

# Crosshouse Parish Church



*"Walking together in faith"*

*Peace  
JOY Hope  
Love*

**Magazine: December 2022**

**Edited by Jack Young**

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## **A Letter from Rev. John A. Urquhart. (Interim Moderator)**

### **Dear Friends,**

November is a special month, a month for remembering! November 1st is All Saint's Day when we remember and give thanks for the life and example of all the great saints of the Church. I am sure many names come to mind as we recall St Peter, St Paul, St Augustine, St Francis and St Joan; people who by their lives all pointed others to Jesus Christ. But what of all those saints, many whose names will never appear in a history book who have inspired us in our Christian discipleship? Perhaps a teacher, a BB or GB Leader, a Sunday School teacher to whom we owe so much. Many of us can think of someone and say, "But for him or her, for that bit of guidance there, for that word offered at the right time, I would not be who I am today, not could I have achieved what I have". We remember the saints not only of the past but of the present too.

November 5<sup>th</sup> is Bonfire Night. "Remember, remember the 5<sup>th</sup> of November as we recall Guy Fawkes and The Gunpowder plot.

November 11<sup>th</sup> marks Remembrance. At the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, we remember that moment in 1918 when the guns finally fell silent on the Western front as we remember not only all those who died in two world wars, but in so many places around the world since then. We remember the courage, the comradeship, the cost of war and we remember too the families bereft by recent wars and conflict as nation fights nation.

November 30<sup>th</sup> is St Andrew's Day. St Andrew is of course the patron saint of Scotland. But what do we know of this man we meet in the Gospels? Although Andrew was among the first to be invited by Jesus on the adventure of discipleship, Andrew never achieved the fame that his brother Peter did. In fact, most of the time we read of Andrew in the Gospels, Andrew is referred to as Peter's brother. Andrew never achieved the fame his brother Peter did; it seemed he lived his life in his brother's shadow. Instead, Andrew is remembered for introducing other people to Jesus including his brother Peter and a little boy, whose name we do not know, who presented Andrew with five loaves and two fish and with which Jesus fed a hungry crowd. Andrew's example reminds us that we all have a special part to play in the life of the Church, great or small. And if we could only emulate Andrew's example of introducing others to Jesus, offering a word of invitation to family and friends to join us in worship each Sunday, playing the part only we can play in building up the Body of Christ, who can tell what could be achieved for Christ now?

With every good wish and blessing.

John A. Urquhart.

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**A Message from Fiona McBride, Session Clerk:**

*Over the past few months, the Kirk Session has met with Mr Darren Philip who is a National Stewardship Consultant for the Church of Scotland. Usually when we have thought about stewardship it has involved a stewardship campaign where we have gone round all members asking them to review their givings. Be assured that this time around we will not be doing that. Rather this time we are looking at a new resource that has been produced by the National Stewardship team called the "Narrative of Generosity". The purpose of this resource is to look at the 12 biblical themes of stewardship: Time, God, Gifts, Possessions, Money, Relationships, Youth, Volunteers, Body, Mind, Earth and Vision. The Narrative of Generosity encourages us to look beyond just the financial side of things to the much bigger picture and it is that approach that the Kirk Session has chosen to adopt. Rather than look at all 12 biblical themes, the Session agreed to look specifically at three of them – Time, Gifts and Volunteers. The concept behind the Narrative of Generosity is to encourage us to share stories that will motivate and enthuse not just ourselves as we tell of our stories and experiences but also those who we are talking to. The stories that we share are important because stories inform, direct and guide our world. They can build up or they can tear down. Stories help us understand our world, our church and ourselves. Stories give us context and perspective. When we know our stories, they can help shape who we become.*

*We are in the position as a congregation where we need to be looking forward, finding ways of reaching out to others and our community and spreading the good news of the gospel. We do not have a full time minister and the plan that was agreed by the Presbytery of Irvine and Kilmarnock before it became part of the new Presbytery of the South West has determined that we will share any future minister with both Kilmaurs and Fenwick. Therefore we need to look ahead as members and as elders to continue on the works that we have all been called as disciples, as Christ's followers, to do. We all have gifts given to us by God and they are to be used to share the good news and the love of God in the ways that we are able to do.*

*The Kirk Session is still understanding more about how we can move forward with the three biblical themes that we have chosen and by the time you have read this, Mr Phillip will hopefully have joined us for worship to share a bit more to the congregation. Once we have got more information on how we move forward I will inform the congregation but I ask you to prayerfully consider how you as an individual can reach out and share the news as well as how as a congregation we can reach out to each other, to those who haven't come back to the church after the pandemic and to the community that we are part of.*

*Please feel free to speak to me if you have any ideas because as a Kirk Session we would value your input and suggestions as we seek to guide our congregation forward.*

*Yours in Christ,  
Fiona*

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## **Young Church**

*We have made some changes to how we are now running our Young Church. As our young people are all leading busy lives with hobbies and family commitments, we have decided to have a different approach to our Young Church. We will be meeting on the first Sunday of each month and will go into church for a short time before moving through to the hall. We will still be focusing on Bible themes in a fun way through stories, songs, arts & crafts and baking etc. Any child of Primary school age is welcome to join us on these Sundays, if they can manage, and we would like to encourage children to pop in when they are available. We would also like to encourage our congregation to invite any grandchildren, nieces, nephews or neighbours. All will be made most welcome.*

*Our next meeting dates will be Sunday 4 th December, 2022 and Sunday 8th January, 2023.*

*For any further information please contact Helen Paul on 07817407170 or Margaret Shedden on 07880957267*

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## **The latest from the Guild**

*The Guild has enjoyed 3 meetings so far this session:*

*A visit to the Palace Theatre to see the musical Shrek, performed by the Loudoun Musical Society was a fantastic evening out, with performances worthy of the west end in London.*

*Helen Cuthbert had us singing along with her presentation*

*Barbara Graham gave us a most interesting talk on Edith Cavell.*

*Three members visited Dundonald Guild and were entertained by 'True Colours' Ukelele Group and enjoyed a lovely supper.*

*We look forward to future events:*

*Hearing about Mary McQuiston's trip to Bavaria,*

*Learning how the Rev. Lynsey Brennan has brought Dundonald Parish to life*

*A Mystery Night*

*Our Christmas Party*

*All are Welcome to one or all of our meetings, and we would especially welcome new members to our friendly group. We meet in the hall on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm over the winter.*

*Carole Barr (07974968940)*

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## **Contributions from Catherine Richmond – serious and light-hearted**

### **TLM SCOTLAND**

*Ranjana is a shy 21yr old from Nepal who lives with her parents and brother & sister. She was diagnosed with leprosy when she was 11yr old. She developed shin patches and was referred to Anandaban Hospital.*

*Ranjana developed clawed hands and then an ulcer on her foot. Thanks to the kindness of TLM supporters across the world she was able to undergo reconstructive surgery to fix her clawed hands. Ranjana and her family have suffered discrimination from villagers. They are not kind and do not want to be linked to a leprosy affected family, nobody wants to marry into a leprosy affected family. Our teams continue to work hard to improve education and awareness of leprosy in communities across Nepal so that this kind of stigma can be banished.*

*We thank Ranjana for sharing her story with us. Please pray for a future for her that is free from discrimination.*

*"I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them."*

*1 Timothy 2: 1*

### **CHRISTIAN AID**

*I'm happy to share news with you of a mother in Zimbabwe who, thanks to kind people like you, has transformed her life in the most incredible way.*

*Jerina struggled for years trying to sell enough vegetables to support her family.*

*Due to drought, worsened by the climate crisis, she eventually had no onions or tomatoes to sell. She couldn't feed her children. She said, "It pains right inside my heart."*

*Jerina could have given up, but with strength, resilience and determination she changed her life. With the support of Silveira House, Jerina trained in the skill of welding! Now she has the dignity of doing a job she loves and can provide for her children, even when drought persists.*

*With a smile on her face, Jerina says: "THANK YOU."*

### **TOUCHES OF HUMOUR**

*On a 7 yr old's school report, the teacher wrote:*

*Johnny's arithmetic is a disgrace to us both, but I try and he doesn't!*

*Teacher: You missed school yesterday, didn't you?*

*Student: Not really.*

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### **Crosshouse Church Visiting Group.**

*Now that we are able to start visiting people again, we would like to start visiting those in the congregation who may not be able to get out to Church on a Sunday, or who have not felt able to return to Church after the pandemic. If you or someone you know would like a "wee chat" with one of our volunteers, we would love to hear from you.*

*Please contact: Mary McQuiston 01563 535871.*

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**From your editor**

*Hard to believe that this is the end of my second year as magazine editor and it has been quite a pleasure doing this. I sincerely appreciate all the contributions made in the past two years and I would encourage members of all ages to contribute in the future.*

*Please feel free to share favourite hymns, prayers or Bible Passages especially where any have helped you deal with traumatic experiences in your lives. In addition works by authors, composers or artists may have inspired or moved you in some way.*

*Touches of humour are also welcome*

*I sincerely hope that you and all your family members will feel the Joy of Christmas and will enjoy a happy and peaceful New Year.*

Jack

The details for submitting contributions are:

[crosshouseparishchurch@cpcteam.org.uk](mailto:crosshouseparishchurch@cpcteam.org.uk) or [crosshousechurchmagazine@outlook.com](mailto:crosshousechurchmagazine@outlook.com)

Interim Moderator: Rev. John Urquhart, Tel. 01563 538289, e-mail:  
[john.urquhart@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:john.urquhart@churchofscotland.org.uk)

Session Clerk: Miss Fiona McBride, Tel: 07732943602, email: [fi\\_mcbride@hotmail.com](mailto:fi_mcbride@hotmail.com)

Church Website: [www.crosshouseparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.crosshouseparishchurch.org.uk)

Church email: [crosshouseparishchurch@cpcteam.org.uk](mailto:crosshouseparishchurch@cpcteam.org.uk)

Charity Status : Crosshouse Parish Church (Church of Scotland) S.C. 011414

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