



Mauchline Parish Church

Linked with Sorn Parish

www.mauchlineparish.org.uk

Scottish Charity Numbers: SCSC007714 & SC015899

Minister: Rev Dr Allan S Vint



March/April 2024 Magazine

2024

From the Minister – Rev Dr Allan Vint

In my thinking, I often reflect on the past to help my understanding of the present and the prospects for the future. History is a great teacher, not only of what has happened previously, but also of the lessons we need to learn.

In recent weeks, it was a great privilege to be involved in the unveiling of a memorial in Sorn to two individuals involved in the story of covenanting – Rev Alexander Peden and George Wood. The video of the tragic story of George Wood can be viewed online at <https://youtu.be/SW0M77189og>. The sorry tale should remind us of how our religious freedoms came at a price and should never be taken for granted. Today there are many forces at work in our society who do not want our children to know the Christian story. Of course, it is a story rich in teaching values and ethics, along with the essential principles of living a good, productive and agreeable life.



This is not to mention the pointers it gives to receive the inner strength, guidance and hope that so many today crave. So, what might be the outcome of a society where Christian principles and actions are left behind? A more selfish way of being? A society where everyone makes up their own rules for what is right and good? A society where politicians determine what is ethical and where the boundaries of right and wrong exist? Sadly, we are beginning to see this reality begin to emerge.

I recently went to have a closer look at the old Ballochmyle Creamery (some also call it the ‘Plastic factory’). It was a sad sight to witness the terrible demise of this once beautiful location. <https://youtu.be/r0BtcnScxVQ>



It also stands as witness to what happens when we stop looking after what we have – when what is there is just let go. Some have suggested that we are now in an era of a Post Christian society – where the once treasured things of church and faith are in the process of being ignored and forgotten (certainly fewer young adults know much about the Bible and its contents and a great number of adults never ‘darken the door of the church’).

I want to take this opportunity as we move out of the cold and dark of winter into the new life of Spring to consider how we might truly value our Christian heritage and how we might, with renewed determination, hold fast to the truths passed down the



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generations in God's word. As we approach Easter with its message of God's triumph over the forces of darkness through Jesus, let's work and pray with vigour that God will again be honoured and glorified in this part of his precious world. Let's pray for a spiritual revival.

Messy Church



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

Our first Messy Church of the year took place on Saturday 10th February 2024 when we heard the story and learned about the Good Samaritan

After the opening songs and a prayer we went down to the Dunlop Hall to see a video telling the story of the Good Samaritan. We then had a solve a clue hunt round the hall spelling out the word KINDNESS before having our snack.

Our crafts this month included a Good Samaritan story wheel, kindness handprints, Love our Neighbour hearts, decorating heart shaped biscuits but I think the most fun was had in the "gloop" and water play areas.

Our morning wouldn't be complete without fun and games with James and a lovely lunch of soup and crusty bread.

The next Messy Church will take place on Saturday 23rd March 24, when we will be finding out about the Easter story.

Please come along and join us in the church hall then.

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.



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Marie Curie Daffodil Teas

Annette, Janice & the folks involved in organising the Marie Curie Daffodil Teas would like to thank everyone who supported the event in any way.

Special thank you to the House Captains and Vice Captains from Mauchline Primary School who came along to help on the day.

The magnificent sum of £700 has been sent to the charity.



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Mauchline Church Mens Club

The speaker for our January Meeting was Mr Jimmy Wyllie who gave an excellent talk on the History of the Curling Stone Works.

Jimmy is the 3rd generation of his family to produce curling stones.

The original curling stone works was at The Haugh Mauchline before moving to the present works in Barskimming Road Mauchline.

Jimmy gave an interesting insight into collecting granite from Ailsa Craig and shipping it to the mainland and described how the curling stones made in the factory are used worldwide and also used by all the curlers at the Winter Olympics.

The meeting was well attended and members enjoyed the talk.

A games night was enjoyed on February 14th.

On February 28th we had a joint meeting with the Guild.

Mr Bill Grant was the speaker for the evening who gave an entertaining light hearted talk on his 30 years in the Fire Service.

Future Meetings

March 13th Games Night

March 27th Rev Bob Mayes

April 10th AGM

Come along and join our friendly group. We meet in the Church Hall.

Willie Jardine

The Guild

Treasurer's Report March 2024

Total receipts Jan – Feb 2024 **£12,643**

Total expenditure Jan – Feb 2024 **£10,191**

Surplus Jan – December 2023 £2,452

There have been a few one-off expenses since the start of the year:

The hall floor was re-sealed at a cost of £1320

Plumbing work at the manse - £124

A new laptop was required for the livestream desk as the previous one stopped working - £349

Due to an issue at SSE Hydro with their systems, we have not had a bill for the gas in 2024 yet, so this means that we will have a few months to pay all at once when they can issue the next invoice.



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Our contract with SSE Hydro is coming to an end so costs will most likely increase going forward.

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

Yours in Christ

Elizabeth Morris

Treasurer

CHRISTIAN AID

Christian Aid Week this year will be held on 12-18th May 2024

Churches and supporters in Scotland raised over £640,000 for Christian Aid in 2023. Quite a remarkable total, in a cost of living crisis.

This is a great opportunity for us as a congregation to get involved in helping our neighbours.

We could help fund the training that enables a community to form a village Saving & Loan association, that will support people to grow food, buy medicine and improve living conditions.

This year the focus is on Burundi where 70% of the population is poor.

It has been a difficult year again for many and Christian Aid certainly don't take that for granted. If you are able, please give to this wonderful cause, no matter how small.

Elizabeth Morris

MIDWEEK SERVICE

The Kirk Session has decided to start a short mid-week service.

This would be held monthly in the Hall at 2.00 pm
The next service will be on Wednesday 27.3.24.

If you are unable to come to a full Sunday service, you may feel you could come and enjoy a short time of worship, followed by a cup of tea and a time of fellowship.

If getting to the Hall would be difficult, don't be put off. Speak to your elder, and arrangements could be made to pick you up, and take you to and from the service.

Everyone is welcome to come along.

Isabel Smith

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER



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Deaths

Mrs Mary Gilliland, c/o Temple House, Mossblown	Died 12.1.24
Mrs Jean Weir, Glennie House, Auchinleck	Died 31.1.24
Mr John Nicolson, 'Elmwood', Netherplace	Died 27.2.24

Isabel Smith

Who's Who & Where

Minister

Rev Dr Allan Vint, Mail: <mailto:avint@churchofscotland.org.uk>

Newsletter Editor:

Mr Jim Beck, Mail: <mailto:mauchlineparish@yahoo.com>

Dates for your Diary

Thursday 7th March - Marie Curie Daffodil Tea and Coffee Morning. 10 am to 12 noon in the Church Hall

Friday 26th April - Family Beetle Drive 6.30 pm in the Church Hall.
Tickets £3 each or £10 for a family (up to 6 people).

Woman's Day of Praise - Saturday 14th September 2024 - more details to follow.



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