

Campsie Parish Church



**Autumn
Newsletter**



September



October



November



2018





Letter from the Session Clerk

Dear Friends

It's now just over two months since we learnt that Jane felt that, for the time being, she could not continue as our minister, because of family and health reasons. This is always a difficult time for any congregation: difficult because of our concern for Jane and her family; difficult because of the need to find ways to continue our church life, especially Sunday worship; and difficult because of the uncertainty such an event creates – how long will we be without our minister, who will take the services, what do we do about events and projects that we have begun to plan for?

We don't yet know the answer to many of these questions; but we should not be too disheartened. We are very fortunate in having two Readers in the congregation, as well as other people willing to take part in services, all of whom are willing to conduct worship; and we are also fortunate in having good friends among local retired ministers, who are happy to come and help us: Susan Anderson, John Campbell, Douglas Clark, Donald Macleod and of course Sandra Farrington. We thank them all for their help, and the message each of them brings, has played a great part in keeping our spirits up in a time of difficulty.

We are also fortunate in having a locum starting in November. Morris Dutch (also a retired minister), is known to some members of the congregation, and we look forward to him walking with us until Jane is able to return to work.

We should also take heart from the ongoing life of the congregation, as organisations and events start up again after the summer. The JAM club, the uniformed organisations, the Guild; Messy Church; the Rainbow Café and the Christmas Fayre; the celebrations and special services at Christmas time (and the carol singing!) - all these will be taking place as usual, thanks to the dedication and enthusiasm of the organisers. There is also talk of a Scottish evening in November, to mark St Andrew's Day. And in December, we hope to find an appropriate way of celebrating thirty years of the church building.

These are all things we can undertake without direct leadership and encouragement from Jane (in person – I know that she is thinking of us and praying for us). Other activities have had to be put on hold, especially the Re-commitment programme, which was due to have begun in September. Our thanks are due to everyone who has been able, directly or indirectly, to work together through this uncertain period; and on a personal level, I would like to thank all of you, especially the elders, who have encouraged me as I have attempted to keep the show on the road!

We all miss Jane very much – her friendship, her pastoral work, her leadership of the Kirk Session and of course her wisdom and spiritual direction as she led us in worship week by week. We remember her and all her family in our prayers, and look forward to the time (we hope not far away) when she can return to us restored to health and ready to lead us once again.

When Moses prepared the Israelites to enter the Promised Land, he said to them:

“be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you”.

And as Jesus made ready to leave his disciples and face the Cross, he said:

“peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid”.

Pray that we can take this advice, and go forward in confidence as we proclaim the love of God here in Lennoxtown.

Best wishes to you all

Andrew Wale



Upcoming Services



SEPTEMBER

| | | |
|--------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| September 9 | 11.00am Worship | <i>Margaret Tindall</i> |
| September 16 | 11.00am Worship | <i>George Kelly</i> |
| September 23 | 11.00am Worship | <i>Rev. John Campbell</i> |
| September 30 | 11.00am Harvest Thanksgiving | <i>Rev. John Campbell</i> |

OCTOBER

| | | |
|------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| October 7 | 11.00am Worship | <i>Rev. Donald Macleod</i> |
| October 14 | 11.00am Communion | <i>Rev. Susan Anderson</i> |
| October 21 | 11.00am Worship | <i>George Kelly</i> |
| October 28 | 11.00am Youth Dedication | <i>Andrew Wale</i> |

NOVEMBER

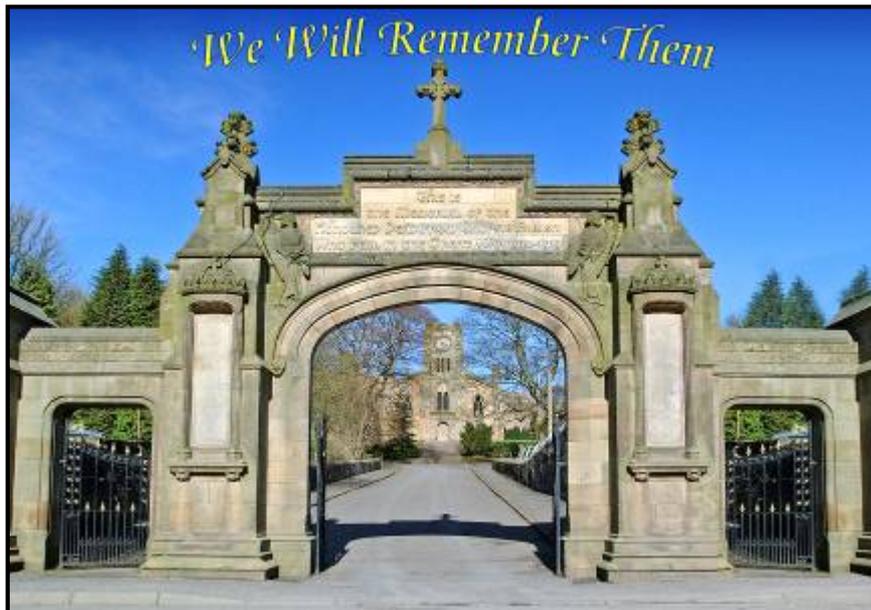
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|-------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| November 4 | 11.00am Worship | <i>Rev. Morris Dutch</i> |
| November 11 | 11.00am Worship | <i>Rev. Morris Dutch</i> |
| November 18 | 11.15am Remembrance | <i>Rev. Morris Dutch</i> |
| November 25 | 11.00am Worship | <i>Rev. Morris Dutch</i> |

The Community Act of Remembrance will take place at **10.50am** at the Memorial Gates on November 11th, and normal worship service at **11.15am**. The evening service will be a commemoration of the centenary of the Armistice in 1918.

Evening services are normally held at 6.30pm on the second Sunday of the Month.

Remembrance Day

11th November 2018



On 11th November 2018, the United Kingdom and its friends overseas will mark the day **100 years ago** when the guns fell silent at the end of the First World War.

The 1st Campsie BB Pipers hope to play their part in remembering the sacrifice of millions of men and women by joining in the Battle's Over events in the morning of the 11th November 2018. 6.00am - Battle's Over - Sleep in peace, now the Battle's Over.

The sound of 1,000 bagpipes will fill the air before dawn has broken on 11th November 2018. In cities and towns throughout the land individual pipers will play Battle's O'er – a traditional air played by pipers after a battle. Heralding the start of the day's commemorations, they will play the haunting tune outside churches and cathedrals, in market squares and muddy fields, on hilltops and high streets, in valleys and village greens throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, and at scores of locations overseas, including Australia, Canada, the USA, Germany, South Africa, France, Spain, Denmark, Israel and Somalia to name but a few.



A lone piper will play The Battle's O'er in front of the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior at Westminster Abbey, London, with others undertaking a similar performance in front of cathedrals in the UK.

At the same time, pipers everywhere will be playing the same tune in their local communities.

It is anticipated that this unique tribute, organised in association with the Glasgow-based College of Piping, will start the centenary media coverage on television and radio, and will provide some of the day's most moving and atmospheric sights and sounds.

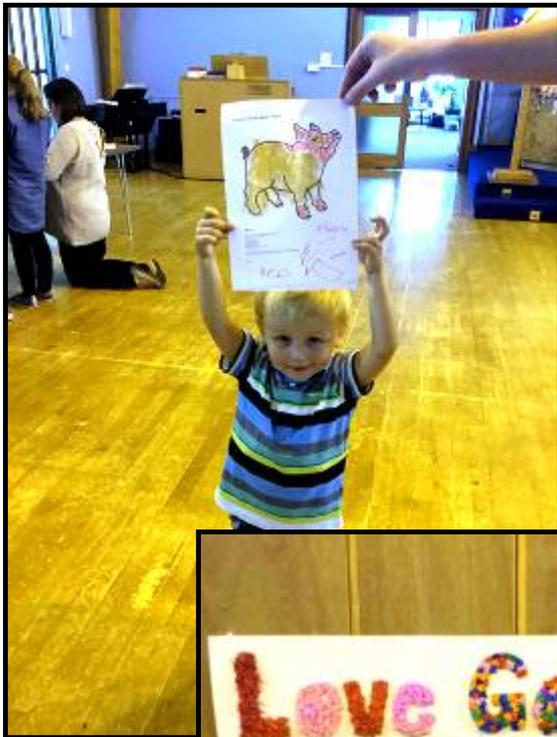
There seems to be no need to inform anyone of this event but the 1st Campsie Pipers would like everyone in the village to know that they will be taking part in this event. So no surprises on the day.



Messy Church

2nd September

If you walked past the church on Sunday you might have been forgiven for thinking that you were near a farm. Inside families were exploring the story of the loving father whose son wasted his father's money but ended up feeding pigs! We looked at the father's love as he welcomed his son home and we compared this to God's love. We sang about this, played some games and our activities were all related to the theme -Love God banner, hearts, coin rubbing, welcome home plaques, pencil tops and muddy pigs! The evening was rounded off with farm food - baked potatoes, beans, cheese and butter. Home baking included pink pigs and animal biscuits!!



Tree of Life

Our life would be devoid of colour if there were no trees. They soften our view with their greenery and gently make our afternoon cool with their shade. Their roots go deep and their fruit sustains us.



Some move graciously with the caressing of a breeze, others stand up proud and strong, unwilling to bend...

The seasons come and go and the trees shed their leaves and become bare and distraught in appearance, just like the seasons of our lives.

Each of the four seasons is a growing season for the heart. If you sink your roots deeply into the soil of each season's truth, it can become your mentor.

What can we learn from nature?

We have to prune back the dead branches to enable new growth to come, the bud appears and new life flourishes again.

At the beginning of a new season, let the old branches go. The old thoughts, habits. Cut back to enable new growth to happen within you.

Let the lemons on your tree become Lemonade

You were meant to live an abundant life. Live it!!



100 Day Prayer Challenge

Hope in the villages, towns and cities.

On 4th August 1918 King George V called for a National Day of Prayer...and exactly 100 days later the First World War ended.

As we approach the centenary of the armistice of the “war to end all wars”, a group of charities have launched a similar 100 day prayer initiative, and are encouraging people to simply take two minutes every day to pray for peace, hope and reconciliation.

Although the starting date for the challenge has passed, it is not too late to take part, there is still time for each one of us to join this prayer journey.

If YOU would like to take part, all you have to do is take two minutes every day from now till 11th November to pray privately, whenever and wherever you can.

Topics for prayer can vary and may include: 'Peace and Justice', 'Peace for days to come', 'Be strong', 'Hold onto hope', 'What does peace feel like?' and 'Hope in grief.'

More information and other detailed prayer topics can be found on the web site

www.remembrance100.co.uk

Dear Father God, we remember with compassion those caught up in the chaos and devastation caused by conflict. Help them not to lose heart. Shine your light into their darkness. Bring your peace which passes all understanding. Give them hope for the future as they re-build their broken world. *In Jesus' name Amen.*

Joan Thomson



Where Do You Find Peace?

I have submitted this article before but since it was printed, I found out that Joan Thomson's dad, Mr. Jock Murray was one of the first people on the scene of the crash.

Where do you find peace? Most Christians would probably answer that they find peace and contentment in the Lord.....after all God does promise us a 'Peace that passes all understanding' (Phil 4:7)

Recently I too have found peace in my faith, but to be honest I can also find a sense of peace while enjoying a cup of tea out in my back garden or even reading a newspaper.

I can even feel peace and contentment by just looking at the Campsie hills or being at home in Campsie.

However, when you think of the problems and wars going on all over the world, then peace is actually quite hard to come by.

I'd like to tell you about a peace that can be found in Campsie.

A Campsie story, some folks will know, is that on 5th May 1941 a German Junkers Ju88 bomber with a crew of four, was returning from a bombing raid over Glasgow when it came under fire as it approached the South Braes. Two crew members bailed out and were captured in Torrance, (near what is now Balmore Golf Course). The remaining two crew members left it too late and were both killed when their plane crashed into the Lennox Forest.

That part of the story is without doubt and can be proven. However the second part of the story is less well known....and was told to me in the 1960s by an old uncle. (Actually at the time he was younger than I am now - but when you are young, everyone seems old!!)

My uncle told me that when the two captured crew members were asked why the pilot and co-pilot had not bailed out when they had the chance, they said that after being hit, they could see the town of Campsie, so after telling the others to parachute out, they tried to gain height and point the plane to an unpopulated area. Both were killed in the crash but no one on the ground was injured.

My uncle told me that this story was hushed up as the authorities did not want the enemy to be given any credit!

Whether this anecdote is true or not, what is definitely true is that both of the German pilots were given a burial in Campsie Graveyard, indeed Hauptmann Gerd Hansmann's grave is still there to this day. The final part of this story is, that after the war the German families were given the opportunity to have the remains of their loved ones returned to Germany. One family did accept, however Gerd's widow decided that, having visited his grave and been impressed by how well it was maintained, she wanted him to remain in the peaceful surroundings shadowed by the Campsie Hills.



Frau Hansmann arranged for flowers to be regularly placed on her young husband's grave and indeed I can confirm that flowers were still being placed on the grave well into the 1970's.

I'm glad he rests in peace and I hope that one day each of us will also find the peace we earnestly seek.

Incidentally, if you would like to see Hauptmann Hansmann's grave, just go up the hill from Main Street toward the High Church, keeping to the right, go round the right hand side corner of the Church, pass the 'table' graves, down a short flight of stone steps, turn right and take the first path on the right and a few yards downhill, you will see the headstone marking his final resting place.

Brian Marshall

Thought for today

"The first thing is to be honest with yourself. You can never have an impact on society if you have not changed yourself.

Great peacemakers are all people of integrity, of honesty but humility"

Nelson Mandela

A Recipe to Dream

Take one dream. Dream it in detail. Put it into your own hands. See its final outcome clearly in your mind. Mix with a little effort and add a generous portion of self-discipline.

Flavour it with a wholesome pinch of ambition. Stir brisk with confidence until the mixture becomes clear, the dough separated from the resolution. Bake at an even temperature in a moderate mind until the dream rises and is firm to touch. Decorate with individuality.

Cut into generous portions and serve with love.

Blessing is what almost comes to those who use the recipe for dreaming and, having dreamed their dream, and never, never give up until they have it

The recipe comes from God. Seek it!

The Guild

The Guild session starts on Tuesday, 9th October at 2.00pm. The new three year strategy is 'One Journey, Many Roads' and in the first year we consider Seeking the Way. To unpack the theme and open our session we welcome Rev David Vogan from Harestanes Baptist Church.



We then look forward to hearing of the work the charity Playlist for Life and a chance to make cards.

A warm welcome awaits you!

After a very early start on Saturday morning, Margaret, Chrissie, Josie and I set off for Kirkintilloch to board the coach taking us to Dundee for the Annual Gathering of the Guild. This year the theme was **Seeking The Way**.

First stop was at Glendoick Garden Centre for a Comfort break and a bacon roll and coffee, then back aboard the coach and off we went. We arrived at the Caird Hall in plenty of time for the 10.30 start.



Irene, Josie and Chrissie

After being welcomed by the National Convener Patricia Robertson we all stood and with the help of the wonderful Organ music sang, "Ye servants of God". This was followed by us all taking Communion which was a change from the norm but I for one was thought this to be a lovely start to the Gathering.

The Retiring Convener Marge Paterson then introduced the Moderator of the General assembly of the Church of Scotland the Rt Rev Susan Brown. Susan gave a wonderful address entitled **Jelly Beans, Jeans and Jesus**, telling us of her journey to Faith.

Jelly Beans: were given to her and her twin sister by one of the Church Elders each week she attended Church as a child with her mother.

Jeans: she was a bit of a rebel and wore these to Church during her teenage years which was rather frowned upon by the older members of the Church!: Jesus: when she felt compelled to become a Minister in her late teens, taking over her first ministry charge when she was 25. As she said the rest is history. Her theme for the year is Walking alongside People. She was a great speaker, although she did move around the platform giving the poor camera people quite a time keeping her in their lens!!!

After another Hymn the General Secretary for the Guild Iain Whyte introduced speakers from 3 of the 6 projects the Guild is assisting for the next 3 years. This took the form of a question and answer session and the first one was Mabel Sitchali from Zambia representing World Mission Council. She spoke about their mission to train and help develop Teenage Mothers. Next up was Sandra Welsh from the Sailors' Society whose aim is to train more Chaplains in Scottish Ports around the country.

Third was Kevin Simpson Chief Executive for Malawi Fruits. He has managed to negotiate with the United Nations and every Pound raised by the Guild for Malawi Fruits project to supply irrigation pumps to young farmers will be matched by the U.N. This is really wonderful and let's hope the Guild can raise "lots of lolly" The offering was uplifted during the singing of "Eternal Father strong to save." Iain Whyte who has been Secretary to the Guild for 7 years then stood and said, I AM FED UP!!! To which there were many gasps. But he then explained the he was fed up with negativity and has challenged us to have 600 new members this year!!!

We then had a break for lunch which the four of us enjoyed sitting round the fountain in the square outside the Caird hall. After lunch and another Hymn, Mabel Sitchali then sang a couple of Gospel songs from her native Zambia, she had a wonderful voice.

We then heard from the remaining 3 projects: Crossreach whose project is called Join the Dots and they are planning Friendship and Fellowship to end Loneliness. Next was the turn of Free to Live Trust and called Seema's Project in India trying to restart a feeding programme and getting young people away from the Red Light districts and prostitution.

The final speaker was Ian McCallum from the Boys Brigade. They are proposing Development and growth of young boys and men. These are 6 very worthwhile projects and I have only given a very brief outline of them all, and hopefully Guild members will once again raise large amounts of money for these projects.

After a very rousing singing of "Will your anchor hold" it was the turn of our guest speaker Tamsin Dingwall, Moderator of the National Youth Assembly. Tamsin first set foot in a Church when she was 21 and now at 25 she is the Moderator of N.Y.A. She told us she was a 25 year old Post Office worker from Aberfoyle with a passion for God, charity work and dogs!

She was a most vivacious young lady and with her lead, hopefully will bring more young people to God. She finished by asking permission from the Assembly to take a "selfie" which we all applauded, oh to be young again!

Our final Worship was headed by Marion Macintyre and this took the form of 4 ladies representing North, South, East and West, I found this very moving indeed. Then the final Hymn, "I had a dream a man once said" when we all stood and said the Blessing in unison. A lovely end to a wonderful Gathering.

So now ladies how about joining our Guild, if you are not already a member? We really are a friendly lot, and would like to take up the challenge to find at least one new member this year, and I feel sure we at Campsie Parish Church, can do better than that!!

Our Guild meets every second Tuesday at 2p.m. and start again on 9th October,

So see you there.....

Drene Johnston



Thank you Message from Nikolas Koufogiannis

I was invited by the minister of Campsie Parish church, so that I could talk about my decision of volunteering with Tear fund in Bolivia. After the service, ladies from the church served baking and coffee, (Thank you May and friends for your support) and the money from the congregation was donated to the fund raising.

It felt like home being there, and thank you everyone who welcomed me.



Thank you to all who have contributed to this Newsletter. This is your voice, so please continue to forward interesting articles which can be shared with the community.

Muriel Connell

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