

Crosshouse Parish Church

Crosshouse Parish Church (Church of Scotland) Scottish Charity No. S.C. 011414



"Walking together in faith"

Quarterly Magazine – September 2025 ***Edited by Jack Young***

A Letter from Mrs Catriona Mayes

Dear friends

My name is Catriona Mayes and I am happy to have been asked by Presbytery to be your Interim Moderator for the foreseeable future. I am an elder and Reader attached to the presbytery rather than any individual congregation. As many of you will know, I lived in Dundonald for twenty nine years while my husband was minister in the parish church there. On his retirement we moved in the beautiful countryside between Mauchline, Sorn and Catrine, in the summer it is glorious, in the winter the snow and ice can be a problem. My husband and I met while studying at Glasgow University. I attained by BD in 1983, then for ten years worked part-time for the church as an adult education advisor and elder trainer. In 1993 I began teaching at Ardrossan Academy and remained there until retirement in 2020. It is amazing what you volunteer for on retiring.

It was a privilege to lead you in worship on the 3rd of August. The warmth of your welcome, the sense of worship as we sang and prayed reassured me that you as a congregation are still vibrant. I look forward to learning more about your service and presence in Crosshouse as we serve our Lord. Faith should be lived out beyond Sunday mornings, we are called to be the hands and feet of Jesus, bringing hope, healing, and light to a world in need. I look forward to discovering the many ways in which we can serve together, supporting and encouraging one another as we seek to follow Christ's example.

When asked to come and work with you, it was sold to me as moderate a few meetings, I do hope to support you in other ways. You have a great team of preachers leading your worship weekly and I have no intention of changing this though I will be happy to visit the hospitals and those of you at home who feel they would like to speak to me. I can be contacted on treenieg@gmail.com or 07305620611

May the peace of Christ dwell richly in our hearts,

Catriona

(My sincere thanks to Catriona for her inspiring letter and I hope that we will see many more words of inspiration and support. I also hope that we will see Catriona taking Services. I am sure that anyone who heard Catriona will have felt inspired by her words. Ed)

Features & Contributions

Thornton Worship Group - We go to Thornton on every 2nd Thursday at 2pm. These are informal worship times with old favourite hymns as well as an occasional new song plus short bursts of a Psalm, Bible Reading, short talks & prayers. There is no piano or keyboard so it has been known for us to start a song on the wrong note! Do the residents mind? No, not a bit. They're just so happy we're there. After the service, the group join in with the residents for a chat & a cuppa with a gigantic muffin/cake/tray bake!
If you feel you'd like to join us, you'd be most welcome. Just turn up on any of the dates. Future dates: SEP 11th, OCT 9th, NOV 13th, DEC 11th

Special Invitation On Friday, 18th July, Catherine & I attended the opening of the Duck Pond. Yes, you read that correctly. A duck enclosure was constructed with 2 ponds, plants, shade under a tree & a duck house plus 4 resident ducks. One white male is called Jimmy plus 3 brown females (names unknown at present).

At the opening ceremony, a male resident, nattily dressed in a black suit & hat, cut the golden ribbon with a pair of golden scissors. The Duck Pond was officially opened to all to walk around - and we did. The cooks had been busy providing all with beef or chicken burgers with crispy onion rings followed by duck-shaped short-bread biscuits & cup-cakes topped with blue cream icing & a duck (naturally). And the napkins - yes you've guessed it - were duck-shaped! Debbie, the Activities Manager, had provided everyone with a wonderful & joyful afternoon. And the sun shone.

Catherine Mills

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Contributions from Catherine Richmond

Christ's Love "They love one another. They never fail to help widows; they save orphans from those who would hurt them. If they have something, they give freely to the man who has nothing; if they see stranger, they take him home and are happy as though he was a real brother. They don't consider themselves brothers in the usual sense but brothers instead through the Spirit of God." Aristides description of Christians to the Roman Emperor Hadrian.

I had no idea who Aristides was and Elizabeth kindly looked him up on her phone – wow! – he was quite a man. I suggest you "Google" it as there was such a lot of information, my brain went into lock-down (not unusual!).

The above was taken from a book entitled the "10 Second Rule" by Clare de Graff, Published 2013.

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The Leprosy Mission UK Your kind gift of £150 split between Muzaffarpur Hospital and Amandman Research Unit, Nepal is so valuable. If you remember, the hospital is in Bihar, probably the poorest area in India. Staff and patients are encouraged that you care and are willing to help them. The Out-patients Department will soon be fit for purpose and people will not need to stand outside in the monsoon rains or the blistering heat, for hours.

The Research Unit at Amandaman is also being rebuilt as it was damaged by earthquakes. We all know important research is. The Doctors' quarters are also being upgraded as they are unfit for human habitation.

The next gifts of love will again go to the above – Thank you. Psalm 14 3:7. (cont'd on Page 3)

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(cont'd from Page 2) **The Choir** We are a small group compared to the numbers that used to be in the choir. Many years ago there was a waiting list for the choir. If you weren't good enough with scales etc. you were refused entry and kindly told to try again.

At the moment, I'd don't think I'd be told to try again. Probably the reason I'm allowed to stay in the choir is my ability to play the tambourine (much to Hugh's delight h'm!).

Apart from the musical talents of Christine, Margaret, Elizabeth, Agnes and Sam and our organist Hugh, there is such a friendly fellowship with lots of laughter and serious singing which our organist greatly appreciates (in between glowers – only kidding ?!) We all love you, Hugh.
(Small in numbers but high in quality. Ed.)

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Lighter Moments (1) A piece of advice Do not attempt a 1,000 Wasgij if your eyesight isn't good even with new glasses. (For anyone, like me, who is unaware. Wasgij (jigsaw spelled backwards), is a new puzzle which seems to be very perplexing."Google" for more details. Ed.)

(2) A question overheard in Spar. Why do weeds keep growing regardless of weather?

(3) A child's letter to God Dear God, My Grandpa says you were around when he was a little boy. How far back do you go? Love, Dennis____

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THE CHURCH ORGAN - UPDATE AUGUST 2025

Most of the congregation will be aware of the increasing age and fragility of the church's organ which was thrown up sharply in its recent troubles during a spell of hot weather with very low humidity.

This resulted in some parts of the instrument drying out or warping and ceasing to function properly. Much of the damage has been repaired, but there remain faults in parts which cannot be reached to repair.

Some years ago, the Church of Scotland's organ adviser, Alan Rodger examined the organ and reported his findings, but more deterioration has since taken place, and a further examination has now taken place by Matthew Hynes, a well-respected organ consultant, and a member of "Sowne of Organe", an organisation dedicated to the protection and care of historic organs in Scotland. Matthew has a special connection with our organ in that he was one of the team which cared for it for many years in the past, and he has a special affection and enthusiasm for its continued use. He considers it a particularly fine example of this type of organ, well worth preserving.

Our organ is largely unaltered since it was built in 1901, and, but for one alteration, it would be immediately classified officially as a Historic Instrument. Its tubular pneumatic action is the original from 1901, and it is now clear that some of the leather valves etc. might date from this time - long overdue for replacement! All of the few altered parts come from other Forster & Andrews organs, the same builder as ours.

We can now be assured of the technical and moral support of Sowne of Organe in our efforts to renovate and restore the organ. Matthew has already started research into two other possible sources of records of the organ's maintenance from about 50 years ago, and will be reporting his findings to us shortly. There is some hope now that we could be in a position to celebrate the organ's 125th anniversary next year! Hugh McQuiston

(The importance of any organ in worship and the historical significance of Crosshouse Parish Church organ can never be under-stated.Ed)

From Your Editor

My sincere thanks to everyone who contributed to this edition of the magazine.

Please always remember that you don't have to wait until prompted in Church or by newsletter. If something comes to mind at any time, please let me know right away. I'm always open to any contributions. Humorous, inspirational, comforting from any source, Biblical, Hymns, Art works, Music, etc. Even one-liners can be used as "fillers-in" to finish a page.

Next Deadline *Submissions for the November edition should be with me by 2nd of November This will allow time for the magazine to be compiled then printed and stapled by 16th of November i.e. two weeks prior to Communion on the 30th of November. (The November edition will include Christmas themes but, please, not too many Christmas Cracker jokes.)*

*Contact details for submissions are: **crosshouseparishchurch@cpm.org.uk** or **crosshousechurchmagazine@outlook.com**. Contributions can also be handed in to me at Church.*

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