

Ferintosh

Parish Church



Ferintosh Focus

Church Newsletter

March 2015

Serving the communities of Canon Bridge & Maryburgh
www.ferintoshparishchurch.org.uk



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As always, we welcome any comments, questions or suggestions about the newsletter. Submissions are now invited for the next edition of the Focus - these can be made to members of the editorial team, or sent by email to strathdrynie@gmail.com

"For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ" Titus 2:11-13



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Have you ever described yourself, or someone else, as **blessed**? It's a word that is often distinctly "Christian" and we may use it with friends in the Church and avoid using it with others. But have you ever thought about what it actually means? And what the Bible says it means?

In the beatitudes (Matthew 5) *blessed* is used to describe those who are entirely happy as a result of finding their purpose and fulfilment in God. They are fully satisfied by God's love and grace lavished upon them. They are weak, persecuted and they mourn but they are called blessed. They are pure, merciful and righteous but they are called blessed.

Would you call yourself blessed even in times of despair? Or is it something you reserve for those happy days with family, beautiful views and a sense of God's presence. Look at how God uses blessed in His Word and see if you can gather for yourself the amazing and huge implications of referring to yourself as blessed.

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Minister's Message

I wonder if you can recall, when did you see your first Easter Egg this year? Well for me it was the 2nd week in January, around the 9th or 10th! The Christmas sweets were still in their wrappers - well some of them were anyway - and lo and behold the eggs had arrived! Of course we point to commercialism and the way the world is today. However, I wonder if you've ever considered this - should we congratulate the shops for their enthusiasm in keeping the Christian message alive for so long in the year. After all, Christmas starts in September for them! So that means there are reminders in the shops for some eight months of the year that tell the population that Christianity is still alive. So are the shops actually doing more than we give them credit for in spreading the Good News in their own way!



When Jesus rose from the tomb on that first Easter morning He said to His disciples, **'Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.'** (Mark 16:15) Today that task falls to us. However, the world around us is changing so fast that we as a church perhaps have to think of new ways of reaching out to non-Christians. Of course, the Gospel message itself will never change but perhaps the way we tell it has to, especially so in respect of our younger generations. That's why I am so glad that we are able to give our young people the chance to learn more about the Christian faith through multimedia available from different web resources. In an age where these kinds of resources form an integral part of our young people's education, to be able to 'open up' the Gospel to them in this way can only enhance their learning of Jesus Christ. However, that's not to say that these resources are restricted to our young people. I fervently hope that, shall we say, the older members of our other congregational groups take up this opportunity too. Maybe our young people can teach us what to do.

But whatever way in which we choose to do so, let's make sure that we do proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ this Easter, of the forgiveness, love and hope that He offers, that through our witness others may come to know the Risen Christ for themselves and so come to share in His eternal glory.

With every blessing,
Andy

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Easter Services @ Ferintosh Parish Church

Thursday 2nd April @ 7.00pm Communion Service in the Church

Friday 3rd April @ 7.00pm Good Friday Service in the Church

**Sunday 5th April @ 8.30am Early Morning Easter Service
Followed by breakfast in the Church hall**

**Sunday 5th April @ 11.00am Family Easter Service
No evening service**

Any Spares?

Does anyone have unwanted wool? I am part of a group who knit and crochet for charities, e.g. gloves, hats and scarves to add to Shoe Boxes, hats for Seamen's Missions, blankets for Malawi etc.

I would be pleased to receive "donations" which we could share. A box is available in the annex of the Church if you can get there.

Although it will be November until we meet again to check and make up Shoe Boxes, which Blythswood distribute, can I also appeal for any unwanted gifts, "spur of the moment bargains" etc. which we could add to a box e.g. gloves, scarves, toilet things (excluding talc). We handle boxes for males and females of all ages.

Thank you

Liz Glashan (01349 861532)



“Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.”

(John 3:17)

The **Guild** members enjoyed a lovely afternoon at the Priory Hotel in Beaulieu early in December of last year. It was great to have Roddy and Margaret MacKinnon with us along with Mary and Keith Pickering as our guests.

The discussion Topic always generates a good afternoon with thoughtful comments. The time spent with “Prospects” was a great time of fellowship with those with and without learning difficulties participating fully in worship together.

The speakers for The Leprosy Mission and for the “Out of Africa into Malta” project were very well received. Doug, a former minister in Malta, spoke at the invitation of the Guild at the Soup Lunch.

It was so interesting to find out the developments in treating and caring for those with leprosy and also the misconceptions some people have of this disease.

The people of Malta have seen the dramatic increase in migrants and asylum seekers coming from Africa and now the Middle East. It was amazing to hear of the work of the Church and the Guild Project in helping in their settlement and development.

There is to be a Highland Guild Rally at Crown Church in Inverness on Saturday 18th April. All will be made very welcome at that meeting.

Joining with Prospects members



Enjoying lunch at the Priory



As always the **Pastoral Care Team** thanks everyone for their support in this dedicated work. We appreciate the kind words expressed by those who need help from us, and we also appreciate the prayers of all who support us that way.

While Janette has been incapacitated recently, the task of coordinator has fallen to Liz Glashan. Thanks go to her especially this time around for her dedication and willingness to go the extra mile. Thanks to all other members of the team too.

Remember, don't be stuck. The Team will try its best to be of assistance.

Contact can be made via the number on the Order of Service each week.



Anyone who is collecting for the **Fellowship of the Least Coin** charity, please note that Janette will be sending off all monies at the end of the month. So please get the money to her as soon as you can but keep collecting too for next year.

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"It is more blessed to give than to receive"

(Acts 20:35)

CHRISTIAN AID 2015 - 10 - 16 MAY

This year's Christian Aid Week confronts discrimination against women, highlighting the plight of Loko from Ethiopia, her husband has left her with three children to maintain. Loko has no livestock but dreams of owning a cow, at present she takes an 8 hour walk four times a week to collect firewood, which she sells to enable her to feed her family.

Can you help people like her? Christian Aid could help by providing her with the means to become financially independent.

Last year door to door collections in the UK raised 8 million pounds, 75% of the total raised through fund raising for Christian Aid (of that sum Scotland raised £1m from house to house calls).

Could you spare an hour or two during this special week in May to help raise funds, by helping with a collection in your area (we now have many more new houses in our community). We are helped in our work for Christian Aid by the Free Church in Maryburgh, and members of churches outwith this area of Maryburgh and Conon Bridge, so I am appealing to you to contact me if you would like to be part of this worthwhile campaign.

Sunday 3 May

Provisional date for a meeting of existing collectors plus anyone interested in helping with the week's fund raising. Please meet for a chat with tea & coffee in the church hall following the Sunday morning service.

Contact details shown below:-

Joan Mackenzie - 07733196633/01997433291



This year Christian Aid are marking 70 years of fund raising by challenging people to climb one or more Munros, why not don your climbing boots and get sponsorship for this worthy cause. This energetic fund raising idea will reach its 'peak' or peaks by climbers reaching the summits of the three Ben More Munros & Ben Hope during Christian Aid Week.

Joan Mackenzie

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“Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it.”

(Luke 11:28)

Bible Study – The Pharisees

Who were the Pharisees?

At the time of Jesus, The Pharisees were the most powerful religious group among the Jews, more powerful even than the Temple Priests and Sadducees, although in terms of hierarchy, these groups were more elite. They were essentially the successors of 'The Holy Ones', a religious group who had fought for religious freedom during the Greek occupation of Palestine, around 330 BC. These 'Holy Ones' had in many ways become 'The People's Party' and had really come into being during and after the exile when the traditional form of Temple worship had not been possible.

In the Gospel narratives the image of the Pharisee is painted almost totally black, and very little good is said of them. This is especially the case in Matthew's Gospel, where the denunciation of the Scribes and the Pharisees is most ferocious. However, we have to remember when the Gospels were written and have to take into account that some of this reflects the bitterness which began to develop between the Christian Church and Rabbinic Judaism at that time. We also have to remember that not all the Pharisees were seen in this light. Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea are two that are mentioned by name, but there may well have been others. That said, rather than welcome Jesus and His message, these men were maliciously hostile to Christ. They viewed Jesus as a threat to their position and power, and they used every means possible to oppose Him. And while not every Pharisee was like those portrayed in the Gospels, several incidents involving the religious elite reveal their flaws.

The hypocrisy of the Pharisees (Matt. 15:1–9).

When some scribes and Pharisees challenged Jesus because His disciples did not follow a rabbinic tradition and wash their hands in the ritually prescribed manner before eating, Jesus struck back. He pointed to a rabbinic practice called corban, which permitted a person to dedicate possessions to the temple while retaining lifetime use. They used this “gift to God” as an excuse for not providing for parents! How hypocritical it was for men who used rabbinic traditions to contravene God's clear command to honour parents to criticize others for failure to keep a minor tradition!

The Pharisee's deceptions (Matt. 12:22–32).

When Jesus healed a demon-possessed man, the religious leaders were unable to deny the miracle. As such miracles were understood to be signs by which God authenticated a prophet, the Pharisees would logically be forced to assume that Jesus truly had been sent by God. To avoid admitting the obvious, the Pharisees began a whispering campaign against Jesus, charging him with being in league with the devil. Yes, Jesus had cast out demons, but that was because the devil had helped Him—not because Jesus acted in God's power and overcame the demons! Christ not only exposed the ridiculous nature of this argument, but He also warned His accusers. To recognize supernatural acts performed by the Holy Spirit and then credit those acts to the devil was committing a sin that would not be forgiven. The religious leaders had demonstrated a hardness to revelation that nothing could overcome.

These are only two examples that show the hypocrisy and the deceptiveness of the Pharisees, but there are many more throughout the Gospel.

In Matthew chapter 23, recorded during this final week of Jesus' life here on earth, after entering the city and after the cleansing of the Temple, Jesus finally lets the Pharisees, and indeed everyone who

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was there, know exactly what He thinks of them. If you look you will see that this passage is entitled '**The Seven Woes**', and here Jesus exposes the blatant hypocrisy, deceptiveness and corruption of the Pharisees. They like to be seen to be keeping the letter of the law, but in fact they are so far from the heart of the law. That being, '**You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength**'. "**Do not do what they do...**" **Jesus says to the people "...for they do not practise what they preach..."**

So what lessons can we learn from the Pharisees?

The Pharisees were dedicated to maintaining their position of influence and power. Influence and power can be as addictive as a love for money, status, a desire to be well thought of and respected, you name it- the list goes on and on. Sadly, these things are often chosen over commitment to Jesus. Maybe not on purpose, especially so at the outset, but our desire and love of these things can very easily become the number one priority in our lives.

And the only way we can resist this is to remain focussed on Christ, to look to Him, and to hold Him in our hearts at all times.

The Pharisees were so committed to their beliefs that they lost sight of God's love for people. To do what we believe is right is important, but we must always remain aware that God's priority **is people** and that we need to re-evaluate our convictions when those lead us to be unloving. Now that doesn't mean abandoning our faith and our beliefs, but it does mean avoiding adding our own wee bits to the Gospel message, interpreting it in a way that suits us, in the way the Pharisees eventually did. This can happen, ever so easily and it's something that we need to be aware of. And perhaps the best way of avoiding falling into this trap is to try to live by the two commandments that Jesus gave His disciples.

Love God, Love Your Neighbour.

The Pharisees possessed clear evidence that God had sent Jesus. They must have known by all that He said and did that Jesus was indeed their Messiah. These were men who knew the Torah inside and out, who knew all the Old Testament Prophecies from Isaiah to Malachi. **There could have been no doubt, yet they chose to reject this evidence.** Instead it was almost as if they went out of their way to search desperately for biblical texts and for arguments to use against Jesus and to support their already-formed decision to oppose Him.

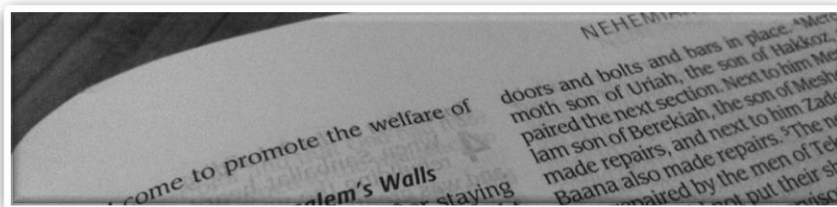
How often have we closed our eyes and ears to what God was saying to us? How often have we rejected the clear working of God before us? How often have we known here in our heart and soul, what the right thing to do was, yet failed to do it. All because it didn't suit our purpose.

We need to be open and receptive to God through His Holy Spirit, otherwise we too might end up shutting God out of our lives.

The Pharisees were a people of God, dedicated to living their lives in accordance with God's laws and commandments. Yet somewhere it went all wrong, and they became more concerned with maintaining their own status and power-base. So much so that when their long-awaited Messiah finally came along...**They rejected Him and handed Him over for crucifixion.**

Let's make sure that we learn from their mistakes.

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The **Ladies Bible Study** group continue to meet weekly in the Church Hall at 1.30pm each Wednesday. It has been a very successful year so far with ten or so ladies attending. However, we would love to expand and welcome new members. Why not give it a try sometime? It may be just what your Bible study time needs. The main focus of our studies this year has been A LifeBuilder Bible Study entitled "Evangelism—A Way of Life" which has proved very valuable to our discussions on how we should be communicating the Good News to others around us.

During Lent we have been looking at the Scottish Bible Society material called "Conversations Lenten Studies". These too have shown themselves to be conducive to discussion and learning more about the Word.

An update from the Organ Stool

Hello again - and I find it a great privilege to be able to "have a chat" now and then by this means regarding musical matters.

The Church Choir

Yes - at long last we are gaining members! We welcome both Wilma and Meryl into our happy band of singers, which leads me to say that there are still plenty of empty spaces to be filled. Perhaps you would like to consider joining us in the very near future - we would make you very welcome.

For a change, this Easter Sunday morning the Choir will be singing two pieces with words based on lovely Scottish Airs. We do trust that these will bring their own particular blessing to you.

Musical Memories

Thank you to those of you who have passed on names of hymns you would like to have played on special occasions, or one that means a lot to you. As I am now nearing the end of the list I have - this is just a memory jogger in case you still have hymns you would like to hear.

On a Personal Note - I would like to thank you for the many kind assurances of thoughts and prayers for Doug and me at this time of his incapacity. We are both so very grateful. They mean a lot to both of us.

Yours in His service - Doreen Suckling

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“Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh”

(Luke 6:21)

This update from **CrossReach** highlights just one or two of the areas it works in on our behalf. All budding artists notice the Card Competition on the next page. Not much time to get in your entry!

Exciting News for CrossReach Children's Services

CrossReach and Moore House School in Bathgate are the first two organisations in the UK to have been unanimously accepted by the DDPI (Dyadic Developmental Psychotherapy Institute) Board to start the process of Organisation Certification.

Both CrossReach and Moore House provide care and education for children and young people who have experienced early years adversity. Much preparation work has already been undertaken for us to reach this stage, and we are passionate about continuing to embed DDP practice into our work with children and families. Paul Gilroy (Head of Service, CrossReach) and Moira Greentree (Senior Manager, Moore House) are leading on the certification process in their respective organisations; both are absolutely delighted to have been accepted. Edwina Grant (DDP Practitioner, Consultant and trainer) has been and will continue to support their DDP journeys to certification. The process will take 18 - 24 months.

Threshold Support Services on the move

It's been a moving time (literally!) at Threshold Support Services in Hamilton recently, but it's all been worth it. Their new premises are situated right in the centre of Hamilton - close by the shops and other essential amenities, including rail and bus terminals, which removes the walk from the centre of town to reach the service. CrossReach's Threshold Support Services is now even more accessible to the people it supports as it has good wheelchair access.

*Threshold Support Services,
2nd Floor,
East New Cross Centre,
Lamb Street,
Hamilton.
ML3 6AH.
Tel: 01698 423335*

CrossReach at The Gathering

CrossReach was one of the exhibitors at The Gathering – the annual conference for Third Sector organisations held at the SECC in Glasgow. This is the 11th year of the event which attracted more than 3,000 visitors over the 2 days it took place. As well as more than 90 exhibition stands there were also a range of seminars on topics as diverse as Charity Law to a debate about the living wage; from welfare reform to managing volunteers. Alex Thomson, Marketing and Events Manager with the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations who organise The Gathering said it was the most successful yet with new exhibitors and organisations who wanted to run seminars.

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COMPETITION

Design a CrossReach Christmas card for 2015

We will print the winning entry as a card and sell it through the CrossReach "Christmas & Gift Collection 2015" catalogue and website. The Winner will receive a certificate and a supply of their winning design as printed Christmas Cards.

Competition Guidelines

- › The card must be an original design, not copied from an existing copyrighted card or clip art
- › Submit your card design on a sheet of paper/card no larger than A3 size
- › Computer generated designs must be original and printed out as a hard copy
- › Textures, 3D effects or metallic colours can be difficult to reproduce in print so are best avoided
- › Feel free to include a Greeting and/or Bible verse in your design
- › If you wish your design returned, please make this clear to us and enclose an appropriate stamped addressed envelope for its return

This competition is open to all supporters of CrossReach of any age.

Remember to write the name of the person or group who designed the card, age (if under age 16) and a contact person's name, address and telephone number on the back of each entry.

Closing date: Monday 30th March 2015

Send your entry to:

Christmas Card Competition
CrossReach, 47 Milton Road East,
Edinburgh EH15 2SR



The Church of Scotland
Social Care Council

Operating as CrossReach, Scottish Charity No: SC011353



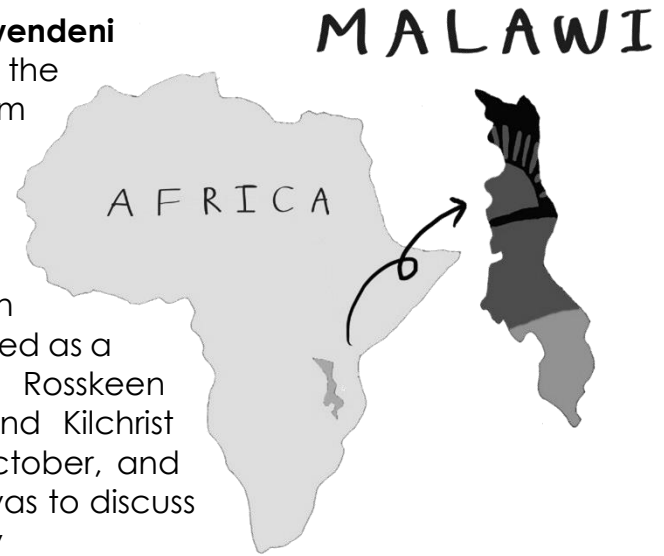
CROSSREACH
providing a caring future

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**EKWENDENI HOSPITAL PARTNERSHIP**

A delegation from the Presbytery of Ross visited **Ekwendeni Hospital** last autumn. I caught up with one of the members, Sheila Macleod a Presbytery Elder from Castle Street congregation, after one of Castle Street's weekly Tuesday coffee mornings.

Sheila told me that the other members of the group were Ron Gunstone, Presbytery Clerk, of Killearnan and Knockbain congregation (who in the past worked as a teacher in Ekwendeni), Margaret Cathcart of Rosskeen congregation and John Macdonald of Urray and Kilchrist congregation. The group left Ross-shire on 16th October, and arrived back on 29th October. The aim of the visit was to discuss the twinning agreement between Ross Presbytery and Ekwendeni Hospital signed last year and how to translate the agreement into practical action. A report has been presented to Presbytery and we await further details, but in the meantime, Sheila suggested the one thing we should all do is pray for our partners in Ekwendeni and for the success of the partnership.



There is a saying that "Malawi is the warm heart of Africa, and Ekwendeni is the warm heart of Livingstonia (the Presbytery in which Ekwendeni is situated)", and this was borne out by the experience of the group. Sheila told me that they found the people of Malawi very friendly and hospitable. They were delighted to meet most of the Malawians who had visited Ross Presbytery over the past few years. Everywhere they went they were offered a meal, usually some variety of chicken and rice. Group members were hosted by members of the hospital staff, each person staying with three different families over the time they were in Ekwendeni and so gaining a good understanding of family life in Malawi. Sheila herself stayed with the hospital chaplain, the co-ordinator of the HIV/AIDS programme and the hospital matron.

The group had a chance to visit the main hospital at Ekwendeni, which they found very interesting. The wards were not equipped to the standard to which we are accustomed in Scotland, and there was a lack of some essential supplies, including drugs, but Sheila gained the impression that the staff were trying to deliver the best standard of care they could with the available resources. This is all the more commendable as the hospital is understaffed, even by Malawian standards, and staff are working extra hours with no guarantee as to when they will be paid, since payment of salaries, part-funded by the Malawian Government, can be erratic. The busiest sections were Maternity, possibly due to a government initiative to encourage women to give birth in hospital; Outpatients, which offers consultations 7 days a week; and the HIV/AIDS service, covering preventive work with young people, testing, ante-natal advice and support of those living with the condition. Other departments were no so busy, perhaps because at that time of year, at the end of the dry season when the last year's harvest is running out if it has not already done so, people do not have spare cash to pay for non-urgent treatments – treatment at Ekwendeni is not free, though in an emergency people will be treated even if they are not able to pay. Thankfully Ebola is not at present an issue in Malawi, which is many thousands of miles from the affected West African states, though the

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visitors were screened at the airport on arrival, part of the government's attempt to keep it that way.



New Mothers' class at Ekwendeni Hospital



Ward

There were also visits to a satellite maternity hospital at Erukweni and to a mobile health clinic run by the Community Programme at Enyezini, villages outside Ekwendeni. The maternity hospital, which Sheila described as "heaving", was run by two midwives with no other trained staff, resulting in the midwives being on call 24/7. The health clinic provided ante-natal care, child welfare services, HIV/AIDS services, as well as health education, in which drama plays an important role. These clinics are held on a regular basis in a number of different locations in the catchment area of the main hospital.

In addition the group had the opportunity to participate in Sunday worship on two occasions. The English service lasted two hours, and was packed, with lots of children and young people! There was a day excursion to visit Lake Malawi and Livingstonia, driving on a road which from Sheila's description might best be described as adventurous. And the visitors also experienced "the rains", slightly earlier than expected, with heavy downpours, thunder and lightning coinciding with both their arrival and their departure. The advantage was that the roads were less dusty than they would otherwise have been, but unfortunately the change in the weather also meant that the elephants which the group had hoped to see had already moved back further into the interior of the country, knowing that their preferred water-holes would be full again.

Many thanks to Sheila for sharing her experiences and thoughts.

*Janet Winchester
Convener, Mission and Outreach Committee*

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Friday March 6th was the **World Day of Prayer** for 2015. Members of at least six different congregations in and around Dingwall met in St Lawrence's Roman Catholic Church to join with Christians around the world, using the Order of Service prepared by Christian women in the Bahamas. The sights, sounds and perfumes of this large archipelago of 700 islands in the Caribbean came alive through the words and music, based on the account in John 13:1 – 17 of Jesus washing the disciples' feet. The Bahamians exhorted us to emulate Jesus by "washing the feet" (meeting the needs) not only of those we know and love, but of those we do not know and those we may not like. The congregation of St Lawrence put this into practice by offering all present welcome refreshments.

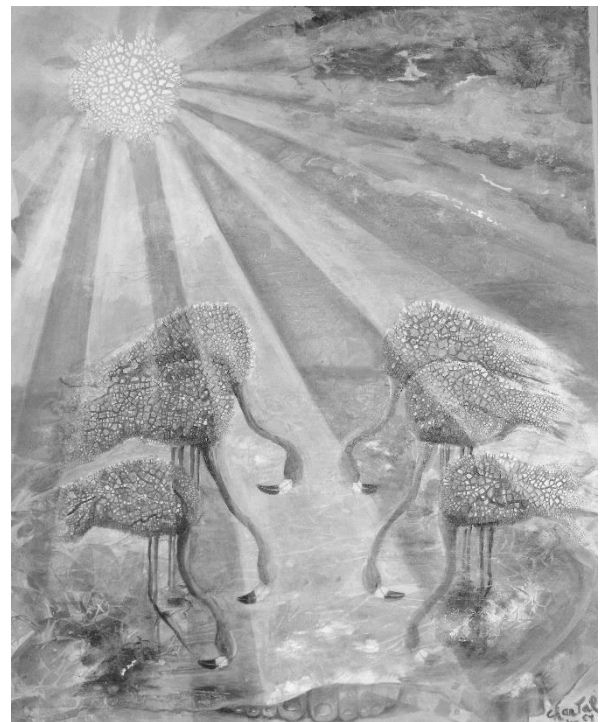
On the Sunday, FYF used their new tablet to find out about the Bahamas and enjoy Caribbean music, and took part in a shortened version of the service (for the young peoples' account of this please see the FYF update). Sunday Club followed up the theme by making wonderful masks like those used in the Bahamas for a carnival-like celebration at Christmas time. Those who stayed for tea after the service were able to taste some "Johnny cake", a Bahamian speciality, which appeared to go down well, as it all disappeared!

The following is a poem, whose author gave permission for it to be printed in the World Day of Prayer resource booklet. It is accompanied by a piece of artwork on the theme "Do you know what I have to done to you?"

WASHING THE DISCIPLES' FEET

To bathe soiled feet was but a servant's lot,
eschewed by men whose station lent them grace.
These did not stoop to take a lowly place,
nor pause to wonder if, one day, they ought.
Perhaps their privilege came to them unsought
casting a veil of pride on every face,
miscasting tender service as disgrace.
No matter. Man sees darkly, through a glass.
'Tis only One whose light our vision clears.
In Him, each blinding question that we ask
leads to a truth that vanquishes our fears.
Christ bathed His servants' feet; a humble task,
then raised us all, washed clean in blood and tears.

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Susannoyesandersonpoems.com



"Blessed" Acrylic/Crackle on canvas – celebrates the Bahamas through our National Bird, the Flamingo. It also celebrates our blessings as we share with the world across the ocean. The flamingos bow at the feet of Christ for there is forgiveness, peace and love in this act of submission. For further detail about the artwork and artist please visit <http://www.wdpscotland.org.uk/Artwork.html>

"For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ" Titus 2:11-13



He took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.

(Mark 10:16)

Some of our readings at **Sunday Club** have helped the children to think about how to make wise decisions (Solomon), how God provides for us (Elijah) and how to be a good friend (Samuel). We celebrated the start of Lent with a pancake race. For Mother's Day we all made a flower arrangement and a card. Isobel also made bags of tablet for the Mums. Next we will be looking at the Lord's Prayer and what it means.

A few of the group entered a Christmas card competition for CrossReach by doing cut out paper shapes of snowflakes and snowmen they were very bold and different, bit of a fiddle to stick down but the leaders helped with that.

No Sunday Club on 5th or 12th April, then back again on 19th April.



Great news, **Ferintosh Youth Fellowship (FYF)** are now connected to the internet! Over the last few weeks we have been looking at different apps and websites to help us learn more about God and praying. We would like to thank the Church for providing us with WiFi and for giving us a Tablet to use. We are going to get a couple of additional tablets which will be share with the Sunday Club.

On Sunday 8th March we were happily singing along to Christian songs from the Bahamas and learning interesting facts about the Island. This is because the World Day of Prayer, which was held on the Friday 6th March, was written by Christian ladies from the Bahamas. During our time together we participated in the shortened version of the World Day of Prayer service.

We are continuing to use the youth resources from Scripture Union and in particular their SUBstance material. Since the start of the year, we have been looking at some of the sayings of Jesus and what they mean for us today, for example "I am the resurrection", "I am the good shepherd", "I am the light of the world"

On Sunday 1st March we attended the communion service, during the service we were able to learn more about what communion is. We were also able to support Victoria who was taking communion for the first time.



Andrew Vance

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The Social Calendar

RIVER CAFE

This continues to be held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, in school term time. If you haven't been along already, why not join us for some tea or coffee, home baking and the chance to meet up with others for the all-important chat. The next cafes are to be held on 13th May and 10th June and we look forward to welcoming you there.

SOUP LUNCHES

These have now finished for the winter and have been well supported. We have had a variety of speakers and a big thank you must go to all who have given their support, especially those who regularly made and served the delicious soups and also those who have attended on a regular basis.

BEETLE DRIVE

A most enjoyable evening was held on 31st January where 32 people tried their best to draw the perfect "Beetle". There was a variety of shapes and sizes of the named insect and some were even recognisable! Worthy winners on the night were 1st Mark, 2nd Pauline, 3rd Isobel with Ian requiring a bit more practice at the other end of the scale.....Well done one and all!

"STRAWBERRY FAYRE"

We plan to hold a summer event on Saturday 6th June 2015 from 2pm-4pm in the church hall and grounds. This will take the form of a "Strawberry Fayre" with old style games and stalls such as croquet, hoopla, skittles etc with a Cake and Candy stall and a Sunshine stall where everything for sale will be "Yellow" in colour and much, much more!!!!!! Further details will be issued nearer the time....

Since a refresh in October 2014, the **Ferintosh Parish Church website** has been visited by over **1000** different people. I hope the new website has been of use to those in the congregation and wider community as it provides easier news updates, better facilities for adding photographs and a cleaner look which works better on tablets and mobile phones.

A few more stats:

- The vast majority of visitors come from the UK but there are also a number who have viewed the site from **Brazil, USA, France, Italy** and **Australia**.
- The most popular page, after the homepage and list of news, is the **services** page. This was designed to make attending a Sunday service less daunting to those who may not be familiar with Church.
- Lots of people find the website through searching on Google, but people have also been directed to the site from the Presbytery website, the Leprosy Mission (via their calendar which listed a guild event on March 2nd) and the Maryburgh Hub website. Some have also found the website by reading the Wikipedia page on Ferintosh which has a link to our own site.

I'd be interested to hear if you've visited the site, found it useful or think anything could be added. The website is essential to let people know that we exist, both in the local community and further afield. Comments or suggestions can be sent to me – emma@e-smith.co.uk

Emma Smith

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Ferintosh Parish Church meets at 11am and 6.30pm each Sunday.



Our friendly and welcoming congregation is made up of those from Conon Bridge, Maryburgh and the surrounding area. Crèche (for those of pre-school age), Sunday Club and FYF meet during the morning service. Tea and coffee are served in the Church Hall at the close of worship.

You are invited to join us and we pray that you will experience a real sense of God's blessing during your time with us.

Church Flowers

April Organiser – Mrs J Winchester

5 th	Miss J Winchester
12 th	Mrs M Wilson
19 th	Mrs J Cameron
26 th	Sheena Telfer

May Organiser – Mrs J MacKenzie

3 rd	Mrs J Steele
10 th	Mrs J McCulloch
17 th	Mrs J MacKenzie
24 th	Miss M MacKenzie
31 st	Miss J Winchester

June Organiser – Mrs J Murray

7 th	Shona Menzies
14 th	Mrs J Murray
21 st	Doreen Suckling
28 th	Sheena Telfer

Church Welcome

Door	Count
April	J. Winchester
	J. Cameron
May	P. Kilgore
	J. Fraser
June	E. Munro
	M. Mackenzie
	A. MacKay

Church Register

Funerals

8 December 2014	Mrs. Jean Patience
16 December 2014	Mrs. Audrey Calder
14 January 2015	Mr. Donald (Donnie) Forsyth
17 January 2015	Mr. Donald (Donnie) Ritchie
5 March 2015	Mr. Kenneth Campbell MacKenzie
17 March 2015	Mrs. Elizabeth Beaton
23 March 2015	Mrs. Tina Golenbiewski

Wedding

28 February 2015
Miss Laura Williamson
and Mr. Ruari Collinson

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