

MARCH 2014

Mure Memorial Church



The Link

Dear Friends,

Some years ago it was decided I needed to lose some weight, due largely to the cakes, chocolate biscuits, and even meals the good parishioners were feeding me on my visits. To involve them in the exercise, so that they fed me less, it was going to be a sponsored diet. It was arranged that I should go to the dietician at the local health centre who would take my start and finishing weight.

The dietician took my weight and various other measurements and heard me describe a typical day/week of eating, and the words spoken were written for posterity on my mind. "What you need Mr. Cuthbertson is not so much a diet, as a complete re-education of your eating habits." She rubbished the thought of a round 20 pound weight loss and suggested I needed to lose nearer 8 stones, despite the protests that I hadn't been her suggested weight since I was in my cradle!! Needless to say, as you can still see, the whole exercise fell apart.

Sometimes I think we in the church, both as individuals and as congregations, need similar advice to that given by the dietician. What we need is not so much the tinkering we do around the edges that we think satisfies the need to change, but in fact changes very little, as a complete re-education of the way that we do things. This time of year, known as Lent, the six weeks building up to Easter, is traditionally a time when we reflect on Christ's sacrifice and some people will offer up a

sacrifice to act as a minder – giving up cakes, crisps, chocolate or even alcohol for the period. Some even give the money that is saved to charity. That's all well and good but I doubt it goes as far as the radical change that is required to make us better followers of the Christ who died on Calvary. What I suggest is needed, is a better understanding of the cost and effect of such a sacrifice for us, and what that might mean for our Christian commitment and day-to-day living.

One area that requires re-education, I believe, is in the Church's attitude to sexual ethics and modern sexual behaviour, so that we can better communicate the gospel of love, grace and renewal that is seen on the cross. The presentations by me over the Sunday evenings in Lent, might be an opportunity for part of the re-education needed to better serve Christ. However this season is also the opportunity for a serious reflection on your life as a Christian, and to make some changes for the better, so that we can better celebrate the Easter message.

So here's the deal. You seek to become a better person in Christ, and help create a better Christian community at Mure Memorial, and I'll make moves to get back to my cradle weight!!!

Your friend in Christ,

Malcolm

Lenten Studies

Rev. Malcolm Cuthbertson will be taking a series of study evenings on Sundays during Lent, starting on the 9th March. The theme of the studies will be on the Church and sex, looking at issues of sexual relations, marriage, homosexuality etc. Malcolm will present a different point of view from what is generally in the media, which will be controversial. There will be an opportunity for group discussions as well. Evenings will start at 7.00pm with a short act of contemporary worship, with the study beginning at 7.30pm in the Church Hall.

16th March Congregational AGM.

After a shortened morning service, the congregation will be asked to stay behind for the AGM. Legally the accounts for the previous year need to be approved by the meeting. There will also be an opportunity to be elected on to the Board to help run the congregation's affairs. Rev. Malcolm Cuthbertson will also be offering any member the opportunity to ask any questions, or make any comments or suggestions on the work of the congregation. Here is the chance to mention that burning issue that has always been in your mind!!!

Ordination of Rev. Alex Stuart:

It is hoped that at some point during the month Presbytery will ordain Rev. Alex Stuart to

assist Malcolm in his ministerial duties. Alex is a trained Reader of the Church of Scotland, who has been working for the best part of six years at Barlanark: Greyfriars, and who had previously done some joint activity with Malcolm in Easterhouse. Now qualified to take baptisms, communion and weddings as well as funerals, he will be a great asset to Malcolm in his duties. As an OLM (Ordained Local Minister), Alex' commitment is entirely voluntary and he is contracted to give ten hours per week plus a Sunday to his work with Malcolm over the two parishes of St. Andrew's and Mure Memorial. His ordination will take place at Mure Memorial since St. Andrew's held Malcolm's Introduction in June of last year. I trust you will make him feel welcome to the congregation and community.

FUNERALS

"God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes - Rev 21"

- 12th Feb. **Winna Murray:** we pray for son Glen and daughter Dawn and all their families.
- 15th Feb. **Hugh Bellshaw:** we remember wife Grace and daughter Gillian in our prayers.
- 20th Feb. **Adam Irvine:** We pray for wife Margaret, daughters Pam and Linda and the grandchildren Graham and Charis, Craig and Emma.

BAPTISMS *“Jesus took the children in his arms, placed his hands on each of them, and blessed them” – Mark 10*

2nd Feb. Charlie James Stewart: May God’s blessing be with parents Janie and Charles.

16th Feb. Ruairidh Sinclair Colquhoun: We pray God’s Blessing on parents Stephen and Fiona



VESTRY TIMES

Monday 6.30pm – 7.30pm Mure Memorial

Tuesday 10.00am – 11.00am Mure Memorial
(Thrift Shop and Café available at same time)

Wednesday 6.30pm – 7.30pm St. Andrew’s

Saturday 10.00am – 11.00am St. Andrew’s
(Pop-In Café available at same time)

No specific appointment is necessary. Other times can be made available by arrangement, as can home visits. The minister’s phone number is **07740868181**. Please feel free to pass the times and phone number to anyone who may request them.

*The best things in life are unseen,
that's why we close our eyes when
we kiss, cry, and dream*
unknown

GUILD

The Guild would like to thank everyone who helped make our Soup and Sandwich Lunch such a success. We made £865 which was marvellous, but as well as that, everyone seemed to be having a good time and enjoying their lunch.

Our meetings for March are:-

- 4th Cantabile Ensemble
(Tickets on sale now, or pay at the door)
- 7th (Frid) World Day of Prayer
(St Francis, Baillieston)
- 11th Biblical Garden – Robert Hamilton
- 18th Wee Govan Man -
John McLaughlan
- 25th A.G.M.

Our meetings start at 7.30 p.m. and you can be sure of an entertaining evening and a warm welcome.



Guide me Lord, you are my heart you are my strength, you are my hope. Teach me Lord, and guide my way I love you more each passing day.

The Ultimate measure of man is Not where he stands in Moments of comfort and Convenience, but where he Stands at times of challenge and controversy.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jnr

Flower Calendar

Thank you to everyone who has donated flowers for our Sunday services during February



February	
February 2nd	Flower fund
February 9th	Mrs Jean Duncan & Family
February 16th	John & Mary Reid
February 23rd	Mrs Cruikshanks

Men's Fellowship

March

3rd Bill Russell – The Galapagos Islands and Equador
 10th John Graham – Sport - Football
 17th Neil McGregor – Mountaineer
 24th G Aird – Folk Singer
 31st A.G.M.

A huge thanks for the flowers from Sunday 16th February. They were beautiful and much unexpected, but appreciated. Thanks to all the "Flower People" who take time out to deliver.

*Many thanks
Helen Duncan*

From the Finance Committee

March is the month when our visitors distribute a new supply of Free Will Offering envelopes to members to commence in April. We are aware that a number of people give regularly through the open plate and ask that you might consider joining the WFO Scheme or signing a Standing Order.

If you are a tax payer, this will then allow you to sign a Gift Aid form which allows us to claim back some of the tax, which you have already paid, from the government.

If you would like to find out more, please speak to Peter Malcolm or Alex Pollock.

The Second Ten Commandments

Thou shalt not worry, for worry is the most unproductive of all human activities.

Thou shalt not be fearful, for most of the things we fear never come to pass.

Thou shalt not cross bridges before you come to them, for no one has yet succeeded in accomplishing this.

Thou shalt face each problem as it comes, for you can only handle them one at a time anyway.

Thou shalt not take problems to bed with you; they make very poor bedfellows.

Thou shalt not borrow other people's problems.

Thou shalt not try and relive yesterday for good or evil; it is gone forever. Give the past to God and concentrate on the present.

Thou shalt be a good listener, for only when you listen do you hear ideas different from your own.

Thou shalt not be bogged down by frustration, for 90% is footed in self-pity and will interfere with positive action.

Thou shalt count thy blessings, never overlooking small ones, as many small blessings make a big blessing.

From ; *Bursting at the Seams*, Killy John and Alie Stibbe, Monarch Book

From the World Mission Committee

As one of the Committees of the Kirk Session we were given the challenge to find a project somewhere in the world which we, as a congregation and community, could support. We have spent considerable time looking for something which we hope will appeal to everyone so that we can all work together and become involved in this. At the last Session meeting we proposed using Tearfund's Connected Church as our means of contact and were then asked to find three specific projects to present and then allow everyone to decide, by voting, which one of the three we will support. Outlined below are each of the projects which have been chosen by the committee for your consideration. You will shortly be given the opportunity to vote.

Voting Options Voting papers will be left within the church sanctuary and in the hall. Online vote at www.mure.org

Further information on all 3 projects can be found at:
http://connected.tearfund.org/en/choose_a_partner/

LAMB Hospital – Bangladesh

This project is helping 37 communities in northwest Bangladesh to minimise the effects of disasters, particularly those arising or worsening through climate change. Communities in disaster prone areas, which

include both flood-prone and drought-prone zones, will be better prepared and more resilient.



The project is building the leadership of local churches, using them as the key means to drive disaster preparedness. The churches help communities to set up disaster management committees, which are trained in different techniques to prepare for disasters, to mitigate their effects, and to adapt to climate change. Activities include tree planting, promotion of floating gardens, pond excavation, improvements to water sources and latrines, introduction of improved rice varieties and alternative crops, the provision of fuel efficient stoves and the raising of homes above flood levels. The project focuses on two target areas – one flood prone, and one drought-prone. This project is helping almost 100,000 inhabitants of 37 communities.

ICC – Cambodia

The aim of this project is to equip and empower Cambodian churches to serve the poor and vulnerable in their own communities. ICC want to ensure that no one is left behind.

To do this ICC will take churches through a 5 stage process: 1) Envisioning the local church, 2) Envisioning the local community, 3) Dreaming and planning for action, 4) Taking action, and 5) Evaluation. This process is known as Umoja, and takes a church out into the community with an holistic mission.



Despite years of economic growth, a third of all Cambodians are being left far behind. Forgotten, downtrodden, and with few opportunities, these community members struggle on the margins of society whilst the rich and powerful prosper

Injustice, neglect in public services, and well intentioned aid that reinforces emotional and mental poverty are all part of the problem. Into this context is emerging the local church. Despite its small size of between 2 to 4% of the population, the church is perfectly placed to reach the forgotten and oppressed.

Self-Help Groups (CCMD) Ethiopia

CCMD is a church-based project working mainly with women from the poorest families in urban areas, who are often unable to provide for their children.

C is for Church (local churches)

C is for Community (in partnership with)

M is for Mobilisation (unlocking potential)

D is for Development (to transform lives)

CCMD Projects support local churches in organising people from poor families into self-help groups. Once in the groups people learn to save money and take loans to start businesses. Family welfare is transformed as income and hopes grow.

The project aims to increase the number of local churches involved in the work and help them to address other needs in the community and to maintain the rapid growth in the number of self-help groups established and improve their ability to transform the lives of their members.



The World Mission Committee is asking for your prayers and support in this project. If everyone works together, we can really help make a difference to the lives of the community which you choose to support.

If you have any questions about this project, please speak to a member of the World Mission Committee.

Alastair Borthwick (Convener). Janet Park (Vice Convener) Iain Leiper, Jill Leiper, Ishbel Malcolm, Stuart McKibbin, Linda Donaldson, Rena Cuthbertson, Helen Stuart and Robert Fleming.

Presbytery Report

The Business Committee Convener gave details of the proposed timetable for dealing with the building issues in the Presbytery Plan. The draft plan will be laid before Presbytery in March and any objections should be lodged by 22nd April. It is hoped that the final report will be brought for approval either at the normal meeting or a special meeting in June. This could have an impact on our next planned project, to create a new disabled entrance to the church and hall, but hopefully we should not encounter any problem as we have now fulfilled the requirements of the Presbytery Plan, which was to create the Linkage with St Andrew's.

The Convener reported that only 18 of the 41 ministers who are due to receive commissions to this year's General Assembly are eligible to attend. In order to be eligible, ministers must have attended a minimum of 5 Presbytery meetings during the year.

We received a report on a recent Ministries Council consultation. At the moment we require 1075 Minister to fill every post throughout the Church, but there are only 800 Minister available and this number will decrease by 200 in the next 5 years. We need to look at new ways of doing Ministry and look at attracting the under 35's into Ministry.

Presbytery Planning is an essential process as is Eldership Training. The Church has to change, as we cannot stay as we are.

The Committee set up to nominate the next Moderator of Presbytery was recommending that the Rev Stuart Smith of Partick Trinity be appointed for 2014/2015. This was approved. Stuart is known to Mure Memorial as he served on our Presbytery Support and Development Team for several years.

The first two items of business from the Mission Strategy Committee related to our Ministry appointments. Following our request to revise the Presbytery Plan and to change the second post of Associate Minister to an MDS (Ministries Development Staff) worker with the addition of an OLM (Ordained Local Minister) to assist in the leading of worship in the two congregations, Mission Strategy were proposing to revise the Presbytery Plan accordingly. This was given the approval of Presbytery.

The Committee further recommended the allocation of Alex Stuart to serve as an OLM at our Linked charge, subject to the signing of a contract, completion of a Job Description and arrangements for a Service of Ordination. This was also given the approval of Presbytery.

Both Kirk Sessions have now met and agreed a Job Description and a contract which has been signed, so hopefully we should make further progress with Alex's appointment at the March meeting of Presbytery.

The Committee reported that in December 2013 Presbytery had noted that "younger adults" (aged 16 – 40) were under-

represented in our congregations by a factor of three. When the statistics were gathered for the Presbytery Plan, the average age of those attending church was 62. Mission Strategy are now investigating ways of resourcing, inspiring and encouraging congregations to reach out effectively to younger adults and are in the process of setting up a working group to gather a bank of resources that congregations can use and to organise training events to better equip congregations.

Janet Park

I wish to thank Rev. Malcolm Cuthbertson for performing a warm and caring service in memory of my sister, Margaret (Meg Stuart), who passed away on January 14th aged 76 years.

The B.B. Pallbearers were a wonderful touch to the ceremony and greatly appreciated.

Thank you to all the friends for their kindness and support during this sad time.

Sheila

*"We love because he first loved us."
[1 John 4:19]*

DOOR DUTY - MARCH

BEADLE: M Scott

Door & Collection

March 2nd	March 9th
A Telfer	R Colquhoun
Alex Wilson	I Malcolm
M McMillan	S Blackwood
A Forrester	C Robertson
	E Colquhoun
	J McLaren

March 16th	March 23rd
A Pollock	I Whitelaw
C Scotland	R McLellan
J Davidson	N Collins
A Borthwick	Aileen Miller
J Crawford	P McLellan
C Turnbull	J Smith

March 30th
W Millar
Mrs Walker
J McVittie
C McChesney
A Nicol
E Nimmo

DOOR DUTY - APRIL

BEADLE: R McKendrick

Door & Collection

April 6th	April 13th
E Boyd	J Hunt
C Rodgers	E Clark
A Stuart	M Brown
M McKeller	Mrs Hunt
B Graham	Sadie Brown
M Martin	A Kenyon

HELP

Christian Aid Week 11-17th May 2014

Christian Aid Week may seem a long way away right now but oh how quickly the months pass. Before we know it the Easter eggs will all have been eaten, the lighter nights will be in full flow and the bowling green will be open 24/7 (weather permitting).

So this is an early appeal on behalf of your Christian Aid Week collectors. Every year our strong team of collectors diminishes ever so slightly, but in recent years it seems to have reached galloping pace and has unfortunately left us in a position where, out of 49 districts (a district being a street), 17 districts are vacant (no collector available for them), and 10 collectors are doing 2 or more districts.

Mure Memorial has a wonderful history of collecting for Christian Aid going back as far as 1998 with a collection of £1,979 and an all-time high of £3,435 back in 2005 and 2006. Last year's marvellous total of £2,476 has been the largest total raised in recent years and is due totally to our small in number, but totally committed, collectors. There are many vacant districts, varying in size from 30 to 65 houses. It only takes a couple of hours during Christian Aid Week to deliver i.e. push the envelope through the letter box and then going back to knock the door and collect it back in again.

So if anyone thinks that they might be able to help us out this year and make it our biggest ever collection, or if you have any questions about collecting then please don't hesitate to contact me

Helen Stewart on 01236 879003 or by email Hstewart0405@googlemail.com

Thank You
Helen Stewart

The things children say

A little boy opened the big and old family Bible with fascination, and looked at the old pages as he turned them. Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible, and he picked it up and looked at it closely. It was an old leaf from a tree that had been pressed between the pages.

"Momma, look what I found," the boy called out.

"What have you got there, dear?" his mother asked.

With astonishment in the young boy's voice, he answered "I think it's Adam's suit!"

Six year old Angie and her four year old brother Joel were sitting together during church services. Joel giggled, sang, and talked out loud. Finally, his big sister had enough.

"You're not supposed to talk out loud in church."

"Why? Who's going to stop me?" Joel asked.

Angie pointed to the back of the church and said, "See those two men standing by the door? They're hushers."

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds. After explaining the commandment to "honour" thy Father and thy Mother, she asked, "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?"

Without missing a beat one little boy (the oldest of a family) answered. "Thou shall not kill."



Hold my Hand in Weakness

Lord God, you are my strength. Hold my hand in my weakness and teach my heart to fly. With you, there's nothing to fear, nothing to worry about. Hold me tight in your embrace, so that I can be stronger than the challenges in my life.

Amen.

Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed. Throughout life people will make you mad, disrespect you and treat you bad. Let God deal with the things they do, because hate in your heart will consume you too.

Will Smith

Thank you for the kind thoughts and lovely flowers received while I was recovering from a fall.

Jean Peat

CONTACT DETAILS FOR THE LINK

If you have an article, news item or announcement for the Link please either email details to link@mure.org or place a copy of the information in Post Box 35 in the Session Room

**Deadline for the next issue is
Wednesday 26th March**

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