

2023

From the Manse

As I write this piece for our parish magazine, I'm conscious that preparations are being made for our annual services of Remembrance.

This special moment provides us all with an opportunity to pause once again to reflect on the horror of war, on the pain of loss and on the gratitude we have for those who were willing to serve in a just cause against the advancement of evil in our world.



The global context this year however brings thoughts of conflict into sharp focus for many of us as we witness the destruction, pain and death coming from conflicts in Ukraine, in Israel and in Gaza.

In this era the images of war's effects are not words on a page but come to us in high-definition colour video, not days or weeks later but minute by minute as it happens. We naturally reel from the graphic and gruesome sights and sounds – and so we should – this is not the kind of world our God wants for us.

It is however the kind of world the Bible tells us will come about when humanity's base nature is given licence.

Jesus said, "For from the inside, from your heart, come the evil ideas which lead you to do immoral things, to rob, kill, commit adultery, be greedy, and do all sorts of evil things; deceit, indecency, jealousy, slander, pride, and folly— all these evil things come from inside you"



Yes, this is the human condition and what we view around us in the world is how it finds its expression in so many forms of wrongdoing, including violence, even wars. What then is the answer? Well Jesus is also very clear that there is only one path towards a better way of being and that is through Him.

He teaches us a better way, he demonstrates a better example, His self-sacrifice was precisely to deal with sins effects, His resurrection assures us of His power and the gift of the Holy Spirit enables us daily to take better decisions with better outcomes for us and for others.

In this time of desiring peace, in seeking help, in needing hope we are encouraged to turn to Him - to Jesus, who is more than able to help us in our concerns and troubles and who wants to lead us toward a different kind of world, one which is better, kinder, more peaceful and loving.

May God's grace, mercy and peace be with us all as we remember, reflect and pray.

Diary Dates

3rd December Communion 11:15am Mauchline Church

24th December Family Service 11:15am Mauchline Church

Christmas Eve Reflections 6pm Mauchline Church

Midnight Service 11:30pm Sorn Church

(Carol singing from 11:15pm)

31st December Joint Service 11am Sorn Church only

7th January Joint Service 11am Mauchline Church only

Church Membership

Anyone interested in becoming a church member please speak to the minister over the next few weeks.

It is hoped to have a series of meetings leading to full membership in the New Year.

Mauchline Church Men's Club

The new session started on 13th September with a well attended Games Night.

On 27th September Rev Dr Alan Vint gave an interesting talk about his journey from Miners Son to Manse.

What a busy journey the Rev Vint has had in his various charges!

October meetings started on the 11th with a Games Night which was well attended and enjoyed by all.

Our speaker on 25th October was Mr Alister Duff Optician who gave an excellent illustrated talk on his journey through business and "The Ageing Eye."

Alister gave advice on caring for our eyes and answered numerous questions from the group.

Three new members have joined the club so come along and join in our friendly meetings

Next meeting is on November 22nd a talk by Mr John Dale entitled "Three Score Years and Ten."

ON DECEMBER 6th (PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE)

Outing and tour of Kilmarnock Football Club and Christmas Meal in Park Hotel Kilmarnock.

January 10th is our first meeting of the new year which is a Games Night.

January 24th the speaker is Mr Jimmy Wyllie giving a talk on "History of the Curling Stone Works."

February 14th is a Games Night.

February 28th Evening with the Guild – Speaker Mr Bill Grant. "Light Hearted Talk on 30years in the Fire Service."

March 13th Games Night

March 27th Rev Bob Mayes

April 10th A.G.M.

Please come along and join our friendly group.

Willie Jardine

Flower Fund

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who continues to contribute generously to the Church Flower Fund.

Also a big Thankyou to those of you who help out with the arranging of the flowers and the delivery of them .

I much appreciate your valued assistance .

It is nearly time for the Flower Calendar for 2024 which I am at this moment preparing .

If there is anyone who would like a particular date to commemorate a loved one , an anniversary ,a birthday or any date that is special to you please do not hesitate to contact me on 07958264107.

Decorating our Sanctuary is a very worthwhile task and is extremely important to many in the church and brings a great deal of pleasure and comfort to members of our congregation and to those who receive them .

Thank You

Carol Strachan

Flower Convenor

The Guild

The new Guild session started on Monday 11.10.23 and is now well underway.

Two new members joined and it is not to late to come along to our meetings and enjoy the worship, friendship and fellowship.

You will be most welcome.

The theme this year is "New Wine, New Wineskins".

This is the third strand of our three year strategy

"LOOK FORWARD IN FAITH".

As we explore this theme we really need our faith to move forward into new ways of doing things., Not new ways just for the sake of new ways, because the Guild,like the Church,is in a period of change. The Rev. Allan Vint was our speaker at the opening meeting when he gave an excellent,interesting and informative talk on "The Covenanters".

We learned a lot that day.

We have also had a speaker from Blythswood Care, an enthusiastic young lady, whose illustrated presentation demonstrated her passion for her subject.

We found out much about the " SHOE BOX APPEAL" which we are currently supporting and the other work carried out by Blythswood.

At our next meeting we heard about Road Safety, pedestrian and driving.

Again this was an excellent presentation much enjoyed by all.

We have a busy schedule ahead.

Further details of our syllabus can be found "online".

If you are free on the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month please come along and join our meetings.

You will be very welcome.

Isabel Smith, Convenor.

Treasurer report November 2023

Total receipts	Jan – October 2023	£85,318.57
Total expenditure	Jan – October 2023	<u>£69,115.89</u>
Surplus	Jan – October 2023	<u>£16,202.68</u>

Our Gift Day in September brought in donations totalling £1,850.

Whilst this is a good sum to receive, it is well down on last year's donations.

Architect fees of just over £4,000 were paid – this was for the accessible toilet project.

Once again I would like to thank everyone who contributes on a regular basis and for this I, as treasurer am very grateful.

Yours in Christ

Elizabeth Morris

Treasurer

Woman's Day – Reconnecting

As a church community we were very aware of the problems caused by Covid lockdowns and how difficult it has been for many people to reconnect with the church, with friends, with previous clubs and organisations they attended.

The Mission Committee decided that the time was right to organise an event to bring woman together in a time of fun, friendship and fellowship and organised a Woman's Day called Reconnecting on Saturday 30th September.

We met in the church and after a welcome, hymn and prayer our keynote speaker for the morning was Elaine Duncan, the CEO of the Scottish Bible Society.

Elaine spoke to us about John's Gospel and how we can reconnect with God.

Elaine is a very interesting and entertaining speaker and her talk is on the church YouTube channel for anyone who would like to listen in.

We then split into various workshops in both the church and church hall where we explored how we can reconnect with God through music, scripture, nature, sustenance and craft.

A big thank you to Lynne, Jean N, Jean B, Elaina and Dorothy for organising and running our workshops.

The chatter and laughter made it obvious that everyone was certainly reconnecting and enjoying themselves.

A great day was rounded off with a wonderful lunch, cooked and served by Kevin and Ray from Ayrshire Catering.

This was also a terrific time of friendship and fellowship and the overwhelming feeling from the day that the event was a great success and folks left with hopes that it would be able to happen again.

Thank you to everyone who helped organise the event in any way and to those who attended on the day.



MacMillan Big Coffee Morning

Mauchline Parish Church once again ran a MacMillan Big Coffee Morning in conjunction with Mauchline Primary School at the end of September.

The P6 & P7 classes designed posters advertising the event and these were displayed in shops around the village.

We were also delighted to have the House Captains and Vice-Captains along on the day to welcome everyone to the event and to help serve the cakes.

Their happy smiling faces lit up the room and everyone commented on how polite and friendly they were, it's great to have them join us as part of this event.

Mauchline Parish Church

Linked with Sorn Parish Church

Everyone involved in organising the event would like to say a big thank you to everyone who helped on the day or who came along and supported the event.

The magnificent sum of £745 was sent to this worthwhile cause.

Foodbank

The Cumnock food bank continues to require donations of non perishable foodstuff as well as toiletries and pet food.

One thing I always hear from them is diluting juice and tins of cold meat such as ham, corned beef, etc.

They're also considering breaking away from the Trussell Trust as they feel they're not getting the support needed from the branch in Kilmarnock.

That is very sad to hear. I hope you will all prayerfully remember the work that they're doing locally. Items can be left in the Clarke Memorial Vestibule at the back of the church.

Thanks to all who continue to support.

Sheena

Calling all surfers

Youtube

Number of People Viewing Allan's Sunday Mauchline and Sorn Live Streamed Services over the last weeks are:

September 3(30), 10(31), 17(24), 24(60)

October 1(44), 8(30), 15(31), 22(24), 29(38)

If you have any friends or relatives who use the World Wide Web, be sure to let them know about www.mauchlineparish.org.uk and increase our audience.

Jim Beck

Who's Who & Where

Minister

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Footnote

