



The Brig



A Word From the Minister...

It Is Well

In recent days we have been confronted with the outcome of one of the most high profile national court cases ever in the UK. I doubt many of us will ever forget the name Lucy Letby, as it reverberates memories of headlines about the most prolific convicted child-killer in our nation's history. We are of course, used to receiving a torrent of terrible news via every available channel. But, I venture to say, this was different. In some ways we can wrap our heads around killings caused by intoxication, jealous rage, and or gang warfare. But the repeated killing of the most helpless and vulnerable imaginable little ones is altogether too much to comprehend.

How could anyone possibly say, 'it is well' knowing such evil exists in the world? Does it not just sound like a trite saying that Christians mindlessly cast out? Perhaps it can be used that way. But it can also be a bulwark of hope and grace in the face of tragedy.

C. H Spurgeon, one of our nation's greatest ever preachers, dealt masterfully with this exact pastoral

issue in sermon from 1961 about the women in 2 Kings 4. The women is asked by the prophet Elisha 'is it well' about her dear son, who had by now succumbed to a sudden death. She answers, full of faith, 'It is well'. Spurgeon spells out the hope we in God that tender little ones, be they infants or children, carry with them the assurance that God's care for them assures us it is well with their souls: 'no doubt, in some mysterious manner the Spirit of God regenerates the infant soul, and it enters into glory made meet to be a partaker of the inheritance of the saints in light'. This precious truth doesn't take away the suffering of the families, the senseless and evil loss of life, or horrible injustice. It doesn't answer why such evil is permitted. But it is something to know that our little ones are precious in the sight of the Lord, and despite mankind's worst assault, there is nothing that can separate them from the love of God.

May God protect and bless you, and all whom you love and pray for.

David

WHAT'S ON

June

The J.A.M. (Jesus and Me) group held a Tartan Tea on 17th June in Inchinnan Church to raise funds for Prospects across Scotland, an organisation which supports churches to provide inclusive worship for adults with learning disabilities. Our JAM group is a shared mission with Inchinnan Parish church. We all had a great time together and raised the amazing sum of £450. Thanks to everyone who supported us.



Some members of J.A.M. also led morning worship in Inchinnan on 28 th May and in Erskine Parish on 23 th July. We were delighted to be joined at both services by Ivy Blair from Prospects across Scotland who told the congregations about the work of the charity. Please keep the work of Prospects and the 20 groups which meet across Scotland in your prayers. J.A.M will resume meetings again on Sunday 3rd September in the Hub from 6.30.- 8.00p.m and the first Sunday of each month thereafter. We are looking forward to welcoming back all our members and also extend a warm welcome to any adults with learning disabilities and their carers who would like to join us.





In June we had our end of year Service led by the Junior Church. This Service marked the end of another brilliant year in Junior Church. The children in Junior Church participated in some activities with the minister, and at the end they were awarded with their prizes for attending Junior Church. We thank all of our young people for their continued involvement in Church life, and we look forward to welcoming them back after their well deserved summer break.





July

In July we were treated to a special Service lead by the JAM (Jesus and Me) group. This excellent Service showcased some of the things that the JAM group get up to at their meetings, and we were able to learn about the good that our own JAM group do, as well as the wider impact of Prospects Across Scotland. Thank you to all who helped to deliver this wonderful Service, and special thanks to Ivy Blair for coming along and telling us more about the group.



August

As of the beginning of August, donations to the Mile of Pennies had reached the grand total of £7,404.49. We would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who has donated so far. Keep your eye on our target board in the hall of Fellowship for updates.



The Hub Listening Service

Sometimes it can be hard to find someone to talk to, someone who will really listen.

Maybe you have an issue or a concern and don't want to bother family and friends with it. Perhaps you think they are too busy or have their own problems to deal with.

Talking it over with a trained listener in a safe and confidential setting can often bring some clarity and may help you to find a way forward.

The Hub café at Erskine Parish Church has recently launched a new service which can offer just that. Working in partnership with the charity Listen Well Scotland, the service provides Listening Time For You (LT4U) a free, confidential, one-to-one service, offering people the opportunity to meet and talk over anything that is on their mind with one of our trained listeners.

Two local volunteers, Morag Moffat and Aileen Robb have completed

advanced training with Listen Well Scotland and are available to provide Listening Time For You by appointment during Hub opening hours.

There is no charge for the service which takes place in a private room and is totally confidential.

We cannot offer counselling or advice but we believe that good quality listening enables others to tell their story and find their own solutions.

If you feel that you, or someone you know, may benefit from listening time, you can phone Morag or Aileen on 07778 719735 or email them on erskinehublistening@gmail.com. They will get back to you as soon as possible to arrange a time to talk.

If you would like to know more about Listen Well Scotland, you can go to their website at www.listenwellscotland.org, or pick up a leaflet in the Hub café or church foyer, from EBI Unites Community Pantry or Erskine Library.

If you would like to talk, we have time to listen well.



SINGING BUDDIES



JOIN OUR SINGING GROUP AT THE HUB
CAFÉ, ERSKINE PARISH CHURCH, ERSKINE
PA8 6EY.

THE GROUP IS ON EVERY THIRD MONDAY
FROM 3-4.30PM, SO COME AND JOIN US FOR
A SINGSONG OF SOME CLASSICS AND
FAMILIAR SONGS, AND TO MEET OLD AND
NEW FRIENDS.

ALL WELCOME!



**Alzheimer
Scotland**
Action on Dementia

FOR DETAILS CONTACT KATIE ON
07795257195 OR krobinson@alzscot.org



Playgroup

Erskine Parish Church

1 Rashielee Ave

Erskine

PA8 6HS



Stay & Play

9:45 - 11:30

Every Wednesday

£3

per week



Includes a snack

Hot drink & biscuits for grown ups

MINISTER

Rev. David Nicolson
epcminister@gmail.com
07988473018

SESSION CLERK

Willie McGregor
session.epc@gmail.com
0141 561 3278

DEPUTY SESSION CLERK

Stuart Boyne
s8Oyne@outlook.com
07736795406

ADMINISTRATION

Aimee Smart
epcnotices@gmail.com

CHURCH OFFICE

0141 586 0359

JUNIOR CHURCH

Victoria Nicolson &
Elizabeth McDade
epcjuniorchurch@gmail.com

THE HUB

Helen Hambleton
helenhambleton@aol.com

LISTENING SERVICE

Aileen Robb & Morag Moffat
erskinehublistening@gmail.com

Any submissions for the next issue should be sent to Aimee at
epcnotices@gmail.com by the 20th of August 2023