

# Crosshouse Parish Church



*"Walking together in faith"*

## **Magazine: February 2022**

***Edited by Jack Young***

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### **A Message from Robert Pollock, Session Clerk**

You will recall that in our November issue of this magazine I reported that the Church of Scotland is struggling with falling numbers. Not just members, but also Ministers. Presbytery Parish review has determined that Crosshouse will be joining with Kilmaurs and Fenwick with one Minister in charge of all three.

We hope that Crosshouse will be able to continue substantially independent, but likely sharing resources with the other two. Over the last two to three months discussions have been taking place between representatives of the three churches to determine how the coming together might work. Broadly speaking, we have proposed a joint Session, overseeing mission and pastoral matters, but stopping short of a formal Union. Separate sub-committees of each congregation would look after day to day running of the buildings. At the time of writing this article, we are about to discuss our proposals with the Parish Appraisals Committee of Presbytery. We will keep you informed as things evolve.

You should note, however, that there will no change to our present situation until such times as the sitting minister of Kilmaurs leaves that post. In church parlance, 'demits his charge'.

Meantime, our financial situation remains precarious. Over the last three months our income has improved slightly, but we need to recover to our pre-pandemic levels, with which we could sustain ourselves.

We are very grateful for the generosity of members and friends for their givings which have reduced our annual deficit and will help see us through a few additional months.

The rising cost of living recently is putting a severe strain on all household incomes. We can only ask that you donate to your church as best you can and feel able. Your givings are critical to maintaining the church's presence in Crosshouse.

As ever, not only are we asking for financial assistance, but especially with help with your time and skills.

As I've said before, the church needs people to do all sorts, such as organise Hall bookings, open up and close, to assist with running events such as the Film Club, children's activities, fund raisers, fayres, concerts etc. The buildings need constant care, checking and inspecting building condition and arranging for repairs etc. These are just a few areas where you can get involved.

Please come forward and speak to your elder or anyone in the church if you think you could help in any way.



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## **Contributions from Catherine Richmond**

### **TLM Scotland - Hawa's story**

*Hawa is in her 70s and you have helped her regain her confidence after years of discrimination and disability. Leprosy had damaged her hands and body before she received care at Danja Hospital where the Leprosy Mission funds treatment. Tragically the stigma and ignorance surrounding leprosy caused her to be thrown out of her community in Eastern Niger. She finally arrived at Danja Hospital, heart-broken and extremely ill. After months of having care and treatment, she returned to her house.*

*She has managed to start a successful business outside her house and sells fruits, herbs and mixed spices. People love to stop and buy her goods. They now realise you can be cured of leprosy. Laughter now rings out from outside her house as Hawa is a fun lady, even after all her suffering.*

*Hawa once had to beg for her next meal but now earns enough to feed and clothe herself. She wants to thank you for loving and caring enough to make this possible.*

*The following sums of money were sent to TLM Scotland in 2021:*

*£100 - Bankura Vocational Training Centre*

*£600 - Purulia Hospital*

*£1,200 - Nepal and Anandaban Hospital*

*"I will be glad and rejoice in Your unfailing love for You have seen my troubles and You care about the anguish of my soul."*

*Psalm 31: 7*

### **GOD'S STANDARDS by Archbishop Desmond Tutu**

*I think there will be lots of sharing in Heaven, a lot of conversation.*

*Also you might meet some unexpected people.*

*God has always had a soft spot for sinners, you know.*

*His standards are quite low.*

### **Something a little bit light-hearted::**

#### **BUSY DOING NOTHING**

*Some of you might have heard the following words on a TV advert and I just thought how appropriate they were for "some of us auld yins".*

*"Busy doing nothing, working the whole day through,*

*Trying to find lots of things not to do,*

*Busy going nowhere, isn't it just a crime,*

*I try to be unhappy, but I never do have the time."*

*The above is taken from the film "A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court.*

#### **A TOUCH OF HUMOUR**

*A child comes home from his first day at school.*

*Mum asks, "What did you learn today?"*

*Child replies, "Not enough. I have to go back tomorrow.*

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### ***Prayer reflections from Heather Heywood***

***1) WHAT A DIFFERENCE A PRAYER MAKES.*** I'm sure you will have heard someone say this at some time. "I don't believe on all that God stuff – it's a load of rubbish. And as for going to Church, no thanks, it's full of hypocrites who just like to show off their big hats and Sunday best." Maybe not those words exactly, but something along those lines.

Well folks, 40 years ago that someone was me! The only reason I became a Christian, and now Prayer Secretary of Crosshouse Church, is because someone prayed for me. Someone prayed that God would send his Holy Spirit into my life and turn it around. And boy, did he ever!

It started with me reading my daughter's Bible to find fault in it, to pick holes in it and to prove it was rubbish. It ended up with me on the floor on my knees asking for God's forgiveness and asking Jesus to come into my life. I had never even heard a sermon or even heard someone pray. I had spoken to my sister-in-law about her faith, but I felt that was OK for her, but not for me. I only read the Bible so I could prove her wrong!

Well, how wrong was I? I can honestly say it was a true miracle that happened in my life, a complete turnaround, an amazing work of the Holy Spirit. It's not that I am anyone special that God would choose me – it is because somebody prayed for me.

Is there someone you want to pray for?

### ***2) Jesus is praying for us! John 17: 6-26 Jesus Prays for His Disciples***

6 "I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. 7 Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. 8 For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. 9 I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. 10 All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. 11 I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. 12 While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.

13 "I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. 14 I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. 15 My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. 16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. 17 Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. 18 As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. 19 For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

### ***Jesus Prays for All Believers***

20 "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21 that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one -

(cont'd on page 4)

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*23 I in them and you in me - so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.*

*24 "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.*

*25 "Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. 26 I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them."*

*One of the greatest blessings of being a follower of Jesus is to know that, right now, He is interceding for His people before the Father. (Romans 8:34 Hebrews 7:25) Whilst we don't know exactly what Jesus says to the father, we do have examples of many of Jesus' prayers from the Bible. For example, John 17: 6-26.*

*First Jesus prays that the Father would protect His church. He not only prays for physical protection, even more He prays for spiritual protection. (17:16) Second, Jesus prays for his Church to be sanctified – that they would be made holy; that they would know the truth of God and reflect the Glory of God on earth. (17: 7,19) Third, Jesus prays for those who will believe through the message of his disciples. (17:20) Jesus prays His church will grow and that many people all over the world will come to know Him through the faithful ministry of all his people / disciples.*

*What an amazing gift for us today, to be able to read Jesus' prayer and know that Jesus was, and still is, going to God directly and personally on our behalf.*

*If Jesus is still praying for His church isn't it important that we too pray for His church – our Church. Look round the Church on Sunday mornings and see how empty the building is. If there was ever a time that the Church needs our prayers, it's now!*

*Our families, friends and neighbours also need our prayers. The world needs our prayers.*

*Our community not only needs our prayers, but they also need us to reflect Jesus among them – to get alongside them and to reach out with God's love and be Jesus' hands and feet in our Parish.*

*Jesus left us a wonderful example of how to pray for ourselves and for others, and he also left us amazing examples of how we should live our lives. He came not to be served but to serve. Let's do that, let's follow Jesus' example and pray for our Church and our community and reach out with the love of God – always remembering that Jesus is still praying for us!*

*Pray also for the people who struggle to make ends meet. The homeless and refugees who had to flee their homeland to avoid violence and hunger. Pray for our planet, that leaders would put a stop to all the waste that pollutes our wonderful world, and don't forget to pray about climate change, that the changes we make now will truly make a difference for our children's and grandchildren's future.*

*Please consider joining us for a time of chat and prayer, on Thursdays at 2pm (in the Church Session Room). All, very welcome.*

*God Bless, Heather*

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## **The latest from the Guild**

### **The Guild Psalm - Praise to the Lord for his wonderful creation**

*Sing to god for his colourful world.  
We thank you for the beauty of nature  
We give praise for the glory of the earth.  
We thank you for the changing seasons  
We give praise for the autumn colours of the tree  
We thank you for the colours of the rainbow  
We give praise for the rain for abundant crops.  
We thank you for the sun and the stars  
We give praise for the moon and the planets.  
We thank you for the wild creatures of the forest  
We give praise for the farm animals in the fields.  
We thank you for the pollinating bees  
We give praise for butterflies and ladybirds.  
We thank you for the birds in the air  
We give praise for the fish in the sea.  
We thank you for the safe gathering of the harvest  
We praise you for the bounty of the crops.  
For the beauty of the earth, for the wonder of the sea,  
We praise you, Lord our God.*

### **News and upcoming events**

*The guild restarted on 2nd February when Rev. Scott Rae told us of his decision to enter the ministry, training in Edinburgh, and travelling with his family to Unst in Shetland as his first charge where life was hard but very busy. A time as a naval chaplain, then ministry in Cumnock & Muirkirk followed. He had many tales to tell but the lasting impression was of how busy a minister actually is. Everyone enjoyed the tea and chat which followed.*

*Future meetings are –*

*16th February, 7.30pm - Daniel Ross 'A tale of two cities'*

*2nd March, 7.30pm – Jacqueline Heron Wray 'From King Street, Kilmarnock to King's Road in London'*

*16th March – AGM and supper*

*30th March – Social Evening – 'Entertainment provided by True Colours.'*

*Due to the cancellation of our guild meal out in January, a meal out has still to be arranged. We hope to organise this in the near future and will pass on the details when available.*

*The guild is open to all men and women, for information I can be contacted, details below.*

**Carole Barr. 07974968940.**

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### **Financial Report from Tom McWhirter, Treasurer**

We are in the process of finalising the accounts for 2021, key figures are a deficit of £4,028 which given the circumstances is a credit to your support for the work of the church. Our income overall has dropped by approx £3,400 while our expenses have increased by approx £1,000. The sale of the manse will free up funds in 2022 and we may use some of this to address the shortfall in ministry payments during 2020. Please send me an email at [inatom@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:inatom@yahoo.co.uk) if there are any questions

Best wishes, Tom

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### **Flower Calendar**

*I took over from Rena Pirrie as Flower Convenor in February 2020 just before the first lockdown. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Rena for the many years she served in this role and she will be a hard act to follow.*

*On the 9<sup>th</sup> of May 2021, flowers were again put in Church. Covid restrictions dictated that that the flowers displayed be in their wrappings, to minimise handling, so the flowers are sometimes not shown in Church to their best effect.*

*I am very grateful to the members of the congregation who provide flowers for worship and I will be happy to hear from anyone who would like to join our rota. There are three dates free: 8<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> May and 18<sup>th</sup> September. Please ask me about other dates, you would be interested in and I will try to oblige.*

*Similarly, if you know of anyone who might appreciate flowers after a happy or sad event, or going through a bad spell and need cheering up, I would appreciate it if you would let me know. Priority always goes to the bereaved and people in hospital.*

*There will be a copy of the Flower Calendar 2022 at the back of the Church. Please do not stay too long as we still have to keep a safe distance when others are entering.*

*Thank you, Mrs Agnes Gracie, Flower Convenor – Telephone Number 07576104602*

*These are the flower dates for February:-*

*6<sup>th</sup> Miss McConnell, 13<sup>th</sup> Mrs Smith, 20<sup>th</sup> Mrs Horner, 27<sup>th</sup> Mrs Richmond*

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**From your editor:** *Once again, my sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed to the magazine.*

*You may be aware that the Rev. John Urquhart has a great of responsibility over and above being our Interim Moderator. Having left it rather late in alerting John to the magazine deadline, I felt that I did not want to put further pressure on him by contributing to the magazine at short notice. .*

*I am sure that you will find inspiration from Heather's Prayer Reflections and Carole's Guild Psalm.*

*The details for submitting contributions are: [crosshouseparishchurch@cpcteam.org.uk](mailto:crosshouseparishchurch@cpcteam.org.uk) or [crosshousechurchmagazine@outlook.com](mailto:crosshousechurchmagazine@outlook.com)*

Jack

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