

# FAIRLIE PARISH CHURCH NEWS



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

**OCTOBER 2020**



Dear All, We have just entered October and the year seems to be flying through; at least it seems to be doing so for me. However, with all the challenges that this year has placed before us, especially in the form of coronavirus and subsequent lockdown and easing and re-lockdown, your year may be dragging. It seems that no two

people are going through the same experiences, even if they live together! However we are, there is definitely one common factor which seems to unite us all. And that is questions! Everyone seems to have questions which need answering, especially about what we are, or are not, permitted to do.

From the beginning of this crisis the Scottish Government (SG) has given ongoing advice as the pandemic has taken hold. Lockdown was quite strange, even distressing. And, as lockdown eased at the summer, a form of new normal seemed to emerge. But this has not lasted. And so, now we are all trying to understand the current guidance. With all of the information coming from the SG, the Church of Scotland has been in weekly contact with the decision makers ensuring that we are implementing the latest advice to ensure best practice for the protection of everyone who comes into our church buildings.

During September, Fairlie Parish Church opened for prayer on Tuesday afternoons. It has been lovely to see those who, under current circumstances, have felt able, and comfortable, to come along and join in prayer. And now, at the beginning of October, we are opening for Sunday morning worship. Everyone is welcome but, because of SG guidance on social distancing, we are only able to accommodate 24 worshippers. Therefore, if you would like to come along, please contact our Session Clerk, Mrs. Alison McKellar (560069) between 6pm - 7pm Thursday or Friday (leaving a message with your name and phone number if necessary), in order to take your details and uphold Track & Trace legislation. As everyone is

responsible for their own safety, we would ask that you undertake your own risk assessment *before* you decide if you wish to come to the church for either prayer or worship. Whilst the building is open for worshippers to gather, the online services on a Wednesday evening (6.00pm) and Sunday morning (9.45am) will continue to be broadcast live, *as usual*, on Facebook and our church website. These are exciting times but they are also times of many questions and, somehow, we have to blend the two kinds of experience into one. However, irrespective of whether you are able to attend in person, or visit online, be assured that God is with you wherever you are!

The opening of church buildings for Worship does not mean that other groups may now begin to meet. The act of worship has been assigned special consideration, and strict guidance. Outwith Prayer and Worship, God's House has the same restrictions placed upon it as your house. So, if ongoing guidance means that you cannot do something in your home, unfortunately it also means that you cannot do it in a church building.

In faith as in life, questions are always important. Jesus was always being asked questions about the Sabbath, healing, happiness and care for others. But, *sometimes*, the answer He gave was not what the asker was looking to hear because they already knew what they wanted to do. Jesus' answers always sought a personal response and were formed around His statement, 'Do for others just what you want them to do for you.' He also told us that we are to give to the government what belongs to them and give to God what belongs to God. In today's world we have to ensure that we can balance what the government is asking of us with what is right by God. And we can't break the rules, just to suit ourselves. That's the balance we are all trying to achieve, whether at church or at home. It isn't easy, but it is necessary.

I hope that you manage to find a way through these difficult times, with your sanity intact!

Take care and stay safe.  
With every blessing,

*Graham* Graham

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### A Prayer for Today

Holy, Holy, Holy God, Father, Son and Spirit. You reign supreme over all the world. Be with us now as we wearily continue the fight against Covid19. We ask that You will give us the courage, strength and fortitude to carry on even when we get disheartened and weighed down with rising infection rates and increased deaths; deaths of people – somebody's parent, somebody's spouse, somebody's friend. Comfort all who are suffering because of this virus – because they are ill or because they have lost a loved one.

Guide all in authority to make wise decisions with fairness, integrity and compassion and always in accordance with Your will. Give to all people the grace to follow the rules at all times, and not to bend them to suit themselves. And strengthen all Your people that what we do is in accordance with Your Commandment, "Do for others what you want them to do for you." Help us all to love one another.

Father, the criminal fraternity are causing chaos; scamming government schemes meant to help those suffering hard times; hacking into the computer systems of logistics companies causing mayhem in the delivery of goods. Father forgive them but bring them to justice.

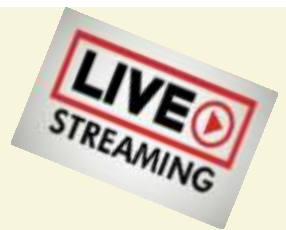
Loving God, for all those who are receiving bad news at this time may they know Your calmness upon them. Bring to them healing and wholeness. Bless their families, and keep them, and be with the medics and care-givers as they try to look after those who are most vulnerable.

Loving Father, You are our hope, our strength and our shield. You are our Miracle Worker, our Promise Keeper and our Light in the Darkness.

Loving and Healing God draw close to us all in these days and let us experience Your healing, loving and gracious presence. Amen



A shortened service is broadcast LIVE on Fairlie Church Facebook page each Sunday at 9.45am and a Mid-week Prayer & Praise on Wednesday at 6pm



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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### Remembrance Day.



With the Scottish Government's ongoing reviews of what is and what is not allowed, occurring every three weeks, specific guidance regarding Remembrance Day may be given. Currently, however, gatherings outside are not permissible. To ensure that we can appropriately give God thanks for the fallen of our country and pray for those currently serving in the armed forces, an Act of Remembrance and Thanksgiving will be held in Fairlie Parish Church on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November from 10.45-11.10am.

Further information will be made available closer to the time but, should there be no possible gathering outside, the numbers who are able to attend will be limited to 24, as with any Act of Worship. Information on how to reserve a place will be put on the church website towards the end of October.

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### Church Secretary.



Over the last five years, Mrs. Linda Beveridge has been employed as the Church Secretary between Fairlie and Largs: St Columba's Parish Churches. Linda has undertaken this role admirably and with great enthusiasm and professionalism. And for this we give Linda our heartfelt thanks. However, with the coming of Coronavirus, and the limitations it has placed on many business situations, there have been many changes to how the church is able to function and deliver its responsibilities. And, unfortunately, one of these changes involves the church office and the role of the Church Secretary.

Sadly, with effect from the end of November, the role of Church Secretary will fall redundant. This has been a very difficult decision and we continue to pray for Linda and her family, and everyone who is going through a similar situation. Linda's skill are many and varied and we ask God's blessing upon her as she discerns how to move ahead.

## Welcome Teams

In light of the changes brought about by the pandemic, the welcome teams have changed.

As there is less for the teams to do, the numbers are cut to 2 people with Graham, the minister, being a third person.

Duties will now be as follows:!

1. Making sure everyone uses the sanitiser and wears a face mask while in the church.
2. Checking the names and telephone numbers of the people arriving at the church.
3. Escorting people to a seat.
4. Counting any money in the retiring offering - we cannot collect the offering in bags.
5. Making sure everyone leaves by the bell tower door.

On Tuesdays, the people attending the prayer meeting will not have pre-booked their seat.

**Tuesday:** Church opens 1.45 pm  
Prayer meeting 2 - 3 pm.

**Sunday:** Church opens 9.30 am  
Service 9.45 -10.20 am approx.

Week beginning

- |                           |                                |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 4 <sup>th</sup> October   | Mrs A Tyler, Mrs S McGinty     |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> October  | Mrs A Ellor, Mrs S Kirkwood    |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> October  | Mrs M Gilchrist Miss C Gardner |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> October  | Mrs P Black, Mr J Black        |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> November  | Mrs C Thomas, Mrs A Woods      |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> November  | Mrs P Wilson, Mrs L Cowpe      |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> November | Mrs E Clark, Ms A McDonald     |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> November | Mr J Riddell, Mrs A Gregory    |
| 29 <sup>th</sup> November | Mr J Whittaker, Mrs J Busby    |
| Spare : Mrs A McKellar    |                                |

*Rambling*  
**ROSE**

Following her fall last month we are pleased to say that Rosemary is progressing with her recovery and is now back home in Fairlie



**Love never fails.  
In times of crisis, love unites us all.**

Angie Leith featured to provide a good living to support her daughters, Wilma and James.



**When crisis arrived on our doorsteps this year, neighbourly love helped us through.**

Will you stand together with your global neighbours near and far this autumn?

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**DOG WALKING - DAYCARE - BOARDING**



I hope that you are all well and enjoying the balmy days in between the wet and windy ones. I think that we should try to store memories of the good days in our memories for our benefit during the approaching winter. Are we not blessed with our surroundings and our community?

It is encouraging to hear of two groups of young people in S1-S3 from Carnoustie High and Larbert High, who made it to the Big Bang Finals 2020, which had to be held on – line this year.

Inspired by the 'Greta Effect', they decided to enter the competition with eco innovations where they could use their skills in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM), to improve the world and the lives of others.

Larbert High designed a working model of a remote controlled car, which can plant trees in deforested areas, while, Carnoustie High designed a model house resilient to the extreme weather created by climate change. The house has a range of features, including solar panels, a wind turbine, a water wheel and a poly tunnel. It is dome shaped to make it more aero dynamic in high winds.

While working on the project one of the young people said, "Being part of this project has really opened my eyes to the impact of climate change might have on weather and it made us all think about what we can do to make a difference".

I am very happy to tell you that Carnoustie High won the Stantec Future Communities Award, using a video presentation to impress the judges.

Larbert High were not so successful, but another group from the school, won an award for inventing an app to transfer sign language into text.


During the summer, I have been attending on Zoom eco meetings, and at one, it was suggested that sharing tools and equipment would prevent them lying around not being used. Men's Sheds were mentioned and some ladies said that they had managed to re-home tools to local sheds, unfortunately, many are closed at the moment. They are a source of companionship for some men, who only come along for the banter and tea and biscuits, while others are enjoy continuing to use skills, which were used during their working lives to repair items and keep them functioning. The problem is to find suitable premises at an economical rent.

Borrowing was considered, but what happens if there is a breakage? An agreement would have to be struck, unless the owner came along with the tool and did the job, perhaps there might be a swop of skills; on the other hand some people are unwilling to loan tools which have cost a great deal.

One of the men told us that his wife had made 1,000 cloth face masks that she had given away and was now on to her next 1,000, which she is making for charity. People have been donating duvet covers and other materials to her.

The Gas usage for 2020 for August was 5 cubic metres, while in 2019 it was 31. The Electricity usage for 2020 was 71 kWh, while in 2019 it was 978.

*Ann Gregory*



**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.



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## SHOEBOX APPEAL 2020



It's easy to choose gifts for people that have so little. Shampoo, a pair of socks, a notepad, a small toy, a bag of sweets – things we take for granted will seem like luxuries to people living in poverty. By filling a shoebox with simple things you can bring some joy this Christmas.

These are difficult times for us at present, please consider just how much more difficult it must be for those in countries with much less access to the health services we have here. Like last year, the Ayrshire boxes are going to Moldova where living conditions are far removed from the comfort we enjoy.

We are grateful that Fairlie Primary School will be taking part again. Unfortunately, the children will not be able to help sort the boxes at church, as in previous years. We are very appreciative of filled boxes for each category but appreciate that this can be expensive so are grateful for any individual items from the list to assemble into boxes here.

Things required for boxes are all kinds of stationery, especially notepads for all, colouring pencils and pens for children; all the usual toiletries including toothbrushes and toothpaste, soap, shampoo, shaving gear for men, and facecloths for all; sweets (no chocolate, lollies or loose sweets) with 'best before' no earlier than March 2021. We also send items of underwear and socks.

We have plenty of boys and girls pants and socks for men and boys, scarves and many women's hats, but there is always a shortage of gloves for men, women, boys and girls, ladies and men's underwear.

If you are unable to collect items for the boxes but would like to support the appeal then donations are most welcome to buy what is needed and for covering the cost of transport (£3 per box).

Leaflets are available from the front door of the church or from Ann 568421 or Alison 560069. We have covered boxes for filling if you haven't a shoebox.

All items and boxes need to be handed into church Tuesdays or Sundays or phone us for collecting items by **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November**. Sorting and filling will take place in church on Wed. 11<sup>th</sup>, Thu. 12<sup>th</sup> and Friday 13<sup>th</sup>, in accordance with restrictions and distancing. Please call Ann if you can help on any of these days as a rota is required or if you want more information or a leaflet. The filled boxes will be collected the next week.

We realise it will be more difficult this year but have been asked to do our best which is all we can do, to make a difference to folks who have so much less than us and to send our gifts and good wishes this Christmas.

Arrangements may change depending on current government policy.

*Ann Tyler and Alison McKellar*

### KNIT & NATTER

Thanks to all the knitters for the great effort over the year to produce hats, scarves, bootees, mitts, socks and cardigans for babies, children and adults. A total of 130 baby hats, 6 cardigans, 22 pairs of bootees and 14 pairs of mitts were shared between Ayrshire Maternity Unit at Crosshouse and Forth Valley Royal Hospital Maternity Unit at Falkirk.

Other baby units were contacted but did not require any for the time being. 20 blankets have been knitted from squares and I have contacted Linus Quilts (for children and young people suffering from trauma) and am awaiting reply.

Socks, hats, scarves and gloves have been accumulating over the year for the Shoebbox Appeal which will take place this month. What a great effort from a little group and their friends! Keep knitting, ladies, as we build up stocks of more baby hats and anything for the shoeboxes. I still have plenty of donated wool so just call me on 568421 and I can deliver to you. Really miss the cuppa and chat each month but hopefully we will meet up for Knit and Natter early in 2021.



*Ann Tyler*

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## The virus has not shaken my faith'

Prof. Jason Leitch has become a common sight on our TV screens as National Clinical Director who advises the Scottish Government. Here is a taste of his interview in 'Life & Work'. The full article can be found in the latest edition of the Magazine of the Church of Scotland



Born in Airdrie, Jason's parents moved during his childhood to Leicester for a few months, and then to north Devon until he was seven years old, at which time the family returned to Scotland. As Baptists, Jason and his family were always involved with their church, and Jason says he can't remember a time when it wasn't part of his life.

"I was always very involved with the church," he says. "And still am

to this day. I was in the youth choir, all kinds of groups and took on a leadership role in Airdrie Baptist Church, a role I'm still proud to have today."

Jason attended Airdrie Academy and later Glasgow University, where he studied dentistry.

"He wasn't a regular dentist for long though – after a post-qualification year on the 'High Street' – he took a post at Glasgow Dental Hospital and worked in the Victoria Infirmary in Glasgow for 15 years, where he honed his skills and trained to be an oral surgeon. In 2005, he was offered the chance to go to the USA and study for a Fellowship at the Harvard School of Public Health in Boston and the Institute for Healthcare Improvement.

When he got back to Scotland, he got a part-time job with the Scottish Government as the National Clinical lead for Patient Safety while still maintaining his job as a surgeon for half the week.

More recently he became the National Clinical Director, one of the three clinical leaders who provide advice to the politicians.. He's a regular at the side of the First Minister when she does her briefings and Jason is often called upon to speak directly to the cameras to talk to the public.

"This virus is touching every sector, every single individual," he says. "When you have something of this scale, it has affected

every person in the country. No one's life should feel normal yet. It should still feel odd, and restricted, and that's necessary to keep the population safe."

"Test and Protect is precision public health – it is a way of finding the individual causing the cases and isolating both them and their contacts and thus stopping the transmission of the virus"

"A vaccine is vital, as is, quite frankly, a way to treat this virus. It principally attacks the respiratory system, causing breathing problems, especially among the elderly and those with pre-existing conditions that will open them up to it. It is very complex in its make-up and the way it affects the body. It seems to hit those with vascular disease – the circulatory system – or condition, like heart failure, those who are obese, and those with especially Type 2 diabetes.

"We are learning a lot more about it all the time. The population behaviors, which has been our principal 'treatment', because we don't have a cure, have been the changes to the way we behave. That has worked; it has reduced the viral numbers; reduced the number of deaths; reduced the transmission rates. We're trying to find a way of opening up the economy while still protecting the population."

Somehow though, Jason still finds time to spend on the two charities he holds close to his heart – the Indian Rural Evangelical Fellowship, which runs children's homes, schools and colleges in India and as a Trustee of the Nazareth Trust, a UK charity that runs a hospital in Nazareth for the Arab-Israeli population. "This virus has not shaken my faith in the least," he says. "It has, in some ways, made me more reliant – more relentless.

"We will all get through this," he said.

"But we might have to accept that we will get a new version of 'normal'.

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At this time of year our thoughts turn to **harvest** and in the last few years Messy Church has looked at the stories of

Ruth and the 'man with the big barns'. Ruth showing her love by working in the harvest fields for her mother-in-law, Naomi, contrasting with the greed of the man who built more and more barns to store his grain without sharing his good fortune with others - each showing us how we should be grateful for the food we eat and sharing love and kindness with others.

We don't have our own fields but most of us do have gardens and this year because of the pandemic we have been working so hard in ours. All the planting of seeds, potting on, clearing ground, planting out, looking after them has resulted in a beautiful array of flowers and more importantly we have harvested lots of fruit and vegetables which seem to taste much better than bought ones.



This made me think of Ruth and how small acts of kindness, serving others and being there for family, friends and neighbours can multiply like the seeds we plant. This has

been especially true during this Covid 19 pandemic. So lets make serving others be our 'gardens' and we will have a wonderful harvest of love and friendship.

The poster of our church with all our named hearts really inspires me every time I see it in Church.



I have two challenges this month. 1). Why don't you bake some cakes, biscuits or pancakes (I have been making pancakes for folks- call me if you need a good recipe) and share them with friends and neighbours. 2). Collect some fruits, leaves and other things which remind us of autumn and make a collage to remind us of God's goodness to us.

Our Messy Team are really missing you all and hope you are enjoying being back at school, so until we can meet again at Messy Church, know we are all thinking of you and praying that you stay safe and well.  
*Ann*

#### NEXT ISSUE

The Next edition of the Newsletter will cover NOVEMBER

Last date for copy is Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER

#### 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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