



LOCHWINNOCH
PARISH
CHURCH

September 2009

The vision of the
Church of Scotland

is to be a Church which
seeks to inspire the people of
Scotland and beyond

with the

**Good News of Jesus
Christ**

through enthusiastic
**worshipping, witnessing,
nurturing and serving**

From the Manse

September 2009

Dear Friends,

Due to the wonders of modern technology, I am writing this letter while on a train to Edinburgh. The past few days have been very different from my normal routine and today is no exception. Last week we had the great fun of sharing the Summer Club with over 50 young people from the village. I am sure everyone appreciated and enjoyed the contribution the children made to our worship on Sunday.

Today I have rediscovered the joys of commuting as I left Lochwinnoch on the 08.20 train for Glasgow and I am now heading for a meeting at the Church of Scotland offices in Edinburgh. Life as a minister is very fluid - one week rarely reflects the one before or the one to come. That is both a joy and a challenge. Yet the story of Joseph, that we shared with children of the Summer Club, teaches us that change always presents us with opportunities.

I have always found the saying, "When life hands you lemons, make lemonade," to be a little too trite, yet that is exactly what Joseph did every time he encountered a setback. Firstly he was sold into slavery by his own brothers - he could have thought, "Woe is me." He could have let resentment fester, yet he did his best and before too long, he was second in command in Potiphar's house.

Disaster struck again when Potiphar's wife falsely accused Joseph of attacking her. He was imprisoned. Again Joseph could have only seen the problems he was facing; he could have let resentment fester, yet once more, he did his best and before too long he was second in command in the prison. Not just because he was a model prisoner, but because he also cared for his fellow prisoners and the chief jailer could sense another quality about Joseph - his faith in God.

Then there was a glimmer of hope. Two men, who had both worked in Pharaoh's household had strange dreams. They asked Joseph what they meant. He has good news for the cup-bearer - he would be restored to his former position. Sadly there was bad news for the baker. He would be hanged. The cup-bearer promised to remember Joseph when he returned to Pharaoh's service. Yet as soon as he was restored, he forgot all about the Hebrew lad he had met in prison. Day after day, Joseph must have wondered, "Is this the day they will come and set me free?" And day after long weary day he was left for another two years. Then Pharaoh had his famous dream about the seven fat cows being

eaten by the skinny cows and the seven fat ears of corn being eaten by the sickly corn. Who could explain what this meant? It was then the penny dropped and the cup-bearer remembered Joseph. Pharaoh summoned him to interpret the dreams and in an amazing show of faith, Joseph replied, "It is not I; God will give Pharaoh a favourable answer."

It would have been so easy for Joseph to blame his brothers, to blame Potiphar's wife, to blame the cup-bearer and above all to blame God for his predicament. Yet Joseph never stopped trusting God.

One of the tragedies of life is that bad things happen to good people. One of the strangest things that we experience is seeing people prosper when they have not always stuck to the rules. One of the hardest things for us all is to deal with any kind of change. Perhaps the most difficult thing we can ever do is to let go of resentment and not blame other people for the situations in which we find ourselves.

When life is bad, as it is at times for us all, then let us follow the example of Joseph and trust that God is with us always.

God bless you all, during the good times and the bad.
Your friend and minister

Christine

KIRK SESSION CONFERENCE

On Sunday 13th September, the Kirk Session will be holding a conference to look at the future of our congregation. With the help of Rev John Campbell (recently retired from Caldwell Parish Church) we will be encouraged to dream dreams and to have visions for our Church. This is the beginning of a journey with John and he will be returning to the Church over the coming months. This is a very exciting initiative in the life of our congregation and I would encourage you all to pray for our elders and our time together. In October the first in a series of newsletters letters will be published, containing more information about the conference and our next steps. *(Rev Christine)*

VISIT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AS A COMMISSIONER

I had the privilege of representing the Kirk Session at the Church of Scotland General Assembly in Edinburgh in May. Rev Christine and I set off early on Thursday morning May 21st full of anticipation and excitement for the week ahead. Although I had been some time ago at the Assembly as a visitor this was my first as a Commissioner which allowed me to sit downstairs, was given a number which allowed me to vote.

We were in our seats for 9.30am and the Assembly started at 10.00am with the colourful yet solemn Moderators' Procession. The procession led by outgoing Moderator Dr David Lunan, included the Right Honourable George Reid representing Her Majesty, and Rev William Hewitt of Greenock, Provost of Edinburgh and other local dignitaries. The ladies in the procession wore beautiful eye-catching outfits.

Court proceedings started with a short act of worship. The Psalm the Lord's My Shepherd was sung followed by reports from the various housekeeping committees of the Church, mission, stewardship, finance, etc. on their activities over the last year.

The Moderator's reception in the evening gave us the opportunity to chat to the other commissioners who were from all over Scotland even as far away as Shetland.

Friday morning started with a Communion service and Communion was served by the common cup to the 1200 Commissioners in the Court. Assistants were on hand with silver jugs to keep the cups topped up. Truly an emotional occasion - the hymns 'Jesus Calls Us Here to Meet Him' and 'Ye Gates, Lift Up Your Heads on High' when sung in the grand setting and mostly male voices, was unforgettable.

Saturday night brought the 'Referred Case' much written in the press and viewed on television. Rev Scott Rennie was inducted into Queens Cross Church Aberdeen on 3rd July ready to begin a new ministry there.

Memorable moments include the opportunity to see the work of two Army Chaplains working in Afghanistan with the troops through a live link-up and share a memorial service for a soldier who had been killed and was being put on the plane that would bring him home - hardly a dry eye in the packed Assembly.

One of the Chaplains read the lesson that morning. The Chaplains had family in the Assembly that morning and they were able to have a private word with them.

Archbishop Desmond Tuto addressed the Assembly with an emotional and moving speech which was keenly listened to, followed by a rapturous standing ovation from the commissioners.

The Sunday worship in St Giles is always special and we had seats where we were able to see the pulpit. The Garden Party at the Palace of Holyroodhouse, the Beating of the Retreat, Moderator's Reception, and the various lunches we attended, all added up to the business of the week.

Christine was a very good friend and kept me right (the Assembly has a one way system which you walk - makes sense with everyone walking the same way) and guided me through the procedures, which was much appreciated.

The Assembly for 2009 had exhilarating, extraordinary, moving, interesting, serious and difficult decision-making moments.

My thanks to the Session for giving me this opportunity. I enjoyed every minute.

Mary Barr

The Boys Brigade Display

It is ninety years since the 1st Lochwinnoch Company of the Boys' Brigade was formed under Captain George Orr Anderson, an uncle of the present Captain, Murray Lawrie. We live in very different times but the enthusiasm of the officers, helpers and boys is as evident as ever.

Councillor David Arthur, a former member of the BB, inspected the company and was most impressed by the smart turn out of the boys. We were then entertained - and sometimes alarmed -- by the activities of the boys. The agility and skill of the boys of the company section in their advanced vaulting left everyone gasping and those sitting close to the vaulting horses relieved that all the vaulters landed safely on the mats. The Juniors played some most imaginative games and invited some of their family and friends to join them in some of them. Some of the company boys displayed very different skills when they acted out two well scripted dramas based on Bible stories.

The top awards this year were as follows:

- Best drilled boy - Pte Oliver Lait
- Attendance: - Pte Gary Marsh
- E.B.Lawrie Rosebowl
for Service: - L/Cpl Jerome Bailey

Lieutenant Ronald Brown has been a member of the Boys' Brigade for over forty years, almost all of that time with the 1st Lochwinnoch Company. As recognition of this outstanding service, he was presented with the Gold Badge of the Boys' Brigade.

We are all indebted to the officers and helpers who give so much of their time to their work with the boys of the village. The parents do their part also by encouraging the boys to participate. The high standard achieved in the display was a credit to all and we wish them well in their summer activities and look forward to seeing them in action again next year.

(Capt. Lawrie)

Silent Auction from 10am-3pm
on ***Saturday 17th October 2009***

This was a great success a few years ago and we hope to run it along the same lines. Please look out any quality items, i.e. furniture, pictures, bric-a-brac, jewellery, in fact "anything".

If you have any problem, i.e. storage or items too big, etc., please contact Norma Bell (tel. 01505 842558) or a Fundraising Committee Member who will arrange storage/pick-up.

So far we have got some lovely 3-piece suites, extra bric-a-brac, cooker, 2 coffee tables, and, for all the Rangers Fans, there is a signed football shirt from Kris Boyd.

Please help us in this project
Come on start redding-out that attic or cupboard

CHURCH DIARY

SEPTEMBER

- Thurs. 3rd 8.00pm Bible Study in Manse
Thurs. 10th 7.00pm Kirk Session Meeting followed by the
7.45pm Congregational Board Meeting
Sun. 13th 1.00pm Kirk Session Conference led by John Campbell. During this
time of sharing, the Kirk Session will be looking at our hopes
and prayers for Lochwinnoch
Parish Church
Sun. 20th 11.00am Sacrament of Holy Communion

OCTOBER

- Thurs. 1st 8.00pm Bible Study in the Manse
Sun. 4th 11.00am Rev. John McCall leads us in worship as we share in the last in
the series of
special services celebrating 200 years of witness & worship in
Church Street
Sun. 4th 7.00pm Grand Songs of Praise - the final event in our Bi- centenary
Celebrations
Thurs. 8th 7.00pm Kirk Session followed by Congregational Board Meeting at
7.45pm
Sun. 11th 11.00am Sacrament of Baptism - We welcome Oscar Cameron Smith
into our fellowship
12th-19th Christine will be on holiday - more details nearer the time
Sat. 17th 10.00am Silent Auction - please see article for full details
Sun. 25th 11.00am Harvest Thanksgiving Service - joint Service in Calder Church

NOVEMBER

- Thurs. 5th 8.00pm Bible Study in Manse
Sun. 8th 10.45am Remembrance Sunday Parade, beginning at the War Memorial,
followed by worship in the Parish Church
Thurs. 12th 7.00pm Kirk Session Meeting followed by the
7.45pm Congregational Board Meeting
Sun. 15th 11.00am Sacrament of Holy Communion

EVENTS IN CALDER TO WHICH ALL ARE INVITED

Last Sat. of the Month The Men's Breakfast from 8.30 am until about 9.45am is a
relaxed time with a little time of Bible Study

First Mon. of the Month Burnt Offering is a come and do a bit of cooking with food and faith questions. From 7pm (Sept.-June)

Last Mon. of the Month Food for Thought is held in Sept., Oct., Nov., Feb. and Mar. at 7.30pm and included is a buffet and speaker.

Please See - <http://www.lochwinnoch.info/community/parishchurch/whatson.htm>
for the most up-to-date information

FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH

It is a joy to see vases of fresh flowers in their place in church each Sunday. It was in 1993 that a decision was taken to have flowers in the sanctuary again after a number of years when it was considered that they were a luxury which the congregation could not afford!

For the last 16 years, Agnes Smillie has been responsible for seeing that arrangements are in place. We would all like to thank Agnes for so many years of service as flower convenor and to assure her that her work has been greatly appreciated. In recent years, Agnes was assisted by Anne Sloan whose gift for flower arranging was forever evident. Unfortunately, Anne has not been able to continue with this for family reasons and her contribution is also greatly missed. We would like to thank Anne also.

Mary Barr has taken on the task but she is looking for help and support. As well as enhancing the sanctuary, the flowers also bring pleasure to housebound members of the congregation and to others whom we particularly wish to remember.

Everyone can help Mary in the following ways:

- by donating the flowers on a particular Sunday, perhaps to mark a special anniversary;
- by offering to help with arranging the flowers some weeks;
- by passing a note to any of the people on door duty or to the minister with the name and address of anyone you know who would appreciate receiving the flowers.

Please speak to Christine Murdoch (tel. 843484) or Mary Barr (tel. 843626) if you can help in any way.

(Elizabeth West)

BI - CENTENARY SPECIAL

CELEBRATORY SERVICES

Our special Service to celebrate our Bi - Centenary on Sunday 31st May, was conducted by the Very Rev Dr James Simpson. His sermon was a celebration of Pentecost and he also delivered a very amusing children's address. After tea the Organ Recital was given by Cameron Murdoch, who is the organist and choirmaster at St John's Renfield Church in Glasgow (as well as being our Ministers husband, of course!)

Cameron played a selection of his favourite pieces and many other popular items. He is a very accomplished organist and also played at the morning service when he brought along some of his singers as well as violinist.

The next special service which will be the last in our series for the Bi - centenary Celebrations, will be conducted by the Rev John MacColl who is well known to us all. Please note there will be no Organ Recital after the service this time but instead for the grand finale of our celebrations there will be a Songs of Praise in the evening. This will not be the BBC version, however, but there will be choir pieces as well as congregational singing. We will be joined by some of the Lochwinnoch singers and will be inviting the churches from the surrounding area to join us. The songs of Praise will begin at 7.00pm

These events will bring our celebrations to a close and we hope as many of you as possible will turn out to the finale

(Irene Johnson)

Trek To Nepal

Thank you to everyone who sponsored my recent Munro Climb of Shiehallion on the 14th August 2009. It was probably one of the worst days of the year but 22 of us made it to the summit!

The climb was part of the final stage of fund raising for a trek to Nepal that I am coordinating in October this year.

The charity- of which I am Chief Executive, Who Cares Scotland- is taking 22 young people who are currently in care in Scotland on a 10 day trek to the Himalayan Mountains of Nepal. Each of the young people have raised funds to go on the trek which will see us doing some vital work on Children's Rights as

well as contributing to specific projects in conjunction with Community Action Nepal-a registered charity that operates mainly in the poorer middle hill regions of Nepal. Our main goals are to bring long term benefits to the lives of the rural population with a focus on sustainable health and education projects and to provide the experience of a lifetime and a sense of perspective for our young people.

Who Cares? Scotland is Scotland's leading Children's Rights organisation providing independent advocacy for young people who are 'looked after' in Scotland-some of our most vulnerable young people. We work to create positive changes within the care system and work directly with the Scottish Government to influence children's policy and practice.

Young people who are looked after face many problems- not least stigma and often low achievement. We are currently working to challenge the misconceptions surrounding young people in care and ensure that they have equal opportunities to reach their potential.

The trek will be challenging but we hope really positive on many fronts.

Thank you for your support. If you would like to find out more about the charity you can log onto www.whocaresScotland.org.

If you would like to donate pens, pencils, notebooks which we will be taking with us- please speak to myself or Billy. *(Heather Gray)*

THANK YOU

There was a special service on 9th August 2009 at which Rosie was christened, and Steve and Sandra McGrath became New Members by Confession of Faith. Steve and Sandra would like to thank the congregation for their support at this time.

Silent Auction
on **Saturday 17th October 2009**
Doors Open 10am
Last Bid 2.55pm
Come and find a Bargain
Great Buys!!!

THE GIRLS BRIGADE

How time flies when you're having fun (or getting older...!). It seems like no time since 30 Juniors, 2 Brigaders and 7 Officers headed to Ayr for our Annual Camp weekend. As usual our camp had a theme and this year it was "The Apprentice".

The girls enjoyed making many inventions from junk, building their HQ in the sand and various other activities during the weekend.

Ami Oliver and Kirsten Oliver completed the expedition part of their Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award walking from Dunoon to Ardgarten over 3 days.

Ami and Kirsten were joined by Morgan and Emma at the National Brigader Camp, held at Lapwing Lodge during a very wet week in July. I believe a fun time was had by all despite the weather!!

The new session starts on Wednesday, 2nd September.

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|-------------------|---|-------------------|
| Explorers (P1-P3) | - | 6.00pm to 7.00 pm |
| Juniors (P4-P70 | - | 6.45pm to 8.00 pm |
| Brigaders (S1→) | - | 8.00pm to 9.15pm |

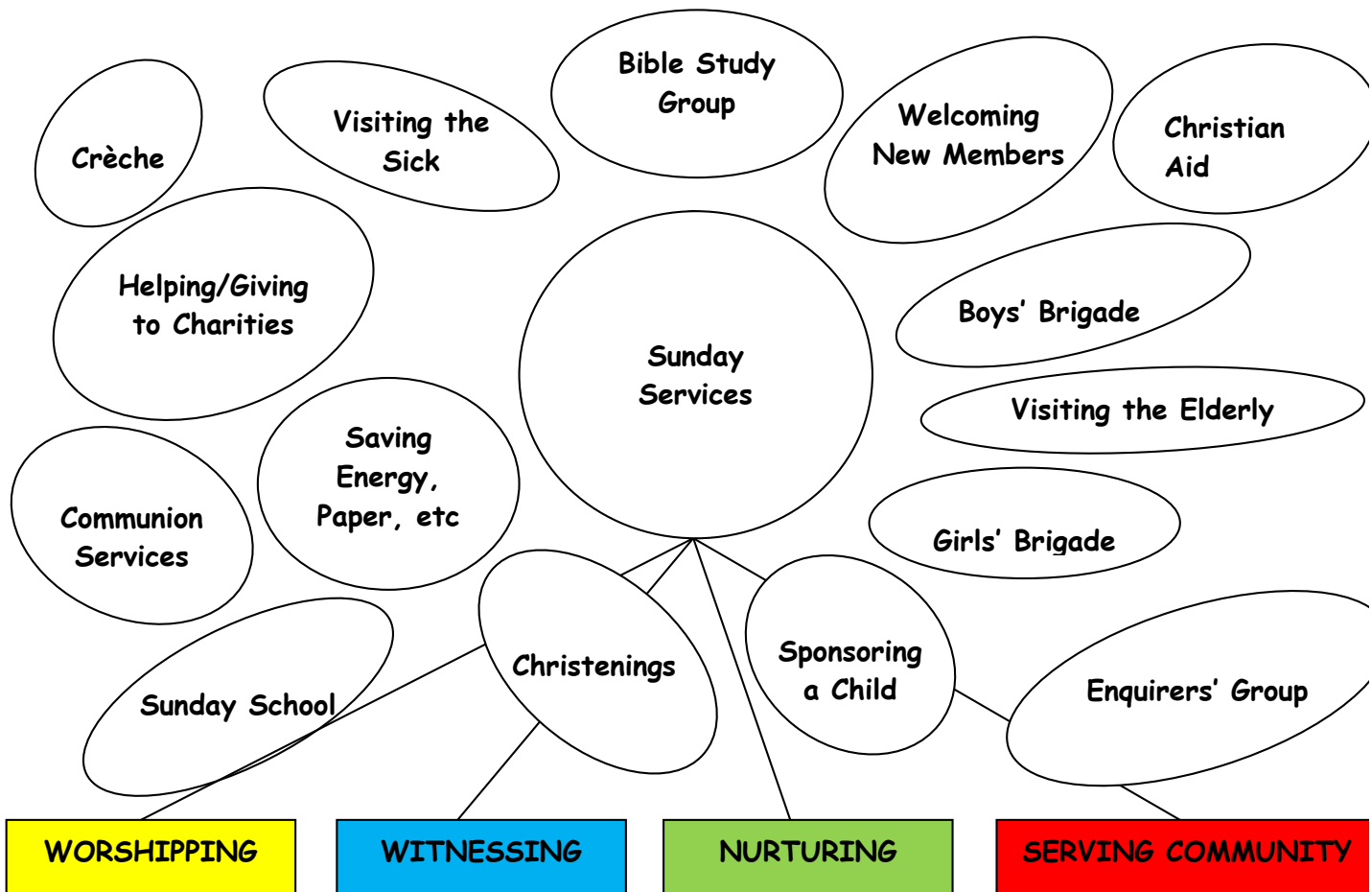
(Jennie Cochrane)

The vision of the Church of Scotland is
to be a Church which seeks to inspire the people of Scotland and
beyond,
with the Good News of Jesus Christ
through enthusiastic,
worshipping, witnessing, nurturing and serving
communities

How does your Church do this?

You can find out by drawing a string from a balloon to its box or boxes, then colour the balloon the same colour as the box or boxes you have drawn the string to.

Are you a part of the Church? Find out by counting the number of balloons you take part in? _____



PARISH REGISTER

BAPTISMS Repent and be baptised every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of your sins: and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

| | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| <i>Zachary John Ronald, 16 Hunters Way</i> | <i>7th June 2009</i> |
| <i>Greg Miller, 1 Ewing Road,</i> | <i>21st June 2009</i> |
| <i>Rosie Sandra McGrath, 20 Mansefield Road</i> | <i>9th August 2009</i> |

NEW MEMBERS BY CONFESSION OF FAITH If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

(Romans 10.9)

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|---|-----------------------------------|
| <i>Greg Miller, 1 Ewing Road</i> | <i>21st June 2009</i> |
| <i>Steve McGrath, 20 Mansefield Road</i> | <i>9th August 2009</i> |
| <i>Sandra McGrath, 20 Mansefield Road</i> | <i>9th August 2009</i> |

DEATHS Jesus said, 'Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted'.

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| <i>Mr John Ferguson, Langstilly Farm</i> | <i>11th May 2009</i> |
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LOCHWINNOCH PARISH CHURCH MAGAZINE

PARISH INFORMATION

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| MINISTER | Rev Christine Murdoch BD (Hons) The Manse 1 Station Rise Lochwinnoch PA12 1NA Tel. 843484 <u>rev.christine@btinternet.com</u> |
| SESSION CLERK: | Mrs Elizabeth West Tel. 843537 <u>ewest@totalise.co.uk</u> |
| SUNDAY | Morning Service 11.00 am |
| WORSHIP: | Sunday Club 11.00 am Crèche (available from) 10.45 am |
| COMMUNION: | Third Sunday February, May, September and November |
| BIBLE STUDY: | <u>Alternate Thursdays (as announced)</u> |
| BOYS BRIGADE: | Tuesday Anchor Boys 6.00 - 7.00pm Juniors 7.00 - 8.00pm Friday Company 7.30 - 9.15pm |
| GIRLS BRIGADE: | Wednesday Explorers 6.00pm Juniors 6.45pm <u>Brigaders 8.00pm</u> |

CLEANING AND GROUND DUTIES

Saturday 10.00 am - 12 noon

(All Volunteers welcome)

PUBLICITY OFFICER, Janette Ferguson (Tel. 842862)