

Newsletter

June 2021

CALDERHEAD-ERSKINE PARISH CHURCH

Serving Shotts and Allanton

Shotts Calderhead Erskine Parish Church of Scotland registered charity number SC006538

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We're Streaming Live!

Last summer, our church decided to start experimenting with modern technology such as Zoom and WhatsApp to help people stay in touch and allow us to hold meetings from our homes. We tentatively then tried broadcasting worship services (when restrictions allowed) and quickly learned that our equipment really wasn't up to the job.

More recently, and thanks to some extraordinary generosity from a donor, the Guild, and a grant from North Lanarkshire Council, the church in Shotts has now been able to start replacing old equipment and take steps on the journey towards a modern live streaming capability. There is still some way to go and the likelihood is that the journey may never end, but we're delighted that the funding provided has allowed us to obtain an updated sound system, an iPad, a laptop and a new Clavinova. We've also upgraded the church wi-fi!

Our plan is to keep moving and hopefully introduce a multi-camera system and worship software package before too long, which would greatly enhance everyone's experience both in church and online. In the meantime, we hope you'll take the opportunity to join our services online if you don't plan to be at church in person - joining details are enclosed in this newsletter. Recordings are also available afterwards on YouTube.

If you, or anyone you know, would be willing to get involved in helping us with continuous improvement of our audio/visual capabilities, or even contribute a little on a Sunday morning (no experience needed!), please do get in touch.

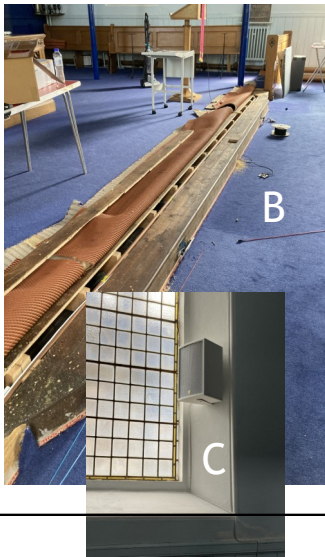
(from George Scott, on behalf of the communications team)

A work in progress



There has been quite a lot going on behind the scenes in Shotts church. Due to the generosity of the donors George mentioned, we have undertaken work to improve the sound system in the church.

In the picture A, you see the workmen high up behind the organ repairing it. Then down to picture B, they are laying new cables and in C, they have renewed several speakers..



This has involved a lot of work with the Communications Group who had to identify our needs, source workmen and materials and organise the work. Well done to you all.

However the work is not finished. This is just Stage 1 and more equipment is required to improve the presentation even further.

Stage 2 would include more cameras and microphones which would enable more flexibility with the service. More money is needed for this so if you feel able to contribute or support any fund raising ventures, this would be greatly appreciated.

Welcome to our new member, Francis Smith



Francis, who has attended Calderhead-Erskine Church in Shotts for many years, decided to become a full member of the church.

On June 13th, following his Profession of Faith, Francis Smith was baptised and welcomed as a full member of the Christ's Church and in particular of Shotts Calderhead Erskine Parish Church.





The Asda Foundation

Set up by Asda to support local communities by investing in 3rd sector charities and organisations founded and embedded in the community.

Our Church has always been and will continue to support our Parish community. This has been recognised by Asda through their local Newmains store Community Champion, Kelly Alexander, who has built up that very close bond of support that links like minded people.

This extends to our Grocery Cupboard in the church which they have kept well stocked over the past 15 months, to support our community in times of need. The Community Cafe has also benefitted from two grants from the foundation, one to buy new equipment for the cafe as we adapt to current restrictions, and alongside the church, to promote Healthy Living among pupils at Allanton School.

Lets take the opportunity to thank Asda, our Asda Champion, and to consider and enjoy God's good works in our parish by his Spirit in each of us.

(from Archie McGowan)



1st Shotts G⁴B. - The Place to Bee!

On 19 May 2021, the Company held its 'End of Session' Event online! Some parents joined the girls & officers on Teams to take a look back at our antics online!



The event was opened with a talk from Mrs. Agnew about 'Friendship' centred around Ephesians 4:32, *"Be kind to each other, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you."* G.B. is about making friends and having fun with the friends we make, remembering that the very best friend that we can have is Jesus...He loves us no matter what we do and can always help us feel better!

Our GB 'Recipe for Friendship' is 2 large spoonfuls of kindness, 1 cup of happiness. 500g of smiles, a pinch of understanding. 1 tablespoon of laughter, a large handful of respect, and a large pinch of fun.

The girls then shared some of the Session's fun with their parents. As the Explorers theme was 'All Things Pink and Beautiful' everyone joined in a 'Pink' Scavenger Hunt by going to find five pink things around their house. The Juniors shared a Logo/ Charities Quiz, then the Brigaders showed the Company's S.T.E.M. (Science Technology Engineering & Mathematics) 'Women in Science' Competition about Vera Rubin. Everyone then joined in with the 'Two-minute Challenge' - how many layers of clothing can you put on it two minutes! Mrs. Prentice won with 15 layers!

After 'Well Done!' messages from the officers, everyone watched the 'End of session' Video that looked back on all the fantastic things the girls have done online since last September.

At the end of evening the girls were told about the awards that they had worked hard to gain over this very unusual Session. The following awards will be presented when the Company is allowed to meet again face to face:

2 Explorer Bronze Stars; 2 Explorer Silver Stars; 2 Explorer Gold Stars.

5 First Junior Circles; 1 Second Junior Circles; 5 First Junior Diamond; 1 Second Junior Diamond.

1 Brigader Red Triangle; 1 Brigader Blue Triangle.

1 x 1year service; 5 x 2years service; 4 x 3years service; 4 x 4years service; 2 x 5years service; 1 x 6years service; 1 x 9years service.

28 x 'At Home with Gracie' Badges and Certificates.

A big 'Congratulations!' to Aileen McLuskie, our Trainee Leader, as we finally managed to get her Bronze D. of E. Award & Certificate through from GB HQ.

Where has the time gone? We cannot believe that we have completed the whole G.B. Session online via Teams! We thank God for The Girls' Brigade and the fellowship that we have managed to share online during this Covid pandemic. We pray that we will soon be able to meet face to face and get back to our 'normal' fun nights at G.B.

The Company is now on holiday; however just before the officers take a break, they are preparing Summer/ Rainy Day Fun Packs to deliver to the girls so that GB Fun can continue during the summer months.

We would like to thank everyone who has continued to support the Company during what has been a very different Session.

Take care, Stay Safe and enjoy the Summer!



To all members and friends of Shotts Womens Guild

Know that around the time of General Assembly the breadth and depth of the Church of Scotland is often visible.

However, wherever you are in that breadth, the words of this Stuart Townend hymn surely united us...

In Christ alone my hope is found.

Please enjoy some of the songs words.

In Christ alone my hope is found
 He is my light, my strength, my song
 This Cornerstone, this solid ground
 Firm through the fiercest drought and storm

What heights of love, what depths of peace
 When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
 My Comforter, my All in All
 Here in the love of Christ I stand

Stay safe



SUMMER GARDENING



Flaming June has arrived and our gardens have burst into life and become a riot of colour.

LAWN CARE

A nice green lawn provides something extra around the house and sets off our summer borders. So we continue to feed the grass. 4 in 1 products weed, feed, kill moss and promote growth.

Cut the grass, but not too short, as this can lead to scorching in very warm weather and encourage moss and weeds.

Edge with a half moon spade to provide a manicured finish.

Hoe borders with a sharp hoe in the early morning, if possible.

Scientists are now telling us that greenery surrounding a house helps us to feel better and promotes better mental health.



PRUNING

Now is the time to prune spring flowering shrubs such as early flowering clematis, forsythia, weigela and philadelphus (Bride's Blossom).

This will promote new shoots to grow which will produce next year's flowers.

Remember to use clean, sharp secateurs.



(Clematis) (Bride's Blossom)

SUMMER PLANTING

Before starting to plant out let spring bulbs die off.

Dead head the flowers and let the leaves wither away, as they provide the bulbs with food for next year's blooms.

June is a good month to plant out summer bedding as frosts should be gone.

Get busy with Allisum, Lobelia, Begonias, Livingstone Daisies, Violas, Pansies, Sweet Peas. etc..

You may also want to underplant your roses with Cosmos, Dahlias or your favourites which fit in with your own colour scheme.

Dead heading is vital to keep them blooming throughout the summer.

Make sure that borders and all summer blooms are well watered in. Again keep on top of weeds in between plants. A good sharp hoe is invaluable.

BASKETS and TUBS

When planting these, remember to line the bottoms with stones or broken crocs, for drainage.

Add some water retaining crystals and also some slow release plant food.

Water daily, dead head regularly and watch out for slugs and snails.



VEGETABLE PLOT

By now most vegetables will have been planted out after being 'hardened off'.

It may be necessary to cover with fleeces or cloches if the weather is very cold or to protect from pests, such as pigeons and squirrels.

Don't caterpillars just love our cabbages, sprouts and other brassicas.

Don't sow all your seeds in one go. Leave a week or two between, to provide cropping over a longer period.

(from George McGuffie)

News Review

Thank You

Fund raising for Christian Aid has been very different this year. We have had no house to house collections and our popular Hunger Lunches have not taken place. However, due to the generosity and kindness of our church members and friends in Shotts and Allanton, we have managed to raise the sum of **£984**. We know that Christian Aid will welcome our donation and will put the money to good use. Thank you to all who filled envelopes in the churches or who handed in cash to our

Treasurer's office.

June Williams



Sandra Denholm

80th Birthday

25th July

How to join a zoom meeting

To join our worship services (at both Shotts & Allanton) each week, you have the following options:

1) Calling from any telephone, dial: **0131 460 1196**

When prompted, enter this code (called the meeting ID): **89886571793#**

You'll also be asked for a 'Participant Code': please ignore that, enter a **hash sign only (#)** and you'll be connected.

2) Using Zoom on your computer, tablet or smart phone, please use the following link in your browser (e.g. Internet Explorer):

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89886571793>

Bible Study Group

(Tuesdays at 7pm)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81108947975?pwd=QndFMHY2MVRcOW94N3Z6TVFIK2JJZz09>

Meeting ID: 811 0894 7975

Passcode: 409190

CONTACT LIST

Minister, Rev Iain Murdoch

iaincmurdoch@btopenworld, or tel: 07887 595498

George Scott

gcott1602@gmail.com or tel: 07747638874

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191 Station Road, Shotts

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(if handing in an envelope with donation,

please write what it is for)

Nancy Ralston

nancy@nancyralston.co.uk or tel: 07972 689797

Heather Connelly

heatherconnelly78@gmail.com

Margaret Byrne

tel: 01501 823736

Rhona Bell

rhonabell28@gmail.com or tel: 07867874568



“At this time of year many families thoughts are on the upcoming summer holidays and sadly focusing on will they be able to provide their kids with food. ‘Holiday Hunger’ is a term that is being used more often simply because it’s becoming more common.

This year Paul’s Parcels want to try and make sure that as many families as possible will have an enjoyable summer break without the worry of whether they will eat or not. This can only be achieved though, with the support of the community. If you would like to donate you can either make a cash donation to Robert Williams or if you would like to donate food items a collection will be happening on **Saturday 3rd July** please contact **Heather Scott on 07795514766** before Friday 2nd July to arrange a time for collection.”

(from Heather Scott)

PRAYER



Prayer is simple and easy to engage with.

God promises to listen and simple requests such as ‘Lord have mercy’ impact the reality we inhabit.

All distance between me and God is instantly removed as I confess my sin and receive Gods forgiveness. God hears our prayers, those of our lips and those from our hearts. We are only ever expected to pray as we can, not as we can’t. Prayer is Gods gift to us for turning the world the right way up. Living for Jesus means praying every day. Prayer is an irresistble, if invisible, force for good. We may feel, even see, little impact, yet Scripture assures us that prayer changes people’s hearts.

On days when I sometimes struggle to come into Gods presence. I remember these words as I start to pray.

“ Father, Help me to live this day to the full, being true to you in every way.
 Jesus, Help me to give myself away to others being kind to everyone I meet.
 Spirit, Help me to love the lost, proclaiming Christ in all I do and say.(Amen)”

(from Stewart Govan)



When you take your seat in church on a Sunday, I wonder if you ever think about the work which goes into getting the church ready for the service? You probably know that John Eadie has something to do with it and some may also know that Sandy Stevenson has been helping out for quite a while now. Well let's find out what goes on.

There are 4 main areas of their work, preparing the church by keeping it clean, painting some of the more accessible areas, gardening and some low level maintenance. For the gardening they are helped by Douglas McLean who cuts the grass and maintains the church mower. I hear that is no mean feat! Nowadays they don't have their band of cleaners as they had pre-covid, but they have had some people popping in to volunteer helping hands which have been very much appreciated.

The preparations to re-open the church after Lockdown were massive. They had a whole booklet of regulations from the Church of Scotland offices. The main jobs were to remove any soft furnishings like cushions, rope off the pews to create the 2 metre distance and rope off the Guild Room. The one-way system around the church was devised and sign posted as were posters to remind people of how to keep themselves safe while near others.

Now let's look at the jobs which are undertaken each week. The pews and back-rests are cleaned with alcohol cleaner and also door handles, communion table and chairs, lectern and organ and stool. The toilets and sinks and taps are cleaned thoroughly. They make sure the hand sanitizers are topped up, masks are provided and there is a record of those attending church and contact numbers so they can be traced if need be. There are even rules on how to dispose of cleaning materials.

It certainly is a lot of work, and work which is repeated each week. Let's give the team a big thank you for all their efforts. John and Sandy say they would be delighted if anyone could spare some time on a Wednesday morning to join them. They meet at 10am and usually finish around noon. You don't have to commit to coming every week, but many hands will make light work.

It will be good next time to find out what goes on behind the scenes in Allanton church. They also have a band of workers keeping the church, hall and grounds clean, tidy and safe for us all to attend.



GLASSES, STAMPS & POSTCARDS



APPEAL



Linda Thomson wants to thank everyone who has donated stamps, glasses and postcards. The Church of Scotland Stamp Appeal, 2021 is to raise funds for a women's refuge in Sri Lanka. A carrier bag full was delivered from the church to the local organiser at the end of May

So far 42 pairs of glasses (mostly in cases) have been sent to the Raven Trust for forwarding to Malawi.

Up until now the only postcards Linda has are some she found in photo albums in her own house. Please have a look around you own homes, you might have some in drawers and boxes.

Clare Quigley, one of our local councillors, agreed to give us an update of some of the issues local to Shotts, which we might find interesting.

SHOTTS NATURE PARK

A volunteer group has been formed and it held its first meeting on Monday 10 June 2021 with the Police in attendance. Various suggestions were put forward on how to tackle the anti-social behaviour which is happening in the park mostly at weekends and by young people who are meeting to drink and party. Unfortunately, they are also causing damage and leaving a lot of broken glass lying around making the park unsafe for dog walkers and children.

This is a huge problem, not only in Shotts but all over North Lanarkshire and is very difficult to deal with but we are hopeful the group will be able to make the park safe again for everyone to use.



TOWN CENTRE AND COMMUNITY HUB DEVELOPMENT

As Shotts is now classified as a town (there are 8 towns within North Lanarkshire), we are to share in the £3.5B capital investment proposed by the council over the next 10-15 years in order to regenerate town high streets which have been declining in recent years.

The council regeneration team have put forward their vision of what the changes will look like and it is only a vision, not a masterplan or a programme of work, but rather how Shotts COULD be developed in the future.

Below is a very brief overview of some, not all, of the proposals –

Calderhead High School

The school has spare capacity and it is proposed that it would be the Community Hub where council services like the First Stop Shop would be sited with spaces for community activities as well.

Vics Park, Benhar Road

This has been identified as a central site which could become the new town centre with a footbridge being built from that area across the railway line to the school (hub). The area would have a mixture of housing and retail development.

Springhill Community Hub

This development is being led by Getting Better Together based in Shotts. The council has supported the development by providing the land through community asset transfer, £40,000 community grant funding and helping the organisation secure £780,000 from the Government Regeneration Capital Grant fund. This will bring a much needed community facility to the people in the Springhill area.

To view the vision in detail with illustrations and maps, it is advised to visit the council website using the following link –

[A Vision for Shotts \(northlanarkshire.gov.uk\)](http://northlanarkshire.gov.uk)

[Councillor Clare Quigley](#)

MEET OUR ELDERS

We're starting this new feature by hearing from one of our longest serving elders, Nancy McGuffie. She has a long association with Shotts and Calderhead Erskine Church.

My association with Calderhead Church began when I was aged five and called Nancy Russell. I was born in Hamilton Street, Torbothie and so attended the Andrew Thomson hall Sunday School, which was run by Miss Harrison, who was a deaconess with the Church of Scotland, in Calderhead Church.

In 1954 my family moved to Dykehead and although I still attended Sunday School in Torbothie, when I visited my grandparents on a Sunday, I started to attend Calderhead Church. Let me explain. I had joined the Girls ' Guildry and we were awarded two points a week, one for attending the meeting, the other for attending church on a Sunday. The minister at that time was the Reverend Connacher. So began a lifetime of worship.

During my teens I attended the Junior choir, the Youth Fellowship, Youth Club, Badminton Club and of course, the Girls' Guildry, led by Kate McFarlane and Mary Goodwin .

In my mid teens I became a Sunday School teacher and later on an officer in the Girls' Brigade. Those were happy times. At this time the church had so much to offer the young people whilst teaching about the Christian beliefs. Although we did not appreciate it at that stage, many of the volunteers gave so much of their time and themselves, to organise and lead us .

On Boxing Day 1967 I married my teenage sweetheart, George McGuffie, and became Nancy McGuffie . The service was conducted by the Reverend George Francis .

I became a primary school teacher, teaching in Dykehead Primary and Kirk o'Shotts Primary.

I was active in the Young Women's Group and made many life long friends.

In 1989 I was asked by the Reverend Bill Beattie to become an elder. I feel honoured to have been asked and consider it a privilege to do this work. At this time I did not have a district as such, as my duties were those of the Sunday School superintendent. I continued to do this while also raising our two sons, Jonathan and Andrew.

I have seen many ministers come and go and many changes in the church .

We have joined up with Allanton and Erskine churches to become Calderhead Erskine Church .

Many things in my life have changed. My sons have long flown the nest and left Shotts . George and I have retired and I now have three beautiful granddaughters, named Catherine, Rebecca and Skye .

Due to health problems I am now less active in the church. I am the PVG coordinator and still carry out my duties as an elder. I try to encourage, advise and help our newer elders.

At the age of eighteen I became a member of the church. Calderhead Erskine Church is the home of my faith. I was baptised there as a baby. George and I were married in it . My sons were baptised there. Both my parent's funerals were there. I feel close to God in this building. It has always been part of my life and faith .

The Lord has been my strength. He has been good to me and has showered His blessings on me .

Nancy



I was born in Allanton youngest of three children - I had two older brothers David and Ronnie. I was introduced to the church at a very early age and started attending with my dad at the tender age of 2 ½ years of age. I was allowed to attend the Sunday school from a young age and have been engaged with church in various ways throughout my adult life.

I attended the 'Young Woman's Fellowship', which was started and well attended by many in the late 60's and continued for many years.

I was married to Ian, a local man from Shotts, and when we married we settled in Allanton raising our 4 children. This has grown to include 9 grandchildren - 12 great grandchildren and expecting another in the autumn. My working life started in Wishaw and ended in Shotts Cummins.

When my children were up and self-sufficient I became involved in the Sunday School - this was a special time in my life and I encouraged the local children to rise through the church attaining their Bible at age 12 and going on to study the Bible at Bible Class. Average attendance was from high 30's to 50 children per week, sadly we now have an average of 6-10 attending.

When the Young Woman's Fellowship stopped I started to attend the Woman's Guild of which I am still a regular attendee- apart from the influence of COVID which has impacted greatly on all our lives.

I get great comfort from studying the Bible and attending worship on a weekly basis and hope that my health endures and I can continue to do so for time to come.

Reflection from our minister



Please phone or e-mail iaincmurdoch@btopenworld.com if you would like to chat or need help

20th June 202

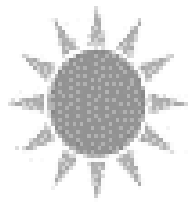
Dear Friends,

I have been humbled by the way that so many of you have come through the last 16 months. I thank God for the roll-out of vaccinations, the kindness and prayers of many; the patience of parents, and the selfless commitment of NHS staff, carers, school staff and other key workers, we previously took for granted. I am also very aware of faithful folk in Calderhead Erskine Church, who have worked hard to support those who may have been struggling and isolated; produce and distribute widely appreciated church newsletters; lead prayers and singing in public worship, and those who make it possible for services to be shared through the internet and those who keep church buildings clean and safe. 10 days ago, the incoming Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland sent a WhatsApp message commending Calderhead Erskine for reaching out during this difficult time rather than retreating into our shell; and for raising funds to pay for organ repairs, an upgraded sound system, IT equipment and wiring as well as a new digital piano - all of which should be in place by early August. Earlier today, I shared a lesson drawn from sheep farming in the Australian outback. There, the land is so vast that it is easy to lose your sheep. Farmers basically have 2 options: First, to build a vast fence at huge expense and then cover the on-going costs of maintaining these fences. The other way is to sink a well into the parched land and the water itself will keep the flock together. The sheep are drawn to the well-spring. No fences are needed only trust. The Church also has God's living water, the only person or thing that can ever satisfy, at our centre. As we emerge from lockdown, we must not try to return to exactly the same as before lockdown. The challenge for us is be real about the challenges that face us and our communities but also to reach out to learn, listen to God and our neighbours, and to share Christ's open invitation and love. To be an open and welcoming community, responding to the life and love of God in Christ; a church of people, who are also happy to be shaped and re-formed as new members join us, open to other people and open to those who are yet to know. Lord Jesus Christ is far from finished with His Church. Let's seek to be part of the Lord's solutions to the challenges we face and do please get in touch with all your thoughts and suggestions.

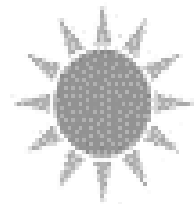
Thank you.

Yours in Christ's service,

Iain



SUMMER



WORD SEARCH

Search for the twelve Summer themed words below.

W	L	E	L	L	R	J	M	L	B	K	N	G	F	C
C	A	I	Z	G	E	A	D	S	F	B	S	N	L	I
L	U	T	U	Z	E	D	U	A	P	E	V	I	I	N
W	I	G	E	R	Q	N	A	P	K	A	B	M	P	Z
L	F	H	C	R	S	C	O	N	Y	C	F	M	F	X
L	M	E	A	C	M	O	N	W	O	H	R	I	L	H
I	C	V	R	Z	L	E	G	Z	L	M	R	W	O	Q
I	Q	E	S	U	N	G	L	A	S	S	E	S	P	G
E	E	V	M	V	L	I	G	O	S	Y	X	L	S	M
N	E	U	C	E	B	R	A	B	N	U	F	Z	K	M
E	J	J	L	D	N	L	Y	N	U	H	M	S	O	Y
L	P	Z	Q	T	T	R	I	S	C	F	C	M	L	Y
V	A	C	A	T	I	O	N	X	T	M	F	Q	E	B
H	Z	P	V	M	A	P	K	X	N	I	D	J	J	R
D	W	D	N	P	V	G	G	F	S	N	Y	E	A	G

BARBECUE

LEMONADE

SUNSCREEN

BEACH

POOL

SWIMMING

FLIP FLOPS

SUMMER

VACATION

ICE CREAM

SUNGLASSES

WATERMELON

**F
E
E
D
B
A
C
K**

There's not been a lot of feedback, in fact only one sent through email. However, when chatting to people, we have been able to gather some more opinions.

As far as the newsletter is concerned, you seem to enjoy reading the stories of people who have been involved in the church for a number of years. You like to hear about things they were involved in and can sometimes share their memories. I enjoy these as well, and I like to hear from the young ones in the Girl's Brigade. I think they have such fun and their leaders do a marvellous job thinking up these great activities. It's wonderful how they are prepared to give up their spare time to encourage and nurture our young people.

Please feel free to tell us how we could improve the newsletter and share any ideas you have for future features.

Our church services are evolving at the pace which Presbyter allows. I know most of you are eager to join in with singing, but we have to wait till that's allowed. However, we are all eager to get back to some sort of normality in the church and are just so pleased that we've been able to improve our sound system to enhance our on-line services.

It would be lovely to hear your views and opinions so please contact any of the team. You'll find our numbers on page 7.

(from Rhona Bell
07867874568 or email: rhonabell@gmail.com)

tel: