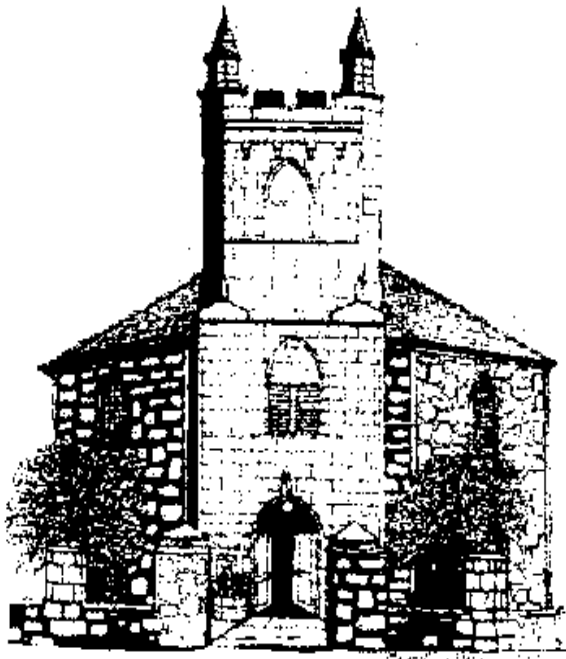


CALDER UNITED FREE CHURCH

LOCHWINNOCH

WINTER

NEWSLETTER



JANUARY 2010

OFFICE BEARERS

Minister

Rev A Ford BSc
Calder Manse
Tel842405

Session Clerk

Mrs J Andrew
1 Viewfield Avenue
Tel.842347

Treasurer

Mrs. M. McKinlay
91 High Street

Crèche Organiser

Mrs. S. Gater
14 Viewfield Avenue

Clerk to the Board

Mrs. E. Martin
57 Semple Avenue

Preses

Mr. R. Thomson
6 Spiers Road

Organist

Mrs. M. Holmes
8 Harvey Cottages

Sunday School

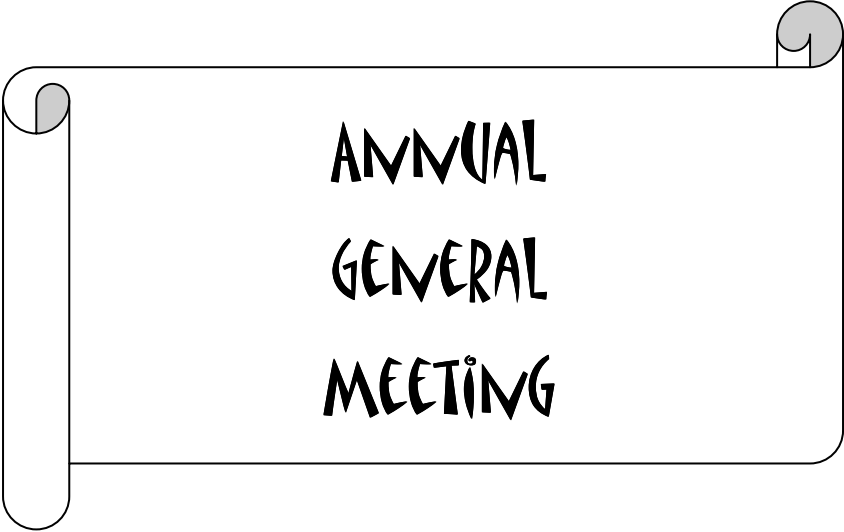
Mrs Lynne Harley

A.B.C. Leader

Mrs. M Murray
2 Beechburn Crescent

Woman's Association

Mrs E. Martin 01505843345



**ANNUAL
GENERAL
MEETING**

Monday 8th February at 7.30pm

All are warmly invited to come along to share and discuss the strengths and opportunities within the life and work of Calder church.

Your views are important.

Tea and coffee will be served

STATISTICS SUMMARY

	January 2005	December 2008	December 2009
Membership	155	159	154
Kirk Session	16	18	17
Committee of Management	14	15	14
Baptism	n/a	6	4 + 1adult
Crèche	5	5	9
Sunday School	25	32	24
Youth (ABCs)	20	9	10
Girl's Brigade	n/a	80	69
Boy's Brigade	n/a	56	52
Women's Association	15	12	15
Choir / Music	10	7	7
Bible Study / Evening Fellowship	10	8	
Food For Thought	15	22	25
Burnt Offerings	n/a	7	7
Men's Breakfast	n/a	8	
Fundraising			10

MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends

This report coincides with our five-yearly review visit (Quinquennial Visitation) from the Presbytery of the West. I have decided therefore to share a broader view of the life of the congregation and the challenges and opportunities before us. I begin by sharing a few words from the letter to the Colossians addressed to the church folk there:

“And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,..” Colossians 1:10

God wants us to grow as Christians and as a church. This is something that God wants each of us to take seriously. In this report I would like to give a candid and personal view of our life as a congregation.

Calder Church like most congregations in Scotland is facing the reality of diminishing numbers and a population that appears to be less open to God and faith. Our congregation is also ageing with fewer members in their twenties, thirties and even forties. Statisticians love to look at such figures, create an appropriate graph and predict when extinction will come. To attempt this is to reckon without God and the work of the Spirit of God. Over the centuries there have been times of growth and revival when churches were full and other periods when things were difficult as they are today.

However I do believe that if our congregation is to be as God wants it to be then we have to seriously tackle the challenges before us. In harder times believers are called upon to be more faithful and involved.

Worship

Over the past 5 years there has been a noticeable decline in the numbers of people attending Sunday morning services. New people have come but we have lost more members through death and folk moving away. The result is that the spaces are more apparent than the worshippers. On special days when attendance is better the effect on the congregation is significant. The singing is often more uplifting and the congregation leave encouraged and excited. Although the issue is not numbers a well-filled church is a different place to be. The active membership of the church could more than double the worshipping congregation every Sunday.

Spiritual Growth and Fellowship

I believe this to be the one area which has given most encouragement in the recent past. Although the Sunday Evening Fellowship has remained small, Food for Thought and the Men's Breakfast have kept up very well. The Women's Association is battling away and all provide opportunities for members and others to get to know each other and to learn and talk about faith and life. The format in all of these groups is informal and relaxed and there is an amazing amount of laughter thrown in as well. There is plenty of room for others to join in and to grow in knowledge and service.

Pastoral Care

Very simply we need volunteers to give up an hour a month to visit a Care Home or people who need someone to pop in and see them. I believe we can do a lot better.

Youth Work

The church is indebted to the faithful teams of leaders and teachers who work in the Crèche, Sunday School, ABC's, Boys'

Brigade and Girls' Brigade. The work done over many, many years has been quite staggering. Thousands of young people have been blessed by this faithful work. However the numbers of children in church on a Sunday Morning has declined significantly and this requires our prayerful attention.

Mission

It goes without saying that there is a desperate need for us all to be involved in mission and outreach. Beyond the Summer Club, Back to Church Sunday, Burnt Offerings, special events and services God is calling us to invite others to respond to him and for us to tell others of Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. This we do, not because we want more people in Church, but because their lives depend on believing in him.

Prayer

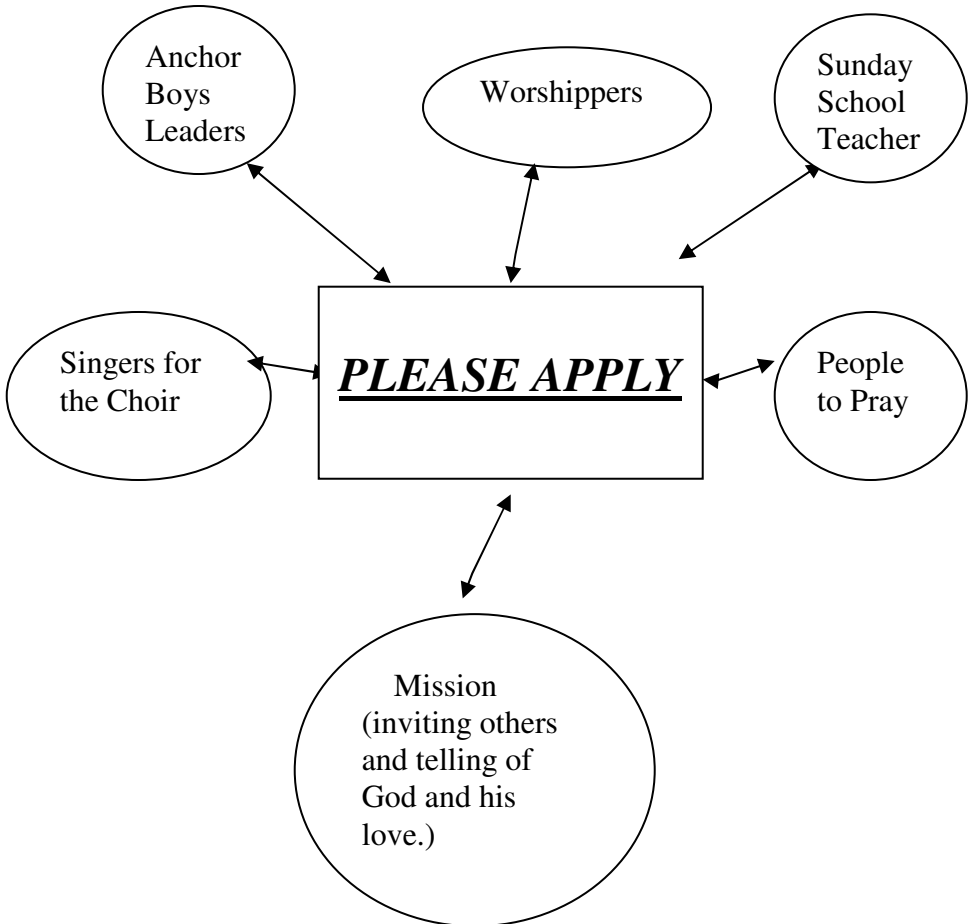
To all of this we need to add prayer for ourselves, the church and others.

In conclusion I would simply add that I believe that God is calling on us to tackle the issues outlined and that we have to do so urgently.

Yours in the Lord

Archie Ford

SITUATIONS VACANT



SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS



SERVICE

CARING!

CONTENTENT

REWARDING

FELLOWSHIP

KINDNESS



GIVING

FLOWERS

HAPPY

THRIVING COMMUNITY



Church Website

You may not be aware that our church has a website - actually some pages on the Lochwinnoch Village Website. It can be found in the Local Info section in the sidebar at the left of the Homepage, and its address is:

<http://www.lochwinnoch.info/info/calderufc/>. I generally keep the diary up for about two weeks ahead, and there is a page for prayer requests - though I don't get many. There are also a few useful links.

If anyone has any suggestions for improvement, please let me know.

Chris Gould

chris@ic202.fsnet.co.uk



Burnt Offerings

Burnt Offerings is now in its 4th year. It is open to anyone wishing to discuss issues around faith and maybe learn some cooking skills too. At present the group has six keen and now more confident cooks under the watchful eye of Mr. Ford. At each meeting (1st Monday of the month) we take turns to provide the ingredients and a recipe for either a starter, main course or pudding. We then swap bags, so nobody knows in advance what they are cooking. Mr Ford steps in to supply any missing ingredients and utensils to ensure things run smoothly. We do occasionally have culinary disasters but on a whole sit down to a tasty 3-course dinner.

The group is relaxed and informal with much lively discussion and debate around faith, often on recurrent themes such as suffering and conviction, set within the challenges of everyday modern life. Mr. Ford guides us in our discussion, providing ideas for further thought. Bible passages and generally keeping us focussed. The group often come prepared to the meeting with thought provoking questions, some of which Mr. Ford explored during his sabbatical. As well as answers, our discussions often generate more questions so we can look forward to our next meeting, picking up where we left off. The group would be happy to share their thoughts and ideas with some new faces.

Sue & Ian Beverland.

The Cold Spell

Fifty years ago we had weather like we've had this winter – long spells of snow, ice and frost that kept rural dwellers like me away from the delights of civilization for weeks at a time. We'd almost forgotten just how hard winter can be, and were unprepared for our forced hibernation.

It's good to see green fields again, to see the spears of the daffodil leaves pushing up towards the spring, to know that snow time is nearly upon us. It's good to be able to come to Church as normal.

The poem I wrote is the true story of my experiences while the earth was hard as iron and water was like stone and whiteness was over the land. It was written when I was feeling somewhat sorry for myself. Eventually even the burn froze over so solidly that I could no longer break the ice on it to get water to flush the loo.

But while the modern world shattered to bits around me, there was plenty of time to think, and count my blessings.

Good health, good family, a kind plumber, a hardy telephone engineer, friends who kept in touch, and a far-seeing friend who'd left me with an ample supply of logs - they were wonderful support. I'm grateful to them all.

And the life force I speak about in the poem?

Archie reminds us of it every Sunday...

God is with us

Betty McKellar

The Big Freeze, 2009 – 2010

This is the year of the whiteness.
Snow and ice and frost cover the land
in a relentless hardness.

I am locked
inside the beauty of this whiteness
In oldness,
frozen
to arthritic limbs'
brittled
in coldness from the years.

And in this year of whiteness
our today
disintegrates....
The car won't go
the telephone is dead
the heating fails
the tap no longer yields its flow.
I am alone
and suddenly frail.

But life is relentless
in my core
its force
ignites the dynamo –
survive,
do battle with the snow!

I am become
a sister
to my ancestors
I walk beside the ancients;
I am the gatherer of wood
the keeper of the fire
the carrier of water.
I am the one
who lived high on the hill
who faced out
winter's cruellest smile
who walked once more
into the spring...

Betty McKellar



HAITI

Dear friends,

I am sure you too have been stunned by the news of the devastating earthquake in Haiti that we woke up to yesterday. Haiti has been through so much, and our hearts bleed to see them go through yet another major crisis with such a heavy loss of life and destruction.

I call on all to keep the people and churches of Haiti in your prayers, and to do whatever is within your means to help.

I share with you a new song that was written yesterday by a member of the PCUSA as a prayer for the people of Haiti.

Thanks for your caring.

Sincerely yours,
Setri Nyomi (Rev. Dr.)
WARC General Secretary

In Haiti, There is Anguish

ST. CHRISTOPHER 7.6.8.6.8.6.8.6 ("Beneath the Cross of Jesus")

In Haiti, there is anguish that seems too much to bear;
A land so used to sorrow now knows even more despair.
From city streets, the cries of grief rise up to hills above;
In all the sorrow, pain and death, where are you, God of love?

A woman sifts through rubble, a man has lost his home,
A hungry, orphaned toddler sobs, for she is now alone.

Where are you, Lord, when thousands die—the rich, the poorest poor?

Were you the very first to cry for all that is no more?

O God, you love your children; you hear each lifted prayer!
May all who suffer in that land know you are present there.
In moments of compassion shown, in simple acts of grace,
May those in pain find healing balm, and know your love's embrace.

Where are you in the anguish? Lord, may we hear anew
That anywhere your world cries out, you're there-- and suffering,
too.

And may we see, in others' pain, the cross we're called to bear;
Send out your church in Jesus' name to pray, to serve, to share

Tune: Frederick Charles Maker, 1881

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Disaster Assistance.

Carolyn visited Haiti on a mission trip when she was a Lebanon Valley

College student. Other hymns by Carolyn that might be helpful for churches responding to this disaster that are posted on the PDA web site include: Who is My Neighbor, hymn inspired by the parable of the Good Samaritan

God We've Known Such Grief and Anger,

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette is the author of Songs of Grace: New Hymns for God and Neighbor (Discipleship Resources/Upper Room Books, 2009) and Gifts of

Love: New Hymns for Today's Worship (Geneva Press, 2000) and the co-pastor

of Limestone Presbyterian Church in Wilmington, Delaware

Congregational Register

Baptisms

Gemma Morton	Glenpark Road
Jack Joseph Morton	Glenpark Road

Funerals

Samuel Cochrane	Markethill
Alex Stewart	Braehead
Mary Russell	Calder Street
Elizabeth (Elsie) Holmes	McConnell Road
Christine Williamson	Linwood
Samuel Arthur	Linwood
Margaret Cusworth	High Street
Alan Donaldson	John Gregor Place

Provisional Diary – Feb-June

Monday	1 st Feb	7.00	Burnt Offerings
Tuesday	2 nd Feb	7.30 pm	Women's Association – Kenya Experience – Mrs. Nan Morrow
Saturday	6 th Feb	2.30 pm	Women's Presbyterian – Bellshill U F Church
Sunday	7 th Feb	11.00 6.30 pm	Communion Praise Service
Monday	8 th Feb	7.30 pm	AGM
Monday	22 nd Feb	7.30 pm	Food for Thought
Saturday	27 th Feb	8.00am	Men's Breakfast
Monday	1 st Mar	7.00 pm	Burnt Offerings
Friday	5 th Mar		World Day of Prayer
Monday	8 th Mar	7.30 pm	Managers
Monday	15 th Mar	7.30 pm	Kirk Session
Saturday	27 th Mar	8.00am	Men's Breakfast
Sunday	28 th Mar	11.00 am	Palm Sunday
Monday	29 th Mar	7.00 pm 7.30 pm	Prayers Food for Thought
Tuesday	30 th Mar	7.00 pm	Prayers
Wednesday	31 st Mar	7.00 pm	Prayers
Thursday	1 st April	7.00 pm	Communion
Friday	2 nd April	7.00 pm	Good Friday Joint Worship
Saturday	3 rd April	2.30 pm	Women's Presbyterian – Bargeddie U F Church
Sunday	4 th April	7.30 am 11.00am	Morning Worship at the Lochside followed by breakfast Morning Worship
Monday	5 th April	7.00 pm	Burnt Offerings
Tuesday	6 th April	7.30 pm	Women's Association – Rev Maureen Leitch
Monday	12 th April	7.30 pm	Managers
Saturday	24 th April	8.30 am	Men's Breakfast
Sunday	25 th April	11.00am	Youth Organisation Parade – Parish Church
Tuesday	4 th May	7.30 pm	Women's Association - AGM
Sunday	8 th May	11.00 am	Anniversary Service
Friday	14 th May	7.30 pm	Girl's Brigade Display

*Confirmation / further information on the above and other events will be given in the
weekly
Order of Service bulletin.*

Court of Session

Rev A. Ford
Mrs. J. Andrew
Mr. M. Brown
Mr. J. Browning
Mr. J. Caldwell
Mrs. M. Frew
Mrs. E. Graham
Mrs. J. Graham
Mr. W. Graham
Mrs. Helen Gulliver
Mr. D Lawrie
Mrs E McAllister
Mrs E McKellar
Mrs. Margaret McKinlay
Mr. A Murray
Mr J Spiers
Mr R Thomson
Mr. I White

Committee of Management

Preses: Mr R Thomson
Treasurer: Mrs M McKinlay
Clerk: Mrs E Martin
Mrs C Adam
Mr. W .Arthur
Mr M Brown
Mr G Frew
Mr W Gamble
Mr H McKinlay
Mrs J McNab
Mrs. Ann McRae
Mrs A Turner
Mrs. E. Waddell
Mr J Waddell
Mr I White