

Stevenston Ardeer Parish Church of Scotland

Network March 2018



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Dear friends

There was a son, a younger son, whose father was rich and owned a large farm. The younger son and his older brother were involved in the running of the farm. But the younger boy wanted much more than that; he wanted to see the world, he wanted to see the sights and party with the great and the good – at least, the great and the good in his mind. So he asked his father for his share of the inheritance so that he could go off and see the world. The father agreed and gave his younger son his inheritance and off the boy went.

He went to different lands and he partied. He squandered all his money on wild living and pretty soon, there was nothing left. Nothing for him to get food, nothing for him to live on. In desperation, he got a job in that country and was sent out into the fields to look after the pigs. Suddenly he came to his senses and decided to go home and seek the forgiveness and mercy of his father.

He was still a long way off when the father, who was always looking for his son, saw him. Filled with compassion, the father ran to the son, hugged him and kissed him and restored him into the family.

There's so much in this story (Luke 15) and it's usually called the Prodigal Son or the Lost Son but actually, it's much more about the father, watching, waiting, longing for his child to return to him so that he can restore him back into the family. It's a story of God our Father who, if we so desire, lets us go and then always in love is looking for our return. He sees us a long way off and greets us, holding us tight and covering us with his forgiveness and mercy. He does this because He loves us.

So many times people will say that God is far off, distant, removed or non-existent. But they're not aware that He is watching out for us, longing, loving, waiting for us to come to our senses and return to Him.

For me, this is Path of Renewal. It's a way through which we can become disciples of Christ Jesus and connect with God through Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit. Once we begin to develop as disciples, we see the way to mission; how we connect with others and bring them the good news of the Lord Jesus Christ and the salvation he bought for us through his life, death, resurrection and ascension. Path of Renewal isn't a project; we're not doing it alongside everything else that we're doing. It isn't a movement or a way of life. For me, it's something we can use to refocus from the patterns of this world to the grace, love and mercy of God our Father.

One of the things that we're using to help us read the Word together is the Bible Project. It's a plan to read the bible in a year but sets the daily readings out with a Psalm every day to read and pray around. There were copies of the plan in both churches but if you want one, either go the Bible Project website, www.thebibleproject.com or speak to me and I'll get you a copy. There also an app on the website which you can download and follow the reading plan on that. By reading the Word together, we're on the road to discipleship. We need to be able to pray together but not just on a Sunday morning. We've been blessed this year to have Brian Murray with us as part of his Readership training. I've asked Brian to look at a couple of things in our church life, one of them is how we, as the family of God, can pray together.

The younger brother turned his back on his father and walked away. He doing so he was a sinned for that's what it is when we turn our back on our Father. The son realised what he was doing and repented and when he did so, he found his father there waiting for him, longing to welcome him back and restore him into the family. When we repent, turning our back on the world to face God, He's there, waiting, longing, loving, ready to welcome us back to the fold and restore us to Him again. All this is possible through God who made the ultimate sacrifice in His Son, Jesus Christ, who lived and died for us.

Every blessing

Dave, Minister and friend

My letter to you– Brian

By now many of you will have met me when I appeared suddenly before you. In case you are wondering who and what I am let me remind you of why I am with you for a few months. I come from West Kilbride where I attend West Kilbride Parish Church. The Kirk Session there have graciously given me a sabbatical from leading worship and my eldership duties. I am progressing through Readership Training for the Church of Scotland. My 3 years of studies have come to an end at Aberdeen University where I passed all my modules necessary to obtain my Certificate in Divinity. Who would have thought going back to school at my age would see me doing that? I have had enormous prayer support along the way. My wife Deirdre has been a stalwart in helping me through the training just as God asked her to do in a dream a few years ago. I have completed five conferences and two previous placements so now I am on the last lap of the journey with you at both Livingstone and AR deer Churches.

Since joining you on this part of my journey and getting to know Dave your minister, (he insists I call him Dave), I have a new respect for ministers in his situation with a linkage, or for those covering large areas as interim moderators. Our ministers and church leaders are working to capacity in their calling. Please continue to bear them up in prayer at every occasion. I believe part of my calling is to help where I can in the church and leading where God directs.

At some point in my placement, assessors will come to the churches and see what I'm like! All going well I expect to be through the whole process by the summer and God willing become a Reader in the Church of Scotland later in the year.

For those who have felt a calling into any stream of ministry in their church and who may be reading this let me encourage you to follow it up. I first started feeling the call back in 2010, but the process scared me off. I now feel that the time was not what God had in mind. However, a few years later I had a peace about the whole thing. In fact it has been a pleasure to embrace the learning and the experience and I have made numerous new friends through the course, in churches and on-line. The distance learning programme although crashing at times, allowed us more mature students (like me), along with the younger ones to converse on-line and take part with the lecturers in the classes. It's amazing who you meet. There were people from the Bahamas, Switzerland, even England signing in. We had fun blethering while waiting on the lecturer to sign in too. It is such a privilege to have direct contact with professors and doctors of divinity, who, I must say, were approachable and very interested in my progress. There was always someone to ask or talk to if I had a problem with things or the internet. The lecturers were so helpful in allowing for glitches in the internet systems especially during exams. On two occasions I had to e mail my typing up to Aberdeen as the programme was a bit unstable on these occasions.

Well that is the position with me at present so I'll keep you posted. Thank you once again for your support in all this. I trust that I will be of benefit to your churches. I have a heart for prayer, especially prayer of intercession and healing. Singing and playing the guitar in leading worship is another gift God has bestowed on me so that I can encourage and motivate. I hope to play for you as time goes on. My only uncertainty at the moment is not knowing where I will end up. Not that that is a problem. Someone at a conference came to speak to us students and said that even when we qualify "God may not be finished with you even then". Keep smiling and blessings from your visiting brother!

Brian Murray

Treasurers Report

General Funding

The following is a summary of the congregation financial position in 2017. A more detailed explanation will be contained in our Annual Statement which is currently being prepared for Session approval followed by review and approval by Presbytery, prior to presentation at the Annual Stated Meeting.

Total congregational income was £46,513 compared to £51,951 in 2016. Offerings totalled £35,706 compared to £37,373 achieved in 2016. This represents a reduction in weekly offerings from £719 in 2016 to £687 in 2017. In addition, both income from Gift Aid and other income including hall hire and fund-raising events reduced by £3,370 in 2017.

Expenditure in 2017 was £49,606 compared to £47,163 in 2016. The Congregation again met the Ministries and Mission allocation in full. A payment of £2,400 for locum expenditure remains outstanding pending a review by the Ministries and Mission committee.

Given the above reduced income and increased expenditure our General fund balance as at 31st December 2017 was £3,741 compared to £7,015 in 2016.

Subject to agreement by Session, the budget expenditure for 2018 has been set at £47,100. To achieve the above expenditure budgeted income from offerings of £37,500 is required, which represents a 5% increase in offerings. As in previous years fund raising will be required to achieve the budget income target.

The final Retention fees for the Restoration project were paid during the year. This allowed receipt of the final donations of £17,200 from the Heritage Lottery Fund and Historic Scotland. In addition, a drawdown of £14,073 was made from the Central Fabric Fund to cover the new lighting in the church and erection of the glass partition in the transept. The balance held in the Restoration fund at 31st December 2017 was £12,500.

Although Phase 1 of the Restoration project has been completed, there is a need to continue fabric repairs in the future. We would therefore ask that the members of the congregation who have faithfully supported this fund over the past six years will continue to do so.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their financial support during 2017. Also, thanks to the Kirk Session and the members of the Finance committee for all their support.

Jim Dunwoodie (Treasurer)



We are now approaching the end of another very successful session. Our Monday meetings have been well attended and we have had lots of interesting speakers.

Lorna Harris had us all moving with her Chair exercises; while David Watson's story about a wedding in India was really enjoyable. The work of Tools with a Mission was explained by Donald McLarty.

We still have a few speakers planned. Talks on 'Clyde Steamers', 'Flanders Field' and the 'Commonwealth Games' are sure to be very informative.

Our season comes to an end with Margaret Turner and 'Sing for Joy'.

10th January 2018

Ardeer Parish Church
Shore Road
STEVENSTON
KA20 3LA



Dear Reverend Dave Sutherland

We hope that you had a good Christmas and Happy New Year.

We here at the Ardrossan Area Team office would like to convey a grateful thank you for the wonderful Christmas gifts and donation received from you in 2017.

Every year we have been overwhelmed by the generosity of your Church. In 2017 we were able to reach out and support over 120 children within the North Ayrshire area. Without the generosity of you, we would not have been able to assist the families we support in having a Christmas that they enjoyed and remembered.

As a team we spent the year raising funds to put towards the Family Christmas Dinner fund so we can provide each family we support with a Christmas Chicken dinner and thanks again to the generosity we received from Ardeer Parish Church, we were able to provide families with this and gifts .

We hope that we are able to provide the same service to the families within North Ayrshire in 2018.

We wish you all the very best for 2018.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Louise Cast'.

Louise Cast
Support Worker
On Behalf of everyone at the Ardrossan Team



Children's Church

After all the excitement of Christmas the Children's church has started back again. So far we have looked at some of the miracles Jesus performed, the healing of the blind man, the leper and the man who couldn't walk. We've also heard the story of the feeding of the 5,000, complete with fish and bread !! Periodically the older children are going to run the Children's Church

with a story, craft and songs for the younger ones. The first story they have chosen to do is the Lost Sheep.

Our numbers are a bit smaller than we would like so please encourage any children you know to come along to church on a Sunday morning. Hopefully now that we have the 11.30 service it will be a bit easier for families.

Thank you for your continued support, encouragement and prayers.

Learning Group

Who Wants to be a 'Bible' Millionaire

The next event of the Learning Group will be on Wednesday 28th February at 7pm in the church hall. It will be a **fun** quiz based on the bible. Everyone will be in teams so no one will be left having to answer questions on their own, and it will be fun. After the quiz there will be tea/coffee and refreshments and a time of fellowship. We look forward to seeing as many people as possible there. Please spread the word and bring your friends.

The Learning Group is also organising an event in June. Provisional date Wednesday 20th June. More details in the next edition of Network.

Many thanks for your support.

The Learning Group



From all at boys' brigade Merry Christmas and all the best for 2018. We have had our Christmas parties. Anchors all brought along a girl and we had a visit from Santa, the Juniors had a sports party at St Matthews while the company and football team went to the cinema to see star wars.

We have been bag packing at Morrison's were we raised £ 568.79 to go towards our Paris trip. We also had a very successful Christmas fete where we raised £375 for our funds.

We are trying to gather together recipes to print a book to sell for funds to pay for summer trips and camps. To do this we need your help, if you have any recipes please write them down and hand them to an officer or pop them into the box in the church hall, please add your name. Thank you.

We are going to be holding a sponsored walk in early March for all sections. A vintage games night is also planned, we don't have a date yet look out for posters.

In competitions the juniors and company did well winning 5 gold and 1 silver in the swimming competition and the company boys took part in a pool competition and came 2nd so good start.

We have a busy few months ahead:-

Anchors will be taking part in a burns supper, a Gruffalo themed night, a potted sports night and THE 12 DISCIPLES AND MORE we also have a Anchors fun day on Saturday the 17th February held at Irvine Royal. Anchors parents night will be the 10th May and their trip will be on Saturday the 12th May.

Juniors are at the moment busy practising for the mime and drama and figure marching competition. We also have a dodge ball and football to take part in. In early March Cat Protection are popping in to talk to the boys about how to care for their pet cat etc. We held a sleepover on 2nd February in hall with the theme "I'm a celebrity get me out of here", great fun where boys had to do challenges to win stars. They sleep in tents and one of the challenges was to eat insects. We have a camp in Dunure for juniors in May.

Company This session we have 4 boys who are receiving the presidents badge, the second highest award in boys brigade, we are very proud of them. The company and seniors boys have been learning about the 12 disciples and global warming, they will be learning about poverty, doing drill and figure marching.

In March they will be learning more about the dasher also attending the dasher service on board the Arran ferry on the Saturday and attending the service at the memorial in Ardrossan. Tuesday 27th March marks 75 years since the disaster where many men lost their lives and many children lost their fathers.

On the 25th of March we also take part in the battalion parade this year at Irvine where we parade with other companies from north Ayrshire next year 1st Stevenston are the hosts.

Holy Week

The Battle

One day an old chief told the children of the tribe about the battle that goes on inside people. He said the battle is between 2 'WOLVES' that are in us all.

One is Evil

It is angry, envious, it is arrogant and greedy and tells lies not only to others but to itself. It feels sorry for itself as well as having false pride and thinks it's better than others and has an ego as big as a bear.

The other is Good

It is at peace with the world and those it meets. It is full of kindness and love, it is generous, has compassion for all, it is humble and always tells the truth. It has faith in others that they will do their best and has hope in the future for us all. This lets the spirit fly like the eagle seeing all the wonderful things God has given us.

After listening to the chief for a moment one of the children asked the chief.

Which wolf wins?

The old chief simply replied. **THE ONE YOU FEED.**

Margaret Craik

Date	Description	Speaker	Venue	Information
25/03/2018	Palm Sunday/ Passion Sunday	Rev. Dave Sutherland	Livingstone Church	10am
			Ardeer Church	11.30am
26/03/2018	Passion Conference Even- ing Worship	Rev. James McNay	High Kirk Halls	12.15pm Free Lunch included
		Rev. Dave Sutherland	Livingstone Church	7pm
27/03/2018	Passion Conference	Rev. Dave Sutherland	High Kirk Halls	12.15pm Free Lunch included
	Evening Worship		Ardeer Church	7pm
28/03/2018	Glencairn Primary School	Rev. Dave Sutherland	Livingstone Church	Easter Service 09.15am
	Passion Conference	Rev. Norman Cruickshank	High Kirk Halls	12.15pm Free Lunch included
	Ardeer Primary School	Rev. Dave Sutherland	Ardeer Church	Easter Service 1.30pm
	Evening Worship	Rev. Dave Sutherland	Livingstone Church	7pm
29/03/2018	Passion Conference	Rev. Martin Thomson	High Kirk Halls	12.15pm Free Lunch included
	Maundy Thursday	Rev. Dave Sutherland	Ardeer Church	7pm The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
30/03/2018	Good Friday: High Kirk Passion	Rev. Hector Morrison	High Kirk	7.30pm
31/03/2018	Passion Confer- ence	Rev. Hector Morrison	High Kirk	7.30pm
01/04/2018	Dawn SonRise Service	Rev. Dave Sutherland	Stevenston Point	7am (In Ardeer Church if inclement weath- er)
	Breakfast	Ardeer Church		8am
	Easter Day Shared Worship	Rev. Dave Sutherland	Livingstone Church	10.30am

NOW LETS HAVE SOME FUN

Can you find these Bible names in the puzzle?
Beside each name is it's meaning.
Is your name in the puzzle?



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



NAME	MEANING
Jesus	The Lord saves
Mary	Beloved
Joseph	He will add
Michael	Who is like God
Gabriel	Strong man of God
Peter	Stone
Daniel	God is my judge
Hannah	Favor or grace
Elizabeth	God's oath
Caleb	(promise)
Andrew	Faithful, bold
John	Manly
Jacob	God's gracious gift
Paul	Holder of the heel
Rachel	Small or humble
Philip	Ewe (female sheep)
	Friend of horses





Stevenston: Ardeer Parish Church

**We celebrate the Sacrament of
Holy Communion at 11.30am on
Sunday 4th March 2018.
Please join us in fellowship and
worship.**



Dates for your diary:-

Sunday 4th March 2018

7pm Evening Worship including the ministry of Christian Healing at Livingstone Church

Wednesday 21st March 2018

Thistle Day Care 2pm

Shared Worship

Sunday 29th April 2018 - Livingstone Church

Next Edition

I am only the editor of this magazine and can only publish articles given to me. I therefore require the co-operation of the whole congregation to contribute and improve your magazine.

Articles to be included in the June 2018 edition need to be in my possession by Sunday 6th May 2018. My telephone number is 01294 468264 or 07554865399 e-mail address is margaretkelso@googlemail.com



Charity number SC 015397

