

## LOMOND PARISH



CHURCH OF SCOTLAND



## The Lomond Update for Summer 2024

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### A new chapter and a new church.

What an exciting time to be involved in Lomond parish which now encompasses the old parishes of Jamestown and Alexandria stretching down to the Vale Academy. But also covers the parish of Kilmaronock-Gartocharn, right out onto the loch and including Inchmurrin Island and as far as the Drymen T junction and Croftamie. The best of both worlds, the town and country.

The thought of a new minister coming is always exciting as we wonder what will that person bring. There will be changes but we have already got used to change. Covid radically changed things, services were shorter and more people got involved in leading worship. I have found enormous blessing in the sensitive reading of scripture and the sincerity of those who have led us in prayer. Choosing the hymns at Balloch is a collegiate approach that has introduced us to new hymns, whilst not forgetting the old and much loved ones. The keynote to the "New Lomond" must be unity and togetherness.

At Both Lomond and Gartocharn the involvement of the congregation in leading worship on those special nights in Holy Week was inspirational. So much also happens now around the church building in Balloch that draws people from the community through our doors that is both impressive and forward thinking.

The properties are well looked after, the finance is healthy (don't tell the treasurer I said that.... She has a low opinion of my knowledge of finance) so many people make a contribution and most importantly as you read this You are important. All our church family are important.

In both Lomond and Gartocharn we see new faces. It is wonderful that they feel they are made welcome. That is so very important. Both congregations are different as might be expected.... Town and Country!

This is not a farewell letter. I have loved my time with you.... I thought it might last one year. We are now in the sixth year but everyone has been so kind and welcoming to both Joan and myself. But we look to the future and I know whenever the day comes when I pick up my P45 I want to be handing over a united congregation in very good heart.

Ian



## Finance Matters

An elder said recently that sound finances are the enabler that can deliver the church's mission. The enlarged Lomond Parish Church is in that position. The finance team ensure good financial governance providing a financial management report at each Kirk Session meeting. We have now consolidated Gartocharn and old Lomond accounts and at the end of April we had £139,436 in a variety of funds held locally along with £411,432 held in the General Trustees Consolidated Fabric Fund. These figures include £32,400 Grant funding for capital and revenue costs for the Lomond Pantry Project, one of our, Mission and Outreach projects, along with our support of Dumbarton Women's Aid, Food for Thought, Messy Church to name but a few.

Money matters



Leviticus 25

It looks like we don't need to worry about finances..... however, if you consider our monthly outgoings of £14,500 and income of £10,250, our general fund reserves will soon be used up. The state pension and benefits increased by 6.7% in April. The government did not raise the tax threshold which has led to some non-tax Paying pensioners now paying tax. If this includes you, please speak with Linda Ross, Gift Aid Co-ordinator (lomondpcgiving@gmail.com) to find out how the church can claim an additional 25p for every pound you give through the Gift Aid scheme. Forms are available at church doors. Our giving income is our main income source and good stewardship would ask everyone to review what they can give annually.

In these days of less cash being used, we welcome direct giving to our bank account. Every £100 of cash we deposit the bank charges (our annual income is greater than £100,000 for free Charity Banking) 70p, electronic item charges are 35p and the charge for depositing a cheque is 70p. 89 members give through monthly direct banking. If interested contact Linda Ross or the Treasurer who will give you bank account details.

### Finance Team

## TOWNHEAD FARM EGGS

Every Thursday morning, members of the egg group get a message on their phone asking how many eggs are needed this weekend. The order gets compiled, a message is sent to Debbie Fleming and the eggs are delivered for pick up in the hall vestibule on a Sunday morning. Debbie started this many years ago, recognising that the hens didn't stop laying at weekends when businesses were closed, thus her deliveries to local churches started. We currently charge £1.70 per ½ dozen of free-range eggs (20p goes to church funds). Initially we had 6 dozen eggs each week and now we can take 22 dozen eggs. Of these the majority are pre-ordered with very few spare boxes for sale. If you would like to have a regular order please contact Margaret Hastings (07768373308). Payment can be weekly cash or monthly by direct banking.



## Vacancy

We are now moving forward and getting nearer to having our new minister. The nomination committee has been recently elected. The eleven members now have to meet further with the Presbytery vacancy committee before starting the process of finding our new minister. To that end the Kirk Session is in the process of agreeing and finalising a Parish Profile.

The profile will be available for anybody to see on the church website. The profile gives information about the parish, manse, and some of our expectations for the future. There will be an advert in the July edition of Life and Work. The vacancy will also be listed on the Church of Scotland website in the appropriate place for vacancies. This is usually the first place a potential future minister for us would search for vacant charges who have the right to call. Hopefully this will lead to applications which will be looked at and taken forward until we get to a position that the committee recommends to the congregation a sole nominee as our new minister. So please keep the committee in your thoughts and prayers as this work now goes ahead in the background.

***Robert Kinloch Joint Session Clerk.***

## A Word from Gartocharn



The parish of Kilmarnock and the church in Gartocharn is now in a union with Lomond Church in Alexandria and will form the new and extended Lomond Parish. We look forward to a very happy future as we seek for a new minister to lead us forward.

The congregation in Gartocharn is, and always will be a Rural Church, and as such there is not the same opportunity to carry out as much community work as the urban Church in Balloch, but we do have a very caring and vibrant congregation, with an ability to take part in the Sunday service and on occasion, if necessary, take the whole service.

It is vital in the future, to ensure these services continue in Gartocharn, as we move forward as an equal partner with our friends in Balloch.

## Upcoming Services

### Dunkirk Memorial Service

During morning worship at Lomond, Balloch, on June 2nd at 11am, we will be marking the anniversary of the Dunkirk Evacuation during WW2. All are welcome.

### The Sacrament of Communion

will be celebrated on June 9th at 11am at Lomond, Balloch for all those who would love and serve the Lord.





## 1st Balloch Rainbows

On Saturday 11th May 1st Balloch Rainbows joined with other Rainbows at "Wings and Wellies" at Catterburn in glorious sunshine.

Activities including becoming Fairies for the day, Bouncy Castle, Circus Skills, Face Painting, Storytelling and other crafts.

Thanks to Lauren our Sunshine Fairy who was with us all day. A great time was had by all!



***Irene, Sandra and Eilidh.***

## The Guild

On Saturday 23rd March the Guild welcomed everyone to the Hall for the Spring Afternoon tea. A range of stalls, the Tombola and the Raffle soon gathered a lot of interest, while the hardworking ladies in the kitchen were kept busy serving tea and a range of delicious home baking provided by the Guild members.

It was a very successful occasion and the Guild raised over £1200. Donations will be made to the Church and to a range of local Charities which the Guild supports.

We would like to thank everyone who gave their time to help us with the teas and stalls on the evening before and on the day itself, and to everyone who supported the event.

Mrs E Chirrey



## Music in Worship

Music within LPC (Balloch) is often vibrant. It can be heard every Sunday for several minutes before the services commence, and at that point it usually comes from the organ or Clavinova (digital piano). This pre-service music can include hymns or songs which will be sung later in worship - items which may be familiar to some, but not all, who are there. More traditional (not too difficult!) organ music is also offered, and some easy-listening modern arrangements of old and new 'hymns' are sometimes used. For copyright reasons the latter are seldom heard on the recordings.



We have been blessed in recent years to have gained several new members who are more at ease with items of praise which are not in our Church of Scotland core hymn book, ie the purple CH4. Even yet none of us really knows CH4 thoroughly; it's a thick book!

In the last few years, Rev Ian Miller has kindly given us scope to broaden and modernise our range of music just a little, and with the help of Andrew we have tried to gently introduce some of the popular worship songs often found in Mission Praise. We are only singing 4 hymns each Sunday, (3 every 2nd week if you exclude the one for the children), so progress is not rapid, but it is hoped that in every service we will be able to praise God with a range of hymns/songs. We're not asked to sing in tune or even at the given pitch (unless you're in the choir!) - our singing is an offering of praise to the Almighty and it need not be perfect. Who knows if Paul and Silas, singing hymns in prison about midnight, sounded good, but it was genuine praise. As such, the music here is often uplifting and is an integral part of our worship to a living God. Long may that continue.

**Sheila**



## ECO News



As a Gold Eco-Congregation Scotland Award holder, we encourage all members to do your bit for the environment.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle is a concept that promotes ways to minimize the amount of materials, energy, and waste we produce in our everyday life - aiming to minimize the use of new resources and energy, making more efficient use of resources. The concept includes the following actions:

- **Reduce:** Cut back on the amount of rubbish we generate.
- **Reuse:** Find new ways to use things that otherwise would have been thrown out.
- **Recycle:** Reprocess or reuse materials.

We've just added a new recycling opportunity in the church. There is a box in the chapel to collect **empty medicine blister packs**. These are difficult to recycle because they are a mix of plastic and aluminium, but processors are now able to deal with the packets rather than them going to landfill. Sorooptimists International are gathering the boxes as a fund raiser for Marie Curie UK.

A reminder of the other recycling we offer-

**Old Glasses ( including the case)** – we used to send old glasses to the Lions Club for reuse in developing countries, but now UK companies, such as Specsavers are recycling them in a material that can replace plywood.

**Used Stamps** – The Church of Scotland World Mission group collect used stamps ( cut from envelopes with a half inch border please) and send funds raised to Firmly Planted: Agroforestry for Sustainability in Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

**Egg Boxes** – for those who regularly buy organic eggs from Townhead Farm, please return your boxes for reuse.

**Textile Recycling** – Laundered Wearable clothes, pairs of shoes (tied together), bags, belts, can all be placed in carrier bags and places in the RAGBAG box on the stage (or beside it if full). We have an uplift 3 times a year, and are paid 30p per kg collected. The goods are sorted by quality and exported to customers across the UK, Europe and Africa.

**Paper and Cardboard** – can be placed in blue recycling bins for WDC uplift.

**Food Waste** – is collected in brown caddy on Kitchen windowsill and put into WDC brown bin.



## Saying Thank you

I owe thanks to Scottish Ambulance Service, a brilliant surgeon and all his team and the care staff at Royal Alexandra Hospital, I also give thanks for love and prayers offered for my recovery, Thank you. Christian Aid also offers thanks to all who have helped over the years, I can look back on various Christian Aid Weeks when we helped a woman whose home in Bangladesh, another week which was highlighted by 'Flying toilets' when women too frightened to go out to use toilet in the night use a plastic bag then in the morning sent it flying through the air, we helped build toilet blocks in Soweto. We helped after the earthquake in Haiti. More recently we helped Jessica in Zimbabwe where she faced drought and last Jen in Malawi.

This year we support Burundi and hear Aline's story. Married young, she had an abusive husband who took another wife and threw her out, without her children, eventually she gained her independence and was able to establish a home for herself and her family. We continue to pray for Burundi that suffers particularly as an effect of Climate Change.

We can hopefully have another Sponsored Walk in September – so keep that in mind.

So many reasons for thanks, thanks be to God.

**Margaret Nutter**



In response to our Christian Aid week appeal we opened 52 Christian Aid envelopes with a total of £1,261 (£761 cash + £500 cheque) with 27 GA declarations covering £975 which will allow CA to claim an additional £243.75.

In addition £279 was collected in donations for the lunch. The total to date is £1,540 with more to come from donations made by folks in Gartocharn.

**Well done all!**

## GARDEN TEAM

We have a small group of volunteers who like to garden. They meet on a Monday afternoon to tidy the planting areas around the church. We get a gardener to do heavy tasks.

The photo is the Easter planter children who came to Messy Church made for us.

If you are interested in helping please speak with Shona O'Hare, Irene Allan or Margaret Nutter.



## Lomond Food Pantry



Lomond Parish Church, in conjunction with Haldane Tenants and Residents Association, are underway with plans to refurbish the Annexe of the Lennox Hall (formally known as the BB Hall) into a community pantry to be called Lomond Food Pantry.

The pantry has received grants from West Dunbartonshire Council, Church of Scotland Clyde Presbytery Mission Fund and donations from local businesses through West Dunbartonshire Working 4 U.

The grants and donations will enable us to upgrade the electrical and heating appliances, refit the kitchen, purchase fridges, freezers, shelving and most importantly the initial stock to get the pantry up and running.

The first priority is to make the entrance to the hall accessible for all by laying new slabs and any other work required.

We are hoping that the pantry will open early July and we are looking for volunteers to help in the smooth running to ensure the pantry can serve all areas in Lomond & Leven Wards.

Thank you to everyone involved so far for their help and support.

For further information please contact Chris Lynas.

## Bite and Blether Lunch Club

June 2016 was the start of our lunch club for older people, living alone who missed having a meal with other people and could become isolated. Rather than soup and a sandwich it was agreed that we would manage a 2-course meal, which has proved popular – especially the range of puddings. From Mince & Tatties to Sardinian Chicken the cooks try to provide a balanced meal.



Volunteers are scheduled to the kitchen team (who have 2nd level food safety certificates) or the Serving team. We always welcome new volunteers and members and meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month. We have leaflets available about the club. If you are interested, please contact Anne Dann (our co-ordinator) Tel 07999957581.