



Kilchrenan Church

**KILCHRENAN & DALAVICH**  
**(linked with Muckairn)**  
**CHURCH BULLETIN**  
**Spring/Summer 2024 Edition 112**



Dalavich Church





Dear Ones,

Easter is a time of joy, celebration, and reflection for Christians around the world. It marks the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, the cornerstone of the Christian faith. As believers gather to commemorate this momentous occasion, they often turn to scripture for guidance, comfort, and inspiration. Even though the resurrection stories in the Gospels are marvellous, one passage that holds particular significance for me during Easter is Psalm 118:19-24.

Psalm 118:19-24 reads:

"Open for me the gates of the righteous; I will enter and give thanks to the Lord. This is the gate of the Lord through which the righteous may enter. I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become my salvation. The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvellous in our eyes. The Lord has done it this very day; let us rejoice today and be glad."

These verses are rich in symbolism and profound in their message, offering profound insights into the significance of Easter and the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The passage begins with a plea to "open for me the gates of the righteous." This can be interpreted as a request for God to open the way for the psalmist to enter into His presence. It reflects the desire of believers to draw near to God and experience His goodness and grace. As Christians celebrate Easter, they are reminded that through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the way to God has been opened for all who believe.

The psalmist acknowledges that it is through God's grace and mercy that they are able to enter the gates of righteousness. This underscores the central message of Easter – that salvation comes not through human effort or merit, but through God's unmerited favor. It is a time for believers to give thanks to the Lord for His abundant blessings and for the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ.

The imagery of the rejected stone being transformed into the cornerstone is particularly powerful in the context of Easter. Jesus Christ, who was rejected and crucified by the world, has become the cornerstone of the Christian faith. His resurrection is the cornerstone upon which the entire Christian belief system rests. This transformation is described as "marvellous in our eyes," emphasizing the miraculous nature of Christ's victory over death.

The psalmist declares, "The Lord has done it this very day; let us rejoice today and be glad." This proclamation of joy and gladness

is a fitting response to the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Easter is a time of rejoicing, as believers celebrate the triumph of life over death, hope over despair, and light over darkness. It is a reminder that no matter how bleak the circumstances may seem, God is able to bring about redemption and new life.

As we reflect on Psalm 118:19-24 during Easter, we are reminded of the profound truth that lies at the heart of Christian faith. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is not just a historical event, but a living reality that continues to transform lives and bring hope to the world. It is a reminder that God's love and power are greater than any obstacle or challenge we may face.

In conclusion, Psalm 118:19-24 serves as a powerful meditation for Christians during Easter, offering a profound reflection on the significance of Christ's resurrection. It reminds believers of the open gates of righteousness through which they can enter into God's presence, the miraculous transformation of the rejected stone into the cornerstone, and the call to rejoice and be glad in the victory of Jesus Christ over sin and death. As we celebrate Easter, may we be filled with gratitude, joy, and hope, knowing that through Christ, we have been made righteous and have access to the abundant life that He offers.

May the good news of Easter hope and joy fill your lives,

*Reverend Tom*

**“Mothering Sunday”**

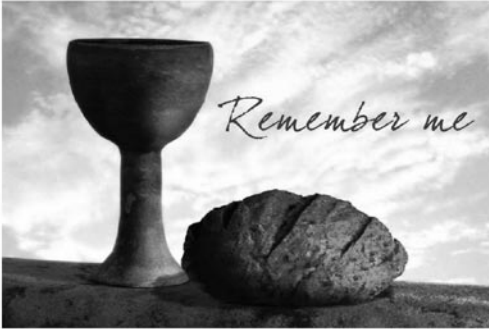
CELEBRATING MUMS in  
KILCHRENAN VILLAGE HALL

at 10am on Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> March.

with special refreshments

Please come and join in the fun 2024.





Maundy Thursday

March 28th 7:30 pm

Kilchrenan Church

Service and Communion

Easter Worship

March 31st 9:45 AM

Kilchrenan Church



Easter Breakfast and Egg Hunt

Kilchrenan Village Hall Village Hall following Service

## IONA AT SUNRISE



By Sarah Clarke, Diploma of Art,  
Glasgow School of Art 1973-77

Last summer, Sarah very kindly donated this stunning painting to be used to raise funds to help secure a future for our two historic church buildings.

It has been hanging in the Kilchrenan Village Hall for viewing since October and it was intended to sell the painting online by Silent Auction in March 2024.

However, a very generous offer has been made and accepted so the Auction has been cancelled.

The purchaser wishes the painting to remain in the Village Hall for all to enjoy,

what a lovely thought, greatly appreciated,

THANK YOU



## A Short Story and a Simple Message

Once there was a very rich man who owned a priceless collection of paintings by famous artists which he kept from public view.

One day the man met a beautiful woman and falling in love they married. Soon the woman became pregnant but tragically she died giving birth to a boy, the man's only child. Overcoming his grief the man focussed all his love and attention on the boy and over the years they became devoted to each other.

Eventually the young man entered his father's business but within a couple of years the country was at war and so he enlisted in the army to help the fight. Before long he was posted overseas but still wrote regularly to his father to share his news and express his love. Naturally, the father eagerly looked forward to receiving these letters and his trusted servant wasted no time to bringing them to him as soon as they arrived.

One day a letter came from the war front but this time the servant realised the envelope was not written in the son's handwriting; sensing bad news the servant reluctantly gave the letter to his master. Seconds later the father fell to his knees sobbing and trembling; the message inside was from the son's Commanding Officer informing him that his son had been killed in action.

Overcome with grief the father saw no one except his servant for months but eventually he commissioned a portrait of his son by an unknown artist. When the painting was finished although the father realised the portrait had little

monetary value he none-the-less placed it in prime position amongst all his great works of art as it meant more to him than everything else he possessed.

Some years later the father died and having no heir his will contained instructions for his entire estate to be auctioned, an event which attracted great interest amongst art collectors from across the world. Come the day of the auction bidding began with the seemingly valueless picture of the man's son but the wealthy people who had come hoping to buy a masterpiece showed no interest though it had a reserve of just £1000; no one that is except the servant who though not well off desperately wanted the picture.

There was now growing unrest in the auction room for many saw this as a waste of their time and as no other bids were offered the servant claimed the son's portrait for himself. Then something very surprising, even startling occurred. No sooner had the servant bought the picture of the son than the auctioneer declared the auction over. Uproar ensued with everyone protesting that the works of art, the grand house, the grounds, the cars, indeed the whole estate had been due to be auctioned. Amidst all this turmoil the auctioneer simply announced that the father had given precise instructions regarding the disposal of his possessions; specifically, the sale was to begin with his son's picture and whoever bought this would receive everything else.

What then is the story's message for us especially at Easter? What could God give us to demonstrate His love? Not a fortune

For He could do that in an instant. Nor a star or even a galaxy for He created all things. No, instead when God gave us His only begotten Son and allowed Him to suffer and die in our place on the cross He gave us everything. Heaven became bankrupt when God gave us the one gift in which all other gifts are contained.

Romans 8:30 says, “He that spared not His own Son but delivered Him up for us all how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things”. Here, the Apostle Paul points to the cross as the ultimate proof of God’s love towards us. However, God did even more for us than this for a dead man cannot forgive or bless or heal or save us. Therefore, accepting His Son’s death in our place on the cross God the Father raised Jesus Christ His Son from the dead – something which the Apostle Paul and many others bore witness to.

The message of the cross is the heart of the Gospel – the good news – and it is a message not just for Easter but for all time. But Christians do not place their trust in a dead Saviour for Christ is risen and because He is alive we too can experience the presence and power of the resurrected Christ in our own lives. Indeed, when we personally seek and then joyfully receive the free gift of Jesus Christ into our life we receive every gift of God because everything God has to give is in Christ.

*from Gordon Leveratt*

You passed the crossing as an infant  
searched and stripped among the clang of bars,  
to a city of silk from the far road,  
cedar of Lebanon,  
perfume of Arabia,  
spices sweet and sour,

rotting bodies beneath destruction,  
anguish of innocents  
who could not flee their Herod,  
while ordered empires of the west passed by,  
the crushed, cursed kindred of your own,

where God requires compassion from our acts  
but stays no power, and gives no power  
to those who give you refuge.

Rosemary Power



## **The Kilmaha stones in Dalavich church Part One.**

Rosemary Power

The two crosses on display in the Dalavich church date from the early Christian period. They are damaged, and the ring-head of one is missing (though it had earlier been sketched), and the other has only the shaft remaining.

Kilmaha, four miles south of Dalavich, is a very ancient site, dating perhaps from when Christianity was newly-established in this area. There some figures carved into the rock at the landing place, evidence of early Christian buildings, and perhaps a small church and cemetery. The crosses, damaged by storms in the 1960s, were

taken into the Dalavich church to preserve them. They are similar in type to some of those from this area on display in the Kilmartin Museum.

**What were the crosses for?** The Christianity that took root here was not in essence different from that of the international church of the time, either in belief or customs. But there was no tradition of building large stone structures, so churches were inclined to be very small, more for the protection of church items than for services, and most worship took place in the open air. Some people lived the hermit's existence in this early church, and the hermitage became a place where people could seek advice, and come to pray. They then became centres of pastoral care for the local community.

Later, in the Middle Ages, the parish system was organised, and the same devotional sites usually continued in use with new churches erected on them. In these early times, it is thought that the crosses were 'preaching crosses', places where people gathered to hear sermons. They were also markers for travel across the loch, and many other events probably took place near them, so they functioned as social centres, meeting places, and so on.

**Why had the cross a ring-head?** This may be as old as the seventh century. We first find this design carved into solid stones used as grave-markers. There may have been wooden crosses preceding the stone ones, sometimes with a solid ring-head, sometimes with a separate ring, and sometimes with 'armpits', hollowed-out from the stone at the cross-joints. Sometimes there are both ring and 'armpits'. Both styles helped to steady or

12 lighten the weight of the crossbeam. (The ring on the

St. John's cross' on Iona was added later, after the cross had fallen, as part of the repairs.)

Carvings were added to the cross, as decoration, or because the figures had biblical or symbolic meanings. The stem may be based on the *flabellum*, the liturgical staff that owed its origin to fly-swatting in the eastern Church, but which became familiar as a staff of office.

Aside from the practical, and because the free-standing crosses followed an older stylistic tradition, there is the question of where the idea came from. In part, the ring-headed cross can find its antecedents in late Classical art, from the times when Christianity was accepted within the Roman Empire. The empty cross of Christ is depicted hung around with the laurel wreath of victory, the wreath accorded to conquering heroes on their return. The design may also owe much to the 'Chi-Rho', the first two or three letters of 'Christ' in Greek, all stylised. The 'X' of the first sound, (Ch, as in 'loch') has become upright. The second letter, 'R' in Greek looks like a Roman 'P': the central part has been centralised, and the third letter 'I', like the stem of 'P', has been incorporated into the upright. This may sound far-fetched, but the design is found in Coptic Christian manuscripts of the period, made in upper Egypt.

Because it is a symbol, a simplified design which can hint at many meanings, other interpretations have been laid over it, such as that of the cross of Christ combined with the sun; or the cross with the cycle of the seasons. So there are endless possibilities stemming from an apparently simple design.

## Readers' Schedule

Date	Place	Reader
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### MARCH

3	Kilchrenan	Tina Goldsmith
10	Kilchrenan Village Hall (Mothering Sunday)  10 AM	Issy Grant
17	Dalavich (with Kirk AGM)	Carol Thomas
28	Kilchrenan Maundy Thursday Service @ 7:30 pm  <b>COMMUNION</b>	Chris Goldsmith
31	Kilchrenan  Easter Sunday Service Breakfast and Egg Hunt following at  Kilchrenan Village Hall	Ann Urwin



**Date**                      **Place**                      **Reader**

**April**

7	Kilchrenan	Brian Burnett
21	Dalavich	Dinah Bosomworth

**May**

5	Kilchrenan	Tina Goldsmith
19	Dalavich	Adrian Shaw

**June**

2	Kilchrenan	Chris Goldsmith
16	Dalavich	Dinah Bosomworth

**July**

7	Kilchrenan	Tina Goldsmith
21	Dalavich	Ann Urwin

**August**

4	Kilchrenan	Brian Burnett
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*All Services at 9:45 AM unless otherwise noted.*

**Music for a Summer's Evening Part Two**  
**Saturday, 29 June 2024**  
**at Kilchrenan Church**  
**and Village Hall**

6 pm - Pre-concert drinks

6:30 pm – Concert

7:30 pm - Dinner

Last year we were delighted with the performance of Claire Innes-Hopkins and this year we have another opportunity in welcoming Terri Koch.

Terri was the organist and Music Director in Walla Walla, WA where Rev Tom served as minister prior to coming to Scotland. The Kochs and Telfers became friends and she and her husband, Terry (Mr. Terry) have visited us in Scotland each year and have fallen in love with our villages.

Terri began piano lessons at age 6 and at the age of 16 began taking organ lessons. She graduated with a Bachelor of Music degree in music education and organ and went on to earn a Master of Music in Music Education and organ performance.

She has taught piano, organ and flute lessons in Virginia, Massachusetts, Maryland, Hawaii, and Washington State... students from pre-school through high school level.

Terri has served as a church organist since age 16 in several faith communities...Presbyterian, Disciples of Christ, Seventh-day Adventist, United Methodist, United Church of Christ, Catholic and is currently the Director of Music and organist at Pioneer United Methodist Church in Walla Walla, Washington as well as College Place Village Seventh-day Adventist Church in College Place, Washington.

Her programme at Kilchrenan will include music by Boellmann, Bach, Paul Manz, Mendelssohn, Buxtehude, Gordon Young, and Percy Fletcher.

Tickets will go on sale in May 2024



"Strawberry Tea" at Far Field House,  
Kilchrenan on Saturday, 20th July, from 2pm.

## KILCHRENAN VILLAGE HALL EVENTS DATES

### MARCH

7<sup>th</sup> - 7 -10pm every Wednesday Bridge Club  
(new members welcome)



10<sup>TH</sup> - Mothering Sunday 10 -12

Coffee and cakes for Mums and Dads

18<sup>th</sup> - 10.3am Coffee morning with plant and  
garden tool exchange

23<sup>rd</sup> - Quiz 6.30pm for 7pm start

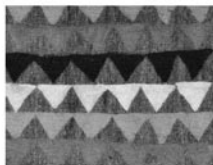


31<sup>st</sup> - Easter Sunday Egg Hunt & Food  
following Easter service at Kilchrenan Church

### APRIL

6<sup>th</sup> - 10.30am - 12pm Community Library

13<sup>th</sup> - 9am - 5pm Liz Gaffney  
Felted Fleece Rug Workshop.  
Places must be booked.



15<sup>th</sup> - Soup Lunch 12.30pm - 2pm

29<sup>th</sup> - 10.30 - 12pm Community Library

## KILCHRENAN VILLAGE HALL EVENTS DATES

### MAY

4<sup>th</sup> – 12.30 – 17.30 - **Spring BBQ**

20<sup>th</sup> – Coffee Morning

24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> – Private hire for wedding



### JUNE

1<sup>st</sup> Community Library

10<sup>th</sup> – Coffee Morning

15<sup>th</sup> – **Basket weaving course –  
Small number of places available.**



**Booking essential.**



29<sup>th</sup> – **Music Concert and Supper at  
Kilchrenan Church and the Village Hall**

**Tickets to be on sale in May**

### JULY

6<sup>th</sup> – Community Library

15<sup>th</sup> – Coffee Morning

### AUGUST

3<sup>rd</sup> – Community Library

**Autumn KD Bulletin is to be published 1 August, 2024. Please send any articles or notices to me by 17 July, 2024. If you have any questions, please contact me at the Manse, 01861 222 204 or by e-mail to [janlynn2316@gmail.com](mailto:janlynn2316@gmail.com).**

**Thank you, Jan Telfer**



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(linked with Muckairn)

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