Dear Friends

Summer Suns:
I hope summer’s been good to you and that the summer’s been good to you and recharged your batteries in some way! Dorothy, Polo & I were up in Easter Ross for a few weeks, without weans! We enjoyed crashing, relaxing & reading. One book lit up my soul, spirit & imagination, ‘Red Moon Rising’, the story of the viral spread of 24/7 prayer around the world. I’m well into the subsequent book, ‘Punk Monk’ which describes the principles & practice of ‘Boiler Houses’, Cells of prayerful people, through which a fresh move of God’s Spirit is blowing. Read them if you can! The intimacy with God described in this 24/7 prayer movement is truly infectious, drawing in the most unlikely of outsiders, people without any church or Christian past, attracted into space where they can be themselves before God.

Allergic? Are you allergic to any words? Some jargon words can make me go all twitchy and uncomfortable. I love words and side myself with Eugene Peterson, who describes himself as a ‘shepherd of words’ (as well as people). It doesn’t matter the field we’re in or circles we move in, jargon words get used, helpful shortcuts and breath-savers but also potential roadblocks to outsiders.

For example: ‘BP’ - Medical shorthand for blood pressure; ‘Bang for buck’ – Business talk for getting value for money; ‘10-4’ - Radio speak for ‘Okay’ or ‘Understood’; ‘AWOL’ - Absent without leave (a good example of jargon crossing original context & culture into wider use); ‘LOL’ – social texting for ‘Laugh out loud’ (not to be confused with
earlier uses of ‘LOL’ to mean ‘Lots of Love’).

**Intimacy**: One word, which grates on my nerves is ‘INTIMATION’, a word sometimes misused and abused in churches. To be ‘intimate’ with someone or something is ‘to have a close knowledge of them’, while ‘to intimate’ something is ‘to state or make something known’. My main reason for trying to ban ‘Intimation’ from our church’s vocabulary is because it is an antiquated word, which younger people don’t understand; so much better to say, “And here are this week’s notices (or announcements)” than, “And now for the Intimations” or ‘Intimidations’ as some ministers like to call them.

‘INTIMATION’ suggests something intimate like “Happily, Maggie Dewar & Andy Park will marry on 3rd September in St Andrew’s Parish Church” or “Sadly, John Schooler died on 20th August and his funeral will take place, etc…” not “There will be a nearly-new sale, etc…” or “The total raised at the talents auction was, etc…” There are times and places where revealing & vulnerable details can develop a closer bond between speaker (public or private) and audience and make people more receptive to their message. We all need and yearn for ‘intimacy’, a closeness with others who will love us unconditionally, warts & all, no matter what we ‘intimate’ to them about us.

Facebook and Twitter are excellent ways of connecting with people, but it scares me the way such mediums are used to ‘intimate’ personal details, which would be better kept private between those concerned. A lack of personal intimacy with people, who will listen and unconditionally love us, can perhaps force one to ‘intimate’ in inappropriate ways, like the person who stood up in the middle of a restaurant to declare that they had just found out their wife was cheating on them and how gutted they were. How sad when people do not have people they can privately share such details with.

I know that some of us find it difficult to be open, vulnerable and intimate with people, but God is someone from whom we can hide nothing and with whom we can share everything. Here’s a song by Martin Smith, which we sing in Fullarton:

**What a friend I’ve found, closer than a brother**  
I have felt your touch more intimate than lovers.  
What a hope I’ve found, more faithful than a mother  
It would break my heart to ever lose each other,  
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, friend forever.’

**My Prayer** is that this new session, as we seek to build God’s People, Reach out to our neighbours, & prepare to develop our buildings, that we will grow in intimate dependency upon God through prayer. Indeed, I’m hopeful that other Christians from the Irvine churches will join us in seeking God’s forgiveness and a fresh outpouring of his converting, community changing Spirit. Then we will surely see God move in dynamic ways!

God’s Best to and through you all!
Your fellow minister & friend,  
Neil

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Thank You

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to everyone at Fullarton Parish Church for the beautiful floral arrangement I received whilst visiting my mum and dad. I appreciate all the good wishes, thoughts and prayers given to me.

Claire Drennan

I want to thank the Fullarton family for their get well cards, and flowers, also my friends on Facebook for their kind wishes.
Yours Sincerely  
George Weir.

Very many thanks to my Fullarton Family for the best wishes, cards, and lovely flowers for my 86th birthday  
Gratefully  
Anne Thomson
On 19th January 2014 Fullarton Parish Church is to be honoured by a visit by Rev. Trevor Jamison, the Environmental Chaplain for Eco-Congregation Scotland. On that Sunday afternoon (from 3.45 p.m. to 5.15 p.m.) Rev. Jamison will lead us into a Bible study on a creation-linked theme. Please come along to that event. Bring with you a packed snack for your tea-break. Then please stay on to hear Rev. Jamison speak at our Evening Service at 6.30 p.m. We hope to invite the members of local Congregations both to the afternoon Bible study and to the Evening Service.

This will be a great opportunity for all of us to learn what the Eco-Congregation concept means. There is much to learn about it. Who can help me to prepare for this special day in January? We will need to send out notices and invitations to local Congregations - including those which are already members of the Ayrshire network of Eco-Congregation Scotland.

Dr. Robin R. Burnett.

Birthday Congratulations

Congratulations and best wishes to:

Mrs Margaret Thomson who was 98
Mrs Sarah (Cissie) Martin who was 95. Keep dancing!
Mrs Margaret Fulton who was 91
Mrs Nan Bryson who was 91

I would like to thank you all for the lovely card and flowers I received from the Church on my 80th Birthday

Betty Stevenson
Food is a gift from God. Is food just a source of energy for the work that our bodies do in different ways? No! We really enjoy the taste of our food. We enjoy having meals together in each other's company. Some enjoy cooking food - meanwhile enjoying all the flavours being added to the basic ingredients of the meal. In all these ways - but particularly for strengthening our bodies for day-to-day living - food is a real blessing. God provides us with that blessing!

Do you think about where your food comes from? Do you know how it is produced from basic grains, fruits, vegetables and different types of meat and fish and other sea-food?

How did your food get to your local shop or supermarket? Did it come from overseas? How was it cared for during its journey to your shop?

Is your food Fairtrade food? Do you support Fairtrade? Do you know what Fairtrade means? Could we get a Fairtrade stall up and running again?

Have you any chance to support local fruit and vegetable growers and farmers? Would doing that not be a good help to the Scottish economy?

Maybe you have a garden that could be used for growing vegetables. (It is much easier to grow vegetables and fruit than it is to grow fish or sources of meat!) You might be too old to manage a garden. Perhaps a younger and fitter person (or perhaps several persons) could do the work for you. That would keep such a person or persons fit! Then you could share the products of your garden. Sharing fruit and vegetables (and perhaps flowers as well!) gives joy to the giver and to all who receive.

How much food do you waste? Can you reduce the amount of food that you waste? We need to be better stewards of the food we buy. That is just good sense but (at the same time) it is respectful to God who has given us the food.

Finally, how can we as Christians do our best to help all people who are hungry (anywhere in the world!) to get enough good food to enable them to be both healthy and happy?

Dr. Robin R. Burnett.
Wedding Congratulations

July 6th 2013 - David Roach to Caroline Riddell

NEW MEMBERS
“One Body, One Church, One Faith, One Lord”

Joining by Confession of Faith and Baptism

We warmly welcome -
David Roach - 33 Gault Avenue, Irvine
John Snoddy - 11 Dunton Knoll, Irvine

FUNERALS
“I am the resurrection and the life…..”

June 16th Sandra Cooper 43 Belfast Quay, Harbourside, Irvine.
June 19th Nan Ramsey 23A Academy Gardens, Irvine.*
June 23rd Lilian Adams 22 McLellan Drive, Kilmarnock.
June 29th Maxwell Russell 13 Afton Court, Fullarton, Irvine.
July 4th Barbara McKenzie 53 Garnock Court, Fullarton, Irvine.
Aug 5th Elizabeth Kay 106 McKinlay Crescent, Fullarton, Irvine.
Aug 7th Neil Stirret 13 Grampian Court, Irvine.
Aug 13th Margaret Taylor 74 Ruby Crescent, Fullarton, Irvine.

* Denotes member or adherent.

SUNDAY WELCOME and OFFERING DUTY ROTAS
10.30am for Morning Service : 6.00pm (Fullarton Hall) for Evening Service.

PLEASE arrange for someone to undertake your duty when you are unable to attend.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TEAM A</th>
<th>TEAM B</th>
<th>TEAM C</th>
<th>TEAM D</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15 Sept</td>
<td>22 Sept</td>
<td>29 Sept</td>
<td>6 Oct</td>
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<td>13 Oct</td>
<td>20 Oct</td>
<td>27 Oct</td>
<td>3 Nov</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 Nov</td>
<td>17 Nov</td>
<td>24 Nov</td>
<td>1 Dec</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Leader :  J.Davidson  M.Small  I.Laird  M.Evans

Welcome :  J.Burns  C.Blair  B.Dawson  C.Black
H.MacKenzie  M.Wilson  J.Wyllie  E.Robertson

Door and Offering :
C.Blair  G.Draysdale  S.Davidson  R.Burnett
S.Burns  P.Gibson  L.Darroch  M.Clancy
L.Dunlop  R.Graham  A.McLellan  S.Deeprose
Mgt.Elliott  A.Martin  A.McLellan  May Elliot
I.McQuaker  E.McGregor  C.McQueenie  F.Hutchison
S.McQuaker  J.Ross  J.Neil  M.McInnally

Counting :
L.Dunlop  P.Gibson  L.Darroch  R.Burnett
A.Graham  E.McGregor  D.Ferguson  M.Clancy
I.McQuaker  A.Martin  A.McLellan  M.Graham
S.McQuaker  S.Kinmond  C.Rennie  F.Hutchison
J.Davidson  M.Small  I.Laird  M.McInnally

Flowers/ Helpers :
J.Kennedy  J.Ross  A.Wood  E.Robertson
C.Blair  E.Stevely  C.McQueenie  May Elliot
M.McInnally  P.Gibson  J.Wyllie  M.Evans

Tea Rota :
J.Burns  S.Burnett  M.Bannerman  A.Graham
L.Haswell  I.McQueenie  B.Boyd  J.Haig
M.Sneddon  Aileen Roy  C.Black  S.McQuaker
A.Wood  E.Small  M.Fulton  S.Davidson
The Independence Debate
A year in advance of the referendum, two of Scotland's leading Christian commentators, the Rev Dr Doug Gay and Dr Ian Bradley, present theological cases for and against Scottish independence.

Celebrating 'God's Bounty'
Thomas Baldwin explores the roots of Harvest Thanksgiving and examines seasonal celebrations around the world.

Discombobulate, Mackerel and Hair Spray
The Moderator, the Rt Rev Lorna Hood, reflects on the gifts young people bring to the Church.

The Unrecognised Missionary
J Lamboi Haokip explains how a Church of Scotland supported charity is helping tribal people in northern India, in the spirit of the first missionary to work there.

A Living Church
Jackie Macadam reflects on the 60th anniversary of the Robin Chapel in Edinburgh.

Resourcing Change
Thomas Baldwin reports on a campaign to improve conditions for garment industry workers in Bangladesh.

'This is my Life'
Jackie Macadam learns about a charity with strong Church of Scotland links, working to support the children of military personnel.

The Challenge of Change
The Rev Peter Johnston considers worship with a new congregation.

A Real and Present Threat'
The Rev Scott McKenna considers the existence of Satan

Missions Connect
WAYS TO KNOW THAT YOU OR YOUR PARENTS ARE MISSIONARIES

31. You don’t think that two hours is a long sermon.
32. You never have a special meal on Sunday, since it’s your busiest day.
33. You don’t do well in job interviews because you were thought to be modest.
34. You think nothing of straddling white lines to pass between trucks or buses travelling side by side, because “There was plenty of room, officer. Honest! At least 3 inches clearance!”
35. Someone in your passport country has to explain to you that the double yellow line means ONLY oncoming traffic can drive on that side of the road, even when there ISN’T any oncoming traffic...and you don’t understand why.
36. Later the same day, the same poor friend has to go to great lengths to explain to you why you cannot just hand the policeman a dollar and drive away when he stops you, and why you are now being driven downtown in the back of said officer’s car over a mere dollar; at which point your passport country ceases to make any sense to you at all.
Wal- ter, Natasja, David, Rafaël, Esther & Jesse Birngruber

Please pray for
- God’s healing for Natasja
- Strength, peace and comfort especially for the children
- Wisdom for decisions to be made now and for the future
- People to support, encourage and help them
- Protection over them as a family

Collier Update: Pam recently passed away to be with the Lord. Please pray for Malcom, Louisa, Clare and Olivia as they come to terms with the loss of their mum and for Malcom his wife and best friend. Please especially pray for Olivia who has just had her 17th birthday, she is finding it particularly hard.

Pastoral Care: Evelyn Robertson. 01294 272576

Church Secretary: Teresa Goodwin. 01294 273741
Office Hours: (see Announcement Sheet) Secretary@fullartonchurch.co.uk

Director of Music: Graeme Ferguson. 01294 221480

Church Hall Bookings: May Evans. 01294 278543

YaC Project Leader: Lindsey Jayne Forsyth. 0759 686 8927 youthwork-er@fullartonchurch.co.uk Lindsey-fullarton-yac@live.co.uk

Fullarton Parish Church (Church of Scotland), Irvine, is a Registered Charity (No. SC 008725) and is a Fair Trade Church. Visit our website www.fullartonchurch.co.uk
Home Groups

Sunday morning: 9.30 – 10.30am
Contact Fraser Hutchison 01292 313672

Wednesday evening: 7.30pm
Contact Iain McQuaker 01294 279410

Thursday afternoon: 2.00pm
Contact Hunter Lightbody 01294 273955

Thursday evening: 7.30pm
Contact Sheena Kinmond 01294 312022
Or Catherine Gibson 01294 276148
and
Contact Sandra Deeprose 01292 315169

Friday Morning 10-12
Contact Claire Young 01294 272303

Home Groups Co-ordinator
Pam Gibson 01294 218583

Please note
The deadline for copy of the next issue of Contact (October 2013) Is Sunday 22nd September

e-mail articles to secretary@fullartonchurch.co.uk by that date.
Or in the Secretary’s Pigeon hole in the Church vestibule

PLEASE ADHERE TO DEADLINE DATES THANK YOU

“CONTACT” magazine is also available on the church web-site
www.fullartonchurch.co.uk
HOST

Many international students come to Scotland to study at our universities. Will they make contact with people and life beyond the academic environment? What will they do for a homely break if home is too far away? For 26 years, national charity HOST has been linking students with volunteer hosts, who invite a student to spend a day, a weekend, Christmas or New Year in their home. Chatting; eating together; playing games; seeing the area; joining in with the local community; making friends – a HOST visit lays down wonderful memories to be re-lived in China, India, the USA and many other parts of the world. And hosts learn from their guests too. If you could make a student welcome, please contact HOST through www.hostuk.org or call HOST’s voluntary regional organiser in Scotland, Anne-Marie Ringler, on 01738 621633. Thank you.

HOST UK
Unit 8 Water House, 8 Orsman Road, London N1 5QJ
Telephone: 020 7739 6292 Fax: 0207 033 6539
www.hostuk.org.uk
Registered Charity No. 327592
Registered Company in England and Wales No. 2179430

Mrs Sarah (Cissie) Martin would like to thank the Fullarton family and Guild for the cards, good wishes and lovely plant received on her 95th birthday. They were much appreciated. Thanks to Rev Neil for taking great photographs of Cissie's 95th birthday party. His photographic skills (and dancing, courtesy of Dorothy) were much appreciated. Thanks to all the Fullarton family who made her party a very special night.

Mrs A Flack would like to thank the Fullarton family and Guild for the cards, good wishes and lovely flowers received on her birthday. They were much appreciated.

Mrs. Kathleen Hunter wishes to express her thanks to the Church for the lovely flowers brought to her in A.C.H. by Mrs Ann Wood.
An afternoon of friendship and singing with Eddie Binnie

For people with dementia and their carer (any friend or family member welcome.)
1.30-3pm last Monday of the month at Fullarton Church Hall, off Maress Roundabout, Irvine, KA12 8QJ
for further info please contact: Wilma McDonald - Tel: 01294 608219
Email wmacdonald@alzscot.org
Web:www.alzscot.org

My sincere thanks to the Fullarton Family for the lovely flowers, plants and cards I have received in recent months. My thanks also to Catherine Rennie, Christine Blair and Ann Wood for the kindness they have shown me over the years. I very much appreciate the kind thoughts.

Katy Fox

I would like to thank you for the beautiful flowers I received for my birthday. Your best wishes and kindness are much appreciated.

Charles Kilpatrick

I would like to thank the Fullarton Family for the lovely card and flowers I received for my 91st Birthday.

Margaret Fulton

Many thanks for the lovely pot plant and holder. Your prayers and kind wishes are very much appreciated.

God bless,

Mae and Andrew Blackley.

Monthly Finance Matters

The Offerings to August finished £1,455 or 2.68% ABOVE our Offerings for 2012, and better still, we were £1,661 or 0.20% ABOVE our budgeted income for 2013. This is quite remarkable, given all that is happening on the fund-raising front!

However, it is difficult to exactly compare the two figures as there was an “extra” Sunday in the first eight months of 2013.

| Offerings to 31st August, 2012 | £ 54,295 |
| Offerings to 31st August, 2013 | £ 55,750 |

Here’s a simple graph comparing our offerings for the same period over the last five years:

These figures have not been reconciled with the August Bank Statement, which was not received prior to the deadline for this month’s “CONTACT”.

Details of the miscellaneous donations received during the month (excluding fund-raising for the New Buildings) are published elsewhere in CONTACT, and we are immensely grateful for ALL of your continued support for Fullarton’s various causes and funds!

The Finance Team
Monthly Finance Matters (2)

Some of you will remember that we used to publish details of the many miscellaneous donations that arrived on our desk in a variety of ways.

When the format of “CONTACT” magazine changed earlier in the year to the smaller size, it was decided that there was insufficient room on the page to show these donations, so we stopped publishing them.

However, it seems that our readers (and we now know that we have at least one) missed this information. So, in an attempt to restore transparency, we have decided that the simple answer is to have a separate page for these figures – and here are the donations received during June, July and August:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>175th Anniversary Team</td>
<td>£ 227.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banner Fund</td>
<td>£ 5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blythswood Care</td>
<td>£ 208.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flower Fund</td>
<td>£ 109.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gideons International</td>
<td>£ 110.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heating &amp; Lighting</td>
<td>£ 557.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KSN Hospital, Sarenga</td>
<td>£ 5,400.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Leprosy Mission</td>
<td>£ 26.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life &amp; Work</td>
<td>£ 39.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ludhiana</td>
<td>£ 4.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scottish Bible Society</td>
<td>£ 20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Projects (TBA)</td>
<td>£ 185.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEAR Fund</td>
<td>£ 10.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training</td>
<td>£ 455.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These figures exclude any of the amounts received for the New Buildings - reports on fund-raising will be published or intimated separately by the Fund-raising Team.

As stated elsewhere, we remain immensely grateful for ALL of your continued support for Fullarton’s various causes and funds!

The Finance Team

Fundraising Team

Our fundraising for the future of Fullartons buildings was launched on 17 March this year. In less than 6 months we have raised £62000 and we now have 44 of our 400 members and adherents who have signed up a Standing Order. This will raise £1900 per month towards our future. This represents a response rate of 11% to the request to commit to a regular payment to help out the church. Even a small commitment of say £2 per week can really have an impact. If say 300 of us committed to £2 per week of regular giving the church would end up with £20 800 pounds more a year. Can you give up something each week which would allow you to contribute £2 to the church? It all makes a difference. The fund raising team will now be spending time in researching and applying for grants towards the project. This will be a slow process but we will inform you when we have any news on this front. As the workload for grant applications will be onerous we are delighted to be joined by Cheryl McWhirter, Ruth Cowan and David Roach who will assist with ensuring that we continue to organise some fund raising events which will incorporate some great fun and fellowship. Their fresh ideas and enthusiasm makes this an exciting time for us all at Fullarton.

Our website has now been updated and a Facebook presence established. We are seeking to create a multi purpose facility for benefit of one of the most deprived areas in Scotland and the reality is we will need the help and support of the many friends of Fullarton and friends of Irvine to achieve this. Can we encourage you to start talking to your friends and contacts about our plans. There is no advertising or marketing budget. We need your help here. So get chatting to folk and spread the word. In the meantime we would encourage you all to

1/ Pray for the Lords blessing on Fullarton
2/ Participate in the fund raising activities and start some new ones yourself to raise funds
3/ Prepare to save £2 per week towards the church

LET US NOT BECOME WEARY IN DOING GOOD FOR AT THE PROPER TIME WE WILL REAP A HARVEST IF WE DO NOT GIVE UP

Galatians 6 V 9
Alan McLaren
When they are gone they are GONE

The sponsored edition of the Fullarton Parish Church Celebration Story Book 2013 has gone. Sold out in just over 3 weeks to people from within the fellowship, to people from outside who contributed with stories and to others who have or had an association with our church.

So not only is the book gracing peoples homes in Irvine and Ayrshire, it has gone south of the border and also overseas to far flung destinations like India and Canada.

However don’t despair if you don’t have a copy the book has been reprinted and continues to be available.

If you want a copy unfortunately the price is no longer discounted. You will recall when I spoke in Church on 30th June 2013 I indicated that the initial print run was heavily sponsored.

The price now therefore reflects print production costs as well as a donation to the church fund – it is still inexpensive and I hope you will agree it will still represent great value for money as well as give you the sure knowledge that as the buyer you will be contributing to the Church Development Fund.

If you have a copy of your own, have you thought of buying one for someone else? Another member of the church who perhaps cannot afford to buy one for themselves? A friend or family member who lives out of the area? Someone with past connections with the church who might appreciate a gift and the memories that comes with it?

There have been books bought for others from amongst our membership but even now there remain some members and contributors who have been unable to buy for themselves. For example, some younger and some older members of our church who do not have the means to buy a copy for themselves.

If you feel you would like to buy a book as a gift in this way I am aware of a small number of people who might appreciate your gesture - just let me know and together we can set something up.
Orders can be placed through Teresa, the Church Secretary, on

Tel: 01294 273741 or Email: secretary@fullartonchurch.co.uk

Alternatively you can contact me direct

Roy Martin, 1 Williamfield Park, Irvine, KA12 8SG

Tel: 01294 650720 or Email: rhmpersonnelpro@aol.com

In closing, I would like you to know that I am redrafting the book slightly for the New Year and am looking for around 12 new stories to add to the existing ones. The book will be re-titled and will remain as a fundraising feature on the church website. So if you have a story you want to include then please let me know as soon as possible and together we will get your story into the revised edition of our church’s book.

Roy Martin

Fundraising Team:
Ray Mclaughlin - ray.mclaughlin1@googlemail.com - Tel 01294 276414.
Kenny Hankinson - klac.hankinson@tiscali.co.uk - Tel 01294 553674.
Alan McLaren - 77 Stevenson Road, Kilwinning KA13 6LL - Tel 01294 557600.

Do you have a favourite recipe? The fund raising team are planning to compile a recipe book in time for Christmas. If you would like to share your recipe please either email me or pass it to me at church on Sundays.
ray.mclaughlin1@googlemail.com

Fullarton Guild
restarts Monday 7th October 2013
Opening and dedication – 7pm for 7.15pm

ALL WELCOME!

THE THINNER
There was a Scottish tradesman, a painter called Jack, who was very interested in making a pound where he could. So he often would thin down his paint to make it go a wee bit further. As it happened, he got away with this for some time. Eventually the Presbyterian Church decided to do a big restoration job on one of their biggest churches. Jack put in a painting bid and because his price was so competitive, he got the job. And so he set to, with a right good will, erecting the trestles and putting up the planks, and buying the paint and...yes, I am sorry to say, thinning it down with the turpentine. Well, Jack was up on the scaffolding, painting away, the job nearly done, when suddenly there was a horrendous clap of thunder. The sky opened and the rain poured down, washing the thin paint from all over the church and knocking Jack fair off the scaffold to land on the lawn.
Now, Jack was no fool. He knew this was a judgement from the Almighty, so he fell on his knees and cried, "Oh, God! Forgive me! What should I do?" And from the thunder, a mighty Voice spoke, "Repaint you thinner, And go and thin no more!"
We are almost at the beginning of a new session and are looking forward to welcoming friends old and new. As we do so we can update on our Annual General Meeting which was held after the print deadline for the final Contact in June.

On 29th May 2013 we met in Fullarton hall for the 56th Annual General Meeting of the Action Group. Sadly the numbers attending were a bit disappointing with only a handful of our committee and supporters present. The meeting chaired by the minister commenced and items from the agenda were reported on and discussed and in particular, concern was raised at the falling numbers attending the dinners. Several suggestions were put forward as to how the numbers might be increased and these will be looked into.

As the meeting progressed the President’s Report was read out with Mrs McWhirter intimating at the end that she regrettably would have to resign from the committee. Her resignation was accepted with regret and she was thanked for her work with the Action Group. Unfortunately when proposals for a new president were sought we were unsuccessful and it was therefore agreed to leave the post unfilled for the time being. The rest of the committee remains as before:

Treasurer: Jennifer Drysdale, Secretary: Janice Burns, Entertainment Convener: Pam Gibson, Car Convener: May Elliott, Invitations Convener: Alistair Graham.

The dates for the dinners are: 26/10/13, 07/12/13, 01/02/14, 15/03/14, 26/04/14.

We are, as always, extremely grateful to all who help throughout the year. We are fortunate in having a willing band of drivers, invitation deliverers, servers and dish washers however we would welcome any additional help if you can spare a few hours five Saturdays in the year.
Before launching into the new century let us pause for a moment and re-cap on some of the happenings which have brought us to this point in time. Fullarton in the early 1800’s had no Church of its own but came under the Parish Church of Dunedonald which was almost five miles away. Being a thriving port with various industries within its boundaries there were those who felt that a church of its own was now necessary. Meetings were held with and financial support offered by, among others, Lord Eglinton, the Duke of Portland and various other local dignitaries and soon plans were made for the erection of a building which was opened in 1838 under the ministry of the Rev. David Wilson. This was followed soon after by the building, and opening, of the Church School which was financed by a gift of £500 from the estate of the late Dr. Andrew Bell. The Church was not long in existence when the Disruption in the Church of Scotland took place and the Rev. David Wilson and most of the congregation walked out to form a branch of the Free Church of Scotland. After being closed for almost two years the Church reopened in 1844 and a new minister was inducted in 1845.

From then on the Church progressed under various ministers with the number of communicants increasing and various organisations being formed. However, financially the situation was rather different with a number of fundraising schemes in operation over the years to supplement the weekly offerings just to afford the payment of salaries and attend to day to day running costs. It was not until 1884, with the help of the income from a four day Bazaar, that sufficient funds were available, together with a £500 bank loan, to build the manse which had been planned for a number of years. As the new century opened the Rev. J. Paton took ill and money had to be raised for the employment of an Assistant and the Rev. Charles Stephen was appointed on a six month contract, which had to be extended until Mr Paton returned in June 1902. However his stay was short lived and he had to retire in December of that year. Shortly before his retrial meetings were held and plans put forward to discuss ways to raise funds to clear the debt still outstanding on the Manse and for the erection of a Church Hall. However it was not until February 1907 that the Hall was completed and opened. As in the case of the Manse it was decided that the holding of a bazaar would be the main source of raising the necessary finance and this was held over three days in the Institute Hall in December 1905 and opened by the Countess of Eglinton & Winton on the 21st.

As in the case of the Manse it was decided that the holding of a bazaar would be the main source of raising the necessary finance and this was held over three days in the Institute Hall in December 1905 and opened by the Countess of Eglinton & Winton on the 21st. There were 7 stalls selling a variety of goods and 120 members of the congregation were employed as stallholders and assistants from 2pm until 10pm each day. In addition to the bazaar various other methods of fundraising such as a Chamber Concert held in the Institute Hall, a Grand Concert held in the Parish Hall in the Kirkgate and two raffles all of which, together with various donations, raised the princely sum of £1030.

Before the building of the hall the Ordination and Induction had taken place of Rev. John Paterson B.D. who was to spend his entire ministry of 34 years in Fullarton Church. He came to Irvine from Greenock where he was assistant at the South Parish Church. He was an able preacher and a gifted organiser who built up a large congregation and became a friend as well as minister to members of his congregation. He was a special favourite of the young folks and a regular visitor to the aged. After studying at Glasgow University, where he was a member of the University football team, he assisted Airdrieonians, the football team of his native town, and was one of a trio which helped to take Airdrie into the First Division of the Scottish League. In addition to the duties involved as Minister of Fullarton he also took an interest in various aspects of life in Irvine. He was the pioneer of the Church Social Club Movement in the town and through his interest in education he became a member of the Irvine Burgh School Board and was eventually elected chairman of that body. He was also President for a term of the Irvine Burns Club and took a keen interest in the Incorporated Trades of Irvine. Towards the end of the 1914-18 war he served in France as a Chaplain to the forces and on his return to Irvine was one of those who formed the Irvine Branch of the British Legion.

After the induction of the new minister plans to build a hall were again put forward and agreed at a quoted price of £753. Work commenced in 1906 and the hall opened in February 1907. The Minister’s salary at this time varied from year to year depending what was left after other expenses had been met. For example, at the beginning of Mr Paterson’s ministry his salary amounted to £95 with an additional £25 received from the Ferguson Bequest and £120 from an Endowment. In 1933, however the Board agreed that a fixed sum of £400, including the endowment, should be paid which meant that the congregation had to find an amount of £280 each year. A considerable increase in income took place due in many ways to the increase in the number of new members during Mr Paterson’s ministry, both in the number of new communicants and those joining by certificate from other churches. In December 1919, for instance, 68 new members joined, 44 as new communicants and 24 by
The Church Officer for many years was Charles McGilvray who had come to Irvine from Skye to work on the railway. He was always Immaculately dressed in striped trousers, swallow tailed coat, stiff white shirt and collar and white bow-tie. He was never hurried and always on time, with his watch in hand waiting to ring the bell at 8am on a Sunday morning to waken Fullarton folk. Again at 10am the bell was rung to let them know it was time to dress for Church and again at 10-45am to tell them it was time to be on their way. When he carried the Bible up to the pulpit at 11am, as neat as if he had just come out of a band-box, it was hard to believe that he had been at work in the boiler house hours before and also in the dusty bell tower on three occasions beforehand. On his retirial, after the death of his wife, in 1935 after 35 years service the Board awarded him a pension of £5 per annum.

TWO LITTLE BOYS
A couple had two little boys, ages 8 and 10, who were excessively mischievous. The two were always getting into trouble and their parents could be assured that if any mischief occurred in their town their two young sons were in some way involved.

The parents were at their wits end as to what to do about their sons' behaviour. The mother had heard that a clergyman in town had been successful in disciplining children in the past, so she asked her husband if he thought they should send the boys to speak with the clergyman.

The husband said, "We might as well. We need to do something before I really lose my temper!" The clergyman agreed to speak with the boys, but asked to see them individually. The 8 year old went to meet with him first. The clergyman sat the boy down and asked him sternly, "Where is God?" The boy made no response, so the clergyman repeated the question in an even sterner tone, "Where is God?" Again the boy made no attempt to answer. So the clergyman raised his voice even more and shook his finger in the boy's face, "WHERE IS GOD?" At that the boy bolted from the room and ran directly home, slamming himself in the closet. His older brother followed him into the closet and asked what had happened. The younger brother replied, "We are in BIG trouble this time. God is missing and they think we did it."