

Musing from the Manse...

Dear Friends,

One spring day whilst walking along the promenade between Limekilns and Charlestown I looked across a sunlit Forth that was still enough to reflect the hills and sky. I suddenly realised that had I been on holiday I would be writing postcards extolling the beauty of the place. Living here I am guilty of taking things for granted.

When friends come to visit, their first impression is that my two parishes are in a very beautiful part of Scotland. Living here I sometimes fail to see how much God blesses me in calling me to live and work here.

At their best villages are places where people value community. Being a good neighbour is a priority for many people within the village setting. Living here I sometimes fail to value the community spirit that exists.

The congregations I serve are lively and outward looking. There is a mixture of young, middle-aged and old. There is a breadth of experience and a commitment to serving Jesus Christ in the world. Living here I forget how special this truly is. Of course there are problems, imperfections, difficult people and impossible situations. Sometimes I get caught up in what is wrong and fail to see how much is right. Am I unusual in this or is my problem shared? I suspect we are all at times guilty of forgetting the good that is in and around us.

Perhaps we all need reminders of the blessings that surround us day by day. All too often we only appreciate what we have when it's gone. Sometimes it takes those who lack what we have to remind us of the value of the things we take for granted.

I am sure that appreciating the value of the good things around me is a right thing to do. To thank God for these things should come naturally

With eyes open to the blessings in our lives we are also much more aware of the absence of these too. Where we appreciate what we have it is much more likely that we will want to see others share the same.

Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full". This is God's great desire for us. This is why Jesus lived and died for us. The risen Jesus offers us life that is full. When the Bible talks of God's love there is always the requirement got us to love one another.

A real appreciation of the blessings of God is found in the sharing of what we have. By prayer and action we are called to make the world a better place.

The challenge is to live with open eyes, hearts and minds

I wish you God's blessing in all that life holds for today and tomorrow,

Yours Norman

HOLIDAY CLUB 2004

Mission: Miracle Maker

Join Captain Smirk and the crew of the spaceship Millenium Parrot as they set out on their mission to investigate the truth about Jesus—the man they call the miracle maker

Dates: August 2—6

Times: 10am—12 noon

Place: Queen's Hall, Charlestown

Ages: For children aged 5 to 12

WALKING FOR PLEASURE

Limekilns walking Group was set up a few years ago and held several good walks, but the numbers declined and the group was put on hold for a time. In October 2003 some of us met to re-launch it in a slightly different form. On offer now are fortnightly Saturday walks for those able to tackle a good few miles and/or a bit of climbing, and local walks of 1 to 3 miles, led by Martha Bruce on alternate Tuesdays, for people wanting gentler exercise. The Saturday walkers meet at 9.30 at Limekilns Pier, where we share cars, the driver being paid petrol money. Things have gone well so far and those of us on longer walks (4 to 10 miles) have had some good outings. We have walked from Castle Campbell to Glendevon; followed the Tetley trail at Scotlandwell; done a circuit of Linlithgow, and walked from Bridge of Allan to Dunblane, enjoying Christmas lunch at the Stirling Arms. To Bridge of Cally, near Blair Gowrie, About 8 people usually turn up, but on 2 occasions there were only 3 of us to enjoy what proved to be memorable walks.

One took us from Kirkmichael to Bridge of Cally, near Blairgowrie, along the new Cateran Trail and included stop en-route to eat our packed lunches in the comfort of the Murdoch's holiday home. While the second was a tramp in the snow along Glen Ogle from Lochearnhead to Killin with no hanging about as we had to catch the bus back from Killin and there were only 3 a day!

Our second programme was up and running in April and on the 24th 8 of us went to Marshall Lodge near Aberfoyle, and did one of the several designated walks. No told us that the 4 mile walk was 4 miles up! But we enjoyed the exercise, although the cloudy weather meant that we couldn't see much after all our efforts to reach the top. The remaining walks for this season were Bishop Hill in the Lomonds, Loch Glow and Cleish Hills.

New members are always welcome, so look out for the posters and come and join us.

Jean Barclay

AN UNDER-USED SPACE?

Our mission as a congregation is:
gathering to Worship' Going out to serve: Sharing God's love

It's all too easy to lose sight of our purpose, since we also have to behave and perform as a business organisation. We have to have an annual General Meeting where we consider how our church is performing and against targets; the tasks of keeping the books balanced and the buildings intact often seem to overwhelm our real purpose. Nevertheless, we do have the privilege and responsibility of managing the second-biggest building in Limekilns. Does it make sense for such a substantial building to be used no more than two hours a week? Are there ways of giving the building to that it becomes of as much significance to the 2,000 people who don't attend church services as to the 200 who do?

Blue Sky thinking means letting your mind run free. We can all do it if we try. Don't leave all the thinking to other people. If you've got ideas and views on the subject, please share them

Sue Hamilton

Service to be held at Rosyth Old Churchyard

It is now some years since we last met for worship at the oldest site of worship in the parish. We ran this service jointly with Rosyth Parish Church for many years. I much enjoy this service and also think that it is important to remember the centuries of worship that have taken place in this area. We are going to have a service in the old Churchyard on Sunday, 20th June at 3pm.

This being our Communion Sunday, we are going to move the evening communion to this afternoon slot. Instead of 6pm in the church we will meet at 3pm in the old Churchyard.

Please join us for worship that afternoon. All are welcome. The service will be simple and fairly informal. The invitation to the Lord's table is, as always, open to all who love the Lord Jesus Christ. For more information please speak to me

Norman

TO THINK ABOUT...

Do you like to indulge in a flutter now and then? On the gee-gees? On the bow-wows? Or just a little fiver on a lottery ticket?

Personally, I was saved from a life of wild and wasteful wagering at the tender age of ten. At least my mother believed so. It happened at the old Inverkeithing Fair, when I rolled a penny down a little wooden chute and won a silver sixpence. My mother was horrified. My uncle, more worldly-wise, guffawed and told me to go off and double my money. Changing the sixpence into pennies, I rolled them hopefully down the chute in steady succession—and lost the lot!

And that was that. Apart from splurging out on the odd raffle ticket, I have ever since held on to my hard-earned gelt. I can't recall it a matter deeply held principle, rather than hard-come, easy-go seems to me a mug's game. I lack the true punter's instinct.

Is it un-Christian to gamble? Presbyterians have tended to say Yes, while Roman Catholics unashamedly boost through bingo, lotteries and pools. Christians can be found on both sides of the fence—and often sitting on it. The Roman soldiers dined at the foot of the cross and that was bad. Yet the twelfth disciple, replacing the departed Judas, was picked by drawing lots and, presumably, that was good. The fact is, the Bible gives us little specific guidance here.

Certainly the mere existence of Gambler's Anonymous warns us that gambling may start as a harmless pleasure, only to grow into a dangerous obsession, an addiction which has destroyed many careers, many marriages, many lives. I for one can happily do without it.

But let us be cautious non-gamblers also beware. People who don't like to risk their pennies can easily grow into people who don't like to risk anything. You play safe, you think of number 1, you avoid committing yourself, you give nothing away. Faith and the spirit of adventure wither on the vine until you are no longer capable of any act of trust or generous deed. Wasn't it Jesus Himself who said, "He saves his life

shall lose it"? And wasn't it the greatest act of His own life a gambler's throw on God's love holding Him fast when the abyss gaped beneath?

Studdart Kennedy put it this way :

"He was a gambler too, my Christ,
He took his life and threw it for a world redeemed
And ere the sun went down,
Sealing that day with crimson crown,
He knew He had won."

It's a pretty sure thing that you can take to heaven from this world only what you have given away. But how far are you and I ready to bet our lives on that one?

Michael Orr

A ringing reply...

Further to Michael Orr's 'To think about'. I must disagree with his opinion although I do not deny him his view. Lord of the Rings is certainly a challenging book to read and everyone may not perceive its depths. It is a book I have read regularly over the past 30 years and I still find it absorbing and gripping.

The films are to me and many others long over due and Peter Jackson has certainly made an excellent job on interpretation of the characters and the epic in general.

The book came first in the BBC's Nations Big Read' and I can feel confident it will be there for many a year. The films will now be the top of many viewing charts.

I noticed however Bunyan's 'Pilgrims progress' didn't rate in the top 100. I haven't read it but will give it a try. A review may follow in due course! As for good or evil and who overcomes who by whatever methods—why oh why can't people read a book or watch a film and just enjoy it as a piece of escapism?

Trevor H Kyle, Pattiesmuir

‘A sense of strangulation of Bethlehem’

...say the Musgraves, now back in Jerusalem after 3 months in Scotland

Two days after our return to Jerusalem, I went in to Bethlehem to visit people there. Talking with people, there was a deeper sense of despondency, and even despair, than there had been when we had left in January. Who cares about what happens to the community in Bethlehem? There are the much more news-worthy events that are happening in Iraq. The Wall—all 8 metres high—has now reached one edge of the main road into Bethlehem, just before one reaches Rachel’s Tomb. On the other side, it is advancing across the olive groves.

Speaking with some people, they were recounting how their church congregations had made applications for permits to visit Jerusalem during the Christian feasts of Easter. Permits had been issued through the churches, and so some were forward to being able to share in services in Jerusalem. Yet there was a feeling of humiliation about this also—having to go capin hand to the Israeli Government authorities to be able to share in what they see as part of their heritage. Easter Sunday service includes the sharing of coloured hard-boiled eggs. Helen Shehadeh had offered to bring the eggs. She did not arrive. After the service, a phone call told her story—she has as regular permit to come in to Jerusalem, and it is this that she shows each week when asked for it. On Easter Sunday, she showed it, but was told that as she did not have one of the special *Christian Feast* permits, she could not enter Jerusalem. Despite arguments, she had to go home—not not for her the chance to share in worship with us, nor the chance to bring us all the Easter eggs she had prepared. We were al the poorer for her not being there.

Watching the expansion of the Settlements, the building of the wall and the fence, the construction of roads, it is hard to avoid the sense of the strangulation of Bethlehem, and its conversion into a ghetto several kilometres in diameter, out of which people will only move at the discretion of those who occupy the land in contravention of UN regulations.—

Clarence and Joan Musgrave, our mission partners in Jerusalem

‘Bill the first’ is welcomed home

The title looks very grand for the man known to many of us as Bill, or sometimes, Bill the first. Maybe grand is the description we would use for his visit to us on Communion Sunday in March.

It was as great pleasure to invite Bill back to his first charge to celebrate the 50th anniversary of his ordination as a minister. Bill was Minister here between 1953 and 1959.

Many people attended Church that day, quite a few making a special effort to be there because of their memories on Bill’s ministry, it was a great pleasure for me too. I was a member of Mayfield Church in Edinburgh for some 14 years, and Bill was my minister there.

I thoroughly enjoyed the sermon he preached. I know that he was touched by the provision of a celebratory cake. It was really good to have his wife Pat and daughters Sheena and Alison present.

Altogether it was a great day enjoyed by all. I was really glad that the McDonalds were able to stay for lunch in the manse. this

Allowed me to catch up with them following my Cairneyhill service. If anyone would like a tape of that Sunday’s service please speak to Karen Grant or David Souter

Norman

Toasting leads to review of life styles

Our Toastie Club 5 aside football team, having been soundly beaten in a tournament organised by the Vine Church, realised how their present life style was contributing to their lack of fitness. So they asked for discussion sessions on life skills: others have asked for a quiet session on Sundays. The need for an every-day opening is becoming more apparent, along with more spacious accommodation and increased funds. £20,000 has been set as a target to achieve this aim

Martha Bruce

LIMEKILNS—RESORT FOR INVALIDS

A life-long friend of mine, who now lives in Dunkeld but whose grandmother lived in Limekilns, has loaned me an old book on the history of Limekilns. Here is a taste of it; writes Margaret Tait. It was written in 1914 by Wm Gifford (I wonder if he lived in Gifford house?)

The port has long been famed as a resort for invalids, many of whom have been restored to health through the life-giving virtues of the sheltered haven. This life sustaining principle is amply verified from the longevity of the inhabitants. Few places comparatively can boast of such a long life. Many of its natives have enjoyed and lived beyond their golden wedding day with faculties little impaired. (that was indeed something in pre1st world war days—M T).

When doctor, then Mr. Johnston, was appointed by the Synod of the Burgher UP Church to be minister of Limekilns. The port was considered gay and active (different meaning of the word gay in these days!) they held many festivals at which, on invitation, the minister was present and made speeches. One who was a listener was wont to say “that he (the minister) would never himself smile, but there shone over his pale countenance a brightness which shed its light over the whole company, suggesting the dry humour of which he was a master.” I would have been glad to have recorded what his impressions were of the people among whom his lot was cast. Isn't that great? More to follow as I plough through the book!

And thanks from a current Limekilns invalid...The Hutton family wish to take the chance to thank the enormous number of people who have helped them through their ‘time of trials!’ this is for the soup-makers who have supplemented Robin’s cookery skills (how long can I milk that one?) the flower-givers, the Hannah-walkers, the card-senders, the hospital car-providers, the folks who have looked in to relieve the monotony during the long days, and the quilters who arrived to help me finish my project. You do not know how many great people are about until you need them.

The holiday maps are on the mend. I can now put half my weight down and after the hospital in a week or two I will get physio to help me on my way. Meanwhile, I hope some day I'll be able to reciprocate, but thanks to all again, and not forgetting the church flowers that have brightened up the house.

Sheila Hutton

We missed Ian and Anna in church at the Easter services, and it's good to have them back again. They spent Easter with their extended family — all 92 of them. And all between the ages of 11—18 the occasion was the 76th Easter Camp in Surrey organised by the Officers Christian union, Ian and Anna being the proud parents. The following is part of their post-camp letter to friends who had been praying for them and for the young people in their care, Eileen

From Commander Ian and Mrs Anna Bartholomew

‘King of Kings, Majesty, God of heaven living in me...’

We sang this worship song at camp and to me it sums up all that we have just been part of. Thank you all so very much for praying and remembering us at camp day by day. To be on the receiving end of so much prayer is incredibly humbling, strengthening and vital.

The love and sense of family at the camp was amazing. It was a safe and fun place to be; new friendships, were formed and old friendships renewed and revelled in. Two strapping lads of 15 at the end of camp came to me and said ‘thanks Auntie Barry, that was the best camp ever!’ I asked them why and they said, ‘well the talks were brilliant, the dorm officers were cool, the games were good and the worship was super!’

Many campers reaffirmed their desire to keep close to Jesus. Several came to follow up sessions to talk and pray with Ian and ma, asking how they could ‘keep the faith?’ when back at school with their friends. One dear lad has come to God and on returning home has given up drugs and drink told his friends why. It is very costly though and he is finding it tough. A lot of campers want to be more active in their school Christian Unions or even start a Christian union themselves.

An unlooked for extra was the sharing of testimonies from day one onward by officers who have been serving God in their gap years or since. The joy in their faces as they shared their experiences was lovely. Camp unites us all as on big family and we had a wonderful Easter Sunday evening celebration of communion together followed by a very happy midnight feast party for everyone.

As the final line of the song quoted above says, ‘I live in your majesty’ at the end of camp we feel very tired and still to close to it all. So many faces and situations fill our hearts and minds, Ian and I believe this is God’s ministry for us at this time and we live to serve Him in this. We have been able to spend 3 lovely, rest filled days in Mull with Ian’s parents since camp, but are now back into a very busy routine again. Please pray for on-going restoration and recuperation in our bodies minds and spirits.

Ian and Anna

Are you dancin’? We’re Askin’!

Would you be interested in coming along for an evening of Scottish country dancing in the village?

Some of us met last month in the church hall and had an enjoyable evening and we are hoping to meet monthly after the summer. It is planned to meet on Friday evening about 7.30 or 8pm; the venue is to be decided and will depend on numbers.

As September is a long way away we plan to meet again on Friday in June. Please let us know if you would be interested in coming along, either in the autumn or on June 4th.

Contact Karen Grant at the manse (872341)

Brownies’ 50th—Memorabilia wanted

The 1st Limekilns Brownies are having a 50th birthday party on Sunday 19th September from 2pm till 4pm in Limekilns Church hall. All Brownies, past and present and all Brownie guiders and helpers, past and present are warmly .

It will be an afternoon of chat and reminiscences with a chance to renew old friendships. Please let us know if you intend to come so that we have an idea of how many buns the current Brownies will need to bake!

To help refresh memories, we’d like to put on a display of Brownie photographs and memorabilia. If you have any old photos of yourself, or any other Limekilns Brownies, may we borrow them for our display? We will be happy to copy originals from photographs or negatives. All originals will be returned. Please get them to either Pat Gilmour or Sue Walker via the church office, or contact Sue on 872147 for any further assistance.

POINTS TO PONDER...

Question 1.:

If you knew a woman who was pregnant, who had 8 kids already, of whom three were deaf, two were blind, one mentally retarded, and she had syphilis , would you recommend that she had an abortion

(read the next question before looking at the response for this one.)

Question 2. :

It is time to elect a new world leader, and only your vote counts. Here are the facts about the three candidates:

Candidate A: associates with crooked politicians and consults with astrologists, he has had two mistresses, also chain smokes and drinks eight to ten martinis every day.

Candidate B. Was kicked out of office twice, sleeps until noon, used opium at college and drinks a quart of whisky every evening.

Candidate C is a decorated war hero, a vegetarian, doesn’t smoke, drinks the occasional beer and has never cheated on his wife.

Which of these candidates would be your choice?

Candidate A
is Franklin
D Roosevelt

Candidate
Barry is
Winston
Churchill

Candidate
C is
Adolph
hitler

Pretty interesting isn’t it?

College Club Comments!

We wanted to keep in touch with everyone through the magazine, so the helpers persuaded us to stop playing Scrabble etc. For five minutes and out pen to paper. Here are our various thoughts on the Club, written by members... (and no, we didn't need our arms twisted... Well not much!)

'the College Club on Tuesday
is the highlight of our week
We meet our friends and chatter
And EAT and EAT and EAT!'

'Tuesday is excellent value for money—come and join us.'

'Among the card players it is no doubt known as 'Ace of Clubs', and perhaps the scrabble players think that the Greeks had a word for it. Where else would you find a club that seemingly caters for everyone's tastes and has the most excellent cooks in the district? I am indeed proud to be a member.'

'come to college club to enjoy Line dancing with a swing. Food excellent as well.'

'the camaraderie between members id great.'

'we enjoy whist, scrabble and dominoes. We have a variety of speakers, music and demonstrations.'

'we look forward to our annual outing in June, and our Christmas lunch.'
'fellowship food and fun!'

'as an Arab in the middle of a desert greets an oasis, so we are glad to gather at College club on Tuesdays. We can 'charge our batteries' for the coming week. Many thanks to all those who organise the club and provide us with such good meals.'

20 years young next year

Apart from the members, the attractions are fun, food and freedom to enjoy yourself in wonderful company



Sounds familiar?

Just a line to say I'm living ,that I'm not among the dead
Though I'm getting more forgetful and mixed up in the head

I've got used to my arthritis, to my dentures I'm reigned
I can cope with my bi-focals, but ye—gods I miss my mind

Sometimes I can't remember, when I'm standing by the stairs
If I'm going up for something , or have I just come down from there

And before the fridge so often, my mind is full of doubt
Now did I out some food away, or come to take some out?

So remember I do love you, and wish that you lived near
But now it's time to post this and say good bye my dear

I stand beside the post box, and my face... It sure is red
Instead of posting this to you, I've opened it instead

Chris barber

Now serving on court...

Tennis is here again and we are delighted that there is now coaching for both youngsters and adults, thanks to Dianne, and we also have four teams playing in both the senior and Junior leagues. Over the holidays we had 'free tennis' and our open day.

We are open to all and we have a range of membership categories such as children under 12 pay £20, adults £60 and a family membership is £120 for the year. This allows you to use the courts for the full year, except when there is a league match or coaching is taking place.

A list of committee members is on the window of the clubhouse and we would be delighted to hear from you.

Karen Grant



Charlestown Bowling Club

**Why not try the game of bowls?
New members very welcome.**

**Coaching for 8 to 80 year olds
Saturday mornings at 10am
(other times by arrangement)**

Contact:

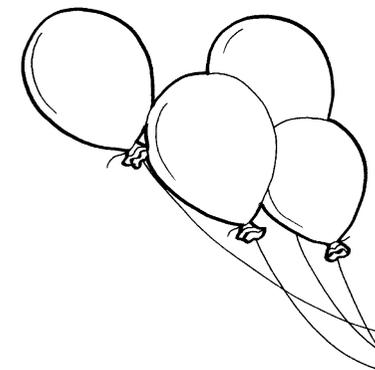
Brian Forrester - 872558

Kathleen Paterson- 872152

Elizabeth MacKenzie - 872660

Happy Birthday

To these children in Lighthouse



July
Ailsa Hart 5th
Beth Hart 5th
Calum Smith 14th

August
Eleanor Grant 28th
Rachel Fleming 30th
Kirsteen Smith 31st



We will wish Happy Birthday to all pre-school, Primary age children and teens in subsequent issues of the magazine. Please let us know if we have missed your name on our birthday list.

If you have any queries about lighthouse matters, please contact Linda Hutcheson on 872208

APATHY or ACTION?

What do you think of Blue skies?

Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

What really matters to us? Do we want to keep everything the way it is because it's all working perfectly? Do we want to love God and serve his people? Do we want to be left in peace and not asked any stupid questions? Do we want to take part in a process of change designed to preserve a vibrant and loving community service God in these villages? Do we want a church in Limekilns in ten years time?

The Kirk session asked the Blue Skies group to research the issues raised at the initial Blue Skies evening where all members were asked to suspend practical considerations and identify what they would like the church to be in the next few years. Ideas fell roughly into the three groups of people (more!), buildings (better use) and worship (choices) and were broad concepts.

We decided to consult our members further to get them to identify the detail and methods to be used by those people who wanted to participate to achieve these aims and set up a series of three interactive workshops. These were widely publicised and invitations issued to all members both through the weekly intimations, magazine articles and by personal invitation. Those who came had, we have been told, informative and enjoyable evenings and listened, participated and concluded from the materialised we presented to them. Your Blue Skies group used research from the materials published by the Church of Scotland and several other groups worldwide and spent considerable time and effort researching and preparing these evenings. We were very impressed by the level of consensus between all those who took part in creating a vision for change to avoid the stagnation many churches are experiencing.

However, the reason I began with the question "what really matters to us?" is because, over the three meetings in a period of six months, fewer than ten percent of our members attended at least one meeting, only a few apologies were received, and only one person has asked for details of one of the talks (and these were offered to everyone via the intimations and the magazine). There are lots of perfectly good reasons why people cannot attend meetings and I am not trying to suggest that anyone should feel guilty for not coming along, but consider it in another way. If you have a hobby, you go to meetings or find out about it because it matters to you, you have a joy in it, an enthusiasm and passion for it. Do you have a joy in Jesus? Do you have an enthusiasm and passion for his work? Or did you stay away because it does not matter to you? Are there enough people interested in taking steps to preserve a vital and growing community for Christ in our villages? We need to know.

But why do we need to, I hear someone ask? Why me? Why bother? Just why? Let's look at a few facts:-

In the last ten years, our membership transfers out have been roughly balanced by those coming in, however, our losses by death (70+) have been met by very few new members by profession of faith and the numbers taking communion regularly have dwindled from over 200 to just above 100. In other words we have a shrinking family with an increasing elderly age profile—how much longer can we survive? Each week as I sit looking out over the congregation see more and more empty seats and if we do not address this, it will continue. Looking around us, Limekilns and Charlestown are full of commuter families—young folk with children and parents of their own and we need to consider whether we should be reaching out to them to make them welcome.

As I said earlier, processes can only be carried out by those willing to participate and what we do must be tailored to suit those who will be doing it. So come along to church on Sunday 13 June and tell us what you want to see, if you want to see no changes, tell us. If you want a hostel for the homeless and victims of abuse, tell us. If you want the pews taken out, tell us. If you want the church reconfigured for meeting rooms and halls to hire, tell us.

If you want one minister doing all the traditional things, tell us. If you want team ministry with more people visiting the elderly or sick, tell us. If you want only one service each Sunday and in only one style, tell us. Your opinion matters to us. Kirk session will make decisions based on the total feedback from all the workshops and this final event, and if you want to have your say—come and tell us.

Everyone attending church on 13 June will be given a booklet with talks from all three workshops and there will be a presentation on each subject. All the questions will be printed in the booklet and you will be able to give us your answers and your views. All other members not able to attend church that day will have their booklet delivered to them and can contact any member of the Blue Skies Team for a personal chat about the issues if they wish.

Anyone who would like assistance in attending church on 13 June, or any other day, please contact a member of the Blue Skies group.

Please carry these issues in your mind over the next couple of weeks and take time to pray for guidance, for unity and for knowledge of what will work for the good of the whole community, not just for each one in their own corner. Jesus said, "Feed my lambs," "take care of my sheep" and "follow me." (John CH21, V 15, 16 and 19)

I would like to leave you a question—What would Jesus do?

Summer Holiday Church Watch

You might visit another church while on holiday this summer. Please tell us about anything which impressed you—or disappointed you! - in fact anything you found inspiring, quirky or thought provoking.

Eileen

'The life of Jesus Christ'

an open air play set in the grounds of Dundas Castle

Did you see 'The Passion of the Christ'?

Whether you did or didn't see the film I would like to strongly commend this production to you. I went last yea and so enjoyed it I have now booked a bus for one of the days so that I can enable people to attend.

It is an open air 'promenade play' that tells the story of Jesus from His birth to His resurrection and the audience walks from scene to scene. All this takes place in the wonderful setting of Dundas Castle Estate near South Queensferry.

The play is on from Wednesday 16th June to Sunday 20th June and it starts at 10.15am and finishes at 3.45pm, with an hour for lunch (take your own). On Sunday it starts at 2pm and finishes at 7pm with a half hour break.

The cost is £Q12 for adults, £6 child, £10 concession and a family ticket is £30 (two adults and up to 4 children).

The play is for all ages and children are expected to make up half people going this year. As Wednesday is a school in-service training day I booked the bus thinking it could be a good day out, doing something worthwhile and different as a family. However the bus is also for individuals and any group that cares to come along, and you don't have to stay together when we get there, you can enjoy the experience on your own or with others as you choose. The bus would leave Limekilns at 9.15am on Wednesday 16th and the return journey will be approx £3.

If you would like to book a place and/or find out more please contact Karen Grant 872341

Our 'Rural' celebrates 85th Birthday

The world's first Woman's Institute was organised at Squire's Hall Stoney Creek, near Toronto, Canada on 19th Feb 1897 to form an organisation to improve the ladies' skills in the arts of homemaking and child care.

The first WI in the UK was formed in Wales in 1917, with longniddry being the first in Scotland in June 1917. Charlestown WRI was started in March 1919, being the seventh in Fife but the first in the West and central Fife. The president was Lady Victoria Bruce.

The objects of the SWRI are:

1. to draw together all women in the country districts for mutual help.
2. to put them in touch with those who have made a special study such subjects as domestic economy, home nursing, child care etc.
3. To arrest rural depopulation by bringing more interests into country life

Today the WRI in some areas is struggling to get members. However, in Limekilns, Charlestown and Pattiesmuir we are small in numbers but not in enthusiasm. So on 20th May we enjoyed a celebration dinner in the Queen's Hall, for all past and present members to mark our 85th year.

The Rural ladies used to always enter the yearly Variety Festival and have performed in the Carnegie Hall and the Adam Smith theatre, coming home with the cup many times.

Cookery and bottled fruit seems to be the idea most people of 'the Rural' but we do try to keep up with the times and have talks, slide shows, demonstrations, craft work and entertainment evenings. We have had talks on drugs and slides of an 8 day trip down the Grand

Canyon on a raft, the latter inspiring one of our members to book up a trip for this summer. We wish her all the best. Later this year we hope to go to Fordell Firs and try our hands at abseiling, archery, wall climbing and maybe caving. By the time you read this some of the ladies will have been on a trip on the ferry from Rosyth to visit Brugge, Brussels and Sluis. Hopefully the sea will have been calm.

Elizabeth MacKenzie

Sea scouts plan for the future

With their 60th Anniversary set to be marked next year, the villages' sea scout group has seen a great start to 2004. and things are going to get even better—the scout Hall is to be improved and the old Scout hut replaced.

More individual storage space for each of the Beavers, Cubs and Scout sections will be built at the rear of the hall, a change which will free up space to allow the kitchen to be almost doubled in size. It is also intended to build out at the front of the hall in order to provide a considerably larger committee room.

Across the road is the original Scout hut . It is currently the boat and equipment store but, subject to proper permissions, it will be replaced with a purpose-designed structure with easier access for boats and proper drainage and maintenance facilities.. The timescale for this work is not yet definite but it is the committee's hope that it will be completed in time to mark the next year's 60th birthday.

So far this year has been one of popular quiz nights, a highly successful beach clean, the hand over of a cheque for £600 to CHAS, and in April a dozen Scouts, plus leaders, took part in the tough Glasgow to Edinburgh Canoe Challenge. This involved them talking more than 50 miles of the Forth and Clyde and Union canals in relays over two days. A thanks Badge was presented to Roger Hart for his work as group treasurer. Scout camp is planned for early July, at Loch Vennachar in the Trossachs.

Elizabeth MacKenzie

Memories of Charlestown

From an 87 year old lady who spent 8 months in the village 80 years ago

"I remember...

...going in the train Charlestown to Dunfermline, very exciting! There were leather straps to hold on to.

School—one class (5-11 year olds), and one teacher. We sat in rows and used slates and chalk. School was above the Sutlery. We had good fun. A big celebration bonfire at the 'Big house'. It seemed like the whole village was there. There was a flag flying and we all got sweeties. The washing was drying on the Limekilns Pier and the Pierrot shows in the summer. going with pals to the stables in Saltpans and pinching the locust strips, which were sweet and chewy, and put there as a treat for the horses.

(there must be more like this? Get in touch—Ed.)

SCRABBLE AHOY!

Many folk have expressed an interest in Scrabble as a social activity within the villages. A fun Scrabble evening was held in March to launch a sort of casual league whereby people played against each other in their own homes by mutual arrangement. It is intended to publish a list of participants and telephone numbers so that this can proceed. However, it now transpires that many folk who expressed interest expected monthly meetings where people could meet and play Scrabble.

Is there someone out there who is prepared to organise such evenings?

If so, please contact Sue Hamilton (872947). If not, we will continue with the 'league' arrangements.

£2,500 SO FAR

Yes! That's how much the Wednesday Tea room has tucked away since opening again for the season in February. So thanks to all who continue to support us—and keep coming!

Sheena and Jennifer

Challenge and opportunity

It's a pity that change is so often seen only as a threat. In many instances it can be viewed as a challenge, and can present many positive opportunities to the leadership of the local congregation.

Economic changes might encourage the church to look more carefully at what its goals are, and how to utilise its resources to their fullest potential. This could lead to raising the standards of membership.

Social change might present the church with the opportunity to think about the best way to cater for the needs of people. This could lead to new patterns of worship, fellowship and evangelism.

Technological changes provide new aids to make congregational administration easier or more effective. Computers can be used in the areas of pastoral care and education, as can the medium of music and DVD.

Educational changes can provide us with new opportunities in schools and congregations to confront life's religious questions in schools and to seek the insights of the Gospel,

To erect barricades against all changes does not seem to me to be either a very helpful or a very Christian attitude.

David Blane

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DIY time here again?

Be encouraged...

An amateur build the Ark,
but a professional built the Titanic.

An excerpt from Peter and Anne Dreyer's recent email, this one from the East coast of Australia; Africa next.

SAILING THE WHITSUNDAYS

We so nearly didn't do this trip! As we travelled north up the east coast, we met folk travelling south who had had bad experiences of negligent skippers and being left on baking hot beaches for hours on end. We were loath to spend money on that but then we thought, we will probably never be here again and decided to go for it!

Our skipper was a Kiwi with the wonderful name of Duncan Kerr. He was 29 years old if he was a day! The rest of the crew was the lovely Sarah from Devon. Truly wonder-woman! She was hostess, chef and crew. She would appear up from the galley, pick up a mooring or drop anchor, drop the sails and, within a very short time, produce a gourmet roast beef dinner. My kind of woman! My kind of sailing! Of the other passengers, two were Americans in their late 30s and the rest mostly British from about 10 to 25. A good recipe for a great trip.

We set sail from Airlie Beach at 9.30 am a real motley crew. We were definitely in the minority with not a tattoo to be seen and ears, noses, navels, eyebrows and nipples pierceless. It will never cease to amaze me how nice people are when you get to know them, almost without exception. After the trip, the skipper kindly said that some potential problems kept themselves under control just because we were on board. If that was the case, it says a lot for the young folk and they were all just lovely and considerate. Over the three days we mostly gelled into a really happy group. As the elder states woman I was very much cared for. We headed through the strait between the two larger islands of Hook and Whitsunday, with a stiff south-easterly breeze of 20 to 25 knots. First stop CATERAN Bay on Border Island. After lunch we spent two hours snorkelling on the reef. This was first time ever snorkelling and, having donned a stinger suit (Lycra head to toe) mask and flippers, I was expected to step into the abyss. You have no idea how far from the sea the deck of large yacht is. Well, perhaps you have, but I didn't. I came up gasping as

Nobody had told me to hold my mask on as I jumped. Once I got sorted with a big 'Mick Jagger' as Giles put it, I was off. And Boy, was it amazing. The reef was only one and a half metres below as I put my face into the water the fish were all there. They seemed to like swimming with us and were all shapes and sizes and the most magnificent colours; bright orange, yellow, turquoise and purple, green, black and white striped. I only saw one pretty big Maori wrasse. The sharks were on holiday up the coast. The coral was all shapes from brain shaped to twig-like and stuff resembling heather fungus and stag-horns. It varied in colour from Beige to bright blue and pink to purple. Maybe this is all old hat to some of you but I had never seen the like of it and took some time in the peace to praise the creator.

We sailed round the Whitsunday Island into Tongue bay and anchored for the night. Time for a beer or wine, Sarah's lovely nibbles and dips and to chat and get to know one another. It gets dark very suddenly after sunset; the crescent moon was very bright and cast a shaft of light across the water. We could hear dolphins jumping, splashing and breathing and Duncan talked about them jumping through the moonlight. We were all looking at the shaft of light when a dolphin did a beautiful jump right on cue. Magic.

Anne and Peter

Walk the burial road

The B9156 has long been called the 'burial road' because ages ago coffins destined for old Rosyth Churchyard were carried along this route from Dunfermline. On Sunday 30 May you too can walk the burial road. Organised by Christian Concern (Fife) the walk is to raise awareness of the local Christian heritage and to publicise some of the considerable voluntary support given to the needy and disadvantaged.

The walk is from Abbot House to Old Rosyth Churchyard, Limekilns (about 3 1/2 miles) starting at 1pm and continuing to Limekilns Pier for a BBQ and praise service. Tickets are £1 each from Martha Bruce or from the church office.

Is this the end for lay justice in Scotland?

For nearly 20 years I have had the privilege of serving the villages as a J.P. And was invited to train from the bench 12 years ago. My work as a lay justice in Dunfermline District Court has been very challenging but also extremely fascinating the district courts deal with on third of prosecutions in Scotland at the lowest level of the criminal justice system. Lay justices are really both judge and jury, hearing evidence in trials and sentencing the guilty, with the assistance of a legally trained clerk who advises on points of law. Since 1609, Scottish J. P.'s have had a judicial role in their local communities but this proud tradition is now under threat.

Cathy Jamieson, the Minister for Justice, is urgently considering a raft of changes in the criminal justice system, the aim being to improve efficiency and effectiveness. During the last two years, the McInnes Summary Justice Review Committee has been consulting widely and they have now presented a report which makes 140 recommendations. Most of these are excellent and well thought out. However, one suggestion is to abolish lay justice

And to replace J.P.'s (who give up their time willingly and are unpaid) with paid professional judiciary who would be called 'Summary Sheriff' (with a salary of about £80,000 p.a.) Comparison and statistics throughout the review show that lay justice is not part of the problem; it is difficult to see that removal of it should be part of the solution. A short period of consultation runs until 16 July. I would be delighted to discuss points of interest further with anyone who would like more information, but meantime it would be enormously helpful if all of you who read this would write (even just a sentence e.g. 'I support the continuation of lay justice' and sign your name) to: Summary Justice review Team, Criminal Procedure Division, The Scottish Executive, Room 1WR, St. Andrews House, regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

Mary Laidlaw

Phew!

An editorial correction seen in a local paper: 'Due to a mis-hearing on the phone, we reported that newly weds Mr. And Mrs. Smith would be living in Hastings with the bride's father. They will be in fact living at the old Manse!'

FIFE CONSTABULERY—WEST FIFE VILLAGES NEWSLETTER

Fife Constabulary has now unveiled its Policing Plan for 2004—2005.

- **Anti social behaviour**
- **Vandalism**
- **Substance abuse**
- **Reassurance**

To provide a reassuring presence the mobile Police Station will visit regularly all West Fife villages. We will continue to consult with all the communities and it is important that people in the area tell us what their concerns are so that we can continue to provide an effective police service.

Theft from motor vehicles, Limekilns:

Following information received from a member of the public regarding a vehicle seen acting suspiciously in the Limekilns area, the vehicle was traced. As a result a number of thefts from motor vehicles in the Limekilns area, and as a consequence other areas across West Fife, have now detected and those responsible reported to the Fiscal. This highlighted how the public can help, and anyone who sees anything suspicious is encouraged to contact us.

Community—Answering machine

Our local Community team can now be contacted on a dedicated line at Oakley. Should you require to talk to with either PC Cree or PC Clague the new number is 01383 850309. If the officers are not available please leave a message and they will contact you.

Community Safety Officer:

PC Bamford provide security advice for both domestic and commercial premises and he is a liaison point for Neighbourhood watch. Anyone interested in any of these areas should make contact with him on 01383 318745

COMMUNITY COUNCIL NOTES

For a trial period community Council News will appear in the church magazine, published four times a year.

Planning Issues

Each week, the secretary receives notification of new planning applications. There can be anything from permission to change the colour of paint to major new housing development. We can, and regularly do, object to applications. However, we cannot, and would not wish to, stop all development in the villages.

Westeryards, Charlestown: An initial undertaking that development on this plot should be single storey was over-ridden. The community Council believed that a two storey development using appropriate materials houses might have blended in to the surroundings. The new house seems to have been built on quite a different scale to those in neighbouring Rocks Road.

14 Brucehaven Road: The surrounding properties here are a mix of style, reflecting the periods when they were built. The design of the new house reflects current style. We objected when there was inadequate off-road parking in the original design and commented on some inappropriate detail. We cannot object on the grounds of loss of views for other properties.

5 Charles Way South: We objected to the original radical redesign of this property, and have fully discussed and approved of the new application.

Ballast Bank. The reporter at the local plan enquiry agreed that this was a 'Brownfield' site and might be developed for harbour or heritage-related purposes. Broomhall estate is seeking an option agreement with a housing developer. A potential developer commissioned test bores. We contacted environmental Health with our concerns about asbestos. We were reassured by this reply that there was no risk to local residents. We have heard nothing more.

Doctors' Surgery: as a community we count our blessings in having a brilliant Doctors' Practice in the villages. General practice has changed a lot, with more and more and new services being provided and the practice needs bigger premises. Consultations at Limekilns have risen from 890 per month in 1998 to 1648 per month in 2004. The community council invited Dr. Mason and a planning officer from Fife Council to our March meeting. The factor from Broomhall was also present. This provided a useful forum to discuss possible (and impossible) sites. Almost every piece of open grass in the villages was mentioned, along with West Quarry, Merryhil Farm, and the ground floor of the church. We will keep a watching brief as discussions continue between Doctors, the estate and planning.

9 havens' Edge: a very controversial extension was applied for and rejected 2 years ago. A much more modest application was made in 2003. On this occasion, the applicant failed to carry out Neighbour notification. The community council protested on the neighbours' behalf and each was sent a letter of apology and a copy of the plans. Fortunately there were no grounds for objection to the new application.

Fence at the police house in Charlestown: this high fence is in contravention of the conservation area guidelines. The community council continues to attempt to get Fife council to complete the enforcement action promised.

Two houses at Main street: an application to build two houses at the 'kiln' to the rear of Main Street has caused much concern among local residents. A first design was rejected by planning; a second design was submitted. The Community Council arranged open meetings to listen to the views of the applicants and objectors. The community council's objections relate to the very narrow access to the site. The over development inherent in building two houses rather than one, the effect on the conservation area, and the access onto Main Street in view of the nature and extent of objections, people who submitted written objections have been invited to a 'departure from the development plan hearing' to be held shortly.

New alcohol byelaw...

Fife council has published notice of intention to introduce a byelaw prohibiting the consumption of alcohol in public places. The community council has long campaigned for the extension of this byelaw to our villages, and has been consulted on the appropriate boundaries for the scheme.

Recycling—two bits of news

1. **brown bins:** in June each household will be offered a brown bin for recycling green waste. If you don't want one, you can say so. If you're short of space but would still like to recycle your green waste, you may wish to consider sharing a brown bin with a neighbour.
2. **Community recycling facility:** Limekilns is to be provided with glass, textiles and can banks at the Limekilns Pier car park. It was agreed that a paper bank was not necessary as we have blue bins. However, we hope that a paper bank can be provided at Pattiesmuir where they have no blue bins. Banks are emptied regularly and have proved very popular in other communities.

ReACT;

An exciting new opportunity to spread the gospel...

Why reACT? Because it's about acting; it's about All Christians Together ; and we're looking for a reaction!

Jesus asked his followers to go and make disciples - how do we do this in our society can we expect people to come flocking into our churches? The Church of Scotland seeks to be a church without walls, a church active in the community and accessible to everyone. Christians of all denominations can join together through reACT to work as a team, presenting the truths we all believe in to the rest of the community.

In the works of our mission statement, reACT aims to present the gospel of Jesus Christ in a culturally relevant way through the performing arts. We're writing our own material and aiming at the highest possible artistic standards, using public venues for performance. If this appeals to you please join us!

We're looking for singers, actors, dancers, script writers and song writers.

Our first performance will be in the Carnegie hall on Saturday 29 January next year. It's a new , extensively revised production of No exceptions! A musical based on the dynamic life of the apostle Paul. And to direct it we have been very fortunate to secure the services of Suzanne Lofthus of the cutting Edge Theatre Company. Suzanna also directs the Nativity and Passion plays staged at Lochie head Farm and Dundas Castle.

Our inaugural meeting was held in Viewfield Baptist Church on Sunday 2nd may and was attended by about 30 people. The next meeting will be in the crypt of St. Margaret's RC Church on Monday 21st June at 7.30pm and we we'll be reading the script and making some initial casting decisions. If you want to be involved in the forthcoming production, please come along on the night –there's no membership subscription. Rehearsals will be on Monday nights from 23rd August.

For more information contact Douglas Kerr or Eileen Kirkpatrick