



THE REVIEW

April 2023





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THE REVIEW

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Editor's note: The next *Review* will be for May 2023. Items for inclusion need to reach me by 22nd April.

Thank you.

Editor: sheila@sheilabrain.com



Advertising Space

The advertisements that appear in the front pages help to cover the costs of producing the *Review*. We encourage our readers to make use of these services, when needed.

You may have noticed that there are fewer adverts this month and we really need to build up the numbers again. Do you have contacts with any local businesses that might like to advertise their services for a small fee? Or do you have any suggestions about ones that we might approach? If so, then please can you let me know and we will follow it up. Thank you!

Sheila Brain

Sunday Worship in April

Sunday 2nd	Revd Janine Atkinson (<i>not communion</i>)
Sunday 9th	Easter Sunday with communion Revd Janine Atkinson
Sunday 16th	Revd Sabrina Groeschel
Sunday 23rd	Revd Barbara Bennett
Sunday 30th	Revd Janine Atkinson



Easter Worship



Maundy Thursday 6th April

4pm Communion Service

Good Friday 7th April

10am Service at Glenorchy (*Possible Walk of Witness - to be confirmed*)

Easter Sunday 9th April:

6.15am Sunrise Service at the Lifeboat Station

10.30am Easter Day Service at Glenorchy
with Holy Communion

Flowers for Easter

We shall be decorating the church for Easter on Saturday morning, **8th April**. If anyone would like to donate towards the flowers, this would be appreciated. The flowers will be taken to the housebound after the service. **Lyn Bellamy**

On Sunday morning there will be a bare cross in the porch for which you are invited to bring a small flower to insert into the mini-containers on it. Flowers will be provided for those not able to bring their own. The floral cross will then be on display for the week as a witness to passers-by.



Our church motto:

“Within these walls let no-one be a stranger”

From the minister...

Dear Friends,

I want to tell you a story about three trees – of course, in stories trees can think, dream, feel emotions and talk to themselves!

Once upon a mountain, three little trees dreamed of what they wanted to become when they grew up.

The first little tree looked up at the stars and said: ‘I want to be a treasure chest, covered with gold and filled with precious stones. I’ll be the most beautiful treasure chest in the world!’

The second little tree looked out at the small stream trickling by on its way to the sea. ‘I want to be a mighty ship and carry powerful kings across the sea. I’ll be the strongest ship in the world!’

The third little tree looked thoughtful. ‘I want to stay on the hillside and grow so tall that when people stop to look at me, they’ll raise their eyes to heaven and think of God. I will be the tallest tree in the world!’

Years passed. The rain came, the sun shone, and the little trees grew tall.

One day three woodcutters arrived on the hillside.

The first woodcutter looked at the first tree and said, ‘This tree is beautiful. It is perfect for me!’ With one swoop of his shining axe, he cut down the first tree. ‘Now I shall be made into a beautiful treasure chest!’ the first tree said.

The second woodcutter looked at the second tree and said, 'This tree is strong. It is perfect for me!' With a swoop of his shining axe, he cut down the second tree. 'I shall be made into a strong ship for mighty kings!' the second tree said.

The third tree felt her heart sink when the last woodcutter looked her way. She stood straight and tall and pointed bravely to heaven. But the woodcutter never even looked up. 'Any kind of tree will do for me,' he muttered. And with a swoop of his shining axe, he cut down the third tree.

The first tree rejoiced when the woodcutter brought her to a carpenter's shop. But the carpenter made the tree into a feeding trough for the animals. The once beautiful tree was not covered with gold, and not filled with treasure. She was coated with sawdust and filled with hay for hungry animals.

The second tree smiled when the woodcutter took her to a shipyard, but no mighty sailing ship was made that day. Instead, the once strong tree was hammered and sawed into a simple fishing boat. She was too small and weak to sail to on the sea, or even a river, and she was taken to a little lake.

The third tree was confused when the woodcutter cut her into strong beams and left her in a timber yard. 'What happened?' the once tall tree wondered. 'All I ever wanted was to stay on the hillside and point to God.'

Many days and nights passed. The three trees nearly forgot their dreams. But, one night, a golden star poured its light over the first tree as a young woman placed her newborn baby in the feeding trough.

‘I wish I could make a cradle for him,’ her husband whispered. The mother squeezed his hand and smiled as the star shone its light on the smooth and sturdy wood. ‘This manger is beautiful,’ she said. And suddenly the first tree knew he was holding the greatest treasure in the world.

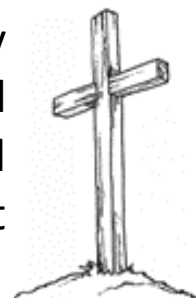


One evening, a tired traveller and his friends crowded into the old fishing boat. The traveller fell asleep as the second tree quietly sailed out into the lake. Soon a thundering and thrashing storm arose. The little tree shuddered. She knew that she didn’t have the strength to carry so many passengers safely through with the wind and the rain. The tired man woke up. He stood up, stretched out his hand, and ordered the wind and the waves to be quiet. The storm stopped as quickly as it had begun. And suddenly the second tree knew he was carrying the king of heaven and earth.



One Friday morning, the third tree was startled when her beams were wrenched from the forgotten woodpile. She flinched as she was carried through an angry, jeering crowd. She shuddered when soldiers nailed a man's hands to her. She felt ugly, harsh and cruel.

But, on Sunday morning when the sun rose and the earth trembled with joy beneath her, the third tree knew that God’s love had changed everything. And every time people thought of the third tree, they would think of God and be reminded just how much God loves us. And that was better than being the tallest tree in the world.



Rev. Janine

A Lenten Prayer

Lord of our Lent journey,
in these days of mercy, make us quiet and prayerful;
in these days of challenge, make us stronger in you;
in these days of emptiness, take possession of us;
in these days of waiting, open our hearts
to the mystery of your cross.
Amen

Glenorchy Bible Book Group



Prepare to be surprised as we begin to look at some of **Jesus' Parables**.

Starting on **Wednesday 26th April at 2pm to 4pm** and from then on (roughly) monthly on the 3rd or 4th Wednesday of each month, we'll explore the twists and turns in the stories Jesus told and perhaps discover treasures along the way!

Watch this space for future dates

Minister's Leave

Rev. Janine will be on annual leave from the afternoon of Easter Sunday (9th April) until and including Sunday 16th April and then away at The South Western Synod's Ministers' Spring School from Monday 17th until Friday 21st April. Please understand that she is not available during this time.

News of the Church Family

With sadness we report the death of Gill Packe, on Monday 20th April, a very loyal supporter who will be sadly missed. Please remember her three daughters and their families in your prayers. Sheila Ellis had a fall but is out of hospital and being cared for by her sister. Carol Mortimer is now a resident in a care home in Tipton St. John.

Sheila Johnstone is in Cambridgeshire, where she and her sister are caring for their very frail mother. Unfortunately Sheila herself has had a bout of Covid, but is hoping to be in the clear and recovering her strength soon.

At the March Church Meeting we received a request from Geoff and Jenny Smith to be removed from the church roll now that they have settled in Burntisland, near Edinburgh. They send their greetings to the fellowship and we wish them well in their new home.

Flowers in Church



Thanks to Mell for arranging the pedestal for Mothering Sunday and to Jenny, who has offered to do the arrangement for Easter. If there is anyone else interested in flower-arranging, please have a word with Lyn, who is now unable to do them herself. If you would like to donate flowers for a particular occasion, please also speak to Lyn.

Love and congratulations to all who celebrate an anniversary or birthday in April.



Mission Committee update:



At the recent Spring Mission Sunday we were introduced to the Sailors' Society (which some will remember as the British Sailors Society).

(Click [here](#) if you are reading this on-line for more information.) The film showed the efforts of their Ukrainian chaplain to keep up his work.

On **Sunday April 30** we shall join in a **Songs of Praise**. There is still time to pick your favourite hymn and say whether you would be willing to say a few words about your choice. Put it on the form which you will find in the vestibule.

Janine will use four of them during the morning service; then there will be a 'soup and rolls' lunch, after which we will continue in good voice, finishing no later than 2.30pm.

We were able to share **£1,760** between our three 2022 charities. Many thanks. The biggest source of income, as ever, is the money from mission boxes, so please take one if you have not done this before; they are in the vestibule. Not so much cash in circulation now, of course, but you do have some spare coins to give!

If you put your name on your box, we can claim Gift Aid.

And please pencil into your diary (or post in an on-line calendar!) the Favourite Readings afternoon on Wednesday **June 21st**. More about this next time.

Peter Brain

Holy Week Pray-Ground

A Prayer activity to do yourself, with children or grandchildren

Hearts

You will need:- 4 heart shapes cut out of red or pink paper (1 for each significant day in Holy Week) sticking plaster; a towel, 4 nails (or use cocktail sticks / pins as an alternative)

Now!

*Draw a heart on the sticking plaster.
Cut a zig zag line across today's heart
then stick it back together with the
sticking plaster*



Jesus kept loving even when his heart was broken by all the people who hated him and his friends who betrayed him when he needed them most.

Maundy Thursday:

*Draw a cross on today's heart and
place it on a towel*



Jesus washed his disciples' feet and wants us to love each other as much as he loved and cared for them.

Good Friday:

Poke the 4 nails (or substitute) into today's heart



Jesus kept loving even when he was nailed to a cross.

It was not the nails that held Jesus to the cross, but his love for you and me because Jesus died with love in his eyes.

Easter Sunday:

Draw a question mark ? and an exclamation mark ! on today's heart



Like the disciples we are both puzzled and incredibly happy to find that Jesus did not stay dead, but is alive forever.

Based on an idea found at

<http://worshipingwithchildren.blogspot.com/2013/02/the-whole-heart-series-for-lent.html>

Eco Matters

The Royal Society is an association of scientists founded in 1660 with King Charles II as its patron. King Charles III is now its royal patron. At the end of February 2023 the society published the statement that: “There is no way, with present knowledge, of making aircraft travel environmentally friendly”. A sobering thought for those who like to fly regularly.

Aircraft unavoidably put greenhouse gases and other pollutants into the upper atmosphere.

We cannot claim that other forms of transport are much better. Most of our electricity is still generated in gas fired power stations, which means that, although a step in the right direction, electric trains and electric cars are not yet “carbon free”. Most cars, buses and many trains still run on petrol or diesel and a change-over will take years.

Included among the very moving prayers used in the World Day of Prayer service, which took place in our church on Saturday 3rd March, was the following, prepared by people in Taiwan, 8000 miles from here, and prayed by Christians around the world on that day:

“Creator God, we thank you for entrusting us with this amazing world rich in natural resources. However, we ignore the cry of Mother Earth: we are facing ecological problems, such as air and water pollution, the waste disposal crisis, the over-utilisation of hillsides, habitat destruction and climate change. God of life, may your kindness fill our hearts and guide us to protect Mother Earth.”

Peter Johnstone

Eco Matters reminders

Tablet Blister Pack Recycling

Thank you for the response to the appeal for your empty medicine 'blister packs' - the box in the Vestibule has been filling up quickly! Keep on bringing them in and we will take them over to Superdrug for recycling.

Glenorchy Craft Group

Another year has begun and that means the members of the craft group beginning again on the shoe boxes for the children of Moldova, who have so few possessions.



Sue Densham has retired from organising the work of coordinating the filling the boxes, and we thank her for her many years of valued work. Hopefully she will now have more room to move around in her flat, without all the storage of items ready to be packed in November.

We are pleased and grateful that Sheila Johnstone has offered to take over from Sue, who has also relinquished her role as chairman of the craft group. This has now been passed to Mary Blackburn.

If you feel you could knit/crochet for, or donate towards the shoe boxes, please contact Sheila Johnstone.

We are very pleased that Janine has joined us and we welcome anyone who would like to come along on the fourth Tuesday of the month from 2pm to 4pm. We meet in the Pilgrim Room and you can work on any craft of your choice, maybe pick up some crafting tips, or just come for a cup of tea and a chat.

Sheila Johnstone



April 5th	Nina Leonard-Savicevic: <i>piano</i>
April 12th	Mary Burman, Heloise West and David Davies: <i>Pergolesi : Stabat Mater</i>
April 19th	Joyce Clark: <i>piano</i>
April 26th	Phil Bonser with Dorothy Raven <i>Clarinet with piano</i>

Wednesdays at 12.30 pm
 refreshments from 12.00
admission free: donation invited

Walking Group
Friday 14th April : Castle Lane



Meet at 10am at the end of Castle Lane just before the junction to the Salterton road (across the road from the Recycling Centre) . There is ample parking space on the lane. The walk is mainly through woodland so good walking shoes are recommended. Hope to see you there.
 Any problems call **Peter** (266005) or **Bob** (269942)



Christian Response to Eastern Europe

The March truck left on Monday 14th March and arrived in Ukraine by Monday 21st, and was immediately offloaded, and the aid dispatched to where it was most needed. The next truck will go to Moldova in April. The warehouse will be open on Wednesday 5th April 10am-3pm in Spider Lane, and again on Saturday 15th April 10am -1pm.

As you may have seen on the news, vandals broke into the store and did a lot of damage to the windows and poured soup and other food over the clothes and other donations left ready to be loaded on the truck a few days later. The volunteers cleaned up the store and packing room and disposed of the damaged goods. Most of the windows were broken and have been boarded up until repairs can be done and more security put in place.

I can pick up donations of food, clothing, bedding, kitchenware etc all in good condition late on Tuesday and on Wednesday after 9.30am.

Jenny Newman

The Food Bank

Thank you to all who leave food donations in the bag by the offertory plate on a Sunday and for the monetary donations put in the green collecting box or are paid direct to the Food Bank account. The demand is as great as ever. The Food Bank will be closed on Good Friday, but will be open on Thursday 6th April. *See newsletter on p20.*



We held another Job Fair on February 23 to replace our usual Thursday morning. There were several reasons for this which included request by employers, as many were struggling with recruitment. We ourselves are constantly looking for new clients to use the Job Café, and generally help the local community.

On the day there were seven organizations who joined us, all of which said they would be happy to attend future events we might hold. This time I wanted to lean on the advice and guidance side of life, which is why I had asked providers such as Careers South West, the National Careers service, and Seetecpluss. We also had Berry Recruitment, Haven, Avon and Home Instead, who incidentally interviewed one of our clients, and since the Fair recruited them into full time employment!

We had a slightly different approach this time, as we set up laptops in the vestibule for those who wanted to carry on their job search on the day. Timings were also slightly different, in so much as we advertised the Fair from 10am to 12pm, which seemed to work.

All in all, lessons were learnt from both Job Fairs, should we decide to do it all again. Many thanks for all those who helped on the day, it was much appreciated! All quite smooth on the day!

Simon Skidmore



**Hope against hope, if we truly believe
in the victory of the Risen Christ.
A message for Ukraine from their Bishop in London**

Today the entire world sees the senseless violence in Ukraine and the suffering of the Ukrainian people. An entire country almost three times the size of the UK is being bombed and invaded, with the civilian population intentionally targeted, day after day. In those Ukrainians we recognise our own fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters, sons and daughters. We think, but for the grace of God, there go I. And the Spirit of Truth moves us to compassion towards the widows and orphans, towards the mother with young children whose husband is defending his land from the invader. While the world community has shown great solidarity and support, and a willingness to take in at least some of the millions of persons displaced by the war, if the evil that has arisen is to be defeated, and it must be defeated for humanity's sake, then we must do more. Above all, we cannot and must not look away, like those who saw the suffering Christ being led to Golgotha, but did not want to get involved, for the Crucified Christ is present in those who suffer. Let us pray for Ukraine and its people, that the Cross it is bearing be not unto death, but unto life. May they find strength and courage to withstand the terror that has been visited upon them. And let us also pray for the invaders, that the Holy Spirit may open their eyes and that they be horrified by their works. But let us also be assured of Christ's victory, for in His Resurrection He sets free those who understand what it means to be children of the Light.

Rt Rev Kenneth Nowakowski Bishop of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of the Holy Family of London



On average we are continuing to distribute 300 parcels per month to feed over 650 people - which means that our volunteers are busily packing 20% more parcels than they did this time last year! Contingency plans are in place should numbers surge post April 2023, but for now, thanks to the huge support provided by volunteers and donors, the Food Bank is holding firm.

Preparations for Easter are well underway. As usual we will supplement our food parcels with Easter eggs to bring some extra joy to families with children.

Advice and support for clients

As a team we work hard to ensure that people accessing the Food Bank are signposted to agencies that will help them to address the underlying issues that have led them to needing our services. On a Friday afternoon clients have face to face access to a Citizens Advice Advisor. This has proved invaluable in addressing a range of financial queries in a clear and timely manner. This month, beginning on Tuesday 14 March, we are pleased to announce that on alternate Tuesday afternoons clients will also be able to talk to an officer from East Devon District Council's Financial Resilience Team.

On Tuesday 7 March we were delighted to host a 'cost of living' pop-up clinic provided by Seachange, who provided advice about grants and tips for saving energy.

It's great to see how our clients are benefiting from such effective partnership working.

Extending emergency out of hours support

We now have emergency out of hours parcels located in 21 venues in and around Exmouth including schools, churches, medical centres and our referring agencies. The parcels are given to people who urgently need food when the Food Bank is closed. Parcels are replenished by Food Bank volunteers as soon as they have been used.

If you are interested in finding out more about this scheme please email: info@exmouthfoodbank.org.uk or telephone: 07749 322291

Puzzle Corner

A rather high-brow but colourful listing this month – sorry if you cannot Google! Do you grow any of the following?

Pelargonium

Pulmonaria

Leontopodium

Trapaeolium

Primula Elatior

Kniphofia

Silene dioica

Viola tricolor

Achillea millefolium



Last month's listing:

Gentiles, Levites, Exile, Nazirite, Old Testament, Rabboni, Cherubim, Hebron, Yom Kippur.

April Calendar

Saturday 1st

10am Coffee Morning

Sunday 2nd

10.30am Family Service

Revd Janine Atkinson

Tuesday 4th

2pm Elders Meeting

Wednesday 5th

10am Art Group

*12.30pm Lunchtime concert

Thursday 6th

9.15am Job Café

4pm Maundy Thursday

Communion Service

Friday 7th

10am Good Friday Service

Saturday 8th

10am Coffee Morning

Decorate church for Easter

Sunday 9th Easter Day

6.15am Sunrise Service at the
Lifeboat Station

10.30am Easter Service

with Holy Communion

Revd Janine Atkinson

Wednesday 12th

10am Art Group

*12.30pm Lunchtime concert

Thursday 13th

9.15am Job Café

Friday 14th

10am Walking Group

(see p16)

Saturday 15th

10am Coffee Morning

Sunday 16th

10.30am Family Service

Revd Sabrina Groeschel

Tuesday 18th

7pm Bible Society Spring Meeting

Littlemead Methodist Church

Wednesday 19th

10am Art Group

*12.30pm Lunchtime concert

Thursday 20th

9.15am Job Café

Saturday 22nd

10am Coffee Morning

Sunday 23rd

10.30am Family Service

Revd Barbara Bennett

Tuesday 25th

2pm Craft Group

Wednesday 26th

10am Art Group

*12.30pm Lunchtime concert

* Tea/coffee served in the hall from 12 noon before concerts

Thursday 27th

9.15am Job Café

Saturday 29th

10am Coffee Morning

Sunday 30th

10.30am Songs of Praise

Revd Janine Atkinson

12.00 soup and roll lunch

followed by singing more favourites

Annual Church Meeting: 21st May 2023 Election of Elders

At the Annual Church Meeting we will be electing Elders and also other office holders and committee members. It is important that we have Elders to work together to “keep the show on the road” and ensure the continuity of our Christian presence in the town centre. As Jean said at the Church Meeting, it need not be a daunting task as it is very much a cooperative venture and we work as a team. The Elders are not ‘special’ – just ordinary folk doing their bit for the good of the whole. It would be really good to have some new faces on the team this year. So please do start thinking now about who you would like to nominate as an Elder, and talk to them about it. The nomination papers will be included in the May *Review*, to be returned by Sunday 14th May.

Committee Members: We will also need to consider the membership of our main committees, noting that in particular the GP committee is short of members and also the catering committee. Jean Curl is standing down this year after many years as catering convenor and we urgently need someone to replace her in overseeing arrangements for any teas or other events where refreshments are needed.

Please consider whether you might offer to help in any way.

Glenorchy United Reformed Church

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