

LOGIE KIRK NEWS



May 2022

Logie Kirk Stirling (Church of Scotland),

Charity No.SC001298

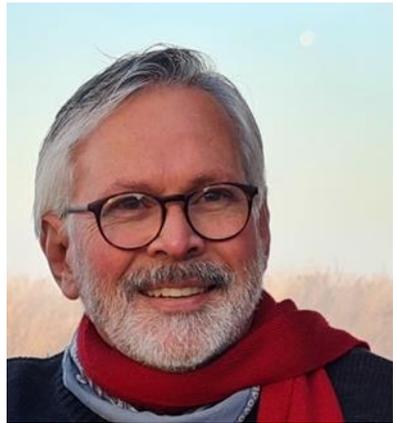
Letter from the Manse

Dear Friends of Logie

A first letter since my induction in February. So much has happened since then. In these few paragraphs I would like to share some happenings and thoughts with you.

One of the questions we have been asked most frequently is: "Have you settled in?"

This is a very kind and thoughtful question. And easy to answer. Yes, we have. Both Linda and I want to thank you for a friendly and hospitable openness which we encountered here. Slowly but surely our circle of knowledge about the area and the people are expanding. And I even remember more names!



Visits

It is a privilege to knock on a door and be welcomed and invited in. I am on slow but steady pace visiting and meeting folks. There is – of course – a list of urgent visits: hospital and some pastoral care visits. It is impossible to visit all of you in a month of two. I therefore invite you to reach out to me too – if you wish to see me soon. You are welcome to give me a call.

Funerals

During the last few weeks, there were quite a few funerals at Logie Kirk. Two of them were of people with longstanding bonds to the Kirk. On behalf of all of us I once again express our condolences to the Kerr family with the death of Angus Kerr and the Campbell family with the passing of Ena.

Social

The pandemic has brought a abrupt stop to almost every aspect of our social lives. The Session has just agreed on few step forward: one of them is a Social Team. On the 7th June we will begin with weekly Coffee Mornings in the Logie

Hall. You are invited. It might have a slightly different format than before – but nevertheless an opportunity to gather for a blether.

Communication

Communication and the sharing of information is a challenge. Yet, we have wonderful technology to help us with this. We have set up a Whatsapp group to enable us to share information quickly and directly. If you want to be added to this group, please contact Dianne McNaughton. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find more information about email contacting. Please consider providing the information as it will surely help us to streamline our communication.

Young people and Taizé visit

Our connection with young people is exciting but a challenge too. By the end of June a group of 5 of us will travel to Taizé in France. I hope that this can trigger something which might evolve in something much bigger! You can find out more about Taizé by having a look at their website: www.taize.fr And watch this space as we will most definitely give feedback on this trip – and on the Whatsapp group as well as the Facebook page. For all of you who supported this effort: Thanks so much! May we all see the fruit of this effort.

Religion, faith and community

Elsewhere in the newsletter I will share some of my personal thoughts on religion, faith and community. I hope this will be helpful for all of us.

Summer break

The schools and university are in the end of the year exams just now. We wish all involved the best possible results. And if you have the opportunity for a break during the summer, may it be refreshing and rewarding – and healthy!

With kind regards

Jan Steyn

The Coffee Morning is Back!

Lots of things stopped during the pandemic, including the Coffee Morning. Sadly some of those who helped and some who came for a cup and a chat will not be returning.

But the good news is the Coffee Morning is making a comeback on Tuesday 7th June from 10.00 in the Back Hall.

It's being held in the Back Hall to be friendlier, easier to heat and will mean fewer helpers are needed as it is intended to have counter service. Those who need help will get it.



It is hoped to reinstate the ever popular book stall. The Minister is hoping to be there most Tuesdays also.

As well as inviting everyone to come along and enjoy tea, coffee, friendly chat and home baked food, the Social team would also welcome volunteers to help out with serving, providing food and bringing books.

If you are able to help out, please contact Brenda using the contact details shown on the back cover of this issue of LKN.

Logie Kirk Guild

Hazel Turnbull

Dr Archibald Charteris started the Church of Scotland Woman's Guild in 1887. Six years later in 1893 Logie Kirk Woman's Guild was constituted, meaning next year we would have been celebrating our 130th birthday. Sad to say this is not going to happen now.

At our recent AGM with great sadness it was decided unanimously by the members to disband the group. As one of the members said to me, we have had interesting talks, fun beetle drives, foot tapping musical evenings, always a feeling of togetherness.

We have raised money for our projects by coffee mornings, giving out smartie tubes to fill with 20 pence coins (you ate the sweets first!). We knitted knee blankets for care homes, and over 200 woolly hats for foreign sailors that come to our cold climate, along with much more over the years.



As we had not met for 2 years due to Covid we decided to disburse our funds as follows: Logie Kirk - £350 ; Malawi Fruits - £350, this was the project we were supporting two years ago for Solar panels to help with irrigation; Taizé Fund - £350

We sadly lost a number of very faithful and loyal members of the Guild over the past two years, many who did not attend due to ill health but were always interested in what was happening at the Guild. We remember Nancy Barclay, Ena Campbell, Margaret Logan, Ann Mailer, Anne Pickles, and Elizabeth Taylor.

I would like to thank all who have supported The Guild over the years especially those who were on the committee and all our members past and present. It is a sad time, but we all have our memories.

Some Personal Memories of the Guild

Brenda Smith

After an emotional Hazel read her report to Session announcing that the decision had been made to close the Guild at Logie, Jan asked for comments from the Session. No one did, not through lack of empathy, more it was sad news, and so many of us had so many memories of this group which had been such an important part of Logie for all of our lives. Many of us spoke with Hazel afterwards because, well The Guild was The Guild.

I first knew when The Women's Guild was on when my granny got her griddle out, visited Jenny, our hen for the freshest egg then made her perfect pancakes, retrieved a jar of her raspberry jam from the pantry, packed everything into a Tupperware box and was ready. She was picked up by Margaret Logan, who then stopped on the brae for Betty Taylor before arriving at the Hall.

Jumble Sales were held twice yearly and were a great source of income. I remember going along to help and the Hall had been transformed by Nettie McNeil, with our old wooden trestle tables laid out in a square in the centre. What sticks in my memory were the steel framed chairs surrounded this square, facing outwards, to deter shoplifters.

The tables were heaped high with clothes. Books were around the side and the crème de la crème of the bric a brac artfully placed. Doors opened to long queues at 7.00 sharp but dealers were allowed in at 6.30 and Betty Inglis presided over the cash box as deals were done.

Little wonder that in 1977 when Logie Session first ordained female elders that Lorna Gammack and Margaret Logan, two mainstays of the Guild, were at the head of the queue.

Another mainstay was of course, Mary Smith, her arrival as "the minister's wife", coincided with the opening of the University and the building of the

Weir and Walker estates. She helped so many families to find a place at Logie and with the wives a source of long lasting friendships at the Guild.

Later on, my mother, Isobel Hunter, so enjoyed these evenings. She was collected by Pat Barnett and Sheila Rennie and Jean Gibson were already on board her two door Fiesta. A combined age in excess of 320 years. But at the heart was Fellowship, or Friendship.

Visiting on occasion, it was obvious that while being welcomed and invited to sit anywhere, different groups had their favoured tables. Mum's was top left, near the piano. She shared this with her lifelong friend, Anne Pickles, and Mary Somerville.

The friendship groups stretched across our gathered congregation, with Senga Campbell, Ann Mailer, Joyce Hutcheon, Betty Inglis, Linda Ligertwood, Isobel Armstrong, Catherine Ainsworth, Jean Alexander, Liz Taylor, Lorna Bruce, Linda Liddell Jean Gibson, Margaret Chalmers, Cathie Donaldson, Cath McIntosh, Nancy Mills and Jean Bremner

The basic format of the evening didn't change, but the subjects tackled by speakers and projects supported certainly reflected the changing times.

When Mary Catherine came to the Manse, she helped form our Young Woman's Group and we made several reciprocal visits. One such meeting was a Beetle Drive and Sheena Muir and I teamed up for this one. We went along anticipating a relaxing evening. How wrong we were. This was taken so seriously there was no give and take.

Let's just say that while it was all smiles before and after, during was quite another story.

While Fellowship was key, the funds raised over the years for so many good causes cannot be underestimated. Jumble Sales, Coffee Mornings, Daffodil

Teas, Teas and Coffees at Sales of Work, Christmas Bazaars raised many, many thousands of pounds at home, at work and at Logie.

From my own perspective, whether being at the helm of the Sunday Club, Club 1-2-6, J-Club, Holiday Clubs and The Fellowship Committee, donations were received with no fuss which greatly aided work. The projector at the Kirk, so much of the equipment in the kitchen, curtains and blinds in the hall, and so much more.



In the Logie and Guild Archives there are great photos of Women's Guild Annual Dinner Dances at the Sword, The Riverways, the Royal, all sadly no longer in existence either, and partners were most welcome. None of these occasions such as in this photo featuring Betty Taylor (right)

and Mary Miller (left) were complete without exquisite cakes by Dorothy Cooper.

Email Communications

“Communication is the problem to the answer” is a line from the song The Things We do for Love released in 1976 by the group 10cc. As you will have read in Jan’s letter, we are looking at ways of strengthening and streamlining communications with members. This will supplement Elders’ visits, newsheets such as this, and the occasional flier put through your door.

Some four years ago Logie Kirk engaged in a large consultation exercise with members to ensure we held up to date details for every household in compliance with Data Protection legislation, and we currently have email addresses for just under half the members. If you haven’t previously supplied an email address, or if you are not sure if you have, or if you have changed your email address or telephone number, could you please send the following details outlined below to logiekirkwebsite@gmail.com

Alternatively complete the form and hand to your Elder, or to the Kirk, or by post to the Roll Keeper Fiona McBride, Grangehall, Craigmill, Stirling FK9 5PP.

Logie Kirk Members	Contact Details
Name	
Address	
Post Code	
Home Telephone	
Mobile Telephone	
Email	

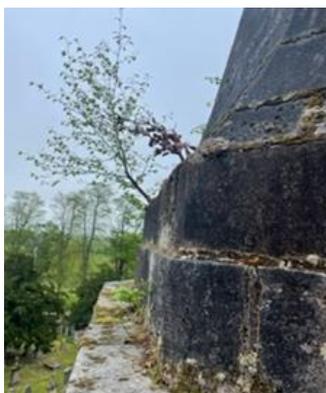
Asset Management Building Audit

Ian McVean, Stirling Presbytery Stewardship Convener, has conducted an Asset Management Building Audit. This involves measurement against set standards to enable objective comparisons to be made during Presbytery planning. The report was generally positive in that Logie is considered to be 'maintainable' - all the necessary health and safety certification was in place, and we have sufficient people to run our organisation. The main recommendation was to upgrade our toilets.

High Level Building Inspections

Igoe Up Ltd conducted an inspection of the church roof, steeple and walls on 3rd May. They also inspected the halls.

The main themes of the church report are re-pointing of the spire and tower, roof apex coping stone re-pointing, crack repairs and painting of the guttering and wooden louvres. All these issues are related to



weatherproofing and it's therefore important they are addressed now, before further deterioration.

The estimate for all the remedial work, plus installation of a lightening conductor, is over £19k. This will need to be approved by Presbytery.

The halls report is less extensive in terms of numbers of repairs, but they are similar in type, re-pointing, painting etc. The total estimate for the halls comes in at £3,5k.

Weeds and trees growing and causing problems to the stonework

Painting works

Our painting contractor has commenced painting of the church and hall doors and wooden windows plus the Session House guttering. Some remedial work has been required due to rot in some woodwork.



On Religion, faith, and community Rev Jan Steyn

“I am not religious.”

How often have I heard this comment from folks in various settings! It is a common disclaimer used to explain absence from church or church-like activities. In a world which is increasingly becoming anti-religious or a-religious, this non-religiosity now is as common as the use of the internet. Perhaps one could re-visit this statement and the mindset behind it.

May I too, firstly, post a disclaimer: this is only an effort to understand and challenge this statement of non-religiosity.

A secular world

No doubt we live in a world of growing secularism. A common argument against “religion” is that it is the remnant of an un-scientific worldview. Religion is viewed as an old-worldish reaction to counter the unpredictability and vulnerability of humankind. When there were no cures for illness, the priest was called to pray; in the face of natural disaster, national days of

prayer were called. We don't live in that type of world anymore, people would argue. We live in a scientific world where there are well grounded answers and medical cures. We live in world of research and forecasts and do not need religion anymore.

No doubt there is a social aspect too. Whilst previously group pressure might have driven people to church and faith, that pressure is now reversed. It is the minority who still believes these old folk-tales. That is the argument. And then, of course, there is no proof. Sometimes the effort of the religious-inclined to use the Bible to proof it own truth, does not help at all!

What have we gained from this secular world?

Earlier this month I had the opportunity to attend some presentations by Wallace High School children about different charities in our city. It was eye-opening to learn about all the different charities – but also, of course, about the underlying social challenges we face in our area. All is not well. People suffer. People are confronted with huge challenges.

Never in my life (fairly speaking, this is not tens of decades!) have I been under the deep impression of mental health challenges as we see in our society. Is this partly the product of a world increasingly wrapped up in itself, in hopelessness and in self-reliance?

Perhaps we could re-think the true effect of our so called self-sufficient secular world.

Valid criticism

Of course, much of the criticism against the church is valid. Yes, as in the rest of society, there have been and still are brokenness, mistakes, and pure human weakness. The church is part of the human society. And the church (in general) is not the most fast-moving, forward-thinking institution there is. And yet, the church is a place, albeit weak, in search and committed to truth.

We live in a broken world

As the world is broken – we do not have to look further than the news broadcasts we see on our TV screens every day – and all need hope and help.

Looking at our parliamentarians as beacons of hope and progress, I am afraid, has not proved to bring much consolation. We cannot move the responsibility for the brokenness – nor the healing – to the frontiers of parliaments, councils, and charities. Somewhere in every person's life, I believe, there must be a point of asking ourselves: what do I contribute?

Islands of Individuality

Part of a secular society is withdrawal. The pandemic did not counter this movement. We increasingly feel – in our own lives – the tendency to only be involved with me and mine. We become individuals live on small little islands where we are only concerned with the self. Perhaps I should rephrase this statement as a question: does this perhaps reflect in the statement: “I am not religious!”

I don't believe in God

Part of the anti-religiosity statement is the phrase: I don't believe in God! I have often been surprised when carefully listening to what the God is someone does not believe in, that I too didn't believe in the same caricature!

Wonder, mystery, and mysticism

We have lost a sense of awe and wonder. Mars has become another object to conquer. But few look up and stare at the small reddish light in the sky, to contemplate the vastness of the universe. Or stare at the beauty of Saturn through the eye of a telescope. Or contemplate our smallness in the 2 billion star spiral called the Milky Way – which is only one of the 2 billion galaxies discovered by Hubble. Or to contemplate the mystery of the human body, the wonder of a new-born baby, and incredible intricacies of one cell. It is this wonder that the “church” stands for, it is this compassionate openness which is our motivation. It might be packaged as something that someone might call religion – but it is much more.

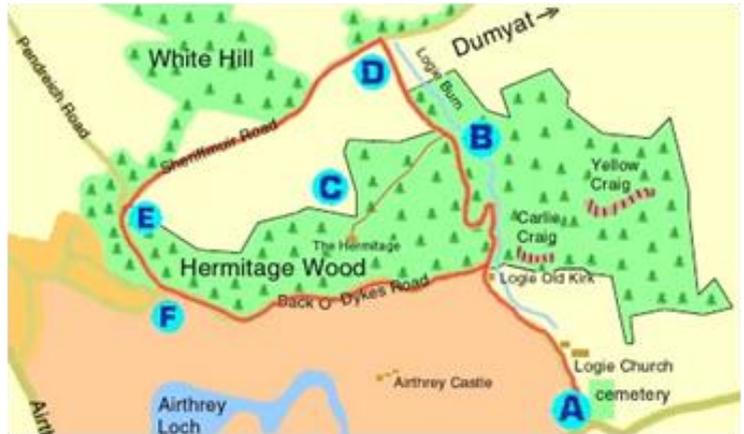
An invitation

Of course, I want to end with an invitation. Not to being religious. But to join this strange place called church. For it is not about religion but about life.

Walking Group

Katja Neumann

On Wednesday 30th April, the Logie Walking Group had their first outing, and the weather was in our favour. We set out on a crisp but dry evening in gorgeous sunshine scouting out the Logie Kirk



neighbourhood. We had a lovely time with this enthusiastic and lively group who shared local knowledge and discussed ideas for future walks over home-made biscuits and teas and coffees afterwards. (Thank you again, Fiona!)



Don't miss out on our next walk which will take place on Wednesday 25th May meeting at Bridge of Allan station car park at 7pm! All welcome! Let's make the most of the lighter days together!

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