

From the Manse

Dear Friends,

Keeping Stewardship on the Agenda

This month, my magazine article concerns itself with our stewardship effort centred around 'TIME'.

Teaching and promoting the Christian giving of time, talent and money should be a regular activity in the life of a congregation.

The way in which we use our time, talents and money is a fundamental part of our Christian living, our Christian discipleship.

Stewardship programmes tend to be occasional and infrequent events in the life of a congregation because they involve a considerable amount of work over a number of months as a planning group prepares for the social event at the heart of the programme and follows up the responses which come from the members of the congregation.

Many congregations have seen the fruits of their labours in increased offerings but, having completed stewardship programmes, most congregations want to wait for a number

of years before embarking on another such venture. If they wait too long, they risk losing the benefits they have gained.

It is also important that congregations take seriously each of the traditional aspects of stewardship – time, talent and money. This is best done by considering each of the three on its own.

Looking at time, talents and money together can dilute the Christian message about each and the Christian response to each.

This approach encourages congregations to keep Christian stewardship on their minds by considering the giving of time, talent and money separately in a three-year cycle and in different ways from the traditional stewardship programme.

This year the Kirk Session has chosen to consider the use of time as its programme for the congregation.

Beginning in May, you will receive a number of items about this and I ask you to follow the programme laid out for you on the pro forma sheets which will be delivered to you.

Time is a fundamental part of God's creation (Genesis 1: 14 – 19) and should be recognised as a very important gift from God.

I encourage you to become involved in this programme and hope that you will find it a meaningful and thought-provoking activity.

A Choir Reunion with Joan

The choir members recently organised a quiet get-together with our much-loved organist and choir mistress, Joan Gordon.

This was arranged to recognise and celebrate her unique record of thirty-five years of service in her role. This is a huge achievement by any standards and there will be few in the country who can boast such a lengthy commitment.

All of our current choir members met with Joan and her daughters, Barbara and Suzy, at Seamill Hydro for afternoon tea. Everyone enjoyed our "reunion" and a pleasant afternoon was concluded with the presentation of gifts of flowers and an appropriately-designed and worded Long Service Certificate.

A few photographs can be viewed on the church website:
www.saltcoats-stcuthberts.org.uk

William Parker



Christian Aid Week

10th – 16th May

Once again we are asking for your help with the door-to-door collection. We realise this can be a challenging experience, but it can also be very rewarding as, those people who give, do so willingly.

Last year, St. Cuthbert's raised the fantastic sum of £1061, helping to bring about transformation in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean.

In emergency situations and committed long-term projects, Christian Aid helps to tackle the causes and symptoms of poverty across the globe. For every pound raised, 86p goes directly into fighting poverty; 13p goes back into fundraising, and the last penny pays for costs associated with the general running of the charity.

If you can spare a few hours to help with this very worthwhile cause, please speak to Graeme or Liz Sutherland or contact us at one of the numbers below:-

01294 465744

07766 203808

07795 438696

Graeme Sutherland



The Guild

We will have had our last meeting of the session by the time you are reading this magazine. Hopefully, we will have enjoyed our outing to the Rowantree Restaurant for afternoon tea.

The committee hope you have enjoyed the varied programme we have organised for you and we are open to suggestions for the new session. We look forward to welcoming you back in September.

Remember the Summer Rally to be held at 1.30 p.m. on **Tuesday, 2nd June**, on Arran. This will include the Guild Communion Service conducted by the Rev. Jean Hunter.

Sheila Sarginson



Plant Sale

This year the plant sale will be held on Saturday, 9th May, at 2.00 p.m.

collected or delivered at a mutually suitable time, either before or after the sale (by 22nd May at the latest).

*Ann Turner,
2 Keir Hardie Drive, Ardrossan, KA22 8PA
Tel: 01294 462834*



Cleaning Rota

Sat. 2 May - Susan Cross, Nan Smith
Fri. 8 May - Sheila Hanlon, Elizabeth Murray
Sun. 17 May - Gillian Morrison, Shona Turner
Fri. 22 May - Ena Grove, Muriel Parker
Fri. 29 May - Sheila Hanlon, Christine Saunders
Fri. 5 June - Sheena Love, Agnes Algie
Sat./Sun.
13 June - Anita Gillespie, John Campbell
Sat. 20 June - Elizabeth Barclay, Liz Sutherland
Fri. 26 June - Ann Turner, Elsa Kirk

If any of the above dates are not suitable, please feel free to swap with someone else or, alternatively, contact me.

Help on the day of the sale and to transport plants on Friday, 8th May, will be most appreciated.

The list of plants will be available and can be ordered anytime before the sale. Any plants ordered can be



Quiz Night

The fund-raising team would like to thank everyone who supported this event. It was a great success. Special thanks are due to our quizmaster and his assistant, Tom and Margaret Somerville. The amount raised was £401. Well done to all concerned!

Fund-raising Team



Church Flowers

May

- 3 - Lesley Boyle
- 10 - Jean Grier
- 17 - Marion Mitchell
- 24 - Joan Aitken
- 31 - Ena Grove

Many thanks to those who have donated church flowers. It is much appreciated.

Anita Gillespie and Joyce White
Flower Convenors



Fund-Raising Event

One of the events being organised by our hard-working fund-raising team was the Quiz Night that was held on the 16th of April.

What an absolutely lovely evening it was, full of fun and good humour! It was extremely well organised – from the snacks and drinks available throughout the course of the evening, as well as the delightful supper, to the running of the raffle and distribution of prizes and, of course, to the presentation of the quiz itself: this was very well done, and I'm sure the considerable efforts of Tom and Margaret in the preparation of this are much appreciated by everyone.

It was a very enjoyable occasion and grateful thanks are extended to all the fund-raising team for making the occasion possible, as a result of which £401 has been raised for church funds.

Christine Saunders



Holy Communion

The sacrament of Holy Communion will take place on Sunday, 7th June.



Religious Humour

Three boys are in the school playground bragging about their fathers. The first says, "My dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, calls it a poem, and they give him £25."

The second boy says, "My dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, calls it a song, and they give him £200."

The third boy says, "I've got you all beat. My dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, calls it a sermon, and it takes eight men to collect all the money!"

Contributed

Material for the JUNE edition of the magazine will be due on Sunday, 24th MAY, 2015.

Weekly Programme

Mondays: 2.00 p.m. - Afternoon club for beginners', improvers bridge, crafts, etc.
7.30 p.m. - Country Dancing (a social dancing class)

Tuesdays: 10.30 a.m. - Informal mid-week service
6.00 p.m. – Girls' Brigade

Wednesdays: 10.30 a.m. - Keep Fit Class
2.00 p.m. (fortnightly) – The Guild

Thursdays: 9.30 a.m. - Mother and Toddler Group

Fridays: 6.00 p.m. – Boys' Brigade

