

## DIARY DATES

### FEBRUARY

|        |                  |         |   |
|--------|------------------|---------|---|
| Wed.   | 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | 11.30am | Service of Meditation and Healing   |
| Sat.   | 6 <sup>th</sup>  | 7.00pm  | Valentine Service - Because your worth it.<br>Following on from our Glam Rock Service, this service in the Hall will encourage us to reflect on God's love for us all |
| Thurs. | 17 <sup>th</sup> |         | Committee Meetings for Elders and Board Members   |
| Sun.   | 20 <sup>th</sup> | 11.00am | Sacrament of Holy Communion<br>(Retiral collection in aid of Adams House)   |

### MARCH

|        |                  |         |   |
|--------|------------------|---------|---|
| Wed.   | 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | 11.30am | Service of Meditation and Healing               |
| Fri.   | 4 <sup>th</sup>  | 07.30pm | World Day of Prayer                             |
| Thurs. | 10 <sup>th</sup> | 7.30pm  | Session Meeting, 8.15pm, Trustees, 8.30pm Board |

### APRIL

|        |                  |         |  |
|--------|------------------|---------|--|
| Wed.   | 6 <sup>th</sup>  | 11.30am | Service of Meditation and Healing  |
| Sun.   | 17 <sup>th</sup> | 11.00am | Palm Sunday Service  |
| Thurs. | 21 <sup>st</sup> | 7.00pm  | Maundy Thursday Service  |
| Fri.   | 22 <sup>nd</sup> | 7.00pm  | Joint Service with Calder Church to be held in Parish Church                 |
| Sun.   | 24 <sup>th</sup> | 7.30am  | Early Morning Service at the Lochside followed by breakfast at Calder Church |
|        |                  | 11.00am | Easter Day Service   |

### MAY

|      |                  |         |  |
|------|------------------|---------|--|
| Wed. | 4 <sup>th</sup>  | 11.30am | Service of Meditation and Healing                |
| Sun. | 15 <sup>th</sup> | 11.00am | Sacrament of Holy Communion (Retiral Collection) |

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

*[www.lochwinnochparishchurch.co.uk](http://www.lochwinnochparishchurch.co.uk)*

## From the Manse

Dear Friends,

Over the past few weeks our services have been considering whether or not we are wise to follow God, to place our trust in God. On Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> January, our Gospel reading was from Matthew chapter 5. 1 - 12, verses we have come to know as the Beatitudes<sup>1</sup>. This passage is the opening of the "Sermon on the Mount"<sup>2</sup>, a lesson in which Jesus emphasises his moral teachings. In chapter 4 we read that huge crowds were following Jesus and when we saw the crowds, he went up a mountain, sat down and once the disciples had joined with him, Jesus began preaching.

As these words are so familiar to us, we forget they were considered outrageous when they were first uttered. They have become so well known to us that we no longer aware of the offence they caused when they were first heard. Please take a moment to read through these verses as if this is the first time you are hearing them and try and capture something of the reformation behind these words:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,

for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."<sup>3</sup>

In each Beatitude, Jesus names a group of people normally thought to be not only unblessed, but not even worthy of a blessing, and pronounces them blessed (well-off and fortunate) because abundant life is available to everyone in God's kingdom, regardless of status, circumstances, or condition. Here the values of the world are turned upside down. Those who were fortunate to hear these words first hand, must have wondered what on earth Jesus was saying. After all, the people had been taught that wealth, power and status were outward signs of God's blessings and here Jesus is saying the opposite - blessed are those who are at the bottom of the heap, those whom the world ignores. In fact, Jesus was probably saying, "Blessed are you who are



The Church of the Beatitudes by on the northern coast of the Sea of Galilee in Israel. The traditional spot where Jesus gave the Sermon on the Mount.

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<sup>1</sup> The Latin word for blessings.

<sup>2</sup> Please see Matthew chapters 5 – 7.

<sup>3</sup> Matthew 5. 1 - 12

gathered around me today; you who think you have nothing; you who have been told your lives are worthless; blessed are you, because you are prepared to open your lives to God." These words were also vitally important for the first readers of Matthew's gospel for they were being reviled and persecuted on account of their faith in Jesus Christ.

Yet these "blessings" were not a passive gift. In Hebrew<sup>4</sup> and in Aramaic<sup>5</sup> the words which we would read as blessing also include the idea of "waking up". In Judaism blessings were considered both a boon and a call. As such, the beatitudes could be seen as a call to action. This is very much the understanding in Norman Stone's wonderful drama, "Man Dancin". The story centres around Jimmy Kerrigan who returns to his Belfast home after serving a jail term. He is desperate for a better, legal life for himself and his loved-ones. Not easy, as his brother Terry is addicted to drugs and their mother is seriously ill. Kerrigan's parole terms have left him in the charge of a local priest, Father Gabriel Flynn, who recruits him for the parish passion play. Father Flynn has modernised the play into an attack on crime and corruption. He has cast Jimmy Kerrigan as Jesus. At first Jimmy is not amused then, in one of the most moving scenes in the film Father Flynn explains the Beatitudes to Jimmy. Please forgive me if I do not remember the scene exactly, however, Jimmy suddenly "gets it" and exclaims, "These are not beatitudes, they are "Be Attitudes". This is the way we have to be." Without giving away the end of this very moving film, in a moment of Divine revelation, Jimmy suddenly understands the message behind Jesus' teachings. Sadly those around him think he is foolish in the extreme.

Which brings us full circle. Are we wise or are we foolish to follow Christ? Friends, all I can say is that while I have often been questioned about my faith by acquaintances and former colleagues, who may consider me foolish, that same faith has never left me questioning my wisdom in following Christ. That is not to say that trying to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ, crucified, dead and resurrected, is easy. Perhaps it is easier for me than for most, as even non-Christians expect me to have faith. Yet for each of us, when life is hard, we know the truth of the wisdom of following Jesus.

My prayer for us all is that we are like the wise builder, the one who built his house on the rock, for that was the house that stood firm in the midst of the tempest.

May God bless you all as we seek to journey together in faith and may God give us the wisdom to follow the "Be Attitudes".

Your friend and minister,

Christine

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<sup>4</sup> The language used in the synagogues and the Temple in Jerusalem.

<sup>5</sup> The day to day language of the people and Jesus and the disciples.

## Christmas in the Parish Church

December is a very busy month in the life of our Church and as the celebration of the birth of Christ approaches many of our members and friends are away from the village sharing Christmas with family, and so are unable to join in our various services. The weather also plays a big part and the snow and ice we had in December this year, although beautiful to observe and a joy for the children, made it difficult for many people to get out and about, so I thought it would be a good idea to update everyone who weren't able to join in our celebrations.

The month started off with our Christmas Fayre on 4<sup>th</sup> December. This was a great success as always and as well as our usual stalls which are many and varied tea, coffee and mince pies and shortbread were served in the Guild Room and in the Church where you could relax and enjoy Christmas music played on the organ. Santa Claus was also present this year to the delight of the children. The amount raised, for church funds, from our Christmas Fayre was £2,500. Included in this figure was the sum of £867 from the sale of Christmas Wreathes. I would like to thank everyone who contributed in any way to the success of this event, and to the wreath making-team, we couldn't do it without your continued support.

In the evening of the 4<sup>th</sup> December we had the switching-on of the village Christmas Lights, which was a spectacular event starting at Auld Simon and finishing at the Parish Church where mince pies and mulled wine were served in Church Hall to approx. 500-600 people who were also able to enjoy organ music in the Church. Thanks to LMEG for their hard work putting up the Christmas lights and arranging this event and for "brightening our lives" for a few weeks.

Our Christingle Service held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December this year was a great success this year with numbers up greatly since previous years. For those of you who have never heard of Christingle, this service originated in Germany in 1747 when a Pastor decided to make a simple symbol to express the message of Christmas in a new way. It was introduced to Britain in 1968 and in our service the children (and adults if they wish) are invited to make their own Christingle which consists of an orange (representing the world), a red ribbon wrapped round the orange( to show God's love ), a candle stuck in the orange (God is the light of the World), and finally 4 cocktail sticks (representing North, South, East and West) with a fruit sweet on each (representing the fruits of the earth). The children had great fun assembling their Christingle and I am sure this service will continue to grow as the children pass on the message to their friends.

The joint Sunday School Nativity Service, held on the 19<sup>th</sup> December in the Parish Church this year was a well attended service as always and many thanks to all our Sunday School teachers for their hard work, time and patience to bring us the story of the birth of Jesus, and thanks to the stars - our children.

Also on 19<sup>th</sup> December, in the evening was our Glam Rock Service. This is a new Service introduced last year and is a chance to sing along to your favourite Christmas Rock anthems and discover how they share the Christmas message with us today. Despite the snow falling heavily during the day many hardy people braved the elements and joined us in the Service and expressed their enjoyment over mulled wine, shortbread and a chat in the Guild Room after the service.

Christmas Eve Service saw the premier of The Lochwinnoch Nativity Play. Rev Christine had worked with the school children to write, produce and video this modern day Nativity in and around Lochwinnoch. The Church was almost full as the village turned out for the showing of the Play. As everyone arrived they were given a Christmas Cracker and had to write their name on it and during each carol they had to exchange it with someone. The crackers found their way round the Congregation and at the end of the Service whilst enjoying mulled wine and shortbread they had an opportunity to seek out and be reunited with their own cracker again, much to the enjoyment of the children. Our retiring collection at this service raised the sum of £150 for St Vincents Hospice.

Friday 31<sup>st</sup> December the three Churches started their Walk of Faith at Auld Simon, followed by a short Service in Our Lady of Fatima, Parish Church and Calder Church where we enjoyed tea and coffee after the service. This is always well attended and a great opportunity for members of the three churches to share fellowship together.

On behalf of all of you I would like to say a huge "thank you" to everyone who helped, contributed or took part, in all or some of these events and also our other services and fund raising events held during the year in support of your Church.

Finally I would like to record many thanks to Rev Christine for all her hard work not only during Christmas but throughout the year, although the Christmas services take a huge amount of planning, preparation and organisation, and it must have been so rewarding to see the community turning out in greater numbers to support these services. Of course Christine's involvement in the community extends beyond the Church walls. She is "The Church Without Walls" in Lochwinnoch. Thank you, Christine, for your continued work and care for the whole community.

(sgd) .. Christine Pollard  
(Session Clerk)

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## January 2011 in the Parish Church

Since the New Year started we have had two events in the Church.

The first was on Sunday 9th when we had a "Souper Sunday Service". This is part of The Church of Scotland HIV Programme to raise awareness of HIV. It was an Elder Led Service and our Elders who took on this challenge did a wonderful job. The Service

was followed by a soup and bread lunch in the Hall and raised £109.00 towards the cause.

On Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> we had our simple Baptismal Family Lunch. All our baptismal families accepted this invitation and it gave them the opportunity to meet each other and get to know one another. The older children had a wonderful time playing with the crèche toys with no major disagreements!

Thank you to all who helped serve lunch and looked after the children.

(sgd) .. Christine Pollard, Session Clerk

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## THE GIRLS' BRIGADE

This Session has, as usual, been a busy one for the girls and leaders alike. The Explorers are working on their programme entitled "All things pink and beautiful". They enjoyed a dress in pink evening and donated their collections to Breast Cancer Care.

The Junior Section visited Johnstone Fire Station as part of their "Emergency Services" badgework. The highlight of the evening was definitely sitting in the driver seat of the brand new fire engine!! The Primary 6 & 7's have enjoyed sweet making, while the Primary 4's and 5's have been travelling round the "GB" world. At the end of January the whole Section enjoyed watching GB girls from Malawi perform in their local church.

This year we are lucky to have three Warrant Officers within the Company and they have been taking the spiritual badgework with the Juniors. Primary 4 and 5 are looking at the Christian calendar and the Primary 6 and 7's at Prayer.

The Brigadier Section is busy looking at conservation and the many meanings of this. They have enjoyed jewellery making, from felt, old beads, etc. Their creations looked good! The spiritual part of the badgework looked at Famous Christians, and in keeping up with modern times the physical badgework this year is the very popular Zumba.

Three Brigaders travelled to Aberdeen to take part in a National Competition and our three Warrant Officers continue working on their Queen's Award, the highest Award achievable in Girls' Brigade.

Two of our girls have almost completed their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award, another two are completing their Bronze Award, with a further 3 just starting the Bronze - A busy time ahead for the Brigadier Section.

Finally, we are holding a "Chocolate Evening" on Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> February from 7pm to 8.30pm to help with Company funds. Please come along and support us on this evening.

We look forward to welcoming you.

*(Jennie Cochrane)*

## B.B. News

All sections have restarted after the Christmas and New Year break.

The Anchor Boys put all they have into their games and creative activities, making everything from clocks to scary wind socks.

The Junior Section did well in the Battalion 5-a-side competition, held at Greenock Sports Centre. Whilst not coming home with silverware they nevertheless played 7 games, won 3, drew 3 and lost 2. This was the first of a number of Battalion events which they hope to take part in. Over the next few weeks there will be "Bible Challenge, Swimming Gala, General Knowledge Quiz, and Cross Country. All this combined with the usual Tuesday night programme.

The Company Section is settling in to the Tuesday night routine.

In November we said goodbye to Greg Miller who has decided to spend the next part of his life in New Zealand. We wish Greg the very best for the future and thank him for his work both in the Company and Junior Sections.

*(Jim Mc Nair)*

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## **Flowers for the Sanctuary**

Sincere thanks to everyone who donated the flowers last year. Although we had quite a few 'blank diary spaces' when we had to draw on the flower fund reserves we managed to have flowers every Sunday going out to the community after the service. Some ladies who gave the flowers also arranged them and this is much appreciated.

My thanks to Anne who supported me with the Harvest Arrangements. Thanks also to those who help to deliver the flowers if the recipient lives nearby. Those who receive the flowers seem much appreciative of them. Rev Christine made small cards with an appropriate blessing and these go with the flowers, and from feedback folk like to read and re-read the cards.

The Flower Diary is filling up much better this year as folk realise that it takes us all to work as a team for the flowers to be there every Sunday. As Spring is approaching with the first sign of snowdrops we look forward to those who are able to give the daffodils from their gardens.

The Flower Diary is once again in its usual spot on the board in the front vestibule so if you would like to fill in a space please do so or speak to myself.

The old saying is 'Many hands make light work' so please get involved.

*(Mary)*

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## FLOWER LIST

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This is a list of all the ladies who so kindly donated flowers for our Sunday Services during November-December 2010 and January 2011

| NOVEMBER                             | DECEMBER     |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Margaret Tutty                       | Flower Fund  |
| Ellen Reid                           | Helen Steven |
| Norma Bell                           | Mary Barr    |
| We were at Calder<br>for Remembrance |              |

**January**  
Christine Pollard  
Anna Crawford  
Jessie Lucas  
Rosemarie Bremmer

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### THE BE ATTITUDES

### THE BEATTITUDES

Blessed

mourn

they will be filled

for

for righteousness

the peacemakers

for righteousness' sake

poor in spirit

inherit the earth

see God

on my account

reward is great in heaven

Can you fit the words above into the Blanks spaces below?

Blessed are the \_\_\_\_\_, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who \_\_\_\_\_, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will \_\_\_\_\_.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst \_\_\_\_\_,  
for \_\_\_\_\_.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will \_\_\_\_\_ mercy.

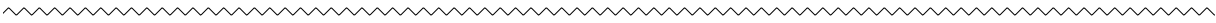
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will \_\_\_\_\_.

Blessed are \_\_\_\_\_, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted \_\_\_\_\_,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

\_\_\_\_\_ are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil  
against you falsely \_\_\_\_\_. Rejoice and be glad, for your  
\_\_\_\_\_, for in the same way they persecuted the  
prophets who were before you.

Answers can be found somewhere on another page in this Magazine



## 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.

ARCHIE AND MHARI MOTHERWELL  
23 Hunters Way 28<sup>th</sup> August 2010

ANNABEL AND JESSICA COURTNEGE  
45 Hunters Way 28<sup>th</sup> November 2010

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

MR ROBERT S. CURRIE  
32 Johnshill 30<sup>th</sup> November 2010



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Editor would like to thank all those who have contributed to this Edition of the Magazine.

## CONTRIBUTIONS

You can make any literary contribution to the magazine by handing to the Minister or to Janette email [jnttferg@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jnttferg@yahoo.co.uk)

Janette can have Church news published in  
**Saltcoats & Ardrossan Herald, Gazette or Chatterbox**  
Phone 842862 or email [jnttferg@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jnttferg@yahoo.co.uk)

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## LOCHWINNOCH PARISH CHURCH MAGAZINE

### *PARISH INFORMATION*

|                    |   |   |
|--------------------|---|---|
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| SESSION CLERK:     | Mrs Christine Pollard   | Tel. 842404<br><a href="mailto:christine_pollard@btinternet.com">christine_pollard@btinternet.com</a> |
| SUNDAY<br>WORSHIP: | Morning Service<br>Sunday Club<br>Crèche (available from)                                 | 11.00 a.m.<br>11.00 a.m.<br>10.45 a.m.  |
| COMMUNION:         | Third Sunday February, May, September and<br>November                                     |   |
| BIBLE STUDY:       | <u>First Thursdays in the month</u>   |   |
| BOYS BRIGADE:      | Tuesday   | Anchor Boys 6.00 p.m.<br>Juniors 7.00 p.m.<br>Company 8.00 p.m.                                       |
| GIRLS BRIGADE:     | Wednesday   | Explorers 6.00 p.m.<br>Juniors 7.00 p.m.<br>Brigaders 8.00 p.m.                                       |

### *CLEANING AND GROUND DUTIES*

*Saturday 10.00 a.m. - 12 noon*  
(All Volunteers welcome)

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