

Embracing Change

With the appropriate permission, the following is an extract from the September issue of Life & Work by the Very Rev. Dr. James Simpson, highlighting how tradition must go hand in hand with mobility:

"At old time revival meetings in the Southern states of America, people sang: 'Give me the old time religion. It was good enough for Paul and Silas, good enough for Abraham, Moses and Daniel ...'

The problem with that hymn is that it totally distorts Biblical history. The old time religion was not good enough for these men. They were all pioneers, daring pilgrims.

Addressing his fellow exiled Jews in Babylon, Isaiah recalled some of the momentous events in their past history, including their deliverance from slavery in Egypt. But then he immediately warned his contemporaries against becoming so preoccupied with the past that they fail to realise what God is going to do in the future:

'The Lord says, 'Do not cling to the events of the past, or dwell on what happened long ago. Watch for the new thing I am going to do. It is happening already.'
[Isaiah 43: 18-21].

Isaiah believed it is possible to be both faithful to the past, and at the same time open to God's action in the future.

It would surely be strange if the God who in the Biblical story continually does new things, suddenly stopped calling his people to be open to change, to adapt to new situations and the challenges of a very secular world. The Church is called to be the body of Christ, not his corpse. If there are no signs of change, growth and development, then let us call in the undertaker. To cling to the past and past ways, is to run the risk of missing out on God's new things, as the Pharisees did 2000 years ago. There is no use crying for the good old days, whatever date we locate them.

It saddens me that the word 'and' is one of the most underused words in the life of the church. Time and time again we settle for an either-or, worshipping God with the mind or heart, stressing faith or works, tradition or transition. Both are vitally important. Embracing change does not mean abandoning tradition. The latter has an important role to play in the life the Church. 'The faith once delivered' is a stabilising anchor.

The Musical *'Fiddler on the Roof'* begins with Tevye speaking and singing about tradition. *'Because of our tradition we have kept our balance for many years.'* Family, community and religious traditions are important. They affect our outlook more than we imagine. At a time when so much of life is rootless, tradition offers strength and cohesion. I am sure this was why Isaiah, in time of crisis, called on his fellow Jews to look to the quarry from which they were hewn. For him the past was a resource from which we can learn, not a shrine at which we worship. An awareness of the Christian legacy we have inherited can, as the writer to the Hebrews knew, help us better run the race of life. But, as Isaiah also

knew, we must not become so preoccupied with the past, and how things were done in the past, that we fail to discern what God is going to do in the present and future.

Tradition without mobility can be fatal. We are to build on the past, but not live in it.

A Church with a rich tradition but no mobility becomes the prisoner of its tradition. Americans made a folklore hero of the boy 'who stood on the burning deck, where all but he had fled'. But in fact that boy was not a hero. He was more of a dumb cluck who could not adapt to a changing situation. I can think of businesses and churches that died because they could not adapt to the changing world around them.

Jesus was critical of those who had a blind devotion to the past, those guardians of the Jewish tradition who were convinced that the new is always inferior to the old; that any change, at any time, for any reason is to be deplored. They resisted Jesus' new interpretations of scripture, his proposed reforms and his outreach to those they deemed beyond the pale – they resisted to the point of crucifying him."

Evelyn Slater



Communion

Holy Communion will be celebrated on 2nd October, 2016.

Presbytery Report

June

Presbytery received notice of Rev. Arthur Sherratt's intention to retire on 31st July. Mr. W. Parker said that, since this intimation had been given in June, could steps be taken to progress the situation before the September meeting of Presbytery. He was informed that nothing could or would be done until after 31st July. Rev David Watson from Largs would continue as Interim moderator at St. Cuthbert's.

As the Presbytery Clerk had intimated his intention to retire, a committee was formed to appoint a successor.

Approval was given to West Kilbride for the installation of new glass and storm doors on the church, and to Largs St. John's for kitchen refurbishment.

Permission in principle was given to Kirkgate Church to getting tenders for substantial repairs costing in the region of £250,000. Beith Parish Church was given permission to seek support from the Heritage Lottery Fund towards spending a similar amount in repairs.

Rev T. David Watson, Convener Mission Committee, gave a brief report regarding a proposed Twinning Agreement with Malawi, with an intention of bringing a suitably-worded Covenant Agreement to the September Presbytery.

September

At the September meeting, Rev. Dorothy Granger was installed as Presbytery Moderator for the ensuing year.

Notice was received of the move by Rev. Teasdale from St. Margaret's, Dalry to Glasgow Eastwood. Mrs. Isobel Beck, DCS from Stevenston, has been appointed to Kilwinning Old.

New members were welcomed to Presbytery, among whom was Mrs. Evelyn Slater as a corresponding member.

Presbytery was asked to note that the charge of Saltcoats: St. Cuthbert's is now vacant following the retirement of the Rev. Arthur Sherratt on 31st July and its vacancy procedure and to await a report from the Appraisal Committee in due course. Rev. Jeanette Whitecross of Kilwinning Old will be on sick leave from mid-September.

Presbytery was asked to note that the Special Committee of Presbytery placed Rev. Christian Vermeulen on Administrative Suspension with immediate effect on Wednesday, 3rd August, 2016. Members approved the appointment of the Rev. Roderick MacDonald as Interim Moderator for that charge as well as Rev. Dave Whiteman as Interim Moderator at Dalry St. Margaret's.

The Committee appointed to find a new Treasurer for the Presbytery recommended the appointment of Mrs. Christine Thomas, a member of Fairlie Congregation.

Presbytery approved the appointment of Mrs. Ailsa Morrison as part-time Clerical Assistant.

An application has been received from Fairlie Parish Church for permission to proceed with the erection of an additional room at the manse. Presbytery approved the twinning agreement between the Presbytery of Ardrossan and the

Presbytery of Milala. There was no news on the appointment of a new Presbytery Clerk.

William Parker



The Choir

Anthems for October

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|------------------|---|----------|
| 2 nd | - Let us tongues and talents employ. | Hymn 673 |
| 9 th | - Safe in the shadow of the Lord. | Hymn 55 |
| 16 th | - Here to the house of God we come. | Hymn 195 |
| 23 rd | - Praise the Lord with the sound of
the trumpet. | Hymn 169 |
| 30 th | - Love is the touch of intangible joy. | Hymn 115 |

Rosemary Smith



The Guild

We were pleased to welcome both old and new friends to our opening meeting. We had a most enjoyable afternoon's entertainment. This was provided by George and Michael's *Musical Sing-along*.

Our next meeting will take the form of a trip around *Glasgow's Hidden Treasures*, to be followed by *Musical Conundrums* at the following meeting. The Guild is open to all, so you are most welcome to come to any meeting you choose – we will always make you welcome.

Sheila Sarginson



Girls' Brigade

We have now been back for a couple of weeks and are pleased to welcome the return of our faithful members from last session, with a couple of new additions. We are in the process of deciding on subjects that the girls will complete to gain their awards.

Our first outing will be Sunday, 25th September, to Girdle Toll Church for the Division Praise Service. This will include lunch, crafts and praise service in the church.

Lunch - Sunday 23rd October

The Enrolment Service is planned for Sunday, 23rd October, 2016. After the success of our fundraising lunch last year, we are planning to do the same this year following this service. We hope you will once again support us. Tickets will be on sale following the service and during coffee from the 2nd of October onwards. A limited number of tickets are available so

make sure you get yours as soon as possible. Thank you for your support.

Lorna Hamilton
Captain



Church Flowers

October

- 2nd - Elizabeth Murray
- 9th - Marion Mitchell
- 16th - Evelyn Slater
- 23rd - Agnes Algie
- 30th - Available for donation.

The 6th, 13th and 27th November are all available for flower donations. December dates are all taken.

Annita Gillespie and Elsa Kirk,
Flower Conveners



Smartie Tubes

The amount collected in 2016 to date has amounted to £331 including reclaimable Gift Aid tax.

Smartie tubes are still available in the church vestibule for anyone still wishing to contribute in his way. The total to date for 2015 and 2016 is £2139.43, including reclaimable tax.

Ann Turner



Sunshine on Leith

Having made the huge sacrifice to forego our usual fortnightly Saturday trip to Govan, Isla and I decided to join 'Sutherland Tours' and 'St. Cuthbert's Culture Club' on their annual away day. This proved to be a wise and wonderful decision. What a great day out!

Arriving at Linlithgow Palace, we dittered up the steep hill to be met by our informative and engaging guide, Laurens (sic) of Historic Scotland, who gave us an interesting summary of the Palace's Stewart history. We also had a group photograph taken beside James V's fountain. If you see this on display, we are the ones *beneath* the gargoyles!

Right, here's the history bit for those who may be interested or who were not listening to Laurens: Linlithgow Palace, one of the most magnificent of Scotland's ancient monuments, was originally a royal manor house from the time of David I d.1153. It was taken over and fortified by Edward 1's forces but, after a bad result at Bannockburn for the English, it reverted to the Scots.

It was James 1 who initiated the building of the present palace in 1425. James 111 and 1V made additions, the latter adding the south face and thus completing the quadrangle. James V, born in Linlithgow Palace in 1512, strengthened the fortifications, moved the entrance and built the magnificent King's Fountain in the courtyard. I well remember taking notes in Mr. Andrew Partridge's history class in Ardrossan Academy on the Tudors and Stewarts and writing down, in relation to James V : " and he turned his heid unto the wa' and left the throne to his weak, old daughter, Mary." Only later did I realise I should have written "his week-old daughter, Mary"!

Mary Queen of Scots was indeed born in Linlithgow Palace in 1542 and later went on to have trouble with men, among other issues. Her son, James VI and I, was informed by the Earl of Linlithgow that the north quarter of the Palace was falling down but, as he and his court had moved south after the Union of the Crowns, he was not for getting the builders in. Other visitors included Charles Edward Stewart, The Young Pretender, and, alas for the building, The Duke of Cumberland and his army after Culloden who, when they left

in 1746, whether by accident or design, set fire to their quarters and the roof fell in.

After the history lesson, some of our more intrepid tourists climbed many, many stone steps to gaze in awe at the beauty of Linlithgow Loch and its fine surrounding park. Some of us managed to spend time in St. Michael's Church of Scotland close by where we enjoyed a time of quiet reflection as the organist treated us to a wonderful recital. Beautiful church clearly thriving.

After lunch in the lovely town, we rejoined our charabanc for the trip to Leith and the Royal Yacht Britannia.

Clutching our audio handsets, off we went to the Bridge then to the State Apartments, where we gazed in awe at the State Dining Room, the State Drawing Room and Ante-Room. Some of our party had by this point forgotten our station in life and thought it would be a great wheeze to hire the State Dining Room for a bit of fine dining, as one can, were one minted.

Further misbehaviour ensued as a group of our ladies indulged in great hilarity in the Petty Officers' Mess, dressing up in uniform and donning hats. I managed to avoid this incident as I was accidentally running over the toes of several foreign tourists who failed to avoid my wheeled progress. Next deck down were the Crew's Quarters, and down again to the Engine Room, gleaming and sparkling. We also viewed The Rolls Royce Phantom V used on Royal Tours ... beautiful; the Operating Theatre in case of emergencies,

and the Royal Launch to take the Royals and their guests to and from the Royal Yacht. I just loved this visit to Britannia but have to say that, though I oohed and aahed at the State Dining Room, I did feel a sense of intrusion as we peered into Her Majesty's bedroom and that of Prince Philip. No grandeur there, I may say: very modest accommodation indeed. Peering into HMQ's bedroom? Dearie me, Elsa!

Britannia was built at John Brown's, Clydebank and launched on 16th April, 1953. Now here comes controversy: why, may I ask, is she berthed in Leith? Granted, their bid was successful, but surely Auld Reekie has quite enough historic and tourist attractions. I would love if Britannia were to return to her home - return to Clydebank. Leith can still have the shopping mall, Trainspotting tours and Hibernian FC.

After 44 years and over 1 million miles sailed, Britannia was decommissioned. No replacement was built so her Farewell Voyage around the UK was in 1997. It was such a joy to see the yacht; to view the gifts and artefacts on display; and to view the photographs of the Royal Family and their distinguished guests over the years. I now have my Britannia key ring, china mug and tea towel!

After a fine repast in Whitburn (I had to ask Archie where we were!), we headed home with a beautiful sunset and a full moon rising.

The most sincere thanks for this trip are due to Graeme and Liz Sutherland for all their organisation. He counted us all out and he counted us all in. This was a most memorable day

out, full of sights and sounds; great fun and joy. Thanks to Archie Kerr for the onboard vote of thanks. Thanks also to Coast to Coast Bus Company and their excellent driver.

Looking forward to the next trip with 'St. Cuthbert's Culture Club' and 'Sutherland Tours'.

Elsa Kirk



Cleaning Rota

Sun. 2 Oct.	- Gillian Morrison, Shona Turner
Fri. 7 Oct.	- Sheila Hanlon, Elizabeth Murray
Fri. 14 Oct.	- Sheila Hanlon, Christine Saunders
Fri. 21 Oct.	- Sheena Love, Agnes Algie
Sun. 30 Oct.	- Anita Gillespie, John Campbell
Sat. 5 Nov.	- Elizabeth Barclay, Liz Sutherland
Fri. 11 Nov.	- Ann Turner, Elsa Kirk
Fri. 18 Nov.	- Maureen Crilley, Eileen Ramsay
Sat. 26 Nov.	- Susan Cross, Nan Smith

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

Ann Turner



Parkers' Preserves

Bramble and apple jelly, along with a selection of jams and chutneys, will be for sale after morning service on Communion Sunday (2nd October) and 9th October. To have a quantity boxed ready, orders can be placed after 25th September by calling Muriel on 01294 471207.

Jams:- Bramble and Apple; Rhubarb and Ginger; Blackcurrant; Marrow and Ginger. Chutneys: Apple; Apple and Mango; Spiced Apricot; Beetroot.

Muriel Parker



Church Register

Baptism

Sept. - Hannah Grace Weir, daughter of Colin and Deborah, Caledonia Crescent, Ardrossan

Material for the November edition of the magazine will be due on Sunday, 23rd OCTOBER, 2016.

Weekly Calendar

- Sundays: 10.45 a.m. - Morning Service & Sunday School
- 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