



UCB News

August 2010

With the retirement of Rev Ian Currie, and our Interim Moderator, Rev David Mitchell on holiday, it has fallen to me, as Session Clerk, to write a foreword for this issue of our newsletter.

As we enter the next phase in the life of the United Church of Bute I am reminded of the words of our first minister, Rev John Murning, as we shared a coffee together: "It will take 10 years until the Church is fully united." Here we are 10 years down the line and worshipping in one centre, having rationalised our buildings and invested in a modern church centre to serve the people of Bute. We have already undertaken what the General Assembly has recently decided must be done across the nation. It could be argued we are a church ahead of its time!



It has been an exciting journey so far to get us into this position. However, I am aware that it hasn't been without its pain – very personal for some, and with the onset of the global crisis, financially for all of us – change can be painful. Nevertheless, comparing ourselves with athletes preparing for the big race, where the mantra is "No pain, no gain!" I suggest to you that we are in a healthy position to take our church forward. We may not have the financial cushion which we had originally planned for, but as a church we are rich in talent to overcome that. In any case, a cushion can make you lackadaisical, and at this time of vacancy this is the last thing we should be. To ensure we attract the right minister we must show that we continue to be the go ahead church that we have been over the last 10 years: that we are fit and working together to serve Christ's purpose on this island. There is already evidence of this happening. We are blessed to have members of the congregation talented enough to lead morning worship; church groups' plans are well in hand for next session; the recently formed Strollers and Striders group are enjoying their walks about the island; the stewardship committee is almost ready to move forward; and the nominating committee is quietly working in the background and I am pleased to report that interest is being shown in the vacancy. The warmth and fellowship within our church is tangible and has been favourably commented upon not only by visitors but also by those who have chosen to join us as members over the last few years.

All the church leaders at this time particularly need your support, both in your prayers and through your attendance at worship and functions.

Through that continued support, I am sure the next stage in our journey will be as exciting and challenging as the last stage. I am equally sure that the minister to lead us on that journey is out there, waiting to be called, and that God is working to bring him or her and the nominating committee together!

May God bless us on our continuing journey.

Stewart Shaw



Dear Friends,

Many thanks for your ongoing support for my work. In particular for informing me about any pastoral visits which require to be made. I will endeavour to get round as many people as possible and will also make use of the Kirk Session in this task as well. As you will be aware, all of us, as members of the church have an elder who visits us and I hope that you make your own elder welcome on his or her visit to you.

There are many reasons for these visits. Making you feel welcome and an important part of the congregation, keeping you informed of changes or new developments, allowing you to feed your thoughts back to the Kirk Session and inviting to worship and communion in particular.



Do get to know your elder, the eldership is one of the strengths of Presbyterian Churches and one which many other denominations recognise as a strength. Any system is only as good as the people involved, so assist these people, pray for them and ask for help when you need it. This way we can all play a part in growing our church. In the words of a children's song, 'I am the church, you are the church, we are the church together.' Simple, and yet profound. For as long as we are in a vacancy and beyond that, the church will be better enabled in its work when those ordained to the task of spiritual leadership are encouraged by us all. Do value your elder, they do care about you.

God Bless,

Raymond Deans



Er..., now you come to mention it - p'raps it wasn't the best site for the coconut shy!

During our vacancy Sunday morning worship will be led by:-	
Date	Leading Service
1st August	Rev David Mitchell
8th August	Mr Julian Hankinson
15th August	Dr Malcolm Alexander
22nd August	Rev Bill Milton
29th August	Mr Raymond Deans
5th September	Dr Malcolm Alexander
12th September	Mr Julian Hankinson
19th September	Mr Julian Hankinson
26th September (Harvest Thanksgiving)	Mr Raymond Deans

Church Calendar



August

7 Evening Guild Strawberry Tea 2 - 4 pm

September

Lighthouse, Sunday Evening Club and Monday Evening Teen Club resume

27 Coffee Morning 10am - 12 noon

October

11 UCB Afternoon Guild resume with Songs of Praise

14 UCB Evening Guild resume

**Evening Services will resume in September in the Hall
(subject to the approval of the Kirk Session).**

1st Port Bannatyne Company Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association



Dear Congregation and Friends,

Whilst this is our 'quiet' time of the year the leaders are, as ever, on the lookout for new activities for a Tuesday evening or new places to visit. Our year ended at the end of May with a BBQ and a few younger brothers/sisters of children who attend came along and are looking forward to joining us when they start school. Perhaps the best form of recruitment is when friends and siblings see what is going on and then want to be part of the company.

Building on last year we will again be taking part in Battalion Competitions this session and planning trips for our various sections.

Currently we run three sections on a Tuesday-
Anchor Section for P1 to P3 from 6.00 till 7.00
Junior Section for P4 to P6 from 7.00 till 8.00
Company Section for P7 to S3 from 7.30 till 9.00

I will be sending information out to North Bute and Rothesay Primaries at the end of August but if you know of children who might be interested then speak to me.

If you would like to assist with the running of our company for one hour on a Tuesday evening, then get in touch with me and I can tell you more of what it entails. Do consider joining in with us to enable the churches mission amongst children and young people to continue to grow whatever your age or experience. We are a good small company of around thirty and you will get a lot of from your input.

Yours, on behalf of the leaders and children,

Raymond Deans (504893)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

UCB Evening Guild

Strawberry Tea

Saturday, 7th August 2010

2—4 pm



United Church of Bute

Coffee Morning

Monday, 27th September 2010

10am - 12 noon



Church Financial Analysis from the Treasurer

Following on from my previous reports regarding the state of the Church's finances and the level of giving, I have carried out analysis of the 'traceable' income for 2009. By 'traceable', I am referring to income via standing orders, Freewill Envelopes or cheques.

The information has been put in to a table along the lines of the 'energy efficient' chart we all see on fridges, freezers, cookers etc. As you can see, the majority of our members fall into the 'z' or 'zero' category; in electrical terms they'd have been put out years ago! All joking aside, out of 605 members, there are only 168 with traceable income.

I know that there are people who regularly attend and use the Open Plate and their offerings are not included in this analysis as I have no way of tracing it, however, I would appeal to the majority of our 'zero' members who give nothing, to think again and take some action. I am well aware that there are pressures on everyone's finances in this day and age however without your support the Church will not survive.

Traceable income analysis year ending 31st December 2009.

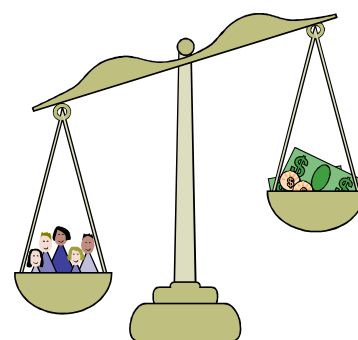
	Average Weekly Offering	No. of Members	% of Members
Z	Untraceable	437	72.23%
Y	£ 0.01 - £ 0.49	9	1.49%
X	£ 0.50 - £ 0.99	12	1.98%
W	£ 1.00 - £ 1.49	6	0.99%
V	£ 1.50 - £ 1.99	12	1.98%
U	£ 2.00 - £ 2.49	27	4.46%
T	£ 2.50 - £ 2.99	26	4.30%
S	£ 3.00 - £ 3.49	16	2.64%
R	£ 3.50 - £ 3.99	11	1.82%
Q	£ 4.00 - £ 4.49	4	0.66%
P	£ 4.50 - £ 4.99	17	2.81%
O	£ 5.00 - £ 5.49	7	1.16%
N	£ 5.50 - £ 5.99	9	1.49%
M	£ 6.00 - £ 6.49	0	0.00%
L	£ 6.50 - £ 6.99	1	0.17%
K	£ 7.00 - £ 7.49	0	0.00%
J	£ 7.50 - £ 7.99	4	0.66%
I	£ 8.00 - £ 8.49	2	0.33%
H	£ 8.50 - £ 8.99	0	0.00%
G	£ 9.00 - £ 9.49	0	0.00%
F	£ 9.50 - £ 9.99	1	0.17%
E	£10.00 - £10.49	0	0.00%
D	£10.50 - £10.99	0	0.00%
C	£11.00 - £11.49	0	0.00%
B	£11.50 - £11.99	0	0.00%
A	> £12.00	4	0.66%
Total:		605	100.00%

Total Roll (including Adherents)	605
Traceable Income for 2009	168
Untraceable Income for 2009	437



I would also ask all our members to think very seriously about the future of our Church during this vacancy period and remember that we are not only out there looking for a minister, there is a minister out there looking for us and what will happen if they decide to attend our worship one Sunday, to see what the UCB is all about, only to find empty seats?

We need to show and prove we are a strong and faithful Church.



The Church of Scotland HIV Programme



Having been set up as a stand-alone entity for eight years The Church of Scotland HIV/AIDS Project reaches the end of its original tenure in December 2010 and could easily have been a casualty of swingeing budget cuts. But, taking into consideration the success of Souper Sunday and the Moderator's Challenge, the World Mission Council is now keen to boost existing efforts at home and abroad. The Mission Council has guaranteed funding for The Church of Scotland HIV/AIDS Project for at least three more years.

The report says the Project will be rebranded as "The Church of Scotland HIV Programme", with particular emphasis in helping the Kirk's partners overseas engage with the virus in their local settings. It also states that it will seek to build upon current work in Scotland, offering the Church at parish level - through information, education, training and worship - a strong and effective means of engaging with HIV.

Congregations recently raised more than £90,000 for frontline aid work through the Souper Sunday fundraising event in January.

The Programme supports projects in:-

- Bangladesh
- China
- Egypt
- Ghana
- India
- Israel/Palestine
- Kenya
- Malawi
- Nepal
- Nigeria
- Scotland
- Sri Lanka
- Thailand
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

These include:-

SUPPORTED PROJECTS: MALAWI

Ekwendeni Mission Hospital AIDS Programme, Malawi - Orphan Care Project (Funding for 3 years 2010 - 2012): Ekwendeni has a long-standing partnership with the Church of Scotland. This project aims to provide, for orphans and vulnerable children (OVC), good nutrition and educational support, and access to health and social services on an equal basis with other children. It will help to pay school fees for 20 OVC, and provide food supplements, children's corners and farm inputs (seeds and fertiliser) for 30 families. It will also support the training of volunteers.

Livingstonia Synod AIDS Programme, Malawi

(Funding for three years 2010 - 2012): this is specifically targeted at a remote area called Usisya by Lake Malawi, where LISAP has identified a need for children living with HIV to access food security; the project aims to provide the necessary nutrition to 14 children and their wider families, while working with the community as a whole on HIV and AIDS issues.

SUPPORTED PROJECTS: ISRAEL/PALESTINE

The Galilee Society

(Funding for two years, 2010 - 2011): Like Evangelical Church of Egypt's Council of Services and Development, the Galilee Society is working in an area where there is a lot of denial and lack of awareness of HIV and AIDS, and they are the only NGO working to promote AIDS Awareness among the Palestinian Arab minority in Israel.

The aim of the current project is to raise awareness of HIV methods of infection and prevention; to mainstream HIV education in NGOs and institutions, and to give training to 2- 3 local NGOs. They also have plans to get into schools to work with pupils there, running workshops on peer education, giving talks to classes, producing and distributing information pamphlets in Arabic, and supplying training to teachers.

SUPPORTED PROJECTS: CHINA

AMITY Foundation, China

(Funding for 3 years 2010 - 2012) Amity is an indigenous Chinese Christian NGO which runs a wide range of development programmes; this project is concerned with HIV/AIDS and involves the setting up of a micro-fund to help PLWH in the Longchuan Province, close to the border with Burma. By helping families with micro-funding, it is hoped to build up self-confidence and health, and reduce stigma.

SUPPORTED PROJECTS: SCOTLAND

Positive Help, Edinburgh and Lothians

(Funding for one year - 2010): Positive Help is a small grassroots charity which gives practical care and support to PLWH (People Living With HIV/AIDS) in Edinburgh and the Lothians. They recruit, train and supervise volunteers who give practical help through home support (with gardening, cooking and housework), transport and befriending. Our funds will be used to support this programme, and will help pay for materials, training, transport and volunteer expenses. We have also given them (2010) a grant of £2500 to design a new website, to raise awareness of what Positive Help can offer, and provide easily accessible information to potential clients.

Waverley Care - African Support Group

(Funding for one year 2010 - 2011): Waverley Care works with PLWH, and runs support groups for Africans in Edinburgh and Glasgow. These meet once a month, and are well used, the mutual support which they provide being appreciated by those who attend. Our grant goes to help provide a nutritious meal when the groups meet, and with transport costs; there is also provision within our grant for excursions.

FACT: There is no cure for HIV, but with antiretroviral (ARV) medication, a person living with HIV can live a normal productive life. A record number of people, 33.4 million, are living with HIV today. It is estimated that for every 5 new infections, only 2 people will have access to the vital ARVs which would enable them to live with HIV rather than die from Aids.

FACT: In 2005, the G8 heads of state, meeting at Gleneagles, committed to achieve universal access to HIV prevention, treatment and care by 2010. Universal Access by 2010 is also one of the targets of the Millennium Development Goals, set in 2000 to be achieved by 2015.

FACT: More than 4 million people worldwide are currently receiving the necessary medication. This is 10 times more than received it in 2005 - BUT it represents only 2/5th of all who need it.

FACT: World leaders will be meeting in September to review what progress has been made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. In October, countries will announce how much they are willing to commit to the funding of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria from 2011 - 2013.

Opening the Church's Doors

The United Church of Bute has, since 2004, taken up the challenge issued by Scotland's Churches Scheme and opened its doors to the public. During July and August we are opening our doors every Friday afternoon from 2pm to 4pm. The building offers a sanctuary for quiet contemplation and prayer and is of architectural and historical interest. Tourists and those in the local community have an opportunity to visit, and our own church members might also appreciate the doors being open, other than just for a Sunday service.

Scotland's Churches Scheme was formed as a Charitable Trust with the objective of improving accessibility to Scotland's ecclesiastical heritage. Its aims include:

- Promoting spiritual understanding by enabling the public to appreciate all buildings designed for worship and active as living churches.
- Educating the public in history and architecture through the study of historic church buildings.
- Encouraging co-operation among churches and their local communities.
- Publishing details of churches open to visitors through the handbook *1000 Churches to Visit in Scotland*.
- Promoting mission through the ministry of welcome for visitors, tourists and pilgrims.



If you haven't already done so, come along. You will receive a warm welcome, and a cup of tea or coffee.

Ron Forrester

Social Committee.

This has been a busier than usual time for the committee and we are glad that Summer is here and that we can rest on our laurels for a bit.

In the last edition of the magazine I asked you all to support us in all we do and we have been encouraged by the support given to us in our sponsored slim, our picnic at Glecknabae and not forgetting the soup and crusty bread served on Communion Sunday. The Picnic was a wonderful day in a lovely location with the whole church participating and enjoying each others' company. Lighthouse and the Monday Club joined in after the prize giving in Church giving us a chance to meet the young people



who are worshipping and praising God in their time together in our new hall. The social committee had a sponsored slim in the month of May and a few of the congregation helped us in gaining sponsors for their own slimming programme – so we even have fellowship in our effort to shed a few pounds!

The sharing is paramount in the Christian way of life and I feel that the committee, through getting support from the congregation, are nurturing this in many ways.

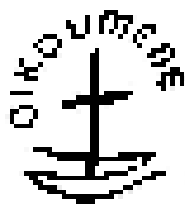
We have some forward plans with the coffee morning on the 27th September and a cheese and wine evening with a Christmas Floral demonstration on November 26th and then it will be full steam ahead for our Christmas celebrations.

Please consider buying a small gift (£3.00 approx), if you are away on holiday this year, to be used as a prize at a Social Committee event later in the year

Rev Ian Currie's Retrial Lunch made a profit of	£738.97
Church Picnic at Glecknabae raised	£320.00
UCB Sponsored Slimmers raised a total of	£223.00
Soup and Sweet Lunch in July made	£411.20
This makes a total for church funds of	<u>£1,693.17</u>

World Council of Churches

Decade to Overcome Violence.



The World Council of Churches designated the past ten years as a decade devoted to raising awareness ,talking and praying about the violence within our world today. Judicial systems have been changed in the past decade and violence within our communities have been brought to the notice of many who are working tirelessly to put things right.

Awareness of Domestic Violence has convinced our parliament and police forces to act with compassion for the abused and with justice for the abuser. Human Traffickers have been brought to justice with stiffer sentencing –although it was an even more lucrative trade than drug running the maximum sentence until recently was two years but has now been increased to 20 years.

Unfortunately the war situation has not changed and our young service men and women are still being killed and injured. Please keep them in your prayers and pray that governments and world leaders will find a way to bring about peaceful settlements round the table

Prayer at the 6th Assembly of the World Council of Churches 1983.

Lord we have squandered the gift of life. The good life of some is built on the pain of many; the pleasure of a few on the agony of millions. To you we lift our outspread hands. We thirst for you in a thirsty land. We worship death in our quest to possess ever more things; we worship death in our hankering after our own security, our own survival, our own peace, as if life were divisible, as if Christ had not died for all of us. To You we lift our outspread hands Amen

Parish Register

New Members by Profession of Faith

Miss Shuna Macqueen	7 Kames Terrace, Port Bannatyne	30.05.10
Mr Kevin Queen	7 Kames Terrace, Port Bannatyne	30.05.10
Mr Douglas MacDonald	Stella Maris, PO Building, Kilchattan Bay	30.05.10
Mr Leslie Duncan	3 Bryce Avenue, Rothesay	30.05.10
Mr Richard Hunter	8 Crosshill Villas, Rothesay	30.05.10
Mrs Marianne Hunter	8 Crosshill Villas, Rothesay	30.05.10

New Member by Resolution of the Kirk Session

Mrs Tara Timms	1A Mount Pleasant Road, Rothesay	30.05.10
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“ We gladly welcome you to our membership and fellowship and hope you may find many opportunities for friendship and service within The United Church of Bute “

Baptisms

Jessica Leah Timms	1A Mount Pleasant Road, Rothesay	30.05.10
Amelia Rose Whitelaw	27 Bridge Park, Rothesay	20.06.10

“ May the Lord bless you and keep you “

Changes of Address

Miss Janette Thomas	<i>from</i> 95 Ardbeg Road	<i>to</i> 10 Cragnehan, Rothesay
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“ We wish you health and happiness in your new homes “

Deaths

Mr Dugald Cameron	5 Bridge Park, Rothesay	20.04.10
Mr John Harrison	Erskine House, Bishopton	04.06.10
Mr Thomas Hughes	24 Marine Place, Ardbeg	15.07.10
Mrs Marjorie Maclagan	Carmonadh, Eastlands Road, Rothesay	16.07.10
Miss Agnes Bell	Victoria Annexe, Rothesay	16.07.10
Mrs Ann Foote	41 Victoria Street, Rothesay	17.07.10

“ I am the Resurrection and the Life “

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BASQUE PROVERB
God is a good worker - but he loves to be helped
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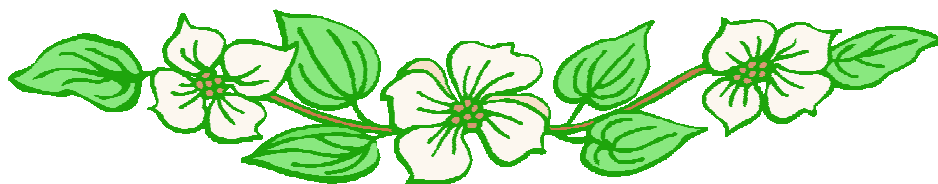


This year's Jar of Grace Appeal will be focusing on CLIMATE CHANGE. Children in developing countries are among the hardest hit by climate change, despite being the least responsible for it. Climate change denies children their rights to health, education, to a childhood and to be treated fairly. The next Newsletter will contain more information and your Jar of Grace leaflet and sticker. Please start collecting now in readiness

Draft Guidelines for Door duties etc at UCB Sunday morning services

Those helping with welcoming at the door, collection uplift, bell ringing, collection counting and tea team on Sunday mornings are drawn from the Congregational Board and Session, but the list does include other volunteers and some past members of the board who are willing to continue. Active members of the board and session are expected to take part in these rotas. If you have been left on after retirement and would rather not continue please let the Assistant Session Clerk know. If you are not on these rotas and would like to be, please let the Assistant Session Clerk know. The tea team rota is made up by the Assistant Session Clerk, but those interested should speak to Janette Henderson first.

- The duty rotas are printed in the Church magazine and run two months in advance. Should you be unable to be there on an allotted date, please try to find someone who is able to swap. In the rare event of this not being possible please notify the Assistant Session Clerk.
- A team of four should be on the door half an hour before each morning service. One should be allocated to ring the bell for 5 minutes before the service, and to carry the bible to the pulpit. The bible should be removed from the pulpit at the end of the service.
- EVERYONE should be welcomed as they enter. If many are coming in together a smiling face says a lot if direct conversation is not possible. Try to avoid long conversations with any one individual especially at busy times. This includes talking with others on the team to the exclusion of those entering. If it appears someone has concerns to be addressed try to arrange for them to take this up with an office bearer after the service or with the minister.
- The door team should try to place themselves in the church during the service where they will be aware of anyone leaving during the service, or in need of assistance. NO ONE should leave the church without a member of the team checking discreetly if they are in need of any assistance. It may be more practical to guide them to the side door into the foyer of the Church Centre than to take them out the front door.
- If a mobile phone is needed that used by the Church Secretary should be available. Many members will have their own with them e.g. the present Assistant Session Clerk is never without one.
- The door team should arrange to uplift the collection, place it on two large plates and carry this to the chancel during the last verse of the hymn. They should wait in front of the communion table during a short prayer and return to their seats before the main prayer of intercession.
- After the service the two collection counters should take the collection plates and choir collection to a small meeting room and count it. Our treasurer normally keeps the folder there well supplied with the necessary forms and instruction sheets. The empty Freewill Offering Envelops should be given to Duncan or Linda MacIntyre or put through the vets surgery letterbox.
- Bible readers are mainly made up of direct volunteers. As the list is fairly long names do not repeat often. Readers should be in the church sufficient time before the start of the service to familiarise themselves with the layout of chancel, the lectern and the microphone. Some readers prefer to take their own bible to the lectern, or to print out the reading on A4 sheets, but the lectern bible is large clear print and easy to read from, and the pages coincide with those of the pew bibles.



If you no longer feel close to God, which of you has moved?

Church Duty Rota

Date	Door Team		Collection Counters	Bible Readers	Tea Team
5th September	James McMillan James Martin	Helen Maitland Madge Renfrew	Janette Henderson Margaret Long	John Hogarth	Margaret McFarlane Jean McKirdy
12th September	Jean McDonald Tommy Walker	Rab Watson Margaret McFarlane	Douglas Lindsay Sandra Lindsay	Craig Laird	Margaret Ferguson Katharine Keith
19th September	Angus McEwan Frances Martin	Vicky Ferguson Catrina Baker	Helen MacLeod Craig Laird	Isabel Sharp	Fiona Shaw Stewart Shaw
26th September	Norman Sutcliffe Jennifer Sutcliffe	Sandra Lindsay Douglas Lindsay	Duncan MacIntyre Janice McLaughlin	Gordon Sutherland	Mary Harrower Davina Smith
3rd October	Isabel Sharp Colin Sharp	Ian Sinclair Donnie Matheson	Frances Martin Vicky Ferguson	Diana Smith	Janette Henderson Margaret Long
10th October	Gordon Sutherland Rhona Sutherland	Elena Anderson David Anderson	Donnie Matheson Anne Matheson	Stewart Shaw	Sandra Lindsay Elspeth Squair
17th October	Jean Assur Margaret Ferguson	Alastair Finlayson Mary Spencer	Angus McEwan Margaret Ferguson	Len Scoullar	Anne McGhie Liz Gilmour
24th October	Tommy Howat Jean Donald	Danny Connell Agnes Connell	Elena Anderson David Anderson	Jennifer Sutcliffe.	Madge Renfrew Helen MacLeod
31st October	Jean Ewing Craig Laird	Jim Forbes Liz Gilmour	Gordon Sutherland Rhona Sutherland	Fiona Shaw	Anne Laing Bessie Weir

Please Note!

Last date for copy for next issue —

Sunday 26th September 2010

Send original articles, views, snippets of news
to Linda MacIntyre at church, vet's surgery,
or by e-mail to lin_mac_burnside@hotmail.com