

The Link

The Newsletter of Dalriada Mid Argyll Church

Registered Charity No. SC001002
(www.dalriadamidargyllchurch.org.uk)

September 2024

A HEARTY THANK YOU!

In 2014 Margaret Davidson realised a vision to run a café serving the community. A decade later the decision was taken to call a halt to this very successful but demanding venture. In its ten years running as a fundraising and community project approximately £50,000 was raised, and ploughed back in to meet essential running costs as well as to help with maintaining the church and hall buildings.

The café provided home cooked reasonably priced fresh food and a welcoming place for visitors and local people. Lochgilphead church hall became a regular meeting place for many on Wednesdays, and the welcome they received, as well as the good food, will be remembered affectionately.

A number of people have volunteered over the years, serving our community in this practical and caring way, and have enjoyed the camaraderie, fun and nonsense alongside a lot of jolly hard work to keep it all going!

The café came to an end in spectacular style on August 28th with entertainment from the Forget-Me Not choir.



We would like to say a very big thank-you to Margaret and all the many volunteers. Your kind and practical witness in our community has been greatly appreciated.

Service Rota

1st and 3rd Sunday

Kilmartin, 10:00am
Lochgilphead, 11:15am
Achahoish, 12:30pm

2nd and 4th Sunday

Tayvallich, 10:00am
Ardrishaig, 11:30am



“ . . . let them serve as signs to mark seasons and days and years . . . ”

Genesis Chapter 1 verse 14

From the dawn of creation, God placed the sun, moon and stars in the sky to be markers of the changing times and seasons. As September draws to a close we are all too aware of the moving on of the seasons, (and may well be feeling slightly cheated out of the summer we had hoped for!)

Different markers may shift in our church life, and our own personal lives, that cause us to move on, or move through some of the seasons of life, and this month our thoughts turn to some of those changes.

We mark the end of the cafe so successfully run for many years in the Lochgilphead church hall, celebrating all that has been achieved through that, and thanking Margaret Davidson, whose vision, hard work and leadership saw it thrive and develop.

We acknowledge those whose work, both paid and unpaid, helps maintain and sustain our church community. In particular we'd like to make mention of Ally MacDonald, of Loch Fyne Clean & Shine, who has been employed to take on the cleaning of the church buildings in Ardrishaig and Lochgilphead. We are very glad to have his services, as the task of cleaning in each of our churches has traditionally been done by volunteers. Despite their dedication over the years, for some, the saying “the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak” has begun to be a reality, and although some light duties will continue to be carried out by volunteers, in the main, the more demanding aspects of maintaining such large spaces requires professional paid-for help. All our five churches are now using or hoping to source such help with cleaning.

Of course there are many other vital roles within our church family and it is important that we acknowledge, both by voicing our appreciation, and by remembering them in prayer, the many generous and committed folk whose contribution to our church life is so essential. There are the musicians; faithfully helping lead and enhance our worship, the gardeners we employ to keep the church grounds looking tidy, the elders, the fund-raisers, those who help manage our church finances, the bakers, the coffee and tea makers who help us enjoy fellowship together by providing that longed-for cuppa, and of course, those who help take services from time to time.

Elsewhere in this edition we pay tribute to another church member, the late Mavis Yuill, who served as an elder, and beacon of good cheer in the Kilmartin community until her passing.

And so, the seasons come and go, and we rejoice that God gives grace for all the changes that come, sought or unsought, to our lives.



“Dare to believe” - what is this Cairn Learning Community all about?

On 28th August 9 people from the congregation met up to hear the presentation on Zoom by Rev. Scott McRoberts to outline the purpose and content of the Learning Community which the Presbytery has sponsored for all churches in **Cleir Eilean I**, and has been introduced in previous “Links”.

Following the presentation we had a good discussion on the pros and cons of our church taking part and we decided that we will ask the next Session meeting to support and commission a group of people who want to do this. At the moment we have five people.

This is not a quick process. The Learning Circle meets for four weekends over two years to plan and pray about our church and our community. These are led by “Cairn” an interdenominational organisation established to train and encourage groups on Church Growth. Their website opening paragraph is:

Daring to believe

“God is at work in our nation! Despite the challenges and the difficulties in the church, we are a network of people who are daring to believe this truth.

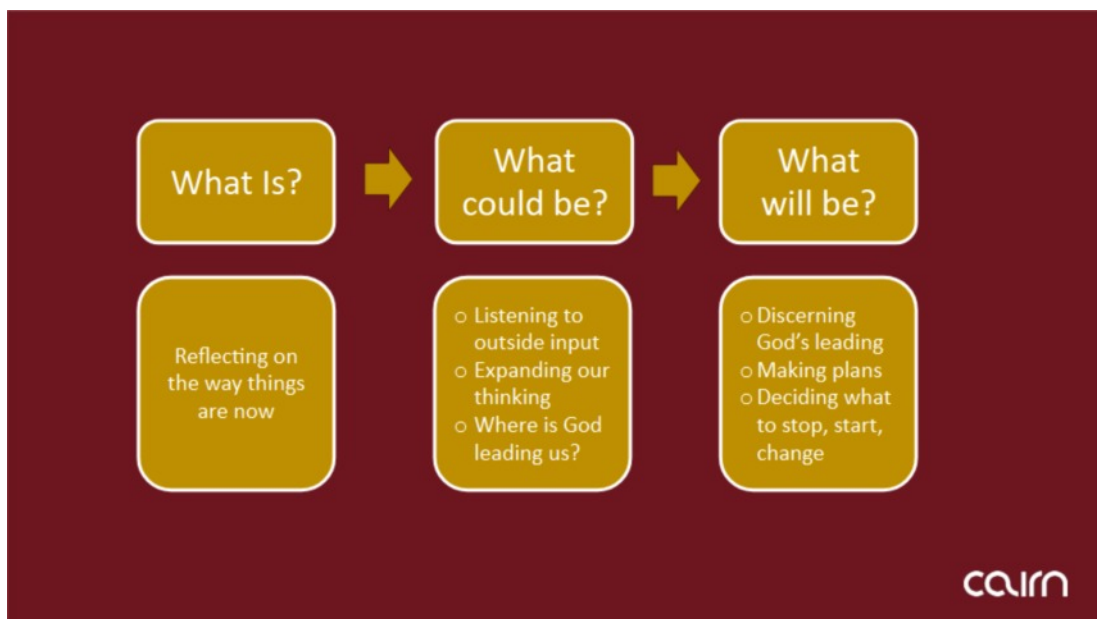
We are working with people like you to help create a new future – a future where there is a vibrant, worshipping, witnessing church community in every locality and network in our country.

Together, we are seeing new churches and mission projects launched and existing churches growing again, making disciples and reaching out in mission.

Join Cairn as we dare to believe that the message of Jesus can be heard and seen again in our nation.”

For more information on the Cairn Organisation see: <https://cairnmovement.com>

One of the slides of the presentation which we will be considering is:



So we can and should expect God to lead us into new paths and activities, to revise existing paths and be ready to be changed as we try to “discern God’s leading”.

After our two years of the Learning Circle we shall only be beginning.

This is an initiative which will bring people together to learn, plan, pray, unite and be excited for growing our church. Please consider if you would like take part in the group, and let me know as soon as possible. The first meeting is on 4th and 5th October in Lochgilhead.

Also, equally important, everyone reading this can have a vital role in praying for this and for those taking it forward. Let me know if you would like more information on being part of this through prayer.

Many thanks

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Dalriada Mid-Argyll has 38 active Elders who alongside our Minister have key leadership roles in the life of our church congregation. In this edition we honour one particular Elder – Mavis Yuill MBE. As most of you will know, Mavis passed away on the 12th August 2024 after a lengthy battle, bravely fought against an unforgiving cancer.

Here both Linda Tighe and Moira Thompson pay tribute to Mavis:

Mavis will be remembered for her cheery personality and her unflappable organised hallkeeper role. She was also the “Safeguarder” at Kilmartin. An elder for many years, she was presented with her 32 year service scroll in 2022 signed by the then Moderator of the Church of Scotland.

She was a wonderful craftsperson and her talents covered knitted dolls, beautiful cards, knitting and sewing. Her skills won many a prize at the “rural” too! At Christmas she enjoyed putting up the Church Christmas tree and the helpers always looked forward to a wee slice of home baking for their efforts. Indeed her fruit loaf was thoroughly enjoyed along with a wee cuppa at the end of services at Kilmartin.

She will also be remembered for her role in Kilmartin Primary School as Secretary and her work with the youngsters and her secretarial duties were recognised and rewarded with an MBE in 2011.

Mavis will be sadly missed by her family, her WI friends, the Kilmartin Community, her bowling friends and of course our Church family. (Linda Tighe)

Mavis touched many lives. Mavis was the safeguarder and latterly safeguarding coordinator within the congregation. A competent administrator Mavis understood the evolving and now complex system of forms linked to legislation. I personally am indebted to Mavis for her kindness and guidance. She was very generous with her knowledge and pleased to pass it on to me the current Safeguarding Co-ordinator. (Moira Thompson)

Our thoughts and prayers are with Mavis’s family in their time of loss.

**It is not enough to love –
you need to be loved**

Sometimes we can be inclined to give and give and give to others—without asking anything in return. We may think that this is a sign of generosity—of great strength. But it can also be one of pride—we want to be seen as the one who does not need help. Or it can be a sign of very low self-esteem—we do not think we are worth receiving anything from others. Whatever the reason, when we keep giving, without also receiving, we put ourselves in danger. We will burn out quickly. It is as important to know when we need to TAKE attention and care, as when we need to give it to others. If you do not pay careful attention to your own needs—whether physical, emotional, mental or spiritual—you will not last the distance. If you want to remain a joyful giver for years to come, you also need to be a joyful taker—and accept God’s love— given to you through other people.

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