

OCTOBER 2013

Mure Memorial Church



The Link

Dear Friends,

The 5th of October sees the last of my 12 weddings for this year. About half of them have been in church, mostly Mure Memorial, increasingly more are happening at the reception venue. So I've been getting to know the Maitre D's at the Castle Rooms in Uddingston, the Bothwell Bridge Hotel, the Parkville in Blantyre, and the Garfield at Stepps. Each wedding is different as you might expect, but taking the weddings raises for me a fundamental question about ministry. Is the minister a friend or a functionary? Am I there as a friend of the family or couple, or am I there just to do the wedding, a necessary function under our present laws? (I'm cheaper than the registrar!)

Certainly, the more fulfilling events for me are when you are treated as a friend, or even a family member, than those when you are wheeled in do the business and leave. Taking on a linked charge can feel a bit like that. You need to be in certain places at certain times to "do the business", whether a meeting, a vestry or even an act of worship, and the more there are of these the more you feel like a functionary

However it is clear that ministry based on Jesus Christ has to be more than that. Jesus said to his followers, "I no longer call you servants,...Instead I have called you friends," suggesting that even for Jesus, ministry is carried out best as we treat people as friends and not as functionaries. In society as a whole the move to the anonymous voice at the end of the phone, sometimes with an accent that is

hard to understand, (even if they can understand you!), when you're trying to get something done, makes the whole issue more of a problem than if you're talking to someone you know. One of the most common compliments I have received since coming to Garrowhill is how approachable I am, and I trust that this is true because I do come amongst you as a friend, and not simply as your minister. So do please help me to be that when I'm with you.

It was good for Rena and I to be with the McMillan and Leiper clans on the celebration of the marriage of Jill and Iain, and with the Key family at the weddings of Christine and Kirsty. It was good to be with Helen Graham's family, and with Bob and Helen Colquhoun at recent family baptisms, and to share a home communion with Margaret Stewart, her sister Sheila and Moira Scott, and Andy and Helen Stewart's Silver Wedding celebrations. These and others like them, too many to mention, are special moments, not only in ministry, but also sharing amongst friends, and I hope for many more experiences like this in the future.

Your friend in Christ,

Malcolm



NEW 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.

FUNERALS *“God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes - Rev 21”*

- 13th Sept. Mary McKechnie: We remember son John in our prayers.
- 14th Sept. Robert Hendry: We pray for wife Jenny, daughter Janet and all the family.

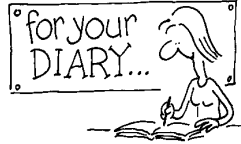
- 16th Sept. Steven Bailey: We pray for wife Gloria, father Eddie and all the family.

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

- 15th Sept. Carson William Farrell: We ask God’s Blessing on parents Claire & Graeme.
- 22nd Sept. Fiona Jessie May Colquhoun: May God bless parents Billy & Kathleen.

WEDDINGS *“So they are no longer two, but one.– Matthew 19”*

- 7th Sept. Andrea Gilmour and Paul Gilmour: Wishing them every blessing.
- 21st Sept. Lisa McNaught and Alexander McMillan: May God richly bless them.
- 28th Sept. Michelle Parker and Craig Corrie: We wish them every blessing.



DATES FOR THE DIARY

Saturday 5th Oct. Marriage of Kirsty Key
 & Alan James at 2.00pm

SUNDAY SERVICES:

Sunday 6th Oct. Guild Dedication
 Service at 10.00am

Sunday 13th Oct. Harvest Service at
 10.00am

Sunday 20th Oct. Morning Service
 10.00am

Sunday 27th Oct. Communion 10.00am
 Evening Celebration
 6.30pm

Sunday 3rd Nov. B.B. & G.B. Dedication
 Service 10.00am

Sunday, 10th Nov. Remembrance Service

**PLEASE NOTE THIS SERVICE WILL
BEGIN AT 10.45AM. IT WILL BE
CONDUCTED BY DR. ROLAND HUNT.
(MALCOLM WILL BE AT ST.
ANDREW'S AT THE SAME TIME.)**

Badminton Club

The church badminton club begins its new session on Monday 7th October at 8p.m. This is a fun club which is open to anyone over 16, whether you are a beginner or an accomplished player. If you are interested in having some fun while keeping fit then please come along any Monday night or contact Jeanette or Graeme Leiper on 0141 778 4662.



*Angel of God, my Guardian dear,
To whom God's love commits me
here;
Ever this day, be at my side
To light and guard
To rule and guide*

To succeed in life, you need three things: a wishbone, a backbone and a funny bone.

Reba McEntire

Finance Report

Our financial position does not make very good reading. We are in fact in a very serious position as our income is not even covering our essential outgoing expenditure. Our monthly income is presently averaging only £5500. Our present essential monthly expenditure is £6700. This leaves a monthly shortfall of £1200. The main items of expenditure are our Church of Scotland ministry costs of £5267, salaries and insurance £928. Manse Council Tax £117 (half share) (No COS Ministry costs to be paid in December). This monthly outlay does not include our quarterly costs and for example we will have our electricity and gas account to pay in November and this will be at least £1750.

Our main building repairs this year from our general account consisted of Security alarm, cameras and signs of £1190, Church property costs of £2270 (excluding our fixed property costs) and manse costs £1400. Our new photocopier cost £1904 (net). We also incurred expenditure from our other funds of £4534 for our electrical upgrade, £1046 for PAT test equipment and manse costs of £6439 for

replacement windows and £1490 for garden landscaping.

From 1st July any expenditure on our manse will be shared with St Andrew's Church which will help the expenditure.

At the start of the year our general account had a balance of £29114 and at the end of August this now only has £8938 (See graph at end of report). Obviously this situation cannot continue or we will see ourselves with no general account funds.

The Finance committee would encourage you all to give serious consideration and have a look at your contributions. We know that many of you who have WFO envelopes complete these even if you do not attend church, however there are many who only contribute when they attend church. Many members contribute by standing order, which is good as this gives a regular income, but the down side is that it is a nuisance for people to amend these, some however have been cancelled and some have remained the same for a number of years. Like all things, unfortunately, costs do increase and the same applies to your Church.

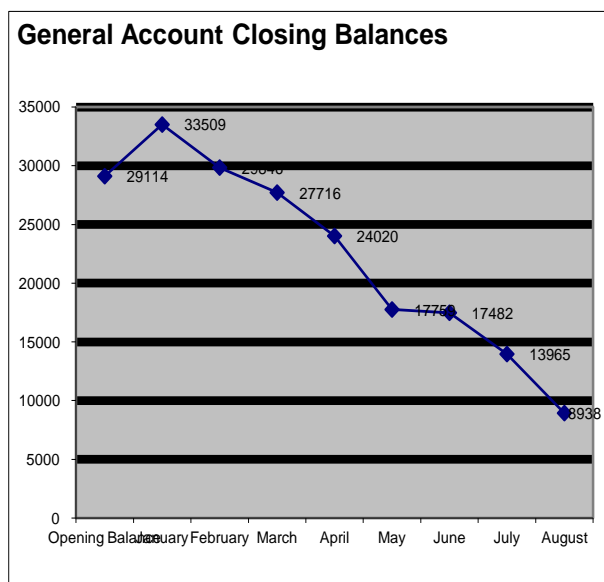
The work carried out over the past 2 years has been essential to our building, particularly to maintain it water tight and electrically safe which required a large financial commitment. We are now in a very secure and healthier position which will stand us well for the future.

The congregation and our organisations have responded very well to appeals in the past in a very positive way and we are holding a gift day on Saturday 9th November from 11am to 2pm in order to achieve a necessary injection of funds for our Church. Please come along and you can enjoy a cup of tea/coffee and home baking. Malcolm will be in attendance to receive any valuable donations towards our Church finances.

A comparison against last year for the period January to August is as follows

	2013	2012
Income	£51621	£57622
Expenditure	£71797	£67755

The graph below depicts the situation that has happened to our general account closing balances for the period January to end of August.



Peter Malcolm

Peter, unfortunately, is resigning from his post as Treasurer at Mure Memorial Church. We would like to take this opportunity to thank him for all his hard work and loyalty over the years and to appeal to any of congregation who might be willing to help in the running of the Church finances to get in touch with Malcolm.

Senior Citizens

The Senior Citizens recommence on Monday 7th October at 2.15pm We have a varied and entertaining programme. I look forward to seeing all members once again and new members are very welcome.

Kathy Dent (President)



Choir Practices have now resumed and new members will be made very welcome. If you want to find out more about the work which the choir undertakes, please speak to Bill Russell or simply come along and join us any Tuesday evening at 7.30pm.

Cushions for Balcony Pews

Sincere thanks to the anonymous donor of the smart cushions which now adorn the balcony pews, making them much more comfortable for all who sit there!



Flower Calendar

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



September	
September 1st	M Hutchison
September 8th	Flower Fund
September 15th	
September 22nd	Bob Clelland
September 29th	Senga McChesney

*Prayers go up and blessings
Come down*

Yiddish Proverb

DOOR DUTY October

BEADLE: G Leiper

Door & Collection

October 6th	October 13th
A Pollock	C Stewart
C Scotland	R McLellan
J Davidson	N Collins
A Borthwick	I Whitelaw
J Crawford	P McLellan
C Turnbull	J Smith

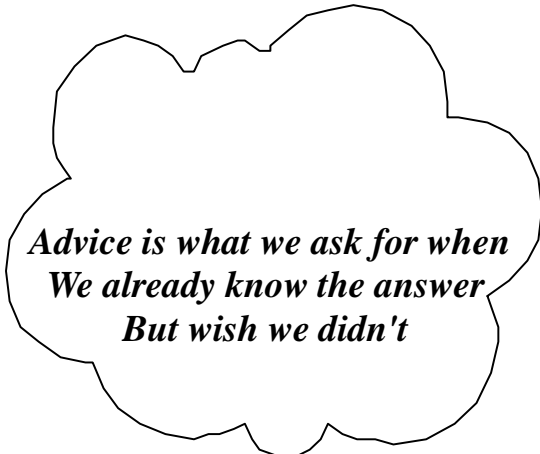
October 20th	October 27th
W Millar	
A Walker	Kirk
J McVittie	Session
C McChesney	
A Nicol	
E Nimmo	

DOOR DUTY November

BEADLE: R McKendrick

Door & Collection

November 3rd	November 10th
E Boyd	J Hunt
C Rodgers	E Clark
A Stuart	M Brown
M McKeller	Mrs Hunt
B Graham	S Brown
M Martin	A Kenyon



*Advice is what we ask for when
We already know the answer
But wish we didn't*

Mens' Fellowship

Our session 2013/14 will commence on 7th October at 7.45. The syllabus is as follows.

- Oct 7th Rev. Malcolm Cuthbertson, and we look forward to his talk.
- 14th Rhona Hughes (Story & Song).
- 21st Barry Dickson (Duties of a Procurator).
- 28th Margaret McIlroy (Mary's Meals)
- Nov 4th Jenny Cook (Capital Radio)

A hearty welcome is extended not only to the men of our congregation, but to all men in the parish to join with us on a Monday evening. Tea, coffee and biscuits are always part of our fellowship

John Coutts

Presbytery Report

The guest speaker at the September meeting of Presbytery was Dr Murdo MacDonald who is the Church of Scotland's Policy Officer, Society, Religion & Technology Project. He explained that his background is in Microbiology and his work within the Church is to help engage with ethical issues. He stressed the importance that, as people of faith, we have some input into these issues. He spoke about the huge debate surrounding the status of the human embryo and the need to look for other sources of stem cells. He explained that it is now possible to create prints of 3D structures. Would this eventually lead to printable living organs and could this be a way forward for transplantation. He also spoke about the ethical issues relating to the internet.

The Business Committee brought forward a proposal to change the format and vary the style of Presbytery meetings in the future. It was suggested that we have a conference-style meeting in November on the theme of "Imagining Scotland's Future", with opening worship and a small space for urgent business. It is hoped that this will nurture a greater sense of fellowship within Presbytery. This was given approval.

The group that had been given the task of taking forward the proposal that Glasgow should host Assembly Sunday 2014 had concluded that the additional cost of holding the event in Glasgow, which

would involve the cost of transporting commissioner from Edinburgh, would amount to around £30,00 which could not be justified.

A motion was brought before Presbytery asking that a committee be set up to consider bringing forward a proposal to overture the General Assembly to amend the regulations covering the Barrier Act from the present position that each Presbytery, regardless of size, has one vote for or against any proposed change to Church Law. The proposed regulation should take into account the various sizes of Presbyteries by introducing some form of weighting (i.e. each Presbytery should be allocated a number of votes according to size, and this number should be used either for or against any proposals).

This generated much discussion, but when put to a vote the motion fell.

The Community Responsibility Committee reported that Glasgow City Council has decided to establish a food bank forum to include all faiths and voluntary groups to look at the support and practical assistance they can give to the many organisations involved in food distribution across the city. Some of the issues highlighted were sustainability in maintaining the service in terms of food donation and financial viability with coordination and partnership being seen as essential if this service is to continue.

The Mission Strategy Committee presented the job description for the post of Associate Minister for our linked charge and approval which was given.

Janet Park

The Guild

The new session of the Guild will have begun on 1st October with a Welcome Meeting. We have a very exciting Syllabus this year starting with:

- 1st October Welcome Meeting
- 8th October Mary's Meals
- 15th October Ruth Forsyth – Trainee Minister
- 22nd October Margaret Clayton – Sunday Post
- 29th October Elva Carlisle – Guild Structure
- 5th November Outing to Motherwell Theatre
- 12th November Tales from the Courts
- 19th November Church Choir Concert
- 26th November Gold N Things
- 3rd December Senior Citizens Dinner
- 10th December Carols by Candlelight

Our meetings start at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday evenings and everybody is made very welcome. We are always pleased to see new members. We have a cup of tea and biscuit after the meeting when you can catch up on news and make new friends.

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



Harvest Appeal

The Kirk Session has decided that our Harvest appeal this year should go to help the millions of people who are in urgent need of humanitarian support as a result of the ongoing conflict in Syria. Day by day we see the horrifying pictures on our television screens.

Since the conflict in Syria began in March 2011, more than 100,000 people have been killed, over two million refugees have fled to neighbouring countries and at least another five million people have been displaced inside Syria. The number of vulnerable people is increasing as the humanitarian crisis deepens.

Christian Aid are working through their partners in Lebanon and Iraq to respond to the growing Syrian refugee crisis, supporting their ACT Alliance sister agency, International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), to provide vital assistance to people in desperate need inside Syria itself. They are providing essentials such as food, hygiene and sanitation kits, water containers, emergency shelter and short-term work opportunities, as well as psychosocial support for those who are suffering psychologically as a result of the conflict.

Envelopes for your gifts will be available on Sunday 6th October as well as on the day of our Harvest Service, 13th October.



A Prayer for hope

Lord, hear our prayers for Syria. For people leaving everything behind to flee to safety, For those who have lost loved ones, For lives interrupted, educations stalled and families separated. Lord, bless your people.

We thank you for the work of partners, For the hospitality of neighbours, the generosity of strangers, For those who give of themselves to help others For those who refuse to be silent in the face of injustice Lord, bless your people.

Lord, give the people of Syria hope, For peace and justice to prevail, For there to be new beginnings for all people living in that land, For freedom to replace fear and for there to be a better tomorrow Lord, bless your people. Amen

**Deadline for the next issue is
Wednesday 23rd October 2013**

