

Contact

May 2023 No. 433



The Magazine of Lenzie Old Parish Church

It seems hard to believe it was seven years ago that Gill, myself, and the boys enjoyed a 6-month locum with you at Lenzie Old. It was lovely to lead worship once again at Lenzie Old on the first Sunday in May - and to see some weel-kent faces!

Much has happened in the intervening years. We all have cause to be grateful to God for the ministry of Rev Louise McClements amongst us. However, I'm keenly aware that there is a tangible sense of loss with Louise's departure and, coupled with this, some anxiety about the future.

I'm minded of the words of the Lord to Joshua, after the death of Moses: *"Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go"* (Joshua 1:9).

Sometimes, fears or discouragements can dominate the horizon of our lives- if we let them. However, hard as it may sometimes sound, God calls us to resist these things and instead hold on to his promise that he will be with us wherever we go.

God does not promise that life will always be easy, but he does promise that he will never leave us. Whatever we go through, he is right there with us. He is our true friend. He is our good shepherd who is ever mindful of his sheep.

*Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
Thou my best thought in the day or the night,
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.*

Your Interim Moderator and Friend,

Philip

email: PWright@churchofscotland.org.uk Tel: 07427 623 393

Baptisms

Isla Eliza Tate, daughter of Susan and Duncan Tate on 26/2/23

Jesus said 'Let the little children come to me'

Deaths

It is with sadness that we intimate the following deaths.

Deaths

Mrs Muriel McNaught
Mr Alexander Sharp
Mr Alan Marshall
Mrs Alma Griffin
Mrs Margaret McCone

Please remember all those named and their families and friends in your prayers at this sad time.

Jesus said- 'I have prepared a place for you, and where I am, you will be also'

Weddings

Kirsty Nisbet and Alan Gilfillan at Lenzie Old Parish Church on the 1st of April 2023

TIME OUT

Time Out had a varied programme of talks, including 'Past Times and past times', "Pandemics and their effects", and activities ranging from Ten Pin Bowling to meals out.

I think I speak for the group when I say that Monday evenings is a time we look forward to for a variety of reasons.

We are having a break for the summer and will resume in September.

Anne Willet

CHURCH FLOWERS

We continue to deliver flowers after Sunday Service.

Thank you to everyone who has kindly contacted me to donate and request flowers for special month of the year.

Please use the book on the vestibule table or contact me directly if you know of someone who would appreciate flowers.

aileen.nicol0809@gmail.com
0759202987

MONTHLY PRAYER GROUP

I wish to express my gratitude to Rev. Louise for her inspiration, encouragement and assistance in establishing our Prayer Group here at Lenzie Old and we all wish her, David & family every God's Blessing for the future.

Lorna Hall and myself met with members of Lenzie Union church (Shona & Malcolm Mackay and Margaret McCartney) to discuss working together to form "Lenzie Prays" and we are planning a "Prayer Walk" on the evening of Thursday 1st June.

All will be welcome to join us either in person or on a "virtual" walk. Details and posters to follow check church Facebook page or Websites.

We are planning to alternate Prayer Groups between two churches and have both morning/evening meetings.

"Thy Kingdom Come" is a global movement and during the time between 18th to 28th May (the period between Ascension and Pentecost) we are asked to pray especially at this time for people to come to know Jesus. There are resources online at the following address:

thykingdomcome@lambethpalace.org.uk

There is also a Global map and the location of our church is lit up on the map to show our involvement.



"Be cheerful no matter what; pray all the time, thank God no matter what happens. This is the way God wants you, who belong to Christ Jesus, to live"

1 Thessalonians Ch.5 V17

The Message Eugene H Peterson

Praying in Israel

On our recent pilgrimage to the Holy Land we prayed together on our bus before setting out for the day the following:

"Jesus our brother, as we dare to follow in the steps you trod,
be our companion on the way,
May our eyes see not only the stones that saw you,
but the people who walk with you now;
May our feet tread not only the path of your pain,
But the streets of a living City;
May our prayers embrace not only the memory
of your presence,
But the flesh and blood who jostle us today.
Bless us with them and make us long to do
Justice, to love Mercy and
to walk Humbly with our God, Amen"

Liz Laird
Prayer Co-ordinator

CONVERSATIONS

We wish to thank David McClements for his valuable contribution to our Bible study group and wish him well for the future. We continue to meet on zoom every fortnight on Wednesday evenings. There is usually about 10 of us and at present we are using the following book by Nick Fawcett as a guide to our flow of conversation:

"No Ordinary Man" (book2)

It is a resourceful book for reflective worship on the person of Jesus and each of the chapters puts us into the shoes of the people who knew him best, encouraging us to explore what Jesus means for us now.

If you are interested in joining us for some stimulating and sometimes humorous conversations please contact Lorna Hall for a link to our zoom meeting. All will be made welcome.

Liz Laird
Group member

Liz Laird (Prayer Co-Ordinator)

FREE WILL OFFERING

I shall soon be ordering the FWO envelopes for 2024. If you no longer require envelopes, would you please let me know. This would allow me to only order the number required.

My email address is burns dva@btinternet.com, mobile 07731 876927.

Gift Aid

If you are a UK taxpayer, you are eligible to register for Gift Aid. The church receives 25p for every £1 given. To register, a Gift Aid Declaration requires to be completed, giving name,

address, signature and date. If you would like more information, please contact me.

If you are registered for Gift Aid and no longer pay UK Income Tax would you please let me know.

Thank you.

Vina Burns,
Gift Aid and FWO Convenor

COME AND SING

Although we officially said farewell to Rev. Louise at our Come & Sing group on Tuesday 18th April we will no doubt see her popping in to "hear" how we are continuing to meet up fortnightly, enjoying some refreshments and singing together. Louise was presented with a parting gift from all at Come & Sing as she has been a great support to our group and read to us a beautiful Blessing that she had written for all of the helpers.

We were also joined by Anne O'Donnell from Alzheimer's Scotland who regularly supports our Group. Leading the Community singing was our friend and gifted musician John Thomson. Although the afternoon was tinged with sadness the music as always helped to lift our spirits.

The "Happy Songsters" spin off group were invited to entertain at the recent Church Fundraising event "Coronation Afternoon Tea" on Saturday 29th April held in Lenzie Old Hall. There was a delicious array of foods and entertainment from Gillian Robertson & George Hughes. Ann Bell had a Royal Quiz and a presentation was made to David McClements for all his contributions with Church Fundraising.

Again the music and song made this a thoroughly "Joyous" occasion.

Come and Sing Lenzie future dates:

May 16th (with a return visit from entertainer "Papa Tuke Tuke" & his ukulele)

May 30th

June 13th

June 27th (A return visit from Ben Smart, Moraig Laurie's grandson, who has a wonderful voice)

Over the summer months we will meet one week in July and one in August.

Liz Laird (Treasurer)
Lorna Hall (Team Leader)
The Come & Sing Team

SCOTTISH BIBLE SOCIETY

Our action group would like to welcome you to an afternoon of "Coffee & Classics". As the name suggests, we'll be serving tea, coffee cakes, but also having musical interludes during the afternoon. We hope to have a tenor, a violinist and a mystery guest to provide the music. The date is June 23rd, which is Midsummer Eve, the time is 2.p.m.-4.30. p.m. and it will be held in Lenzie Old Parish.



Admission is by donation and all monies will go to the work of the Bible Society. This will be our first fundraising event since "Lockdown". Please come along -bring a friend, meet some others, celebrate Midsummer with the Classics.

Sharing the Bible in Egypt at a Time of Need

As the COVID-19 pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine take their toll on the global economy, countless Egyptians are under severe pressure. The rising cost of essential items has increased the financial burden on already vulnerable communities. The Church in Egypt is facing a daunting challenge of meeting the basic needs of its members and those in financial crisis. Confronted with such desperation, the Bible Society of Egypt has stepped up to support the Church's efforts. Their mission is clear

- to make Scripture resources accessible and affordable for those who are struggling to make ends meet and in need of hope. Achieving this aim is not straightforward. According to research, people in Egypt tend to only read in short bursts and would be unlikely to read from a full Bible. The Bible Society has responded to this trend by focusing its efforts on providing Scripture tracts and editions of the New Testament to recipients, encouraging easier engagement with the text.

Another obstacle to making the Bible easily available to Egyptians is the cost of Bibles in relation to people's income. Shockingly, over 32.5% of Egyptians live below the poverty line, with some earning less than £1.19 per day. To ensure that even the poorest in society can access the Scriptures, the Bible Society took the decision to subsidise the wholesale price of Bibles. This allows churches to purchase in bulk and offer the Bibles and Scripture portions at a price that is within reach of every Egyptian. However, in order to maintain this project, the Bible Society relies heavily on donations since the selling price is far below the real cost.

Since the start of this project, over 245,000 Bible and Scripture portions have been distributed throughout Egypt. In that time, there have been many inspiring stories of people like Samira and Marwa (not their real names) using their meagre resources to share the Good News with those around them. Samira, for instance, comes to the Bible Society of Egypt's bookshop to buy Bibles, New Testaments, and booklets. She uses these materials to share the Good News with people she encounters, praying and asking the Lord to guide her to someone who needs the Scriptures. 'I have found that so many people are curious and desire to read the Bible so often someone will ask me where they can get one. I tell them I have extra and leave it with them if they want it.'

Meanwhile, Marwa, a hospital cleaner, has opened an account at the Bible Society bookshop to deposit any extra money she has until she can make her next purchase. Her commitment is unwavering, and she has even gathered her friends to contribute to the cause, buying Bibles to distribute in the hospital. 'I don't

want to be tempted to spend this money on other urgent things,' she explains. 'I'm saving it for when I can distribute God's Word again.'

Thanks to the Bible Society's efforts, individuals like Samira and Marwa have been enabled to share the Bible with those who cross their path. Thousands of churches and ministries have also benefited from their subsidised Bible resources. In a time when the Church of Egypt needs support, the Bible Society's project is providing hope and light to those in financial crisis and other difficult circumstances. The impact of their work is immeasurable, and their dedication to share the Good News is truly inspiring.

Thanks to those who support the work of the Bible Society, especially those who donate directly to Bible House, the head office in Edinburgh.

Lorna Hall, Coordinator, Lenzie Action Group

COUNTRY DANCE GROUP

Our session has now ended for 2022-23. None of us are expert; we enjoy a fun night with gentle exercise and the obligatory cup of tea. Members come from the extensive community and are of a wide age range. New members, of any gender, are welcome. The new session starts again on the 7th September '23.

NEW MEMBER

In April we welcomed Mrs Barbara Munro into the family of our church in the comfort of her own home. Barbara took her vows in front of a small congregation who gathered in her lounge. We lit candles and sang hymns and it was a very special time. We are delighted to welcome Barbara as a new member of Lenzie Old Parish Church. She is pictured here with her husband Findlay who is an elder and our roll keeper.



FAREWELL TO REV LOUISE MCCLEMENTS

On 30th April 2023 LOPC bid a fond farewell to Rev Louise McClements. Louise was presented with a beautiful stole, flowers, cheque and gifts from the children.

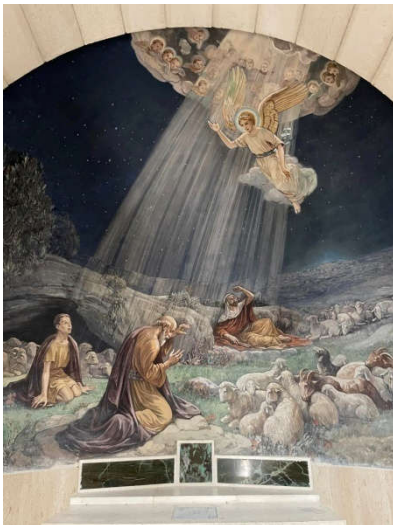




Thank you to Louise for her kind gift to us of the gorgeous knitted nativity set.



PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND



Twenty four people went on the pilgrimage to the Holy Land in March, led by Rev Louise McClements and Rev Dr Joan Ross.

CORONATION AFTERNOON TEA



Musical interludes provided by "the Songsters".

THURSDAY AFTERNOON CLUB

Are you looking for somewhere to go on a Thursday afternoon?

Would you enjoy getting out of the house for a while and being in the company of others?

If so, why not come to the Church Hall at 2pm for a relaxing cup of tea/coffee and some delicious home baking!

You can then play a game of scrabble, rummikub or dominoes or just sit back and have a good old blether!



We recently said goodbye to our minister Louise, whom we will miss dearly. We gave her a small gift to remind her of the Thursday Club and 4 of our helpers sang "Ae Fond Kiss" to her which is one of her favourite songs.

We meet every fortnight from 2 till 4 and we can provide transport for anyone who needs it. There is a small charge of £2 and this money goes into the Church funds. We have 3 meetings left before the summer break and they are on 25th May, 8th June and 22nd June. We intend to restart on 14th September.

Please contact me on 775 1150 if you wish more details.

Mary Calder

CHRISTIAN AID

Christian Aid week was from 14th -20th May. We have again delivered envelopes on a delivery only basis. Many thanks to the band of volunteers who delivered these through the letter boxes. As we are not able to cover the whole of Lenzie, we have this year distributed envelopes at the church service at the beginning of Christian Aid week. Thanks to Andrew King, who again agreed for his shop to be a collection point.

Thanks are due firstly to Marian Martin of Lenzie Union, who raised over £700 through a sponsored walk. As I write, Marion Clubb is planning her daily sponsored walk around Craigenbay Road and Crescent -with her trusty walker and an occasional companion. Last year she raised almost £1000! I'm sure she would be happy to take donations from anyone who doesn't stay in Craigenbay! Thanks Marion!

The annual Lenzie Churches Christian Aid Coffee Morning will be held on Wednesday 17th May, from 10.00 till 12.00. This year it will be held in Lenzie Old. There will be a plant stall as well as books and other things!

CYCLONE FREDDY

Cyclone Freddy, the longest-lasting tropical cyclone on record (lasting 34 days), has hit Malawi and Mozambique. This cyclone is the equivalent of a full North Atlantic hurricane season. Malawi experienced a year's worth of rain during the 4-week cyclone. The number of people affected by the cyclone continues to rise. Over 508,000 people are displaced and hundreds have lost their lives. There's also an increased risk of malaria and cholera in the immediate aftermath. In the face of this new tragedy, your support is more vital than ever.

Christian Aid Week is at its most powerful when a disaster happens. The fundraising supported by churches, communities and individuals each May allows us to provide relief and support when disasters hit.

Our response : Our partners and team in Malawi have been responding to the immediate recovery needs of communities. This includes:

- ☐ Corn soya blend for porridge for breastfeeding mothers and children under 5 years
- ☐ Mosquito nets for families to provide protection against malaria
- ☐ Providing temporary toilets and bathrooms, water containers and water treatment to help prevent the risk of cholera

☐ Mobile clinics to help people process the emotional trauma of the cyclone

☐ Distribution of cash to 1,000 households so that families can purchase their immediate needs.

We look forward to the congregation supporting Christian Aid this year, as ever.

Lorna Hall, Lenzie Old. Coordinator,
Lenzie & Kirkintilloch Christian Aid Group.

SOUND DESK

The sound desk operation is a vital part of our Church service. The operation is split into two sections;
The sound control unit monitors the microphones and transfers the sound to the speakers.

The second section is the operation of the camera, the transfer of images to the screens from the camera and laptop and the recording of the service and uploading to YouTube.

At present we have six members of the sound desk team and when we are recording a service we require two members of the team on duty.

One member of our team is retiring in July and we require more volunteers to join the team for the operation of the sound control unit. This is a non technical role and a minimum of training is required to carry out this function.

If you are interested please let me know and we can arrange a visit, without commitment, to explain how the system works. At present we only have three members of the team who are trained to operate the camera, transfer images from the camera and laptop to the screens and to record and upload the service to YouTube. One member of this team will be stepping down from this role in July and this means when we resume our services after the summer break we will only have two persons available for this role. This will mean that the Church service will not be recorded each week and it is anticipated that

we will reduce our recordings to only one or two services per month.

If anyone is interested in this more technical role then please let me know and arrangements can be made for a demonstration session, without commitment, to explain the operation.

My contact number is 0749 287 3247

Thank you

Alistair Aitchison

ECO CONGREGATION

We have been continuing to collect a carrier bag of blister packs each week with Rosemary Craig dropping them off regularly to Superdrug in Largs. These are then sent to third world countries to be melted down and used to repair roads Well done everyone let's keep it up. Unfortunately, the cardboard weekly packs are not accepted.

We are also now collecting all dental products in the bin in the foyer. All toothbrushes and packaging, toothpaste tubes and packaging, dental floss and inter-dent products are all acceptable.

Thank you to everyone who is participating.

Eco Committee



GLASGOW PRESBYTERY REPORT

Meetings were held on 25 and 26 April 2023 to discuss and agree the revised Mission Plan for Glasgow Presbytery. This draft was accepted and sent to the Faith Nurture Forum and the General Trustees on 28 April. Receipt has been acknowledged by the FNF and it is anticipated that formal notification and the hoped for acceptance will be received in June 2023.

The original Draft Mission Plan of Glasgow Presbytery had been sent to Edinburgh in October 2022 but it was not approved by the national Presbytery Mission Plan Implementation Group (PMPIG). PMPIG had sought greater clarity regarding the cluster plans as it felt that there were too many churches with a category "A"; classification; indeed they highlighted the churches in

Kirkintilloch, Lenzie and Kilsyth. Some clusters had had difficulty in completing their cluster plans despite their valiant efforts and so were incomplete. None of the suggested amendments took into account the work undertaken within church communities. Cluster groups had to revisit their submissions. The Glasgow Presbytery Mission Plan Creation Group (PMPCG) met weekly and discussed and assisted certain clusters; thereafter a revised Mission Plan was developed.

Congregations were "cited" to attend one of the two meetings; this permitted one member from each church to give a brief talk about the effect of the revisions on their missionary plan. The revised plan shows the reclassification of the 4 churches in Kirkintilloch and Lenzie as a "B", and a review date of December 2023 with disposal of surplus buildings by December 2027. Little discussion with PMPCG, if any, took place with our cluster group. Category "B" means that dates must be included and this was done by PMPCG. The two Kirk Sessions of Lenzie Union and Lenzie Old had previously met and taken the decision to explore a "union" by December 2025 but no decision was taken as to the disposal (if any) of buildings. This decision was not stated in the revised plan. The Session Clerk of Kirkintilloch St Mary's spoke on behalf of the 4 churches expressing concern at the change in status but no change was made by Presbytery. This was seemingly to facilitate discussions about the reduction in the number of buildings, given that Glasgow had been allocated only 84 ministerial posts, plus 12 for the Priority Area churches.

Some of the changes to cluster groups submissions (without consultation) include "decision dates" and "disposal dates". Several churches had indeed decided to unite and dispose of certain buildings, however the dates given by PMPCG in the revised plan were not realistic. Kelvinbridge Church had taken the

decision to unite with Wellington (currently in a transitional ministry) and close the Kelvinbridge building, but the given disposal date of September 2023 was unrealistic. It was clarified that as Kelvinbridge had chosen to dispose of their building then the date was flexible.

The Presbytery Mission Plan Act (Act VIII 2021) was clear in the use of “words/phrases” and so the word “union” has been used several times in the revised Plan whereas in some cases churches had used the term “partnership agreement”. This was not one of the phrases contained within the Act and so could not be used. This naturally has led to confusion and uncertainty.

A motion by a member of Chryston Parish Church, which is in a cluster group consisting of Sandyhills and Robroyston churches, was accepted by Presbyters. The new submission by PMPCG had reduced the allocation of 3 unrestricted ministers to 1 minister and a 0.5 MDS (Ministries Development Staff). The 3 churches, wish to explore the development of a new form of adjustment, to include a church partnership agreement and associated plan between the 3 churches, to be worked through with Presbytery and the Faith Nurture Forum. This plan is to include investment in additional locally funded staff, to support the work of our ministry teams.

A motion from a minister with an amendment was accepted, to the effect that the submission to Edinburgh should record how presbyters felt about the whole process, as a great deal of stress and uncertainty has resulted from the whole Mission Plan process, which has been carried out in too short a time frame.

FAREWELL LUNCH FOR LOUISE AND DAVID

I would like to thank everyone who helped make the lunch a success.

Thanks to those who made sandwiches and those who provided lovely homebaking! Also thanks to everyone who helped set up and tidy up at the end.

As always, LOPC rose to the occasion and provided a fitting farewell to our much loved minister and her family.

Mary Calder



Turn your weekly shop into **BIG donations** for Lenzie Old Parish Church!

In 2023 so far, over **£150,000** has been raised for good causes from grocery shops through easyfundraising.

Easyfundraising have all the big brands offering donations, find out how much your favourite supermarket will donate!



Supermarket	Home delivery	
	First order	Existing customer order
	£3.50	£1.75
	£2.00	£1.75
	£3.00	£1.50
	£4.50	£1.50
	£3.00	50p

*Donation rates were correct as of 26th April

Please contact Liz Laird for more information.

From the Manse

May 2023



Dear Friends,

Presently I am preparing to stay in chaplain's accommodation in Edinburgh for this year's General Assembly. The Moderator designate Rev Sally Foster-Fulton invited me earlier this year to be one of her chaplains. Way back in 2001 I did an enquiry placement with Sally whilst she was minister of Camelon: Irving. An enquiry placement was a bit like work experience where you shadowed a minister on a very part-time basis for six months to see what ministry involved and to discern if this was what God was calling you to do. One of my worries was how would I manage as a young woman with two small children. Sally happened to be around my age and also had two young children and she showed me through her warmth and sense of humour that ministry as a young mum was absolutely possible and also enriching to a congregation. Needless to say her example inspired me to apply and over twenty years later I can honestly say that her words were true.

I want to thank you all for welcoming David and our family over these past seven years so warmly. Our daughters were married at Lenzie Old and our grandchildren Sienna and Reuben baptized therefore Lenzie Old will always hold a special place in their hearts. We have journeyed with you through happy and sad times, in particular through a pandemic which lasted so much longer than any of us could have ever anticipated. We have seen new groups established including 'Come and Sing' and have had many fun social events and pilgrimages to Spring Harvest and the Holy Land.

When I first arrived in 2016 we worked hard over the first few years to compile a document which we presented to the Strategic Plan Committee which included the five marks of mission and how we were fulfilling them. We were delighted when presbytery decided to sist the plan for Lenzie and that our church would be allowed to stay open. Shortly afterwards everything changed

when the new Radical Mission Plan meant that all churches had to readjust due to an almost 50% cut in ministry. Despite all of this it is good that you are now in a position where you are able to enter into discussions with Lenzie Union on an equal footing due to the previous plan being sisted.

My five-year tenure means that I am required to move on to allow this reduction in ministry to take place. I have been most fortunate to have had seven happy and fulfilling years with you and for this I am wholly grateful. I thank you all for making these seven years such a blessing. You are a warm, welcoming congregation yet also very humble. You have so many gifts and strengths and I hope that I have played a small role in encouraging you over these past seven years to practice your own special and unique ministries and to know God's blessing upon all that you do in his name. You also have a very deep faith in our Lord Jesus and so many of you have ministered to me over the years. I know that both my own faith and David's is deeper because of your commitment and example.

I also want to thank you for releasing me with your love and blessing. Leaving has been so difficult for me yet at the same time I know that God is calling me to write and serve the church in other ways. I thank the Session Clerks, Elders and members of the Board for the wonderful social evening at Lenzie Golf Club. The buffet was delicious and the company even better! Thanks to Ian Hector for his very kind words and also for the gifts you gave to me. Thank you to Come and Sing for their lovely card and gifts and also the Thursday Club. Thank you for the beautiful stole, generous amount of money, and flowers you presented to me on my final Sunday. Thanks also to Focus and the Sunday School for their lovely card, balloon and personalised story book which I absolutely love! Thanks also to the choir for their lovely pieces and to David Calder for his beautiful and very moving farewell medley.

Finally I want to thank you for allowing me to have some assistance over these past 18 months with the help of Revs Graham and Sheila Blount. This allowed me to attain the Masters level in my ministry research to those living with dementia and I am delighted that Sheila and Graham have agreed to continue

to provide pastoral support and pulpit supply. I know many of you have been blessed with Sheila's pastoral care and Graham's input in Conversations our Bible Study group.

I end this letter with sadness but also deep joy and gratitude for knowing you and having had the privilege of being your minister over the past seven years. I know that God is with you and will guide you into the future as he has faithfully done in the past. Rich blessings await you and many more people will come to know God's love in the years to come because of your commitment, faith and witness.

I finish with the words of a Traditional Irish Blessing:

*May the road rise up to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
May the rain fall soft upon your fields,
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of his hand.*

Lots of love

Louise, David, Sophie and David, Victoria and Grant, Sienna and Reuben.

QUILTING AND CRAFT GROUP

The Quilting and craft group has restarted for the summer term. We have 2 new members and room for more. The usual time: 10am – 12pm. All welcome.

Elaine Fulton

CONTACT MAGAZINE

Articles for the next edition of contact should be submitted by 10th August 2023. Pictures to accompany the articles will also be appreciated.