

SKELMORLIE AND WEMYSS BAY PARISH CHURCH

# THE Parish Record

*March 2010*



[www.skelmorliechurch.org.uk](http://www.skelmorliechurch.org.uk)

## From the Manse

Just these words .....

..... to say how much I love this time of year when we start to move out of the short days of winter into the light and life of spring. I love the way it lifts the spirits as all that new life starts breaking out around us. Creativity! It never stops. God didn't just create – past tense – he goes on creating all the time. I don't know about you but for me it's all part of the glory of God. I guess we see what we want to see. In the light of that let me share with you a true story.

It is a story about a young boy, Brendan, who was in hospital along with my niece. Both had been diagnosed with leukaemia. Unable to live with his son's diagnosis, Brendan's father took his own life.

We pick up the story some five years on from that tragic event. Brendan by this time was very ill at home...in the terminal stages of leukaemia. One evening he awoke from sleep and said to his mum; 'Mum – you should feel the heat'. 'But Brendan's mum replied, 'you don't like the heat'. 'Oh Mum' said Brendan 'it's not that kind of heat – it's Jesus' love!'

A week later the consultant visited Brendan at home in the morning. She administered a large dose of morphine to ease his death. On leaving she informed the family that Brendan would not regain consciousness, but would just slip away.

A few hours later, Brendan sat bolt upright in bed with a full smile, his face and eyes shining, and died. His mum was in no doubt that he was looking at Jesus and has told of this amazing event many times at public meetings. She knows that all is well with her child.

It was Jesus who said 'Did I not tell you, that if you believed you would see the glory of God'. Belief brings forth God's glory – his creativity – at work in life and in what we call death. And so to Easter ...

Hold us in your prayers, as we hold you in ours.

I am, your friend and minister

*William E. Soull.*



## DIARY OF SERVICES

All services conducted by the Minister

- March 7 **11.00am** Incorporates Renewal of Marriage Vows of Barry & Sandi Streets
- March 14 **11.00am** Holy Communion (Mothering Sunday)  
**3.00pm** Health and Healing Service
- March 21 **11.00am**

### Holy Week Services

- March 28 **11.00am Palm Sunday.** Incorporates Cradle Roll Service. With participation by the Sunday Club
- Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April **7.30pm Maundy Thursday:** Joint Service with Inverkip congregation in Skelmorlie & Wemyss Bay Church Hall Incorporates Holy Communion & short dramatic re-enactment
- Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> April **7.30pm Good Friday:** Joint Service with Inverkip congregation in Inverkip Church
- Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> April **7.00am Easter Dawn Service at Meigle Beach** (Followed by tea & bacon rolls in church hall) Thereafter Short Communion in side aisle of church  
**11.00am Easter Service**

**Stated Annual Meeting:** Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm in Church Hall

**Kirk Session:** The next regular meeting is on **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm**

**Kirk Session:** The postponed January meeting (which was to be addressed by Mrs. Edith Scott, one of the Church's Stewardship and Finance Consultants) is **recalled for Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March in the church hall at 7.30pm**

## Thoughts on an Alpha Course

Although I was brought up in a Christian home and have been a regular Church attendee for the majority of my life, I had felt for a long time that I wasn't getting anything out of the process and, having taken early retirement 14 years ago, was constantly searching for something to justify my more relaxed daily existence.

A number of years ago I had tried attending an Alpha course but, to be honest, the experience had left me cold. However, something made me want to keep searching and last summer I signed up for the Alpha course to be run at our Church during the autumn.

I missed the inaugural meeting as I was away on holiday and approached the second meeting with some trepidation, not knowing quite who I would meet and what to expect from the experience.

I need not have worried. I was warmly welcomed by the group, some of whom I already knew, and it quickly became clear that the various personalities and disparate views which we all held would enable us to have meaningful discussions and voice our opinions in a friendly and encouraging atmosphere.

As the course progressed over the weeks and our confidence grew, it gradually dawned on me that my previously held views on attending Church and calling myself a Christian were being challenged and I am pleased that, by the conclusion of the course in December, I had found the purpose which I had been seeking.

It is thanks to Morris, who led the course so sensitively, Jane, the course administrator who also made valuable input to each discussion, and the other attendees that the experience was so rewarding for me and I pray that anyone who is attending or thinking of signing up for subsequent courses will achieve the wonderful experience which I have been fortunate to have.

*Barry Streets*

### **PASTORAL REPORT**

#### **Promoted to the Church Triumphant**

##### *Member Death*

12<sup>th</sup> February 2010 Charles Buchanan

##### *Non Member Death*

19<sup>th</sup> January 2010 Warburton (Dick)  
Joelson

20<sup>th</sup> January 2010 Mrs. Christina  
(Chris) Kinniburgh

### **PARISH RECORD**

All material for the April Parish Record  
should be with  
Jane Macdougall – preferably by email, by

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March**

**Tel: 01475 522596**

**Email [Jintie@aol.com](mailto:Jintie@aol.com)**

**Enthusiasm for Christ is  
contagious -- has anyone  
caught it from you?**

## Different Models of 'Church'

By the time this goes to print some of the members of the Kirk Session Executive along with members of the Action Group will have had the opportunity to visit the recently built eco-friendly Bankfoot Church Centre in Bankfoot Village, Perthshire.

The visit was suggested to us by the Facilitator of our Future Focus Conference last September. And on the understanding that it is good to see different 'models' of the church at work, we would expect this to be the first of a number of visits to different places.

'Think global – act local' is something of a motto of the ecological movement. In other words, it's good to be aware of the big picture – but it is better to actually make a difference, no matter how small, in the right direction.

This approach is similar to what we find in the teachings of Jesus concerning the Kingdom of God, He tells us that the Kingdom is like tiny seeds scattered here and there, Given time and nurture these seeds grow and spread. So it is with the Kingdom of God. The author Tom Sine called it the mustard seed conspiracy.

Our visit to this enterprising church in Bankfoot promises to be an interesting one and we look forward to keeping you informed as we travel along.

*Morris Coull*



## *Alpha*

*New Course begins*

*Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April - 7pm*



The Alpha Course gives everyone the opportunity to explore the Christian Faith - all in an atmosphere of fun, food and fellowship. It runs for 9 weeks and takes place in the Manse

**It is relaxed, low key, friendly and fun.**

There is a meal together at the beginning of each session which gives an opportunity to get to know each other.

**Ask anything** – no question is too simple or too hostile

Registration Forms for the course available on the pews, by contacting the following, or for more information speak to:

The Minister: Morris Coull Tel: 01475 520703

Email: [MorrisCoull@mac.com](mailto:MorrisCoull@mac.com) or Jane Macdougall – Alpha Administrator

Tel: 01475 522596 Email: [Jintie@aol.com](mailto:Jintie@aol.com)

## **Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay Parish Church Action Group.**

The Church Action Group was set up following the Elders' Day Conference in September with a remit to progress the decisions taken on that day. The members of the Action Group are Margaret Spence, Alan Cunningham and Barry Streets.

The first piece of work which they will be undertaking is to conduct two separate surveys in order to obtain the views of

- A cross-section of the local community in both Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay; and
- members of the Church congregation

regarding the role the Church plays in serving the community.

The questionnaires, which will be brief, will ensure that all responses remain anonymous and treated in the strictest confidence.

We believe that it is only once we have ascertained these views will the Church be able to make informed decisions about the future direction which we should take.

We are confident that people will be prepared to give their opinions on these important issues and once the work has been completed, the overall findings will be published.

*Barry Streets*

### **Men's Fellowship**

4th March - *CULZEAN COUNTRY PARK* with a Ranger as speaker;

18th March - *An AUSTRALIAN TRIP* with Calum Carrol as speaker.

### **Pennies**

We are off to a Flyer this year with the penny collection with a total to date of £133.00 Well done everybody

## **YOUR OLD MEN WILL DREAM DREAMS, YOUR YOUNG MEN WILL SEE VISIONS. JOEL 2:28**

God loves dreamers. He's the giver of new dreams and the mender of broken ones! When you dream, you move closer to the way He sees things. In that moment, you're no longer limited by...your faults...your lack...or your past. You simply move from where you are to where He wants you to be. In other words, you begin to see your goals in their completed state. The question is not can you dream, but do you have the courage to act on it? If faith without works is dead, then a dream without diligence is dead too (Jas 2:20). It's not enough just to dream, you've got to wake up and do something about it! God won't miraculously lift you out of your dream and set you down in the middle of its fulfilment. Thoreau said, 'It's fine to build castles in the air, so long as you work to put foundations under them.' The way to the Promised Land is always through the wilderness. That's where you learn to: (a) trust God daily for what you need (b) discover His power in the 'Red Sea' situations of life (c) learn how to be led daily by Him (d) keep your eye on your destiny and move steadily toward it (e) refuse to be like those who complain and never get there. Think about it!

*Word For You Today, UCB, Westford Road, Stoke-on-Trent ST6 4JF [www.ucb.co.uk](http://www.ucb.co.uk)  
Free issues of this quarterly devotional are available on request*

**DOOR DUTY**

Please be at the door no later than 10.30am

**March 2010**

7	J Nugent	M Mackintosh
14	T Craig	L Gurton
21	J Scott	C Scott
28	F Nicol	I Jarvie

**April 2010**

4	G Dunn	A Leitch
11	I Lightbody	A Grant
18	J Barbour	W Warnock
25	J Crighton	A Doull

*Please bring a partner. If you are not available for duty on the date specified please make an alternative arrangement with someone on the rota.*

**FLOWER LIST**



**March 2010**

March	7	Mrs Sandi Streets, Largs
March	14	Mrs Frances Nicol, Skelmorlie
March	21	Mrs Fiona McAdam, Skelmorlie
March	28	Mr & Mrs B Bailie, Skelmorlie



April	4	Miss Barbara Robertson, Wemyss Bay
April	11	Mrs M Smyth, Skelmorlie
April	18	Miss Grace Hunter, Skelmorlie
April	25	Mrs Irene Frazer, Largs



**SOCIAL DIARY**

Tuesdays	7.00pm	Ballroom Dancing	Church Hall
Wednesdays	7.30pm	Scottish Country Dancing	Church Hall
Thursdays	7.30pm	Men's Fellowship fortnightly	Upper Hall
Fridays	12.15pm	Soup Lunches	Church Hall