

The Lych Gate

The Newsletter of St Machar's Ranfurly Church



June 2024

Volume 26 Issue 2



FROM THE MINISTER

Everything changes

The beauty of where we live are the changing seasons bringing constant change to trees and vegetation. As I'm writing in the middle of May, the leaves on the trees are their absolute freshest green and there is an abundance of white blossom, as well as exuberant yellow from the gorse bushes. Walking our dogs through the fields and woods, especially on a warm day, a heady mixture of sweet scent fills our human and canine noses.

Not knowing if I will still live here and walk here next, adds a certain poignancy to the experience. You might think it would spoil the experience, and make me sad or melancholic, but actually, I have found, it doesn't. It makes me

keener to drink in the sights and sounds, and enjoy the moment. Being in the church, especially the sanctuary, is a similar experience. I'm aware that I won't be here as your minister forever and, more importantly, that the building won't be in use as it is now for an indefinite amount of years. The latter is sad, and will be a loss and a sadness to many of you, even if it is inevitable. However, it can also add a certain urgency to make the most of this beautiful space that we have just now, come, experience it, enjoy Sunday worship, fellowship, and other events within its walls. The knowledge that nothing lasts forever, can add meaning and significance to the present moment, for this is all we have,

now.

I believe that making the most of the present, and appreciating it fully in light of its impermanence, will help us to move into a new future. We don't have to deny or ignore feelings of loss or sadness, but there lies an invitation for all of us to enjoy the present, give thanks for the past and dream of a future yet to take shape.

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:

*a time to tear down and a time to build,
a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
(Ecclesiastes 3:1, 3b-4)*

Yours
Hanneke



On Sunday 31st March we said farewell and thank you to Stuart Wilson who had been with us for 6 months as a ministries training candidate for the Church of Scotland. He and his family—particularly Levon! - will be much missed.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2024



A big **THANK YOU** to everyone who helped with Christian Aid Week.

Everyone who helped deliver the envelopes and, of course, everyone who kindly donated either in cash or through the dedicated Bridge of Weir "e-envelope" for online giving.

To date, the magnificent sum of £5,800 has been raised for Christian Aid's vital work amongst some of the poorest communities in the world.

Hopefully the final figure will be somewhat higher.

The Terrace lunch club is kindly using its event on 31st May as a further fundraiser for Christian Aid.

The "e-envelope" for online giving will also remain open for donations for another few weeks. So, if you've been meaning to support but haven't quite got round to it yet, please go to:

<https://fundraise.christianaid.org.uk/envelope-2024/bridge-of-weir>

or scan this QR code:



All donations through this dedicated Bridge of Weir "e-envelope" go straight to Christian Aid but are also credited to Bridge of Weir's fundraising efforts.

Thank you.

Dave Macdonald

Good Friday Worship

*Pictures
From
Easter
Weekend*



*Sunday Worship
In The Park*

QUIZ - NAME THE SPORT

		Answer
1	Used when baking	
2	Mixture of raw gut	
3	Unravel Glen's writ	
4	William with one on a way south	
5	Sell ABBA when mixed up	
6	The French go over east	
7	Rebuild hit castle	
8	A smaller VW	
9	Could be orange?	
10	Probably round your garden	

March Quiz Answers:

1. Kelvinside 2. Broomhill 3. Bridgeton 4. Blackhill 5. Blochairn
6. Springburn 7. Govan 8. Langside 9. Shawlands 10. Battlefield

Helen Bullen

BOYS BRIGADE



Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association May 24

On Friday 10th May our company celebrated our end of session Display. This was a great opportunity for all the company to come together and celebrate the preceding year and look forward to the next session. There were games with parent participation, marching, a colour party with bagpipe accompaniment and a slideshow review of the year. We also acknowledged achievements in all our sections.



We were delighted to have the presbytery clerk, Robbie Hamilton, as our special guest for the evening and to present the awards and prizes. Robbie was involved for many years with the BB as a boy, a leader and a chaplain. Special congratulations to Johnny Watson and Rory McKee who received the Queen's badge which is the highest award in the Boys' Brigade. They were the last to receive the Queen's badge as it will be renamed the King's badge from next year. Charles III has agreed to become our new patron.

But the activities don't stop entirely over the summer. We will have a group of seven doing the Bronze DofE 2-day expedition and a group of five doing the three-day Silver DofE / King's badge expedition. Also, the church garden team are helping to coordinate a sunflower growing challenge involving many of our young people. Watch out in the church garden for progress!

Thanks
Brian Logie

DREAMFLIGHT

DREAMFLIGHT, (www.dreamflight.org) founded in 1987, is a charity which takes 192 children with serious and life affecting illnesses on a medically supported ten day holiday to the Theme Parks of Florida every October. To date, almost 7,000 deserving young people have benefited from this trip, bearing out our motto, "Changing Lives". To support DREAMFLIGHT please attend the coffee morning in Freeland Hall on Saturday 15th June between 10am and 12 noon.

For more information, please contact Muriel on 07925054642 or Linzi on 07873828514.

1ST BRIDGE OF WEIR GUIDES (WEDNESDAY GUIDES)

We have had another action-packed term at Guides this year. In March we enjoyed a trip to the Apple shop in Braehead for a workshop. Our workshop topic was 'Make a Theme song'. Each girl was given an iPad and a pair of ear phones and with guidance from a member of the Apple Team had to create a theme song for their own made up show using GarageBand, a music app. Everyone enjoyed the workshop so we will definitely be back!



Our first night back after Easter fell on National Banana Day! We had a fun-filled evening celebrating everything bananas. We then started working on the new Girlguiding Scotland Out and About Challenge – Grow and Explore. Already we've tried making our own butter and the same evening we made 'Lemonade Scones' to try it with. We are also trying to grow our own potatoes in a bucket.

Over the weekend 10th -12th May, 18 Guides attended Girlguiding Renfrewshire's 2024 County Camp – Guides go Wild. Nearly 120 Guides were at South Newton, the County Camping and Training Centre, and many saw the spectacular Northern Lights on the Friday evening. We had a wonderful, sunny weekend enjoying activities such as Tomahawk throwing, archery, a climbing wall, branding over an open fire and crafts. In the afternoon we had a visit from 'Wild Science' and the Guides were able to meet up close snakes, spiders and a ferret, to name just a few. Of course, we also had s'mores after some campfire singing. All returned home on Sunday tired but had lots fun and made lots of new friends.



We will continue over the coming weeks until the end of term with a Treasure Hunt around Bridge of Weir, games and activities in The Glen, a cycle run to Kilmacolm and back and another visit to South Newton. We will finish the term with an activity evening at Lapwing Lodge Scout Activity Centre in mid-June.

As usual the District Leaders will be running the tea tent at Bridge of Weir Gala Day on Saturday 8th June. Please come along and enjoy a cuppa and a cake and support Girlguiding.

Christine Haddock
Guide Leader



QUIZ NIGHT



On 20th April, around 50 people enjoyed a quiz night in the hall. As well as being fun-filled and full of laughter, the little grey cells were well exercised! The picture shows the winning team, who won the much-coveted prize of..... chocolate! The Fundraising committee would like to thank all those who took part, donated raffle prizes, or helped in any other way. Due to the generosity of everyone concerned, the grand sum of £445 was raised for Church funds

2ND BRIDGE OF WEIR GUIDES (TUESDAY GUIDES) & STRATHGRYFFE RANGERS



I wonder if it has something to do with age, but as the days have been lengthening the time seems to have been shortening and the year to date is flying. Perhaps it could also be to do with keeping busy.

We had a Sunday afternoon at South Newton tomahawk throwing and pioneering with mixed results; it certainly wasn't as easy as it looked. We had an afternoon checking all our camping equipment. The girls found our canvas ridge tent from years ago but decided after putting it up that sewn in groundsheets and lighter tents were the easier option. Both Guides and Rangers held a joint camp under canvas in Ayrshire on a blustery and wet weekend, where the girls' pioneering skills were tested and the importance of correct knots for a specific task were realised. It was interesting to see the girls concentration when it was realised that any old knot wouldn't necessarily work! Fortunately those who slept in hammocks slung between the trees had a successful dry and cosy night's sleep despite the torrential rain. It must have been OK as they have requested to do it again!

Since the Easter break we have had been busy working towards the Silver and Gold Guide awards. The Rangers had an evening cooking in the church carpark using Trangias. It was a practice for the girls who are working towards their Dof E Award. They have since completed their first overnight expedition.

Both the Guides and Ranger along with others were involved with helping at a fundraising tea party in Houston to raise funds for a little girl who has CDKL5 Disorder and needs specialist care and equipment. The Guides have been discussing the state of the Nation, what our MPs do for us and putting forward proposals on how they would like to see our lives be run. They are learning about debating and how they think life could be improved.

The Rangers have recently had an escape room experience in Glasgow. It must have been a success as they all made the train home. Last Sunday we spent the day 'jumping' on and off the Open-top Tour Bus. We spent time wandering at The Barras, Glasgow Green and walked to see the very impressive newly refurbished fountain which was built for Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in front of the People's Palace which sadly wasn't open for visitors. We had lunch in MacDonalds at St Enoch's before hopping back on the bus and eventually alighting at Kelvingrove Art Gallery in time for the Sunday afternoon organ recital. The girls had free time to wander. We had a walk through the park with an ice cream before getting back on the bus to George Square.

Moira Johnston

PROGRESS TO UNION

After a bit of an impasse, the kirk session has had a conversation with our presbytery facilitators (Very Rev Dr Lorna Hood and Rev Eleanor McMahon) and put forward six delegates to a joint steering group. They have had a first meeting early May, led by Lorna Hood and with both ministers present. This was a very positive meeting and our mutual concerns and hopes were discussed and some solutions to address these put forward. Both kirk sessions will now be asked to approve that the joint steering group meets again in June and devises a process to come up with a new name for the future

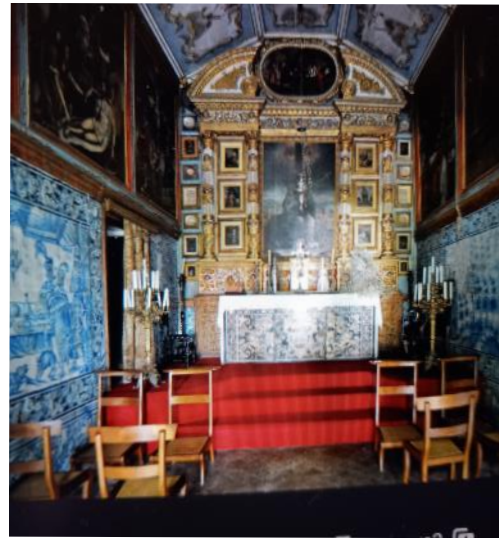
united congregation. It was felt that finding a new name together might help focus us all on a joint future that will be a new start for both congregations. Another suggestion that will be discussed is the idea to put together small mixed groups (a car load!) to go and visit other churches which are examples of good practice in the area of building development/adaptations; successful unions; and church growth. If you would be interested to take part in this, please let the session clerk or minister know. It has also been agreed to join again for Holy Communion, the first being

2nd of June to be held at St Machar's Ranfurly Church at 10:30am. During the summer holidays we will share in worship by worshipping together at Freeland on 30th June, 7th and 14th July, and in St Machar's Ranfurly on 21st, 28th July and 4th August. On the 11th August we are planning a joint all age outdoor service at Freeland Carpark (weather permitting) to finish off the Summer Drop In and other activities. I hope these joint services (as they have done already) will provide opportunities to mingle, get to know one another and enjoy worshipping together.

Hanneke

CHURCHES OF THE WORLD

Chapel of St Catherine - Funchal Madeira



During a walking tour around Funchal I came across this charming little chapel. It dates back to the 15th century and was originally built in wood. Then in the 16th century the current stone chapel was built. It is thought that it was founded by Constance Rodriques who was the wife of one of the earliest explorers who settled on the island. It is an essential part of Funchal's cultural and historical heritage.

Helen Bullen

JUNIOR CHOIR



This has been a busy year for our Junior Choir. We have had roughly a dozen children with us through the year and in addition to our usual termly performances have performed at the Christmas Music Service, Water of Life all-age Service, Easter Assembly at Bridge of Weir Primary School and our term will end with a performance as part of the Bridge of Weir Gala Concert. It has been wonderful to see the children coming so regularly and loyally to our rehearsals and events whilst continuing integrating the

Junior Choir into our Church Family. Our mascot, Machar, has proven to be a big hit with the children. Each week he goes home with one of the children and seems to enjoy a multitude of parties, gymnastic classes, football coaching sessions, trips to school and playing with other teddies. The children are always anxious to know who gets to take him home and have some adventures with him! He attended the Easter Assembly and was proud to be given a Positive Note certificate which he accepted on behalf of the Junior Choir for their participation in the assembly.



The children have enjoyed having Evelyn Watson alongside me at the

weekly rehearsals. Evelyn enjoys accompanying the children, and we've been able to give them experience of conducting the choir – they've learnt how to beat 2, 3 and 4 beats in the bar! Some have also assisted her with the accompanying too! I fear for my job! The children also lead the weekly vocal warm-ups. The skills they are learning at the Junior Choir I hope set them up for a life-time of music making. They are a joy to work with and I always look forward to the rehearsals very much. They come armed with a number of questions about music, the lyrics, even some deep theological questions too. Whilst they are about to break for the summer holiday, and Machar heads off for his summer spa, I'll be thinking of what the next term has in store. Rehearsals resume for children in the P.3. – P.7. age group at 4.15 p.m. on Thursday 29 August.

Ian Munro

FROM THE ORGAN LOFT



There are many times I feel myself at odds as it were with the Church of Scotland. Its current act of vandalism in closing churches is one thing, but even in terms of its liturgy it can leave me, at times, feeling cold. I find the music tradition of the Church of Scotland somewhat lacking, disappointing and a bit flat. If you look at the rich musical heritage, say of the Roman Catholic Church, Church of England or even the early Lutheran traditions and compare it to what we have in the Church of Scotland, it can feel more than a little underwhelming, if not embarrassing. Anthems, motets, mass settings originally composed for religious services of the Catholic or Anglican churches are now staple diets of choral societies right across the globe; Bach cantatas, passions and masses written for Sunday services and other church occasions, are frequently performed in the Concert Hall too. Candidates sitting Higher Music exams are meant to know the order of the Mass and be familiar with the text in it. Yet what music has the Church of Scotland provided which is familiar, celebrated, or even widely performed the world over? Answers on a postcard. A recent BBC Radio 3 series explored the theme of "Is Britain a Land Without Music", quoting German music critic Oscar Schmitz in 1904, compared his observations then to where the UK is now. The church wasn't particularly focussed on, but it would be totally wrong to say the Church of Scotland is without music and my argument is starting to wither. We may be struggling to find a musical idiom which is unique to the

Church of Scotland, but it doesn't mean what is on offer is worthless, of poor quality or even embarrassing! There are many choirs, musicians, worship leaders the country over who have so many valuable skills and offer so much to enhance worship on a Sunday morning. The music offered here, at St. Machar's, covers all sorts of repertoire from across the Christian faith: Taize, Mormon, Catholic, Episcopalian, Spirituals, light evangelical music, and even Scotland's John Bell who is about as close as a music tradition the Church of Scotland has to call its own gets an airing! It all adds to the rich tapestry of a service! Churches rely on music to serve as mission. One organist says "do something with kids, and it brings their parents in". Many musical groups rely on churches to provide concert venues and rehearsal spaces, many churches provide musicians (young and old) of their first musical experiences, and musical training. Involving musicians in the musical life of the church is one way to get more people in – whether that is asking a musical group to accompany a service or join in an event. It is an easy way of opening the church for more people. Whilst the Church of Scotland may not have a musical tradition it can really call its own, it can, and does, certainly make up for it by offering musicians of any age or stage valuable opportunities to learn about music, participate in music and learn the value of being part of a wider church community. Music is an excellent way as well of helping people develop their faith. Sometimes there are words "God" for example, or a biblical text/story used in a piece of music which can heighten someone's interest and a conversation can be had. Members of both choirs here often ask me what the text means, what the story is about, if a character was good or bad, what happened next etc. The more we rehearse the music, the more the words sink in and we embark on our own spiritual journeys of what the music/words mean and set off on an

even closer walk with God! Perhaps not having our own musical tradition, per se, is a good thing! We can pinch from many others and embark on our own unique faith journey. Perhaps this is something, after 10+ years as an organist for Church of Scotland churches I need to come to terms with, as I struggle to think of anything radical or satisfying which could be created or inserted into a Church of Scotland service which we don't already have. In my own music choices, I try, as far as possible to match the choice of music with the Liturgical season: more sombre for Lent, positive and uplifting for Easter, Ascension and Pentecost, Advent music during Advent, Christmas at Christmas and so on. There is a time and a place for everything. I may have, inadvertently, just destroyed my own argument. However, I do remain fearful of the future of the church, and yes, I do firmly believe the Church of Scotland has failed to properly consider the Missional aspect of its churches as it wields their axe. The Church of Scotland may not have its own distinct musical idiom, but yet, music can be used to grow congregations, grow their faith, grow their interest in faith, create communities, bind people together, as well as developing and nurturing future generations of musicians. I really hope those making these appalling and senseless decisions really know what they are doing and what they are at risk of losing.

Ian Munro



SILENT RETREAT



At the end of April I went on a two day silent retreat at the Bield at Blackrutven, a Christian retreat centre. I had been to the Bield before, but never on a silent retreat. It is a lovely place, with comfortable rooms in former farm steadings on a beautiful estate, including a gorgeous walled garden. I was lucky with the weather as it was glorious and warm enough to sit in the sun. I had wanted to do a silent retreat for some time, but was also a bit apprehensive what to expect, being very much the chatty extrovert who likes meeting new people and so on.

There were other groups present at the time but only one other lady was also on the silent retreat. Apart from the introduction at the start of day one, I didn't speak to her, which was the point but kind of strange! We did have guide or spiritual accompanier who explained what would happen during the two days and we were each able to have a one to one session on both days to talk about our experiences and reflections on the retreat.

We were encourage to really slow down and notice how we were physically feeling, go for a walk, but do it slowly, go for a swim but do it with attention and so forth. During mealtimes we sat together but in silence. The first thing I noticed (after initial awkwardness of feeling like I was being impolite) was how good the food tasted and how all my attention was able to go to that! The not speaking and not having to do anything became quite liberating, it was an opportunity to really go inwards and pay attention to my own feelings, needs and desires. On

the first day I did a slow leisurely walk over the terrain, around the gardens and through some woods. What was the strangest thing was that I was yawning by 12 o'clock, even though I hadn't felt tired going to the retreat that morning. I was absolutely exhausted and after lunch I just lay on my bed for a while and didn't feel like doing anything. I had my session with the spiritual accompanier and then again did very little other than sit in the sun. I noticed how difficult I find it to give myself permission to sit and do nothing, when others around me are doing things – this in parallel with remaining quiet and not speaking when others around me are having a conversation or discussion! The urge to do or speak is really coming from the same place, but I discovered I am not always needed in the way that I think I am, and it's actually fine not to jump into the activity or the conversation but 'zone out'.

Although I had brought art materials, the first day I really didn't feel like doing anything, which made the first evening a bit of a challenge as I was too tired to read, but would have fancied watching a film or something but that wasn't possible. The second day I felt more energised and after a short swim I decided to head to the art room and start a painting. I picked an image that resonated with the feelings and thoughts of the retreat, which is a mural that is in the Strathclyde University area of London (St Enoch and St Mungo by Sam Bates). At the end of the afternoon I had another conversation with the spiritual accompanier to reflect on my experiences and how they connect to my relationship with God. Unfortunately, I had to go home that evening, it would have been nice to stay another night before coming out of the retreat, but the drive home gave some time for 'decompression'.

Although the thought of a silent retreat had been intimidating, I did actually enjoy it and I think I would do it again, maybe longer. It really provides a chance to come away from everything else external and focus on what is going on inside you. It can also be confronting for that reason, but definitely worthwhile.

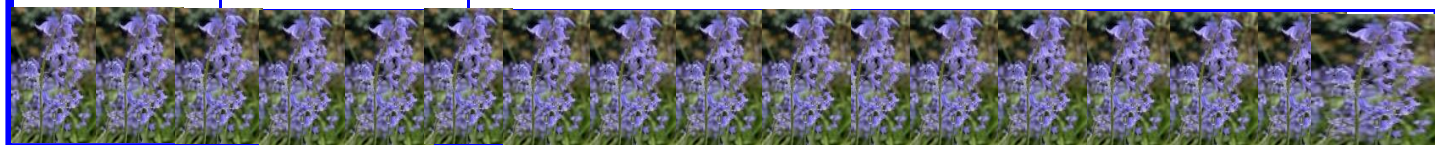
The Bield is a lovely place to be, and they offer a range of organised events and retreats, but you can also just go there yourself for a day or a few nights. It is not just for ministers or Christian 'professionals', I would very much recommend you check out what they offer and try it for yourself.

www.bieldatblackrutven.org.uk

Hanneke

BRIDGE OF WEIR CHURCHES ACTIVITIES

		June Activities
Saturday	8th June	Gala Day - Children's obstacle course at the Park
Sunday	9th June 4.00 pm	Gala Concert - St. Machar's Ranfurly Church
Friday -Sunday	28th to 30th June	Holiday Club - Freeland Church Hall
Tuesday	25th June 11 am	Freemachars Mens Club - visit to New Lanark Village
		July Activities
Friday(s)	5th, 12th, 19th, 26th July 10 —12 noon	Summer Drop-in - St. Machar's Ranfurly Church Hall
Friday -Sunday	26th to 28th July	Holiday Club - Freeland Church Hall
Tuesday	30th July - 11 am	Freemachars Mens Club—visit to Giffnock Newton Mearns Synagogue
		August Activities
Friday(s)	2nd, 9th, 16th Aug 10- 12 noon	Summer Drop-in - St. Machar's Ranfurly Church Hall
Tuesday	27th - 11.00 am	Freemachars Mens Club—Visit to Dumfries House (Cumnock)



WORSHIP

Date	Service	Beadle/Reader
June 09 10.30 am	Morning Service	Bill Christie
09 4.00 pm	Gala Concert	n/a
16 10.30 am	Morning Service	David Macdonald
23 10.30 am	Morning service	Helen Bullen
30 10.30 am	Joint Morning Service in Freeland Church	n/a
July 07 10.30 am	Joint Morning Service in Freeland Church	n/a
14 10.30 am	Joint Morning Service in Freeland Church	n/a
21 10.30 am	Joint Morning Service in St. Machar's Ranfurly	Margaret Richardson
28 10.30 am	Joint Morning Service in St. Machar's Ranfurly	Ann Hart
August 04 10.30 am	Joint Morning Service in St. Machar's Ranfurly	Greg Miller
11 10.30 am	Joint OUTDOOR Morning Service in Freeland Car Park (Weather permitting)	n/a
18 10.30 am	Morning Service	Bill Robb
25 10.30 am	Morning Service - All Age Service — in Church Hall	n/a
September 01 10.30 am	Morning Service	Dick Hughes
08 10.30 am	Morning Service - All Age Service — in Church	Philip McCulloch

NOTICES



Terrace Summer Drop-In is back!

Fridays 10-12



Starts July 5th

Change of address for the Treasurer

Francis Hancock

7 Netherburn Gardens

Houston

Renfrewshire

PA6 7NG

Funerals



Jesus said

"I am the Resurrection
and the Life"

Rosemary (Jessie) Reed

18th April 2024

*

Captain Noah and His Floating Zoo
Michael Flanders & Joseph Berkeley

BoW Gala

CONCERT

9TH JUNE
4PM

with assembled choir
Free, collection for St Machar's
Ranfurly Church and Christian Aid

Fund Raising Programme

- Flat near St Andrews available for short breaks. If interested contact Morven.
- Bearsden Fiddlers on Sunday 17th November .

Airport runs

If you are fortunate enough to be planning/ getting ready to go on holiday, please remember that the Fundraising Committee can organise runs to the airport or Johnstone station, for a donation to Church funds. How nice to be picked up by a friendly person whom you know.
Contact Morven 07887771522 or Jane 07580040186

COFFEE MORNING
10AM - 12 MIDDAY

www.dreamflight.org

FREELAND CHURCH HALL
SATURDAY 15TH JUNE 2024

General Assembly

The Moderator, the Very Rev Dr. Shaw Paterson thanks the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby after his address to the Assembly with the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh watching on from the gallery.



CONTACTS

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Tel: 01505 **612975**



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33 St Andrews Drive,
Bridge of Weir,
PA11 3HT

Tel: 01505 **612417**

ROTAS

Date	Welcome	
June 09	Norma Hancock	Dennis Taylor
16	Mary Taylor	Elizabeth Lyle
23	Bill Christie	Anne Yeaman
30	Freeland Church	Morven McLeod
July 07	Freeland Church	Agnes McKechan
14	Freeland Church	Norma Hancock
21	Philip McCulloch	Scott McLaughlin
28	Sarah McNaught	Bill Robb
August 04	Jennie Durward	Alan Durward
11	Mary Taylor	Dennis Taylor
18	Margaret Richardson	Anne Allen
25	Bill Christie	Ann Hart
September 01	Philip McCulloch	Scott McLaughlin
08	Norma Hancock	Ann Yeaman

Date	Flowers	Flower Delivery	Date	Flowers	Flower Delivery
June 09	Anne Porrelli	Anne Porrelli	July 28	Jane Stirling	Jane Stirling
16	Ian Hales	Anne Yeaman	August 04	Jennie Durward	Jennie Durward
23	Anne Yeaman	Anne Yeaman	11	n/a	
30	n/a		18	Anne Allen	Anne Allen
July 7	n/a		25	Flower Fund	Ann Hart
14	n/a		September 01	Mary Taylor	Mary Taylor
21	Norma Hancock	Norma Hancock	08	Norma Hancock	Norma Hancock

Editorial Team:
Dennis Taylor , Mary Taylor
Marion Reid

Contributions for the next issue of *The Lych Gate* should be with the Editor by **Tuesday 13h August 2024**.
Please E-mail to: dennis1taylor@msn.com or pass memory sticks or paper copies to Dennis Taylor.