



# Mauchline Parish Church *Linked with Sorn Parish* Magazine



## From the Minister – *Rev Dr Allan Vint*

It is the time of year when, in Scotland and around the world, much is spoken about the great Scottish bard Robert Burns. Of course, here in Mauchline there is perhaps greater attention given to him and his works since it was in these parts for many years he lived and matured in his gifting.

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*The man in life, wherever plac'd  
Hath happiness in store  
Who walks not in the wicked's way  
Nor learns their guilty lore!*

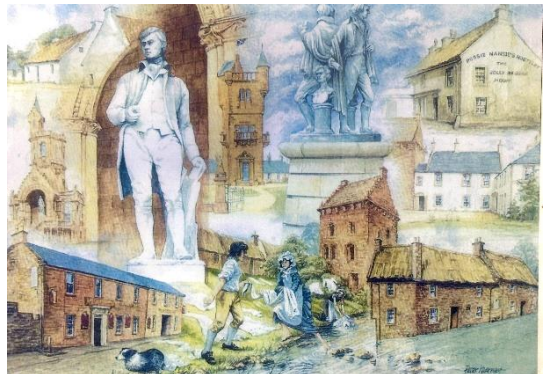
*Not from the seat of scornful pride  
Cast forth his eyes abroad,  
But with humility and awe  
Still walks before his God*

*Paraphrase 1<sup>st</sup> Psalm Robert Burns*

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Besides being a local resident Burns was also a member of the church and subject to the good and bad of its time. As someone who paid close attention to the Bible (he knew it well), the church (being aware of its strengths and of its weaknesses) and of course church people (he was also keenly acquaint with human faults and failings – often from personal experience!) - meaning he had much to say about each.

In Christian beliefs Robert Burns was a moderate, aligning himself with the 'New Licht' outlook of some contemporary Church ministers. Those who took a more conservative, approach became the subject of some harsh words from the poet. For example, Robert expressed his dissatisfaction writing to a local minister (a new Licht) called Rev John McMath.





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*Epistle To The Rev. John M'math*

*But I gae mad at their grimaces,  
Their sighin, cantin, grace-proud faces,  
Their three-mile prayers, an' half-mile graces,  
Their raxin conscience,  
Whase greed, revenge, an' pride disgraces  
Waur nor their nonsense.*

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putting on a display of piety and goodness whilst clearly being flawed in so many aspects of their life and attitude. Famously in 'Holy Willie's Prayer he pokes fun at such as these.

Robert Burns does us a favour by shining such a strong light on such things because it forces us all to take stock of our own life. What do I believe and why? Am I authentic and true or am I hypocritical? We might also ponder, like the poet, our own mortality and where we might be eternally destined, certainly it caused Burn to once pray:

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*O, aid me with Thy help,  
Omnipotence Divine!*

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None of us is perfect, this much is very true – the poet knew it in himself and was well able to highlight his own weaknesses and doubts.

He did however take exception to those who were hypocritical –

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*O Thou, who in the heavens does  
dwell,*

*Who, as it pleases best Thyself,  
Sends ane to heaven an' ten to  
hell,*

*A' for Thy glory,  
And no for ony gude or ill  
They've done afore Thee!*

*I bless and praise Thy matchless  
might,*

*When thousands Thou hast left in  
night,*

*That I am here afore Thy sight,  
For gifts an' grace  
A burning and a shining light  
To a' this place.*

*A section of Holy Willie's Prayer*

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It was lovely to have children from the Messy Church and some Rainbows, Brownies and Guides in church on Sunday 24th December to take part in a short Nativity play. It is great to see the children develop an understanding of the Christmas Story and we were delighted to give them the chance to reproduce the story in church. Thank you to all the children who joined us at both the 11am and 6pm services to perform the story and if you missed it you can still watch online on our Facebook page or YouTube channel.

**Messy Church** A fresh new way of experiencing church.....  
for children & parents/ carers to enjoy together.

Crafts & activities, (all ages welcome)  
stories & music,  
Sharing food.

Saturday 10th February 2024  
From 11am until 1pm  
THEME : The Good Samaritan  
Mauchline Church Hall

10.55am : Doors open but come along when you can, you are never late for Messy Church.  
11am : Bible story with music & videos  
11.30am : Snack time  
11.45am : Crafts and activities for all ages and interests.  
12.20pm : Games  
12.45am : Lunch (provided)





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**Mens Fellowship** - Our November meeting with speaker Mr John Dale, a local solicitor, was very informative and John gave good advice on having made a will and the advantages of ' Power of Attorney', which gave everyone food for thought.



Kilmarnock Football Club Tour was the venue for our December outing and festive meal. Twenty-three members enjoyed the tour and history of the football club. We were pleased our past minister, Rev Alan Telfer, could join us, as he has a particular interest in Kilmarnock

Football Club. An excellent festive meal was enjoyed at the Park Hotel later. During our well attended January games night, a minute's silence was observed in memory of the late Dr Keith Martin, a past president of the Men's Club.

### **Future meetings:**

January 24th Speaker Jimmy Wyllie  
*'History of the Curling Stone Works'*  
February 14th Games Night  
February 28th Evening with the Guild  
*Mr Bill Grant.- 30 Years in the Fire Service"*  
March 13th Games Night  
March 27th Rev Bob Mayes  
April 10th AGM  
Come along – you will be made very welcome

### **Sunday Services**

**Sorn Parish**  
**10am**

**Mauchline Parish**  
**11:15pm**

**Everyone Welcome**