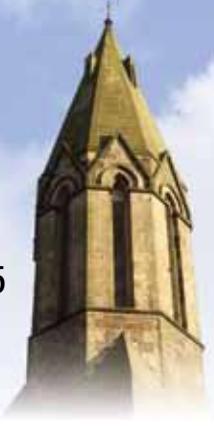


Greyfriars Gazette

The newsletter of Greyfriars Parish Church, Lanark

www.lanarkgreyfriars.com

February 2015



From the minister ...

Dear friends,

What is your 'golden age'? For different people it is a different time or era. Some will hark back to a time many decades ago, whilst others will think of a more recent time. Our 'golden age' is linked to our own individual experiences and memories.

However, can we really trust our recall of that which we call 'golden'? How much of our memory is clouded by a sense of romanticism? How objective are we at critically assessing our golden period when we remember it so fondly?

I have many conversations with people who speak of the 'golden age of church'. Most people refer to a time when every pew was filled for worship and no matter who you were in the community, you were a member of one of the churches. Can I tell you something ... I don't think that time exists in any of our living memory!

Now, true, churches were busier in years gone by and there were more of them. It is also true to say that, proportionally, more people in our communities were members of a church. But is it all as it seems?

Even 40 or 50 years ago, the Church of Scotland began a process of looking at the number of churches that existed in different communities. The history of Greyfriars pays testimony to that. With unions of denominations, there were far, far too many churches (some might say there still are!) and a process of rationalisation was embarked upon.

Decades ago, it is true to say that more people were members of the church ... but I would offer you the thought that many (by no means all) of those who joined at that time, were joining due to a societal pressure rather than a genuine desire to engage in the mission of God in the parish. How many of us know of people who were told they had to join the church in order for the minister to marry them?

We have smaller church rolls now, with fewer members however, I think, as I have said many times before, that those who are making a choice to come to church and play their part

in worship, mission and service, are doing so because of their faith and genuine love of God. We may have smaller church rolls, but we have a very committed group of people who fund the work of the church ... and carry out the work of the church.

It is of no surprise to anyone that the Church of Scotland is continuing to look at the number of churches that exist. A few years ago, each Presbytery had to agree a plan for the deployment of ministerial resources. This meant that Lanark Presbytery will have 15.8 Full time equivalent ministers serving 21 congregations across Clydesdale. That being said, we currently have only 50% of those ministers in post.

The town of Lanark will continue to have two ministers and churches within this plan. However, it was not so long ago the Lanark had four Church of Scotland congregations with four full time ministers serving a population that was around 70% of what it currently is.

All this points to a changing church, in a changing world. And that is not always a bad thing.

We have members of our church family who have lived through a tremendous period of societal change. The church is, perhaps, just catching up!

OK. So we have a reducing membership, a reduction in the number of churches and ministers, a significant growth in our population, but what does it mean for Greyfriars.

Well, at present, it means that our ministers throughout the country are not able to fulfil as many of the historical roles of a minister as we once were. Much of our time is spent on 'crisis' visiting rather than 'regular' visiting, we need to prioritise much more than ever before, we have to cover more and more outwith our own congregation and parish to cover vacancies and a reduction in ministers.

There are two ways of looking at this. Negatively, or positively. We can mourn the loss of some of the traditional aspects of ministry (and I do at times) or we can see it as an opportunity for more people to become involved in

leading the congregations in our area, of playing an active part in the pastoral care of our members and friends.

How we see it is up to each one of us. I hope we see the positives in this changing situation as difficult as it may seem at times.

Throughout this time of change please continue to pray for the church, for our ministers, for our elders and those who provide leadership and support.

Whatever your 'golden age' is, perhaps we are seeing a new 'golden age'. This age, may just be the one future generations look back upon and see the Spirit of God at work in his people, calling them into ministry, service and changing his church for the better.

Yours,



Hope Springs

The day was dark and stormy
With black clouds overhead.
With head hunched between my
shoulders

Down the drive I sped.

But suddenly I halted;
For there came into sight
A lovely clump of snowdrops
Raising their heads so white.

The sight did much to cheer me
And helped to brighten my day
With the certain knowledge
That Spring was on its way.

Elspeth Riddet.

Beatitudes for friends of the aged

Blessed are they who stop to chat
With a cheery smile for a little while

Blessed are they who never say
'You've told me that story twice today!'

Blessed are they who know the way
To bring back memories of yesterday

Blessed are they who make it known
That I'm loved, respected, not alone

Blessed are they who know I'm at a loss,
To find the strength to carry my cross

Blessed are they who ease the days
On my journey home - in loving ways.
(St Patrick's Missionary Society.)

Secrets of the Church

Secrets of the Church is a quick and easy way to get into church and be challenged by faith. Secrets of the church is an 8 week course which aims to reflect on the traditional understanding of the Church of Scotland, (Why do we do church the way we do?), investigate the beliefs of the church (why does the church believe what the church believes?), and provide space for questioning and consideration of other traditions. Secrets of the church aims to resource young people to grow into the church and to know what the Church of Scotland believes. To have the tools to evaluate the traditions of other denominations and find what is good about them, and be able to discuss the differences.

Secrets of the church is based on an understanding that everyone lives out their understandings of God within the individual, communal and eternal settings. This reflects what we understand of God within the trinity. Often church goes unexamined within the context of the communal aspect of religious life. So how does the tradition of the Church of Scotland speak into the way we understand faith? How does it shape the way we engage with issues of poverty and justice, salvation and love?

We can wonder who is God and what is church for?

Secrets of the church is for young people who have been around church for a period of time (over 6 months.), particularly those in 1st-3rd years at secondary school, by the 4th-6th year often young people have left the church. Sometimes for very good reasons, like 11am on a Sunday morning is not an ideal time for young people to meet up and think about God. Secrets of the church aims to provide the young people with stuff they need to be able to relate within any church style environment as they grow.

Each week will be a mixture of fun activities, music, questions and thinking about these secrets. Titles include, "Get ready for disappointment!" "What is God?" "Why do we do that?" with other weeks looking at suffering and injustice, love, transformation, worship and prayer. Questions are encouraged.

Secrets of the church starts 18th of February every Wednesday afterwards, just after school for a 4pm start with a 5pm finish. If you have a young person you would like to come to secrets of the church, leave your details with Morag Kelso in the church office (01555661510) or email Scott directly on Scott@lanarkgreyfriars.com and Scott will be in touch.

Scott Paget

The Guild

Well we had a great time at our Christmas lunch in the Clydesdale. The meal was lovely and the sun shone, so nobody was in a rush to go home. It was a really lovely start to DECEMBER.

Now I have to tell you we haven't done much since. Our first meeting of the New Year was to be on 11th January but had to be cancelled due to bad weather. It was disappointing not to meet up with everyone, however, our speaker Bill Barr is re scheduled to visit us in October. As I write we hope to meet next week when we will welcome Ken Fawell who will speak on Clydesdale historic mills....weather permitting. In the coming months we will have an evening at St Nicholas guild with Bill Love, a demonstration by the paramedics from Douglas and a talk by our local projects Convenor.

At the end of March we hold our annual Daffodil Tea when we hope to raise money for our congregation and our very worthwhile Guild projects. This year one of our causes is the Julius project

which seeks to train volunteers to stand by homeless people and see them 'safe in the storms of life'. The other is 'Out of Africa into Malta'.

This a World Mission Council (cofs) project where St Andrews Scots Church in Malta, Red Cross Malta and others are responding to the deep human needs of refugees who have struggled from North Africa across the Mediterranean to reach freedom in Malta. These are very very worthwhile causes. Church of Scotland guilds have supported these charities and 4 others over a 3 year period and are able to make a significant contribution.

Sadly, this month, we have lost Margaret McKinlay, one of our very faithful members. In spite of increasingly poor health she was able to remain active in the Guild and many other aspects of her life thanks to the support of quite a lot of her friends in the Guild. We will all miss her very much and send our deepest sympathy to her family.



Greyfriars Worship

Worship is at the heart of all that we do in Greyfriars. There are many opportunities to come together for worship and we hope to be able to welcome you to some or all of our services.

February

15th 11am Morning Worship
22nd 9:30am Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
11am Morning Worship

March

1st 11am Morning Worship with Holy Communion
8th 11am Morning Worship
15th 11am Morning Worship
22nd 11am Morning Worship
29th 11am Morning Worship
30th 7pm Choir of St. Mary's (St. Mary's Church)
31st 7pm Ecumenical Worship in EU Church

April

1st 7pm Ecumenical Worship in Christ Church
2nd 7pm Maundy Thursday Communion in St. Nicholas
3rd 7pm Good Friday Worship in Greyfriars
5th 8:45am Open Air Easter Service at Lanark Loch
9:30am Easter Breakfast in Greyfriars
11am Easter Sunday Worship
12th 11am Morning Worship
19th 11am Morning Worship
26th 9:30am Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
11am Morning Worship

May

3rd 11am Morning Worship
10th 11am Morning Worship
17th 11am Morning Worship
24th 11am Morning Worship
31st 11am Morning Worship with Holy Communion

Remember that we want as many people as possible to be a part of our worship at Greyfriars. If you cannot attend our services you can watch it live, or when convenient, on the church website.

We look forward to worshipping with you in Greyfriars.



Powers of Attorney

Bill Tennant

More of us are living longer these days, but unfortunately there are also more cases of dementia, failing health and illness.

This can be traumatic for a family when they suddenly have to deal with their parents affairs. In most cases they will know little or nothing.

They approach the bank or speak to the doctor and are told sorry we cannot help you unless you have written authority.

The written authority is a power of attorney. Parents should ensure that their affairs are in order and that they have a will and a power of attorney in place in plenty of time.

This will allow the family to deal with their welfare and finances straight away instead of floundering in the dark.

Powers of Attorney.

Reference should be made to the Public Guardian Scotland Website. www.publicguardian-scotland.gov.uk

There is valuable information there.

Please make sure it is the Scottish one that you access as there is an English one.

I will give more details of this in the next magazine, but your solicitor will be glad to assist you meantime.

Aquila



Information Technology and Church

Alan Boyd

When the equipment was first introduced in 2007, the aim was to make worship more inclusive of people of all and varying abilities.

We first began by utilising PowerPoint presentations to display hymn words, scripture readings, and any other relevant material for worship, onto a projection screen. This attracted a wide range of positive reviews. People felt more involved with worship as they could look forward and up rather than burying their noses into hymn books and bibles.

We then branches out into recording our services onto audio cd. These CDs were distributed to the housebound members of our church family and congregation. Nursing homes were included for a short while. This again received positive reviews. There are still CDs being distributed today. Unfortunately however, due to the higher average age of the people receiving these CDs, they have sadly passed away and the numbers have reduced.

Our next step was broadcasting our service live over the internet. This was an improvement from our audio recordings as this allows those watching the see hymn words and scripture readings. The computer programme we use to broadcast the service live also allows us to record the service as a video. This is then uploaded to our church website every Sunday, and copies of this video are available on DVD the following Sunday from recording.

A very large bonus from broadcasting our service live online, is that it's not limited to Sunday services. We've had requests from families who are in church for weddings or funerals to broadcast the service online for family members in other countries who are unable to make it to the service in person. The reviews from this have been extremely positive, with the families saying the feel connected with their family members at the church, and feel they can be a bigger part of the service. These feelings have led the viewers of all services to utilise

our online donation service.

The progression and improvement of the technology we use in church has greatly enhanced the meaning of worship, as well as allowing more people to be included.

If anyone would like to access the benefits of a recording of our service, on audio cd or DVD, then contact the church office, or email alan@lanarkgreyfriars.com. Our services are broadcast every Sunday live on the church website, at www.lanarkgreyfriars.com/live, and are available to view anytime through our OnDemand service. To access these, follow the links on our church website

Flower Rota

Dear Friends, There are still spaces available on the flower rota. The dates are:

Sunday 26th July & 23rd August 2015

If anyone can oblige on these dates, please contact Morag at the Church Office (661510) or myself (663198).

Thank you, Margaret Gillon

Greyfriars Profile - Graham Chapman

In each edition of Greyfriars Gazette we interview someone involved in the life of Greyfriars church family. This edition, we profile our Session Clerk, Graham Chapman.

Q. What job do you do at Greyfriars

A.I have been Session Clerk at Greyfriars for the last 5 years. It was not something I had really thought about doing but when I was asked, I thought and prayed about it.

You cannot do the job of Session Clerk without the support from the minister, other members of the Kirk Session and congregation who are willing to give of their time to assist in the workings of Greyfriars. It is very much a team effort.

I see my role as supporting and when necessary advising the minister in what he is trying to achieve with the congregation and in the community. There are a number of duties a Session Clerk has to perform regarding organising the practicalities communion, duty rotas and Kirk Session meetings. These are fairly standard throughout the Church of Scotland. There are other times when he has to "volunteer" his services.

The most rewarding aspect of the job is the fellowship or togetherness you have with other members of the Kirk Session and congregation when everybody is trying to achieve the same goal of living their faith in the community.

Q. Tell me about your personal faith.

A. My faith is very important to me. It is how I try to live my life on a daily basis. I, like everyone else have my faults and I think part of having a faith is accepting that you are not perfect, far from it. However I believe that if you are truly sorry for something and pray for forgiveness, you are forgiven.

I remember when my faith helped me the Christmas my twins were born, a month premature. From the time I was awakened in the middle of the night, throughout their delivery and being put into incubators, and until the moment we had them safely home one month later, I knew everything was going to be ok and that we were being taken care of.

Q. What is best about being part of the Greyfriars family.

A. I think it is the feeling that we are a church family that do things together. Like all families we share happy and sad times. I really like when we have a large church attendance and can sing and worship together. I also like the relaxed atmosphere at worship when we can laugh because I think that is important.

Q. Favourite place to visit and why.

I would have to say that it is Rome. It is because of the combination of the



history, and art treasures you find in the city. You can go for a walk up some back street, turn a corner and see something amazing.

Q. What are your hobbies and passtimes.

A. I used to play a number of sports but now only golf (badly) but I enjoy watching most sports and following my football team, Dundee United. I also like listening to music and reading crime thrillers.

Q. Favourite movie.

A. I enjoy going to the cinema and so it is very difficult to think of one film. The two I can watch over and over again are Fargo and Cinema Paradiso. I also have DVDs of Cary Grant's old black and white comedies which are great.

Resources Action Group

Jack Lumsden

At this time of year when we are making New Year resolutions can we ask you to please take time to review your financial contribution to your church and if possible to resolve to raise your giving level.

We appreciate that these are difficult economic times for some people and will understand if it is not possible to increase your contribution. It would however be greatly appreciated if those who feel able can give something extra however small an increase it may be.

We would also ask those who are not already giving on a regular basis through envelopes or standing orders to consider doing so.

Also if you are a taxpayer by signing a gift aid form the church can recover an

amount equal to 25% of your givings without it costing the donor anything. This is a major help to our finances.

We need a strong financial base to allow us to maintain our activities both within the church and in the community. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Anne Gibson resigned her position as Church Treasurer on 31st December 2014. Anne moved home to Carlisle some time ago and is therefore unable to continue as Treasurer.

We would like to record our most grateful thanks to Anne for her valuable services over the last four years.

Jack Lumsden, Resources Convener, has agreed to take over in the meantime as Treasurer but would be delighted to hand over to anyone who would be interested in fulfilling this role!

Quick Sponge Recipe

Carolyn Graham

This recipe can be made in the time it takes to boil the kettle!

It only uses a tablespoon to measure the ingredients.

5tbs SR Flour:

4tbs castor sugar:

pinch salt:

level teasp. Baking Powder:

2 eggs:

2 -3 tbs milk:

4 tbs vegetable oil.

Put everything into a fairly large bowl and mix well. Give it a good beat to incorporate air.

Put into sponge tin or queen cake tin.

Bake at 190°C gas 5 for about half an hour. These cakes are very light and keep well, given the chance!

Ice or decorate as desired.

'The Kindness of Strangers!'

Nancy Kenny

A very Merry Christmas, thanks to this year's Gift Service

This year's Christmas Gift Service was yet again a resounding success. Members of the congregation at Greyfriars donated over 300 gifts in total to the national Scottish charity Families Outside, with all gifts benefiting children who had a family member in prison over Christmas. This year for the first time, these gifts were combined with donations from Ashley Wood Primary School in Aberdeen, an award from Cash for Kids, and a small number of individual financial donations.

Five student volunteers checked and sorted the gifts, which were then distributed throughout the country by the staff team and volunteers at Families Outside. They prioritised children whom the Family Support Team knew would receive no other gifts.

These included a mother with two daughters aged 4 weeks and 1 year, and another family with two teenage boys whose father had just died while their brother was in prison. One mother of six children in Edinburgh, aged from 4 to 14, asked Families Outside to pass along her thanks to Greyfriars specially.

Each family was absolutely delighted to receive the gifts, saying:

- "I don't know what I would do without this help!"
- "This is amazing – thank you!"
- Our staff said that "one woman just burst into tears because she was so moved!"

Families Outside also gave a gift to each of the six children who took part in our music workshops for families in HMP

Addiewell. The children were thrilled to receive a gift; one wee boy's face lit up when he opened a new car with flashing lights!

Many gifts also go to prisons for the children who visit at Christmas. These included:

- gifts to HMP Addiewell, to give out at their Christmas party
- Over 100 gifts to Compton Vale women's prison and Family Help Hub for their visits from children
- Due to the combination of gifts this year from Greyfriars and others, 200 gifts went to children visiting HMP Grampian for Christmas, shown in the photo here, along with 110 selection boxes for prisoners at the Open Estate to give to their children and grandchildren.

Your generosity this year meant that Families Outside was also able to share gifts with the Glasgow North West Food Bank, with whom they have very close links (and which many of the families affected by imprisonment use). The gifts were distributed to families with their Christmas food parcels, and at their Christmas Day dinner for 60 people.

Families Outside's Family Support Coordinator in Glasgow said one child she supports who received the gifts has additional support needs and Autism. She described the look of excitement and delight in his face as he placed each gift carefully under his tree. She said "His mum was overwhelmed and overcome at the generosity of strangers towards her family. My client and her son attend their local church every Sunday, and she has informed me that she is filled with peace for those few hours at church



every week."

Gifts also went to Edinburgh's Domestic Abuse service, as this is an ongoing issue for many of Families Outside's clients.

In sum, a huge thank you from Families Outside to everyone who donated gifts – you have made an enormous difference!

Importantly, you can continue to help. Financial donations are of course always welcome, but we also welcome volunteers, for example for our work at the prison visitors' centre at HMP Addiewell or at Edinburgh Sheriff Court, among other opportunities.

For more information about Families Outside, go to www.familiesoutside.org.uk.

Families Outside Support & Information Helpline: freephone 0500 83 93 83
e-mail support@familiesoutside.org.uk
or text FAMOUT, followed by your message, to 60777

Lenten Lunches 2015

Marcella McLennan

Lanark Christian Aid Council's 2015 season of Lenten Lunches begins on Thursday 19 February, from 12 noon to 2.00 pm in St Nicholas' Church Lesser Hall, and continues every Thursday during the 7 weeks of Lent, the last being Thursday 2 April. For a small donation there will be a cheese roll, a choice of homemade soups and tea or coffee. Please help us by donating soup, tea, coffee or other articles, by helping in the kitchen or serving at the tables, or simply come along as a customer, preferably with a few friends or work colleagues. All proceeds go to Christian Aid's worldwide work. There will be a short planning meeting for helpers in the Upper Hall of St Nicholas' Church on Saturday 7 February at 10.30 am.

Burns Lunch

A successful Burns Lunch was held on Sunday 18th January, chaired by Leslie Reid. The Selkirk Grace was said by Bill Forrest, and the Haggis was addressed by Ross Hyslop.

We were entertained by the Choir, Elspeth Riddet, and our dancers Elysia and Heather

Special thanks go Ann And Vicki for providing us with an excellent meal, and also thanks to the many volunteers who help on the day to make this such a successful event.

As this is purely a social event we do not run it to raise funds, however I can report that a small profit of £100 has been raised this year.

The Kirk Session would like to express their thanks to Liliias Tennant for organising the lunch again this year.

Gardening tips ...

... for this time of year

It's nice to browse the seed catalogues at this time of the year. However, if we intend growing from seeds, let's get the greenhouse ready. A drop of "Jeys Fluid" in warm water is ideal for the job. Don't forget any trays, pots or tubs you intend using! Most seeds will germinate on a warm window ledge in one of your clean trays, but hold back on the watering – try using a plastic aerosol bottle with a fine spray to dampen the compost surface.

Try to keep off the lawn when it's frozen otherwise your footprints will still be there when it thaws!

If you were lucky enough to be given an "Amaryllis" at Christmas which still has to flower, keep the top compost moist with your spray – fortunately your wasn't forced into bloom in time for Santa!

HAPPY GARDENING!!

Clearspace Cinema at Greyfriars

Scott Paget

Clearspace cinema's 2015 programme contains films to delight, entertain and enjoy. The cinema is trying new ways to engage and allow the community to access films on the big screen. Based in the hall primarily, the monthly rhythm of the events will ensure your never miss a film you want to see. As such the four different elements of the cinema programme are:

Clearspace family.

Weekends are times when families get the chance to be together. Clearspace family is a Saturday morning film for the whole family to enjoy, including animation and live action films. Clearspace family will bring fun and frolics to a Saturday morning in a fun and friendly environment. Bringing classic and contemporary films to audience who need to be entertained. Scheduled Films will be U or PG.

-Monthly, the 1st Saturday of the month

Film Club.

The film club is the space of adults to relax and see a film of an evening. Aimed at people with an interest in seeing great films, the film club will include some of the best film made, whether they are award winners, art house, and foreign language. Scheduled Films will be 15 or 18.

-Monthly on the 3rd Monday of the month

12 Fridays

Friday Nights are movie nights for young people. A schedule of amazing films that any young person should see is being

prepared, utilising a blend of current movies, some weird and wonderful movies, and the odd classic, 12 Fridays will be carefully curated to showcase the amazing power of cinema. With friendly staff, fresh popcorn and your friends the 12 Fridays of 2015 are nights to be enjoyed to the max. Scheduled films will be 12

-Monthly, the 3rd Friday of the month (except February 2015)

Guardians of the Galaxy, (12), 7.30pm 27th of February 2015

Bounty Hunters! Mysterious Orbs! Villains with ambitions that threaten the entire universe! Only an unlikely band of misfits can save the galaxy. It is a great film to see.

Matinee Wednesdays

Clearspace is offering those with some free time during the day on Wednesdays a chance to enjoy some of the finer things in the cinema family. With films chosen for their quality this is a chance to see great films during the afternoons. It a mix of mainstream releases, classics, films which will deliver a great afternoon movie experience.

-Monthly on the 2nd Wednesday of the month

Clearspace cinema is looking for volunteers to help at all these different events. If you are interested contact Morag Kelso in the church office (01555 661510) and leave your details.

Future film titles will be announced on the church website, facebook and twitter feeds, and also within the weekly order of service sheets.

Hope Hospital is on its way ...

Hope Hospital.

Greyfriars Holiday clubs is always popular and parents/ carers can register their children to attend now. Visit

www.lanarkgreyfriars.com/hospital

to sign your children up. Each year places fill up very quickly and we have had to close registrations in recent years due to high numbers attending.

We love to see as many children come along and join us ... make sure the children you know are some of them.

See you at Hospital!



Lanark Camera Club

We meet every Tuesday in the church hall and our syllabus year is from September until May the following year. The Lanark Camera Club has been established for over 70 years and has had an active enthusiastic membership to this day. Our meetings cover the tuition of camera usage, the setting up and usage of lighting equipment for the use of still life and portraiture. It does not matter what type of camera you own ie. compact, bridge or DSLR.

Photography has come a long way in the last 70 years and most noticeable is that we are now in the digital age, where photographs or image files can be digitally improved or digitally enhanced through the mind of the creative author. The camera never lies- this is still true. The image produced by the camera is what the photographer sees through the lens. It is only when the image file is opened up in the computer and the relevant software is combined to produce a single image which sometimes resembles the original or if the creative mind is applied then the image can look completely different. The rules state that the image if manipulated must have originated from the camera and not plucked from the Web.

Our syllabus for this season is varied to include in- house league competitions in both print and Digital Projected Image and inter club competitions. We are looking forward to welcoming our visiting speakers this season.

31st February-Tom Doherty a member of Queens Park Camera Club in Glasgow. Tom is a past president of the Scottish Photographic Federation. His subject is "Eric Watts Glasgow". This talk will be accompanied by a selection of Prints.

3rd March- A showing of award winning prints shortlisted by the Glasgow and District Photographic Union to form the "John Duffy Portfolio".

17th March- Douglas Harris- a member of the Scottish Photographic Circle for over 30 years, will present the Annual print selection of 100 prints by members of the Circle. www.scottishphotographiccircle.co.uk

The two images included in this article are from the top two places in the 2014 Annual Competition-Lanark Camera Club.

An open invitation is extended to anyone wishing to attend any of our evenings. Just come along and for £2.00 you will be entertained and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee.

David Thompson CPAGB

Christmas Activity Day

Willie McAlpine

On Thursday 4th December we held our Christmas Story Day at Robert Owen School. This was a joint venture between ourselves and Christ Church with the support of Lanark Grammar School and the children from New Lanark also come along. This was the third year that this event has been held and, as you might expect, the organization is getting quite slick. Like the rest of our Christmas events it was early and I felt that this was a good thing. Traditionally we have tried to undertake our Christmas activities in the week before Christmas and this can lead to events competing for resource and participants. Using all of Advent has helped avoid this and made things a bit more relaxing.

It was a great day and the children thoroughly enjoyed it. More importantly they knew what to expect and they were engaged. During the day they are split into groups and then moved from activity to activity. In this way all of the children take part in all of the activities. Each activity starts with a leader telling

part of the Christmas Story and then a craft or other exercise that relates to that part of the story. Bryan has been very successful at obtaining grants to fund this event and as a result we are able to supply the children with quite impressive materials and kits. This means that the kids get to take away something that relates to the story and reminds them.

The day is split up with an assembly, then some groups, then lunch, then a film show, then more groups, then a finale complete with puppet show. So it is a big event for the children. However it is also a big event for the young people from Lanark Grammar who come to help. Not only are they willing, they are able and like the young people from our church who put on the puppet show they are a credit to the community. I am confident that an outside observer who popped in to Robert Owen on this day would be greatly impressed with the behaviour of children, the responsible involvement of the young people, the school, the Church and Lanark. I am equally confident that they would know it was Christmas and what Christmas was about.

Greyfriars Fundraisers

Liz Ivison

Since the last 'Gazette' the Fundraisers have organized 2 events, both of which were very successful. In December our Christmas Themed Coffee Morning raised £613 and everyone there commented on the very friendly atmosphere. Our Chocolate Morning, despite the inclement weather, raised £452 after we took the decision to continue it after church on Sunday. A big thank you to everyone who supports our ventures.

Planned events for the coming months include a Silent Auction with cheese and wine and featuring paintings by a local artist, prints by local photographers and cross stitch by local 'stitchers'. I have some other ideas, but still have to ask the 'volunteers'! If you have any items lurking in the far corners of a cupboard or attic that could be of interest, please consider donating them.

We are also planning a ceilidh at Ravenstruther Hall, a flower festival in September and Shine is provisionally booked for late October.

After the success of the extended chocolate extravaganza after church, we thought of 'doing' soup, bread and cheese Sunday lunches.

If you have any ideas/suggestions please contact any of the Fundraisers.

Cryptic Bible Books

Chris Fitch

(Taken from quiz found in a Gideon Bible in a hotel room!!)

1. A muddled human sounds like a horse and a fridge!
2. Occupational therapy needed for man in trouble.
3. A constituent of granite, we hear.
4. The man makes a pot of tea.
5. Tick or cross
6. Are we drunk?
7. What a happy vicar feels?
8. These should lend their ears with their friends and countrymen.
9. One is OK, we hear, but too many spoil the broth!
10. Henry IV and Henry V
11. Combination of scenes.
12. Come and see!
13. A queen found in finest herrings.
14. Many at the Old Bailey!
15. 365, 52, 76.
16. Sphagnum, for instance, loses its end.
17. What I do when the Doctor says , "Open Wide"
18. Is like a tyrant with less
19. I leave civil suite for the law.
20. A Greek letter and a fruit.
21. Top of the Pops
22. In a jam espied
23. Is genes around the beginning?
24. A boy begins and another follows in a postscript.
25. Work? No a man.

Answers on the notice board in the hall.

Wrigglers

Kirsty Burns

Wrigglers continue to meet every Monday and Friday in the hall between 9.45 and 11.15am. The group is open to any parent or carer with a baby and/or toddler from birth.

Sessions include creative and imaginative play for the children, with a craft activity on offer each week and an area dedicated to under 1's.

Children are offered toast and fruit with refreshments also provided for the adults. The group currently have spaces for immediate start at both sessions with children having moved on to nursery and playgroups in January. Any enquiries about joining should be made to the church office in the first instance.

The Christmas Fete fundraiser held by the group in December was well supported by members and raised a significant amount to be used for future purchases and outings by the group. A donation from funds raised has been offered to the church with our thanks for their ongoing help and support.

Wrigglers will have their annual Easter parties on Fri 27th and Mon 30th March for members, always a popular event with fun and games and of course.... a few Easter eggs!

Just in case you forgot

If God had a refrigerator, your picture would be on it.

If God had a wallet, your photo would be in it.

He sends you flowers every spring and a sunrise every morning.

When you want to talk, He'll listen.

He could live anywhere in the universe and He chose your heart.

Sherry M Keith

(Submitted by Sue Crofton)

Excuse me madam - These bean bags are for Sunday School children only!!!



K.P.

The Word of God - The Bible

The words in bold letters in the paragraph below are hidden in the puzzle. Words can be across, down or diagonal. Can you find them all?

The **Bible** is truly a **miracle**. There are a total of 66 books, 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New **Testament**. The Bible was written by over 36 different people, and over a period of about 1,500 **years**. The authors came from many different backgrounds and professions. There were **fishermen**, **farmers**, politicians, **teachers**, **doctors**,

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

tentmakers and even **kings**. It would be mathematically impossible for so many different people over so many years to write with such **harmony** and accuracy, if it were not for the **Holy Spirit**. God told these people what to write. The Bible is the **Word of God**.

Tell us about it ... It's your magazine!

We hope you like the magazine's new look and some of the new sections we have added. We would love to hear from you, so please let us know what you think.

If you have anything you would like us to add, for example, an article or information that you would like to share in a future issue, please contact any of the magazine editorial team of Kirsty Burns, Graham Chapman, Janella Glover, Carolyn Graham and Morag Kelso.

Perhaps you have a favourite bible story that you feel is very relevant to today's trends, a favourite hymn that always lifts your spirits, a favourite gadget that you couldn't live without (and maybe we shouldn't be living without either!), an amazing full-proof recipe, or an unused item at home that could possibly be put to good use in a new home? You gain more space and someone else gains a new toy! Tell us about it! Thank you in advance for any thoughts or input, which will be gratefully received.

You can email the team at

magazine@lanarkgreyfriars.com

or speak to any of us individually.

Deadline

Material for the next edition of the *Greyfriars Gazette*, to be published in mid May, should be passed to the church office, or emailed to magazine@lanarkgreyfriars.com by Sunday 26th April 2015 at the latest.

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