

**A LOCKDOWN
DIGITAL EDITION**

Reflections

MAY 2020 Issue No 45

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

From our minister, the Rev Fiona Maxwell



One of my birthday cards last week had the tag line 21 with 29 years' experience... I like that!

In this time of 'lockdown' and social distancing, the clock continues to tick, time passes, sometimes quickly and at others each minute seems to weigh heavily. We are complex beings, we yearn to have more time, then when we have time we struggle to know what to do with it or how simply to 'be' in the moment.

In the Old Testament book of Ecclesiastes in chapter 3 we read the following.

There is a time for everything and season for every activity under the heavens.

...A time to embrace and a time to refrain

...A time to search and a time to give up

...A time to keep and a time to throw away...

He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of people'.

How are you doing in these strange times we are living through?

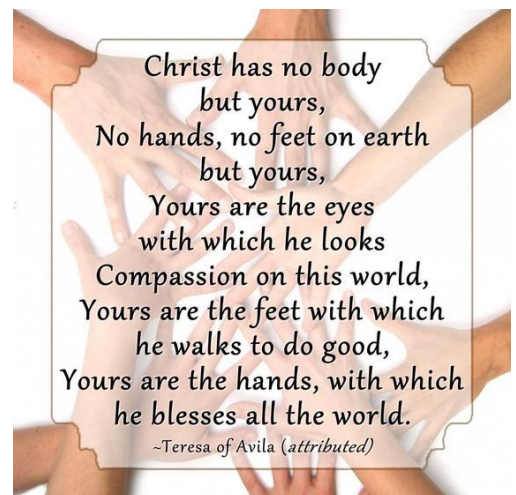
If you are anything like me, you will find some days are easier than others. Sometimes you feel you are coping, others you feel out of control. Sometimes you feel content, at others you feel unsettled. You are not alone. We are all in this together, not just for now but in the weeks and months to come.

God is in this too. Not remote and distant but present in the hospital rooms, the laboratories, the post office sorting offices, the care homes, the milking shed, the supermarkets, your home, my home. Our Christian faith speaks of a God who in Christ came, in flesh, as one of us. He shared in all of what it means to be human. The Christ who died and rose again loves us and calls us in this time and all times to be LOVE in a broken world.

It is good for us to keep in touch with one another. Whether that is by telephone, text message, email, or 'zoom'. It is encouraging that BBC1 are broadcasting different worship programmes each Sunday morning, for us to share in. If you have access to the internet please keep an eye on the church website and Facebook pages for updates and useful links. We are still the church, even although the building is closed, for we can praise and pray and know 'God with us', wherever we are, united in the faith we share. In the meantime, keep safe, God Bless and keep you,

Rev Fiona.

P.S. Overleaf is a prayer that I found on my last day of being 49, it is from a book, 'Celtic Daily Prayer', by the Northumbria Community.



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.

*Lord, help me to unclutter my life
 To organise myself in the direction of simplicity.
 Lord, teach me to listen to my heart.
 Teach me to welcome change, instead of fearing it.
 Lord, I give You these stirrings inside me,
 I give You my discontent,
 I give You my restlessness,
 I give You my doubt,
 I give You my despair,
 I give You all the longings I hold inside.
 Help me to listen to these signs of change, or growth
 To listen seriously and follow where they lead
 Through the breath-taking empty space of an open door.*

FROM THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Over the past weeks and whilst Rev Fiona remains on compassionate leave, the Business Committee have been working away dealing with the ongoing business of Kay Park. Our thoughts and prayers are with Rev Fiona at this time.

We have had to learn some new tricks as we are no longer able to have face to face meetings and constant emailing can be tiresome and frustrating. So we have turned to Zoom and have now had two successful online meetings with a third planned for next week. A Zoom meeting of Kirk Session will I am sure be more of a challenge. The Treasurer has been keeping us informed of the church finances.

We were able to post a message on the website on Easter Sunday and have been following up on the Telephone Tree trying to ensure that all of our members are regularly receiving a call from their district elder. The calls have been most welcome and something we may consider keeping when things return to "normal" whatever "normal" will look and feel like.

The church building has been closed with weekly visits to check that all is well. The grass has been cut and the garden tidied. The staff were sent home on 19th March on full pay and asked to remain at home until instructed otherwise. They have since been furloughed and enrolled on the government's Job Retention Scheme.

The Business Committee have taken the decision to have the front stairwell decorated, following the dry rot repair, at a cost of £1700. It seems a good time to have this work done when the building is empty and the painter is allowed to work there on his own.

My thanks to members of the Business committee, namely Bill Caldwell, Alex Dempster and Alex Steven, to John Dyet for gardening work, to Allan Hamilton for his work on the website and to Eleanor Hamilton for producing this magazine.

Keep well and keep safe. Blessings

Janet Grant

Reflections on the Lockdown

In response to your call as to how Kay Park Parish Church members are coping with the current Covid 19 outbreak...

The long held belief in the saying ' God moves in mysterious ways his wonders to perform'. Springs to my mind.

My personal belief is more good will come out of it than bad...unimaginable as that may seem to many at this time.

The effects are being felt by everyone...all with similar stories (myself included)...

- a personal loss
- attending a funeral
- a marriage delay
- a milestone birthday shared
- a lost achievement
- missing loved ones
- fear of the unknown
- fear of the future

I am not the best to speak of faith but mine has carried me through many, many times...even when I didn't feel I deserved it.

My church attendance has lapsed for some time. I know I will come back when I am meant to ...God's will I believe..

Easter to me is a time of renewal and thankfulness; it brings hope and an urge to extend the hand of hope and love, knowing it comes directly from our Lord ...over and over again.

Just a reflection on the trial set us at this time... Job came through his trials stronger and so will we ...and I believe it will make society stronger..in time.

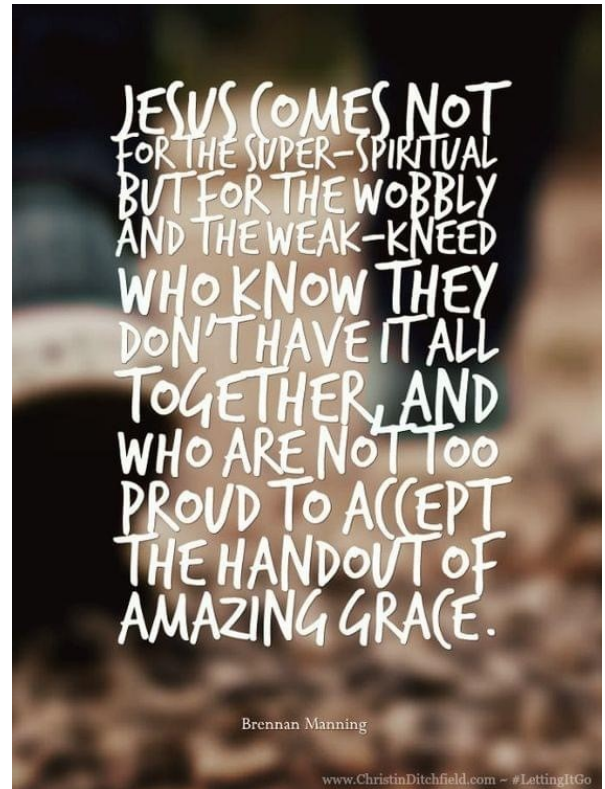
God be with you

Margaret Pattison

Strange times indeed! I am spending lots of time keeping in touch by phone.

Also much more active on social media. I am very much missing our Sunday services and I have found lots on services and various helpful things on Facebook. I have been enjoying listening to The Moderator every morning too. I've also posted on K.P.P.C. page today, just another way to keep in touch.

Jean Deans



This is indeed a difficult time.

I have relied more on my internet than usual, it is indeed a useful connection.

There have been so many messages of HOPE it is wonderful.

There have been some lovely small videos. I love it every time I open my emails or contacts, to see the lovely messages waiting for me.

It is good to have friends at this time.

I have been phoning some elderly Church people to see if they need anything, most of them have relatives who bring them messages, prescriptions etc. Most of them have been through wars, although this is a different situation. I think the message we gather, is everyone is pulling together to get through this. Lets hope it is not too long till we can return to normal.

I must say "I am missing Sundays", the services & also the media team, I never dreamt they could be so disrupted by a virus.

Best wishes

Margaret Laird



Posted on Facebook by a lovely
92 year-old friend.

When I think of the deaths and the illnesses that people have had to endure, the distress and poverty that others have faced, the loneliness of many, whether or not they are living alone, I feel almost ashamed at the pleasure I have found in this time of slowing-down. I have found time to sit back and reflect for the first time in a very long time. Indeed, it feels as if I have fallen off a hamster wheel and am reluctant to jump back on. As a devoted computer user, I told myself I saved time by texting or emailing rather than phoning and now I find myself spending lovely hours on the phone, catching up with friends and people that I have "meant to" ring for a long time, but kept putting it off, because there would be so much catching-up that it would take up too much of my valuable time! What was more valuable than these calls?

All the jobs that I've put off for so long have been done so early in the pre-lockdown that they will shortly all need to be done again!

I have been cheered by the amount of patience, kindness and love that seems to be in the ether and I feel it in myself. Things that mattered greatly a few months ago have fallen to the bottom of the priority list. Forward planning is unnecessary, because we have no idea what the future brings. That means that we can concentrate on the 'now', doing things now that are meaningful and helpful. I have more patience with everything and everyone, because small irritations seem so tiny beside the current crisis.

So many people have said that we will all change after this—let's hope and pray that that is true, although experts say that it takes at least 66 days for us to change. Start counting now!

EH

Covid-19 Lockdown 2020, from a 12 year old's perspective... Campbell Neal

There are lots of things I like about being in lockdown. It's been really fun because I don't have to go to school! I like going for a walk everyday, playing on my trampoline anytime I want and baking with my mum. I'm eating more food and snacks than I would be if I was at school. When it was my birthday, nobody could come and visit, but I got lots of money instead of presents.

If people stick to the rules and stay indoors, it might also help the environment. Less fumes from cars, and less people going out and dropping litter into the oceans and stuff.

Sometimes the lockdown doesn't feel good because we can't do the things we usually do and we can't get some of the things from the shops that we usually get. Also, and I hate to say it the digital online school work is not as efficient as the normal school work. I just don't think about the virus because it hasn't affected us directly. The main thing I'll re-

member about being in lockdown is not going to school, clapping for the NHS on a Thursday night and doing fun stuff.



HELP OFFERED

Michael and Jennifer Steven are both key workers but, although working throughout the lockdown, are in a position to assist anyone who is self-isolating, shielding etc by picking up medicine food or any other essential items.

If you need help or wish to offer help, please contact Michael on 07791 143782 or email m_steven@sky.com

Like absolutely everyone in the whole world, I'm learning to adapt to a very different lifestyle to what I'm used to. Here are the most important changes in my routine

1st has got to be that I've never ever listened to so many Church Services/Sermons on a Sunday (and during the week)... have really enjoyed joining online with New Laigh Kirk, Kilmarnock Baptist, Glasgow Cathedral, East Kilbride Old Parish Church, St. Maddoes and Kinfauns, Larbert Baptist and Reflections from the Quay ...most of them don't need to be viewed live so that's a great help in taking time to view them. Each one in its own way has helped to keep me spiritually well during this really isolated time. Sunday evening at 7's time of National Prayer and lighting our Candles of Hope has also been so encouraging.

2nd change is that I'm walking much more than usual as I take my daily outdoor exercise.

3rd is probably the most unlikely change for me....I joined Facebook and am thoroughly enjoying watching the mischief my 2 Great-great Nephews (aged 1 and 4) are getting up to during this time of being physically apart. It has also proved very beneficial in receiving links and recommendations to view events etc that I'd probably never have heard of otherwise. Last must be that I have more time for my hobbies...gardening, baking and mindful colouring. I even came 3rd in Larbert Baptist's online Easter Bake-off, which actually counts as an international event cos there was 1 entry from New Zealand ! 😊

Lorna Anderson



Friendship Club

We are living in strange and difficult times, when many of the things we normally take for granted are no longer available to us. Unfortunately we had to cancel the final meeting of the Friendship Club at the end of March, and also, for the first time, we were no longer able to have our annual outing. Since so much is still unknown to us at this stage, we would hope to be able to start again in October, but at the moment that remains to be seen. By this time, the committee has usually next session's syllabus in place. We will try to keep you all informed of any developments by means of the church website or the Kilmarnock Standard.

However the current situation is not all doom and gloom. So many people have demonstrated great kindness to others and also much ingenuity. After this is all over I think many will be more appreciative of the simpler things in life and realise that our priorities have to change. Isolation can bring its own problems, not least loneliness, and so I invite anyone to feel free to give us a call if you would like a wee chat.

I sincerely hope that we can all come together again in the autumn, but until we can, I and all the Shining Lights ask you to remain safe and well.

Take care and look after yourselves

May God bless you all

Shiona Thomson.

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Something to look forward to.....?



We have all had travel postponed this Spring and things may well stay the same throughout the summer, so I thought I would remind you of a trip our Travel Club has booked for the first weekend in December from Friday to Sunday, 4—6 December.

We are going to spend two nights in the beautiful spa town of Harrogate in Yorkshire. Harrogate makes Christmas its own and the town has a competition, televised every year, for the Best Christmas Window. We have accommodation booked in The Cairn Hotel, which is a five minute walk from the town centre.

The village of Grassington in Yorkshire, half an hour away, holds a Dickensian Festival in December, where the villagers dress in Dickensian costumes and with pageants, stalls, food and wine bring back the Christmases of old. We will spend the Saturday of our trip at the Festival.

One of the joys of our trips (we can't really call it The Pilgrimage any more, because Rev Fiona is taking people on a real Pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 2021!) is the companionship we share on the journey and at the hotel. It really is like going on holiday with your family, but people don't believe that until they have experienced it for themselves.... and then they come back.

The cost for the break, including all coach travel, accommodation, dinner bed and breakfast on the two nights as well as entry to the Festival is (at the moment) £165 with a single supplement of £18. We have booked accommodation for 30 at the moment, so I would really like to know how many of you are interested, just interested, there is no need to think of a commitment at the moment, because none of us know how the rest of year is going to pan out. However we offer this as something to look forward to, when, God willing, we come together again without fear but with warmth and laughter.

Please let me know if you are interested and I'll get back in touch around late September.

Eleanor Hamilton—ellieham@gmail.com

She's been there already

Lorna Anderson scouted it out for us...

On 7th December 2019 I made a day trip to Grassington Dickensian Christmas Festival with a cheery busload of folk from Hurlford Church. The very picturesque village of Grassington, with cobbled streets, provides a full Christmas Market and Dickensian entertainment which included Morris Dancing, Brass Bands, Hurdy-gurdy Group, Handbell Ringers, Choirs, Santa Procession, Magician, Barrel Organ, Town Crier, Theatrical productions and of course Hot Chestnut sellers. Each day the Festival ends with a Lantern Procession at the Main Square and Community Carol Singing which was extremely meaningful.

It was a superb visit to a village which also has lots of its own interesting small shops, with plenty of eating places including 3 of the local Churches. I'm certainly booking for Kay Park Travel Club's Weekender Coach to Harrogate and can highly recommend the Dickensian Festival



The Guild



As I write this article I am in self-isolation due to the Coronavirus and considered to be a vulnerable person. I am now going into my third week. I found it difficult to settle because of always being so busy but am now beginning to settle and enjoy new found, self-imposed freedom.

Like many organisations ALL meetings are cancelled but I keep in touch with the Guild Office in Edinburgh.

This year our THEME is 'THE EXTRA MILE' and I quote from 1Peter 2: v 4 – 16 and the interpretation is from The Message – Eugene Petersen

Welcome to the living stone, the source of life. The workmen took one look and threw it out: God set it in a place of honour. Present yourselves add building stones for the construction of a sanctuary vibrant with life in which you will serve as holy priests offering Christ approved lives up to God.

The Church as a whole is seeking ways to modernise and in line with Church of Scotland thinking, the Resource Committee (in Edinburgh) has held work-shops in Steps to Ecumenism. We now live together in a world of many different religions and none. The Ecumenical Convener is Rev. Sandy Roxburgh. Another discussion point is 'Integrity – 'Violence Against Women'. Statistics show that one in three women will experience domestic violence during their lives.

The 2020 Vision Conference which was to be held in St. Matthews Church, Perth on Saturday, 14th March was cancelled due to the COVID-19. I was due to attend along with Jean Herbert from Kay Park Guild and Marilyn Bell, Dunlop as the three representatives from East Ayrshire. We were all very disappointed and look forward to when we can all be together again.

The Total funds raised for the projects are noted below. The cancellations and Fund-Raisers which have had to be cancelled will certainly affect the final total for 2020 – 2021.

TOTAL MONEY Raised: £296,016.54 and distributed as follows:

Crossreach:	£57,826.84
Sailors Society:	£41,236.80
Boys Brigade:	£65,373.14
World Mission:	£37,489.38
Malawi Fruits:	£43,161.87
Free to Live Trust:	£50,918.51

The Church of Scotland Guild web-site had this poem by Rusty Edwards –

Thank you, God, for crumbs and banquets, every gift, both grand and small, we are grateful for them all.

Bless you too, for gentle mercies, showering us with endless grace; for the day and for the darkness, worlds away and for this place.

Praise you as we rest and labour; miracles and time of trial, for each one whom we encounter, and for each new child.

As we wake and while we slumber, may we keep our minds in you, that each hour be a thanksgiving for our lives, "merci beaucoup".

Kay Park Church Family

LYN MARTIN

We are always delighted to welcome a "new face" to Kay Park and one such face belongs to Lyn Martin. Lyn was born in Kilbarchan, where she went to school and where, along with her parents, attended church. On leaving school she worked in the town clerk's office in Johnstone, followed by a spell at the British Oil and Cake Mills in Renfrew.

Like many of her generation Lyn met her husband George at the famous Moorings Ballroom in Largs and in 1967 the pair were married in Kilbarchan Church. George, who was an engineer, was transferred to the overseas department of Balfour Beatty in London, where Lyn got a job with a radio rentals firm. After six months George was sent to Nigeria followed a few months later by Lyn. Their daughter Susan was born there. Lyn's only previous knowledge of Nigeria was what she had learnt in Sunday School about the missionary Mary Slessor from Dundee. This was around the time of the Biafran war and it was quite a culture shock, especially being greeted by armed guards on first arriving in the country.

Lyn made friends among the women she met at the Organisation for British Wives and she enjoyed life in Nigeria. Susan attended nursery along with the other children. However, when Susan was two the family was on the move again, this time to Saudi Arabia. The British women there were instructed to keep any controversial opinions they may have had about the regime to themselves and also to keep their arms and legs covered when appearing in public. The religious police were very strict and women were forbidden to drive.

After eighteen months in Saudi the family returned to Nigeria, to a different part of Lagos. At the age of five Susan was enrolled in an international school, but was later home-schooled by her mum when George was moved up country to start up a paper mill, and where there was no educational provision. However, when Susan was nine, Lyn came home to settle Susan at Wellington School in Ayr where many daughters of expats were educated. Needless to say, this was quite a big step for both mother and daughter. George later worked in Cameroon for two years before finally coming home in 1986 to work for Tarmac. Lyn and George settled in Galston where they had previously purchased a house, and Susan completed her education at Loudoun Academy, before obtaining a post in London as a children's nanny. While living in Galston, Lyn worked as a credit controller at Bonfab, a textile company in Darvel.

George sadly passed away in 1994 at the age of forty-nine. After his untimely death Lyn went to Dunoon to help friends run a hotel, but in the early nineties she came back to Darvel, before moving to Elderslie to take care of her dad after her mum's death. Meanwhile Susan came back to Scotland and met future husband Scott, who just happens to be the son of Jean and Charlie Deans. Lyn is now well settled in Kilmarnock, and through Jean she has come to Kay Park, where she has made several friends. She helped at our Advent cafe, goes to Lunch Break and is a regular at the Friendship Club. We are also delighted to have welcomed her on to our Hospital Volunteers rota.

Lyn is a very independent person and, since being on her own, has travelled widely, visiting many countries including Australia, China, America and Canada. As a result of her foreign travel she has forged many friendships. She is also a member of the National Trust which she hopes to benefit from later in the year. She is very happy now to make her life here in Kilmarnock and be a part of the Kay Park family.

Lyn has had a very full and interesting life, which, to someone like myself who managed to leave Killie to live in Irvine for four years, is pretty impressive! I very much enjoyed hearing her story so far.

Shona K. Thomson



Roman Lens - Fiona Kendall

Migrant perspective

On 26th February this year, some of us chose to enter a period of discipline, known as Lent. We could not have foreseen that, thanks to the spread of Covid 19, discipline would in fact be required of so much of the world's population in so short a space of time, nor that discipline would be required well beyond Easter, when Lent concluded.



Italy's suffering in recent weeks is well-known. Sobering infection and mortality statistics record the direct impact of the virus on its population; these say nothing of the wider impact in terms of the economy, overall health and society, at which we can only guess.

The pressure on the Italian healthcare system has been immense. The healthcare workers who are daily exposed to risks from which the rest of us are generally shielded are owed an incalculable debt of gratitude. Few would choose to expose the system or workers to any additional pressure.

And it is against that background that the Italian government quietly issued an inter-ministerial decree on Tuesday, 7th April 2020. It aims to exclude a single group from accessing any assistance for the duration of the health emergency, namely, those who have been rescued outside Italian international waters by a vessel bearing the flag of another country. In order to achieve that end, the government has announced that Italy, as a whole, cannot be considered a safe port for that group of people. Responsibility for that group, it says, should lie with the country of the flag flown by the vessel in question.

For a number of reasons, this news was greeted with anger – but perhaps not surprise – by those working for migrants. Almost none of the NGO search and rescue (SAR) vessels which operate in the Central Mediterranean bears an Italian flag, notwithstanding that many are aided by Italian funds and logistical support. In any event, were rescue to be effected, say, off the coast of Libya, the decree would prevent vessels from approaching Italy as a safe port for the purposes of disembarking those rescued.



For people *are* still coming, notwithstanding the outbreak of Covid 19. In the same week that the decree was issued, Alarmphone confirmed that over 1,000 people set off from Libya. My colleagues in Lampedusa confirm that, just as was the case throughout the period of Matteo Salvini's "closed ports" policy, small ill-adapted boats continue to reach the shores of the island.

According to the Italian Ministry of the Interior, the numbers arriving, which stood at 181,436 in 2016, had dropped to 11,471 by the end of last year. Italy's population currently stands at around 60.48M. So why focus on this group in particular? Proportionately, what impact is that group truly likely to have on the creaking healthcare system?

My reading of the new decree is that the folk who make it here on their own will not be caught by its terms, just those being rescued on the open seas. As a result, it is hard not to associate this development less with the current health emergency than with the ongoing failure of the EU to agree a coherent SAR strategy in advance of the arrival of clement weather and better travelling conditions which, every year, lead to a rise in the numbers attempting to cross. For years now, Italy has considered itself abandoned by its EU partners in this regard; for years it has resorted to increasingly desperate measures to signal that sense of abandonment.

If this crisis has taught us nothing else it is this: at the worst of times, a collective effort is not only desirable but necessary. If people – or nations – feel abandoned, they will look after their own interests first. And the weakest, as now, will suffer as a consequence.

Standing Together

from Charlotte Murray

Earlier this year, I was asked to speak at the 4ward 2gether & Ayrshire Interfaith Celebrating Diversity Convention, which had the theme "Standing Together"

I thought about incredible people such as Martin Luther King and Rosa Parks who inspired people to stand up to fight for people's rights. I thought about the everyday communities such as the suffragettes and miners during strikes in the 80s who banded together to achieve social justice. I even thought about that classic song by Paul McCartney, "We All Stand Together" What I eventually decided to talk about was The Lord of the Rings and how it reflects my views on the importance of standing together.

For those of you who don't know, the Lord of the Rings is an exciting tale about a group of reluctant adventurers who come from a variety of different backgrounds and races including an elf, a dwarf, a wizard, a human and 4 hobbits. This unlikely bunch form a fellowship and together stand up against the forces of evil. It's a story about the importance of friendship and the strength in making allies when working towards a common goal –in this instance - defeating the darkness. There are many lessons to be learnt, hidden in this tale, but ultimately the main message reinforces the importance of standing together.

Take Legolas and Gimli for example, who due to rivalry, misconceptions and prejudice between elves and dwarves, feel an instant hatred and distrust towards each based on the beliefs that they were raised on. Elves believe dwarves are rough and uncultured, where-as dwarves believe elves are stuck up and privileged. Both believe that the other race is driven by greed and arrogance. This mirrors our society today, where people form opinions and judge based on many things including race, religion and often social background. It is this ignorance that prevents people from reaching out and forming connections with others as they believe them to be too different from themselves instead of focusing on the many similarities.

As the adventure continues Legolas and Gimli realise that they have far more in common than they have differences and learn how to work together. As it says in Ecclesiastes chapter 4 verse 9-10, "two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if

they fall one will lift up the other but woe to the one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help."

In fact, they are not the only ones to achieve this, in a final battle between good and evil the fellowship enlist the help of many different groups including human, dwarven and elven armies, as well as more unusual parties such as Ents and giant eagles. It is only when they all stand together to fight for a common goal that they succeed and defeat evil. I think that this is especially important in today's society as we are constantly faced with acts of discrimination, greed, war and famine in the news. Surely instead of allowing pride and ignorance to overcome us, we should be standing together, supporting one another against these issues.

We have strength in numbers and by reaching out, joining with others we are able to be uplifted, protected and cared for. I notice this especially within my church, feeling a great sense of belonging and support from my church family. But we must also extend that love and support to other people out with our own religions. Martin Luther King Jr said, "darkness cannot drive out darkness only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate only love can do that." Whether this means standing with your friends, an entire community or even just one person who shares something in common with you, we are always better off when we have someone to help us along our journey.



Charlotte is about to embark on a degree course at Glasgow University, studying Archeology, Theology and Religious Studies.. With talents musical and athletic, as well as academic, she will be a great asset to the life of the University, just as she and her sister Eleanor have been huge assets to our Young Church, as students and leaders over the past years. We all wish her luck on this very exciting journey. Who knows, we may see her in our pulpit one day!

These are days that will come back, and now that many of us are walking every day, the numbers of Strollers are sure to increase. New folk are always welcomed.

KAY PARK Strollers & Striders

February's Striders' outing was led by John Dyet along a local route he walks frequently. On a somewhat dreich morning, with worse forecast to arrive, an unexpectedly large turnout of 15 set off from The Douglas Hotel on London Road. Our route took us along London Road and up Wellpark Avenue before turning right to cross the footbridge over the Kilmarnock Bypass. Following Milton Road, we passed the former Crookedholm School, a fine sandstone building sadly now in a state of some disrepair, and continued towards Templetonburn. Along this stretch the drizzle had ceased and we were enjoying a pleasant morning which, unfortunately, was not to last. A right turn took us onto the



The former Crookedholm School

Grougar footpath which follows the River Irvine back to Hurlford. Partway along this, the fine weather gave way to a fierce hailstorm which continued, on and off, for most of the remainder of our walk. On reaching Hurlford we followed Riccarton Road until passing under the railway bridge where a right turn took us along a footpath back to the riverside. From here, we walked along this until passing under the Bellfield Interchange and down the sliproad onto a path to the Scott Ellis playing fields. Then it was back to London Road and the comfort of The Douglas Hotel where we were provided with a private room, tea, coffee, scones and filled

rolls, all of which was much appreciated.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, we have had only one Strollers' walk recently. A group of 19 assembled for a trip to Troon. Leaving from Fullarton Drive, we followed the shared path towards Prestwick until reaching the footbridge over the railway. Crossing this took us onto a path across Portland golf course until we met the service road, where we turned right back towards Troon at the Marine Hotel. Here we split into two groups with some heading directly back to their cars and the remainder continuing on, for a slightly longer return journey. However, we all met up at The Lido for the usual refreshments.

Pre-restrictions, the Striders had a final outing to Alloway where 16 hardy souls again defied the forecast to enjoy a shared walk. The drive down was not encouraging we passed through a torrential hailstorm which, fortunately, had passed over by the time we assembled at The Burns Centre. Crossing Murdoch's Lone under bright sunshine, we joined the footpath heading in the direction of the coast road, allowing a different perspective on a number of sizeable Alloway properties. On reaching Dunure Road, we encountered what, at first, appeared a bit of an issue with ongoing building work closing our intended path. Fortunately, a minor detour took us back onto our route down towards Greenan Castle and foreshore. Continuing over the River Doon, we followed this back towards Belleisle Estate at which point, with the light drizzle getting heavier, we decided to continue straight back to Alloway and refreshments at The Burns Centre.



Greenan Castle

David Miller

If time permits during the lockdown I will try to put all David's reports into one package because the walks are so varied and interesting and would make interesting reading even for those who haven't yet had the pleasure of joining the Strollers /Striders for an outing. We even get coffee stop recommendations .

How can we help?

Many organisations around Kilmarnock are helping those who are suffering at this time, although they might be virus-free. The homeless, who are dependent on the kindness of others and those struggling with lower income or no income at all need our help. Those who have medical training can help those who need care, but the rest of us can do our bit by supporting some of the work done by the organisations below.

Here are some of the ways that we can help, during and after this Covid19 crisis

YOUR FOOD DONATIONS MATTER MORE THAN EVER

Donations which are left in church are usually transported to the Salvation Army in Sturrock Street, where they are greatly appreciate. Their Foodbank is still open and you can drop off food on a Monday or Thursday after 10.00.am.

Even although the church is closed you can still donate to the other foodbanks.

We suggest that if you are shopping, please continue to leave donations in Tesco and other supermarkets, where they are collecting for foodbank centres in and around Kilmarnock.

Urgently needed food items

- tinned fruit (400gms)
- tea bags (80's)
- dried pasta (500gms)
- UHT milk (1 litre)
- Breakfast Cereals

**NOT NEEDED AT THE MOMENT
BEANS AND SUGAR**





MAKE THAT CALL!

You know... the one you've been meaning to make, but haven't; the one to the person you haven't seen around for a while; the one to someone you had 'words' with the last time you spoke. There will be no better time.

PICK UP THE PHONE



KNITTERS—WHAT CAN YOU DO?



These charities all offer patterns online. If you cannot find one, contact Eleanor Hamilton who will be pleased to download one for you.



This website has lots of information about the charities and what they require

EACHA (East Ayrshire Churches' Homelessness Action) has drop-in groups three times a week in New Laigh Church Halls in John Finnie Street.

This is discontinued at the moment but it is something you may wish to support in the future. If you are interested please contact

David Quinn (EACHa Project Co-ordinator)

Email: davidquinn9@yahoo.co.uk 07779237318

A weekly service offering food, friendship, advice and social activities. It is manned by volunteers, with professional advice being offered by statutory agencies such as Housing Options, Community Health and Addiction Services. The aim is that those who attend will gain confidence, be assisted in setting goals for the future, and will engage with relevant support services in a neutral environment.

All volunteers are given basic training on befriending, and ongoing support and further training opportunities are provided.

HYGIENE PACKS and bags

A hygiene pack is delivered to every man, woman and child who presents as homeless in East Ayrshire.

Volunteers from churches throughout East Ayrshire collect toiletries which are made up into packs at a central point. The packs are distributed to people in homeless hostels, temporary accommodation and Women's Aid. Around 600 packs are handed over every year - contents of the packs all donated by members of local churches. A true example of churches working together.

You can find more information on the EACHA website about which contents to donate, but if, at the moment, you would like to do something practical, you could make one of the drawstring bags which are handed out

Pattern for Drawstring Bag for Hygiene Packs which are handed out by EACHa.

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Money Matters



TREASURER'S REPORT

It seems appropriate that I inform you of the current situation within KPPC pertaining to our finances during this extraordinary time.

Covid 19 is causing significant financial upheaval in many business sectors, with the financial impact projected to be very deep and long lasting and churches are not immune.

Income

Fortunately within KPPC we continue to be extremely grateful to members who regularly give through a monthly standing order. We are of course not receiving income from those who give by weekly envelope or cash giving through the plate. We continue to receive additional income from the Gift Aid scheme where members have completed the appropriate mandate on their giving.

Our income through Hall Letting has stopped for the obvious reasons.

What is the current financial situation?

Our monthly giving through the above are approximately **£7,000** while our outgoings to Ministry & Mission, Staff salaries (although staff have now been furloughed), Insurance, Heat & Light (heat on ambient temp) are approximately **£10,000**. **Therefore a running cost deficit of approx £3,000 monthly.**

Fortunately, at the end of March we have access to approximately **£47,000** in our accounts. Additionally we also have **£20,000** designated for Local Mission i.e. local charities/projects. The Business committee is currently looking at various local charities/projects that we can support at this very trying time.

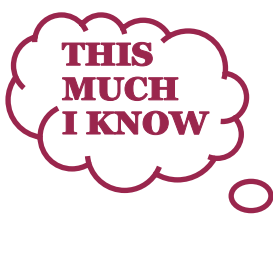
Conclusion

Whilst no one can predict when this "lockdown" and "social distancing" will relax enough for us to meet again in church it is imperative that we maintain our level of giving. On behalf of the Kirk Session we are eternally grateful for your ongoing financial support.

If you want to give additional financial support to the church please send a cheque to me, made out to Kay Park Parish Church of course, care of the church address, London Road, Kilmarnock KA3 7AA, or, if you wish to make payment directly into the church bank account, email me alexsteven21m@gmail.com to arrange it.

God Bless

Alex Steven—Treasurer.



Never marry for money, you can borrow it cheaper.

Never look down on anyone, unless you're helping them up.

Try to be the kind of person your dog thinks you are

Never judge a man until you've walked in his shoes. After that, sod him, you're a mile away and you've still got his shoes.

If you and your friend are being chased by a mad dog, don't worry about outrunning the mad dog, just worry about out-running your friend.

Always keep your words soft and sweet - just in case you have to eat them.

If at first you don't succeed, then sky-diving is not for you.

Wisdom is knowing which bridges to cross and which bridges to burn

Accept that some days you're the pigeon and some days the statue.

In Memoriam

Good community!

VE 75 Day will coincide with Iain Macmillan's first anniversary. Edith was of course to follow him three months later.

It had been my intention, plus others in the family I expect, to come to Kay Park on 3rd or 10th May to mark his anniversary. At the time of writing that looks like a forlorn hope in the corona lockdown.

Hearing that the KPPC magazine is still being issued I wanted to drop you a line to say these things:-

1. The whole family was bowled over by your collective kindness last year. It was very comforting and uplifting. The multitude of contributions at both services was hugely appreciated. The ready welcome was best of all.
2. The community of faith which you represent was a rich, rich seam in Mum and Dad's lives, for decades. We know that they joined Henderson in the mid 1950s so they benefited from almost 65 years of that faithful community. I discovered in my study of Edith's diary, faithfully transcribed by my daughter, that Iain was ordained to Henderson on 21/10/56. (Oddly the birth date of our same daughter who did the transcribing!). They had three children baptised and one daughter married in the church. 6 ministers passed through their



hands from Mr Findlay to Fiona (I know that looks odd!)

3. I know you will miss them both as of course we do. It's really not about outstaying your welcome but about making a difference when you can, and I am quite sure that they both did that.

In my Fife church, we are already delivering our Sunday service through Facebook live. The message on the last Sunday in March was based on Paul's message to the Galatians about doing good to all and especially the community of faith. I am certain that KPPC lives by that standard. Please keep at it in Jesus' name. Early next month we will be noting Iain's anniversary in particular.

Johnny Mac.

This whole page was sponsored by

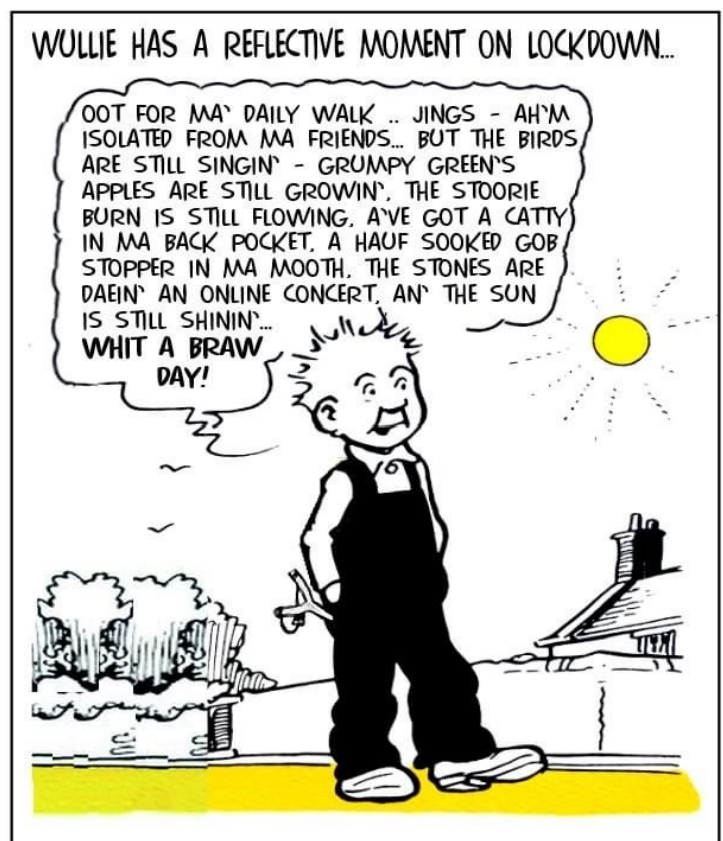
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Let us agree
for now
that we will not say
the breaking
makes us stronger
or that it is better
to have this pain
than to have done
without this love.

Let us promise
we will not
tell ourselves
time will heal
the wound,
when every day
our waking
opens it anew.

Perhaps for now
it can be enough
to simply marvel
at the mystery
of how a heart
so broken
can go on beating,
as if it were made
for precisely this—
as if it knows
the only cure for love
is more of it,

as if it sees
the heart's sole remedy
for breaking
is to love still,

as if it trusts
that its own
persistent pulse
is the rhythm
of a blessing
we cannot
begin to fathom
but will save us
nonetheless.

*'For everything there is a season,
and a time for every matter under heaven:*

²a time to be born, and a time to die;

⁴a time to weep, and a time to laugh;

a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

- Jan Richardson

from The Cure for Sorrow: A Book of Blessings for Times of Grief



...is the Church of Scotland's first digital church, with daily worship and weekly Sunday services. There is music, poetry and just chat. This is from a recent page.

Leviticus 19: 10 (NRSVA)

10 You shall not strip your vineyard bare, or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien: I am the Lord your God.

The spirit of generosity is found throughout scripture. God's law is not about being mean or making sure you take everything from the vineyard or the business for yourself. It's about sharing with those who have helped create the wealth and also allowing those who for whatever reason have no means to support themselves to also share in our common prosperity or you might say our 'Commonwealth'.

This passage in Leviticus sets out a principle that we could do well to follow in our new rebooted economy. 'Beating spears into pruning hooks and swords into ploughshares' would be a wonderful start. What if we focused more on caring for the poor and the needy? What if we put more resources into health care and family life and less into building weapons of mass destruction? What if we insisted that our world leaders made global warming and world peace their priority? Would this not be a step towards real lasting security? It would certainly go a long way to the fulfilling of the biblical vision and prophecy that one day such a thing will actually happen.

A New World Order

Lord,
Bring about your vision
Of a world at peace
A world ruled by the Prince of Peace
A world where anger and aggression have
ceased
A world where there is enough for everyone
Lord,
Now that the world has stopped
Now that the volume has been turned down
Help us use this time of stillness
This time of isolation
To listen for your voice
To hear your tunes of tranquillity

Help us discover the peace
Before the world starts to turning again
Give us the peace and the wisdom
To make new plans
Better plans
Plans for the common good
Plans that will change our hearts
And change our priorities
Putting peace before power
Faith before expediency
Love before logic
And truth alongside compassion

*by the Very Rev Albert Bogle,
Minister of Sanctuary First*



If you want to request that the Prayer Chain prays for you or someone you love, please complete one of the Prayer Request Forms available at the front door or at the bottom of the stairs at the back door. All requests are handled in confidence.

If you cannot find a form or it is in the middle of the week, contact Rene Larmour or Olive Gow by phone or email with your request.

Rene—526013 or renagor2@gmail.com

Olive—528954 or olivegow@hotmail.co.uk

Happy Birthdays Rev Fiona



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