



The Link

The Newsletter of Dalriada Mid Argyll Church
(www.dalriadamidargyllchurch.org.uk)

April 2025

The Manse

"Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the [risen] Lord Jesus Christ," wrote Paul, in his Letter to the Church in Corinth (1 Cor 1:3)

As we progress through Lent towards Easter, we will be reminded once again of the triumph of life over death, of hope over despair, and of light over darkness. The resurrection of Jesus is the cornerstone of our faith, a promise that we, too, share in His victory and eternal life.

The journey of Lent and Holy Week takes us through moments of reflection, repentance, and renewal. Come Easter Sunday we will have walked with Christ in His suffering, stood at the foot of the Cross, and with thankful hearts will be able to proclaim, "Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!"

Easter is a time to embrace the new life that Christ offers. It is a call to renew our faith, to deepen our commitment to love and serve one another, and to be bearers of His light in a world that still yearns for hope and healing.

Just as the disciples were transformed by their encounter with the risen Lord, may we also be renewed and empowered to live as faithful witnesses of His love.

This Easter season may we know the joy and peace that Christ brings and may we reach out to those who are in need, extend forgiveness where it is due, and continue to develop a spirit of unity and compassion in our families, communities, and the Church.

May the blessing of the risen Christ
be with you and your loved ones.
May His love fill your hearts with joy,
and may His peace sustain you
in all circumstances.





What a beautiful day we had for our Teddy Bear Pancake Picnic! The sun came out for us so we were able to enjoy our picnic outside in the garden behind Lochgilphead church.

It was lovely to see the children (and adults!) come together for a pancake-themed craft, pancake relay races and of course, eating pancakes!

We chatted about what the season of Lent symbolises and shared the story of Jesus in the desert.

It was uplifting to spend time with other parents and to see the children have such fun with each other.

There was a wonderful sense of community and we hope to build on this in the future with similar events.

Overall, it was a fantastic afternoon, full of joy, faith, and fun! Thank you to all who came along and to the volunteers who helped make it such a successful event.

I can't wait for next year's picnic!



Laura

Any Volunteers?

Safeguarding: We are looking for a panel member. The panel supports the Safeguarding Coordinator and meets between 2/4 times a year. This would suit someone with an interest in social issues and maintaining a safe church.

If you are interested, please contact our Coordinator, Moira via moirathompson176@gmail.com

Children' Church: We are actively seeking adults to work alongside our young folk. If you are interested, please contact Laura via lauracstone20@gmail.com

Ardrishaig Garden Group would gladly welcome new volunteers. Please contact Melanie at: melanie.norman@live.co.uk

A Prayer for REVIVAL

Our nation is in need.

Our world is in need.

As noble as social, political and educational reform are, none of these things can fully resolve the deep troubles within our world and lives. For that, we need hearts that are changed and shaped by the power of God.

What we need is REVIVAL..

You might find it helpful to use the following 'Revival' acronym regularly as you seek the Lord in prayer asking, "Lord, revive us again!"

The prayer has been written to encourage God's people to pray for His sovereign work of revival in our land. It was written by Rev Stephen McNie to mark the 400th anniversary of an exceptional move of God known as "The Six Mile Water Revival" in 1625.

The Six Mile Water Revival serves as an inspiration and a reminder of the enduring power of the Gospel to transform individuals, communities, and nations.

A Prayer for REVIVAL

R

Rekindled love for God

Set my soul afire, Lord, and renew the love I had for you in the beginning. May the fondness I feel for everything else in life pale in comparison to my burning desire to know & love You more. (Rev 2:4-5, [3:15-17](#); Matt 10:37; Mk 12:30)

E

Enthusiasm for Worship

May my life be a sacrifice of praise to You, O God. May I enter Your gates with thanksgiving and come before Your presence with singing. Teach me to worship You in Spirit and in truth—not just at church on Sundays, but all week long. (Heb 13:15; Ps 34:1-3, [100:1-4](#); Jn 4:24)

V

Vigilance in Prayer

Teach me to pray without ceasing, boldly approaching the throne of grace in the power of the Holy Spirit. Help me not to be anxious, but to cast my cares at the foot of the cross, trusting Christ to intercede on my behalf. (1 Thess 5:17; Eph 6:18; 1 Peter 5:7; Rom 8:26, [34](#))

I

In-depth Bible Study

Create in me an insatiable hunger for Your Word, O God. Teach me to love it as I love life itself. Help me to hide its truths in my heart and meditate upon it day and night. Make me a doer of the Word rather than a forgetful hearer. (Matt 5:6; Ps 119:97-98; James 1:23)

V

Victory over Sin

Help me to lay aside every encumbrance and the sin that so easily entangles me. Keep me mindful of the fact that Jesus has purchased my freedom from sin—I'm no longer enslaved. Teach me to consider myself dead to sin but alive to You. (Heb 12:1; Rom 6:1-7)

A

Affection for Others

Jesus said people will know we are Christians by our love. Make that true in my life, O God! Teach me to value others above myself and to consider their needs as more important than my own. Make me a channel of blessing; love others through me. (Jn 13:34-35; Phil 2:2-4)

L

Life of Faith

Don't allow me to compartmentalize my faith, but let it influence and inform every aspect of my life. Teach me to walk by faith, not by sight. May everything I am and all that I do bring glory and honour to You, Lord, and point others to Jesus. (James 2:17-20; 2 Cor 5:7; 1 Cor 10:31)

Eco-Congregation Scotland

On Palm Sunday (April 13th) Eco-Congregation Scotland's chaplain, Rev David Coleman, will be visiting and taking the Service in Ardrishaig at 11 o'clock. (Remember to bring a twig or small branch).

There will be an opportunity to meet with David after the Service at a buffet lunch in the church hall.

To give an idea of numbers for catering church reps have been collecting names of those hoping to join with us, but please don't worry if your name is not on the list, everyone is welcome!

Thank You!

The Eco-group would like to thank everyone who donated throughout March towards Transform Trade.

What is your favourite hymn?

Moir Thompson's is *Morning is Broken*, sung to the well-known tune, Buinessan.

The tune though was well-known long before Cat Stevens made *Morning Has Broken* famous.

Mary Macdonald (nee MacDougall) was a Gaelic poet who lived from 1789 to 21 May 1872. She is best known for her Christmas Carol, *Child in the Manger*.

Mary was born in the tiny crofting community of Ardtun, north-east of Buinessan on the Ross of Mull, the peninsula on Mull that extends towards Iona.

Mary married Neil Macdonald and settled down to the arduous life of a crofter's wife. While sitting at her spinning wheel she passed the time by singing hymns and poems, some of her own composition.

As a devout Baptist, some of Mary's hymns reached a wider audience, including *Leanabh an Aigh* (Child in the Manger).

The hymn was still in use in the area when Lachlan Macbean was doing the research for his *Songs and Hymns of the Scottish Highlands* which was published in 1888.

It was Macbean who translated Mary's hymn into English and named the tune to which it was sung, "Buinessan"

Macbean's translation of Mary's hymn was included in the 1927 Revised Church Hymnary, and in many more recent hymn books.

The editors of the influential 1925 hymn book *Songs of Praise* asked the English writer Eleanor Farjeon to write another hymn to the tune. The result was "Morning has broken".

There is a monument to Mary Macdonald, not far from the ruin of the croft where she lived, some two miles east of Buinessan.



BANNER MAKING RETREAT

Following on from Kay's Banner Appeal, another affirming story of Banner making; this time from Louise and Carys.

Kilmalieu retreat house is part of the Abernethy group of outdoor centres. It is situated on the west side of Loch Linnhe, opposite Duror. I recently spent an interesting long weekend there with two of my daughters taking part in a Banner Making Retreat. We learnt how to make "stained glass quilting" with the professional quilter and banner maker, Gail Lawther. As well as helping to complete a banner for the chapel at Kilmalieu we were fed the most delicious food, encouraged to join in with morning and evening prayers and given ample time to enjoy the outdoors or spend time in personal retreat.



I also discovered that one of the five participants is from Lochgilphead and attends our church!

This is what Carys had to say about our experience, "This was my second retreat at Abernethy Kilmaleiu. It's a beautiful and peaceful place providing a home-from-home, a chance to be refreshed and to set aside quiet time for God. This retreat was more active than my first retreat which was focused on personal prayer. I enjoyed the creative process in putting the banner together and appreciated being included as a complete newbie sewer! We reflected on the beauty of creation in the act of creating, and doing so collaboratively was really encouraging. My life with a responsible job, marriage, toddler and own trials can be very full and constant. I find it really rewarding and strengthening of my faith to take time out, especially somewhere remote, to be outside and to be creative. I can recommend it to anyone!"

SPREADING THE WORD!

Fifty-five years ago, I wandered from the street into a church. I heard the good news of Jesus Christ, witnessed faith in action, accepted him as my Lord and Saviour, was baptised and began my journey. It was a rare event fifty-five years ago and probably unheard of these days. We have several generations that know nothing about the church and what we believe and they're not likely to if we don't engage with them.

In a previous Link I spoke about ACORN – a prayerful way of asking God to pave the way for meaningful conversations with persons outside the church. If you have had answers to these prayers, I would encourage you to share your experience. Send them to me at jgmalmcolm@btinternet.com and we can mention them (without names if you wish) in a future newsletter for 'mutual edification' (Romans 14:19)

The Apostles had no church buildings. They met for prayer in houses but they proclaimed the gospel in hostile synagogues and market places. They made their presence felt and the community of the faithful grew in spite of opposition. We also need to make our presence felt and to recover the lamp from under the bushel. We propose to display a Dalriada, Mid Argyll Church stall at all the town/village gala days this year – as we did last year in Kilmartin and Lochgilphead. Let us know if you want to be part of this but above all please pray for these events that meaningful conversations might be had and that the good news of Jesus Christ is heard once more in Mid Argyll!

Jim Malcolm

A Prayer for Easter Sunday

Father, may we sit together for a while,
as the sun rises on this Easter Morning.
As Mary sits confused and fearful at the empty tomb,
May we find your peace as we contemplate –
that the tomb is empty, Jesus is Risen.

An angel sits at the empty tomb and announces "He is not here He is risen"
Risen and victorious leading all creation in the dance of life.
May we dance with him hand in hand and share new life with Him.

Peter and John run breathless towards an empty tomb.
Jesus, take our emptiness, and transform it into fulness as we follow you.

Mary weeping, embraces Jesus' feet – weeping in joy? uncertainty? confusion?
May we weep too,
Embracing salvation but unsure what that means,
Embracing uncertainty when our faith is challenged,
Embracing confusion as we search for God's Kingdom.
Embracing Jesus, risen Saviour and friend.
Jesus, we believe, help us in our unbelief.

Two men walking towards Emmaus, going home,
listening to a stranger tell the meaning of the empty tomb.
May we also listen to Your words as you travel with us.
May we hear clearly Your story walking side by side.
The men suddenly knew Jesus, may we suddenly know Jesus.
And may understanding blossom in us and overflow in joy, resurrection joy!

Jesus calling "Follow me"
Jesus, leaving the empty tomb
Jesus, Saviour and friend
Jesus – Here with us - always

Jesus of Easter morning, and of all eternity.

Journey to the Cross

Progress: As I write this, we are 20 days away from opening our 2025 Journey to the Cross exhibition!!!! As Easter draws ever nearer, preparations are progressing well so far.

There are practical details, like gathering all the necessary screens, props and items for the displays – made much easier by most of the essential items having spent the last year in a large box in the Manse! Our neighbouring churches have again been willing to be responsible for creating some of the displays, and already after two meetings, there's a good feeling of "the Team" coming together again – this time thankfully with a much greater sense of what we're aiming for, and how to make it happen.

People: Then there are the staffing issues to put in place, with an encouraging number of folk having put their names down for stewarding and kitchen/cafe duties when the sign-up sheets first appeared at church. Thanks to all who've already made themselves available – there will be more opportunities to do so, and Ruth is always glad to hear from anyone who wants to help (01546 603269)..

This year we're running the event for longer, with an Opening Evening starting at 6pm on Wednesday 16th April, two full days of 10am to 8.30pm on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, and then a Saturday morning shift from 10 until 1pm.

Either side of that of course there's the great Build/Unbuild job to be tackled, and again, all offers of help will be very much appreciated.

Practicalities: It's easy to focus on the practicalities of making it all happen – and here are a few more that come to mind:

- we again need cotton wool balls if you have any to spare
- is anyone willing to take charge of the kitchen, ensuring supplies are bought etc?
- we need someone to man/woman the "welcome desk", hand out literature etc
- we need people to come! Please talk about it, invite your friends, bring them along!
- and of course, come yourself if you possibly can!

Prayer: But of course, as Psalm 127 tells us, "Unless the Lord builds the house the labourers labour in vain", so what we really have need of is people who will undertake to pray every day for this event.

God delights to hear our prayers, and to answer them in accordance with His good will and purpose, so please pray, asking for a good dose of spiritual hunger in our community, drawing people in to discover what Easter means, who Jesus is, and how to start and develop a relationship with Him as their Saviour and Lord. Pray for the health, strength, safety and happiness of all who are serving at the exhibition, for lasting friendships amongst those from different churches, and a lasting harvest for God's Kingdom as a consequence of this event in our community. And just in case that's not enough, of course pray as God leads you!

Thank you all very much, and may God bless and inspire us in this venture.

What's On in April

- Sun 6th Services in Lochgilphead at 10am and Kilmartin at 11:30am
- Wed 8th Not Another Coffee Morning in Ardrishaig Church Hall at 10:30am
- Sat 12th Café Connect in Achnamara Hall, 10.30am to 12.30pm
- Sun 13th All Together Service in Ardrishaig at 11am
Palm Sunday Service followed by lunch in the church hall
- Mon 14th *Pilgrimage* – with Rev David Coleman (EcoCongregation Scotland)
Achahoish Church at 6:30pm
- Wed 16th Not Another Coffee Morning in Ardrishaig Church Hall at 10:30am
Journey to the Cross exhibition open from 6pm till 8:30pm
- Thur 17th Journey to the Cross exhibition open from 10am till 8:30pm
Maundy Thursday Service in Kilmartin Church at 3pm
- Fri 18th Journey to the Cross exhibition open from 10am till 8:30pm
(incorporating a Good Friday Evening Service at 6:30pm)
Service in Columba's Cave, Ellary at 8pm
- Sat 19th Journey to the Cross exhibition open from 10am till 1pm
Café Connect in Achnamara Hall, 10.30am to 12.30pm
- Sun 20th Easter Morning Services at Lochgilphead Front Green (8am) and
Kilmory Knap Chapel at 8:30am
Easter Services in Tayvallich at 10am and Lochgilphead at 11.30am
- Wed 23rd Not Another Coffee Morning in Ardrishaig Church Hall at 10:30am
- Sat 26th Café Connect in Achnamara Hall, 10.30am to 12.30pm
- Sun 27th Services in Kilmartin at 10am and Ardrishaig at 11:30am
- May 4th** All Together Service in Achahoish at 11am

Please send all submissions
for the May issue
to moirathompson176@gmail.com
by 22nd April

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