

Newsletter

April to June 2024 / Issue 06



Welcome



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Word Puzzler:

I'm man's best friend. Reverse me. Who am I?

Summer time.....

We hope everyone has a wonderful summer. Please bring a postcard/photo of your travels (near or far) and we will display them in Church. We love hearing and seeing what everyone has been up to!

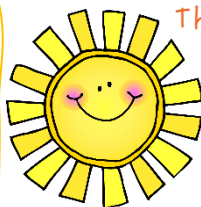
Mainly Music, Planet Earth, Rainforest Youth Cafe, Jigsaw, Guild and KNACC have now all stopped for the summer. We hope everyone has a relaxed time off and we look forward to seeing everyone again in August.

Thank you God for summer time

A time to play and a time to chill.

A time to enjoy the longer days and the warmer weather.

A time to enjoy nature's beauty and spend time with family and friends.



Thank you for this world, Your creation

Gift-wrapped in love and given to us.

We wish you a blessed summer.

Forth St Paul's – What's been happening?

Monday 8th April to Wednesday 17th April – Church Shop

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our Church shop – the contributors, the purchasers and to Anne & her team who worked tirelessly to achieve the amazing sum of £1,891.20!



Our minister Eckhardt did some shopping too and purchased himself a new tie.

Monday 12th to Saturday 18th May – Christian Aid week

See Page 3 for more details.



Thursday 6th June – 80th Anniversary of D-Day Landings

The British Legion joined others inside the Church where there was a short refecton from Christine to mark the National Commemorative Act of Remembrance. This was followed by lighting a beacon of hope and peace. People were then invited to attend the British Legion to light a further beacon.



Saturday 15th June – Gala Day

Gala Day is a joyous time. The joy of meeting family and friends, the joy of our community all joining together to enjoy this special, family day. The joy of viewing all the wonderful gardens and the colourful parade. Then of course the joy of watching the crowning ceremony. Forth St Paul's Church is in a wonderful position in our village, right in the centre of the Main Street and has stood there proudly through the years witnessing great gala day joy. We have enjoyed decorating the church gardens and this year is no different. Our theme this year being JOY. A huge thank you to Christine and helpers for all the work they put in to making the decorations.



Christian Aid (12th to 18th May)

Christian Aid Week started in 1950 and Forth St Paul's has been an active supporter of this charity.



Christian Aid as a charity was founded by British and Irish Churches after the Second World War to help refugees. Nowadays it provides humanitarian aid to the poorest of countries worldwide, and works with partner organisations to end poverty and injustice world wide.

Each year the Christian Aid Week Campaign highlights one particular area where a project is making a difference. This year's appeal focussed on Burundi one of the financially poorest countries in Africa and on Aline's Story.

Aline Nibogora was abused and forced out of her home. Aline joined a community workshop led by Christian Aid-funded trainers. She learnt about Village Savings and Loans Associations and was determined to form her own to help herself and others around her. Village Savings and Loans Associations offer a way for community groups to manage, save and lend money. Aline was able to get a start-up loan and began trading avocados and peanuts. She was also able to buy a bicycle so that she could transport her goods. Aline told Christian Aid: 'We pray together as we are still alive thanks to God's grace. ... We have been through difficult times, but now we make plans for the future.'

Funds sent by Christian Aid helps to train people how to work things out for themselves so that the help will be sustained and the poorest of people can fend for themselves. The money we raised during Christian Aid Week 2024 will provide lots of help.

This year we had a bumper Christian Aid Week where we raised the wonderful grand total of £1544.40

£410 from a 90k sponsored walk

£546 from Christian aid envelopes

£167 donated from Rainforest café on 12th May

£141 from film "God's not dead 2" on 15th May

£280 from bake and cake stall on 19th May

Thank you to all involved!



This money will go a long way to fund the projects undertaken by Christian Aid.

How is each £1 of Christian Aid's income used?

- 85p in every £1 is used for direct charitable purposes.
- Of this, 32p supports the long-term development projects, 45p is spent on humanitarian and emergencies and 8p on campaigning, advocacy and education.
- The other 15p is invested in fundraising. For every £1 we invest, Christian Aid secures more than £6 in return.

Interview with Rev Sumit Harrison

Now that we are working closer with Carstairs and Carnwath churches, we thought this would be a good time to interview Rev Sumit Harrison, who likes to be called Harrison. Here are some other things we have discovered....

1. Where were you born and brought up?

I was born and brought up in Delhi, India. I moved to Scotland in 2009.

2. How many siblings do you have?

I have an older brother who lives in Oxford and a younger sister who lives in India.

3. Please tell us a bit about your wife and children.

My wife's name is Shikha. She works for the bank and teaches part time at the University. My older boy is 10 years old and is in P5. My younger boy is 7 years old and he's in P2.

4. What are your hobbies?

I love outdoor and adventure activities; I love traveling, fishing and preaching.

5. What job did you want to have when growing up?

I always wanted to join the Army.

6. If you weren't a minister, what would you be?

Self-employed - have my own business.

7. What is your favourite thing about being a minister?

Sharing Good news to all.

8. What is your favourite Bible story?

Daniel refused to bow down to the king.

9. What Bible character do you most relate to and why?

Yusuf – his long journey of struggle for his own people. He remained faithful to God. Suffered for his own people and established them to their better world. But in doing this, he lost his land and his family and friends.



Carstairs Parish Church

Coffee and Chat will be held every Friday from 10:30 until 12noon in Carstairs Community Centre from Friday 5th July until 30th August. Please come along and bring your friends. All welcome.

The story of Bill Millin, the mad piper of Sword Beach

From May Gibson

As the sun set on June 5, 1944, nearly 5,000 ships assembled off the southern coast of England, forming a fleet for the most significant amphibious invasion in history. The British, American and Canadian Armies were initiating the long awaited liberation to Nazi-occupied Europe.

At Warsash, located at the mouth of the River Hamble in Hampshire, the highly skilled Commandos of the 2,500-strong British 1st Special Service Brigade prepared to embark on their journey to Normandy. Among them was the unassuming and youthful William “Bill” Millin of the Cameron Highlanders, serving as the personal bagpiper to the brigade’s charismatic commander, Simon Fraser, 15th Lord Lovat.



Clad in a battledress tunic and the kilt of the Clan, Millin stood on the bow of the landing craft, unveiling his bagpipes. The haunting notes of “Road to the Isles” echoed as the landing craft departed from the Solent, navigating the waters between Hampshire and the Isle of Wight before entering the Channel.

Onlookers, including sailors and troops on other landing ships, although filled with tension and apprehension about the imminent challenges, erupted in cheers and tossed their helmets into the air...

“GIVE US ‘HIGHLAND LADDIE,’ MAN!”

As the only bagpiper and skilled soldier, 21 year old Bill Millin was destined to create a unique legacy in the stories of D-Day.

On the early morning of Tuesday, June 6, 1944, under grey skies, the Allies positioned themselves off the Normandy coast after navigating the challenging waters of the English Channel.

The crossing proved tough and damp for the troops on the landing ship and assault boats, with many seasick and eagerly awaiting the chance to disembark, regardless of the looming dangers. Millin shared the same feeling, saying, “I didn’t care about what was happening onshore; I just wanted to get off that landing craft.”

As Millin waded through the crashing surf, nearing the beach, Lord Lovat commanded “Give us ‘Highland Laddie,’ man!” Despite shivering and standing waist-deep in the water, Millin placed the mouthpiece to his lips and began playing the tune.

The resonant sound of the bagpipes became a source of encouragement for Lovat, prompting him to turn and give Millin the thumbs-up. The chosen song, a favourite march of Lovat’s former regiment, the Scots Guards, held historical significance. Upon reaching the water’s edge, Millin found it almost unbelievable when his commander, standing on the sandy shore with the brigade major, asked him to continue piping the rest of the Commandos ashore, this time with “The Road to the Isles.”

Known as “The Mad Piper,” Bill Millin found himself in the chaotic sounds of war-mortar thumps, shouting, and machine-gun fire. Undeterred, he calmly strolled along the beach, playing his bagpipes with a spirited tune as fellow soldiers streamed past.

D-Day veteran Tom Duncan recalled the impact of Millin's pipes, describing how it uplifted the spirits of the troops, fostering determination, pride and a poignant connection to home. Remarkably unscathed despite frequent exposure to the enemy fire, Piper Millin accompanied the brigade upon its return to England in September 1944.

A statue now stands near the shoreline at Sword Beach, paying tribute to the courageous D-Day Piper Bill Millin, immortalising his display of bravery. His daring acts gained recognition in Cornelius Ryan's best-selling 1959 book, "The Longest Day," and were vividly depicted in Darryl F. Zanuck's epic 1962 film of the same name.

Bill Millin's legacy extended beyond the battlefield. He played at Lord Lovat's funeral in 1995 and generously donated his Cameron kilt and bagpipes to the National War Museum in Edinburgh,

Passing away at the age of 88 on August 17, 2010, Bill Millin left behind a lasting testament to the Scottish heroism that defined his remarkable life, and now adorns the face of a brand new 50p coin issued to mark the 80th anniversary of D-Day.



In other Church news...

Well done boys!

Congratulations to Ross Ferguson who won a silver medal in the under 20's men's shot putt at the Scottish Schools Athletics Championships in Grangemouth on 7th June. Ross was representing Lanark Grammar School and also Law and District Amateur Athletic Club. As well as winning a silver medal, Ross also took home a personal best, over 35m!



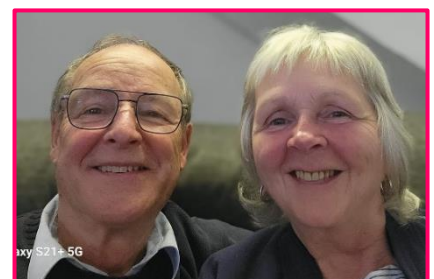
Ross has now graduated from Lanark Grammar and will go off to University in September to study chemical engineering. We wish Ross all the very best in the next chapter of his life and look forward to visits from him (when he gets the time) whether it be in Church or in the Café on a Wednesday.

Congratulations also to little brother Kyle who did really well in the under 15's shot putt finishing in 7th place in a massive field throwing over 9m again.

Keep up the great work boys!

Congratulations

We wish Jim & Nancy Orr and Jim & Grace Graham a very happy Golden Wedding Anniversary. Also, congratulations to Stephen & Jane Hunter who celebrated their Ruby wedding anniversary.



Rainforest Café

Building on the success of the Friday teenager café, the Rainforest Café was initially held each Sunday. From 1st February 2023, the Rainforest Café also opened on Wednesdays. The café is open every Sunday from 12noon and every Wednesday from 10am till 3pm (last orders are taken at 2.15pm). The café is open to everyone for sit in or take away lunches/snacks. A huge thank you to all the dedicated volunteers who work so hard to make this happen each week.

Also thank you to all our customers – we appreciate your custom and chat.

We opened up on Saturday 18th May and welcomed people who were attending the Gentle Giant Festival.

We received a lovely comment on Facebook from one of our regular customers and on the back of this, we put comments cards on the tables and encouraged everyone to fill them out. Here are a few of them...

“Good food, good prices and good service with a smile”.

“A lovely welcoming place. Food is great and staff are lovely too”.

“First time here and will definitely be back. Lunch was lovely and not expensive”.

“Good, great, excellent and we don’t get such great service elsewhere. Quality food “.

“The wee café is the best, fab food, brilliant and friendly staff. Love it! Best chips ever”.

“Keep doing what you are doing. Lots of people look forward to coming”.

“Thank you for making us feel so welcome! Food was lovely – we will be back”.

“Fantastic service. Happy faces. Look forward to Wednesday café (and Very reasonable)”.



We also asked if there was anything that we could improve on. The comments we received were to “update the menu with all the fabulous choices” and to consider a sandwich and soup deal.

Thank you for all the comments. They have been great to read.

Coming soon.... Our new menu!

All welcome!



Our new banner



An update from our Groups...

Mainly Music

This last year at Mainly Music we have had a few new mums and their new babies joining.

The children learn to do actions to the music as well as play together, sharing toys and eating their snacks. We have great fun and one of the girls called Hallie gets all excited when she sees the church hall. It is great to see them all enjoying themselves.



The photos are of Grace Barr, Grace Denholm and Zainab Unnisa who are moving on to nursery. We are sad to lose them but wish them the very best in their new adventures.

Mainly Music is off for the summer and will start back on 20th August.

JIGSAW

We are incredibly lucky to still have children worshipping with us on a Sunday morning and we are thankful to have such faithful, dedicated leaders. Nine children join us, and they are cheerful, kind, funny and share such happiness with us. But, above all, they are so enthusiastic to learn more about Jesus and God. Jigsaw held their Appreciation Service on Sunday 16th June. Jigsaw is back on Sunday 18th August,



We enjoyed telling everyone the Lord's Prayer using candles

Guild 2024 Session

The Guild meets fortnightly on Monday evenings at 7pm in the small church hall, from September to April. The Guild is open to both men and women and this session we had 28 members, with an average of 24 at each meeting.

Since COVID, the Guild has become more informal, members now sitting round tables which leads to a friendlier, chatty time. The meetings start with a hymn, reading and prayer. Our syllabus has a variety of activities, we have speakers who speak on a range of subjects which can be serious, informative or funny. We also have more activity-based meetings, cake decoration, floral art, card making and fun meetings, like gala day night when we watched gala day videos, had gala day quizzes and enjoyed a gala day bag (pie, crisps and an empire biscuit).

We also hold a Christmas and Easter fayre and we were able to donate £4000 towards church funds.

Each year we work together to draw up the syllabus, so why don't you join us in our variety of activities. Our dedication service will be on Sunday 8th September and first meeting will be on Monday 9th September.

KNACC

KNACC meet in the small Church hall on Mondays from 10am to 12noon. This group is open to all where you can bring along your own crafting projects to work on or play cards or dominoes while enjoying good company and a cuppa. KNACC have now finished up for the summer and will start back again in August.

Planet Earth after school club

Meet on Tuesdays from 3-4pm. We provide a safe space for children to relax, enjoy games and activities with friends while enjoying a tasty snack to keep them satisfied.

Intimations

You may have noticed our new summer seat in the Church garden. This was kindly provided by the Co-op and decorated by the children from Forth Primary School. It is for anyone to use. Thank you to everyone who was involved.



Here is Jigsaw enjoying a rest...

A prayer box is at the back of the Church for anyone who would appreciate prayer for themselves, a friend, a family member or a situation.

Please pop a note in the box and the prayer group will offer a prayer.

We would like to encourage more people to use this box

When your heart starts to worry,
and your mind just can't rest,
put your prayers down on paper
and let God do the rest

All requests are confidential.

Volunteers:

All the following wee jobs need covered if you'd be interested please get in touch. Remember you'd be on a rota not covering all the time.

- Church Door Duty
- Readers in church
- Sound desk/ Powerpoint preparation
- Flowers in church and flower delivery
- Anyone willing to write and read the 'Prayer for Others' during weekly worship
- People willing to help with our Property Group to maintain our buildings

CHURCH SHOP DATES

Our Church shop will be open from 14th to 23rd October 2024.

Word Puzzler answer: God

*Forth St Paul`s Parish Church (Church of Scotland)
Charity No. SCO03080 Congregation No. 130713*

Please let us know if you have any good news that you would like to share with us. It will go in the next edition of the magazine. We'd love to hear from you!