

UCB News

Autumn 2017



John 15 v 16 -17:

You did not choose me; I chose you and appointed you to go and bear much fruit, the kind of fruit that endures. And so the Father will give you whatever you ask of him in my name. This then is what I command you : love one another.

Dear Friends,

One of the countries I'd love to visit is Uruguay. Since I first heard of it, and its capital, Montevideo, watching the film ***Battle of the River Plate***, on a Sunday afternoon when I was a small boy, Uruguay has fascinated me.

Used judiciously, Wikipedia is our friend! It tells us that "Uruguay is ranked first in Latin America in democracy, peace, lack of corruption, [and] e-government, and is first in South America when it comes to press freedom, size of the middle class and prosperity." And there's much more!

And they have a bridge...

It's a circular bridge over the waters of the gorgeous Laguna Garzon, and by "circular", I mean that, viewed from above, the two carriageways run in parallel up to the point at which the road leaps out over the water of the lagoon, then they diverge and form a perfect circle.

Why? It's *to force drivers to slow down, and enjoy the view* - which is ravishing by the way! There's also a pavement for pedestrians to walk up to the bridge, and zebra crossings allow walkers to cross the carriageway to the inside of the circle, and contemplate the gentle flow of the waters below. Isn't that civilized?

"You need to slow down! You need to look around! It's sacrilegious to hurry through a ravishing world like this without contemplating its beauty, its wonder ... It's sacrilegious to live like that ..."

Jesus says that "The Sabbath is made for people, not people for the Sabbath." God made us to be people who need to pause, to reflect on the wonder that we simply exist, to reflect on our lives in a world that is rich, and beautiful. And we *are* blessed to live in a corner of the world which is ravishing and essentially unspoiled. (I found myself thinking, after last year's spring cleaning, that even the view from the coup, at the top of Westlands Road, is staggeringly beautiful!) And sometimes we breenge through it (isn't *breenge* a wonderfully descriptive word?) taking it for granted.

And sometimes, our lives are difficult and testing - and we cope by just

breenging on, head down not looking...

We *need* to pause, and reflect, and sometimes we need to be *made* to do these things. Worship and prayer, and the Sabbath pause in our lives, ought to be just that; an opportunity to reflect on the lives we have from God, and before God, and what they mean. Our lives should be filled with such pauses. *We need to reflect.*

A number of our new Elders, approaching the point of ordination or admission, have been asked to reflect on their lives; they have done so, strikingly and engagingly, and I really do commend their responses to you. Do read them! And do let them be an invitation to you - to each of us - to pause, and to see our lives, from the perspective of where we are, in the fullest relation to God.

Yours in the Adventure of Christ

Owain

Beautiful pictures of the bridge can be seen at

<https://www.boredpanda.com/circular-bridge-uruguay-rafael-vinoly/>

Maggie and Malcolm Alexander

When we're not trying to keep up with all our family and our mad dog we like to sing, knit, crochet, bake, fish, travel, read, write, keep ducks and chickens, play music, listen to music, watch detective series and...and...and we're very grateful we can do any of these things. So we have been going to church for as long as we can remember partly to say thank you and partly because without refreshing our faith we couldn't be who we are and do the things we do.

St Francis said: "The deeds you do may be the only sermon some people will hear today." This isn't an easy thing to do all the time so we come to church together to get help from all of you here.

Ballianlay Outing

Once again our summer outing to Ballianlay for afternoon tea was a great success. On the 27th August, 14 of us enjoyed tea, coffee, cakes and a chat in the happy and bustling atmosphere of Ballianlay Hall. Amazingly, the weather was kind to us so we were able to make the afternoon last as long as possible with a drive around the island.

Of course, this wouldn't be as enjoyable without the kindness of the Ballianlay ladies who are always so attentive to us, nor would it be possible without the generosity of our church. Thank you to all who made the afternoon such a happy time for us, especially the drivers who so willingly gave up their afternoon.

One note I would like to add is to ask elders to think very carefully about the members in their district who might enjoy this outing next year. Our numbers this year were low and I am sure many more would have enjoyed this afternoon trip had they been asked. To our more elderly members - don't be offended if your elder asks you next year if you would like to participate. It's not a sign of old age, it's a sign that we care and want you to be part of a very happy afternoon outing.

Edith Forrester

Lesley Dove

I first heard of the Isle of Bute when I was working in Khartoum in 1990. A year later I made my home here, to which I came between contracts in seven other developing countries. Eleven years later Jim and I purchased a house from Mrs Cunningham who attended St Brendan's, who had worked and married in Khartoum. Although we travel less - so much can be done online now - work could take us away again. You may have elected a traveling elder, who between journeys and at a time of great spiritual need was welcomed to UCB.

Afternoon Guild



The Afternoon Guild begin their new session on Monday 9th October 2017 at 2.00pm in the Church Centre. The opening speaker is our minister, Rev Owain Jones, who will speak on this session's theme 'Go in Love'.

Once again we are greatly indebted to those in our church and community who have agreed to share their time and expertise with us.

2017

October 9th Rev. J. Owain Jones on this year's theme " Go in Love"

October 23rd....Duncan McKellar -"Safety in the Home"

November 13th...Coffee Afternoon (this is our fundraiser during Guild Week)

November 27th....Malcolm Alexander - "Being a Google Tour Guide" + Day of Giving

December 11th....Christmas Lunch.

2018

January 8th.... Janette Henderson -"Messy Church"

January 22nd....Quiz Afternoon with Burns Supper Fare

February 12th....St Valentine's Theme + Bring & Buy Sale

February 26th....Open Meeting with other Guilds.... Guest Speaker from "Prospects"

March 12th....Isabel & Colin Sharp - Travels to China

March 26th....A.G.M. + Video of Annual Guild Meeting.

Strollers and Striders

The Strollers and Striders have concluded another successful walking season. In total, we undertook 22 walks with only 1 cancellation due to weather. The number of walkers averaged 15-20 on many evenings (along with a small retinue of dogs) with a reduction in numbers when the weather was more inclement. Typically, we covered 2-3 miles in a variety of locations across the island with some folks opting for a shorter version of the walk. The evening was rounded off with a welcome cup of tea and home baking.

We spent an enjoyable evening having dinner and enjoying each other's company at the Kingarth Hotel at which we disbursed the funds we had gathered over the season. A total of £562 was collected from the weekly £1 contribution from each walker. We agreed to use the money for the purchase of some additional kitchen equipment, church printer supplies, and other items.

I would like to extend my thanks to Jim Cobham, who organised the walks over a number of years, and to Stella who undertook many of the practical tasks necessary for the smooth running of the group. Thanks are also due to Morag for providing the home baking and to Alex for organising transport for our dinner outing.

Strollers and Striders will return next spring for another season. Watch out for the date and consider joining us for an enjoyable time and a good way to keep fit.

Douglas Allan

Mary Spencer

I was brought up a Baptist by parents who had been drawn into Gravesend Baptist Church in Kent by the wonderful sound of the music and singing they heard floating out to the street.

I moved to London from Kent aged 4 but sadly my Dad died when I was just 16. Our family had lapsed from attending church but after his death Mum and I returned to the Baptist Church in Catford, SE London. I found

my way of engaging with worship was to become an alto in the choir. This inspired me to go for adult baptism aged 17 and one of the most special elements of worship was the singing and music.

I met Tony aged 12 in a Youth Orchestra... we were engaged aged 17 and then married aged 19 in our beloved Baptist Church. So again music and hymns played an important role.....

When our children were small we moved to a village in Kent where the local church was Church of England. Our children, Tony and I all sang in the choir and our kids became members of the bell ringing team.

I was told that those who sing pray twice, so when I am unable to think of what to say in a prayer the words of favourite hymns come to mind and assist me.....

“How Great Thou Art”....”And can it be?”.... “Dear Lord and Father of mankind”.....

We have lived on Bute since 2003 and Tony has served as UCB’s organist for 10 years bringing the gift of music to your worship and now as an elder, music will be one of the ways in which I will serve too...

ROTHESAY RUMOURS??

– WHAT ABOUT VICTORIA VARIATIONS?

Our Canadian adventure occurred this year when Sandra & I succumbed to years of gentle nagging by our old friend, (and bridesmaid 49 years ago), Sheila. Now resident in Victoria, Vancouver Island, (with a holiday home in Kilchattan) she wanted us to visit her “before we got too old to travel.” How could we resist such subtle blandishments?

We enjoyed an excellent tour – Calgary, coach over the Rockies to Vancouver, ferry to Victoria, Butchart Gardens, a picnic listening to an orchestra in the harbour ...

As a special treat, Sheila organised a whale watching trip. Suitably kitted out

in special survival/flotation suits our high-speed Zodiac rigid inflatable soon had us watching a humpback whale (typically 40 tons, 80 feet long). We photographed and observed from a safe distance - there are strict protocols agreed between boat operators and wildlife protection agencies.

Then we moved off to look for orcas. While we were still accelerating at 27 knots (31 mph) a humpback surfaced to blow, directly under the Zodiac. The boat was thrown over the back of the whale just behind its dorsal fin, tipping the occupants 90 degrees to starboard. I was submerged from head to waist under the surface and whacked my hip against a steel stanchion at the side of the bench seat (assisted by neighbouring passengers sliding into me). We immediately turned for Victoria, radioing for coast guard assistance and ambulances (one young passenger had a head injury from a grab rail). It was only when we reached land that I realised I might have been injured, and agreed to go to hospital "for a check up". CT scans identified six separate hairline fractures to one hip, the pelvic area, and lower vertebrae. The good news : no surgery required. The bad news : 12 weeks' recovery time, with 8 week's "toe touch only" for one leg. The even worse news : physiotherapy starting day 2!

Then the event hit the news media. Because of some degree of official Department of Transport news blackout, and the normal medical confidentiality protocols, facts were almost non-existent. So the press made up stories, feeding misinformation to each other to flesh out already thin facts. I lay doped to the eyeballs in an orthopaedic room watching regional and national TV where the accident pushed forest fires and even Donald Trump off the headline story, only to find that I had "minor injuries" and was in good spirits! Then it was announced that the whale involved had been observed and, apart from a long scrape on its back, was unharmed : end of story!

There were some truly amazing coincidences which could have made better stories : e.g.

There was a Scots lady doctor from Kirkintilloch on the boat who was a tower of strength. Her husband, also on the boat, was friendly with the sons

of, respectively, Helen and Ian McLeod and Isabel and Colin Sharp.

As I waited on a trolley for my CT scans at A&E, I chatted to a lady waiting for her mother who had had a fall. Recognising my accent, she recalled holidays as a child in Old Kilpatrick - where I spent the first 21 years of my life.

The overwhelming memory I shall retain of the whole escapade will be of the kindness, patience and consideration shown by everyone with whom I came in contact: and the efforts of my golfing buddies at Kingarth and their attempts to find a "Get Whale Soon" card.

Douglas Lindsay

Lendwithcare

Lendwithcare organises small loans to people in 11 countries across the world. It might be a rice farmer in Cambodia, a textile worker in Pakistan, a chicken framer in Ecuador. They all need small sums of money but can't readily borrow from banks. Two and a half years ago the Rotarians gave me £100 to manage through the Lendwithcare initiative. In the next 2 years the UCB Guilds have added to that amount and I now look after £450 to lend as needed.

So far this small fund has created £840 of loans with £736 of these repaid. This is possible as once the loan is partly repaid you can lend that money again. By doing this we've given out 26 loans, helping 101 Entrepreneurs. 468 family members have been helped and we've created 11 jobs.

We've helped fishmongers, textile workers, farmers, garage owners, butchers, and one poor soul repaying a money lender. Everyone has paid off their debt on time.

If you would like to look up how this works in detail then put www.lendwithcare.org into your browser and see all the great projects being supported. Meanwhile I'll keep lending and let you know how things are coming along.

Malcolm Alexander

Morag Allan

Originally from Barrhead, my love of jazz led to frequent visits to Bute in the past. I have served as an Elder for over 20 years and believe the church remains at the heart of the community. Having nursed for 40 years I first met Owain in the Children's Ward in Paisley, and so U.C.B seemed the natural choice. A very warm welcome and inclusion in other activities made it the right choice.

As the world constantly changes so must the Church. I believe in a Church with open doors and have been involved in many Church initiatives such as House Groups, supervisor to youth workers, Gala days and World Mission. As Elders, we lead the way in designing the best way forward to meet the needs of our community and provide opportunities to carry on the task that God has commissioned us to do. I am very much looking forward to joining you on this journey.

Lighthouse

It is now the start of the new session of Lighthouse and we are looking forward to it. We have a steady number of children, increased by visitors from our extended church family.

For this session we are using the Story Book Bible from S.U. with a CD to ease learning. I know it is early but we are starting to plan for Advent and Christmas as time goes in so quickly - dates and events to follow, including ecumenical events. I need to get the Nativity Play written soon. Thank you to Owain for the dedication service a few weeks ago.

Messy Church returns on the first Monday of October. We now have a children's corner in the church for parents and children to make use of - look at the lovely drawings in the post box on the table.

Anne McGhie



Whose we are and Whom we serve.

Evening Guild - Syllabus 2017/2018

2017

26 th October	Rev Owain Jones
2 nd November	Hector McDonald/Old Rothesay
9 th November	Norman Deeley/Edmund Kean
16 th November	Ukulele Band
23 rd November	Janet McDowell/Message in a Bottle
25th November	Morning Market
30 th November	St Andrew's Night/Bute Ceilidh Band
7 th December	Christmas Lunch

2018

18 th January	Beetle Drive/Projects
25 th January	Burns Scottish Night
1 st February	Elizabeth Speirs/Visit to China Joint Meeting
8 th February	Bute Fabrics Atelier Shop
15 th February	Valentine Day Poetry with Jennifer Sutcliffe and Mary Davidson
22 nd February	Friends of Rothesay Castle/Ian Sinclair
1 st March	AGM

Discussion Group

Discussion, according to one online dictionary is the action or process of talking about something in order to reach a decision or to exchange ideas; a conversation or debate about a specific topic; a detailed treatment of a topic in speech or writing. This definition summarises what happens on a Monday night in the Church Centre but over time there are other things happening which are not covered by this definition.

A deepening understanding of what our faith means to us.

Discussion allows us to explore questions that we might have about our faith and that we might not feel comfortable asking otherwise. This is especially important in an age where secularisation at times appears to be gaining the upper hand in society. As people progress on the faith journey they are led to a deeper understanding about their own faith.

Eases our burdens

The Christian faith can be frustrating, difficult and downright hard work and there are times when the burdens we carry might seem overwhelming. Discussion, whilst not eliminating the burdens completely, can considerably ease them and so sharing together in a spiritual environment can strengthen our resolve to stay firm.

Strengthens relationships

Personal relationships are fundamental in the Christian experience both with God and our fellow believers. Discussion deepens those relationships to a level which enhances our spiritual encounter and reassures us that we can rely on friends in time of need.

**Why not join us? Monday evenings 7:30pm in the Church Centre.
There is an empty seat and a cup of tea with your name on it!**

Jar of Grace Appeal for 2017

As you are aware, we are no longer raising money for a specific project each year for UNICEF, but for their emergency fund. The following will give an idea of how the money raised is utilised.

One area where help is badly needed is Syria. After 6 years of conflict, Syrians are facing the largest humanitarian crisis in the world with grave protection and human rights violations occurring daily. Children have as usual paid the heaviest price due to the escalation of violence. Nearly 6 million children now depend on humanitarian assistance, with almost half forced to flee their homes.

UNICEF and its partners are committed to delivering essential services for Syrian families and keeping Syrian children from becoming a 'lost generation' - including the life-saving areas of health, nutrition, immunization, water and sanitation, as well as education and child protection. UNICEF also works in the neighbouring countries of Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey to support Syrian refugee families and support the communities where they have settled.

UNICEF has no government funding and relies entirely on the generosity of people like us to carry out the work it does. Last year we raised **£1019.81** in our Jar of Grace Appeal which was sent to UNICEF to help with its work.

I hope after you have read this article or visited UNICEF's website you will be as generous as you have been in past years. Fill your jar as full as possible - start a new one when it overflows - pop in a £1 or £2 coin when you can - help us to make an even bigger contribution to UNICEF this year.

Edith Forrester

Gordon Sutherland

Another new Elder, Gordon Sutherland, is currently on holiday. His 'biography' will be included in the next edition of the Church Newsletter.

Parish Register

Baptisms

Abby Sutherland	in the United Church of Bute	23.07.17
Lucy Sutherland	in the United Church of Bute	23.07.17
Mollie Magdalene McDonald	in the United Church of Bute	23.07.17
Mhairi Alexandra Dickens	in the United Church of Bute	23.07.17

"May the Lord Bless You and Keep You."

New Members by Resolution of the Kirk Session

Mrs Evelyn Glass	14c Crichton Road, Rothesay	9.04.17
Mrs Stella MacInnes	9A Wyndham Park, Ardbeg	9.04.17

" We warmly welcome you to our membership and fellowship and hope you may find many opportunities for friendship and service within the United Church of Bute"

Marriage

Mr David McFie	to	Rev Aileen Robson	
		in Kilfinan Parish Church	29.07.17

"May God bless you with many long and happy years together."

Change of Address

Mrs Margaret Ferguson	from	30 Craigmores Road, Rothesay	
		to 13 Foley Park, Rothesay	

"We wish you well in your new home."

Elder Retirements

Mr Julian Hankinson Craigielea Cottage, Ardbeg Rd, Rothesay 5.07.17
Miss Elizabeth Weir 30 Rothesay Court, Rothesay 30.07.17

"Thank you for the many years of dedicated service you have given to the United Church of Bute."

Deaths

Mrs Jean Keiller 1 Montford Apartments, Craigmore Road, Rothesay 29.05.17
Mr John MacCartney The Tileries, Kingarth 12.06.17
Mrs Anita Reid 22 Pointhouse Crescent, Port Bannatyne 19.06.17
Mr Leonard Cumming Craigend Cottage, Craigmore Road, Rothesay 6.07.17
Mrs Jean McWhirter formerly Beechland, Kilchattan Bay 27.07.17
Mrs Elinor Crozier Mary Croft, Craigmore Road, Rothesay 29.08.17

" I am the Resurrection and the Life. "

Douglas Allan

I came to live on the island following early retirement from University life and have lived here for 3 years. With a lifelong commitment to the Christian faith it was natural to find a church to be part of, and UCB was my choice. This was largely due to the warm welcome and interest shown in my presence.

I have been a Church of Scotland Elder for over 30 years in 3 different congregations and I am pleased to be joining the Kirk Session in UCB. I have been actively involved in Kirk Sessions in the past including two terms as Session Clerk.

I am a Reader in the Church of Scotland and this qualifies me to conduct worship and other pastoral duties including funerals. At present I am acting

as Locum at Rothesay Trinity Church as they search for a new Minister hence I am seldom seen in UCB on a Sunday morning at present!

I believe that the Church, in the broadest sense, is an essential part of the fabric of a community. Despite what feels at times to be an increasingly secularised society, the Church still has a vital part to play. To maintain this, the Church needs to adapt to the changes in society without diluting the message and in doing so, needs to help people see that the message is as relevant today as it was in the past. I very much look forward to contributing to this aim.

KIRK SESSION NOTES

Since the previous issue of UCB News, the Kirk Session has met on three occasions for ordinary business, once for Communion, and twice to deal largely with matters relating to the election of Elders.

Over the summer, the Kirk Session recorded the retirement from the active Eldership of two long-serving and hugely committed Elders, Julian Hankinson and Bessie Weir.

Julian's service commenced around 50 years ago in Dowanhill Parish Church Glasgow. Thereafter, it continued at Dunblane, then the High Kirk of Rothesay, and in more recent years, The United Church of Bute, where Julian's gifts as an able and gifted preacher have been greatly appreciated on many occasions. Julian also served for many years as a most diligent and efficient Clerk to the Congregational Board.

Bessie's contribution to the life of the congregation is equally notable. Bessie's home church was St. John's (New Rothesay Parish), which will always hold a special place in her affections. She served as Sunday School teacher and recalls fondly the many pupils whom she taught, and these fond recollections are indeed shared by her former charges.

Together with Mrs Helen Maitland, Bessie was ordained to the Eldership in the High Kirk, the first two ladies to be ordained there, and her faithful

service has continued into UCB.

The Minister paid warm tribute to both Julian and Bessie, and the Kirk Session, in accepting their retirement with regret, gave thanks for their lives of service and rejoiced that Bessie and Julian remain very much part of the UCB “family”.

Other items of business dealt with at recent meetings include:

Election of Elders – this has now been happily accomplished, and the Kirk Session is delighted that eight members have been appointed to the Session, four by Admission and four by Ordination. We look forward to benefiting from the many gifts and talents they bring to the Kirk Session. Welcome aboard!

Stewardship and Finance – in addition to the on-going work of the committee, considerable time has been spent in dealing with a number of old bank accounts to streamline matters, and well done to all concerned for their patience and diligence! Progress has also been made with the winding-up of the Port Bannatyne BB (dealing with the charity regulator, OSCR).

Property – regular maintenance at the Church and Manse has been proceeding. A generous offer from the Evening Guild to fund the re-painting of the kitchen, and the installation of motion-sensor lights at the exterior doors of the Centre has been gratefully received.

Discussions have continued regarding the condition of the harling on the external walls of the main church building. A conservation architect has been engaged to advise, and a meeting was held recently with the General Trustees. Permission has been granted by Presbytery for us to make application to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for assistance.

Hall – increased use of the facilities is being made by a range of organisations, and the Kirk Session was pleased to note that the Centre is becoming an increasingly important part of local life.

Children and Youth – plans for the new Lighthouse session were outlined, and good wishes expressed for a happy and fulfilling year ahead.

Fundraising –a busy few months for the Fundraising team, including a highly successful soup and sweet lunch; ButeFest breakfasts; and providing a beautiful tea for David McFie’s recent Setting-Apart service. Thanks to everyone for their hard work!

Communion – will be celebrated on 5th November at 11 a.m. Following careful consideration it was agreed to discontinue the 2.30 p.m. service, but it will be kept under review.

United Service – a United Service will be held at Trinity Church on Sunday 29th October at 11 a.m. to commemorate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. More details will follow, but it promises to be a memorable occasion with considerable musical input.

New laptop – a new laptop is being purchased to replace the ageing one we currently use to power the AV system. It will provide a more robust, reliable and flexible facility.

I hope that this summary is helpful in illustrating the wide range of activities currently being undertaken by the Kirk Session and its committees. As always, should you have any queries or comments, please let me know.

With best wishes

James

Soup and Sweet Lunch



Saturday 4th November

12 - 2

Baking Stall

Raffle



Tickets £6 from Fundraising Committee

Liz Gilmour

First, may I say that I feel very humbled by being asked to become an Elder.

I lived in Hamilton as a child, with my parents, two sisters and an extended family. It was a very busy home where I felt surrounded by love.

I attended Sunday School, Guides and church in Hamilton Parish Church before leaving home to train as a nurse in Glasgow Royal Infirmary and then as a midwife in Bellshill Maternity Hospital.

My husband, Andy, and I married in Hamilton and lived in Glasgow for two years before moving to Dunoon. It was at that point I became a member of the Church of Scotland in Kirn Parish Church where, later, our children were baptised.

After moving to Rothesay in 1983, I joined St Brendan's Church. I think the fact that I have attended different churches made it easier for me to join the United Church of Bute when St Brendan's closed.

What I like about U.C.B. is the support the congregation gives when there is a fund-raising event, especially the fact that male members are willing to help in the kitchen! I have never experienced this in any other church.

Although I cannot say that I have a favourite hymn, I especially like "Great is thy faithfulness" because of the line "all I have needed thy hand has provided". This is because my mother frequently used to say, "the Lord will provide". I also like "Shine Jesus Shine" as it is such a rousing hymn.

Finally, I hope that I do not prove to be a disappointment to the people who voted for me.



100th Birthday - Florence Shiels

'Bus Pass Birthday' - Owain Jones

Marriage - David McFie and Aileen Robson

Golden Wedding - Isabel and Colin Sharp

Golden Wedding - Helen and Tommy Howat

Thanks to all who have contributed to this Newsletter, and thanks to the generous organisations and individuals who provide financial support - Editor

The United Church of Bute

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Scottish Charity No SC030563

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