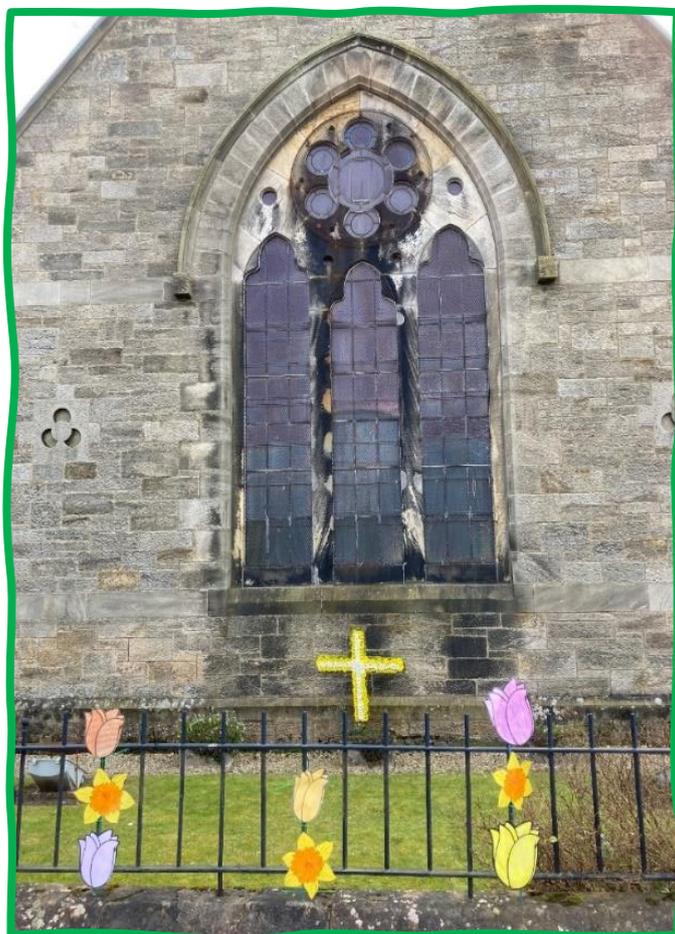


Forth St Paul's Parish Church newsletter

Issue No. 02
April - June 2023



He is
Risen

Matthew 28:6



EASTER

at Forth St Paul's

Guild Easter Fayre – 1st April

The Guild Easter fayre was held on 1st April, traditionally April Fools day, but there was no fooling around by the Guild folk, Jigsaw leaders and church helpers. All set about working hard, baking for the teas, making jams and cakes to sell, making crafts, setting up for the tombola and raffle stalls. Everyone had a most enjoyable time, and an amazing amount of £1305 was raised. Quite often, during the morning, the coffee pot would disappear, only to be discovered sitting at a table beside a helper. Aileen would be the first to tell you, that the fayre is not just about making money, but also about friendship, fellowship, making people feel welcome while chatting with them (*at least that is her excuse*). We hope everyone enjoyed, not only the tea, coffee and cakes, but the friendship, fellowship and chatting.



After the fayre the Guild was able to give £1500 to church funds.



Palm Sunday – 2nd April

The Jigsaw children had a great time marching into church waving palm branches. The children then gave all members of the congregation a palm cross. The idea had been that Jigsaw children would make palm crosses for everyone, unfortunately the leaders could not work out how to make them! Luckily, Jigsaw leaders are very good at ordering from Amazon.

Maundy Thursday service with Communion - 6th April

Good Friday service – 7th April



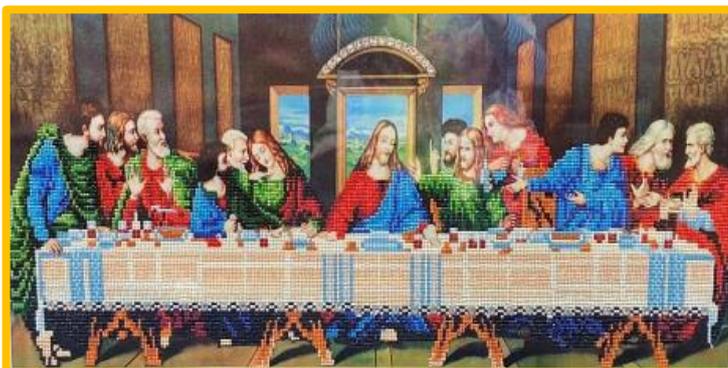
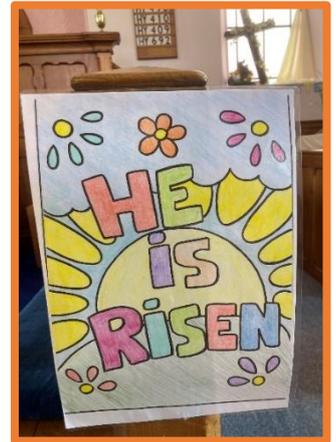
Easter Sunday service – 9th April

The church looked wonderful, bright and joyful on Easter Sunday. Thanks to Anne and Jim for their wonderful decoration of the church. A thank you also goes to Rena for organising the flowered cross in the garden.

At the Easter service the Jigsaw children performed an Easter drama bringing back those pesky health and safety officers. They discovered that Easter eggs were shaped like the stone that rolled away from Jesus' tomb on that first Easter Day. Eckhardt, reminded everyone that to eat an Easter egg, we first have to break it. Just as Jesus body was broken so that we could have the hope of everlasting life.

The children then had a great time finding the eggs Anne had hidden around the church. The children invited the congregation to join them in an Easter celebration dance and it was great to see so many of congregation joining in, especially Eckhardt and baby Lorelei.

Jigsaw children then enjoyed rolling their hard boiled eggs down the ramp at front of church and this time all children ate their eggs.



Thank you to Miriam, Jim, Laura and Allie for gifting us this beautiful diamond art of The Last Supper.

The Easter Code

Karen ran another very successful Easter Code for the Children of Forth Primary School and Nursery. We asked Karen a few questions about the Easter Code:

How long have you been doing Easter code? We started the Easter Code in 2016.

How many children were involved this year? We had every class at Forth Primary and also the nursery which was about 170 children.

What kind of activities do you provide for the children? The Easter Code is a fun way to teach the children about Jesus, the last week of Jesus' life, his death and resurrection. We create 4 different areas:-

- A night garden which is to tell the story of Jesus praying in the Garden of Gethsemane.
- A courtyard with a fire which they all sit around while learning about Peter denying Jesus. We give them marshmallows with melted chocolate as a little treat.
- An art space where each of the children make an Easter card to take home.
- We also have a treasure hunt in the church where we hide the 12 disciples' names and 30 silver coins. The pews are a great place for hiding them.

At snack time we make fresh pancakes which they all enjoy.

We have questionnaires for every child and we always finish with a song and actions.

What do you hope children will gain from Easter code? We hope the children will learn more about Jesus while having fun.

Which activity do you like best? I like the treasure hunt best; I love seeing the children get excited to find everything in the time they are allowed.



Some pictures from
The Easter Code



What has been happening in our Church....

Church shop

Our Church shop was open from 11th to 18th April. A huge thank you to all who made it such a success – all the workers, all the people who donated items and of course the customers. Thank you also to the café volunteers and everyone who visited the café.

£1,775.69 was raised for church funds.

Clyde Valley Praise band

We thoroughly enjoyed a musical evening with Elizabeth Clelland and friends in church on 23rd April. £130 was raised for work of the parish co-ordinator.



Coronation screening and café

We had an enjoyable day celebrating King Charles' Coronation on Saturday 6th May. We enjoyed a delicious lunch and treats while watching the magnificent Coronation on our large screen.

The highlights from the Coronation were shown in the café on Sunday 7th May and the screening of the Coronation concert at night.



Thank you to all who volunteered to make this such a success!

Musical evening with a chippy

We were delighted to welcome back
Same Difference on 21st May.
We also enjoyed a chippy tea.
The evening was a great success!
Thank to the organisers and everyone
who supported this event. £132 was raised.



Christian Aid week 14th – 21st May

This year's appeal supported farmers in Malawi to plant better seeds, secure a fairer price for the crops and build happier futures for their children. Fundraising raised the grand sum of £962.28. Many thanks so all.

General Assembly 2023

Iain Conn and Eckhardt attended the General Assembly in May. Thank you to Iain for providing us with feedback from this.

. Beating Retreat and Reception

Eckhardt accepted an invitation to the Beating Retreat and Reception at the Palace of Holyroodhouse on 24th May with The Rt Hon Lord Hodge, Lord High Commissioner. Eckhardt was honoured to be asked and had a lovely evening.

Baptisms

We were delighted to welcome the families and friends of Callan Savage who was baptised on 7th May and JJ Ferguson who was baptised on 28th May.

First Aid

All 12 of our participants passed the Emergency First Aid at Work course. Congratulations and well done to everyone who took part.

Jigsaw Appreciation Day



Jigsaw held their Appreciation day in Church on 11th June. This was when the Church and Jigsaw leaders showed their appreciation for the time the children share with them. The children are always cheerful, enthusiastic, friendly and caring and this is appreciated by the whole church. The children re-told the story of the Prodigal son using music and puppets. Also, after 9 years, it was the last day at Jigsaw for Lewis and Jack. They were presented with a bible. We will miss them but hope they will continue to meet with us in some way.

Thank you to all our Children. Jigsaw meet every Sunday (apart from School holidays) and everyone aged between 3 and 11 will be made most welcome.

Jigsaw will start back on 20th August.

Forth Gala Day



Forth Gala Day was held on 20th June. Our Church won a cup for the best decorated shop. It was so very well deserved and looked beautiful. A huge thank you to Christine and helpers for all the work they put in to make the decorations every year. Eckhardt was delighted to show off the Cup at the Church service the day after the Gala Day.



Mission Planning Process Update

Future of Forth St Paul's: As you know we are going through a process of review in cluster groups and our current proposal going forward to presbytery for our cluster area of Carnwath, Carstairs, Forth and Lanark St Nicholas parishes is for a rural parish (Carnwath, Carstairs and Forth) and a town parish (Lanark St Nicholas). This has to be agreed by presbytery in September before going forward for full agreement by Church of Scotland by the end of the year. We will begin to work more collaboratively with our neighbouring churches.

Ruby Fowler



The church and indeed the whole community was saddened to hear of the death of Ruby Fowler on 24th March. So many people have wonderful, happy, and joyful memories of Ruby. She was always cheerful with everyone she met, treating everyone with kindness and respect. She was a great member of our church, an elder, member of the Guild, church reader, hospital visitor, always helping where she could and showing her faith in a practical but inspiring way.

Everyone will always remember her singing, her sheer joy of entertaining, being it performing her peanut song, Guild dramas or dancing down the Main Street on gala day.

Eckhardt and Ruby's daughter-in-law Margaret gave a very fitting and moving service which like Ruby's life was full of hope, joy and laughter. And how wonderful it was to finish with Ruby singing a blessing to us all and her final singing of

"The Isle of Tiree." A truly wonderful, gracious and inspiring woman who was well loved and who lived a life well lived.

In February 2022 Ruby entertained us at our social night with "I swallowed a peanut".



Remembering Ruby...

What is a life well lived?

It's a precious gift to celebrate,

A collection of memories and moments that shine on forever.

Its relationships nurtured, kind deeds done and hearts touched which leave behind a wonderful legacy of love.....

Because love lives on forever.



Our thoughts and prayers are with all those who have recently lost a loved one.

Catching up with Isa...



Lewis and Jack enjoyed catching up with Isa Gardiner for a blether in the café and this is what they found out.....

Where were you born?

In Main Street, Braehead on 20th November 1930.

Please tell us a bit about yourself and your family.

I had two older brothers called Alex and John. I met my husband at the chip shop in Forth. We continued to meet there on a Saturday night for chips. We got engaged at the picture house in Lanark and we got married on 1st February 1958 in Wilsontown Church. We had two sons Sandy and Tommy. I have 3 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren who give me a lot of pleasure. My great granddaughter Georgia was Queen in Forth Gala Day this year.

Which school did you go to?

I went to Braehead Primary School till I was ten years old. We then moved to Forth in 1940 during the war and I went to Forth School till I was 14.

My gran (Jack) says you used to play when you were a wee girl in her garden. Can you tell us a bit about this?

My Gran and Grandpa stayed in the house where your Gran and Grandpa live now in Braehead. We had a lot of happy times playing in their back garden. Our treat was eating gooseberries at the bottom of the garden. I remember fondly when Grandpa lifted me onto this chair and said “come on my wee topsy” which was his pet name for me.

Did you go to Sunday School?

Yes, I went to Sunday School at Braehead. We all went as a family to church every Sunday and my brother and I would fight to see who sat with Grandpa Young (who was church officer for years), as he always had pan drops, but Grandpa always made sure we all got one. I enjoyed it when Band of Hope came to the Session House – they encouraged us to sing or say a poem. When we moved to Forth, we went to Wilsontown Church where I joined the church, joined in the choir and became a Sunday School teacher. When Wilsontown church closed, we went to Forth church. I became an elder on 4th April 1999.

What do you enjoy most about Church?

I love to sing and listen to the singing. My favourite time in Church is Christmas.

What job did you have?

I worked in the Tinto picture house in Forth as an usherette and in the projector room which showed the film. It was straight across from where the Co-op is now.

What were your hobbies?

I loved my bike and dancing. My friend Helen Lauder and I cycled to Dumfries for a weeks holiday where we worked on a farm. Another time, we cycled to Helen's Aunt and Uncles in Fife for a weeks holiday. I love the dancing and still went to Ravenstruther hall on a Thursday night at 92. I had to give it up a couple of weeks ago. My favourite dance is the silver wedding waltz.



What is your favourite hymn?

If I come to Jesus.

What is your favourite bible story?

John Chapter 9 – Jesus heals a man born blind.

If you had to give us one piece of advice, what would it be?

Be kind and always have a smile.



Rainforest Café – Sunday & Wednesday

The Church café is open every Sunday from 12 noon. Come along and enjoy a tasty lunch of homemade soup, filled rolls, toasties and other goodies. Why not try a special coffee with our Rainforest blend coffee beans. Other hot or cold drinks available. You don't need to have been at church to come in so if you're passing by why not join us? A huge thank you to our dedicated volunteers who work so hard in making this possible every week.

The cafe is also open every Wednesday from 10am till 3pm (last orders will be taken at 2.15pm). **All are welcome.**

Upcoming events

Kids Summer Holiday Club - A Summer Holiday Club will run over 4 days on Monday 10th and Tuesday 11th, then Thursday 13th and Friday 14th July for primary aged children from 11am-1pm in large church hall.

Watch out for details of our:

Dandelion Festival in September

Church Shop in October

Christmas Lights and Santa's Grotto in November

Summer time.....

We hope everyone has a wonderful summer. Please bring us in a postcard of your travels (near or far) and we will display them in Church.

Planet Earth, Rainforest Youth Cafe, Jigsaw, KNACC and Mainly Music have now all stopped for the summer.

Kids Summer Holiday Club

A Summer Holiday Club will run over 4 days on Monday 10th and Tuesday 11th, then Thursday 13th and Friday 14th July for primary aged children.

From 11am-1pm in large church hall.

A Summer Prayer

Pray, not because you need something, but because you have a lot to thank God for.

Dear God,

Creator of all, thank You for summer!

Thank you for the warmth of the sun and the increased daylight.

Thank You for the beauty I see all around me and for the opportunity to be outside and enjoy Your creation.

Thank You for the increased time I have to be with my friends and family, and for the more casual pace of the summer season.

Draw me closer to You this summer.

Teach me how I can pray no matter where I am or what I am doing.

Warm my soul with the awareness of Your presence and light my path with Your Word.

As I enjoy Your creation, create in me a pure heart and a hunger and a thirst for You.

Amen



Carlukel Listeners

Anne Walker from Carlukel Listeners came to talk to us on 30th April. Carlukel Listeners offer one to one confidential listening sessions with fully trained supervised listeners.

Listening is available on a drop-in basis each Thursday between 10.00am and 11.30am at St John's Church, Hamilton Street, Carlukel, ML8 4HA.

Listening is also available at other times. There is no cost.

To find out more or make an appointment call or text:

Tel: 07434 843 518

Email: carlukelisteners@outlook.com

This excellent service is open to everyone

Church services

We would love you to join us in person on a Sunday morning at 11am but if this isn't possible our services are streamed live via our website www.forthstpauls.com or via YouTube (a link for this can be found on the website)

Used Stamps: Please keep all your used stamps and leave them at the back of the Church. This year, the Church of Scotland appeal will support the CCAP project, Firmly planted. More information on the poster at the back of the church.

**We hope you have enjoyed reading the newsletter.
Thank you to everyone who has contributed to it.**

*Forth St Paul's Parish Church (Church of Scotland)
Charity No. SCO03080 Congregation No. 130713*