

*Congratulations
on your
Retirement*

Rev Malcolm Cuthbertson

with us from

18th May 2017 to 9th April 2023



from all members of

West and Wardlawhill Parish Church



Dear Friends,

TIME TO SAY GOODBYE

This will be my last pastoral letter as the minister of West & Wardlawhill. The editorial and printing team will be crying tears of joy as they no longer need to wait patiently for this letter as they have done for the last six years. Before I go let me say a big “thank you” to Margaret, Morag and Kim who produce this monthly newsletter. It has been a marvellous avenue of news, support and entertainment, particularly during Covid, for many in the congregation and beyond.

It seems like only yesterday that I came to join you almost six years ago. Let me say to all of you that it has been an absolute delight to be your minister for that time. You have been a wonderful congregation during all that period. We have had some struggles and you have been a wonderful support through them.

It is fair to say I have not had the kind of ministry I would have imagined six years ago. The onset of Covid hit hard, but the congregation rallied round to organise phone contacts and visits where necessary. Funerals were a travesty for families unable to grieve properly and many in the congregation have not managed back after a two-year break. It was a hard couple of years and still lingers on today with passing the plate at offering time or passing the elements for communion still not advised by the Church of Scotland. However, I am delighted with the many people in the congregation who have kept up with the calls and the visits. Your activity is not unseen or unappreciated.

The other hit was the passing of Ian Duncan our Session Clerk. Ian was a great Session Clerk, and not only that was a very good friend, with Jean, to Rena and me throughout the time we had with him. He was a fine administrator for the congregation, and also a major contact and mine of information on local community groups which sadly were seriously affected by his passing. He was also a good leader of worship that happily covered for me during holidays or taking services elsewhere. He always joked that he kept a sermon in his briefcase just in case I took ill on a Sunday morning. (Fortunately, I have been blessed with good health and indeed barring any problems for this Sunday and next, I have not missed a Sunday service through ill-health in 40 years of ministry.) It was sad that his certificate of accreditation by the Presbytery had to be presented to Jean posthumously.

The final struggle on behalf of the congregation was the Presbytery Plan. The General Assembly informed presbyteries across Scotland they had to cut ministry posts due to the lack of people going forward for the ministry and cut the number

of buildings due to the expensive upkeep of both historic and poorly built or maintained buildings. This was a major source of distraction from ministry, hitting hard on a diminishing source of personal energy and, quite frankly, emotion. Congregational leaders will know that I have never been fond of the way the Church system does its business, but this Presbytery Plan took us to a whole new level of disorganisation, and disinformation. I did try my best to steer our congregation through the mess, and it is for others to say in the longer term whether I helped or hindered the cause, but I did my best and have to leave it to others to finish the journey to whatever unknown destination the Presbytery is leading us.

While I haven't been attending Presbytery for some 30 years that does not mean I have been breaking my vows to support where I can. This is where my commitment to educating future ministers and worship leaders comes in. It has been my privilege to support many people over the years to clarify their calling and to help in making them the best that they can be. Presently we have Tamsin, as the last person that I will be able to support directly, but you are also aware of Stuart Harbinson who came with me to West and Wardlawhill, Rev. Eddie Mubengo who is now helping out as a locum in an East End vacancy, Sheena Kerr who has been leading the congregation in prayer, and I look forward to returning for the ordination of Megan to the Church of Scotland ministry. (No pressure Megan!!!) To be able to help in any way with the development of these people among others in their leadership potential has been a major joy of my ministry.

It has also been a major joy and fulfilment to help celebrate rites of passage whether baptisms, weddings, anniversaries and even funerals. The fact that families often return to me for those has always been a confirmation that I have been doing a good job. However, "Woe is me if I don't preach the Gospel". Like Paul, the apostle, I still believe that preaching and teaching, and most importantly living the Gospel, has been a calling I have tried to fulfil and pass on to others. If I have in any way helped you on your journey of faith, I give thanks to God. If I haven't, perhaps someone else can build where I haven't been successful.

I finish this letter wishing West and Wardlawhill every blessing for the future and trust that you and yours will know the love, joy, and peace of Christ this Easter time and everyday into the future.

God Bless,

Malcolm



PASTORAL LIST

Funerals *Denotes church member
8th March James Kelly
30th March Millie McPherson (stillborn baby)
3rd April *May Begg

Baptism
2nd April Willow Bloom Liddell (parents Christopher & Afton)
(Great granddaughter of Betty & John Duckett)

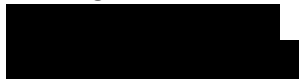
Wedding
2nd April Michele Robertson & Robert

USEFUL CONTACT INFORMATION

Until 9th April 2023

MINISTER

Rev Malcolm Cuthbertson BA BD
3 Western Avenue
Rutherglen G73 1JQ



SESSION CLERK

Alistair McInnes



TREASURER

Kim Jackson



Holy Week Services - ALL WELCOME

Monday 3 rd April 7pm	Rutherglen West & Wardlawhill
Tuesday 4 th April 7pm	Rutherglen West & Wardlawhill
Wednesday 5 th April 7pm	Rutherglen West & Wardlawhill
Thursday 6 th April 7pm	Rutherglen Old Parish Church (Communion)
Friday 7 th April 7pm	Rutherglen Old Parish Church
Sunday 9 th April 8.30am	Cathkin Braes Country Park, Car Park
Sunday 9 th April 11am	Rev Malcolm Cuthbertson's Retiral Service



WAYS & MEANS

EASTER COFFEE MORNING SATURDAY 1ST APRIL

Our Coffee Morning took place as **THIS** issue of the magazine was actually being run off. If you were in church on Sunday 2nd April, you would hear the announcement of how much was raised from this event. Next month's magazine will include that news for everyone, along with the winners of our Coffee Morning Hamper Competition.

AND NOW, LOOKING AHEAD FROM SPRING TO SUNNY JUNE

LANDEMÉR DAY 2023 SATURDAY 10th JUNE

Just to let you know Ways & Means are, once again, wishing to take our church to the Main Street of Rutherglen through our fund-raising stalls. Of course we can only do this with the help of quite a few other people - men and women - who have helped us in the past. We had a great team all arranged last June but, as you will remember, the Main Street stalls and entertainment had to be cancelled at the last minute, due to very high winds. However, as you can imagine, this made the usual heavy work involved, a good bit easier for us, as we welcomed into our church the Landemer Queen's Crowning Ceremony along with the many people who attended.



Despite our stalls not being in their usual busy Main Street spot, we raised over £1000.00 last year as the team very quickly set up our stalls in-doors, not to mention one of our BBQ's out in the car park. We hope for a calmer day this year as we leave the halls early on Saturday morning 10th June and thank, in advance, the people who will be helping us to: pack! - unpack! - set up - serve - pack! - unpack! at halls - wash up and put everything away. You must be thinking there's an awful lot of packing and unpacking with **THIS** event!!!!!! YES! that's all part of what happens - "When we take our Church to Rutherglen Main Street"

Will let you know in next month's magazine, the items we are hoping to sell at our stalls, when we look forward to receiving any donations however small, you feel able to give.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday 18th April 2023
7.30pm in the Baker Hall

Morag Smith

Ways & Means Convener



FUTURE MAGAZINE ISSUES

MAY Information to Editor Sunday 23rd April Pick Up Sunday 30th April

JUNE Information to Editor Sunday 28th May Pick Up Sunday 4th June

There will be no magazines over the summer, the next magazine will be September with information to the Editor, by teatime Sunday 27th August with pick up, Sunday 3rd September 2023.

Margaret Feeney

Magazine Editor



This time last year, a decision was taken to run a pilot programme at the church to encourage parents/grandparents/guardians to bring along babies, toddlers and preschool children to a Parent Café at the church.

With the help of Rev Eddie Mubengo, David Smith, Sandra Blakeley, Fiona Smith, Margaret Feeney, Sheena Kerr, we welcomed a great assorted age group of both children and adults.

This gave us the impetus to put in a funding application to Awards for All for funding to continue this project for a further year. We were successful in securing £8,100 in June 2022 from the National Lottery Community Fund which saw us purchase equipment, toys etc. Provide refreshments for both adults and children, as well as providing us with the finance to promote the group out with the church.

Since June, we have had birthdays, Halloween, Christmas and now Easter parties – check out the Church's Facebook page for evidence of the great time we have!

We will be off now until Thursday 20th April 2023 when we return at 12.30pm. If you have family, friends or neighbours who you think would benefit from coming along on a Thursday from 12.30 to 2pm – all the Uncles and Aunties look forward to seeing our nieces and nephews!

If you feel you could spare an hour or two on a Thursday afternoon, you would be made most welcome too. The more people who volunteer means we could start to run the Parent Café on a rota basis.

**COMMUNITY
CAFÉ
MONDAYS
11am - 2pm**

(Warm Spaces Hub)

March 6th 2023 saw Rutherglen West and Wardlawhill Church open up on a Monday from 11am until 2pm as a Warm Hub. Over the following few weeks the Hub became the Community Café and there is a core of 10 or so folks who come along for soup and a sandwich, tea/coffee and a biscuit, but more importantly a heat and some company.

We were successful in securing funding from the National Lottery £9959 and Asda Foundation £500 which allowed us to pay for heating the hall, buying equipment, food etc., and again more importantly warm items for those who use our Community Café i.e. hats, scarfs, socks, gloves, blankets. A supply of these items has been provided to everyone who has attended to date and each new visitor will go home with a 'goody bag' of warm items. If you know of anyone who could benefit from these items, please let me know.

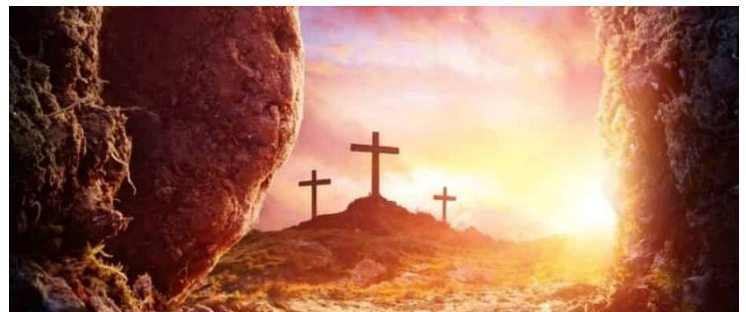
The Café volunteers are myself, Margaret Feeney, Sandra Blakeley, David Smith, Fiona Smith, Megan Ross and Stephen McGinty. Both Megan and Stephen are great soup makers – Megan's lentil and ham went down a treat as did Stephen's Chicken & Rice and tomato. Monday 27th March saw Stephen produce a cream of mushroom soup – the recipe for which you will find in the magazine. We're still trying to extract Megan's recipe from her!

The Café will be off on Monday 12th April, returning again at 11am on Monday 19th. Please come along and join us – I'm sure you'll enjoy it – it is open to everyone!

Again, if a Thursday doesn't suit you (or not a fan of children!!) and you wish to volunteer for a few hours, well Monday from 11am to 2pm (or any part of that time) suits you – you would be made more than welcome. The more volunteers we have, the easier it is on the team.

If you'd like any more information on the Parent Café or the Community Café, please do not hesitate to contact me. Both of the above Cafes are FREE to attendees.

Kim Jackson



“May the glad dawn
Of Easter morn
Bring joy to thee.
May the calm eve
Of Easter leave
A peace divine with thee
May Easter night
On thine heart write,
O Christ, I live for thee!”

COMMUNITY CAFÉ STEPHEN'S Mushroom Soup – by request!



What you need:

- 6 tbsp butter
- 3-4 cloves of fresh garlic (minced or crushed and finely chopped)
- 2 medium shallots or a medium onion
- 500g of Chestnut mushrooms or you can use whatever mushrooms you like
- tsp dried thyme or 2 to 3 stems of fresh thyme
- 1/4 tsp black pepper
- 3/4 cup single cream or double if you want it extra thick and rich (Stephen uses single cream)
- 2 pints of chicken, vegetable or mushroom broth
- Fresh parsley leaves a big bunch (not the stems) dried parsley if you can't get fresh
- Cornflour and a mug (to thicken the soul)
- Salt if required

1. Melt 6 tablespoons of butter over a medium heat in a large pot.
2. Once melted add the finely diced shallots or onion and cook for 5 mins stirring until soft.
3. Next add in your minced garlic cloves stir and cook for a further 2 mins (do not burn the garlic)
4. Add all your mushrooms into the pot and cook until all the water from the mushrooms has almost gone, stirring as required.
5. Add 2 pints of stock and stir well then add your pepper, thyme stems or dried thyme.
6. Keep the heat at medium and cook for about 20 minutes
7. Add 3 to 4 tablespoons of cornflour to a mug and fill with 200 ml of cold water and mix well till there is just a white liquid.
8. Pour the liquid into the pot and stir for a few minutes then leave to cook for another 30 minutes whilst checking and stirring it occasionally for thickness.
9. Add your cream and stir for a few minutes then reduce the heat to medium low and let it simmer for 20 minutes. (do not let it boil)
10. Keep cooking and checking the soup until you are happy with the thickness
11. If you're happy then remove the thyme stems and add the Parsley and you're done. Or, leave it simmering longer - because the longer you cook it the thicker it will become.

ROTAS - APRIL & MAY

DOOR & OFFERING PLUS COUNTING DUTIES

2nd & 30th April, 28th May

C-S Harbinson, C-I Tennent, R Tennent,
C-L Fletcher, C-K Mann, C-D Fraser,
C-K Jackson

Beadle: C-D Smith

*9th April & 7th May

C-S Brown, R Brock, C-A Chambers,
C-K Johnston, A Kennedy, C-M Feeny,
C-D Smith, C-K Jackson

*Light Lunch for Malcolm's Retirement Easter Day

Beadle: C-J Duncan

16th April & 14th May

C-M Cruthers, C-J Brown, C-E Reid,
C-E Ross, C-S McDonald, C-D Smith,
C-K Jackson

Beadle: C-A McMillan

23rd April & 21st May

L Fotheringham, C-S Blakeley, C-S Kerr,
C-A McInnes, C-K Jackson, C-M
McInnes,
C-D Smith

Beadle: C-T McEwan

Alistair McInnes

Session Clerk

CHURCH BIBLE READERS

APRIL

2nd S Rowan
*9th A McInnes
16th M Grieve
23rd A McMillan
30th S Harbinson

*Easter Day

Alistair McInnes

Session Clerk

MAY

7th S Kerr
14th K Jackson
21st M McInnes
28th M Ross



T-Bar

Every Sunday following morning worship
Enjoy a cuppa and fellowship in the Baker Hall from 12 noon

*9th & 16th April, 21st & 28th May

*Light Lunch for Malcolm's Retirement
Easter Day
S Blakeley, E Reid, S Kerr, J Brown

23rd & 30th April

L Fletcher, V Rowan, A Chambers,
G McMillan, H Mulholland

7th & 14th May

I White, N Hay, K Johnston,
E McMillan, J Doherty

Morag Smith

T-Bar

CHURCH FLOWERS

APRIL

2nd M Feeny
*9th M Smith
16th J Doherty
23rd M Feeny
30th M Smith

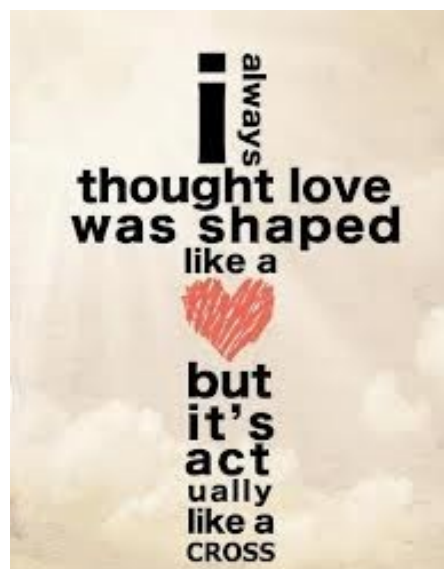
*Easter Day

MAY

7th J Doherty
14th M Feeny
21st M Smith
28th J Doherty

Morag Smith

Church Flowers



Thank You

Thank you to everyone for your kind words and wishes, following Mum's accident and stay in hospital. A special thank you to Margaret Gibson, whose visits cheered her up and lifted her spirits. She is enjoying being back among friends on a Sunday and at the café.

Thank you also for the beautiful church flowers. They were much enjoyed and appreciated.

Sheena, Karen and Lesley

Thank you to Morag for the flowers delivered to me by Liz McMillan on my Retirement from the Miniature Churches.

Mary Hamilton

Sadie and Elizabeth would like to thank the Church for the lovely flowers we received, they were brought to us by the lovely Sheena Kerr. We appreciated them very much.

Sadie Beaton & Elizabeth Brown

*In
Loving
Memory*

13th April 2022
In loving memory of Bunty Chambers.

From the Chambers Family

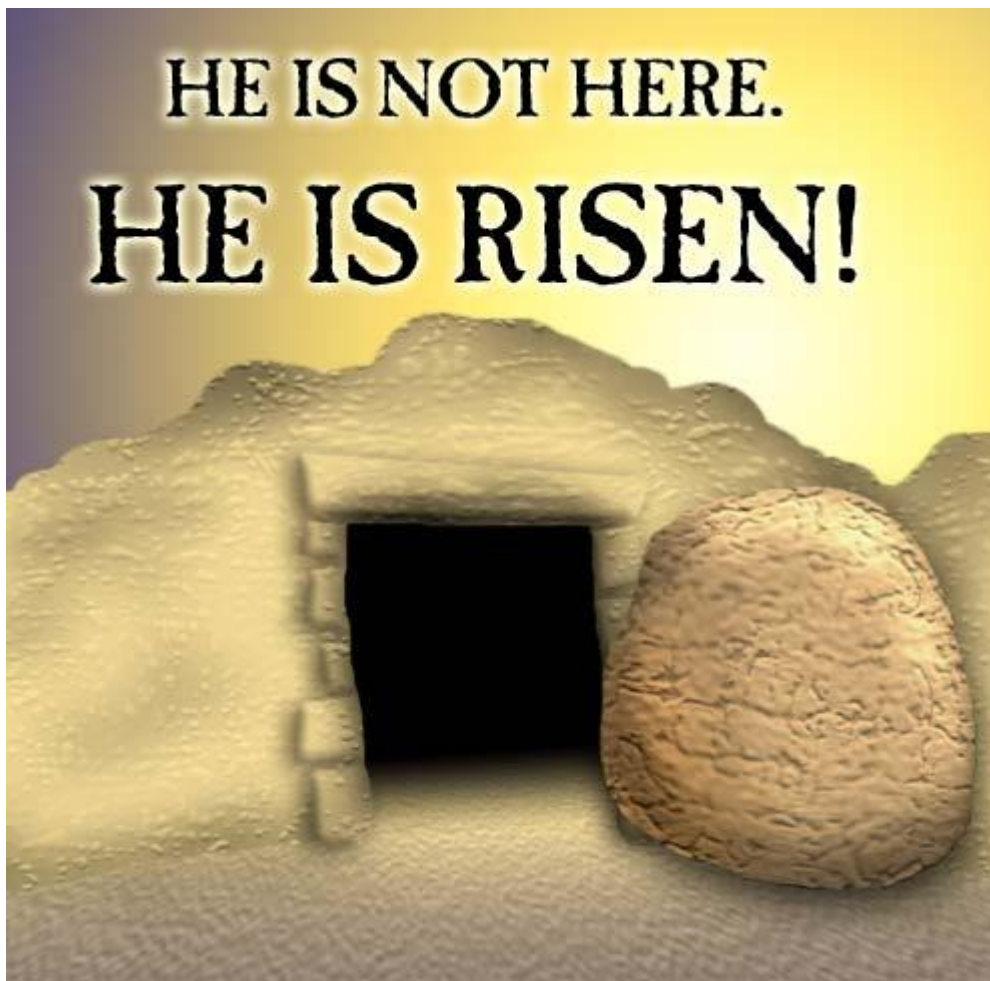
Mary (May) Woodburn
17th April 2007

When someone you love becomes a memory, the memory becomes a treasure."
Author unknown

Jaqueline, Karen, Pamela and Family

West and Wardlawhill News

APRIL 2023



Happy Easter

Rutherglen West and Wardlawhill Parish Church is a congregation of the Church of Scotland and a Charity registered in Scotland, Charity Number SCO 07585

www.westandwardlawhill.org