



8th Ayr Boys' Brigade Company

February has been another busy month for the Company.

At the end of February the Junior Section took part in the Battalion Mime & Drama Competition in the Church Hall, finishing 3rd overall – well done to all the boys for their efforts. The Anchor Boys – Games Afternoon was held at the Citadel Leisure Centre, Ayr and at this event Calum Rout was presented with a trophy and certificate for winning the Battalion Anchor Boys Colouring in Competition.

We also attended the Thinking Day Service in the Church on Sunday 19/2/2017. Our first year Junior Section boys also received their target award badges.

During March the Junior Section will take part in the Battalion Figure Marching Competition and the Company Section will be doing their Top Team Challenge. At the end of March, Lewis McDowall, William Jamieson and Nicholas Martin will attend their Queen's Badge Completion Course at Dumfries House. We will also have a staff meeting during March in preparation for the end of our session.

Stuart Hyslop
Company Captain



Thoughts from the Manse



Although we have got off lightly, Storm Doris has made headlines throughout Britain in recent days: pictures of waves crashing against piers, roads and motorways blocked by masses of snow, tragedies and accidents and thousands of homes without heating and electricity in challenging weather conditions: one could say that “Doris” gave the country quite a battering and who could be blamed for pulling the duvet over their heads and for staying put until the worst is over?

It is not only literally, that we are hit by tempestuous weather; these are stormy and dangerous times for this country. The House of Commons has heatedly debated the government's white paper setting out the conditions for leaving the European Union and the bill to trigger article 50. This has met with equally hot debates in the House of Lords, who for the first time in years threaten to rebel against the decisions of the House of Commons, many members wanting to amend the existing bill to include the right for EU citizens to stay in this country and the Parliament's right to shape the negotiations and decisions of so-called “Brexit”.

At first sight it may seem as if the church would get off lightly in this debate, does not need to be involved, that we can pull the duvet over our heads and weather the storm. But is that so? I believe that our church, our faith is deeply rooted in this world, and in this particular debate it means that we have a Biblical mandate to be hospitable to strangers - not just to European citizens, but to strangers all over the world, we have a Biblical mandate to build God's kingdom, a kingdom that does not have borders and boundaries, we have a Biblical mandate to safeguard the weak and the vulnerable against the autocratic will of the powerful – and the houses of parliament are such a safeguard – or should be.

Cont/Where that mandate is endangered, we cannot just turn our heads away, we cannot just wait for sunnier weather – we have to advocate God’s law, we have to face the storm. Yet, where we do face the storm, where we dare to speak up for the weak, the vulnerable, the stranger, there we can rely on God’s promise, made through the prophet Isaiah: “When you pass through the waters I will be with you and when you pass through the rivers they will not sweep over you” (Is 43,2)

Every Blessing
Barbara

Ministry of Flowers

As Anne is still indisposed, I wish to thank all who contributed to the Flower Fund in February, either by taking a date in the Calendar to commemorate a special event or by donating to the Flower Basket.

Thank you also to Jenny and Dorothy and not forgetting the Elders who deliver the flowers.

Hopefully Anne will soon be back among us.

Lilian Kerr



Cont/our annual Thinking Day Event, held at Newton Wallacetown Church Halls. The girls made a Thinking Day notebook, took part in some games and enjoyed singing songs at the Campfire at the end of the afternoon. The girls also received a World Thinking Day badge.

Coffee Morning

We would like to thank everyone who supported this event on Saturday 25th February in the Church Hall. We raised £290, which will be split between Guide Funds and a donation to the Church.

During February the girls have been working hard on their badge work. Some have completed and some are still working on them.

Blue Peter Badge

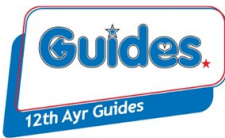
We are proud to inform you one of our Guides; Megan Woods has become a Blue Peter Badge holder. This was due to Megan’s fast actions and her ability to remain calm during a frightening situation that resulted in Megan’s Mum breaking her leg. Well done Megan!

Beetle Drive

This event will be held on Tuesday 21st March in the Church Hall from 7.30pm. Tickets will be priced at £2.00 for adults and £1.00 for children. Please come along and support this fun night. The proceeds will be used to subsidise our Camp in June.

Gillian Hay
Guide Leader





12th Ayr Guides

Active Kids vouchers

The Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers have started again. They can be collected instore and online from 25th January until 2nd May. If you are not sure what to do with them, we would appreciate if you would donate them to the Guides. You will find collection boxes at the front of the Church and in the Church Hall. Thank you for your help.

Ring pull collection

We need your ring pulls! Central Ayr Guide District, which we are part of, are collecting ring pulls for The Purple Community Fund. Please help by donating your ring pulls in the boxes at the front of the Church or in the Church Hall or passing them on to any of the Guides or Guide Staff.

We donated over 11,000 to the Purple Community at the Thinking Day event (see below) which were greatly appreciated. A special thanks to Anne & Jim Hutcheon who had been collecting ring pulls from members of the Church for some time but did not know who to pass them on to, over 9,000 ring pulls had been collected. We will continue to collect them until Easter.

Thinking Day

The girls all enjoyed their part during the Service, whether in the Colour Party, reading the Lesson or saying a prayer.

On Sunday 26th February, some of the girls joined other Rainbows, Brownies and Guides from Central Ayr District for

Parish Easter Cards

The Kirk Session has agreed that we should continue with a Parish Easter Card Delivery. Most of our regular delivery volunteers have already signed the lists which are in the vestibule but more volunteers are urgently required. Please sign up if you can, or speak to Moyra in the Church Office 01292 266993

Junior Church

The children are continuing to enjoy the varied programme of stories and activities. We are back using 'Spill the Beans' and using a new supplier of some of our activities. Last week the girls made lovely cushions from felt and they decorated them beautifully with sparkling gems.

A date to be noted in your diaries is that on Palm Sunday, 9 April 2017, the Junior Church will hold our Annual Easter Brunch after the morning Service. Tickets can be purchased from myself from the 26 March 2017, but you can pay at the door if you wish. All will be made most welcome. Ticket costs will be £2.50.

Work continues, as mentioned, with the various activities that we do but it is that time of year when we have to think of something different for Mother's Day and Easter. My ideas are forming so there may be some surprises a foot.

Gillian Cunningham
Secretary



Treasurer's Report

Offerings etc. for February 2017

	5th	12th	19th	26th
Freewill Offering	429.60	459.00	482.30	604.10
Open Plate	22.00		87.40	16.50
Lunch Box	85.00	105.00	115.00	100.00
Mile of 5pences	15.00			
Donations	50.00		450.00	500.00
Fabric Fund				

This month we received donations from the following organisations:

The Computer Club - £50.00
The Bowling Club - £400.00
The Country Dance Group - £50.00
The Concert Party - £500.00

Thank you very much to everyone for your generous gifts.

Alison Hyslop
Treasurer



12th Ayr Brownies

This month has been as busy as ever at 12th Ayr Brownies. We have been making dream catchers which the girls loved, they all turned out great!

Dawn taught the girls some line dancing, which after a bit of practice turned out rather successfully. First St James' Church and next, the Wild West I think?

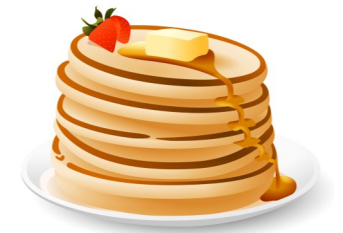
Our big event for this month was the Oscars Night where we joined together with 2nd Prestwick Brownies for a night full of fun. The girls fully enjoyed the photo booth (props included), interval snacks and of course the movie. Better still, we received a goody bag that had a Thinking Day badge, which came all the way from a unit in America.

The thinking day service was attended by seven of our girls, two of which did us proud when they stood in front of the whole congregation to read the first prayer.

Our World Guiding badge is now complete so we are looking forward to handing these out to the girls after our hard work at looking at USA this month.

On Shrove Tuesday we will be making and decorating pancakes with the girls.

Louise, Dawn, Emma and Hannah.



Fundraising/Social Committee

CAR BOOT SALE ALL PROCEEDS FOR CHURCH FUNDS

The Car Boot Sale is on Saturday 22nd April from 2pm till 4pm.

The sale will be in M.L.Williams Car Park and refreshments will be served in the hall, this will include hot dogs, tea coffee and for the kids crisps juice etc.

If by any chance the weather is bad the whole event will take place in the hall. We hope that some of you will volunteer to bring your car along filled with goods you don't need any longer but if you just want to donate items that's fine.

For collections contact Tom McFarlane, Irene Smith or Moyra (01292 262091, 263987, 266993).

Dates for your diary:

Pentecost Lunch-Sunday 4th June in the hall after the service

Quiz Night-This is pencilled in for Friday 25th August but this will be confirmed after the calendar meeting.

Moyra Smith
Fundraising/Social Convenor



Christian Aid

"BIG BREKKIE" Christian Aid week 14th to 20th May.

Once again this year we will not be participating in the door to door collection but in order to raise money to cover the shortfall we are having another "BIG BREKKIE" in the hall on Saturday 11th March from 10 am till 12 noon. Price is £2.50 and for that you can have filled breakfast rolls - bacon, sausage, scrambled egg and you can top up with a tattie scone.

You can also have jam or marmalade rolls if you so wish. If you come and have a "Big Brekkie" you won't need any Lunch!!

Please invite you friends and family along where you and they can show love for people living in poverty and suffering injustice around the world.

Moyra Smith/Janey McIntyre
Christian Aid Convenors

Thank You

Thanks to all who sent cards and gifts to us on the birth of our beautiful daughter Novah. She is growing each day and is now 5 weeks old. Mum and Dad are doing well.

Best wishes to all and thank you.
Natasha and Alexander



Session Clerk's Message



Dear Friends,

May I take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to all the members who support the organisations and events of the Church, and our unsung heroes who carry out many of the small jobs around the Church, without seeking any public recognition for their efforts'.

We are fast approaching the time when many of our organisations will close until the autumn. Those in charge certainly deserve a well-earned rest, however it causes a dilemma. For many of our members attending these organisations may be the only occasion during the week that they are out of the house. It is appreciated that there are a number of fund raising events during this period however it may be time for us to consider something to take up the slack during this break.

Like many aspects of our Church life a number of our groups would benefit from increased membership. If you are not a member of any organisation please give it some thought. You will receive a warm welcome to any of the groups concerned.

Strangers in Church!!! I would encourage our members to look after any strangers or visitors to the Church. A quick word can make all the difference. There is nothing worse than sitting isolated in Church. It is appreciated that many of us benefit from a time of quiet meditation before the service starts.

Finally if you become aware of a change in circumstances of any of our members please let us know as this will allow us to

Christ in Action

At St James we share the responsibility of delivering food parcels to the homeless hostels in Ayr and Troon with St Quivox Roman Catholic Church in Prestwick. We were on duty from 13th to 26th February and in total we delivered 21 parcels to the hostels. Tom and I continue to work at the resource centre at Newton School each Monday morning. Sincere thank to everyone at St James who support the foodbank by either giving food or money. We do not have as many delivery volunteers and would be very happy to hear from anyone who might be able to help; please contact Moyra.

You will find another item about the foodbank elsewhere in the Newsletter.

Moyra Smith
Outreach Convenor



The Guild

On 9th March we have a demonstration by Mrs Moyra Smith, on the 16th David Porte, South Ayrshire Council will give a talk. 23rd March will be our reports night with a Bring and Buy stall.

We are delighted to have our closing Concert Alloway Burns Club Choir together with the group Luaith, and this takes place on Thursday 30th March at 7.30p.m. in the Church Hall. Tickets cost £5 which includes supper and are on sale now.

Please come and support this excellent concert.

Kid's Time Community Playgroup

During February we had a number of new children register which means that our Playgroup continues to be popular. Since the group re-opened some years ago the cost per week has been £1.00, this includes snacks and juice for the kids plus tea, coffee and biscuits for the Mums, Grans, Dads or Child Minders. A real bargain!!! So spread the word. Pop in yourself any Thursday morning and you will find out what goes on. (No charge).

Moyra Smith
Playgroup Leader



Outreach Group

The Parish Easter Card

This will be ready to go to the printer soon and the cards should be ready for delivery volunteers to pick up on Sunday 26th March; cards should be delivered by Monday 3rd April. If you feel you can help with the deliveries please volunteer.

Messy Church

Our Messy Church on 18th February was well attended, 31 kids and one third of them were new. A great time was had by all and that includes the helpers; the theme was Shrove Tuesday and many pancakes were tossed. Sincere thanks are due to all the helpers and the cooks who prepare the food. Special thanks go to one member of the congregation has donated money for some time which helps to cover the cost of running the Messy Church. We hope to have an Easter Messy Church, no date arranged yet.

Cont/keep our district elders up to date.

May God's blessing be with you all.

Bill Mackie

Session Clerk

PS PLEASE NOTE MY CHANGE OF EMAIL CONTACT
DETAILS: wnmackie43@outlook.com

Christ In Action Foodbank

A partnership of four Churches in Ayr and Prestwick

Monkton and Prestwick North, Prestwick Kingcase, St Quivox
Roman Catholic Church Prestwick, Ayr St James

Lent began on Wednesday 1st March 2017 and the season of Lent provides a 40 day opportunity to grow in spirit and to take time to prepare ourselves for the momentous events of Easter.

Can we at "Christ in Action" suggest that instead of giving something up we give something to?

We would be delighted to receive donations for the foodbank so that we can help those who cannot give their children their tea and others who are homeless.

We would ask you to pray for those who receive the food parcels, ask for God's blessing on them and thank him that we have so much and are able to help for we are God's hands and his heart.



PRESBYTERY'S GOT TALENT

7.00PM FRIDAY 31ST MARCH 2017

KINGCASE PARISH CHURCH HALL

SUGGESTED TICKET DONATION £3

This event is a Concert Fundraiser for the Presbytery's Malawi Committee who will be visiting Malawi later this year. The proceeds of the concert will be used to buy gifts which will be presented to the various Churches; Guilds etc the Committee will visit on their trip to Malawi.

Please support this event and those members of St James who will perform at it. Please see Moyra for tickets.



Car Boot Sale

Saturday 22nd April 2017

“ALL PROCEEDS FOR CHURCH FUNDS”

The Sale will take place in M.L. Williams car park on Saturday 22nd April from 2pm till 4pm.

Refreshments will be on sale in the church hall.

Only 14 spaces in the car park, if you intend filling your car and bringing it along, book your car in now!!!!

If you wish to donate items but don't want to bring your car along please search your cupboards, huts, lofts etc for suitable items and we will collect them or be in the hall to receive them. Call Tom, Irene or Moyra if you wish anything collected. (01292 262091, 266993).

We encourage all church members and organisations to support this event.