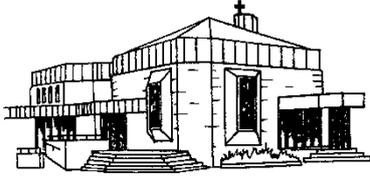


# What's on at Relief Church

<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>Morning Worship</b> (Crèche available)		11.00am
	<b>Sunday School and Bible Class</b>		11.00am
	<b>New Irvine Community Choir</b>	0797 1228 342	3.00-5.00pm
	Contact: Sam Prescott MD <a href="mailto:nicchoir@yahoo.co.uk">nicchoir@yahoo.co.uk</a>		
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>Keep Fit</b>	278819	11.30-12.30pm
	Contact: Donna Stevenston, KA Leisure		
	<b>Emma Jackson School of Dance</b>	0790 3040 251	4.30-6.30pm
	Contact: Emma Jackson		
	<b>New Youth Group (12-15yrs)</b>	475900	7.00-9.00pm
	Contact: Elaine Baxter		
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>Guild</b>	538143	1.30-4.00pm
	Contact: Mrs B Gibson		
	<b>Emma Jackson School of Dance</b>	0790 3040 251	6.30-7.30pm
	Contact: Emma Jackson		
	<b>Men's Fellowship</b>	216939	7.30-9.30pm
	Contact: Rev. A Black		
	<b>Guides</b> (10-14yrs) 2nd Bourtreehill Company	218953	7.00-9.00pm
	Towerlands Farm Community Centre Contact: Mrs Rae McCormack		
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>Bourtreehill Girls Group (S3+)</b>	475900	7.00-9.00pm
	Contact: Elaine Baxter		
	<b>1st Rainbow Guides (5-7yrs)</b>	239367	6.00-7.30pm
	Towerlands Farm Community Centre Contact: Shirley Barr		
	<b>Brownies (7-10yrs) 5th Pack</b>	212620	6.30-8.00pm
	Towerlands Farm Community Centre Contact: Mrs. Irene McIlwain		
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>Vestry Hour</b>		6.30-7.30pm
	<b>Beavers (6-8yrs)</b>	238113	5.45-7.00pm
	<b>Cubs (8-10yrs)</b>	"	6.30-8.00pm
	<b>Scouts (10-14yrs)</b>	"	7.30-9.30pm
	Contact: Mr. E Duncan <a href="mailto:eatduncan@hotmail.com">eatduncan@hotmail.com</a>		
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>Boys' Brigade:</b>		
	<b>Anchor Boys Pr 1-3 (small hall)</b>	224899	6.00-7.30pm
	Officer in Charge Mrs Laura Rose		
	<b>Junior Section Pr 4-7 (large hall)</b>	215050	6.00-7.30pm
Officer in Charge Mrs Susan Rose			
<b>Company Section S1 up (small hall)</b>		7.45-9.30pm	



4 Kames Court  
Girdle Toll  
KA11 1RT  
Tel: 216939

Dear Friends,

After coming back from holiday last October I was looking through some of the photographs that were taken and the words of Robert Burns came very much to mind, 'that we have the gift to see ourselves as others see us' and to put it bluntly I was horrified at just how much my waist was expanding. I began to realise that my 'weight problem' called for some drastic action.

However, there was a difficulty to be overcome. It is all good and well in identifying the problem but along with realisation there is a need find a solution and that meant taking action to address the problem. This has challenged me to review my eating habits and make changes where necessary, so I have had to cut back on crisps, chocolate etc and finding the time to exercise on a regular basis. So there is a possibility that you will see me walking more while listening to music on my M.P4 player.

When I started out on my walking my legs were screaming for me to stop, so it was a real struggle over those first few months but it has been worthwhile, as a slightly thinner and healthier person is coming to the fore.

My experience over these last few months has reminded me just how difficult it is to stay physically fit, it needs commitment. This is exactly the same when we consider our 'spiritual' health. If we are to be spiritually healthy we need to develop good spiritual habits and this involves a level of commitment. The bible makes it clear that if we are to be spiritually healthy we need to partake of nourishing spiritual food. There is a need for each one of us to take time out from the busyness of our lives in order to read God's Word, the Bible, and to pray for understanding and guidance to put what we read into practice in our day to day living. It is this lively relationship with God which gives us spiritual health.

It is exactly the same for us as a congregation the Body of Christ. So, how healthy is that Body in Bourtreehill? Are we playing our full part in the life, worship and service of Christ's Church and so making the Body strong and fit for performing the task given to us by Jesus? That task is that we should 'Go and make disciples.'

Let us make sure we are in good shape to meet the challenges that face us.

With every blessing.

Rev Andy Black



# Hatch, Match & Dispatch



## Baptisms

“Let the children come to me.”

**5<sup>th</sup> June Grace Anne Young**



## Weddings.

“That they may be one”.



## Funerals

“I am the resurrection and the life.”

11 <sup>th</sup> May	Allan Kerr	Seabank Nursing Home
12 <sup>th</sup> May	Joan Fleming	1 Busbiehead
20 <sup>th</sup> May	James Stewart	2 Drumelzier Court
14 <sup>th</sup> June	Bill Bilby	19 Alder Green
24 <sup>th</sup> June	Janet Jardine	8 Lanfine Way
4 <sup>th</sup> August	Cathie Beaton	29 Watson Terrace

## **Kirk Session News**

### **Communion Services**

Our Communion Services will be held at 11am on Sunday 11 September and on Wednesday 14 September at 7pm. All welcome.

Communion Duty Team E (Gordon, Jean Clarkson, Jack and Barbara) is on duty.

Elders are asked to be at the Church on Communion Sunday for 10.30am

### **Retiring Collection**

The retiring collection in September will be for the charity helping people with the medical condition "Polio".

Polio is an infectious disease caused by one of three types of Polio virus. It enters your body through your nose or mouth and develops in your throat and intestines. The Polio virus may go on to invade your central nervous system, destroying or damaging the nerve cells (motor neurons) that control your muscles.

The British Polio Fellowship is a charity dedicated to helping, supporting and empowering approximately 120,000 people in the UK living with the late effects of Polio and Post-Polio Syndrome (PPS), a neurological condition. It provides information, welfare and support to those living with the effects to enable all to live full independent and integrated lives.

### **Alpha Course**

The Kirk Session is holding an Alpha course starting on Thursday 29 September at 6.30pm. We will start with sharing fellowship over some food (light refreshments) followed by time to explore our faith in discussion afterwards. It will be very informal. Please come along and encourage your family, friends and neighbours to join us.

We will be holding this course in the Bourtreehill Age Concern Drop In Centre so we are very grateful to the committee for the use of their premises.

## Messy Church

Messy Church starts again on September 3<sup>rd</sup> but this time we will start at 10am with breakfast. It was encouraging last year to see new families join us at these services. Again, please encourage young families to join us on the Saturday morning. There will be games, singing, a children's talk as well as arts and crafts.

### Dates for your diary

#### **Sunday 18 September**

The Elders will be conducting the service on this morning. The service will take a different format as we discuss the resurrection. Please support the elders at this service.

#### **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> of September**

The Kirk Session and Congregational Board are holding another fund raiser that day. Possibly an afternoon tea. Look out for more details.

### **Income & Expenditure**

<b>Income and expenditure 2016</b>					
	<b>Income</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>		<b>TOTAL</b>
as at 31.01.2016	£5,522.02		£2,553.67		
as at 29.02.2016	£3,527.92	£9,049.94	£3,511.40		£6,065.07
as at 31.03.2016	£3,779.39	£12,829.33	£5,693.70		£11,758.77
as at 30.04.2016	£4,999.83	£17,829.16	£8,100.06		£19,858.83
as at 31.05.2016	£3,321.99	£21,151.15	£3,811.97		£23,670.80
as at 30.06.2016	£4,084.02	£25,235.17	£3,959.12		£27,629.92
as at 31.07.2016	£4,533.26	£29,768.43	£5,304.47		£32,934.39
as at 31.08.2016					
as at 30.09.2016					
as at 31.10.2016					
as at 30.11.2016					
as at 31.12.2016					

## General Assembly 2016 Report by Janie McLaren

I was delighted to discover that I had another opportunity to attend the General Assembly this year. I last attended in 2012 and had enjoyed the experience. After sorting out accommodation for the week, I waited for the post to start arriving. First, the Blue Book arrived. This tells you the work all the committees have been doing since the last General Assembly, what will be discussed and any changes needing to be made to Standing Laws.

The next package contains the Order of Proceedings book. This makes interesting reading. It tells names of all commissioners and their numbers. When someone speaks at the GA they put a swipe card into the microphone and give their name and number before they speak, so you can look them up by their number in this book and find out which Presbytery they are from.

It also tells names of delegates from other countries and other denominations. There were delegates from East Africa, Nigeria, Sudan, Zambia, Canada, India, Indonesia, Korea, Nepal, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, Czechoslovakia, Germany, Hungary, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Egypt, Syria, New Zealand and Australia. I deliberately listed all these countries to show the links Church of Scotland has all over the world despite media attempts to tell us that religion is no longer relevant in this day and age.

Other denominations included - Presbyterian Church of Wales, United Reform Church, Baptist Union, Church of England, Methodist Church, Society of Friends (Quakers), Roman Catholic Church, Salvation Army, Scottish Episcopal Church, United Free Church and Congregational Federation.

The second packet also contained Expenses Claim Form (which I put in a safe place) and your swipe card with your number (186). Unfortunately, Rosie (my dog) got to the letter first and put her teeth through the microchip in my swipe card so I don't think it would have worked in the microphone even if I had wanted to say anything - which I didn't!

First Day of GA was Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May. The Opening Ceremony is great to see - The Lord High Commissioner, the Pursebearer, the Provosts and Councillors from all over Scotland and the First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon all attended. The Lord High Commissioner takes the place of the Queen and this year was Rt. Hon. Sir James Arthur David Hope, Baron Hope of Craighead (a pleasant wee baldy chap with specs).

A letter from the Queen to the GA is read out, the Lord High Commissioner addresses the GA, and a committee is organised to write a letter of reply to the Queen.

The Moderator this year is Right Rev. Russell Barr (a Kilmarnock boy as Andy pointed out to me). After all the pomp and ceremony is completed there is a break, where all the important guests depart and then the real business of the GA begins.

Each committee comes to a table at the front, and the convener gives an oral report of the committee's work, then we go through the Proposed Deliverance one item at a time and it is then that any commissioner can ask questions, or ask for clarification or comment. Each commissioner gets a limited time and will be told when they have one minute left (some ministers found this concept quite difficult!).

On Sunday an Assembly Service was held in ST. Giles Cathedral at 10am. In the afternoon Heart and Soul was held in Princes Street Gardens. I didn't attend on Sunday (it was the Elders' Outing!).

Monday morning started with Communion. It is quite a sight to see the table all laid out with silver plates cups and jugs. I was relieved not to be picked to serve Communion, which is always conducted with precision and calmness, at least that's how it looks.

Obviously I can't relate six days of business to you, so here are a few of the highlights for me.

Tuesday was Guild day. The Guild is 129 years old this year and still going strong - 20,000 + are members of the Guild. Since 1997 the Guild has welcomed men into its ranks and now have almost 450 (and Jack!). There are 6 Project Partnerships the Guild supports - 3 in Scotland and 3 abroad.

#### In Scotland

1. Ascension Trust Scotland and work of the Street Pastors
2. Care for the Family and their programme Let's Stick Together.
3. All Friends Together - to help congregations share their fellowship with people who have additional support needs.

#### Abroad

4. Caring for Mother Earth in Bolivia with Christian Aid (ovens).

5. Mission International Haiti Project - building a combined community school, community centre and church (which is what the community asked for).
6. Breaking the Cycle of FGM.

£49,105.10 has been raised this year for these Guild projects. The Guild has raised over £6 million for its project partners from 1969 to 2015. An impressive amount!

The Guild has also moved into the electronic age and members can now register to receive a monthly electronic newsletter. They have also just launched the Guild Tartan.

Also on Tuesday was a special service - Celebration of 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination of Women to the Eldership. I found this very interesting because I don't really remember a time when there weren't women elders. We listened to women telling their experiences at the time, and one woman was one of the first to be ordained in 1966. She was asked if she was still an elder - she said she was and also Session Clerk. A big stumbling block seems to have been 'what would women elders wear?' as many elders still wore morning coats for Communion. Very Rev. Lorna Hood (from Kilmarnock!) told us she had to wear her robe (like schoolmasters wore) for her first Communion, but under it she wore the most colourful dress she could find! How times have changed!

Finally on Tuesday evening was the Big Sing. This worship was led by Very Rev. Albert Bogle (who had been the Moderator last time I was at the GA) who is very musical and enthusiastic. The hymns, 10 of them, had been chosen using an on-line poll via the Guild's Facebook page and e-news. The offering from the Big Sing went towards furnishing a hostel attached to Loudon Teacher Training College in Embangweni, Malawi. The hostel will provide much-needed accommodation for the students at the College, which is especially supportive of women becoming teachers. This, in turn, encourages more girls to complete their education. The Rev. Levi Nyondo from the Synod of Livingstonia brought greetings from Malawi and a bit of background information about the project. He and Very Rev. Bogle were presented with scarves of the new Guild tartan. It was a great night and £3,633.74 was raised. I enjoyed being able to sing loudly, knowing there were enough good singers to drown me out!

The important Expenses Claim Form was handed in on Friday as we left. An individual electronic device records your attendance, and you must attend 10 out of 13 Business Sessions or you are not eligible to receive expenses. I am pleased to report that Andy and I had shown due diligence and our expenses were soon paid.

A very busy, and tiring, week - but I thoroughly enjoyed it. If you get a chance please go - even for a day just to get the flavour of it. It is very interesting to see the procedures and watch how it all works. The singing is great - hearing 'Ye gates lift up your heads on high' with lots of male voices is wonderful!

### **Summer maintenance**

A big "thank you" to everyone who assisted in the summer maintenance of the church, the church halls and the manse garden. Also, to those volunteers assisting in the weekly cleaning.

This work is much appreciated.



**Deadline for the December  
issue of the Messenger Magazine  
is Sunday 13th November.**





# Thanks

I would like to thank everyone for their good wishes and prayers following my recent operation. The kindness and concern shown to me has been much appreciated. All the cards, flowers, gifts, messages and visits have gone a long way in helping with the healing process. I continue to make good progress and hope to be back at church very soon.

Thank you all very much, love Shirley Bothwell



On behalf of the Drop In Centre, I would like to thank everyone in our Church for the support you gave us for our recently published book '40 Years – a Journey Down Memory Lane'. Your support and donations were much appreciated.

With Grateful Thanks

Betty Weir



During the summer we all enjoyed meeting Simon who came to play the organ for us during Sam's holidays. He was a very pleasant and friendly young man as well as being very talented.

It was heartening to hear that having arrived too early for the service and waiting outside the church, a passing parishioner from St. John Ogilvie invited Simon to go into the chapel for a coffee while he waited for someone to open up the church. A lovely touch of kindness.

He also told me a story that was quite amusing. Whilst Simon was waiting outside the church reading the news on his mobile phone, he was asked by a passerby if he had found a "Pokemon" spot location?

# Organisations



## SCOUTS

The 73rd cubs, scouts and explorers recently took part in a week long camp over the summer at the scout activity centre at Lochgoilhead.

They got to participate in activities such as rock climbing, abseiling, kayaking, canoeing, sailing, archery and many more. Needless to say all who attended had a ball.

We are holding a coffee morning on **Saturday 10th September** from 10am-12noon in the church. Tickets are £1 each and all donations of bottles, raffle prizes and home baking would be greatly received.

Our group starts back on Thursday 1st September at following times:

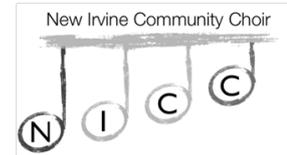
Beavers    ages 6-8 years            5.45pm-7pm.

Cubs        ages 8-10½ years           6.30pm-8pm.

Scouts     ages 10½ -14 years        7.15pm-9.15pm.

Explorers  aged 14-18 years       8pm-10pm.

The group welcomes new members, but we are currently short of leaders for some sections so if anyone feels they can help out please contact Eddie on 07454352734 or Karen on 07796281081. Thank you.



## New Irvine Community Choir

Well It's been a while since we last had an update in the magazine, so I'm sure there is plenty to catch up on and I'm sure I'll forget most of what has been going on with the choir, but I'll try my best.

Our last event before we finished for our summer break was a very successful coffee morning on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May. The choir performed a varied repertoire of both songs they had performed before and some new stuff too. We were also joined by Katie and John, our two regular brass soloists with myself accompanying them on the piano (they're brave souls). Everyone performed really well, and the hall was packed full. It was tricky to try and squeeze everything into the two hours and admittedly we did over-run by quite a chunk, mainly because I totally forgot there was a raffle to draw. All in all, the whole day was very well supported and the total raised was £700 (after a few choir members chipped in to round it up) so from myself and on behalf of NICC, I thank you for your continued support.

Looking forward, the choir have a few things lined up, some things are yet to be confirmed so I won't say too much about that.

Our next confirmed performance will be in the Scottish Maritime Museum, where the choir have been invited to perform during the "Tidelines Book Festival". We will be in the museum on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September, performing from around 1:30pm and continuing at various times throughout the day. The performance is totally informal providing some, hopefully, lovely background music for those visiting the museum. Do feel free to pop along to listen and of course see what the museum has to offer too.

We are also hoping to hold an Autumn concert sometime in October, however, no venue or date and time has been confirmed for this performance so all I can say is watch this space!

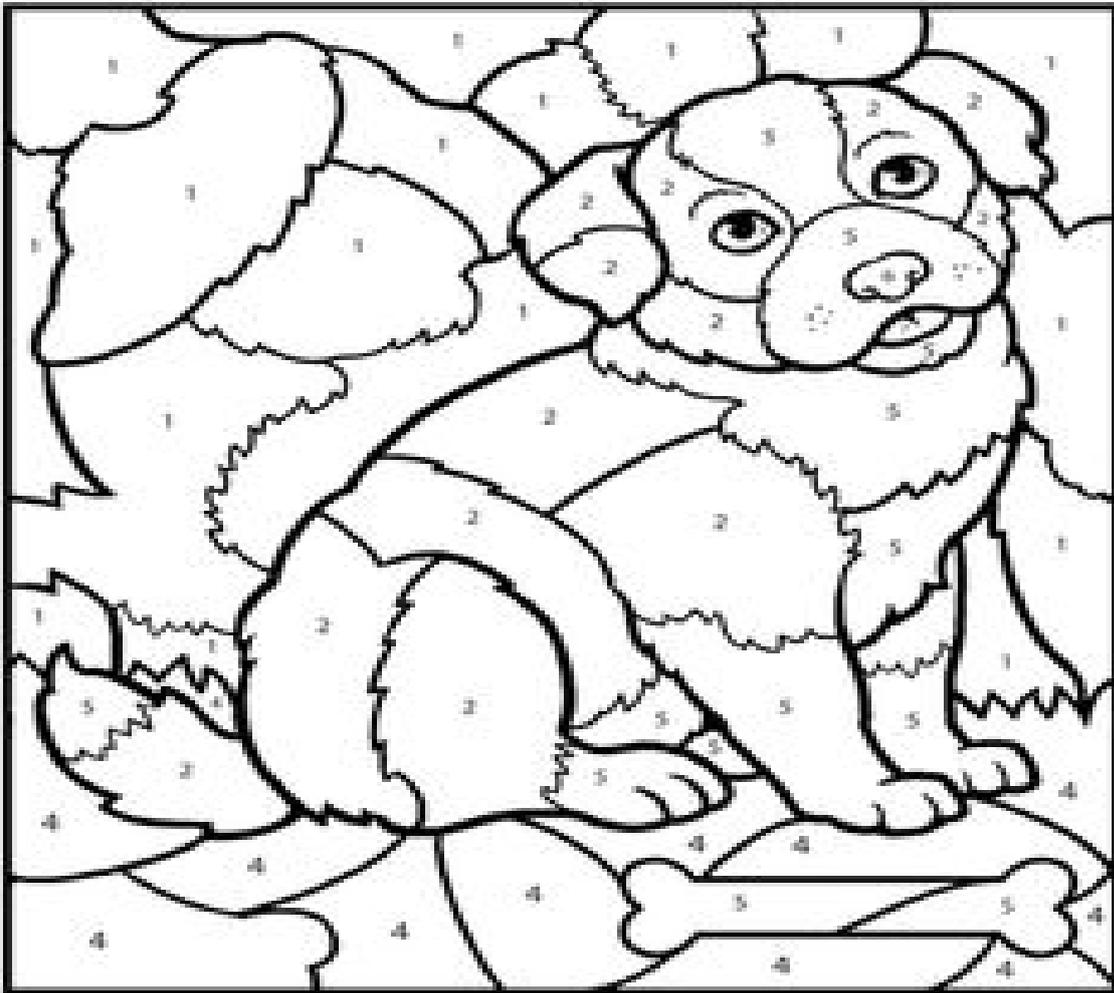
Moving on into Christmas, (too soon)? Not for the choir, we start rehearsing our Christmas rep just after Summer) apart from a few carol singing slots in the town, again there is no full Christmas concert planned as yet but we'll see what we can come up with.

Lastly, NICC have recently set up a fundraising page to help with funds. It is a website which collects a donation every time you shop online, at NO EXTRA COST, as it is the company that donates to the organisation. If you want to know more information about it then please feel free to speak to any of the choir members about it. Alternatively, you can visit [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/NewIrvineCC](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/NewIrvineCC) to learn more, and if you're interested, you can sign up and help us raise money FOR FREE!

That's all for now as I'm rapidly running out of room. Again, from everyone at NICC, Thank you for your continued support.

Sam Prescott  
Musical Director

## Kids Corner



1=blue 2=brown 3=yellow 4=red 5=white 6=black 7=pink



# Useful Names and Contact Details



## **Minister -**

The Rev Andy Black, 4 Kames Court, Irvine

**01294 216939**

## **Session Clerk -**

Mrs Morag Cooper, 5 Balgray Way, Girdle Toll, Irvine

**01294 211235**

## **Clerk to the Board -**

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-

## **Roll Keeper -**

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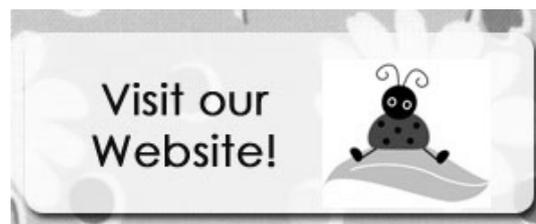
## **Organist and Choir Master -**

Sam Prescott

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[www.reliefparishchurch.org](http://www.reliefparishchurch.org)