



# The Herald

Castlehill Parish Church  
Autumn 2018

*St. John's Tower*

## Editorial

The cover photograph on our magazine this time is The Tower of St. John. It is the remaining part of the original Parish Church in Ayr. The Tower was added sometime in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Robert the Bruce convened the Scottish Parliament in the Church in 1315. Only the Tower remains and was a landmark for seamen for centuries.

Where I live, every day I see the massive walls of the fort built by Cromwell in 1654 which engulfed the Parish Church with its Tower. I have never been sure whether walls were built to keep people in or to keep them out, whichever one it is they proved to be barriers. Through the last few years we have heard much of the "Church without Walls". I am sure we can replace "walls" with the word "barriers".

We create so many barriers of our own, prejudice, intolerance and there is a list that goes on. Even the Church itself is not immune to erecting barriers, not deliberately but sometimes by default. We all must play a part in bringing down these barriers wherever we come across them whether they be the ones we create ourselves, or others we meet in our daily lives. The Bible presents its Message to all, without any barriers. Let us pass on that Message and be a landmark, like the Tower, for all to see.

**Wellwood Grierson Editor.**

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## Have your say

If you have any comments to make on the Magazine, please feel free to do so by letter or email to [herald@castlehillchurch.org](mailto:herald@castlehillchurch.org) We are always pleased to consider any articles for the Magazine from members of the congregation, These can also be sent to the same email address.

## From the Interim Moderator.....

Dear Friends,

Paul writes in his letter to the Church in Rome, 'Tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope.' (Romans 5:3-4)

One of my earliest childhood memories was watching snails in our back garden flower beds. I was fascinated by this little creature with a shell; a slimy little tummy and tiny eyes that turned like periscopes. But what really seemed unusual was how slowly a snail travels. How slow does a snail go? One study clocked a snail at 0.00758 miles per hour – or 40 feet in one hour. No wonder we use the phrase moving at a snail's pace to mean 'slow'.

Although a snail does move at a "sluggish" pace, one virtue it does possess is perseverance. The great 19<sup>th</sup> Century preacher Charles Spurgeon wryly observed, 'by perseverance the snail reached the ark'.

According to the apostle Paul, perseverance is key component in character development. He explained that 'tribulation produces perseverance' (Romans 5:3). And upon that building block go character and hope (v4). The original Greek word translated "perseverance" means "steadfastness, constancy and endurance". It was used of believers who endured in their walk of faith despite many painful trials.

Have setbacks slowed you down to a snail's pace? Be encouraged. God doesn't ask for a fast finish. He expects persevering progress. Have faith. Trust in God. Travel with Him and let Him dictate where we go and at what rate.

*When trials intrude to slow down your life,*

*It would be easy for you to give in;*

*But by perseverance you'll overcome strife,*

*So just keep on plodding – with Christ you can win.*

Your pastor and friend, **John Paterson**

## Annual Fabric Appeal 2018

The maintenance and repair of the church buildings is ongoing and from January to August it has cost £31,551.78. This included £21,960 for two new heating boilers and £6,850 for redecorating the Main Hall. During the same period gas and electricity costs were £4,995.17 and we hope the new boilers will mean lower costs for heating.

We are fortunate in having a Property Group which works tirelessly to keep the buildings in good order. They do small maintenance jobs themselves but larger projects need to be done by tradesman. If you are able to make a donation to the Fabric Appeal to ensure the buildings are well maintained this would be gratefully received.

**Margaret Devlin** Congregational Board



Rainbow Services offers more than simply the delivery of Care Services. If you are looking for a service that lets you or loved one keep on enjoying life at home why not look at our website:-[www.rainbowcareservices.co.uk](http://www.rainbowcareservices.co.uk) or give us a call on **T:-01292 294180**.

Hello again,

You might think I am a bit like the 'bad penny' that keeps turning up... It is now at the start of the fourth year of my service as Locum 'Minister', and I for one did not foresee this happening. We all must trust in God that his plans for Castlehill Church are always good and always unfolding.

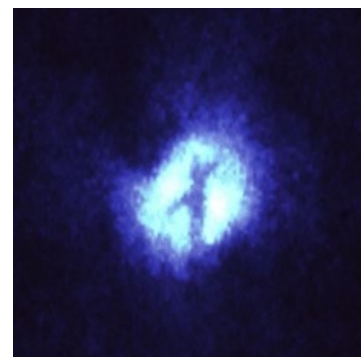
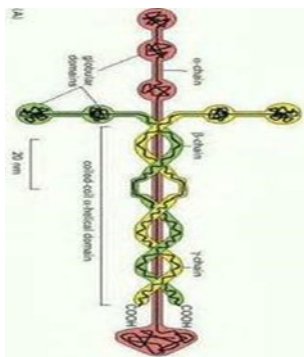


I looked in to the origins of this particular proverb about the bad penny and discovered that it has been in our spoken language since coins were introduced – it always seems impossible to get rid of worthless (counterfeit) coins – they just keep circulating. It has gradually come to be used to refer to a person who is unwanted but keeps appearing... (sad state of affairs really, if you stop and think about it.)

Thankfully we have a God who always welcomes us – his love is eternal. In his wisdom he has given us a wonderful symbol of that love in the cross of Christ. Don't we all love the blue cross of Castlehill Church which is home to us, and where we often draw near to God. It is a symbol that encourages us to worship, wherever we might see it in the world.

I thought I would just take a bit of space in this magazine to remind us of the way in which God has planted this symbol of the cross in so many essential and unexpected places. You will recall our exploration of Psalm 139, during which we discovered that medical science has found the symbol of the cross in the molecules of Laminin which hold our DNA together.

Then Interstellar Space researchers using the Hubble Telescope found the symbol of the galaxy. Well, I firmly believe that God is continuing to show himself to a world where many are still sceptical. Many and varied are the ways in which our wonderful Creator God continues to demonstrate the love of Christ on the cross to redeem a fallen world. "The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven." Hebrews 1:3



Love, and God bless you all, **Christine**

## Men's Breakfast Club



*The Men's Breakfast Club will start up again on Saturday the 29<sup>th</sup> of September. The group meets on the last Saturday of the month for about an hour from 0930. This is an opportunity for us to share in a very short service followed by a very long cup of tea/coffee accompanied by a bacon and tattie scone roll (optional – and vegetarian options available) and sit and chat and share in fellowship*

*The group are very welcoming and we would love to see some new members join us – no qualification needed, no heavy theological discussion just a group of men passing the time of day and sharing our stories and generally having a good time*

*So if you are free, why not come along and join us and share in the fellowship*

God Bless  
**Tom McLeod** Ordained Local Minister

## One of Ours

You may recall an item in the magazine of Autumn 2013, when, under the heading of “Where are they now” we had an article submitted by one of our past assistant ministers, Elizabeth Henderson.

In the June issue of Life and Work there is an interesting item about Elizabeth. In our magazine she casually understated her work with establishing a children’s bereavement charity, Richmond’s Hope. In recognition of being a co-founder, she has been appointed as a Chaplin to Her Majesty the Queen and will formally join her Majesty’s Household as Chaplin-in-Ordinary.

Liz helped to set up the Richmond’s Hope Charity in 2003 to provide bereavement support for local children. It was the first of its kind in Scotland specialising in children’s grief and now has four centres in Edinburgh, Midlothian and one in Glasgow. Over 3500 children have been helped since the charity began.

We can be proud of her achievement and her place in Castlehill Church.

## Letter from Michael Dickie

Although I retired from Castlehill in 1993 - 25 years ago, just one year less than my 26 years with you all! – I not only have happy memories of so many real friends but I enjoy visits, from and to, quite a number of you, and the phone calls.

At my family 90<sup>th</sup> birthday party (15 people) I told stories about Mamie, Elspeth and Jane in both the Manse and the Church.

Like most folk I have had my share of physical and emotional difficulties but I have been richly blessed by God in my family and Church life. The great thing about my friends at Castlehill was that they not only showed their affection for me but were not afraid to offer constructive criticism of my views and behaviour when necessary. That meant a great deal to me.

Since leaving Castlehill I have been Locum at 2 parishes in Perthshire and then since coming back, Locum at New Cumnock and then Coylton and Drongan. (A year in each place). Two years ago I stopped conducting morning services and graveside funerals.

Last year I retired from organising Presbytery Healing Conferences ( which I had done for 31 years !); so the only thing I do now are the monthly Healing Services ( For how long ? !)

I also retired this year from being Chairman of Cumnor Hall Friends Group. However, I am still given a “purpose” in life as quite a few folk come for counselling.

Having been Chaplain at 5 schools in Castlehill for 26 years I am often spoken to in the street, and when I am a patient in hospital, because so many former pupils recognise me. I have even been asked, a month ago, to conduct a wedding in November of a former pupil at Forehill who knew me as Chaplain and enjoyed worship in our Church!!

Thank you for having let me be your minister. I pray that you will soon be able to call someone and give Christine a well-deserved rest.

God bless you

Sincerely **Michael Dickie**

## Seniors Afternoons

The new session will be starting in October, Tuesday the 9<sup>th</sup>, to be precise , with entertainment by “Hugh and Friends” While the name “Seniors” may conjure up the idea that it is for “older” folk, we have a wide age range. Occasional bursts of Line Dancing means that you have to be reasonably fit as well.

It is an afternoon to enjoy musical memories, sing alongs, if you can remember the words and there is always a cup of tea and some goodies to eat. Lifts can be arranged for those with transport needs. Just ring the Church Office or me on 737459. Come along and if you wish to bring a friend please do so. This is not just for Church members, but for anyone in the Parish or community. Look forward to seeing you and we have our Christmas Party on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December, another date for your diary.

**Wellwood Grierson**



Every 3 years, the Guild's Projects Partnership scheme chooses and supports 6 projects, 3 home-based and 3 abroad. These are selected from many applications, all very worth-while and worthy of our support. However, there is a limit to what we can do and so only 6 are selected.

2018 saw the end of our latest cycle and a fantastic £733 440.32 was raised. Each project received over £100,000 each

Street Pastors £132,837.54    Care for the Family £114,489.26    Christian Aid £113,206.97  
Feed the Minds £148,179.66    Mission International £126,117.86    Prospects £119,051.82

The strategy for 2018-2021 is "One Journey, Many Roads" and the group felt that the new projects offered a range of different ways in which we can journey together with people in our communities, our country and our world.

The projects have been picked and their launch locally, by Ayr Presbyterial Council of the guild, is on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> October in the Auld Kirk Halls from 10.30am till 3.30pm. At this meeting, there will be a representative from each of the projects, giving information about what they do and what they hope to do with the guild's support. If you would like to attend this meeting, then feel free just to turn up – remember to bring a packed lunch if you are staying all day! Tea/coffee/biscuits will be provided.

The home-based projects for 2018-2021 are:-    Cross-Reach – Join up the dots

Sailors' Society – A Chaplain for our Ports, based in ports around Scotland

The Boys' Brigade \_ Faith in Young People

The other projects are:- World Mission Council – Empowering Teenage Mothers in Zambia, based in Kanyama, Lusaka

Malawi Fruits – Growing the Future, based in the north of the country

Free to Live Trust – Seema's Project, based in the Indian city of Pune

Every penny we raise is put to good use and it is very humbling to learn just how little money people need to survive!

**Marion Reid. Ayr Presbyterian Council**

# Castlehill Church Bowling Club



On Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> July the Club had its annual bowling outing to Girvan. There were 41 bowlers, and three supporters, who all enjoyed good bowling, good fellowship and good weather. After the treasurer, Moira Alexander, had sorted out the finances we had tea/ coffee, scones and biscuits, then the President, David Kerr explained the order of play, assisted by the Vice President, Michael Hardie.

The twelve teams of Bowlers, Club members, guests from our own Church and friends from the Ayr Auld Kirk, St. Leonards Church and St Quivox Church posed for an official photograph. After an enjoyable afternoon we had a lovely tea provided by the Girvan Ladies committee, preceded by Grace from our Minister, Christine Stewart. Christine then presented the prizes. The First Toucher went to Archie Cree. And the winning rink [20 Shots up], of L. McClurkin, M. Graham and J. Ferguson skipped by John McDermott were presented with their trophies. The Booby prize went to Andrew Templeton's rink of A Findlay, L. Hardie and J. Roy who were quite a few shots down!!

Christine was thanked by David Kerr and presented with flowers and Michael and Moira were thanked for their help. The ladies of Girvan club were also presented with flowers and thanked for the excellent food they had provided and the usual hospitality given to us. Margaret Gaff thanked our Club with the hope we would come back next year.



**The winning Rink**  
**J. McDermott L McClurkin,**  
**M. Graham J. Ferguson**

**David Kerr, President**

## GIRLGUIDING

In May Monday night Brownies and Tuesday night Guides took part in a joint weekend at the Tamar Manoukian Centre at Dumfries House. The Guides took part in archery and wall climbing, while the Brownies took part in Circus Skills. They all enjoyed the other activities for the weekend such as tie dying T shirts and decorating bags.



The two Rainbow Groups had their sleepovers in June at Nether Auchendrane. They had a Unicorn theme which included making unicorn cup cakes, unicorn derby, glitter shakes and a few more unicorn adventures.

Tuesday night Brownies had an outing to the Farm Park

and a good day was had by all.

We are now looking to start our new Session with the introduction of our new Girlguiding programme.

If anyone has an interest in volunteering to help with Girlguiding, please visit [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk) where you can register an interest or speak to any of the team.

**Linda McClurkin**

## MONDAY NIGHT GUIDES

Monday nights were very busy at Guides the amount of new recruits soared and the girls took part in science projects, Arts Crafts, Outdoor cooking and homecraft sewing

Guides also took part in "small's for all" which sends much needed items to women in Africa, the girls enjoyed a Burns Supper, Ceilidh dancing, outdoor cooking, exercise classes and film making Fencing. Visits to Pizza Hut, cinema, Irn Bru Carnival and a lovely night swimming in New Cumnock outdoor pool which we hired for the unit

New session kicks off with a trip to Blackpool to a sleepover in the iconic Tower Ballroom, a visit to Tussuads, Circus, Sealife Centre and Imax. Our Autumn Residential will be at Dumfries Outdoor Centre



Guides can look forward to the new Guide Programme roll out this year

Many thanks to everyone who makes it happen. Guiding is going places in Castlehill

**Christine and Angie**



# The Boys' Brigade Summer Camp 2018

In all my years with BB I thought that being appointed Captain of the company at Coylton ( 12<sup>th</sup> Ayr) was going to be my next adventure but didn't foresee a little bit of ill health which made us hesitate on the decision of going ahead or calling off this year. As it was, with 2 volunteer drivers from Coylton taking a week off to come with us, we went ahead with a group of 20 Boys and 8 Leaders.

The group left their respective church halls and met up at the Brigade Activity Centre in Kirkham to start a week of fun filled adventures.

Saturday was spent getting to know each other and settling into what would be our home for a week and some time spent playing games in the sports hall. On Sunday a session of Archery started the week of activities. The rest of the week included visits to Blackpool Tower Circus and then a trip to the top of the tower where the glass floor tested the nerve of anyone without a head for heights! Splashworld at Southport was our destination for swimming and a second visit at the end of the week made sure the Boys were semi clean to bring back. The Sea-Life centre, Madame Tussauds and Blackpool Zoo were also included in our excursions.

On the Thursday evening we were invited to a barbecue by the other BB company on site 12<sup>th</sup> Falkirk and the evening included football and rounders.

Friday evening, after bag packing and general tidy up, saw us finish the week with a buffet supper with lots of little goodies to eat. The group were then presented with awards gained during the week. Our two first time drivers were presented with "Friend of the BB" badges as a thank you for services during the week and all of the Boys received a BB buttonhole badge to mark their time with us.

Best Room was occupied by Jack Currie, Martin Pepall & Sam McDowall.

Also during the week 3 of our lads from Castlehill ( Benn Houston, Ryan McGeachin & Matthew Doolan ) organised and ran competitions which really highlighted the leadership skills already developing in them and I have written to their company commending the effort put in during the week. The competitions they organised were; Caving – won by Jack Currie and the Adventure Course – won by Logan Dunwoodie. One lad, Fionn Coughtrie was picked up on the Friday to go home as he is a piper with the Troon BB band and they had a function to attend on the Saturday, so his badge is being kept for him and he is not missed out.

Colin Reid, who is the Officer in Charge of the juniors at Castlehill, visited us on the first weekend and hopefully he was impressed enough with our event to encourage another joint venture next year.

The date will be 20<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> July 2019 and we have booked both accommodation units for the week.

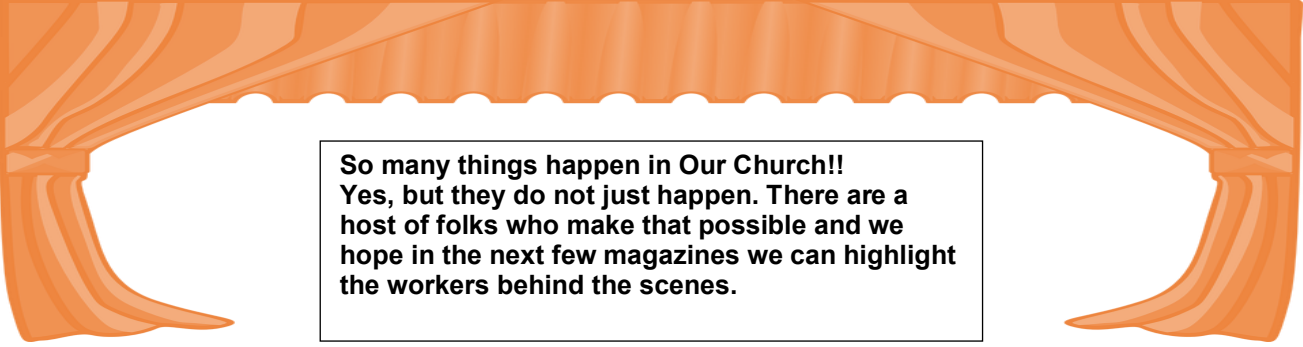
Look forward to seeing you then!!

Doug. Wilson (Capt.) 12<sup>th</sup> Ayr (Coylton)



## Dates for your Diary

- 19<sup>th</sup> Sept. Beetle Drive**
- 15<sup>th</sup> Sept Messy Church**
- 9<sup>th</sup> Oct. Seniors Afternoon**
- 27<sup>th</sup> Oct. Autumn Fayre**
- 28<sup>th</sup> Oct. Boys Brigade Soup and Sweet Lunch**
- 24<sup>th</sup> Nov. Fun, Food and Music**
- 11<sup>th</sup> Dec. Seniors Christmas Party**



**So many things happen in Our Church!!  
Yes, but they do not just happen. There are a  
host of folks who make that possible and we  
hope in the next few magazines we can highlight  
the workers behind the scenes.**

### Tape/ Sound System/ PowerPoint

The cassette tapes, which record the church services, were taken to people either in nursing homes or who were housebound. There were a number of parishioners who received the tapes, but this is now down to one, to whom Lorna Maxwell delivers. If anyone wishes a tape, these are available from the church office.

The sound system works in conjunction with PowerPoint and is run by Michael Hardie, Robert Forrester, Margaret Gerrard and Ruairi Wallace who control the sound level of the services. In particular, the Loop System is invaluable to those with hearing difficulties.

PowerPoint presentations run on the five screens in the church. Margaret Devlin, Ruairi Wallace, Christine Prout, Carol Thomson and Sandra Wyllie all contribute to the input and the smooth running of the system.

Apart from Sundays, the system is also available for funerals in the church or if one of the local schools has a special service.

### Cradle Roll

When a child is baptised in the church, the name is entered onto the cradle roll which has been looked after over the years by Mary Tindall, Karen Kerr and Carol Thomson. After baptism, all children receive a copy of the Bible, a Baptismal Certificate, a Cradle Roll Certificate and a small bunch of flowers.

Are you aware that every child baptised in the church receives a birthday card from the age of 1 - 5 years? This undertaking has been carried out over several years with the help of Etta Russell, Karen Kerr and now, Margaret Cairns who buys, writes and sends the cards to the child showing that he/she is loved by the congregation and is always welcome in the church. Hopefully, as the child grows he/she will make the decision to come to church of his/her own accord.

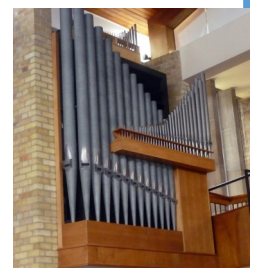
As you enter the Church, there, on the vestibule wall facing you, is the Cradle Roll chart showing the recent baptisms.  
**Dorothy Jack and Sandra Struthers**

### Castlehill Church Choir

The Choir rehearsals have started again and it's been great to see all the members back looking forward to another session. We are looking forward to leading the congregation in praise, and performing some familiar and some new anthems.

We continue to meet on a Friday night at 6:30pm and would love to see new members join us. Please come along and give the rehearsals a try and see .....you may just find that you enjoy it!

**Liz Kelly**



## Accepting Answered Prayers Kirsty Wyllie

How many of us pray for something and if we don't like the answer, question it, usually by thinking something like this, "Well Jesus, surely this is not what you want to happen? I had something else in mind". My prayer for some time has been to take a more active role in the church, and as ever, Jesus answered me in his way, not in the way I hoped for.



I didn't expect that my "active role" would begin by being asked to help at this year's Summer Club. I still questioned him asking, "Are you sure about this?" and then I remembered that Jesus like any good parent knows what we are truly capable of, and thought, who am I to argue with him.

During that week I discovered some things about myself that I never knew and would not have learned otherwise. Firstly, please don't ask me to work with bluetack again! Secondly, I discovered that when working with children you may not always feel in complete control. This was okay - Jesus knew what he was doing with me when he put me in that situation, so that I could discover this for myself.

There are going to be times in life that we may not want to do something for whatever reason but feel that Jesus is leading us to it anyway, because in the long run it will be good for us. Sometimes the answer to our prayers will turn out to be in entirely different to what we had imagined. Just like it was for me with the Summer Club.

What I have come to understand more clearly than ever before is that our response to all our prayer requests should be "Yes and Amen" because Jesus is always for us, not against us.

## Social Committee

The next event in the Church's Social calendar will be the Beetle Drive on **19<sup>th</sup> September** [ North Hall 7.30pm...be there]

Then we have our Autumn Fayre on Saturday **27<sup>th</sup> October 10.am to 12am**. Should you wish to have a table or donate items for the Fayre please be in touch with the committee. We hope to see you there.

On **24<sup>th</sup> November** we are trying something new, a fun night of music and food. Keep an eye on the Church Notice Board for further information

**Liz Reid**, Social Convenor.

## Property

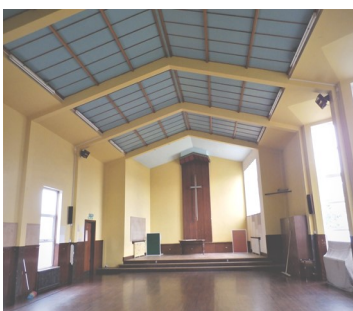
Our new boilers have now been installed. These were long overdue to be renewed, not only were they inefficient but it was very difficult to source spare parts. It was a big job and cost quite a bit, but it should be well worth the effort. We can now control the heating in different parts of the Church Buildings, and the running costs should decrease. Our thanks to Allan Jack and his team for managing the switchover.

Many of you will have seen the transformation in the décor of the main hall. This was also well overdue and hopefully the colour scheme will prove acceptable to all [well nearly all] The photographs are a reminder of

what it was like before and for those who have not seen it yet the new hall is shown in all its glory.

Most repairs are up to date, and we hope that that is the end of major expenditure for a wee while.

**Liz Reid** Property Convenor



**Before**



**After**



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed  
We are launching Messy Church on a regular basis at Castlehill Church starting on 15<sup>th</sup> September from 4-6pm (then it's every 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month). What is Messy Church well it's not just a craft club; it's not only for children; it's for everyone – young and old alike, adults, children, teenagers, carers, grandparents, come as friends, families or partners. The format is we commence with a short celebration time involving story, prayer leading us into activities linked to the theme which is **Jesus as our Cornerstone** and we will finish by sitting down and enjoying a simple meal together to bring the session to a close.

Because these are family events and the leaders are fully involved in the different activities all children must be accompanied by an adult. We want everyone to be safe and to be able to have fun together. COME ALONG AND TRY US OUT.

I will be asking the congregation from time to time to help us with recycled materials for our craftwork so please help us if you can. Check out the Messy Church noticeboard in the vestibule to see what is needed.

Many thanks in anticipation.

**Margaret Graham**

## Castlehill Church of Scotland Guild



The Guild will be resuming in October on our usual Wednesday evenings in the North Hall. The Guild is open to everyone men and women, young and young at heart!. The Guild plays an important part in the life of the Church, it's not only about making cups of tea and providing baking, they support members of the Church in sad times and good times. They take part in Worship and are involved all aspects of Church life from the Eldership to Messy Church.

The Guild Executive are launching 6 new projects this year and we looking forward to hearing from them over the next three years. We are also moving forward under a new three-year strategy – One Journey Many Roads. This year's theme is, Seeking The Way along with the topic Unexpected Journeys. The Guild ladies have many diverse hobbies and interests but they all converge into one main journey. Their journey with God through our Lord and Saviour Jesus – Whose we are and whom we serve.

**The Guild Committee**

## Carravaca De La Cruz



You may wonder why a photograph of a Spanish Church features in our magazine – read on

### Memorable visit to Caravaca de la Cruz.

Caravaca de la Cruz (Caravaca of the Cross) is a city in the Murcia province of south east Spain. It is a pilgrimage site and is home to the Basilica shrine of the Vera Cruz with its distinctive Caravaca cross and baroque facade.

Legend has it that a priest named Gine's Pere'z Chirinos required a cross for the alta celebrate Holy Mass. As he looked towards the windows he saw two angels appear from heaven carrying a cross. In the year 1998 Pope John Paul 11 granted Caravaca de la Cruz to be named as one of the Holy Cities along with Santiago de Compostel, Santa Toribio de Liebana, Rome and Jerusalem.

The Cross is kept in a secure case in a small alcove in the Basilica. Many believe that the Cross delivered by the angels contained fragments from the true cross. The fragments were placed inside a cross made of gold.

Visitors are given a card showing a replica of the Cross shown here.



Numerous fiestas are held each year during the month of May in celebration of the Cross.

Every seven years the Cross is carried in a procession from the Basilica down the hill to the Mother church.

It was in May 2010 I was on holiday with my sister staying with my brother who had a holiday home on the Costa Blanca. One day he asked if we would like to visit Caravaca de la Cruz. When we arrived there, we made our way up the steep hill to the Basilica hoping to view the gold cross. Once inside we were told we would have to make our way back down the hill to the Mother Church at 4 o'clock. We arrived at the church only to find crowds and crowds of people queuing up at the church doors.

The procession began with the Archbishop carrying in the gold cross. Mass was celebrated and communion served then the congregation were invited to come forward to the altar and kiss the Cross, a very moving service.

My sister had a very painful cold sore that day and didn't want to go forward but she was persuaded and she did. ....Now did she still have that cold sore the next day??????????

To be there on that day in that month in that year was just wonderful and one that I shall never forget.

**Maira Alexander**

## Castlehill Church Boys Brigade

At our display in May we had a slightly poignant evening when we invited one of our founding officers to be our guest of honour. **John Martin** was one of four officers who founded the 17<sup>th</sup> Ayr back in 1959. At the end of last year, he was diagnosed with terminal brain cancer, an illness he bore with great dignity. John was an officer in the company all the way through my time as a boy. My best memories I have of John are the summer camps we spent together. He, along with the other officers of the 17<sup>th</sup> Ayr became a very big influence in my life. John was a fantastic character whose talent lay in gymnastics. He coached the 17<sup>th</sup> Ayr gymnastic team to many victories in the Battalion gymnastic competition. One of his many BB highlights was carrying the colours into the church in 1969 for the first time when they were dedicated by Michael Dickie. I invited him to relive that in 2009 at our 50<sup>th</sup> celebrations.

Within three weeks of our display John had passed away. His memory will always be a part of the 17<sup>th</sup> Ayr Boys' Brigade, an inspirational figure who touched the life of many.



The role of inspirational figure is usually associated with the adults in life. However, we have a young man in our BB company who is an inspiration to young and old. Gavin Drysdale has got many qualities, qualities I could list here. His achievements become greater with each year which goes past. Gavin participates in a sport called race running which is a sport specifically for people with cerebral palsy. Gavin has participated in this for a number of years. Earlier this year his sport was recognised by the International Para Athletics Association which meant it would be included in multi-sport competitions like the Commonwealth Games and the Olympics. The first such competition was the European Athletics Championship which took place in Berlin. Gavin was picked to represent the United Kingdom. He represented his country in the 100 meters. On Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> August he ran his race and won gold in 17.37 seconds. His achievement cannot be overstated, the inspiration generated by him is immeasurable, I am so proud to have him as a member of the 17<sup>th</sup> Ayr. I look forward to celebrating his Commonwealth and Olympic golds!

Our new session started on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> August. This is a very important year for us. This year we will celebrate our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a Company. Our celebrations will be focused on a weekend in May when we hope to bring many ex-members and Queens Men to our weekend of celebration which will include our annual display, a social event and a church service. In addition to this we will be returning to Romania in the summer of 2019, this will be our fourth trip to visit the Rhema Foundation. Our fund raising will start on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> October at our annual soup and sweet lunch following our dedication service.

**Ian Queen**

**Weddings** None

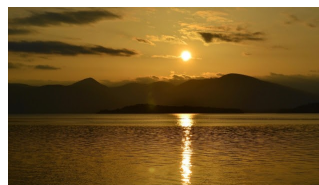
**Baptisms** **August** Julie Campbell Monkton

**Funerals** **April** Norrie Kennedy Ayr  
Moyra Crawford Holly Bank

**May** Brian Clarke Forehill Road  
Alexander Hart Iris Court

**Jun** John Martin Ayr  
Wilma Reid Quail Road  
Tom Petticrew Raithill  
Esther Wyllie Annfieldglen  
Road

**July** Jim Smith Fenwickland  
Avenue



Didn't know today would be our last,  
and I'd have to say goodbye to you so fast.  
Well I'm so numb, can't feel anymore.  
Praying you just walk back, through that door.  
And tell me was I only dreaming,  
You're not really gone as long as I believe.  
There will be another angel around the throne tonight.  
Love is on the side of me and I will hold on tight.  
It's not my place to question only God knows why,  
well I'm just jealous of the angels  
around the throne tonight.  
You always made my troubles feel so small,  
you were always there to catch me if I fall.  
In a world, where heroes come and go.  
God just took the only one I know.  
So, I'll hold you as close as I can,  
longing for the day when I see your face again.  
But until then, for God must need  
another angel around the throne tonight.  
Love is on the side of me and I will hold on tight,  
It's not my place to question only God knows why.  
Well I'm just jealous of the angels  
around the throne tonight.

*Song Writer: Nathan Carter*

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