

FAIRLIE PARISH CHURCH NEWS



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

SEPTEMBER 2020

THE CHURCH IS WHEREVER GOD'S PEOPLE ARE !

Dear Friend,

Firstly, please forgive the impersonal nature of this letter.

I pray for God's blessing upon you, and your family, and hope that you are well and in good health. We are now several months through this Year of Coronavirus and, although I have tried to call everyone, I am aware that not everyone has been successfully contacted during these times of challenge.

The last months have been very strange and, with the church building being closed following Government guidance, it has not been possible to meet together, physically, as we would like to offer our worship to God. However, through modern technology we have been gathering online each Sunday morning and in the evening during the week. And now that Government restrictions are easing the Kirk Session has been meeting, online, to determine when it will be possible for us to gather together, once more.

Many restrictions remain imposed on worshippers, of all faiths, gathering in church buildings, such as:

- it being mandatory to wear face masks,
- no singing,
- and no gathering of Sunday School.

Additionally, those who are most vulnerable, and everyone 80 years old and above, are being advised to stay away because they are at greater risk of infection. As current guidance remains at 2-metre distancing the maximum number who are able to gather in Fairlie Parish Church is 24; plus the minister and members of the Welcome Team.

In addition, everyone will be asked to provide their name and contact details as part of NHS Scotland's Test and Protect System.

With all these restrictions in place, the Kirk Session has decided that, at the moment, it would be unfair to many of our congregation and we should not yet reopen for Sunday morning Worship. We fully appreciate that this is disappointing and not the good news we were planning for, but we hope that you understand. As government guidance is changing regularly, we will continue to monitor this.

We are so aware of the need to provide ongoing spiritual support of one another, therefore, online worship will continue on the church's Facebook Page and website, and CDs and DVDs will be produced weekly for those who would like them. If you do not already receive a copy of the Sunday morning Worship Service, and would like one, please let me know. I will arrange for a copy to be dropped off at your home each week.

While we are not yet able to gather together in our church building, current Stage-3 guidance allows for upto 8 people to meet in small groups in our homes, with 2 other households being present. This may allow for a time of chat and prayer. If you would like to attend or host one of these gatherings, please let me know. Your District Elder will then co-ordinate this.

(Continued)



During this time of lockdown while the church building has been closed, it has been undergoing a time of cleaning. We are immensely grateful to Ellen preparing the building for our return, whenever that may be.

Also, it is good that members of the church have been in regular contact with one another. These are challenging times and I know that life has not proved easy for some, so staying in contact, in whatever way has been possible, is greatly appreciated. Thanks to everyone who is doing this. Our prayer group continue to pray for those in greatest need, so please let me or Prilla Thorburn know of anyone who is struggling at this time.

Each of us is a precious child of God and we should never forget this. Jesus has promised to be with us always, and He is with you wherever you are. While we can all sometimes feel lonely, we are never alone! Until we see one another, please be assured of my prayers for you and your families. We will get through this time together and can look forward to celebrating in church, once more.

As lockdown eases, while upholding hygiene guidance, it is now possible to make short pastoral visits. If you know of anyone who would value a visit from the minister, or an Elder, please let me know. In the meantime;

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord make His face to shine upon you,

and be gracious to you.

And, may the Lord lift up the light of His presence upon you

and give you His peace. Amen.

(Numbers 6: 24-26.)

With every blessing.

Fairlie Parish Church SERVICES

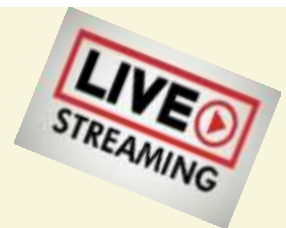
Sunday Morning Worship is live on Facebook, and later on the Church Website. We continue to meet each Sunday morning at 9.45am for worship. Our times together last about 30 minutes and allow a time for praise, Bible reading and personal prayer.

These services are recorded and, afterwards, a CD/DVD is available to those who are unable to join. If you, or someone you know, would like a CD or DVD of the Sunday service, please let me know. If you need a CD player, we will try to arrange for you to get one.



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



Prayer and Praise. Our 6.00pm gatherings now just on each Wednesday, continue as we focus our lives on the constancy of God's presence during these changing times. A number of hymns which we have sung have been selected by those who have tuned in to the church's Facebook Page. If you wish to join, please do.

Graham



Fairlie Church has been very generous, giving to the foodbank. Thank you !

During the current crisis there are collections on the front door steps of St Columba's, our sister church, (Across from Nardini's) each Thursday afternoon between 2pm & 3pm.

Re-opening of Fairlie Parish Church.

As indicated in the letter on pages 1 & 2, and sent to all members and adherents of Fairlie Parish Church, with the guidance offered by the Scottish Government and National Church, the Kirk Session have not felt that it would be suitable to open the church for worship at this time.

However, with the low levels of infection in Scotland, people in higher risk groups are now being encouraged to follow the same advice as the wider public. To this end, the Kirk Session are gathering for prayer, in the church, on the afternoon of 1st September. During this time we will be praying for the people of the village and our families, the local and national churches, and seeking divine guidance on how to move ahead regarding meeting for worship and prayer.

Once a decision is made regarding the re-opening of the church for worship and prayer communication will be sent to everyone informing them of how we will do this, giving guidance on what to expect in the church and the measures put in place to ensure that we are best protected from this virulent coronavirus.



Blythwood Care Annual Shoebbox Appeal 2020 has just been launched. I will send for leaflets and posters but ask in the meantime, that you would support this appeal by starting to collect toiletries and stationery. In the next newsletter I will let you know the details of what we can send.

The Knit and Natter group have been knitting hats for men and women and Alison has been busy weaving scarves.

This appeal has been very well supported in the past here in Fairlie and I am hoping that Fairlie Primary School will join us again this year.

Please save any shoeboxes for us. We don't know how restrictions will affect us but I am sure we will be able to carry on within the regulations.

Thanking you in anticipation, Ann and Alison

Vacancy: Church Treasurer.

Mr Tom McLaughlin has been treasurer at Fairlie Parish Church for a number of years and, in February, at the Kirk Session meeting attesting the accounts, Tom informed the Kirk Session that he would like to retire as Treasurer in February 2021. We are immensely grateful to Tom for all the time, energy, and talents that he has put into good use so competently fulfilling the position of church Treasurer.

With Tom's retirement, the Kirk Session would like to invite anyone interested in fulfilling this vital role to please apply in writing to the Session Clerk, Mrs. Alison McKellar before 15th September.

The Elders will then appoint someone who will work alongside Tom over the next few months, before taking full responsibility as Treasurer at the beginning of next year.



Fairlie Community Trust would remind local clubs and organisations that the Trust is still able to give grants from the SSE Hunterston community fund to support projects of medium to long term benefit to the village.. Further information about the criteria and application forms are available at sse.com/communities/fundlocations/Hunterston or the Trust Secretary at jcf30@btinternet.com.

The Trust particularly welcomes applications for a small grant (up to £500) from individuals who have a project that would benefit the local community.

To avoid delay in processing grants it is essential that all necessary consents for projects, eg landowner agreement, are in place and confirmed in writing.

Completed applications should be submitted to The Secretary, Fairlie Community Trust, 30 Bay Street, Fairlie KA29 0AL, by 30th September 2020

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DOG WALKING - DAYCARE - BOARDING





As I was emptying my compost heap I was surprised at the amount of plastic that I found. It made me wonder how it got there, as I am very careful about what goes into it. Some of the paper items and cardboard must have small pieces included at the time of manufacture to strengthen or reinforce.

I then came across an item where a family of two adults and three children decided to count the number of pieces of plastic that they discarded for a week, as part of a survey of 179 households.

They were shocked to find that it amounted to 407 pieces including nappies, bottles, wrapping film and 112 wet wipes. The mother said that taking part in the survey made her more aware and now the whole family have decided to reduce their consumption by trying reusable nappies and buying their milk in glass bottles. How about if we all noted how many pieces we put into the bin and try to reduce the amount over a period of time? Bearing in mind, that many plastic items are non-recyclable and still end up in Malaysia and Turkey, according to Everyday Plastic, a campaign group.

Have you been into the shop, 'Minimal Footprint' in Tron Place, which has many goods which may be bought loose

in paper bags or put into your own container.?

As you are able to buy small quantities you will not have the remainder lingering in the back of your cupboard unused. This could be also be of benefit if you wish to try a new recipe, you would be able to buy just the amount you require. On the shelves are spices, cereals, dried fruits, vinegars and infused oils, cleaning products, various flours, liquid soap, shampoo, body wash and conditioner and the last are manufactured in Wales. There are also items which would make environmentally friendly gifts.

Pop in to have a look around and have a word with the friendly owner, she is open to your ideas. 'Minimal Footprint' also has a stall at the Saturday Market from 10-4.

It was good to hear that a massive tyre-recycling plant has been approved for part of the site of the Dalzell Steel Plant in Motherwell, this will allow for the re-cycling of up to 62,250 tonnes of tyres a year, which will serve all of Scotland and so reduce the country's carbon footprint by preventing tyres being transported to the south England to be sent overseas for re-cycling .

In July last year, the Gas use was 26 cubic metres, while this year it was 21. The Electricity figures are as follows 761 Kwh last year, while 61 in 2020.

Ann Gregory

KNIT & NATTER

Although we have not been meeting, we are still knitting and looking for wool. Folk have been knitting little squares which are stitched into small blankets for babies and tiny first size baby cardigans. Men's and women's hats for the Shoeboxes have been knitted. We are looking for children's (especially boy's) hats and scarves now. Patterns and wool are available.

Hopefully, we will be able to join together for our knit, natter and cuppa in phase 4 of returning from lockdown.



Stay safe and keep well.



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ASHIE McAULAY 1937 - 2020



Ashie Fisher was born on the 16th of February 1937, in Corona Place on the Causeway, Fairlie. The youngest of four children to Sidney and Margaret, she is survived by her brother, Hugh, and her sister Sheena with brother Alec, predeceasing her.

Unknown to Ashie at the time, but her future husband, John McAuley was born just around the corner in Hayburn Cottage, on

Kelburn Terrace. As an infant, she couldn't pronounce her real name, Agnes.

So, from then on, she was known as Ashie, which stuck throughout her life.

Growing up in Fairlie was different in those days and Ashie's older brother, Hugh, tells the story that during the war when the Army camps were up and down the coast, the soldiers would travel through Fairlie in convoy in the tanks. On one occasion, Ashie saw a gap between the tanks and she decided to run out between them and stopped. Luckily, she did not get run over! But that was her way of trying to stop the war.

Ashie went to Fairlie Primary School, and then Largs High School, where she was always good at sports, and, at the age of 14, was Sports Champion. Then, after leaving school, she went to work at Ryeside Mill, in Dalry, as a seamstress.

Dating with John started and soon they fell in love. They were married on the 1st October 1960 in St. Margaret's Parish Church, in Fairlie, she making her own wedding dress: which she later dyed green to go dancing with John at the Moorings.

Ashie and John set up home at, what was to become their only family home on Castlepark Drive. She soon gave up work to raise their four children: Scott, Malcolm, Stuart and Shonagh, of whom they were very proud.

Ashie loved to knit, and probably most of Fairlie had, at some point, something Ashie had knitted. Either jumpers or dolls. Although, I'm quite sure, that no one had a green mohair knitted tracksuit, that Shonagh had to endure.

Ashie was always a faithful member of the Church and she loved baking for all the different coffee mornings. And around the village she was in a number of clubs:

Like...the tennis club, the Ladies club, and her biggest passion, the Bowling club, where she was the Ladies Singles Champion 3 times. Nothing would get in the way of the Bowling club calendar and Ashie and John enjoyed the social side of the Bowling club, too. Whenever there

was a themed night, she was a dab hand at making their costumes. She also thoroughly enjoyed her jaunts over to Millport for the Country & Western weekends.

Another of Ashie's loves was her garden. Which was always beautiful, and she just loved the challenge of getting anything to grow. So, wherever she went she was always takings cuttings of plants and re-growing them. However, her greatest love was her family; and when her five grandchildren came along (Gregg, Graeme, Darren, Alexander and Lewis) Ashie and John were delighted.

In 2009, Parkinson's Disease was diagnosed with but she was determined to keep on doing the things she enjoyed. She fought a brave battle and she always had a smile on her face, because she always looked on the brighter side of life. However, in 2014, Ashie had a huge setback suffering a massive stroke, which severely affected her speech. And after this she moved into Moorburn Manor in Largs, where she spent her final years. During this time her beloved John died on 18th March, 2016. Ashie was devastated, but she carried on. And, last year, she had the joy of meeting her first great grandchild Rory, whom she adored.

Although Ashie struggled to get her words out, she was very determined and always managed to get her point across. And, if she couldn't get out what she was trying to say she would just laugh at you, because she never lost her great sense of humour.

However, although Ashie couldn't always speak she loved to sing. And she would enjoy nothing better that singing along with the family when they came to visit.

In Moorburn Manor they had a singer who would come in once a month, to entertain the residents. This was the "Kilty Man". And he would always raise a smile on Ashie's face. He brought her so much pleasure, singing and twirling round in his kilt. And whenever he came in, he made a bee line for her; so much so, that she always made sure she had her lipstick and perfume on.

Ashie had a wonderful life. She will be sadly missed and will be forever in the hearts of everyone who knew her. For, on 29th June, Ashie was called to the Lord's nearer presence. And may almighty God now grant her eternal rest.

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JOHN DANIEL SNODGRASS 1940 - 2020

John was born on 24th July, 1940, in West Kilbride; the only child of Jack and Ann.

He attended school at West Kilbride Primary and Ardrossan Academy, after which he considered joining his dad in the family Building Contractors Business. However, a friend, encouraged him to join Shell, beginning his career as an Accounts Clerk, training and studying in Accountancy and specialising in purchasing and supplies.

In 1963, John met Laura Young, at a wedding where he was Best Man. They were married in 1967, at Chalmers Church, Uddingston.

By now he was working in London, and they set up home there for a short time before moving to Aberdeenshire, where John took a position with Shell, in the expanding North Sea Oil Industry.

Having settled into married life their family soon started to grow:

First, Karen (1970), then David (1971), followed a few years later by Jennifer (1975) and, finally, Ian. (1977). During this time John changed company, joining Amoco as a Materials Manager and after more than 17 years in Aberdeen, the family moved to Saffron Waldon as John took a new post as Purchasing Manager based in Amoco Headquarters in London. This position meant a lot of travelling across the world which the family were sometimes able to share in.

John loved his job but for the sake of his health he took early retirement in 1992, but continued to work with a fledgling company, DAS Business Furniture, putting his great experience to good use.

Finally, having worked with DAS for some 13 years, in 2005 John retired and managed to spend more time with the loves of his life: Laura, their children, their growing family of Grandchildren, and Golf.

In 2009, having a hankering to return to Scotland, John and Laura moved to West Kilbride where, like all the previous places they had lived, with Laura, John continued to enjoy his golf having played golf since a young age and Captained the Saffron Walden Golf Club, from 1999-2003. He was able to re-join the West Kilbride Golf Club, many years after he initially joined as a teenager.

Throughout their lives as a young family golfing was always a shared joy, as John and Laura took the children on holiday.

He was a gentle, honest, kind, and fair man who loved to see his children and grandchildren when he could.

But, illness was not a stranger to John and it was in the hands of the caring staff at Abbotsford, on 24th June, that John was called to the Lord's nearer presence. May Almighty God now grant him eternal rest.



By now, we're all aware of how devastating coronavirus is. Compassionate supporters like you are helping to ease the impact of the virus and support vulnerable people around the world.



People like Sani Tamang, who lost her eyesight at the age of eight. Now, at 45 years old, she lives with her son and in-laws on a small farm in Nepal. Her father in-law works whenever he can to meet the family's needs, but when lockdown was announced, he had no choice but to stay home.

With no money coming in, life became very hard. Sani says they had no cash to buy food. The family were going through a very difficult time. But, thanks to the generosity of supporters like you, they received food aid through our local partner; Community Development Forum.

They were delighted when they received food packages, which would last them a month! For Sani, it means that she could feed her son nutritious meals: 'We are cooking the food we got and enjoying our meals. My son heartily enjoys eating and that makes me content and joyful'.

Your support continues to make a difference in the 25 countries where Christian Aid is responding. Together we are supporting local families and communities through these unprecedented times.

However, the struggle is not over. So many vulnerable communities are unable to make ends meet during the pandemic. Some countries are also struggling with disasters outside of the pandemic. In Beirut, Lebanon, the recent explosion on 4 August 2020 has made a dire situation even worse. Let us keep our thoughts and prayer with those that are still suffering. Even in the darkest moments, love gives hope.

I hope you are keeping well and thank you for your continuous support.

ALAN GOODY 1952 - 2020



Alan was born on 24th July 1952, the middle child and only son of John and Peggy. One of the first actions for Alan's mum and dad was to have him Baptised, in Dalmarnock Congregational Church. And, as the seed of God's Holy Spirit was implanted in Alan, its fruit was to grow through his subsequent life.

Alan went to Primary, in Bridgeton and in Easterhouse; and subsequently Garthamlock Secondary School, followed by Barmulloch College, where he trained as an apprentice electrician. However, studying wasn't quite finished, for Alan, as quite a few years later he returned to Education at Caledonian University where he gained a Post Graduate Diploma, in Corporate Resource Management in 2001.

Alan was always a dedicated worker and his employment began with James Scott & Co. Electrical Engineers in 1967 where he started as an apprentice electrician. However, being quite able, after 10 years, he soon moved to Glasgow Corporation as a qualified electrician and was soon promoted through the ranks to Foreman, Senior Electrical Foreman and finally Manager of Glasgow City Council Building Department from which he took early retirement in late 1998. The following May Alan was honoured to represent Glasgow City Council Building Department, on behalf of the Director, at Queen's Garden Party at Holyrood House. However, Alan didn't achieve all this promotion and honour on his own because there was always someone by his side. And that was his devoted wife, Heather.

Alan first met Heather Forrester through 37th Boys Brigade and, having fallen in love, Alan and Heather were married on 22nd November, 1975 at Ruchazie Parish Church. Returning

from honeymoon, they set up home in Ibrox, but, as the family grew with daughter Alison and son Andrew, they moved a few times. However, due to Alan being diagnosed with mesothelioma, they eventually moved to Semple Crescent in Fairlie.

Family meant everything to Alan, and his pride and joy were his *Palsies*; his grandchildren: Rachel, David, and Callie and he was never happier than being together on holidays; Torquay, Lytham St. Annes, Scarborough, and Great Yarmouth although Alan and Heather would also enjoy a good cruise.

The greatest factor giving Alan strength throughout his life and illness was his unyielding faith in Christ. As a child, he attended Dalmarnock Congregation Church Sunday School, then to Ruchazie Church, where he was a member, and then Officer, of the 37th Boys Brigade. Alan would always identify himself as a bible believing Christian.

He subsequently joined Ibrox Parish Church of Scotland in 1976, the year after he joined the Orange Order and Royal Black Institution. And one charitable outreach projects which Alan was involved with was to send a team of members to Kiwoko Hospital, in Uganda. Alan found this immensely rewarding, putting his Christian faith into practice. However, last year, having moved to Fairlie, Alan transferred to Fairlie Parish Church where he worshipped regularly, and subsequently online, in these days of lockdown.

However, in all that God achieved through Alan, Alan's main love and purpose in life was his family. And for all of this we give God thanks; for on 19th July Alan was called to the Lord's nearer presence. And may Almighty God now grant him eternal rest.

God's Call in the time of Covid-19 Webinar

I hope this finds you well. My name is Robbie Morrison and I am the Mission Development Worker for the west of Scotland. I am writing to let you know of an upcoming live Webinar I am organising with Michael Harvey and Martin Fair, entitled "God's call in the time of Covid-19" which will be held on Thursday 3rd Sept., from 10am -12pm.

Due to Covid-19 there has never been a more important time for Christians to be in contact with those around them. Weeks of self-isolation, economic disruption, disappointment, anxiety and pressure have impacted our neighbours, friends and families and left many with big questions about life, themselves and even God.

In addition, there are signs that Covid-19 has created a mental health crisis, with more than 1 in 4 having experienced 'significant mental distress' according to recent research. Michael Harvey has been encouraging Christians across Scotland with a simple way in which we can connect with the big questions and the distress in our communities. The process is called Acorn and it is a simple and prayerful way for each of us to respond. In this webinar we will hear how this has been working and how we all can get involved. We will also hear from individuals around the country who have been working with Michael during this time, as they share their experiences.

If you would be interested in joining us for this event, please email Diane Knowles at

DKnowles@churchofscotland.org.uk

to receive the link for the Webinar.

FROM CAROLINE in CHAD



Dear friends,
 We have a fair-sized African baobab tree near the front entrance to our centre here in N'djamena. Of course I've noticed it before, it's hard to miss. But this is the first year in nearly 15 years of my comings and goings to our centre that I've noticed its flowers. Aren't they just beautiful?



As for many of you around the world, this COVID-19 season in Chad has had its ups and downs to navigate, as well as a lot of ordinary level ground. The slower pace and increased isolation and restrictions has made us aware of our own fragility. But I trust this season has held some sustaining beauty for you too, even amidst the shadows, like my baobab flowers and other daily graces.

As of 10th August, Chad has registered 945 official cases of COVID-19, and 76 deaths. Even accounting for some unofficial transmission, the overall impact of COVID here has been a lot less than what was initially predicted, and for this we are very grateful.

Chad was never in full lockdown, but now certain measures are starting to be lifted. The airport was officially opened again on 1 August, and flights are bringing new arrivals. From later this month, and over September and October, many of our staff who repatriated to their home countries for this season hope to return to Chad and pick up their regular work here. . I won't be coming back to the UK this year for annual leave after all, but you could pray for a restful break in October for me as I take a few weeks holiday.

Thank you for your prayers, messages, calls, gifts and general encouragement over these past months. I have really appreciated and benefited from the extra support!

With heartfelt thanks, love Caroline xx

Over the past months, Justin, our literacy coordinator, and Jenni, our language technology coordinator have teamed up with staff, local communities and partners to help make COVID awareness raising materials to educate Chadian communities about how to prevent the spread of COVID. So far, they have assisted over 50 language communities to make or adapt posters, leaflets and short videos into local languages.

Tisawwu chunu le tanjo min al-vayruus Koroona ?

	Angar'u ma ricalhumi be ul.		Kan tagubhu walla fi'atunhu, siddu khaashumka ho kut'ka.
	Kullis wakii. Khaasata indcenka adii se alni wa saabun.		Khaashu faraga amhaawaka mosi mitreen. Wa angar'u ma tilmu katirin fi beer walla fi chaari' walla fi kcar walla taxi.
	Algo khaahar daayman fi baalot al ma'ad fi l-radyo walla fi l-tee walla fi l-anti internet duul: www.sante-tchad.org et www.mha.tg		Agond fi heetak kan tibiss be jidak. Wa kan ma tmaiffo adii, na'oo fi l-rakham 1313.



Update from Beirut



Can you think about when you drop a glass on your kitchen floor and the difficulty finding all the wee shards... imagine, then, what it is like for our friends in Beirut as they have been beginning to 'pick up the pieces' this week after the huge blast that rocked the city last month.

The physical clear up is difficult but the mental recovery will be much more traumatic. The Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, Rt Rev Dr Martin Fair, has written to our partners in Beirut and they have responded with thanks for all our prayers and support. They have also been sharing with us some of the devastation caused to buildings of the church and of the School of Theology. They have been covering windows and doors with temporary materials and they have no idea when they might get glass in them again because, as you can imagine, there is no glass in the country to be had. Lebanon has very cold winters and this makes the need for shelter even greater. As well as looking at the state of their own buildings, and their homes, our partners are reaching out and supporting the most vulnerable at this time including some of the refugee population.

There are many ways to help and support the people of Lebanon, and many of our UK partners have appeals including Embrace and Christian Aid. Some people have also asked about supporting NESSL or NEST and you can do that by sending a donation to the Church of Scotland. Maybe next time you raise a glass, think of our friends in Beirut as they seek to mend shattered lives.

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WEEK of PRAYER for CHURCH & COUNTRY



The Moderator, Martin Fair, held a week of prayer from 17th to 22nd August and invited church members across Scotland and beyond to join in for a Morning

Reflection after 8am and Evening Prayers at 8.30pm. The evening prayers took the form of a conferencing call (Zoom) with contributions from ministers, youth workers and ecumenical partners from Roman Catholic, Scottish Episcopal, Baptist and Methodist churches. There was time to get into 'rooms' with others for discussion.

I joined each morning and found the reflections, prayers and tasks interesting and moving and covering headings, such as, 'Press Pause – be still', 'To Lament and to hope', 'Listening for the Still Small Voice', 'To the mountains to Look Ahead', 'To the mountains to Pray', and 'A New Song'. These can be found on www.churchofscotland.org.uk. Go to News and Events and look for Week of Prayer. Each day had an activity for individuals, families or groups. One I found interesting is below.

Daily Activity

Find 3

On a walk today look out for 3 things you think are special. (Or do this in your home or garden). Maybe they're beautiful. Maybe they're unusual. Maybe they're things you can take home or things you need to leave where they are. Pause and think about each thing. What does it remind you about Jesus?

Maybe you'll choose a big stick. Maybe that reminds you about Jesus' strength and power. Or maybe it makes you think of a walking stick and it reminds you that he will always help you wherever you go. Maybe you love creatures and you choose a snail. It's home is on its back and maybe that would remind you that Jesus promises us a home in heaven. Talk about your discoveries as a family or with your friends.

How does it encourage you today to remember these things about Jesus? Turn your thoughts into a prayer of praise. Start with "Wow Jesus, you ..." and use your thoughts to complete the sentence. For example, "Wow Jesus, you are strong and powerful. Wow Jesus, you promise us a home in heaven."

If anyone would like a paper copy of any of the daily reflections and don't have access to the internet just get in touch and I'll print one off for you.

I didn't take part in the Zoom evening meetings but watched them afterwards on Facebook. Go to Church of Scotland Facebook page to see them. Also available are short videos with the moderator interviewing various people or on other topics. Well worth a look.

One in particular was his hill walk and interview with Steve Aisthorpe on his new book 'Rewilding the Church'. - Very appropriate in today's circumstances. Some of you may have attended Steve's conference in Fairlie on his book 'The Invisible Church' also interesting reading.

Ann Tyler 01475 568421

SCOTTISH BIBLE SOCIETY

The summer edition of Transform has been received but only one copy. I think with churches not open that the usual number has been held back. However I thought I'd share with you on one item in this edition. 'Finding faith in the midst of crisis' is about the work of the Bible Society of Chad. As many of you know, my daughter, Caroline, has worked in Chad for the past 14 years doing literacy work and bible translation with Wycliffe Bible Translators via SIL.

The Bible Society of Chad started the Bible-based Trauma Healing programme in 2014, covering many kinds of challenges.

Chad is a landlocked African country with a population of over 16 million people living between the Sahara to the north and the Sudanian Savanna to the south. The people suffer from the impacts of climate change, the consequential land desertification, conflicts in neighbouring countries, and terrorism. High youth unemployment rates, civil war, and social conflict have all torn Chad apart for more than 40 years. The people have suffered generations of emotional trauma. With the outbreak of Covid-19, the Bible Society realised that without reliable internet provision, the only way to

effectively help people access the new resources during a 'stay at home' order was by radio broadcast. Very quickly all the Christian radio stations agreed to help, but their reach did not cover the entire population. Telephone and text messages, plus email addresses are provided during the broadcast for those who would like to ask questions or need to talk to someone. A member of the trauma team can visit and help. They have adapted to the challenges of helping people during lockdown.

Ann Tyler



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Rambling ROSE

With all this lockdown business, it has been interesting to have time to look through cupboards and drawers, finding all sorts of old "letters and cards. One big large red card was sent to me by my daughter in London. It said in white capital letters 'KEEP CALM and CARRY ON'. I had broken both my wrists when I tripped and fell on a road in Largs . So I found the card again, and now it sits on the table near me, and I just enjoy the headlines every time I pass it.

Another one I found was about the Fairlieburne Hotel which we owned and ran.

Situated between the road and shore, in a secluded garden of beautiful lawns and woodlands it commands an unrivalled position on the Fifth of Clyde. Golf, tennis yachting, boating, sunbathing, fishing, and Clyde pleasure cruises. We have our own garden produce, electric fires in all bedrooms, hot and cold running water, ample bathroom and lounge accommodation, and a private entrance to the beach. The tariff said £1.10s (£1.50) per day per guest, £9.9s (£9.45) per week per guest. Children under 14 years reduced rates. Bed and Breakfast and Bath from 21s (£1.05) per guest Garage 2/6 (12p) per night.!



A later card was offering an ideal setting for any special functions, Weddings Receptions, Business Meetings, lunches, Teas, and Dinner-Dances.

On to more religious matters, when I say the Lord's prayer I change it a bit

Our Father who art in heaven (I don't like that bit, as I don't like him away up there leaving me all alone so I say "Our Father who art in heaven, and on earth". I won't say it out loud, but you will know what I am saying inwardly.

A few people may remember the Black pews that used to be in the Church, with a metal curve underneath for the Gentlemen to place their top hats, while we ladies kept ours on. Then one day it was decided to take the pews out and put in chairs. If we wanted to take a pew home we did I was one of the few who did. It sat outside on slabs of concrete, but deteriorated quite quickly so I asked Bobby Park, the builder what we could do with it. He said nothing but he

would take it away, presumably up to the coup. He knew I was sad, and the next day he handed me in a wee treasure of a small square made from a pew and a little mirror in the middle. Looking at it, I love it and wonder who all sat in that black pew.

When young I was told to take cod-liver oil and the other day I asked a friend to get me some. Well I couldn't believe it, completely changed, and delicious. Thick and sweet - I don't know the cost, but I am sure it is well worth it.

If you are wondering what to read, read Psalm 23. I find it calming and nice.

I am not into I-pad things but one day in the sitting room here, I was talking and SEEING, Sandy's sister and her husband who lives in Canada. It was just completely beyond me, here in Fairlie.

A wee simple delicious treat to make and eat. Boil two eggs for 10 mins. or so then add some lovely fresh prawns, mix them all together - I am sure you will enjoy it

I had a magazine given to me with a cover on it which said it was 100% compostable. Thinking about it I thought so were our bodies. Then I remembered our bones! - they would take a while!

PS. it is 2nd August and suddenly the leaves are tumbling down on to the lawn.

Rosemary Jarvie

After writing this months piece Rosemary sadly had a nasty fall on the seafront path breaking her hip.

She had a successful operation at Crosshouse and as we go to press she is still recovering there.

The village sends her our very best wishes !

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The Messy Church team are just so missing everyone - the wee ones, the bigger kids, parents, grandparents, friends and helpers, who come together for a fun time each month.

We miss the chat, the news, the games, the jokes, the singing and especially the meal together. The Church has been risk assessing the building and following guidelines in order to have the church open for worship again and we just can't wait for the go-ahead to meet at Messy. This may not happen for a wee while but hopefully we may be able to meet for Messy Christmas.

In the meantime, the children have returned to school. Parents, carers and children may have been a bit **apprehensive** and have needed **courage** to face the **challenges** in their lives just now.

Here's a story about courage and a wee task for you to complete.

From the book of Samuel. It is one of the best known stories in the bible. Look it up in a children's bible if you feel that would be easier for the children to understand than this.

"David, the shepherd boy, said to Saul, the king, 'Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine (Goliath); your servant will go and fight him.' Saul replied, 'You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a young lad, and he has been a warrior from his youth.'

But David said to Saul, '...The Lord who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine.' Saul said to David, 'Go, and the Lord be with you'.....

Meanwhile, the Philistine, with his shield-bearer in front of him, kept coming closer to David.....

David said to the Philistine, 'You come against me with the sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied...'

David ran quickly towards the battle line to meet him. Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell face down on the ground."

David had no fear because he knew that his God was bigger than Goliath. What are you afraid of? Do you think it is bigger than God? David used one little stone from his sling to bring Goliath down. What little thing can you bring to God for his use? What courageous action can we take in the face of insults and intimidating situations?

Make a courage jar.

You will need: empty glass jar; glue; stickers; ribbons or string; paint and brushes; pieces of paper to write on.

Decorate your courage jar as you please. Every time you do something courageous, write (or draw) it on the piece of paper and drop it in your jar. Decide how often you want to open the jar to see how courageous you've been. (Asking for help, standing up for others and yourself, not following what everyone else is doing, facing your fears, unhappiness, new situations, and so on).

Talk about how you might step out of your comfort zone this week. If you don't feel brave enough, you can ask God to be with you.

Messy Church is for everyone, old and young, so please try the challenge above and remember that God is always with us, wherever we are and in whatever circumstance we find ourselves. God Bless.





Children and Young People Update

Last night I took part in a Zoominar for children's and young people's workers and volunteers, organised by Lanark Presbytery involving the Church of Scotland Covid Working Group, which ran from 7.30 to after 9pm. 408 people took part and one of the organisers of the Zoominar was Jonathan Fleming from Largs, St John's.

This gave the opportunity to hear about the still heavy restrictions on the work we can undertake with children and young people as part of the Scottish Governments Routemap out of lockdown and also what has been happening in our churches and organisations in the meantime.

Suzi, a church youth worker, gave us her perspective and much encouragement to embrace changes, be adaptable and do things differently. Next was the turn of Caroline from Girls Brigade who talked of the resources, including 'At Home with Gracie' and ways that companies have kept in touch and supported the girls, and also the lengthy risk assessments necessary. Alan from Boys Brigade endorsed the flexible approach and their use of BB@Home materials and virtual sessions.

The greater part of the evening was given over to Bryan Kerr and Brian Auld who took us step by step through the current regulations, buildings risk assessment and

questions and answers being asked on the chat part of the webinar and answered by Jonathan and others.

Aileen Campbell, MSP for Clydesdale joined in the discussion with up to the minute information as she had just returned home from Parliament.

Opportunity was given to some people to comment or ask questions live. The main message from the speakers was that there are no ways round the regulations as they are there for the purpose of keeping people safe.

"Don't be cute!" - don't try to 'get round' the regulations. Brian as part of the Covid Working Group is in regular contact with the Scottish Parliament.

To see the Zoominar go to Facebook - Lanark Church and all helpful websites will be given there.

Also go to www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news and events/newsletter for ideas etc in the children and youth newsletter.

This was quite an intense programme and was sometimes difficult to hear as internet connection was unstable, with speakers being cut off but worthwhile and encouraging too.

Ann Tyler

NEXT ISSUE

The Next edition of the Newsletter will cover OCTOBER

Last date for copy is Tuesday 15th SEPTEMBER

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

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