

Saltcoats North Parish Church Parish Record – February 2013

MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

February will probably range from the full ravages of Winter with ice and snow to the first signs of Spring with snowdrops, crocuses, and even daffodils. It is nature's changing of the guard. It is resurrection acted out before us. It is a time of hope as the days get longer the nights shorter. Everything is going in the right direction with new life after relative death. This is a time of rebirth, renewal, revival not just in the realm of nature but in our hearts and souls as we look forward to better days ahead.

Let me tell you about David Attenborough's favourite animal. Now there is quite an accolade for he has spent a lifetime all over the world filming thousands of species of animals! So, of all the animals on this Earth, which one is David Attenborough, the world's most famous animal filmmaker's favourite? Drum roll and pause to heighten the suspense.....and the winner is.....the Arctic Caterpillar!!! Now there is a surprise! So why is it his favourite? When the Arctic winter turns to spring, the very first little creature to emerge out of the frozen ice and into the sunlight is the Arctic Caterpillar. Listen to its amazing story:

As winter approaches, it eats as fast as it can and it eats as much as it can. Unfortunately it cannot eat enough to grow into a moth and so be able to fly away and escape the harsh Arctic winter.

So, it adopts plan B and crawls under a large stone like a headstone.

There it lies down and dies.

It is out of the Arctic wind but the Arctic cold gets it.

Its body freezes over with frost and snow. Even its blood freezes solid!

For four long months it lies dead, totally frozen, in the dark, under the stone and ice.

Then with the first rays of the spring sun, it becomes miraculously alive again!

The sun's rays defrost the frozen blood and revive or resurrect the creature.

It is the very first animal to emerge out of the frozen landscape.

The Arctic Caterpillar then proceeds to eat the first buds of spring.

It eats as fast as it can and as much as it can.

Unfortunately, once again it is not enough to become a moth and able to fly away to warmer climes.

So the cycle repeats.....and repeats.....winter-spring.....winter-spring.....death-life.....death-life.....
.....until the 14th year!!

By then it is the oldest caterpillar in the world.

However, this time, at the 14th attempt, it is able to spin a cocoon of silk for itself.....

.....and it turns into a moth.

Then it flies away, finally able to escape the Arctic winter.

Isn't that amazing! It is a wonder of God's creation, but it is also a parable of our own lives. We endure harsh times on Earth, we come through extremes seemingly trapped in an endless cycle of ups and downs, joys and sorrows, laughter and tears, days and nights, triumphs and tragedies, until one day the cycle is broken out of in a final resurrection. We take off for better days and a new life in Heaven.

Enjoy the Spring!

Rev Alex B Noble

PARISH RECORD

FUNERALS “In the sure and certain hope of Resurrection”

30. 11. 12	Mae Boyle	Arran View Care Home formerly 2 Sanda Place, Saltcoats
12. 12. 12	Margaret Hendry	5 McKillop Place, Saltcoats
27. 12. 12	Henry Vogwell	18 Pirnmill Road, Saltcoats
4. 1. 13	Eddie Lennox	Arran View formerly 26B Montgomerie Street, Ardrossan.
9. 1. 13	Margaret McMenemy	20 Barnett Court, Saltcoats
9. 1. 13	May Harker	Arran View Care Home formerly Dundonald
10. 1. 13	Sadie Woodcock	Cumbrae Lodge formerly 3 Munro Place Saltcoats

NEWS

Blythswood Care has thanked Saltcoats North Parish Church and our Girls’ Brigade in particular for generously supporting the Christmas shoe-box appeal to help people poorer than ourselves in several countries. Blythswood will be making regular collections of clothing, shoes, books, bric a brac, food and small furniture all year round. The truck will come to Tesco in Saltcoats on Thursdays 11.45-12.15 on Jan17, Feb 14, March 14, April 11, May 16, June 13

The Scottish Bible Society is grateful to us for helping it to raise £83,000 for Bibles in China. It also recently raised quite a lot of money for Bibles in Peru (£44,000), the Dominican Republic (£30,000) and Iraq (£49,000). They are always looking for congregations or towns to form support groups to promote the work.

Christian Aid is also thanking Saltcoats for raising £3,500 and thanking Saltcoats North Parish Church in particular for raising £1,300 of that total. We plan to have our annual Christian Aid Soup and Sandwich Lunch on Palm Sunday and the door to door collection during Christian Aid Week.

Last year we also raised money for the Poppy Appeal, the Harbour Centre and Cash for Kids, so they are all grateful to us. Our Missionary Partner, Helen Scott is very grateful for the £200 (from the Christmas Eve offerings) which we sent to support her work in Malawi.

Saltcoats North Parish Church was delighted to play host for the special ecumenical service organised by the Ministers’ Fraternal to mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. There was quite a good turnout on the day and it was special to share worship with brothers and sisters from other branches of the Christian Church. Thanks to Sam Dickie for standing in as Beadle, Wallace Roy for playing the organ, Irene Crozier for doing a reading on our behalf and Amanda Rainey and helpers for providing the tea afterwards.

We have been running a series of New Elder Classes in January and we hope to have some new elders soon.

We have a new group in the Church – K 9 Pawsitive Dog Training on Friday nights from 7-8 pm. The organiser is Debbie Burley. Friday evenings would not be the same without dog training.

Zumba, Bokwa and WeightWatchers have all had a surge of interest with the New Year and people making resolutions to improve their health and fitness physically. How about also improving your

health and fitness mentally and spiritually? In Lent we are holding Lent Groups ie adult Christian education.

3TFM our local radio station is about to complete its 5 year licence to broadcast. It has been so successful that it has been given another 5 year licence. That is quite an achievement, so congratulations to all the volunteers who have given us our own Three Towns radio station to be proud of. Mr Noble's Holy Half Hour radio programme on Monday evenings at 9 pm has included themes such as "New Year", "Geilsland School" and a series of four programmes on "People Who Change the World – Revolutionaries, Thinkers, Orators and Be-ers". He has now made 185 half hour programmes in the five year period. They are all available as free CDs and some can be heard online at www.revallexbnoble.com

Saltcoats North Parish Church also has a website, thanks to Angus MacDonald. You can browse it at www.saltcoatsnorth.co.uk

Sunday 17th February is the first Sunday in Lent and on Fridays during Lent we shall be having Lent Groups at the Manse, 25 Longfield Avenue, from 7-9pm. Come and learn more about Easter and our Faith; come and meet other members of the congregation; come and enjoy yourself and bring a friend.

Tuesday 12th February 7 pm in New Trinity Church our Rolls and Records will be attested by Presbytery

Tuesday 19th February 6.30 pm Mayfield Neighbourhood Watch Meeting

Sunday 24th February 11 am Communion Sunday

Tuesday 26th February 7 pm Joint Meeting of the Kirk Session and Congregational Board to approve the Annual Accounts. These will be presented to the rest of the congregation at the Stated Annual Meeting on Tuesday 12th March at 7 pm. Everyone is invited to the S.A.M.

We hope to have special services for Holy Week starting with Palm Sunday (March 24th) and the Soup and Sweet Lunch for Christian Aid, then five evening services Mon-Fri, with Easter Services (March 31st) 8am Communion, 11 am the big service, and 2pm in Arran View Care Home.

PRAYER SECTION

If the congregation is like a cruise ship as we sail along together through life, then the Prayer Group are the engineers working hard behind the scenes in the engine room. The engine room is where it all happens. Nothing moves without the engineers and the engines. In Church life everything is achieved through prayer. A congregation, just like individuals or nations, will not go far without a good lot of prayer. We have experienced decline over the years because of a lack of praying. God honours those who honour Him. Jesus said: "Ask and you will receive" (don't ask and you won't). Hudson Taylor the famous missionary to China used to say: "the only way the Church moves forwards is on its knees".

We pray individually, in family life, in groups and organisations and in congregations. It is not a specialist activity for certain types of holy people – it is as basic as breathing and speaking. Every single Christian can only be a Christian as we live and go about prayerfully privately and corporately together with others. So the prayer group is not a group of specialists, it is meant to be an opportunity for every single person in the congregation and parish to come together with other folk and with Jesus to spend quality time together.

Consider these 10 good reasons why you should join the rest of us on Thursdays from 11-11.30am. for prayer:

- 1 We all need spiritual nourishment.
- 2 We need fellowship together with others and Jesus.
- 3 Our family, friends, congregation, parish, country, world all need our prayers.
- 4 Jesus wants us to pray with Him.
- 5 Specific people make specific prayer requests – they ask us to pray for them.
- 6 Where people pray miracles happen; where they don't pray miracles don't happen. Prayer works!
- 7 It is a matter of life and death. Prayer is something we can do to change the world.
- 8 Victories in life are won in prayer. We pray first then go out and claim the victory.
- 9 Future planning is a matter of prayerfully discerning God's will, not only human decisions.
- 10 Those who already do pray would be greatly encouraged by your support.

SALTCOATS NORTH PARISH CHURCH RECORD – MARCH 2013

MINISTER’S LETTER

Dear Friends,

THE CROSS SHOWS:

We feel crucified sometimes
There are crossroad moments in life
We feel pinned back and helpless
Man’s inhumanity to man
We feel stretched to breaking point
Evil and injustice abound
We feel God-forsaken at times
There is torture, cruelty and hate
Death, despair, defeat and doubt

Please insert a graphic of a small cross

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THE CROSS ALSO SHOWS:

God’s down to earth-ness and presence with us
God’s identification and sharing with us
God’s fellow-suffering with us
God’s self-sacrifice for us
God’s love for us
God’s embracing of us all
God’s victory over death
God’s Resurrection
God’s encountering of us now.

HAPPY EASTER!

Rev Alex B Noble

THANK YOU

Thanks to everyone for their visits, flowers and good wishes. It is great to know that the minister and congregation of the North Parish remember me and I am very grateful for all the kindness. – Ann Sloan

Thank you so much for the lovely flowers which you sent to Jim and I during his illness. Your thoughts and prayers mean a lot to us. We also appreciated all the calls and visits we have had from Mr. Noble.
- Moira Park

Your beautiful flowers and gorgeous card meant a lot to me! I am now alone – but not alone! My Lord Jesus watches over me, with the Holy Spirit and God the Father. Thank you. – Netta McWhirter

PARISH RECORD

FUNERALS “In the sure and certain hope of Resurrection”

19. 2. 13	May Walker	115 Sharphill Road, Saltcoats
20. 2. 13	Jean Anderson	South Beach House Ardrossan, formerly 11 Kerr Avenue, Saltcoats
27. 2. 13	Jim Park	7e Marine View, Ardrossan Road, Seamill

ORDINATIONS OF ELDERS

17. 2. 13	Irene Crozier	13 Mossgeil Road, Saltcoats
17. 2. 13	Linda Murphy	40 Anderson Drive, Saltcoats
17. 2. 13	Dora Scott	13 Jacks Road, Saltcoats

NEWS

All our rolls and records have been successfully attested by the Presbytery of Ardrossan. We thank Moira Smith and Angus MacDonald for seeing to this.

We celebrated the ordination of three new elders on Sunday 17th February. They are Irene Crozier, Linda Murphy and Dora Scott.

The Rev Alex Downie’s funeral was held in the Park Parish Church on the 28th February. We shall miss Alex for all the good work which he did as one of our members for many years. He did pulpit supply, sang in the choir, was choir leader, and supported all the special occasions in the congregation’s life. Alex Noble and Alex Downie were once both chaplains together at Wallace High School in Stirling back in the 1980s. We shall support Ina and their two sons, Alex and Bobby, in our prayers.

Mr Noble was over in the Kingdom of Fife, in Glenrothes on the 21st February for the Ordination and Induction of the Rev Alan Kimmitt. Alan and his wife Margaret were his first ever students back in 1989. Since then he has had 60 students of whom 11 are now ministers, 25 Readers and 24 Church leaders in some capacity.

The Stated Annual Meeting (S.A.M.) of the congregation will be held on Tuesday 12th March at 7pm in the hall. The Congregational Board will present the annual accounts to the congregation. We would like every member of the congregation to come and show their support for the Board and all the good work which it does on the congregation’s behalf.

The Kirk Session meets on Tuesday 19th March at 7 pm.

Holy Half Hour programmes recently have included a series on “People Who Changed The World – Revolutionaries, Thinkers, Orators and Be-ers”. There were also programmes about “Duets” and “Martin Luther King”. Coming Programmes include “Mothers’ Day”, “Crucifixion” and “Resurrection”.

The James Reid School Easter Service is on Thursday 28th March at 9.45am. All are welcome.

The clocks change forward on Saturday 30th March.

Sunday 10th March – Mother’s Day

Sunday 17th March – Passion Sunday

Sunday 24th March – Palm Sunday

HOLY WEEK SPECIAL SERVICES

Monday	7.30pm	A VISUAL EASTER	- Easter through sight
Tuesday	7.30pm	AN AURAL EASTER	- Easter through sound
Wednesday	7.30pm	A TANGIBLE EASTER	- Easter through touch
Thursday	7.30pm	AN EDIBLE EASTER	- Easter through taste
Friday	7.30pm	AN EXPERIENTIAL EASTER	- Easter through all our senses

EASTER SUNDAY - 8 am Early Morning Easter Communion Service (followed by a free breakfast)

- 11 am Easter Sunday All-Age Worship**
- 2 pm Arran View Care Home Easter Service**

Saltcoats North Parish Church Parish Record – April 2013

MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

On behalf of Patricia and myself, I hope you have had a Happy Easter, and thanks for all your Easter cards.

We had a lot of special services around Easter. We are very grateful to Agnes Wilkie and her team for providing a lovely Palm Sunday Soup and Sweet Lunch, which also raised £285 for Christian Aid. Then we had five special Holy Week services exploring Easter through our sight, hearing, touch and taste. Easter Day itself had three very different types of celebration of the Resurrection with the early morning communion, all-age participatory worship then the Arran View Easter service.

Now is perhaps a good time to reflect upon the Resurrection – indeed to think about the whole life, death and rising again of Jesus – and what it means for us.

Jesus made twelve Resurrection appearances:

- (1) He appeared first of all to Mary Magdalene in the garden (Mark 16.9-11); Jesus comes to grief.
- (2) the other women (Matthew 28.1-10); Jesus comes to devotion.
- (3) Cleopas and his friend on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24.13-35); Jesus comes to bewilderment.
- (4) Simon Peter (Luke 24.33-35); Jesus comes to guilt.
- (5) the Disciples (without Thomas) (John 20.19-25; Jesus comes to fear.
- (6) Thomas and the other disciples (John 20.26-31); Jesus comes to doubt.
- (7) the seven disciples by the Sea of Galilee (John 21.1-23); Jesus comes to folk at work.
- (8) over 500 people at the same time (ICor.15.6); Jesus comes to Church.
- (9) James (ICor.15 .7); Jesus comes to individuals and family.
- (10) the eleven disciples at “the Great Commission” (Matthew 28.16-20); Jesus comes to obedience.
- (11) The disciples on Mount Oliver (ie the Ascension) (Mark 16.19-20); Jesus comes to His disciples.
- (12) Saul of Tarsus on the road to Damascus (Acts 9.1-19); Jesus comes to arrogant ignorance.

You will notice a pattern in all these Resurrection appearances: Jesus always takes the initiative. Jesus was always forgiving. Jesus always wanted their loving devotion. Jesus always commissioned them to go and tell other people the good news. Notice also that: Everyone was transformed. Everyone's lives were never the same again. Everyone became a missionary. Everyone served Jesus from then on.

If the tabloid newspapers had reported on the Resurrection of Jesus, then the headlines might have been: “Easter Uprising!”.....”Greatest Comeback Ever!”.....”By God It's A Miracle!”.....”Dead Man Walking!”...
.....”Man From The Dead Comes Back To Tell Us All”.....”Sometimes The End IS Just The Beginning.”...
..”Hope For Us All”.....”The Re-birth Of A Legend In His Time”.....”Jesus Rolls The Rock Away!”.....
...”Life Conquers Death”.....”The Christian Spring”.....”Jesus Dead Then Gone”
.....”Bouncebackability!””King Of The Jews Dead.No, Alive”.....“An Empty Tomb Fills Us All With Hope”.....”Never Say Die!”
.....Resurrection Rock Star Comes Out Tonight!”.....”Crucified Christ is Living Lord”.....”Death Of Death”

And, Resurrection, so what? Jesus is alive, not dead. Jesus is with us and for us. Jesus was right. Love is stronger than hate, life stronger than death. There is life after death. Death is defeated. The last word is Resurrection. In Christ we can rise after we die. Already our sins have been forgiven and we enjoy a

new, fresh start in our relationship with God. We are reconciled to Him, friends again. We are in the Kingdom of God. We are free from the dominion of evil. We enjoy a share in Jesus' victory. Already we enjoy living close to Jesus. He transforms our lives helping us to cope with grief, doubt, guilt, despair etc. We also have a mission and purpose to spread the Good News of Jesus' Resurrection and our resurrections with His help.

Happy Easter indeed!

Rev. Alex B Noble

PARISH REGISTER

FUNERALS: "In the sure and certain hope of Resurrection to eternal life"

8. 3. 13	Willie Trainer	14 McKillop Place, Saltcoats
8. 3. 13	Elizabeth Robertson	8 Pirnmill Road, Saltcoats
15. 3. 13	Raymond Hedge	24 Auchenshangan Drive, Saltcoats
19. 3. 13	Jim Bryden	28 Ivanhoe Drive, Saltcoats

NEWS

At the recent **Stated Annual Meeting** we learned that Saltcoats North Parish Church has successfully completed another year in its life:-

- We raised over £60,000 last year! (That is £1100 per week)! So well done! And thank you very much! We thank the Gift Aided contributions for giving most of that. Gift Aid contributions were up £3,000 in one year! We also thank those who gave by Free Will Offering Envelopes and also those of you who gave by way of the open plate.
- Last year we gave away £4,600 to good causes. Thanks for your generosity.
- We elected to the Congregational Board Marie Gibson, and re-elected for another three years Stephen Smith, Beth McCracken and Alan McLuckie.
- We learned that Saltcoats North Parish Church is the 11th largest congregation in our Presbytery of 28 congregations, but we had the 7th most baptisms and 7th most funerals. We have the 3rd highest number of elected Board members but are 19th in regard to number of elders. We now have more members on the Communion Roll than New Trinity and St.Cuthbert's Parish Churches. Last year 18 congregations in the Presbytery had no new members by profession of faith, five had only one new member, but we had nine new members – making us the league champions in 2012!

We held another **Lent Group** leading up to Easter. On one evening we held a murder mystery night trying to solve the case of "Who Killed Jesus?" We had no less than twelve suspects! If you want to know the answer – ask those who were there!...or read your Bible again! We would like to invite you and your friends to come to the Manse Groups for fun, fellowship, learning and the building up of our own and the congregation's spiritual life. The next **Manse Group** is on five **Wednesday evenings, May 1,8,15,29 & June 1st** at 25 Longfield Avenue.

The Prayer Group is also the backbone of the congregation. Congregations are only as successful as their prayer groups just as cruise ships only go places when their engine rooms are functioning. We have seen many answers to prayer lately. So, please step up to the plate and be where the action is; the congregation needs all hands in the engine room.

The Moderator of the Church of Scotland, the Rt.Rev. Albert Bogle will be visiting our Presbytery from Saturday 20th April. That night there will be a big reception meal in the Lauriston Hotel. Next day he will be on Westsound's religious programme in the evening. On Monday 22nd Mr Noble will be interviewing him on 3TFM's Holy Half Hour. You can hear the full interview at 9pm on 103fm.

We offer our congratulations to **3TFM our local community radio station** on reaching its 5th birthday on Friday 19th April. Only a few communities in Scotland have their own radio stations and of those many do not reach five years. 3TFM is not resting on its laurels however, because we have been granted another five year broadcasting licence! Mr Noble has now produced 189 Holy Half Hour programmes. It is a very precious opportunity to reach out to our community and we are given this chance for free. In America it would cost the congregation a fortune and in other countries the facility would not be available. Please keep spreading the Gospel by informing people about the Thoughts For The Day (at 9.10am) and the Holy Half Hours (Mondays at 9 pm.)

The Girls' Brigade Closing Display will be held on Monday 13th May at 7 pm.

Saltcoats North Parish Church – Parish Record: May 2013

MINISTER’S LETTER

Dear Friends,

The month of May is very much about The Church – not just our church but The Christian Church. Sunday 19th May is Pentecost Sunday, the “birthday” of the Church – the day when the Holy Spirit came dramatically upon Peter and the other disciples and 3,000 souls were added to their number right away!

Pentecost this year is also General Assembly Sunday. I am a commissioner to the Assembly this year. It was 2008 since I last got the opportunity. You will be able to follow it on-line by going to the Church of Scotland website. I was privileged to interview, on 3TFM local radio, the current Moderator of the General Assembly, the Rt. Rev. Albert Bogle during his ten day visit to Ardrossan Presbytery. You can get copies of the interview on CD at the front door of the church or on my website. He is quite a character. The next Moderator of the General Assembly is the Rev. Lorna Hood who was an Assistant Minister in Corstorphine, Edinburgh the year before I was.

In the month of May in our own congregation we have the Girls’ Brigade Closing Display (Monday 13th at 7pm) – please come along and support the girls and their faithful leaders. We also have a series of five Manse Groups on Wednesday evenings, 7-9pm, (May 1, 8, 15, 29, June 5th). This is a great way to build up the congregation – to get to know each other and to learn together. We also have a very special Sunday on May 26th. It will be our Annual Thanksgiving Service, the Sunday School Prizegiving and our Annual Gift Day. It is all rolled in together as a way of thanking God for all that we have enjoyed over the past year. We thank Him with our praise and with a gift of money for His work in our parish in the year to come. (In Kenya they call it a Harambee (Thanksgiving) Day and boy can they celebrate – I still smile when I recall being part of it).

I mention Kenya there because all of the above is not confined to Saltcoats North Parish Church. We belong to something very special and much bigger than us. Consider this: there are seven layers to the Church. When we see the Church for what it is, it is mind bogglingly wonderful.

- 1 The Church is buildings. People can point out the Churches on street corners.
- 2 The Church is the people within the buildings, the worshippers, the disciples.
- 3 The Church is made up of many denominations e.g. Presbyterian, Pentecostal, R.C., Baptist etc.
- 4 The Church is world-wide, currently numbering over 2,000 million people.
- 5 The Church is historical, stretching back 2,000 years to Pentecost and Jesus, and back into the O.T.
- 6 The Church is visible on Earth but also invisible in Heaven, including those there before us.
- 7 The Church is the Body of Christ. He is the Head, we are inseparably united to Him.

Isn’t that wonderful? It is not just theory. It is a reality we can belong to and be part of. Catch the vision.

Come and be more and more involved in it. It is a privilege and a joy. God graciously beckons us to share in this family, this fellowship of human and Divine. The more you get into it, the more wonderful you discover it is!

God Bless.

Rev Alex B Noble

PARISH REGISTER

Funeral: “Till we meet again at Jesus’ feet”

10. 4. 13 Mrs Ann Mitchell 10 Abbotsford Place

Rev. Dr. Alan Falconer

On the 14th of April the Sunday service was conducted by Rev. Dr. Alan Falconer a recently retired minister who has come to Ardrossan to live. You might like to know one or two details about him. Alan received his honorary Doctor of Divinity degree in November 2012 from Aberdeen University. He had previously graduated twice at Aberdeen University in 1965 and 1970 ie MA then BD (first class honours). He won a scholarship to study in Switzerland and then he went to Dublin to its world famous School of Ecumenics. He specialised in bringing diverse people together and promoting reconciliation. Alan then became the Director of the World Council of Churches’ Faith and Order Commission which “promotes visible unity of Christians by dealing with theological questions that divide churches”. In that job he was in regular contact with the leading figures of all the major denominations e.g. Orthodox Patriarchs, the Archbishop of Canterbury and two Popes (John Paul II and Benedict XVI). After all that, Alan became the parish minister of St Machar’s Cathedral in Aberdeen. (Mr Noble was a student minister there for a year under a previous minister). Alan has also been co-chairman of the Joint Commission on Doctrine of the Church of Scotland and the Roman Catholic Church. (Yes we do talk to each other!) Alan was particularly well qualified to do this job. So, we were delighted to have him do pulpit supply recently and we congratulate him on his doctorate.

Want to Grow Spiritually?

Want to Know More About God? Want to Meet Other People? Want a Laugh?

Want to Understand More About Life? Want to Know Your Bible Better?

Want to Learn From Other Folks’ Experience? Want some intelligent adult conversation?

Want to Be Better Disciples? Want a Cup of Tea?

Then Manse Groups are for you! Come along to Alex and Patricia’s home, 25 Longfield Avenue, on Wednesday evenings 7-9pm, on May 1st, 8th, 15th, 29th, June 5th.

The Scottish Bible Society is thanking us for helping to raise money for Bibles in China. In China the Church is growing so fast that they cannot keep pace with the growth. Every year there are about 5 million new Christians but only 3 million Bibles printed. The Amity Printing Press is printing as fast as possible within the Government’s allowance. The Government allowed 3.8 million Bibles in 2012. The 100th million Bible was printed in 2012. Many Chinese new Christians live on less than 63p per day, but thanks to the Bible Society’s subsidy and Amity’s printing, they can own their own Bible.

In the Dominican Republic the Bible society is helping young people to give up their guns and start reading Bibles.

In Iraq the Bible Society is helping persecuted Christians with food, blankets and Bibles.

In Peru and Scotland youngsters are being introduced to the Bible by means of the Bibleworld exhibition.

PRAYER

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:-

Those who are ILL at home or in hospital or in the hospice. Pray also for their FAMILIES/FRIENDS and for their PROFESSIONAL CARERS.

Those who are BEREAVED and for the DYING and their CARERS.

Those who are RESIDENTS in Nursing Homes and Residential Homes, and for all the STAFF.

Those who are in special CRISES at the moment and FAMILIES, FRIENDS and PROFESSIONALS who try to help.

Those who are HAVING BABIES and those HELPING them. Pray also for the BABIES.

Those who are TEACHING our young ones.

Those who are GETTING MARRIED.

Pray for THE NORTH PARISH IN SALTCOATS

Pray for THE NORTH PARISH CHURCH

Pray for THE THREE TOWNS

Pray for SCOTLAND

Pray for THE WORLD

These are just a few helpful suggested categories. You can add many more yourself. You can also be more specific by adding names of people you know.

NEWS

A new series of Manse Groups is under way on Wednesdays, 7-9, May 1, 8, 15, 29, June 5. All welcome.

The wedding of David Rainey and Lorna Robertson takes place on Friday 10th May at 2 pm. God Bless.

Christian Aid Week is from 12th-18th May. Moira Smith our organiser is looking for volunteers to do a door to door collection in our parish. Please help with this very worthy cause. The world's poor need us to help share God's blessings. We don't have to go out to the front line, all we have to do is collect and give. Jesus said that if we do it for even the very least of His children, we do it for Him, and if we don't, He will be asking the reason why we neglected Him. If you are willing but not able, then please just do what you can. Thank you very much.

The Annual Girls' Brigade Closing Display takes place on Monday 13th May at 7 pm. Please come to support the girls and their very faithful leaders. Your attendance encourages them a lot. Plus it is a good night out – far better than Channel Four! Please bring girls so that they might see what the Girls' Brigade looks like and perhaps join it next session.

The North Ayrshire Division of the Girls' Brigade is holding their AGM in our church on Sat 18th May. The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland will be held in Edinburgh from Friday 17th May till Friday 24th May. You can follow it live on the Church of Scotland website and get highlights on TV. Please pray for the Assembly and the Church of Scotland.

The Kirk Session meets on Tuesday 28th May at 7 pm.

Recent Holy Half Hour radio programmes on 3TFM (103fm) have included "Easter Interpreted", "The Moderator of the General Assembly: Rt Rev Albert Bogle" and "Are You Content..And Should You Be?"

Coming programmes include: "Christian Aid" and "The Church".

Sunday 5th May 11am – Worship: Rev Alex B Noble

Sunday 12th May 11am – Ascension Sunday/Christian Aid Sunday

Sunday 19th May 11am – Pentecost Sunday/General Assembly Sunday: Rev Andrew Taylor

Sunday 26th May 11am – Annual Thanksgiving Day + Sunday School Prizegiving + Annual Gift Day

*** Please note Sunday 26th as a very special all-age worship service thanking God for all that we have enjoyed over the past year; and after the service you are welcome to come for a special tea and bring your thanksgiving gift to God. You remember that the Gift Day used to be a sale of work but we decided to skip the work bit and just bring our gifts. Each year it has proved to be our best fundraiser of the year. So thank you in anticipation.

Saltcoats North Parish Church Parish Record – June/July 2013-05-27

MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

First of all I want to thank every one of you very much for the surprise presentation which you made to me at the end of the special Annual Thanksgiving Service. It was the 10th anniversary of my Induction (29.5.03) and to mark the occasion Evelyn Porter said a few kind words and gave me a carrier bag containing money, vouchers, an engraved crystal diamond and a couple of humorous items – an inflatable microphone and a gadget to make the water in the shower change colours so that I can sing karaoke in the shower with flashing disco light effects! It works a treat but the singing is no better! Through in the hall I got another surprise...the most gorgeous and gigantic cake – suitably topped with an Iona cross in icing, chocolates, lovely flowers for Patricia and a special Sunday Tea. It was very touching and on behalf of Patricia and myself, it means a lot to us to know that we are loved and appreciated. We do like Saltcoats and we do love you all very much, so thank you for the gifts and thank you for the love which they represent.

I have just come back from the 2013 General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in Edinburgh, so I thought I would give you a brief summary of what took place in your name.

- The Rt Rev Albert Bogle handed over to the new Moderator, Rev Lorna Hood from Renfrew.
- The Scottish Bible Society presented her with a Bible. In Iraq women are secretly listening to the Bible on headphones under their headscarfs! China bans the sale of Bibles everywhere except in churches and yet 100 million Bibles have been sold or given away there recently!
- Crossreach, the Cof S. social work, gets £600,000 from congregations (ie our Ministry and Mission contribution), but then uses this to get further funding of £49 million (ie for every £1 given it raises a further £75 from elsewhere – now that is financial efficiency!)
- A new theological body, called the Theological Forum, has been set up.
- Congregations can now claim tax relief of 25% on open plate contributions and retriial offerings up to a maximum of £5,000.
- The Church of Scotland Pension Scheme has a serious deficit of over £30 million.
- Stipends have gone down 13% in real terms since 2009, with only one increase in four years.
- Church of Scotland congregations raised £130 million last year at a time when charitable giving in the U.K. fell by 18%
- The Church of Scotland Trinidad and Tobago Steel Band livened things up quite a bit!
- Albert Bogle as Moderator and his band performed at T in the Park and was well received.
- The Assembly marked the 200th Anniversary of David Livingstone with his great grandchildren.
- All of Monday was taken up with the debate about ordaining homosexual ministers. The Theological Commission, after two years of detailed study of the matter, presented both sides equally, but in the end the Assembly voted for a compromise position which was drawn up at lunch time by Rt Rev Albert Bogle. Basically it says that the Church of Scotland sticks to the traditional position of not ordaining homosexual ministers but if any one presbytery or congregation wants to be the exception to the rule then they can do so. However this does not become law until all the presbyteries and congregations get their say on it and if the 2015 General Assembly agrees to it as well. The Cof S Website had 2,800 hits per minute all day Monday! There were 36,000 hits from 50 different countries by Thursday.
- “Heart and Soul” on Saturday had over 5,000 attenders including our Youth Group. The Cof S staged outdoor concerts and stalls in Princes Street Gardens. There was an African Choir, a Swing Band, Puppets, Rock Music, Celtic Music, an outdoor service and stalls from congregations etc.
- A quarter of all Africans were Christians 50 years ago. Today half of all Africans are Christians!
- 50p extra on a £35 garment would solve all of Bangladesh’s major problems.
- Syria is attracting extremist Jihadists – 40,000 of them from 27 different countries. It now has 2 million refugees abroad and 4 million people inside Syria who have lost everything.

- The Guild has 25,000 members in 900 branches. It gave £800,000 to Church work in 2012. It raised a further £800,000 for 6 special projects over the past three years.
- The Church of Scotland has 400,000 members (ie 1 in 12 of the population) but in the last census 1 in 3 claimed allegiance to the C of S. There's something to build on!
- The Church has lots of websites and resources for everyone in the Church (and beyond).
- Only 1% of ministers stay in their charges long term.
- 400 ministers are due to retire within the next five years ie. nearly half of all ministers. On the other hand more and more ministers are postponing retirement or working after retiring. Ministers longevity is second only to stockbrokers!
- The Church of Scotland gives £1 million in "Go For It" grants to local congregations each year.
- We heard that we are right on the edge of the point of no return with regard to global warming.
- Worries were expressed about the soaring cost of funerals and the lack of access by ministers to hospital patient lists of who is in.
- The Church of Scotland's own Insurance Company was highly commended. Any profits are ploughed back into the Church.

Well, that's it till my next turn to go in four years time (God willing). In the meantime the Presbytery of Ardrossan have asked me to be their next Moderator for a year starting in September.

Alex B Noble

PARISH REGISTER

Wedding: "Those Whom God Has Joined Together"

10. 5. 13 David Rainey and Lorna Robertson 18 Harris Court, Dreghorn

Funerals: "In Sure and Certain Hope"

10. 5. 13	Roberta Dickie	6 Fleck Avenue, Saltcoats
14. 5. 13	Tom Howie	43 Christie Gardens, Saltcoats
16. 5. 13	Georgie Anderson	11 Knockjargon Court, Saltcoats

NEWS

Thanks to everyone who helped with Christian Aid Week – especially Moira Smith our organiser and her assistant Linda Murphy. The door to door collection team raised over £1,500. Thanks also to the generosity of the parishioners.

There will be Manse Groups on Wednesday evenings 7-9 pm

New Members Classes begin on Tuesday 4th June, 7-9pm in the Manse, 25 Longfield Ave.

The James Reid School end of year service is on Thursday 27th June probably 10 am. All welcome.

The Congregational Board meets on Tuesday 25th June at 7 pm.

Saltcoats North Parish Church – AUGUST 2013 Parish Record

MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

I hope you had a great summer holiday. Even if we did not get away, we rejoice and thank God for the hottest summer in years. We have much to give thanks to God for. Now we look forward to the start up again of every aspect of Church and community life. Children will be looking forward to school, (well some of them)! Adults will be looking forward to work, (well some of them)! There is the kick off to the new football season, the indoor bowls, all kinds of clubs and organisations, and Church life getting back to full swing. Holidays are great but they are only brief and they are intended to reinvigorate us for the greater part of our lives as we love and serve God and other people. So hopefully this finds you refreshed and raring to go!

May I suggest that this year you try to improve a little on last year i.e continuous and never-ending improvement. That is what makes the world go round, not in circles but in upward spirals. Progress individually, as a congregation and as a community comes step by step, little by little. Everything big is made up of lots of little things...e.g. many pennies make one pound, many pages a book, many bricks a building and many steps a long journey. Success in life involves getting many little things right; failure involves getting many little things wrong. Andy Murray can vouch for that. An engine works or breaks down depending on whether or not all the loose screws are tightened.

Our body, mind and soul's health depends on building lots of little good habits faithfully over time. Every day of our lives we make lots of little choices and decisions which sooner or later amount to something significant, for better or for worse.

In 1899, Sir George Adam Smith wrote:

“The great causes of God and humanity are not defeated by the hot assaults of the Devil, but by the slow, crushing, glacier-like mass of thousands and thousands of indifferent nobodies. God's causes are never destroyed by being blown up, but by being sat upon.”

Someone else put it: “All that evil needs to prevail is that good people do nothing.” We don't need to burn down the library, just never use it. We don't need to start a revolution, just don't vote. We don't need to persecute the Church, just don't do anything.

So, beware of sliding, imperceptibly, little by little into negative thoughts and lifestyle and just accepting unquestioningly that this is the state of the world and it will never change. When we do that we gradually drift into apathetic sleep and in so doing contribute to the world's woes. Things do not have to be the way they are. Why not be part of the solution rather than part of the problem? “Rise up O men and women, boys and girls of God, have done with lesser things, give heart and soul and hands and voice to serve the King of Kings”. Offer Jesus your loaves and fish and let him work His miracles with them for the benefit of everybody. Jesus just needs lots of little contributions in order for Him to make a very big difference.

God Bless.

Rev Alex B Noble

Parish Register

Funerals: “Till we meet again at Jesus’ feet.”

21. 6. 13 Helen Pllu 46 Corrie Crescent, Saltcoats
2. 7. 13 Jean Downie Arran View Care Home
19. 7. 13 Peggy Wales 16 Linsay Avenue, Saltcoats (our oldest member at 100).

THANK YOU

“Thank you for all the lovely flowers. They were much appreciated.” - Mrs Annie Stevenson

“Thank you very much for the lovely flowers I received from the Church on Monday. The fact that these flowers adorned the church on Sunday, means a lot to anyone like me who can no longer attend church.”

- Molly Craig

“Thanks to the minister and congregation for the lovely flowers on my birthday.” – Mary Pllu

NEWS

The annual Strawberry Tea was held on Thursday 18th July and once again was very much appreciated. We thank Agnes Wilkie and her team of helpers for all their hard work.

We are grateful to Rev Dr Alan Falconer, Rev Norman Cruickshank and Rev Sandy McCallum for doing pulpit supply in July and we thank Rev Ross Mitchell and Rev Norman Cruickshank for giving pastoral cover.

The Holy Half Hour on 3TFM radio has featured a series of travelogues by Mr Noble, including Estonia, Kenya, Madrid and Israel. One programme was all about space. (He hasn’t been there yet)! Forthcoming programmes will include “Walking with the Paralysed”, “Varieties of Christian Music” and “Dreaming”.

We hope to finish the current new members enquiry class on the 8th of August with the Admission service probably on 15th September. This has been an extra class. The normal second half of the year class for enquirers starts on Tuesday 20th August, 7-9pm in the Manse, 25 Longfield Avenue. Please make this known. Just come along and hear inputs and ask any questions and at the end, from a position of better knowledge, decide whether or not to join the Church.

The Arran View Care Home Service in August is in Sannox Bay on Sunday 11th August at 2 pm. You are all welcome to join with Mr Noble, the choir and the residents in a half hour service. We do it on the second Sunday of every month.

Julie Carson and Kelly McCrorie Dance Classes begin on Tuesday 20th and Wednesday 21st August respectively.

The deadline for the September Parish Record magazine is Sunday 25th August. Please feel free to contribute to your magazine. Just give it or e-mail it to the editor Amanda Rainey or hand it in to Rebecca McLay in the Church Office.

The next series of 5 adult Christian education meetings will take place in the Manse, 25 Longfield Avenue, Saltcoats on Friday evenings, 7 – 9pm, from Fri. 23rd August...ie 23rd, 30th, Sept.6th,13th,20th. The annual Sponsored Walk will be held on Saturday 24th August starting at 10 am from the church. There will be three levels of difficulty. Walkers and sponsors are both needed so that we can raise funds for the Pensioners' Christmas Dinner. Thanks for your help and thanks to Moira Smith and the Committee for organising this again.

Roseann McLean has been appointed once again as our Presbytery Elder for the forthcoming year. Mr Noble has been designated as the Moderator of Ardrossan Presbytery for the year 2013-14. This is an honour for Saltcoats North Parish Church and everyone is welcome to come to the installation service which is to be held in our church on Tuesday 3rd September at 7.30 pm. The Presbytery hasn't met in our church for over ten years (ie since Mr Noble's induction) and as far as we know he is the first serving minister in our congregation to be a moderator of our Presbytery.

We are hoping that there will be a Craft Fair in the large hall on Saturday 31st August. Watch out for further details.

The Girls' Brigade restarts on Monday 2nd September with an enrolment night.

Coming Special Sundays:

Sunday 1st Sept 11 am Bible Sunday with Andrew Gray from Gideons International.

Sunday 8th Sept 11 am Prayer Sunday

Sunday 15th Sept 11 am Admission Sunday (to be confirmed)

Sunday 22nd Sept 11 am Service Sunday

PRAYER

God wants to commune with each one of us personally, with small groups and also with all of us together. Communing or spending quality time together with God is what we call prayer. So we pray alone with God, we pray as a group on Thursday mornings (11-11.30am) and we pray together as a congregation on Sundays (11-12 noon).

That sounds so obvious and yet how many do not take quality time with God privately, do not attend the prayer group and do not pray on a Sunday. Why don't we do ever more praying? Could it be that we do not catch the vision? Think about it. Do you agree with the following? If you do you will know what to do!

Communing with God, spending quality time with God, praying, enjoying spiritual intercourse, pouring out our heart and soul to Him and listening to His speaking to us – is the most wonderful thing in the world, a real privilege, a gracious opportunity, a gift, **a joy**, priceless.

God wants us to pray and enjoy doing it. He knows what is **good for us** and He doesn't want us to miss out.

God also wants it for Himself. He created us as human beings, not robots, so that He could have real communication and inter-action with us – a bit like the pleasure that pet owners have with their free-thinking pets. More than that, He made us with more intelligence, imagination, character and wills than His average creature, so that we could have really deep and intimate relationships with Him.

Other people need us to pray for them. We live in a needy world. People need help but they do not know where to turn to. We know that God is the answer. The Christian individual and the Christian congregation lives by breathing in and out – bringing in the needs of the world around us to God in prayer....and taking out the all-sufficient grace of God to the needy world in practical Christian service.

More than that, **other people need us to pray with them.** When we pray together it is different from praying alone. This applies not only to prayer. We often eat alone but it is good to eat together too. We watch TV films alone but it is good to be in a cinema or theatre audience. (Imagine watching a pantomime in a theatre if you were an audience of one!). We pray alone but we also like to be part of a big congregation in Church. The absence of others does diminish the experience for all. Jesus wanted His disciples to watch and pray with Him for an hour in the Garden of Gethsemane when He faced the Cross. We all have times when we really need the help of other people's prayers.

God commands us to pray. He is not a tyrant, He is a loving Heavenly Father, but when Dad says "brush your teeth" you brush! It is a loving command and God would prefer willing obedience. Just like dads hope that we will come to see the sense in brushing our teeth and do it without their commanding, so God wants us to pray willingly and joyfully rather than by grudging compulsion. However, so long as the children lack the motivation to brush, the need to command remains and God still has to command prayer for many people.

Prayer works. Other people testify to that but even more significantly, we ourselves can testify that prayer worked for us in the past. So, it is crazy not to make use of it. By "works" we do not mean "a quick fix" like a fairy godmother waving a magic wand and instantly all our troubles disappear (although it has been known to happen some times). More often prayer "works" by God calming us

down in a crisis, giving us peace in a storm, strength beyond our own strength, courage beyond our own bravery, wisdom beyond our own knowledge etc. Prayer also works in that it does make a difference in other people's lives and it works when it makes God happy to hear His little ones chirping away to Him (like grandchildren to their grandparents).

If you agree with these seven points, PRAY. Pray alone with God; pray in the prayer group on Thursdays, and pray in the congregation on Sundays. We look forward to praying with you too.

Saltcoats North Parish Church – Parish Record –September 2013

Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

Welcome back to all the varied life of our congregation. It has been a good summer and now it is time to get involved in all our many groups and activities. Isn't it great to belong to the Church of God which comes in many varieties, which spans the globe, has existed down the centuries, and has life in Heaven as well as on Earth! It is mind-boggling! And we get to play a part in its eternal life story!

The Church is the people of God, disciples of Jesus, Spirit filled apostles, the salvation army, the living stones, the vine, the flock of the Good Shepherd. This Church is us here in Saltcoats North Parish Church! Catch the vision! Sometimes we lose sight of the truth. We are not a clique, a club, a holy huddle, "a bunch of auld wifies crowding in". We are the Body of Christ as close as a body is to a head with God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Himself! We are His hands and feet and voice, the channels of His peace, His partners, His human agents, members of His team like the various parts of our bodies are united in common purpose.

This month and next we are going to be thinking about this and celebrating this. Coming Sundays include: Service Sunday, thinking about how we can serve God by helping others; Harvest Thanksgiving Sunday when our attitude of gratitude leads us to think about how we can share more with others; the Annual Dedication Service which challenges each of us to consider how committed we are to discipleship of Jesus; and Stewardship Sunday when we work out how best to use our time, talents, money and life for God's glory. The umbrella term for all this is "Stewardship".

During our Stewardship month, which nicely fits the mood of starting a new season, we prayerfully think about our own lives and our life together as a congregation. What is God's will for us? What is Jesus calling us to do? How is the Holy Spirit prompting us to live? Good Christian disciples are always listening for God's personal word to us on these matters. So what can you do? Here are a few suggestions to get you thinking

Worship

Attend Sunday Services
Stay for Tea after the service
Help serve the Teas + lunches
Join the choir
Come to services in Arran View
Take Communion/Home Communion
Attend Holy Week Services
Come to the Prayer meeting (Thurs.11am)

Christian Education

Read your Bible + Pray privately
Take part in the Manse Groups
Use the Church Library
Come to the Guild
Be a teacher or youth leader
Write in the Parish Magazine
Listen to the Holy Half Hour on radio

Mission

Speak to others about Jesus
Teach our children/grandchildren the faith
Bring folk to Church
Give folk CDs of Services + Radio Progs.
Pass on the Parish Magazine
Advertise what's on in the Church
Welcome visitors
Give new neighbours our Welcome Packs

Service

Give to Church and charities
Volunteer
Transport people to church
Clean the church and do the church garden
Deliver Church flowers
Collect for Christian Aid
Visit people and help them

Alex B Noble

Parish Register

Funerals: "Safe in the Arms of Jesus"

8. 8. 13	Billy Middleton	22 Wheatley Gardens, Saltcoats
13. 8. 13	Anne Mitchell	22 Barnett Court, Saltcoats

NEWS

We are currently having a series of Manse Groups on the subject of "Suffering" as seen through the eyes of the Book of Job. It may sound a bit daunting but it is a big part of all our lives, so a number of sufferers made a special request to discuss it. With a cup of tea and a good laugh it has not been all suffering!

The next 5 week series of Manse Groups will be on Friday evenings, 7-9 pm, Oct. 11, 18, 25, Nov 1, 8. Whoever comes can choose what we discuss.

The Prayer Group is currently celebrating the fact that we prayed for a terminally ill man and now he is not terminally ill. In fact, within five months of his major operation to save his life, he has beaten his personal best time in a triathlon competition! He is of course Gordon Fraser who is being confirmed on Sunday 15th September. You can hear his story in detail on the Holy Half Hour on Monday 16th September (9pm on 3TFM 103fm). This is why we, indeed God, would like you to come to the prayer group and pray for other miracles.

This month should see Mr Noble's 200th Holy Half Hour radio programme! That is 40 programmes per year for the past five years. Congratulations and well done. We are very grateful to 3TFM our local radio station for giving us free access to the air waves. We would also like to say a big thank you to Neil Gibson for faithfully making 50 copies of each of the 200 programmes (ie 10,000!) Thanks are also due to the people who have generously donated money to support this CD ministry. Finally, thanks to yourselves for distributing the programmes as an exercise in Christian mission, spreading the Gospel. To everyone, thank you and please keep up the good work!

The annual Sponsored Walk to raise funds for the Christmas Dinner for pensioners was held on a beautiful summer day on Saturday 24th August. There were three different circuits to cater for varying degrees of fitness. Barry Fisher was in a class of his own by jogging it! Bryan George got an amazing amount of sponsors! So well done to all the intrepid band of walkers and thanks to all of you who sponsored them. Thanks also to Moira Smith and the Christmas Dinner Committee members for organising it; and we thank God for the perfect weather.

On Sunday September 1st, Saltcoats North Parish Church is conducting the service at the Church of Scotland's South Beach Residential Home in Ardrossan at 3 pm. You are welcome to come too.

The Girls' Brigade Enrolment night is on Monday 2nd September at 6.30 pm. In the close-season some of the girls and leaders entertained the residents of Arran View Care Home. It was much appreciated.

The Guild starts again on Wednesday 11th September with a varied programme:

Wed. 11 th Sept. 7.30 pm	Rev Scott Camerson (Minister of the High Kirk in Stevenston)
Wed. 18 th Sept. 7.30 pm	An outing to Dowhill
Wed. 25 th Sept. 7.30 pm	Mr Bill Young (an accordionist)
Wed. 2 nd Oct. 7.30 pm	Favourite Hymns
Wed. 9 th Oct. 7.30 pm	Aileen Smith of the Nazarene Church in Largs

Congratulations to Jack and Grace Rogerson on reaching their 60th Wedding Anniversary on 7th Sept.

Ardrossan Presbytery is holding its meeting in Saltcoats North Parish Church on Tuesday 3rd September at 7.30 pm. Why here? It is because Mr Noble will be installed as the Moderator of Presbytery for the coming year. You are all welcome to come to this, or indeed any Presbytery meeting. They are usually held in New Trinity Parish Church on the first Tuesday of the month. The Presbytery consists of 28 charges ranging from Largs to Kilwinning, Beith to Arran. The installation will only take a few minutes but the business to follow will be longer – but should also be interesting! Please prayerfully support Mr Noble in this new aspect of his ministry.

Special Sundays:

Sun. 1st Sept. 11 am Bible Sunday with special guest: Mr Andrew Gray of Gideons International
Sun. 8th Sept. 11 am Prayer Sunday
Sun. 15th Sept. 11 am Confirmation and Admission of New Member: Mr Gordon Fraser
Sun. 22nd Sept. 11 am Service Sunday
Sun. 29th Sept. 11 am Harvest Thanksgiving Service
Sun. 6th Oct. 11 am Annual Dedication Service
Sun. 13th Oct. 11 am Stewardship Sunday
Sun. 20th Oct. 11 am Mission Sunday
Sun. 27th Oct. 11 am Communion Sunday

PRAYERS FOR SUFFERING PEOPLE

By Rev James Martin

(from his book: "Suffering Man, Loving God")

For someone who suffers constant pain

O God, help me to endure my pain with dignity
And prevent my faith from weakening under it.
I am aware that I am often irritable,
Especially when the pain is very bad.

Please forgive me
And give me grace
To be easier to live with
Despite my pain.

Help those who have to do with me
To be understanding and patient.
I find my pain difficult to bear,
Sometimes very difficult,
Particularly in the lonely reaches of the night.

Keep me mindful of your nearness
And let the thought of that be a help to me.
Keep me mindful of your sympathy
And let that be a help, too.
Keep me mindful of your power
And let me draw on that to see me through.
For Jesus' sake Amen.

St. Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 4 v 8-9,16 - 5 v 1
"We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed;
perplexed but not driven to despair;
persecuted, but not forsaken;
struck down, but not destroyed.....
So we do not lose heart.
Though our outer nature is wasting away,
our inner nature is being renewed every day.
For this slight momentary affliction is preparing for
for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all
comparison, because we look not to the things that
are seen, but to the things that are unseen;
for the things that are seen are transient,
but the things that are unseen are eternal.
For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is
destroyed, we have a building from God,
a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens

Saltcoats North Parish Church Parish Record – October 2013

MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

Some people seem to think that the Church is a home for saints rather than what it is – a hospital for sinners. If you think about it, the Church is really “Sinners Anonymous”. There are very strong similarities between Alcoholics Anonymous and the Church. Consider these things:

- (a) The entrance qualification for both is self-awareness and therefore humility. One begins by saying: “I am an alcoholic”, the other by saying: “I am a sinner”.
- (b) By attending both you are saying in effect: “I need help; I want to change; and I want to be better.”
- (c) By being part of both groups you are saying that you need group help because you cannot help yourself by yourself. We need other people.
- (d) In both you are expected to attend the larger gatherings but also meet up with certain individuals who befriend you, journey with you and help you along the road to recovery.
- (e) In both you never say “I am no longer an alcoholic” or “I am no longer a sinner”. You rather say that you are an alcoholic but that you haven’t had a drink in so many days, months or years. We are sinners, who, when wedded to Christ, exchange our single, maiden surname “sinner” for our new, married name “forgiven-sinner”. We are always capable of sinning, but we are already forgiven, and with Christ’s help are able not to sin. This keeps us both humble and confident.

In another church I once advertised our evening Sunday service in the local newspaper as “Sinners Anonymous”. No one came....not a single person!

To accept the free grace of God is not as simple as it sounds. (1) To accept forgiveness involves accepting the implicit accusation contained within the offer of forgiveness. (To say “I forgive you” hints that you have done something to be forgiven for and folk don’t like that. “You forgive me? What for?) (2) To accept such a gift requires the swallowing of our pride and (3) a curbing of our instinctive independence. We naturally and culturally want to win, buy, achieve or deserve salvation, not just helplessly accept it as a free gift. (4) God’s total commitment and unconditional love towards us expects nothing less from us that total commitment and unconditional love. 100% love demands 100% love in return. Accepting God’s freely offered grace will cost us everything for the rest of our lives. (5) Relationships at the best of times can be frightening but a personal relationship with Almighty, Infinite, Perfect God is understandably intimidating, as well as being a wonderful prospect. (6) Some people find it hard to imagine, or think that it is too good to be true.

However, remember tht alcoholics can get on top of their addiction; and sinners are already “forgiven-sinners”, and we can live much better lives with Jesus’ help. St Paul says that our life can be far more wonderful than all we can ask or think or imagine.

God Bless

Rev Alex B Noble

PARISH REGISTER

FUNERALS: “In the sure and certain hope of Resurrection to eternal life through Jesus”

6. 9. 13 Robert Carey 49 Adams Avenue, Saltcoats
24. 9. 13 Chris Giffney 11 Parkend Terrace, Saltcoats
25. 9. 13 Rachel Brown 10 Lochwood Gardens, Saltcoats

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Lauren Clarkson from Taylor Place to Bridgepark, Ardrossan

THANK YOU

Many thanks for the flowers and the card which I received. - Netta McWhirter

It is with a real sense of thanksgiving that I write to say how much Jacquie and I appreciated the warm welcome and atmosphere at the North Parish church. Thank you for welcoming the Gideons’ and for your support. We have been deeply touched by the loving gift of £219 for the purchase and distribution of the Scriptures in Ayrshire and overseas. Locally it will provide 240 first year pupils this autumn with their own copy of the New Testament. – Andrew Gray (N.Ayrshire Branch of Gideons International)

Jonathan and I would like to thank SNPC for the flowers, your thoughts and prayers when our greyhound Bertie died. He had a huge personality and endeared himself to every one he met. – Cheryl and Jonathan.

NEWS

We are very grateful to the Badminton Group in the congregation for giving £400 for God’s work.

We have just completed a five week Manse Group series on “The Problem of Human Suffering”. The next series of five fireside chats on matters which matter to you starts on Friday 11th October 7-9 at 25 Longfield Avenue. You are all welcome. Christian education is for everyone. Don’t be scared off – we are friendly and it is a good laugh – even the “Suffering” series had us in stitches!

The engine room of Noah’s Ark, the Church, is the Prayer Time together on Thursday morning 11-11.30. Recently we have had dramatic answers to our prayers. It is prayer which keeps our congregation thriving and which pleases God. Your coming along would make His day and ours.

Recent special Sundays have included: Bible Sunday with the Gideons; Prayer Sunday; the Confirmation and Admission of Gordon Fraser as a new member; Christian Service Sunday and our annual Harvest Thanksgiving service. Special Sundays coming up include:

Sunday 6th October 11 am -Annual Dedication Service including the Commissioning of 5 Girls’ Brigade Officers, the Brigaders’ Play and Nicole Fenton’s Queen’s Award.

Sunday 13th October 11 am – Stewardship Sunday (the climax of our Stewardship month)
2 pm – service in Arran View Care Home (Lochranza Bay)

Sunday 20th October 11 am – Mission Sunday

Sunday 27th October 11 am – Communion Sunday

Sunday 3rd November 11 am – Baptismal Service

Sunday 10th November 11 am – Service at the War Memorial (Mr Noble taking part for first time)
11.30 am – Remembrance Service in Church (Note change of time)

The local priest Fr Graeme Bell and the British Legion thought it would be good for a Saltcoats minister as well as a priest to lead the service at the War Memorial. The Kirk Session also supports this idea. Next year, of course, it might be different if St. Cuthbert’s has a new minister.

The Congregational Board meets on Tuesday 29th October at 7 pm.

Mr Noble's recent Holy Half Hour radio programmes on Monday evenings at 9 pm on 3TFM (103fm) have included: "The Gideons"; "Prayer Songs"; "Gordon Fraser – Miracle Man" and "Thankfulness". Coming programmes include: "Lisa McLaren – the Christian WeightWatcher"; "The 200th HHH Programme"; "Grace"; "The Sabbath" and "Let Us Remember".

There will be a special service to unite the congregations of New Trinity Parish Church and Barony St John's Parish Church and also to induct the Rev Dorothy Granger as the minister on Tuesday 19th Nov.

We are putting on another Craft Fair on Saturday 23rd November, starting at 10 am. The first £300 raised goes to our Sunday School who sponsor a child and the rest goes to our Church funds. Thanks in advance to the Sunday School and Youth Leaders for organising it and please support this event in any way you can.

Church of Scotland Crossreach Calendars for 2014 can now be ordered through Rae Reid our Crossreach Link Person.

PRAYER PAGE

PRAYERS FOR SUFFERING PEOPLE

By Rev James Martin (from his book: "Suffering Man, Loving God")

For someone who is no longer able to work

O God, I feel so useless

And such a nuisance

And a drag on other people

I used to be so strong and so able.

I used to find my work no trouble.

But now it is beyond me.

I dislike being idle.

I dislike being so dependent on others.

It irks me sorely that I cannot work

And is discolouring my whole outlook.

Show me the wisdom of accepting what cannot be changed

With as good grace as possible

And of making the best of it.

Help me to make the best of my inability to work.

Help me to make full use of my increased opportunities to do other things,

To talk and to listen, to read and to observe.

Help me to find unspoiled delight in the companionship of those who love me

And who work for me as once I worked for others.

Help me to grip the strong hand of the Carpenter of Nazareth

And from it to draw courage and comfort and peace.

"I lift up my eyes to the hills. Where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, who made Heaven and Earth. He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade. The sun shall not hurt you by day nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all evil; He will preserve your life. The Lord will protect your going out and coming in from this time forth and for evermore." - Psalm 121.

Saltcoats North Parish Church: November 2013 Magazine
MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

November is a month for remembering. It begins with All Saints Day (November 1st) and All Saints Sunday (3rd) when we remember all the Christians who have gone before us, who have, as Saint Paul said: “run the race, fought the good fight and kept the faith”. We have a rich Christian heritage which has come at the price of many dedicated lifetimes of service and lives martyred in serving God and others. It is a shame that both society and the Church puts more emphasis on halloween (literally “the evening before the holy ones’ day”). We have a great knack of focussing on bad news rather than on good news, on bad things rather than good things.

The other classic example of that follows on (November 5th) when we “celebrate” Guy Fawkes the terrorist who tried, and failed, to blow up the seat of our democracy, Parliament. Why do we focus on that? Why do we celebrate the attempt rather than its failure? Why do we use fireworks which are dangerous to all and frighten animals? Call me a party-pooper, but can anyone find a good angle on this to justify the cost (in every sense) of this event?

Above all we remember on Remembrance Sunday (November 10th) and Remembrance Day (Nov. 11th). This year, in a change to normal practice, all the ministers in Saltcoats Fraternal have been invited to take part at the War Memorial Service at 11 am. The Kirk Session has therefore decided to change the time of our own service to 11.30 am or as near as I can rush back to start the service. I will do my best but please understand if I am a couple of minutes late. It is in a good cause.

So whether we are standing at the Memorial or sitting in Church, what are we remembering? We are remembering (1) the tragedy and cost of war, (2) the loss of loved ones (our own and other people’s loved ones), (3) the sacrifices which others have made for us, (4) the peace and freedom which we enjoy today because of those sacrifices and (5) the fact that God has brought us through tough times. Some came through safely and alive, others were brought home to Heaven. We remember past conflicts, especially the two world wars, but we are also mindful of current conflicts all round the world.

The New Testament was written in Greek and then translated into English. The original Greek word which we translate as “remembrance” (as in “Do this in remembrance of Me” at communion) is ANAMNESIS. It is the deepest kind of remembering. It is not merely giving a passing, superficial, backward glance...thinking about something then forgetting about it till the next time. It is more a case of re-presenting the past or making the past present again. It is getting right back into it imaginatively and making what happened long ago very real in the present moment. It is tapping into “an eternal or timeless moment”. For example we can remember our wedding vows as if we are right back there and then or as if they were happening right now! At Communion it is as if we ourselves are sitting with Jesus and the disciples at the Last Supper 2,000 years ago or that the Last Supper is so real that it is still continuing with the Risen Jesus still with us celebrating it. And real remembrance not only makes the past present, it also has an eye to the future. We never intend to stop remembering. We will always remember, forever. And as we are remembering we are also looking forward to meeting up with the loved ones which we have lost, never again to be separated.

So, even as we watch the autumn leaves falling from their perch to their last resting place, like our loved ones at the twilight of their lives, or even in their prime, we remember that God is “the Resurrection and the Life” who can raise the sun after the darkest night, re-clothe the winter trees with fresh leaves, and give us victory over life’s battles and over the last enemy death. Remember well and rejoice in His irrepressible, victorious life!

Rev Alex B Noble

PARISH REGISTER

Funerals: "In sure and certain hope of Resurrection"

17. 10. 13 Mary Noble Caledonia Care Home, formerly Ivanhoe Drive

New Member by Profession of Faith:

15. 9. 13 Gordon Fraser 69 Hawkhill Drive, Stevenston

PRAYER SECTION

Prayers for "Suffering People" by Rev James Martin
From his book "Suffering Man, Loving God"

FOR SOMEONE LOSING THEIR SIGHT

O God, I can no longer see very well,
Soon I shall be completely blind.
I cannot deny that I dread the thought of it.
To have to move around by touch instead of sight,
To be dependent on others for so many things,
To be deprived of the beauty of colour,
To be denied the joy of seeing my loved ones' faces –

The prospect fills me with dismay and with fear.
I could not stand it at all if it were not for you.
But I know that you love me
And that you will never leave me.
I know, too, that I have a lot to be thankful for.
I have seen many lovely sights and they are stored in my memory.
I have good friends who will be of great assistance to me.
I have the example of others who have learned to adjust to blindness.
I have the light of the Gospel which no sightlessness can hide.

Help me to face the future bravely
And to avoid the temptation of too much self-pity.
Help me to overcome discouragement and disappointment
And to adapt successfully to my new situation.

I know, Lord, that faith can give me the victory even here.
Please let me find it.

FOR JESUS' SAKE *Amen*

The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want; He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters; He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of my enemies; thou anointest my head with oil, my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever. – **Psalm 23**

NEWS

Recent special Sundays:

Sunday 6th October – The Annual Dedication Service including the Commissioning of five new Girls' Brigade Officers: Jean MacDonald, Roseann McLean, Amanda Muir, Catherine Woodcock, and Nicole Fenton who are all now Lieutenants. Congratulations to them all.

Sunday 13th October – Stewardship Sunday climaxing our Stewardship month during which the elders visited our members asking them to think about their contributions of time, talents and money.

Sunday 20th October – Mission Sunday

Sunday 27th October – Communion Sunday followed by home communions all week.

Coming special Sundays:

Sunday 3rd November 11am – All Saints Sunday and a Baptismal Service

Sunday 10th November **11.30am** following the Remembrance service at the War Memorial.

Sunday 17th November 11am – Rev Andrew Taylor (Retired minister)

Sunday 24th November 11am – Rev Andrew Taylor

Sunday 1st December 11am – Advent Sunday

Sunday 8th December 11am – Joint Service of Lessons and Carols with the Salvation Army

Sunday 15th December 11am – 3rd Sunday of Advent

Sunday 22nd December 11am – All-age Worship on Christmas Sunday

Sunday 29th December 11am – Last Sunday of the Year including a review of the year.

There will also be two Christmas Eve services: All-age worship at 7pm and the late service at 11.30pm (with tea in the hall after 10.30pm and carol singing from 11.15pm)

Recent Holy Half Hour radio programmes have included: "Thankfulness", "Lisa McLaren – the Christian WeightWatcher", "Stewardship", Mr Noble's "200th Programme" and "Grace".

Coming programmes include: "Tales of a Retired Minister: Ross Mitchell", "Let Us Remember", "Putting The World Right", Alex and Patricia performing their 6th programme of "Worship Sketches" and four Christmas programmes throughout the Advent season.

Adult Christian Education has taken the form of a series of discussions on "The Problem of Human Suffering", a Bereavement Group night and two nights to discuss "Family Worship". In Advent we hope to have discussions about Advent and Christmas. You are all welcome to these at the Manse, 25 Longfield Avenue, 7-9 pm on Fridays 6th, 13th and 20th December.

On Tuesday November 19th at 7.30pm there will be a special service to unite the congregations of Barony St John's Parish Church with New Trinity Parish Church. The Moderator of Presbytery officiating at it is Rev Alex Noble. It will also include the Induction of Rev Dorothy Granger as the new minister of the united charge. The new name is Ardrossan and Saltcoats Kirkgate Parish Church. We wish them well in this new chapter in their joint lifestories. We might also soon have the Induction of a new minister at St Cuthbert's Parish Church. It will be good for Saltcoats to get back to having 3 Parish Ministers in town.

The Presbytery of Ardrossan is organising a conference for anyone interested in serving in the Church as a minister, reader, deacon, ordained lay minister etc. It is in New Trinity Parish Church on Saturday 9th November 10-12 noon. All are welcome.

Church of Scotland Crossreach Calendars for 2014 can be ordered through Rae Reid our link person.

Our Sunday School and Youth Group Leaders have organised a Craft Fair for Saturday 23rd November starting at 10am. Please support this fundraiser because the first £300 will go to the child whom the Sunday School sponsors and the rest will go to Church funds. Thanks to all of you who are organising it

A Christmas Letter to all Congregations from the Moderator of Ardrossan Presbytery

Rev Alex B Noble

Dear Friends,

I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas time and all God's fullest blessings in the New Year, 2014. This four week period of Advent leading up to Christmas is a time to prepare our hearts and minds as well as our decorations and shopping. So here, in print, is a prayer which is full of things to chew over and reasons for us to rejoice.

Lord Jesus, when you looked up from your manger bed, you saw....

- an exhausted mother struggling to cope
- a worried father bewildered and buffeted by recent events and anxious about what was going to happen next
- a young couple far from home, homeless and helpless
- a harassed innkeeper rushed off his feet
- humble shepherds worshipping you and thinking they were the luckiest people in the world
- wise men acting foolishly and bowing down to worship you a poor baby
- a tired donkey licking his sore feet
- local people scurrying by, preoccupied with their own business
- a star shining as if it was shining just for you.

Lord Jesus, when you look down today from Heaven.....

- you still see mothers struggling to cope
- fathers worried about the future of their children
- young couples homeless and helpless
- harassed business people dying in the attempt to make a living
- ordinary people who feel privileged beyond their wildest expectations
- wise people bowing down and worshipping you
- tired and weary travellers on the journey of life licking their wounds
- people passing you by preoccupied with their own trivial pursuits
- stars shining for you who flung them into space calling them all by their names.

Lord Jesus, help us to understand more the great mystery of Christmas...the Incarnation...and help us to understand the wonderful exchange at the heart of it:

- You came down to Earth in order to raise us up to Heaven.
- You who were rich became poor so that through your poverty you might make us rich.
- You who were powerful became weak so that through your weakness we might become strong.
- You who were divine became human so that through your humanity you might unite us to yourself.
- You the all-powerful God were a tiny baby.
- You the infinitely wise God were gurgling in a manger.
- You the holy, perfect God were helpless and dependent.
- You the Judge of all the Earth God were chased by Herod.
- You the Great Creator God were a little, new born creature, a human baby.
- You the Giver of Life God were breathing your first breaths.
- You the Truth were unable to say a single word.
- You the Supreme God were wetting your nappies.
- You the Saviour of the World were helpless in the hands of a mixed bunch of people.

Lord Jesus, you left the glory of Heaven, came down to Earth, were born of Mary; you emptied and humbled yourself; you stood in our shoes till your feet hurt; you stood shoulder to shoulder with us. You took our sinful humanity and all our sin and became sin personified. You took our punishment and

died our death, wiping the slate clean and giving us a fresh start, reconciling us to yourself. You opened up Heaven for us and gave us new birth right now on Earth. You give us new life, fullest life, eternal life. No wonder, like humble shepherds and wise men, we fall at your feet and worship you – Baby of Bethlehem, Carpenter of Nazareth, Crucified of Calvary, Resurrected Redeemer, King of Kings! Amen!

PARISH REGISTER

Baptism: “In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit”

3. 11. 13 Lee Ryan Gavin Gordon Barclay 17 Primrose Place, Saltcoats

NEWS

The Presbytery held a special conference for anyone interested in pursuing any kind of call to ministry – parish ministry, readers, deaconesses etc. It was well attended and encouraging to see such interest.

Recently we put on two evenings at the manse for anyone interested in family worship in their own homes. If anyone missed it but would like to know more, please speak to Mr Noble.

Recently we held one of our occasional bereavement groups for people recently bereaved. Some people find this helpful, so if you fancy it anytime, please let Mr Noble know.

Remembrance Sunday was a beautiful weather day this year with a good crowd at the war memorial. For the first time a selection of ministers from the fraternal shared the service together which seemed to be a good idea. Thanks to everyone in the Church for agreeing to change the time of the service to 11.30 am. Next year it may or may not be the same arrangements because by then there will be new ministers in town. Thanks to Evelyn Porter and the Girls’ Brigade for laying two wreaths – one for the Girls’ Brigade and one for the North Parish Church.

Thanks also to all of you who contributed to the Poppy Appeal

We are grateful to Rev Andrew Taylor yet again for doing pulpit supply for us on Sundays 17th and 24th November and we congratulate him and Mrs Taylor on their 60th Wedding Anniversary a few days ago.

On Tuesday 19th November Ardrossan Presbytery united the former congregations of Barony St. John’s in Ardrossan and New Trinity Parish Church in Saltcoats into one united congregation now called “Ardrossan and Saltcoats: Kirkgate Parish Church”. The Rev Dorothy Granger was at the same service inducted as the new minister of the charge. This was Mr Noble’s first union and induction as Moderator of Presbytery.

Our other neighbour, St.Cuthbert’s Parish Church, has had a nominee preaching and he was voted for unanimously, so at the next Presbytery arrangements will be made for his induction in January. More details to follow once things are official.

We had a very good Craft Fair on Saturday 23rd November – beautiful weather, well organised, tremendously skilled crafts, home baking, etc. Thanks to the Sunday School Teachers and Youth Leaders and all who helped them to make it run so smoothly. At the point of writing this we do not

know the total sum raised but we can say that £300 will go to the Sunday School's sponsored child in Haiti and the rest to God's work here in SNPC.

Congratulations to our Girls' Brigade on winning the North Ayrshire Division of the Girls' Brigade Swimming Gala recently in Troon. This is the fourth year in a row! Well done girls and well done their coaches we are very proud of you!

In the past few months we have been involved in the local Food Bank which is based in the Nazarene Church in Ardrossan. So far, the Food Bank has received donations of over 14 tons of food and it has helped 1700 people including 1200 adults and 500 children. 36 different agencies issue food vouchers to people in need. So, thank you all very much for your generosity.

The Guild recently enjoyed the Rev Tanya Webster sharing her interesting life story; May Wylie spoke about Wester Highgate Ices; Helen Wilson talked about "Homecoming" and there was beautiful singing from the Von Crapp Singers. Everyone is welcome to join them for the December highlights of – Ian Henderson and Street Pastors (Wed 4th Dec 7.30pm); Carols and Mince Pies (11th); and the Pantomime: Aladdin (18th). January's programme is also varied: 15th Rev Alex Noble; 22nd The Salvation Army; 29th A Burns Night with Jessie and Evelyn. So don't vegetate like a couch potato watching tv, come and get a life!

Recent minister's radio programmes on the Holy Half Hour (103fm on 3TFM radio Mon 9pm) have included: "The 200th Programme", "Grace", "Tales of a Retired Minister: Ross Mitchell"; "Let Us Remember"; and "Putting the World Right". Coming programmes include "Worship Sketches by Alex and Patricia" (Nov 25); "The Incarnation" (Dec 2); "Christmas Worship Sketches" (Dec 9); "A Musical Christmas" (Dec 16); "Christmas Background" (Dec 23). Copies of programmes are available at the front door of the church and on Mr Noble's website: revalexnboble.com

SNPC Christmas Programme

Sunday 1st December 11 am – Advent Sunday

Sunday 8th December 11 am – Annual Joint Service of Lessons and Carols with the Kilbirnie Salvation Army

Band and Songsters plus Saltcoats Salvation Army Corps.
2 pm – Arran View Care Home Christmas Service (in Whiting Bay)

Sunday 15th December 11 am – Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday 22nd December 11 am – Christmas Sunday: All-Age Worship with Sunday School Play, Youth, etc.

Thursday 19th December 9.45 am – James Reid School Christmas Service (open to all – always very special)

Tuesday 24th December 7 pm – Early Christmas Eve Service: All-Age, Participatory Worship

10.30 pm – Tea/Mince Pies in Hall
11.15 pm – Carol Singing
11.30 pm – Late Christmas Eve Service

Sunday 29th December 11 am – Last Sunday of the Year with a review of the year + remembrance of loved ones

PRAYER PAGE

Prayers for Suffering People from the book:
James Martin: “Suffering Man, Loving God”

O God, I lead a very lonely life
And sometimes I am sick with misery because of it.
Few people call on me
And I can go for days without a conversation.
I have no real friends
And no one I can turn to with my troubles.
Perhaps the fault is mine,
Perhaps I do not invite friendship,
But I would like to have some in my life.

Help me to find it.
Help me, too, to remember that you Lord Jesus are my Friend
And that you are with me always
And that you care for me
And that you understand me.

Keep me mindful, that no matter how lonely I may otherwise be,
I can never be completely alone if I am yours. Amen.