



FELLOWSHIP

God's family, living by faith, rejoicing in hope and growing in love



BURNING BUSH

Carnock & Oakley Parish Church



And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus
for he shall save his people from their sins.

Matthew 1:21

Newsletter Winter 2021

Session Clerk

Mr Sandy Muirhead
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Minister

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Carnock

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Treasurer

Mr Philip Hamilton
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Diary Dates

Communions are held on the 1st Sunday in March, June, September and December.

The next Communion will be on Sunday, 6th December 2021

Wed, 24 th November	T@2	2:00pm	Oakley
Sun, 6 th December	Communion	10:00am	Oakley
Sat, 11 th December	Christmas Coffee Morning	10:00am	Oakley
Wed, 15 th December	T@2	2:00pm	Oakley
Wed, 26 th January	T@2	2:00pm	Oakley

Come and join us at the Church

Try one of the groups below or speak to the minister about starting a new group.
Ideas are always welcome

	Church Activities			Contact
SUN	Weekly Services	Oakley	10:00am	Charles Lines (Minister) 07909 782257 / 01383 247209
MON	Scrabble	Oakley	2:00pm	Shirley Young
TUE	The Guild (3 rd Tuesday of the month)	Oakley	2:00pm	Shonaid Smith / Ann Riddell
WED	T@2 (last Wednesday of the month)	Oakley	2:00pm	Winifred Narbrough
THU	Art Group	Oakley	1:00pm	Irene Halliday

Church Website

For latest news and information on Carnock & Oakley Church events and activities visit our website regularly at - www.carnockandoakley.org.uk

The site is updated daily whenever possible and we do our best to notify any late changes to previously advertised times or dates.

If you would like items added to the website, please contact Bob Baker
Robert.baker16@btopenworld.com

Welcome from Rev. Charles Lines

Out of the mouths of children...

I have a good friend who was in the forces for a while, and he often used the acronym ETA; it took me a while to realise it stood for 'Estimated Time of Arrival'. We met on the Isle of Barra, where ETA was quite a vague concept when applied to the CalMac ferry service!



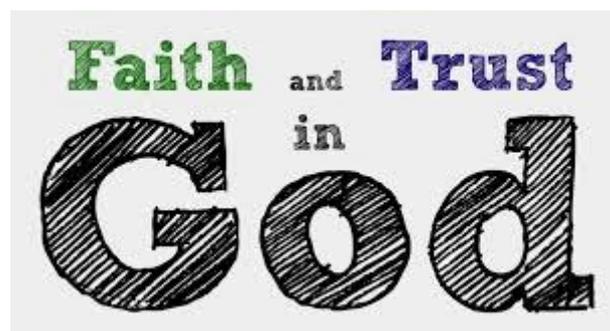
Anyway, ETA could also stand for Expected Time of Arrival, without changing the meaning substantially, but I prefer it because, whereas estimation is the language of measure, expectation is the language of faith.

I am writing this on the eve of the COP26 conference in Glasgow, but my expectations for the summit aren't very high; I don't have much faith in the power brokers of our world. However, when you read this, the season of lent will be upon us, which is full of expectation. There was no ETA for the coming of Jesus but there was an expectation that the promise of his arrival (advent) would be fulfilled.

Faith is about expectation: 'Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see' (Hebrews 11:1). Not long ago this was impressed upon me when Evelyn read a wee story from her book of devotions: A young boy was encouraged to write in a bible presented to him the words 'I accept Jesus', instead he wrote, 'I expect Jesus'. I'm sure what the boy wrote was the truer statement of faith. We should be people who expect Jesus... to arrive, to act, to appear. And so we wait, 'For the blessed hope – the glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ (Titus 2:13).

Wishing you all every blessing

Charles



Kirk Session Update

In my summer report, I highlighted the decision taken by the Kirk Session to close Carnock Church, and the reasoning behind that. As we emerged from lockdown it became possible for us to hold congregational meetings, so a Special General Meeting of the congregation was convened to discuss this. The meeting took place at Oakley on 5th September and those present voted overwhelmingly in favour of the Session's decision. As a result, the final Service at Carnock took place on Sunday, 26th September.



The closure of a church building is not an easy decision for any Session to take but all of us can take heart from the words of one of our best-known hymns;

*The church is not a building;
the church is not a steeple;
the church is not a resting place;
the church is a people.*

The church building at Carnock (and its steeple!) may no longer be in use but the **people** who make up the church fellowship are certainly not closed for business! They continue to worship and serve the Lord from His building at Oakley and are developing big plans for future progress. More on that later.

In the summer, I mentioned that part of that progress had been the adoption of a 'unitary' constitution, involving, amongst other things, the creation of new ministry teams. Those teams are now in place. Elders have been assigned to each of them and the next step is for members of the wider fellowship to become involved, particularly in the 'Fellowship' and 'Community' teams. You will be hearing more about this in the coming weeks.

May I take this opportunity to wish all of you a very joyful Christmas, and a prosperous and illness-free new year!

Sandy Muirhead
Session Clerk



Bible Study (Sandy Muirhead)

Since lockdown, the Church has continued to use its Zoom platform to provide folk with an opportunity to better study the Bible. There are two studies currently on the go. The first, is on a Monday morning from 10.30am to 11.30am, and anyone can attend. It has recently been studying “Turning Your Heart Towards God’ based upon the Beatitudes. The other is a men’s group. which takes place on a Saturday morning from 9:00am to 10:00am. It is currently studying ‘Being a Disciple, Counting the Real Cost’. Anyone interested in joining in should contact Sandy Muirhead on sandy_muirhead@hotmail.com or 07415 922 750.

Finance

Our funds at 30th September 2021 were as follows;



	01/01/2021 £		30/09/2021 £
General Fund	3,412		2,941
Fabric Fund	7,807		7,807
Property Renovation Fund	19,459		19,459
Mrs Dawson’s Legacy	1,000		1,000
Music Fund	209		209
Youth Evangelism	4,410		0
Church Organisations	385		385
TOTAL FUNDS	36683		31802

General Fund (Philip Hamilton – Treasurer)

Our General Fund at 30th September 2021 was £2,941, that is a decrease of £4,881 since the beginning of the year. We have still to submit Gift Aid claims in respect of the 4 quarters.

As noted above, the former Youth Evangelism fund of £4,410 has now been transferred to the General Fund. This was done with the approval of the original doner and as a result of this transfer the General fund still retains a positive balance of £2,941.

Thank you once again for your support.

The Guild

Look forward in Faith (Ann Riddell - Secretary)



The first meeting of Carnock & Oakley Guild was held in Oakley church on the 28th August 2021 at 2 pm, and Shonaid Smith, our convenor, opened the meeting with prayer. This was the first of us joining together since 2020, due to the lock down for covid. It took the form of a planning meeting to determine what we could arrange for a new session. We also chose which projects we would be sponsoring for the next two years and Chris our project convenor, gave an account of them all and also the last three years. We chose the Vine Trust for this year & Beat Scotland for next. The capitation fee is to be paid by January and Winifred our new treasurer, has this competently in hand. Winifred started her new position in the middle of Covid. She also gave the finance report, and gave us an account of where our funds were distributed in 2020, being our two projects and our own church funds.

Then the syllabus was made up for the year and on 21st September we had a meeting dedicating the Guild, Holy communion and a talk on our new theme, "Lights & Bushels" by our minister Charles, which was very interesting indeed. On the 19th October 2021 we had a brilliant beauty demonstration by Louise Forrest and on 16th November, 2021 we are looking forward to a talk from the Vine Trust. The 14th December is our Christmas meal at the Garvock House Hotel at 1 pm. Next year commences with a Scot's afternoon, organised by Shonaid & helpers on the 18th January 2022. Then we hope to have a quiz organised by Shonaid for funds, similar to what we had before, which was a great success. On 15th March we hope to have a coffee/tea afternoon with entertainment in the background. The 19th April is our AGM and 17th May the meeting to arrange the 2022/2023 syllabus.

If you would like to join us, please come along, you would be made most welcome. If you require transport, there is always someone who will kindly agree to take you. I am still the Guild secretary and if you would like to join us, just give me a ring & I can let you have a guild syllabus at any time.

Scrabble Group (Shirley Young)



The Scrabble Group restarted in September and we still abide by Covid rules. It was lovely to meet up with our friends again. We now meet in Oakley Hall on a Monday from 2:00pm until 5:00pm. We are a lively group and would welcome anyone else who would like to play. Sadly, we have lost 3 ladies in the past couple of years.

During the afternoon we have a wee break for tea, coffee, cake and a chat.

Carnock Coffee Afternoon (Ann Riddell)



Since Carnock church closed, a few of us have joined together in the Carnock Inn for afternoon coffee & a scone on a Wednesday afternoon. It was suggested by two of the regular coffee morning attendees, it would be nice to meet up and continue the fellowship we had for many, many years. This has been very enjoyable and we look forward to this afternoon chat and laughs together for a long time to come.

Other Items

T@2 is back! (Winifred Narbrough)



As restrictions are relaxing a little it has been decided to restart the T@2 afternoons. Our first meeting will be on **Wednesday, 24th November** from 2.00pm until about 4.00pm. As before you can drop in at anytime and leave whenever you wish, you don't have to stay all the time if you have other things to attend to. The Friendship team will be very pleased to see you to have a chat, a drink and a blether. At our first meeting there will be a short slide show of photos on the Fife Coastal Path.

In December we will meet on **Wednesday 15th December** (earlier than usual due to Christmas!) for an afternoon of Christmas nostalgia. Jenny McPherson will come along to remind us of Seasonal songs from the past. We hope you will be able to join us for a foot tapping afternoon and a bit of singing along if you feel inclined.

The January Meeting will be back to the usual last Wednesday of the month which will be **Wednesday 26th January 2022**.



Christmas Coffee Morning (Winifred Narbrough)



After many months of lockdown and restrictions there are plans afoot to hold a Christmas Coffee Morning in aid of Church Funds! This will be in Oakley Church on Saturday, 11th December from 10.00 - 12.00. We are not selling tickets but hope that you will all pop in for a coffee (or tea) and possibly a scone or cake or two, depending on what the regulations at the time allow.

There will be a raffle for a Christmas Hamper on the day. Plans are in the early stages as yet but please put the date in your diary and come along to support this initiative to get things at Church up and running again.

More information will be intimated nearer the time.

A Rainbow (Evelyn Lines)



Looking out my kitchen window part of a rainbow just appeared, vibrant colours reach down to touch the earth 'God is here'.

The rainbow so near, at the side of that house I see, my mind draws into "could I run down and stand under it and be embellished in its colours of yellow, blue, orange, green, red, indigo, violet," oh what a sight that would be.

Under God's promise of times past to times now, A Rainbow, GOD IS HERE.

Different ways of seeing things (Diana Muirhead)

A Minister went on holiday for a week in the north of Scotland. When he returned he was asked about his holiday and he said 'it was wonderful, the sun shone every day!' Someone overheard the conversation and said 'that's strange, I was in the same area and it poured all week!' The Minister replied 'Oh yes it did, but the sun was shining behind the clouds!'

I think of this on dreary wet days - that the sun is still shining behind the clouds and will break through again.

It is also a reminder that in sad and difficult times when we struggle with worries and fears, like heavy clouds upon us, that God is still there. He never leaves us.



Christmas Post (Chris Cooper)



It is hoped to have the annual Christmas Post this year but on a reduced scale.

You can send cards to **friends that are attending church at the moment.**

They will be collected in a box, sorted and then left at the back of church for you to collect.

The collection box will be in church on Sundays, 28th November and 5th December and the cards ready for collection 12th and 19th December.

There will be a tin for a donations to the Church's Christmas Charity.

Welcome to the newest member of our Church family

Welcome to Julia the newest member of our Church family. We all wish Scott, Michelle and their family all the best wishes and love from us all.



Love Came Down at Christmas

Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, Love Divine;
Love was born at Christmas,
Star and angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead,
Love Incarnate, Love Divine;
Worship we our Jesus:
But wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token,
Love be yours and love be mine,
Love to God and all men,
Love for plea and gift and sign



Inspirations from around the World

You have watched over me

Living Lord, you have watched over me, and put your hand on my head, during the long, dark hours of night. Your holy angels have protected me from all harm and pain. To you, Lord, I owe life itself. Continue to watch over me and bless me during the hours of day.

(Jacob Boehme (1575 – 16:24), Germany)

Take time

Take time to think ...

It is the source of power.

Take time to play ...

It is the secret of perpetual youth.

Take time to laugh ...

It is the music of the soul.

Take time to pray ...

It is the greatest power on Earth.

(Words written on the wall of the Missionaries of Charity children's home, Calcutta, India)

The windowsill of heaven

Every morning lean your arms awhile upon the windowsill of heaven and gaze upon the Lord.

Then with the vision in your heart, turn strong to meet your day.

(Modern prayer by Thomas Blake)

Stepping out to awareness

When I step out, the world assembles itself around me

Like my awareness of being who I am, like my belief in the Divine.

(Modern prayer from Stockholm, Sweden)

Have Faith In God



Let us Pray

Dear Lord,

We pray that we may learn to live in peace with our fellow human-beings, no matter what race, colour, sexuality, creed. May we understand each other and may we have patience with each other. May we all look to You first about any difficulties we are facing. Your comfort is our blessing.

Amen