

SKELMORLIE AND WEMYSS BAY PARISH CHURCH

THE Parish Record

December 2011

January 2012



*No love that in a family dwells,
No carolling in frosty air,
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells
Can with this single Truth compare -
That God was man in Palestine
And lives today in Bread and Wine*

John Betjeman.

DIARY OF SERVICES

All services conducted by the Revd. Ian Currie

December 2011

December	18	11:00 am	4 th Sunday in Advent: Gift Service
December	24	10.30pm	Mulled wine and Christmas Pies in the Hall
		11.15pm	Carols in the Church
		11:30 pm	Watchnight Service
December	25	11:00 am	Short Christmas Day Service. Children are invited to bring along one of their new presents

January 2012

All Sunday Services at 11 .00am conducted by the Revd Ian Currie

Service of Linkage with Inverkip Parish Church

Wednesday 18th January 2012

FRIDAY SOUPS

The Friday Soups will start again on January 13th

If you haven't already taken advantage of this wonderful service then why not give it a try in the New Year?

Wonderful Home Made Soup (always a choice of at least 3) - filled rolls and tea and coffee - and all for the amazing price of £3.00

Good friendly company and a lovely atmosphere

Our thanks to Margaret Spence for the amazing amount of planning and work she puts in to this to make it such a successful venture, and to all her many team members who supply the soup and work in the kitchen

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Thursday	15 th December	'Christmas Special' Bobby Smyth
Thursday	12 th January	'Royal Observer Corps – Frank Alexander
Thursday	26 th January	DIY Burns – All members
Thursday	9 th February	Fiji – Bill Wright

All men welcome to share an evening in a relaxed, friendly gathering

From the Minister

My Dear Friends,

Three weeks to Christmas at the time of writing, and already thinking Christians are engaging in debate (either mentally with themselves or with others) about the appropriate response to all the materialism that is so evident at this time of year. I write as one who enjoys celebrating Christmas. I like to give and receive presents, and I enjoy the family reunions and parties that take place.

But even I find myself somewhat alarmed at the level of advertising at this time of year, particularly the amount that is directed at children. Top of my list of advertisements that should be banned are the ones that begin with a phrase like “Christmas will not be complete without....”. They usually go on to describe some sort of expensive commodity that I cannot afford, definitely do not need and has nothing whatsoever to do with Christmas.

So I want to use this letter to suggest some things without which Christmas really would not be complete.

The first of these is worship. You will see from this magazine that we have many opportunities this year to come together to remember the real meaning of Christmas and to give thanks to God for the gift of the Christ child. In particular I’m looking forward to conducting our Watchnight Service on Christmas Eve. This is a time to welcome old and new friends to our congregation, so please feel free to invite along family, neighbours and friends. On Christmas Day we also have a special Service at 11.00 a.m.: an informal family service at which all ages will be welcome and the adults might even be allowed to see some of the gifts the young folk have received.

The second indispensable part of Christmas has to be caring for others. This Christmas we again have the opportunity to give gifts to Glasgow City Mission (gifts are being received at the Service on Sunday 18th December). Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay Parish Church has a great record of giving to different charities, including the City Mission and the Blythswood shoebox appeal. At Christmas we have to remember those in our world who are less well off.

And the third of the “must have” gifts are the obvious ones. They are priceless, yet they cost us nothing. They come from Jesus: when He is ours and we are His, then we are also given peace, joy and hope. May these great gifts be yours and mine in this coming year of our Lord 2012.

Jennifer joins me in wishing all of you a very happy Christmas.

Studio Flowers

MODERN TRADITIONAL EXOTIC



69 Kempock Street, Gourcock

Tel: 01475 633330

John McWade

Painter & Decorator



34 Ryan Road, Hazel Park
Wemyss bay PA18 6DH

Tel: 521575

RA Woollard

Chartered Accountant

- Tax Returns
- Book Keeping / Payroll
- Accounts

Tel: 520699

Email: rosalind@woollard.org.uk

Web site: www.woollard.org.uk

Alan Richard

ARB Electricals

Select & SJIB Registered

**Repairs, Maintenance, Extensions
and New Works**

*Free quotes on all types of electrical
& security work*

Tel: 520677

Mobile: 07717 57 3230

Pearson of Wemyss Bay

over 100years in business

The longest established family car dealership in
Inverclyde

SUZUKI: 4x4: Commercials: Prestige: Sports

Sales Hotline 01475 520149

www.pearsoncars.com

SPAR UPPER SKELMORLIE

Post Office, Paypoint,
National Lottery, Autoteller

51 Castle Road, Skelmorlie

Tel: 520746



Strathclyde House

*Strathclyde House provides an ideal retirement
facility in a wonderful setting with a secure
environment. Appealing to those of a Christian
persuasion these flats offer independent living
and friendship with those of a like mind*

Show Flats available for Viewing

Contact Duty Manager

Tel: 522525

MD Joinery

& DOUBLE GLAZING

**House Builders, Loft conversions, Kitchens,
Extensions**

Malcolm Doull

61B Skelmorlie Castle Rd

Skelmorlie

Tel: 520390

SESSION SNIPPETS

- It has been decided to introduce a Welcome Group to identify and greet visitors to our morning services and ensure that they are introduced to the minister and members of the congregation and that they sign the visitors book
- The date of the Stated Annual Meeting of the congregation has been set for Sunday 25th March following the conclusion of morning worship on that day.
- The Session has agreed to promote the recommendation of the 2011 General Assembly, that where possible, young people between the ages of 18 and 25 be encouraged to become involved in the work of the Session and committees and, where appropriate, consider ordination to the eldership.
- The list of recipients of retiring offerings for the coming year has been approved.
- The Manse remains available for short term let.
- Attention is drawn to the RING BIND FOLDER located on the shelf above the cupboards in the hall where opportunity is given to highlight members who it is thought will benefit from pastoral support from a member of the Pastoral Support Team.
- It was agreed to invite someone who would be prepared to act as Co-ordinator who could operate from home, in arranging volunteers to provide transport for members who have no car or are unable to drive, to visit family or close friends who may be in hospital. If you can help please speak to any elder

VACANCY/LINKAGE UPDATE

The Presbytery of Greenock and Paisley have arranged for a Service of Linkage on Wednesday 18th January between Skelmorlie & Wemyss Bay Parish Church and Inverkip Parish Church

This will allow both congregations to embark upon the procedure relating to the calling of a minister to the linked charge.

After such a service is held, Presbytery will approve the establishment of a Joint Nominating Committee, previously known as the Vacancy Committee. The members of that committee will be chosen by nomination and, if necessary ballot, at a meeting of the congregation which will be held following a Sunday Service on a date to be announced.

Presbytery will also appoint a new Interim Moderator to supervise the linked charge during the search for a minister.

Inverkip Vote

Glasgow City Mission - Letter to Barry Streets

21 November 2011

Dear Barry

Thank you for the generous food offerings we receive throughout the year. We are so grateful for your support.

We are especially grateful this year because for the first time we can remember we actually ran out of food two months before our annual Harvest restock! For the last few months we have had a sign on our door that reads: 'We will not be giving out food parcels for the foreseeable future as we have no food left'.

Why did this happen? It happened because we had already given out our annual amount of 9,000 food parcels in a ten-month period. Demand for food from people living in poverty has greatly increased as people struggle in disadvantaged situations.

With your giving, the sign will come down and the shelves will once again be full. When people come to us, because of your generosity, we will say: 'we can help.'

Thank you for making this possible and please pass on our thanks to everyone at the church for helping us to show God's love to people in need in Glasgow.

With thanks

Iain McPhie

Marketing and Fundraising Manager



CHRISTMAS GIFT SERVICE

18TH DECEMBER



Following the above letter, the decision was taken to give our Christmas Gifts in financial help to the Glasgow City Mission along with selection boxes for the children

If you are unable to be in Church on the 18th, please just bring your gift to the church on any Sunday and place it in the special envelopes provided.

Your Gifts will make a difference in the life of someone this Christmas

Luke 2:9-14 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

STAMPS

2011 APPEAL

It's that time of year again – Christmas cards galore dropping through letter boxes, so don't throw out the stamps! Save them for World Mission and help to raise money for the Mount Olivet Boys' Home in Jamaica.

As always, please cut out the stamps, British or foreign, leaving at least a quarter of an inch of paper all round and don't try to remove the paper from the back of the stamp. Damaged stamps have no value.

By 31 October 2011 the total raised was £2331 - that's well on the way to beating last year's total of over £2400. So keep them coming, and many thanks to all who contribute. Stamps can be given to me or left in the box in the hall.



Barbara Dunn

CAROL SINGING

Following an invitation from the Friends of Wemyss Bay Station a group from the Church went Carol Singing for Glasgow City Mission.

We sang at the Station where we also feasted on wonderful mulled wine and mince pies at the Station Bookshop.

We then crossed the road to the Seaview Café where we sang a number of carols inside in the warmth and were treated to cups of delicious coffee.

Including donations an incredible £230.30 was raised.



Tribute

Mrs Joan Welsh

Joan was born in Bathgate on 14th July 1944. Baptised Christine Joan Meek, she was always known as Joan. Along with her older brother Bob she went to Lindsay High School in Bathgate. On leaving school she went into the family business – a petrol station, restaurant and shop run by her mother who was becoming unwell and needed Joan's help. The business was next door to the Evening Citizen newspaper office in Bathgate, and this was how, at the age of 19, Joan met Ronnie Welsh, who worked for that newspaper. Nine months later they were married and set up home at Merrick Gardens in Glasgow .

Joan was a very intelligent and well read lady. She worked as Personal Secretary to Frank Lafferty, who had a weekend home in Rothesay. It was to East Princes Street Rothesay that Ronnie and Joan retired, and they lived there for many years before moving to Waters Edge in Skelmorlie. Theirs was a long and happy marriage of 45 years until Ronnie died in 2008.

Joan was particularly knowledgeable about gardening: she was a keen and enthusiastic gardener who knew all the Latin names for the plants and shrubs that she cared for so diligently. She was a member of the horticultural society, and went to the annual shows like Ayr and Ingliston. She was also a life-long member of the Church and sang in the Church choir in Rothesay.

Apart from Rheumatoid Arthritis, Joan enjoyed good health for most of her life, but these last months have not been so easy. She faced up to her illness with great courage and determination, and she had an extremely strong Christian faith. This faith was practised throughout her life: her friends and family describe Joan as gentle, caring, generous and loving. She will be sadly missed.

Ian Currie



Thank you to everyone in the Prayer Group for their prayers & words of comfort to me on the death of my sister Jennifer & also thanks for the Church flowers given to me which helped me to know the love shown to me at this sad time.

Gladys Black

Wemyss Bay Pharmacy

Open Mon - Fri 9am till 6pm
Early Closing Saturday 1pm
*For advice on health matters plus a
wide choice of gifts*



Home Deliveries

Tel: 522995



Jason Goodwin

General Handyman

Joinery Work – Painting - Garden Clearing

General Repairs

JasonGoodwinLee@aol.com

good rates **Tel: 521999** good rates



CHRISTMAS FAYRE

**The Final Total for the Fayre was
£1086.85**

A big

‘Thank You’

to Muriel O’May and all her team who
made it such a successful day.

Muriel has all sorts of activities lined up
for 2012 and we look forward to your
support

*Quiz Night - Songs of Praise – Summer
Fete and many more new ideas*

Look out in the Intimations for
forthcoming events

Pennies for Christian Aid

The pennies total is at £363.00 a bit down this year, so how about a final push before
Christmas, check out all your loose change and bring it in.

Alex Leitch

Mearns T McCaskie

Butcher & Delicatessen

WEMYSS BAY

*Producers of the finest Bacon and Smoked Meats Stockists of Fine Wines, Cheese & Olive
Purveyors of the finest mature Scottish Orkney Beef, Lamb and outdoor reared Pork*

TO VIEW OUR SPECIAL OFFERS ON MEAT AND WINE VISIT OUR ON LINE STORE

MCCASKIEBUTCHER.COM **TEL: 520192** MCCASKIEBUTCHER.COM

CARDWELL GARDEN CENTRE

- Thousands of plants, trees and shrubs • Shopping village and Gift Centre
- Water Garden • Conservatory Village • 300 seat Restaurant • Craft and Hobby Centre
- Furniture and Homestyle Displays • Children's play area • Disabled facilities
- Coach parking welcome

OPEN 7
DAYS

Lunderston Bay (by Gourock) on the A770 coast road between Gourock & Inverkip

Tel: 01475 521536 | www.cardwellnurseries.com

Brisbane House Hotel

HOTEL ROOM-FUNCTION-RESTAURANT-BAR

Ayrshire's Exclusive Wedding Venue by the sea!

Our Brisbane Suite, Bar & Restaurant can accommodate parties of all sizes for weddings, anniversaries, retirement & birthday parties or Christening & First Communions. All arrangements will be taken care of by our highly professional team

14 Greenock Rd, Largs KA30 8NE

enquiries@brisbanehousehotel.com TEL: 687200 www.brisbanehousehotel.com

Do you have any photographs that you think would look great as a card?

We can print small quantities for your own use, or get a few more and pass them round your friends.

LPC
DESIGN + PRINT
www.largsprinting.co.uk

120 Main Street
Largs
Ayrshire
KA30 8JN
info@lpccprint.co.uk

Frank McMahon

PAINTER & DECORATOR

interior exterior

Shore Road
Skelmorlie

Tel: 521648

mobile 07913969044

Clyde Coast Strathspey & Reel Society

"The Clyde Coast Fiddlers"

New players warmly welcomed!

We'll play for your event - social, concert, ceilidh etc.

Contact: Margaret Turner

01505 502663



Skelmorlie, Wemyss Bay
& Inverkip Drama Club

Next production

Steel Magnolias

March 29th-31st 2012

Skelmorlie Community Centre

Tickets: www.attic-players.co.uk

or phone 529035

THANKS from BLYTHSWOOD CARE

Thanks to all who contributed to the Christmas Shoe Box Appeal 2011. Whether your donation was in the form of a filled box (or boxes) or cash to cover the cost of transport, your generous response was much appreciated. Before the end of November the checking, etc. was complete and the boxes were on their way. The genuine emotion, delight and gratitude of the recipients of your boxes never seems to diminish as our modern world still fails so many people in very basic ways. On behalf of all those who will benefit from your thoughtfulness **"Thank**



The Manse is still available to let; please contact Bill Wright, Gavin Dunn or Alex Leitch if you know someone who may be interested. Manse decoration and repairs should soon be complete. Thanks to Jason for the temporary filling-in of the car park holes – this should see us through until a more complete job is done.

“Time spent alone with God is not wasted. It changes us; it changes our surroundings; and every Christian who would live the life that counts, and who would have power for service must take time to pray.” *M.E. Andross*

DOOR DUTY

Please be at the door no later than 10.30am

DECEMBER 2011

18	B. Streets	A. Doull
25	S. Cunningham	R. Carmichael

JANUARY 2012

1	T. Ovens	J. Beaumont
8	M. O'May	N. Jackson
15	E. Wright	J. Walker
22	A. Haig	G. Black
29	J. Nugent	M. Mackintosh

FEBRUARY 2012

5	T. Craig	A. Smith
12	C. Scott	E. Yde
19	F. Nicol	I. Jarvie
26	G. Dunn	A. Leitch

MARCH 2012

4	I. Lightbody	A. Grant
11	T. Macdougall	M. MacLean
18	J. McAnna	A. Doull
25	S. Cunningham	R. Carmichael

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

DECEMBER 2011

Poinsettias for Christmas

JANUARY 2012

January 1	Mrs Scott, Meigle
January 8	Mrs Macfarlane, Meigle
January 15	Mrs Dick, Skelmorlie
January 22	Mrs McNeil, Skelmorlie
January 29	Mrs Waterston, Skelmorlie

If anyone would like to gift flowers, please contact Frances Nicol (520260)

The Parish Record can be viewed at our church website

www.skelmorliechurch.org.uk

Charity No SC003309