



GLANCE FROM THE MANSE

"Your call is important to us; please hold the line."

I'm sure I'm not the only one who finds it incredibly frustrating to be kept 'on hold' when trying to connect a call! Whether it's to the GP, a repair company, making a booking, or even trying to get through to our own children on their phones – we'd much rather the person at the other end simply answered straight away!

Perhaps you'll also admit, as I do, that sometimes we are the ones who are slow to reply. We have good intentions and then forget; we're busy or distracted. The message is important – we will get round to responding ... just not quite yet.

The Christmas narrative, when God stepped into our world in human form, the incarnation, is a story of God deciding that He couldn't wait any longer. After centuries of communicating with people through signs, wonders, prophets, priests, judges and miracles, God humbled himself and came to us - the ones who keep Him hanging on the line!

Philippians 2 describes it this way:

Jesus was equal with God.

But Jesus didn't take advantage of that fact.

Instead, he made himself nothing.

He did this by taking on the nature of a servant.

He was made just like human beings.

What we celebrate at Christmas is the incredible reality that God became like us - so that we could see what God is like (full of love, compassion, tenderness, welcome and healing), and that we might experience relationship with God through Jesus' death and resurrection. Christmas and Easter are connected - you can't celebrate one without t'other!!

So, what will you do with the invitation God extends to you this Christmas? Will you give Him some thought? Bring Him some worship? Celebrate His humanity and humility? Ignore Him completely? Keep Him waiting?

"Your call is important to us; please hold the line."

You are never too young, nor too old, to give Jesus your attention. You are never too important, nor too insignificant, to respond to Jesus' love. Your intelligence, life experiences, circumstances neither exclude you, nor make it a given, that you'll respond to Jesus' invitation.

You can keep God waiting for a long time, simply put off His call to you; but not one of us knows what tomorrow holds, and He longs for you to know His love and security today.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is giv'n!

So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heav'n.

No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in.

In the midst of everything else you are handling this Christmas (the really challenging things, and the joy), my hope is that you'd realise how much you are loved by God – and that you'd answer His call.

Every blessing -



Joy to the World

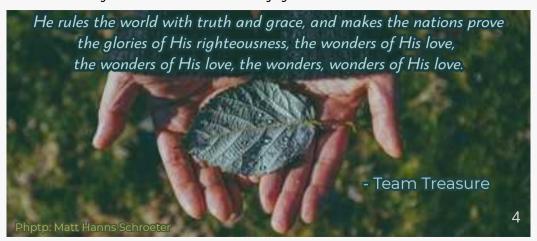
Do we appreciate the wonders of the world enough? One of my favourite Christmas hymns is 'Joy to the world'. Whilst the importance of welcoming Jesus' birth is unquestionable, I also love its reference to nature being equally important in these celebrations

Joy to the world, the Lord has come! Let earth receive her King Let every heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing!

In the past few years, we have seen lots of images of war on our screens. And quite rightly the stories of adults and children impacted. But those images of blasted buildings, of concrete turned to dust, there is a stark reality that nature is also bearing the scars. No life in the trees, no food for the birds, no habitat for the insects. Nature is not singing, there are no sounds of joy, there is little nature left to wonder at.

Joy to the earth the saviour reigns! Your sweetest songs employ while fields and streams and hills and plains, repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy.

But the Lord has come! We can find hope in that, we can prepare for hope, we can prepare for peace, we can wonder at human resilience, we can wonder at nature's resilience. We can do more to protect and nurture the fields and streams and hills and plains. Turn our sweet songs into action so that heaven and nature can sing brighter and stronger into the future, all of nature is welcomed by him with bountiful joy.





Youth Christmas Celebration @ Milton of Campsie Church

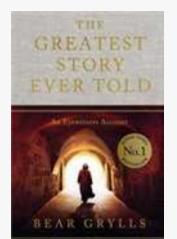


local school pupils

Ovizzes - games - erafts
phone poll - vox box - videos







A good read...

Here's a recommendation ... I listened to this as an audiobook and, even though I know these stories, I'd never heard them told in such a way. I knew immediately that I had to buy copies of the book for those I love.

A good TV series...

Again, a fresh take on the stories many of us know well. This superb production can be watched on Amazon Prime – and other places.



CHOSEN

A brilliant film...

A wonderful film for the whole family. Yet again, the stories of Jesus come alive in this superb animation. Based on the story Charles Dickens wrote for his own children so that they'd know the most important story in life! Can be viewed on Amazon

Making Sense of Membership

If you have questions about faith – or about what it means to become a 'member' of the Church then this is the place for you! There is space for discussion, questions, exploring and, if you feel ready, to make public profession of your relationship with Jesus.



All welcome.

Come and join us for some 'gathered prayer' time.

Every Wednesday 7.00 - 7.40pm in the Eric Liddell.

Come as you can; leave when you must.





TAKING IT FURTHER





Come and chat through what has been happening in our times of worship together over the previous month

were there things that left you puzzled? Encouraged?
 Challenged? Did the choice of hymns help with the theme? Did the visuals add or subtract from what was being said? VVhich bits of the Bible passages merited further exploration?



First Sunday of every month, 12.45–1.45pm, in the Eric Liddell. Bring a packed lunch! All welcome – come and join us!.



Plastic kills 1 million sea birds and 100,000 sea mammals, turtles and fish every year.

Plastic pollution is devastating to wildlife because it

doesn't simply disappear. It can take hundreds of years to break down into smaller and smaller pieces which can be easily ingested. Plastic is toxic and can kill wildlife or make them more susceptible to disease.

In the sonnet below, Malcolm Guite, well-known poet & theologian, reflects on lessons learned from Autumn leaves.

In praise of decay

So much is deadly in the shiny new,
Persistent plastic choking out our life,
The landfill of each ego's empty stuff,
Where poison and possession still accrue.
So praise Him in the old and mouldering,
In pale gold leaf-fall losing shape and edge,
In mottled compost rustling and rich,
From which the stuff of life is still unfolding.
Change and decay is what our plastic needs
To break the bleak persistence of our waste.
Pray that we learn the lost arts of our past,
The arts of letting go and sowing seeds,
That secrets of the lowly and the least
Might save us from the dreadful things that last.

Malcolm Guite



PRAY FOR OUR LOCAL CARE HOMES

What a privilege to be able to lead worship every month in the 4 care homes within the village! On the 3rd Sunday of every month, we venture into Birdston North, Birdston South, Kintyre and Lillyburn.
The staff are very accommodating and make sure that those residents who wish to attend worship are gathered and waiting. We sing a few hymns and old choruses, hear a familiar passage from the Bible, are led in prayer and say the Lord's Prayer together.

These times of worshipping together are marked by laughter, conversation and joy. They are truly ecumenical and well supported.



We're grateful to hymn-writer Carolyn Winfrey for allowing us to print the words below

They refer to 2 Timothy 1:5 where Paul writes: "I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you."



A grandmother, Lois, had faith in you, Lord, then Eunice, her daughter, believed in your Word.

Then her son, named Timothy, grew up to be a young man who cherished the faith he'd received.

While some with great drama discover your truth, for many, we learned it as children and youth.

We learned it from grandparents, parents and more — from mentors and teachers who trusted you, Lord.

Forgive us, O Christ, when we've broken this chain of long generations who teach of your reign;
Forgive our assuming that children and youth should be left alone to discover your truth.

May each generation share these things anew: the gift of salvation that we have in you, your call to seek justice and care for the poor.

May we teach our children the things that endure.

We thank you, Christ Jesus, for nurturing ones who pass on the faith to these daughters and sons — so youth see your church as a place they belong, and find here a faith that is loving and strong.

Carolyn Winfrey



PRAY FOR OUR LOCAL SCHOOLS













parents







Give thanks for the 42 youngsters from Craighead who gather at lunchtime for the Scripture Union.



Pray for pupils and staff as they hear something of the Nativity story — at end of term services and in class. "It's Somebody's birthday, I won't forget!"



Fellowship Group

Our new season of talks and activities started on the 8th September. We have enjoyed very interesting talks, the first was about the German bomber that was shot down near Lennoxtown, and the relationship of the folk of Lennoxtown



and the family of one of the crew who was killed and buried in the High Kirk Cemetery. The second was from staff from the City Mission Rehabilitation centre in Glasgow. Their talk was an interesting insight in to their work in society. Our third talk will be from a Salvation Army Major, Ray Brown. His talk is about his work with the Salvation Army and their Emergency Disaster Services. Our Fourth talk is from one of our members Andy MacKensie, entitled "28 days to walk the world"

We have talks arranged through to March 2026. We meet at the Church Complex, Lochiel Drive on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at 7.30pm. In November we have a talk from Kevin McKenna, a journalist. His talk is entitled "Faith and a life in journalism. Then we are treated to a talk from Grace Knight about her time spent in Nepal. The title of her talk is "Nepal Revisited".

In December we have our annual dinner at the Hayston Golf Club. Our guest speaker is the Rev. Alastair McLachlan. In January we have our much enjoyed Scottish night at the Hayston Golf Club. This is a mild nod to the Burn's with traditional Scottish Food and wonderful entertainment, which includes, a piper, singers, reading of poetry both solemn and humorous. In February and March we have talks booked from Scott Abercrombie on a Conservation Project, Craig Brooks, on the High Kirk Project in Lennoxtown and from James Pert, one of our members, on the Forth and Clyde Canal, Glasgow to Bowling. We have two more evenings which the committee are arranging the details of which will be published in due course.

Come along, bring a friend, and share Fellowship with likeminded folk. Listen to the talks and then enjoy light refreshments and a chat. A great way to spend those cold dark winter nights. You will be made most welcome.

Cafe Connect

Cafe Connect meets every Tuesday from 9:30 to 12 in the church space called the David Livingstone.

Come and join us for a cuppa, scones from The Fells, biscuits,

you will be made very welcome. There is a work space with wifi and a play area for toddlers. We're open most Tuesdays except school summer and Christmas holidays.





Tend Team Christmas Party

The Tend Team Christmas Party will be held on Sunday 7th December at 2.30pm in the church complex. Entertainment will be provided by Kilsyth Harmony. Anyone requiring a lift should contact Gail Main on 07760 486 134.



Baby & Toddler Group

We meet on Mondays during school term time from 9.45 to 11.30 am. Please come and join us. We have lots of activities and toys for everyone to enjoy and the grown-ups have a chance to chat to others and share experiences of bringing up little ones!

And there's even snacks for children and adults. We finish with a singalong together before we head home.

And all for just £1 per week.



Jigsaw News

We have had a good start to our new session since starting back at the end of August. We enjoy being with the congregation at the beginning of the service, exploring a bible passage which we carry on looking at after family time when we move through to our own space and enjoy some more time together. We have lots of fun, games and (quite often) cake!

Not long now until we start working on our Nativity for 2025, a great time when all of our youth groups come together to produce this. This year it will be on Sunday, 21st of December, always a highlight of our church calendar!

We raise money twice a year for various charities by selling home baking after a church service. Our last bake sale in May raised over £200 for Mary's Meals, an amazing charity serving a daily meal to some of the world's poorest children before heading to school. This year on Sunday the 30th of November we will hold another bake sale after our church service and the proceeds from this will go to our local Foodbank.

There is always room for youngsters to join us on a Sunday morning, we have a creche up to pre-school age, then Jigsaw from P1-P5. If you would like any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me on: 07950763536. Rhona xx

Epic and Crossover

Epic and Crossover are an exciting and friendly group of youngsters who meet every Sunday in church. These groups are

for young people aged P6 - S6 and beyo

Epic: P6 & P7 Xover: S1-S6 +

We start in the main church sanctuary with the whole congregation and half way through the service we move through to breakout rooms to further explore the bible passages and discuss how this relates Jesus and his love to us, our situations the world and environment. We always have plenty of room for more to join us.

Interested? Please come and join us or reach out to speak to any one of us: Gillian Murphy (07854 160757), Jen Love (07923 621223) or Kirsty Lynch (07557 470679)



Boys' Brigade

We're delighted with the way the new session of the Boys' Brigade has started. Lots of fun, activities, projects and games every Friday evening, with a great number of boys from Milton of Campsie who have joined from the 2nd Campsie Company. There's plenty of space for more to join the adventure



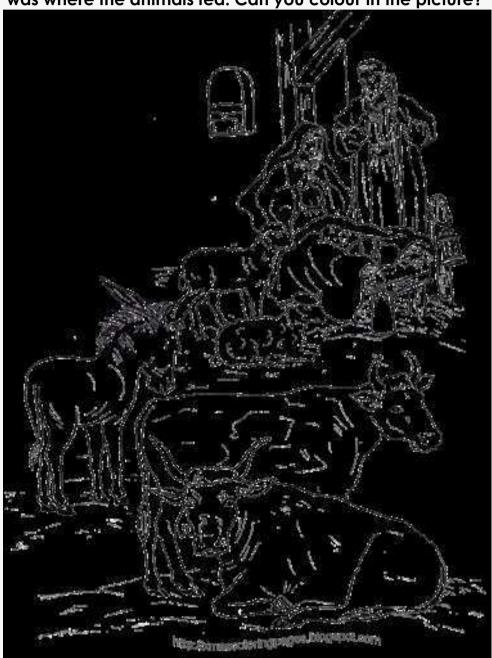
Jim McVean, one of our Session Clerks, is the Development & Outreach Lead for Glasgow Battalion, Boys' Brigade. To mark their 140th anniversary, Jim undertook a 140km walking challenge, visiting all 50 host churches in the Battalion over seven days last month.

Stops in East Dunbartonshire included Milngavie, Bearsden, and Bishopbriggs with the majority of his 'training' taking place in and around Milton of Campsie. The final day began at Cadder South Halls, with a route that included a stop at Glasgow Cathedral for a celebratory service.

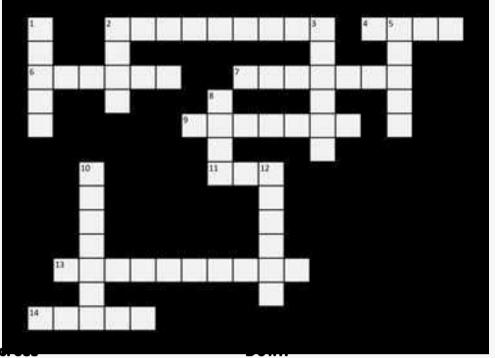


The challenge also raised funds for local Companies and the Battalion to support the delivery of 'Life to the Full' activities and events.

The Bible tells us Jesus was born in a stable. And his cot was where the animals fed. Can you colour in the picture?



now many animals can you count in this picture? what are they called and what sounds do they make?



2. The town where baby Jesus was born.

- 4. Jesus' mother's name
- 6. The inn-keeper told Mary that she could stay in the with the animals.
- 7. There was a _____ star that led the wise men to baby Jesus.
- 9. ____ brought Jesus gifts and travelled far.
- 11. Baby Jesus was also the son of .
- 13. The wise men ____ baby Jesus.
- 14. The manger was filled with _____ to make it comfortable for baby Jesus.

- 1. Mary was told by the angel to call the baby _____.
- 2. An angel told Mary that she would have a very special _____.
- 3. Jesus lay in a _____.
- 5. An _____ told the shepherds about Jesus' birth.
- 8. Jesus was also known as the newborn
- 10. Jesus would be our _____.
- 12. Mary rode on a ____ to find a place to stay.

Find the Advent Candles!

There are 50 Advent candles hidden in the Messenger.
Can you find them all?





A huge thank you for your ongoing donations of good quality household items that you no longer need; bedding, towels, kitchenware, clothing (all ages), coats, shoes, toys, books and small items of furniture. Your donations are a real help to folks and they are extremely grateful.

I am happy to uplift your items and deliver them to the Pantry, a community shop in Ruchazie.

You can contact me, Ann on: 07952 838 860.

Thank you also to those of you able to deliver directly to The Pantry at 435, Gartloch Road, Ruchazie G33 3TJ. Opening hours for donations are Monday to Friday from 9:30 to 4pm. Its best to ring first in case they are closed. The shop is staffed by local volunteers. Tina the manager is based next door in the Fireclay Café, a community café.

The Pantry phone number is: 0141 237 4900

If you have good quality large items of furniture to donate, here are a few charities you could contact;

The Salvation Army: 0141 334 7253

Chest, Heart and Stroke Glasgow Helps: 07435 785 998

Shelter: 0141 332 8505

To donate baby and children's items you might like to contact Babes In The Woods, Bishopbriggs

Phone: 0141 258 7500 for further information.

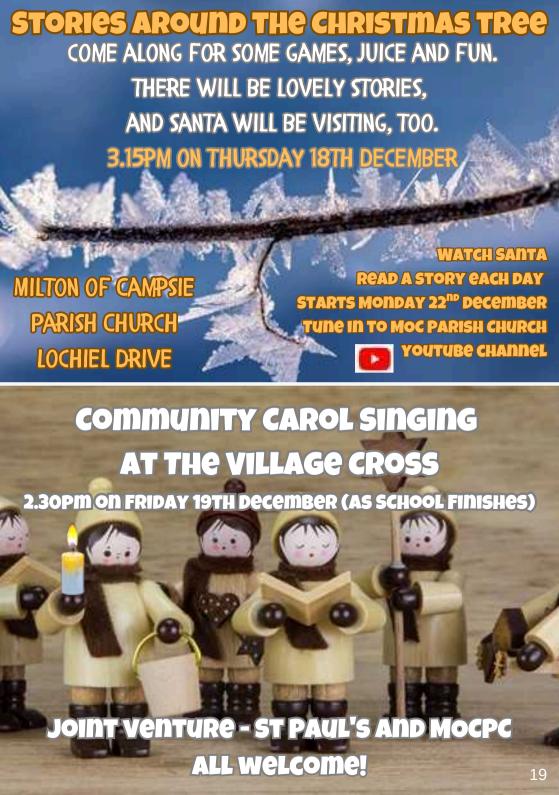
Let's keep this going! Thank you for caring and making a difference.

Hobbies club

As we are now getting into the winter months the Hobbies club will be a warm and friendly place to come and meet friendly folk enjoy your hobby or just have an afternoon out.

We meet every Monday from 2-4 at the Church Hub I hope you will be able to join us bring yourself with or without a hobby and enjoy good company tea and coffee and of course chocolate biscuits!

Louise Fraser 01360311819



Guild News

We have enjoyed a busy and interesting start to our new session. From our first meeting on the 3rd September we have had excellent speakers on a variety of topics.



All our meetings start with a short service of devotions and, our minister, Julie Moody, opened the session on the subject of Living Stones, this year's Guild Theme. We have had a talk from the local nursery garden co-ordinator at Silver Birch, Scotland, an organisation which offers opportunities for many people with disabilities.

We also had an evening hearing about life and work in Oman with the tastes, customs and day to day living of being in a country so different from ours. Our last meeting was hearing about the development of Playlist, music for people living with dementia.

Fellowship and charity fundraising are also a big part of Guild life. We are supporting Bibles for Bairns this year, one of the National Guild projects and we are holding a concert on 5th November in support of this.

More events and meetings are in the pipeline. Please feel welcome to join us in any or all of the meetings.

Write For Writes

Support the work of Amnesty International. Whether you've never done this before or are an old hand, you're invited to come along and get involved on Saturday 29th November at the Church Centre Lochiel Drive.

We'll be there between 10:30 and 11:30am, to explain how you can help and with lists of people you can write to while enjoying a cuppa and a biscuit. All welcome!

If you can't come on the 29th and would like to get involved, phone me and I'll get a copy to you.



Ann 07952 838 860

Reverse Advent Calendar

This is a simple idea! Start the **Reverse Advent Calendar** at the beginning of Advent.

Find a basket or a box and every day leading up to Christmas, add something useful (tinned food, toiletries, sweets, cleaning stuff... whatever you think would be welcome).

Note that these won't be available until after Christmas, so don't add "Christmassy" things Then a few days before Christmas donate the entire basket and contents to your local Foodbank

Foodbank Warehouse, 19 Donaldson Cres, 66 1XF Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 11am to 4pm

If you would like your box collected, please contact me. Margaret Burton 07786 476073

or bring it to church.







A SHORT REFLECTIVE SERVICE, FOLLOWED BY TEA & COFFEE,
FOR ANYONE WHO HAS KNOWN ANY FORM OF GRIEF, PAIN, DISAPPOINTMENT
OR WORRY DURING 2025 - OR AT ANY TIME.
SUNDAY 14TH DECEMBER. 5PM. AT THE CHURCH CENTRE.



JESUS SAID, "GOD BLESSES THOSE WHO MOURN, FOR THEY WILL BE COMFORTED."



TOWARDS UNION...

The following people were appointed by the two Kirk Sessions to serve on the Steering Group:

Margaret Burton (MOCPC), George Kelly (CPC),

Sue Mitchell (CPC), Gillian Murphy (MOCPC),

Robert Scott (MOCPC), Margaret Tindall (CPC),

Andy Waugh (CPC) & Rhona Wyper (MOCPC)

The group worked hard to create a **Basis of Union document**. That document essentially outlined: that the name of the united congregation would be Campsie Fells Parish Church of Scotland, that the Milton of Campsie Church Centre would be designated as the Principal Place of worship (with the Campsie building being used as an Outreach Centre), and the fact that Julie has agreed to take on this change to her post.

The Basis of Union document was accepted by both Kirk Sessions and thus was taken to a congregational vote on the 5th October.

The results of that vote showed that more work needs to be done before any union could ever take place. This is hugely disappointing and distressing for those at the forefront of the changes.

No time frame has been put on the final decision being made ... hopefully there will be more news by the time the next edition of the Messenger is published.

Please continue to pray for all involved, and for the work of the Kingdom in the

meantime.



More information from Julie: JMoody@churchofscotland.org.uk or 07825 001898





For pupils in P5 - S1 27th June -4th July 2026

GBI



www.suholidays.org.uk/holidays/events/2026-06-27-multi-activity-1/



Abseiling
Archery
Archery Tag
Assault Course
Excursion

Bushcraft Crafts Crate climbing Stand Up Paddleboarding Tubing Hillwalk Mountain biking Nightline Swimming Tree climbing

Last year over 20 youngsters from MOC joined Julie and her team for a week of SU camp at Gowanbank. The team are in place for 2026 ... and are looking forward to welcoming lots of these young people back – and meeting new folks, too.

This holiday is heavily subsidised by generous donations from the church.

If you'd like to support by praying or donating, please let Julie know.







Lots of other SU Holidays are available check out: https://www.suholidays.org.uk/holidays/events/



Heavenly Father, who sent your son Jesus to be our Prince of Peace,

We thank you for the peace agreement between Israel and Hamas. We pray that this would

bring lasting peace to the whole region, and that you would restore hope to the hopeless. We pray that Israel would allow a flood of aid to freely enter Gaza.

We pray for a lasting ceasefire, and that the peace plan is implemented fully by all parties, so that Israelis and Palestinians can live in peace and with dignity.

Our hearts break for the millions of people who've endured relentless violence and conflict, and we ask that you restore them to life in all its fullness

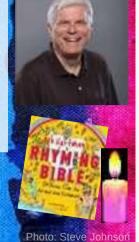
For all those who are suffering, starving and mourning, we ask that help would reach them quickly – and that you would be their comfort, their healer and their safe refuge.

In Jesus' name, Amen



It was a privilege for Julie, Margaret, Rhona & Phyllis to meet up with Bob Hartman, famous for his Rhyming Bible. He taught us a lot about intergenerational storytelling.

It was good to hear how digital ministry, drama, storytelling, and conversation are shaping new expressions of mission across the Church in Scotland.



IT MIGHT JUST CHANGE YOUR LIFE...

JOIN US IN PERSON

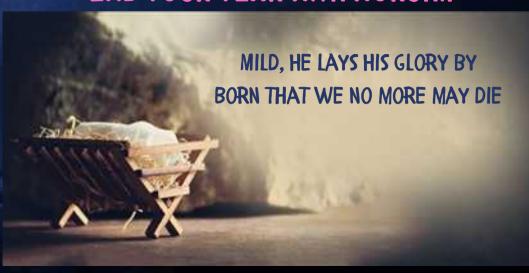
OR VIA YOUTUBE & FACEBOOK

11.15PM - 12.05AM WATCHNIGHT

CHRISTMAS DAY CELEBRATION - IN PERSON

11AM CELEBRATION: ALL WELCOME LET'S SEE A GIFT YOU RECEIVED

SUNDAY 28TH DECEMBER 2025 AT 11AM
IN PERSON OR VIA YOUTUBE & FACEBOOK
END YOUR YEAR WITH WORSHIP





Nonagenarians!



The 1930s have been characterised by high unemployment, extremist politics and the menacing shadow of war so praise God for Alex McFarlane & Elizabeth Taylor, both born in 1935. Congratulations!









A privilege for us to host Strathcarron Singers on 5 October. £1097 was raised for Strathcarron Hospice. Thank you! And thanks to all our home-bakers who provided the usual high standard of hospitality.

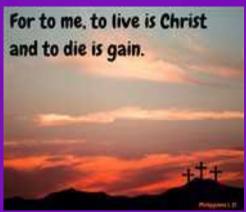
DAILY VERSES ON FACEBOOK



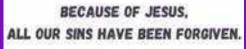
This same Good NeWs that came to you is going out all over the World.













After 5 years of daily posting, this project came to an end in July. Thank you to all who interacted with the posts.

GO MAD FORTNIGHT

2 weeks of events and activities for children, young people and adults

HOLIDAY COMMUNITY EVENING CLUB OUIZ WORSHIP YOUTH CHARITY A BIT OF CAFÉ CONCERT A SING





And what a fortnight it was!



The winning team at our GoMAD Quiz, "Badminton Beauties" with Quizmaster Tom Wilson. Thanks to all 16 teams.



laugnter to the Care Homes.



This Bit of a Sing choir led the singing at our Charity Concert, raising a total of £2000.



The Home & Away Marmalada Team.



For two weeks they sang, played. painted, dramatised, crafted, puzzled & had fun with 100 children. Some were very young; others not-so-young; some local; some far-travelled; some committed Christians; some still feeling their way; but together they brought the Good News of Jesus to Milton of Campsie. We cannot thank them enough. Cooks Anna & Patricia travelled from Girvan.











Scenes from GoMAD'25





Paddy



Our front cover depicts the end product of GoMAD's community art project.

The brainchild of Jenni, our resident artist, it was the work of many people who, over the GoMAD fortnight, added their own particular touch to it.

Paddy is a young channel crosser who, with his paddle, forms a modern-day cross or crucifix, bringing about conversation & raising awareness of Matthew 25: 35-40 and the plight of millions who are hungry & homeless.

Kum Ba Yah my Lord! Kum Ba Yah!



Claire Miller blends beautifully into our "Under His Wings" background.
A children's writer, Claire is a regular at Café
Connect, making use of our "warm space" as well as sharing friendship & cheer with all who come.



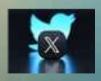


JOIN WITH US FOR WORSHIP!

COME ALONG ON A SUNDAY MORNING.
THIS IS, BY FAR, THE BEST OPTION



WATCH THE LIVESTREAM ON FACEBOOK:
MILTON OF CAMPSIE PARISH CHURCH



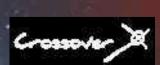
CLICK THE LINK ON X (TWITTER): @CAMPSIEOF

YouTube

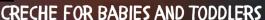
TUNE IN TO YOUTUBE FOR LIVESTREAM:

MOC PARISH CHURCH

YOUNG FOLKS MEET FOR EPIC & CROSSOVER EACH SUNDAY @ 11AM DETAILS ON THE EPIC FACEBOOK PAGE.

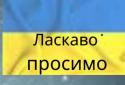


KIDS GATHER FOR JIGSAW EACH SUNDAY @11AM





NO PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!!



COME AND JOIN US!
ALL WELCOME.

