



Cumbrae, Fairlie & Largs Parish Church

March 2024 - #3

Hello everyone

As a new parish we have, for the first time, entered into a time of preparation for the holiest of weeks in our Christian faith. Lent holds great significance for Christians around the world and can be a challenging time; a time of questioning; a time of reflection. But, above all things, Lent is a time to appreciate the selflessness of Jesus as He approached Jerusalem to face His harshest critics, the religious establishment.

The Gospels tell us that Jesus, knowing the path that awaited Him in Jerusalem, willingly set His face towards the city. This decision was not merely a physical journey but an overwhelmingly spiritual and sacrificial commitment. His purpose was clear – to confront the religious authorities and ultimately fulfil the divine plan of redemption.

As Christians, the observance of Lent allows us to follow Jesus' journey in a symbolic way. Through personal challenges, like fasting, prayer, and acts of self-denial, we are invited to reflect on our own lives, acknowledge our shortcomings, and seek a deeper connection with God. While we are now part-way through the 40-days of Lent, which symbolises the period Jesus spent in the wilderness, facing trials and temptations before beginning His public ministry, we are still able to focus our own lives on Him, as best we can.

Within our new parish, we have each had to face some form of challenge and change. However, Jesus' confrontation with religious leaders in Jerusalem highlights the importance of standing up for one's convictions and facing these challenges with faith and courage. Lent encourages us to examine our faith and what it really means to us. It also gives us the space to confront our own spiritual battles and, in the strength of God's Holy Spirit, emerge stronger in our commitment to following the teachings of Christ.

The ultimate destination of Lent, of course, is Easter; a celebration of the resurrection and triumph over sin and death. These days of challenge prepare us to fully embrace the joy of Easter and the promise of new life in Christ.

Through Lent, and especially through Holy Week, we are given new opportunities to draw closer to God, examine our hearts, and align our lives, once again, with the transformative message of the Gospel.

Our parish life has changed, our spiritual experiences may be changing, but we are still all called by the same Lord. I hope that we can follow Him together into the future.

May you be filled with Hope in the One true God.

With every blessing, Graham

NEW PARISH BIBLE STUDY GROUP

The Parish Bible Study Group meets on Wednesday afternoons between 2 and 3pm in the Mary Stewart Chapel in Largs Community Church.

This is a Parish Bible Study and is therefore open to anyone from Cumbrae, Fairlie and Largs Community Church.

If you require any more information about this, please contact Gus McKay on 07999 772795 or at gus.mckay@sky.com.

Gus McKay, Parish Assistant



Members of the team

In our previous issue, we joyfully pulled back the curtain to introduce you to some of the wonderful individuals who help keep our church vibrant and welcoming. This time, we're excited to shine the spotlight on even more members of our church family.

Whether their names ring a bell or are new to you, this is the perfect opportunity to match faces with names. Why not take a moment after service over a cup of tea or coffee to say 'hello'? It's a lovely way to weave stronger connections and continue nurturing our growing family of faith.

Let's embrace the joy of fellowship, getting to know one another better, and enriching our community with the warmth of friendship and shared beliefs.

CLERGY TEAM

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CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

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FLOWER FUND CONVENORS

Liz Clark (Fairlie) 675 153

Muriel Craig (Largs) 675 551



Gus McKay
Clergy Team



Angela Madden
Church Administrator



Muriel Craig
Flower Convenor, Largs



Graham Miller
Church Officer
on Cumrae



Shona Sutherland
Church Officer in Largs
& Junior Church Leader



Rhona Gourlay
Organist in Largs



Trudy Welsh
Organist on Cumrae



Charles Delusy
Church Officer, St
Columba's Building

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Baptisms

October

Ferne Gray Ritchie

Faye Ann Ritchie

November

Jasmine Star Bonnar

Weddings

February

Laura Blair & Keiron Loftus

Funerals - September/October

Annie Hutcheson, Seamore St, Largs

Mary Wallace, St Beya Gds, Millport

Scott Campbell, Brisbane Rd, Largs

Archibald Hamilton, Hastie Ave, Millport

John Porter Adams, Burnlea Care Home, Largs

November

Elizabeth Paterson, Haylie House, Largs

Eunice Johnstone, Charles St, Largs

Marjory Bell, Merino Crt, Greenock

George Baillie Grant, Haylie Gardens, Largs

December/January

Alexander Walker, Curlinghall, Largs

Marion McCamley, Ballochmyle Way, Mauchline

Rosemary Allder, Burnlea Care Home, Largs

Thomas Laurie

Christina Carswell, Abbotsford Home

Andrew Crawford

Isabella Laurie, Haylie House, Largs

Jessie Campbell Loose, Brisbane Rd, Largs

Cameron Mackenzie, Marine Pde, Millport

Heather McDougall

February

Donald Mackillop, Glenacre Drive, Largs

Isabel Stevenson, Trigoni Court

Nancy McKinnon, Largs

Church Flowers

On Cumbrae the Flower Fairies wish to record their gratitude for the support they receive from the congregation.

In Largs, flowers will be kindly donated as follows:

March 3rd	Muriel McGowan
March 10th	Jean McGregor
March 17th	Nora Young
March 24th	Jess Madden & Kay Plant
March 31st	Jean McGregor
April 7th	Christine Eardley
April 14th	Muriel Craig
April 21st	Rev Elizabeth Watson
April 28th	Anne Little
May 5th	Fiona Anderson
May 12th	Heather Cranston
May 19th	Janet Lawrie
May 26th	Jessie Scott

Both Liz and Muriel are happy to accept names for flowers at any time.

Liz Clark (Fairlie) 675153
Muriel Craig (Largs) 675551

Largs United Guild

Largs United Guild is enjoying another successful year with excellent turn-outs each Monday afternoon in the Dunn Memorial Hall at 2.00pm.

We have had interesting speakers on a variety of topics and have enjoyed musical afternoons with groups of singers, fiddlers and ukulele players which got our feet tapping and, in some cases, even had us up dancing!

In March, we are looking forward to hearing from Rev Jill Clancy, chaplain to HM Prison Barlinnie, a talk from Rev Dr Graham McWilliams and a speaker from one of the Guild projects, Home for Good.

On Thursday 14th March we are treating ourselves to a fish tea at Nardini's followed by Carousel at Vikingar with the Largs Amateur Operatic Society.

We hope to have the support of church members for our Daffodil Tea on Saturday 9th March from 10.00am till 12 noon, and our Charity Concert on Friday 26th April at 7.00pm when we will be entertained by some local talent.

If you would like to come along to any of our meetings you will be made very welcome.



Junior Church, Largs

We are now over halfway through our Junior Church year in Largs and the children are eager to join in the fun each week. The staff greatly appreciate the support from parents and grandparents who bring them each week.

The year has been a busy one, with the Wee Breakfast in September and our Harvest celebration in the autumn. In November we spent several weeks talking about Remembrance and visiting the War memorial and

in December we were, of course, very busy and excited about Christmas with our Nativity play and party.

Since starting back in the new year, we have had a nautical theme with Jonah and the whale, Jesus stilling the storm and the Loaves and Fishes.

On Saturday 2nd March we have our Coffee Morning. As this is our only fundraising event of the year, we would be very grateful for donations for the baking stall and the Tombola.

On Sunday 14th April we are taking a break as the children get ready to go back to school after the Easter holidays.

Shona Sutherland. Team Leader

Leap Year Reflection

Last leap year, 2020, was tough, with Covid raging. Last year was unsettling, with changes in church and society. What about this leap year? Can we look forward in faith, alert to where God is taking us? Can we look forward in hope, to see what God is doing? Can we look forward in love, to a deeper sharing of what God has given? Can we take that leap? One way towards that can be to use our imagination.

Think of sitting with Jesus. Picture him sitting opposite you. Are you comfortable with sitting close to him, or does it feel challenging? He knows. Maybe he asks how your year has gone. He gives you space to answer. Gradually you find that you can share what you really think and feel. You can say where your faith wobbled, where your hope faltered, where your love slipped.

You can tell him anything. In his quiet listening presence you can share joys and sorrows, hopes and fears, concerns for others and the world, all that is in your heart and mind. You begin to listen to what he has to say to you. What do you want to hear? What does he want to put across? What does he want you to do and be?

Can we take the leap to keep listening to Jesus and to follow him more closely?

Morag Fowler

Diary Dates for Cumbrae

March

- Fri 1 World Day of Prayer event, Cathedral of the Isles, 2.00pm
 Sun 3 Worship at 11.00am
 Wed 6 Warm Wednesday, 1.30-3.30pm
 Sun 10 Worship at 11.00am
 Wed 13 Warm Wednesday, 1.30-3.30pm
 Sun 17 Worship at 11.00am
 Wed 20 Warm Wednesday, 1.30-3.30pm
 Sun 24 Palm Sunday. Worship at 11.00am
 Mon 25 Holy Week

- Sun 31 Walk from Cumbrae Church at 5.45am to the Gladstane for sunrise at 6.50am, then breakfast rolls at the Church. Worship at 11.00am

April

- Wed 3 Warm Wednesday, 1.30-3.30pm
 Sun 7 Worship at 11.00am
 Wed 10 Warm Wednesday, 1.30-3.30pm
 Sun 14 Worship at 11.00am
 Wed 17 Warm Wednesday, 1.30-3.30pm
 Sun 21 Worship at 11.00am
 Wed 24 Warm Wednesday, 1.30-3.30pm
 Sun 28 Worship at 11.00am

... Fairlie

March

- Sun 3 Worship at 9.30am
 Tue 5 Fairlie Guild, 2pm
 Thu 7 Prayer Group, 10.00am
 Kirk Café, 10.30am-12.30pm
 Sat 9 Messy Church, 3.45 - 6.00pm
 Sun 10 Worship at 9.30am
 Tue 12 Craft Café, 2.00-4.00pm
 Thu 14 Prayer Group, 10.00am
 Kirk Café, 10.30am-12.30pm
 Sun 17 Worship at 9.30am
 Mon 18 Heat and Hospitality, 11.00am - 3.00pm TBC
 Tue 19 Fairlie Guild, 2pm
 Thu 21 Prayer Group, 10.00am
 Kirk Café, 10.30am-12.30pm

- Sat 23 Brownie Coffee morning 10-12noon
 Sun 24 Palm Sunday. Worship at 9.30am
 Sun 31 Worship at 9.30am

April

- Thu 4 Prayer Group, 10.00am
 Kirk Café, 10.30am-12.30pm
 Sun 7 Worship at 9.30am
 Tue 9 Craft Café, 2.00-4.00pm
 Thu 11 Prayer Group, 10.00am
 Kirk Café, 10.30am-12.30pm
 Sun 14 Worship at 9.30am
 Thu 18 Prayer Group, 10.00am
 Kirk Café, 10.30am-12.30pm
 Sun 21 Worship at 9.30am
 Tue 23 Craft Café, 2.00-4.00pm
 Thu 25 Prayer Group, 10.00am
 Kirk Café, 10.30am-12.30pm
 Sun 28 Worship at 9.30am

... Largs

March

- Fri 1 Heat and Hospitality. 11am - 2pm St Columba's building
 Sat 2 Junior Church Coffee Morning, 10.00am - 12 noon, Church Hall
 Sun 3 Worship at 11.00am
 Mon 4 Largs United Guild, Dunn Memorial Hall at 2.00pm
 Wed 6 Coffee & Chat, St John's, 10.00- 12 noon
 Thu 7 Musical Moments, Clark Memorial Annexe, 2.00pm
 Sat 9 Guild Daffodil Tea, Dunn memorial hall 10.00am - 12 noon
 Sun 10 Worship at 11.00am
 Mon 11 Largs United Guild, Dunn Memorial Hall at 2.00pm
 Wed 13 Coffee & Chat, St John's 10.00- 12 noon
 Thu 14 Largs United Guild, Fish Tea at Nardini's and Carousel at Vikingar.
 Sun 17 Worship at 11.00am
 Mon 18 Largs United Guild, Dunn Memorial Hall at 2.00pm
 Wed 20 Coffee & Chat, St John's, 10.00- 12 noon
 Thu 21 Musical Moments, Clark Memorial Annexe, 2.00pm
 Sun 24 Palm Sunday. Worship at 11.00am
 Sat 30 God's Families, 10.30am-12noon, St Columba's building

- Sun 31 Worship at 11.00am

April

- Mon 1 Largs United Guild, Dunn Memorial Hall at 2.00pm
 Thu 4 Musical Moments, Clark Memorial Annexe, 2.00pm
 Sat 6 Coffee Morning 10am to 12noon, Dunn Memorial hall in aid of Sithembile Soko's cancer treatment
 Sun 7 Worship at 11.00am
 Mon 8 Largs United Guild, Dunn Memorial Hall at 2.00pm
 Sat 13 Social committee Daffodil Tea Largs Community hall 10am to 12 noon
 Sun 14 Worship at 11.00am
 Mon 15 Largs United Guild, Dunn Memorial Hall at 2.00pm
 Thu 18 Musical Moments, Clark Memorial Annexe, 2.00pm
 Sat 20 Coffee Morning in Dunn Memorial hall 10am to 12noon with stalls in aid of cancer treatment for Sithembile Soko in Malawi
 Sun 21 Worship at 11.00am
 Mon 22 Largs United Guild, Dunn Memorial Hall at 2.00pm
 Thur 25 Thursday Contact, Church Office, 7.00-9.00pm
 Fri 26 Charity Concert, 7.00pm
 Sun 28 Worship at 11.00am
 Mon 29 Largs United Guild, Dunn Memorial Hall at 2.00pm

TREATMENT APPEAL

towards costs of
Sithembile Soko,
 daughter of
Rev Brown Soko

Support from the church for Sithembile Soko, Rev Brown Soko's daughter, has been strong, aiding her chemotherapy from November donations.

Now 32, Sithembile's improved significantly, needing radiotherapy in Tanzania—unavailable in Malawi. Urgent treatment costs £1,650, plus £606 for flights, totalling £2,256.



To help, contact Jim Welsh on 674714, 07769 648340, or Jim.Welsh@sky.com.

Fundraising Coffee Morning in the Dunn Memorial hall, 20th April 2024, 10am-12noon with book stall and homebaking. Donations for baking appreciated 22nd March, 3-4pm, or 23rd March from 9am.

Rev Soko thanks everyone for their support and prayers during this challenging time.

