



The Guild Fayre was a happy - and busy - occasion in the Hogg Hall when nearly £900 was raised. Similar occasions held by the Boys' Brigade, Sunday Club and Ahrensfelde Partnership were also well supported.

KiRK news

Friendship Club on film

IN MARCH, Galston Parish Church, in association with Alzheimer Scotland, again provided an afternoon of much appreciated respite for many in our local community affected by dementia, and at the same time gave opportunity for that Charity to raise awareness of their efforts in reaching people who need help. One of the ways in which they will publicise the specialist help they offer, will be through a new DVD which will demonstrate the wide variety of work they undertake within our communities. Recently, they have been undertaking filming of DVD footage all across Scotland which will feature their specialist Dementia Nurses in hospitals, their Dementia Advisors in local communities, and, the wonderful efforts of ordinary people who fundraise and volunteer for them. The DVD will also include footage of some very

successful new projects which help people with dementia - and their carers - to take part in group activities which not only stimulate the memory, but also boost general wellbeing. That footage will include our *Friendship Club*, at which all in attendance had kindly agreed to participate in being filmed while enjoying a wonderful afternoon of music, conversation and laughter. The *Friendship Club* is enthusiastically supported by a group of inspirational volunteers from the church, ably assisted by Alzheimer Scotland's local Dementia Adviser, Katy Hawker, and the care they exercise for others is greatly appreciated. Alzheimer Scotland are very grateful to everyone who took part in the filming that afternoon - a copy of the DVD has been promised to be made available to us later in the year!



◆ **REV. Graeme Wilson and Mrs Mae Lowdon** cutting the birthday cakes at the 130th Anniversary Service of Ayrshire Mission to the Deaf. Mr Wilson is part-time Chaplain to the Mission and conducts worship in their Chapel in Clark Street. The anniversary service was well attended with Very Rev. Dr. David Lacy preaching and past Chaplains Colin Brockie, David Gemmell, Grant Barclay also present. Provost Stephanie Young brought greetings from East Ayrshire Council.

◆ **IRENE HOPKINS**, author of *Growing Together in Faith*, and *The History of Belgian Refugees in Galston*, has produced two other publications which may be of interest to members - *Street Names of Galston* and *Galston War Memorial*. Irene has gifted a copy of each to the Church and a loan of the booklets can be arranged by contacting the Session Clerk.



Folk gather for the service at Loudoun Kirk on a sunny Easter morning.

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Presbytery plan - continued

FURTHER to the report in the January edition of *Kirk News*, the new Presbytery Plan continues to be debated.

Here is the Deliverance and Addendum, in full, as agreed by Presbytery at the February meeting: 1 Presbytery recognizes the need to formulate a strategic mission led Presbytery Plan while at the same time reducing Full-time Equivalent Ministries in line with General Assembly instruction of 2010

2 Presbytery resolves to consult every congregation within the bounds to discover the vision each might have for Church and community life and remits to the Planning and Development Committee the bringing of a proposed questionnaire to Presbytery for the consultation with congregations.

3 Presbytery remits to the Planning and Development Committee consultation by questionnaire with congregations within the bounds and to furnish each congregation with copies of all questionnaires if requested and instructs the Committee to report to the ordinary meeting in June, 2011.

4 Presbytery instructs the Planning and Development Committee to consult with the Business and Nominations Committee in order to nominate additional members to assist in carrying out the next phase of Presbytery Planning which is to consult with all congregations within the bounds.

5 Presbytery, in these demanding times, commends to all Kirk Sessions and congregations within the bounds the upholding of the process of forming a new Presbytery Plan by faithful and persistent prayer that God will do a 'New Thing' among and through his people.

6 Presbytery resolves that the Planning and Development Committee should furnish the Court with the criteria used for proposed adjustments, including relevant information from the completed questionnaires.

And the Addendum: Presbytery, whilst obeying the instructions of the General Assembly and whilst happy to plan and develop for mission, growth and the "New Thing", declares its deep unease with what it believes to be the driving force behind the General Assembly instruction, namely the budgetary imperative, and where it is driving the congregations of the Kirk, the Ministry of Word and Sacrament and the relationship between the two.

Refurbishment of the Organ

PM PIPE ORGAN Maintenance Ltd was chosen as the company to carry out works on the Organ. Director Mr Paul Miller, known to our organist, Graeme Finnie on a professional basis, has carried out works at Troon Old, Ayr St. Leonard's and Paisley Abbey. Mr Miller is also the Scottish representative for Nicholson Organ Builders and carries out all of their organ repairs and refurbishments in this country. His report noted that the organ was in "good overall condition". It continued: "The main area for concern are the double reservoirs of which there are five - Swell, Great, Choir, Pedal and a large main. These bellows are showing signs of old age and have been patched here and there. I would suggest that the department reservoirs be removed for re-leathering and the large main

A QUESTIONNAIRE has been drawn up, accepted by Presbytery and been sent to all congregations within the grounds. The Questionnaire is broken down into four parts: Congregational Life, Ministry, Mission and Outreach, The Future.

Here are the questions:

Congregational Life: When was the Roll last reviewed and what is the age profile of the membership? What was the attendance at church over the five weeks in May, also a breakdown of the age range? Give a breakdown of Direct Giving, Tax Recovered and other income. How many homes are there within the parish? What is the scope for housing development: static? increasing? decreasing? In what ways would your buildings required to be changed to be 'fit for purpose'? What congregational groups use the buildings? Give an indication of the frequency that they are used; similarly, what community groups use the buildings? Is there any major property work either in hand or on the horizon?

Ministry: What chaplaincies does your congregation participate in? Have you identified any other chaplaincy needs in your parish that are not being currently addressed and why are they not being addressed? List pastoral/worship roles undertaken by members as part of the overall ministry. In what ways is the vital importance of prayer expressed in and through your congregation? List paid staff.

Mission and Outreach: Does your congregation have a 'project type activity'? Who manages it? Are you involved with any neighbouring congregations in worship, outreach, social care in the community? Do neighbouring ministers work together on such schemes? What opportunities do you see for closer co-operation with other ministers and congregations? Does the congregation have any events of courses aimed at Enquirers?

The Future: Where do you see your congregation in terms of worship outreach, greater co-operation and finance in five years time? Ten years time? What plans have you in place? What will be the focus of your congregation for the next few years? If readjustment were to be necessary, with which congregations could you envisage working?

The Questionnaire would be discussed at the May meeting of the Kirk Session.

remain in situ to be re-leathered, thus saving much dismantling. The console piston book motors, of which there are 11, should also be re-leathered as they are showing signs of aging and will give trouble in the years to come." The cost of the work was £21,500 plus VAT. This sum compared favourably with, and is indeed more economical than, quotes which had been obtained from organ builders in the past. The work commenced after the February communion service and was scheduled to be completed by June. Finance for the work came from (a) the balance in the Organ Fund, (b) the utilisation of a bequest of £6197.07 from the late Mrs Isabella Dunn and (c) the balance to be drawn from income held at 121 George Street, Edinburgh.

A cause of great celebration

Dear Friends,

I moved to London to work in January of 1986 and the office I worked in at that time was on Oxford Street, just next door to D. H. Evans (House of Fraser) and Debenhams flagship store. That same year, on the 23rd July 1986, Prince Andrew married Sarah Ferguson at Westminster Abbey and so the centre of London was even busier than usual with lots of tourists in town looking to soak up some of the Royal Wedding atmosphere.

One of the traditions among the great central London department stores on a day such as this was to try to have a copy of the wedding dress in their window as soon as possible after the wedding itself, and hopefully before the other stores so that they would get the attendant television and media coverage.

As I left the office that day shortly after 5pm, I noticed that there was a large crowd outside the Debenhams window on the other side of the street. As I wandered over to see what all the fuss was about I saw a model with long, red hair walking into the display area of the window, wearing what was a fairly decent copy of Sarah Ferguson's wedding dress. This was no mean feat in itself considering that the wedding had only taken place some 6 hours earlier. As I turned to leave the scene at the window my place was taken by a couple eager to see what was going on. The man leaned forward and stared, turned to his wife and asked in his finest Deep South accent, "Gee, is that Fergie?"

By the time you read this the nation will



have celebrated the marriage of our future King, William, to Catherine Middleton, and no doubt the media and the department stores will have a field day. Perhaps Catherine will make a guest appearance in a department store window on Oxford Street . . . but then again, perhaps not!

The marriage of two folk, no matter what age, is a cause for great celebration as they promise before God and their family and friends to love one another and to commit their lives to each other. We celebrate with them because we believe that "God is love and those who live in love are living in God and God in them." (1 John 4: 16b). Accordingly we say that marriage is a gift from God, and that in the life-long union of marriage we can see and know the love and joy of God.

This year, like every other, will see folks we know and love committing their lives to each other in marriage. My prayer for them, and for all of you, is that the love of God will guide you and protect you every step of the way.

Shalom,

Rev. Graeme R. Wilson, MCIBS, BD, Th.M

Pointing the way to Christ

'Ye gates' - Hymn 19

*Ye gates, lift up your heads; ye doors,
doors that do last for aye,
be lifted up, that so the King
of glory enter may.*

If you are anything like me, then these words of the 24th Psalm, sung to the tune *St. George's (Edinburgh)*, have a certain evocative quality to them. The hymn takes me back to my teenage years in the Old Parish Church, East Kilbride watching the Elders in their morning suits processing in with the communion elements.

The words and music also take me back to my years in St. Columba's, Pont Street, London, serving communion there as an Elder in my morning suit. On some occasions I would get the train and tube up to St. Columba's and attracting some quizzical looks at my somewhat unusual attire for a Sunday morning!

As you are aware, we sing this hymn before we celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion in Galston and someone recently asked me what the significance and meaning of this was.

Psalm 24 is based on a Canaanite myth which tells of the divine conquest of the unruly forces of chaos. The psalmist has transformed it into a hymn of praise to God, the victorious creator, followed by a liturgy on entering the Temple. This is why in some congregations this

hymn is sung as the elements are processed into the sanctuary immediately prior to the celebration of communion; a practice which has its roots going back into the second century.

The psalm has a question-and-answer form, which is why we sing the second half of the verse in different voices. In vv. 7-10, as the Ark was borne to the Temple, the pilgrims identify God in terms traditionally associated with the Ark: he is "King of glory", the "Lord of hosts" (v. 10), the war hero of Israel (v. 8b). The "doors" (v. 9) are those between the outer court and the sanctuary of the Temple and the "heads", v. 7, are the lintels of the doors.

Someone, perhaps a priest asks from within the Temple: "Who is the King of glory?" (v. 8) and the people answer from the court, "The Lord of hosts, and none but he." In other words, God dwells in the sanctuary.

We use these words as our communion hymn as they also point the way for us to Christ. We open the doors and gates of our hearts in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper in order that we let Jesus Christ, the King of glory, come into our souls and welcome him with shouts of 'Alleluia' and 'Amen'. The gates and doors of our hearts, which separate us from Christ, and separate us from one another, are 'lifted up' in communion and Christ enters in.

'Alleluia'. 'Amen'!

GW

WHERE THE MONEY GOES



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Thank you for supporting the worship, mission and service of the Church through the money you give in your offering. It is important that you know what happens to this money. This letter tells you about your congregation's Ministries and Mission Contribution - the money your Congregational Treasurer sends to the Church Offices in Edinburgh. How does it enable the worship, mission and service of the Church?

The information below shows how your congregation's contribution is used to support Parish Ministries, Mission and Renewal, and general support and services provided for congregations and the councils of the General Assembly. Please note that the cost of your minister is not what he or she is paid. The cost is the total for stipend and employer's national insurance and pension contributions, and is based on a minister with 10 years' service.

Galston's contribution **£69,523**

Parish Ministries: **£59,790**

The cost of ministry Galston is £39,600 and Galston's contribution to the cost of ministries in other parishes and training for ministries is £20,190

Mission and Renewal: **£4,171**

This supports the Church's work in resourcing congregations for Christian education and outreach, in caring for the vulnerable in society, in partnership with Church in some of the poorest parts of the world, and in providing a Christian perspective on the issues of today.

Support and Services for
Councils and

Congregations **£5,562**

This provides financial, legal, safeguarding and other services and meets the cost of the General Assembly and the Moderator.

I hope that this helps you to understand Ministries and Mission Contributions and shows you are enabling the sharing of the gospel through the money your congregation sends through the Church Offices to all parts of Scotland and beyond.

Yours sincerely

**Gordon D. Jamieson,
Head of Stewardship.**

Please note that Ministries and Mission Contributions only provide part of the total funding required for the work of the Church listed above. A fuller picture is given in the leaflet *2011 Ministries and Mission*, available free from the Stewardship and Finance Department in the Church Offices at 121 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 4YN.

Building in the lane



"A PROPOSAL had been pursued for a time by Lord Bute to build a Catholic Church in this area. His choice was Troon, but the proposal was rejected by the Catholic community in Troon, so Galston was suggested. This seemed appropriate at the time due to the fact that he was related by marriage to the family in the Loudoun Castle as Lord Bute was married to the sister of Lady Fiona Hastings. Lady Sophia owned considerable land rights in Ayrshire mainly in Loudoun Parish.

"In November 1883, a committee had been formed and the first proposed site was in the west end of the town, which at that time was in Loudoun Parish. This idea was rejected out of hand as that area had recently experienced flooding. The decision to build on the site where it is today would most certainly require the involvement of the Duke of Portland. He owned all the ground at East Yards, including the rail rights, quarry rights and mining rights etc. It soon became clear that, because of the size and complexity of the Church, the house and the school, the architects and engineers would require an office from which to work.

Also for the continuous production of cut stone, the stone and 'safety' masons would require to work inside which was unusual for them. Two journeymen stone-masons were hired to build the foundations of the Church. The stonemasons were Mr John Adams and Mr Wm. Kay. Normally, in inclement weather, stonemasons were laid-off without wages but in this instance, a place was built in East Yards for them and also to stable a horse. The work started in November 1883. The main contractor was Quinn of Glasgow and the cost was £60,000.

"For two years they worked constantly. They did what the miners had done for years past, they laid down rails and on them a flat bogey ran from the work shed to the basement site. The road was to the rear of the Church and in a straight line with the yard. Part of the building was used by the architects and engineers who would require to be on site at all times. Lord Bute visited the site frequently over the years. On one occasion he raised the question of subsidence due to the collieries in the area.

"Following discussion, the engineers agreed to look again at the situation and make a recommendation. They came up with the plan of constructing several large pillars 10ft in diameter at points directly below the Church. Lord Bute took these new plans away for consideration and shortly after, issued an instruction that the construction was to begin. At a later day, he requested a prominent builder in Galston to check the pillars and make a report. This was carried out and although he gave a good report, he also recommended that adjacent pillars of a lesser size to the existing pillars were also built to serve as buttresses. (*Weekly Supplement & Advertiser - re St. Sophia's, 18 May 1888. This copy is no longer available for perusal.*)

"The bricks were taken underground at Strethead Pit and from there, moved west by bogeys to the foundations of the new church. Strethead Pit was in the area of Henrietta Street, Bentinck Street and Blair Street. This would have to have had the agreement of the miners, justifiers and owners so that the work of the colliers was not interrupted. At a later date the same thing happened from Loudoun Waterside No 1 Pit. This pit extended from the overpass at the roundabout into Polwarth Street area and further."

This article gives credence to the story that, like an iceberg, there is more underground than above at St Sophia's

And the road and the building that we are talking about?

If you stand at the War Memorial corner you will see a lane on the left passing behind St. Sophia's Church. About 20 yards into this lane on the right hand side there is a substantial building all blocked off. Apparently, it was used at one time as a repair shop by Dennis Azbraits. This was the building used to stable the horse, provide room for the stonemasons' workshop with the architects offices above .from 1884-1886.

Most of this information came from Sam Kay, some time ago so it might not be totally accurate but it certainly makes sense. I had never been aware of that building before.

Irene Hopkins with help from John Lennon.

Boys' Brigade awards



L/CPL Andrew McBride (left) has gained the President's Badge, which is the second highest award in the Boys' Brigade, requiring all round proficiency in each of the badgework areas available to boys in the Company Section, from gymnastics to hiking, model making to badminton, Christian board games to digital photography - to name but a few. Andrew has also gained his Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award, which involved a 15-mile walk along part of the West Highland Way from Inversnaid to Crianlarich; gymnastics, digital photography and delivering church CD to the elderly. Andrew is to be congratulated on the effort that he has put in over the years and it is hoped that he will use this badge as a stepping stone towards his Queen's Badge over the next two years.



THE COMPANY SECTION of 3rd Galston Boys' Brigade held its 31st Annual Display and Presentation of prizes on 31st March with a packed Mission Hall. The main awards presented by Mrs Wilma Scade were as follows: Discovery Badge - Alasdair Hewitson. James Mathieson Memorial Trophy for Seniors - Stuart Foster. Lady Ross of Marnock Trophy for Christian Education - Lewis James. Gibson Trophy for Inspection - Scott Cairns and Stuart Foster. Ronald Trophy for Sport - most improved at Gymnastics - Andrew McBride. Best Boy Trophy - Martyn Taylor.

Queen's Badges

QUEEN'S BADGES (above) have been awarded to S/Sgt Scott Cairns, Sgt Lewis James and S/Sgt Stephen Dalziel. The emphasis of the Queen's Badge work is for the boys to give back to the Company and the community some of their skills which they have learned in their BB service. They have been involved in the weekly recording and distribution of the church service, completing a 34-mile part of the West Highland way during the summer. They attended a leadership training course and then helped out at the Anchor Boys on a Wednesday night or Junior Section on a Monday night throughout the year. They also had to attend courses held at the National Training Centre in Larbert to share their experiences with other Queen's Badge Candidates throughout Scotland. On gaining this award, they will no longer be known as a Boy in the Company but as a Queen's Man.

THE KIRK SESSION's 31st Annual Conference focussed on the 2011 Planned Giving Campaign. As is customary the Elders sat down to an excellent lunch provided by Anna Mathieson and pals and ended with Communion, the Bread for which was baked on the day by two of the Elders.



FIVE BOYS from 3rd Galston Boys' Brigade have gained their Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award - S/Sgt Scott Cairns, Cpl James Hewitson, Cpl Stuart Foster, Cpl Fraser Hoy and S/Sgt Martyn Taylor

During the last 9 months they have been taking part in a 30-mile hike along part of the West Highland Way

from Bridge of Orchy to Fort William; recording the church service onto CD and delivering and visiting elderly or housebound members of the congregation, one boy choosing to do his service to the community by helping out at the tea bar in Crosshouse Hospital. They learned how to use a digital camera and how to use a computer to print and improve the photographs. Three of them improved their gymnastic skills on a Thursday night, learning new vaults on the box, and two played Badminton on Friday nights.



Weddings with a difference

SO! We have had a Royal Wedding. I am sure many of you watched it and the ladies would have a tear in their eye while the men pretended to read behind the newspaper.

As you know Alex was organist here for many years and as such played at many weddings. That was in the days when weddings were more fashionable and numerous than they are today. There were several Saturdays when there were two or even three ceremonies to contend with; one at 1p.m. the second at 2.30p.m. and the third at 4p.m. It was a fine art, indeed more like a military operation, juggling times, flowers, hymn sheets, music etc. There were occasions when the same flowers did both brides, what they did afterwards with them I wouldn't know; but on other occasions each bride insisted on

having her own flowers; vases came in, vases went out ...! Occasionally brides had to send the taxi round the block one more time as the previous wedding had overrun. The new guests and the previous guests were congregated on the steps and paths and two photographers were attempting to take pictures! I wonder if they got the right folk in the right pictures? Brides are always late are they not?

Apropos of that last remark, Alex had always to make sure he had extra music with him in case the selection had run out before the bride finally arrived. There was one occasion when the bride was so late that he ran out of music altogether and had to go back and start again. I was a guest at this wedding and can remember getting all hot and bothered, and not a little bewildered.

◆ **WELL DONE** the Social Committee for organising yet another fantastic Burns Supper. Helen Haigh and her team did us all proud with a memorable evening and there are many others to thank. The caterers for providing a wonderful Bill o'Fayre - ye cannae beat a plate o' mutton broth! - and the ladies who served the food. The speakers - Rev. Graeme Wilson who acted as chairman; Ian Thomson and Jim Taylor who played in and carried the haggis; Robert Smith who, as well as addressing the haggis, recited Tam o'Shanter; Robert and Jessie Murray who brought some laughter to the proceedings and made sure that things were not taken too seriously; Irene Hopkins who focussed on Robert Burns as "an angry young man"; Billy Wales, accompanied by Eric Oliphant, who sang some of the songs of Burns; David Gray for an amusing vote of thanks; and, of course, the Company, who belted out *The Star o' Rabbie Burns*.



◆ **ORGANIST** Graeme Finnie is pictured with Major Harry Stirling of the Salvation Army when he conducted worship in January as part of the Presbytery's Pulpit exchange.

◆ **A COFFEE** morning held by the Boys' Brigade in January raised the sum of £835.

◆ **IN** a letter to Treasurer Jim Mills, Louis Jardine, Fundraising Manager of the Ayrshire Hospice thanked the congregation for the donation of £250 taken at the Christmas Eve service.

Congregational Roll statistics

STATISTICS for the congregation make grim reading and probably reflects the decling of church membership nationally. You will see from the figures printed below that over the past 12 years the roll has fallen from 934 to 703 with only 288 members attending a Communion service last year. Read the figures for yourself and come to your own conclusions.

CONGREGATIONAL ROLL	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
On Roll at 1st January	935	909	870	847	826	803	812	804	795	776	739	731
Removed by Death	26	24	19	23	15	13	13	12	13	11	14	16
Removed by Certificate	12	4	6	4	2	2	8	6	1	3	2	4
Removed Otherwish	12	24	11	3	31	4	0	13	12	29	3	8
Added by Profession	13	5	6	3	11	12	13	4	5	1	1	0
Added by Certificate	7	2	4	5	7	8	0	16	2	3	8	0
Added by Resolution	4	6	3	1	7	8	0	2	0	2	2	0
On Roll at 31st December	909	870	847	826	803	812	804	795	776	739	731	703
Males	272	252	249	240	235	241	240	240	234	224	219	207
Females	637	618	598	586	568	571	564	555	542	515	512	496
Supplementary Roll	167	159	164	158	182	170	161	155	153	173	166	159
Adherents Roll	65	87	87	92	98	102	91	91	89	89	89	89
Members plus Adherents	974	957	934	918	901	914	895	886	865	828	820	792

COMMUNION STATISTICS

February	352	349	330	303	295	326	306	289	258	259	269	235
June	312	311	306	279	267	248	357	235	241	230	228	199
not at February	75	78	81	76	65	55	103	57	65	72	71	23
October	330	303	331	321	294	328	221	267	248	253	248	195
not at February or October	54	40	36	56	48	69	10	35	37	44	32	30
Total who attended at least once	481	467	447	435	408	450	422	381	360	344	340	288
	52.92%	53.68%	52.77%	52.66%	50.81%	55.42%	52.49%	47.92%	46.39%	46.55%	46.52%	40.96%

PARISH REGISTER

Baptisms	18+4A	13	13+2A	11	12+1A	21+1A	17+5A	12	11+1A	10	8	8+1A
Marriages	13	12	16	21	13	13	18	3	13	7	9	7
Funerals	75	84	65	68	59	51	48	50	42	38	45	47

ence and some hilarity!

There was shuffling of feet and coughing and chatting among the assembled congregation. Mr Jamieson came in, spoke to Alex, went back out and still the music played on. One side of the church, the groom's side was virtually empty, and so the rumours and speculation grew. Finally Mr Jamieson shepherded in the groom and best man. There was a whispered conversation with the organist and then came the strains of the Bridal March. Still one side of the church was vacant. The groom's family were coming from Fife. The bus carrying them had broken down and as it was Cup Final day no alternate buses were quickly available. They finally arrived just as we sat down to eat, two hours late!

Indeed there is always music but at Alex' first wedding playing, still a teenager, a "stand-in" on this occasion and he had no music. The matrimonial pair bought the music for the Bridal March and Wedding March and presented them to him and he used them for many years after. 99 times out of a 100 it was the Bridal March and the Wedding March. Although we have had The Nuns' Processional from the Sound of Music, Weber's Toccata and Fugue and The Trumpet Voluntary among others. Occasionally couples would come to see about their wedding when Alex was out and I would take a note of the date, music requirements and arranged a time when they could have a chat and /or a rehearsal with him. The note often was for example, Saturday 3rd August, 2.p.m. the usual. "The usual" was The Bridal March, 23rd Psalm, O Perfect Love and the Wedding March. Oh how he enjoyed it when someone came wanting something different.

Mind you there was one occasion when that something different caused a lot of hilarity and some irreverence in our home. One couple came and, in their innocence, perhaps ignorance, of what was required of them asked for Alex' advice on the music. They agreed that "the usual" would be fine for going in and out, but when it came to choosing hymns they had no idea whatsoever. "You just pick two" was the anxious groom's comment, to which his blushing bride agreed. So after they left, Alex and I had fun choosing hymns that might fit. We finally decided that "Courage Brother do not Stumble" and "Fight the Good Fight" might be appropriate:- because I knew them from school! However they got "the usual" hymns as well

The church officer used to keep an appropriate assortment of ties and socks in the cupboard. The bride was usually immaculate but the poor groom would occasionally turn up with no tie, or a garish one or mismatched socks, and even on one occasion, no socks at all. Mr Jamieson insisted that they be properly dressed and so hasty alterations were made to the sartorial effect. No one, as far as I can remember turned up without a ring but there was always a small curtain ring available, just in case.

The run-up to our own wedding caused not

a few problems. It was 1959, the year of the last big overhaul of the organ. There were fears it would not be ready in time. Indeed one poor bride had a tape recorder for her music. But all was well and we had our lovely organ playing for the ceremony. Mind you I was more than a little nervous as Alex had said that he was playing and that he would only come and stand beside me for the actual vows. I was not quite sure whether to believe him or not. Fortunately he was only teasing and Jack Aitken, once of the New Parish Church and at that time organist of Winton Place in Kilmarnock, did the honours. Jack was Alex dad's cousin, so it was a family affair.

Normally the music during the signing of the register was left to the organist but some folk had favourite pieces of music that they wanted. One of the most inappropriate was "Home Sweet Home" considering they were both leaving their respective homes, another was "My Curly Headed Babby". Then there were the singers. In fairness most of them were wonderful. I can remember one Christmas Eve Wedding when the late John Cleland sang Still the Night so simply and sweetly that the hairs stood up on the back of my neck and not every eye was dry. But the odd singer was so nervous that they either started on the wrong key, or forgot the words, or missed out verses. The late Tom Black was forever making up his own words as he went along. I wonder if anyone ever noticed? Then there was one man who said "I don't have music and I don't know what key is so don't you bother to play I'll just sing." My favourite howler was a rendition of "Where e'er you walk" Well the cool breeze became a hurricane and the trees really bow-ow-ow ed into a shade. He gave up!

There is one occasion that perhaps we should draw a veil over. One afternoon Alex had been golfing at Loudoun but when his sister came home from work she asked how the wedding had gone. "What wedding," said Alex and when she reminded him he said "Oh that's tomorrow." To which she replied "No it was today." Never before had he done such a good job of grovelling. And fortunately he didn't have to do it again. He did have the date in his diary, simply the wrong date. It reminds me of the old music hall song. "Mary Ellen at the church turned up" In the song it was the groom who didn't turn up but on this occasion it was the organist!

So after all these blethers, I hope you had a smile if not a laugh, I leave you with one story. Alex and I were not married at this point and he had a Saturday wedding after which he was coming to collect me. It was going to be a large wedding, a local farmer' daughter, so mum was all set to hear first hand all about it. So there she sat, waiting in keen anticipation, and when Alex arrived he was hardly in the door when she pounced. "Well Alex, what was the bride wearing?" The look on his face was marvellous to see, puzzlement, bewilderment, call it what you like. "White" said he. She never asked again!

Irene Hopkins.

PARISH REGISTER

MARRIAGES:

That they may be one.

- 22.01.11 - HOPE STEWART and RUPERT BLAMIRE, c/o Woodlands, 7 Clockston Road, Galston.
08.04.11 - SARA-LOUISE CUNNINGHAM, Pen-y-bryn, Maxwood, Galston and STURT GREGOR, 20 Dean Road, Kilmarnock.

FUNERALS:

I am the Resurrection and the Life.

- 09.12.10 - JEAN STEWART, 5 Ross Court, Galston.
21.12.10 - HELEN McKIE, c/o Bute House, Cumnock.
21.12.10 - JEAN ARMOUR, West Park Nursing Hom, Galston.
31.12.10 - LINDA ALLAN, 31 Catherine Drive, Galston.
24.01.11 - WILLIAM MAXWELL, Sparnelbank Farm, Galston.
07.02.11 - DAVID THOMSON, 1 Cairn Terrace, Galston.
07.02.11 - CATHERINE McHALLAM, Hallhouse Care Home, Fenwick.
17.02.11 - MARY STEWART, West Park Nursing Home, Galston.
18.02.11 - SUSAN ALEXANDER, 17 Manse Place, Galston.
07.03.11 - JOHN TAYLOR, 22 Boyd Street, Galston.
10.03.11 - ANNIE WARNOCK, 6 Gateside Road, Galston.
10.03.11 - JEAN GEMMELL, 2Andrew Lundie Place, Galston.
11.03.11 - JEAN CROMBIE, West Park Nursing Home, Galston.
11.03.11 - DAVID JOHNSTON, 37 Ladyton Drive, Galston.
31.03.11 - ISABELLA BEATTIE, 42 Orchard Street, Galston.
01.04.11 - MARGARET WRIGHT, 52 Monument Lane, Chalfont-St.-Peter.
07.04.11 - GILBERT AIRD, 4 Garven Court, Kilmarnock.
11.04.11 - NANCY MATHIESON, Titchfield Street, Galston.
15.04.11 - THOMAS STEVEN, Castlevieview Avenue, Galston.



COMMUNION SERVICES

Sunday, 5th June,

11am, in Church

6.30pm in Hogg Hall

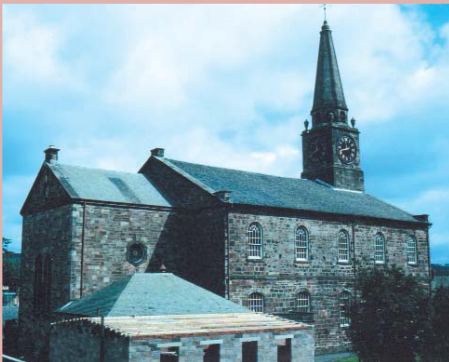
Sunday Club remembers



◆ **FIONA SIMPSON** of 1st Galston Girls' Brigade was recently presented with her Brigader's Brooch. Fiona is pictured with her mum and dad after the presentation.

◆ **SEEKERS** raised £271.71 for their EACHa appeal and a further "211.28 from their UNICEF Jars of Grace.

◆ **OUR THANKS** to Mr David Gray for taking on the role of Convener of the Christian Aid Committee and to Mrs Rosemary Menzies for offering to be Harvest Convener. The giving of time and talent to all walks of church life is much appreciated.



◆ **MARIE SLOAN** submitted this photograph of the Hogg Hall being built in 1967. Marie also submitted a Sunday School photo which will appear in the next Kirk News.

George Mair also submitted a photograph - it was of the Church Choir when they put on a concert for "The Good Old Days" and appeared in "Growing Together in Faith".



◆ **THESE** visitors to the Easter service caused a stir with the members of the Sunday Club when they made an appearance during the children's address.



OUR town is blessed with having the beautiful Dunblane Garden outside the Church as a permanent memorial of the 16 children and their teacher who lost their lives in the tragedy at Dunblane Primary in 1996. March saw the 15th anniversary of the tragedy and so a short



act of remembrance took place during the morning service that day when the boys and girls from the Seekers and Sunday Club placed white tulips on the seat in the garden together with a note to explain why the flowers were there, and inviting folks to remember in their own time and way.

Closing thought

What do you see, nurses? What do you see?
What are you thinking, when you're looking at me?

A crabby old woman, not very wise,
Uncertain of habit, with faraway eyes?

Who dribbles her food and makes no reply,
When you say in a loud voice "I do wish you'd try!"

Who seems not to notice the things that you do,
And forever is losing a sock or a shoe?

Who, resisting or not, lets you do as you will,
With bathing and feeding the long day to fill?
Is that what you're thinking? Is that what you see?

Then open your eyes, nurse, you're not looking at me.

I'll tell you who I am as I sit here so still,
As I do at your bidding, as I eat at your will.
I'm a small child of ten with a father and mother,
Brothers and sisters who love one another.

A young girl of sixteen with wings on her feet
Dreaming that soon now a lover she'll meet.
A bride soon at 20 my heart gives a leap.
Remembering, the vows that I promised to keep.

At 25 now, I have young of my own.
Who need me to guide and a secure happy home.

A woman of 30, my young now grown fast,
Bound to each other with ties that should last.

At 40, my young sons have grown and are gone,
But my man's beside me to see I don't mourn..
At 50, once more, babies play 'round my knee,
Again, we know children, my loved one and me.

Dark days are upon me, my husband is now dead.
I look at the future, shudder with dread.
For my young are all rearing young of their own.
And I think of the years and the love that I've known.

I'm now an old woman and nature is cruel.
'Tis jest to make old age look like a fool.
The body, it crumbles, grace and vigour, depart.
There is now a stone where I once had a heart.

But inside this old carcass a young girl still dwells,
And now and again my battered heart swells.
I remember the joys I remember the pain.
And I'm loving and living life over again.

I think of the years, all too few gone too fast.
And accept the stark fact that nothing can last.
So open your eyes, people, open and see.
Not a crabby old woman.
Look closer - see ME!!

A Crabby Old Woman.