



Chrystal Chronicle

April/May 2018



Tucking in to a Fairtrade Breakfast

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St Mary's-Greyfriars' Parish Church
Minister: Rev David Logan

www.stmarysgreyfriars.org.uk

Scottish charity no SC009432



Presbyterial Council

The Council's Spring Rally and AGM was held on the evening of Friday March 18 and was attended by 10 members and a friend from St Mary's-Greyfriars Guild.

The theme for the evening was love. The Guest speaker on the evening was The Right Rev Dr Derek Browning, the Moderator of the Church of Scotland.

Prior to giving his address, he responded to a couple of questions which had been put forward by some Guilds. The first question was about how encourage more young people into the ministry – the answer given was not just to think about ministry but also how to encourage more young people to get involved but to follow the example set out by the Guild.

Also attending was Lily Stevenson, Moderator of Dumfries and Kirkcudbright Presbytery, who responded to a question regarding funds raised by the Guilds for the six projects being supported by the Guilds during its three year theme of Be Bold, Be Strong. As a speaker for one of the Projects being supported by the Guild, she was extremely grateful for the amount of money raised to date.

During his address, the Moderator gave a very interesting, entertaining and motivating talk about some of the highlights of his year in office. He was very moved by a visit he made to a Crossreach project in Edinburgh when he met a young mother and her son. The mother said she had received a warm welcome of love because she had considered taking the life of her son and herself. There were many other insights into his year which were highly entertaining. All in all a very interesting and enjoyable evening had by all who attended.

Janet McSherry

Church publicity

You might not be aware that we have a Publicity and PR Group in the church. Our aim is to publicise church events and raise the profile of St Mary's-Greyfriars' in the local media.

Things we're responsible for include the church magazine, the website and the Facebook page. We'd like to invite anyone who's interested in helping us to get in touch. Please speak to me in church, phone me on 01387 263106 or email me at marion@bennettsweb.co.uk.

Looking forward to hearing from you!

Marion Bennett, Convener

Fairtrade breakfast

A number of people enjoyed the Fairtrade Breakfast in the Hall on Sunday March 4th. Fairtrade muesli, fruit, fruit juice, coffee, tea, jam and marmalade were among the items sampled and it was a treat to have fruit bars and chocolate too!

Many thanks to all who came and supported the event.

Wider Church committee



From the Locum

The Cross of Calvary faces two ways. On one side, all is darkness. On the other, light.

We who journey in faith with Jesus through Lent fall under the Cross's intensifying shadow. The nearer Jesus came to Calvary's Cross, the more intense the shadow and overshadowing. Approaching Calvary, in darkest dark, Jesus uttered words wrung out of his humanity and shared with His discipleship. "I have a baptism to undergo, and what constraint I am under until it is completed!" Luke 12.50. In the Garden of Gethsemane, the closer proximity to his dying and death became almost too much for Him. Jesus fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will." Matthew 26:39.

Jesus' last hours became memorably etched on my wife Hilary's and my own consciousness as the portrayal of Jesus' Passion unfolded on the stage of Oberammergau in 2010. During the hours-long performance, memorably and poignantly, an angel sent by God was seen to dialogue with and console the kneeling figure of Jesus in his dire loneliness. Jesus' own disciples could not watch with him even one hour. Are we any better? Hymn writers have memorably reflected. "In the garden secretly, and on the Cross on high, (Holiest in the height) should teach his brethren, and inspire to suffer and to die." "We may not know, we cannot tell what pains he had to bear; but we believe it was for us he hung and suffered there."

On the Cross, Jesus took our place, as he took the blame for you and me and all humankind for our wanderings from God and His purposes for us, for our seeking to superimpose our will in place of His. On Calvary's Cross, Jesus died to self for you and me, we who are so often selfish, the big "I" affirming, failing both ourselves and others. Let us not forget that your sin and mine – and all humankind's – was the Cross's cause, to Jesus' and our Heavenly Father's inestimable cost. The Good News is that your hopeless situation and mine, and all humankind's, drew merciful divine response. In huge compassion, Jesus pleaded to our Heavenly Father on our behalf and all humankind's, "Father forgive them, for they know not what they are doing". Luke 23.34.

Luke later records Jesus' last action and words. "When he had received a drink, Jesus said, 'It is finished' ... With that he bowed his head and gave up his spirit." The Cross and the World at that lowest point became engulfed in deepest dark on darkest day.

By way of contrast, the Cross, facing us down through centuries since, is bathed in light! It is an emptied Cross. The Cross of Calvary, on which our Lord made unrepeated, once and for all sacrifice, (Hebrews 9.28 & 10. 14), released its captive. Jesus' death undid death! The risen Saviour walks from the Cross down through the centuries toward us, into the lives of all who receive Him, into the lives of all who receive him as Saviour and Lord! The risen Christ in the Holy Spirit Person of God, of Our Heavenly Father's and Jesus' sending, can be asked today, and asked anew, into our lives. Our joyful receiving of God into our lives, both known and proven, gives us cause to affirm, as we will together declare in worship on Easter Sunday, "The Lord is risen! He is risen indeed!"

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Church register

Deaths – “I am the resurrection and the life”

February 17: Mrs Liz Gardiner, Abbey Gardens

February 23: Mrs Mary Graham, Goldielea

March 10: Mrs Annie McCaig, Thirlestanes, Annan Road

Please let me know of any changes of address: **Marion Bennett**, 2 Wolfgill Drive, Dumfries DG1 4XY. Tel: 263106.

What's on ...

April

Saturday 7: Coffee morning

Tuesday 10: Arts and Crafts, 2-4pm in the hall

Wednesday 11: Garden Club, Blood Bikes, David Hook.

Monday 16: Buzz, update on the new Baptist Church

Tuesday 24: Arts and Crafts, 2-4pm in the hall

Wednesday 25: Garden Club, Photographer Extraordinary, Bob Shepherd.

Sunday 29: Communion in the church at 11.30am and 6.30pm

Monday 30: Communion and soup in the hall, 12.15 pm

Monday 30: Buzz, Alzheimer's Scotland, Mandy Pool

May

Saturday 5: Coffee morning

Tuesday 8: Arts and Crafts, 2-4pm in the hall

Wednesday 9: Garden Club, About Beeswax, Lorraine Priestly

Monday 14: Buzz, A Trip to India, Marybeth Jamieson

Tuesday 22: Arts and Crafts, 2-4pm in the hall

Saturday 26: Garden Club coffee morning

Monday 28: Service and soup in the hall 12.15

Monday 28: Buzz, The Great SMG Bake Off with Janet McSherry

Christian Aid

Christian Aid week 13 – 19 May 2018 is fast approaching and we shall again be carrying out house-to-house collection in the town.

We look forward to again having a good team able to distribute and collect envelopes and to count donations received.

We would be grateful to have more volunteers to join the team.



Rhythm and Rhyme

A most successful evening was enjoyed in the church hall on Thursday 22nd February, where the pleasant mix of narrations and CD`s most assuredly warmed the hearts of all who attended on a very cold night.

The variety of items was wonderful, and some of the special features made you wonder what was coming up next! The refreshment interval was well-supported and helped to bond the gathered friends. Eunice and Tommy wish to thank all who attended, and are grateful to Betty, Tom, Maureen, Margaret and Dorothy for their support. The bonus came in the form of £115, which was donated to church funds.

From the Locum

From page 3

At Easter, we affirm the demise of darkness and despair. We celebrate Jesus' victory over darkness, dark forces and death. We open our lives anew to receiving resurrection life of His Spirit borne. We may bask in the light of His resurrection life, even now lived. We may experience the joy of His indwelling Spirit. We may offer a new song in our hearts written and sing that song anew.

May the offering of praise for our surest hope in Christ be yours and mine this Eastertime. Christ in us, sure Hope of Glory. Colossians 1.27.

And in this song, sung in our Church this Easter Sunday, with the children of our Christian Family, we affirm His Resurrection Joy in our hearts, as we sing:

Joy is the flag flown high
 From the castle of my heart
 From the castle of my heart
 From the castle of my heart
 Joy is the flag flown high
 From the castle of my heart
 When the King is in residence there

(So) let it fly in the sky
 Let the whole world know
 Let the whole world know
 Let the whole world know
 (So) let it fly in the sky
 Let the whole world know
 That the King is in residence there.

Yours in the privilege of being your locum minister, with you holding God's Servant David and his wife Catriona in prayer in their journeying with us this Easter;

Douglas Irving



From the flower team

The flower list for 2018 is now displayed in the vestibule. There are several vacant spaces over the year so if anyone would care to make a donation that would be good. No need to worry if you think you are unable to arrange flowers – someone will make the arrangement for you. Contact a member of the flower team to make a donation.

We would be grateful for more volunteers to make deliveries after church services. Only six members are on the delivery list at the moment – more names, fewer times!

The flowers in the church on Sundays are given to members who are ill, housebound or bereaved and are much appreciated.

Contact any of the flower team – Norna Francis (250199), Moira Cannon (720394) Betty Jardine (257691), Margaret Thomson (253484) or Maureen Wilson (255008) – if you are interested.

Many thanks for the flowers and kind thoughts after my recent stay in hospital.

Wilma Harper

Many thanks for the lovely bouquet received on my 90th birthday.

Nessie Watson

Thanks for flowers received on January 28, and also for shortbread received before Christmas.

Ethel Allan

Stewart McCulloch wishes to say thank you for the lovely flowers.

I have also been asked to pass on a thank-you for flowers from Grace Kirby.

Flower rota

April 8/15: Vacant

April 22: M Lorimer

April 29: L Tanner

May 6: F Hunter

May 13: A Mackie

May 20: M Thomson

May 27: M Bennett

June 3: Vacant

Vera Haining was 90 on the February 1. She would like to thank the church for the yellow roses Isobel brought to her. Also thanks to the many for the cards, gifts, phone calls and visits. All were very much appreciated.

Reflection Group

Following on from our successful Lent Journey we are now ready to return to reflecting on Nehemiah.

The first meeting will cover Nehemiah ch.2: 11 - 18 and ch.3: 1 - 12. So far the date has not been set but if you are interested in coming along please get in touch with Isobel Evans on 263630.



For reflection

O God, you search me and you know me,
All my thoughts lie open to your gaze.
When I walk or lie down you are before me:
ever the maker and keeper of my days.

You know my resting and my rising.
You discern my purpose from afar,
and with love everlasting you besiege me:
in every moment of life or death, you are.

Before a word is on my tongue, Lord,
you have known its meaning through and through
You are with me beyond my understanding:
God of my present, my past and future, too.

Although your Spirit is upon me,
still I search for shelter from your light.
There is nowhere on earth I can escape you:
even the darkness is radiant in your sight.

For you created me and shaped me,
gave me life within my mother's womb.
For the wonder of who I am, I praise you:
safe in your hands, all creation is made new.

from Psalm 139 Bernadette Farrell (b1957) CCL No 102598

About the magazine

Welcome to our April/May issue. The deadline for our June/July issue is **Sunday May 20** for items through the church – and 3pm that day for those sent direct. Many thanks as always!

Editor: David Bennett

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Email: magazine@stmarysgreyfriars.org.uk

Useful contacts

Minister

Rev David Logan

Session Clerk

Anne Mackie 266186

Treasurer

Rod Williamson..... 251876

Gift Aid and freewill offering envelopes

Billy Simpson..... 252278



From the Buzz

At our meeting on February 5, we learned about the training programme for guide dogs.

Mike Bird explaining how it works. He told us about his dog Roxy, who was six weeks old when he got him. They teach them toilet training at 10 weeks old and whistle training for food from a very early stage. The dogs are allowed in cafes but not near the kitchen. The dog is taken among traffic for the noise. In home training they learn not to go on furniture and are in among very noisy children. In town they guide the person around things that may be a danger to them.

There are 4800 dogs in Britain being trained to be Guide dogs. They get rehomed at eight years old to good homes. It was a lovely afternoon, followed by tea.

Flora Burns gave us an update on the Moat Brae Trustee project on February 19. In 2009 the project started with eight or nine people who did not want it to be demolished, it was just being used as a dumping ground. The house, which was built in 1823, was bought for £25,000 in 2009. From 1914-1997 it was a hospital, operating theatre and nursing home. J M Barrie was one of nine children who lived there, educated at Dumfries Academy in 1879. He wrote in the school magazine. It has been a lot hard work getting it back to what it was but dreams do come true if you wish hard enough! Open days will be coming soon.

On March 5, Andre Barrallon showed us some pictures of the holiday he and his wife took to Banff National Park in Canada. In the walled garden it was lovely with lovely flowers and some deer. We saw the Rockies with the lovely Mountains in the background. We saw a lot of snow as well!



Anne Mackie performed Burns pieces for the group recently.

Word for Today: United Christian Broadcasting 'Word for Today' is a quarterly devotional magazine – copies of which are available at the back of the church. The next issue will be for May/June/July.