

## **CUMBERNAULD OLD PARISH CHURCH – SUMMER 2018 MAGAZINE**

### **EASTER EGG APPEAL 2018**

A very BIG thank-you to everyone who supported our annual Easter Egg Appeal back in March. There was a huge response to our appeal for people to donate chocolate Easter Eggs for distribution to needy children through our local food bank. A whole car-load of eggs was collected and it was both wonderful and humbling to see such a generous response from our congregation. As the hymn says, "*Faith proves itself in deeds.*"

Our friends at Cornerstone were amazed by the generosity of the congregation and our friends at the food bank were delighted to share in the Good News of Easter.

A new initiative for us this year was our 'knitted chicks'. One of our members had found a knitting pattern for hand-knitted 'chicks', each of which was just the right size to hold a chocolate creme egg. Such was their popularity, a group of people was soon set up to knit these, while other people donated chocolate eggs. Thanks to everyone's generosity, £107.50 was raised for church funds.

### **EASTER CRACKED OPEN**

Cumbernauld Old was one of 14 churches in Falkirk Presbytery that took part in *Easter Cracked Open*, an outreach event for all ages, in the Howgate Shopping Centre in Falkirk at the end of March.

There was a variety of crafts and games, a story corner, prayer tree and praise band – all telling the Easter story – and it was good to see so many churches working together.

### **GOOD FRIDAY WALK OF WITNESS**

The annual Good Friday Walk of Witness, arranged by Cumbernauld Churches Together, continues to go from strength to strength, with dozens of participants from churches across the town taking part.

Our route this year went from outside the former Dunnes Store, through the Town Centre and finished at the United Reformed Church with a final act of worship about an hour later.

## REMEMBRANCE APPEAL

This November is the centenary of the end of the First World War, and to mark the occasion it is planned to make this year's Remembrance Day service a bit special. Depending on funding we hope to arrange various events leading up to November, but in any case we want to have a display of poppies.

However, in order to do that, lots of knitted or crocheted poppies are required. A selection of patterns are available that are very quick and easy to follow, and there are also samples available at the church that show the finished 'flower'. Please help yourself to a pattern sheet the next time you are at the church and feel free to pass them round your friends. There is also a box in which you can pop your completed poppies.

In addition, the Church in partnership with the Community Council is looking to mark the end of the conflict in other ways too. 61 local men were killed in the conflict and we would like to honour them by creating a temporary art work for Armistice Day by finding out more about them on the Village website – [cumbernauldvillage.org](http://cumbernauldvillage.org)

Could you:

- research the story of one person who lost their life in the conflict;
- tell us your family's story;
- share any photographs you may have from the time;
- help create the temporary art work;
- volunteer any other skills or ideas you would like to share?

If you want any more details, please phone Elizabeth on (01236) 726451. Thanks!

## **MEN'S GROUP**

In mid-April, the Men's Group visited Clydebank Museum, which turned out to be a bit like the Tardis: much larger on the inside than it looked from outside!

First up was the display of Singer Sewing Machines, for which Clydebank was a famous manufacturing base, then it was on to the Room of Remembrance, where we learned about the Clydebank Blitz in March 1941.

We then visited the former Bruce Street Baths, now being converted to an exhibition space, and then down into the old police cells (and yes, they did let us out afterwards!) We had a peek into the Ceremony Suite, used for weddings and suchlike, and then the appropriately-named Grand Hall before finishing our visit at the ship-building display.

It was a really interesting outing; our guide was knowledgeable and friendly, there was so much to see and we were made most welcome.

## NEWS FROM SOUTH AFRICA

Easter 2018

Dear Friends,

As always, Christmas came and went very quickly as has Easter. It has been a busy year so far, as always. Graham was in charge at St Andrew's over the Christmas period as Zwai took long leave to prepare his PhD proposal. It was a quiet period, thankfully.

Easter was to be more relaxing but Zwai had to go to the Eastern Cape for a family funeral and Graham had to take all of the Easter services: Thursday evening Tenebrae, Good Friday morning service and Easter Day communion. Fortunately, he was assisted by a young lady minister in the congregation, Rev Fundiswa Kobo, a theology lecturer at the University of South Africa and Dr Zoro Dube, a lecturer in New Testament Studies at Pretoria University. Zoro is the first academic probationer in the church and Graham was asked to be his supervisor. We knew his father, Phineas Dube in the 1980s at the Federal Theological Seminary. Phineas worked for Africa Enterprise, an evangelical organisation which was responsible for our orientation programme.

We are now taking our post-Easter break at our favourite hotel at Cathedral Peak, deep in the Drakensberg mountains where we have been holidaying after Easter for a number of years. It is very relaxing and great for relaxing and catching up as usual. We are here with two Lutheran friends, Bos and Malish Tlhoale, who travelled to the UK with us last year.

While Sandra continues with her editorial work and providing never-ending hospitality, Graham has been busy with a number of other activities.

His contract at the University was renewed and, in addition, he has taken responsibility for the first-year class on the History of Christianity aspect of the course in Theological Orientation. This is because the lecturer has been appointed the new Dean of the faculty and is no longer free to teach. This year's first-year class is over one hundred students which is our largest intake for some years. They are quite an energetic group! In addition, he is leading the Presbyterian class on Practical Formation. His research continues with regular requests to prepare papers on various issues, the latest being on 'The role of women in South African Presbyterianism'. Two of his Zimbabwean students, Farai Mutamiri, Dean of the Anglican Cathedral in Harare, and John Chawarika, rector in an Anglican parish in Harare have successfully completed their PhD degrees and will graduate at our autumn graduation later this month.

St Augustine's College also renewed his contract to teach there too and he continues his work on their Senate in the midst of many problems, not least financial.

This is Graham's last year as a member of the Religious Studies and Theology panel of the National Research Foundation. He continues his work with the Council for Higher Education and is busy assisting with the applications for registration of several colleges which have not registered their colleges or qualifications with the statutory bodies in South Africa. This is a complex matter. This arose out of his involvement with a sub-committee of the Church Unity Commission (CUC) in South Africa, which is considering issues and challenges in theological education nationally. The CUC has expanded the work of this sub-committee to include the Lutherans, the Dutch Reformed churches and Roman Catholics. We have also appointed a group of female theologians to assist us in our deliberations to make our work more inclusive.

On the home front we had a two-week visit from David and Chris in March, along with a month-long visit from an old friend from Aberdeen, Heather Clark. They were all in need of

a break after (during?) the dreadful Scottish winter. This coming weekend we will see Justin Taylor with his family. Justin was our former student and Graham's research assistant. He has just completed his probation in the Church of Scotland successfully and is being considered for a call. If all goes well, Graham will attend his ordination during the summer before Sandra joins him for a family wedding in August.

At the national level, we have said goodbye to Jacob Zuma (Thanks be to God!) though he keeps on popping up not least for his trial on 16 charges of corruption. Then we have commiserated with the people of Cape Town in the midst of their ongoing drought. And most recently the nation is mourning the loss of struggle icon Winnie Mandela, whose enormous contribution to a democratic South Africa was eclipsed by her character and moral flaws, characteristics we all share as part of sinful humanity. As they say in revolutionary circles – *a luta continua!* – the struggle continues!

This comes with our prayers and Best Wishes!

Graham & Sandra

## **FAIR TRADE UPDATE**

The mission of the Fairtrade Foundation is “to connect disadvantaged producers and consumers, promote fairer trading conditions and empower producers to combat poverty, strengthen their position and take more control over their lives”.

This year Cumbernauld Old Parish Church celebrated Fairtrade Fortnight, which took place in February, by offering fairly-traded goods at two Fairtrade stalls, one in the Village and the other at Balloch. This successful venture was made possible through establishing a link with Gavin’s Mill Fairtrade shop and café in Milngavie. Over three Sundays we raised £215.88 to support producers of a range of goods which have been fairly-traded.

To sustain this initiative, we have created a ‘Fairtrade’ group of volunteers who will take forward our aim to apply for recognition as a Fairtrade Church. There are three criteria which we need to satisfy to become a Fairtrade Place of Worship:

1. Use Fairtrade tea and coffee after services and for all meetings for which we have responsibility.
2. Move forward on using other Fairtrade products (such as sugar, biscuits and fruit).
3. Promote Fairtrade during Fairtrade Fortnight and during the year through events, worship and other activities whenever possible.

We have decided to call our Fairtrade initiative “Faith in Action” and hope you will support us by visiting our forthcoming Fairtrade stalls which we hope to run on the last Sunday of each month. We have supplied each worship centre with Fairtrade tea, coffee and sugar to be used at all Church-related events and meetings. We are already planning future events to showcase Fairtrade products and promote the ethos of the Fairtrade Foundation.

We are looking for volunteers to join our group and share their ideas. By promoting Fairtrade we can, as a congregation, demonstrate Faith in Action and improve the lives of disadvantaged people who work in conditions that are unfair and unrewarding. If you believe in the work of the Fairtrade Foundation, please join our group to help to make a difference. Simply pass your name to Caroline Edwardson, Sandra Graham, Anne Morrison or Ivar Struthers.

## FOODBANK FRIENDSHIP DAY 2018

On April 6th, the foodbank in the Village marked three years of operating with a Friendship Day. Volunteers and guests shared a wonderful cake, complete with candles, cloutie dumpling and of course fellowship and stories.

Demand for the services of the foodbank has grown in recent months so the continuing support is greatly appreciated. Luke Chapter 6, verse 38: "*Give to others, and God will give to you.*" Thank you to all our friends.

Food parcels, made up with dried or tinned foods are per household. Included are supplies fresh items; bread and fruit. Donated fresh items are very varied — from bakery goods such as cakes and sausage rolls to dairy produce to meats, veg and ready meals etc. Each parcel is designed to last about three days — so contains on average two tins of soup, three tins with main meals e.g. tuna, hot dogs, meat pie, chicken casserole, tin of beans and tin of spaghetti, tin of peas or carrots, tin of rice or custard, fruit or jelly, packet of pasta and jar of sauce, breakfast cereal and often biscuits or jam. Coffee and tea are included less often — we rely on donations so can only give out what we get in.

As for toiletries and household cleaning items, they are given out once a month as needed — shower gel, deodorant, shampoo, laundry liquid, general cleaner, washing-up liquid, tooth paste and brushes, shaving kit and toilet rolls. Baby items are provided when needed as well.

Many thanks for all your donations of food, toiletries and cash. Your ongoing support is greatly appreciated. More volunteers at the foodbank would be very welcome. Please contact Sandra at (01236) 732280 if you are interested.

## FUNDRAISING

We held a very successful Fashion Show at the end of April, which raised the magnificent sum of £650.

Firstly, many thanks to all who made the evening such a success, especially to the Bon Marche staff who gave up their Friday evening to bring the outfits, help our models get ready and commentate on the fashions on display, before returning the clothes to the shop.

Secondly, we must thank our models who looked lovely in their chosen fashions. Going from stylish to smart casual, casual, holiday wear, and ending up ready for bed in their jammies, dressing gowns and slippers.

We'd like to offer our thanks to Caroline, who made so many delicious cupcakes that, not only were they enjoyed with our tea and coffee, but were also sold to be devoured later. Finally, we'd like to thank everyone who came along and made the event such a great success.

Our next event will be a Garden Fete in the Manse Grounds on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> June. There will be music by the Cumbernauld Musical Theatre Society, cream teas, raffle, tombola, stalls, games and activities for children, so please keep a look out for our posters and further information in the church news sheets.

## DAYTRIPPERS

Daytrippers was started by Iain Ogilvie, when he qualified for a concessionary bus pass and wanted to see where it could take him. The aim of our Daytrippers group is to visit places of interest in Scotland using our bus passes – it's as simple as that!

We meet at Cumbernauld Bus Station on an agreed date and, on arrival at our destination for the day, usually head for coffee and scones before visiting the main attraction. A packed lunch is usually brought along in the hope of dry weather (it happens some times!) and the opportunity to dine *al fresco*.

By and large, we have a trip once a month from April until September. However, due to the inclement weather, our first trip this year was in May, when we visited Glasgow Cathedral, St Mungo's Museum and Provand's Lordship. Further trips are planned to the Scottish Parliament, the National Museum of Scotland and Dunfermline Abbey, to name but a few.

Details of the dates, destinations and meetings times will usually be published in the weekly church news-sheet about two weeks prior to each trip.