

MINISTER'S LETTER

He answered: "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones themselves would shout out." (Luke 19: 40)

The quotation above recalls a time when Jesus was entering Jerusalem on the day we now celebrate as Palm Sunday. There were crowds of people lining the route of his entry, all crying "*Hosanna*" and waving their palms. It must have been a deafening experience for all there! It must have been noisy because we are told that the Pharisees, the religious leaders of the day, commanded the people to be quiet. Jesus' response is the passage above, "*I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out*".

Sometimes, when I am in the Church at the Village, I think of how many people must have worshipped there and how many Ministers have preached from the pulpit in the 350-plus years that it has been in existence. How many Psalms and hymns have been sung, how many times have Bible passages been read, and how many people, some now long gone, have come through the doors to worship and glorify God. The stones in the Church have 'seen' so much over the years, that I am sure that if we fall silent (which hopefully we won't!), the stones surely would be able to shout out.



At the end of last year, my son and I were walking through the kirkyard and lamented the state of some of the gravestones. I won't mention the 'tidy-up' that one of my predecessors, Rev James Smith Clark, did to the layout of the kirkyard in the 1950s, by lining all the gravestones up to ensure that it was easy to keep maintained. Now, unfortunately, the stones do not indicate where the person is buried. Anyway, I mentioned this at a Congregational Board meeting and it was agreed that something should be done about the state of the stones. I am so glad to say that Elizabeth's daughter, Lisa, has taken up the challenge and we now have the Cumbernauld Village Archaeology Group whose first project is to photograph and catalogue the stones in the kirkyard (you will be able to read more about this project later in this magazine).

It is an exciting project and the plans are for it to grow to other areas of the Village. We have had one meeting so far, and have started photographing the stones from all angles to upload to the internet to provide a comprehensive resource of all the monuments and as much information on them as we can get. If you are interested in coming along to the next meeting, you would be made most welcome as it is a daunting task!

If only these stones could talk, if only they could tell us their story and the story of the person whose memorial it is. It is important that we remember all those who have gone before us: those who have taught us the songs we know, who took us to Church when we were young and who brought us up in faith to worship and glorify God.

It is just as important, though, to be the person who does the teaching, by our words and what we do and be the living stones in our communities today.

Elsbeth

Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated in the Parish Church on Sunday 2nd September at 11.00am and again at 6.30pm.

These services replace our usual two services at 10.15am and 11.45am. Non-alcoholic wine will be used at our 6.30pm service.

A warm invitation is extended to all to join us at our Lord's Table.



PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

Let GOD be seen – *Not* you

Jesus reserved His harshest condemnation for those who did good deeds “in order to be seen” – he switched on the spotlight and exposed every ounce of self-righteousness for what it was. He named such people ‘hypocrites’ – the original Greek for ‘actor’. First century actors wore masks, so a hypocrite is someone who puts on a mask – a false face, and performs for the applause of others.

Jesus didn’t say, “Don’t do good works,” nor did He say, “Don’t let your good works be seen.” We must do good works, and some of them must be seen in order to have impact – so let’s be clear. To do something good IS a good thing. To do good to be SEEN is not. In fact, to do a good thing to be seen is a serious offence, for hypocrisy turns people away from God.

When folk who are genuinely searching for God see choristers strutting around like Palladium entertainers; when they hear the preacher – a person of slick words and dress – play to the crowd for approval, pointing to themselves rather than God; when church attendees dress to be seen and make much ado about how they ‘serve’ and offer; when people enter a church to see God, but can’t because of the church, we can be assured God will react.

Jesus was clear on this issue, “*Be especially careful when you’re trying to be good, so that you don’t make a performance out of it – it might be good theatre, but the God who made you won’t be applauding.*” (Matthew 6: 1 The Message).

A medieval village priest once told his congregation, “Come back again this evening for a special sermon about Christ.” Many returned. To their surprise however, no candles illuminated the sanctuary, but they each managed to grope their way in the darkness, and sat down in a pew.

The priest was nowhere to be seen, but eventually could be heard walking through the church to the altar. He moved until he reached the cross that hung on the wall, and lit a candle. Without saying a word, he illuminated the pierced feet of Jesus, then His side, then one hand, then the other.

Raising the candle, he shed light on the blood-stained face, followed by the crown of thorns. Finally, he extinguished the candle, and with the final blessing, dismissed the congregation. Nothing more needed to be said. If we take the words, "Christ crucified" and add the words "for me", then we'll begin to understand what God really did when He hung His sinless Son on that cross. If you had been the only one who had ever lived, Jesus would still have died for you. With His arms stretched wide, He was saying, "This is how much I love you."

At the times when we feel there's no hope for us, or when our pride would have us focus on our own virtue and morality, we need to return to the cross – we simply can't go there often enough. The hymn-writer Isaac Watts sums it up in these words, "Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were an offering far too small; love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all."

Today, let God be seen – not YOU.

BOYS' BRIGADE QUEEN'S BADGE AWARDS

The 1st Cumbernauld Boys' Brigade Company, attached to Cumbernauld Old Parish Church, had its Annual Display at the Forge Community Centre in May. The evening culminated in the presentation of awards, among them four Queen's Badges, the highest award available in the Boys' Brigade and one which requires a tremendous amount of hard work and dedication to achieve.

Congratulations, therefore, to (left to right) Jack Leadbitter, Mark Hynd, Cameron Neil and Kieran O'Donnell.



DOORS OPEN DAYS

Cumbernauld Old Parish Church has been opening its doors to visitors once again this summer, when volunteers have been on hand on Sunday afternoons in July and August to welcome visitors and show them around our historic church building in the Village.

We are also taking part in North Lanarkshire's Doors Open Days weekend (8 / 9 September) and our church will be open for visitors to have a look around between the hours of 1pm and 5pm both days. Why not pop in and say "hello"?

MEN'S GROUP

Our 2017/18 programme has now ended and our programme for 2018/19 is in its final stages of preparation (see below).

Our end-of-session meal at the Railway Inn was very good and enjoyable, although we had a wee 'extra' activity over the summer. A big thank you to Cumbernauld Bowling Club for allowing us to 'chuck' some bowls, although I think we were supposed to roll them! We all had a great evening.



Our new programme commenced on Wednesday 22nd August at 7.30pm with the AGM at Cumbernauld Bowling Club. Our first outing of the new programme will be to the National Museum of Rural Life (East Kilbride) on Wednesday 5th September, while our first speaker will be Joyce Bell speaking about her trips to South Africa, that will be on Tuesday 18th September. For further information please check the Church News Sheet, the Church website or contact Bruce Finlayson on 01324 813665.

Do come along and join us – we meet twice a month in the Session House on a Tuesday evening at 7.30 pm for speaker evenings and start with a cup of tea or coffee. Every other week we have a day visit on a Wednesday to places of interest. Please consider this as your personal invitation. We sincerely hope to see you at one or more of these meetings – you will be made very welcome.

Non-church members are welcome.

Provisional Diary Dates:

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| Wed 5 September | 2.00pm | Visit to the National Museum of Rural Life (East Kilbride) – £6 – National Trust for Scotland and National Museums of Scotland members free |
| Tues 18 Sept. | 7.30pm | Guest Speaker: Joyce Bell (Visits to South Africa) |

Wed 3 October	2.00pm	Visit to Doune Castle – £4.80 – Historic Scotland members free
Tues 30 Oct.	7.30pm	Guest Speaker: Andrew Pearson (Audio and Visual Presentation)
Wed 14 November	2.00pm	Visit to Grangemouth Heritage Trust – free
Tues 27 Nov.	7.30pm	Guest Speaker: John Ferguson (Air Aces of WW1)
Tues 11 December	7.00pm	Christmas Meal

DISCOVERING OUR PAST

Cumbernauld Old Parish Church was delighted to welcome a new minister, Rev Elspeth McKay last August. As Mrs McKay and her son William were familiarising themselves with their new surroundings, William happened to comment on the fascinating headstones in the oldest part of the Kirkyard. There are stones dating back to the 12th century, some denote plague victims and radical revolutionaries. More recently, in the 1950s, the minister of the time had many of the stones re-sited into neat rows to make maintenance easier – unfortunately they now no longer mark the original burial plots!

A group of local residents led by Lisa Snedden contacted archaeologist Fiona Isobel Watson at Scotland's Urban Past, a nationwide community engagement project led by Historic Environment Scotland and Heritage Lottery Funded. They provide free training, support and resources to people of all ages to help them discover and share the fascinating stories of Scotland's town and cities. They use their wide range of resources to help groups create projects from maps to films to comic books to oral history.

Fiona made an initial visit to Cumbernauld in June and was excited at the prospect of undertaking a project to update the existing catalogue and plans to make it easier for locals and overseas visitors to locate the graves of relatives as well as provide a comprehensive record of this ancient site for submission to the National Record of the Historic Environment (CANMORE).

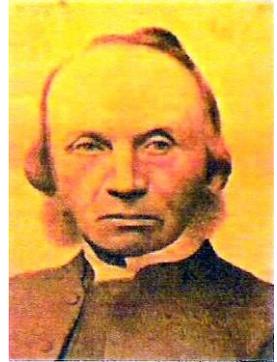


At the end of July a small group began the huge task of the photographic survey and are keen for more volunteers to get involved! Join the Facebook Group Cumbernauld Village Archaeology for more details or email cumbernauldvillagearchaeology@gmail.com

For further information on Scotland's Urban Past visit our website: www.scotlandsurbanpast.org.uk or follow us on twitter [@ScotUrbanPast](https://twitter.com/ScotUrbanPast).

REV. HUGH PARK

Hugh Park (right) was minister of Cumbernauld Parish Church (now Cumbernauld Old). He translated from Johnstone, Paisley on 16th November 1848 and died on 8th February 1890.



He married Ellen Maria Carton on 9th August 1843. Ellen was born in Dublin and was presumably a Roman Catholic.

Park's ancestors were illustrious. Through his mother's line he was descended from the 5th Lord Boyd, James Hamilton Earl of Arran, Edward III and James IV. Through his father's line he was descended from an Edinburgh merchant.



Park had ten children with his wife (one of whom has left graffiti on the back of a door in the Manse!). His descendants mostly moved to England and very few stayed in Scotland. One of his sons, Sir Maitland Park, married twice and the first marriage was in Bombay. Sir Maitland Park was the editor of the Cape Times in South Africa. Their son, also called Maitland, was awarded the Distinguished Service Order. Another son, Daniel Cameron Park, died at sea on board S.S. Furnessia in 1885 by a 'disease of the heart and lungs'. His father was alive at this time.

I have managed to trace a living descendant of Hugh Park currently living in the USA. This person is the great-great granddaughter of Hugh Park. She was born in 1961.

William McKay-Smith. February 2018.



CUMBERNAULD REMEMBERS

Armistice Day this year will have particular significance as it marks the centenary of the end of the first World War.

Over the past few months members and friends of the congregation have been knitting and crocheting beautiful poppies and we hope to make a special display around the church and war memorial as a tribute to all the men who gave their lives in the conflict.

There's still time to hand in more, so keep them coming! We have wool available at the Parish Church in the Village and at the Forge Centre in Balloch for those who need some.

We have also been successful in gaining National Lottery funding, which we will use to create a permanent feature in their memory, possibly a bower in the area of the war memorial with 61 poppy heads on it and a commemorative bench.. We hope it will encourage people to stop and take time to read the names of the men on the wall and give thought to the sacrifice they made for us.

As part of our poppy campaign, we hope to produce a supplement and website about the 61 men from the area who lost their lives in WW1. We want them to be remembered as much more than just names on a wall. We would like to find out the background of each soldier, what they did in the war and how they died. I have a list of free websites that can be used.

If you are interested in researching even one man, please get in touch with Elizabeth on 01236 726451

We are also open to other suggestions as to how best to mark this significant anniversary. If you want to contribute any ideas, again please get in touch.



DAYTRIPPERS

The Daytrippers (aka have-bus-pass-will-travel) usually visit a place of interest by bus once a month, from April until September.

This year inclement weather postponed our first visit until May when we visited Glasgow Cathedral, with one of the finest post-war collections of stained glass windows to be found in Britain. Next was the St Mungo Museum of Religious Life

and Art which is built on the site of the medieval Bishops' Castle and is designed in that style. The galleries are full of displays, objects and works of art that explore the importance of religion in the lives of people across both the world and time. Finally, our day in Glasgow saw us visit the Provand's Lordship. It was built in 1471 and is one of only four surviving medieval buildings in Glasgow. It has a fine selection of 17th-century historic furniture and royal portraits. Behind the building is the St Nicholas Garden, a herb garden, an oasis of calm, away from the hustle and bustle of the city.



In June, we intended to visit the Scottish Parliament, but were unable to arrange for the local MSP to give us a tour. As all who attended the trip had already been to the Parliament building, we headed for the Ocean Terminal where we enjoyed coffee and scones overlooking the Royal Yacht Britannia.



Our trip in July was to Culross, Scotland's most complete example of a burgh of the 17th and 18th centuries. White-harled houses with red-tiled roofs line the steep, cobbled streets which run from the market cross to the hilltop Culross Abbey. In the centre is the ochre-coloured Culross Palace. It's little wonder that Culross is acknowledged as one of the most picturesque villages in Scotland. It is often used as a film and television location.

By Wednesday 22 August we shall have visited Dunfermline Abbey. Everyone is welcome to come along on these trips. Details of the destination and the bus station meeting times are published in the Church Intimations for two weeks prior to each trip.

FUNDRAISING

The fundraising group wish to thank everyone who braved the rain and came along and helped to make the Summer Fete such a success back in June. We were delighted that £1015 was raised.

Huge thanks to all those who helped with the setting-up on Friday evening and those who helped with the teas and the stalls on Saturday, not to mention helping clear up afterwards. We certainly couldn't have managed without your help which was very much appreciated. We are also grateful to all those who donated to the various stalls: Home Baking, New to You, Tombola and Raffle and the generosity that provided such a variety on the day is heart-warming and very appreciated. We couldn't do it without you.

Thanks also to Cumbernauld Musical Theatre who came along but were unable to perform due to the weather as their equipment could not be plugged in for safety reasons – but we will see them at a future event. Finally, we would like to thank The Spur Hotel, Guilliano's, Village Tandoori, Village Florist, Mila's Hairdresser, Peking Inn, Top Glass Off License and Jackson's Salon for their generous donations of raffle prizes.

We are delighted to announce that Prof. David J Smith has agreed to give an organ recital and also accompany us singing our 'top 10' hymns on 23rd August. As David plays professionally at concerts and recordings in addition to his academic role, we are very grateful to him for agreeing to help our fundraising efforts.

As you will have read above, Cumbernauld Musical Theatre Society were unable to perform at the Summer Fete but have generously offered to do a fundraising performance for us on Thursday 1st November. As their recent performance In Cumbernauld Theatre was a sell out this should be a very popular and entertaining occasion. Keep an eye on the Intimations for details of tickets.

As our quiz and supper nights are always popular and well-attended we will be holding one again this year. Again, keep an eye on the Intimations for further details.