

# Airdrie Broomknoll Parish Church of Scotland



From an original drawing by Walker McClure

*Christmas 2009*





Letter from Reverend Isobel Birrell

The Manse  
October, 2009

I'm sitting looking out my window, wondering when this rain will ever go away and suddenly realizing there are other folk in our world watching the sky wondering if rain will ever come.

A few weeks ago, I decided to get some bulbs planted out in the garden. I had a beautiful collection of hyacinths which I carefully planted in tubs and placed them in a position that I would be able to see them from the window. Some time later, I decided to add some pansies to the tubs only to be shocked by the little apple sized holes in every tub. I might like looking at hyacinths but the squirrels obviously prefer eating them; I just have to find a way to be able to see the squirrels and grow the hyacinths inside.

We live in a world that always has many sides and purposes. What is beautiful to us can be ugly to another and perhaps even food to some other creature. However, it is sometimes all too easy to see it only from our own side, our own use or need while, seeing it from another person or creatures perspective can only add to our wonder at this beautiful thing we call our world.

God has created a world of magnificence, ever varied and never boring and all for us to enjoy. However, true enjoyment takes folks sharing in simple ways together, something God also intended through this gift of life to each and every one of us. So, let us find some others to share these winter days with and, also, remember some of the other folks and creatures who share our planet who might have a bit more of a struggle through life than we do. It's just what God expects of us.

May God bless you as the days get darker, and may God warm you with friends in the celebrations of Christmas that lie ahead of us.

Your friend and minister,

*Isobel Birrell*

### **Kirk council urges party leaders to have 'bias towards the poor and vulnerable'**

THE Church of Scotland's Church and Society Council recognises that hard measures will have to be taken in order to reduce the vast debts that the country now owes following the credit crunch. There will be no quick or easy fixes. Cuts will have to be made but they must be both proportionate and bearable.

The Church and Society Council has listened, with increasing concern, to the rhetoric on cuts emanating from the political parties during this conference season. In particular, the announcement of policies which would adversely affect the income of lower paid workers, people fleeing persecution and those reliant on benefits are cause for concern.

The Bible teaches that God has a bias towards the poor and vulnerable. We must recognise this in our approach to the current difficulties. Reverend Ian Galloway, convener of the Church and Society Council, said: "It is the mark of a civilised society that we support those in greatest need, not attack them when times get tough, because they are the easiest target."

The Council calls on all political parties to make protection of the poor and vulnerable their top priority as they address the difficulties that we, as a country, face.



## **Church Register**

### **Baptisms**

18 October      Aaron and Chris Paterson, 20 Viewfield

### **Deaths**

3 October      Mrs Elizabeth Lewis, 3 Moffat Place  
26 October     James McFadyen, 4 Maybole Drive

### **Welcomed into Church Membership**

Mrs Isabel Smith — by profession of faith

### **Dates for your Diary**



### **Christmas Services**

- 6 December - Carol Service at 3.00pm followed by Christmas Cake and Refreshments
- 13 December - Christingle Service in Calderbank Church at 6.30pm
- 24 December - Watchnight Service at 11.30pm with carols from 11.00pm - tea and mince pies after the service



## The Guild

The Guild continues to flourish under the leadership of the President/Convener, Mrs Fiona MacLeod, and those members who perform all the myriad tasks of a working committee-providing tea weekly, serving and washing up after social events, always scheming to make more contributions to the running of the Kirk by knitting furiously to order, and supporting various charities throughout the year.

Between October and December, the syllabus has featured Kilsyth Ladies Close Harmony, a speaker from 'Sense Scotland' (the charity for deaf/blind children and their families), a demonstration of Aloe Vera products by our local independent suppliers; an evening visit to Mackinnon Mills, and our forthcoming Open Night on the 30<sup>th</sup> of November with entertainment provided by the Columban Singers from Kilsyth.

Early November saw Guild ladies having a whale of a time with the Men's Club at their Tuesday meeting- we played carpet bowls, table tennis, billiards, dominoes(!), had a laugh , followed by a sit- down tea of goodies provided by the men (with help from some of their wives). There will be a reciprocal visit when the Men's Club enjoy fellowship with the Guild on the 1st of February, 2010.

Meantime, our social events include High Tea at the Tudor followed by an evening at the Hamilton Operatic Society's Revue; our traditional visit to our Calderbank friends for a celebration of Christmas Readings and Carols.

There will be no Christmas Party with Santa Billy this year, but a Festive Meal at Christine's Restaurant instead.

If all this appeals, come and join the fellowship of the Guild - ladies and gentlemen are all welcome as regular members, or even occasional visitors on any night when the programme sounds interesting!

Evelyn Cameron,  
Guild Secretary.



## BOYS' BRIGADE

All sections of the Boys' Brigade have had a great start to their session. The boys are participating well in their sections, enjoying their classes and games and taking part in most competitions. The Anchor Boys and Junior Section will be joining the other Companies of the Battalion in their Carol Service at High Church on the evening of Sunday 13 December. Turnout has been low in previous years so please encourage your boy(s) to attend and support all the work that goes into preparing such an event. All sections recently took part in the Battalion's Sponsored Fun Run to help meet the cost of the annual subscription - £808.12 this year even after the early payment discount. We had a reasonable turnout for the Founder's Day Parade this year but that means there is room for improvement! The Company Section had a special evening again this year for Children in Need and raised £60. They are also working hard towards the Squad Drill competition on Friday 11 December. We will also be looking for all the Company Section boys at the Christmas card delivery on the afternoon of Sunday 13 December.

## Christmas Card Delivery

The Boys' and Girls' Brigades and friends will again be undertaking their annual Christmas card delivery in the main Airdrie area (which unfortunately can not include outlying villages such as Chapelhall). Our main delivery will be on the afternoon of Sunday 13 December, with those that can not be delivered on the day being dealt with by the officers over the following few days to ensure all are delivered before the posting deadlines. Delivery will cost 20p, well below the cost of a second class stamp. I hope you would encourage this venture as it allows the boys and girls to raise funds by providing a service to others. Cards will be collected after the Sunday services on 29 November, 6 and 13 December and through the Boys' and Girls' Brigades. So remember to write your cards early this year!



### GIRLS BRIGADE

A big thanks to everyone who helped to make our fundraiser a success!! There were lots of nice gifts available to buy so we hope some of you managed to start or even finish your Christmas shopping!

We are going on our visit to the pantomime Jack and the Beanstalk at Motherwell on Saturday 12th December. We are all looking forward to our trip. We will also be bag packing at Morrison's on Saturday 19th as a Division so please come along to see us and we promise to take care of all your groceries (packing that is not buying them)!!!

We will also be delivering our Christmas cards with the Boys Brigade. All information will be detailed in their article.

We hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Sheena and The Officers.



### SUNDAY SCHOOL

We are all busy planning for our Nativity Play with a difference!!! (You know us)!! This will be part of our Christmas Family Service. All children have been given a part to play so it's important that they come along to Church every week to join in with rehearsals.

We are planning our visit to Santa at M&Ds this year and the older kids will be going sledging at Braehead in January. More details will be in the bulletin.  
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Sunday School Leaders



## *Donate*

December

6 Mrs J Robertson  
13 Mrs P Adams  
20 The Guild  
27 Mrs A Wagstaff

## *Distribute*

Mrs M Higgins  
Mrs P Adams  
The Guild  
Mrs A Wagstaff

## **Church Directory**

With the last issue of the magazine you received an updated Church Directory. Amendments need to be made to it as follows:

Organist: Mr Paul Morrison's email address

[pmo1@hotmail.com](mailto:pmo1@hotmail.com)

Kirk Session: Insert

Mr Wilson Meechan Tel: 769739



## **Nearly New**

Here we are again at almost the end of another very successful year. We are grateful to all who give us a hand on a Friday morning. Thank you also for all the goods handed in from near and far. It's amazing where it all comes from. We wish our team of helpers and our friends who come along each week a happy and healthy 2010. Our last day will be Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December and we return on 8<sup>th</sup> January.

Merry Christmas to all.

R.and F



## **Fundraising News**

### Internet

**Christmas is just around the corner.** Why not try out the internet for some of your special gifts. If you are an internet shopper it's easy and there is no outlay in using [www.easyfundraising.org/broomk](http://www.easyfundraising.org/broomk). Top shops like Amazon, John Lewis, Curries and many more outlets are on the list and a percentage of the sale price goes to the church. A point of interest - Amazon is working with some suppliers in doing away with unnecessary packaging and getting items packaged in recyclable boxes. Go on give the internet a try it and see how easy it is. If you do have a problem getting started please contact the committee or church treasurer for assistance.

The fundraising committee thank those who contributed in any way during 2009 and wish everyone a Joyful Christmas and Happy New Year.  
The Fundraising Committee

## *Snippets*

If after Church, you wait a while, someone may greet you with a smile  
But if you quickly rise and flee, we'll all seem cold and stiff, maybe?

All here like you, have fears and cares, each person needs the others prayers,  
So in true friendship, we but you meet, with us around God's Mercy Seat.

Today is special, as you'll see, if at the end you follow me,  
Over to the hall for tea and chatter and coffee twice as strong as watter!

So whether you can stay or not, it really matters not a jot,  
Provided you know we're there for you, to offer love and friendship true.

### **WHAT GOES AROUND, COMES AROUND!**

His name was Fleming and he was a poor Scottish farmer. One day, while trying to make a living for his family, he heard a cry for help coming from a nearby bog. There, mired to his waist in black muck, was a terrified boy, screaming and struggling to free himself. Farmer Fleming saved the lad from what could have been a slow and terrifying death.

The next day, a fancy carriage pulled up to the Scotsman's sparse dwelling. An elegantly dressed nobleman stepped out and introduced himself as the father of the boy Farmer Fleming had saved.

"I want to repay you," said the nobleman. "You saved my son's life."

"No, I can't accept payment for what I did," the Scottish farmer replied, waving off the offer. At that moment, the farmer's own son came to the door of the family hovel.

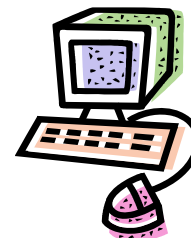
"Is that your son?" the nobleman asked.

"Yes." The farmer replied proudly.

"I'll make you a deal. Let me provide him with the level of education my own son will enjoy. If the lad is anything like his father he'll no doubt grow to be a man we both will be proud of" and that he did. Farmer Fleming's son attended the very best schools and in time graduated from St. Mary's Hospital Medical School in London and went on to become known throughout the world as the noted Sir Alexander Fleming, the discoverer of Penicillin.

Years afterwards, the same nobleman's son who was saved from the bog, was stricken with pneumonia. What saved his life this time? Penicillin!

The name of the nobleman? Lord Randolph Churchill. His son's name? Sir Winston Churchill.



## Contacts

### Contacts

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