

The Livingstones Herald

The Quarterly Magazine of Livingstone Church



ISSUE No 70

JUNE

2016

Letter from the editor



Welcome to the June edition of the magazine. For once, as I write this, the sun is shining and there is a bit of warmth in the air.

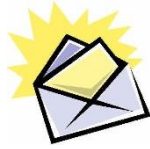
Recently a friend gave me “The Way,” the free newspaper of the church in Cumbria. I was very much taken by the headline, “I was a stranger and you welcomed me.” This was an article by the Rev Kim Hurst who was writing about her ministry in St Andrew’s Scots Church in Valetta, to migrants in Malta and the need to create a caring environment for them.

She wrote about St Paul who when he was shipwrecked on Malta received a warm welcome there and compared this to the migrants she works with who were placed in detention centres and kept there for more than a year before even being processed. The church’s mission began in those centres by teaching English to the migrants and then fund raising to provide items they desperately needed. In the church’s international centre English language classes are run two nights a week for 70 to 80 migrants keen to integrate into Maltese society. The centre also houses 2000 books donated by Books Abroad, a charity based in the north east of Scotland, which is a boon for those learning English.

Last year a foodbank was organised and opened. It is run by the church with a team of volunteer helpers. Food or money is donated by church members and others in the community, who have heard about their work. To help those who have no home, no education or no employment, the church owns and runs a micro finance company . Small, interest free loans are given to the poor, targeting migrants and Maltese women. The loan capital was provided by £100,000 raised by the Church of Scotland Guild project.

It was good to read about the excellent work that is on going in Malta and to realise that the church there is making a difference to the lives of some migrants.

Interim Moderator's Letter



Dear Friends,

A minister's daughter was amongst the Primary School children being shown around the Church as part of their RE lesson. One of her friends turned to her and whispered, "Isn't this your Dad's church?" With the infinite wisdom of an eight year old, she replied, "Actually it belongs to God, but He lets my Dad borrow it."

Yet isn't this true; we are merely custodians not only of the church but also the world around us and as Christians, we have to be conscious of this all the time.

I seldom look at BBC Alba unless there is a football or rugby match being screened as I do not understand the Gaelic language. As I write this letter, we will shortly be celebrating the feast of Pentecost, the day when the Holy Spirit came upon the disconsolate disciples of Jesus and transformed them into enthusiastic evangelists. The story recorded in the second chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, tells of the great gathering of Jews from every corner of the world who shared the same faith but spoke in different languages. Yet the story emphasises that everybody there heard the good news of the Gospel, in their own language.

We don't have to be able to understand Gaelic or a lot of languages to communicate the love of God through what we are, as the people of God. It's not a matter of knowing the script or the stories of the faith; it is living the faith in such a way that others are attracted to the Gospel.

When, on the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples, their thinking was transformed. We live in uncertain times and we can either worry or we can open ourselves to the transforming power of the

Holy Spirit and then, like the disciples of old, our whole perspective may be changed dramatically.

Our Nominating Committee is continuing the search for a minister for the linked charge and our prayer at this time must be, that the same Holy Spirit will breathe new life into our linked congregations and point us in the direction that God has chosen for us.

With every blessing,

Ken Welch
Interim Moderator

Easter Day Breakfast (in aid of Mercy Ships)



On Sunday the 27th March we gathered in the hall from 9am to be served breakfast by the JAM Club all very friendly and polite. They had their aprons and notepads to take our orders for our cooked breakfast. We helped ourselves to various cereals and juice (every flavour.)

In case we weren't eating or talking enough we could watch a video of the Mercy Ship. It really is a floating hospital with x-ray machines, theatres and wards, (most enlightening.)

We also had a quiz, to find the chocolates in the clues. It was Easter Sunday and that was most appropriate. The breakfast was enjoyable and we all enjoyed fellowship as well.

The sum of £185 was raised. Many thanks to the JAM Club and Guild members, who helped.

Mary Wilson

Prayer Thoughts



Sometimes the most difficult aspect of prayer is the idea of God listening. As Christians we believe that prayer is a conversation, which immediately assumes the involvement of at least one other person. Like me, you will have heard people tell of miraculous cures, gifts of money or food which were trusted as the answer to prayer. Equally you will know of the terrible devastation suffered by the loss of a loved one or a terrible disaster despite the most fervent prayer. Jesus' prayer at Lazarus' tomb recorded in John's gospel, chapter 11 at verses 41 and 42 says this;

“Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they might believe that You sent Me”

Jesus' words reassure us that God is listening and that Jesus came as the direct result of God's plan. Finally Jesus came with God's power, shown by the summoning of Lazarus from his tomb. Like Jesus we must be confident in the certainty of God listening and equally confident that God is with us however our prayers are answered.

Themes

Approach: Humbly, but with confidence begin your conversation with God, knowing He is listening.

Confession: Tell God about your doubts and uncertainties, the things that get in the way of following the path that God would have us walk. Ask God to help us to trust Him more fully.

Thanksgiving:

- Ministry – continue to give thanks for David Heberton's work with us.
- Fabric Team - give thanks for the dedication of the team, their skills and their vigilance in all the work they do.

- Pastoral Care – give thanks for the visiting and the use of church flowers, which brings comfort to those who are unable to attend.
- Music – give thanks for Mary and her reserves who so selflessly provide the music for our services.
- Organisations – give thanks for the dedication of the leaders and those who attend.

Intercession:

- Our Schools – pray for secondary pupils in the examination period and as they make decisions about their future. Pray for primary pupils who are soon to transfer to secondary.
- Missions – pray for the missions that will take place over the summer both locally and nationally.
- Revival – pray for a reawakening of trust and belief in God in Stevenston.
- Ministry – pray that God will direct a minister to come and lead us in Livingstone and Ardeer.

Andrew Tomlinson

The Blooming Great Tea Party



Following our success of having THE BLOOMING GREAT TEA PARTY in aid of Marie Curie last year, we are holding a similar event on SUNDAY 26TH JUNE after morning service.

Please come and support this very worthwhile cause.

The Guild

Summer Mission



Once again Livingstone Church is working with our friends in Ardeer and High Kirk to organize a Summer Mission for the town. The mission has been very successful in the past and has become quite a highlight of the school summer holidays. Representatives from the churches have been meeting regularly to plan the programme of events and activities. This year our mission will take place from Saturday 23rd July until Sunday 31st July. As usual we hope to distribute leaflets, advertising the different events. Many of you have helped with this in the past and we hope to get a good response again this year.

To start the mission off there will be a Fun Day in the High Kirk grounds on Saturday 23rd July at 2 pm. This is becoming more popular every year and if last year is anything to go by the face painters will be exhausted and the barbeque will probably run out of meat by the end of the afternoon. We hope you will come along and support us, take in the atmosphere and enjoy a hot dog and a cup of tea in the open air.

During the following week from Monday to Thursday, the mornings will be spent working with the children. The theme this year 'Pyramid Rock' will tell the story of Joseph, and the children will participate in a wide variety of activities, followed by lunch each day. There will also be two youth evenings for secondary children. Again different activities are already being planned and since food is so important to teenagers, each evening will include supper.

To conclude the week there will be, as last year, a prayer walk on the Sunday afternoon starting from St John's and ending at Ardeer Church hall.

Please remember to pray for God's guidance in the preparation for the summer mission and if you feel you would like to help in any way please let me know.

Catherine Reid

Sandra Palmer (Farewell)



One of our elders Sandra Palmer has unfortunately moved out of the area to be closer to her daughter and family in England. Sandra has been a very active member of the Kirk Session for many years. If volunteers were required Sandra was always one of the first to become involved - she just couldn't sit by and say no.

Within Livingstone she was the driving force and organiser of the tea after the service, she led the prayer group, was convenor of the Communications Committee. On a weekly basis she produced and printed the order of service, always adding her own 'Sunday Smiles'. Humour is a great asset of Sandra's and this she brought to Livingstone Players annual panto either through writing the script or by her portrayal of characters.

As part of our linkage with Ardeer, Sandra was heavily involved in the setting up of ASFACT devoting a great deal of time and effort to ensuring that this was a successful initiative. Through this work she also attended meetings in Edinburgh for areas of priority treatment.

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Kirk Session to thank Sandra for all her work for Livingstone over the years and wish her well in her new life down south. We look forward to welcoming her on trips 'back home'.

Sandy Hershaw
Session Clerk

JAM Club



The JAM Club sessions are over for another year and what a busy year it has been. From Harvest to Christmas and then Love for Valentine's to Easter and then Moses, the time has flown by. The children are creative as ever with crafts and pictures. Learning from the Bible stories has been fun along with learning new songs and old to show the congregation what we have been doing.

We have our trip to look forward to and this year we hope to visit the Burns Cottage museum on the 4th of June so fingers crossed that the weather will be kind to us and everyone will have a great time. I must thank all my volunteers who help each week and of course the Grans who bring the children to the Jam Club too! We have a steady seven but there is always room for more. I look forward to my time away to recharge my batteries and organize next year's syllabus as September will be here before we know it.

I wish all the children 'a happy summer holidays' and will see them again in September.

Luisa Chisholm

Church Bulletins



This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.

Announcement in the church bulletin for a National Prayer and Fasting conference: "The cost for attending the Prayer and fasting conference includes meals."

Finance



A short summary of the Church Funds to the end of the first quarter 2016

Numbers

Main Fund Balances	Mar. 2015 (£)	Mar. 2016 (£)
General Fund	-3054	-2150
Designated Funds	3565	4724
Restricted Funds	1977	2730
Fabric Fund	10125	4124
Beneficiary/Reserve Funds	129885	125269

	(Jan-Mar) 2015	(Jan-Mar) 2016
Comparison of Offerings	2015	2016
Plate	300	324
Gift Aided	6142	6607
Free Will Offering	2602	2117

Overall Offerings unchanged compared to same period last year.

Comparison of Total Income 10169 9468

Our income from all sources is down 6.9% compared to last year.

Comparison of Expenses 12169 12425

Overall expenses for 2015 are up 2.1%

The main contributors to expenditure are:

1. The recommencement of stipend payments: £1570 per quarter
2. Gas bills of £1655

3. Ministry and Mission: £2942 per month Feb.-Nov.
4. Insurance £300 per month
5. This year it is our turn to pay the travel expenses: £150 per month

The above equates to £4942 per month before any other expenses are met. Our present income averages £3156 per month even if we get £9000 from gift aid that will not be sufficient to cover the deficit.

By Church rules we must as a congregation specifically address stewardship at least once every three years. It is a least that time since we did so.

The boiler costs were met in full from the Fabric Fund held by the General Trustees. This fund is restricted so cannot be used for normal running costs.

The parking area at the front cost £1860 as per estimate.



Pat Gray has just completed our Gift Aid claim for last year for which she has my and no doubt your thanks. It is a time - consuming task and we are fortunate to have Pat's experience in handling it. Also related to Gift Aid could I remind members that if at any time they stop being a tax payer to let either Pat or myself know so that the claim can be adjusted. If however you are in the 'fortunate' position of paying tax please sign a gift aid form.

Finlay Kerr (Treasurer)



The Guild



Our weekly Guild meetings are now over for another session and we have enjoyed our time spent together during the months leading up to Easter. Unfortunately two of our guest speakers had to cancel at the last minute due to illness but we managed to find something to do.

We had an enjoyable concert and afternoon tea in February. We were entertained by Largs Accordion Band and we all enjoyed singing along to the well know tunes.

Our AGM and Easter Service were well attended. We held our annual Daffodil Tea on the Tuesday of Holy Week and it was enjoyed by all.

We decided to visit Caldwell Garden Centre for our trip on Tuesday May 12th with tea at Nardini's, Largs on the way home. We prefer a shorter trip these days, as we are getting too old for the marathon trips of earlier years.

Our last Guild meeting is the Ardrossan Presbyterial Council's June Rally on June 7th at 2pm in St Columba's Largs when the speaker will be Carol Finlay from World Mission Council of Church of Scotland.

All that is left now is to decide on the syllabus for next session, and hope it will appeal to the members.

Dorothy Penno



Letter of Thanks



Thank you for your gift of £185.00.

Supporters across the country have given over 640 breakfasts since 2009, and collected hundreds of donations from friends, colleagues, club members, hospital staff, at leisure centres and schools, helping to raise awareness of the extraordinary work of our hospital-ship, Africa Mercy.

Our donors and supporters help us to provide specialist surgical care from our hospital-ship, and are making a lasting difference for our patients in 2016, and beyond.

On behalf of many patients who are receiving medical services which are not normally available for them, please pass on thanks to all those who contributed for your gift. You are certainly giving a brighter future to our patients!

With thanks for your generosity and work for Mercy Ships

Judy Polkinhorn (Revd) - Executive Director

Church Diary



Regular worship Each Sunday at 10am

Midweek service Wednesday 10.30am

Communion Service Sunday 5th June 10 am (Livingstone)

11.30am (Ardeer)

Please refer to weekly Order of Service for on- going events.

Fabric Committee Report



After being very busy last quarter with the pantomime and the installation of the new boiler etc., we haven't had as much work recently. However we no doubt will be rectifying this shortly!

At this time we are putting in extra beams to support the stage and then laying plywood sheeting on top. We will finish the job with a painted coating because the old surface was liable to cause splinters harming users. This will be quite a big job as the surface is a large area. However we hope to have the task finished soon, just in time for the theatre group to hold a concert.

We have been given permission to install a Disabled Toilet in the base of the bell -tower, and this should be of benefit to members and visitors alike. Work will start soon when the weather is better so that the drains outside can be dug relatively easily.

Summer Club



As I am sure the congregation are well aware, the Jam Club is run throughout the year by Mrs Luisa Chisholm. She provides a most enjoyable and informative club for children covering a wide range of ages. This demands considerable commitment on her behalf and has to be fitted in between her nursing career and her family life. The JAM

Club finishes at the end of May and resumes at the beginning of September.

Members of the congregation aim to fill this gap and provide a summer club for the children. We would be very grateful for any help you feel able to give us to provide a range of activities for the children during the summer months. Our aim is to provide a fun time for all taking part, adults and children alike! Please speak to me if you can help in any way.



Catherine Burns

Singapore Fling



During a recent holiday, we had decided to have a stopover for a few days in Singapore, partly because we had never been there, partly because of what we had read and heard about it, and partly because the plane stopped there. It was a good decision.

Someone had written in one of the guide books that he loves Singapore - "It'll be lovely when they finish it". We very quickly realised what he meant. There is building going on everywhere, and all the time. They are continually refurbishing the place: new things, replacement things, bigger and better things. And yet, there's no dirt, people are unfailingly polite and pleasant, and they want you to enjoy yourself in their city.

The inhabitants have come from many places to make Singapore their

home and they have brought their cultures, their customs and their religions with them, but they all seem to get on well together. Places we visited included St Andrews Cathedral, the Sultan Mosque, and the Hindu Sri Veeramakaliamman Temple, all beautiful buildings in very different ways. The mosque has a magnificent golden dome and imposing minarets, and was being invaded by a horde of smart, white-shirted, polished-shoed and identically behatted schoolboys, marched there from school for Friday prayers; the temple is a colourful, bustling place, decorated with intricate carvings, and it had already been invaded by goodness knows how many people who had all left their shoes at the door; the Cathedral, a gleaming white building standing in peaceful gardens, is a lovely but deserted echoing space across the road from the Singapore Cricket Club. It seemed that the Christians weren't having as much fun as the others. As for the Cricket Club, it looked the most hallowed of all, so we didn't dare go in, but regarded its beauty across the immaculate sward.

You may also have heard that there are a few shops in Singapore. Our hotel was close to Orchard Road, which is well known for its shopping malls. From the street they don't look unusual. When you go inside, it's a little different. Well actually, it's hugely different. And we mean hugely, as in HUGE. All indoors, each one seems about the size of Saltcoats - all of Saltcoats. They tend to have about eight floors (up the way), two or three floors below, and a couple of floors of car parks below that. So we suppose each of them is the size of 10 Saltcoatses. If it's raining you can go from one to the other without getting wet. We were told that on Orchard Road alone, there are 22 of these Malls. We didn't check.

Other areas include Little India and Arab Street, Boat Quay and Chinatown, Raffles City (next to Raffles Hotel (we were too scruffy to go in!), and the Esplanade and Bay area. In the Bay area, we had a high class lunch of Chilli Crab at the Hawker Stalls in Glutton's Bay. The stall we chose was called Chung Kee's (say it out loud) and as well as the crab, they provided a fork, a spoon, a pair of plastic gloves, and a plastic pinny. We also got lots of paper napkins. We needed them all! The setting is al fresco, plastic chairs and tables that you find yourself,

and the crowded piazza is very jolly. The food was delicious.

These areas are all (almost) within walking distance of each other, but there is a good metro system called the MRT (Mass Rapid Transit). It's clean, quick and cheap, but it's best to avoid rush hour. Everybody else uses it then. Probably because of the climate, which is hot and humid, everyone walks at a very sedate pace, frequent pit stops for refreshment are a good idea, and although it's a very busy city, we found it a very pleasant place to be. We probably wouldn't want to live there, but for a short break we enjoyed it hugely (even the shopping malls). It was a great start to our holiday.

Alan and Anne Cochrane

Re-dedication Service



Sunday 24th April 2016 was an important date in the life of Ardeer Parish Church. On that day we celebrated the renovation of the church with a service of re-dedication, giving thanks for the work done but also taking time to give thanks to God for His goodness to us. It was an uplifting service conducted by our locum Rev David Heberton with the Very Rev Bill Hewitt preaching and leading the re-dedication. The service was well attended with an excellent representation from all the organisations. The Children's Church sang a couple of songs, with the older girls singing 'Seek Ye First', a timely reminder of the importance of putting God first in all that we do.

We know that the church is not just about a building but is also, and more importantly, about the people. The service on 24th April gave us

the chance to re-dedicate ourselves to the work God has for us here in Ardeer. We now have the facilities to host a range of events to meet the needs of the community and we have the opportunity to reach out into that community and show God's love to those around us. We pray that God will guide us as we start this next chapter in the life of Ardeer.

A lot of hard work went in to raising the money to pay for the renovations and whilst the majority of the money was raised through donations from a wide range of funders, a substantial amount was raised by the congregation themselves both through direct giving and also through a range of fund raising activities. Sincere thanks go to everyone who supported our fundraising events and for the prayers and the encouragement we received from our friends in both Livingstone Church and the High Kirk.

Margaret Craik

Wainhouse Tower



Anyone watching the tv serial “Happy Valley” would have noticed in the opening captions, a chimney with a fancy top. It stands about 400 yards down one of the hillsides of the Calder Valley in Yorkshire and can be seen for miles in the surrounding area. As this part of the valley became more industrialised years ago, smoke from mills and factories became a nuisance.

A chimney was started in order to take smoke from the Dyeworks in the valley bottom via an underground flue, up the side of the valley to the chimney near the crest of the hill (a common practice in the area).

Due to mistakes in the building and design of the flues it was not possible for the tower to work as a chimney so it was decided to turn it into a 300 foot monument with an octagonal stone outer surface and an inner brick skin.

It has a 400 step circular staircase in between. It is capped by four pedimented features, a heavy cornice and an observation gallery. The stone used for the construction was of Ashlar costing £10000 and came from the owner's quarry and weighed 9000 tons. It was built between 1871 and 1875.

The tower changed hands over the years and was eventually opened to the public . When it fell into disrepair it was found that it would take more money to demolish it than to repair it. So it was bought by public subscription for the town of Halifax and is in the hands of the parks department. The shaft of the tower was covered by a concrete floor and levelled with the gallery.

In 1909 it received a licence to transmit radio signals and under the callsign DHX the "Voice of Wainhouse Tower" could be heard up to 800 miles away. In the second world war the army used it as an observation post . At the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953 the fancy summit of the tower was illuminated and was visible for miles and looked like a wonderful wedding cake in the sky. Presently it is Yorkshire's largest folly. It opens at Whitsuntide and can be ascended for a small fee.

The Pilgrims



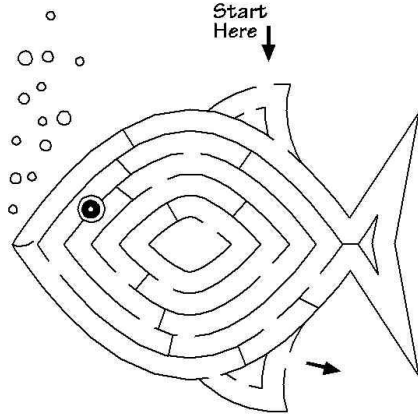
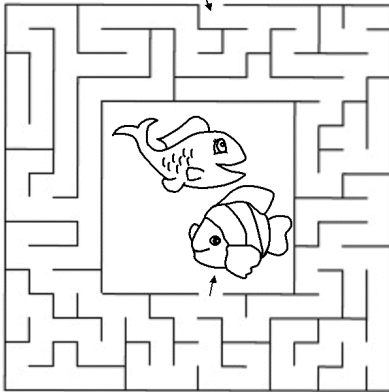
Remember the magazine can also be viewed on the Church website. The address is **livingstonechurch.org.uk** where you can also find the weekly church service and more about the wider life of the church. My thanks to all contributors. Articles for the September magazine should be sent to me by Sunday 7th August.

Jam Club Puzzles

Twelve Disciples Maze



Help the disciples find the fish they caught.



Jesus Feeds 5000 Word Search

F I V E W S W A R T X E T D S
 T T J M X D R O O U C H H E O
 R G E S Z Q T X L H V B O L B
 E L C A R I M W O L A B U A R
 K D I S C I P L E S O Y S E E
 B I N V M H C H K L R F A H A
 S U P P E R I E C G V H N T D
 K B N H O T T N N N S E D A T
 P G O W P S T U G I U A V O W
 N F D Y K R H G F L P L T B O

BASKETS
 BOY
 BOAT
 BREAD
 CROWD
 DISCIPLES
 EXTRA
 FISH
 FIVE
 FOLLOW
 HEALED
 HUNGRY
 LUNCH
 MIRACLE
 SUPPER
 TEACHING
 THOUSAND
 TWELVE
 TWO

