

LARBERT EAST CHURCH - LIST OF OFFICE BEARERS

Ministry Team:

Rev Melville Crosthwaite (Minister)
Rev John Brown (Pastoral Assistant)
Marianne Harvey (Parish Outreach Worker)

Church Officer:

John Carmichael

Session Clerk: Margaret Tooth

Depute Clerk: Robin Duncan

Session Teams:

Buildings Management

Co-Convener: Craigen Smith
John Green

Hall Lets Convener: Gordon Whitelaw

Finance and Planning + Fundraising Sub-Team

Convener: Lorraine Blair

Treasurer: Catherine Nichol

Gift Aid: Kate Duncan

Assistant Treasurer: Stuart Rae

Fund-raising: Irene Railton

Growing Faith + Safeguarding Sub-Team

Convener: Senga Smith

Safeguarding Officer: Catherine Nichol

Crèche Organiser: Joanne Aikman

Community and World Outreach

Convener: Alex. Duncan

Pastoral Care

Convener: Dorothy Sinclair

Roll-Keeper: Janette & Mike Brophy

Flower Convener: Roberta Caldwell

Publicity and Communication

Convener: Kelvin Cairns

Data Protection Officer: Simon Hesselton

Website Editor: Stuart Jamieson

Worship Team

Convener: Melville Crosthwaite

Organist: Martin Fairbairn

'EASTWORDS'
LARBERT EAST
CHURCH OF SCOTLAND



AUTUMN 2021

SCOTTISH CHARITIES
NO. SC006456





**A Last Message from the
Manse.....**

August 2021

Dear Friends

Sometime around 1981, just as I was very settled in teaching and rather enjoying it, I began to think that I should stay in teaching just a year or two longer, to 'gain more experience' as I was still rather young to enter parish ministry. Or so I thought. Then one night, I read this Scripture:

"The Lord said to me, 'I chose you before I gave you life, and before you were born, I selected you to be a prophet to the nations.' I answered, 'Sovereign Lord, I don't know how to speak; I am too young.' But the Lord said to me, 'Do not say that you are too young, but go to the people I send you to, and tell them everything I command you to say.'" Jeremiah 4-7

Through Jeremiah's call, the Lord gave me a very clear prod in the back to get on with it! So, the following year I returned to university for a year to do another year's training, as the Church of Scotland insisted I did. Two years later, including a 'probationary year', I was let loose in my first charge. Having learned a few life lessons there, I finally came to Larbert East in 1995. And now, just short of 26 years later, this is my last letter to you all, before I retire.

So that's me, but what about you, and what about Larbert East? No-one yet knows what will happen with the Presbytery Plan in the Larbert area, other than there will have to be some unions between congregations. The Lord used the prophet Jeremiah to show unequivocally the way ahead for me. Here's another quote from Jeremiah which I pray will give you strength, peace and hope for the months that lie ahead:

'I alone know the plans I have for you, plans to bring you prosperity and not disaster, plans to bring about a future full of hope.' Jeremiah 29:11

I was certain the words of Jeremiah 40 years ago, were meant for me that evening when I read them. I am equally certain that these words of Jeremiah 29:11 are for Larbert East, right now. Indeed, they are for all the churches in Larbert.

So, dear friends, it has been, truly, a privilege. May God grant you all love, joy, peace and hope, as I sign for the last time:

Your minister
Melville

REGISTER OF BAPTISMS. MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

Baptisms

'Let the children come to me'

04/07/21	Andrew Aikman (Adult baptism)
08/08/21	James David Samuel McAlister
15/08/21	Murrin McCartney



Marriages

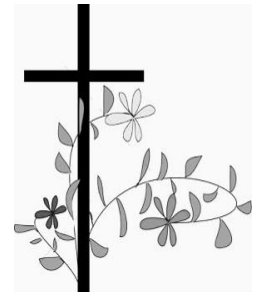
'Let us love one another, because love comes from God'

Marriages can be arranged with restricted attendance and in discussion with the Session Clerk

Deaths

'I am the Resurrection and the Life'

25/06/21	Mr Billy Graham
02/08/21	*Mrs Sheila MacKenzie



* Denotes member of Larbert East

DUNCAN AND MARGARET WALKER

At its June meeting the Kirk Session received a letter from Duncan and Margaret Walker, indicating their retirement from active duties as elders. The Session has recorded its thanks to Duncan and Margaret for their years of service as elders, including serving as Clerk and Deputy Clerk to the Deacons Court for many years.

Duncan and Margaret's participation in meetings will be missed, but their willingness to be part of the life of Larbert East Church is a great encouragement and example. Duncan was quick to offer to take on the Church Officer's duties when John Camichael was in hospital a few years ago. Arranging the distribution of flowers every week, especially the additional community flowers for a friend or neighbour, supports the church's outward looking attitude, and organising the Memories Group, with weekly quizzes over the lockdown period and beyond, has brightened up the lives of many in the community in providing friendly fellowship. Since the reopening of the church for worship Duncan and Margaret have served on the Welcome Teams on Thursday and Sunday mornings.

In releasing Duncan and Margaret from their Kirk Session responsibilities we pray that they will continue to play an active part in Larbert East Church as we move forward in faith to the next chapter in our story.

HALL LETS CONVENER

The Kirk Session also heard that Gordon Whitelaw, has stepped down from his role as Hall Lets Convener, as he is currently in Australia. For most of the last year and a half the halls have not been in use at all, but regular groups are now starting up again. Robin Duncan has taken on the responsibility in the meantime as the halls have gradually become available, but the convener's role remains to be filled. Interested? Speak to Robin Duncan or Craigen Smith.

KIRK SESSION NEWS

MELVILLE'S LAST SUNDAY

How could the congregation of Larbert East record their thanks and say goodbye fittingly to Melville and Irene Crosthwaite at the end of August 2021? A group of representatives of the Kirk Session teams, and a few others, came together (online, of course) to form a plan, not knowing what restrictions would still be in place by then. Our hope is that everyone who wants to be there, will be able to be present in person, or virtually by watching the live-stream. All will be revealed, as they say, on August 29! Please check the Larbert East website or Facebook page for the latest information on numbers and spaces.

WEEKDAY WORSHIP...

Weekday Worship is continuing this coming session. Melville conducts the first Weekday Worship, his last midweek service, a week earlier than usual on 26th August. Then the usual rota of friendly faces of ministers and members from Larbert East and a number of other local churches will lead a service each week, beginning at 11.15am. The service will last for approximately 25 minutes.

We hope to resume the monthly coffee mornings organised by Stenhousemuir Primary School as soon as possible.

In the meantime, Parish Outreach Worker Marianne Harvey will be keeping an eye on things, organising rotas etc, so please contact her for further information.

COMMUNION....

Our Communion Service will take place on Sunday 5th September at 10.30am. The afternoon Communion Service has yet to be confirmed.

LARBERT EAST WOMEN'S GROUP UPDATE

As restrictions are slowly lifting, it is hoped we can start our Women's Group meetings in September. A small programme is currently being pulled together. Further details will be published in the weekly notices or you can contact Sheila or myself.

We do hope you will feel comfortable joining us. We really look forward to seeing you back.



God bless
Irene and Sheila

89th STENHOUSEMUIR SCOUT GROUP – SQUIRREL DREYS –FUN AND ADVENTURE FOR CHILDREN AGED 4 or 5

It has been a strange and stressful year and a half for us all, but I am glad to say our group has still flourished thanks to the enthusiasm of our leaders and children.

We are pleased to announce that the group have been given approval to start one of the first Squirrel Dreys in the country, this is for any child aged 4 or 5 who wish to have fun and adventure.

Squirrels will run along the same format as the current scout sections following scouting values.

Numbers for the group will be limited, so if you are interested in your child attending, please contact John Dick by email; – 89thsquirrels@gmail.com.



We are also looking for any adults that would be interested in helping out with the squirrels, again please get in contact with myself. John Dick

LARBERT CHURCHES YOUTH TRUST

As we continue to juggle with the Scottish Government's ever-changing guidelines, plans for a covid safe summer holiday club were pulled together by our schools' worker, Mike Glass, assisted by Gregor McKay in a relatively short period of time.

Jungle Adventures were held each morning from 2nd to 6th August in Carronvale's sports hall. Restrictions meant we had a capacity 20-23 participants each day. Mike (or should I say Bear Thrills!) did an amazing job ensuring the children and volunteer leaders had a great time. The venue was excellent allowing Mike's extensive and flexible programme of stories, songs, crafts, quizzes and activities to effectively entertain the group at all times.

We give thanks for this opportunity to offer this club to our young people, and for Mike's determination and dedication to allow it to continue within current guidance.

Planning is now starting for a return to school after the holidays and a hope of a return to face to face work in our primary schools and SU clubs.

Andrea Dunkin
Publicity Officer
Larbert Churches' Youth Trust
Scottish Charity No: SC040524

LCYT – AGM NOTICE

We are delighted to advise the AGM of Larbert Churches Youth Trust will be an in-person meeting on Friday 27th August at 7.30pm in Stenhouse and Carron Church.

All are welcome to hear first-hand how the work of the Trust has continued and adapted throughout the pandemic.

A CONCERT IN AID OF LCYT is being planned for 20th November. Further details will be in the Church Notices!

BLACK PUDDING FRIED EGG ROLL

INGREDIENTS

Slices of Stornoway Black Pudding.

(Other puddings are available)

2 morning rolls

(Butter or marg. to taste)

2 Large eggs

HP sauce

(other sauces are available)

METHOD

Place Black pudding under preheated grill till ready.

(The Lady of the house will advise)

Fry the eggs, till ready.

(The lady of the house will advise)

You may turn the eggs over if you wish, or keep sunny side up.

Prepare two morning rolls spreading with butter or marg. to taste.

(The Lady of the house etc etc)

Place the Black pudding on the roll, garnish with a dash of HP Sauce and place the egg on top.

A variation of this recipe involves placing the egg on the roll first, but the sauce should always be in contact with the black pudding.

Either way you should always remember to close the roll or the yolk will run up your sleeve!!

This recipe isn't too complicated. It probably wouldn't get you through to the next round of Master Chef, but it works for us and has kept us going during the long days of lockdown.

One of our favourite lockdown walks has been along the banks of the River Carron from Carronshore almost to the motorway. We have done this almost every week since lockdown began, returning home just in time for lunch.

It's a lovely walk full of wildlife and history and as we near the end of our walk our steps seem to take on a rhythm of their own "Black pudding-black pudding- black pudding - fried egg - fried egg - fried egg".

Enjoy with a lovely cup of tea while watching "Doctors".

CHRISTOPHER OSWALD

JUNGLE ADVENTURE...2 - 6 AUGUST

Holiday Club with a difference - held at Carronvale under SU and Covid-safe rules, the Jungle Adventure led by Mike Glass and Gregor Mackay of Larbert Churches Youth Trust had places for 22 children with leaders coming from a number of local churches, including Larbert East members Janice Brown, Kate Duncan, Senga Smith and Margaret Tooth and Parish Outreach worker Marianne Harvey. With plenty of space outside and inside the children enjoyed a mix of games, crafts, songs and stories - creating prayer fish, friendship bracelets and even bread (flour and water mixed, cooked on a barbecue and thickly covered with chocolate spread) and lots of memories. Altogether, a great experience for everyone there.

As restrictions reduce, plans are underway for a Larbert East Holiday Club from Monday 10th - Friday 15th October. Details to follow.



**Fun at the holiday club!!!!
Above, chasing with
water guns!**

UPDATE FROM THE FINANCE AND PLANNING GROUP AUGUST 2021

1) FINANCES

Our income and expenditure remain stable to date. The Finance Team continue to be conservative when estimating income for 2021 as potentially we could be facing a possible deficit of over £13,000 by the end of the year. We hope it will not come to that; however, we have appx £18k in our General Reserve Fund to cover any shortfall.

Income and expenditure for January to June 2021

Ministries and Mission payments were not due in January (as we pay these over 10 months of the year as opposed to 12) this is why the expenditure is much less than February.

	Month 2021	Income	Expenditure
Finances 2021 to date	January	£9,698	£2,697
	February	£8,537	£11,872
	March	£9,061	£11,819
	April	£14,196*	£11,802
	May	£9,618	£11,806
	June	£10,557	£11,735
	TOTAL	£61,667	£61,731

- This includes £5,336 tax recovered from Gift Aid (we reclaim tax in April, July, October and December)

2) FUNDRAISING

23/10/2021 – Bruce Davies – Concert is booked for 23 October 2021 lockdown regulations permitting.

The above concert was postponed last year because of the pandemic and rescheduled to take place Saturday 23 October 2021. Due to current restrictions and not knowing how future restrictions will affect this event, we are considering the possibility of cancelling this event in October and possibly rescheduling for next year.

RECIPE BOOKS

As many of you will remember we agreed to compile a 'post-Lockdown' cookbook. This was promoted by Melville, through the weekly notices and previous Eastwords. Unfortunately, we have not had a large enough response to enable us to produce a cookbook as a fundraiser. However, the Finance Team felt that, as several people had offered their stories and favourite recipes, they ought to be shared with the congregation. Therefore, we agreed to add them to Eastwords on a quarterly basis until all have been published. Look out in this quarterly edition!

POST LOCKDOWN COIN CANS 2020

A BIG thank you to all who participate in donating via coin cans. £93.59 was raised last year.

If you wish to take part you can collect a coin can from the foyer or see Eleanor Neilson.



CHRISTIAN AID.....

.....has been in touch with the Community and World Outreach Team to give an update.

Altogether so far, Christian Aid Week has raised an amazing £3 million and there are more

donations to come in! There is a short video from a lady called Florence available on the Christian

Aid website to say 'thank you'. Further details from Fiona Jardine.



FOODBANK

Our collection for the monthly Foodbank in July was:

Food = 153.3kg. Money = £120.00. An excellent result and thank you to all who contributed. All collections will now take place on the last Saturday of each month from 11.00 to 12.00 in the Church Car Park.

Thank you also to John for opening the Church, Kelvin, Ronnie and Alex for our collection on Saturday morning and Kelvin and Ronnie for uplift and delivery to the Foodbank.

BETTY FERGUSON'S FRUIT LOAF

INGREDIENTS

454 grams mixed fruit
435 gram can of crushed pineapple
125 grams butter
225 grams dark brown soft sugar
1 teaspoon mixed spice
Half a teaspoon bicarbonate of soda
225 grams self-raising flour
2 eggs, lightly beaten

METHOD

Put all ingredients except for the flour and eggs into a saucepan. Bring to boiling point and boil for 3 minutes.

Remove pan from the heat and leave to cool completely.

Grease and line a 2lb loaf tin or two 1lb loaf tins.

Pre-heat the oven to 170 degrees (150 degrees fan) or gas mark 3.

Fold the flour and eggs into the fruit mixture and turn into the tins.

Bake for approximately 1 hour 30 minutes (2 lb tin) or for around 45 minutes if using 1lb tins.

The loaf is best stored in the fridge. It also freezes well.

This is a recipe of my Mum's she used regularly and when she passed away, I thought it was gone. She made it regularly and so didn't rely on the written instructions. I was delighted to find a hand-written copy tucked inside one of her recipe books and was happy to see that even a non-baker like me could achieve the right result!

It contains a can of crushed pineapple, which makes it moist and fruity.

ANNE HUTCHISON

MELVILLE

In Spring 1995, when Rev. Eric Murray retired, I was asked to lead the Vacancy Committee in search for a new Parish Minister to lead us into the 21st Century. We advertised, looked at CVs, visited many Churches and in August, we interviewed a short list. In November, led by God, we inducted Reverend Melville Crosthwaite to Larbert East Church and the rest is history!

Melville, since then has led Larbert East to become one of the largest and busiest Churches in Falkirk Presbytery. His work ethic has been phenomenal and his achievements too many to mention.

Since November 1995 he and his family have entered into the life of Larbert East with great enthusiasm. Irene, his wife, set up the Banner Group, Traidcraft Stall and played a very active part in the Young Church. His four children rejuvenated the Sunday School by bringing along their friends.

Melville reinvigorated the Session and Deacons' Court by making new groups responsible for different areas of Church life. Weekday Worship was introduced and was enthusiastically received by those unable to attend on a Sunday.

We became an active Church in supporting and mentoring Student Ministers. He introduced us to the Vine Trust and Christine Stone, our Missionary Partner. He was heavily involved in School Chaplaincy and also Larbert Churches Youth Trust. We employed a Parish Outreach Worker and Pastoral Assistant. On-line worship was set up. Melville, as Chaplain, also played an important role in Falkirk Presbytery.

The youth of the Church and many of the congregation were encouraged to take a more active part in Sunday Worship.

When Melville retires shortly, he will be a great loss and sadly missed by everyone. A new chapter however will open up in his life and we wish him and Irene a long and happy retirement.

We thank God for his being a wonderful leader and vital part of Larbert East Church for the last 26 years.

Kelvin Cairns

IRENE

They say "Behind every successful man is a good woman!!"

Please don't think this is a sexist remark - I know Melville would be first to acknowledge Irene's part in his ministry.

We have all been so very blessed by such a hardworking Minister who has gone above and beyond the call to his congregation and wider community. A large part of this was made possible by the constant support he received from home. When any of us needed Melville's help, he would always respond because Irene was there to help and support him.

Melville often spoke about the 'capable wife' in Proverbs 31. Irene is not only a capable wife but a capable mother, teacher, friend and much more.

So many people have been helped over the years by the Prayer Group which Irene started up not long after she arrived at Larbert East. The Traidcraft Stall in the Hall was introduced by Irene and to date has raised a huge amount of money for that charity. Irene has put together the Power Point presentations for all the Church services.

Perhaps Irene's biggest job in these 26 years is where her heart lies - with the children. Her entire adult life has been about teaching children whether it was in Sunday School, at home with her own four children (and now six grandchildren), as a Biology Teacher or travelling round with Zoo Lab.

Irene began teaching in our Young Church over 25 years ago, sharing her faith and inspiring our children. She has been a great example, encourager, faithful teacher and friend to leaders and children alike.

Irene always chose to work in the background. She has never looked to be in the limelight nor for praise, but today it's time to say goodbye, shine the spotlight on her and say Thank You for all your hard work, patience and understanding.

The following wee poem seems to sum everything up...

***One Hundred Years from now,
It won't matter what car you drove,
What kind of house you lived in,
How much you had in your bank account,
Nor what your clothes looked like,
But the World may be a little better
Because you were important in the life of a child.
(Or in Irene's case - Many, many Children)***

Senga Smith

