

Neilston Parish Church News



This is the first edition of the Neilston Parish Church News, the new church and village magazine.

The News will let you catch up with all the activities of our church family, current and future events and our plans for the future. We will publish the magazine about four times a year.

Please let us know your views via Facebook, the church web site, a note in our collection box or by talking to us directly.

The News Team are Allan McDougall, Patricia Barnes and Margaret McNiven assisted and advised by Barbara Wilson and the Minister.

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*Check the church website for up-to-date news at
www.neilstonparishchurch.org.uk or Facebook*

Fiona's Update

*Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.
Jesus said, Today you will be with me in paradise.'*
(Luke chapter 23 v 42&43)

These words come from the conversation recorded in Luke's gospel between Jesus and one of the criminals crucified beside him. At the point of his deepest darkness, this man finds in Jesus the one who not only remembers him but has prepared a place for him. When everything else is stripped away, what matters most in our Christian faith is Jesus and our response to him.

Jesus... who speaks our name and calls us to follow him;
Jesus... who forgives our sins;
Jesus... who promises never to leave us nor forsake us;
Jesus... who makes us "fishers of people".

All that we do in our life together in the church and as we live out our faith, wherever God leads us, is about Jesus. Loving him and loving one another.

Thank YOU to everyone who has contributed to this new version of the church magazine. As you read through it may you be encouraged in your faith and led to pray "your will be done, here as it is in heaven".

God bless you

Fiona Maxwell



Advent & Christmas Worship 2017

Sunday 3rd 1 st Sunday in Advent 11am	<i>Bring a gift Sunday</i> Please bring along an unwrapped gift for a boy or girl aged, 1 – 16 years. The gifts will be distributed by the Salvation Army in Barrhead.
Sunday 10th 2 nd Sunday in Advent 11am	<i>Preparing the Way for the Lord</i>
Sunday 10th 3pm	<i>Renfrew Burgh Band Christmas Concert</i> An event for all the family (no entry fee but you can give a donation for Accord Hospice)
Sunday 17th 3 rd Sunday in Advent 11am	<i>The Real Christmas Story</i> All ages together celebrating the Nativity
Sunday 17th 3pm	<i>Blue Christmas</i> A reflective gathering allowing space to recognise loss and sadness at this special time of year.
Sunday 24th 4 th Sunday in Advent 11am	<i>The Christmas Journey to Bethlehem</i> Everyone loves Carol Singing. Come along and join in as we all (young and old) sing our hearts out.
Sunday 24th 11.15pm	<i>Joy to the World - The Lord has come</i>
Sunday 31st 11am	<i>God with us now and forever</i> The church choir and minister lead us in a reflective service as we stand on the threshold of a New Year.

All the news that fits



On Sunday 8th October we held our first Messy Church of the session. It was a very happy occasion and thirty two children, twenty four adults and sixteen leaders attended.

The theme was that all buildings need a strong foundation and that, as a church together, we can make God the foundation of our faith. Our activities reflected this and we had great fun trying to build towers with Maltesers or, especially, dried peas and cocktail sticks! We then had a time of worship before sitting down together for a simple meal and a time of fellowship.

Our next Messy Church is on Sunday 26th November and we look forward to seeing you there.

Moira Donnelly

Events in 2017

During the year to date refreshments were provided after the Sunday services and this provided a time of fellowship with one another.

£500 was gifted to Marie Curie cancer care in March. In September £500 was gifted to Macmillan cancer care. Our grateful thanks are extended to everyone who bakes and helps on the Sundays.

We had a very successful summer fair on Saturday 10 June. Various stalls included home baking, plants, raffle, bottle stall, craft and children's activities. The sum of £1035 was raised for church funds

Our Christmas Fair will be on Saturday 2 December.

Barbara Wilson



It is always a lovely time of year when Guild members start meeting again on a Monday afternoon and we look forward to happy times together.

For our opening meeting at the beginning of October 2017 our Minister, Fiona Maxwell, took as her subject the national Guild theme "Go in Love". She described C. S. Lewis's book "The Four Loves", affection, friendship, familial and love of God. She also brought to our attention the often heard passage in 1 Corinthians, chapter 13 where it talks about what love is:

"Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong doing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends."

In our syllabus over the next few weeks some of the activities at The Guild will include discussion about our fundraising Project, quizzes, a visit from the Salvation Army, the Friendship Singers, a talk by RNLI Troon, a craft making afternoon, a united Guild meeting and a Christmas carol service with afternoon tea.

Please come along at 1.30pm on a Monday if you would like to participate. All welcome.

L Fraser

Property Update



Church

There hasn't been much work carried out at the Church as it was lime-washed and painted last year. There are a few issues that need addressed.

Church Halls

During the summer months there were a few smaller jobs carried out, mainly roof repairs and upgrading the security to ensure we are in line with insurance requirements. The big job that was completed was the long awaited "Refurbished Kitchen". I'd like to thank those who assisted with clearing the kitchen and then washing and cleaning the equipment before returning it to the kitchen. Additional thanks to Mr Robert (Bobby) Winning who painted the ceiling, walls, skirtings etc in the kitchen.

The Manse

New front doors have been installed at the Manse, to improve security, resist bad weather and simplify maintenance. There have been some roof and lighting repairs carried out at the manse and there are ongoing discussions about the garden.

If you would like further information, to assist with the Church properties or wish to join the Property Committee, please talk to me.

William A McCulloch



Anchors—We held a joint games night with Juniors for enrolment, which was a great success. We now have 12 boys attending every week. We thank Margaret Pettigrew and Jean Wallace for returning after many years and welcome our new helper Michael McCann to the team.

Neilston First Responders will be coming to talk to the boys and to show off some equipment, including an ambulance. On the 25th November we will be going to the Panto and we will be going to Planet Play for our Xmas party.

Juniors—This year we had five boys promoted to the Company Section. 10 boys attend every week. All the boys have been getting to know each other and enjoy their activities. This year we have an exciting Christmas party planned, which will be something different for the boys: more news to follow.

Company Section—This year we have 11 boys registered. We welcome Ross and Emily who joined as officers in the section. Both the junior and company section boys helped run a tombola stall outside Boots at Braehead. It was a fantastic weekend where we raised £652. This money will be put towards next year's camp.



Sunday Club

Most Sundays a small group of children and their leaders go over to the hall to enjoy a time together. In the group we have a wide age range from about two to ten years. It is a lovely group of children and they all get on and care for one another. Each session follows the same pattern. We have a snack and chat together. We then have a bible story followed by craft and game activities.

At the end of October we will start a new resource called Friends and Heroes. This uses a DVD to tell the story and then there are lots of follow up activities. We hope we will all enjoy this.

Moira Donnelly



The Choir

From September the choir have been rehearsing on a Sunday from 9.45-10.30am. This means there is no commitment during the week. We hoped this would make it easier for some of you to join us. We are still hoping! All you have to give up is a long lie on a Sunday morning! Please consider it.

If you are not sure about this, why not join us for Christmas and see how it goes. We shall start rehearsing for Christmas on the 26th of November. We shall be leading the service of Lessons and Carols on the 31st of December.

Charles Donnelly

Endings and Beginnings, by John Spooner

Some people say that time flies past more and more quickly as you grow older, and I am sure that many of us would subscribe to that theory as we glance back over the weeks, months and maybe even years which have passed.

It scarcely seems like it, but it is now slightly over a year ago, that I contributed an article to the 2016 Harvest edition of Contact, an article in which I wrote about the final stage of my journey towards Readership in the Church of Scotland.

As I wrote, I was eagerly anticipating my final placement, which began at the beginning of October last year, at Inchinnan Parish Church, under the supervision of the Reverend Maureen Leitch.

That placement, and the journey of training, have now come to an end. As in all things in life, when one stage of the journey ends, the next stage begins. And so it has been for me.

Thursday 21st September 2017 was the date of a very special service of worship in Neilston Parish Church; a service marking the transition from one journey to another.

On that evening, I was surrounded and supported by a congregation of family and friends, not only from our church here in Neilston, but also from the other congregations with which I have been associated. My journey of training was formally concluded and I was “Admitted to the Office of Reader”.

And now I have the privilege and I am enjoying being on a new, but continuing, journey. I am able to lead services of worship anywhere within the Church of Scotland. The only restrictions being that I cannot celebrate the Sacraments of Baptism, Holy Communion, nor conduct marriages.

For the foreseeable future, I will be doing “pulpit supply” i.e. providing cover in churches where the minister is on holiday, or is off work due to ill health or is without a minister. This role will offer me lots of challenge and experiences, travelling to different communities, being involved with congregations with different backgrounds, situations and outlooks.

As I look back over the last few years, I owe an enormous debt of gratitude to many, many people, not least of whom are the folks of Neilston Parish Church, who have shared my journey by their encouragement and support.

Thank you so much for everything you have done over several years to support me and most recently, for the tremendous night of celebration, through inspiring worship and generous hospitality and gifts.

I thank God for you, that as he has called and led me to this new role of service within his Church, and has used you as channels of his blessing.

May his richest blessings be with us all, as we travel, with God and with each other, to the places and the adventures to which he leads us.

Kirk Session News

During the year two of our Elders decided to retire from the Kirk Session.

Gordon Sheach retired in August after serving 43 years as an Elder within Neilston Parish Church.

Bert Watson retired in October after 40 years service as an Elder, of which 20 years were spent serving in Neilston.

We thank both for their dedicated service to the Church and give them our love and blessing.

In September Grant Munn was granted a one year leave of absence from the Session.

What's on and when

Sunday Worship : 11:00am

Choir : Sundays at 9.45am in the Church

Junior Church : Sundays at 10:55am in the Church

Guild : Mondays at 1:30pm in the Back Hall

Girls' Brigade : Mondays at 6:30pm in the Church Hall (Sep –May)

Women's Group : Tuesdays at 1:00pm in the Front Hall

SWRI : 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm in the Back Hall

Midweek Meanderings :

Wednesdays at 10:30am in the Back Hall (Oct-Apr)

Boys' Brigade – Junior Section :

Wednesdays at 7:00pm in the Church Hall

Tweenies : Thursdays at 6:15pm in the Front Hall

Friday Craft Class : Fridays at 1:00pm in the Back Hall

Boys' Brigade – Anchor Boys :

Fridays at 6:45pm in the Front Hall

Boys' Brigade – Company Section :

Fridays at 7:30pm in the Front Hall

Church Contacts

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The Final Word

At the end of May, Mr Jim Renfrew tendered his resignation as Editor of Contact. We extend our grateful thanks to Jim for his commitment to the magazine for over 20 years.

We hope you like the first edition of the NPC News magazine. Please let us have your comments, particularly on any items you would like to see or things we have omitted.

For example, we didn't include details of baptisms or funerals: should we? Should we include details of our services? Should we also include some of our articles in the church website?

Let us know.