

# *Schaw Kirk*

DRONGAN & RANKINSTON



MARCH 2011



Create in me  
a clean heart  
O God  
and renew  
a right Spirit  
within me



As I sit to write my "Letter from the Manse," I am conscious that St Valentines day is fast approaching and I still have not bought a card or a present for my wife. I have always been careful

about the presents I buy for Susan, since the day I bought her a toaster for Christmas. It didn't go down too well for some reason. Isn't Love a strange word? It can have so many meanings. There is the love for a friend for instance which is different from the love for a parent and different again from love for a spouse. All different kinds of love but all using the same word in the English language. The Greek language has several words for love; **Phileo** is the idea of brotherly love or friendship.

The city of Philadelphia gets its name from Phileo. **Eros** is the idea of sexual love, we get the word erotic from Eros. The word for Love which is used throughout the Bible is different again, this is **Agape** love which is defined as a selfless love or a heavenly love. This is the love of God towards Jesus and towards us. Agape love is not a love just in word but a love of action without regard to self interest. Agape love goes right to the very character of God.

When Paul writes about love in Corinthians Chapter 13 he writes about this Agape love and he defines for us what this love means.

Paul Writes that love is; Patient and Kind, Rejoices in truth, Protects, Trusts, Hopes, Perseveres and never fails. Easter is just around the Corner and we look forward to looking again at the Easter Story in which we see Agape love in action. The love of God is not a sentimental love, its a love that can be trusted, a love that perseveres and a love that never fails. We see no better

example of Agape love than in the selfless giving of Jesus Christ who left his glory in heaven to give his life for us on the cross. Greater love hath no one that they should lay down their life for a friend. This is indeed true Love. I would like to wish you all a very happy Easter when it comes, and I pray that as we celebrate Easter together that we will truly know the length the breadth the height and the depth of the Love of God in our lives.

*Rer Dave Whiteman*



The Group are continuing until 27th Feb 2011 to collect for their project "The Back Pack Appeal" in association with Mary's Meals. A leaflet was

distributed with our last newsletter. If you are unable to bring your donation to the Church then please ask either Donna Lauchlan or myself and we will uplift them for you.

We are holding a Fashion Show on Sun 20th March 2011 at 6pm in the Church where the girls will be modelling clothes from "0290" from Cumnock -Adults £3 and Children £2- please come along and support the girls while they show off their modelling skills.

Thank you *Eleanor Crate* (01292 531560).

## CHURCH MEMBERSHIP



**Are you, or anyone you know,** interested in finding out more about the Church of Scotland and what membership of the Schaw Kirk entails?

If so, then please speak to our minister, Dave Whiteman after

Sunday service or call him on 01292 571442. Enquirers classes will be held during 2011 if there is a demand.



## Women's World Day of Prayer

In March, women in our local churches will join with millions of others around the world with one aim in mind - to pray. The Women's World Day of Prayer has in recent years become a global, ecumenical movement of informed prayer and prayerful action, organised and led by Christian women.

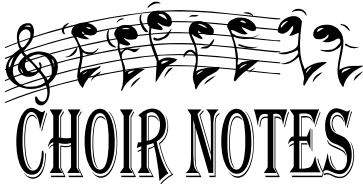
The service is written by a different country each year and that country then becomes the focus of the world's prayers on the day itself. It begins as dawn breaks over the islands of Tonga in the Pacific and continues across each continent until the last services of this special day are held back in the Pacific, on the islands of Samoa, circling the world in prayer for 36 hours.

By then the day will have been celebrated in over 170 countries and over 5,000 services will have been held in Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The origins of Women's World Day of Prayer date back to the late nineteenth century when Christian women in the USA and Canada began a variety of activities in support of women's involvement in mission, at home and abroad. But it was not until the 1930s that Women's World Day of Prayer services began in Britain.

This year 2011 the worship material has been prepared by the women of Chile. Its theme, 'How many loaves have you?', is appropriate as bread is eaten at every meal in Chile, and is very much part of everyday life.

Although organised and led by women, this is essentially a day of prayer for everybody, as Christians demonstrate their solidarity with 'sisters and brothers' in other countries. So - all are welcome to attend! Locally, we are meeting on Friday 4th March at Tarbolton Parish Church .



Christmas time is over again for another year. My thanks to everyone who supported the events, especially the 'Carols by Candlelight' evening, which, due to them was a great success.

Now as we approach the season of Lent and Easter the choir have started practising some new songs.

Again many thanks for your support  
Christabel



## The Guild

We have experienced a very varied session in our Guild syllabus. Jean, our Syllabus Secretary produced a very good mix including - Homeopathic Medicine, Talk & Slides on Erskine Hospital, Mauchlinware, I did not realise there were so many types, Slides of India at an orphanage by an Opthamologist who visited there, and an evening of Bible Study.

Still to come is an evening of entertainment by the Six O'clock Group on March 9th. You are invited to come along and support the girls and their leader who put a lot of hard work into what is usually a very enjoyable evening. Thanks to all members who support the Guild by coming

along to the meetings. Visitors are welcome in our company any Night, so as they say, "Don't be a stranger."

*Rena Robertson*

*President*

*Gwen Rankine*

*Secretary*

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## Super Sunday

Super Sunday meets every Sunday from 11.15am until the close of the Service finishes at 12.30pm approx. The children are involved in a wide variety of activities and all children aged 3 years and above will be made very welcome.

Creches facilities are also available for the under 3s.

*Margaret Findlay*



## Congregational Outing

This is the time of year when May McKelvie 'brainstorms' to find an appealing destination for our Outing. Once again we believe she has made a wise

choice with the city of Perth which sits on the banks of the River Tay.

Known to the Romans as Bertha from the Celtic 'Aber The' meaning mouth of the Tay. The city has been a Royal Burgh since the 13thC and was a Royal residence throughout the middle ages. Perth is often referred to as the Ancient Capital of Scotland on this account.

Nearby Scone is the ancient coronation site of Scottish monarchs. All kings and queens of Scotland having been crowned there up until the Union into the United Kingdom. Today the site is marked by the early 19thC Palace of Scone.

May has started taking names to fill the coach for the outing. Be sure that yours is included.

*A recession is a period of time when people do without things their parents never had*



# New Treasurer Appointed

The Kirk Session are delighted to announce the appointment of Alison Duncan as Schaw Kirk's new treasurer.

Alison and her husband John have lived in Drongan for 4 years with their children Emily and Ross, who go to Drongan Primary School. Alison is a primary school teacher while John is a store manager with Morrisons. Before moving to Drongan the family attended Monkton and Prestwick North Parish Church, but are now very involved in the life of the Schaw Kirk with Emily and Ross attending Super Sunday and Emily also attending the Six O'Clock Group. John is a member of the Congregational Board.

Alison follows in the footsteps of Moira Pirie as Treasurer, and Moira has kindly spent some time showing her the ropes. It is great that Alison is taking on this post- please give her your support in the coming months.



## KIRK SESSION

Members of Session should please note the next Meeting will take place on **Monday 28th March** - NOT Monday 4th April.

G. STURGEON

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## **YES! I've Given Up Chocolate For Lent**

Lent begins on 9 March with Ash Wednesday, which always falls in the seventh week before Easter. Lent is observed by Christians as a time of fasting or meditation.

Why 'Ash Wednesday'? What do ashes have to do with anything? This recalls the Old Testament custom of putting ashes on oneself as a symbol of repentance. (eg. Esther 4.1; Jeremiah 6.26). When the early Church began to observe Lent as a period of preparation for Easter, repentance played a key part. Therefore the wearing of ashes was adopted as a proper external sign of this inward attitude of remorse and repentance.

Especially during the Middle Ages, Christians began Lent by imposing ashes on the heads of the clergy and the people. Nowadays any ashes used come from the burning of the palm crosses from Palm Sunday during the previous year's Lent. Some churches continue this theme of repentance by the symbolic use of purple clerical dress during Lent.

What about the custom of giving up things? Lent is based on the period of 40 days spent by Jesus in the wilderness before the beginning of his public ministry in Galilee. Jesus fasted for 40 days, and so his followers were encouraged to do the same thing. The early Church recommended a fast of two or three days, but by the fourth century, people were encouraged to fast for the full 40 days.

The precise nature of this 'fasting' varied. In general, the western church understood 'fasting' as a reduced intake of food, and encouraged Christians to spend time in

devotional reading or attendance at church rather than fasting.

What about the length of Lent? The period between Ash Wednesday and Easter Day is actually 46 days. Why not the 40 days that Jesus fasted? In the early Church, every Sunday was regarded as a celebration of the resurrection of Christ - so fasting was forbidden on a Sunday! So the period of 46 days thus consists of 40 days of fasting, plus the six Sundays which fall between Ash Wednesday and Easter Day.

Finally, just before Ash Wednesday, we have Shrove Tuesday, or Pancake Tuesday. This reflects the many thousands of Christian housewives down the centuries who cleared out their larders immediately before the fast of Lent. The simplest way of using up all their eggs, flour and milk was to make pancakes.

In some countries the day is known as Mardi Gras, and is marked by major carnivals, most famously in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.



*All this is for afterwards.*



## Community Easter Cards

This Easter we will again produce Cards for the village, and for that we would appreciate a few minutes of your time in helping in their distribution. Please speak to Jim Davidson.

**DRONGAN  
MAKERS**

As you remember a few months ago, we asked members of the congregation to place in their order of preference, a pre selected list of six hymn titles. From that list four were definite winners.

It then became the task of the Makers to design and make banners to convey the message of each hymn. We hope you will like what we have done.

### **Recipe for banner making:**

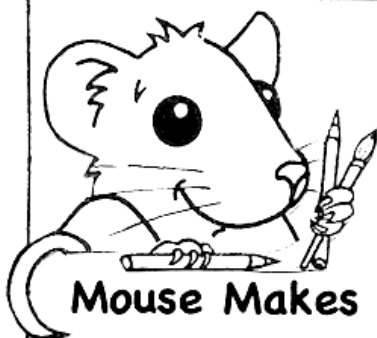
*A great deal of patience,  
a dedicated team and a lot of hard work.  
Build into that a guid blether  
and of course the obligatory cup of tea.*

The banners are making steady progress, but need a great deal more work before completion.

We are making every effort to have them all completed by the end of this session. Which is sometime in March.

~ Beautiful ~

*The English test had only one question: "Write an essay on 'The Most Beautiful Thing I Ever Saw.'" One of the students finished his essay in less than a minute. It read in its entirety: "The most beautiful thing I ever saw was just too beautiful for words." He got the only A in the class.*



## Mouse Makes

ASH WEDNESDAY is the first day of LENT. It is a day for saying 'sorry' to God for any wrong things you have said or thought or done.

## THE 40 DAYS OF LENT

When Jesus was 30 years old he was baptised by John in the River Jordan. Before Jesus began to preach and teach he went out into the desert alone. For 40 days he spent time praying and talking to God, preparing himself for what God had sent him to do.

Remembering those days Jesus spent in the desert, the Christian Church set aside 40 days before Easter as a time to think, pray and learn more about God. This time is called LENT.

1 Ash Wednesday

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26 Mothering Sunday

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40 PALM SUNDAY

Mon

Tues

Thurs

GOOD FRIDAY

Sat

EASTER SUNDAY

Wed

The day Jesus was put to death

A day to celebrate. JESUS IS RISEN!

READ Matthew chapters 3-4

READ Matthew chapters 27-28

Colour in one step each day



At times it's comforting to know that someone else is praying with/for you and that's where our prayer circle takes an active part.

The prayer circle is made up from a small group of members who take time to pray for other members of our congregation.

Should you, or anyone you know, have the need for added prayer please make use of the Prayer Cards which can be found on the table in the vestibule of the Church.



## Cracking the Mould

'The Real Easter Egg' is certainly attracting nationwide interest with churches and individuals who have placed orders for the eggs, due out in time for Easter 2011.

Interest in the eggs has been good here in the Schaw Kirk with a total of 72 eggs being ordered. For those expectantly waiting to receive theirs, we have a promised delivery of sometime between 20th March and 12th April, well in time for Easter celebrations.

Priced at £4.50, this compares favourably with other mainstream eggs considering they include a charitable donation, VAT, handling and delivery. 30 pence from each egg will be donated to the charity Traidcraft Exchange and a further 10% from profits will go to Baby Lifeline - buying everything from medical equipment for new mums in the UK to chickens for farmers in Africa.

*Charity No: SC 030714 (Church of Scotland)*

*web site : [www.drongsanschawkirk.co.uk](http://www.drongsanschawkirk.co.uk)*

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