

LARBERT WEST PARISH CHURCH

“A Larbert West Church Publication”

WESTWORDS



AUTUMN 2021

Larbert West Parish Church of Scotland Scottish Charity No. SC012251

www.larbertwestparishchurch.org





WestWords News from The Manse



Dear Friends,

As I write I am preparing for a summer holiday; we will be heading off in our motorhome to spend time at the coast; there is also going to be a big family gathering as we celebrate Alastair's father reaching 90! It feels like a milestone in more ways than just his age, for this time last year we just met with dad and one of Alastair's brothers – as we were still restricted to no more than six.

As our nation moves towards fewer restrictions and higher vaccination figures we are beginning to feel more confident about expanding our horizons.

On 2nd August the First Minister announced that from the 9th we will move to “Beyond Level 0” – and as I write we are still waiting to have confirmation of what that will actually mean for church attendance and activities. We know there are further announcements due, and indeed that guidelines will change again in a short while, but what I can say for now is that we **hope** that during September we will be able to start sharing fellowship after worship, that serving tea and coffee will become possible and that by the time we reach Communion Sunday on 12th September things may feel a little closer to normal.

As things change and old ways return, some of the new things that began over the past 18 months may be reviewed – however there have also been some very positive discoveries. Finding new ways to help us all feel linked to each other and the church.

Some of you, I know, are feeling more connected because you now receive Worship at Home each week – either through a paper copy being delivered to you or via email. This has been an unexpected bonus!

We now have a dedicated YouTube Channel – which means that if you have a smart TV which can run things like Netflix or I-Player, you can also connect to YouTube and watch the Sunday service live, at home, on your TV! We would love to see you all in church together, but if that is not possible knowing you are joining us from home is a huge blessing too.

You may remember last time I wrote that changes are afoot. Over the next few months some of these will begin to start. Work is ongoing to move Falkirk Presbytery into a new larger group with the Presbyteries of Lanark and Hamilton; this will result in an Overture to General Assembly in May, with the new Presbytery coming into being in June 2022.

The number of ministries for the Falkirk area has been reduced further, and we await news of just how that will affect the Larbert Area Churches – the current six congregations is likely to reduce to two, and the current 4.5 ministry posts reduce to 2. No one of this is easy; but if we want there to still be a Church of Scotland for future generations it is necessary.

The end of September will bring a different change as Melville Crosthwaite retires from ministry and he and Irene move away. This will be a big miss as Melville has been minister at Larbert East since 1995; we wish them well in their retirement and in the flitting!

The locum appointed by the Kirk Session will be Rev Philip Hacking, who some of you may know from FVR where he is currently chaplain, we wish him well, and I can say I am looking forward to working with Philip as we explore further how East and West Churches and Stenhouse & Carron can work together.

WestWords News from The Manse cont'd

After a gloriously sunny July, August has been cooler and wetter – heralding the changing seasons and hinting of autumn to follow; whatever you do, and wherever you go in the weeks ahead, I pray that you may know God's presence in the kindness of others and the blessing of friends and family,

Every blessing dear friends,



LETTER FROM SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES UNITED KINGDOM

Thank you so much for your continued support of Keerthana- it is very much appreciated, especially as India is suffering such a severe second coronavirus wave. As a valued supporter we would like to keep you updated with the latest news about what is happening there, particularly with regards to coronavirus, and to what SOS is doing to keep the children and families safe.



In addition to supporting the children in our Villages and in our family strengthening programmes, SOS Children's Villages India is providing short-term and long-term care to children from communities whose families have been affected by the pandemic. Children whose parents have coronavirus and are undergoing treatment can receive short-term care until their parents/ caregivers recover and children who have lost parents and have no one to look after them can come to live in the Villages.

Last year, 21 children whose parents died of coronavirus were cared for at SOS Children's Villages India. Of these 18 were reunited with their relatives, and 3 remained at SOS Villages. "We'll be playing the same role in the second wave," says Shekhar Malakar, assistant director of SOS Children's Village, Khajurhi Kalan, Bhopal.

As part of the family strengthening community outreach, SOS India has started community kitchens for coronavirus, and is also providing medical care and well-being services, including medical and food supplies for affected families. SOS India is also distributing personal hygiene and protective equipment, and running free ambulance services for coronavirus patients in some locations, and providing financial support to families affected by the virus so they can get back on their feet. Additionally, they are ensuring children continue to learn and grow by providing educational support.

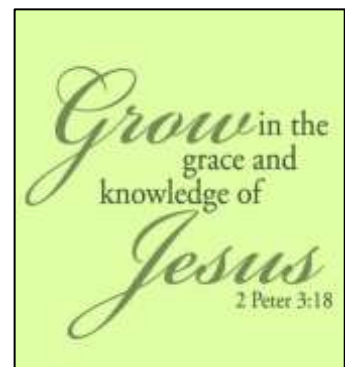
Thank you again for your support and sponsorship at this difficult time.

With Best Wishes
Tracey McCluskey, Support Care Manager

Maira Nicol



We are collecting food (dry or tinned), toiletries etc each week via the donations box (red box) on Sunday morning.



GUILD NEWS

In respect of our theme for the next three years, "**Look forward in faith**" the committee is hoping that we may be able to meet as a group in the not too distant future. At our last meeting it was decided that all future meetings be held at 2p.m. rather than in the evening. This year we are considering "**Lights and Bushels**".

Members –

Our thoughts and prayers are with Mrs Sheila Frazer's family as they come to terms with her death.

A celebration -

Mrs Moira Walls celebrated her 90th birthday on 23rd July and was presented with a rose bush, a balloon and cards from Guild members.



← Moira Walls with Guild Convenor, Beatrice Grant and Guild member Anne Matthew. ↑

Thank You

My sincere thanks to all who sent cards and greetings on my 90th birthday.

To those members of the Church Guild, my heartfelt thanks for the beautiful rose bush which is now pride of place in our garden.

Moira Walls

Lift up
your
Hearts
in
Praise!

*As for me and
my House,
we will serve the Lord.*
Joshua 24:15



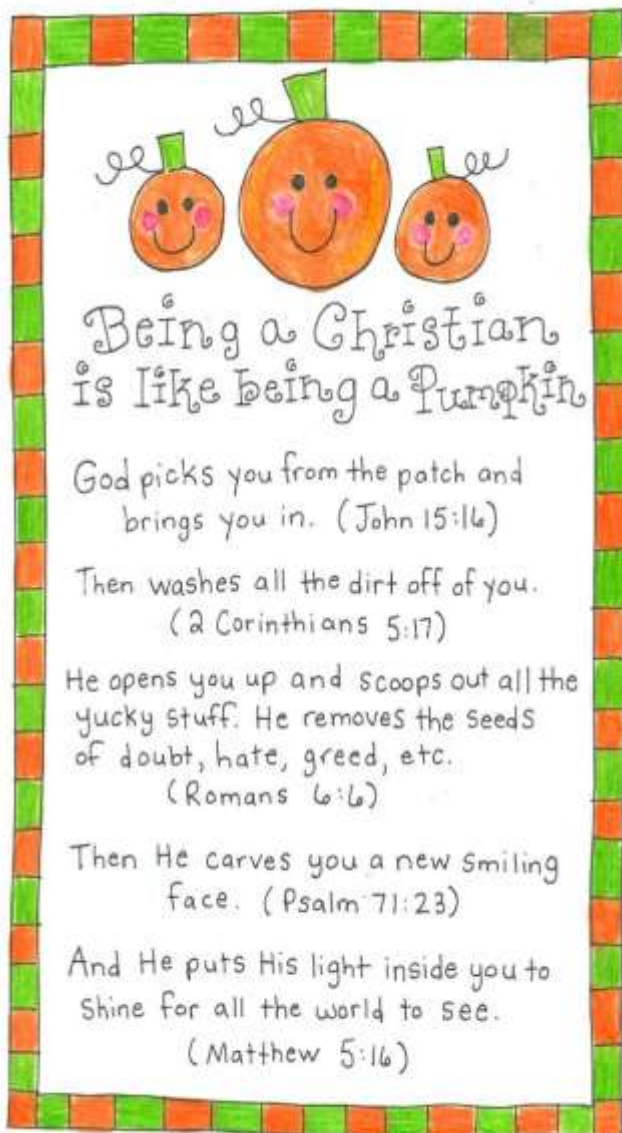
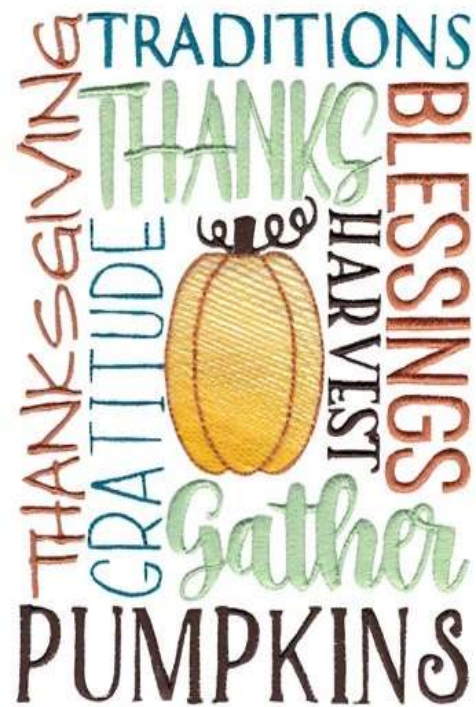
CHRISTIAN AID

You will have noticed that we were unable to do any fundraising for Christian Aid this year, but their valuable work is even more important in the current situation due to the Pandemic.

It was agreed by the team and Session that a walk at the Kelpies in the autumn might be possible. This would not be in the usual format as the Kelpies Canter but would involve some of our members walking (the fitter ones) and the rest of us being able to sponsor them for Christian Aid.

Watch out for details in the Church News towards the end of summer.

Mae Marsden



THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND 2021 STAMP APPEAL

I'm pleased to say we are now able to resume our collection of used postage stamps.

The project this year is supporting The Women's Development Centre (WDC) in Kandy, Sri Lanka.

Your used stamps can help the WDC support women and girls who have survived rape, sexual violence and family rejection, returning them to education or learning skills that will allow them to make a living.

Many of you have been bringing stamps to church for a long time and may have a large number of them lying in a drawer.

There will be a box on the table for stamps if you are attending church on Sundays otherwise please phone me on 558678 to make arrangements.

Please cut carefully round the stamps leaving a small margin.
Thank you!



Molly Priestly

As We Resurface from the 'Depths'

Whilst after a long sleep Rip van Winkle eventually reawakened to a new and surprising world, we too are beginning to re-emerge from not so much a sleep but from an enforced isolation period, to again meet up with friends, visit places previously prohibited, attend gatherings, worship, sing out loud, have visitors inside our houses, embrace friends and relations albeit with some sensible now acquired skills which will still stand us in good stead not only to counter Covid but promote better cleaning and protective measures to benefit everyone.

Whilst it may have been possible to 'attend' church whilst sitting at home, courtesy of our access to technology or 'smart' TV; there has been something missing that whilst difficult to wholly define amounts to the proximity of others with whom we can exchange a word or smile and share a confidence. Problems talked over are often a means of alleviating concerns when similar experiences can allay worry or have help offered in moving forward. Soon perhaps we can resume being of help in getting the less mobile back to church to meet up with friends separated for so long; have a communal cup of tea; and arrange to meet later which for so long was not possible.

Resolve to do it all again the following week. Get together with like minded people at the Guild, Men's Association, Prayer Group, Bible Study Meeting, help with the Girls' Brigade, Boys' Brigade, Sunday Club, expressing your happiness at being able to do so by singing in the Choir, share your gardening skills around the church grounds, take part in the administration of the church through the Congregational Board, illustrate or learn new skills in the technology that allow us to 'Livestream' our services and young people help the 'silver surfers' who are at present so doing!

Organisations too are starting again from the outside community in our Halls. So whether you want some sedate Tai-Chi or Yoga or prefer more energetic Aerobics, Keep Fit or Badminton, now might just be the time to retune your minds and bodies and even shed a few pounds!

Whatever? We again look forward to your acquaintance and being able to welcome you truly into our midst again.

Harry Johnston, Clerk to the Congregational Board, and you are welcome to make any enquiries you want of me on 01324 553 413.

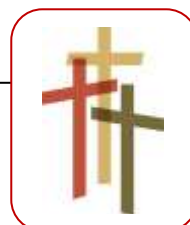
ROLL CHANGES

Deaths

Mr. Gordon Campbell, formerly of Mungall Mill Court, Falkirk.
Mrs. Helen Stoddart, Wallside Grange Care Home, 6 Wellside Place, Falkirk.
Mrs. Sheila Frazer, 2 Broomage Park, Larbert.

New Member by Certificate

Miss Dorothy Priestly, 28 Robertson Court, Stenhousemuir, FK5 4BW from Shawlands Trinity Church, Glasgow.



LARBERT CHURCHES **YOUTH TRUST**

Scottish Charity No: SC040524

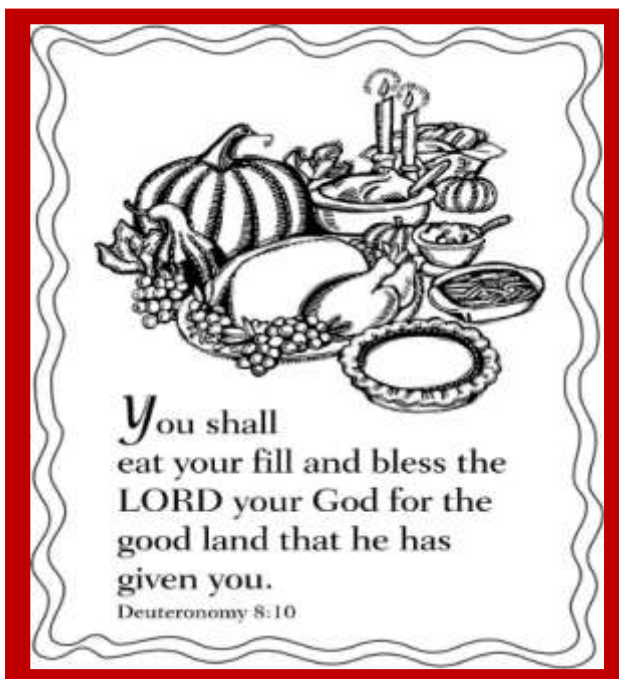
As we continue to juggle with the Scottish Government's ever changing guidelines, plans for a covid safe summer holiday club were pulled together by our schools worker, Mike Glass, assisted by Gregor McKay in a relatively short period of time.

Jungle Adventures were held each morning from 2nd to 6th August in Carronvale's sports hall. Restrictions meant we had a capacity of 20-23 participants each day. Mike (or should I say Bear Thrills!) did an amazing job ensuring the children and volunteer leaders had a great time. The venue was excellent allowing Mike's extensive and flexible programme of stories, songs, crafts, quizzes and activities to effectively entertain the group at all times.

We give thanks for this opportunity to offer this club to our young people, and for Mike's determination and dedication to allow it to continue within current guidance.

Planning is now starting for a return to school after the holidays and a hope of a return to face to face work in our primary schools and SU clubs.

Andrea Dunkin, Publicity Officer.



LARBERT WEST – HOW TO KEEP UP.

NEWS

UPDATE ON RESTRICTIONS:

as expected, the First Minister's announcement on 2nd August lifted restrictions and put the country into "Beyond Level 0"; we are still asked to wear masks for the time being, there will be further updates over the next couple of weeks, but we hope that in September we will begin something that looks closer to "normal" and should be able to introduce a time of fellowship and refreshment after our Sunday Service. The next issue of WAH – for Sunday 29th August will have the details of exactly how and when all of this will happen.

- **Weekly Prayer.** The Prayer Group meets every Wednesday at 2pm. Please 'phone 01324 562385. All Welcome. Come along to the meeting – you don't have to speak.

- **Sunday Services:** We are now open for Sunday Worship. It will be necessary to book your place, wear a mask, observe social distancing and be guided to your seat – as it was in the autumn. The phone line is available to book your place, phone 01324 562177 and leave your name, your contact number (mobile if possible) and the number of people in your family group or bubble.

- **Sunday Service-online:** Going forward the church service will be livestreamed to YouTube each week. As time goes on this livestream will become more refined, we are all learning – all the time! We have a dedicated Larbert West Channel on YouTube, and the service livestream will be found there.

- Our **Midweek Reflections** continue on Facebook at noon on Tuesday, normally led by Julie, and helped out by members of our worship team.

www.facebook.com/larbertwestpc



Church Bulletin Board

The following appeared in church bulletins
or were announced at church services.

The sermon this morning 'Jesus walks on the Water, the sermon tonight 'Searching for Jesus'



Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around. Bring your husbands



Miss Charlene Mason sang "I will not pass this way again", giving obvious pleasure to the congregation



For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.



The Rector will preach his farewell message, after which the choir will sing "Break forth into joy"



Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24th in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their schooldays.



Potluck supper Sunday at 5pm – Prayer and medication to follow

The Church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.



At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "what is Hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practice



The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind, They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon



This evening at 7pm there will be hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin



Low Self -Esteem support group will meet Thursday at 7pm. Please use the back door.



The Associate Minister unveiled The church's new tithing campaign slogan last Sunday. "I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours"



This being Easter Sunday we will ask Mrs Lewis to come forward and Lay an egg on the altar

Contributed by Gail Paton

A seed with three letters in my name. Take away two and I still sound the same.

What am I?

(Pea)

**I'm a God,
a planet,
and I measure
heat.**

What am I?

(Mercury)

*I have branches,
but no fruit,
trunk or leaves.*

What am I?

(Bank)

For I know the
Plans
I have for you,
declares the *Lord*
Plans to *Prosper* you
and not to harm you
Plans to give you
Hope and a *Future*
-Jeremiah 29:11