



2022

From the Manse

*“Those who fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it.” Sir Winston Churchill*

It is with horror and with great sadness that we watch the unfolding of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The resulting death, injury, many injustices and the deprivations of ordinary people were always going to be the result of such a terrible action.

Today as I write this piece for the church magazine, I hear many commentators draw parallels with Hitler's actions and those of Putin.

Now you would imagine that in the run up to this situation the world would have responded earlier and more decisively to prevent it but that was not the case. Too many countries, too many leaders, too many people seemingly forgot that when evil is given an opportunity to control or to abuse then it seeks to make the most of it.

Hence it is always vital that we do what we can to stand up for what is right and good – as Christians following the example of Jesus - loving our neighbour, showing compassion, sharing mercy and working tirelessly for peace and justice.

It has been heartening in these last days to witness the tremendous solidarity being shown worldwide for Ukraine and for Ukrainians.

People everywhere have rightly demonstrated a huge outpouring of love towards the oppressed, the needy and of course the resulting refugees from this place of war.

Locally this was so evident in the huge outpouring of practical compassion and giving when it was announced that *The Snug* would provide a collection point for donations destined for refugees crossing into Poland.

To see the mountain of gifts was surely heart-warming amid such a dark moment in world history. Well done to all who gave, supported, organised and who even now are transporting those provisions to those who need them.

*In the Bible (Luke 10)*

*Jesus said, Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and*

*with all your mind; and Love your neighbour as yourself.*

*But he was asked And who is my neighbour?*

*Jesus told in response a story about a good Samaritan helping a man who had been attacked.*

*He asks, who do you think was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?*

*The expert in the law replied, The one who had mercy on him.*

*Jesus told him, Go and do likewise.*

Rev Allan Vint

## Session Matters

### Constitution

For a number of years all new Church of Scotland congregations have been established under a “Unitary Constitution”, and there has been a strong recommendation that all existing congregations should move to this model. The Kirk Session here at Mauchline has unanimously agreed that we should make the move to a Unitary Constitution in due course.

This would mean that, instead of having a separate Kirk Session and Congregational Board we would only have a Session, with people of appropriate skills being co-opted onto the relevant committees.

More information on this will follow soon, and a draft copy of the new Constitution will be available for all interested members to consider.

### Communion Service

At time of writing restrictions remain in place which make it impossible to celebrate the Sacrament as we used to.

However, we did share Communion in December, using individual presealed elements, and we plan to do so again on the 6<sup>th</sup> of March.

Hopefully, we will be able to move to a more familiar (and more environmentally friendly) service soon.

### Live Streaming

Our ability to Live Stream the service continues to improve, with extra equipment and a clearer focus.

It is great to be able to watch the Sunday service live, or at a time that suits, via Facebook or YouTube.

Thanks again to everyone who has helped make this happen, either by contributing financially or by volunteering to work the computer and camera.

### Fellowship Half Hour

Following the easing of some restrictions we have restarted the Fellowship Half Hour on a Sunday, after the Service.



This is a great opportunity to catch up with friends and neighbours.

Please do join us for tea, coffee and chat.

## **Covid Update**

The Scottish Government has indicated that all remaining Covid 19 restrictions should be lifted on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March. We are, therefore, anticipating that there will be no legal requirement for mask wearing in Church buildings after that date.

However, it is always possible that the situation could change again, so please check the latest guidance before attending. Before that date, the requirement to wear a mask is still in force, so please make sure that you bring a face covering. There are single use masks available for those who forget.

## **Pastoral Visiting**

During the Pandemic, it has not been possible to continue with regular pastoral visiting, due to government restrictions. As we are coming out of that period, the Session decided to review our system of visiting and pastoral care.

We have decided to change from the current system, with an Elder or pastoral visitor having a dedicated area in which they visit on a regular basis, to a system of more focused visiting.

During Covid, many of us found that we were able to keep in touch via regular telephone calls, to pass on church news or just for a chat.

We hope to develop this informal system, so that people receive regular phone updates, hopefully more often than once a quarter.

Of course, there will always be situations where a visit is the only appropriate action to take, and we will have a dedicated team of Visitors, all of whom will have been subject to the appropriate legal checks, to help in these situations.

You will receive one more visit from our current visiting team to explain the new proposals to you, and, of course, if you do not wish us to keep in touch by phone then we will not do so.

Kirsty Murray  
Session Clerk

## **The Guild**

What a topsy turvy Guild Session this has been. Unfortunately due to Covid restrictions being re-introduced we were unable to resume our planned January Guild meetings.

Thankfully in February we were able to go ahead and meet again.

On 14<sup>th</sup> February we were delighted to welcome Roslyn Cartner as our speaker.

Roslyn gave an excellent talk on diet and nutrition with many useful and helpful tips.

Many questions followed, ably answered by Roslyn.

Good to keep fit and healthy for the Guild.

On 28.2.22 we were joined by four well known faces forming our panel namely Anne Munro, Sheena Davidson, John Templeton and Willie Jardine.

Many varied questions were put to the panel members and they very ably gave their thoughts and opinions, at times causing much lively discussion and laughter.

It was indeed a very happy, uplifting meeting, much needed and appreciated amidst all the bad news currently on the go. We have two more meetings in March before the session (short as it has been) finishes.

On 14<sup>th</sup> March we will be joined by a speaker from "The Leprosy Mission".

This meeting was cancelled in November due to illness so hoping all will be well this time.

At the end of the month we will have our Annual Business Meeting and this will be our closing meeting for this session.

I have recently received some mailing about the new theme for the next session, which will I hope start at the end of September, but more about that next time.

All good wishes and blessings.

Isabel Smith. Convenor

## **Flower Group News**

The new 2022 Flower Calendar is now ready for viewing . You will find it on the notice board in the outer vestibule.

There are several dates which have not yet been filled so if you wish to choose a date please speak to or contact me.

If you want to contribute to the Flower fund you can either put your donation in an envelope and leave it in the offering plate or you can give it to me directly .

The flowers that decorate the Church every Sunday play an important role within our village as the are given to those who have been bereaved , have been ill or are perhaps going through a tough time in their lives .

Hopefully they will bring some comfort and be a reminder of Gods constant love and Faithfulness.

I would like to thank all those who have already contributed generously and who have been a great help to me within my new role .

My contact number should you wish to get in touch is 07958264107.

Carol Strachan

Church Flower Convener

## **Mauchline Church Men's Club**

The Men's Club met on 1st December which was an enjoyable games night meeting up with friends again.

On December 8th fifteen members enjoyed an excellent Christmas Lunch at the Fairburn Hotel getting us all into the festive spirit.

Due to covid restrictions our next meeting was a games night on 9th February when it was good to play bowls and chat together again.



On 23rd February our minister Rev Allan Vint gave an excellent illustrated talk entitled Astrophotography – a journey out into the Cosmos which was an insight into distant galaxies and was a very interesting and informative evening enjoyed by all.

Our next meeting - a games night is on Wednesday 9th March at 7pm in the Church Hall.

We are a friendly group and warmly invite any men to join us in the Church Hall on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month.

For more information contact president Willie Jardine or vice president Ian Watt or any Men's Club member.

Willie Jardine

### Calling all surfers

#### Web Statistics

The Google Analytics details for the web page show countries and numbers of visitors in the last three months 1 Dec - 28 Feb as shown below:

Country (No. Of Users)

United Kingdom(279), China(7), United States(18), Belgium(1), Canada(5), Ireland(5), Germany(1), Italy(2), Nigeria(1), Norway(1), New Zealand(1), Pakistan(1) and Turkey(1)

It's always interesting to see which countries view the website

#### Youtube

Views of Allan's Sunday Mauchline and Sorn Live Streamed Services over the same period of time are:

December 5(47), 12(9), 19(48), 24(67), 25(73)

January 2(25), 9(22), 13(70), 16(77), 23(33), 30(44)

February 6(49), 13(34), 20(97), 27(84)

If you have any friends or relatives who use the World Wide Web, be sure to let them know about [www.mauchlineparish.org.uk](http://www.mauchlineparish.org.uk) and increase our audience.

Perhaps they might even wish to become virtual members (and it doesn't cost anything to join)

#### Organisations

Please ensure that you check your web page for any inaccuracies or old information.

If you find anything needs to be changed, then please let me know, so that I can ensure that our website remains fresh and up-to-date.

Jim Beck

### Finance Report

As this newsletter goes to print our annual accounts are being prepared.

These accounts will be available at the Stated Business meeting in March.

May I take this opportunity to thank everyone for their financial support to our church throughout this year, which once again has been very challenging for everyone.

Finance wise, this has been an especially difficult year for us as a congregation.

Our Giving Day realised the sum of £2765.00.

Annual Poppy Appeal raised £191.23 and our Christmas Eve collection raised £174.35 which was divided between Marie Curie and The Kris Boyd Foundation.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the appeals.

Donations toward the Live Streaming equipment to date total nearly £3000.

HMRC gift aid refund amounted to £9190.01.

My thanks to Dorothy Blane for all the work she does in applying for this money.

We withdrew £7000.00 from our reserves in Edinburgh to enable us to carry out work on the manse.

As you know, before our minister could move into the manse we required it to be redecorated, carpeted and general refurbishment.

This totalled £11477 of which Sorn paid 25%.

The cost of removals to Mauchline was £2941 and again Sorn paid 25% of this amount.

Once again thank you all for your continued support throughout this past year.

Elizabeth Morris

Treasurer

### Christian Aid Week

Christian Aid week is from 15-21 May 2022 and this gives us an opportunity to contribute to the work of this organisation.

As you are aware Christian Aid is very much at the forefront of dealing with disasters and emergencies and also climate change.

It is therefore vital that we, as a congregation and community continue to support them in this work.

This year our fundraising efforts will be going towards helping people in Zimbabwe.

Helping them deal with drought and famine.

This means many families are struggling to survive.

This country, along with many others, are at the mercy of the climate crisis.

With our help Christian Aid can make a difference to many families.

Like 2021 we will be placing envelopes on the pews and if you know of someone who is unable to attend church and is willing to give then please take an envelope for them to fill.



We are also placing collecting tins in some of the local shops to enable the wider community an opportunity to give.

Elizabeth & Sheena

Christian Aid Co-ordinators

## **Shoppers' Lunch**

The church is planning to resume this wonderful service from Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> of March.

Everyone is welcome to come along to the church hall between 11:30am and 1:30pm, on the third Thursday of each following month, where there will be an opportunity to meet with friends and enjoy some homemade soup and filled rolls/sandwiches.

Proceeds go to church funds.

Anyone who wishes to make donations can do so- thank you in advance.

(Please contact Lynne Vint with any enquiries 07786292026)

*(Track and trace and other Covid mitigations will be in place until lifted by the Scottish Government)*

## **Eco Article**

I'm a volunteer at 2 local rescues and a Hedgehog Champion with the British Hedgehog Preservation Society/Peoples' Trust for Endangered Species.

How long is it since you last saw a hedgehog?

The UK has lost a third of its population since 2000, and their numbers are declining as fast as tigers in the wild.

They are now officially classed as vulnerable to extinction in the IUCN's Red List for British Mammals.

There are many reasons and it's sad to think that, for future generations, such a fate would make this lovely, prickly God's creature only a character in storybooks.

Here are some simple tips to help them.

They are now officially classed as vulnerable to extinction in the UK. There are many reasons and it's sad to think of such a fate for this prickly little God's creature. Here are ways to help:

1. Link your garden with Hedgehog Highway

What's a Hedgehog Highway? Since they travel between 1-2 km a night searching for food and a mate, a small gap in your fence the size of a CD case will let them pass through.

Ask your neighbours to do the same!

If you spot a hedgehog when driving at night, & can't stop in time, try to steer so it will pass under the middle of the car where least likely to be harmed.

You can become a Hedgehog Champion by registering on <https://www.hedgehogstreet.org/website>, which has

resources to make your garden, neighbourhood and Parish hedgehog-friendly zones.

2. Create a wild corner in your garden so they can snuffle around for insects.

3. Tidy up netting and litter which can trap hedgehogs due to their spines.

Even rubber bands dropped by the postie can become embedded in their skin, causing a slow, painful death.

4. Put out food and water.

You can supplement their diet with wet dog or cat food (preferably not fish based).

No bread, milk or mealworms, which are all extremely bad for them.

For those who are into simple DIY you can make a feeding station to stop other animals having a free supper - details on the BHPS website/YouTube

5. Stop using chemicals especially slug pellets.

Hedgehogs are a gardener's best friend as they eat slugs as well as many other beasties which would otherwise be devouring your prize flowers and vegetables

6. Check before mowing or strimming.

Hedgehogs often sleep in long grass or hedges during daytime and won't run away if they hear a mower, resulting in horrific injuries or death.

Use gloves to move a single hog to safety.

If there's a family, call the BHPS for advice on 01584 890801, the SSPCA on 0300 999 999 or Google to find your local Hedgehog Rescue.

7. Be careful with bonfires or simply burning leaves.

Piles of debris are irresistible to a hedgehog looking for somewhere to hibernate or nest – build it on the day of burning to avoid a tragic end, or if you have to build it before then check carefully with a pole or broom, not a spade or fork.

They are usually in the centre.

8. Make a home for hedgehogs.

A log pile is one of the best features for encouraging all kinds of wildlife, and easy to make.

It will encourage insects and provide nesting opportunities all year around.

Alternatively, you can make your own hedgehog house – download instructions from the BHPS website.

9. Make your pond safe.

Hedgehogs are adept swimmers but if they can't climb out of steep-sided ponds or pools they will drown. Use a pile of large stones or piece of wood to create a simple ramp.

10. Record hedgehog sightings, including dead ones, on The Big Hedgehog Map website.



This is important in building up a picture of where they are most active & how we can encourage local populations.

A hedgehog seen during the day is usually in need of help & you should contact one of the organisations above.

If you'd like to do more, you can become a Hedgehog Champion by registering on the Hedgehog Street website, where you can find lots of resources to make your gardens, neighbourhood and Parish, hedgehog-friendly zones.



Moira Grant  
Falkirk

## Food Bank

As always, the volunteers at Cumnock Food Bank are extremely grateful for the continued support and donations from Mauchline Parish Church.

When cases of the Omicron variant of Covid began to rise, the local centres were closed once again and donations were directed to the Kilmarnock facility. Unfortunately this meant that the local area suffered somewhat.

However, I'm pleased to report that the Cumnock branch is up and running and operating well again.

At the moment, their supplies of tinned soup and tinned meat are starting to dwindle so any donations of that sort, or indeed any donation at all is most welcome.

Bear in mind too, that toiletries, hygiene products and toilet rolls are all important as well.

Items can be left in the box in the Clarke Memorial Vestibule, with Elizabeth at 17A Station Road or I could collect from you if that is more convenient.

Thanks again for your generosity,  
Sheena Davidson

## Congregational Register

### New Members by Profession of Faith

None

### Certificate of Transfer issued to

None

### Admitted by Certificate

None

### Weddings

None

### Mauchline Funerals

Mrs Evelyn Imrie, 15 Donaldson Crescent

Miss Sheila Pettigrew, 19 Welton Road

Mrs Elizabeth Patrick, 90 Sunnyside Crescent

Mrs Elizabeth Milligan, 32 The Loan

## Dates For the diary

### Worship Dates and Events

#### January

#### February

#### March

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> 7:30 pm March Meeting of Congregational Board & Kirk Session at Dunlop Hall

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> A.G.M. Held in Church after service

(this is dependant on the Church Accounts being finalised)

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> Lent Study "Jesus - The Final Week" via

Zoom

Every week leading up until Easter

Contact Allan for login details



## SPRING RECIPE:

### 2 RECIPES FOR YOU TO ENJOY



Makes 18-20

### CHOCOLATE SANDWICH Biscuits

25min  
PREP

8min  
COOKING

**INGREDIENTS**

225g (8 oz) Be-Ro Self Raising Flour	110g (4 oz) caster sugar
5 Tbsp cocoa powder, sieved	5 Tbsp milk
110g (4 oz) butter or margarine	Caster sugar for sprinkling
	2 x quantity of chocolate buttercream.

**1**Preheat oven to fan 170°C, conventional 190°C, gas 5. Grease 2 baking trays. **2**Sift the flour and cocoa into a bowl and rub in the fat, mix in the sugar. **3**Add the milk, mix in well. Bring together with your hands and knead lightly on a floured surface. **4**Divide the dough in half. Roll into a rectangle approximately 30cm x 20.5cm (8 inches x 12 inches) Cut the dough into strips 3cm (1¼ inches) wide 7cm (2¾ inches) long. Repeat for the remaining dough. **5**Place on the baking trays, mark top with a fork, sprinkle with caster sugar and bake for 8-10 minutes. **6**Remove from baking tray and cool on a wire rack. Sandwich together with chocolate butter cream.

*Hints and Tips*  
Sandwich just before serving as cream fillings soften the biscuits.

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Makes 20

### JOLLY Sammers

20min  
PREP

8min  
COOKING

**INGREDIENTS**

175g (6 oz) butter or margarine
250g (9 oz) Be-Ro Plain Flour
110g (4 oz) caster sugar

**TO SANDWICH:**

Raspberry jam
Vanilla buttercream
1 Tbsp icing sugar, sieved, for dusting

Try using a seedless jam!

**1**Preheat oven to fan 160°C, conventional 180°C, gas 4. **2**Grease 2 baking trays. **3**Rub fat into flour, then stir in sugar. **4**Bring together using your hands. **5**Roll out thinly and cut into rounds, using a 6.5cm (2½ inch) cutter. For half of the biscuits cut a central round out approximately 2.5cm (1 inch). **6**Place on a baking tray and bake for 8-10 minutes. **7**Remove from oven and allow to cool for 5 minutes, and then place on a cooling rack. **8**When completely cold sandwich together with jam & butter cream and dust with icing sugar.

## Who's Who & Where

### Minister

Rev Allan Vint, Mail: [avint@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:avint@churchofscotland.org.uk)

### Session Clerk:

Mrs Kirsty Murray

### Treasurer:

Mrs Elizabeth Morris

### Deputy Treasurer:

Vacancy

### Clerk to the Board:

Vacancy

### Prayer Co-ordinator:

Mrs Sue Crawshaw

### Roll Keeper:

Mrs Isabel Smith

### Acting Organist:

Ms Skye Schendel

### Church Officer:

Mrs Alexis Lowe

### Newsletter Editor:

Mr Jim Beck, Mail: [mauchlineparish@yahoo.com](mailto:mauchlineparish@yahoo.com)

## Footnote



If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

Our Daily Bread.

Jennifer Beck