

UCB News

Easter 2017



Mark 16 : 5-7 "As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. "Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter, "He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you."

Dear Friends,

It's strange the things that stick in your mind. I remember, years and years ago, reading – probably in the Reader's Digest – a humorous piece on things we mishear. The author started with a reminiscence, a memory of standing alone quite happily for a few minutes at a party, with no-one to talk to.

A pleasant but anxious woman came over to him, and said solicitously "There's no mayonnaise in Ireland!" Taken aback, the author responded with the first thing that came into his head – "I gather there's a shortage of tomato ketchup in Australia, too..."

The woman looked bemused, and went away. It turned out that she'd gone to the chap's wife and said "I think it's maybe time for you to take your husband home, dear. I saw him standing all alone, and went over to make conversation, and when I quoted that famous line from John Donne, that 'No man is an island...' he said something about a ketchup shortage in Australia..."

Well, God bless her for noticing that the man was on his own! And God bless her for making the effort to try to communicate, even if it was a bit of a disaster. We are strange creatures, we human beings. The philosopher Arthur Schopenhauer likened us to porcupines; they need each other's warmth, but jag each other when they get too close! We need space – but our life is connectedness.

In fact, connectedness is something we can't live without. It's how God made us. One of the joys of the last few months on Bute, in our wider Christian community, has been the deepening of our already very special connectedness as Christ's folk. The vacancy at Trinity has seen us co-operating in ways which have been not just helpful but very special to both congregations. At the shared Communions, in November and February, we celebrated with both Sessions

constituted separately, with each congregation, turn-about, either hosting or in the other's building – we were distinct, but we were also one in our communion in Christ.

And just yesterday, as I write, I was at Ardbeg Baptist Church for the ordination and induction of the Rev Peter Atkins, their new Minister. It was lovely to see so many of us from all the other congregations and traditions on Bute, actively rejoicing in Peter's coming, not just to the Baptist Church, but to join us all in Christ's diverse family here.

Sigmund Freud, the great doctor of the mind, saw two forces at work in human experience – that of death, which pulls everything apart, and demolishes, and that of love, which draws and binds and builds everything up. Actually, Paul had said something very similar two millennia earlier. Love builds us up. Christ, in love, builds us into his body the Church. We are drawn into connectedness by God's love – and the love of God binds us together with cords that cannot be broken. Love, the Bible tells us, is stronger than death.

And here's a thought. Maybe our shared life on this island helps us to see that none of us, and no congregation of Christ's folk, is an island. We are all connected, all part of the main.

And one further thought – if you are going to Ireland, you won't need to smuggle in any mayonnaise – they have plenty over there!

Yours in the Adventure of Christ,

Owain



Hotel Leaflets

As part of the ongoing work of the Mission and Outreach team an information leaflet has been prepared for distribution to the hotels, guest houses, B&Bs and self catering accomodation.

This gives the times and places of the two weekly services and an invitation to visitors to join the Koffee Klub and / or the Strollers and Striders whilst staying on Bute. Readers are directed to the Church website for details of where each walk will start. The printing costs for this leaflet have been met by the generosity of a member of the congregation. If you are in church during the summer please watch out for visitors and give them a warm UCB welcome.

Messy Church

Messy Church takes place on the first Monday of each month, the next meeting is on the 3rd of April 3.15 – 5.30. We will use the passage from Mark's gospel where we hear of the expensive perfume. There will be various crafts and activities and then the sharing of a meal.

We will continue throughout the summer, always on the first Monday of the month except July. Then we hope to run a Summer Club on the same lines as Messy Church on the 10th, 12th and 14th July. The Ecumenical committee which supports and organises Messy Church are working on the plans for this. Look out for church intimations about these events.





"In Christ's name we seek to retain and regain the highest quality of life which each individual is capable of experiencing at any given time."

CrossReach was launched in June 2005 and was previously known as the Church of Scotland Board of Social Responsibility. Under our new name, CrossReach continues the work of Scotland's long tradition of providing care and support. In fact, this work started back in 1869, so we have a long history in the field of social care.

We employ more than 2,000 staff and we support some of the most vulnerable people in Scotland. CrossReach has an annual expenditure of £51 million. Most of our funding comes from local authorities, but we also rely on donations and legacies to help continue our vital work.

CrossReach (the Church of Scotland Social Care Council) reports each year to the General Assembly and has the following remit :

- * To offer services in Christ's name to people in need as part of the Church's mission.
- * To provide specialist resources to further the caring work of the Church.
- * To identify existing and emerging areas of need, to guide the Church in pioneering new approaches to relevant problems and to make responses on issues arising within the areas of the Council's concern through appropriate channels such as the Church and Society Council, the Scottish Executive and the like.

For all
the world's
children



As those of you able to come to church on a Sunday will have heard through our pulpit intimations, we raised the magnificent sum of £1019.81 in last year's Jar of Grace Appeal.

However, instead of raising money for a specific cause each year, UNICEF has now set up what is called its Children's Emergency Fund. By having a fund to hand, it can respond immediately when faced with an emergency situation that puts children in danger. As well as the high level of emergencies that we see in the media, UNICEF responds to hundreds of silent emergencies throughout the year. With a permanent presence in over 190 countries, UNICEF is well placed to respond as soon as an emergency strikes.

With our help, UNICEF can make sure it reaches more children in danger whenever an emergency strikes, wherever that may be in the world, and provide food, medicine, water and support. UNICEF relies entirely on voluntary donations to support its work with children. It doesn't receive any money from the UN budget so our fund-raising efforts are invaluable. In meeting the challenges that lie ahead, our continued support enables UNICEF to reach the children most in need.

If you would like to learn more about the work UNICEF does and see where our money goes, you can visit their website at www.unicef.org.uk. On receipt of our donation I received a letter from UNICEF in January and it ended like this

"... on behalf of the world's children, and everyone at UNICEF UK, thank you so much for your congregation's valuable contribution."

There is a certificate on the notice board at the back of the church also giving us thanks.

I know I don't need to remind anyone to keep filling jars. We have now had a Jar of Grace appeal for UNICEF running every year since 1993, and if we are to continue to support UNICEF's work in emergency situations, it is important that we don't just wait until Harvest to start filling our jars but keep them handy throughout the year and we will be amazed at the amount of money we have collected by next December. UNICEF needs our contribution more than ever. The target to beat this year is £1091.81.

With thanks,
Edith Forrester
UNICEF Co-ordinator

The Afternoon Guild



Another session of the Afternoon Guild has come to an end. This year the theme was 'Go in Joy' and we approached it by asking our speakers to share with us what activity gave them joy eg Isabel Sharp and her joy of travel. We had very enjoyable afternoons when two of our own Guild members shared their skills in baking and making greetings cards using dried flowers. Sampling the baking and making our own cards gave us much pleasure.

As a Guild we are very grateful to our speakers who willingly shared their interests and talents with us. We look forward to the 2017 / 2018 Guild session when the theme will be 'Go in Love'.

As usual we will be holding our monthly tea and chat afternoons during the summer months. The first get together will be on **Monday 1st May** when we will discuss next session's syllabus.

Elsbeth Squair



The Cross

The Cross. Can you turn any direction without seeing one? Perched atop a chapel. Carved into a graveyard headstone. Engraved in a ring or suspended on a chain. The cross is the universal symbol of Christainity. An odd choice don't you think? Strange that a tool of torture would come to embody a movement of hope. The symbols of other faiths are more upbeat : the six-pointed star of David, the crescent moon of Islam, a lotus blossom for Buddhism. Yet a cross for Christianity? An instrument of execution?

Would you wear a tiny electric chair around your neck? Suspend a gold-plated hangman's noose on the wall? Would you print a picture of a firing squad on a business card? Yet we do so with the cross. Many even make the sign of the cross when they pray. Would we make the sign of, say, a guillotine? Instead of the triangular touch on the forehead and shoulders, how about a karate chop on the palm? Doesn't quite have the same feel, does it?

Why is the cross the symbol of our faith? To find the answer look no further than the cross itself. Its design couldn't be simpler. One beam horizontal - the other vertical. One reaches out - like God's love. The other reaches up - as does God's holiness. One represents the width of his love; the other reflects the height of his holiness. The cross is the intersection. The cross is where God forgave his children without lowering his standards.

How could he do this? In a sentence : God put our sin on his Son and punished it there. 2 Corinthians 5:21 "God made him who had no sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

by Max Lucado

Evening Guild Secretary's Report



This has been an interesting year with a wide variety of speakers, demonstrations and events. We had our regular meetings, the Minister, St Andrew's Night with the Bute Celidh Band, Scottish Night with Margaret Ann Speirs dancers, the Beetle Drive and the A.G.M.

Mixed with these we have had tales of murder on Arran, Bute WWI memorial project, the life and times of a male nurse, and how the Pavilion work is progressing. We also had a small glimpse into life on the ocean waves. We've had demonstrations on weaving, butchery and cookery. There have been a couple of quizzes, always good to test the brain cells. We have had two health and safety lectures both put across in a manner very relevant to us.

Finally the committee produced a lovely Christmas lunch with the volunteer waiters doing sterling work for us.

This year we have donated to the following :

Erskine Hospital	£125
Christian Aid	£50
Guild Project (Street Pastors)	£200
Bute FM	£50

"Whose we are and Whom we serve"

Parish Register

Baptisms

Eva Louise Helen Sprowl	7 Eaglesham Ter Rothesay	18.12.16
Heidi Christina Coghill	Bilsland Hse, 114 Hill St, Glasgow	26.03.17
Finlay Alexander Browne	3 Weaver's Drive, Torrance	26.03.17
Bethany Louise Ions	17 Mill Street, Rothesay	26.03.17
Gracie-Mae Bryson	17 Mill Street, Rothesay	26.03.17

"May the Lord Bless You and Keep You."

Changes of Address

Mrs Susan Fisher	57 Castle St, Port Bannatyne	
	to Meadows Cottage, Rothesay	
Mr Robert Wood	29 Craigmore Rd., Rothesay	
	to Timber Cottages, Mountstuart	
Miss Margaret Brown	Craigard, Rothesay	to Palm Court, Rothesay
Mr Alan Barr	Craigard, Rothesay	to Erskine Hospital, Erskine
Mrs Ester Henry	Craigard, Rothesay	to Ardnahein Care, Dunoon
Mr and Mrs Robert McWhirter	2 Beechland, Kilchattan Bay	
	to Care Home, Castle Douglas	
Miss Karen Keith	38 Columshill St, Rothesay	
	to Newcraighall, Edinburgh	

" Our best wishes go with you to your new homes. "

Deaths

Miss Janet Fullerton	33 Rothesay Court, Rothesay	10.16
Dr Joyce Ritchie	Springbank, Kilchattan Bay	19.10.16
Mrs Helen Ferguson	Gu Brath Bungalow, Port Bannatyne	2.01.17
Mrs Clare Fordyce	Grants Bank Care Home, Dunfermline	12.01.17
Mrs Moira Gibbs	85 Ardbeg Road, Rothesay	18.01.17

Mrs Nancy Smith	Ashburn House, Mountstuart Rd ,	28.01.17
Mrs Isabella Whitelaw	10 Trinity Court, Bishop St	1.02.17
Mrs Catherine Mcleod	7 Rothesay Court, Rothesay	13.02.17
Mrs Sheila Cowan	16 Ardmory Road, Ardbeg	22.02.17

“ I am the Resurrection and the Life.”

Easter Services

Palm Sunday 9th April 5.30pm at St Paul's

Holy Week - Ecumenical Services all at 7.00pm

Monday 10th April at Rothesay Christian Fellowship

Tuesday 11th April at St Andrew's Chapel

Wednesday 12th April at Ardbeg Baptist Church

Thursday 13th April at United Church of Bute

Friday 14th April at Trinity Church

Easter Sunday 16th April

Sunrise Service at St Blane's at 7.00am

Morning Worship at United Church of Bute at 11.00am

This year, because Easter is not until mid April, all the daffodils will be finished. The cross to decorate the sanctuary will be 'multicoloured' - please bring any flowers, all colours on Easter morning.

KIRK SESSION REPORT

Recent Kirk Session meetings opened with tributes to two long-serving Elders who had been ordained in the former congregations of St. Brendan's and St. Ninian's – Bill Pearson and Mrs Helen Ferguson. Both had been very active within their former congregations, in the wider community, and into the Union. They will be sadly missed by all who had the privilege of knowing them, particularly, of course, their families and friends who were remembered in the Session's prayers.

As always, a wide range of issues and topics has been dealt with by the Kirk Session since my last report, and I have highlighted some these for you below to illustrate the diversity of business which regularly comes before the Session.

- **Committee Structure** – following experience gained over the first two years of the Unitary Constitution, a review is underway to ensure that the present committee structure best meets the needs of the congregation.
- **Congregational Meeting** – while the former Stated Annual Meeting is no longer required under the Unitary Constitution, options for a service to celebrate the life of the congregation and its various organisations are being explored.
- **Property** – the Property Committee is pursuing a full survey of the exterior of the Church to establish the extent of work required to address the issues with the harling. This was identified in the course of the last Quinquennial Survey. Meantime, stonework repairs at the Manse are proceeding, as well as the on-going tasks to ensure that our buildings remain in the best possible condition.

- **Hall** – the Church Centre is growing in popularity as a venue for a number of local groups, events and meetings. Please spread the word to let people who may not already know of the excellent, accessible, facilities we have available.
- **Mission and Outreach** – Dr. Malcolm Alexander has been appointed Convener in succession to Stewart Shaw who took on the Property Convenership recently. A new poster promoting the Church will shortly be distributed around the island. We are most grateful to the anonymous donor in the congregation who has paid for this.
- **Communion Plate** – because of revised safe storage arrangements at the Bank, a kind offer from Mount Stuart to securely store the Communion Plate has been gratefully accepted.
- **Communion Cards** – it has been agreed to continue the experimental re-introduction of Communion Cards (rather than invitations) for a further year, and then review again.
- **Eldership** – following the intimation in my report in the previous issue of UCB News, the Kirk Session is delighted that four Elders will shortly be admitted to the Session. Arrangements for the congregation to recommend a further four members for Ordination/ Admission to the Eldership will be announced in the near future. Watch this space!

With best wishes

James

Session Clerk

The Fundraising Committee

The Fundraising Committee would like to thank the congregation for their very valued support last year.

We were asked by the Stewardship and Finance Committee to raise the sum of £2350 in 2016. However, such was the success of the social events which were run over the course of the year, the sum raised was £4000. All of these monies will go towards repairs to be carried out on the building.

The Fundraising Committee have been asked to raise the sum of £3000 this year. We have a number of events planned starting with the Soup and Sweet Lunch on the 13th May. At Butefest in July we will be cooking breakfast for festival goers and members of the congregation. In September there will be a Buffet Lunch - date to be confirmed.

All of the planned events as well as raising much needed funds are opportunities to socialise and have fun together. With your continued support - be that by buying a ticket, baking or washing dishes - we hope to have another successful year ahead.

So, when you see a member of our committee please buy a ticket or ask what you can do to help. Working together we can achieve great things.

Fiona Shaw

Fundraising Convenor





Soup and Sweet Lunch

Saturday 13th May 12 - 2

Baking Stall Raffle

Tickets £5 from Committee members



A Holy man was having a conversation with the Lord one day and said, "Lord, I would like to know what Heaven and Hell are like."

The Lord led the holy man to two doors. He opened one of the doors and the holy man looked in. In the middle of the room was a large round table. In the middle of the table was a large pot of stew, which smelled delicious and made the holy man's mouth water. The people sitting around the table were thin and sickly. They appeared to be famished. They were holding spoons with very long handles that were strapped to their arms and each found it possible to reach into the pot of stew and take a spoonful but because the handle was longer than their arms they could not get the spoons back into their mouths.

The holy man shuddered at the sight of their misery and suffering. The Lord said, "You have seen Hell."

They went to the next room and opened the door. It was exactly the same as the first one. There was the large round table with the large pot of stew which made the holy man's mouth water. The people were equipped with the same long-handled spoons, but here the people were well nourished and plump, laughing and talking.

The holy man said, "I don't understand." "It is simple", said the Lord. "It requires but one skill. You see, they have learned to feed each other, while the greedy think only of themselves."

"Remember this, when Jesus died on the cross, he was thinking of you."



15th March - a special Birthday for Sandra Lindsay

24th March - the Golden Wedding Anniversary of

June and George McKenzie

We are very grateful to the members of both Guilds for their
support of the UCB Newsletter - Editor

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This Newsletter can now be viewed
in colour on the Church website.