

# The Web Torch



Summer 2018

[www.riccartonparishchurch.co.uk](http://www.riccartonparishchurch.co.uk)

# **The Minister's Message**

## **A Letter from the Manse**

Dear Friends,

I was fascinated by a news story that appeared in early April, which demonstrates how our harmful words may have negative consequences that we never imagined. James Stephens learned that lesson the hard way. Stephens was fired from his job as chief financial officer for the Georgia Subsequent Injury Trust Fund after his boss heard some less-than-flattering commentary, courtesy of an accidental pocket-dial. <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/georgia-man-sues-former-boss-after-butt-dial-costs-him-job/>.

Mike Coan, director of the fund and Stephens' supervisor, had a habit of calling after hours. After one such call, Stephens had a heated conversation with his wife about Coan, who was listening after Stephens accidentally called him back.

Consequently, Stephens is filing suit against his boss for eavesdropping and invasion of privacy. David Guldenschuh, the attorney representing both Stephens and his wife, claims that once Coan knew the conversation was intended to be private, he had a legal obligation to terminate the call, referring to the call as "voyeuristic eavesdropping" and "felonious conduct."

Rikki Klieman, legal analyst for CBS News, understands the rationale for the lawsuit, but sees a potential hurdle in its ability to proceed. "What we find here is someone who really believed he had a reasonable expectation of privacy in having a very, very confidential conversation with his wife and that yet, it may not be private at all."

That reminded me of Jesus' words in Matthew 12:34-37. "For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks. The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him. But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on

the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.”

I’m sure that we’ve all said things that we’ve regretted. I certainly have. There may well be things that we’ve said about other people that we’d be really embarrassed if they heard. However, whether they have heard what we’ve said or not, Jesus tells us that we will be held accountable for every careless word we have spoken.

How seriously do we take his words? Do we really believe that to be true? It should be a sober warning to each one of us. At one level I find it rather scary. The Apostle James also warns of the destructive power of the tongue. He says, “With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God’s likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be. Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? My brothers, can a fig-tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water,”

So, what can we do about it? Even if James Stephens wins his case, which I suspect is very unlikely, the damage has already been done. The relationship will never be the same. I wouldn’t recommend trying to take out a legal case against God for listening in to your private conversations. However, the answer can be found in 1 John 1:8,9 where the Apostle writes: “If we claim to be without sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

Hopefully none of us will get into the same kind of mess as James Stephens, but hopefully we can learn from his experience. May we seek God’s forgiveness for our mistakes in the past, and allow him to purify our hearts so that we learn not to say things that we later regret, that we might build others up rather than tear them down

Colin A. Strong

I found this article by Carey Nieuwhof both challenging and helpful. It can be found at: <https://careynieuwhof.com/5-significant-attitude-differences-that-separate-growing-and-declining-churches/>

## 5 Significant Attitude Differences That Separate Growing And Declining Churches

So what's the difference between a growing church and a declining church?

Well there are many, but one of the biggest differences I see is the attitude of the leaders.

The leaders of growing churches almost always share a common attitude.

So do the leaders of declining churches.

And the attitude has a huge influence over the *results* each church sees.

Attitude may or may not be everything, but it's close.

Here are 5 attitude differences I see again and again in growing churches and declining churches.

### **1. We Can V. We Can't**

Perhaps the biggest differences I see between growing churches and declining churches is the attitude around what's possible.

Growing churches believe they can.

Declining churches believe they can't.

They're both right.

One of my all time favourite quotes is Henry Ford's "Whether you believe you can or believe you can't, you're right." He's correct.

Growing churches make a way when there's no way, which seems to be what God specializes in if you read the Bible.

When you sit around your leadership table, do you come up with 20 ways to make it happen, or 20 reasons why it won't work? That tells you far more about your church than you probably want it to.

Growing churches believe they can. It's that simple. And even if they're wrong, at least they tried. The mission is important enough to take significant risk.

## **2. Them V. Us**

Declining churches focus on themselves.

Growing churches focus on the people they're trying to reach.

If your leadership table conversations are all about the needs and wants of your members, it's a sign that your church is insider focused.

The mission of the church is to reach the world. Growing churches not only *know* that; they live it.

Besides, who likes to hang out with selfish people?

And ironically, selfish people almost always end up in a very surprising place: alone. Because a life devoted to self ultimately leaves you alone. That's also true for selfish churches.

If you're becoming smaller and smaller, is it because you're selfish?

## **3. Principles V. Preferences**

Declining churches focus on their member's preferences.

*Todd didn't like the music.*

*Allison thinks we're not deep enough.*

*Bill wants to start a new programme.*

And so the leaders respond, trying to please everybody.

In reality, declining churches bend to the preferences of its members.

Growing churches don't.

Instead, they focus on the principles (even strategies) that will help them reach new people.

Is your leadership team principle driven or preference driven? There's a world of difference between the two.

#### **4. Proactive V. Reactive**

This is a close cousin of points 2 and 3 above, but the difference is deadly or life-giving depending on where you land.

Growing churches are *proactive*. They choose their agenda and immediately get on issues that can impact their future.

Declining churches are reactive, letting members determine the agenda and reacting to problems as they arise.

In fact, most declining churches are so busy reacting to problems other people raise that they never get around to charting a course for the future.

If you never get around to charting a course for the future, you will have no future.

Growing churches have a strong bias for setting their *own* agendas, not in the selfish sense, but in a way that determined leaders see what the mission requires and decide to deal with it.

The leaders in a growing church simply refuse to yield to the agenda of others that would take them off mission.

And as a result, they are far more effective.

#### **5. Now V. Eventually**

Growing churches act. And they act now.

Declining churches don't.

Declining churches don't actually *say* they won't act, they'll just say they'll get to it 'eventually', or someday, or 'when the time is right'—which means never.

By contrast, as I outlined [here](#), great leaders and great teams banish the word 'someday' and other words from their vocabulary.

If you want to be effective, you act.

If you want to be ineffective, you don't.

Talk without action has little value. And too many church leaders specialize in talk.

In addition, too many church teams meet for the sake of meeting.

If you can't remember the last time you made a major decision that changed the course of your church, your leaders are wasting their time.

If you talk about the same issues meeting after meeting with no resolution, you're spinning your wheels.

Does that mean you have to act on everything? Well, yes and no.

If you're not going to act, strike the item off the agenda and move on.

If you are going to act, act. Now.

Just make a decision and move on with it. Don't get stuck in the no man's land of believing the lie that talking about things solves things.

As my friend Casey Graham says, action produces traction. So act.

Colin A. Strong

## **Craft Evenings**

A group of ladies meet in the Church Hall on Wednesday evenings from 7pm till 9pm. We do sewing, cross stitch, patchwork, crochet and knitting as well as lots of talking and laughs!! If you are interested in joining us you will be made very welcome. If you would like to know more please give me a ring.

Ann Gilmour 520541

## **Thursday Get-together**

The Church hall will be open from 1.30 till 3.30 on Thursday afternoons starting on 3rd May. This is not a formal meeting, simply an opportunity to meet old friends and new (I hope) for a blether and company and a cup of tea or coffee. There will also be postage stamps to trim if you feel like it (scissors provided) ! They will then be sent to Crossreach to be sold to raise funds.

I am looking forward to seeing you all again and hope others will join us. If you need any information please give me a ring.

Ann Gilmour 520541

## **Shoebox Appeal 2018**

As most of you will know the Sunday School are no longer managing the shoebox appeal which takes place in the autumn. I have spoken to Colin and offered to take this on with the help of Carol-Anne. I just wanted give some notice in advance to those who like me, enjoy filling a shoebox for this worthwhile charity.

Please note that it will only be FILLED SHOEBOXES that we will be able to accept. We are sorry but cannot accept goods that would be a contribution. People can get together and fill a shoebox as a pair or a group if desired. There will be more details to follow in the September Torch.

Looking forward to your support.

Mairi Kirkpatrick



# Kirk Session Meeting 15<sup>th</sup> May 2018

RICCARTON PARISH CHURCH Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> May which day Kirk Session met and was constituted with prayer Rev C A Strong. Moderator.

**Appreciation** On behalf of the Manse Family Moderator wished to record his appreciation for the kindness and support received from both Fenwick and Riccarton Congregations in their time of bereavement.

**Presbytery Elder** Kirk Session appointed J Barnes to represent them in the Presbytery of Irvine and Kilmarnock during the year commencing 1<sup>st</sup> July 2018.

**Communion** Kirk Session took up consideration of the new form of serving communion at the Morning Service. It was agreed to continue with this method of communion as it had went smoothly and there had been no adverse reaction to the new method

T Linton commended the Session Clerk on his administrative work for both the Holy Week Services and the New Form of Communion in May. Moderator recorded his appreciation for the work done during Holy Week and during his compassionate leave.

**Presbytery Report** J Barnes reported on the May Mission Meeting of Presbytery. The theme of the evening was " Looking at the place of Pioneer Ministry in the Future development of the Church". People are hungry for the good news about Jesus "Spiritual Seekers" How can we create patterns of mission and ministry to reach them. The evening was facilitated by Alan McWilliam who has worked as a church planter for 25years.

**Youth Elder** D Kirkpatrick reported on the BB Summer Programme – Parents Night on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> May – Anchor Boys are having a fun day out to Dumfries House on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> May – The Annual Holiday weekend to Abernethy Trust Christian Adventure Centre near Kirkcudbright from 15<sup>th</sup> June - 17<sup>th</sup> June. Both Company and Junior Section will attend.

**Buchanan Centre** E McCallum Property Convener reported fly tipping on the cleared site of the former Buchanan Centre. She had informed 121 and this would be passed to the Law Dept. She had also been informed that it was designated for Residential Building.

**Suggestion Box** E MacTaggart reported on suggestions received from 14<sup>th</sup> January to 6<sup>th</sup> May. Due to the amount 20 in all, the first 9 were considered, those remaining would be discussed at a later date.

**Harvest Thanksgiving** The date for Harvest Thanksgiving was set for Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> September and would be in aid of Parkinson's UK Scotland.

**Dates** Moderator gave the following dates for the new session.

Sunday School Dedication Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> September

Guild & Guild of Friendship Dedication Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> November

BB Dedication Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> October

**Interim Moderator** Moderator informed Session that he would be interim moderator at Irvine Relief Bourtreehill during the vacancy there.

James Barnes  
Session Clerk

# Boys Brigade

## 2nd Kilmarnock Company

Our coffee morning, which took place on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May, raised the sum of £415 for company funds. Thank you to all who helped, baked, donated and turned up on the day. It was good to raise that sum of money but it was also good to see everyone enjoying the fellowship.



Parents and friends night on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> May was a great success. As usual the hall was full, our inspecting officer was Russell Wylie, former captain of 1<sup>st</sup> Mauchline and a well kent face in Battalion circles. The boys took part in drill, figure marching, games and a play adapted from the David and Goliath story. The boys then received their awards and the main prizewinners were as follows.

### **ANCHORS**

Best Effort: Craig Rorrison

Best Boy: Wells Trophy: Lewis McGuire

### **JUNIORS**

Best Squad: Team Marcus

Best Effort Murdoch family trophy: Gary Anderson

Christian Education David Low Trophy: Marcus Fotheringham

Best Boy Blackwood Trophy: James Gracie

### **COMPANY**

Best Squad: Squad 1 Robbie McLeod, Scott Ross,

Cian Graham Christian Faith McKelvie trophy: Cian Graham

Most in can on one evening: Taite Robinson £57.74

Best Recruit Murdoch Trophy: Ethan Lindsay

Sports Shield: Scott Ross

Best Boy Riccarton Parish Trophy: Robbie McLeod

Captains Prize David low memorial  
Joint Winners Shaun Chalmers / Calvin Rankin

The evening finished with a cuppa and a cake, ending the formal part of our BB session for 2017-18.

Our Annual holiday weekend is to Barcaple, near KIRKcudbright. We leave on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> June and return on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> June. Both company section and Junior Section boys are looking forward to staying away and taking part in the adventure activities.

Hope you all have a great summer break if you're going away somewhere nice, BB starts back in August.

Stuart McKelvie (Company Captain)

## Creche Rota

### JUNE

3 <sup>rd</sup>	Laura Strong	Andrea Dunachie
10 <sup>th</sup>	Edith Jamieson	Margaret McCluskey
17 <sup>th</sup>	Davina Condron	Elizabeth Kerr
24 <sup>th</sup>	Beth McGhee	Elspeth Bennion

### JULY

1 <sup>st</sup>	Laura Strong	Andrea Dunachie
8 <sup>th</sup>	Edith Jamieson	Margaret McCluskey
15 <sup>th</sup>	Davina Condron	Elizabeth Kerr
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Beth McGhee	Elspeth Bennion
29 <sup>th</sup>	Laura Strong	Andrea Dunachie

### AUGUST

5 <sup>th</sup>	Edith Jamieson	Margaret McCluskey
12 <sup>th</sup>	Davina Condron	Elizabeth Kerr
19 <sup>th</sup>	Beth McGhee	Elspeth Bennion
26 <sup>th</sup>	Laura Strong	Andrea Dunachie

### SEPTEMBER

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Edith Jamieson	Margaret McCluskey
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JUNE 2018 | £2.50

# LIFE AND WORK

THE MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

IN THIS ISSUE

## ABSTINENCE AND ADDICTION

The history of abstinence  
in the Church of Scotland

'I LOVE WHAT I DO'

Meet Ann Lyall DCS

SOMEBODY'S CHILD

Encountering rough sleepers

and much more all for £2.50

# Be Still, and Know That I Am God

Be still, and Know that I Am *God*,  
My Father said to me,  
And I will fill you with My *Peace*,  
And set your Spirit Free.

You are my own; I've chosen you:  
You are Precious in My Sight.  
Give Me your Heart and I Promise you  
I'll be your guiding light.

My Love for you will never fade  
By your side I'll always stay.  
My Joy will be your strength and shield,  
If you'll let Me have My way.

I'm Standing here with arms outstretched.  
I want to touch and make you whole.  
Of My living waters, come and drink,  
And I will quench your thirsty soul.

Peace! Be still! I am with you now,  
And no-one could love you more.  
My love for you will never die  
Of that you can be sure.

# Thank You Letters

From Ann Dempster

I would like to thank the church for the beautiful flowers given to me. Thanks also for the lovely cards, phone calls and visits to hospital and my home. Thanks also to Colin for his visits. All gratefully received. I am much better now-just having to take things a bit slower.



From May Ferris

Thank you for the lovely flowers I received from church. They were very much appreciated.

From Tom Littlejohn

Thank you very much for the church flowers I received recently.

It was an unexpected surprise and greatly appreciated.

## Tea Rota

### JUNE

3/10	Marion Linton	Ann Baird	Margaret McCluskey
17/24	Beth McGhee	Jackie Wallace	Lorna McColgan

### JULY

1/8	Carol-Anne McKelvie	Rose Forbes	Mairi Kirkpatrick
15/22	Nan Barlow	Ann Gilmour	Marie Littlejohn
29	Myrtle McCready	Jan Miller	Rose Thomson

### AUGUST

5	Myrtle McCready	Jan Miller	Rose Thomson
12/19	Edith Jamieson	Liz Wilson	Margaret Fulton
26	Marion Linton	Ann Baird	Margaret McCluskey

### SEPTEMBER

2	Marion Linton	Ann Baird	Margaret McCluskey
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## Duty Group for Offering

### JUNE

#### Convenor Group 4 - Ann Dempster

Ann Gilmour                  Beth McGhee                  Davina Condron  
Elizabeth Kerr

### JULY

#### Convenor Group 5 Mgt McCluskey

Andrea Dunachie    Marie Littlejohn

### AUGUST

#### Convenor Group 1 Tom Linton

Ian Aitken                  Alex Hamilton                  Marion Linton  
Jackie Wallace

### SEPTEMBER

#### Convenor Group 2 Gloria Barnes

Jim Barnes                  Jane Ferguson

## Welcome Teams

### JUNE

Ann Dempster                  Ann Gilmour                  Davina Condron  
Beth McGhee                  Elizabeth Kerr                  Graham Kirkpatrick  
Alan Cairns

### JULY

Margaret Henderson    G Kirkpatrick                  A Cairns

### AUGUST

Tom Linton                  Ian Aitken                  Jackie Wallace  
G Kirkpatrick                  A Cairns

### SEPTEMBER

Gloria Barnes                  Jim Barnes                  Jane Ferguson  
G Kirkpatrick                  A Cairns



# Flower Rota

Many thanks to all who generously contribute to the flower ministry. Wishing you all a happy and healthy summer.

Margaret Henderson

## **JUNE**

3<sup>rd</sup>

Elsa Rodgers  
(Flowers to Crosshouse)

Hospital Chapel)

10<sup>th</sup>

Liz McKean

17<sup>th</sup>

Rose Thomson

24<sup>th</sup>

Mgt McCluskey

## **JULY**

1<sup>st</sup>

Anne Costine

8<sup>th</sup>

Gloria Barnes

15<sup>th</sup>

Nan Barlow

22<sup>nd</sup>

Ann Baird

29<sup>th</sup>

Rose Forbes

## **AUGUST**

5<sup>th</sup>

Vacant

12<sup>th</sup>

Marion Linton

19<sup>th</sup>

Vacant

26<sup>th</sup>

Mrs Morrison

## **SEPTEMBER**

2<sup>nd</sup>

Ann Gilmour

# Flower Transport

## JUNE

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Alex Barlow
- 10<sup>th</sup> Mrs M Aitken
- 17<sup>th</sup> Mrs J Ferguson
- 24<sup>th</sup> Mr S McKenzie

## JULY

- 1<sup>st</sup> Miss E MacTaggart
- 8<sup>th</sup> Mrs Ann Gilmour
- 15<sup>th</sup> Mr Alex Barlow
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Mrs M Aitken
- 29<sup>th</sup> Mrs J Ferguson

## AUGUST

- 5<sup>th</sup> Mr S McKenzie
- 12<sup>th</sup> Miss E MacTaggart
- 19<sup>th</sup> Mrs Ann Gilmour
- 26<sup>th</sup> Mr Alex Barlow

## SEPTEMBER

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Mrs M Aitken

## Sound System

### JUNE

3rd Denham Kirkpatrick  
17th Bill McCready

10th Jim Robson  
24th Eleanor McCallum

### JULY

1st Denham Kirkpatrick  
15th Bill McCready  
29th Denham Kirkpatrick

8th Jim Robson  
22nd Eleanor McCallum

### AUGUST

5th Jim Robson  
19th Eleanor McCallum

12th Bill McCready  
26th Denham Kirkpatrick

### SEPTEMBER

2nd Jim Robson

9th Bill McCready

## Congregational Board

The Congregational Board will meet in the church on Monday  
18th June at 7.30pm.

Eleanor McCallum

## From the Editor

Material for September Torch should be given to  
Mrs Betty Robson, 8 Bressay Place NOT  
LATER THAN Sunday 19th August.

Betty Robson (Editor) 01563 532248

On behalf of Jim and myself hope you all  
have a happy and peaceful holiday. See  
you all in September.

