

# Reflections

The magazine of Kay Park Parish Church Kilmarnock  
..... a welcoming church in the heart of the community

## *From our Minister, the Rev Fiona Maxwell*

I am writing this letter on the 26th. February and finding it hard to conceive that Monday is the 1<sup>st</sup> of March. Thinking of the season of Lent this year I heard one minister say that it has felt like we have been living in Lent since last year. The feelings of wilderness, aloneness, fear, suffering, death that are all part of the Lenten journey have been stalking us all in different ways. Acknowledging the pain of this



last year is important whether we have been personally affected or are seeking to stand alongside others in their pain and trauma. As we emerge into the world again, we are not the same and neither is the world. We are a people of the resurrection but before resurrection comes wilderness, suffering and death.

We have still been the church over this last year as we have lived out our faith where God has placed us. But what have you missed when it comes to going to church? If you have listened to or watched online worship what has that experience been like? What have you liked/



disliked? Are you keen to 'get back' to church or would you prefer to continue worshipping online? These are interesting questions for me as the minister. People speak of returning to 'normal' but was the 'normal' we knew the best it could be? In the church, the local community, and the wider world. Did it serve our interests more than God's? Some of you may have thoughts on this, please get in touch with me and let us have a conversation.

The pandemic has impacted the whole world. Some have said it has been an 'equaliser', but evidence would suggest that is not the case. As always, the poorest and most vulnerable, in our community and the world have suffered more acutely. As God's people who pray that the kingdom will come on earth as it is in heaven there is much for us to do as we give, prayer and serve. 'Thank you' to you all for the different ways you have continued to give to the church, especially financially and thank you for all you have done as God's people in the wider community.

Going forward we face the future together and enfolded in the love of God. As I often say,

we are not abandoned. Nothing can or will separate us from the love of God. That is the grace-filled message of the cross.

It's Friday but 'Sunday is coming' – this is the Good News. This Easter Peace be with you and all those you love and are yet to meet,

*Rev Fiona.*



**Former broadcaster Debbie Thrower is the founder and pioneer of Anna Chaplaincy for Older People- 'offering spiritual care in later life'**

'My first thought on reading a job advert for a new 'chaplain for older people' was, 'That's just what my Mum and Dad could have done with. Why aren't they everywhere?'

Just as many churches have youth and children's workers, why not have a designated worker who understands the difficulties of growing old? Given the changing demographic; a doubling in the numbers of those over the age of 85 in twenty years' time, and nearly treble that number forecast in the next thirty years (according to Age UK), it seemed a 'no brainer' to me.

Anna Chaplaincy is named after the 84-year-old widow Anna, who appears with Simeon in Luke's gospel. Both are good role models of faithful, expectant, hopeful, older people. So I applied and became the first such chaplain in

Alton, Hampshire, in January, 2010. Anglicans and Methodists in Alton had created the post jointly hoping someone like me would carve out a suitable model.

Now we have more than 160 Anna Chaplains for Older People and others in equivalent roles (such as Older People's Pastor, or Director of Older People's Ministry) in the network nationally – from Devon to Kent, the Midlands to Northumberland and Cumbria, and from Nairn to Orkney. Numbers are growing fast.

There are men as well as women in the network; some are paid, others are volunteers. Each Anna Chaplain is set within a prayerful community. The chaplain's church signs a licence agreement with The Bible Reading Fellowship, BRF, to use the trademarked name. Each Anna Chaplain is thus appointed and authorised by, and accountable to, their local church or group of 'Churches Together'.

They are ecumenical and community-based and work as an advocate and champion in the

wider community, reaching out to people of strong, little or no faith. BRF took on the concept in 2014. I joined the charity's staff but remained a part-time Anna Chaplain in Alton, still at the 'coal face'.

I am grateful that the Anglican and Methodist Churches in Alton had the foresight to conceive such a way of supporting not just their own congregations but the ever-growing cohort of people over the age of 65 in their community. Anna Chaplains are also there to support carers, whether relatives or paid professional carers. People looking after a loved one living with a dementia need special support.

From the outset, I was convinced Anna Chaplains could be just as effective in rural and inner-city settings as in a small market town context. That has proved to be the case, with Anna Chaplains now in the countryside, in seaside resorts as well as urban environments.

The network meets up each autumn – virtually last time – for our annual Gathering which is of tremendous support to each of us.

Churches recruit and manage their own Anna Chaplains, whether paid or voluntary. We recommend that as a first step a church, or group of churches, wanting to explore Anna Chaplaincy sets up a small steering group, preferably with representatives from several denominations. Some recruit a paid coordinator to map out what's already happening in terms of ministry among older people. This work never

begins in a vacuum. A team of fundraisers is a welcome addition to any local effort to ensure a steady income stream and also to foster a sense of wider ownership of 'our' Anna Chaplain.

We also recommend that every Anna Chaplain, paid or volunteer, is line-managed and supervised. Typically, an Anna Chaplain offers a minimum of one day a week to the task. The chaplain has a strategic role spotting gaps in provision, leading worship in care homes where none existed before, for example, and managing volunteers. Some of these volunteers become known as Anna Friends. Anna Chaplains often act as catalysts for all sorts of new ideas; intergenerational projects with local schools, pioneering Memory Cafes, or founding Carers' or Bereavement Support Groups.

Different areas have devised their own ways of evaluating this ministry through time sheets and outcome logs. While some Anna Chaplains are in their 20s and 30s, one of the most admirable features of this ministry is that so many recruits are newly retired people finding renewed meaning and purpose through discerning a vocation to this work in their own later years.'

To find out more contact Anna Chaplaincy - part of The Bible Reading Fellowship, BRF – via [annachaplaincy@brf.org.uk](mailto:annachaplaincy@brf.org.uk)

Debbie Thrower

*Olive Gow, one of our elders, is going to be completing the Anna Chaplaincy online training course. Please remember Olive in your prayers and pray for God's guidance as we consider how this could be developed in the local area. If you would like to know more please contact Rev Fiona Maxwell, [FMaxwell@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:FMaxwell@churchofscotland.org.uk) 01563 521762*

## A Extract from the Trustees Report

The year 2020 will long be remembered as the year when life as we knew it ceased as we entered a worldwide coronavirus pandemic with the severest of restrictions placed on our freedom of movement. A year of change and challenge unknown to most in our congregation. Face to face services of worship ceased in March 2020 and it was not until September 2020 that we were able to meet again face to face for worship, although with severely restricted numbers whilst adhering to new hygiene requirements and social distancing rules. We were no longer able to sing or to the saying together of the "Lord's Prayer". Face to face services ceased once again in mid-December.

Our services of worship moved online. A new challenge which was met head on with Kay Park being truly blessed in our online worship team, who have week by week produced our online service reaching members and non-members alike near and far and also being able to participate in Holy Communion. Our Kirk Session meetings too moved online via Zoom. Technology has enabled some 'face to face' contact.

Although we have been unable to meet as a congregation, a telephone tree was set up whereby elders kept in regular contact with members in their districts many of whom were unable to access online worship because they did not have access to the internet. Our Reflections magazine continued to be produced, keeping in touch with our members and we have continued to deliver flow-

ers to the bereaved and the sick where it was safe to do so.

Kay Park has been able to support the wider community by accommodating the Stagecoach drivers who have used our main hall as an overspill rest room thus allowing Stagecoach to operate a wider transport service and at the same time abide by the mandatory social distancing rules. We have also been able to offer financial support to local, national and international charities enabling them to continue their lifesaving work across the world.

The year 2020 saw much sorrow and sadness as people struggled with bereavement, isolation and loneliness but we have also witnessed great acts of kindness and a rekindling of the community spirit helping one another in whatever way was needed.

We look forward in faith to 2021, to being able to worship face to face, to welcome back the many groups whom we missed over the past months. I am drawn to the words contained in Corinthians 13, "And now three things remain: faith, hope and love; and the greatest of these is love". Whilst there is love in the world there is hope for the future and we in Kay Park will move forward in faith spreading the "Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ".

Janet Grant

Session Clerk



# KAY PARK PARISH CHURCH HOLY WEEK 2021-ONLINE

## Hope and Love

Holy Week 'Wee Word'...  
available on the Church FB page and on  
Church website at  
[www.kayparkparishchurch.org](http://www.kayparkparishchurch.org)

Sunday 28 March

### *Palm Sunday Service*

led by the Rev Fiona Maxwell  
(this service will also be on the telephone 01563 444426)

Monday 29 March

### *'Tables Overturned'*

Fiona McBride, Online Worship Team

Tuesday 30 March

### *'Perfume Poured'*

Fiona Kendall of Mediterranean Hope, from Rome

Wednesday 31 March

### *'Feet Washed'*

Anne McCabe, St. Kentigern's Church

Thursday 1 April

### *Maundy Thursday Communion*

Rev Fiona Maxwell  
(this service will also be on the telephone 01563 444426)

Friday 2 April

### *Good Friday Reflections*

Saturday 2 April

### *KYPC Bitesize Easter*

Sunday 3 April

## **EASTER SUNDAY**

*'Come all ye people come and Bless your Maker'*  
(this service will also be on the telephone 01563 444426)



**SUNDAY SERVICES WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE CHURCH WEBSITE FROM 9.30am AS USUAL**

**ALL OTHER SERVICES WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM 11.00am ON THE DAY OF THE SERVICE**

## OUR GIRL IN HONG KONG

我哋啲香港嘅女仔。

### Life in Hong Kong during Covid 19

Hong Kong is truly an epic city! There are definitely worse places that I could be stuck in in a Global pandemic. Growing up and living in the west coast of Scotland is a far cry from the towering skyscrapers, millions of people and amazing experiences that Hong Kong has to offer.

It has been really interesting for me reflecting on the restrictions that are in place here in Hong Kong compared to the restrictions back in Scotland. Since I arrived in Hong Kong last August, there have always



been restrictions in place. However, these differ greatly from back home. Hairdressers here have never been closed and we have always been able to go into each other's homes.



During my school holidays, I obviously have been unable to travel. However, it has been an absolute joy exploring Hong Kong. I have visited many of the outlying islands, been on many a long hike and have taken a trip

into the depths of the New Territories on a heritage trail.

My school is based in Tuen Mun which is in the New Territories, up near the Shenzhen border. Out of my classroom window I have absolutely

stunning views of the MacLehose Trail. The MacLehose Trail is the oldest trail in Hong Kong, around 100km long. It is named after Sir Murray MacLehose, the 25th Governor of Hong Kong, an enthusiastic hiker who established the Country Parks. The trail begins in Pak Tam Chung in Sai Kung Country Park, and ends in Tuen Mun in Tai Lam Country Park. The final section of the trail is about 15km and my colleagues and I often go up on to the trail after work or on the weekend. The views are breath taking and a sight I never get tired of.



I currently have a flight booked to come home in the summer, but obviously it's an ever-changing picture. The main problem is that there are still no flights being allowed into Hong Kong from the United Kingdom. Also, on return to Hong Kong I would need to undergo compulsory quarantine which currently is 21 days in a hotel. I struggled with 14 days in an apartment last year when I arrived and so the thought of 21 days in a hotel is not something I really want to endure.



I am very fortunate to have the love and support of my Kay Park family. It's a real blessing to know that even although I am thousands of miles away, I do not feel alone. There's no doubt that over the past few months I have had some anxious times and I have felt uncertain. Maintaining my church connections has brought me back to where I need to be. God bless and keep safe.



*Alison*



### **November 2020**

Mrs Mair  
Miss Sheila Bell

### **December**

Mrs McKenzie  
Mrs Smith  
Mrs Skeoch  
Mrs Samson  
Mr & Mrs Templeton  
Mrs Hume

### **January 2021**

Mrs Plenderleith

### **February**

Mrs Nisbet  
Mrs Hamilton



This is a list of those who contributed to the Flower Fund during past few months. Although we have not been in church very often this past year or so, the delivery of flowers to homes where someone has been bereaved, where there has been a significant reason to celebrate or mourn, where someone has been seriously ill or been in hospital has gone on. Flowers are also delivered on the anniversary of a bereavement.

As the recipient of flowers on such occasions, I would like to express my thanks to those who keep a note of where the flowers are needed, the dates of significant anniversaries and arrange for the lovely arrangement to be delivered. I cannot describe the delight that these unexpected gifts bring. In normal times there is a list of volunteers but, during the pandemic, Aileen Sansum and Vanessa Twomey have undertaken most of the deliveries between them.

If you would like to donate, you can pop a cheque or a cash donation in an envelope marked "Flower Fund" and give it to Alex Stevens, Treasurer (address on the back of the magazine) or give it to Aileen Sansum, 61 Rowallan Drive and let Aileen know on 533687, if you would like to join the list of deliverers when 'normal service' is resumed.

## The Chinese have a proverb – Danger = Crisis + Opportunity.....



When I retired as Organist and choirmaster at KPPC it was with a heavy heart. Little could have I imagined that the **danger** of coronavirus was about to strike and that it would cause such a **crisis** that our church building would have to close. That event did (of course) lead to the **opportunity** of another vehicle for my music making - in the form of online worship.

I was able to resurrect my recording studio which had lain idle for many years -and I have had to learn new skills very quickly - but the most important aspect of it all has been the fellowship - the privilege of working with such a wonderful group of people as your choir - and the feedback from those of you who take the time to contact us about our small contribution. I would like to make special mention and thanks to Grant Donald who continues to be a great support by way of arrangements and a friendly ear to practice on! We are also lucky that online doesn't restrict us to Kilmarnock - we have contributions from Fiona Gardner in London, Claire Lacy in Dunblane and our very own Joan and David.

The Online Worship team - Mike and Allan and our new members Fiona and Paul, are a great bunch - we have never fallen out and that in part is testimony to our Rev Fiona - who carefully steers us through the meetings and services with a measured amount of praise and encouragement. It really is a pleasure to work with such talented people.

Of course, I hope that we can get back into our beloved church building sooner rather than later but I also hope that now there will always be a place for online worship - and that I will be able to continue to help with it in some small way. Best wishes to you all. **Alex**

I was invited by Alex to join the online choir rehearsals. I've sung a few times in the church, alongside Mum and Alison, so I knew people pretty well. It was really lovely to be asked to get involved, as my church in London use professional singers in the choir. I have always thought how lucky you all are to be able to sing each week, as we only sing once a month at the evening service.

So finally from me, a huge thank you to Alex and a huge thank you to all the lovely people that I have been singing with. It's been, and continues to be, a complete pleasure.

Alex has set up Planet Choir where he posts all the Hymns and Anthems, which we learn, record then post our recordings back to him, and as if by magic he puts all the parts together and "hey presto" we have our online choir.

It has been great keeping in touch with other choir members during this pandemic, when we have hardly seen friends and family. The good thing about interaction with everyone is, it keeps the choir together and singing!! Music is so good for the soul!

I hope after we get normality back in our lives, we can continue to contribute to Sunday worship in a positive way learning new and inspiring Anthems, as we have done under Alex' expert guidance. We as a choir are really fortunate to have him at the heart of all we do.



### **Ode to Alex**

During this time of doom and gloom  
 Thank goodness for the power of Zoom.  
 When some days the weather was dire,  
 We were grateful for Zoom calls with the choir  
 To see happy faces on the screen  
 Of folks for so long we had not seen  
 To chat and laugh and sing along,  
 To be cheered up by the power of song,  
 To practise together in our own home space  
 Soprano, alto, tenor and bass  
 Our virtual choir was a wonderful plan  
 And for that we owe thanks to a special man,  
 To Alex, whose talent has continued to shine  
 As he puts us through our paces when we Zoom online.  
 He provides for the choir, music and song  
 Sends us recordings to which we all sing along.  
 He collates all our efforts with patience and skill  
 A time-consuming job at which he is "Brill"!

The results we hear each Sunday morn,  
 As our service is graced with music and song.  
 So Alex, here's an huge thanks to you -  
 Your virtual choir appreciates all that you do  
 Our virtual meetings have helped keep us sane,  
 So we'll see you next week when we Zoom once again.  
 Anon

Alex Ferguson has been guiding us through the maze of practice and recording techniques required and providing backing tracks for us to sing along to at home, then they are all put together, a bit of film and words added, and out comes your Praise for a Sunday morning! It's a lot of work but so worthwhile. I have been fortunate in being allowed to prepare some of the songs using my keyboard and home recording studio which I haven't done for years. So, we've had to learn new skills and revive some old and forgotten ones!

So where do we go from here? Will we go on with some form of online services after the pandemic? Are you enjoying them? People who seldom went to church are tuning in, and other churches are being "virtually" visited too. One thing seems certain; it won't be the same!!



by Lorraine Taylor

I am Rev Fiona's best friend and we had decided when lockdown was reintroduced to spend more time together. Maybe Fiona now regrets that decision. I think I overstayed my welcome!!

I spent last year following all the government guidelines, wearing masks, washing hands and mostly staying away from others, so I was totally shocked to find out that I had tested positive for covid early December. I think it may have been passed on from my mother when I went to take shopping to her after her stay in hospital for another health reason.

The first few days felt like mild flu symptoms. Unfortunately by day 6 symptoms worsened and a call to NHS 24 advised me to take lots of fluids and paracetamol. Two days later I couldn't get the temperature down and was sleeping around 20 hours a day. I could barely eat, drink or lift my head off the pillow. It was probably more worrying for Fiona watching on than actually being the patient. Again a call to NHS 24 still advised to drink plenty and keep taking paracetamol. By now a member of my family had sent me a "present" of an oximeter to keep a track of my oxygen levels. They had dropped significantly and eventually by the Friday, day 10, the hospital admitted me. I think it was a relief as now the proper medical attention could be administered and hopefully start to fight off the virus.

It was a frightening and lonely experience as Fiona dropped me off at Crosshouse hospital's main door. I had to sit for a few hours and wait to be taken as they were all extremely

busy. Once admitted, they immediately put me on oxygen and a drip for fluids. An x-ray was taken to see what damage my lungs had sustained and confirmed that it was covid pneumonia. That night they had to wheel a spare bed down from a store so that I could try and sleep in a side room of the admitting ward as there were no other beds available on a ward. "Sleep" wasn't really what I would say happened. I still couldn't believe that I was one of the statistics Nicola Sturgeon was stating every day.

The next day there was a bed available in a ward they had converted from Orthopaedics to a covid ward. There was only one other lady there who was bed bound and lay very quietly at the other end of the ward. It very quickly filled up with more elderly ladies. I felt like the youngster on the block, being able to unplug from the oxygen and go for a shower. The nurses were run off their feet, mainly dealing with the patients who could not get out of bed or do anything for themselves.

One time when I was up one of the ladies asked me to get her a drink of water, which I gladly did. I was in trouble when the nurse found out, I was cross contaminating!! I felt awful not to be able to do such a simple thing for someone, when the nurses often were not about. There was a lovely very frail lady next to me, I often heard her very quietly talking to herself and once she recited the lord's prayer. This was so upsetting and I desperately wanted to go over and chat with her to try to comfort her a little. She was so weak and I often wonder if she managed to regain her strength and eventually get home to her family.

The nursing staff remained cheery and helpful as much as their time allowed, but they often complained they were so short staffed so I re-

ally didn't want to bother them at all. I had my Ipad and that kept me company watching the news, Eastenders etc. on it. The lady across from me was fascinated that I could watch tv on this device and questioned me about it. I told her to ask her grandchildren when she got out to set her up with one. She often asked me "what am I doing in here"! I informed her she also must have covid. That seemed to shock her as she said she felt fine. I had a little stock of chocolate and crisps which I must admit, unusually for me, I couldn't eat. The food was excellent as every day there was a great menu to order from for the next day's meals. It is a long day when no-one is allowed to visit. Mobile phones are lifesavers to keep in touch with everyone. The main excitement was to send a bag to the front reception area with your washing and look forward to the return bag coming back from home. I knew there was always nice surprises to be found in it. Books, biscuits or a daily newspaper. I was definitely one of the lucky ones in the ward.

I felt grateful and relieved to be receiving such great care by the hospital staff, even if the doctor looked younger than my son. They pumped me full of steroids, anti-biotics and oxygen. That seemed to do the trick! They took blood, checked my oxygen levels and made sure I took all my pills daily. I knew that I wouldn't be allowed out again until my oxygen level increased to an acceptable level. I "held my breath" in anticipation each time they put the oximeter on my finger hoping that it would be raised but they didn't seem convinced. By day 6 I was beginning to feel better and desperate to get away from the now full ward and the noise of others as they called out to the busy nurses. Eventually I persuaded the doctor that the oxygen level had risen and that if I "promised" to keep taking

the pills and rest back at home could I be released. They probably needed the bed anyway and agreed.

It was so emotional to see Fiona arrive at the front door to collect me and realise that I had been one of the lucky ones to be able to walk out of the hospital on my own two feet.

I truly believe that all the amazing folk of Kay Park who sent many good wishes through Fiona and prayed for me, helped me onto the road to recovery. I am blessed to know you are all out there. I know Fiona was kept very busy as my PA which helped her cope with it all.

Once home Fiona was an amazing "nurse". The food was nearly as good as hospital food, boosted by parcels of fresh bread and soup dropped off at the Manse door. It was almost Christmas by this time and I was so relieved to be out and able to rest and recuperate. I kept thinking of the little lady in the next bed at this time of year. Her family must have been so worried about her and I wish I could have been of more comfort to her.

Crosshouse Hospital has been very proactive in their follow up treatment. I had to return for a 6-week x-ray and then just recently a 12-week x-ray to check that the lungs are repairing themselves from the pneumonia.

I have learned to take life that little bit slower, not get upset and stressed by the little things in life that tend to annoy us. We are all fragile and life is so precious.

I hope that we are now coming out of the dark times, as we watch the bulbs bloom and most of us are being vaccinated now.

Thank you all for the many kind wishes and prayers

*Lorraine*



# Money Matters

Considering we have not been in church in full attendance for 9 months of the year it is not surprising our income has reduced. It is worth noting that there is a delay in receiving the July to Sept Gift Aid payment of £4300 from HMRC which would normally have been paid to us in the fiscal year which would reduce the deficit to budget from £6500 to £2,200.

The main income that the church receives from members is by:

- WFO, (weekly envelopes)
- Ordinary (cash from plate),
- BACS ((Bank Standing Orders)
- Gift Aid Tax Recovery (25% of individual givings)

The 2020 budget was set in January 2020 before we knew about the pandemic, the results from these sources at the end of December showed the following:

Actual    £100,992    Budget    £117,500    **Deficit £6500**

The church appreciates those who have made a financial contribution throughout this difficult year.

If you would like to increase your givings you can do so

- if you are on digital banking with your bank you can amend your Standing order online
- if you request a new standing order form from me and send to your bank
- if you want to make weekly contributions using your envelopes and send to me at the address below
- if you want the church to claim Gift Aid on your contribution you can obtain a Gift Aid form from me.

It is over five years since the church had a Stewardship campaign where many of you increased your financial commitment to the church, may I suggest you may wish to consider increasing your amount.

Below are other important income streams that are worth noting:

Hall rental income has been significantly enhanced by Stagecoach renting our Hall from July to end December for their drivers as their Messroom, at the Bus Station, is being refurbished, contributing £6750, this has been key as we lost all other income from our normal renters from March. Without this income the deficit to budget would have been significant.

**Actual    £9854    Budget    £12500    Deficit £2646**



## Tower Rental

You are probably aware that we receive an income from the rental of the church tower from Cellnet mobile telephone signal provider. This income has been received for a number of years. Upon review of the contractual obligations a Retail Price Index (RPI) cumulative payment for the previous 7 years was negotiated and we received £5804 plus an increase for future years.

Actual	£14797	Budget	£8600	Surplus	£6197
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## TOTAL INCOME

<b>ACTUAL</b>	<b>£136,137</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>£157,920</b>	<b>DEFICIT</b>	<b>£21,783</b>
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Whilst the deficit to income budget might seem alarming the underspending on expenses compensates. This is mainly due to the church benefiting from the HMRC Employee Furlough Scheme and less spending on the church building, which has meant that we have had a balanced budget i.e income is equal to expenditure.

I hope this detailed report assures members of the ongoing diligence in ensuring members funds are carefully managed.

God Bless

Alex Steven, Treasurer, 12 De Walden Terrace, Kilmarnock KA3 7AY

email [alexsteven21m@gmail.com](mailto:alexsteven21m@gmail.com)

***Most of the volunteers in the church have had a relatively easy time over the past year. The Treasurer is one of the few exceptions, because he has had to make sure that bills are settled, employees are paid or furloughed, claims for Gift Aid returns are submitted and information to HMRC regarding wages etc. has been dealt with. All this, while checking daily that the church building is secure, with no leaks or frozen pipes, to comply with the buildings insurance requirements. We should be very grateful to have such a competent and willing person as Alex in charge of our finances.***

## LEGACY—Mr Hugh McKelvie

Kirk Session, on behalf of the congregation, was delighted to receive a legacy of £2,000 from the estate of Hugh McKelvie, of Thorn Terrace, Kilmarnock. Hugh was an ever-present member at Sunday services throughout the ministries of David Lacy and Fiona Maxwell; only serious illness prevented his car being the first one parked in the lane outside the church on a Sunday morning. Hugh was a quiet man, whose smile and warm greeting were part of the church's welcome on a Sunday. When we return to normal service, he, along with many others, will be sorely missed.

## Supporting Local Charities

What a tumultuous year it has been for us all and especially for local charities/organisations whose normal, vital, fundraising activities have been curtailed or cancelled thereby putting a financial strain on the services they deliver.

At our Kirk Session meeting on February 10<sup>th</sup> it was proposed that we support some local/national and international charities/organisations from our Local Mission fund which was part of a donation two years ago from the Trustees of the Hugh Goldie Trust, to be used specifically for such purposes.

The following are the organisations approved to receive funds

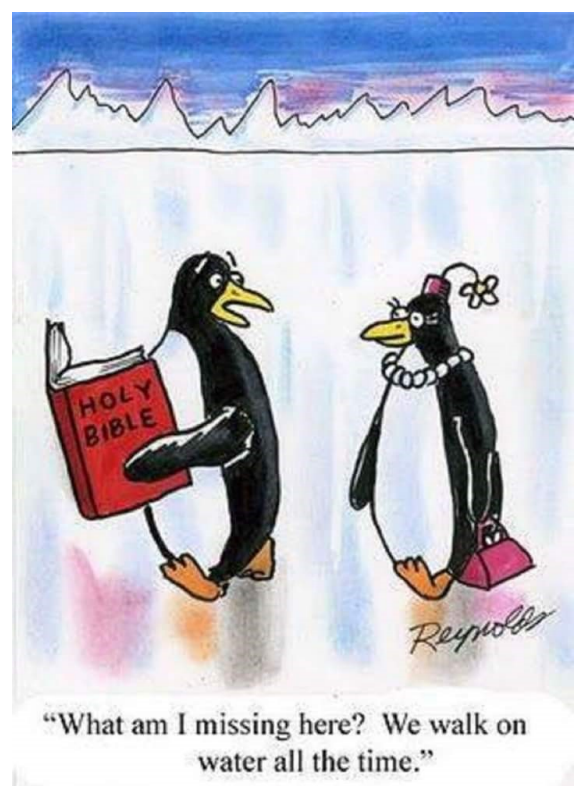
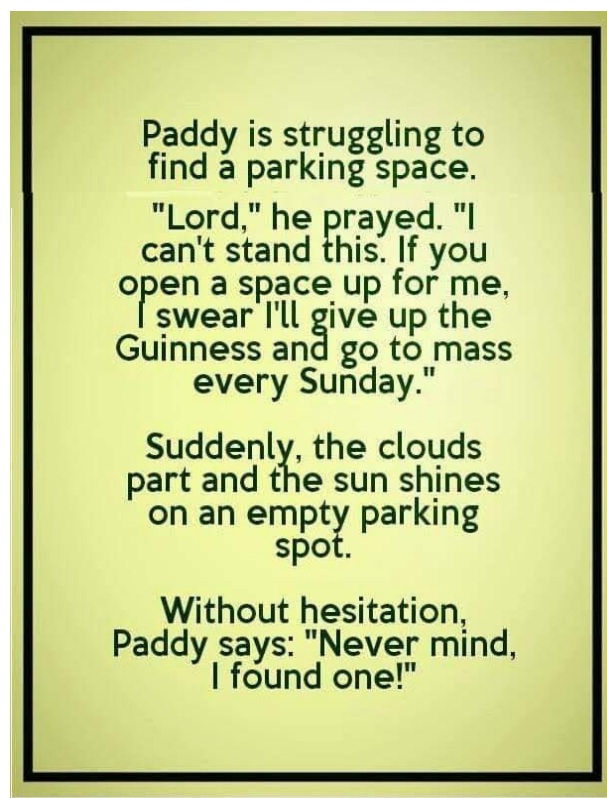
<b>Salvation Army Kilmarnock</b>	<b>£1000</b>
<b>Ayrshire Cancer Support</b>	<b>£ 500</b>
<b>Howard Centre Online Wellbeing Programme</b>	<b>£ 500</b>
<b>Christian Aid</b>	<b>£1000</b>
<b>Mediterranean Hope</b>	<b>£1000</b>

In addition we are making our usual £500 annual donation to EACHa (East Ayrshire Council for Homeless Action) from our general funds.

I am sure you will agree these are worthy causes and it is right that Kay Park supports these causes seeing we have the funds available.

If you need to know who these organisations are many of them have websites so you can see the wonderful activities/ services they provide locally, nationally and internationally.

Alex Steven—Treasurer (on behalf of the Kirk Session)



## THE PIONEER CHURCH

Doreen Walkinshaw

### Virtual Church – Building a new kind of connection with God

At the time of writing I am as excited as I have ever been about the potential of the Virtual Church. The appointment of our Mission Pioneer has been confirmed and our 6- person project team is growing together in strength, confidence and faith.



So who are in the team and what are we doing?

Silviya Wilde is well known to all of us at Kay Park where she is an Elder. Silviya is also our prayer co-ordinator for the project, linking in with the Presbytery Prayer team.

Rev Kim Watt is a familiar face at Kay Park and is currently Interim Moderator at Fenwick Parish Church. Kim is passionate about the accessibility of traditional “church” to the farming communities around Ayrshire and sees on-line, virtual platforms as a way of nurturing and sustaining Christian faith across this community in particular.

Rachel Taylor is the Youth and Communities Worker at New Laigh Church and holds a BA (Hons) in Youth and Community Work with Applied Theology. She has worked for various churches over the last 9 years and has a passion for helping people encounter the love of God in a very real way.

Amy Tanner is the Children and Family Worker at New Laigh Church and is originally from Glasgow, but now works and lives in Kilmarnock. Amy has been involved with a variety of projects within the Church over the last 10 years, including youth representation on Reflections at the Quay.

And me – I have been an Elder at Kay Park for over 20 years and share the team’s passion for building a new kind of “church” which will reach out to people who have yet to discover what God has in store for them.



The work of the team so far has focused on training – 3 of the team (including the 6<sup>th</sup> member of our team from St Kentigern’s) have embarked on the Forge Training– an intense 9 month programme which equips participants to be leaders of faith within their communities. 3 of us have participated in Learning Communities where we have been supported to explore what being disciples of Christ means for us and in our local communities.

Our work has also focused on the recruitment of our Mission Pioneer who will work on the project for 3 days per week. We are delighted to have Stuart Forsyth joining our team on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021. Stuart is currently employed as the Sports Development Worker at Fullarton Connexions in Irvine and attends Fullarton Church with his wife and kids. He is highly skilled in online media development and runs his own company Limelight Media. He shares the team’s passion for the potential of growing an on-line faith community.

We have also spent a lot of time building our vision and aims for the project and are ready to start speaking with the many people who we seek to involve in it – YOU! If you have thoughts about our project or what virtual church means to you, please feel free to contact me by email: [doreen.walkinshaw@hotmail.com](mailto:doreen.walkinshaw@hotmail.com). I look forward to hearing from you.



## A Young Church hug from a distance....

It's March again, wow! A friend sent me a picture earlier in February that said *"it's difficult to comprehend that in two weeks time it's March again. Last March seems like only yesterday and somehow 17 years ago at the same time"*. How true is that?

At this point last year Kay Park Parish Young Church was full of plans. Jessica was just getting to an age where she was starting to understand the crèche and build little relationships for herself and, as we all know, the 'storm' hit. At that point I think we all just started doing what we felt we had to and what we were being advised to do by the professionals around us.

Every single one of us has been on a different boat in this storm but we have been tethered together. Be it by family, friends, professionals, work colleagues or in this case the Young Church Family. We may be distanced but hopefully everyone is still feeling a sense of togetherness and that we are thought about regularly. I was asked to give you all a wee update on how we are doing as a Young Church and some of the things we have been getting up to to try and keep our little people as engaged and connected with the Church as is possible.

### Kay Park Parish Young Church Facebook Group

A few of us put our heads together, virtually, and decided to start up a Facebook group. The hope was and is to connect families involved in the Young Church. Somewhere we could share news, ideas and photos with each other. It's a small group but it gave us a familiar way to stay in touch. Most recently Vanessa has been posting her wonderful Lent Videos there for us. I can feedback that Jessica has particularly liked the activity videos and enjoyed joining in with Vanessa to make items from the Lent activity bag we were all gifted.



### The Wandering Wise Men

Rev Fiona shared an idea with us on our Facebook Group and asked if we could get involved. The Wandering Wise Men were to go alongside or as an alternative to the very popular 'Elf on the Shelf'. The idea was to share the Christmas Story with our children and infants by letting them follow the adventures of the Wise Men. A few of us got on board with it and shared our Wise Men's travels daily on the Church Facebook Page. There were a lot of topics covered, photos shared and there was fun had. One thing that stuck in my mind is that it reached out further than just the Church Family, it got people thinking about the true story of Christmas, about praying for each other and our communities and about kindness and compassion. Friends and acquaintances from far and wide followed our Wise Men on their Journey and listened to their message.







### Christmas Christingles

In the lead up to Christmas we received a lovely little gift bag with everything we needed to make our Christingles at home. Following Rev Fiona during one of her Young Church Services we had fun making our Christingles and saw some photos shared from Airen, Robbie and Elise, Ella, Campbell, Jessica, Rosa & Ailsa and I'm sure there were more who joined in at home.

### Videos, Songs and Praise

The Young Church have featured and been the stars of quite a few of Kay Park Parish online services over the past year. Can I just say a massive well done to all our little stars and more so to their parents. Seeing the Young Church on screen and hearing them over the recorded phone line must bring so much brightness into so many households. Once again, we have to thank Alex Ferguson by name for sending us all the recordings, suggestions and instructions. The older children in the Young Church have exceeded expectations.



### Lent Activity Bag

Just before Lent started all the Young Church Families had a knock knock knock at the door from Vanessa with a wonderful activity bag, labelled individually with our family name. It contained a well thought out daily activity sheet to lead us with ideas for marking Lent each day, Easter eggs to decorate, a sticker story board, decorations to make and hang to remind us of the story of Easter, and a sweet treat for the wee ones to enjoy. We have seen photos from Ella regularly on Facebook, bringing such a gorgeous smile to everyone's face. As I mentioned before, Vanessa has been doing a video a day for Lent, guiding the young, and young at heart through Lent with stories, activities and prayers. I'm sure I speak for us all when I say thank you to Vanessa for the time she has spent on this, just another amazing example of how generous our Church Family are.

### And how are we doing?

Oooft, there is a question and a half! Staying afloat, making the best of each of our own situations, helping in the ways we can, making use of our parks more than we ever have and continuously praying for the day that we can all see each other, worship together and bring some of those new found virtual talents back into the Church when the time is right.... Watch this space Kay Park Parish!!

All of our Young Church Families will have been making the most of the time together, on the good days and the bad ones. We may come out the other side of this a little bedraggled, exhausted and slightly dazed but we WILL come out the other side, and it will be with a smile on our face and an excess of hugs to share.

Until then stay safe and stay kind, Liz Lacy.



*Our Fiona Kendall is working in Italy with Mediterranean Hope, as European and Legal Affairs Advisor, on behalf of the Church of Scotland and Methodist Church in Britain. Here she shares a little about the situation of asylum seekers in Italy in the midst of their Covid 19 emergency.*

Dear all

What a difference a year makes. Few of us could have realised this time last year what would lie ahead for us in 2020. Whilst we are similarly unaware of what 2021 will bring, let us hope that we can build on the lessons learned in the last twelve months and keep moving forward.

Here in Italy, as everywhere else, the pandemic has changed the political and social agenda in so many ways. Media space once devoted to migration issues has, unsurprisingly, been filled with Covid-related items and, as a result, the toxic rhetoric so prevalent in previous years has been less in evidence. The positive contribution made by migrants to Italian society has been better recognised. So often, it is migrants who have continued to clean houses, deliver meals and harvest produce which finds its way onto Italian tables, not to mention those who are part of the front-line workforce in hospitals and care-homes who have kept us going in the most difficult of circumstances.

The parlous conditions in which those on the margins, including migrants, live have become more noticeable. The nation-wide restrictions imposed to combat the pandemic highlighted social inequality, the impossibility of compliance for people living in crowded, insanitary conditions or, indeed, without any home at all. Significant efforts have been made by those in the voluntary and third sectors to continue supporting those on the fringes but I

also sense a greater willingness on the part of society at large to support structural and legislative changes which will improve the lives of the marginalised. This, I think, is a mood worth harnessing.

The necessary shift to remote working – known here as “lo smartworking” – has neither dampened MH’s resolve to continue its work. Most significantly, the humanitarian corridors project was suspended for much of the year due to travel restrictions. However, the team in Lebanon has continued to identify and interview candidates for future corridors and to prepare participants for life in a new culture whilst developing a suite of digital resources to support that work. Staff have also provided significant support to the local community in Beirut following the terrible explosions at the port this summer.

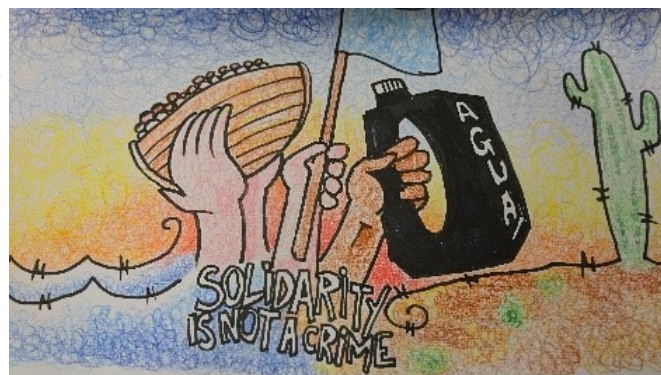
The team in Calabria has widened the scope of its work with exploited migrant farm labourers. Initially providing legal, linguistic and practical support, at the start of lockdown it turned its attention to provision of health information, masks, hand sanitiser and basic supplies to those living in inadequate accommodation. Staff are now delivering rapid (lateral flow) tests to those who cannot afford them. The “Lights on Rosarno” project has gone well beyond the provision of bike lights and reflective jackets to those pedalling along dark streets to the fields where migrants work: solar-powered lighting has been in-

stalled near migrant camps and a large-scale programme to illuminate the unlit streets is envisaged. The Etika “ethical orange” project, a fair-trade initiative to benefit workers and producers alike, is truly bearing fruit and helping to fund some of the other initiatives in that region.



It has not been an easy year for Lampedusa. Over the course of this year, arrivals rose from approximately 11,500 to 34,000. Lampedusa is tiny and reception facilities extremely limited. The “hotspot” detention centre has 192 places. This summer, almost 1,500 people were housed there, many sleeping on bare mattresses, at a time when personal space could be a matter of life or death. The Italian government’s response was not to transport these asylum seekers to mainland reception centres but instead to send “quarantine” ships to be moored off the island in which these people could be temporarily detained. Some placed there, already traumatised by experiences

suffered en route to Lampedusa and, in some cases, in a dreadful physical condition, did not survive. Others have jumped into the sea and attempted to swim ashore. Doubtless, governments across the world have had difficult choices to make this year. This policy, however, seems particularly harsh.



In Rome, we continue to develop ideas, transform them into concrete applications for funding, communicate with donors and the public at large, engage church communities and lobby for change at a national, European and global level. Fresh from co-writing a policy paper on the benefits and challenges of humanitarian corridors programmes, I am currently working with my colleague, Giulia Gori on funding bids. We are also working together on an Italian pilot project being sponsored by the Church of England. This will build on the excellent work done through its Clewer Initiative to raise awareness of modern slavery issues amongst congregations. This marries well with MH’s own work on exploitation and presents a welcome opportunity to engage English- and Italian-speaking congregations here in a project adapted for our own context.

On a personal note, travel restrictions obliged me to spend my first Christmas in Rome – hardly something to complain about! Rome was festooned with Christmas lights and the national penchant for Nativity scenes was fed by the appearance of several outdoor

“presepi” in different parts of the city. It was a joy to take in all of that on my trusty folding bike.

Thank you, as always, to everyone who continues to support MH, and sustain me, in fellowship

and prayer. Please continue to pray for all those trying to find a home and all those who have to make the decisions which will determine their fate.

Every blessing

Fiona

# Monday Boys

Did you ever wonder who the Monday Boys were and what did they do ? Well here's a brief insight of who they are and what they get up to.



As the name suggests, they meet every Monday afternoon throughout the year, even when it's raining. Depending on the weather, most of their time is spent attending to the gardens of the Church, cutting the grass and hedges, weeding and brushing the leaves from the car park. They also plant bulbs and flowers to add to the beauty of the church grounds.

They are a multi-talented team (some even sing in the choir) and can turn their hands to most things, such as painting, cleaning the glass doors, building flower tubs, nest boxes, replacing light bulbs (have you ever wondered how the bulbs were changed in the church and how many there are?)

Their plumbing skills are not so good or at least one member isn't so handy, after nearly flooding the kitchen whilst attempting to replace some flexible pipes under the kitchen sink!

One area which was indeed flooded was the boiler house, when the pump failed and an ingress of water resulted in over a foot of water. The replacement pump and electrics have cleared this problem. Thanks to Jim Wilson for his help .

After the work is finished the Monday boys like nothing better than getting a call from Dougie McCreadie "Tea's up!" A cuppa with a chocolate biscuit, or a donated cake or strawberry tart, is greatly appreciated.

This is when they sit down to discuss the previous week's performance of Killie football team among other things.

The last project the team was responsible for was putting together the Christmas Nativity scene on a moveable trolley, moving it to the front door of the church and arranging the back drop with lights. This drew an amazing reaction for those passing by, especially after dusk, when the colours shone out through the winter gloom.

Because of COVID restrictions most of the activities were stopped, but a skeleton (pardon the pun) team kept on top of the garden work.

We are all looking forward to the time when it is safe to meet again and enjoy another outing arranged by Gordon Larmour.

Our grateful thanks to this group of talented guys who give so much of their time and expertise: Jack Leishman, Gordon Larmour, Douglas McCreadie , Alex Wotherspoon

Alex Dempster, Jim Laird, Jim Wilson, Hugh McCrone, Bob Russell, Ron Porteous, Billy Hyslop, Kit Irving, John Dyet and Andrew Robinson.

*John Dyet*



Christmas Dinner at the Douglas Hotel in London Road and an outing to the Transport Museum in Glasgow are the rewards for our hard-working team.





# The Team behind the Services

[kayparkparishchurch.org.uk/service/](http://kayparkparishchurch.org.uk/service/)



Just a year ago, as we keep being reminded, Scotland went into lockdown because of the Covid-19 pandemic. That meant that our church services were cancelled. No-one was allowed in the building for worship.

Fast forward a couple of months and Rev. Fiona was back preaching but on-line now. This was made possible after she pulled together three individuals with specific skills.

Allan Hamilton's expertise as a piper had led into filming and editing. He was already a keen photographer but used his skills as a video maker to help teach the pipes on-line.

Alex Ferguson, our recently retired choirmaster, and organist was: "looking for something to do during lockdown".

Mike Higgins, a retired broadcast journalist and producer, teaches fellow journalists and broadcasters in filming and editing. Like Allan, Mike had to adapt those skills to teach online.

After numerous "Zoom" meetings the "Online Worship Team" put their first service out on June 7.

The services are 25-minute programmes pulled together in the same way as a half-hour television programme.

Like every item that goes on air Kay Park Par-

ish Church's online worship comes under the same copyright law as everyone else. There are certain "blanket" licenses that cover all situations but even then, some copyright issues are flagged up.

That is one of the reasons the team prefer to use their own pictures and arrangements of hymns.

This requires a vast amount of team effort. Alex has honed his audio studio production skills for example, arrangements with the choir or musicians. The final music track is then sent to Allan or Mike to "paint" original stills or videos....and then to overwrite the texts for the hymns.

Meanwhile the Bible reader for the week is given instructions on how to film themselves. The final item is then sent to the team for inclusion in the service.

The bulk of the production takes place on a Tuesday and Wednesday with a Zoom conference.

Like any TV programme, the team listen to feedback from the viewers. Rev. Fiona decides the theme for the week and that then governs how the rest of the service will look, what hymns there are, the anthem and the reading.

The final look is largely down to the editors who like to adhere to the standard set over the past few months.

"It is quite time consuming and there are times when members of the team have been known to have been working into the small hours, just to get something looking or sounding just right," commented Mike.

Allan added: "What was a short-term project

for a few weeks last spring, turned from a sprint into a marathon in communication by building services etc for our congregation. It has been a great success in teamwork with knowledgeable and helpful guys who are always there with solutions to complex problems. I feel that it has all brought me nearer to God."

In an effort to lighten the load the team has been recently joined by Fiona McBride, probably best known as the Cub leader in the 37<sup>th</sup> Ayrshire, and Paul Scoular who coordinated the media team operations and operated the desk during normal times.

Fiona already had editing skills having worked on similar projects elsewhere but both Mike and Allan set about training them both to adapt to the new challenges.

Paul said: "I have found the support received from the members of the group to be outstanding and has helped me to construct services in such a short time."

Rev. Fiona: 'I have found working with Allan, Alex, Mike and more recently Fiona McBride and Paul to be a real source of inspiration and encouragement. Everyone brings an important contribution to the team. I thank God for them'.

One of the joys of the services, which you can see if you are watching online, are the beautiful photographs of Kilmarnock and District. The ones below of Killie in the snow were particularly lovely. Maybe, when times are better, we can have an exhibition of them in the hall. These photos were taken by Liz Lacy.





# Around the World .....Engineering-style

On my study wall are two certificates: my 1967 Deed of Apprenticeship to the Glacier Metal Company and my 1996 Election as a Fellow of the Institute of Mechanical Engineers. Between and beyond the two lies a journey, in learning and in working, all over the world.

A Higher National Diploma through Kilmarnock Technical College and a Bachelor of Science degree from Strathclyde University, both in Mechanical Engineering, laid the groundwork for a career predominantly in vehicle manufacture.

Shortly after graduating, in the early 1970's, I joined General Motors in Antwerp, working as one of many in drawing offices. All design work was at the time undertaken manually - no computer-aided design on the scene then. Playing football, darts, softball and pocket-less billiards leagues, sightseeing in Germany, Holland and Belgium, hosting family visits, learning Flemish and the occasional sampling of Belgian beer made this a happy introduction to the international workplace.

A role as a manager in the very different world of aluminium smelting in Invergordon saw me back in the UK before a second stint in Belgium with General Motors.

After some years I ventured even further from home, taking up a post in Israel, this time in the Aerospace industry. Living in Tel Aviv, employed by the Israeli government felt a long way from



Kilmarnock and the

Glacier Metal, both in terms of temperature and the confidentiality surrounding my work. My sons, Robert and Scott, spent their early years in far flung settings. One real joy of being in the region was the ease of visiting

sites in the Holy Land and being able to share them with family, particularly my late parents.

Returning to live in the south of England in the 1990's might suggest a more UK-based worklife, but this was far from the case. Working variously for contracting agencies and individual firms such as Daewoo, DAF trucks, Bentley, Dennis Bus and Fire, I spent the next 15 years travelling, largely troubleshooting in the car plants and vehicle design centres of the world. For periods of time ranging from days to many months I worked in South Korea, Los Angeles, Frankfurt, Barcelona, Holland, and Falkirk! Work ranged from concept design, homologation and development of electric vehicles for settings as diverse as Kew Gardens and the military! An interesting project for the British Army was the conversion of diesel Land Rovers to electric hybrids to avoid detection by heat-seeking missiles!



During my time with Dennis Bus and Fire division, I worked on buses for Inner New York City. Movingly, those vehicles went into service just before the Twin Towers attack.

Alongside this work, I developed knowledge and an interest in vehicle regulations and standardisation, or homologation i.e., ensuring that vehicles manufactured in one country met all the rules to enable them to be sold in other regions. I sat on committees for the national body, the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders and this led to me taking up a role with the SMMT, which brought together all the strands of expertise I had gained in my career to date.

Based in London, the organisation worked not only with big industry players, but also small individual manufacturers and government bodies such as the Department of Transport and the DVLA. This saw a new era of international travel and work for me, with regular meetings in Brussels and Paris, where European standards were hammered out and most interestingly, at the United Nations in Geneva, where world standards and regulations for vehicle manufacture were agreed. Along with government officials, it was my job to argue the British case.

Alongside this high-level debate, perhaps the most rewarding aspect of my ten or so years with SMMT was helping small, grassroots manufacturers throughout the UK. I visited many little, often family-run businesses, to help explain the raft of rules and regulations raining down on them! It was a real joy to see them relax and realise that things were not as complex as they at first appeared. In the same vein, I developed industry-wide formats to aid the introduction of new standards.



In 2012, after a couple of years of gruelling, weekly commuting from Kilmarnock to London, I decided that the time had come to retire from what had been a long and extremely fulfilling and enjoyable career.

It might sound as though I had also had an opportunity to see the world; well not so much! The pressurised nature of the role, combined with long hours trying to sort out whatever the problem was often meant that what I saw was largely Airport, Car Plant, Apartment, Sleep and repeat! There were exceptions, for

example in my many trips to South Korea new friends ensured that I saw something of the country, with a particularly memorable trip to the De-militarised Zone between North and South Korea.

I have since been back to some places with Silvija and especially enjoyed seeing Paris and Geneva through more relaxed eyes, but as many of you will know, my very favourite journeys are to see my sons and grandson up North and most of all, on the Calmac Ferry taking me over the Firth of Clyde to my beloved Arran!



*If you want to request that the Prayer Chain prays for you or someone you love, please contact Rene Larmour or Olive Gow by phone or email with your request. Their details are below. All requests are handled in complete confidence.*

*Rene—526013 or [renagor2@gmail.com](mailto:renagor2@gmail.com)*

*Olive—528954 or [olivegow@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:olivegow@hotmail.co.uk)*



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..... will come back  
If we are patient!

Take care 





## Those we have lost

*"My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?"*  
NIV John 14 v2

12th October  
Mrs Elizabeth Knapp 28 Leadhills Road D34

31st October  
Mrs Margaret Macfarlane Howard House D26

17th December  
Mrs Margaret Wilkinson 33 Holmes Road D28

20th January  
Mrs Agnes Lindsay 4 Craufurdland Road D3

03rd February  
Mr Bobby Wells 14 McNaughton Drive D15

5th February  
Mrs Linda Richardson 7 Walker Road D47

17th February  
Mr Allan Brett 12 Lawers Road D33



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**The vision of the Church of Scotland is to be a church which seeks to inspire the people of Scotland and beyond with the Good News of Jesus Christ through enthusiastic worshipping, witnessing, nurturing and serving communities.**