

Issue No. 38



Feb/Mar 2020

Clarkston Church Record

The newsletter from
Airdrie Clarkston Parish Church of Scotland



Our Mission

We, the people of Airdrie Clarkston Parish Church, seek to celebrate God's presence and love through prayer, worship, fellowship and service in the life of our Church, our community and in the wider world.

In this issue.....

Thoughts from the Minister

News from the Guild & the Rainbows

Messy Church & Vintage Messy Church

Church Weekly Calendar

- Sun Morning Worship, at 11:00am
Service at Wester Moffat Hospital, conducted by the Worship Group
First Sunday each month 10:00am-10:30am.
Creche, during morning worship, for babies & children aged 0-3 years
Sunday Club, for primary school age children 11.00am -12:00noon.
After church tea/coffee, in the Church Hall 12:00 noon
Youth Group, for secondary school age children 1st Sunday evening monthly.
- Tue The Guild 2:00pm every alternate week (Oct - Apr)
Church Board & Session Meetings 7:00pm-9:00pm, 2nd Tuesday (Sept-June)
"Messy Church" 5:00pm-7:00pm on the 1st Tuesday in February, March & May
- Thurs Property Maintenance Group a.k.a "Dad's Army" 10:00am-12:00noon
Carpet Bowling Group 2:00pm-4:00pm (Oct - Apr)
Boys Brigade Junior Section 7:00pm-8.30pm
- Fri Boys Brigade Anchor Boys 6.00pm-7.00pm
Boys Brigade Company Section 7.30pm-10.00pm

For more details on any of the above activities, please contact the Session Clerk (details on the back page), or see the church website,

www.airdriec Clarkstonparishchurch.org.uk

or follow us on Facebook at "Airdrie Clarkston Parish Church"



Newsletter Dates

Next Edition April/May
Publish Date 5th April
Submissions in by 15th March

Congregational Register

Funerals

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted"

With sadness we record the death of the following church members;

Mr Robert Winning

whose funeral was conducted by the Reverend Hanna Rankine at Clarkston Church on 19th December 2019

Mrs Morag Murray

who passed away on 1st January 2020.

A Celebration of the Life of Morag Murray was conducted by the Reverend Hanna Rankine at Clarkston Church on 25th January 2020.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all the families



Easter Services

Coming up in the next edition of the Record will be details of our Easter church services.

Thoughts from our Minister

Christmas, it seems, is long behind us and we are now into the New Year – so, let me pause here and wish you all a Happy New Year!

What is not behind us is the cold and the darkness. We may have passed mid-winter, but this time of year is still bleak.

It makes me wonder, do the Christmas lights have to be packed away so soon? It is a little sad not to see them when the majority of the day is still so dark. What is possibly sadder than the absence of warm glow of the Christmas lights is seeing the decorations, that would be all aglow during the festive period, out in the cold with no light shining through them.

I am confronted with this sadness as I pass, what was, the Philips factory in Hamilton. The manse that we live in is very near the old Philips factory and each year in the grounds outside the factory are some lovely big decorations. There is a life size sleigh that is filled with pretty parcels, there is a large, jolly looking Santa, some reindeer and a big red post box where you might like to post your Christmas list in. When these objects are illuminated, they put a smile on your face. However, at the moment the festive objects are there, but they are not illuminated, and they look so sad and dull out in the cold and dark.

Just a little bit of light in the darkness is uplifting. And how true that is when we think it terms of the light of Jesus. When we read our bibles and realise how much God loves us. When we read that Jesus was sent into this world so that we could know how to live and know that we are not alone in this world – that God has a plan for each of us and that we will one day be reunited with all those we've lost and together we will live in the restored heaven and earth for all eternity. We look forward to that time, but for now we are heartened by the light of Christ that has and never will be extinguished.

For now, this world has so much darkness in it. In the darkness lies an uneven distribution of wealth across the whole world and millions of women, men and children go without food. The darkness comes in the form of terrorism and in uncaring attitudes to one another and to the earth and seas that God so lovingly made for us.

All we can do is say sorry to God for the ways in which we have contributed to the darkness, knowing that God is always willing to forgive us and to show us the way to walk. Jesus the light of the world will illumine our path. Unlike the Christmas lights the light of Christ can never be extinguished.

Because Jesus came to be light for us, he is called the light of the world.

One of my favourite paintings bears that name - 'The Light of the World' It is by William Holman Hunt. It depicts Jesus, standing with a lamp, outside a door. The lamp that Jesus is holding has such a soothing glow in the dark shadowy scene Holman Hunt depicts.

The door in the painting has not been opened for some time and is overgrown with ivy. The painting is based on Revelation 3:20 in which Jesus says that he is knocking on our door and that, if we let him in, he will come in and eat with us.

In the painting, the door of the house is closed. Jesus is standing patiently, knocking on the door. After a while of looking at the painting, you realise that there is no handle on the outside of the door – this is a door that can only be opened from the inside.

All Jesus can do is knock and wait to be invited in. He will not force his way into our lives or demand that we should let him in. But he continues to knock on the door, hoping that one day we will open our hearts to him.

Many of us know the blessing of opening our hearts to Jesus and letting his light shine through us. The light in us is to be passed on.

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Thoughts from our Minister (contd)

(Continued from page 3)

In this New Year may you continue to be bathed in the light of Christ despite the times your world may seem dark. Remember there is always hope. And because of this hope and the light that we have in us we can go out into the world and 'let [our] light so shine

before all people, that they may see [our] good works, and glorify [our] Father which is in heaven.' *Matthew 5:16*

The way we conduct ourselves in front of others will attract others to our light source - our light source, who is Jesus, the light of the world.

May God, the source of hope,

fill you with all joy and peace by means of your faith in him, so that your hope will continue to grow by the power of the Holy Spirit. *Romans 15:13*

God bless you,

With love

Hanna

Organisations News



The Guild

The Guild Theme for 2019 - 2020 is Companions on the Road

The Guild programme for February and March is as follows;-

11th February

Speaker - Rev Robbie Hamilton of New Wellwynd Parish Church, Airdrie.

Robbie is an articulate speaker, his talk will be very interesting no matter his subject.

25th February

Speaker - Alan Beveridge the local councillor for this area.

His talk is based on his work as a councillor in our area.

10th March

Speaker - Ian Macaulay from the Journey Together Trust.

24th March

Showtime - by Alan Cunningham, well known to many of you.

Its always a surprising slide or video show by Alan. Many memories are brought to mind.

Please come along and join us on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the above months, beginning at 2pm in the church hall session room, come and join in the fellowship and make new friends.

Betty Kennedy

Guild Convenor & Treasurer

The first Messy Church of 2020 will be held on Tuesday 4th February from 5.00 pm to 7.00 pm. The focus of the evening will be 'LOVING & SERVING'.



The dates for the remainder of the session are: 3rd March and 5th May 2020.

Please come along!

All ages will be made most welcome!

Barbara Sefton

We will again be holding a Shrove Tuesday Vintage Messy Church for the over 50's, which will take place on Tuesday 25th



February 2020 in the Church Hall. Times to be advised.

Please put the date in your diary.

Organisations News (contd)



2nd Airdrie Rainbows

The Rainbows are back after their Christmas break and they are all keen to get busy for another year.

At present there are six Rainbows learning about the Rainbow Promise and they will be making their Promise at one of our meetings in a few weeks time. We are continuing to do a lot of badge work, which involves designing shoes for jumping in puddles, parties, gym

and school. There will also be an opportunity for the Rainbows to make fruit Kebabs.

In February Girlguiding celebrates its annual Thinking Day and the Rainbows will be attending a special church service to mark this occasion. They will also be learning about Rainbows from around the world.

After all this hard work we will be doing some fun activities for Easter and we can't forget the

fact that the Rainbows love to have a party!!

Lastly, we are all excited about the imminent arrival of Lucy's baby. Lucy, who is our assistant leader is hoping to attend our Easter party, maybe bringing her new baby with her, we shall see!

Margaret MacFall

2nd Airdrie Rainbow Leader

