

# Mauchline Parish Church

Linked with Sorn Parish Church

## Summer



Mauchlineparish.org.uk

Scottish Charity SC007714

## 2021

I thought I would mention that all the tunes selected will be played on Youtube.

You should be aware that Youtube will nearly always try to play adverts before your choice (annoying habit!).

As you watch the first advert, you will see "Skip Ads" appear. Click on that box.

### From the Manse

It is hard to imagine that so many weeks have flown past since first arriving here in Mauchline.

This copy of the church magazine is the first opportunity I have had to convey a formal thanks to everyone who has made our transition 'out west' so smooth and happy.

Lynne and I are settling well into our new home and once again we appreciate the work which was done to make it a pleasant, comfortable place to live (you even provided us with lovely neighbours).

The Covid restrictions have, of course, meant that getting to know you has been difficult and often limited to online (zoom) conversations at church meetings or bible discussions or viewing at a distance within the church itself. It is my hope that it will not be too long before we can remove our masks to begin a more normal kind of relationship.

It has been good to see people gradually returning to participate in Sunday worship and now with the prospect of restarting congregational singing on the horizon this hopefully signals the dawning of a new chapter.

As you know, these past weeks I have been recording Sunday services to be placed online on Facebook and YouTube.

I hope to continue this ministry which reaches out to so many and hope that in the not too distant future we will be able to livestream services directly from the church itself into the homes of people around the world.

These past months I know have been a challenge for everyone.

They have brought us all times of anxiety and sadness, but I am already aware that you, as a Christian community, have greatly helped and supported one another.

As Lynne and I come to join you we are looking forward with excitement to the future, knowing of your faith in Jesus, your heart of compassion and of your willingness to serve our God.

A verse from the Bible comes to mind as I contemplate my future here with Mauchline and Sorn congregations – it is from Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you,"

declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

I pray that trusting our Lord, following Him, and labouring together for His Kingdom in this place will bring this promised future.

May God bless us as we seek to give Him glory, honour and praise.

My favourite hymn is this traditional one with its modern update by Stuart Townend, "The Lord's my Shepherd"

Left click on the red writing to listen to the tune.

[The Lord's my Shepherd](#)

Yours in His Service

Allan

Struggled a bit with the Summer Praise.

Best I came up with is "I To The Hills will lift mine Eyes, on first glance not very summery.

We spent every Summer holiday on the Isle of Lewis and I remember my sister and I going with my cousins on their Sunday School picnic to a beautiful beach on what was, I think, the only sunny day of the entire holiday.

There was a (brief) service before we set off on the bus, conducted in Gaelic (which we didn't speak) and then the minister announced a "Special welcome to our English visitors" and they sang this to make us feel at home.

I remember it was a brilliant day.

Although my sister and I knew very few people, everyone really tried to include us and they did make their last minute visitors feel very welcome.

An early memory of Church fellowship I guess.

And sandwiches and ice cream.....

Left click on the red writing to listen to the tune.

[I to The Hill Will Lift Mine Eyes](#)

Kirsty

Here is my choice of a favourite song

Left click on the red writing to listen to the tune.

[The Greatest of These is Love](#)

Jan Walker

### Presbytery Report

As I write it is hard to remember the few fine days we had in April, followed by the cold and wet May so far.

We surely will have many days of better weather ahead, with the forecast for the forthcoming holiday weekend, promising a big improvement.

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Maybe one day someone will write a hymn about Covid and Zoom, widely discussed topics currently.

Covid like the weather recently, looks to be on an improving pattern and unlike the weather we all can help to keep it under control.

Zoom and social media sites have come into their own during the long periods of lockdown, providing comfort to families kept apart by distance, residential care or hospital stays.

Zoom meetings for business, organisations and clubs, not forgetting our Church of Scotland have made much use of this medium, probably the new way of working ongoing.

Over the last 15 months our Kirk Session, Board and Nomination Committee have conducted business by Zoom to keep the work locally going.

Presbytery meetings have also been conducted by Zoom for the last 12 months.

At the last meeting there were some local ministry changes with the demission of Morag Garrett of Ochiltree/Stair being called to Coalburn /Lesmahagow, Helen Cuthbert retiring from New Cumnock.

Our minister Allan Vint was welcomed to presbytery and appointed to the East Ayrshire Education Committee, not much time to draw breath!

A previous minister of our church, Allan Telfer was also welcomed to presbytery, having moved to Prestwick on his retirement.

At a special meeting presbytery discussed the national Church's Radical Plan, part of which involved merging presbyteries, reducing from over 40 to 11.

Ayr would merge with Ardrossan, Irvine and Kilmarnock, Stranraer and Wigtown, Dumfries and Galloway, and Annan and Eskdale, forming the Presbytery of South West Scotland. After debate this proposal was voted through, to be referred to General Assembly.

Our Minister and myself are commissioners this year to General Assembly, also conducted by Zoom, ongoing as we write.

With 700 commissioners the zoom procedure is a bit more complicated than our local set-up but as the week goes on it becomes more familiar, not without some gremlins from the transmission side.

With covid last year causing a reduced on-line assembly and the big decisions facing our Church at present there is a heavy agenda to be completed.

We should all remember in our thoughts and prayers those who are making these far reaching decisions.

Reports will be made on the Assembly at a later date.

A favourite Summer hymn for me and many others, would be "Summer Suns Are Glowing".

Left click on the red writing to listen to the tune.

[Summer Suns Are Glowing](#)

Ian Watt

### General Assembly 2021

Each year there is a church meeting held, like no other.

This annual gathering of ministers and elders from all over Scotland and beyond is called the 'General Assembly of the Church of Scotland'.

The Assembly is the highest decision-making body of our denomination and therefore what it decides has a direct effect on us at local church level.

This year Ian Watt and I were among the 700 commissioners tasked with making decisions on a whole range of sometimes quite contentious issues.

In this article I will try to highlight some of the key areas which were covered and give you a flavour of this event.

We began our business on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> May.

There is a fair amount of formality at the outset as we received a letter from the Queen confirming her support for the 'historic rights and privileges of the Church of Scotland'. Prince William, the Earl of Strathearn, and his wife Catherine had been appointed to represent the Queen and did so reminding the assembly of his great fondness for Scotland and its people and for his own admiration for the work of the Church of Scotland.

The first major piece of decision making was about changes in presbyteries.

As you may know Mauchline and Sorn are part of Ayr Presbytery.

However, the assembly quickly approved a move to unite Ayr Presbytery with the Presbyteries of Annandale and Eskdale, Ardrossan, Dumfries and Kirkcudbright, Irvine and Kilmarnock, and Wigtown and Stranraer.

Quite a change! A report on 'The Effectiveness of the Presbyterian Form of Church Government' concluded that a Presbytery structure was still the best way forward for the Church of Scotland, but they have asked Kirk Sessions to study their findings and to consider what might be done differently at local level.

The reason for this radical change (and many others) is to do with how the Church of Scotland is fundamentally having to adapt (largely due to a decline in people and finance).

The Assembly Trustees in their report noted that the church could now only pay for 600 ministers and that Presbyteries would therefore need to plan for a further reduction in churches as a result.

It was sad to read the church statistics tell us that only 27 new members joined all the churches in Ayr Presbytery last year. This is a challenge of course to every Christian – how do we evangelise our local area that men and women receive Jesus as their Lord and Saviour?

There was of course, a raft of initiatives proposed and accepted from holding a national church gift day in October to bolster funds, to schemes trying to engage more effectively with the under 40s (including launching new fresh expressions of Church, ie, Church done differently).



**Monday** presented the most difficult and contentious report. This was from the Legal Questions committee which was asked to consider how ministers who wanted to conduct same sex marriages might do so.

The committee brought forward its findings and it was proposed by some commissioners that this new legal framework should be made available to enable a group of ministers to conduct such ceremonies.

Since I hold the firm belief that the Bible clearly teaches that Christian marriage (as distinct from arrangements in secular society) can only be between a man and a woman I registered a formal dissent when this proposal was given approval.

**Tuesday** brought the work of the Faith Nurture Forum to the assembly.

The major area of discussion here was related to how Presbyteries were going to plan for the necessary reduction in charges, mentioned earlier.

Ideas were floated about new kinds of ministry and new ways of working between parishes for ministers and congregations. It would be fair to say that there was a fair degree of anxiety and concern around both the changes needed and the process needed to bring those changes about.

There were of course reports which were positive and uplifting in these early days such as that from the Bible Society and of course from the Guild.

The latter reported on the themes for the next three years, 2021-22 "Lights and Bushels", 2022-23 "Wee Seeds, Big trees", and 2023-24 "New Wine, New Wine Skins".

When the theological forum brought its reports which included the papers "Being Confirmed, Professing the Faith, Sharing Communion" and "Westminster, Confessions and the Church" we returned to areas of challenge and change.

Firstly, we discussed how we understand profession of faith and secondly what doctrinal documents and creeds should we adopt.

In reaching the Faith Impact Forum report on **Wednesday** we were now feeling both mental fatigue and eye strain from the hours of watching assembly proceedings on Zoom. The Faith Impact Forum deals with issues which touch on issues of justice and peace and often interact with related world issues.

This wide ranging report covers everything from climate change to violence against women to overseas development aid to world poverty and everything in between!

There were many more reports, such as those from the General Trustees, Safeguarding, Military Chaplains, Crossreach, Pensions and many more (and this was a shortened assembly!).

If you would like to find out more detail then do visit the Church of Scotland website [www.churchofscotland.org.uk](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk) or Youtube channel

<https://www.youtube.com/user/churchofscotland>

You may also be interested in the stories found on the Life and Work Magazine facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/lifeandwork/>

Rev Allan Vint

### Guild News

Dear Guild friends,

What strange times we are living in. Our Guild Session ended so abruptly in March 2020 and who would have thought that more than a year later, we are still in the throes of the pandemic.

We have seen and faced many changes and challenges, and sadly there are many things we have missed, but especially our Guild Fellowship.

The Guild has not gone away, things are happening.

This year is the start of a new three strategy,

"LOOK FORWARD IN FAITH".

How apt and appropriate as we try to plan amid such uncertainty.

As we think about a new session, I hope we are able to re-group and have our meetings again. New projects have also been chosen for support, and if we can return to something "normal", we will hear about them.

Meantime, I hope everyone is well and staying safe, and maybe, just maybe, we can "LOOK FORWARD IN FAITH" to a new session starting late in the year.

All Good Wishes & Blessings.

Isabel Smith. Convener

### Calling all surfers

A lot of people will have had their second vaccination by now, and as time goes on, a higher percentage of the population is being reached.

Hopefully when the magic "Herd Immunity" is reached, we should start to see a positive decline in the number of cases, so hang in there, and keep the faith, as Bon Jovi would say.

### Web Statistics

I am glad to say, I have now re-instated the web statistics on Google to show countries and numbers of visitors in the last three months 1 Mar - 31 May as shown below:

Country (No. Of Users)

United Kingdom(403), United States(30), China(19), Germany(3), Netherlands(3), United Arab Emirates(2), Australia(2), Ghana(2), New Zealand(2), Canada(1).

I have also collated the number of Youtube views of Allan's Sunday services over the same period of time.

Mar 14(221), 21(229), 28(194)

Apr 4(143), 11(140), 18(127), 25(105)

May 2(110), 9(holiday), 16(60), 23(56), 30(51)

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

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(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

Jim has asked me for an item of summer praise. After hunting through Jennifer's C.D. Collection, this is my choice.

Casting Crowns, PRAISE YOU WITH THE DANCE

Left click on the red writing to listen to the tune.

[Praise You With The Dance](#)

Christine Beck

### Finance Report

It's lovely to see some folks back in church. Praise the Lord.

Once again can I thank everyone who continues to contribute generously to the work of the church.

These have been very challenging times and we now live in a very different world and it will probably be like this for a while.

As you will see from the figures below, our income has not met with our expenditure.

The manse required upgrading, which has been completed, and I know that Allan and Lynne are very pleased with the work that has been done.

Income to 30/4/2021	24499.00
Expenditure	<u>33778.00</u>
deficit	9279.00

We withdrew £7,000 from monies we have invested with Church of Scotland, Edinburgh.

The manse upgrade costs to date are £11374.00 + removal costs of £2941.00 of which Sorn pays 25%.

Thanks once again for your support.

Elizabeth Morris  
Treasurer

### SUMMER RECIPE:

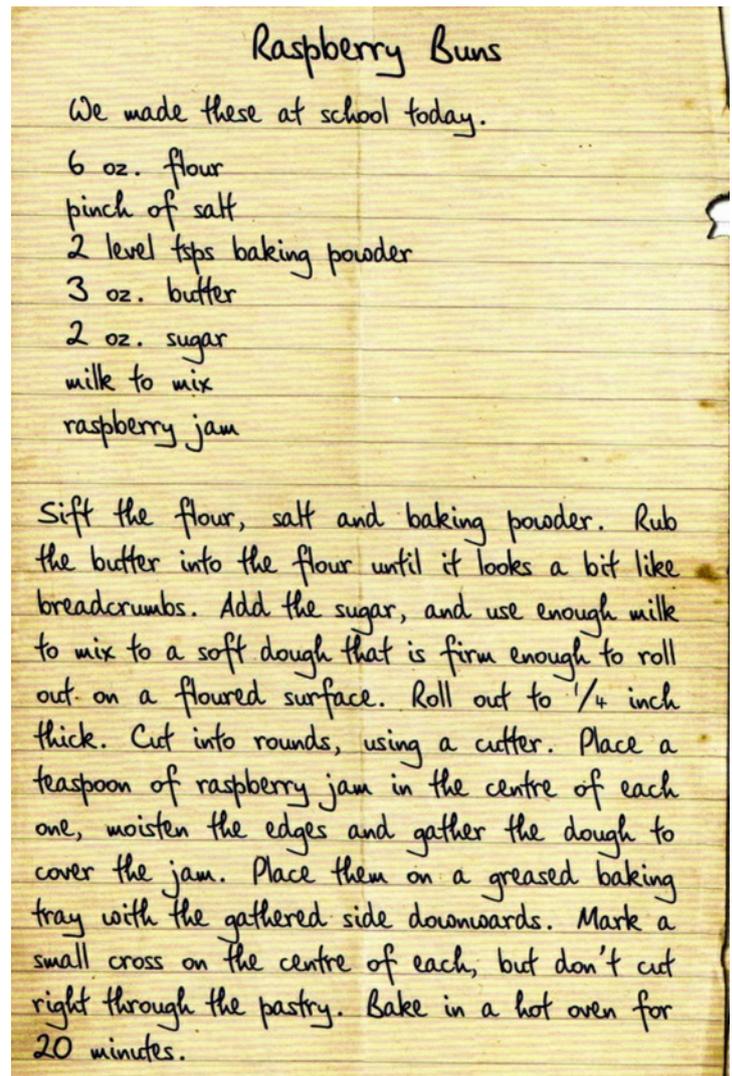
Ladies,

How many of you made these at school? We rolled the mixture into balls, flattened them slightly and poked our thumb in the middle for the jam!

(There were no boys in the cookery class !!)

This recipe is taken from "Maw Broom's Cookbook"

Christine Beck



### Congregational Register

#### New Members by Profession of Faith

No Changes

#### Certificate of Transfer issued to

No Changes

#### Admitted by Certificate

Miss E. Smith, 965 Loudon St., Mauchline

### Weddings

No Changes

The Church of Scotland

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heritage  
lottery fund

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### Baptisms

No Changes

### Mauchline Funerals

No Changes

### Dates For the diary

May

June

July

### Who's Who & Where

#### Minister

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

#### Session Clerk:

Mrs Kirsty Murray

#### Treasurer:

Elizabeth Morris

#### Deputy Treasurer:

Vacancy

#### Clerk to the Board:

Vacancy

#### Prayer Co-ordinator:

Mrs Sue Crawshaw

#### Roll Keeper:

Mrs Isabel Smith

**Acting Organist:** Skye Schendel

#### Church Officer:

Alexis Lowe

#### Newsletter Editor:

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

God, I thank You for  
being with me always—  
in good times and bad.



 Our Daily Bread.