

UCB News

Easter 2018



Luke 23: 46-47

Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last. 47 The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, "Surely this was a righteous man."

Dear Friends,

“Orienteering is a group of sports that requires navigational skills using a map and compass to navigate from point to point in diverse and usually unfamiliar terrain whilst moving at speed.” That’s a dictionary definition.

I’ve never been orienteering. It’s the “moving at speed” bit that ruled me out, when I was younger, because I was asthmatic, and now, when my times for the hundred metre sprint are like other people’s marathon times... Well, it isn’t going to happen.

But the “navigat[ing] from point to point in diverse and usually unfamiliar terrain” – that struck a chord. It reminded me of the strange, zigzag journey of God’s pilgrim people – the Church, *us*, and *all the generations who came before us, and who will come after us*.

The mention of “compass” in that definition is interesting. A compass “orients” you to the earth’s magnetic field. *The north*. But the very word “orient”, of course, means “*east*.”

Church buildings, traditionally, were “oriented.” They faced the east, because that was the direction from which Christ, crucified, risen and ascended, would return. *The direction of the dawn...*

The *fabric* of church buildings *embodies* faith. When we were in Brussels, in January, we discovered the unassuming church of St Nicholas, just off the Grand Place. Inside, it’s fascinating. They have a year-round manger scene – but the stable is set in a complete model village, with little scenes of daily life all over the place: Christ born into the world we live in day by day.

But if you look back into the church from the West Door towards the altar, you notice that the chancel – the top arm of the cross – the eastern end of the church, is squint to the rest of the building. That’s entirely deliberate, and you see it across the north of France and over to Brittany. It symbolizes the drooped head of Christ, dead on the cross. If we let the building speak to us, we are, quite literally pointed in the direction of our hope by the crucified Christ.

I started to think about our own building.

Originally, of course, it was oriented. The old Parish Church of St Mary (and briefly the Cathedral Church of the Diocese of Sodor!) would have been turned to the east. But when it was rebuilt, and rebuilt again in 1796, its “orientation” changed to the south, because that was the building the people and parish needed. And of course it was onto the north end of the building that, in 2008, the congregation, again to serve the parish, built the Church Centre.

And the one we all tend to forget is what happened in 1906, when having turned the interior of the church through 90° not a century and a quarter previously, the congregation turned it through another 90° and “oriented” it to the *west!*

Faith embodied in the fabric of a building! Is all this twisting and turning and reorienting making you dizzy? Well, that’s the “strange, zigzag journey of God’s pilgrim people – the Church. Us.” It’s our version of orienteering – navigating from point to point in diverse and usually unfamiliar terrain” yet always facing Christ, always with our faces turned towards the dawn of hope, for the sake of the world around us.

I wonder where the next turn in our journey will have us face?

Yours in the Adventure of Christ

Owain

Soup and Sweet Lunch



Saturday 21st April

12 - 2



Baking Stall Raffle

Tickets £6 from Fundraising Committee

JAR OF GRACE APPEAL FOR 2017

I realise it may now seem a while since we collected in our Jars of Grace for UNICEF but as this is the first Newsletter for 2018, I would like to give you an update on our efforts as not all of you will have been in church to hear the intimations. At the end of the year we were able to send off a cheque to UNICEF for **£1,235.98**. This is a wonderful achievement for a congregation of our size and our contribution is greatly appreciated by UNICEF.

With donations such as ours, UNICEF staff are able to provide immediate, life-saving care and supplies, as well as lasting support to help children and families in countries like Syria, South Sudan and Yemen, to rebuild their lives. UNICEF will not stop until the world is a safer place for every child – it responds to around 300 emergencies for children each year. All of its work for children is only possible because congregations like ours help to make it happen. Thanks to donations such as ours, UNICEF is able to reach children in over 190 countries, however and wherever their staff are needed.

I would also like to add my personal thanks to all those who helped on the day we collected in the jars - our team of willing counters, those who checked the money, bagged it and banked it, Colin and James our present and past treasurers and to Janette and her team who kept us sustained with mouth watering home baking and hot drinks. But most of all I would like to thank all of you who give each year so generously, because without people like you UNICEF would not have the resources to carry out the work it does and it is exceedingly grateful to us for our annual donation.

As always I would urge you to start a new jar whenever your old one is emptied and perhaps also consider coins of a higher denomination so that we can continue to do our bit for vulnerable children all over the world.

Thank you all very much indeed.

Edith Forrester, UNICEF Co-ordinator

Prayer - A Way of Life?

Brother Lawrence was a lay brother in a Carmelite Monastery in 17th century Paris. Much of what we know of him is gleaned from letters he wrote. He said this in a letter to his friend John.

As I see it we cannot escape the spiritual dangers that surround us in this world without the continual help and grace of God. Without which we can do nothing but sin. With God's grace we can do 'all things'. So - let's pray for his grace continually.

Yet, how can we pray to him without being with him, in his presence? And how can we be with him without thinking of him often? And how can we often think of him unless we form a holy habit of doing so? These things do not just happen!

Brother Lawrence was a kind and gentle man who found God in the daily things around him. Whether he was working in the kitchens, helping in the laundry or at prayer in the chapel. His gentle approach to life was enabled by his steely determination to stay close to God at all times. Even for him this wasn't something that came easily. As he put it himself - these things do not just happen - we have to work at it!

Malcolm Alexander

Communion Services

The next celebrations of Holy Communion will be on -

Sunday 3rd June 2018

Sunday 4th November 2018

"This do in remembrance of me."



My Secret Lover

I have a secret lover
It's forbidden, this I know
But no matter how I try
I cannot let him go.

My husband is suspicious
Of my secret little vice
And I see him looking worried
When I'm especially nice.

My love is rich and dark and sweet
He's my little secret,
He's my little treat.
But I know I must reject him
I know it's gone too far
For you see my secret little lover
Is a SUPER SIZE MARS BAR

Morag Allan

Afternoon Guild



It is hard to believe that our Guild session is drawing to a close with, as I write, only the AGM left at the end of the month. We have had most interesting and informative meetings covering a wide range of topics from aids to keep us safe in our homes to a St Valentine's Day Celebration. The speaker at our guest afternoon was Ivy Blair from Prospects which is one of the Guild projects. Ivy gave us a moving, and also sometimes amusing, insight into the work of Prospects which is to help churches to welcome and include people with learning disabilities.

Some of the most successful and enjoyable afternoons have been those which were 'in house'. These included our Christmas Lunch, a quiz, an adult Messy Church and St Valentine's.

Due to the hard work and generous giving of our members and friends, not only have we been able to support the Guild projects but we also bought the noticeboards for the Church Centre and fifty new tea towels.

As in previous years we shall be meeting once a month (usually the last Monday of the month) for tea and a chat. Why not come along and join us? You will be made very welcome.

Elsbeth Squair

Parish Register

Baptisms

Scott Robert Simpson in the United Church of Bute 24.09.17

"May the Lord Bless You and Keep You."

New Members by Resolution of the Kirk Session

Ms Lesley Dove 18 Craigmores Road, Rothesay 24.09.17

*" 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 "*

Admission of New Elders

Mr Malcolm Alexander	Beechwood, Bishop Terr, Rothes.	24.09.17
Mr Douglas Allan	1 Camplen Court, Ardbeg Road, Rothesay	24.09.17
Mrs Morag Allan	1 Camplen Court, Ardbeg Road, Rothesay	24.09.17
Mr Gordon Sutherland	Birgisdale Schoolhouse, Kingarth	24.09.17

Ordination of New Elders

Mrs Maggie Alexander	Beechwood, Bishop Terr, Rothesay	24.09.17
Ms Lesley Dove	18 Craigmores Road, Rotheay	24.09.17
Mrs Elizabeth Gilmour	34 Mount Stuart Road, Rothesay	24.09.17
Mrs Mary Spencer	53 Crichton Road, Rothesay	24.09.17

*"May you feel welcome and find many opportunities to serve God within
our congregation "*

Change of Address

Mr David Telfer	from	63 Roslin Crescent, Rothesay	
		to	1 Regal Place, Argyle Street, Rothesay
Mrs Evelyn Glass	from	14c Crichton Road, Rothesay	
		to	Stables South, Mount Stuart
Mrs Florence Lee	from	29 Mount Stuart Road, Rothesay	
		to	Marchmount House, Port Glasgow
Mr Hamish Kirk	from	1/2, 21 Mill Street, Rothesay	
		to	0/1, 16 Russell Street, Rothesay

"We wish you well in your new home."

Removed by Certificate of Transference

Mr Gordon Watt	17 Marine Road, Port Bannatyne	11.02.18
Mrs Peggy Watt	17 Marine Road, Port Bannatyne	11.02.18

"We wish you well in your new congregation."

Deaths

Mrs Rena Ross	2 Rothesay Court, Rothesay	3.10.17
Mrs Jessie Murdoch	Cheshire Grange, Booths Hill Rd, Lymm	3.10.17
Mrs Marjorie Howat	Palm Court, Ardbeg Road, Rothesay	20.10.17
Mrs Helen Hay	4 MacKinlay Street, Rothesay	9.12.17
Mr Alan Barr	Yarrow, Erskine Hospital, Erskine	12.12.17
Mr James Forbes	24 Bryce Avenue, Rothesay	28.12.17
Mrs Isabel Robertson	Ramsay House, Erskine Hospital, Erskine	13.01.18
Mrs Esther Henry	Ardnahein Care, Dunoon	20.01.18
Mrs Helen Howat	Fernbank, 41 Shore Rd, Port Bannatyne	28.02.18

“I am the Resurrection and the Life.”

KIRK SESSION NOTES

The Kirk Session and its associated committees have got off to a flying start in 2018, with much activity on a number of projects and developments, all with the object of securing both the physical buildings for which we are responsible, and, just as importantly, developing the mission of the Church to its members and the wider community.

Sadly, however, the year started with the funeral of Jim Forbes, a long-serving and valued member of the Kirk Session. Jim had been ordained to the Eldership in the High Kirk of Rothesay in 1987, and had served faithfully until ill-health prevented him from taking an active role in the Eldership. He had great respect for the traditions of his Church, and was always anxious to ensure that things were done with due decorum in the correct manner. Warm tribute was paid by the Minister to Jim's service at the January meeting of the Session.

The Kirk Session also learned with much regret of the passing of Mrs Helen Howat, former Sunday School Superintendent, whose service to the education of generations of the island's young people, and the children of our congregation, had been immense and highly valued.

Since the turn of the year, the Kirk Session has met on two occasions for ordinary business, once for an Elder's funeral, and once for the celebration of Communion.

Matters discussed at these meetings, in addition to the on-going administration of the congregation's day-to-day affairs, include the following:

Stewardship and Finance - adoption of the Budget for 2018; preparation of the draft report and accounts for 2017. The requirement for a Convener for this Committee remains outstanding, and anyone interested in finding out more about what's involved is asked to have a chat with the Treasurer.

Property – no major issues, other than routine maintenance and repairs.

Hall Committee – the use of the Church Centre by a wide range of community organisations continues to grow, thus fulfilling our ambition to be at the very heart of our community.

Children and Youth - encouraging joint work under Bute Churches Together – Children’s Ministry is developing.

Mission and Outreach – lots of activity both within and outwith the walls of the church, and more to follow! The new prayer request cards and notice boards in the Centre have already proved popular. The committee is also supporting the establishment of The Lade Centre (TLC) and inputting where appropriate to this much-needed new facility.

Fund Raising – this hard-working group is looking forward to the next event, the postponed Soup and Sweet Lunch on 21st April 2018 (delayed due to the March snow!)

Ad-hoc Committee – this committee was set up to explore means of financing the necessary repairs to the harling on the external walls of the church, identified in the last Quinquennial property report. Work on identifying potential sources of funds and scoping the project is on-going.

The Kirk Session was also delighted to receive reports on the work of the Guilds and Pass it On. The contribution of the Guilds (we are fortunate in having both the Afternoon Guild and Evening Guild) cannot be over-stated, both at local and national level, and their work was warmly recognised and commended.

Pass It On is, of course, another organisation of which we should be immensely proud. In particular, reference was made to their invaluable work in assisting the settling-in of our Syrian families, of whom more arrived quite recently. Remember that Pass It On is always on the lookout for

supplies of towels, linen, crockery etc. Please help if you can.

As always, this is merely a “snapshot” of activity, and please have a word with me if I can clarify or expand on any matter.

With best wishes

James

Session Clerk

Easter Reflection

On Easter **Saturday the 31st March** we will create a relaxed space for individual meditation and reflection on our individual response to Christ's crucifixion. The ground floor of the church will be set out with a number of thought provoking items to help us reflect on the life of Jesus. Journeying with Jesus we will consider aspects of his time with us as we follow in his footsteps to the cross and beyond. Background music playing during this time of contemplation will be both innovative and familiar. Music by John Williams and Ennio Morricone will be played alongside new interpretations of the psalms.

The church will be open to everyone from **12 noon until 6.00pm on Easter Saturday**. Feel free to come and simply listen to the music in our beautiful sanctuary. Spend time contemplating the various items and accompanying words at each station. Stay for as long or short a time as you wish. Elders will be on hand to guide and assist you.

We very much look forward to welcoming
you on that afternoon.



Evening Guild

All too quickly another Guild session comes to a close. We have enjoyed a varied and interesting programme, from tales of old Rothesay and the actor Edmund Kean to an interesting talk and demonstration from Bute Fabrics and its progress from cottage industry to international acclaim.

Our musical evenings included Highland dancers, the Ceilidh band and the Ukulele band providing an energetic time for all.

Our joint meeting was well supported by all the other fellowship groups and we were taken on a fascinating journey to China by Elizabeth Spiers.

A grateful thanks must go to the ladies of the committee who not only provided the hospitality for Burn's Night, St Valentine's Night and St Andrew's Night but also our Christmas lunch, and entertaining us with quizzes and poetry.

The summer outing this year is willbe a guided tour of Bute Fabrics followed by afternoon tea at the Glenburn Hotel which we are all looking forward to.

Our theme of Love was evident throughout the year woven within our usual Fun, Fellowship and Friendship. I am sure after the Summer break we will return ready for another busy session.

Morag Allan

From their fundraising efforts the ladies of the Guild made the following donations - Christian Aid (£50), Erskine Hospital (£100), Pass It On (£100), Church Newsletter (£100), Guild Project, Street Pastors (£200), United Church of Bute, kitchen equipment (£1,000).

Holy Week ‘Rocky Road’ Recipe

You will need –

A handful of green sweets – to remind us of the palm branches being waved.
4 x 100g chocolate bars (broken in pieces) – representing Jesus turning over the tables in the temple.

Orange oil or flavouring – representing the anointing of Jesus at Bethany.

2 handfuls of raisins – reminding us of the lesson of the fig tree.

5 sweet biscuits (broken in pieces) – depicting the breaking of bread.

12 chopped glace cherries – depicting the wine Jesus shared.

3 Mars bars (cut into small pieces) – these depict the three times the cock crowed.

2 handfuls of white mini marshmallows – reminding us of the white linen that Jesus was wrapped in.

135g bag of Maltesers – denoting the sealed tomb.

Silver balls (for the 30 pieces of silver) and mini eggs for decoration.

Method –

1. Mix together the green sweets, raisins, broken biscuits, glace cherries, chopped up Mars bars, mini marshmallows and Maltesers in a bowl.
2. In a second bowl gently and carefully melt the chocolate bars.
3. Add the orange flavouring or oil to the chocolate.
4. Pour the melted chocolate over all the other ingredients and mix well.
5. Pour all into a baking tray.
6. Decorate with 30 silver balls and some mini eggs.
7. Place in the fridge to set before cutting and sharing.





Celebrations

*The Ruby Wedding of
Mr and Mrs R McKirdy*

Strollers and Striders

Spring is beckoning which means that it is time for the Strollers and Striders to emerge from hibernation. The first walk of the 2018 season will be on Tuesday 10 April 2018 at 7pm.

The first walk starts from the church and proceeds via Lover's Walk, Loch Fad Road and then across the causeway to Lochly Farm and then Ashfield Farm before returning to the church for refreshments.

As the name implies we aim to include people of all abilities and it is also possible to undertake shortened versions of the walk. The pace is leisurely (but you can walk more quickly if you wish), the distance not too far (2-4 miles on average) and the fellowship is warm and sincere.

The walks are open to all (including the four legged variety) and is not confined to church members. All you need is a sturdy pair of shoes or trainers, a pound coin (which is distributed to good causes at the end of the season) and an enthusiasm to join in.

Tuesday 10 April 2018 at 7pm at the Church Centre. If you need to ask about anything – phone Douglas on 07478 134946.

Fundraising Quiz

The quiz "Found in the Kitchen" was well supported and raised £650 for Church Funds. The winner was Mrs H Clark of Alnwick. Thanks to all who supported this event.

R McKirdy

Holy Week Services

Sunday 25th March : Palm Sunday at St Paul's 5.30pm

Monday 26th March : Rothesay Christian Fellowship 7.00pm

Tuesday 27th March : St Andrew's 7.00pm

Wednesday 28th March : Ardbeg Baptist Church 7.00pm

Thursday 29th March : United Church of Bute 7.00pm

Friday 30th March : Rothesay Trinity 7.00pm

Sunday 1st April : Sunrise service at St Blane's 7.00am

Sunday 1st April : United Church of Bute 11.00am

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