

TIDINGS

Issue No. 325

March 2012



From the Study

Dear Friends

Just the other day we were commenting on the fact that the snowdrops hadn't come up in the manse garden. I felt really sad about this as they have been in the grass in the front lawn for many many years. Mr Chalmers even wrote of them in his letters in 'Tidings'. What a shame I thought if they were to go after all these years. And then last week when I walked up the path one afternoon after being out visiting there were the snowdrops, miraculously peeking through the grass. Later than they normally would be but there all the same. It put a smile on my face. Why had I ever doubted I thought?

There can be times when the love of God can seem very far away. He seems hidden from view. Life seems bleak and we wonder if we will ever see and feel his presence again. But just like the snowdrops were always there in the garden waiting to burst through God's love is there too. His love is there for each one of us even if we cannot see or feel it sometimes because we are overwhelmed by the path that life has taken.

As we journey into Lent with its bleak and troubled moments we have a chance to lay all that bothers us down before God; to quietly let go and let God come into our lives with a delicate but robust love. A bit like the snowdrops in our garden, fragile, delicate, but robust enough to withstand whatever the elements bring. They are a wee reminder that even in times of doubt God's love will break through.

May God bless you and yours

fiona

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Stewarding at the General Assembly

Volunteers are required to act as Stewards at the General Assembly

(Saturday 19th to Friday 25th May inclusive)

Stewards are normally on duty for "shifts" of two to three hours

Names and contact details should be sent to David McColl,

220 1690, Email: mccoll@palmerstonplace.plus.com

The Newsletter of Carrick Knowe Parish Church

Registered Charity SCO 04783

**CK Top 10 Hymns***Fiona Buchanan*Sunday 10th June 2012

Have you got a favourite song or hymn that you love to sing? As part of our 75th anniversary celebrations on Sunday 10th June we will be singing hymns and songs chosen by YOU, members of the congregation. These can be from any source, not just CH4, so please feel free to think back to old favourites or perhaps newer songs that aren't in the hymn book. Once we have received all nominations we will work out the top 10 favourites, which will all feature as part of the service. Please email your top three suggestions to fionaebuchanan@hotmail.com, or fill out and return a form which will be distributed in the order of service and available in the Cloisters. We look forward to hearing your suggestions!

Moderator's Visit*Fiona Mathieson*

Following his visit to Carrick Knowe on November 27th, David Arnott, Moderator of the General Assembly, sent this kind letter:

Dear Fiona

Rosemary and I did so enjoy our visit to Carrick Knowe on Sunday. The friendliness of the congregation, the wealth and quality of the singers, but overall the good relationship you have with your people made it a great morning for us. As we go around we begin to sense where minister and congregation are together and it was good to have such a clear affirmation of that on Sunday.

It was good to hear the chatter in the church beforehand and in the hall over the wine and canapés. What a splendid idea that was and it was hugely appreciated by all. It was encouraging too that folk from your neighbouring congregations made sure I knew they were present. There is clearly a good relationship there too.

Rosemary appreciates the gift of the orchid as I do Tom Gordon's book which I don't have, so I have binned the receipt! I shall enjoy adding it to my library and even more to reading it.

I wish you well in your ministry in Carrick Knowe. The congregation are lucky to have you at the helm.

With thanks and best wishes

Yours sincerely
Rt Rev A David K Arnott
Moderator

**Kirk Session News***George Goodall*

Since the last Tidings issue a number of things have been going on and these may be of interest.

Following on from the decision taken at the November meeting of the Kirk Session, a job specification for the role of someone to undertake further research into whether or not we should engage a Children's and Families' worker was drawn up. This post was advertised and as I am writing this we are in the process of deciding which of the applicants should be engaged. To fund this research we have been given a partial grant from the Church of Scotland with the balance to be raised locally. It is intended to do this by holding two Sunday lunches, the first of which will be on 1st April.

At the Kirk Session meeting held on 23rd January, Andrew Baird's service over a long period as convener of the Safeguarding Committee was recognised by the presentation of a small Quaich. Andrew asked that Lesley Buchanan, as his successor, should be given the same support that he had been given.

The vexed issue over the Presbytery Plan proposals for Carrick Knowe rumbles on and following extended consultation with the Presbytery Plan team, our latest response was submitted on 16th February. Watch this space for further developments.

Training for Elders (not just those fairly new to the role) has been arranged for the afternoon of Sunday 4th March and as many as possible are urged to attend what should be an interesting session.

Strollers*Ian Kerr*

Christmas and New Year already seem distant memories and thoughts have been turning to our walks for 2012. As usual, we will aim to come up with a variety of walks which will hopefully provide enjoyment for everyone. Please keep your eyes and ears open for details of our walks once they have been selected.

Arrangements for our traditional May weekend are already at an advanced stage. We will be revisiting Torphins in Aberdeenshire after we spent a most enjoyable time there last year. The Learney Arms Hotel has been booked for the weekend 18th-21st May after proving to be an excellent venue in 2011, combining comfortable surroundings with good food. Walks for the weekend are being identified although, as usual, participation is not

compulsory! The weather was very kind to us last year and a repeat performance would be most welcome.

All are welcome to join us on our walks and transport can be arranged, if necessary, by speaking either to myself or Andrew Johnston.

OPEN DOORS

The Church Sanctuary will be open from 10.00 - 12.30 on the last Thursday of every month for visitors or for a time of quiet contemplation.



Stewardship Notes

Angus Mathieson

As we draw closer to Easter, I wonder what has been happening in your life over the last few weeks. I wonder what the good things are which have been happening for you and yours; time spent with family, anticipation of holidays, enjoying nature while you walk in the bright sunshine, or other good things. It's good to give thanks to God for what we have received; and that's what lies at the heart of Christian Stewardship, responding to God's goodness. It's particularly apt to remember that as we go through the season of Lent, approaching Easter, remembering God's gift of himself in Jesus.

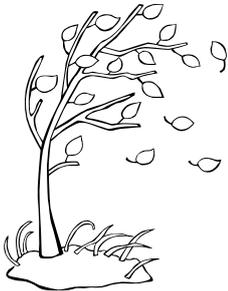
Here at Carrick Knowe Parish Church, we've been working through a programme of thinking about time, talents and money; you may remember being asked to consider your giving of money and whether it was right for you to think about giving more, as the costs of running Carrick Knowe Church have risen over the years. I'd ask you to revisit this question again. If you'd like to give by standing order, more information can be had from myself at angus.mathieson@btopenworld.com.

What our talents are though will be the main focus in 2012; after the summer, we'll be looking at what our gifts are, what our skills are, and how they can be used for God's glory, in Carrick Knowe, and beyond. It is good to recognise how so many folk offer their talents for the work of the Church; what are the gifts and talents which you have? How can they be used to help others, or for God's work? I leave you with that question to think about during Lent.

(Angus is co-convenor of our Stewardship Committee)

95th/95thA Rainbows

Aileen Buchanan



At the moment we have a full unit of 24 Rainbows. We have enjoyed a fun-packed term so far and especially enjoyed discussing the windy weather and making our own windsocks. We are about to celebrate Thinking Day and one or two new Rainbows are ready to make their promise. Following on from that we will be making puppets and performing our Noah puppet show.

First Thursday Group

Finlay and Aileen Buchanan

The First Thursday members enjoyed a festive afternoon tea and Christmas songs by local favourites 'The Clarks' for their December meeting. We resumed in February with a varied programme of musical entertainment by music students from Stevenson College, with instruments ranging from harp to violin and songs from musicals to the latest Grammy winners. We even had Mississippi blues guitar so realistic that you could imagine the alligators in the hot steamy swamp!

For our meeting on March 1st we will welcome back the children from Carrick Knowe Primary School for what will be a showcase of their talent and enthusiasm. This meeting will start in the main hall at the slightly earlier time of 1.30pm.

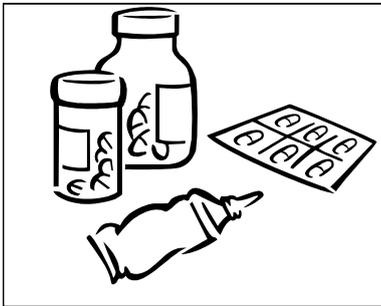
On April 5th we will have our Easter lunch starting at 1.00pm followed by a programme of entertainment. Remember, there is no upper or lower age limit for this group. If you know anyone who would enjoy the mixture of fellowship and entertainment (and a cuppa!) please encourage them to come along.



The Guild

Beryl Liston

When you sit to read this edition of Tidings the Guild will be nearing the end of their syllabus for 2011-2012. We have had some really interesting speakers including Tom Barbour from The Borders Agency who



brought along confiscated items by the suitcase - I am sure that most of the ladies never knew there were so many different drugs and so many ways in which to smuggle them into the country - he even brought along several different hand guns!! Olivia Giles provided a very moving talk outlining how she coped without her limbs and how a second chance at life prompted her in the direction of establishing the '500 miles' charity - she is a true inspiration to us all. On Valentine's night 19 young members of the Gang Show cast came along and entertained us and a good time was had by all.

To round off our year we will hear from Tim Bell on 'The Kirk on the Quayside' and from our own Carol Finlay telling us about her trip 'Walking in the footsteps of Jane Haining'. Our last Open Night is on Tuesday March 20th when Muckleado will be our entertainers - you know they are good so remember to get your tickets early.

The Guild's summer outing finishes our year visiting the St Andrews Cheese Factory in Pittenweem then on to St Andrews itself followed by high tea in Cupar.

2013 is our Guild's 75th anniversary so why not join us in October when we can promise a varied and fun syllabus together with an opportunity to meet old friends and make some new ones.

CK Singers

Fiona Buchanan

Do you enjoy singing and meeting new people? CK Singers is an informal group of singers who contribute to worship at Carrick Knowe. We will be taking part in two services in April, as detailed below. Each rehearsal should last no longer than 45 minutes and we'll also meet in the church at 10.15am before each service that we're taking part in. Don't worry if you can't read music - anyone who enjoys singing is welcome to join us!

- Dates:** Sunday 1st April, 11am service (PALM SUNDAY)
 Sunday 8th April, 11am service (EASTER SUNDAY)
- Rehearsals:** Wednesday 14th March at 7.45pm
 Sunday 25th March following the morning service



We hope you will be able to join us for the rehearsals and services - don't worry if you can't attend all of the rehearsals, but please make sure you can attend at least one of the rehearsals before taking part in a service. If you would like any further information or if you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch - fionaebuchanan@hotmail.com / 337 0307



Robin Chalmers Visit

Fiona Mathieson

It was lovely to have Robin Chalmers and his wife Diana with us at the Anniversary service in November and I would like to thank Anne Barry, who invited him, and Rodger and Anne Thom, who made sure that he and Diana were brought from their overnight accommodation and looked after at church.

Robin is the only son of May and Donald Chalmers; Donald was the first minister at Carrick Knowe.

After the service Robin and Diana joined us at the manse for lunch. First of all he couldn't get over how warm it was. When he lived at Traquair Park West, there was no central heating and one-bar fires in the rooms. Coal fires were only for special occasions, it must have been very cold even for those days.

What is now the downstairs loo was just a cloakroom in his day with the telephone at the end of it. This meant that when it rang Mr Chalmers had to dash from his desk in the study (now our front room/meeting room) to answer it. Our dining room was the kitchen and the now kitchen was a scullery and coal cellar with no window in the end wall as there is now, it must have been very dark.

The room off the kitchen which now has the boiler and storage cupboards was Robin's den and he and his Grandpa spent many an hour building and mending things there.

But his favourite place was the loft. Always floored with a stairway up to it, Robin constructed a film theatre here and showed films. He raised a substantial amount of money for the building fund in this way. He even used a motor from his Mum's Hoover to make the curtains open and close - I don't think she was that thrilled! It's interesting that he had such a pastime given that he went on to be an accomplished cameraman with the BBC.

It was lovely to be able to share in Robin's memories; indeed it was a real privilege. He and I have spoken subsequently on the phone and hope to keep in touch. For Robin it was an emotional day as his parents were so much a part of establishing Carrick Knowe Church. He said it was 'lovely to see Dad's church in such good heart'. And our celebrations were enhanced by having someone, who was there at the very beginning, albeit as a small baby, present with us.

95th Guide Company

Fiona Buchanan

Fundraiser



The 95th Guides will be holding a bingo night to raise funds for the unit on Monday 19th March from 7.45pm until 9pm. The event is open to anyone in the congregation, and we would encourage you to come along and meet some of the younger members of our community - and enjoy a fun-filled evening!

We're also looking for raffle prizes - please pass any donations on to Fiona or Aileen Buchanan.

If you know of anyone aged 10-14 interested in joining Guides, please contact Fiona Buchanan on 337 0307 or fionaebuchanan@hotmail.com



Link to the Early Days

Rodger Thom

As part of our 75th anniversary, I am drawing up a list of members who have links going back to the early days of the Church at Carrick Knowe. I would be grateful if you could let me have the following information. You may hand this to me, to the Church Office (marked for my attention) or by e-mail to rodger.thom@btinternet.com

**To all members who have links going back to before the building of the Church in 1953.
All dates should be 1953 or earlier**

Name
Address
.....

Original connection

Baptism	Yes/No*	Year of baptism
Sunday School	Yes/No*	Year of joining Sunday School
Parent a member	Yes/No*	Year parent joined Carrick Knowe
Married at Carrick Knowe	Yes/No*	Year married

**delete as applicable*

Thank You

Congregational News

George Goodall



It is with regret that we intimate the following deaths

District 30	Bill Faulds	Dec. 2011	Longstone Crescent
Postal	Elisabeth (Betty) Thomson	Feb. 2012	Formerly Broomhall Avenue
District 8	Cathie Calder	Feb. 2012	Formerly Broomhall Avenue

ADVERT

HANDEL'S 'MESSIAH' CONCERT
Saturday 31st March 2012 at 7.30pm,
St Cuthbert's Church, Lothian Road, Edinburgh



Making Prayers Visible

Carol Finlay

Written by George Shand, Mission Partner, St Andrew's, Jerusalem

"Dear Pastor Mitri", said the message inside the Christmas card, "I am 81 years of age and have visited your country twice before. Christians in Scotland do not forget you and we are praying that God will bless and encourage you in the difficulties that face you every day in Bethlehem."

As part of the [Invest in Peace](#) initiative of the Church of Scotland's World Mission Council, this year churches and individuals were encouraged to send Christmas Cards to Bethlehem - to projects associated with our work here. I was a willing 'postie' for this initiative, and almost 700 cards were received. Nearly all of the personal messages on the cards received said something like 'you are in our thoughts and prayers'. And such care and support was really appreciated. At the Wi'am Conflict Resolution Center, Usama, who has been our guide and friend on many occasions said, "This is so wonderful - knowing that people of all ages are thinking about us across all these miles". And on our last visit, on Christmas Eve, Dr. Zoughbi Zoughbi spoke movingly about how practical support is always welcome, but also how much they welcomed 'our spirituality support' - the thoughts and the prayers that accompany their deepest selves in their work and daily living.

The group at Ma'an Lil-Hayat were still at work when we made our first delivery. They know about Scotland because of the number of doves they have made to be sent there - at the last count, over 5,000 since the May General Assembly. "The workers will have great fun opening these cards during their morning break," said L'Arche's administrator, Rusann. "And at our barbecue on our last day of work, the 20th December, the cards will be spread out around the tree. We all write our hopes for the future on a piece of paper and then hang them on the tree." One card to Ma'an Lil-Hayat said, "Thank you for the lovely things you make that we can buy here - they are so unusual and are a powerful message of the work you are doing."

Some cards were simply signed by individuals, or on behalf of congregations. Many also expressed an understanding of the difficulties faced by people and organisations in today's Bethlehem, and expressed a hope for the future. And as I read these messages, I felt very positively that this coming together of hearts and minds in support and understanding is indeed one sign of hope.

The highlight of delivering your cards was when we took them to Al Shurooq School for Blind Children. We opened them with Helen Shehadah who is the head teacher and is herself blind. Helen wanted to hear every message and to touch every card. Afterwards, we separated the cards into two different types. Some we put into a pile for hanging up in Helen's office. These were the cards which worked best visually. The other cards we kept back for the children to feel; some were embossed, some were hand-made with raised bits and shapes, many of them made by children in Scotland (including CKPC Sunday Club). A few of the cards had added messages in Braille, which was a real excitement. The second time we arrived with a delivery, one of the young pupils was with Helen in her office, and as fast as we opened the cards, she was in about feeling them . . . and asking Helen all the time 'ma hatha?' - 'what is it?'

This was a wonderfully well received initiative. The lady who wrote, 'you will know that you are always in our prayers - these cards just make that visible', got it quite right.

**Scout Group**

Archie Johnston

This will be the last 'Tidings' article to be submitted in the name of the 88th Haymarket Scout Group. Don't worry, we have not gone out of business or called in the administrators, Haymarket district has simply been merged with Inverleith district to create a new district - so from the 1st of April 2012 we will be known as the 88th Craigmmond Scout Group.

Exciting times are ahead with the merger which will bring new challenges along the way as well. Rest assured it will be the same leader team running the same group and hopefully adding some new faces to it in the coming months.

This term the theme in all three sections seems to be all about survival for some unknown reason. The Beavers are working on their Healthy Eating badge, Cubs are working on Map & Compass with the Scouts doing a survival day at the end of April.

Both the Cubs & Scouts had their annual Burns Night with the Scouts having their annual Awards Night at the same time. Congratulations to the three Scouts who won the three awards and to all the others for gaining their badges. The cubs are also out and about swimming & climbing at Ratho Climbing Centre.

The numbers are fairly strong at the moment in all the sections but there are still spaces in the Group, so if you are interested in getting your child into the Group please email me on archiejohnston83@hotmail.co.uk and I will get one of the team to contact you.

On Friday the 9th of March we are holding our Annual Race Night in Carrick Knowe Bowling Club to raise funds. Every single one of these evenings have been an excellent night so far so if you wish to come along tickets are £5 and can be bought on the night.

The Group is also collecting the vouchers from Sainsbury's & Tesco this year again. We have been very fortunate over the years with these vouchers as they have allowed us to purchase a lot of sports equipment and last year we were able to purchase a tent with them for the first time. If you have any vouchers you would

like to hand in please pop them through the Scout hall door in an envelope marked vouchers.

As always we would like to thank you for your continuing support.

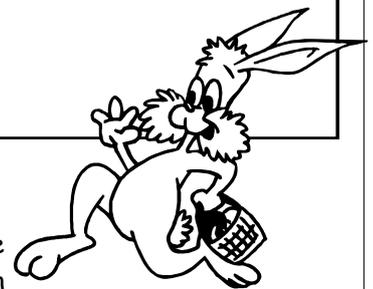
**Easter Egg Roll...****...and the Easter Bunny!!**

With this being our 75th anniversary year, it might just be possible to persuade the Easter Bunny to make an appearance at our Easter Egg Roll after church on Easter Sunday. I'm told it all depends on how tired he is and on how much sponsorship the bunny can raise between now and then for our Anniversary Appeal.

So, *'If you want the bunny, show us your money!'*

Donations please to the church office or in a marked envelope via the collection plate.

Thank you.



**Pilgrimage***John McMahon***A Pilgrimage to the Holy Land: 26th February to 7th March 2013**

A 10-day trip from Edinburgh (via London Heathrow) staying at The Golden Walls Hotel, Jerusalem and The Scots' Hotel, Tiberias.

Pilgrimage to be led by The Rev Yvonne Atkins (St Andrew's High, Musselburgh) and The Rev John McMahon (Lead Chaplain, Royal Edinburgh Hospital).

If you would like to know more, come along to a meeting to be held on Sunday 4th March 2012 at 3.00pm in St Andrew's High Parish Church, High Street, Musselburgh or email johnksmcmahon@btinternet.com (Mobile: 07971 339 571).

Richmond's Hope Charity Concert

Saturday 31st March, 7.30pm
The Tom Fleming Centre for Performing Arts
Stewart's Melville College
Queensferry Road
Edinburgh EH4 3EZ

EDINBURGH CONCERT BAND

A fun and enjoyable programme of popular light music, film music and theatre scores.
For more information or to buy tickets online: www.edinburghconcertband.com

Dates for your diary

March	4th	Elder Training	9th	Scouts Race Night
	14th	CK Singers Rehearsal	19th	Guides Bingo Night
	20th	Guild Open Night	25th	CK Singers Rehearsal
	29th	Church Open	31st	Handel's Messiah Concert Richmond's Hope Concert
April	1st	Palm Sunday Lunch	5th	First Thursday Group Lunch
	8th	Easter Sunday & Egg Roll		
May	18-21	Strollers' Weekend	19-25	General Assembly
June	10th	CK Top Ten		

Minister

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