

# FAIRLIE PARISH CHURCH NEWS



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**JUNE 2020**

## FROM THE MANSE

I wonder if you would consider yourself to be *spiritual* rather than *religious*. If so, I completely understand. Many people who consider themselves to be spiritual often enjoy the openness of being able to explore what that means. As a Christian Church, we are a spiritual Church led by God's Holy Spirit.

Having entered lockdown during March, and having celebrated Easter and the resurrection of Jesus, in the middle of April, the Church of Scotland has changed significantly during this time with much more of its work being done locally, and worship taking place online, allowing many hundreds more people hearing the Good News of salvation in and through Jesus Christ. On 31<sup>st</sup> May the Church celebrated its birthday: Pentecost (fifty days after Easter); the day God sent the Holy Spirit to challenge and strengthen and encourage the followers of Jesus to become His Church, a spirit-led group of people with a mission to share.

With their leader no longer physically among them giving advice, direction and assurance, this was an enormous task. They really didn't know what to do or where to begin but, even in their confusion, the people rose to the challenge and began finding their way through a series of obstacles and adventures, of which they had little prior knowledge. However, these original members of the Church had one great support, God's Holy Spirit; the encourager.

Today, the Church is more reliant than ever on the strength of the Holy Spirit to lead us through the unknowns which are unfolding before us. It seems to be a wee bit like '*Back to the Future*' because, through prayer and reflection, the Holy Spirit is guiding the Church in ways which are new and innovative and exciting; at least for some. However, as the Holy Spirit

encourages the Church of today to explore new understandings of what Church may look like after restrictions are lifted, she is also encouraging all people *to be the Church* wherever they are. And this is the way 'Church' began, following that first Pentecost.

So, as the Holy Spirit moves within God's people, she moves us in keeping with the teaching of Jesus, to love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul, and with all our mind, and to love our neighbour as we love ourselves. And, it is grounded within these parameters, that the Church is exploring new ways to express this spirituality, to the glory of God the Father.

It seems a bit ironic that in these days of coronavirus, with restrictions being placed upon us all, the Church is being freed to explore new ways of expressing the love of God among us. Such is the power and work of God's Holy Spirit.

It will take some time before the people of God will be able to meet under the same roof, at the same time, to offer our collective worship of God. So, until those days reappear, if you feel more *spiritual* than *religious*, maybe you could consider how the Holy Spirit is moving and working in you?

Please be assured of my prayers for you and your loved ones during this time of restriction. I hope that you remain safe and well and should you need any help, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Please stay safe.  
Yours in Christ.

Graham

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## Fairlie Parish Church SERVICES

Over the last months worship at Fairlie Parish Church has been streamed live every Wed-Friday, at 6.00pm, and Sunday morning, at 9.45am. This streaming is available on the church's Facebook page and the Sunday morning service is subsequently available on the website, or via a CD or DVD.

If you, or someone you know, would like to receive a CD/DVD, and so feel part of the worshipping Church, please let me know and one will be delivered to them.



A shortened service is 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)

### THE WAY AHEAD

With the closure of church buildings and social distancing removing the opportunities for people to meet, some of those who have been participating in, or listening to, the regular gatherings for mid-week Prayer & Praise, or Sunday morning worship, have met online for coffee. It has been good to speak to one another, and 'see' how we have changed, from the comfort of our own homes. We hope to continue these meetings, as well as develop other opportunities to 'gather' together.

One of the opportunities which the Kirk Session have approved is for a group of elders and members of the wider church to gather to prayerfully discuss ongoing

issues and make necessary decisions during lockdown, as well as begin to plan for new ways of being the church as lockdown is lifted. We hope to keep everyone informed about future plans as they are formed but, like the early Church, as our steps in these areas are slow and tentative, it may take a little while to discern where God's Holy Spirit is leading us.

In the meantime, please join the gatherings for Prayer & Praise (Wed-Fri: 6.00pm) and Sunday Worship (9.45am) which are streamed on Fairlie Parish Church Facebook page and where, in these challenging times, in God's strength, we find encouragement for one another.

### KIRK CAFÉ

Thursday gatherings for coffee have been a regular event in Fairlie Parish Church for some time but, of course, the lockdown has prevented these gatherings from taking place physically. However, Zoom is a social gathering forum which has been used extensively by many people over recent months and, with their enhanced security, a few groups have met to share over a cuppa from the comfort of our own homes.

It is the hope to continue Kirk Café, initially on the first and third Thursdays of each month, from 10.30am-11.00am, but this could increase appropriately. The details of each meeting are unique and are available from Graham, together with the passcode.

So, if you would like to join, or know someone who would, please send an email to [gmcwilliams@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:gmcwilliams@churchofscotland.org.uk). The details will be forwarded to you.

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## ARE YOU ORGANIC ?

When we hear the word "organic" it is more often than not in the sense of; without chemical fertilizers or growth hormones, growing and evolving naturally. The sociologist Emile Durkheim (1858 – 1917) used the term within the context of what binds a society together. He also used the word "solidarity" and he identified two types of it that applied to a society; mechanical and organic solidarity. The former he identified with a traditional and agrarian society, as in a feudal system, where hierarchy prevailed and society was "permanent." The latter he identified with "modern" society as it emerged from the Industrial Revolution with its Division of Labour; a society that is evolving over time. What maintains solidarity in such a changing society? According to Durkheim, it was an economic interdependence and a collective consciousness. Many felt the decline of traditional society as a loss and there is a yearning for the "good old days," but as Charles Taylor\* said recently, "How

could we go back even if we wanted to?"

The institutional churches of Christendom i.e. that of the West (Europe) were based upon a mechanical solidarity of the traditional, through the authority of either Church or Bible. As society has evolved the traditional has been inadequate in maintaining the religious solidarity of the past. Individuals are pushed to seek a more authentic and meaningful form of religion that serves them in the modern society they have to deal with.

The problem confronting modern man today is how and where to engage, as an individual, with religion. Religion and society have always been strongly linked through collective concepts such as Christendom and its institutional churches. Such forms of collectiveness carry no significance for the individual of today who can no longer be bound by traditions of the past. This is the challenge that religious leaders of today must face.

*\* Charles Taylor is a Canadian professor emeritus at McGill University, Montreal. He is a practising Roman Catholic.*

*John Stewart*



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**



When Plantlife suggested that we should have a NoMowMay or leave part of our grass to grow long, I wonder if they had any idea of the extent of the areas that have been allowed to grow freely, due to the lack of grass cutters and people complying with their request.

Nature has shown how many treasures she has hidden away waiting

for an opportunity to burst forth given the chance. I have seen plants that have not been seen in this area for years, for example, Bladder and White Campion, and have you noticed the Cuckoo Flower or Ladies Smock, it is everywhere? The insects are appreciating the abundance of wild and garden flowers, particularly the Dandelions.

The birds are also enjoying less human activity and noise by singing lustily and benefiting from the extra insect life.

The Eco-congregation Conference was held on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup>. April, with 170 people on-line. This year's theme was "Coasts, Waters and Climate Emergency" and the speakers were Esther Brooker, Scottish Environment Link and Alastair Seaman from Keep Scotland Beautiful.

There was a problem to begin with, but we were soon underway with a meditation given by Rev. D. Colman.

Esther Brooker told us that Scotland is very important with over 40,000 marine species and key areas for the N.E. Atlantic distribution. Marine industries are very important economically and Seafood Scotland is the second largest exporter next to whisky. Scotland also produces 25% of Europe's renewable energy and marine tourism earns £411 million GVA.

There are very few marine areas where there are no concerns about the habitat and condition. The problems are overfishing and climate change. We need substance behind calls for action, e.g. political will, international, national, local with more science and monitoring.

As individuals we can all help by being aware of what is happening around our coasts by supporting smart fishing, reducing emissions from marine traffic and creating marine protected areas.

Scotland was one of the first to sign up to the Sustainable Development Goal. Our ocean commitments require us to behave responsibly in our consumption of food, medicine and other alternative marine products e.g. the Good Fish Guide, and encourage others by example.

Eco-congregation is hosting various workshops on-line, during the month of June. The dates are as follows - Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> 2-15- 3-15pm.

[www.ecocongregationscotland.org/event/energy-efficiency-to-renewable/](http://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/event/energy-efficiency-to-renewable/)

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> 7-30-8-30pm.

[www.ecocongregationscotland.org/event/fairtrade-and-the-environment/](http://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/event/fairtrade-and-the-environment/)

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> 2-3pm. Moo Food is about growing food together, sharing, learning, cooking, eating and reducing food waste and food miles.

[www.ecocongregationscotland.org/event/moofood](http://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/event/moofood)

Love Your Clothes workshop Friday 19<sup>th</sup> 2-15-3-15pm.

[www.ecocongregationscotland.org/event/love-your-clothes-](http://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/event/love-your-clothes-)

This will be led by Zero Waste Scotland and will inform on why "fast fashion" is so bad for the environment and learn practical ways we can do our bit to address them.

The reading for April 2020, for Gas was 65 against 206 cubic metres for 2019 and the Electricity was 125 for 2020 against 977 for 2019.

*Ann Gregory*




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## KNIT & NATTER

We have all missed our get-togethers but hopefully you are all still knitting. I have recently knitted 13 men/teenage boy hats with the wool purchased by the Shoebox fund. We still have a lot of wool so let me know if you run short and I'll try to get it to you.



Thanks for all the little squares which I am stitching together to make baby blankets. Some of the larger squares which were donated will be made into Linus quilts for children and teenagers who have suffered trauma or ill health.

Until we can knit and natter together, stay safe and enjoy the good weather in your gardens or on walks.

Ann (568421)



**christian aid** Suggested donation £1 (or more)

# Quiz

## TV Programmes

Can you identify these TV programs from the Cryptic Clues

1. In and out (4,3,4) .....
2. Stir serial (8) .....
3. A wee bit chilly (1,5,2,5) .....
4. What you can't teach Old Shep (3, 6) .....
5. Explosive idea (3,3,4,6) .....
6. Codename (5) .....
7. Attic and basement (8,10) .....
8. Orphan's view (8) .....
9. Fabulous fair ride (3,5,10) .....
10. Yellow family (3,8) .....
11. Off to bed, pet (9,10) .....
12. Let's eat at my place (4,4,4,2) .....
13. Unknown documents (3,1,5) .....
14. Just cons and nags (4,5,3,6) .....
15. Can't see what's on the calendar (5,4) .....
16. Short survey before the light goes (7) .....

**christian aid** Suggested donation £1 (or more)

# Quiz

## TV Programmes

17. Negotiate search (7,4) .....
18. Stern invitation to boogie (8,4,7) .....
19. Saturdays big wedding (5,2,3,3) .....
20. Designer clothes (3,4) .....
21. Tamper with the World Health Organisation (6,3) .....
22. Overhear a few words (11) .....
23. Our place in the universe (5,4,4,3,3) .....
24. Endure seasonal drink (4,2,3,6,4) .....
25. Questioning identity (3,2,3,5,3,3) .....
26. Where the Queen might be treated (1,1) .....
27. Built to impress (5,7) .....
28. What people play on their loo's (4,2,7) .....
29. Gawk at cube (9) .....
30. Those close to us (7) .....

In normal times this quiz would have been available in church. We publish it here for you to enjoy. Answers next month.

## LOOKING for DELIVERIES ?

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## OUR ON-LINE SERVICES

During this very unusual time that we are living through our Minister, Graham has worked hard to give support to our congregation and beyond with a regular on-line presence.

Sunday morning Services live at 9.45am on our Facebook page draw in up to 50 viewers. and more later in the day. Short early evening Services at 5pm on Wed, Thu, & Fri have around 30 regular attendees.



These figures are dwarfed by over 350 people being reached on Sundays with 250 'engaging'

<https://www.facebook.com/FairlieParishChurch>

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## THE NEAR FUTURE - AN UPDATE



As we go to print with this edition the future plans for the Church opening and Newsletter distribution are unclear.

The July/August Newsletter will be on line but we will probably include some Rota's to help in the event of our services restarting in some form. Clearly some people may not wish to fulfil their duties initially but we will do our best to do a work around.

Again, with regard to the Newsletter, we are tentatively thinking that we may have a printed edition in September (Distributed at the end of August).

We hope to have a clearer picture in four weeks time but beyond that we will keep you updated via the Church Website and through our Facebook pages.

*Chris Cowpe*

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**DOORS  
OPEN  
DAYS 2020**

### DOORS OPEN DAY 2020

As expected there will be no live Doors Open this year.  
There may be an on-line presence to which we will offer a link to our Website

**DOORS  
OPEN  
DAYS 2020**

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### CLAPPING & RINGING for FRONTLINE STAFF

We have now come to the end of 10 weeks of showing our appreciation of the work done by NHS Staff and Carers. It was good to hear Fairlie Church Bell ringing in support.



# Rambling ROSE

As soon as last month's newsletter is finished here I am trying to think of something new for June. Weatherwise it has been beautiful but with this blooming virus I and most people can't go anywhere. I am very lucky as I have a big garden, and grandchildren helping me with it, so it is almost great again. Another thing is with nothing to do, one can clear out drawers and cupboards and find all sorts of interesting things.

Years and years ago I remember planting a "Broom" tree seed no idea where I got it from, the next day was Sunday and the reading was about a Broom tree! I have been looking it up and it is 1st Kings Chapter 19 verse 3. 'He came to a Broom tree, sat under it and prayed that he might die'. Strangely enough I have a very old Bible given to me on my 10th birthday by my Grandfather McDougall. I can't remember back as to how I felt at 10! but he was a lovely man living in Helensburgh and was a vet who bred "Pekinese" dogs hence my love of these wee dogs, (when I got one my husband Sandy said it would never be able to walk up the glen with our Retriever. He was astounded when it ran and ran up the path, as happy as anything. Anyway, back to the old Bible. In the same verse it's called a Juniper tree, which is an evergreen tree. Any answers? I thought my Broom tree was dead, but no, as my son had cut lots of it off the other day (there is a lovely one as you drive along the shore road

The next big excitement is the Fairlie hedgehogs. I knew I had one as I had put my camera out and there he was, but one night looking out of the same window as I saw something really exciting - this round jaggy thing was wandering over the grass, and it definitely was him, (or her?) Then the Cowpes think they now have one in their garden, (they said they had seen the "poo"! ) and my grandson saw one on the hillside, so obviously Fairlie village is a haven for hedgehogs.

Just outside my window, there was a dead pigeon, goodness knows what killed him. Anyway, my gardener grandson took him away and kindly buried him, so we were left with lots of feathers, but along came little birds and picked them up, and looked as they were happily taking them to their new nests.

Remember if a bumblebee comes in to your house as they do in summer with windows and doors open, put a jam jar over them, place a bit of cardboard over it and pop it outside and it happily flies away.

Well the trees are beginning to show some tiny green leaves (we will be raking them up in no time for the compost (or brown bin)

We have had beautiful days with "Red sky at night shepherds delight", (to all our delight). - Red sky in the morning shepherds warning - No none of those please.

### *Thought for the month,*

At these difficult coronavirus times  
"I will put my hope in God,  
and once again I will praise him"

P.S. It's Saturday – Oh it's raining  
Now where did I put my raincoat!

*Rosemary Jarvie*



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



On looking back over some of our last Messy Churches before lockdown, I realised that our themes had a similarity to them. The story of the 'sheep and the goats' reminded us of kind and unkind behaviour towards others; Ruth and Naomi's story of love and loyalty in families; 'roads and journeys' of our giving of gifts to Blythswood shoe boxes and of those who help us on our life's journey; Christmas and the family times we have and God's love for us; and finally the story of Namaan's wife's little servant girl and Jesus' instruction that we should 'serve one another'.

This last story is appropriate for this unusual time, for it deals with disease, washing thoroughly, doing as instructed and especially, no matter how small or insignificant you feel, you can make a huge difference in someone's life, like the little Hebrew slave girl miles from home.



As we miss our friends and family, remember to give your neighbours a smile and a wave or a chat (at 2 metres distance). Phone your granny and granddad or auntie and uncle or cousins to show you care. Show love and patience to those around you.

Messy Church collected your loose change to show we care about those who have no toilet or safe water - Toilet Twinning. Obviously we have been unable to do so recently, but due to a kind donation by a friend of Messy Church just before lockdown, we have toilet twinned a toilet block to a school in Malawi and a toilet to a family there too. (£300) I will empty the demijohn, count the money and let you know in the next magazine how many more toilets we have given. Well done and keep saving your coins. It is so important that families have toilets, water and good sanitation.

Until we can all be together at next Messy Church, stay safe and look after your mum and dad.

Lots of love from the Messy Team.xx

### NEXT ISSUE

The Next edition of the Newsletter will cover JULY & AUGUST

Last date for copy is Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June

### 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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