

Kwenderana

Maureen Potter

In September, the Kwenderana Partnership Group had a special meeting with all four ministers and two representatives from Church of Scotland, World Mission, Carol Finlay (former Mission Partner) and Stephanie Thomson. Over the past few months there has been a difference of views promoted some of the newer members. Those of us who have been in the group over a number of years produced historical paper work to allay the concerns made by this minority small group. Indeed one of the ministers (not our own) was very insistent that we should have governance and that we should all be approved by the session and all projects which we undertake should be approved by all sessions. This in particular would be very time consuming and hold up the enabling support which we give to Ekwendeni. At the September meeting, our Chairman Bill Steven spoke very eloquently about our history, the problems which we have encountered and the ways in which we have solved these problems. When Bill finished, Carol took over the meeting and stimulated a very lively discussion about the past and the future. Over the next few months Carol will work with two of our nominees to draw up, more up-to-date guidelines. Since that meeting, three of the four sessions have approved their representatives and given us permission to continue to support the people of Ekwendeni in minor projects which will make a substantial difference to the quality of life for people in that part of Malawi.



Some of the sponsored children at Kwenderana

Fiona Gunning has re-organised the secondary school sponsorship system to make it more manageable. At the end of the summer there were 29 individual children being sponsored at different stages in their secondary education. In the year ahead we have arranged to sponsor either 16 day secondary children or 12 day secondary and 2 boarding school pupils. We have also set up a hardship fund which helps families who may be in financial difficulties. There are 5 boarding school pupils in need of sponsorship and this will be taken from the hardship fund. As well as having their fees paid all new sponsored children will receive a new pair of shoes, school uniform, bag, stationery and funds have been made available for the existing sponsored children for anything they need. Fiona also intimated that all children were aware that they had to use this opportunity wisely. This means that personal circumstances will be considered when reviewing the child's progress but the child has to show a willingness to learn and be shown to be making progress according to their ability. Over the past year or so we have found that individual sponsorship appeals to people more than the Hardship Fund. We have been gratified recently that some of the children we had sponsored earlier are either now in college or university. This is a great achievement for these children. If you would like to support the education of secondary age school children at Ekwendeni in any way, please feel free to contact Lynne Macgregor, Christina Hogg or myself.

At our next meeting towards the end of November we are hoping to embark on some smaller projects which we have been discussing and researching for some time. They are:-

- Solar lights which cost less than £10 but will be specially used in homes which have no electricity.
- Green Manure which promotes organic farming and costs less than artificial fertilisers.
- Sandals for children who cannot attend primary school because they have no footwear.

Please pray for:-

- The continuation of a good relationship between all partner churches and World Mission
- For the nominees and Carol Finlay as they draw up more up-to-date guidelines
- Good rain in Malawi so that harvests are plentiful and there is no hunger.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Rev. Jerry Eve, the Kirk Session, Christina Hogg and Lynne Macgregor for all their support over the past few months.

The Guild

Irene Morrison

Our minister, the Rev Jerry Eve, started off our session with a most interesting talk on prominent women in history. This was followed by our Guest Night when we were joined by members of neighbouring Guilds and entertained by an excellent musical group called "Harmony." Our next meeting turned into a "do-it-yourself" evening as our speaker was forced to cancel due to a bereavement. With Allan at the piano we were all in good voice as we enjoyed a sing-along of Irving Berlin and Rogers & Hammerstein songs. At the time of writing we are looking forward to hearing a talk entitled "Memories of the Sunday Post", a craft night with our own Mrs Pearl Munro, and our Christmas Party. Our ever-popular Burns Supper will be held on Thursday 1st February 2018.

Thank you to everyone who supported our recent coffee morning which raised £794.

We would like to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Obituaries

John Robert Macgregor (1923 - 2017) by Lynne Macgregor, his daughter

Born in Glasgow in 1923, John's early years were spent in Kirn, Argyll. Due to his father being a commercial traveller, John lived in many places around the central belt. His father died when he was just 11 years old and so he had to leave school when he was 14 to start work as an office junior at Blackloch & McArthur, paint manufacturers, which, during WWII, were taken over by ICI Dulux Paints. He had 41 years of service with them in Glasgow, East Kilbride and Bristol.



In 1941, he joined the Royal Marines 40 Commando and then the 2nd Echelon Commando Group and rose up the ranks to QMS, seeing active service in Sicily, Italy and North Africa. As he was a reporter for the Southern Press, he became an official war correspondent under the byline Paul Burnett. In 1946 he was de-mobbed and returned to Glasgow.

He met Doreen at Queens Park Baptist Church Youth Fellowship and they were married in 1952 and along I came (Lynne) in 1957. The same year we all moved to Bristol so that John could open up a new depot for Dulux in the West Country. Twenty years later, we all moved back to Scotland and settled in Busby.

John enjoyed playing football - for a short time he played for Third Lanark FC - ice skating, speed skating and ice hockey. He was a member of Queens Park Camera Club and enjoyed visiting air shows. He joined the Junior BB and Boys' Brigade, becoming Captain of the 180th Glasgow Company. He was a Sunday School teacher, civilian chairman of the Air Training Corp 2146 Squadron and started up Busby East Neighbourhood Watch.

Our holidays were to Lyme Regis in Dorset, cruising the Med, to the Hotel Illa D'or, Puerto Pollenca in Majorca and to Stratheck near Dunoon. He could talk to anyone about anything but will be remembered with a cigarette in one hand and a mug of tea with a wee dram in the other.

Nettie Hall (- 2017) by Maureen Potter

Nettie Hall, resident in Cartside Road for many years passed away on the 4th October, 3 years and 1 day after her husband. Since Walter's passing Nettie has been resident in Bonnyton Home. She enjoyed the care there but she missed Walter so much. Walter and Nettie went together like Darby and Joan or as my daughters used to say George and Mildred!

Visiting them was an exhilarating experience as they were both so lively and with no inhibitions on any topic of conversation but you had to be prepared to take part in two different conversations at the same time. However many times I have entered their home feeling down and come back out with a lighter heart full of laughter. As well as being welcoming to all, they were also very generous, always giving visitors just a sweetie or a packet of biscuits to take home and enjoy.

They will be sadly missed by their only daughter, Sandra and her husband Gavin, Scott and Annie, Derek and Diane and their great grandchildren. However we thank God for the privilege of having known them both.

Proud to Announce

Jerry Eve

This year has been quite unprecedented in my almost 20 years as minister of Busby Church, in that during 2017 we have had 5 Church Weddings. I always think it's a shame that only the minister is actually able to see the expressions on the faces of the Bride and Groom during a Marriage Ceremony as they make their vows. But you may recognise Laura and Matthew in this splendid photograph of a scene, I for one would certainly be very pleased to see repeated a number of times next year in 2018 as well. As I will look back with great fondness on this year – and I do hope this was a 'best day of our lives' sort of an occasion – and on all the celebrations of that greatest gift from God, and that's the gift of love, that I've been privileged to enjoy.



Church Flowers

Linda Smith

The new Flower Calendar will be on display at the beginning of December - in time for everyone to plan for the year ahead! Please take a Sunday and let our flower team arrange them for you or try it out yourself! Grateful thanks to our team for all their time and talents and to everyone for the generous contributions given throughout the year.

It is a great service for the giver and the receiver.

Have a joyful Christmas and a peaceful 2018!

New World Mission Stamp Appeal 2017/18 – Donate Your Used Stamps

Margaret Barr

You can raise money for World Mission just by saving your used postage stamps. It's a simple way to recycle and help World Mission partner projects.

The 2016/17 Appeal raised a fantastic **£4,344** for the Othera Eco-spirituality Centre (Church of South India), which supports ecological innovations and hopes to educate and inspire local people to live sustainably.

This year's appeal will support the Giffen Institute of Theology, Presbyterian Church of South Sudan (PCSS). The Institute trains 75% of PCSS ministers, playing a vital role in educating and equipping students for ministry. Due to violence in South Sudan over the last few years the Institute has twice had to relocate to ensure the safety of staff and students. Sadly, this has meant many of its resources were lost. Now re-established in a refugee camp in Kenya, the Institute needs to rebuild its resources, including replacing the books lost when its library was burned down. Your used stamps can help ensure the Institute's work training the future ministers of South Sudan continues.

Please save your stamps (both UK and Overseas) for this worthwhile cause and drop them into the box in the vestibule.

Please leave a border around the stamp.

Thank-you for your continued support.

....and finally



Bloomers from Church Bulletins

There will be a meeting of the Little Mothers Club on Thursday at 5.00pm. All wishing to become little mothers should please meet the pastor in his study.

This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs Brown to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.

The service today will end with "Little Drops of Water". One of the men will start quietly and the rest of the congregation will join in.

A Sunday School teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds. After explaining the commandment to "honour" thy Father and thy Mother, she asked, "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?" Without missing a beat one little boy answered, "Thou shalt not kill."



"I've found that as long as you're good October through December you do just as well."



The reindeer games are later rocked by scandal when Blitzen tests positive for steroids.

