

Campsie Parish Church

**Autumn  
Newsletter**



***September, October,  
November***

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*from*

**Rev. Dr Jane Denniston**

*Dear Friends,*

It hardly seems possible that the summer is over already, and everything is starting up again after the break. Summer has been an interesting time in Campsie Parish Church, in all senses of the word. Some of you will have found it positively interesting while others I think have been less convinced by the experimental services we've been having.

We began with Messy Church on the 21st July on the theme "We are the body of Christ". This was well attended although sadly not well timed as a number of our families were away on holiday. However, we did have a small number of children and it was an opportunity for others, who wouldn't normally be at Messy Church to get a flavour of what it is all about. Many joined in the crafts with gusto and there was an atmosphere of joy and laughter throughout.

The 28th July was our Songs of Praise service where we managed to squeeze in fourteen well-loved hymns and songs. I think everyone was hoarse by the end of the service.

On the 4th August we had Café Church on the theme "What do you want?" We sat round tables, and as well as the usual hymns and prayers, we had discussions and a wide selection of home baking. There was a real buzz during the discussions, and I think we could have talked for much longer if time had allowed.

The 11th August was a more normal service, but I took the opportunity to outline the need to be looking to the future and considering what God is calling us to here in Campsie Parish Church. If we are still to be here for the next generation, we need to reach out to that

generation now. How will we do that? We will have an opportunity to discuss this issue more fully at our Coffee, Cake, and Chat in the autumn and I hope as many of you as possible will come along to that. There is more about these events elsewhere in this newsletter.

On the 18th of August we had a reflective service on the theme of creation including various



aids to reflection around the sanctuary, as well as a Labyrinth in the centre. For more information on what a Labyrinth is, have a look at:-

<https://www.veriditas.org/New-to-the-Labyrinth>.

Although this was the most unusual of all the services, the congregation took it in their stride, engaging well with the various installations, even those for whom this was not the favourite

experiment!

While there are no plans to replace our morning worship with any of these formats, it seemed to me that it is important that people are aware of what is happening in the Church nationwide, and of the various initiatives and new forms of worship that are being developed all over the country. The easiest way to reach most of the congregation was to try things out at the morning service. Normal service has now been resumed!



I hope our various services over the summer have given everybody food for thought and that we will have a lively discussion about the future at Coffee, Cake, and Chat. I look forward to hearing all your ideas and I am excited about where God is leading us in CPC.

Your minister and friend,

*Jane*

Rev. Dr Jane Denniston  
Minister: Campsie Parish Church  
130 Main St  
Lennoxton  
Glasgow  
G66 7DA  
Mob: 07738 123 101  
Website: [www.campsie.org.uk](http://www.campsie.org.uk)



**Coffee, Cake, and Chat**



**It's your church - have your say!**

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September - 10.00–12.30**  
 Guest speaker: Rev Graham Duffin

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October - 10.00–12.30**  
 Guest preacher: Rev Dr Doug Gay  
*Includes Morning Worship*

As the Church of Scotland nationally struggles with problems of falling numbers in congregations, falling numbers of ministers, as well as a sense of being side-lined in society, it is important that we, as a congregation, look to the future with imagination. To consider this we are planning two opportunities to meet together as a congregation and discuss the way ahead for Campsie Parish Church.

We will be guided in our thinking by Rev **Graham Duffin** on the **7th September** and the Rev **Dr Doug Gay** on the **6th October**.

*Graham is minister of Loanhead Parish Church just south of Edinburgh and has also worked with the central committees of the Church for a number of years, looking at new initiatives in ministry and mission and considering how the Church national might best meet the challenges of the 21st century. He will bring a great deal of experience and wisdom to guide us in our discussions.*

*Rev Dr Doug Gay is Head of Trinity College and lecturer in Practical Theology in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies at Glasgow University. On several occasions at the General Assembly Doug has challenged the central committees of the Church to think more creatively about the issues facing us. He is the author of the recently published "Reforming the Kirk" which highlights some of the area's most in need of reform and makes a series of suggestions for ways to move forward in these difficult times.*

At these meetings, we will consider what we do well, what we might do better, and what we might do differently. We will think about new initiatives and new ways of reaching out to our community, and the more ideas we have, the better. You will have the opportunity to say what you like about Campsie Parish Church, and what you would prefer to be different. There will be the opportunity to raise concerns, or to suggest changes; to express hopes and fears and to consider options and new ideas.

***Please come along on 7th September and 6th October. Your voice needs to be heard, your opinion is important, and your views***



Pastoral Message  
*From*  
**Rev. David Denniston**

Over these last 6 months, I have been around at services etc. and Campsie a bit more often than previously. In part this is because I delayed my own return to work for a few weeks in order to be present as Jane began her phased return to work in February.

But even once I resumed work, my own return was also phased, allowing me to be present a little more often at Sunday worship. My involvement with the High Kirk of Stranraer in Interim Ministry Accompaniment (a type of 'consultancy') has involved me in occasional visits there (including Sunday Services approximately once a month). More recently, I have increasingly been assisting several of my colleagues in their placements including leading Sunday worship for them or with them (in congregations in Glasgow and Edinburgh). So my attendance at Campsie Services has become less frequent in recent weeks.

Now my attendances with you on Sundays are set to become even fewer and further between as I will be beginning a new full-time Interim Ministry placement in the course of September, and this will involve me in Sunday worship every week. Thankfully, this placement is nearer at hand than my previous placements in Perthshire or Fife (and a lot closer than Shetland or Stranraer where I have also worked!) In fact, I will be going to Queens Park Govanhill church, which – as some of you will be aware – includes (and meets in the building of) the congregation of Queens Park West where I was baptised, nurtured in faith, first professed faith, preached my first sermon and where I first sensed my call to ministry! Of course, returning to my spiritual home will bring its own unique and individual challenges, but it also feels like coming full circle as – at the end of my Ministry – I return to the place where it all began.

While you may see less of me for the next year or two, I'll not be far away and will of course be kept 'up to speed' with all that is happening. Meanwhile, I will be continuing to pray for the congregation and your mission and development, and hope that you will pray for me and the work I will be doing on the south side of Glasgow.

*Rev. David Denniston*

## Upcoming Services

September	Services
<b>8</b>	11am Morning Worship JAM Club 6.30pm Evening Service of Prayer and Praise
<b>15</b>	11am Morning Worship JAM Club
<b>22</b>	11am Morning Worship <i>Presentation of Elders' Long Service Certificates</i> JAM Club
<b>29</b>	11am Morning Worship
October	Services
<b>6</b>	10.00 – 12.30 Coffee, Cake, and Chat, including morning worship. <i>Guest speaker: Rev. Dr Doug Gay</i>
<b>13</b>	11am Morning Worship
<b>20</b>	11am Morning Worship <i>Harvest Thanksgiving and Family Service with the Sacrament of Baptism</i>
<b>27</b>	11am Morning Worship JAM Club

## Thank you – *from Andrew Wale*



As I (finally) demit office as Session Clerk, I'd like to thank everyone who has helped me over the last eight years to carry out the duties of the office with as little pain and anguish as possible. I'm particularly grateful to the elders and the other office bearers, but every member of the congregation has in some way or another been a great support, with barely a cross word or criticism! Jane and Sandra have been great ministers to serve under, as have the various interim moderators and pulpit suppliers, especially Dave Slater during the vacancy.

As a congregation we are starting on a new chapter in our history. Jane and David have told us that the Church nationally, and congregations locally, can no longer assume that church life will continue in the same old way. However, to know this is one thing; to address it and take a step into the unknown is very much another. Which is why we need the discussions, the investigations and the experimentation we are now undertaking, so that we can try out different things and see if they work for us. I'm looking forward to being part of those conversations free from the obligations of office, and I hope we'll be able to have lively and profitable talk about how we can continue the work of the Kingdom in Lennoxton, and how we can make sure that there is a living presence for Christ's Church here for many years to come.

I've been fortunate to visit many of the congregations in Glasgow Presbytery during my time both as a Local Church Review leader and as a member of the Strategic Planning committee, and I've been able to get some feel for the difficulties other congregations face, as well as some of the ways in which they address and overcome them. We are very lucky in Campsie in that we don't have some of these problems – the fear of union/linkage, difficulty in maintaining old and unsuitable buildings, or social uncertainty as our community changes or disappears around us. Other problems we do have, but in many ways we have a "clean slate" and this should make it possible for us to look for a way forward with confidence and hope for the future; *as the song says:*

***Be bold, be strong, for the Lord your God is with you!***

***We are not afraid!***

*Andrew*

Thank  
you



*A Word of Sincere  
thanks and Gratitude to*  
**Andrew Wale**

Andrew has indicated that he is resigning as Session Clerk after 8 years of faithful Service. By the time you read this his term in office will be over and George Kelly and Lynzi Stirling will have taken over as Clerk and Depute Clerk. We welcome George and Lynzi to the role.

I would also like to put on record my sincere and grateful thanks for Andrew's support as Session Clerk since I was inducted as your minister just over three years ago. From the outset, I found Andrew's wisdom and experience invaluable; helping me find my feet in this new situation, and supporting me in my ministry. His gifts of organisation and capacity for strategic thinking, combined with his knowledge of the congregation and parish, were invaluable to me.

Not long after I arrived, Andrew indicated that he would like to be able to hand over to a new clerk within a year or so. This gave us plenty of time to identify a successor. Andrew continued faithfully in the role meantime, and we planned to induct his successor last summer.

Sadly my personal crisis and time off work meant that this was not possible, and Andrew found himself continuing with his duties for a further, much unexpected, year. He did this, with his usual grace, and commitment, and I cannot express strongly enough my gratitude for his support and friendship throughout that time; it made an unbearable experience slightly less unbearable.

While I will miss Andrew's support and encouragement, and his wise counsel and undoubted experience, I am glad that he is now able to take up his well-deserved retirement.

*Rev. Dr Jane Denniston*



## Finance Report to August 2019

*Andy Waugh*

*We have had a fairly typical  
year so far!*

Income is currently around **£36,000** with expenditure **£44,000**.

Therefore, at the moment we are in deficit by around **£8,000** compared to last year of deficit **£6,500**. *There are three main components to this:*

**Timing differences** - this is normal - we pay different bills at different times and this always skews the mid-year results. We were fortunate to receive a generous legacy last year, none this year.

**We invested in repairs** - for the sale of our Manse at Redhill's View and sums expended there are expected to return to us on sale. (Note that we would have had to spend on essential repairs regardless.)

Considering the above, income and expense is broadly similar to last year, and although it may not look like it, I project we are slightly ahead.

**Giving** - Can I ask everyone to maintain their generous giving to our Church, it really helps if you review giving regularly.

In particular remember that if you are a taxpayer, Gift Aid means that for every £1.00 you donate we receive £0.25 back from HM Revenue.

So far this year the reclaim amounts to over £6000 this year with hopefully some more to come. Also thinking about legacies, as one must consider all such things eventually. Please consider leaving a donation to your Church in your will.

I hope to pass much of the work of Treasurer in the safe hands of Rosemary Kell in the not-too-distant future. Unfortunately for various reasons we have not made much progress, but it will happen eventually!

I hope that we will be able to involve others in parts of the work we do as it is interesting work.

*Andy Waugh*



Please see the letter and list of goods the Lodging House Mission has sent to all Churches who donate to them at Harvest. They have also asked that we do not donate certain items as they have a sufficient supply of these goods.

Harvest Sunday will be **20 October, 2019**, when any donations should be brought to the morning service, where they will be gratefully received. Should you be unable to attend the Harvest service please speak to me, and I will arrange a time when you can deliver your donation, or I will collect from you.

*Catrina Cameron*

01360 312235

07889 913615

### Lodging House Mission Harvest Appeal 2019

Dear Friends,

Harvest time will soon be upon us and a number of you have been asking for our Harvest List to help the congregation bring specific items of food that we require to help feed our 100 visitors each day now for seven days per week.

We are very grateful for all the harvest gifts that we receive from churches and schools not just from Glasgow but further afield and also for those who donate food on a regular basis. Your contribution has meant that we are still able to provide free breakfast and lunches to our Service Users. Your partnership with us in helping feed homeless men and women is very much valued and appreciated.

We require around 100 harvests to enable us to provide all these meals over a 12 month period. The number of hours to sort out all that we receive into the correct product and date is huge. To help us with this task, we are asking if you will please keep to the list that has been prepared by the kitchen staff. This will reduce time and space requirements.

We will be able to accept harvest donations any day of the week during our opening times 8am till 3pm, including Saturdays and Sundays. If you are in a position to give us a time, we can arrange help at the LHM end.

You will see from the list that we have added some new items which are now being used on a regular basis. We also acknowledge that many congregations prefer to give us a financial donation and this will also be very much welcomed. Financial donations help us with our meat, fish, fruit, vegetables, eggs, milk and other items we need throughout the year.

Many thanks once again for your continuing support and please help us in whatever way you can. Your kindness and generosity at this special time really helps us to make the difference.

*Stephen Mitchell.*

Manager

**Lodging House Mission – Harvest Donation Requests 2019**



<b>Cereal</b>	<b>Tinned Soup</b>	<b>Tinned Meat / Fish</b>
Corn Flakes/Crunchy Nuts	Chicken	Salmon
Weetabix	Tomato	Ham
Rice Crispies	Lentil	Corn Beef
Sugar Puffs	Scotch Broth	Meatballs
Frosties	Vegetable	Hotdogs
Coco Pops	Minestrone	Macaroni
Cheerio's	Carrot and Coriander	Haggis
<b>Tinned Vegetables</b>	<b>Tinned Fruit</b>	<b>Other</b>
Tomatoes	Peaches	Jam
Carrots	Pears	Sugar
Peas	Pineapples	Coconut Milk
Sweet Corn	Mandarins	Tomato Sauce
Mixed Vegetables	Fruit Cocktail	Brown Sauce
Baked Beans	Rice	Vinegar
Potatoes	Custard	Tomato Paste
Jars of Pasta Bake Sauce's		Broth Mix
Jars of Curry Sauce's or Curry Paste		Drinking Chocolate
<b>Dried Goods</b>		Dried Peas
		Lentils
Mixed Herbs		Fresh / Diluting Juice
Garlic Powder		Biscuits (Not Oatcakes or Cream Crackers)
Ground Turmeric		Vegetable Oil
Chilli Powder		Bisto
Crushed Chillies		Stock Cubes or Bouillon
Ground Coriander		
Salt and Black Pepper		

### Not Required List

Pasta	Shredded Wheat Cereal	Grapefruit
Pearl Barley	Muesli	Prunes
Marmalade	Alpen	Tea Bags
Porridge	Long Grain Rice	

**We are always short of Sugar, Coffee, Diluting juice, Custard, Baked Beans, Tinned Meat and Vegetables and Biscuits.**

*“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you invited me in”  
(Matthew 25 v 35)*

## **Lodging House Mission – Harvest Donation Requests 2019**



## Messy Church, Songs of Praise and Café Church

When Dr Jane announced that we were going to try something different at church, I had a quiet smile to myself and thought, it is taking a big risk for little gain. I couldn't see how they



could link things together, and that I would just sit and watch with interest to see what would go wrong in Messy Church, not get involved in Songs of Praise and smile when folk dropped cups, and had to rush to the loo at Café

Church.

Much to my surprise I got involved in Messy church, and during the service, I suddenly thought, I have a hymn I would like for the "Songs of Praise" service, it

is the children's song, "I'm in the Lord's Army", I think its proper name is, I may never march with the infantry. To be honest there are lots of hymns I like better, but this one has special memories for me. In 2002 I was made redundant as a printer and feeling mighty sorry for myself by the end



of the year I had a job outside my trade earning about a third of my previous wage and still feeling sorry for myself.

My wife Helen helped at the Sunday school and talked me into coming to church. The kids including my son Greg, used to perform I'm in the Lords Army with all the hand actions, which to be honest I didn't particularly like. In 2006 I volunteered to go to Peru with the Vine Trust, I thought seeing real hardship would make me appreciate how lucky I was at home.

We were at a place called Kusi in the Yunguy valley over 8600 ft. up in the Andes Mountains with the snow covered Mt. Huascaran in the background. After a few days' work I was feeling quite homesick and ill. I thought I had the flu as my head

and chest were sore and I couldn't get enough air in. One of the work party who had been before, said I had altitude sickness, that it was dangerous and I should do what the locals did to cure it, drink Coca tea. I hadn't a clue that Coca tea was actually the leaves from the cocaine plant brewed in a pot. As 1 cup made me feel a bit better, I reasoned that more cups would make me feel much better. 7 cups later I was sprinting up a down the mountain carrying 3 x 20kg bricks at a time. How I didn't have heart attack is only down to sheer luck and perhaps Divine intervention.

Later that same day in Peru we were having a church service with the kids, which The Messy Church service took me right back to. I was still feeling a bit homesick and the kid's service involved lots of singing and dancing most of which was done in Spanish but some in Quechuan, which is the local Inca language. We, of course didn't understand a word, until they started singing, "I'm in the Lord's Army ." it was the actions I recognised and my home sickness had a cure, as I imagined myself back with my family in Campsie Parish Church and because I was fitter than I am now and still full of Coca Tea, I was up there with the kids, riding with the cavalry, shooting with the artillery, flying and swooping over the enemy, or more probably flying with the tea.

Which leaves Café Church, sadly no Coca tea, but the tea and cakes were wonderful. A very big thank you to the people who made and served the tea. Though I don't know if they enjoyed the service as much I did.

Did trying something different work? For me a resounding yes. Should it be tried again, and will it bring people into church? To be honest I don't know, I think you could ask 100 people what would make them want to attend church, and you would get 100 different answers. So how can you cater for all?

I'm only glad we have Jane and her husband David here in Campsie, and if people had witnessed the church service they provided on Sunday 11/08/19 then I'm sure people would want to come back.

*Brian Marshall*





## Campsie Parish Church Guild

One Journey, Many Roads. Companions On The Way.

*Every three years the National Guild Office bearers present us with an interesting theme which follows a three year cycle.*

This Session we look forward to exploring '**Companions on the Road.**'

At our opening meeting on 8th October our minister will unpack this theme. Thereafter we meet fortnightly and we would welcome new members.

Each session we support two projects - the first of this is the Boys Brigade. From 2018-2021 the Boys Brigade is working with the Guild as one of their project partners- Faith in Young People. We will welcome a speaker on this topic on 22nd October.

Please join us on 5th November for a Handbag Party!

Our link Guild in Coatbridge have invited us for afternoon tea in September as part of Guild Week.

The word companion comes from Latin and literally means - Sharing bread.

We look forward to sharing and breaking bread together in the coming session - but we remember that among all the new ideas the Guild is still based on its original motto:

*Whose we are and whom we serve. (Acts 27:23)*

*Margaret Tindall*





## THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT

After expenses, the profit made at the Rainbow Café on Saturday 24 August in support of Nerve Tumours UK amounted to **£540**. This included **£95** from the baking stall, which sold out, so that there was nothing left to sell last Sunday!



Thanks to everyone who supported and donated to this worthy cause.



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*Our next Cafe will be held on Saturday 26 October, 2019 when the proceeds will go to **Poppy Scotland**.*



*We look forward to seeing you then...*

*Rena and the Rainbow Cafe Team*

## Are all Mums Special?



Are all mums special? I thought my mum was just an ordinary wee woman with no qualifications and nothing special about her.

Margaret Marshall, born Margaret Robertson on 7th Sept 1930 at 1 Dunlop place Lennox town. She was the youngest child and had two brothers and three sisters. Went to St Machans primary school started work at 14 in Lillyburn pulp works in Milton of Campsie, where she met her husband Billy Marshall who was an apprentice electrician they married in St Machans in April 1956 had 3 children Brian, Angela and Ann,

Margaret worked in Lillyburn, the Kali Nail works and Lennox Castle Hospital. At one time, she had three jobs at the same time. Starting as a housekeeper in the morning, with Doctor Armstrong and Ms Henderson in Birdston of Campsie. She would finish that job come home at midday to make lunch for her children and nieces and nephews who came from school to her house for lunch. She would see them back to school, then go to Lennox Castle to do her afternoon shift as a domestic. After a brief visit home to see that we were ok, she then went to do her cleaning duties in the evening at the Kirkhouse Hotel in Strathblane. At this time, we lived in an old tenement in the Main St where the Hub is now situated. We had an outside toilet that was shared by around six families. In 1963 we moved to St Machan's Way and mum cycled to work, which at the time didn't impress me because she couldn't drive but my "clever" dad could. She didn't stop working as a housekeeper for Miss Henderson and Dr Anderson until she was in her late-70s. She was a worker, but was always there for her family. She would baby sit all her grandkids arriving at their house to help get them ready for school, walking them all to school, going to her own work then finishing in time to pick them up from school, and taking them all home. Often bringing home their friends for dinner, where her French toast making skills were legendary. It wasn't proper food unless it had been fried in the pan. She did believe in a healthy diet with fruit and vegetables, especially the ones which could be dipped in batter and fried.

Apart from her family and husband Billy who died aged 54 in 1989, her big passion in life was "the bingo" she regularly went with her sisters, Teresa, Bridget and Rose. If they could afford it, they would go every day of the week and once her sisters had all passed away she still went once a week to the Bowling club Bingo with me. At the start I could only mark 1 book but after a few years I played 6 books and by the last few years of mums life I could watch her 6 books as well

Margaret lived all her life in Campsie, she died in her own home a few days after being visited by numerous members of her large family. Mum had vascular dementia. She knew who we all were, where she lived, but wasn't sure what time of day it was, and what really upset her was she got her number 50s and 60s mixed up at the bingo! In July 2018 she was put on palliative care and we were told her end was near. She was extremely distressed about being in hospital and refused to go into a home. Since she was on palliative care we got a hospital bed for her living room and she was happy enough and lasted almost a full

year, I put it down to the fish suppers and haggis suppers she had twice a week!! You often have no choice of where and how you go, but Margaret did choose to remain in her own home in St Machan's Way where she passed away in her sleep in the early hours of Sunday 19th May, 2019, with me sitting by her side. She will be missed and always remembered.

She was special. To be a mother is the noblest role anyone can have. And yes all Mums are special.....

*Brian Marshall*

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## RAG BAG COLLECTION 2019



*Many thanks to all who donated clothing for the rag bag collection this year.*

It really was a great success, with **765kg** collected  
Which raised **£306** for the church funds.

**Thank you again**

*Margaret and Jardine Smith*

# Prayer at Campsie Parish Church



*If you personally have a particular need or concern that you would like your fellow 'pray-ers' to pray about...*

**Please just let me know**



*In Christian Love,*

*Joan Thomson*

Mobile: 07719 553829

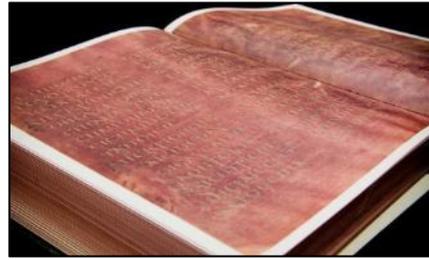
Email: [jjthomson62@btinternet.com](mailto:jjthomson62@btinternet.com)

## Bothwell and Mount Kedar Church

*Sale of Work – 9 June 1962*

### RECIPE - BIBLE CAKE

*(When found, note down the ingredients)*



#### Ingredients:-

- |     |   |                 |
|-----|---|-----------------|
| 1.  | 1/2lb of Judges 5 and 25                            | (Butter)        |
| 2.  | 1/2lb of Jeremiah, 6 and 20                         | (Sugar)         |
| 3.  | 1 Tablespoon of 1st Samuel, 14 and 26               | (Honey)         |
| 4.  | 3 of Jeremiah, 17 and 11                            | (Eggs)          |
| 5.  | 1/2lb of 1st Samuel, 30 and 12                      | (Raisins)       |
| 6.  | 1/2lb of Nahum, 3 and 12 (chopped)                  | (Figs)          |
| 7.  | 2ozs of Numbers, 17 and 8 (blanched and chopped)    | (Almonds)       |
| 8.  | 1lb of 1st Kings, 4 and 22                          | (Flour)         |
| 9.  | Season to taste with 2nd Chronicles 9 and 9         | (Spice)         |
| 10. | A pinch of Leviticus, 2 and 13                      | (Salt)          |
| 11. | 1 Teaspoonful of Amos, 4 and 5                      | (Baking Powder) |
| 12. | 3 Tablespoons of Judges, 4 and 19 – the last clause | (Milk)          |

(N.B “Leaven is equivalent to ‘Baking Powder’”}

#### Method:-

Follow Solomon’s prescription for making a good boy (Proverbs, 23 and 14) and you will have a good cake:

1. Beat 1,2 and 3 to a cream
2. Add 4, one at a time, still beating
3. Then add 5,6 and 7, and beat again
4. Mix together 8,9,10 and 11 and add
5. Then lastly, add 12

Bake in a rather slow oven, not less than 1 ½ hours

Make it whenever you want a really pleasing cake

*(Prizes will be given for the best entries on the day of the Sale)*

**Price 64p**

*Submitted by Elspeth Wright*



## Over the Hills and Far Away

*(to Fintry)*

*A Wee Cycle Ride over God's Country*

*By Robert Neilson*

I know it is hard to imagine how cycling over the Crow Road can be considered any kind of pleasure, but taking in the wonders of God's Creation, is actually incredibly stimulating and so enjoyable. The route is around 15 miles long and includes some 1600 feet of ascent (800ft each way). A wee prayer for no rain is the order of the day before starting.

From the very start just at Campsie Golf Club the road takes a severe rise on its way up to the last house in Lennoxton. In this area the wind is usually quite 'swirly' with a wee reminder from the Bible that no one knows where the wind comes from or goes! I'll second that - although it always seems to be in my face!



Next, comes the long drag up to the 'Car Park in the Sky' passing through an avenue of Hawthorn with blossom of brilliant white in May and with an abundance of red berries in autumn - it is truly beautiful. Some parts of this section take you in close to the steep sides of the escarpment which can be a rather dramatic. This view is often missed when driving and you really need to stop, look and listen.

When the Car Park in the Sky is reached a sense of accomplishment comes upon me and I really have to stop and take in the views, but on leaving the car park the steep hill up past Jamie Wright's Well looms ahead with over a mile of climbing still to go to reach the highest point on the road at the Stirlingshire boundary.



What keeps me going is the sheer beauty of the surroundings all the way up with the hills to the right and the upper part of Campsie Glen (nee Kirkton Glen) to the left where the Alvain Burn tumbles over Raven's Craig plus a series of waterfalls before joining the Kirk Burn.

A good excuse to stop for a wee look. (And some breathing). *This area is peppered with beautiful wild primroses in the spring - heralding the end of winter.*

After the Alnwick bridge on the right is the convergence of the nineteen times and the Alnwick burns into the Kirk Burn where many cars park in the fine weather with families enjoying the water and the slopes there. Soon my arrival at the high point, 1100 feet above sea level, is achieved and the views change heading North-East with the very first sighting of - Meikle Bin.



Now I'm cycling on the flat it's into top gear and with renewed enthusiasm I start to pedal with a fair effort having the knowledge that the next 4 miles is either flat or downhill - **WooHoo!**

Soon passing the site of the old Toll House, the road goes through the pass where the wind can never make up its mind which way to blow.

Just beyond here is where the weather can change completely from lovely sunshine to heavy rain - there is some truth in the old adage about 'There is 'Campsie' weather and then there is 'Fintry' Weather'.

Half way down to Fintry is a parking area on the left from where there are superb views of many Munros and other hills in a majestic panorama. Ben Lomond is most prominent to the left with Cruach Ardrain to the right. *This is a photographers dream.* From here it's really downhill to Fintry with lovely views of the Fintry Hills and crags to the North.



The last part of the descent down into the Endrick Valley is pretty steep and firmly holding on to the bike is quite necessary until the bottom is reached. Then it is just a quick whizz along to Fintry Church where I turn and head back home.



The way back offers a few more challenges and stunning views beginning almost immediately. The first part of the way up is equally as lung bursting as the first part of the route from Lennoxton.

Much of the earlier part of the return is dominated by stunning views of Meikle Bin.

The road now becomes less steep but still heading East there is an old Milestone on the left which is now very badly eroded but I know I now only have 5 miles to go.



I have occasionally seen a pair of Hen Harriers and often see and hear Curlews as I head for the pass and back to the site of the Old Toll House before gaining speed towards the county boundary which is the highest point - All downhill from here!



Having had the privilege of seeing and being amongst some of God's most creative embroidery. Breathing good fresh air and thinking about this wonderful gift to us all - given by God's Grace.

***I thank God so much that I am still able to do this unassisted - A true blessing!***

*Robert Neilson*



## Church Flowers

The flowers in the Church each Sunday are donated by various people who attend our Church, and some who wish to donate, but are unable to attend for various reasons.

The flowers are there to adorn our Church, and to the GLORY of GOD. They are also there to be given to house bound, ill or others who we want to let know that they are thought of, and in our thoughts and prayers.

*If anyone would like to donate flowers please contact me. We do have a few Sundays available.*

*Catrina Cameron*

**01360 312235**

# THE ACTION BEGINS HERE

**New Session Starts  
2<sup>nd</sup> September.**

We'll be here– will you?

**Anchor Boys – Primary 1-3  
Monday 6pm – 7pm**

**Junior Section – Primary 4-6  
Tuesday 6.30-7.45**

**Company Section – Primary 7+  
Friday 7.15 – 9pm**

All sections meet in Campsie  
Parish Church



**Campsie Parish Church**

# **CHRISTMAS**

# **FAYRE**

**FREE ENTRY**

**Saturday 23 November 12-2.00pm**

**Lunch £5**

**Tea or Coffee + Treat £2.50**

**Christmas Gifts**

**Book Stall**

**Crafts**

**Tombola**

**Home Baking**

**FAIRTRADE GOODS**

**Children's Activities**



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*

07493 735313

Email : [murielconnell@gmail.com](mailto:murielconnell@gmail.com)



Campsie Parish Church



Welcomes You

Campsie Parish Church  
Main Street, Lennoxton G66 7HA  
Tel 01360 310939

Website: [www.campsie.org.uk](http://www.campsie.org.uk)  
Scottish Charity Number: SC000835

