

# THE Parish Record

*September 2010*

## *An Invitation*



Gifts for God is the name of our giving programme which will culminate in our Congregational Gathering, a meal together at the Brisbane House Hotel, Largs, on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October. Your invitation will be delivered to you this month by one of our visitors, and we hope that you will join with us to share food, fun and fellowship.

None of us really likes to talk about money – what we give, how we give, how much we should give. This is something we like to keep private – between us and God.

The Bible has a very public attitude to money and possessions. Many verses are devoted to this subject. The Old Testament speaks about the tithe which should be offered to God. In the gospels Jesus has a great deal to say about selfishness and sharing – condemning those who keep all their possessions to themselves and praising those who are willing to share in a generous way.

Later in the New Testament Paul encouraged the first Christians to give generously so that the better off congregations in places like Corinth could support the poor congregation in Jerusalem.

In the weeks leading up to our Congregational Gatherings, we should all be thinking about our attitude to money and possessions, and about our giving to God for the work of his Church.

How generous is God's giving to us?

How generous is our giving as a response to God's giving?

How generous is our giving as a desire to share the good news of God's love through the work of the Church?

## **From the Manse**

Just these words to say .....

..... that the only summer reading I managed turned out to be an amazing and thought provoking book by Ayaan Hirsi Ali entitled simply 'Nomad'.

This is the author's follow-up to her first true-life account 'Infidel' and tells of her 'transition from a tribal mindset that restricts woman's every thought and action to life as a free and equal citizen in an open society'. Her story is, as the blurb says, a personal journey through the Clash of Civilisations which serves to highlight just how difficult it is to reconcile the values of Islam with Western values.

Although herself an atheist she nevertheless looks to the Christian Churches to become active again in propagating their faith and the values that underpin that faith. I understand her to be saying that the mainstream, moderate denominations offer practical help but little in the way of spiritual guidance. And that is a most dangerous omission.

After some 40 years in the Christian Ministry I am not surprised by this. Church members are pretty good at the practical help bit but when it comes to spiritual guidance we draw back. Why? Because we don't really know much about what we believe, or at least that we don't feel comfortable talking about our faith. It's a personal thing, we say ... a private matter. Well, you know what they say... you never see a removal van in a funeral procession. But if you can't take it with you, what do you do with it?

You pass it on.

That's one of the reasons why we are introducing a couple of new developments with the Alpha Course. The first of those is what we are calling the Friday Soup Lunch Alpha Course and you can check out the information about that elsewhere in this newsletter.

It is a relaxed, low-key, friendly and fun way to explore the Christian faith. Do come along and see what you think.

The second development (by popular request) is to run a follow-on course or Alpha Plus Course under the title 'FAITHTRACK'. Attendance at this course will be by invitation in the first instance as it is by way of a trial run. If it proves successful it will be opened up for future registration. The FAITHTRACK programme has been developed by St. Paul's Theological

Centre at Holy Trinity Brompton, London and is offered to churches who wish to run their own basic theology courses. St. Paul's Theological Centre has a vision to help theology back into the heart of the church and thereby help those who wish to understand their faith more deeply. And in today's pluralist society, not only to understand their faith but be able to articulate it and connect it with the rest of their lives – and to pass it on.

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

I am you friend and minister

*Andrew L. South.*



#### **DIARY OF SERVICES**

Sept 5	11.00am	The Minister
Sept 12	11.00am	The Minister: Celebration of Holy Communion Incorporating Commissioning of Visitors (leading up to the Congregational Gathering for the Gifts for God Programme)
	3.00pm	Service of Health and Healing: The Minister
Sept 19	11.00am	The Minister
Sept 26	11.00am	The Minister
Oct 3	11.00am	The Minister: Harvest Thanksgiving. (Christian Aid envelopes received)

*There is a Crèche and Sunday School available at all Morning Services*

*All are warmly invited to join in the Hall for tea, coffee & fellowship following Worship*

### **The Recipe Books**

are selling steadily, and we have just received a further reprint from the printers

***The profit made so far is £820 which is very encouraging.***

Hopefully we will make the £1,000 mark by Christmas!

***Books priced £10 can be purchased at:***

***Church, Wemyss Bay Pharmacy, Seaview Cafe and  
Medical Hall Skelmorlie***

### ***Skelmorlie, Wemyss Bay & Inverkip Men's Fellowship***

For men of our three villages, "SWIM" as it is called, is intended for enjoyment, interest and fellowship. The group meets every second Thursday during the winter in the Upper Hall of the Church. The new session starts on **30th September** and it is hoped that more men might be moved to join the group and share the fellowship.

The syllabus will be available from the end of August and the first dates are:-

30th September	<b><i>L.E. - J.o'G</i></b> with Eddie Yde & Co
14th October	<b><i>Desert Island Discs</i></b> with All Members
28th October	<b><i>A Life in the Media</i></b> with Keith Loxam

*For more info., or to be convinced, chat to:*

***Hugh Steele (529696), John Walker (522144) or Bob Smyth (520854)***

*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.*

### **Give, and it will be given to you... Luke 6:38**

When it comes to giving, the Bible clearly teaches us two things: 1) We should give, expecting to receive! You say, 'If I get more, I'll give more.' No, you've got it back to front. Jesus said, 'Give and it will be given to you...the measure you use...will be measured to you' (Luke 6:38 NIV). The level of your giving determines the level of your receiving. So break through your barriers of fear and put God to the test, He won't disappoint you. 2) We get back more than we give. Paul writes, 'Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will...increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness' (2 Corinthians 9:10 NIV). Notice, some of the seed [money] God gives us is for food (our own needs), and some is for 'a harvest of righteousness.' What does that mean? Paul explains: '...He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures for ever' (2 Corinthians 9:9 NIV). To be truly righteous we must show compassion toward the hurting and give generously to those who are unable to provide for themselves. The Bible says that when we give to the poor, we lend to the Lord and He will repay us (Proverbs 19:17). Imagine the interest God pays! Jesus describes it as: 'A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over.' There's no lack of money in this world, God just wants to get it into the right hands! And by the way, giving is not just how the church raises its budget, it's how God raises His children so that His work gets accomplished and they get blessed in the process. So, how's your giving?



## *Friday Soups* *Friday - 24<sup>th</sup> September*



With this very unsettled weather I expect many of you have been substituting a hot bowl of soup for the salads which we expect to be eating more of at this time of year.

With that in mind we will be recommencing our popular Friday lunches on **Friday 24th September at 12.15pm in the Church Hall.**

Please put this date in your diary and come along and join us in a friendly, homely atmosphere.

A bowl of delicious homemade soup will be served to you accompanied by a filled roll of your choice and copious amounts of tea, coffee and biscuits.

On many occasions we are delightfully entertained by Campbell Sangster and treated to delicious homemade tablet prepared by Marie McGregor.

A warm welcome awaits our regular folk but we would especially like to have you join us if you haven't been along before.

See you on the 24th

*PS - if anyone would like to help us with Friday lunches by making a pot of soup we would be very appreciative of your help, thank you*

## SOUP LUNCH ALPHA



The Alpha Course gives everyone the opportunity to explore the Christian Faith.



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

The next course will take place on Fridays in the Church, where we will share in the soup lunch together at the beginning of each session, followed by a video talk, and discussion.

The 9 week course will start on

**Friday October 8<sup>th</sup> at 12.15pm**

and registration forms are available in this magazine, in Church or by downloading from the web.

*For more information please contact the Minister, or Jane Macdougall (Administrator) Tel: 01475 522596 Email: Jintie@aol.com*

# ALPHA SOUP LUNCH - Registration Form



Title ..... First Name ..... Surname .....

Address .....

Post Code ..... Tel ..... Email .....

Connection with Church: .....

We look forward to seeing you

Please return to: Jane Macdougall, Croftmhor 1e, The Crescent, Skelmorlie PA17 5DX

## PASTORAL REPORT

### Promoted to the Church Triumphant

#### Member Deaths

26<sup>th</sup> July Mrs. Margaret Lilley

6<sup>th</sup> August Campbell Jackson

#### Non-member Deaths

21<sup>st</sup> June Donald McIntyre

22<sup>nd</sup> June James MacKenzie

**The Pastor was preoccupied with thoughts of how he was going ask the congregation to come up with money for the repairs of their church building. Therefore, he was upset to find that the regular organist was sick and a substitute had been brought in at the last minute.**

The substitute wanted to know what to play.

"Here's a copy of the service" he said, "but you'll have to think of something to play after I make the announcement about finances."

During the service, the minister paused and said, "Brothers & Sisters, we are in great difficulty, the repairs cost twice as much as we expected, and we need more. Any of you who can pledge \$100 or more, please stand up.

At that moment, the substitute played, "The Star Spangled Banner"

And that is how the substitute became the regular organist!

## **In Memoriam**

### **Jimmy Mackenzie**

Born in Greenock and brought up in Skelmorlie, Jimmy spent his working life as a Motor Mechanic with Pearsons. He and his wife Elizabeth enjoyed some 53 years of marriage. Along with her sons James and Kenneth, Elizabeth remembers Jimmy as an unassuming, quiet natured man who enjoyed his garden and greenhouse and who was proud of his Highland heritage.

### **Donald Macintyre**

Greenock born and Skelmorlie raised, it was while at Chasely Cottage that he found himself introduced to a life-long love of animals, Donald went on to make his mark as Sports Champion two years running at Largs Academy. Most of his working life was with IBM whilst in the area of leisure interests his pursuits were many, as were the friendships he made along the way. He and his wife Christine enjoyed some 41 years of marriage that brought forth Donald, Marie and Angus. The family's memories are rich and varied – of a man who was at ease with the world and those around him – of all things great and small.

### **Margaret Lilley**

Born and bred in Port Glasgow, Margaret's education took place at the local Chappelton School. Marriage to her beloved Fred was to bring some 43 years of enrichment given and received. Apart from her husband (who predeceased her) and her family, Margaret's overriding interest, in which indeed the family participated, was in the world of Amateur Dramatics and in particular with the George Square Players of Greenock. A faithful member of Skelmorlie & Wemyss Bay Parish Church, Margaret had a certain light of life about her. She will be greatly missed. Not least by her son Stewart (her other son Craig predeceased her in 2006) her sister Myra and all the family.

### **Campbell Jackson**

Born in Dalkeith, Cambell's early years with the family were spent in Dumbarton where he started his schooling and in Garthamlock where he attended Kennyhill School. A move to Meigle took him to Largs Higher Grade and thereafter he took up employment at Third Part Farm. Thereafter a family move to Innes Park Road saw him take up work alongside his brother Iain at Skelmorlie Mains Farm. He had illnesses along the way but always managed to pull himself through. All the family, who were at the centre of his life, will miss 'Uncle Campbell' for the special place he occupied in their hearts.

## DOOR DUTY

*Please be at the door no later than 10.30am*

### September 2010

5	J McAnna	A McGregor
12	E Wright	E Yde
19	I Fraser	T Ovens
26	M O'May	Nancy Jackson

### October 2010

3	C Sangster	J Walker
10	A Haig	G Black
17	J Nugent	M Mackintosh
24	T Craig	L Gurton
31	J Scott	C Scott

*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



### September 2010

September	5	Mrs Margaret Spence, Skelmorlie
September	12	<i>Communion</i>
September	19	Mrs Edith MacIntosh, Skelmorlie
September	26	Mrs J Malcolm, Skelmorlie



### October 2010

October	3	Mrs Isabel Lightbody, Skelmorlie
October	10	Harvest
October	17	Mrs L Crowley, Skelmorlie
October	24	Mrs Janice Barbour, Wemyss Bay
October	31	Mrs Elizabeth Young, Skelmorlie



*Material for the OCTOBER PARISH RECORD should be submitted to Jane Macdougall no later than **Sunday September 19<sup>th</sup> 2010***

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

**The Parish Record is online at**  
[www.skelmorliechurch.org.uk](http://www.skelmorliechurch.org.uk)  
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