

# The Web Torch



**October 2018**

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

# The Minister's Message

## A Letter from the Manse

Dear Friends,

There is a commonly held perception that Science and Faith are incompatible.

On August 21, 2011, an American software engineer named Jesse Anderson created the Million Monkey project, which featured millions of virtual simians typing away randomly. In just forty-six days, Anderson claims, the mindless authors recreated all of Shakespeare's thirty-eight major works. "This is the largest work ever randomly reproduced," he crowed.

The media trumpeted the achievement uncritically. Yet the claim is so misleading as to border on deception. In truth, what the digital monkeys produced randomly were unbroken strings of letters. It took a computer program (a digital maestro) working behind the scenes to recognize correct sequences and break them up—intelligently, not randomly - into the proper words.

That example illustrates the lesson that creativity is not a random process. Science and the Bible do agree that in order to create something from nothing, there needs to be something or someone behind the scenes directing the show. Despite claims to the contrary, atheism is a blind faith that holds onto an irrational belief that is contrary to all the evidence. To say that the bible and science are in conflict is a very unscientific thing to say. (The issues that this raises can be further pursued in the *Exploring the God Question* videos that are detailed further on in the Torch).

However, while science points to a creator, we can only come to know him as he has chosen to reveal himself through scripture and ultimately through Jesus Christ. In

Psalm 19 David wrote, "The heaven declares the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands..." In other words we can know something of the glory and splendour of God through his creation.

Further on in the Psalm he says: "The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple..." If we really want to know and understand the truth about God and about ultimate realities we can only do so through reading his word. Many people have come up with different theories and ideas, but we cannot know God other than through the revelation that he has given.

David continues, "The ordinances of the LORD are sure and altogether righteous. They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb. By them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward."

If that's not motivation for studying the word of God and applying it to our lives, then I don't know what is!

May we find that to be true, and experience his blessing as we seek to do that in our lives!

Colin A. Strong

The following appeared in the *Torch* a couple of years ago:

### **To You Who Bring Small Children to Church:**

There you are sitting in worship or Bible study. Your child, or toddler, is restless. Perhaps they're even a little rowdy. You try to silence them, and nothing. You try to pacify them with food or toys, and nothing. Eventually, you resort to the last thing you wanted to do: you pick them up, and before a watching audience, you make the march

out of the auditorium. All the while, you're feeling a little embarrassed. Maybe you're a little frustrated too. You might even think to yourself, "There's no point in coming to church. I get nothing out of it because I have to constantly care for my child."

I want you — you mothers and/or fathers — to know just how encouraging you are to so many! The little elderly woman who often feels alone beams with a smile at the sight of you wrestling with your little one. She's been there before. She knows how hard it can be, but she smiles because to hear that brings back precious memories. To see young parents and their small children brighten her day, and she may have just received bad news this week about her health, but seeing the vitality of young ones removes — if but for a moment — her fears.

The older man who always seems to be grouchy notices you too. He's always talking about how children in this day have no respect or sense of good. But, he sees you — a young family — in church, and you don't miss any gathering. Like clockwork, he can depend on the sight of you and your young family. You give him hope that maybe the church isn't doomed after all, because there are still young parents who love God enough to bring their restless children to worship.

The family who's unable to have children notice you too. They'd love to be in your shoes, but for whatever reasons, they are unable to bear children. They've thought about adopting, but they're not sure if that's what they want to do or if they will keep on trying to have children of their own. They'd love to talk to you for a little while about the joys of your children. They need you!!

Then there's everybody else. Yes, some people will honestly become frustrated by noisy children in church.

They have this WARPED idea and notion that reverence includes absolute silence. IT DOESN'T!!

When parents brought their children to Jesus, the disciples rebuked them (Matt. 19.13-15), but Jesus rebuked His disciples. He said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." The term translated "children" in Matthew and Mark is paidon. The root of the word "pedagogue" is from this word. It defined children of either an infant state, or more particularly, it was with reference to those who were half-grown and could be either males or females.

When Luke wrote his account of this narrative, he used the word brephos; which means "infants." Luke wasn't contradicting Matthew and Mark's account, because Luke wrote that they brought the infants "also" (Luke 18.15-17). They would have squirmed, maybe even cried. This was likely why the disciples rebuked the parents; as well as that they might have thought that the children were too young to understand the blessing Christ pronounced over them.

Bring your children to church. IF YOU DON'T HEAR CRYING, THE CHURCH IS DYING!! As hard as it might be for you as a parent, keep on doing what you're doing!! I love you and your crying children! You are an encouragement, and you're starting off your children's lives as you should!

Colin Strong

## **Exploring the God Question**

*In six half hour episodes, world renowned contributors from both sides of the science/God debate unpack the evidence found in the Cosmos, Life and Evolution and the hidden depths of Mind and Consciousness.*

The first of a series of discussions using the dvd series called "Exploring the God Question: Science, God and the search for Truth" took place in the home of Tam & Maxine Lennox, 13 Luce Avenue, on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm. Watch out for the announcements in Church, or ask John Jamieson for times and venues of further meetings. Tea / coffee etc. are be provided. The video clips that will be shown prior to the discussions should be suitable for Christians, agnostics, atheists, and just about anyone with an enquiring mind. Feel free to invite neighbours, friends and relatives. Find out more about the series at <http://www.thegodquestion.tv/introduce>

## **Weekend of Invitation**

Michael Harvey, co-founder of Back to Church Sunday, is returning to Scotland with his roadshow to encourage church leaders, elders and members to take part in next year's Weekend of Invitation. This includes St Ninian's Episcopal Church, Prestwick, 1.00 – 3.30 p.m. on 22<sup>nd</sup> October and Wellington Church, Glasgow 10.00 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. on 23<sup>rd</sup> October. Full list on Church noticeboard.

## **Holy and Humerous**

To mark their 375<sup>th</sup> Anniversary our linked congregation at Fenwick have had all their previous ministers as guest

preachers. On Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> November they will have one of their former organists, Rev John Bell giving a talk entitled *Holy and Humerous*. More details to follow.

### **Sing for Your Supper**

We are planning on having an evening of learning some new songs followed by light refreshments in the Church Hall on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> November. More details later.

### **Stuart Townend Concerts**

Stuart Townend will be on tour this autumn. This includes Largs on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> November and Glasgow on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> November. Full list of venues can be found at <https://www.stuarttownend.co.uk/>

# **Congregational Board**

The Congregational Board met on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> September in Church

## **Finance Report**

On Page 7. The Free Will Offering still down on what was pledged at campaign.

## **Presbytery**

The Annual Support Group visits to Churches will cease at end of the year and be replaced by local Church Review which is a four year rolling programme.

## **Property**

The Church clock and bell have been fully automated. The heating system has been serviced and carbon monoxide detectors fitted in hall and Church.

The Buchanan Centre Site has now been put on the market.

It was decided that there would not be a Church Christmas card distribution in the Parish this year.

Date of next Meeting Monday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2018

Eleanor McCallum  
Clerk to the Board

# **Guild**

The guild resumed on 25<sup>th</sup> September and there was a good turn out and an excellent speaker.

Our next meeting is Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October when we shall hear from Colin Duthie about Riding for the Disabled. Why not come and join us at 7.30pm. Good cup of tea guaranteed.

Eleanor McCallum



# **Guild of Friendship**

The syllabus for the next few weeks is as follows:-

## **October**

- 11<sup>th</sup> Danny, Andrew & Kenny
- 18<sup>th</sup> Work of Prospects - Ivy Blair  
(Friendship of people with learning difficulties)
- 25<sup>th</sup> David Hunter - Christian Bikers

## **November**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Rev John Urquhart - Favourite Hymns
- 8<sup>th</sup> Centre Stage - Unlikely Lads

## **Crossreach**

The Crossreach Christmas Catalogues are now available anyone interested in having one please contact Marion Linton (Tel 524155).

Crossreach wish to pass on their thanks to everyone for their continued support over the years, and as they receive 100% profit from the sale of the Cards and Calendars it enables them to continue to provide loving care and support to many vulnerable people in various areas of society.

## 2nd Kilmarnock BB

We're now well into our new session. The Anchor Boys have taken in some new recruits to replace the boys who went up to the Junior Section. They have been making an autumn tree and learned about the Anchor.



The Junior Section took some paper cups and decorated them on the outside. They then filled them with compost and planted some grass seeds inside. After a few weeks their funny faces all had a good head of hair ! The boys learned about Noah through animated film and attended the Battalion Treasure Hunt at Dean Park.

The Company Section took advantage of the church being unavailable and went Ten Pin Bowling.

We have a coffee morning coming up on Saturday 3rd November, as usual we will be looking for your support.

Our dedication service in church is on Sunday 28th October.

Stuart McKelvie  
Company Capt

## Kirk Session

The next meeting of the Kirk Session will be on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> October in the Church hall.

## **Shoebox Appeal 2018**

It's time to think about filling a shoebox for the Blythswood Care Shoebox Appeal. Every year the appeal brings hope and joy to people living in desperate poverty.

The checklists are now available in church for this years shoe box appeal. This year our shoeboxes will go to Kosova and Albania.

It is 25 years since the first shoeboxes went to Romania. There were 300 in total. The appeal has increased every year since then. With thousands of shoeboxes going to several countries. If you are able, please consider filling a shoebox and send love and joy to someone in another country.

Please ensure that all filled shoeboxes are in by October 28th.

Mairi Kirkpatrick

## **Sewing and Craft Group**



The group continues to meet in the Church Hall on Wednesday evenings from 7 pm. You will be made welcome if you care to join us either to learn, or be helped with sewing, knitting or crochet or to share your talents and to enjoy good company!

Ann Gilmour

## Macmillan Worlds Biggest Coffee Morning

We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who supported the Macmillan Coffee Morning. Thanks for baking, donating to our raffle and above all, for donating money so generously. Thanks so much all of you. Your support is really appreciated.



Mairi, Carol-Anne, Rose & Davina.

## Buttercups

This is held in the church hall on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month, starting on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> September after school from 4pm - 5.30pm.

Age 11 and over. Come and join us for crafts, chats and a snack. Enjoy the fun.

All information on this from Davina Condron

Tel.07761176247

# Thank You Letters

Anne and I together with the family wish to express our grateful thank to the Minister, The Kirk Session and members of the congregation of Riccarton Parish Church for all your prayers at this tragic time of the loss of our oldest son Graeme. The support we have received and the many cards, telephone calls, visits and flowers from the Church and from so many of our friends has upheld us knowing we are still remembered and are in your prayers. Your support and our own faith in the Lord have been a great comfort to us. Again, we offer our thanks and trust in your continued prayers.



Yours in His Service.

Anne and Ben Waddington

From Jim & Rosemary Ferguson

Thank you all so much for our lovely flowers, cards, phone calls and visits we received. They were much appreciated and cheered us both up.

From Bill McGill

Thank you very much for the lovely flowers I received from church on the occasion of my birthday. Very much appreciated and brightened up my day.

From Jeanette & Robin McFadzean

Thank you so much for the lovely flowers given to Robin after his spell in hospital. They were greatly appreciated.

## Duty Group for Offering

### October

**Convenor Group 3** Ann Gilmour  
Nan Barlow Eleanor McCallum Bill McCready

### November

Convenor Group 4 Ann Dempster  
Ann Gilmour Beth McGhee Davina Condron  
Elizabeth Kerr

## Tea Rota

### October

7/14 Nan Barlow Ann Gilmour Marie Littlejohn  
21/28 Myrtle McCready Jan Miller Rose Thomson

### November

4/11 Edith Jamieson Sandra Campbell Margaret Fulton

## Welcome Teams

### October

Eleanor McCallum Bill McCready Rose Thomson  
Graham Kirkpatrick Alan Cairns

### November

Ann Dempster Ann Gilmour Davina Condron  
Beth McGhee Elizabeth Kerr G Kirkpatrick  
A Cairns

# Flower Rota

A thought...

Life is like riding a bicycle.

In order to keep your balance, you must keep moving.

Albert Einstein

## October

7 <sup>th</sup>	Liz Wilson	60 Mauchline Road,	Hurlford
14 <sup>th</sup>	Mary Helen Williamson	49 Bruce Street	
21 <sup>st</sup>	Elspeth MacTaggart	21 Scargie Road	
28 <sup>th</sup>	VACANT		

## November

4 <sup>th</sup>	Bill McGill	20b Clark Street	
&	Christine Dalglish	3 Holmes Village	

# Flower Transport

## October

7 <sup>th</sup>	Mr Alex Barlow	43 Stafflar Drive	528502
14 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs M Aitken	55 Rowallan Dr	525961
21 <sup>st</sup>	Mrs J Ferguson	44 Brewlands Cre	Symington 831351
28 <sup>th</sup>	Mr S McKenzie	93 Bridgehousehill Road	530629

## November

4 <sup>th</sup>	Miss E MacTaggart	21 Scargie Road	527713
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## Creche Rota

### October

7 <sup>th</sup>	Communion	
14 <sup>th</sup>	Davina Condron	Elizabeth Kerr
21 <sup>st</sup>	Beth McGhee	Elsbeth Bennion
28 <sup>th</sup>	Laura Strong	Andrea Dunachie

### November

4 <sup>th</sup>	Edith Jamieson	Margaret McCluskey
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## Sound System

### October

7 <sup>th</sup>	Bill McCready	14 <sup>th</sup>	Eleanor McCallum
21 <sup>st</sup>	Denham Kirkpatrick	28 <sup>th</sup>	Jim Robson

### November

4 <sup>th</sup>	Bill McCready	11 <sup>th</sup>	Eleanor McCallum
18 <sup>st</sup>	Denham Kirkpatrick	25 <sup>th</sup>	Jim Robson

## From the Editor

Material for November Torch should be given to Mrs Betty Robson, 8 Bressay Place NOT LATER THAN Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> October  
Betty Robson (Editor) 01563 532248

