

# Luss Church Chat



## AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2022

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REFLECTION - REV. Dr CHRISTINE GOLDIE

## BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY AND REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY



It has been a very challenging time over the last two and a half years since Covid impacted upon us all. The restrictions imposed meant that for long periods the Church was closed and since reopening many members of the congregation have found it difficult to return.

We would like to reassure everyone that the Church is a safe place and we have appropriate practices in place. Hand sanitiser is available on entry and we still encourage social distancing within the Church.

The Church has an annual '*Back to Church Sunday*' and this year that will coincide with our '*Remembrance Sunday*' service on Sunday 13 November 2022. The service will be held at the earlier time of 10am to allow for it to take place and enable the congregation to walk the short distance to the village Cenotaph for the Act of Remembrance at 11am.

We would love to welcome you at the Church on that special day which will be an opportunity to remember the service and sacrifice of all those that have defended our freedoms.



## GUILD NEWS

On Saturday, 8th October the Church of Scotland Guild held its annual gathering in the Assembly Hall in Edinburgh, bringing together almost 1000 Guild members from across Scotland. The event was also livestreamed.

The day included contributions from current National Convener, Margaret Muir who provided a review of her year in office. The Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland Rt Rev Iain Greenshields then gave an insight on "Personal reflections from the Moderator". The day concluded with the installation of Helen Eckford as the National Convener for 22-23.

The Guild has continued with fundraising for the various projects it is working with from 2021 to 2024. The monies raised have now reached a very commendable total of £126,882.59. This has been distributed as follows: *Beat* - £25,419.68; *Pioneers* - £14,761.56; *Starchild* - £22,122.63; *Vine Trust* - £27,122.02; *Home for Good* - £29,075.65 and *Unida* - £8,381.06. More information about those projects or how to donate can be found via the following link <https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/serve/the-guild>.

## DUNBARTONSHIRE GUILDS TOGETHER - CHRISTMAS PROJECT

The Dunbartonshire Guilds Together Christmas Project for this year will be in support of Womens' Aid in Clydebank, Dumbarton and Helensburgh. The aim of the project is to gift a "Christmas Eve Goodie Bag for an adult or child" to be distributed to those in need.

We would especially welcome cosy socks, pyjamas, toiletries, chocolates or sweets, hot chocolate sachets, colouring books and story books. Any donation can be brought to the Church at our services throughout November and up to Sunday 11 December.

Additionally, our Beadle, John, has offered to put a box between the storm doors and the front door of the manse between 1 and 11 December. Anyone who wants to leave appropriate items can do so by dropping them into the box. They will be picked up on Sunday 11 December and taken to the Carol Service which will take place at St. Paul's Milngavie at 2pm on Monday 12 December prior to distribution. There will be a bus from Helensburgh and Dumbarton to Milngavie.

Anyone who would like to give, and this method does not suit, please contact Christine Buchanan by telephone on 01389850278 or email, [Christine.Buchanan3@outlook.com](mailto:Christine.Buchanan3@outlook.com).

## WORLD MISSION STAMP PROJECT



The Church of Scotland has an ongoing 'Stamp Appeal' for 2022. The proceeds of this project aim to raise enough funds to support the work of a pastor for a full year in Lebanon. You can be part of supporting the work of this project that is changing lives simply by collecting your stamps

rather than binning or recycling.

Stamps can be posted direct to -  
World Mission Stamp Project,  
PO Box 9191  
Wishaw  
Lanarkshire  
ML2 0YB

## A POEM FOR AUTUMN

### *AUTUMN FIRES* by Robert Louis Stevenson.

In other gardens  
And all up the vale,  
From the autumn bonfires  
See the smoke trail!

Pleasant Summer over  
And all the Summer flowers,  
The red fire blazes  
The grey smoke towers.

Sing a song of seasons!  
Something bright in all!  
Flowers in the Summer,  
Fires bright in fall!



## HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

The Church shared in the nation's sorrow and sadness following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth on 8 September 2022. A Book of Condolence was opened in the Church following her passing.

The Church service on Sunday 18 September was led by Rev. Margaret Nutter and commemorated Her Majesty.

At the conclusion of the service the congregation, led by local piper Colin Lawrie, walked from the Church to the 'Queen's Tree' in the village. After further words from Rev. Nutter a wreath was laid at the base of the tree by Sir Malcolm Colquhoun.



## NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE



A further reminder that the Remembrance Sunday service will be on Sunday 13 November 2022 commencing at 10am to allow for the service to take place and enable the congregation to walk the short distance to the village War Memorial for the Act of Remembrance at 11am.

## **BAPTISM**

The baptism of Sienna Rosemary Mckenzie took place 21 August 2022. This was a double celebration as it was also Sienna's first birthday.

## **BILLY PETRIE OBE, JP, DL**

It was with much sadness that we learned of the death of the oldest member of our congregation, Billy Petrie, who died in his ninety fifth year on 25 August 2022. Our Session Clerk, Donald Hardie, shared his thoughts on his passing. "Billy was an elected councillor for forty five years serving on Helensburgh Town Council, Dumbarton District Council, Strathclyde Regional Council and Argyll and Bute Council. Amazingly, he was the only person in Scotland to serve as Provost of three different councils.

It is however as a Churchgoer we knew him, as in his limited spare time he was officially the Postmaster in Rhu. It was their Kirk which held his lines, but it was Luss Church that Billy and Jean would come to, becoming a much loved member of the congregation, always taking time after the service to chat with us all.

When I was Lord Lieutenant, we used to meet regularly, either at a hundredth birthday, or some civic duty. I clearly remember, at the opening of the bypass at Luss, the contractors issued us all with brollies, managing to miss out Billy. "That's not on" said he, I am the only one who has to deal with a shower, every day of the week".

They were a lovely couple, Jean sadly died several years before him, and I know that the friendship he received from us, helped in his times of loneliness and grief".

The session and congregation extend their condolences to his daughter Elizabeth, son Billy and all other members of his family at this time.

## **MAISIE JAMIESON**

We also mourn the loss of another member of the congregation, Maisie Jamieson. Maisie passed away in Hillview Care Home on 27 September and is now at peace with older sister Grace.

We will remember Maisie as one of a truly redoubtable trio, Grace, Nina and Maisie, who supported Luss Church and the local community tirelessly and unstintingly for so many years, developing and running the successful Church Sunday School and organising and participating in fund-raising efforts. Ever hospitable and with a wide circle of friends and extended family, a visit to 'the Jamiesons' was always an eventful and joyous occasion.

Maisie was of course a person in her own right. She pursued her passion for photography and was a talented artist. Her much admired paintings are a fitting legacy to her talents

As we have missed Grace, we will now miss Maisie.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Nina at this time with the hope that there will be some comfort in memories of the many happy and fulfilling years they enjoyed together and the light they shone.

## ALLAN IAIN THOMSON

It is with sadness that we have learned of the death of Allan Iain Thomson, son of one of our elders, Ray Thomson. Allan died suddenly on Tuesday 18 October and his funeral will take place at Cardross Crematorium at 2.15pm Thursday 3 November 2022. We extend our sympathies to Ray, Allan's daughters Jennifer and Rachel and their families at this time.

## AUTUMN RECIPE



Our Autumn recipe is a hearty Pumpkin Soup which will serve 4 to 6 people.

**Ingredients:-** 1 x tablespoon sunflower oil: 2 x tablespoons butter: 1 x large onion:  
1½ lb pumpkin cut into large chunks: 1lb potatoes sliced: 1 pint vegetable stock:  
A good pinch of freshly grated nutmeg: 1 x teaspoon chopped fresh tarragon: 1 pint milk:  
1 to 2 teaspoons lemon juice: Salt and freshly ground black pepper.

**Method:-** Heat the oil and butter in a heavy based saucepan and fry the onions for 4/5 minutes over a gentle heat, stirring frequently, until soft but not browned.

Add the pumpkin and sliced potatoes, stir well then cover and sweat over a low heat for about ten minutes, stirring occasionally to stop sticking, until the vegetables are almost tender.

Stir in the stock, nutmeg, tarragon and seasoning. Bring to the boil and simmer for about ten minutes until the vegetables are completely tender.

Allow to cool slightly then pour into a food processor or blender and process until smooth. Return to a saucepan and add the milk. Heat gently and taste, adding lemon juice and extra seasoning if necessary.

Serve piping hot with some crusty bread and enjoy.



## **BIBLE VERSE**

The bible verse this Autumn is Ephesians chapter 4, verse 32.

“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you”.

## **TIME FOR REFLECTION WITH REVEREND DR CHRISTINE GOLDIE**

Dear Friends

My desk is in a room at the back of the manse and, beyond the garden displaying its last bits of autumn colour, there is a narrow section of Cairnhill Wood. The day is dull and there is a breeze swirling and bringing down the leaves, somehow mirroring the mood of the country just now. The political situation is one of turmoil. It's impossible to guess what will have happened by the end of the day, never mind Christmas. Economic circumstances are, to say the very least, challenging. There is talk of people having to make difficult choices - heating or eating - but what of those who have no money for either? And, of course, there is a fair amount of uncertainty in our churches, locally and nationally. What will our future be? What will happen to our congregation, our building, our Guild?

In a world full of unknowns, however, one thing is certain: the Church, and the Guild, will continue. Our history is long and, if not always glorious – sometimes the opposite! – there have always been women and men of faith who care enough, and love God enough, to make sacrifices and offer service in Jesus' name. I think people often underestimate the significance of what they themselves offer. We should understand this, though: nothing goes unnoticed by God. That door duty you always turn up for.... those visits you make to homes beyond whose doors are trouble, illness or sadness.... the time you take “just” to listen. Everything matters in the reckoning of our God.

It's so easy to think of giving in and giving up. But this is surely the time to do just the opposite: to keep doing those wee things that we think no-one notices, that don't amount to much, but which actually quietly change lives and build the Kingdom of God.

Yes, politically, economically, it's hard to imagine what the future will be. We wonder, too, about our church's future, but we can count on this: God is not finished with us and, provided we are not finished with God, we will have a future: different, for sure, but guaranteed!

## **KEEP IN TOUCH**

As ever please keep in touch with us at Luss Church by contacting us at [lusschurchpwg@gmail.com](mailto:lusschurchpwg@gmail.com)

We welcome any contributions of articles for the newsletter.

If you would like a pastoral visit or call from your elder please contact the PWG and we will ask your elder to make contact.