



NEWSLETTER

Church Office

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Monday - Friday 9.30am - 12.30pm

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Dear Friends

I don't know about you, but I find choosing Christmas presents very difficult. Some people seem to have the knack of purchasing just the right gift; I'm not one of them! Quite often with the deadline looming, I just panic and buy at the last minute. I could always ask the recipient what they might like, but that makes it too easy! It's nice to get a surprise on Christmas morning even if it isn't what you'd have chosen. The thought behind the gift counts more than the gift itself, that someone has taken time to think about what you might like. I sometimes think that the ideal gift is something that you didn't even know that you wanted until you get it! The giver has to know you really well to know what that might be. As I said, some people just seem to have the knack of choosing the right gift.

When we think of the Christmas story, I think that God's gift to the world, Jesus, is in that category. God knew what we really needed before we ever did. He sent the right gift at just the right time. Certainly, for many of the Jewish people, Jesus was a

disappointment. The gift that they wanted was a leader like their hero David, who would drive the Romans from their land and restore a Jewish kingdom free from foreign domination. Jesus wasn't that person. He was very different from the gift that they had been hoping for, and yet he was just what they needed. God's gift was for everyone, not just for Israel. The good news of God's love revealed in Jesus was for the whole of humanity. Picking the right gift isn't easy, but God knew (and knows) what we need better than we do.

Presents seem less important to many of us as we get older; we get more pleasure from seeing the children open theirs. Presence matters more than presents. To simply spend time in the company of those we love. God's present was also about presence. Coming to us in Jesus, making his home with humanity, spending time with us, and helping us to focus on what really matters in life.

May this Christmas be a time of blessing for you and those you love.

Rev David Watson

DIARY FOR ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

Sunday 1st December

1st Sunday in Advent

- 9.30am Fairlie
- 11.00am Cumbrae: Gift Sunday
- 11.00am Largs: Gift Sunday

Saturday 7th

- 10.00am Fairlie Christmas Fair: until 12noon
- 10.00am Largs Boys' Brigade Christmas Fayre, Dunn Memorial Hall: until 12 noon

Sunday 8th December

2nd Sunday in Advent

- 11.00am Largs: Messengers Puppet Ministry Show during worship

Wednesday 11th

- 2.00pm Cumbrae Guild Christmas Fayre: Age Concern Hall: until 4.00pm
- 7.00pm Service of Light at 7pm in St Mary's Star of the Sea

Friday 13th

- 7.00pm Largs Parish Church: Christmas Concert hosted by Chris & Ailie Kelly

Sunday 15th December

3rd Sunday in Advent

- 9.30am Fairlie: Choir-led service during morning worship
- 11.00am Cumbrae: The Surprise of Christmas
- 11.00am Largs: Junior Church Nativity

- 6.00pm Cumbrae: Carols by Candlelight in the Cathedral of The Isles
- 4.30pm Fairlie: Carols by Candlelight

Monday 16th

- 7.00pm Cumbrae: Sonoro Christmas Concert at Cumbrae Parish Church

Sunday 22nd December

4th Sunday in Advent

- 9.30am Fairlie: Baptism and Nativity
- 11.00am Largs: Choir-led Lessons/Carols

Tuesday 24th December

Christmas Eve

- 4.30pm Fairlie: Family Crib service with Music Group. *This service is for everyone, but especially families, who wish to experience the mystery of Christmas but find the watch-night service too late for them.*
- 11.15pm Largs: Watchnight with Kilbirnie Salvation Army Band (collection for the band)

Wednesday 25th December

Christmas Day

- 10.00am Fairlie: Christmas Morning Celebration
- 11.00am Cumbrae: Service in the Cathedral of the Isles
- 1.00pm Largs: St John's Building: Christmas Day Community Dinner

Sunday 29th

- 9.30am Celebrating Christmas: Carols: Singing for the Soul. Until 11am

Sometimes it is easy to forget that at the heart of Christmas is a celebration of the love, hope, joy, and peace that is found in the birth of a baby: as God comes to us in Jesus. In the noise of TV adverts encouraging us to buy things we don't need, Christmas is really a reminder to take time out to reflect on, and prioritise, what really matters in life: being with those we love. However,

receiving the gift of Jesus also encourages us to extend kindness to others, not only to those we know but also to strangers and those in need. In a world of division and uncertainty, the annual celebration of the birth of Jesus is a reminder to light up a world of darkness with hope and love. That is why Jesus came to earth; so that we can all enjoy the life He gives us.



Parish Register

Marriage & Marriage Blessing

a man leaves his father and mother and is united with his wife, and they become one. [Genesis 2: 24]

- March Lily Ferguson & Cameron Frew
June Taylor Reid & Lauder McWilliams
July Kirsty Paterson & David Colthart
Aug Linda McGhie & John Thomson
Oct Zoe McCulloch & Jack Devlin,
Kathryn Foye & David Frame

Baptism

We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. [Romans 6: 4]

- June Mason Leslie Brinkman

Deaths

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. [John 11: 25-26]

- April Emma (Mollie) Elizabeth Garroway Fairlie
Patricia Black Fairlie
Elizabeth (Betty) Anderson Fairlie
William Stuart Aitken Fairlie
Margaret Patrick Millport
Robert Gardner Kennedy Largs
Elizabeth (Betty) Blair Largs
Elizabeth (Betty) Ramsey Turner Largs
William (Bill) McCaig Greenock
Graham MacPhee Comrie
May Moira Turner Largs
Elma Kilgour Millport
Sadie Morton Largs
Moira Jean Elliott Millport
Ann Girvan Largs
John (Ian) McCall Millport
June Robert Ian Frame Millport
Thomas (Tommy) Stevens Largs
July William Stewart Largs
Lindsay George Brodie Milton Keynes
Aug William Sloss Largs
Grace Ross Millport
Donald Frazer Bury
Tom Blacas Rhodes Fairlie
Sep Andrew Kier Allan Largs
Margaret Alexandra Adams Largs
Jane Rundell Largs
Elizabeth (Betty) Shearer Largs
James (Jim) Daly Largs
Oct Ronald Gilmour Largs
Muriel Jardine Fairlie
Thea Allan Largs
Mary Wybar Largs
Linda Clark Largs
Crawford Masson Largs
Nov Jeanette Mackinnon Largs
Bill Weir Largs
Lillias (Lily) O'Brien Largs
Jacqueline Taylor Largs
Jennifer Henderson Largs
Catherine Barbour Millport

STAINED-GLASS WINDOWS REFLECTION

In our darker hours, when daylight is brief, and when the winter of loss or hopelessness grips us, can we open our hearts and minds a crack to let light in?

Archbishop Desmond Tutu said, "Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness."

We speak and sing of the light of Christ, but sometimes act as if that light were only something outside of ourselves. We wish it for other people, but are at times unwilling or unable to take it in, to let Christ in, to let him shine in our hearts. Maybe we fear that that will involve us in change, will change us. And we find change hard.

Do you remember the Sunday School chorus, "This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine"? I believe we are being called to let Christ's light transform us, so that we radiate that light, which can change the world.

Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, a Swiss-American psychiatrist, wrote, "People are like stained-glass windows. They sparkle and shine when the sun is out, but when the darkness sets in their true beauty is revealed only if there is light from within."

Morag Fowler

LARGS UNITED GUILD

Guild members have enjoyed a programme of topics during autumn which culminates in the Big Sing on 6th Dec at St George's Tron Church, Glasgow, and our Christmas Lunch at the Willowbank Hotel on 9th Dec, after which we will be entertained by the Clydeside Singers.

Our New Year starts with a musical afternoon by our friends from Clyde Coast Fiddlers and look forward to a variety of speakers, including a talk on Ardrossan Castle, the history of Greenock's Irish Immigrants (a joint meeting with Cumbrae and Fairlie Guilds), our local RNLI, and the Crossreach Project, *Let's Build a House*.

Look out for our programme of meetings for 2025 on the church notice boards and join us if you are interested in any particular subject. You will be made very welcome.

Christine Gallettie, Secretary

THURSDAY CONTACT UPDATE

The group usually meets on the last Thursday of the month in Largs Parish Church.

In October, the group were delighted to welcome Elaine Ross who talked about her experience in Tanzania. Her talk and slide show about her volunteer work on board a medical ship on Lake Victoria was informative, entertaining and an eye-opener. Her photographs from her safari in the Serengeti National Park were stunning. Thanks to Elaine and also to David Hannah for projector and sound.

The November meeting was a Craft Night with Beryl. Beryl was as patient as ever as the members did their best to follow instructions and produce something that looked like hers! The results were varied, but everyone had fun!

There is no December meeting. January, there will be a meal out. Details to follow.

We have a WhatsApp group to keep in touch. New members are most welcome. Contact Fiona on 07779 822983.



1st LARGS BB CHRISTMAS POST

Post boxes in Morrison's and Halliday's until Wed. 11 Dec. and in the Dunn Memorial Hall Mon. 9 – Thu. 12 Dec. 10am-12 noon and 2-4pm

1ST MILLPORT BB CHRISTMAS MAIL

Mon. 9 Dec. to Mon. 16 Dec. Stamps 20p from Caldwell's & Webb's Newsagents