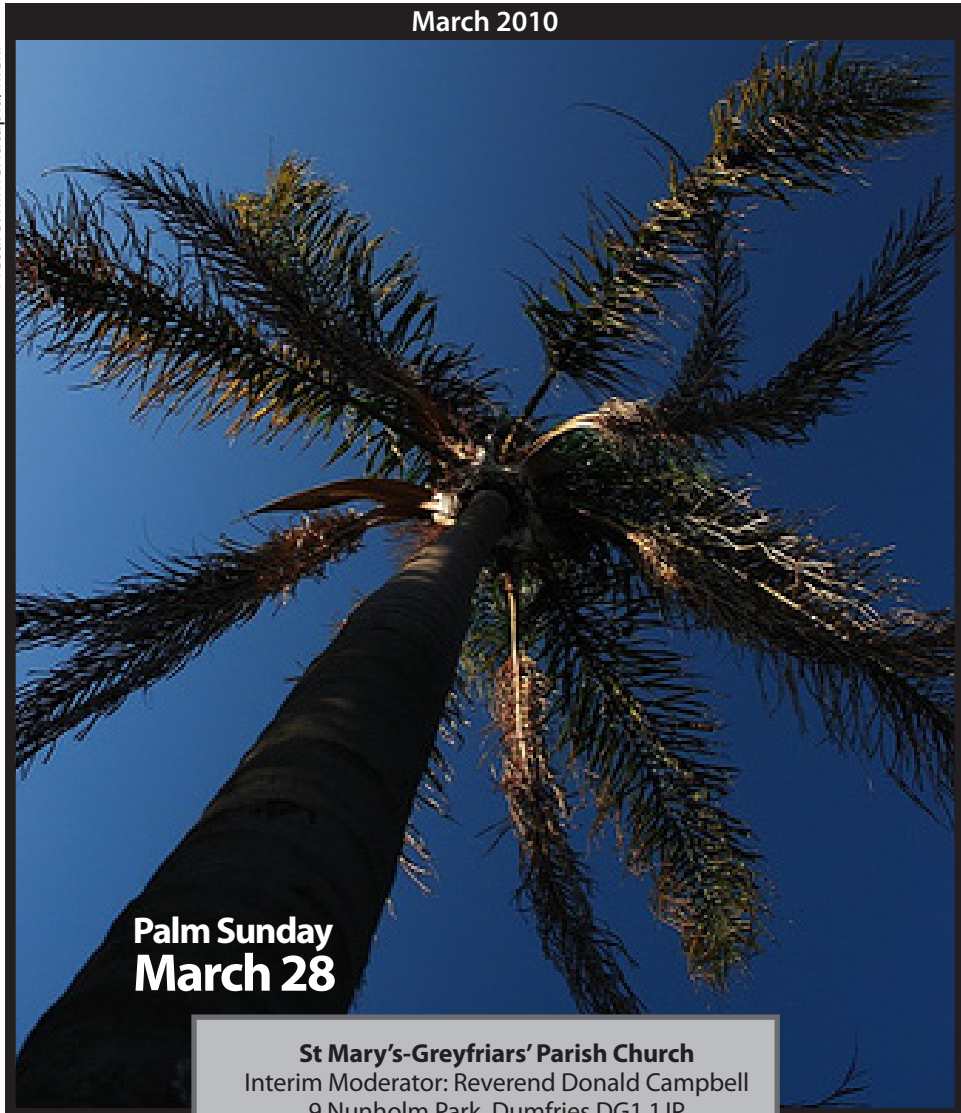




# Chrystal Chronicle

March 2010

Picture: ximenatapia/flickr



**Palm Sunday  
March 28**

**St Mary's-Greyfriars' Parish Church**

Interim Moderator: Reverend Donald Campbell

9 Nunholm Park, Dumfries DG1 1JP

Tel 01387 252965

[www.stmarysgreyfriars.org.uk](http://www.stmarysgreyfriars.org.uk)



# Church register

## Baptisms – “Let the little children come to me”

February 21: Darci Millie Grace Wallace-Allison; Aaron Greg Walter Scott Allison; Lochlan Laurie William Wilson.

## New members – “Welcome!”

Heather and Gordon Brown, 12 John Crabbe Crescent, Kirkton.

## Change of address – “We have moved”

Mr F Richardson, from 1 Tinwald Downs Place to 4 Parkhead Court, Annan Road

## Death – “I am the resurrection and the life”

February 14: Mrs M Leitch, Cargenholm

If you change your address, please let us know. It is important to keep our records up to date.

Contact **Marion Bennett**, 2 Wolfgill Drive, Dumfries DG1 4XY. Tel: 01387 263106.

### FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to our March edition. If you have anything for the next one, please pass it on through the church by Sunday March 21. The deadline is **Tuesday March 23 at 3pm**.

If you have any articles, please contact me:

- Address: 2 Wolfgill Drive, Dumfries DG1 4XY
- Telephone: **01387 263106**
- E-mail: [magazine@stmarysgreyfriars.org.uk](mailto:magazine@stmarysgreyfriars.org.uk)

David Bennett, Editor

## Christian Aid

**Lent Lunches:** These continue each Friday in Lent to March 26 in St John’s Church hall, 12 noon to 1.30pm; adults £2.50 and children £1. Homemade soup, filled roll, tea/coffee served, and a sales table each week.

**Thanks:** Grateful thanks to all who contributed in any way to the Lent lunch on Friday February 19. We give thanks that between ourselves and St Michael’s & South, who were on the sales table, the sum of £645 was raised for Christian Aid.

**Christian Aid Week:** Christian Aid Week this year is Sunday May 9 to Saturday May 15 – more information in April.



# From the Interim Moderator

In January I wrote to give you the good news that an Interim Minister was about to become available and, as promised by the Ministries Council, we were first priority on their waiting list and could expect the Interim Ministry to begin some time in April.

If you have been attending church recently you will know by now that an Interim Minister has, indeed, been appointed for Caerlaverock linked with St Mary's-Greyfriars' and his name is the Rev Gordon McCracken. All being well, he will take up his appointment on Wednesday April 21 and there will be a service of introduction at 7pm that evening in St Mary's-Greyfriars'.

The congregation of Caerlaverock held a vote on Sunday February 21 and voted unanimously in favour of an Interim Ministry just as you did back in June of last year so now everything is in place for the next stage of your journey as a congregation to begin.

Gordon McCracken comes with huge experience as a minister and as an Interim Minister and I am sure you will get on well with him as he leads you into this next stage of congregational life. It will be a busy, exciting and fulfilling time.

Colin Sutherland and I will still be around until April 21 but I would like to take this opportunity to thank Colin for his commitment Sunday by Sunday and for his pastoral work. His work has maintained the consistency a congregation requires and as Interim Moderator I am indebted to him for supplying that. For now we simply look forward to Easter; to the time of resurrection; to the beginnings of new life.

God Bless,

Donald Campbell, Interim Moderator

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## Appreciations

Since Rev Jamie Milliken left us at the end of December 2008, We have been led by our Interim Minister, Rev Donald Campbell, who has been assisted by our Locum Minister, Rev Colin Sutherland.

Donald, as Interim Minister, has guided us through this transitional period, and has worked very hard on our behalf to enable us to have an appointed Minister from the Church of Scotland Interim Ministry Team come to lead us from late April 2010.

Colin has given us great inspiration through his weekly worship services, and visiting of our elderly members when they have been in hospital, as well as conducting baptism and funeral services for us. He has also most willingly kept our monthly "In Touch" services in our hall going, which has been much appreciated by those who have come along to these services.

Should any member wish to show their appreciation to them for their services, please place your donation in an envelope marked for which minister (or both) and either hand over with your weekly offering, or give to Stewart Williamson, treasurer, or give to your Elder by Sunday April 18.

David Matheson, Interim Session Clerk



# Social update

As usual the social and fundraising committee has been actively working on ideas where you can come along and join in fellowship with us. Coffee mornings have been arranged for the year with the coffee morning on Saturday April 3 being in aid of Buzz Club funds. It will be run by the Buzz Club along with their committee members.

Dates for the rest of the year are May 1, May 29 – Garden Club, July 3, September 4, October 2 and November 6 and with the Bazaar being held on December 4. You will note that there is no coffee morning in August this year as it always clashes with Dumfries Show.

While we have conveners for all these coffee mornings, including the men who are convening the November coffee morning, if you feel you can offer your assistance in any way – washing dishes, serving tea/coffee or helping on a stall – please contact any member of the social and fundraising committee. If we had a rota organised it would mean that people could have some time off and not feel as though it was being left to the same ones every time. Please do not leave it up to the committee to arrange all the conveners (name only – everyone mucks in) or we may be struggling to hold some coffee mornings.

## Spring into Fashion

As we are all feeling the pinch due to the credit crunch, the committee has organised a charity fashion show in association with Imperial Cancer Research. This event will be held in the church hall on Thursday April 15 from 7.30pm, when models will display a range of clothing that is on sale in the shop at the top of Friars Vennel. There will also be the opportunity to purchase clothing on the night – not just restricted to ladies' fashion, we are having some male models also. Tickets for the event are £5 including refreshments for adults and £2.50 for under-16s. These can be obtained either from the Imperial Cancer Research Shop or from Janet McSherry on 01387 264973.

## Forthcoming events

The Garden Club is organising an Organ Recital to be held in the church on Friday May 7 from 7-9pm. The organ will be played by our own organist, Robert Lind, who is bringing along a few of his pupils to play for us. Tickets for the event are £8 per adult and £4 for children.

Even further ahead, a date for your diary – Friday November 19. We intend to hold an evening of remembrance with St. George's Church. We will be remembering the 1940s. If anyone has any photos or memorabilia of this type please pass them on as there will be an exhibition put on.

Before I finish, please help us to help our church. We cannot do run any events without your support. We are not "ogres" nor are we "cliquish". If you have any ideas you wish us to consider please pass your ideas on to us – nothing will be turned down "out of hand".

Janet McSherry, social and fundraising convener



# Glasgow flourishing

A “bus pass” visit to Glasgow in douce February probably doesn’t tick everyone’s box, but on arriving at a prosaic city centre hotel located in a frantic pedestrian precinct we were soon enjoying spring-like weather and basking in the buzz of a city that is still “miles better”!

Our time was limited, but we did settle for a perusal of the City Chambers, George Square and the shoppers’ paradise Princes Square. Since the regeneration of the Merchant City in the 1980s, the planners have produced some really remarkable transformations. We traversed a busy Argyle Street to Glasgow Green and saw the famous resited Terracotta Doulton Fountain, so redolent of an all-powerful British Empire in a mid-19th century world. Directly adjacent lies the People’s Palace, an interesting historic chronicle of a proletarian Glasgow, brought up to date with snatches of Rab C Nesbitt and Taggart.

Our next day’s visit was to a rural location within the city boundary called Pollok Park. Within it is the aesthetically amazing Burrell Art Collection, which obviously merited a visit commitment of at least four or five hours. Our last morning we allocated to walking along the Clyde, home to world-class shipbuilding, engineering and specifically the export of magnificent Springburn Steam Locomotives to literally all corners of the burgeoning world.

Our walk west from the Kingston Bridge took in the Broomielaw and the towering iconic Finnieston Crane; the Squinty Bridge; the relatively new SECC and the outrageous Armadillo. We then crossed the Bell’s Bridge, and with the imposing Pacific Quay buildings reigning over the placid but powerful Clyde we duly returned to the city centre, the M74 and inevitably home. Privately we were so thankful that 14 centuries ago the Christian Missionary St Mungo had founded such a dear green place.

## FOR REFLECTION

Love ever gives, forgives, outlives,  
And ever stands with open hands,  
And while it lives, it gives,

For this is love’s prerogative:  
To give and give and give.

John Oxenham

## Buzz update

On January 25, we had A Feast of Burns with Margaret McCafferty and friends. We had poems and songs, including verses from Afton Water and Ca’ the Yowes tae the Knowes, and we all joined in the chorus. Tommy Jardine read us Holy Wullie’s Prayer. On February 8, we welcomed Sadie Tait and Peggy and Roger Wilson, with a talk and slides on the Sierra Nevada trek in Spain, completed for the Parkinsons’ charity. They needed to raise funds to be able to go and also complete a lot of training. In all, 39 people took part, from all walks of life. The scenery was breathtaking and they managed to complete the trek without any blisters! Our next meetings are on March 8, Doll’s House with Grace and Isobel; March 22, More music for an afternoon with the church choir. April 3 is our coffee morning.

# From the treasurer

## January 2010 (5 Sundays)

Open plate	£	340
Weekly freewill offerings	£	2919
Banker's orders/cheques	£	827
Collection boxes	£	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>4086</b>
2009 total (4 Sundays)	£	3753

Stewart Williamson, Treasurer



## In the garden

The Gardening Club meeting on February 3 was titled April in Canada and it was ably led by Bill Holland, who offered many wonderful photographs and excellent commentary of a time when he and Helen had enjoyed holidaying in the south-west corner of Canada, at Vancouver Island, where there certainly seemed to be more of an abundance of flowers than on the mainland.

The pictures were most interesting and good weather had obviously prevailed. The number of times when place names were linked with pioneering Scots of yesteryear was indeed gratifying.

February 17 saw Mrs Jeanie Jones from Kettleholm near Lockerbie give an illustrated talk on a visit to study wild flowers in China. The audience were enthralled by this lady, who overcame a Powerpoint problem, and proved that she was comfortable with her knowledge of flowers with Primula top of her list; that the writer certainly felt a bit inadequate.

On March 17 we have a return visit from Duncan Ford, the Hoddam Ranger. Everyone is welcome to any of our meetings.

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## Congregational Board

The years ahead promise to be exciting ones and we are looking for people to join the Congregational Board to join in the work of the church.

The commitment is as much or as little as you can manage – the basic requirement is participation in just five meetings a year but there's lots of other activities to help out with in the running of the church keeping our property and money in order and helping out at events. We need a range of different talents and personalities and everyone has something to offer.

So we would love to hear from you! Please call Elisabeth Manson on 07796 044903 for a no-obligation chat or speak to any Elder or existing member of the Board.



# Flower rota

March 14 – Hilda Kean

March 21 – Vacant

March 28 – Anon

April 4 – Maureen Woods

Anyone wishing to donate flowers please contact:

Norna Francis 250199

Moira Cannon 720394

Betty Jardine 257691

Margaret McCafferty 268673

Margaret Thomson 253484



We would be most grateful if you could let us know of anyone who is ill, at home or in hospital.

## THANKS

- Mrs Heaney would like to pass on thanks for the flowers received from the church following my recent stay in hospital.

- Please convey my thanks for the flowers received during my recent illness. They were much appreciated.

Sally Burn, Kirkland Court

- Thank you for flowers from Mrs Rena Ball after her stay in hospital, and from Mrs Bunty Hogg, Noblehill Avenue. Thanks also from Mrs J Thomson for flowers for her mum.

## Guild update

The Guild met on Tuesday February 2, when the speakers were Pam and Colin Mitchell – “Dunscore Church’s link with Zambia”. They took us on a fascinating and informative journey from Dunscore to Zambia. This is very much an ongoing project and we look forward to an update in the future.

On February 16, Rolf Buwert of Tear Craft gave us an insight via film into the work and lives of the people helped by this organisation. Beautiful hand-made goods were on display and for sale.

All are welcome at our meetings.

Bette Archibald

# PS ...

Christian Aid have produced a very helpful and thought-provoking guide for Lent. It is based on a theme for each week of Lent: The next meal; a decent living; living water; tomorrow's child; our changing climate; rights and justice; and life in the Holy Land. This month's prayer is from that Guide which has as its overall title Count Your Blessings.

Loving Father  
Often we forget your gifts to us,  
letting them pass unnoticed  
through each day.  
Show us how to look again,  
to see through your eyes  
and give freely in response to what  
we see.

And often we forget those whose  
struggle –  
those whose greatest need  
is lost among our riches.  
Help us see through Your eyes.  
You gave so freely.  
Help us freely give.  
Amen

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### March

Monday 8 – Buzz, A World in Miniature, Grace and Isobel

Tuesday 9 – Kirk Session

Thursday 11 – Lent Reflection, in the hall, 2pm

Tuesday 16 – Guild AGM and Trip down memory lane!

Wednesday 17 – Garden Club

Thursday 18 – Lent Reflection, in the hall, 2pm

Monday 22 – Buzz, More music for an afternoon, church choir

Thursday 25 – Service and soup, 12.15pm

Thursday 25 – Lent Reflection, in the hall, 2pm

Wednesday 31 – Garden Club

### April

Saturday 3 – Buzz coffee morning

Thursday 15 – Charity fashion show

### May

Saturday 1 – Coffee morning

Friday 7 – Organ recital

Saturday 29 – Garden Club coffee morning

**Date to add? Get in touch! Details on page two.**