

## From our minister, the Rev Fiona Maxwell



I was lucky to be able to travel to Harris (Outer Hebrides) and Skye (Inner Hebrides) a few weeks ago. For the most part, the weather was kind and throughout the trip the scenery was simply breath-taking. On one day the weather was grim with strong winds, horizontal rain sweeping across the land and the mist well and truly down for the day, or so it seemed. However, a few hours later the dark sky changed and the clouds parted and there was a full rainbow the most stunning I have ever seen.

You may be familiar with the adage 'this too will pass'. Some people think the origin of the phrase is the bible, however that is not the case. One suggestion of its origin comes from Jewish folklore, the story goes as follows; "King Solomon was trying to humble his wisest servant, so he asked him to perform a seemingly impossible task: to find something that did not exist. He requested a magic ring — one that, if a sad man wore it, he would become happy and if a happy man wore it, he would become sad." The story suggests that the servant could not find anything of such nature. So, King Solomon decided upon himself to go to a jeweller and design a ring with the inscription in Hebrew saying, "Gam ze ya'avov," which means, "This, too, shall pass."

Whatever the origin of the adage it does bring comfort to some but perhaps not so much for others.

How are you? What has been your experience of the last 6 months? How do you feel as we continue our journey through the 'ber' months?

I am weary, I am concerned for all of you, for our community. I miss our busy gatherings for worship on a Sunday morning. Although more confident than the first week, I find 'filming' worship on my mobile phone rather odd and being watched gives me a sense of vulnerability.

I appreciate the frustration people feel about the restrictions, particularly as they affect the life of the church. We are all trying, along with others, to find our way in an ever-changing set of circumstances.

In the book of the Psalms we read of the faithfulness of God from generation to generation

Ps 91 v 4, *'He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and your rampart'*

Psalm 117 v 2 *'For great is his love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever'*

I have said it before, but it bears repeating, we are not abandoned, we are never totally alone. God is with us. In Jesus we have one who is the same yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13 v 8). Earlier in the book of Hebrews in chapter 10 v 23 - 25 the writer says,

*'Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider who we may spur one another on to love and good deeds... let us encourage one another'*

We are constantly being bombarded by opinions, whether that is through social media, television, or other people! It is easy to get sucked into the dominant culture of criticism, complaint, and discouragement. As people of Christian faith one way we can

express our faith is by being counter cultural. Living in the way of Christ rather than the way of the society around us. Living intentionally, with an emphasis on encouraging others, serving others, loving others. How we choose to live and be in the community, with our families and friends really matters, especially in these days when we have indeed become a 'church without walls'. We have been let loose to live out our faith wherever we are, not containing it within a building or one hour on a Sunday morning.

May God Bless you and keep you, Rev Fiona





Martin Luther wrote these words, *'Beautiful music is the art of the prophets that can calm the agitations of the soul; it is one of the most*

*magnificent and delightful presents God has given us'.*

All kinds of music can stir our souls, it does not need to be the work of a Christian writer or composer. Many of us are currently missing singing with others, in a choir or in the congregation at church.

### Music in Worship

People's tastes vary. Some are moved by traditional Christian hymns played on an organ, others by ancient choral music sung a cappella, still others by more contemporary Christian songs with a driving beat. When the weekly online worship is put together, we sometimes use Search through YouTube on the internet for suitable hymns and songs to add to our worship.

## How Can I keep from Singing?

Where  
can I  
find

### Christian Hymns Worship?

If you have access to the internet do a search for YouTube. When you get there type Christian hymns into the search space and lots of hymns will come up that you can listen to. You can also search for a particular hymn by putting its title in the search box.

If choral church music is more your thing then search 'Google' (other search engines are available) for BBC3 Radio Choral Evensong, it will take you to a website with recorded Evensong services and clips of choral pieces. You can also tune in on to Radio 3 for live Evensong on a Sunday afternoon at 3pm or a Wednesday afternoon at 3.30pm. Radio 3 can be found at 90-93 FM

There are some good collections of Christian hymns and worship songs that you can purchase. A website that you can purchase CDs from is [www.eden.co.uk](http://www.eden.co.uk)

As the Psalmist wrote, *'Let everything that has breath, Praise the Lord!'* (Psalm 150)

FM

## Harvest in KPPC



This year, when we can't bring our harvest donations to church, we would like to recommend that you make a donation directly to Christian Aid, if you so wish.

Just go to [www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk) and go to the Appeals page, where you can make a donation of any amount from £1.00 to ... as much as you would like.

Thank you

## Will you support our Autumn Appeal?

When crisis arrived on our doorsteps this year, neighbourly love helped us through. Could you and your neighbours help more communities still facing crisis around the world? Communities living in poverty face crisis every day, but neighbourly love is powerful.

With your support, vulnerable communities are joining forces with their neighbours to overcome crisis together.

Just like Angela's farming community in Nicaragua whose coffee farms are threatened by climate change. With your support, they are coming together to share tools and knowledge.

United, this community can make the urgent changes needed to help their family farms last for generations so their children like Ariana can thrive.

Ordinary neighbours like you have come together to do extraordinary things for the most vulnerable in society. In this uncertain and fragile world, let's keep looking out for our neighbours near and far.



# OUR GIRL IN HONG KONG

我哋係香港嘅女仔。

*Regular readers will remember Alison's stories of her adventures in Shanghai, China, back in 2018. It was amazing to get such insights into life there. She followed up that stint with arriving home in time for Alex Ferguson's retirement and was thrust immediately into the position of choirmaster (a role she filled extremely well) until the church closed in March. She has now relocated to Hong Kong and it will be fascinating to have our own correspondent there in this very crucial time for the former colony.*

I have now been in Hong Kong since July 31st 2020 and have started work at Harrow International School, Hong Kong. The school is a British international boarding and day, all-through school in Tuen Mun, Hong Kong. Tuen Mun is situated in the New Territories which is on the mainland, near the Chinese province of Shenzhen. It's been an interesting beginning; quarantine, Covid 19 restrictions and online teaching.

My experience travelling to Hong Kong started from Glasgow Airport where it was eerily quiet. I was on a British Airways flight heading to London Heathrow then onwards to Hong Kong. The school had provided a wealth of instructions about what to do to before flying.



Harrow International School

This involved downloading the Hong Kong Stay Safe tracking app and completing an online health declaration form. Both flights were not full and allowed for social distancing, which was a

relief. Masks, of course, were mandatory for the duration of the flight unless eating.

Just before arrival in Hong Kong, I did start to become a little anxious about what was to come. I suppose the fear of the unknown is always worse than the actual event itself. My fears soon subsided as I discovered a very well organised airport, with plenty of staff directing you to the correct place. Within an hour of landing I had filled in a quarantine order, received a tracking bracelet (which became fondly known as my 'tag') and had it registered. They even rang my mobile phone to check that the number I had given them, was indeed mine! Onwards to immigration and to collect my bags.

On exit from the airport, there was a bus waiting to take us to the Expo Centre for our Covid test. It's a well-oiled machine. You are given a number, a testing kit and someone explains to you how to conduct the self-test. There is also a video for you to watch (just to ensure that you've understood completely!!). This made me smile, because as the good learning support teacher that I am we all learn in different ways. I am definitely a kinesthetic learner! The test is a deep throat saliva test and therefore there was no swabbing involved. After the test

was complete, the wait began!

The authorities test everyone on the plane before results are given out. Eight hours later and everyone on our plane was given the all clear to leave.

Another colleague and I organised a taxi to get us to our apartment at school, where we would be spending the next 14 days in quarantine. After an eventful taxi ride (the taxi had a flat tyre), I arrived in my apartment to a welcome card and a bottle of Prosecco from the Head Teacher. It's the small things that make a difference after twenty-four hours of travel. Time in quarantine went fairly quickly and I was blessed to have support from family and friends back home to see me through the days I found tough.

The third wave of Covid 19 was in full swing when I arrived. This meant restrictions on going out and schools closed. I would be starting my new job, teaching online. Now that I am six weeks in, the experience has not been as bad as I thought it might be. I am always impressed by how resilient children are and their ability to adapt to changing situations. There is now a plan in place for the resumption of school, under strict guidelines from the Education Bureau. Of course, the 'new normal' involves temperature checks, social distancing and masks at all times for everyone.

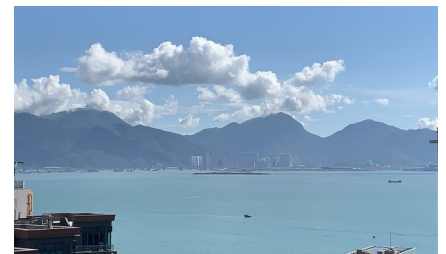
I now have my own apartment, near school, where I am settling well and getting to know the neighbourhood. I have had very little opportunity to explore, however over the coming months I hope to see some sights in Hong Kong and take in a few hikes once the weather turns a bit cooler.

Best wishes to you all ,

*Alison*



Alison Clark



View from Alison's Apartment

## THE LOCAL VIRTUAL CHURCH

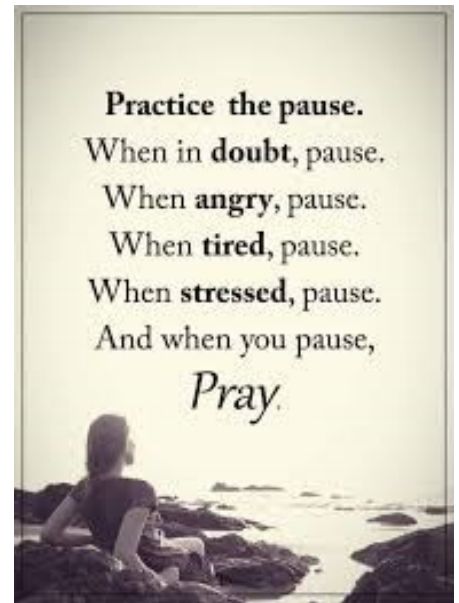
### What is it and what could it mean for us?

During lockdown a couple of Kay Park elders have been working alongside other churches in the Presbytery on the concept of 'Pioneer ministries' ie 'new ways of doing church', or 'planting new churches'. Doreen Walkinshaw has been part of the Presbytery Pioneer Group, overseeing the six or so proposed projects, and Doreen and Silvija Wilde have also focussed specifically on one of the proposals; the idea of establishing a Local Virtual Church.

Recognising that many folk during lockdown for would be an on-line God, but with a local focus. "Local Virtual Church is an exciting beacon of hope" had turned to the Internet spiritual support, this opportunity to engage with Not merely a recruitment tool for existing church provision, it would present new and exciting opportunities for worship, study, music and reflection, all on line.

Planning is still in its early stages, with some training for volunteers in all six projects just starting. Funding and other support from the Church of Scotland centrally are possibilities, but again, discussions are at an early stage.

In these strangest of times the potential for a Local Virtual Church is an exciting beacon of hope for development, growth and fulfilment – a new expression of Church for a new generation. Please keep it in your prayers.



### Shoe Box Appeal 2020

Despite the difficulties that they face every day, through poverty, illness, disability, or other disadvantages, receiving a shoebox brings such joy to children and adults in Eastern Europe, that their faces light up with huge smiles.

You can make such a difference to lives that are otherwise almost hopeless.

If you are having a problem sourcing an empty shoebox this year then please use a drawstring bag (no plastic ones please) instead. Maximum size 500mm x 300mm. These are available in a number of shops, especially sports shops.

**These are the drop off points for filled shoeboxes or bags.**

**Moira Graham, 4 Braehead Court on Tuesday 20 October, 9.30—12.30 or 1.30 —5.00 pm**

**Janette Steven, 12 De Walden Terrace on Wednesday 21 October, 9.30 —12.30 or 1.30 —5.00**

**Eleanor Hamilton, 58 Glasgow Road on Thursday 22 October, 9.30 am —12.30 or 1.30 —5.00 pm**

In the meantime we hope you will begin gathering items and can fill a box or a bag.

The usual forms which are handed out each year have an envelope in which you can place a donation and gift aid it. A small number of those are available in church on Sunday mornings. If you are unable to obtain one you can donate online at [www.blythwood.org](http://www.blythwood.org).

## Maybe next year?

I am so sorry to be telling all the people, who said that they were interested in joining our trip to attend the Grassington Dickensian Festival in Yorkshire in December, that the trip has been cancelled.

I reluctantly cancelled our booking with Dodds of Troon and with the hotel in Harrogate and read that the organisers of the festival had cancelled their event shortly afterwards—I'm sure that was a coincidence! Next year is the 40th Anniversary of the Dickensian Festival and they promise that, God willing, it will be the best ever.

It was nice to have something to look forward to back in May, but those of us who put our names down did so more in hope than certainty.

God bless, keep safe and I'll be in touch when there is good news.

Eleanor Hamilton

## Friendship Club

The Shining Lights are thinking about all our members and we are looking forward to the time when we can meet together again.

If there are any new developments we will try to keep you informed via the church website and the Kilmarnock Standard. I know that many of you are missing meeting together and enjoying one another's company. Fellowship is very important in these strange times.

Warmest wishes from the Shining Lights.



## The Guild



### From the Old we travel to the NEW

I hope everyone enjoyed the VIRTUAL ANNUAL GATHERING on Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2020 filled with old and new ideas.

This great movement that we are all part of has seen many changes throughout its 133 years, as we have faithfully transitioned through old ways to new ways of doing Guild in new and innovative ways. Since the lockdown in March this year has certainly been a year like no other; stopping us in our tracks, so to speak, unable to gather and share collectively in many ways – meetings, conferences and outings that had already been planned.

Some Guilds have already planned their 2020/21 year and others have decided to wait and see what happens

with COVID-19. Hopefully, it won't be too long before we have an update on the work of our project partners.

Keeping our strategy 'ONE JOURNEY, MANY ROADS' in mind, and our new theme – 'Going the Extra Mile' – remember in your prayers that we have a constant companion who will guide us as he has always done. As we all travel from the old to the new, He will be travelling alongside us too.

Then we will be able to get back to what the Guild does best, meeting and sharing together and looking forward to receiving the outstanding hugs that await us too.

**ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION:** This has been retained at £12 for this year and this is important as it goes towards the work of the Guild. Although we are not meeting at present the money is needed and I will send details as to where to send it once I have more instructions from Edinburgh.

We have been asked to **PRAY THIS WEEK** as follows:

**Monday:** for Mabel Wallace as she settles into her new role as National Convener

**Tuesday:** for all those known to us who are in hospital at this time, that God will heal and strengthen them.

**Wednesday:** that God will give us a listening ear and a humble and compassionate heart

**Thursday:** asking that when we face problems or difficulties, we will magnify God and not the problem

**Friday:** for those who feel scattered and those who feel exiled. Gather them to a place you have chosen and prepared for them, dear God

**Saturday:** that we will know when to stop and when to rest. That we might be refreshed for the tasks that are ahead of us.

**Sunday:** for churches that have opened for the first time since lockdown and that it will be a meaningful time of worship together



# On (Off) the buses



Towards the end of June I had a message from Rev Fiona 'Have wee thing you could help me with'. No problem says I !!

As essential workers, Stagecoach bus drivers have been using our church halls as their welfare space to have breaks, lunch etc, during the renovation works at the Bus Station, which left them with nowhere to relax between shifts. Fiona asked if I could help by delivering some home baking to make them feel welcome. Could I deliver on Monday, Oh and Friday as well. By the way there will be about 25 of them.

SO off I went and dug out my recipe books to look for tray-bake recipes.

The first week was a disaster but Mary Berry's Lemon Drizzle Cake was a success and has become a firm favourite. Over the weeks the following ladies have very kindly helped me out...Margaret Taylor, Eleanor Hamilton, Vanessa Twomey, Aileen McPhee, Olive Caldwell, Lyn Martin, Dorothy Smith and Anne Granger. I have had great fun each week researching recipes on the internet ranging from Oreo Cake, White Chocolate and Raspberry Cake to Peanut Butter Squares and Fifteens.

The drivers decided to start a collection and so far they have collected over £80 which is being donated to Christian Aid.

I am very grateful to Fiona for asking me to bake at a time when I was becoming quite down with not being able to see my children or family. Baking every Sunday and Thursday has helped me to feel less isolated but also help the local community.

The drivers will be in the halls till the end of October. If anyone would like to contribute a tray-bake, please let me know and I will add them to my rota. My mobile number is 07966 452941 and my email address is moiragraham25@yahoo.com



## Have you booked in for worship?

Those who have attended morning worship on the past few Sundays have said that they found the services both moving and relaxing and have been so pleased to be back in the sanctuary; although it is not 'normal service' as we have known it, it is lovely, friendly reflective worship.

You can book a place for worship on a Sunday morning at 10.30 am. by leaving a message on the office phone or by emailing Vanessa Twomey, our church administrator, on

[chrchdmnstr@outlook.com](mailto:chrchdmnstr@outlook.com)





## Finding my Latvian Family

Silvija Wilde, née Ledaunieks

In the time of Covid, there has been much focus on the concept and importance of Family. For me, there has been frustration at not being able to visit my stepsons and grandson up north. Husband Colin and I have however, been fine in our happy, little family unit.

This disruption of contact, is not, however, something alien to me, as, throughout my life, linking with family has been initially impossible and latterly difficult. The only child of Latvian parents who came to the UK as Displaced Persons after World War II, I was in my 30s before I met another blood relative. With both my Mum and Dad now gone, I have no blood relatives in Western Europe. Drawn from the Ayrshire Latvian community of the 1950s I have a few honorary aunts, uncles and cousins, to whom I am still close, but meeting actual blood family has been somewhat trickier.

The first opportunity came in 1987 when the Soviet Union, which annexed Latvia after the war, started to allow a few older people to visit relatives abroad, under strict conditions and undertakings. I remember appointments with lawyers to have lengthy documents signed, witnessed and crucially, embossed with the largest seal available. This went down well with Moscow. Permissions granted, Mum, Dad and I stood nervously at Heathrow Arrivals, to meet Silvija, Dad's sister and my namesake. No casual, cheap Ryanair flights into Prestwick in those far off days! All went well, we recognised each other and there was an emotional reunion for brother and sister after almost 50 years apart. I had met my first relative!

The following year, still in Soviet times saw me embark on a Baltic Tour with Intourist. This promised visits to Moscow, Leningrad, Tbilisi, and crucially, Riga, the Latvian capital.

Cousins were alerted and loaded with familial gifts I awaited departure at Gatwick, to be told that the tour would no longer include Riga, but alternately, the beautiful city of Tallin.... in Estonia! Disappointment did not begin to cover my feelings, and those of around 30 other tour members, who only had real interest in, and links with, Latvia. Phone calls (pre-mobile) were made (and tapped into) and a cousin made plans to travel to Tallin with her family to meet me. Undoubtedly I had attracted the attention of the Soviet authorities by this communication. I assumed that I would spend a few hours in Tallin with Daina, my cousin, but they had different ideas, and possibly somewhat ill-advisedly I

embarked on an illegal 24 hour round trip into Latvia – my first! I briefed a few other tour members on the plan and left them a room key, to rummage up the bed to appear slept in, and off we went, initially circling a nearby housing development at speed to shake off any following cars. Passing under guarded watchtowers along the Baltic coast, we reached Riga, travelled into the interior,

forbidden to tourists and met other relatives, saw family graves and visited parental home villages. My senses were completely overloaded with both the experience and worry for my cousins. If discovered I would probably have escaped with deportation. They would have been imprisoned. All went well, and I was reunited with the tour group hours before a re-scheduled early departure from Tallin. Phew!

In 1991 Latvia gained its independence from the Soviet Union and has subsequently become a member of the United Nations, entered NATO and joined the European Union. These new freedoms prompted a spate of family visits to my parents' home in De Walden Terrace, with everyone expecting grand tours of the whole UK and many hours spent in shops, still Aladdin's Cave compared to those at home. Having lived now 40 years without contact with relatives I discovered what my friends had long told me – be careful what you wish for! Many were splendid, a few less so!

Latvian independence also gave my parents the opportunity to make their sole journey back to what they had always regarded as their homeland, in 1994. I accompanied them on what was an extremely emotional couple of weeks, with them meeting folk for the first, and probably the last, time in over 50 years. I will never forget my Dad hugging a huge tree which he had planted as a youngster on the family farm. Interestingly, that trip unexpectedly confirmed for my parents that Scotland, their adopted country, was actually their homeland.



With relatives in 2019



It was only in 2017, over 20 years later, that I made my next trip to the Baltic. Mum had recently passed away, and during a phone conversation with one of my two surviving aunts in my floundering Latvian language, I heard myself saying that I would visit in a few months! This seemed an easier option to expressing my thoughts and feelings over the phone in my second (and not wholly proficient) language.

This successful trip, undertaken with one honorary cousin, was followed two years later by another visit, with another 'cousin'. On that occasion, I was able to exercise my new, Latvian EU passport, reflecting my joint nationality. An aunt, many cousins, great-nieces were duly visited (illustrated) but my main purpose on that journey was to track down the second aunt, whom I had met once, briefly, on the trip with Mum and Dad, many years beforehand. We exchanged Christmas cards, so I had an address, but no other means of communication. She lived around 150 miles from Riga. I wrote and told her about my impending visit, with the date on which I was hoping to travel to her sheltered housing unit. I

heard nothing back, so did not know if she was still there, or was well enough to understand my letter. With considerable trepidation, we set off on the allotted day, my cousin's husband driving us the many miles south-west, often on unmade roads. We found the building, but were unsure of how to find Tanta Dzidra. On entering the main house, I looked down the corridor, and there she was, arms outstretched, waiting for me. It was wonderful, our emotion reflected in the photo, taken a few minutes later.



So, family for me is a rich, complex, ever evolving concept, which I hope to develop further in my next visit to Latvia, when this time has passed.



## Lunchbreak

After considerable thought about the future of the Church Lunchbreak, I have reluctantly decided to retire from the Committee after nearly 7 years of just super fun. With Covid having such a dramatic affect on our society, I feel the new regulations that would inevitably be applied to the Lunchbreak would prevent me from contributing in the same way.

I have been so lucky in having such an enthusiastic Team of Servers and Food Makers over the years without which, it would have been impossible to function. I would like, therefore, to thank all these special people and of course our Customers in the Congregation and far beyond. There was one particular couple who made the trip specially all the way from Carluke ! Clearly the reputation of our soup and bread and butter pudding spread far and wide ! I will miss the chat in the Kitchen and around the tables.

Sheila Davies



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# *'I am the Church, You are the Church, We are the Church Together'*

Rev Fiona Maxwell

In recent months, a small group set up by the Kirk Session has been working alongside our staff, Paul, Susan, and Vanessa, towards the re-opening of the church sanctuary. The people involved in the group are Janet Grant, Moira Graham, Aileen McPhee, Andrew Robinson, Vanessa Twomey and Rev Fiona. The Church of Scotland nationally has been in constant dialogue with the Scottish Government so that the guidelines could be drawn up to assist us at a local level. We are now on version 6 of the said document which you can find by following this link [https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0004/69610/COVID-19-Coronavirus-Reopening-Church-Buildings-Guidance-V.7.pdf](https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/69610/COVID-19-Coronavirus-Reopening-Church-Buildings-Guidance-V.7.pdf)

Suffice it to say the situation is complex and ever-changing but I am most grateful to those who have worked with me and shared the burden of the planning and preparations required.

## **Sunday Mornings**

The church sanctuary is now open on a Sunday morning for a short act of worship, lasting around 30 minutes. With current social distancing we have spaces for 28 people each Sunday morning. So far, the number of places taken each week has been around 20. It is different but here are some comments from folks who have attended:

*Being back at church, for me, has been very moving and a bit like a homecoming after a long journey. I know it is not about the building but being there feels so peaceful and nearer to God. It is lovely to see members of our church family but sad that we cannot hug one another or sing together. (Jean Deans)*

*Lovely to catch up with people i have not seen for six months. Foot tapping is the new singing and Rev Fiona's words each week are, as always, thought- provoking, but so apt as to how I am feeling. A very peaceful experience. (Moira Graham)*

*A lovely experience to be welcomed back into a church family. Quite different but despite the masks, 2 metre distancing and lack of the many usual luxuries, it felt very special, comforting and reflective of the reality we are living in. (Dorothy Smith)*

## **Online Worship**

Along with myself, there are three others involved on a weekly basis, producing online worship, they are, Alex Ferguson, Allan Hamilton, and Mike Higgins. Each week we 'meet' online not in person. We review, discuss, plan. Those of us you see 'on screen' film whatever we are doing on our mobile phones then send that to Allan or Mike who will edit and put together the service. It involves a considerable amount of work each week. We have received feedback that those who worship using the online service are finding it helpful:

*A word of thanks to the Rev Fiona and the KPPC team for compiling and producing an excellent online service each Sunday. During these unusual times it is uplifting to still feel part of the KPPC family as we tune in for worship. Viewing familiar faces on screen combined with bible readings, lovely music and comforting words from the Rev Fiona is something to look forward to on a Sunday morning. (Bryan and Aileen Sansum)*

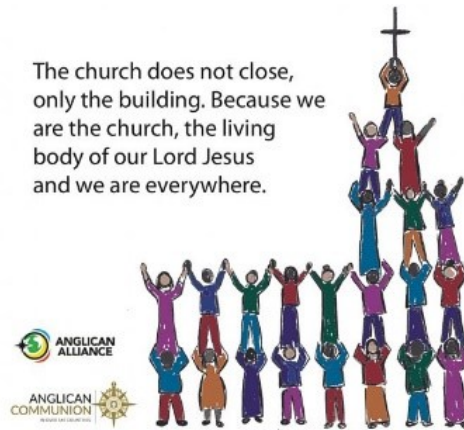
*While we have all missed attending Church and meeting our Church family, we are so fortunate to have the opportunity to participate in worshipping online. Fiona, Alex, Mike and Alan work for many hours each week to produce the thoughtful online services, and if you haven't yet done so, I encourage you to tune in on a Sunday morning to share in worship together. (Bill and*

### Telephone Worship

Others have been using the telephone to listen to the weekly worship. Please be sure that your call to the number is charged at a **local rate**. Pass the number around to others you feel might enjoy listening to our weekly worship.

I suspect that we are going to be worshipping in these different ways for some time to come and maybe long term but wherever we are God is with us.

**PLEASE SEE THE BACK PAGE OF THE MAGAZINE FOR ALL THE DETAILS OF EMAIL CONTACT ADDRESSES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS**



### Church Halls

Currently our church hall is used each day of the week as a mess room for drivers employed by Stagecoach. This arrangement began during lockdown under the provision for essential services.

We are in contact with the other groups (both internal and external) who use our halls to establish how we can work towards the halls being used again. Some groups are unable to meet because of the six people from two household rule whilst other groups are exempt from this rule. New contracts will need to be issued to all groups in the light of changes regarding Covid 19 and all groups will be required to have completed a Risk Assessment prior to any return to the building, As yet there is no date set for the re-opening of the church halls for general use.

## *Would you like to chat?*

Would you like to have a phone call from someone from the church every few weeks? Just for a chat? Do you find in this pandemic that you don't speak to anyone for days at a time? Many of us feel the same.

The Pastoral Group is hoping to set up a Churchline, similar to Esther Rantzen's Silverline, where we can match people who would like to receive a call, with another member who would love to chat to them.

If you would like someone to call you, then please let our Church Administrator, Vanessa Twomey, know. By giving her your name, address and telephone number, you will be added to the calls list. The list would be confidential.

Similarly, if you would enjoy chatting to people on a more regular basis, then give Vanessa your name and tell her you would like to be a caller.

This might take a few weeks to set up, but where there's a will, there is definitely a way.

This is the number that you can call to make contact with Vanessa—07769 573311





## Socially Distanced Strolling

Over these last six months life as we knew it has changed in so many ways. Unfortunately our ability to meet as a group for social walks has had to be replaced by socially distanced walks, often restricted to our own household or “bubble”. Particularly in the earlier phases of lockdown, our inability to meet other households and restrictions on travel to within five miles curbed our ability to do much more than walk locally. However, we were fortunate that the weather at that time was such that we were encouraged to do so on a fairly regular basis.

Maureen and I returned to some of those we had visited with either the Strollers or Striders, after deciding that we could stretch the five mile limit as far as Galston and Troon as well as some more local routes. We also tried to find some new routes in the local area and some suggestions follow. These can be tailored, depending on how long you feel comfortable walking, either due to distance or to time constraints.

### Bonnyton – Knockentiber Loop

Starting in Bonnyton Road, after crossing Munro Avenue, walk on minor road over Fardalehill towards Knockentiber. Hopefully you will have chosen a clear day and, like us, be rewarded and surprised by just how much of the Ayrshire countryside and outwards to Arran you can view from this point. On arrival in Knockentiber you have a choice to make. The **longer route** involves taking left, then right onto a minor road and following this for around a mile until you cross the bridge over the former railway line. Immediately you cross this, take left down a rough track to meet the Kilmarnock to Irvine cycle path. Take left onto this and follow past Knockentiber until reaching Western Road in Kilmarnock where take right and continue onto Munro Avenue and rejoin Bonnyton Road. In Knockentiber, to follow the **shorter route**, take right and walk through the village until you reach the bridge. Take left down onto the cycle path then right and continue, as above, to reach Western Road.

### Gatehead – Milton Mill – Crosshouse – Gatehead



Another route which offers a longer and shorter option. We parked at The Cochrane in Gatehead, currently still closed, before walking on the minor road towards the Milton Mill. Depending on how full

the trees are, as you leave Gatehead, try looking to your left and hopefully you will be able to pick out Fairlie House, which, although accessed from the main Troon road, cannot be seen from there. Continue until Milton Mill from where you will see the Milton Viaduct, the

world's oldest surviving railway viaduct as it crosses the River Irvine. This is your decision point, the **longer route** continues

straight on past the entrance to Craig House to meet the Crosshouse / Springside road at the top of Thornton Brae. Taking right here, there is a pavement back into Crosshouse to again take right at the traffic lights onto Gatehead Road. After a couple of hundred yards (old school distance), as the roads bends to the left, we are rejoined by the shorter route for the return to Gatehead. Again there is a pavement all the way. On reaching the main road, simply take right to complete your route. The **shorter route** from Milton Mill takes right onto a minor road which passes Craig Cottages and rejoins the longer route on Gatehead Road in Crosshouse.

### Holmes Road—Caprington Castle—Riccarton /Earlston

This final option may be more appealing to those who are encouraged by the presence of a coffee stop en route and again offers two options on distance. We can walk this one from home so parking / starting point is a matter of your choice. **You may want to wear sturdy shoes or boots for these ones.** The routes are described from Holmes Road in Kilmarnock from where you continue down, over the bridge into Caprington Estate (the Castle one, not the housing one). For the **shorter route**, continue into the estate for around three hundred yards and, as the main estate road bends to the right, you take left onto an unmade track. Shortly this bears to the right and becomes firmer underfoot with stones / gravel. Continue to follow this wooded path which will bring you out at the Caprington Golf Clubhouse. This is a decision point. Do you

go for coffee at De Waldens on Ayr Road or just continue on your walk? Either way, I'll describe your return route from here. You do not need to exit onto Ayr Road. Simply take left along a footpath and into Caprington (housing) estate. Continue along Inchgotrick Road, Stafflar Drive, left into Cunninghame Drive then right into Darnley Drive to reach junction with Stonyhill Avenue and Maxholm Road. Take left along Maxholm Road until you reach a right hand bend. From here you can take left and access an unmade path which you follow back into Caprington (Castle) estate and rejoin your original route at the bridge over the river. Take right over this and return to civilisation. For the **longer route**,



after initially crossing the bridge, continue until a junction where the castle is just to your right. Take left and follow path until exiting the estate onto the Gatehead to Earlston road. Take left here and follow road through Earlston. As you leave Earlston, the road will rise. At the crest of the rise, adjacent to a house on your left, take left onto an unmade path. You will pass through a gate and continue on the unmade path. This will bring you to meet Caprington Golf Course, where you continue straight across following the path. Shortly you will pass

Blacksyke Tower, or "The Old Castle" if, like me, you were raised in Shortlees, believed to be a former engine pumping house for colliery workings in the area. This path leads onto Ayr Road, immediately adjacent to De Waldens. From here, with or without a coffee stop, you can take left along Ayr Road to Caprington Golf Club and rejoin the shorter route. For these routes, you may choose to remain on the main roads and return via Campbell Street, Holmquarry Road and Aird Avenue.

David Miller

## A Special Birthday Trip

Lorna Anderson

On 5th August 1951 I celebrated my 1st birthday on Ailsa Craig with my parents and older brother. Not that I remember anything about it, nor does my brother who was 4 at the time. Mum and Dad always spoke highly of the wee tearoom on the island which was renowned for

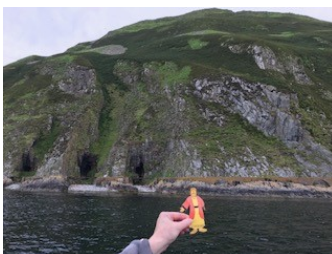


its pristine white table covers and delicious scones. Every time I saw the imposing Ailsa Craig (Paddy's Milestone) I could always fondly say that I had been there when I was 1.

However, I finally decided to visit it, as part of my BIG birthday celebrations this year, so that I could then have first-hand experience of this amazing island. Ailsa Craig is now an uninhabited bird sanctuary for gannets (40,000 breeding pairs approx.) and an ever-increasing number of puffins. Kays of Scotland still produce curling stones from its Blue Hone Granite. I'm quite proud that I was presented with a mini curling stone when I retired from teaching.



So, on the 1st August this year, the birthday girl set out at 9am with 11 members of my family ranging in age from 8 to 82 to enjoy an excursion from Girvan to Ailsa Craig. The 10-mile boat trip normally takes about an hour to arrive at the pier at Ailsa Craig, but our trip there took 90 minutes. Although it was a sunny day, the water was choppy, but that made it an exhilaratingly comical journey, except for 8 year old Lewis who was seasick, but recovered quickly.



Arriving at the pier, we were welcomed by dozens

of seals, popping up their puppy-dog heads to get a better view of their visitors...the boatmen then left us on the island for 2 hours to explore, while they went off fishing. We picnicked, walked, laughed at the seals and some of the younger ones climbed up the steep path to the ruined 3 storey castle and got some fabulous photos. Two hours later our boat arrived back but not before two sailors came off their yacht by dinghy, a bit perplexed by twelve people wandering about an island with no boat in sight.

We then had a sail right round the island, stopping at the gannets to get some fine photos and videos of them diving for the fish, which the boatmen had caught. Five hours after setting sail from Girvan we arrived back and were all ready to enjoy a Girvan Fish Supper.

Quote of the day came from 8 year old Lewis..."I can't believe I've been to that huge rock in the middle of the sea". And it was huge, but not as huge and steady as our God, the Rock who is higher, bigger and greater than all the mountains combined.



It was certainly a Staycation activity that we would all recommend.





## REFLECTIONS OF AN ELDERLY REPORTER !!

About twenty years ago my dear friend Mrs H (Eleanor) suggested to me what a good idea it would be if I were to interview office bearers and members of the congregation and submit an article for the church magazine. Knowing me so well, she knew that I would be a suitable candidate for the position due to my innate curiosity. After some consideration I accepted the challenge, and I have to say that I have had a very interesting and enlightening twenty years.

My first "victim" was Jack Leishman, who was Session Clerk at the time in Henderson Church. This proved to be a good start for me, because, as you know, Jack leads a full life and is very easy to talk to. This gave me a little confidence to continue in my new role.

However, at the moment, due to our current situation, it is rather more difficult to approach people and to visit them at home. Online and telephone calls are acceptable, but to obtain the full picture you must meet face to face with the interviewee, preferably in their own home. I have to say that I myself might be slightly hesitant if someone approached me and asked for an interview. Many years ago, however, Eleanor did succeed, with the help of my husband and without my prior knowledge, in compiling an article about me.

I would like to say how welcoming everyone has been when I visit them. It is a very natural process and we just have a wee chat and one thing leads to another. However, it is often the case that we go off on several tangents, always learning a little bit more. I don't think that I am blowing my own trumpet when I say, that I am genuinely interested in and

fascinated by other people, their achievements and all life's challenges they have had to face. This is where the "innate curiosity or perhaps nosiness" comes in!!

Needless to say, it was marvelous when Old High and Henderson united.

This afforded me more rich pickings and opportunities. Occasionally some people have turned me down and this is quite understandable, but on the whole, many have been amenable to my request.

May I take this opportunity to thank all of you who have accepted the challenge. Everyone has been very kind to me, and it was a privilege to share your experiences. May I also remind you, that if we ever return to some kind of normality, I will again be on the lookout for new participants.

What has emerged over the years, is that we are a very friendly group of people, for whom Kay Park Church and its members are very important.

May you all remain safe and well in these strange times.



Shiona and John Thomson on one of their many, many holidays!

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## *Rome, August 2020 - Fiona Kendall*

Dear friends

I hope this finds you safe, well and in good spirits. I am conscious that the past six months have been a testing time for all of us and that, for some, this continues to be the case. I remained in Rome throughout the Italian lockdown, which began nation-wide on 9th March 2020.

From the outset a strict regime was enforced: essentially, we could not leave our homes other than to shop for groceries, attend medical appointments, work or exercise. All who could work remotely were asked to do so. A self-certification form was required at all times and fines of up to EUR 3,000 levied for those not complying with the measures. A gradual easing began on 4th May.

Whilst we remain obliged to wear masks in all closed public spaces, including on public transport, and 1m social distancing remains in place, in many other respects much of the old life has resumed. For a culture which spends much of its time outdoors and in the company of others, this is a huge relief.

The past six months have provided me with new insights. I have come to appreciate as never before the significance of freedom of movement and the value of human connection. I have been moved not only by seeing folk “for real” again but also by how friendships were made across balconies and strengthened online. This was unexpectedly underlined in June when I spent a week in one of Rome’s hospitals after breaking my collarbone whilst out running. Admission was subject to a negative test for Covid 19 and, for obvious reasons, no visitors were permitted. Virtual contact there was absolutely invaluable. What a blessing to be able to continue to speak to family and friends, attend church and even work meetings!

A working group from the Italy Waldensian and Methodist Churches was very quick off the mark in trialling “Zoom Worship” on 15th March, less than a week after the lockdown was imposed. For the sixty or so of us who participated in that first try at online worship, it was very powerful to come together, to see one another’s faces and to be reminded of the constancy of God and faith in even the most extreme situations. At its peak, participants numbered around 400 – but it was not long before other churches, including the congregations with which I am directly involved in Rome, began to offer services via YouTube, Facebook and other

means. If you are like me, you will have enjoyed being able to dip into a number of different services from around the world and to participate with family and friends in far-flung places

as well as close to home. We are now tentatively returning to church buildings but it is now clear to me that both virtual and “in person” worship have much to offer.

The Federation of Protestant Churches in Italy, of which the Mediterranean Hope project is part, responded quickly to the pandemic and raised significant funds to help to alleviate extreme suffering. The MH team adapted well to remote working. Apart from those in Lebanon, who were recalled for their own safety, everyone else remained in situ. We have all stayed connected with each other and with the migrants we care for via telephone, Skype and Zoom. The larger scale meetings which normally take me to other cities and countries have also proceeded virtually. I have found this a very efficient – and environmentally-friendly – way of working. I very much hope that this will continue, whether we are able to travel freely again. Some of the Lebanon team had already returned to Beirut when the explosion happened on 4<sup>th</sup> August 2020. The windows of our office were blown in and one of the team was admitted to hospital with facial injuries from flying glass. We were fortunate to escape so lightly. Immediately, the refugees the team works with rallied to offer help to sort out the office and, incredibly, to offer to put up our staff members in their own homes. How often we find that those who have least offer most.

The humanitarian corridors scheme, which brings migrants safely and legally from Lebanon to Italy, had to be suspended in March due to the travel restrictions but we hope to be able to revive this from next month. Negotiations are underway with the Italian government for a new protocol for the coming years, and we are asking for new countries to be included in that. It has been good to hear senior government ministers publicly calling for European Humanitarian Corridors from North





Africa, as this has been our clarion call for some time now.<sup>12</sup> The scheme continues to be held up as a model of best practice by, amongst others, UNHCR3, with whom we continue to work closely.

The team in impoverished Calabria has continued to support exploited migrant workers. In the early weeks of the pandemic, their focus shifted to educating those in camps about the real threat posed by the virus – rumoured to be a “white man’s disease” – and to providing masks and hand sanitiser, particularly crucial in a setting where there is often no running water. Interestingly, the health crisis has triggered a change in Italian law, long campaigned-for by activists, which will see some of these exploited workers provided with documents, rights and conditions which were previously denied to them. Our team has now turned its attention to finding accommodation for these workers, the government having announced its intention to dismantle the tent cities where so many reside in appalling conditions.

Lampedusa has again become the focus of media attention. The fine summer weather has, as usual, seen an increase in the numbers attempting the deadly Mediterranean crossing from North Africa. Whilst the numbers are significantly lower than was the case five years ago, any arrivals pose challenges. The “hotspot” (detention centre) is full and, after an outcry about those arriving being forced to sleep outdoors on the quay, a ship is now moored off Lampedusa to quarantine those arriving for fourteen days before they are transferred to other parts of Italy to begin the

asylum process. The team there continues to offer what support it can to those arriving and to work with the local community to dissipate tension.

In short, MH continues to work to improve the lot of those seeking a better life in a foreign place, as well as the communities where they end up. For a team which relishes new challenges and being creative, the pandemic is simply another obstacle to be tackled, with the usual tenacity and good humour. It remains a joy to be part of that team.

The pandemic did, however, force me to postpone my long-planned deputation period in Scotland during the month of April. I very much hope that this can soon be rescheduled – perhaps to early next year – and that we can meantime maintain virtual contact. Thank you to all who continue to encourage and pray for me, and for MH’s work. If you are willing, please pray for the following:

- A continued sense of responsibility in keeping ourselves – and others – safe from Covid 19;
- Revival of humanitarian projects affected or suspended by the pandemic;
- Reasoned debate about migration issues and recognition of the contribution migrants make.

Every blessing  
Fiona  
@FionaKMedHope

## Money Matters



### Free Will Offering (FWO) Envelope Giving

On May 26<sup>th</sup> I wrote to all those members who normally give by envelope, asking them to consider giving their financial support to the church by other means, for example, by sending a cheque to me at the church address or by completing a Standing Order and cancelling their FWO giving.

The reason for writing to these members was because the church had not received their usual financial contribution, due to the Covid19 pandemic and the resultant closure of the church and to offer other ways for them to make their usual contribution.

I have now received just over £3000 from these members and, on behalf of the church, I would like to thank all of them sincerely for their ongoing support.

If there are any other members who normally give by FWO envelope and would like to make ongoing contributions please contact me at the undernoted contact details.

Phone : 01563 401209

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

Mail : Alex Steven, 12 Dewalden Terrace Kilmarnock KA37AY

Alex Steven—Treasurer.

# Life and Love with the Fergusons

## **"Tae see oorsels and the best laid plans"**

The past few months have seen much activity and a couple of marked events in the KPPC Ferguson clan.

### **"Tae see oorsels"**

Lockdown had us in the garden – completing projects – trying to source pallets, fence paint and compost along with 99% of the population. Projects completed, Alex's thoughts turned to online music. Having been approached by Rev Fiona, the choir members were contacted and asked if they'd like to take part in some virtual rehearsals. KPPC Choir Zoomers group was born. Our first project was to learn how to use Zoom and how to adapt to the online environment. We had some real laughs along the way. When we are rehearsing we can see "oorsels" and everyone else but the sound has to be turned off when we are singing. Not because it sounds bad – but because there is such a time lag over the internet that we would never sound "together". Twenty odd brave souls from the choir and extended family took part in rehearsals which produced our first online anthem "Bless the Lord Oh My Soul". Alex has gone on to provide regular music offerings for the online services helped by Morag, Hannah and Rachel who have all contributed. He has particularly enjoyed working with Allan Hamilton and Mike Higgins – and it gave him a great excuse to set up his recording studio.

### **"My love is like a red, red rose"**

There was the happy occasion of a wedding to prepare for- Hannah was to marry Kieran in KPPC on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April– followed by a reception at Robert Burns Birthplace Museum in Alloway.

### **"The best laid schemes o' Mice an' men....."**

But Covid put paid to that – all gatherings were forbidden – we rearranged for 21<sup>st</sup> of August. As Burns might have said –

"Just stay inside, the hoose, ye bide  
Nae sneakin oot for strolls  
Just check the lavvy every oor  
And stocktake your loo rolls"

We prayed that the restrictions on numbers would be lifted and they were – slightly. The best scenario for the biggest gathering was to have the wedding outdoors. Gardens were compared and it was decided to use Rachel and Alistair's in Arran Avenue. Unfortunately (for us) Fiona was away on holiday – fortunately our good friend Dr David Lacy was available – with words to

inspire us.

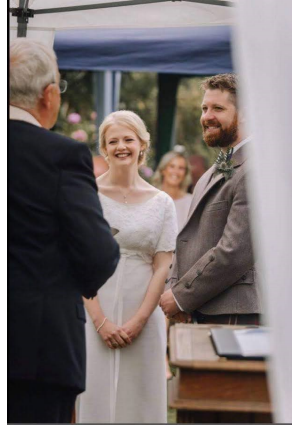
"A fig for those by law protected!  
Liberty's a glorious feast!  
Courts for cowards were erected,  
Churches built to please  
the priest!"

So the family and friends built David a church without walls with a bower (beautifully decorated by Aileen Sansum), benches assembled from pallets, and lots of gazebos were erected. We prepared and adorned the garden – and it all felt like a real community effort – family, neighbours and KPPC members working together. We put our best feet forward and Vanessa helped immensely – looking after the weans, both big and small. Her crafting skills ensured that that Alex, Kieran and the groomsmen were ready to greet their guests with straight buttonholes. The weather on the few days before the wedding was beautiful and the venue looked stunning. The forecast for the 21<sup>st</sup> read – 92% chance of precipitation – up to 40mph winds – stormfront Francis was on its way....

### **"Before the morn ye'll work mischief:"**



It blew the bower gazebo back into Douglas and Sheila's garden – the neighbours from whom it had been borrowed! It played havoc with Aileen's hollyhocks and tried to rain on Hannah and Kieran's parade but they were for none of it – they resolved to go ahead with the ceremony in the garden – whatever the weather – their love would carry them through. Ponchos and brollies were to be at the ready!





"My hert's in the Hielands, my hert is na here,  
My hert's in the Hielands, a-chasing the deer"  
And so it was – storm Francis tried but failed – the  
weather held out and we had a magical day of love,  
laughter, music and dancing

"Some hae meat and canna eat,  
And some wad eat that want it,



But we hae meat and we can  
eat,  
And sae the Lord be thankit!"

We had to prepare for social  
distancing – benches all 2mtrs  
apart – everyone had their  
own glass with their name on it  
– families had their own  
buckets – with a selection of  
drinks – the caterer prepared a  
bamboo bowl for each guest  
with a selection of delicious  
food – Gill Kelly (Walkinshaw)

provided an amazing Bake Off standard cake, which hit a  
world record ....as it was completely consumed by the  
next day! Allan Hamilton piped the bride in and out –  
Mike Higgins filmed her arrival - Bill Kean played piano  
(on the balcony from a suitable distance) – the  
McIlwraith brothers sang for half an hour – neighbours  
hung over walls – KPPC members, family and friends  
who couldn't attend because of the restriction on  
numbers were present in the street to show their  
support. Rosa and Ailsa sang "Raindrops on Roses" and  
taught Sophie how to walk especially for the occasion.

And we had the most magical day. We were sad of  
course that we couldn't use the church building, but the  
wedding was spectacular. We even sang a hymn (very  
quietly). Possibly the first to have been sung since  
lockdown!

Hannah and Kieran went off to Arran on honeymoon and  
we cleared up and got ready for the next chapter – the  
birth of Sarah – our fourth granddaughter – who was  
born on the 23rd of Sept.

*"Thou's welcome, wean! Mishanter fa' me  
If thoughts o' thee, or yet thy Mamie,  
Shall ever daunt me  
or awe me,  
My bonnie lady,  
Or if I blush when thou  
shalt ca' me  
Tyta, or Daddie!"*

As I write this we are waiting  
on her coming home – we  
may only be able to see her  
through a window – and we  
pray that things will get better  
– and we know they will – one  
thing we do know – as a  
family - We are blessed  
indeed!



We miss you all and pray that you and your loved ones  
stay healthy in these difficult times – hope to see you  
soon.

*Love – the KPPC Ferguson Clan*



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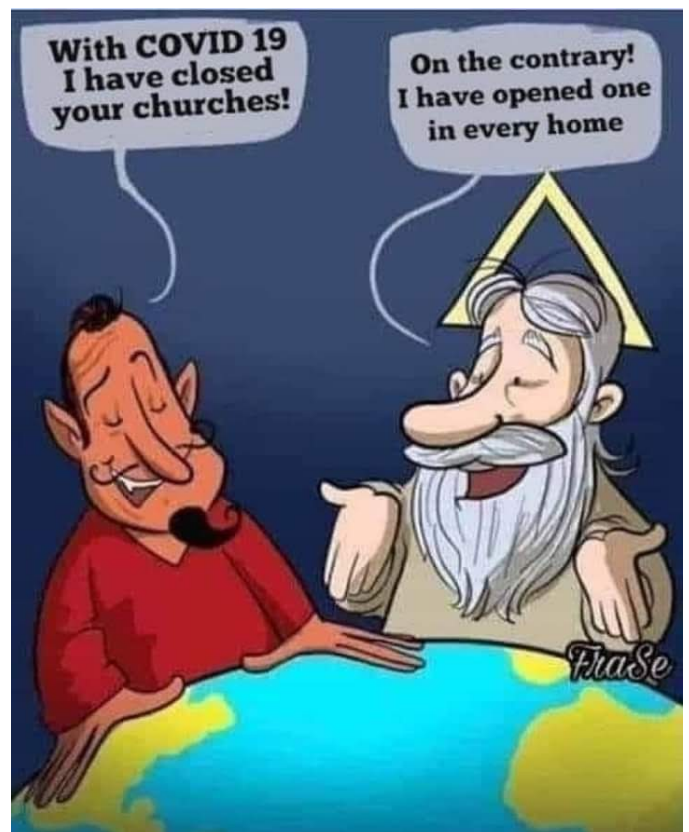
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# A prayer for now ...

To all our church friends,

We, the Prayer Group, hope that you are all surviving, as best you can, in these strange and sometimes frightening times that we now find ourselves living through.

Without the Church to give us structure to our week, meeting and greeting our fellow worshippers, listening to the organ playing well known and dearly beloved hymns, singing together, praying together, meeting in the hall for coffee and sitting with friends hearing their news and coming away filled with enough joy to sustain us during the week, we feel lost

All gone. But God tells us this is only temporary :

"Your word is a lamp to guide me and a light for my path." Psalms 119--105

Life has been a difficult challenge for us all. Some have stuck to the advice given, others have not.

Some have been kind and helpful, others have not. Pray for them all.

Do not deceive yourselves, no one makes a fool of God. Galatians,6--7

Our group prays for everyone, we pray for our Governments, that they make the right decisions; our medical staff, that God gives them the strength to carry on giving their all to the sick, for everyone who has worked to keep our country and its people surviving, for the bereaved and lonely. God give us peace and our youngsters a future.

Every day may seem dark, but look for the rainbows and not the pot of gold.

Autumn is nearly here, if you can get outside, and enjoy it, savour it..

If you can't get out, look in the morning for the sunrise or the sunset in the evening, no matter what happens in the future, these miracles will still happen each God given day

God says," I will never leave you nor forsake you." Hebrews13. 5--6

Always remember, you may have lost sight of God and despair, but he will never lose you.

May God bless you and keep you safe.

From Rene Larmour, Olive Gow and your Kay Park Parish Church Prayer Group.



*At the moment, as we are not in church, please feel free to phone or email Rene Larmour or Olive Gow with your prayer requests,*

*Rene—526013 or renagor2@gmail.com*

*Olive—528954 or olivegow@hotmail.co.uk*



# Church Notices

## New Members

Mrs Lyn Martin,  
85 Culzean Crescent

Mrs Morag Lindsay,  
15 Melville Street

WELCOME!

## Those who have died

*"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

31 March Dr Alan Orchardton,  
Gracelands Nursing Home

16 April Mrs Isabel Shedden,  
Hallhouse Nursing Home.

15 May Mrs Margaret Heath,  
27 Melville Street

03 September Mr Joe Cochrane,  
48 Manor Avenue

## Wedding

Hannah Ferguson  
to  
Kieran Howie  
on  
21 August 2020



**It's okay to not be okay.  
Some days are just  
harder than others.**



Think Positive Words



## 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](mailto:m_steven@sky.com)



## Have you been sharing worship?

Every Sunday morning, at any time after 9.00 am, you can join into a service, led by Rev Fiona.

We are unbelievably lucky to have an excellent preacher who has adapted to speaking to us online although she is unable to see us, supported by talented readers, first class musicians and singers and a team who can film, edit and produce a different 30 minute service every week.

The amount of work that goes into making these short films is unbelievable. Before the summer 'break' we had so many of our choir members filming from their homes, accompanied by Alex Ferguson on his keyboard. Simple—you wish!!

Only one of the team was experienced in filming, Mike Higgins, whom you will have seen on the news with great regularity for many years. His voice alone is so familiar. The very act of putting all the faces together, never mind the voices, was a mammoth task. Allan Hamilton, who was a 'polis' of high rank in a previous life, has been recording our services for many years and, thanks to him, there is a reservoir of music which can be included in the online worship. Allan has been a very fast learner, but even he must admit that it has taken this team many hours to put together our services on a Sunday. We all know Alex Ferguson, and he has been heard singing on the majority of the recordings, as well as singing with and rehearsing the choir. The last member of the regular team is the minister herself. We all know how good she is on her feet every Sunday in church, responding to our faces and to the comments she hears, never still, using her hands to great effect. This has been a learning experience for her as well, adapting to speaking into a camera, which gives no response back. She now looks like a pro and can relax enough to smile back at the camera! To all these people, to those who read the lessons, who sing for us and smile for us, we are very grateful.

If you have a tablet, laptop or computer at home, all you have to do is put [www.kayparkparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.kayparkparishchurch.org.uk) into the bar at the top of your screen, click on Services and then on the drop down menu click on Our Current Worship Service—three clicks, that's all it takes and you're in! Enjoy. You can catch up on some of the past services while you're there. If you don't have internet access, you can hear it on the telephone, by dialling 01563 444426, charged at a local rate

If you go to the church website on [www.kayparkparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.kayparkparishchurch.org.uk), you will see, on the right-hand side of the page, under the church logo etc, a little box above which it says Subscribe to News from this Site. If you just put your email address into this box, you will receive UpToDate news from the church, about services, openings etc. This Sunday for instance, the minister has asked that anyone joining in the online worship should have, in their hand, a seed, a crumb, a nut... something to eat!

Join in the service and find out what that is all about!

## USEFUL CONTACTS

### MINISTER:

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