

Winter 2022

# The Challenge



Catch up with the latest news and updates around the High Kirk...  
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Please join us in 2023 as we start a new Bible Reading Plan.  
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Gifts can vary widely, as can the motivation behind their giving...  
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# A VIEW FROM THE MANSE

*“In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.” - 1 Peter 1:6-9*

I recently read that ocean waves are normally created by three forces: wind, seismic events and the gravitational pull of the moon and sun. The article went on to explain that, in parts of the ocean, it is possible for the surface of the sea to move in one direction while the deep sea currents move in the opposite direction.

This is often the experience we have in the Christian life and in the life of the church. On the surface we face trials and storms daily, while cultural & political winds can come against the church. As Christians we often feel overwhelmed when these heavy waves of discouragement, distress and disappointment crash over us. We almost drown in our griefs, fears, frustrations and worries. We feel everything is out of control. Everything in the world can seem so chaotic.

In 1st Peter, the Apostle is writing to a suffering and fearful church. In the midst of a tidal wave of hostility, Peter explains that, despite the surface current, they can know the deep ocean currents of hope, victory, and joy, as they put their trust in the Lord Jesus and look forward to his return.

In this Advent season, it is my prayer for the High Kirk and for each one of you that, despite all the winds and storms that rage around us, we will experience renewed hope, victory in Jesus, and an inexpressible and glorious joy in our soon coming Conquering King.

Your Friend

*Rev Scott Cameron*

# CHURCH CALENDAR

## DECEMBER

- 1st **Stevenston High Kirk Guild** at 1.30pm (Hall)
- 2nd **Stevenston Lights & Movie Night** from 6pm (Stevenston Cross)
- 4th **Morning Service** at 10.30am
- 7th **Rainbow Club** Christmas Party at 10am (Hall)  
**Prayer Fellowship** at 10.30am (SMA)  
**Discipleship Group** at 1pm (Hall)  
**Girls Brigade** at 6pm (Hall)
- 9th **Christmas Praise Night** at 7.30pm (Hall)  
with Aileen Gilchrist & Friends.
- 11th **Communion Service** at 10.30am  
**Christmas Lunch** from 11.45am (Hall)
- 14th **Prayer Fellowship** at 10.30am (SMA)  
**Discipleship Group** at 1.30pm (Hall)
- 15th **Stevenston High Kirk Guild** at 1.30pm (Hall)
- 18th **Nativity Service** at 10.30am
- 24th **Christmas Eve Service** at 7pm
- 25th **Christmas Day Service** at 10.30am
- 31st **Hogmanay Fellowship** at 7pm (Manse)

## CHRISTMAS EVE COLLECTION

We hope to take up a collection at our Christmas Eve Service which will be given to Tearfund. Any money collected through the church before the end of January 2023 will be doubled.

## JANUARY

- 1st **New Year's Day Service** at 10.30am
- 8th **Morning Service** at 10.30am.
- 11th **Rainbow Club** at 10am (Hall)  
**Prayer Fellowship** at 10.30am (SMA)  
**Discipleship Group** at 1pm (Hall)  
**Girls Brigade** at 6pm (Hall)
- 15th **Morning Service** at 10.30am.
- 18th **Rainbow Club** at 10am (Hall)  
**Prayer Fellowship** at 10.30am (SMA)  
**Discipleship Group** at 1pm (Hall)  
**Girls Brigade** at 6pm (Hall)
- 19th **Stevenston High Kirk Guild** at 1.30pm (Hall)
- 20th **Prayer Time** at 6.30pm (SMA)  
**Revival Fellowship** at 7.30pm (Manse)

22nd **Morning Service** at 10.30am.  
 25th **Rainbow Club** at 10am (Hall)  
       **Prayer Fellowship** at 10.30am (SMA)  
       **Discipleship Group** at 1pm (Hall)  
       **Girls Brigade** at 6pm (Hall)  
 27th **Prayer Time** at 6.30pm (SMA)  
       **Revival Fellowship** at 7.30pm (Manse)  
 29th **Morning Service** at 10.30am.  
 31st **Kirk Session** at 7pm (SMA)

## **FEBRUARY**

1st **Rainbow Club** at 10am (Hall)  
       **Prayer Fellowship** at 10.30am (SMA)  
       **Discipleship Group** at 1pm (Hall)  
       **Girls Brigade** at 6pm (Hall)  
 2nd **Stevenston High Kirk Guild** at 1.30pm (Hall)  
 3rd **Prayer Time** at 6.30pm (SMA)  
       **Revival Fellowship** at 7.30pm (Manse)  
 5th **Family Service** at 10.30am.  
 8th **Rainbow Club** at 10am (Hall)  
       **Prayer Fellowship** at 10.30am (SMA)  
       **Discipleship Group** at 1pm (Hall)  
       **Girls Brigade** at 6pm (Hall)  
 10th **Prayer Time** at 6.30pm (SMA)  
       **Revival Fellowship** at 7.30pm (Manse)  
 12th **Morning Service** at 10.30am.  
 15th **Rainbow Club** at 10am (Hall)  
       **Prayer Fellowship** at 10.30am (SMA)  
       **Discipleship Group** at 1pm (Hall)  
       **Girls Brigade** at 6pm (Hall)  
 16th **Stevenston High Kirk Guild** at 1.30pm (Hall)  
 17th **Prayer Time** at 6.30pm (SMA)  
       **Revival Fellowship** at 7.30pm (Manse)  
 19th **Morning Service** at 10.30am.  
 22nd **Rainbow Club** at 10am (Hall)  
       **Prayer Fellowship** at 10.30am (SMA)  
       **Discipleship Group** at 1pm (Hall)  
       **Girls Brigade** at 6pm (Hall)  
 24th **Prayer Time** at 6.30pm (SMA)  
       **Revival Fellowship** at 7.30pm (Manse)  
 26th **Morning Service** at 10.30am.





## **NEWS AROUND THE KIRK**

### **PRESBYTERY MISSION PLAN SUSPENDED**

The High Kirk (along with 7 other churches) have been successful in requesting a review of the Presbytery Mission Plan for Ardrossan. A review is now underway which may take several months to complete - no later than March 2023. Please continue to pray for Ardeer, Livingstone and the High Kirk through these difficult days.

### **CRISIS BAGS**

We managed to deliver a good number of crisis bags during the pandemic; 214 bags in 2020 and 253 bags in 2021. So far this year we have delivered 256 bags.

St John's Distribution Centre for the North Ayrshire Foodbank is only open by a telephone request. Calls can be made to a special mobile number where you can speak to Danny Murray to arrange a collection or delivery of a Foodbank box of groceries or a Crisis Bag.

### **CHANA**

Churches Homelessness Action North Ayrshire resumed their meetings in the High Kirk Church Hall in 2021. Churches are donating toiletries and cleaning materials for people in the Homeless Hostels and those who have been allocated their own tenancies.

Last year the Night Before Christmas Campaign (NB4CC) gave 150 gifts for those in Supported Accommodation and the Hostel. They were all wrapped in plenty of time for distribution before Christmas.

People in Parishes throughout North Ayrshire contributed over £1000 to NB4CC. The High Kirk and Kirkgate Church also donated a vast amount of toys and gifts to make up Christmas boxes for vulnerable children and young people in North Ayrshire. We intend to do the same again this year at our Gift Service on 4th December.

## **CARE & SHARE LUNCH CLUB**

Fridays 12.30 – 2.30pm in Kirkgate Church

The Lunch Club, for people in need, started up again in October 2021. A free lunch of soup, rolls with sausage and a selection of other fillings is provided. There is also a choice of desserts and fruit. There is a large number of helpers from churches in North Ayrshire.

Those who come along, as well as the kitchen staff and those serving tables, enjoy fellowship through chatting and playing games. Other agencies are invited along to offer help and advice (i.e. Money Matters, Local Housing staff, Alcoholics Anonymous, etc). A hairdresser comes along once a month to trim hair.

A new Care & Share Lunch Club has also opened in St Margaret's Church, Dalry.

## **YOUTH CLUB**

The Youth Club continued to meet on Zoom throughout the lockdown. In June 2021, we were able to meet in the High Kirk Manse gardens for outdoor activities with food from Dominico's.

The club returned to regular monthly meetings on Sunday evenings 6.30 – 8.00pm in October 2021. Our first three meetings were held in Livingstone Church and in the new year we moved back to the High Kirk. We had an outing to the Bounce Station in Irvine in May and another successful evening of activities in the manse garden in June. This session we have been in the High Kirk Hall and have had a Games Night, a Nativity Escape Room challenge and are planning to have a Christmas outing to LA Bowl in Ayr. Our programme for the new year will start off in Livingstone Church in January. We now have 10 young people attending the Youth Club as well as a good team of young people helping to run the games and activities.

## **SUNDAY CLUB**

Our Sunday Club groups, Creche, Tiddlywinks, Kaleidoscope and the Youth Group have all been meeting together in the Main Hall since we returned to regular meetings after the pandemic. We have been using the Jesus Storybook Bible DVD's and we all watch these together. We have now covered most of the stories in the New Testament and are working our way through the Old Testament. The children have a choice of activity sheets or craft which helps them to understand and talk about the story they have been learning. It has been so good for us to be back in Church at our Family Services. We really did miss being with our Church family. Thank you all for your love and support.

## STEVENSTON HIGH KIRK GUILD

### **“Wee seeds, Big trees”**

For the session 2022-23 our theme is, as above, “Wee seeds, Big trees” which has helped us look at our environment and our beautiful country as well as other kinds of seeds.

At the start of the session in October we used a reflection on the theme which had been provided by Guild office and shared communion. At our next meeting we planted Hyacinth bulbs and look forward to seeing the results later.

Our meetings for the rest of the year are:

November 16th	Adele Kytzia (Autism)
December 1st	Betty McKay (Children’s Author)
15th	Christmas Party

Some of our members also attended the Guilds Together North Ayrshire meeting in October where they heard about the work of Scripture Union in North Ayrshire and the devastating effect the pandemic has had on local school groups. We, as a Guild, have been asked to pray about this as it is a national situation. We would ask you to join us in this.

We also have a GTNA meeting on 2nd December in Saltcoats Ardrossan Kirkgate Church when we will have a Puppet presentation and Christmas event.

Finally, back to our theme, did you know we have a very special tree in our church grounds? It is, to give it its common name, a Tulip Tree. It is so called by the shape of its leaves which you can see on the ground at this time of year. It was at one time a little seed and two hundred or so years later a big tree.

We are learning that seeds planted in the ground, or the Word of God planted in our hearts and minds can have long term effects and grow and spread for many years to come.

*Mary Ford*  
Convener

## PRAYER FELLOWSHIP

E M Bounds in his book entitled 'Prayer' has much to say about praying. Chapter 1 contains the following, 'the most important lesson we can learn is how to pray'. How true that is and how many men and women when asked to describe their prayer life respond, "sadly I find prayer so difficult; I keep on praying, yet I'm only a novice. It is so hard and so costly."

It seems to me that when the church gathers to pray we actually encourage one another. We learn from the Scriptures and the Holy Spirit to work at it, to strive to grow together in our prayers. Do you agree?

Every Wednesday morning at 10.30 we meet in St Monach's Aisle to give thanks to God for our Salvation, for our Lord Jesus Christ, and intercede (pray) for the world in its great need as well as the ongoing work in the High Kirk, our community and local churches.

The format is simple. We start with a brief word from the Bible (5 minutes!). This is followed by sharing the needs of our fellowship, etc, and we then spend about 30 minutes in open prayer giving thanks for all that we enjoy about our faith and seek faithfully and systematically to intercede for the church both locally and internationally, for the world and for our missionaries and a host of Christian agencies (eg. Tearfund, Christian Aid, Scripture Union, Faith Mission, India Village Ministries, Rainedge, Release International, etc).

There is no compulsion to pray aloud. One can be an important part of the prayer group by simply being there praying silently.

The early church met like this and was greatly blessed. It seems to me such a pity that many churches don't have such meetings, or if they do, it's normally the smallest one that exists. Could this be a challenge to some of us to make this a priority?

After all, Prayer is the power house; without it we can do nothing. Without prayer we are powerless!

It would be lovely to see you joining with us on Wednesday mornings.

Blessings

*Norman Cruickshank*

# A TALE OF THE CHURCHGOERS

Ten little churchgoers-went to church when fine,  
But it started to rain and then there were nine.  
Nine little churchgoers stayed up very late,  
One overslept himself and then there were eight.  
Eight little churchgoers on the road to heaven,  
One joined a rambling club and then there were seven.  
Seven little churchgoers heard of Sunday 'Flicks'  
One thought he'd like to go and then there were six.  
Six little churchgoers kept the place alive,  
One bought a video and then there were five.  
Five little churchgoers seemed loyal to the core,  
The Minister upset one then there were four.  
Four little churchgoers argued heatedly-  
Over the form of service, and then there were three.  
Three little churchgoers sang the service through,  
Got a hymn they didn't know and then there were two.  
Two little churchgoers disputed who should run  
The next Parish Social, and then there was one.  
One faithful christian knowing what to do,  
Got a friend to come to Church and then there were two.  
Two sincere Christians each brought in one more,  
So their numbers doubled and then there were four.  
Four sturdy Christians simply couldn't wait,  
Till they found four others and then there were eight  
Eight eager Christians searching round for souls,  
Praying, working, witnessing, drew others in by shoals.  
Shoals and shoals at every service, craning every pew,  
O GOD, SUPPLY THIS GRACE AND ZEAL IN THIS OUR PARISH TOO!

Submitted by June Duff

## ROBERT MURRAY M'CHEYNE

"Rose early to seek God and found Him whom my soul loveth. Who would not rise early to meet such company?" [Journal: 23 February 1834]

"Oh how sweet to work for God all day, and then lie down at night beneath His smile."



## (CHRISTMAS??) GIFTS

As I write this, it is still October but adverts for all things Christmas have started appearing on TV. It would seem that, despite the “Cost of Living Crisis”, and the dire threats of a cold, hungry and even homeless Christmas for many people, there are plenty who will not let us forget what (sadly) has become the “true” meaning of Christmas i.e it is mainly a commercialised money-spinner. Now, before this article is dismissed as another grumpy Scrooge having a pious rant, let me state that there is much about this society’s typical way of spending Christmas that is good and commendable. Many families get together and DON’T fight; many lonely people feel included again; and, of course, despite the disappointments experienced and the fortune spent on worthless or inappropriate gifts, some gifts do “hit the mark” and some folks, through sensitively chosen gifts, are made to feel that they are, indeed, appreciated – or even loved!

It may surprise some to know that, like other customs associated with Christmas, the practice of giving gifts actually has its roots in pagan times when celebrations of the winter solstice took place. Then, as Christianity spread during the first millennium, some traditions were merged together and the giving of presents was linked to the wise men bringing gifts for the infant Jesus.

Gifts can vary widely, as can the motivation behind their giving. Some are embarrassingly inappropriate, but some are greatly appreciated. Some may be very pretty but serve no actual purpose beyond that. Choosing a gift can be stressful but, once handed over, it may never again be taken out of the box or wrappings.

Gifts, of another kind, that is spiritual gifts, can also lead to mixed emotions and reactions. Some believers try to avoid the subject altogether, while in other places, spiritual gifts can become all-important. While some run and hide at their mention, others can allow them to usurp the position that is rightly our Lord’s. As with many issues, we can start with a view or a theory and then search the Scriptures for evidence, or what are sometimes called “proof texts” to support our particular understanding. Where this topic is concerned, there are a few verses towards the end of 1 Corinthians, chapter 13 that are used to argue that, because we now have the completed Bible, we no longer need supernatural gifts. However, a serious look at those verses will give rise to some very big doubts about using them in this way.

An open-minded, balanced approach to this subject is called for – isn’t it always? Personally, I can see no Scriptural reason for denying the operation

of spiritual gifts in the present age. At the same time, I also firmly believe that everything should be done “decently and in order.”

If people reading this would like to explore what the Bible says about spiritual gifts, they should read Romans chapter 12, I Corinthians chapter 12 and Ephesians chapter 4. To put what these passages say in context, do read the full chapters. I have found Selwyn Hughes’ material on gifting very helpful. He suggests that the Romans chapter 12 section lists what he calls “Basic Gifts” and sees these as gifts we are born with; they are part of who we are. The 1 Corinthians passage he sees as “Gifts we Seek”– or receive. These may be imparted by the Holy Spirit to any believer at any time. John Wimber referred to these particular gifts as “gracelets” and talked of their being distributed by “the dancing hand of God”. Some may be granted this kind of gift on only one occasion, but others may develop a ministry in using one or more of them. In Selwyn Hughes’ suggested schema, the gifts named in Ephesians chapter 4 are identified as “Gifts that some people Become”

It seems to me that our understanding and use of the word “gifts”- as in our earlier consideration of Christmas gifts etc - can obscure our approach to spiritual gifts. Too often – I believe – and I am about to mount one of my pet “hobby-horses”, God’s great Salvation is presented as a “fire escape”.. In this approach, the only thing that matters is saving your own skin and then, as an add-on, finding something worthwhile to do - oh, and, as a recruiter, recruiting more recruiters, who can recruit more recruiters - and so it goes on as numbers become what really matter. Now, I do not want to sound overly cynical or flippant about such serious matters – “knowing that your soul is safe through all eternity” (as one hymn puts it) is no small issue – BUT it is not the full story. We are here for specific reasons and I find it sad that many experienced believers seem to have no idea what exactly the Lord requires of them.

Discovering one’s spiritual gifting can be the big clue or, indeed, the answer to what God is intending one’s role in life to be.

*David Wilson*

**Please Note** – If anyone would like to discuss this further, or undertake the exercise entitled, “Finding your Place in the Body of Christ”, do get in touch on 01294 461388 and I’ll be happy to meet up with you.



## MEET THE MODERATOR

**The Very Rev Dr Iain Greenshields reflects on the people who nurtured his call to ministry...**

It was June 1978 and I was on holiday in Ness, in the North of the Island of Lewis – a place we always referred to as our second home. I knew that my life was at a crossroads and I was seriously considering applying to university to study with a view to eventually working in social work.

As was the church practice in Ness, the church had a "mid-week" service on a Thursday evening in what was called Lionel Mission Church, part of Cross Ness Church of Scotland. By this time I had been a Christian for two years.

I walked in, sat down, like a good Presbyterian, at the back of the church and Rev John Ferguson led the worship. When it came to the "sermon", John said, "Iain is with us from Glasgow. He will bring us a word."

Totally unprepared, but focussing on what I had been reading from Ephesians in the morning, I got up and "gave my word" – all 20 minutes of it.

Afterwards John Ferguson strongly encouraged me to apply for the ministry in the Church of Scotland, beginning my journey to a call that was to lead to my

acceptance as a candidate and starting studies at Glasgow University in 1979.

Part of my roots – my mother's home – are in Ness. So too is my call to ministry and the place a few months later where I was to meet Linda, my wife. Coincidences? I don't believe in them.

But this is only part of the story. Curiously, I am writing this reflection on an island while thinking of John Donne, who rightly said that no man is an island. Everything leading up to that moment of call was about people. Here in Ness the kindness, love and prayers of ordinary people encouraged me. Is there such a thing as an "ordinary" person? – maybe not. And the skills of doctors who helped me heal from a serious accident along with the wisdom of many other people have helped form me as a person.

Since that moment of call, my life has been the story of an infinitely patient God. It has too been the story of people who have formed and reformed my life: Linda, friends and the people of God whom I have been privileged to serve. People "in the pews" have encouraged, inspired, prayed for me. For we are not "islands" but part of a living body, joined together in faith with a common hope and purpose.

The older I get, the more I see those "connections" and they are always about people – both within and outwith the Church—who have consciously or otherwise assisted me on this journey so far.

On reflection, I think that we do not, in today's church, have the confidence to see and know that God desires to use us to help transform lives. Getting alongside people, supporting, encouraging, nourishing and even challenging people to do more than they might have thought possible is our ministry with and to others. We can do it if we believe enough to not accept second best for either ourselves or other people.

God has changed my life! Without doubt this has most often happened through the influence of other people. My aspiration has always been and still is to inspire the people of God to share their story of faith, through word and action. Now, I know we can never do this perfectly, but we can do it intentionally, prayerfully and consistently, and leave the rest to God.

## **SPECIAL VISIT TO STEVENSTON HIGH KIRK**

We are delighted that the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland will be visiting Stevenston High Kirk, and will lead our Palm Sunday Morning Service, on Sunday 2nd April 2023.

# In Loving Memory

## **TOM MCINTYRE (ELDER)**

Tom was born in January 1931 in Saltcoats, to Maurice and Sarah (Cissie), with an older sister Cissie, and brother Maurice.

Tom attended the Kyleshill Primary School (the "Ragged School"), where lifetime friendships formed. Tom was Dux Medallist in 1942.

Following Kyleshill, Ardrossan Academy was next on the education trail. Higher passes were gained in the Science subjects and Mathematics.

Tom then began his scientific career with ICI Nobel division, Ardeer. Studies at Paisley and Glasgow Technical College led to Tom being awarded the Associateship of the Royal Society of Chemists in 1955. Of those who passed in the UK only one came from Scotland!

Further recognition followed in 1972 when he was elected to the Fellowship of the Society.

Tom completed National Service in the Royal Signals. He trained as a Wireless Technician at Catterick and then was posted to Dusseldorf, West Germany and then to the Hook of Holland.

After National Service Tom resumed work with the Nobel Division. The establishment of Nobel's Explosives as a separate entity saw Tom move to the explosives section and in fullness of time becoming the Chief Analyst and section manager of the Central Analytical Laboratory, and a recognised inspector and signatory of explosives stores manufactured for HM Govt at Powfoot and Annan factories.

Prior to the early 60s Tom had two great loves – Rangers and Rangers Reserves.

Then along came a young laboratory chemist, named Marilyn Dawson, and the world changed forever. Tom and Marilyn were married in April 1962 in the High Kirk. Two sons, Alastair in 1963 and Graham in 1966 followed. Alastair married Jill, and together they produced Eilidh and Fraser. Tom and Marilyn moved to Diddup Drive in late 1964 and remained there for the rest of their life together. They provided a very happy childhood for their boys.

Tom never gave up his love for Rangers, but showed no sign of disappointment when one son supported Kilmarnock and the other Aberdeen. Tom had been a keen member of the Boys Brigade, but again seemed quite happy when his boys opted for Cubs and Scouts. His job sometimes took him to London, and the boys always looked forward to his return as a trip to London meant a present from Hamley's toyshop.

He was a quiet and modest man and probably never realised how highly he was regarded within ICI, and the industry generally.

A big part of Tom's life was the High Kirk. He was proud to become an elder in the mid-70's and in time became Session Clerk, a role he carried out for a number of years. The Minister regarded him as his right-hand man through those years, receiving a lot of sage advice.

Tom took early retirement from ICI in 1985, and this allowed him to give more time to the church and other interests. He had always been a keen gardener and now he could spend more time in his greenhouse, specialising in tomatoes with which he supplied the neighbourhood, even although he would never eat them himself.

We give thanks to God for Tom's life and witness, and continue to remember the family in our prayers.



## SUSAN RODGER

Susan was born in May 1938, the second daughter to Jimmy and Susan Fulton of 30 Morrison Avenue Stevenston.

On leaving Stevenston Higher Grade, she worked in Fleming Reed's Mill in Dalry, and over time worked in various jobs including the canteen at Magnetson, Macy's grocers, a cleaner in various schools and in the ICI Offices.

Susan met Sam at the dancing in the Templar's Hall in Irvine - and romance blossomed! They courted for four years and married in May 1959 in the High Kirk. They were then delighted to see the arrival of their daughter Carol in 1961.

Susan came to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ at South Beach Baptist Church and went on to be actively involved with Sam in the Stauros Organisation, Gideons International and various gospel choirs. She had a passion for sharing her faith in Christ and took every opportunity to witness to everyone she met.

Susan joined the High Kirk family with Sam and became very actively involved in mission and evangelism. Susan faithfully worshipped each Sunday and loved the midweek Prayer meetings, Bible studies, and Revival Fellowship meetings.

She always spoke her mind but also had a great sense of fun and was supportive and helpful to family and friends.

We gratefully acknowledge all that Susan contributed to the service of the Church and her commitment to Jesus Christ as her Saviour and Lord. We continue to remember Sam, Carol, Iain and the family in our prayers.

## ELIZABETH ROBERTSON

Elizabeth Montgomerie Robertson was born at Hillhead Farm on the 29th of August 1937. She grew up with her brother James (now deceased) and attended Ardrossan Primary and then on to the Academy.

On leaving the Academy, she attended the "Dough School" in Glasgow and then, following a kind of family tradition, Elizabeth trained as a Registered General Nurse at the Victoria Infirmary in Glasgow. She then trained as a State Certified Midwife at Ayrshire Central, and finally completed a theatre course at the Western Infirmary in Glasgow.

Having an adventurous nature, she became a Nursing Sister on a cruise ship, visiting various ports across the world. On returning home, she combined employment as a Health Visitor with working on the family farms, Hullerhirst having been acquired, in addition to Hillhead. Elizabeth never married but the wider family were very important to her. She looked after her parents in their later years and also her brother James (sadly, he died in 2016). She was close to her cousins, the wider family, and always kept in touch with old school friends whom she met during her early nursing years in the 60s.

Sadly, just before lock-down Elizabeth had a fall at home and after a brief hospital stay agreed to a respite stay in Fullarton Nursing Home where she spent her remaining years. The family are very grateful for how well she was cared for by the nurses and carers there. She was especially grateful to her family and friends who remained in contact and visited once restrictions were lifted.

We all join to give thanks to God for the life of Elizabeth Robertson and for all the cherished memories of her wonderfully full life.

## CAROLINE SMITH

Caroline Catherine Smith was born to George and May Hogarth on the 18th of January 1926. She grew up with her siblings William, Annie and Jessie and the late Ian and Ana at Dykesmains Farm.

On leaving Saltcoats Public School she spent a short time in banking but mainly worked on the family's Dairy Farm. It was hard work and you were taught to have a strong work ethic. She then met Robert Stevenson Smith - another farmer - and this encounter eventually led to marriage at Belleisle in Ayr on the 27th of August 1947.

Caroline then joined Robert in the running of Corsankell Farm. The couple were delighted to see the arrival of their daughters, Ana and Irene and as the family circle widened, they welcomed sons-in-law Alex and Sandy, followed by the grandchildren and great grandchildren. She was affectionately known as "Nanny" to them all.

Although Caroline could be reserved, and very private, she could also be very sociable and the perfect hostess. She always liked to look her best and she certainly knew her own mind! She always carried a deep love for music and was especially fond of the great Welsh Male Voice choirs. She also loved every hymn in the hymnbook! In her younger years she used to go rambling and swimming and a favourite place for her was in the garden amongst the flowers. She won a number of prizes at local flower shows for her roses and gladioli

Latterly, she had such a longing for home and all were delighted to see her back in her bungalow at Dykesmains. She always knew the High Kirk as her spiritual home. We therefore give thanks to God for her life and rejoice that she is now at home with the Lord.

## JEAN NICOL

Jean was born in Falkirk, on 9th December 1926 to Alexander and Matilda Walker, the 3rd of five children. The family moved from Falkirk to Camelon, where Jean enjoyed having her Aunt Mary and her cousins close-by. Her father's work moved to Ardeer, and the family settled in McGregor Avenue.

Jean attended Stevenston Higher Grade, and when she joined the workforce, one of her colleagues was a certain Peggy Nicol who happened to have a brother called Gilbert. On his return from war, Jean and Gilbert met up and fell in love. They were married in September 1948 and settled first in Boglemart Street. It was here that Sandra and Margaret were born and the family eventually moved to St Andrew's Place.

Throughout her life, Jean was a dutiful and loving daughter. After her father's death, she took on the role of companion to her mother, often going shopping on a Saturday afternoon or just sitting with her for company. Jean was also a very loving and supportive mother, wanting her daughters to be happy. She devoted herself to being a homemaker and was always busy, sewing, knitting, and baking. She also enjoyed reading and doing her crosswords. She missed these activities enormously when her sight failed but found some consolation in audio books.

Jean joined the the High Kirk as a teenager, and it continued to play an important part in her life. She particularly enjoyed the friendship and fellowship of the Guild and attended as long as she was able. She had served as a delegate, a member of the Tea Committee, and as Secretary.

We give thanks to God for the memories we cherish, and continue to remember Jean's family in our prayers.

## **ELLA McLAUGHLIN**

Ella was born on 5th April 1934 to Helen and James McKechnan. Ella was the youngest of three daughters - Margaret, Martha and Ella.

She attended the Higher Grade School and was in the same class as her childhood sweetheart Ronnie McLaughlin. Before becoming husband and wife, they had been the best of friends for many years.

In 1955 they got engaged and then, when Ronnie was called up for National Service, they decided to get married. They were happily married in July 1956 in Ardeer Parish Church. A year later they celebrated the arrival of Jim followed by Ron 18 years later.

Ella, Ronnie and the boys grew up and spent their whole lives in St Monarch's Place. It was a very happy place to live with a great community spirit.

Ella's working life started in the ICI Stevenston, then Wilson's Food Factory in Kilwinning, before retiring from The Cross Keys Pub in Stevenston.

They spent many happy years together going on camping holidays, touring Scotland and a special holiday in Canada.

Although Ella couldn't attend the High Kirk in her latter years, we still remember her passionate singing at the Evening Services in the Hayocks Hall and give thanks to God for all the memories we cherish of a wonderful lady.

## **ELEANOR HARKNESS**

Eleanor was born on the 8th of June 1940 at her grandmother's house in Springvale Street, Saltcoats to James and Isobel Platts, and grew up with her sister Isabel.

Eleanor enjoyed a very happy home life but from the age of four recurrent ear infections led to severe hearing loss which affected her time at school, back in class and with her friends. This was to continue throughout her life despite the most sophisticated hearing aids.

Eleanor left school at 15 and went to work in the Co-op in Vernon Street. She married Robert Harkness and they had 3 children - Judith, Andrew and Kenneth. Later on Eleanor worked at various jobs - housekeeper, carer and as a shop assistant in a Health Shop in Irvine Mall which she really enjoyed. Eventually she moved to Stevenston and worked in Stevenston Post Office from where she retired.

In retirement Eleanor joined the OIR (Opportunities In Retirement) and particularly loved going on holiday with them, as well as joining the walking group. She was engaged in many voluntary activities throughout her life, supporting the British Red Cross, the SPCA and Mary's Meals, to name but a few.

She cherished her time here at the High Kirk, enjoying the Prayer Groups and Bible Studies and also appreciated the loving kindness of her church family. She would take part each year in the sponsored walk around Millport to help raise funds for Sammy's School in Kenya.

In 2019 Eleanor began to struggle with her mobility and for a year was virtually housebound. Sadly in October of this year she was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. She was taken to Crosshouse Hospital, then transferred to Woodland View, Irvine, where she died peacefully on October 20th.

Please continue to remember Eleanor's family in your prayers as we give thanks to God for Eleanor's life and witness.

## MARLYN CARTY

Marlyn Janet Gilmour Harvey was born in the family home on Carment Drive to the late William and Margaret Harvey on the 24th of December 1953. She grew up along with her siblings, Graham - and also Ronnie (now deceased).

On leaving Stevenston High she began her working life at Hay's Music Shop in Saltcoats, and then she went on to work for ICI. She would later leave ICI to devote herself to her family. Many of you may still remember Marlyn from her time as a barmaid, or when she worked as a petrol station attendant, while others will remember her time working in Tesco.

It was during Marlyn's time at ICI where she met the love of her life - George Carty. They were married at Ardeer Church on the 29th August 1974, and then were thrilled to see the arrival of their children: David & Julie. In the coming years the family circle widened as they welcomed daughter-in-law Gillian (now deceased) into the family, followed by their granddaughter Rebecca. In time they were also delighted to welcome daughter-in-law Sarah followed by the grandchildren - Jamie & Eilidh. To Marlyn her family meant everything.

Marlyn will always be remembered for her devotion to family, her loyalty to her friendships, but here at the High Kirk we also remember a cherished church family member. She had been a member of the High Kirk for many years, attending church and all the various Alpha and Bible Study courses. Latterly, she enjoyed the fellowship and the friendships she made at the Wednesday Discipleship Group.

We continue to give thanks to God for the memories we cherish of her life, and all that she meant to us, and especially remember the family in our prayers.

## CHURCH REGISTER 2022

### CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

**By Resolution of the Kirk Session:**

Dorothy Taylor

### WELCOME TO THE HIGH KIRK FAMILY



Baptism of Murray David Thomas Lee.



Baptism of Maeve Elizabeth & Hilary Martha Reid.

# BIBLE READINGS 2023



## JANUARY

01. Genesis 1
02. Genesis 2
03. Genesis 3
04. Genesis 4
05. Genesis 5
06. Genesis 6
07. Genesis 7
08. Genesis 8
09. Genesis 9
10. Genesis 10
11. Genesis 11
12. Genesis 12
13. Genesis 13
14. Genesis 14
15. Genesis 15
16. Genesis 16
17. Genesis 17
18. Genesis 18
19. Genesis 19
20. Genesis 20
21. Genesis 21
22. Genesis 22
23. Genesis 23
24. Genesis 24
25. Genesis 25
26. Genesis 26
27. Genesis 27
28. Genesis 28
29. Genesis 29
30. Genesis 30
31. Genesis 31

## FEBRUARY

01. Genesis 32
02. Genesis 33
03. Genesis 34
04. Genesis 35
05. Genesis 36
06. Genesis 37
07. Genesis 38
08. Genesis 39
09. Genesis 40
10. Genesis 41
11. Genesis 42
12. Genesis 43
13. Genesis 44
14. Genesis 45
15. Genesis 46
16. Genesis 47
17. Genesis 48
18. Genesis 49
19. Genesis 50
20. Psalm 1-3
21. Proverbs 1
22. Proverbs 2
23. Exodus 1
24. Exodus 2
25. Exodus 3
26. Exodus 4
27. Exodus 5
28. Exodus 6

## MARCH

01. Exodus 7
02. Exodus 8
03. Exodus 9
04. Exodus 10
05. Exodus 11
06. Exodus 12
07. Exodus 13
08. Exodus 14
09. Exodus 15
10. Exodus 16
11. Exodus 17
12. Exodus 18
13. Exodus 19
14. Exodus 20
15. Exodus 21
16. Exodus 22
17. Exodus 23
18. Exodus 24
19. Exodus 25
20. Exodus 26
21. Exodus 27
22. Exodus 28
23. Exodus 29
24. Exodus 30
25. Exodus 31
26. Exodus 32
27. Exodus 33
28. Exodus 34
29. Exodus 35
30. Exodus 36
31. Exodus 37

*“Unfathomable oceans of grace are in Christ for you. Dive and dive again, you will never come to the bottom of these depths. How many millions of dazzling pearls and gems are at this moment hid in the deep recesses of the ocean caves.”*

**- Robert Murray M'Cheyne**





You dont want to miss this event!

# CHRISTMAS PRAISE

With Aileen Gilchrist & Friends

**FRIDAY 9TH DECEMBER 2022**

High Kirk Halls at 7.30pm

High Road, Stevenston.

