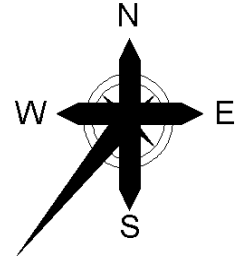

The Compass



MARCH 2015
No 42

The Magazine of **South Wishaw Parish Church of Scotland**
A record of where we have been and where we are going

GIVE
GROW

CONGREGATION RISES TO 'GIVE TO GROW' CHALLENGE

Response forms for the recent '**GIVE TO GROW**' Programme have now been collated.

278 members replied either by completing their response form or by indicating to the persons who contacted them the action they intended to take.

A few of our members were in hospital, some were ill at home and a few for which we did not have an up to date phone number are not included in our collation. Some returned the form with no comment and some were returned anonymously and, of course, some did not respond at all.

Analysis of the replies received shows the exercise has proved to be worthwhile. We now have 38 members paying by Standing Order 23 of which is the result of the Give to Grow programme. Standing orders are of great benefit because they ensure Offerings are regular and sustained.

Another 14 members have now asked to have weekly freewill offering envelopes. On at least some of these we will be able to claim Gift Aid boosting the contributions by 25%

During the programme we also were pleased to have received some cash donations amounting to £490.

Assuming all the returns come to fruition our Church funds should see an increase of some £10,500 per annum with Gift Aid able to be claimed on some of this.

This represents a 10%+ increase.

ANOTHER SWPC SUCCESS STORY

A Cool Reception !

A cauld cauld day December blew
And in the Kirk, there were but few
A caulder minister never spaak
There'll be snow in hell, 'Fore I go back !

A draught came whistlin' doon the aisle
The Kirk sae big, near half a mile
The meenster, preached o' damnation an' hell
An' cast a' body in a spell

A' shivered an' shook, an' looked sair fearfu'
An' even some there were quite tear fu'
The meenster, whose face was hewn in stone
Stood in the Pulpit, a' alone

He ranted and raved and swore hells fire
And promised sinfu' penance dire
A' shivered and cringed wi' a fearfu' look
An' it was nae just wi' cauld they shook !!

He swore of wrath and retribution
An' they would never get absolution
If on the plate he found only copper
For The Kirk Treaseree, had empty coffers !

So if to that Kirk, you are won't to go
Dig deep in your purse, an' siller show
Tae spare ye frae hells damnation
It's only siller. Is your salvation

The Meenster wi' his steely stare
Will watch the plate, so beware
Without your siller your soul he'll sell
An' forever an' ever, you'll roast in hell !!!!!

*A Poem by
Robert Mc Gill
The South Wishaw Bard
written
25th Feb. 1998*

FROM INTERIM MODERATOR

Maxine is at present recovering from a recent operation and we have asked her to rest before taking up the reins again.

VACANCY

There are now 18 Churches without a Minister in the Hamilton Presbytery alone. In Scotland, the Vacant charges number around 200.

Despite extensive advertising of our vacancy we have, as yet, had little response. Our Nominating Group has now begun to go out and listen to Ministers at present in post with a view, to perhaps convince some to consider a call to Wishaw.

We remain totally convinced that South Wishaw offers an excellent opportunity for a Minister to become involved with a hard working Congregation.

SERVICES DURING MARCH/APRIL

Our Locum, Mr Dickson Keir, is off to China for a few weeks during March. We hope he and his wife both have a holiday that is as exciting as that destination suggests,

With Dickson away and Maxine recovering from surgery, over the next few weeks our Services are as follows

- **March 1st** - Communion will be celebrated by Rev Jim Murphy at 11am and 3pm
- **March 8th and 15th**. Pulpit Supply
- **March 22nd**: Family Service (May Change)
March 29th is Palm Sunday when Dickson should return
- **Good Friday night Service** on April 3rd at 7pm will be conducted by Dickson
- **Easter Sunday**, 5th April - if recovered, we may have Maxine in the pulpit.

ROLL REVISION

Church of Scotland legislation demands that the Kirk Session review the Church Roll, each year.

In South Wishaw this has NOT been done over the past 10 years. The Kirk Session has, therefore, decided that we must now begin the process of reviewing our Communion Roll.

In order that this may be done correctly the Kirk Session has also decided to ensure that robust procedures and criteria are in place so that the revision is transparent and conducted in a manner that will ensure that anyone affected is given an opportunity to correct any errors that may occur. It is envisaged that the revision will take place throughout 2015

FROM OUR LOCUM



Dear Friends,

As I look at the calendar on my study wall it shows that February is almost finished and March is about to begin. However, when I look out of the window it would seem that it could be anywhere between November and January.

Things seem to have turned on their head with the weather being so unpredictable. Indeed, only a few days ago I had to shovel about 4 inches of snow from my drive just to get the car out.

In the middle of this uncertainty we can be absolutely certain of one thing – as the writer to the Hebrews tell us at Hebrews 13: v 8, “Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today and tomorrow”. His status above all others is permanent; his leadership is forever. That figure, who walked the roads of Galilee, is as powerful as ever to strike at evil and to love sinners; and, just as he chose twelve disciples to be with him and sent them out to do his work, he is still looking for people who will bring men and women to him.

That is the task that faces us in our parish. And this task is more important than ever in this period of vacancy when we all have to take on the tasks given to us by Christ.

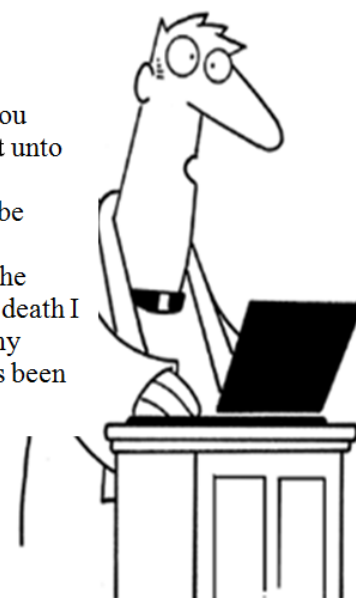
As we look forward to spring (being ever optimistic) and the chance to recharge our batteries let us never forget the tasks given to us by Christ. - Dickson

THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME?

‘Tweet unto others as you would have them Tweet unto you.

Spam not and you will be spammed.

Though I surf through the valley of the shadow of death I shall fear no virus for my Internet protection has been downloaded.....’





Church Guild project sustains

Mediterranean refugees in Malta

3000 people drowned in the Mediterranean in 2014. Recently two drifting ships carrying hundreds of refugees off Italy made the news, but most people are unaware of this tragedy on Europe's doorstep.

The world is facing the worst refugee crisis since WW2 and Malta - situated only 207 miles north of Libya and an EU member - is on the front line. But this small and densely populated island has been struggling to cope.

The Church of Scotland Guild is supporting a project - titled 'Out of Africa into Malta' - set up by St Andrew's Scots Church Valetta on the island.

Iain Whyte, Guild Secretary, said: "We have a long history of partnering Christian charities at home and abroad that are working with people on the margins - the poor, the vulnerable, the forgotten.

"The 'Out of Africa into Malta' project does all of these and the Guild is privileged to offer its prayerful support, to raise awareness of the issues and to raise much needed funds."

For over six years the congregation of St Andrew's Scots Church has been helping ease the suffering of hundreds of people, offering small but life enhancing comforts to those in the camps.

Cool boxes in summer to keep heat, dirt and rats at bay or snowsuits in winter to keep babies warm and dry, have been offered. Friendship and companionship is also available to people who are enduring unimaginable stress.

In September, the church opened its modern International Centre in the heart of the capital Valetta, which acts as a base for operations.

There is hope for these people.

Support from the Church of Scotland Guild's renowned fundraising power is helping these desperate people create a sustainable life in Europe.

£90,000 has been given to Malta Microfinance, a scheme which aims to help family groups stand on their own feet again.

It is making an impact.

Microfinance, said: "It has helped move migrants out of the open centres into rented accommodation as a start on integrating into Maltese society.

"Courses are helping migrants move out of low paid menial jobs into work that pays better and is more satisfying; business loans help migrants permanently

"We are indebted to everyone who has given so generously and in particular all the speakers who go out to tell our story to local guilds."

English language classes are available at the church, which are growing in popularity.

The congregation also made a donation to a Migrant Offshore Aid Station which has saved thousands of lives at sea.

Malta is an island with a rich Christian legacy. St Paul the Apostle was shipwrecked there.

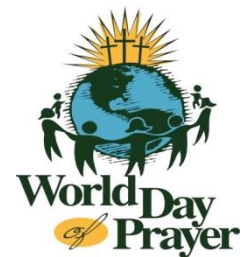
Now you can help bring Christian values to life on this embattled island.

Peter said: "The fact is that many are fleeing for their lives. I genuinely fear how many will drown in 2015.

"Please pray for our work. Please pray that that more members of our congregation will become involved so that we can do even more.

"Please go along to the talks being given to the local guilds and if you wish to donate please give to us via the Guild project Out of Africa into Malta.

If you would like to donate to work being done in Malta, please write a cheque payable to the Church of Scotland, with a note saying it is for the Out of Africa project, and post addressed to The Guild, Church of Scotland Offices, 121 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 4



The World Day of Prayer Service in WISHAW is being held on FRIDAY 6th MARCH in St Mark's Church, Coltness Road, Wishaw Church starting at 2pm

Please remember that this is no longer a WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER. All are welcome



Because our Kirk Session comprises many Elders who are now in their 80s and are no longer fit enough to carry out duties normally associated with the Eldership. Each member of the Session has been asked to indicate if they wish to retire from what is considered to be ACTIVE DUTY

Some 12 of our Elders have so indicated and it will now be necessary to augment the Kirk Session. Procedure for doing this will be considered soon.

FROM PRESBYTERY and OTHER BODIES

Leading Worship

With the increasing number of vacant charges and difficulties in getting pulpit supply to cover holiday periods, why not consider developing a **local worship team** to assist in this area of ministering. Leading Worship: The Presbytery of Hamilton is currently under discussion with neighbouring Presbyteries to develop a certificated and recognised approach to leading worship. Please discuss this matter in Kirk Session and in other appropriate forums and consider identifying appropriate individuals who may wish to undertake training in this area of service. Look out for future developments and intimations through your Presbytery elder.

SCRIPTURE UNION'S MEGAMIX

For everyone in P4 – P7

Saturday 21st March – 4.30-6.30pm

ALL THE USUSAL ACTIVITIES

SNACK TEA, MUSIC, CHALLENGES, FUN,
BIBLE STORIES, GAMES.

Cost £2.00

Church of Scotland HIV PROGRAMME

A very Special Concert is being held in Hamilton St John's Church on Friday 6th March at 7.30pm.

Featuring the **HEART and SOUL SWING BAND** and pupils from Hamilton Grammar School the concert will, we hope, be an enjoyable and uplifting occasion.

The Moderator of The Church of Scotland will be saying a few words about the CofS HIV programme which was set up in 2002. Since then, nearly 1.5 million pounds has been raised by Churches and Congregations, all of which has gone to support projects around the world run by our partner churches, as they respond to the threat and reality of HIV and AIDS in their own Communities.

This concert is FREE but there will donations will be invited for the work of the HIV Programme.

Free Parking is available on the Top Level of the adjacent multi-storey car park



SCOTS NIGHT WAS A BIG HIT

With the Hall packed to capacity, those of us who attended our **Scots Night** in January had a most enjoyable evening.

All of the entertainment was provided by South Wishaw Members. Including our Worship Group, the Junior Singers, and Robert McGill demonstrated his ability with verse, while young Abbi Mountfort enchanted us with her displays of Highland Dancing We heard some Scots poems from some of our youngsters and even had a 'joke' from an Englishman. You're a Brave man Robert!

We all had right good sing-a-long to some Scottish Karaoke and even some attempts at Scottish Country Dancing.

Of course there was also an overabundance of food and drink.

This was an experimental event replacing the more traditional Ceilidh. Initial feedback suggests that the experiment paid off.

giftaid it

Our Church has recently received our Gift Aid repayment for 2014. This amounts to **£11,044.**

This amount shows quite clearly how important it is for all of us who pay Tax to ensure we have signed a Gift Aid Declaration form.

Further information call be obtained by phoning our Gift Aid Convener on 01698 384884



Brownies: *We are always very busy in the Brownies and have new members, some of whom have joined us from the Rainbows. Some of these girls have made their promise and others are working through their Becoming a Brownie book. Thoughts are turning to Mother's Day and Easter when we will be showing our talents with some crafts*

We have been practising songs for our Thinking Day service and by the time you read this you'll have heard our chosen tunes! Hope you enjoyed them!

We are always looking for more girls to come along and have fun, so if you know any girls aged between 7 and 10 then please contact us, numbers available on our notice board.

Guides: *By the time you read this our guides will have enjoyed a fantastic weekend at Dalguise in Perthshire at our adventure camp. Once again we have joined up with 10th Wishaw and 1st Newarthill and the girls love meeting old friends and making new ones along the way. They will have enjoyed some new adventures such as Trapeze, sequoia scramble, quad biking and some familiar ones too!*

Of course the highlight of the weekend is when they are returned to their parents and the Guiders can stop worrying! We would like to take this opportunity to ask anyone, if they would like to join the guiding adventure to come along to a meeting and see what it's like. Any help is appreciated no matter how little. Please see the notice board for contact details.



The fellowship continues and we have enjoyed several very interesting meetings. Of special interest was "The roll of the Paramedic" and how they can bring people back to health. We also learned from Mrs Sinclair how our Lifeboats "Never turn back". Bob Arnott was entertaining and we had our usual friendly Farmhouse Tea with the Guild. We are looking forward to hearing from one of our own members, Andrew McCombe, soon and the rest of the program



Wednesday Afternoon Meetings

Our weekly meetings have now resumed after the January break.

We mourned the recent death of two of our long term members. Margaret Shields and Maureen Wyse.

It was a cold bleak day when we resumed with only 10 people present. However we did enjoy the fellowship, the informal tea and biscuits, catching up with news and listening to our singer Mary Jean Lewis.

With better weather we hope our regular members and friends from McAlpine Court will be able to attend.

We would also be very happy to welcome more of our Church members and friends. Some of our Committee members will be able to help with transport.

The Syllabus for the remainder of the Session is pinned to the Hall Notice Board or you may obtain a copy from any of the Committee

Wednesday Prayer Group



This meets every Wednesday in the lounge.

You are welcome to come at any time.

You can also give a request for prayer to any member of the group. A card will usually be sent to the person remembered in prayer. If preferred, no name need be given, just that you would like someone you know who is in need, to be remembered.

God knows that person and their needs and offers to bear them up and strengthen them and make them whole



The Guild is now halfway through the second part of the session. We have enjoyed being entertained to a

Tour of Scotland in song, Janette McIntyre and the church young people at our Farmhouse Tea, and reminiscences of experiences of singing with big bands and groups of some years ago. We had very informative talks on the life of Fanny Crosby and her hymns, about different kinds of dementia and how to obtain help and pictures of travels in the Rockies and North Africa. We now look forward to the remaining weeks of the session. Why not come along and join us even if it is only one night that the speaker is of interest to you. Details of what's on is usually in the intimations and the Wishaw Press. There is **always** a cup of tea and a chat on Monday evenings in the session room starting 7.30pm.

GARTH HEWITT



CONCERT

Under the auspices of Wishaw Churches Together, the renowned Gospel Singer, **Garth Hewitt**, is making a return visit to Wishaw on SATURDAY 12th SEPTEMBER 2015 in South Wishaw Parish Church.

Those who attended the last concert thought it was a great night.

Look out for further details.



At the time of writing it is envisaged that we will be holding an EASTER HOLIDAY CLUB for youngsters in the P1-P7 school age category.

The dates would be during the week beginning 13th April 2015 between 10.30am and 12.30pm.

Full details will be issued shortly

MORE HELPERS ARE REQUIRED

SUMMER FETE



Our Annual Summer Fete is scheduled for **Saturday 13th June 2015 between 2 and 4pm.**

As usual we are all asked to ensure that we keep this date free and that we give the event our full attention.

Following the success of the 2014 Fete, which was held inside, it has been decided that this will be the format for future Fetes

There will, of course, be all the usual stalls and those, together with the prospect of the now famous South Wishaw Afternoon Tea, makes a visit with family and friends a very worthwhile occasion.

Saturday 21st March



GRAND CONCERT

With

OCTAVE 8

'Their reputation as best in class remains unassailable'

(Herald theatre blog)

**Tickets £5
now on Sale
Don't Miss This**

PROTECTION OF



VULNERABLE GROUPS

Legislation now in force requires all persons and organisations, including Churches, who may be involved with working with Groups of people who may be considered vulnerable to hold a disclosure certificate.

For us it means that anyone in the Congregation who may have contact with ANYONE in the vulnerable category will have to complete the necessary paperwork. The old disclosure certificates have now to be replaced with a **PVG Certificate**.

Our Church Safeguarding Coordinator (Anne Wight) will shortly begin updating certificates. We are all asked to give Anne all of the assistance we can in this important and essential task

PROPERTY



Those of us who undertake regular Door Duty on A Sunday Morning will be pleased to know that plans are afoot to install a WARM AIR CURTAIN Heater above the Vestibule Door.

This, it is hoped, will help eliminate the constant wind and draughts that blow through the door when open to welcome Worshippers. It should also help stop the heat from leaving the sanctuary.

Installation may take a few weeks yet!

ACCOMMODATION USE



Our attempts at having our premises used by more outside community groups are proving to be successful.

We now have regular bookings from a Drama Group and numerous bookings for Children's Birthday Parties. CAB continues to use the premises for Seminars and Training Days and, of course, our premises are used as a Polling Station for Elections. It is also possible for Funeral Teas to take place in our hall. All of these groups help bring in income as well as bringing many people about the Church Buildings.

The premises have recently been refurbished. Please check for availability.

The Community use of our premises demonstrates our commitment to being an active Parish Church

GET 'ONLINE' with CAB/SWPC



There are plenty of PCs or Bring your own

CAB/SWPC PARTNERSHIP

This CAB/SWPC Joint Venture continues each Monday and Thursday between 1 and 4 pm and there is now another class on Tuesday Mornings between 10am and 12 noon.

If you wish to start learning some Computer Skills or augment those that you have then come along.

There is always a Cup of Tea and a Biscuit as well.

THE FORGOTTEN MINISTRY

CHURCH FLOWERS



One of the most rewarding inserts we type on our Church Notices is that of the **THANK YOU** notes we receive from the recipients of the Church Flowers that may have been delivered to them after Worship on a Sunday.

All of the recipients say how appreciative they are, not only for the flowers, but also for the fact that someone has thought about them and taken the trouble to deliver the flowers to the homes of the bereaved, the sick, the housebound or those who have had an accident.



A lovely Christian witness

The Church flowers that are donated very generously by members almost every week of the year are an excellent way of expressing our Christian love and concern to those who, for whatever reason, can't be with us on a Sunday Morning.

To those who donate the flowers so regularly we express our thanks for the generous gift. To Anne who arranges them we say thanks for your patience. To those who deliver them we say a big thank you. All of these things are often taken for granted. Please be assured they are noticed.



How to Help this Ministry

If you would like to become part of this Ministry there are various ways this can be done.

Simply add your name to the Flower Calendar in the Church Vestibule opposite any available date.

If you would like to deliver flowers to the recipients just let us know. It is about once every six weeks

If you would rather just give a donation to our Flower Fund to be used to buy flowers when there is no donor please place your donation in the box on the Table in the Vestibule

Church Contact Numbers –

Interim Moderator –

Rev Maxine Buck
Brownlie House
Mauldslie Road
Carluke - 01555 759063

Locum-

Mr Dickson Keir
46 Brackenhill Drive
Hamilton ML3 8AY
01698 457351

Session Clerk -

Mr John Irvine,
59 Coltness Road – 381512

Congregational Board Clerk -

Mrs Jean Dawson
27 Louisville Avenue – 383380

Treasurer: VACANT

Assistant Treasurer -

Mr Peter McLaughlan,
12 Hillfoot Gardens - 294618

Roll Keeper -

Mrs Agnes Irvine,
59 Coltness Road - 381512

Convener of Property Committee

Mr Peter Kane
Greenhead Road, Wishaw

Compass Editor: e-mail

southwishaw@tiscali.co.uk

WFO Envelopes

Mr Richard McIntyre
21 Avon Avenue, Carluke
01555 770614

Sharing in Prayer



Please read through this edition of the Compass and thank God for all the people involved in the many aspects of our Church life – ask God's

blessing on them, remembering all of the young people and children in the congregation seeking a blessing on their lives. Pray for our Interim Moderator, Maxine and Our Locum, Dixon as they guide us with their ministry. Seek God's guidance for South Wishaw, its Nominating Committee as they seek to find a new Minister, the Kirk Session, Board and Pastoral Visitors as we, too, journey together into a new phase of our history. Pray for fellow members and new people coming about the Church.

Flower Calendar 2015

Date	Contributor	Distributor
01/03/2015	Anna Scott	A Irvine
08/03/2015		L McNeil
15/03/2015	Jessie Gray	A Matthews
22/03/2015	Catherine Frame	M L Archibald
29/03/2015	Jean Dawson	Morag Smellie
05/04/2015		J Easton
12/04/2015	Margaret McGill	J Dawson
19/04/2015	Jean McMillan	M Jeffrey
26/04/2015	Jean Vincent	C & E Jenkins
03/05/2015	Margaret Tweedie	A Irvine
10/05/2015	Anne Little	L McNeil
17/05/2015	Anne Matthews	A Matthews
24/05/2015	Betty Sandilands	M L Archibald
31/05/2015	Betty Anderson/Jem McDonald	Morag Smellie

Contributions to the Flower Fund can be placed in the box at the front of the Church. If you would like to help to distribute flowers please let any office bearer know.

Church Register:

Funerals

Name	Address	Date of Funeral
Tom Fleming	Abbotsford Road	19.12.14
Maureen Wyse	Sunart Street	13.01.15
Margaret Shields	York Street	21.01.15
Peter Little	Sunart Street	29.01.15
Mary Watters	York Street	February 2015

“In my Father's House there are many mansions”

Dates for your Diary

1 st March	Communion Services – 11am and 3pm
8 th March	Joint Kirk Session/Congregational Board Meeting
17 th March	Stated Annual Meeting
30 th March	Guild Closing Dinner – with Worship Group
24 th March	OCTAVE 8 CONCERT
13 th -17 th April	Holiday Club
7 th June	Communion Services 11am and 3pm
13 th June	SUMMER FETE 2-4 pm

Deadline for JUNE Compass 10th MAY 2015

e-mail: southwishaw@tiscali.co.uk