

UCB News

Summer 2018



“Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.”

James 1 v17

Dear Friends,

We're all, as an island community, looking forward to the arrival of Trinity's new Minister. Since it will be her first charge, God willing, Mrs Sibyl Tchaikovsky will be both ordained and inducted by the Presbytery of Argyll.

It will be a huge day for Sibyl and for her congregation – the end of one journey, and the beginning of another. Yet from another perspective, it's a stage in the ***one journey of a human being*** through her life, a point to which, and through which, she will have come by Christ's leading. We enfold her, and Trinity, in our prayers.

And all this got me thinking! Well, it would, wouldn't it?

Life as a journey with God; we're not short of hymns that explore that theme!

"One more step along the world I go... From the old things to the new... Keep me travelling along with you..."

"Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided/Urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way..."

These hymns are rousing hymns that lift our spirits! We may even annoy the family by singing them in the bath, or the neighbours by giving them laldy over the kitchen sink with the window open on a pleasant day! Actually, we're more likely to cheer them up, because we all need the assurance that they provide, that life is not stuck, that we're not mired down in life, that we're ***going somewhere***, not ***standing still***...

But for faith, there's more to life than "***not-being-stuck-any-more***," like a car that's just been towed out of a muddy field. Faith is about ***direction***, and ***purpose***, and ***goal***. And for faith, our direction, our goal is God – because God is the direction, purpose and goal of ***all*** being, of everything that is.

The road we walk towards God... The road Christ walks with us... Do you hear a wee word at the back of all of this? ***“Pilgrimage”***, could it be?

And yes, it’s becoming something of a theme with us as a congregation! Could it be that God is calling us to what God wants us to be, in just this way? Is this the “red thread” - a ministry to pilgrims passing through our community with the ancient sites of Christianity as their goal, that’s to mark who we are - like the red threads woven into naval ropes and hawsers that marked whose they were?

Well, yes, but there’s more than that.

What about our own individual lives? Are we mired down, stuck in the mud? Or are we going somewhere? And if we are – is that “somewhere” ***God?***

This is where the individual and the congregational come together. We each have a responsibility to God for our own journey, of course, each one of us relies on God – ***but we are not alone.***

We are pilgrims on a journey,
And companions on the road;
We are here to help each other
Walk the mile and bear the load.

That’s who we are as the Church – all of us. Pilgrimage is not a lonely experience. It’s a shared journey, and not just for us as a congregation. We speak often of All Bute’s Christians Together. That’s why we rejoice that Sibyl will be part of our journey too.

Yours in the Adventure of Christ

Owain

There is a postscript on the back page - Ed

General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

The General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) is a new law that replaced the Data Protection Act 1998 and became effective in the UK from 25 May 2018. The GDPR strengthens the rules around Personal Data and requires organisations to be more accountable and transparent. It also gives people greater control over their own personal data.

In order to comply with the new law we are creating a “Privacy” section of the United Church of Bute website. This will include our Data Protection Policy and Data Retention Policy. In making these changes we are following guidance issued by the Church of Scotland Law Department. Kirk Session will be reviewing these documents at its next meeting in July and the website will be updated after that. Paper copies are available at the back of the Church.

If you would like further information please contact me.

James McMillan
Session Clerk

For all
the world's
children



For every child in danger

Help UNICEF to give that child the right to be a **CHILD**. UNICEF provides 80% of the world's life-saving food, making sure that all children grow up healthy, happy and strong. It is only with support like ours that this is possible so I hope you will keep filling your jars throughout the whole year

and

please give generously.

2017 Congregational Accounts and 2018 Budget

The Finance Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their continued financial support.

2017 Congregational Income

- Overall Income in 2017 at £86,898 was £3,726 lower than received in 2016 (-4.1%)
- Regular Giving fell slightly with the main reduction being in Gift Aid tax recovered
- Overall income from other activities (Weddings, Funerals, Hall Lets and Fundraising) was consistent with 2016

2017 Congregational Expenditure

- Overall Expenditure in 2017 at £82,966 was £1,415 lower than in 2016 (-1.7%)
- Ministry and Mission costs fell by £2,927 relative to 2016 (-5.7%) due to our reducing income
- Property costs increased by £1,578 relative to 2016 (+9.3%) where a reduction in energy and insurance costs was offset by increased spend on the church building required for the harling investigation
- Most other ongoing expenditure has been controlled around budget estimates

The outcome for the year was a balance in the General Fund of £26,085 (2016: £28,611) and in the Restricted Fabric Reserve £12,457 (2016: £10,281)

2018 Congregational Budget

The budget for 2018 forecasts a continuing reduction in overall income of 3.1% compared with 2017. A reduction in regular giving in the first five months of the year confirms this trend.

Expenditure in 2018 is budgeted to be 1.5% lower than in 2017 while aiming for a small surplus in the year.

The budget figures exclude expenditure connected with the Heritage Lottery Fund application for the work on the harling and the creation of a Christian Heritage Centre.

Church Treasurer

Be Patient and Pray

Many folk have been asking how we are progressing with the repair work to the harling of the church.

Since the seriousness of the situation was brought to the attention of the Kirk Session following the detailed inspection by our accredited conservation architects much has happened.

Our ad hoc committee, originally set up to plan the way forward, morphed into the Church Stewardship committee, with the remit of trying to secure a Heritage Lottery Fund grant. The chairmanship changed hands from Stewart Shaw to Lesley Dove, and the progress has been astounding.

The application process was daunting but Lesley possessed the perfect skillset to drive the project forward. During the months of April and May she worked relentlessly and with much dedication to put together a superb submission to HLF. She, along with committee members, met with a host of interested parties to bring them on board and secure their support. The response has been most encouraging.

The Application was submitted at the end of May and now we await the response from HLF – hence “Be Patient and Pray”.

We will know on 18th September if our application for Stage 1 funding has been successful.

Stage 1 outlines our plans to repair the building; create an Early Christian Visitor Centre; and develop a pilgrimage trail from St Blane's Chapel to Iona or a trail from Whithorn to Paisley Abbey to Kingarth to Iona; and importantly all very exciting stuff. More importantly, it outlines the costs to develop the project.

If successful, we will have the funding to secure the necessary professional expertise to take our plans forward to Stage 2, which will see us securing total funding to make our dreams a reality; to save our building for future generations; to create a tourist attraction of the highest calibre, where the church will be playing a central role in improving the economy of the island.

Exciting times, and with your prayers and God's blessing the hard work so far (especially by Lesley) will lead us to even harder work ahead.

Watch this space.

Stewardship Committee

Soup and Sweet Lunch

Saturday 28th July

12 - 2

Baking Stall Raffle

Tickets £6 from Fundraising Committee



Parish Register

Baptisms

Alexander Slaven	in the United Church of Bute	1.04.18
Muir Robert Bryce Smith	in the United Church of Bute	27.04.18
Laurence Blick	in the United Church of Bute	29.04.18

"May the Lord Bless You and Keep You."

Change of Address

Mrs Tara Timms	Mrs Cathy McKay
Mrs Susan Fisher	Mr Jim Speirs
Mr & Mrs John Simpson	Mrs Anne Howie
Mrs Marion Duncan	Mrs Betty McKerral

"We wish you well in your new home."

Deaths

Mrs Anne Currie, Laurel Villa, Pointhouse Cres, Port Bannatyne	3.12.17
Mrs Ruby MacLachlan, 11 The Terrace, Ardbeg	19.04.18
Mrs Jean Dickson, Palm Court, Ardbeg Rd, Rothesay	24.04.18
Mr Robert McWhirter, Barlochan Care Home, Castle Douglas	17.05.18
Mrs Noreen Brew, The Old Manse, Kingarth	25.05.18

"I am the Resurrection and the Life."



The Evening Guild

With the beautiful summer weather we are all enjoying our thoughts turn to holidays and day trips. No more so then the Evening Guild's summer outing.

This year our trip began with a guided tour of Bute Fabrics, where our private tour guide, Margaret Ann took us on a very informative journey through the weaving rooms, cutting room and quality control section where the material is still examined by human eyes and any flaws painstakingly repaired. An insight into this global industry with tales of clients from America, Sweden, Australia and of course the Royal Family gave us a greater understanding of the important part Bute Fabrics plays in the manufacturing world. A hands on experience was on offer so check the notice board to see some of the ladies in action.



Full of weaving knowledge it was time for tea, so the Glenburn Hotel was our next stop. A most enjoyable time was had by all. Laughter filled the room as a resplendent display of treats was served and the coffee and tea flowed along with the chatter. We certainly had a Grand Day Out.

So now we look to the new session. The committee is already hard at work organizing an interesting and fun packed syllabus. We start on Thursday the 18th October 2018 at 7.30pm.

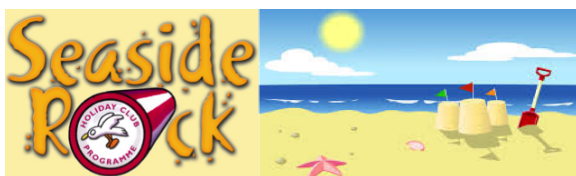
More dates will be announced over the summer so you can all join us at our St Andrew's night, Morning Market and our Joint meeting.

All very welcome so please think about joining us occasionally or every Thursday. We would love to see you there.

Morag Allan

Evening Guild President

Summer Holiday Club



This year's Holiday Club will take place in the United Church Centre on Monday 9th, Wednesday 11th and Friday 13th July from 10 - 12.30 each day and will include a sandwich lunch. All Primary School Children are welcome. The bible story focus is 'the wise and foolish builders' and the crafts and games are seaside related. We are looking forward to a lot of fun with a 'weather girl' and a 'dusty bin'. This is an excellent opportunity to bring island children together and also to welcome the children of holidaymakers and visitors.

The week will end with a Family Picnic at Ettrick Bay from 1.00 - 3.00 on Saturday 14th July.

Service of Inclusion

On Sunday 17th June our morning service was around the theme of inclusion. Owain wrote a hymn for us and this is the third verse of it.

Are we the family of God? The words
Trip easy from the tongue
"Belonging", "love" - from these word pegs
Our sense of church is hung;
But does our love have "in" and "out",
Our welcome, though sincere
Conceal this thought: "Jesus is ours!
You'll only know him here"?

Anne wrote this 'letter from God' which was read to the congregation at the beginning of the service.

Welcome to my house
A house of love and acceptance
A house that wraps you in the love of the spirit
Where all are welcome.

Whether you have come from near or far
Whether friend old or new
Come, come and worship
My love it's for you.

I gave my son life
Through his death and resurrection
He paid for your redemption

KIRK SESSION NOTES

As I type this article on a very warm and brilliantly sunny summer evening, it's a good opportunity to pause for a moment and reflect on the incredibly diverse nature of our congregation's activities, and to take stock of our many achievements over the year to date, and the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

Since the previous issue of UCB News, the Kirk Session and its various committees have been actively working not only on the day-to-day essential business of our congregation, but developing new and exciting initiatives to further strengthen our place at the heart of the Bute community.

Among the many issues discussed by the Kirk Session at its most recent meeting were:

Stewardship and Finance Committees— to equip us better to progress the exciting possibility of establishing a Scottish Early Christian Heritage Centre, as presented to the congregation on 22nd April 2018, and further the essential work of Stewardship, the Kirk Session agreed to “split” the Stewardship and Finance Committees into two, with the former Ad-hoc committee, formed to work up the Heritage Centre proposal forming the core of the new Committee.

Lesley Dove has been appointed Convener of the Stewardship Committee, and Douglas Lindsay will be chairing the Finance Committee. We wish both of them every success in their important new roles.

Ad-hoc Committee –Stage One Application to the Heritage Lottery Fund was lodged at the end of May, with a decision expected on 18th September. We are hugely grateful to Lesley and the committee for their dedication in reaching this significant landmark on this long

journey. If the application is successful, a volunteer administrator for the project will be required. If you have the relevant skills, or know someone who could fill the role, please let us know!

Charges – a revised Schedule of Charges for the Church and Centre has been approved by the Kirk Session.

Children and Youth/Mission and Outreach Committees – the Kirk Session agreed to merge these two committees as part of an expanded role for Mission and Outreach. M&O has been extremely active over recent months with a growing involvement in a number of areas, including The Lade Centre, Sing for Joy, Prayer and Grace Project, and Welcome Cards to name a few. A new website “Surprising Christianity”, which can be accessed via our main site has been under construction; please have a look at it!

Standing Orders – as a result of the changes in committee structure, the Standing Orders are being updated. These basically guide the governance of the Kirk Session and its committees under the Unitary Constitution.

Property Committee – the annual inspection of properties was undertaken by the Convener and Master of Works, following which several works were instructed.

Thanks once again to the generosity of the Evening Guild, the repainting of the lower entrance hall and meeting rooms will be progressed.

Hall Committee – the Church Centre continues to be a popular facility for various groups, and a valuable asset not only for us but the island community. The main hall must have one of the best views of any hall in Scotland!

Fundraising Committee – the April Soup and Sweet was a roaring

success, raising the magnificent sum of £1,125 for Church funds. Thank you to all who made it possible and supported the event, A date for your diary – the next one is on Saturday 28th July. Please don't miss it.

Piano – the piano, originally from Kilchattan Bay Church, located in the Sanctuary has been donated to The Lade Centre, where it can be enjoyed by users of this marvellous new island facility.

GDPR – I'm sure you've all had emails and letters from organisations about the General Data Protection Regulation which is now in force. Our Privacy Policy is now in place, and can be found on the church website or in hard copy on the information table at the back of the Church.

These are just some of the highlights of a busy few months. As always, if you have any questions or comments, please let me know, and if I don't have the answer, I'll find someone who does.

Best wishes

James

Session Clerk



Joshua 1 : 9

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Worst Day Ever

By 17 year old Chanie Gorkin of New York

Today was the absolute worst day ever
And don't try to convince me that
There's something good in every day
Because, when you take a closer look,
This world is a pretty evil place.
Even if
Some goodness does shine through once in a while
Satisfaction and happiness don't last
And it's not true that
It's all in the mind and heart
Because
True happiness can be attained
Only if one's surroundings are good
It's not true that good exists
I'm sure you can agree that
The reality
Creates
My attitude
It's all beyond my control
And you'll never in a million years hear me say
Today was a very good day.

Now read it from bottom to top, line by line, and see what I really feel about my day.

Postscript

Since this edition of UCB News was put together, we have all been overtaken by the incomprehensible events of Alesha McPhail's death. Virtually all of us have found ourselves saying that we have no words to articulate what we feel.

We had thought of re-working this edition – but the truth is that we are all far too close to these events now. We have no words. We simply hold each other, and all the people of this island community, and especially those whose lives have been most deeply affected by this – those who grieve, those whose lives will never be the same – in our prayers.

And we wait on God; not a distant God, but God nearer than we can imagine, not a God above and beyond our experience, and our pain, but the God who is immersed in it with us; the God we know in Jesus Christ. This is our faith. On our small island, at the moment, nothing is normal. But God, the suffering, loving God we know in Christ, will bring us through this.

With our sisters and brothers in the other congregations on Bute, our calling is to represent this God to the community around us, by loving them, and supporting and upholding them in the strength we have from God. And we shall have that strength, and do have that faith, whether we can feel it now, or not.

Owain

The United Church of Bute
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Scottish Charity No SC030563
www.unitedchurchofbute.org.uk
This Newsletter can now be viewed
in colour on the Church website.

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