

FAIRLIE PARISH CHURCH NEWS



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

FEBRUARY 2021



Dear All,

I hope that this letter finds you well and that you managed to have the best Christmas and New Year possible.

At the beginning of this month, I spent a bit of time reminiscing and read some of the church magazines from my previous parishes of Comrie and Dundurn.

While it was great to look back and remember the good times, it also made me feel very sad because I can't write a similar Pastoral letter reflecting the joy we had all shared through the great variety of gatherings to celebrate the birth of our Saviour, Jesus. Although we had a wonderful Christingle Service in the church and gathered to sing Christmas Carols, on Zoom, last year was just so very different. Church life was different; family life was different; significant events were compromised; and Advent and Christmas celebrations were diminished; all because of coronavirus.

And, here we are at the beginning of 2021, still in lockdown, with a tragic milestone being reached with more than 100,000 people losing their lives to this awful virus. But we can't give up and we can't give in. We need to find ways to lift our spirits and support one another because life is for living. So, what are we going to do with the year ahead? Well, I hope, celebrate.

A couple of weeks ago the Kirk Session met for coffee, on Zoom of course, and we talked a little about last year and our hopes for this year, and one of the things we want to do is work with others in the village to help create the opportunity for everyone to come together and celebrate: maybe a picnic on the beach with games and competitions; maybe a barbeque with some music and dancing; maybe something completely new, but something to bring us together to banish the difficulties we've all experienced and give us new hope.

Jesus' life was one of regularly gathering together with friends and celebrating. And He told His followers that He, as the Good Shepherd, came so that we may have life - life in all its fullness. And life in its fullness has been severely lacking this past year. So, hopefully, once restrictions are reduced, or removed, we will be able to come together, on various occasions, to celebrate as we once did. Only this time, we will celebrate in fullness because we will not take the experience for granted.

Please be assured that all the residents of Fairlie Village are held in prayer before our Lord. And so, until the time comes when we are, once more, able to live life in all its fullness, able to meet openly and freely with one another, and celebrate the common life we share, I pray that you will enjoy good health, both mental and physical.

Yours in Christ.

FAIRLIE PARISH CHURCH - PRAYER & PRAISE, On-Line

Sundays 0945 & Wednesday Evening 1800

Sunday, Readings, Hymns, Prayer, and a Thought for the Day

Wednesday, A Short Service

JOIN US via the FAIRLIE CHURCH FACEBOOK PAGE or later on the FAIRLIE CHURCH WEBSITE

KNIT & NATTER

Happy New Year to all our knitters. What a year 2020 was! I have really missed the fellowship of our wee group and know others have too. So much has happened in our group over this last year and I miss the support of others and the chat, which in many ways is more important than the knitting. Some have been in hospital and are undergoing therapy, others have had to care 24/7 for loved ones, another looked after a loved one with covid 19, some have felt a bit low, some have not been able to go out at all and feel especially isolated, and another has slipped on the ice and broken a shoulder bone. Please know you have not been forgotten and are in our thoughts and prayers.

However, we have something to celebrate this month. Margaret Mears our 'sock' expert, who has never missed a K&N, is celebrating a special birthday.



Happy 90th Birthday
Margaret!

We would have had a special cake for you but can promise you one when we all meet again.

In the meantime, everyone keep knitting - for yourself (I've done 3 pairs of socks - hope you are impressed, Margaret), baby hats and cardigans, hats and scarves for the shoeboxes and if you need wool, let me know and I'll drop it off.

Looking forward to seeing everyone after vaccine when things will be back to more normal conditions.

Stay safe,, Ann Tyler



A Father's Hug

I read this story recently in 'A Bucket of Surprises' and it brought home to me just how much this pandemic and its restrictions can affect us - how much we miss the human touch and hugging our grandchildren and friends. I'd just written the Messy Church piece on being a child of God and how much God loves each of us.

"Greg Norman is one of the most ice-cold golfers on the circuit. He learned this from his father. 'I used to see my father, getting off a plane or something, and I'd just want to hug him,' he said once. 'But he'd only shake my hand.'

Norman was at the 1996 Masters, golf's most prestigious tournament, when he made these remarks. Norman let a six-shot lead go during the last round, losing to his great rival Nick Faldo.

Faldo hit a 15 foot birdie for the winning shot. He then walked towards Norman, who tried to smile, waiting for the customary handshake. Instead, he found himself in a bear hug embrace from Faldo.

As they held each other, Norman began to weep. Later Norman said, "I wasn't crying because I lost. I've lost a lot of golf tournaments before. I'll lose a lot more. I cried because I'd never felt that from another man before. I've never had a hug like that in my life."

May we all experience hugs when lock down is over and may we all experience the embrace of God's love around us during this difficult time.

Ann T

CHRISTINGLE 2020



With partial COVID lock-down in place we were able to have limited numbers at the Christingle Service in December. Despite the depleted numbers an enjoyable time was had in the late afternoon.

THE GUILD



The Guild Committee sends Best Wishes for 2021 to all our members and hopes that everyone is well and has escaped the pandemic and that you enjoyed the festive season as much as possible. The good news is that some of us are now getting our vaccinations, so perhaps the end is in sight, though not for a little while yet.

We trust that we will meet again this year, but it won't be until the autumn. Until then keep smiling, keep cheerful and keep praying.

Pat Johnston.

MANY, MANY, THANKS TO CAROL



For the past 10 years Carol McDowell has quietly gone about organising the distribution of this Newsletter. Understandably Carol has decided that the time has come to stand down and hand over to someone else.

Not only has Carol made sure, on a monthly basis, that the newsletters have been successfully delivered, but each September she has headed up the team that ran the annual Coffee Morning. Money raised from this event covered the majority of production costs with additional funding from our small advertisements and from Church Funds.

So thank you Carol. Your efforts have certainly not gone unrecognised. Sit back and enjoy the Newsletter when we are allowed once again to resume regular deliveries of the printed copy.

Chris Cowpe

FAIRLIE COMMUNITY TRUST



Despite the restrictions of most of the year, during 2020 the Trust awarded a grant of £480 to Organic Growers of Fairlie for the provision of a wheelchair access picnic table at the Community Garden and a grant of £400 to a Bay Street resident for plant displays in that street. Both grants were made from the SSE Hunterston Community Benefit Fund. There were no other applications to the Trust for support from this fund either from Fairlie organisations or from individual Fairlie residents.

In the spring the Trust arranged and funded the painting of the handrails at the Fairlie Burn footbridge. The Trust also helped facilitate the replacement of the seats along the Mounding footpath.

The Trust is very pleased to see work start on the construction of the shore path between Bay Street and Ferry Row – a project initiated by the Trust in 2007!

Dear Fairlie Community Trust Members,

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the official health advice provided by the UK Government, Fairlie Community Trust (FCT) Directors have agreed to postpone the FCT 2021 AGM until restrictions are lifted or meetings can be held observing physical distancing rules.

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DOG WALKING - DAYCARE - BOARDING



As we begin 2021, we should go forward hopefully expecting to limit the world's climate temperature increase, now that the US President Joe Biden and President Xi of China have pledged to put the world "within striking distance" of meeting the most ambitious goal of the Paris 2016 agreement.

Previously in November, President Trump had withdrawn from the Paris Agreement, though another 190 other countries had agreed to keep the increase to "well below two degrees"

Richard Betts, who leads CO² forecasting at the Met Office said: "Reversing the upward trend and slowing the atmospheric CO² rise will need global emissions to reduce and bringing them to a halt will need global emissions to be brought down to net zero".

"This needs to happen within about the next 30-40 years if global warming is to be limited to 1.5C".

The concentration of CO² will be at its highest between April and June, and will reach a new record of 417 parts per million with the peak being reached in May, it will then begin to fall temporarily as the new growth in forests and other ecosystems absorb the gas during the new growing season. From September onwards, it will begin to rise again to 416.3 as forecast by the Met Office, providing a further opportunity for us all to plant more trees and bushes.

In Scotland, the Scottish government is giving £6.9 million to an experiment to allow three hundred homes in Levenmouth, Fife, to use hydrogen for heating and cooking in one of the first trials of its type.

The hydrogen will be provided from an electrolysis plant, powered by an offshore wind turbine. Customers will receive free hydrogen – powered boilers, heaters and

cookers, plus maintenance when the four to five year trial begins next year, and customers will be paying the same price for hydrogen as they would for natural gas. If this experiment works, it may be the answer to what will be used to replace our present day boilers.

This trial is to show that a reliable source of reliable green energy can be provided by off-shore wind.

When in Superdrug recently, I noticed that they have a collection box at the pharmacy area where used foil and blister pack medicine containers can be recycled. Other chemists may also be providing similar facilities, and if anyone can confirm this, I should like to know.

At this time of the year, I usually give you an update on Fairlie Church's Carbon Footprint. As you may imagine it is very much less than previous years. It is 1.41 tonnes, as against 13.60 in 2019. Quite a reduction, if only we were able to reduce it without a pandemic.

The amount of Gas used in November 2020 was 129 cubic metres compared to 563 in 2019. The figure for December 2020 was 414 cubic metres

The Electricity figures for November are 159 kWh in 2020 and 1196 in 2019. The December figure is 223kWh and 1196 for 2019.

The recycling of glasses and ink cartridges illustrate the lack of footfall at the church with only 2 pairs of glasses and 4 cartridges being recycled. Hopefully you have been able to store any you have, so that 2021 can be a bumper year.

Let us all make a special effort to recycle as much as possible in 2021 and pray for those who are organising COP 26, so that it can have the best outcome worldwide of all the previous conferences.

Ann Gregory

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UPDATE

THE PANDEMIC

Throughout the pandemic the Foodbank has continued to operate as best they can. Clearly there has been a drop off in donations as people generally have been strictly limited in their ability to travel. Here at Fairlie Church some people have been able to do drop offs at St Columba's but that has been paused under the current restrictions. Over the coming months we hope to resume collections at St Columba's and eventually get back to our normal baskets at the back of our own church.

In the meantime there has been a small expansion into a new area at the Foodbank called 'The Larder'.

THE LARDER

Yes, the Larder. It is a membership based approach to getting food to low income households. There is a weekly membership which is £4 for the Larder. The people using the Larder are those with some income and not in crisis and could do with assistance to get adequate food for their household. ('crisis' is still the majority of those people accessing free food which is 99%)

The £4 is pooled to purchase items the foodbank cannot secure elsewhere. The food issued via the Larder is supposed to come from food bought

with membership fees, the Foodbanks, membership of Fareshare, and any items they can get from local stores or sympathetic organisations.

Food is colour coded. Blue (valued under £1), Red (valued over £1) and No colour (covered by membership fees). Members can select 8 blue, 2 Red and 5 no colour. The combined value would be around £15.

The membership fee does not generate any "profit/surplus" for the foodbank. They use this money to buy fruit, vegetables, meat.

The chef also bakes fresh bread, cakes, soups and pre-made meals. The pre-made meals are also issued as "ingredient boxes" along with a recipe card with an online video available to demonstrate how to make the meals themselves.

The Larder is a concept which seeks to provide access to quality food in a dignified manner. In this example the word "dignity" is used to mean that the service user contributes something in exchange for the food. It is the hope of this approach that low income/vulnerable households will free up some money to help with other bills/debts, especially those households with families. That, as noted above, would be a reduction in spend of £10 a week.

PRAYER - In Need of Calm

May Christ support us all the day long,
till the shadows lengthen,
and the evening comes,
and the busy world is hushed,
and the fever of life is over
and our work is done.

Then in His mercy
may He give us a safe lodging,
and holy rest and peace at the last.
Amen

10 LINES TO MAKE YOU SMILE

1. I don't suffer from insanity -- I enjoy every minute of it!
2. I used to have a handle on life, but it broke.
3. Don't take life too seriously -- no one gets out alive.
4. You're just jealous because the voices only talk to me.
5. God must love stupid people -- He made so many!
6. Consciousness: that annoying time between naps.
7. Ever stop to think, and forget to start again?
8. Being "over the hill" is much better than being under it.
9. He who dies with the most toys is nonetheless dead.
10. I smile because I don't know what the heck is going on.



DOUGIE HAMILTON

1927 - 2020

Dougie was born the only child of James and Mary, on 25th October, 1927.

Dougie's father was working in New York at the time and his expectant mother had to cross the Atlantic alone to Saltcoats to give birth. However, Dougie was then able to sail to America, with his mum, and together the family

lived in New York until returning to Saltcoats, where Dougie started primary school.

Dougie was an only child, and with his Dad often working away from home his Mum focused on his education. Tragically when he was 12, Dougie's Mum had a massive stroke and whilst her mental faculties were unaffected, she was badly paralysed and spent the next 44 years in nursing homes.

Attending Ardrossan Academy and Glasgow University Dougie had some difficult years but no matter how tough it was Dougie and his Dad travelled every week to visit his Mother.....a practice that Dougie maintained until her death.

He developed and held close the relationships he made throughout his life....sharing his passion for sports, especially golf. In his teenage years Dougie also decided to start attending church, going alone to a church in Saltcoats. His faith developed, shaping how he lived it and who he became.

After completing his education at Ardrossan Academy, Dougie completed a commission with The Royal Engineers in 1949, and also his Degree in Chemical Engineering, at Glasgow University.

All important milestones in his life but nothing compared to meeting and marrying the love of his life...his darling Phyllis Bain from Seamill. Their romance blossomed on the train when they travelled daily to and from Glasgow and few years later they married in the Barony Church in West Kilbride,

Buying a plot of land in Fairlie they built 'Traquair', which was to be their family home for 65 years. Their family home for 65 years.

After they married, Dougie's career with I.C.I. progressed and in 1956 he moved from Ardeer to the Technical Headquarters in Glasgow. In 1961 they were delighted to adopt baby Ailsa, just as Dougie moved back to I.C.I. Ardeer as Manager of the new and developing Silicones Department. They then expanded and completed their family in 1964, with the adoption of baby Colin.

Dougie's life revolved around his love for Phyllis, their family, and their home.

He did however, still find time to golf and became West Kilbride Golf Club Captain in 1964 and again in 1967. The adventures and camaraderie on and off the course were treasured and he missed the game after his first stroke in 2015 at the age of 88.

Burns was his go to source of storytelling poetry and he loved to perform it. As for opera, one of the highlights of his life, going to the New York Met for a Maria Callas performance

But one of the greatest treasures of Dougie's life was his love for Fairlie Church, both its congregation and its building serving both as an elder for 55 years.

He found his peace with the world every week during his Sunday worship. Dougie's faith underpinned his life, as did being part of the church community.

As a grandfather to four....he was 'Pop' and they were his joy. He loved spending time with them and counted himself so lucky to see the adults they turned out to be. On the day before he died, with great effort, Dougie wrote his last message to them all.

He filled a page with his last, very carefully chosen word for them. It was 'thank you.'

Thank you to everyone who had made his life such a wonderful experience for him, but especially his beloved Phyllis....for on Tuesday, 24th November, Dougie was called to the Lord's nearer presence.

And may Almighty God now grant him eternal rest.



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NAN LAING 1929-2020

Anne Bruce was born in Stracathron 26th August 1929, the third of four children to David and Ann. Growing up on the family dairy farm in Newton Mill, just outside Brechin she would attend Stracathro Primary, and then to Brechin High. Each day the children would work in the dairy which provided milk for Brechin.

After secondary school, Nan studied at the Domestic Science School of Aberdeen, and subsequently qualified as a Domestic Science Teacher.

It was while at a 'Dough School' dance that Nan was introduced by a mutual to a very handsome local chap called Bill Laing, who was studying at Aberdeen University. Having arrived at the dance with a date Bill left with Nan and love blossomed. They were married in Stracathro Parish Church in December 1954 and then moved to Ayrshire and set up home in Ardrossan as Bill took a post in ICI.

Teaching in Ardrossan, in 1957 they moved to Fairlie - and to the house they shared all their married life. Fiona was born in 1958, followed by Shelagh in 1960.

Not long after Shelagh was born life took a change, when with a toddler and a baby, Nan and Bill packed and set sail to Bombay followed by train to Calcutta, then up- to Gomia in Jharkhand State, where ICI were establishing a Black Powder Plant. The house they lived in came with six indoor staff, and a variety of gardeners.

Three years later they returned to Fairlie where the Church was a significant part of Nan's life and in 1968 the oak fittings of St Margaret's, Fairlie were sent to Stracathro Parish Church where Nan and Bill were married.

Returning to teaching domestic Science in Largs High School she made cookery a creative passion.

Nan's hobbies included golf and playing Bridge (learnt in India) and then started a Bridge Club with local friends in the Semple Centre.

Nan was a keen golfer, always a mix of small triumphs but she loved her golf and the company of her fellow players.

Her food at her parties was legendary involving cooking for days and at every village Coffee Morning Nan was always prepared and ready to contribute with enthusiasm....But the true favourite was Nan's Tablet always selling out early.

In 1982 Bill and Nan again left the village, this time another ICI posting for 7 years in Taiwan.

They were back home in Fairlie for just 18 months before returning to the Far East, this time to Pusan, in South Korea,

Somehow Nan was introduced to The Mission for Seafarers who provide Chaplaincy and social support to merchant seamen across the world. Nan decided their reception area was just the place to start weekly Scottish Country Dance classes, and people from all nationalities turned up to enjoy these social evenings. On Bills retirement, it was home to Fairlie and a resuming of her interests. For nearly fifteen years she volunteered for the WRVS and Cancer Research in their shop in Largs and continued to support and contribute to life in the village.

In 2004 their Golden Wedding was celebrated with a wonderful party in Dunkeld where 46 family members from 8 weeks to 85 years old all came together.

Nan's life was full of giving, helping, educating and encouraging, and seeking the best in any situation. She was devoted to Bill, and he to her. Their lives together were very happy,

And Nan was quietly proud of her daughters, and two granddaughters and for her there was no better thing than a good laugh and, of course, having her family at her table,

Nan lived a good and loving life, always generous with her time and talents with seldom a bad word to say.

Life was good for Nan, but on Saturday, 21st November, she was called to the Lord's nearer presence. -And may Almighty God now grant her eternal rest

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MRS LAING'S TABLET

INGREDIENTS

4oz salted butter
Scant cup full cream milk
2 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs granulated sugar
14oz tin of condensed milk - preferably Carnation
1 tsp of vanilla extract - not the cheap stuff!

EQUIPMENT

Heavy bottomed high sided pan with handle (the boiling sugar rises rapidly).
Strong wooden spoon. Swiss Roll sized baking tray, greased well.

METHOD

Over a low heat melt the butter. Add the milk and warm. Add the sugar and stir until melted in the milk and butter. Keep stirring over the heat. Do not boil. When you cannot hear the sugar scraping the pan while stirring, or see sugar granules in the liquid on the back of the spoon, the sugar will be melted. Add the condensed milk, stir, raise the heat and bring to a boil. Boil rapidly for twenty minutes, stir occasionally, till a caramel colour, do not burn.

Start testing for the set. Drop a teaspoon of the mixture into half a cup of cold water until the soft ball stage is reached. Keep testing, until the correct set. Take the pan off the heat, add vanilla extract and beat the mixture for a good ten minutes, until the mix is crystallising on the side of the pan.

Pour into tray to set. When cold, mark into squares.

Nan ate little of the tablet herself.

It was given to friends, family, Sales of Work, Coffee Mornings, neighbours and children. Her added secret ingredient was the happiness she got from the creating and the gifting of a sweet treat that would bring joy and pleasure to whoever ate Mrs Laing's tablet.

Tuesday, 16th February - 10 am 12:00 pm



We might not be able to gather in person quite yet, but we've discovered how much we can do online! Join us in February to hear about some of our amazing partner work at the virtual Gathering.

We're delighted to welcome staff from Christian Aid Ethiopia. Netsanet Feleke and Solomon Woldetsadik will speak to us about the impact of climate change, locusts, and conflict on vulnerable communities.

We're also excited to find out about new ways of celebrating Christian Aid Week. We'll hear from

supporters who tried new ways of fundraising in 2020. We'll look forward to COP26 (26th Conference of the Parties) and think about how we can all be involved in the fight against climate change. And you'll meet some of the new faces on the Christian Aid Scotland team.

This will be an interactive session with lots of opportunities to ask questions of our staff and other supporters.

Please do save the date and invite others to join us.

RSVP through email - Email to register and receive the joining instructions: edinburgh@christian-aid.org

New Pedestrian Crossing on the A78 near the Village Inn

I hope some of you remember the survey we circulated in late 2017 when we asked villagers about issues crossing the A78 and where would be the best places for traffic light controlled pedestrian crossings.

I met with Amey who manage Transport Scotland's projects in January 2018 and we identified two potential sites, one near the Village Inn carpark, the other by Station Road.

After the three years it took for the detailed surveys by Amey looking at the pedestrian and traffic numbers, selecting the safest location for a crossing that meets road safety legislation, and then securing the money from Transport Scotland we have finally got the go ahead for the crossing in the middle of the village. This does not mean we can't continue to ask for crossings further north or south, but it could be a long time coming!

If you have anything you would like us to put forward, please use the 'Contact Us' section of the FCC website

, <http://fairliecommunitycouncil.org>

Karla Tully





"Wha's yer faither?" was what you were asked when I was little, when someone tried to place you in a family. It

reminded me of my first day attending church in Fairlie over 50 years ago. At the end of the service, an old gent came over and asked me, "How is your father?" and I replied that he was fine but that I didn't think he knew my father as I was new to Fairlie. He had mistaken me for someone else.

During lockdown, I have been sorting out all my family history research into files. With the help of the internet and other sources, I have traced ancestors back 8 generations to the 1600s, so I have a clear idea of my place in a long line of families. It is fascinating finding out about families of 13 children, living in tiny wee houses and of the different types of work the fathers carried out.

In the Bible it was important for the Jewish people to record their ancestors and we can find long lists of 'families' starting with Adam, then Noah and his descendants. However it was the family of Old Father Abraham that seems to be special. God had promised Abraham that he would be the 'father of many nations'. One of Abraham's grandsons was Jacob who had 12 sons and from these sons we have the 12 tribes of Israel.

In Matthew's Gospel is listed the whole genealogy of Jesus, so that we can see his place in the history of the Jewish people. What is important for us today, is that we recognise Jesus as the son of God and that Jesus himself said that whoever follows him will be his sisters and brothers. We are part of the church family, of God's family, so that if someone asks, "Wha's yer faither?" or "Whose child are you?" we know our place in it and can say with certainty that God is. He loves each of us unconditionally, just as we are.

At Christmas, we sent out Messy Christmas bags, with activity cards to cover the advent story. We hope you enjoyed completing the tasks and creating the nativity window scene. We hope that you and your family continue to keep well during this lockdown, that you cope with home schooling, and that it won't be too long before it will be safe for us all to meet again in Messy Church. In the meantime, look after your family and remember to keep in touch with those you can't meet just now. Best wishes for 2021,

Ann and the Messy Team.



NEXT ISSUE

The Next edition of the Newsletter will be the MARCH edition
Last date for copy is
Monday 22nd FEBRUARY

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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