

# FAIRLIE PARISH CHURCH NEWS



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**FAIRLIE PARISH CHURCH is a LINKED CHARGE with LARGS: St COLUMBA'S PARISH CHURCH**

**MAY 2020**

## FROM THE MANSE

These last weeks have been some of the most unusual times in the life of many people. Probably not since the Second World War have people had their lives altered in such significant ways. Yet, through these unusual times we are managing to be together in different ways.

While out on my daily walk with our family dog I meet the same people, whose routine now matches mine. Everyone keeps their statutory distance but a smile and acknowledgement, maybe even a welcoming comment, allows everyone to feel that we are not alone and that 'we're all in this together.' And, as long as we keep our distance, all will be well.

In this time of coronavirus, with the staggering amount of lives lost to the disease and the massive number of patients in hospital being treated for symptoms, it is encouraging to know that we are all seeking to do the best for one another. And just as my routine has changed so, too, I expect has yours. And one of these new aspects to our lives is standing on our doorsteps, each Thursday evening at 8.00pm, applauding the magnificent work and efforts of the NHS and frontline care providers. What these selfless people do in the face of this invisible threat to life is extraordinary. And, so, to ensure that these courageous people recognise everyone's appreciation for what they do, each and every day, we have placed this small prayer of blessing in our church grounds.



'Being in this together' means that every small act done to prevent the spread of this virus helps those on the front line; whether that is sitting watching the television or allowing your family to spend time on their computers. Whatever we do, or don't do, to reduce the possibility of spreading the virus, it is all good.

Living in today's world is unusual. Living in today's world may even seem frightening. However, if you are managing to stay at home and not meet with anyone then you really don't have anything to worry about. And, if you ever want anyone to talk to, please just give me a call and I will be happy to chat with you and give you some reassurance and encouragement. You may even enjoy our short 10 minutes of prayer and Praise each Wed-Friday on Fairlie Parish Facebook at 6.00pm; and on a Sunday morning at 9.45am.

This small sign at the front of Fairlie Parish Church is for all of us to pray: *God bless our NHS and Frontline*



*Workers. Amen.* After all, we are all in this together and with God's grace we will all come through to the other side, celebrating with many parties. Please stay safe.

With every blessing.

*Graham*

## TRANSCENDENCE

It is one of my favourite words and seems to feature much in my reflective thinking and challenges me often. My initial understanding of the word was more in a philosophical context than a religious one. If you go beyond a normal predicament or way of thinking then that is defined as transcendence.

God has been defined as a transcendent deity in the sense that He is above and beyond human understanding. This had been extended to the concept that God dwells in heaven above and beyond this earth, but such a spacial concept has lost its meaning for us with astronomy and the likes of the Hubble space-telescope.

The Enlightenment heralded in a period where truth was to be sought through reason rather than the explanations of Cosmology. But reason, although it expelled superstition, failed in its attempt to conclude on a reality that is beyond our conscious selves but which we remain aware of. Our attempts to reach out to it are very much a part of life and may be seen in religion, art, music, and poetry.

So how do we fulfil this conscious need in religion? It is through the symbol and the myth. The symbol points to what is transcendent and the myth puts the truth in a form that we can grasp. Unless the liturgy of a religious service provides the individual with some degree of personal transcendence it will be non-other than a social event. This is why the experiential is so significant to the need seekers of today. The significance of Biblical myths is not that they are historical facts but that they contain the truth represented in the poetry of past traditions. *John Stewart.*

## THE GUILD



I am sorry that I did not have a report in last month's Newsletter, but I had not realised that it would be sent out online - the wonders of modern technology!

It was a great pity that the final meeting of the session had to be cancelled, but hopefully we will have an opportunity to hear about Niamh's travels to Malawi next year. Also to come will be Audrey Kolon's talk on Concorde, which due to a mix-up up didn't happen and we had an interesting talk about Portencross Castle instead.

It was Fairlie's turn to host the Guilds Together AGM this year in April, but this is cancelled, as is the Spring Coffee Morning and the Summer Rally to Millport.

I hope that you all keep well and are surviving on self-isolation. We look forward to meeting all our friends again in the autumn.

*Pat Johnston*

## LIFE and WORK

During this challenging period, Life and Work Magazine is committed to helping keep our Christian community connected and so we have made the May 2020 issue available on our website. This can be accessed by clicking here or visiting:

<https://www.lifeandwork.org/resources/free-download-may-2020>

## Fairlie Parish Church SERVICES



A shortened service is now broadcast LIVE on Fairlie Church Facebook page each Sunday at 9.45am

You can catch up later on the Church Website - [www.fairlieparish.co.uk/SERMONS/sermons.htm](http://www.fairlieparish.co.uk/SERMONS/sermons.htm)



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Christian Aid Week 10<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> May this year will of course take on a different form.

“Love never fails.  
Coronavirus impacts all of us.  
But love unites us all ”

As this virus spreads across the world, love rises up in response.  
Your love protects neighbours nearby. Your love protects neighbours from afar.  
Your love protects from storms and drought, now from Coronavirus.  
Your love protects our global neighbours battling the spread of this illness.  
Your love protects with soap, clean water and medical supplies.  
To support Christian Aid this year with no envelope distribution, you can simply give online.

If you feel you would like to donate, please go to  
[www.donate.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.donate.christianaid.org.uk)

**Christian Aid Week 10-16 May 2020**  
“Love Unites Us All”



Fairlie Church has been very generous, giving to the foodbank. Thank you !  
The current situation has affected our ability to pass on your food donations.

During the current crisis the foodbank is working in cooperation with North Ayrshire Council to extend help to the old and vulnerable.

Whilst we are currently unable to deliver your food donations, cash donations enable the foodbank to source directly from the supermarkets.

North Ayrshire Foodbank, Church of Nazarene, ARDROSSAN, KA22 8EU, 07908 469 556

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**DOG WALKING - DAYCARE - BOARDING**





Due to the present situation, the amount of fuel used in the month of March has been greatly reduced. In future months it will be even less and this will contribute to reducing our carbon footprint for the year. Throughout the world people are seeing scenes that have been shrouded in a polluting haze for years. The readings for March 2021 are Gas

358 cubic metres and Electricity 498 kWh, while in 2020, 446 cubic metres of Gas and 1494 kWh of Electricity were used.

Good news! The Church of Scotland has sold all its shares in fossil fuels.

The Eco- Congregation Scotland conference, which was due to take place in late March, was changed to two on-line lectures on Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> April. The most recent network meeting of the Dumfries and Galloway and Ayrshire Network has been held on Zoom, a new experience for me!

Eco-Congregation is proposing to help congregations by providing on-line lectures on 'Fairtrade', 'Reducing Carbon', a 'Carbon Conversation' and making best use of the church grounds for wildlife. Other subjects that were suggested and will be very important, during and after this period of uncertainty, were -'Home Energy Efficiency', 'Guaranteed Loan Funds for Credit Unions' and the 'Economy after Covid-19'.

We are being urged by Plantlife to join in 'Every Flower Counts' from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> May. In the meantime, don't mow your lawn and let the wild flowers grow! When it comes to providing pollen for the bees, butterflies and other pollinating insects, every flower counts and you will be joining in, NO MOW MAY. Your results may be sent to Plantlife.

If you cannot bear to leave your grass uncut, how about leaving a patch to see what grows?

If you are finding time heavy on your hands and would like to do something useful, the 'Knit and 'Natter Group' has plenty of wool,

patterns and needles available for various projects, one of which is knitting hats for men and boys to be added to the Blythewood Boxes.

I also have an array of threads, sewing and embroidery, needles of many kinds and mending wool, all available for the cost of a phone call. The chosen items will be delivered to your doormat by 'Fairlie's Haberdashery Fairy. Phone Ann Gregory 568643, try me.



Have you noticed the tremendous reduction of litter in this period of lockdown, due, most likely, to the closure of fast food premises?

COP 26 has become a victim of the virus, but, it has only been postponed and a new venue is being sought in Glasgow.

A thought, 'Try to be a rainbow in someone's cloud'.

Maya Angelou

Ann Gregory

### LOOKING for DELIVERIES ?

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# Rambling ROSE

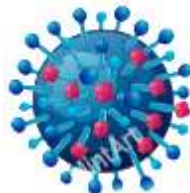
At last I am seeing lots of blue skies and believe it or not some windless days, because previously we have had so many storms, as well as the entire muddle about Corona Virus, anyway in the storms I cleared lots of drawers and cupboards (and found so many interesting pieces of information). Rockhaven, now lived in by our Editor, has a north wing clearly the oldest part, it overlooked the shore and the ruins of the stone built pier, — from this pier the ferry to Cumbrae sailed, or was rowed over to Millport which is why the cottages along the North side are called Ferry Row., indeed the original name of Rockhaven was Ferry House. No one knows when the original house was built, but it was owned in 1736 by a Mr. R Hume.

*Dear Father, you created my wondrous body, an knitted it thegither in my Mother's womb. I gie ye thanks fo making it so amazin.*

*Ye kent me afore I was born, an planned each day o my 'life afore I could breathe. Every day was pit doon in your book. How incredible, dear God, tae ken that you are thinking about me aw the time. I canna even count the times, an each morning you're cosy by my side.*

*Oh blessed Father o'mine, let it be that ye will examine me, an ken my thoughts. Check me for my sins, dear God, an then set me along the road tae Eternity. From Jamie Stuart book of Psalms for the people*

Thinking about this terrible virus that is going about, which I would NEVER have shown as a beautiful coloured circle, I would have shown it as a few "black dots" or black straight lines.



I was thinking about the old days, when I was working in Blytheswood Square, at the Bacteriology Dept. I loved my work. Our boss was called Dr Malcolm, (He was a spiritualist, and a clever man), as I was looking down my microscope, he would come up to me and say "what have you found now Rosemary?" (It was at the time we were doing research into Penicillin) and we used to put a big round bit of Penicillin on an Agar plate, and then put different bacteria all coming up from the edges up to it. It then went into a warm place overnight, and we could hardly wait till next morning to see the results, so we would know what to use. This virus doesn't seem as simple to eliminate, but many are no doubt working hard to do what we did and hoping for a result that helps.



Last year my daughters and myself, went on one of the best ever train journeys - we all agreed it was amazing. We met at Glasgow station and off we went up North to Mallaig, passing over the Harry Potter bridge which was amazing, and then to Arisaig where we stayed 2 nights, that was where every year we had gone on holiday in our caravan, Luckily we were able to contact a taxi lady, who was great and drove us round all our well remembered holiday areas. Coming back on the train was also amazing all those beautiful mountains, with streams of water running down. It wasn't "moneyless" but so much worth it all. This year it was to be to the borders and then Fife area, however with this virus who knows when.

I nearly forgot my recipe, it is called Scripture Cake

4½ cupfuls of **1 Kings 4.22**

1½ cups of **Judges 5.25**

2 cupfuls **Jeremiah 6.20**

If you want to really make it I can tell you about the rest of the recipe!

God grant me the Serenity to accept the things I cannot change and courage to change the things I can, with wisdom to know the difference.

*Thought for the month  
'Guide me oh thou great Jehovah'*

Rosemary Jarvie

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**Messy Church will resume as soon as restrictions are safely lifted !**



Hello to all our Messy Church families, friends and neighbours. Because of the current situation, we have been unable to share in the fun and friendship for the past two months and we don't know when we can start up again. I have greatly missed my friends on the Messy Church team for meetings and organisation of our gatherings but I have **really, really, really missed you all**. I know that you have been unable to get to school to meet your friends and social distancing means you can't even visit grans and papas or other friends and family.

Here at Fairlie Church we have been thinking of you all and praying for your continued good health. I am not very good at technology (as you already know) but have a few suggestions for you all to take part in to keep in touch with Messy and learn about Jesus.

On-line, visit 'Messy Church at home ideas'. There are little family Messy Church sessions which use things you will have at home. A really wide selection.

Also Everybody Welcome Online has ideas.

<https://www.messychurch.org.uk/messy-blog/everybody-welcome-online>

The facebook page - Messy Church-BRF also will keep you informed of things you can do. eg Messy Church Does Science by Dr Dave on YouTube.com. As you know, we use Fischy Music at our Fairlie Messy, and every Monday at 11am through its You Tube channel they hold online assemblies. Can be viewed anytime for you to sing along.

It has been lovely to meet some of you on my daily walk and this has cheered me up immensely.

Everyone, keep safe and remember this blessing.

**Above all things, know this: you are loved graciously, reverently and wholly; no matter who you are, God loves you. Amen.**

God Bless,

*Ann and the Messy Church Team*

**NEXT ISSUE**

The Next edition of the Newsletter will cover JUNE

Last date for copy is 28<sup>th</sup> May

**Newsletter on the WEB**

The Church Newsletter is on the Web in the first week of the month on the Church Website - [www.fairlieparish.co.uk](http://www.fairlieparish.co.uk)

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