



Mauchline Parish Church

Linked with Sorn Parish

www.mauchlineparish.org.uk

Scottish Charity Numbers: SCSC007714 & SC015899

Minister: Rev Dr Allan S Vint



January/February 2024 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.

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 acquainted 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.

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.

*O Thou, who in the heavens does dwell,
Who, as it pleases best Thyself,
Sends aye 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

He did however take exception to those who were hypocritical – 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

*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 1st Psalm Robert Burns

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.*

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

Messy Church



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

Our last Messy Church of the year took place on Saturday 25th November 2023 and was a Christmas ADVENTure.

We opened with our traditional songs and a prayer before having a snack and moving on to our crafts tables. Our crafts this month all related to Christmas. We made angels, decorated star biscuits, made pine cone trees, a Messy Church calendar and everyone made a small nativity scene with Mary, Joseph and a baby Jesus in a manger to take home. They also had the chance to decorate a tea light holder to display with their decorations to remember that Jesus is the "light of the world".

Our morning wouldn't be complete without fun and games with James and a short time to come together and quietly watch a Lego video version of the Christmas Story before finishing with a lovely lunch.

The next Messy Church will take place on Saturday 10th February 24, when we will be finding out about the story of the Good Samaritan.

Messy Church is a time when families come together to enjoy being together, making things together, eating together and celebrating God together through his word, through music and through prayer.

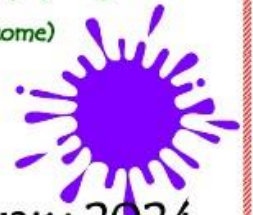


A fresh new way of experiencing church.....
for children & parents/
carers to enjoy together.

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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Nativity Services – Sunday 24th December 2023



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.

Facebook: Mauchline & Sorn Congregations

YouTube: Mauchline and Sorn Churches (@mandschurches)



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Mauchline Church Mens Club

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. An interesting light hearted insight into his career followed.



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, 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 – Speaker Mr Bill Grant. "Light Hearted Talk on 30 Years in the Fire Service"

March 13th Games Night

March 27th Rev Bob Mayes

April 10th AGM

Please come along and join our friendly group.

Willie Jardine



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Treasurer report January 2024

Total receipts Jan – December 2023	£88,106
Total expenditure Jan – December 2023	£71,313
Surplus Jan – December 2023	<u>£16,793</u>

The Church Ceilidh brought in £532 - it was a great night as well as raising funds for the church. Thanks to everyone involved.

Our Christmas Eve service raised £213 for our chosen charities this year, which were The Red Cross and Children's Epilepsy Scotland. Thanks to all who gave to these worthwhile causes.

The final accounts for the year 2023 are currently being prepared so the figures above may alter slightly once everything is confirmed.

The surplus includes some one-off donations and a £10,000 legacy which have helped with finances this year. However going forward, this income is not guaranteed so income may be reduced in the coming year.

Our Energy contracts expired recently and the new rates are higher than previously (as is the case with everyone). Therefore our electricity and gas costs have increased in the last part of 2023 and into 2024.

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

FoodBank

The Cumnock food bank continues to be most grateful for all the contributions made from our church.

I would also like to say a huge thank you to all those who give in provisions, money and through prayer support. Everything is most welcome.

Donations of non-perishable foodstuff, toiletries, etc. can be left in the Clarke Memorial Vestibule.

Sheena

Calling All Surfers

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

2023 December 3(30), 10(45), 17(24), 24(65), 29(Dr. Keith Martin 278)

2024 January 7(44), 14(21), 21(), 28()



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Who's Who & Where

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Footnote

