

# MAGAZINE

## OF MUIRKIRK PARISH CHURCH

### OF SCOTLAND



*Autumn 2021*

*Registered as a Scottish Charity*

*No. SC010606*

## ***A word of welcome from our new locum minister***

In recent weeks, as more restrictions have been removed, we have been permitted to sing together again. I have heard from many how glad they are to be able to do so. Like a great many things, you may fail to truly appreciate how much something means to you until it is no longer there. Not being a very good singer and having no talent for music, I must admit I do not always appreciate the “singing part” of the service. It was usually more of a ritual for me than an act of worship. If I am honest there are still times when it is just singing words I don’t think about.

Before I go on, let me express my thanks to Colin and those who have worked so hard to provide us with recorded singing and music each week, and now of course Sylvia for playing “live music”. I want sincerely to express my appreciation for all their hard work!

From the example of the Israelites praising God together after the parting of the sea in Exodus, to the vision of people of every tribe and language praising God around the throne in Revelation, the Bible is full of examples of God’s people coming together to sing His praises. There is even, of course, a whole book of Psalms, hymns recorded to be sung together found in the middle of our Bibles.

There are many types and styles of music that can be used to praise God, Paul for example speaks of psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Often division can take place over the style and tempo of the music, some saying it should be slow and sombre, others that it should be livelier. I think you find examples of both in Scripture, just in the life of David for example you have psalms that seem more formal, and you also have him dancing in the streets when bringing the ark to Jerusalem. The key is found in the same passage of Ephesians where Paul mentioned the different types of singing (Ephesians 5:19-20), we are to

make music in our hearts to God, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything. That means that whatever style you prefer the important thing is that we are praising God from our hearts. I hope we can gather together in ever increasing numbers and worship through song and hearing and studying His Word.

With every blessing,  
Your locum minister, Scott Daily

-----

This great hymn of praise has been with us for about 200 years. Its truths are still the same, for our God is an everlasting God. Isaiah 40.28

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;  
Thy justice like mountains, high soaring above  
Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all, life Thou givest, to both great and small;  
in all life Thou livest, the True Life of all;  
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,  
and wither and perish, but naught changeth Thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,  
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight.  
All praise we would render: O help us to see  
'tis only the splendour of light hideth Thee.

Walter Chalmers Smith

## **ACT NOW or LOSE OUR CHURCH**

By the time you read this, a very important meeting with the Presbytery of Ayr will have taken place. Presbytery must determine the future for all their churches, and on 31st August the future for those within our own area 'grouping' takes a step forward. These 'groupings' are being introduced to all churches, and will bring unification of congregations. Our own area grouping includes seven Church of Scotland churches in Auchinleck, Catrine, Cumnock (x2), New Cumnock, Lugar and Muirkirk.

The details of which changes this unification will mean is uncertain at the time of writing, but change is inevitable and a necessary cost-cutting measure. The allocation of ministers is one major issue for discussion, while viability of church buildings is another.

### **So, what does this mean for Muirkirk Parish Church?**

If you're not familiar with it, please read 2 Kings, Chapter 4, the story of The Widow's Oils. Here, we learn how the prophet, Elisha, assists a widow by miracle, and yet he also demonstrates a considerate way to help those in distress. We are often keen to help others through giving, but it is much harder to receive. Elisha understands this, and helps the poor widow to act wisely, using whatever resources she has (a small jar of olive oil) to improve her situation.

This is precisely where we are with our own church. We have this resource, but the threat of closure hangs in the balance. It is now up to us to use whatever resources we have to improve our situation.

The time for talking is over. In James 2: 14-17 it states: <sup>14</sup>My brothers and sisters, what good is it for people to say that they have faith if their actions do not prove it? Can that faith save them? <sup>15</sup>Suppose there are brothers or sisters who need clothes and don't have enough to eat. <sup>16</sup>What good is there in your saying to them, 'God bless you! Keep warm and eat well!' - if you don't give them the necessities of life? <sup>17</sup>So it is with faith: if it is alone and includes no actions, then it is dead.

God helps those who are prepared to act according to His will. It's not enough to ask and expect God to do the rest; we must employ those talents He gave us in order to overcome the challenges we face. Our Kirk Session will shortly be meeting to approve our own survival plan, and we hope you can help to put this into action.

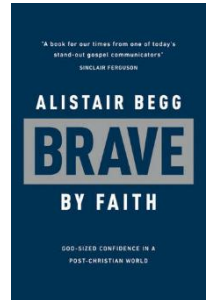
It is 390 years since the 'Kirk o' the Muir' was established here; 341 years since many covenanters became martyrs for their faith. What will you do to justify their sacrifices for the church we know today?

Well, you can always COME TO CHURCH. With almost 100 capacity and a 'Safe Zone' for vulnerable people, attending church is the best way to keep Muirkirk Parish Church open. If you'd rather not lose our church, then come along each Sunday at 12:00 noon. We look forward to welcoming each and every one of you. For more information please contact Sylvia / Colin Gallacher on 01290 661203, or visit:

<https://www.MuirkirkKirk.org>

## **BRAVE BY FAITH by ALISTAIR BEGG**

An ideal book to read as we have recently listened to sermons on Daniel. As pointed out each Sunday, although we read about the life of Daniel, Begg writes, “it is also ourselves we see in this book.”



### **He asks the questions:**

1. Can we be like Daniel and his friends knowing when not to stand with the crowd and stand fast on the promises of God?
2. If called to worship an idol would we say no when we ‘feel the heat of the furnace’?
3. When wrongly accused through jealousy, do we continue to put the Sovereign God first ‘though we smell the lions’?

In this book Alistair Begg shows us from scripture God is in control and His love for us is immeasurable. Dark times are indeed coming to the now unchristian western world he says and our hope is in God alone. “In the world you will have tribulation,” Jesus said, “but take heart, I have overcome the world.” John 16.33

Alistair Begg is a Scot now living in America. He is senior pastor at Parkside Church, Cleveland, Ohio. He does Truth for Life radio messages and weekly sermons both seen on You Tube.

This book is available from the Pew Library where you can borrow a variety of Christian books for both adults and children. Also available are free Bibles and notes to help with daily readings. At present these are in the car outside the church on Sunday mornings but you may also come to the house.

J. Trotter

## **FLOWER LIST**

### **September**

- 5<sup>th</sup> Mr & Mrs J Weir  
12<sup>th</sup> Mr & Mrs E Dempster  
19<sup>th</sup> Mrs A Murphy / Miss A Murphy  
26<sup>th</sup> Mrs M Rae

### **October**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Mrs M Dempster / Mrs M Mitchell  
10<sup>th</sup> FLOWER FUND  
17<sup>th</sup> FLOWER FUND  
24<sup>th</sup> Mrs C Walker  
31<sup>st</sup> Mrs C Barrie

### **November**

- 7<sup>th</sup> Mrs S McBirnie  
14<sup>th</sup> Mr & Mrs S Johnstone  
21<sup>st</sup> Mrs J Blackwood  
28<sup>th</sup> Mr G Gibson



Image by <https://pixabay.com/users/mizanrahmanmiraz-8310130/>

## **SUMMER MAGAZINE**

June £128.50

### **OFFERINGS**

May £1,918.70  
June £1,151.95  
July £ 988.20

## NOTICES

05/09/2021 12:00 noon  
Church Service and Holy Communion

## DEATHS

03/06/2021 Jan Clark, Wellwood Street  
02/07/2021 Myra Short, Lovedale Crescent  
17/08/2021 John Davidson, Wellwood Street

### **Time's Paces**

When as a child I laughed and wept,  
Time crept.  
When as a youth I waxed more bold,  
Time strolled.  
When I became a full-grown man,  
Time RAN.  
When older still I daily grew,  
Time FLEW.  
Soon I shall find, in passing on,  
Time gone.  
O Christ! wilt Thou have saved me then?  
Amen.

Henry Twells (1823–1900) and published in his book Hymns and Other Stray Verses (1901). It can be seen attached to a clock case in the North Transept of Chester Cathedral.

The next edition of the Muirkirk Parish Church magazine  
will be out at the start of December.