

The Lych Gate

The Newsletter of St Machar's Ranfurly Church



June 2020

Volume 22 Issue 3



MINISTER'S LETTER



From the minister

We now have two months of lockdown behind us and some glimmers of hope of a slight easing ahead. Most of us will likely agree it has not been easy, with new challenges practical, emotional or relational being thrown at us. Perhaps we'll also be able to point to some things that have been good, or that we've learned to appreciate when we've perhaps taken these for granted before. This time may have also given us new opportunities to try things we have not tried before. We've perhaps been forced to embrace new technologies as a way to keep in touch, seek advice or buy things we've needed. I know many of you have been watching our online services, and although many (including myself) look forward to the day we can gather in person, these digital services have enabled people to tune in, who would not otherwise have (been able to or wanted to) come to our church building. This certainly is a development we will not want to reverse, and as a Kirk Session we will look into how to keep live streaming our services in the future.

As your minister I have certainly missed physically gathering with you on Sundays for worship, and during the week. It has also been harder (initially at least) to involve others in putting together the online services, which has in effect led to a return to the 'minister does all' model of the past. This is not a good or fruitful development as we've often pointed out, we all bring gifts to the body of Christ. I am trying to address this by inviting people to send in recordings of prayers or readings, and can widen this to pictures or music or even short written reflections or poetry. If you are interested, please email or call me and I can share the planned readings and themes up until July and explain how to send things to me. The All Age service of the 17th of May was a great success and it has already had more views than the Easter Service! As I write 3 days after the service it has had nearly 400 views on Facebook and YouTube combined. The average length of views is also longer than normal, so clearly the young people are better than holding the attention of the congregation than the minister on her own. Many of you might feel you can't do much for the church, whilst 'stuck at home' – however now more than ever the church has been forced out of the building and into the community. You're it! Your conversations with and prayers for other people have lots

of 'God' potential. This can be while out walking or by picking up the phone to someone. Rather than worrying about 'what can I say to someone about God', ask them 'how are you?' and listen well. God is already at work in people's lives. People outside of the church are also more open at this time to have conversations about life and faith as many of our previous 'securities' and 'certainties' have been taken away. Who is God nudging you to connect with? Read more about this idea elsewhere in the magazine.

Meanwhile, I would also appreciate your prayers – it has been challenging to process all the changes to ministry and worship, trying to prepare for an unknown future, as well as having 3 school age children at home who each need support too. Many of you have during the past months messaged or emailed me which has been very encouraging and means a lot at a time when we can't meet.

My prayers are with and for you also, each with unique challenges and opportunities in your circumstances. God is at work in you, and Jesus is present with you until the end of the age. Trust in him.

May God bless you and keep you,

Hanneke



LOCKDOWN IN BRIDGE OF WEIR



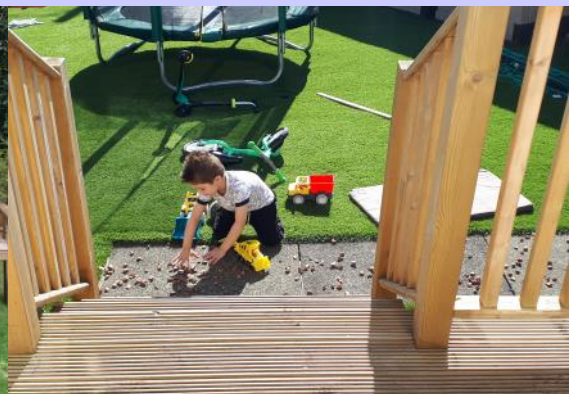
Thanks to Francis Hancock for these pictures taken during one of his many Lockdown walks. Francis writes ".The gorse bushes are between Bridge of Weir and Barnbeth, while the goose is a Canada Goose on the small loch close to Barnbeth (it doesn't seem to have a name, but is the source of the Pow Burn which eventually runs through the glen and into the Gryfe). "



Flowers flourish in Gardens



People rest and Play



MESSAGES FROM MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION

The Coronavirus Pandemic

Both Bill (my husband) and I are working from home, this provides a great structure, we work in different parts of the house, but get together for morning coffee and lunch.

As part of the village community Coronavirus action group set up by Melrose Beauty we go to Morrisons most days to pick up shopping for those isolating in the village. When they call with their list or we drop off the shopping this is often the only contact they have. It has been great getting to know these lovely people.

Our son Jack is spending lockdown in his flat in Edinburgh with his flat

mate, so we maintain regular contact, although he seems to have adapted quite well with regular quiz and theme nights with his Uni friends and contact with both club and uni rugby.

I am concerned that people are not going to the Doctors with their health concerns, I have had experience of having to go to the RAH and clinics are so quiet. So please if you are worried about anything please contact your Doctor.

I miss ... social interaction and hugs, especially with Jack! I am a naturally "huggy" person, so not being able to see and hug friends and family especially when they are sad or need

comfort has been hard.

I hope that we all come out of the pandemic safe and with love and compassion for each other.

I am thankful for my family and friends and the chance to catch up with them regularly. Oh and Zoom! The chance to see and speak to each other!

My prayer is for all those that have lost loved ones and for a safe path out of this pandemic.

Cherie Guthrie

The Coronavirus Pandemic

My name is Norma Hancock and during this difficult time I am staying at home with my husband Francis. As I am one of those retired people over a certain age I am obviously trying to be very careful and isolating as much as possible.

Being that I am a bit of a fitness fanatic I am missing the opportunity to take part in all my usual activities, but we have been walking every day. I am amazed that despite living in this village for many, many years I did not realize we had such fantastic countryside right on our doorstep. Moorland, woods, small lochs, rivers, a wonderful array of wild flowers and bushes to name but a few. We are so very lucky living where we do and I am so very concerned about all those families living in flats or houses which

have no access to open spaces. They do not have the ability to appreciate all that God has given us.

More personally I have very close family who are right in the front line of this pandemic, two GP's and a physiotherapist, plus two others in the armed forces and for all of them life has to go on as normally as possible and I worry about them all the time.

I do so miss my two girls and my grandchildren, phone calls, video app's and what's app have been well used, once I learned how to use them. A steep learning curve for me, not very tech savvy. I hope that in the not too distant future I will be able to visit them and catch up on all their antics and catch up on all the hugs and kisses we so all miss.

I hope that we, as a congregation, will be able to meet again soon, not just for worship but for social get-togethers. But most of all I hope that a vaccination can be found that will keep the world population safe from this dreadful virus.

I am thankful for a roof over my head, food on the table, a loving husband, my family here and in the south of England but most of all for so far keeping healthy and virus free. My prayer is in the future that our world will be a friendlier and more caring place, where we look out for each other before ourselves... We have learned to look after our neighbour, as God asks us to do. Till we all meet again, stay safe, keep well and thank God every day for all we have.

The Coronavirus Pandemic

Mary and I are in lockdown at home. We keep in touch with friends and family using phone calls, e-mails, Whatsapp, facetime and zoom. Mary is home schooling one of our grandchildren for an hour each morning and is really enjoying this contact. I am painting and gardening. I am concerned for those living on their own who don't have the technology to

meet virtually with others. I am very concerned with the effect that the coronavirus will have on the refugees all over the world.

I miss the bowling green and golf course although, as we go to print, I hope to be playing golf next week.

I am thankful for being fit and being able to walk and cycle the beautiful roads around Bridge of Weir. I am lucky to have

a great family who keep in constant touch with us. I am also thankful to our minister whose weekly services have been extremely helpful.

My prayer is that we will all soon meet again face to face.

Dennis Taylor

MESSAGES FROM MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION(CONT'D)

The Coronavirus Pandemic

My name is Morven McLeod

I am retired and living on my own. I feel fortunate to have a garden and to live in an area with lots of quiet rural roads for walking, cycling and jogging. I have enjoyed discovering new bits of Bridge of Weir and Renfrewshire. Social distancing has meant that I have spent a lot more time on the phone and sending and receiving emails and cards – keeping in touch with people more than usual.

I am concerned for friends and family who I feel may be at higher risk than myself. I also worry that our decision makers sometimes seem to be out of their depth (unsurprising with all the conflicting scientific advice flying around). I am sad for those who have suffered terrible losses of lives, of livelihoods or of peace of mind.

I miss seeing friends and family face to face. I also missed getting up to the hills for some skiing on spring snow. I, like many others, may need to postpone some holiday plans for this summer. However, these are minor issues and I am content to look forward to them in the future.

I hope that the many kindnesses shown, the dedication of our key workers and the amazing community spirit will continue once the present lockdown is lifted. Perhaps a wee silver cloud within the dreadful pandemic is that it has often brought out the best in human nature.

I am thankful for good health, the wonderful weather (including storms) and the kindness of all my friends. I have chatted more with my neighbours in the last 10 weeks than ever before. I have been challenged to learn more about IT (which I hate), but it has been good for me! The broadcasts on TV and YouTube whether church services, exercise classes or advice on cooking healthy meals have all been great. It was good to zoom in for coffee on Sunday morning although it will be even better to see everyone again face to face.

My prayer is to thank our Lord for supporting folk through these difficult times. He has given our key workers, volunteers, and ordinary people the strength to cope with their work and worries. Also to ask that He will encourage the community spirit and kindnesses shown during lockdown to continue so that we can move into a new post covid era when people in Bridge of Weir and around the world will really look out for each other and for our environment.



FINANCE REPORT 2019

Overview

A detailed report of income and expenditure against budget as at the end of December is attached, along with a summary Balance Sheet. Total expenditure for the year exceeded income by £15,181, which is significantly less than our expected deficit of £21,835k. However, £18,061 of expenditure was spent on the hall refurbishment (not including emergent electrical work which was covered by a separate donation), for which funds had been received through the 2018 Stewardship Campaign. So for regular activities, income exceeded expenditure by £2,880.

Total income, excluding the £4,500 donation specifically for the emergency electrical work and £2,500 Guild income, was around £5,500 above expectation. Most of this is due to the higher-than-expected gift-aid income, and thanks are due to everyone who has registered for this scheme, and to Jim Downie for keeping up-to-date with submissions to HMRC. A big thank-you is also due to the Fundraising Committee for their efforts and exceeding their target by raising £4,500.

Excluding Guild spending, total expenditure is just under £3,500 over budget. The hall refurbishment costs were £5,600 more than budgeted, but as noted above, £4,500 of this was for the electrical work for which a donation was received, and the Hall Refurbishment Fund actually had £1,100 more than allowed in the budget, which together covered the shortfall. Thus general expenditure was actually £2,150 under budget. In general, overspends in some areas have been balanced by savings in other areas. The most significant savings are on MMC (where we received a "rebate" from Presbytery), on Pulpit Supply, Outreach, computer expenses, and Pastoral Care. The areas where there have been significant overspend against budget include church fabric maintenance (where emergent work has entailed increased expenditure) and manse

fabric maintenance (where the decision was taken to bring forward some work from next year).

General Fund

Income for the General Fund was slightly higher than the previous year, while, expenditure was a little lower, resulting in a surplus of £6,538; at the end of the year, the General Fund contains £39k.

Total unrestricted income of £102,933, was £2,845 (2.8%) higher than the previous year. Total unrestricted expenditure of £96,187 was £7,638 (7.41%) lower than last year, mainly due to the 2018 figure including expenditure of £9k associated with manse sale and purchase.

Unrestricted voluntary income was £3,306 higher than 2018. Following the Stewardship campaign, regular giving increased by around £11k; on the other hand, income from single donations and organisations was £2.5k lower, and no legacies were received this year. There was a small reduction in income from activities, although half of this reduction was due to Life and Work income being moved to a restricted fund. Income from hall fees increased, reflecting the more commercial fees now charged following the refurbishment. Investment income increased, on account of the increase in the number of investments held (see below). Staffing costs are a little lower (5%) than 2018, mainly due to a small reduction in pulpit supply fees and fewer weddings and funerals requiring an organist.

This year, our support for West Renfrewshire Youth Trust remained at £10,000; we were fortunate to benefit from a contribution from Presbytery of 50% of this amount, received in the form of a £5,000 reduction in our Ministries and Mission Contribution. Church maintenance costs were a little lower than 2018, reflecting the fact that there were no large items of expenditure this year.

Other Funds

With no significant maintenance activities this year, there was no

expenditure from the **Fabric Fund**. The balance of the **Legacy Fund** was transferred to the Fabric Fund in order to replenish the fund after the expenditure in 2018 associated with the manse sale and purchase.

The **Ramp Repair & Hall Refurb Fund** was set up to receive donations made as part of the 2018 Stewardship campaign. Additional donations of £5,000 were received from members of the congregation during 2019; £4,500 of this was specifically to cover the costs of emergent electrical repair work. Repairs to the access ramp were completed in 2018. Refurbishment of the hall took place in the first half of the year. On completion, the total cost exceeded monies in this fund by £11, which was covered from the General Fund. The refurbishment has been a success, resulting in a more attractive space, which is appreciated by the current users, and has enabled us to increase the fees charged to commercial users.

Once again, the **Outreach Fund** supported a series of "Summer Drop-In" mornings during the school summer holidays, from which some donations were received. This fund also paid for "advertising" of Christmas services and activities. The **Kelso Fund** continues to support WRYT and other Junior Church activities. In particular, 50% of our own contribution to WRYT (£5,000) comes from this fund.

The Guild this year had a surplus, after donations totalling £1,500 and expenses, of £240, leaving a total of £454 in the **Guild Fund**.

A **Life & Work Fund** was established this year to hold subscriptions for the magazine from members of the congregation. As usual, these subscriptions are prepaid, so that receipts in this year are for next year's magazines. Payments to the Church of Scotland for the magazines are made from this fund.

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2019

Balance Sheet

As shown in the attached Balance Sheet, we currently have £35,209 cash at bank, along with £60,000 in fixed-term deposits. Total cash (including these fixed-term deposits) is £14,315 lower than the total at the end of 2018; however, that figure included £18,061 of one-off donations received for the Ramp Repair and Hall Refurbishment fund. Towards the end of 2018, following a review of cash reserves, it was agreed by the Finance Committee that, having completed all transactions associated with the purchase of the new manse and the sale of the old one, and allowing for the cash reserves in the Ramp Repair & Hall Refurb fund, which were to be spent in 2019, funds should be invested in fixed-term deposits to take advantage of interest rates higher than standard bank accounts. It was also noted that the total of funds deposited with the Clydesdale Bank exceeded the £85,000 limit guaranteed by the FSCS. Accordingly, just prior to the end of 2018, £30,000 was placed into a two-year CB fixed-term deposit, with interest of 1.5% per annum; at the start of 2019 a second £30,000 was placed into a one-year fixed-term deposit with the Charities Aid Foundation with interest of 1.3%. It was resolved at the end of 2019 that on maturity of this deposit, £5,000 plus the interest should be returned to the current account, with £25,000 being reinvested for a further 1-year term.

	As at 31/12/2019	As at 31/12/2018
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets	358,520	358,520
Investments	4,275	4,090
	362,795	362,610
Current assets		
Debtors	4,709	5,862
Investments	60,000	30,000
Cash at bank and in hand	35,208	79,523
	99,918	115,385
Liabilities		
Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year	2,548	2,835
Net current assets less current liabilities	97,369	112,550
Net current assets less current liabilities		
Total assets less current liabilities	460,164	475,160
Total net assets less liabilities	460,164	475,160
Represented by		
Unrestricted		
Unrestricted - General fund	39,104	32,577
Designated		
Designated - Legacy Fund	—	19,434
Designated - Manse Fund	358,520	358,520
Designated - Outreach Fund	1,236	1,441
Designated - Fabric Fund	37,076	17,222
Restricted		
Restricted - Life & Work	(8)	—
Restricted - Ramp Repair & Hall Refurb	—	18,061
Restricted - Wm Kelso Memorial	19,194	23,410
Restricted - Guild Fund	454	213
Restricted - Flower Fund	312	111
Endowment		
Endowment - Jane Houston Bequest	2,925	2,798
Endowment - Joseph A Wylie Bequest	1,037	992
Endowment - Flower Fund (Endowment)	312	376
Funds of the church	460,164	475,160

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals due to pence not being shown

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AT 31 DECEMBER 2019

	Budget	2019 Actual	Variance	2018 Actual
Income				
1101 - Freewill Offering Scheme	12,000	14,328	2,328	14,795
1103 - Offerings by Standing Order	45,000	45,569	569	38,114
1104 - Tax Recovered on Gift Aided Donations	15,000	18,990	3,990	19,835
1105 - Ordinary Collections Plate etc	6,000	5,093	(906)	5,969
1106 - Other Offerings, Donations etc	11,000	14,392	3,392	32,947
1107 - Junior Church Collections	50	5	(44)	37
1110 - From Oganisations	1,000	900	(100)	1,370
1120 - Fund Raising	3,500	4,542	1,042	4,798
1121 - Coffee Fellowship	600	636	36	553
1130 - Interest Received & Investment Income	980	1,006	26	401
1140 - Bank and Deposit Interest	250	159	(90)	250
1150 - Use of Premises	3,200	2,006	(1,194)	1,450
1162 - Life and Work Income	674	674	0	635
Income - totals	99,254	108,304	9,050	121,158
Expenditure				
1201 - Ministries-Mission Contribution	53,291	51,639	1,652	50,939
1209 - Presbytery Dues	1,325	1,325	—	1,309
1214 - Ministry Travel expenses	1,200	1,331	(131)	1,389
1215 - Ministers Telephone	828	609	218	651
1216 - Ministers Other Expenses	250	217	32	173
1217 - Pulpit Supply	450	75	375	225
1222 - West Renfrewshire Youth Trust	10,000	10,000	—	10,000
1231 - Fund raising expenses (regular)	200	168	31	257
1234 - Social Event Expenses	50	148	(98)	—
1240 - Church Officer	3,609	3,759	(150)	3,754
1242 - Organist	4,400	4,320	80	—
1246 - Cleaner	3,564	3,264	300	3,168
1250 - Printing, Stationery	600	156	443	667
1252 - Photocopying	250	274	(24)	268
1253 - Telephone	1,000	1,067	(67)	959
1254 - Audio Visual System	500	745	(245)	395
1260 - Equipment	2,000	2,185	(185)	—
1261 - Church Newsletter	1,320	1,452	(132)	1,126
1262 - Life and Work Expenses	672	682	(10)	627
1263 - Computer Expenses	640	53	587	762
1265 - Outreach	1,500	401	1,098	339
1266 - Worship Expenses	100	252	(152)	59
1267 - Session Expenses	50	25	25	—
1268 - Junior Church Expenses	200	245	(45)	87
1279 - Miscellaneous Expenses	100	31	68	56
1280 - Flowers Expenses	100	65	35	47
1300 - Fabric Maintenance Church	3,000	4,939	(1,939)	6,188
1301 - Organ - Piano Maintenance	500	165	335	500
1302 - Gas Church	2,800	2,448	351	2,671
1303 - Electricity Church	1,950	1,805	144	1,392
1307 - Insurance Church	2,900	2,844	55	2,861
1308 - Cleaning Materials	100	167	(67)	152
1309 - Upkeep of Grounds	100	51	48	—
1320 - Fabric Maintenance Manse	1,000	1,794	(794)	1,201
1325 - Council Tax Manse	2,640	2,699	(59)	2,565
1399F - MFE: Hall Refurbishment	17,500	23,102	(5,602)	—
Expenditure - totals	120,689	124,518	(3,829)	94,796
Overall totals	(21,435)	(16,213)	5,221	26,362

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK



Christian Aid Week 10-16 May 2020

Well, that was a bit different!

Because of the coronavirus restrictions, a Christian Aid Week without the usual red envelope, army of volunteers, house-to-house collection throughout the village, and big "count" on the following Monday morning when all the envelopes are carefully opened, counted, cross-checked, and the donations paid into the Christian Aid account.

But Christian Aid Week couldn't be cancelled at a time when Christian Aid's work amongst some of the poorest communities in the world is needed more than ever.

Christian Aid itself had to react to the

changed circumstances at very short notice, despite reduced staffing (furlough arrangements) and remote working. But it was able to augment its online donations platform to allow individuals and local groups to create a dedicated "e-envelope" on the Christian Aid web site through which it could encourage its local supporters to donate.

We were able to create a Bridge of

Weir e-envelope and although we were not able to reach all households in the village the way the normal house-to-house collection does we were able to email the link to this e-envelope to all the members of the St Machar's Ranfurly, Freeland and St Mary's churches for whom the three churches had permission to contact by email.

With Christian Aid Week going "virtual", like everything else seems to be just now, one thing remained as "real" as ever. Your commitment to support the work of Christian Aid!

Thanks to you, a much smaller number of donors than usual, the

fantastic sum of £3,835 was raised through the Bridge of Weir e-envelope. Together with the gift aid bonus and some donations which were made directly to Christian Aid without going through the Bridge of Weir e-envelope, the total amount raised was probably in excess of £4,500. And that's all down to you! Thank you, thank, thank you!

Dave Macdonald,
Bridge of Weir Christian Aid Week
coordinator.



(dave.sonas@outlook.com)

THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

A Poem about the peculiar challenges
of the English spelling
(with thanks to Gyles Brandreth)

I take it you already know
Of tough and bough and cough and
dough?
Others may stumble, but not you
On hiccough, thorough, lough and
through?
Well done! And now you wish,
perhaps
To learn of less familiar traps?

Because of heard, a dreadful word
That looks like beard and sounds like
bird
And dead! It's said like bed, not bead-
For goodness sake don't call it 'deed'
Watch out for meat and great and
threat
(They rhyme with suite and straight
and debt)

A moth is not a moth in mother
Nor both in bother, broth in brother
And here is not a match for there

Nor dear and fear for bear and pear
And then there's dose and rose and
lose –
Just look them up – and goose and
choose
And cork and work and card and ward
And font and front and word and
sword
And do and go and thwart and
cart –
Come, come, I've hardly made a start!
A dreadful language? Man alive,
I'd mastered it when I was five!

SCOTTISH PLACE NAMES

1. Very small drinks.
2. Stupid chips.
3. Won't find water here.
4. Two parts of your face.
5. Trip outside the church.
6. One of your parents is fit and healthy.

7. Good looking card game.
8. Murder with a garden tool.
9. Not in a medal position.
10. Can't live without this.
11. Not staying.
12. Church surrounds.

13. You and I are fit and healthy.
14. Use a spoon for this fish.
15. Popular drink from abbey.
16. Adds up to 21.

(answers on page 14)

1ST BRIDGE OF WEIR GUIDES

Since our last report, in line with government Covid-19 lockdown regulations, Girlguiding face-to-face meetings ceased in mid-March. We didn't get our visit to the YMCA in Paisley for our STEM evening and our annual camp planned to take place in June has been postponed. We hope these will be reorganised when restrictions are lifted.

After Easter we decided to try and take our weekly Guide meetings online meeting virtually. We have now been meeting over ZOOM for the past few weeks and while it's not been for everyone we have enjoyed as much of a varied programme that meeting virtually allows, with over 15 girls joining us most evenings.



We have been working on some of our Unit Meeting Activities such as K is for Kindness. This activity involves

us thinking about how we can be kind to each other, which is something many of us have had to think about in the home during lockdown. We have also been having fun trying to carve an apple into the shape of a swan.



This worked surprising well and no-one cut any fingers! The girls have also been baking and we have seen lots of lovely cupcakes, banana bread and desserts. It is a pity it's over a camera and we can't taste any of their lovely creations!



The most popular activities have definitely been various scavenger hunts around the house, quizzes (including one about chocolate bars) and bingo. Last week we even had a go at a Joe Wicks fitness video which was great fun.



We are planning to continue this virtual format until the end of term in June.

Christine Haddock
1st Bridge of Weir Guides

JUNE QUIZ (You can't see the wood for the.....Find the Trees)

		Answer
1	Result of Fire	
2	It's so creamy when stirred	
3	Session member	
4	Atkinson?	
5	Long for it	
6	Stream in the chimney	
7	Top accountant with US agency	
8	Tiller drops an 'h'	
9	On leather, it's a hit!	
10	Chastisement	
11	Mike the racing driver	
12	Saturate and drop south	

April Quiz Answers: 1. Proverbs 2. Mark 3. Ruth 4. Luke 5. Micah 6. Leviticus 7. Job 8. Habbakuk
9. Ecclesiastes 10. Dueteronomy 11. Genesis 12. James

‘ I HEARD THE VOICE OF JESUS SAY’

I have started posting on Facebook my helpful hymn for the week. As not all of you will see this I thought I would share one of these posts with you.

When I asked for people's favourite hymns a few weeks ago, this hymn 'I heard the voice of Jesus say' came up a few times. It is not hard to see why. It is a lovely Scottish tune and both the tune and the words are so comforting. It describes well how many of us feel right now; verse one talks about **being weary, worn and sad!** I'm sure there have been moments during this long lockdown that you've felt weary, worn and sad. I know I have. Everyone's circumstances are different and some of you will be too busy to stop and think, while others feel they have too much time on your hands. However I think most of us will recognise moments of weariness and sadness.

The song invites us to listen to Jesus' voice, to come to him and rest. It is a beautiful invitation. I find it hard to stop, especially when I'm stressed and anxious. I just end up keeping going and going, afraid that if I stop for a moment, I will disintegrate. When I stop doing, the sadness and the weariness will suddenly hit me.

So I resist stopping, and resting. And yet that is not healthy or sustainable – I start running on empty and losing my temper and focus. Jesus calls, come to me and rest. I can allow to stop my doing, and let down my guard. Not fear the sadness and the weariness washing over me. Jesus will sit with me and hold me. I don't need to be in control the whole time, I can't anyway. Jesus is. And so when I pause and become still, he becomes my resting place and makes me glad.

The last verse speaks of Jesus

being this dark world's light. Luckily the days have been bright and long, or else I think many of us would have felt even lower. However, it has been a **gloomy time** when you let the news sink in, and the sadness of so many lives lost and impacted in other ways. It is not at all clear what light is at the end of the tunnel, and how long this dark tunnel will turn out to be. We are yearning for hope and light. We want back to normal, we want out of the house, we want a cure or a vaccine.

But Jesus says I am the light of the world.

Jesus is the one in whose light we can still see beauty and hope even when life is dark and difficult. Jesus is my hope, of life out of death and light out of darkness. It is my prayer that you will experience this too.

Hanneke



*I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Come unto Me, and rest;
Lay down, thou weary one, lay down
Thy head upon My breast."
I came to Jesus as I was,
Weary, and worn, and sad;
I found in Him a resting-place,
And He has made me glad.*

*I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Behold, I freely give
The living water: thirsty one,
Stoop down, and drink, and live."
I came to Jesus, and I drank
Of that life-giving stream;
My thirst was quenched, my soul
revived,
And now I live in Him.*

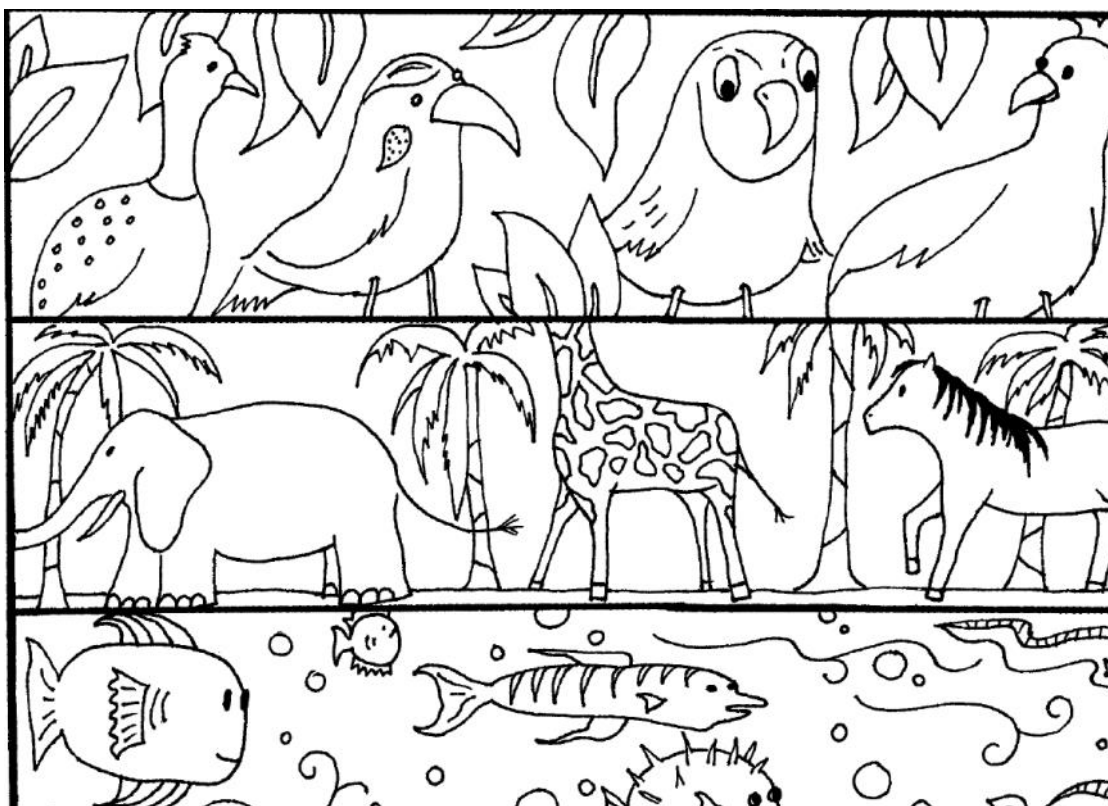
*I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"I am this dark world's Light;
Look unto Me, thy morn shall rise,
And all thy day be bright."
I looked to Jesus, and I found
In Him my Star, my Sun;
And in that Light of life I'll walk
Till trav'ling days are done.*

Horatius Bonar

JUNIOR CHURCH

This page includes some activities for our younger members but can equally be enjoyed by all ages!

God made the animals, fish and birds—a picture to colour:



Can you find these Books of the Bible in this wordsearch?

Z	O	B	E	H	M	A	T	T	H	E	W	A	J	M
I	R	E	S	O	J	L	Z	X	Y	B	N	M	C	F
S	O	H	T	S	Y	T	A	E	W	N	U	S	J	Q
E	Y	G	R	N	U	O	S	D	F	N	G	H	O	K
G	W	E	B	A	V	M	W	E	R	U	T	Y	S	U
D	L	N	C	M	Q	N	M	Q	W	M	Y	U	H	O
U	O	E	A	O	S	H	G	R	T	B	P	A	u	S
J	D	S	H	R	L	O	O	T	Q	E	J	M	A	B
O	N	I	X	Z	G	J	S	Y	W	R	A	L	N	O
Y	M	S	C	K	J	D	A	U	E	S	R	K	T	J
T	P	B	V	D	E	U	T	E	R	O	N	O	M	Y
P	Q	W	E	R	I	A	S	Z	X	C	G	K	L	A
S	T	M	Y	I	P	G	E	X	O	D	U	S	H	N
A	L	O	A	U	H	K	L	V	N	E	C	Q	E	T
L	Y	M	B	R	X	A	H	I	K	S	B	T	A	Q
M	J	K	L	D	K	K	Q	D	P	N	E	W	E	K
S	K	T	W	A	Q	F	W	R	L	G	D	K	Z	L
B	F	A	C	T	S	L	E	W	R	W	U	E	R	Z
Q	U	H	R	Q	W	T	R	M	T	L	H	Y	A	X
W	I	O	L	Y	T	D	Y	T	R	F	O	P	I	C
E	L	E	V	I	T	I	C	U	S	R	L	M	O	V
Y	A	W	Q	K	O	Q	S	Q	W	L	K	V	Z	B
I	S	R	E	P	F	J	A	M	E	S	J	B	X	N
H	D	Y	T	O	P	O	N	G	Q	G	H	N	C	M

Acts

Deuteronomy

Exodus

Genesis

James

Joshua

Judges

Leviticus

Luke

Mark

Matthew

Numbers

Psalms

Romans

Pictures the children shared in
The All Age Service on May 17th:



CHURCHES OF THE WORLD

Tromsdalen Kirke – Arctic Cathedral, Tromsø, Norway

During our Hurtigruten voyage along the coast of Norway last year (during which we were fortunate enough to be treated to a number of displays of the Northern Lights – but that’s another story), we twice visited the “Arctic Cathedral” in Tromsø. Despite this nickname, it is not a cathedral at all, but a parish church. Our first visit was in daytime, when we were able to wander through the interior of this impressive if plain building, admiring the lovely oak pews with the large chandeliers above, the large organ and, most spectacularly, the glass mosaic in the east end. The church itself dates from 1965; the mosaic, depicting God’s hand from which three rays of light pass through a man, a woman and Jesus, was added in 1972. The organ, installed in 2005, has 2940 pipes, varying in length from 9.6m (32ft) to just 5 mm, with bellows made of reindeer hide. Our second visit was for a midnight concert, given by a local church choir, and consisting of a range of choral pieces both traditional and contemporary, from Norway and farther afield. This was a very atmospheric occasion, taking place as it did within this imposing building under a clear black arctic sky.



Cathedral Entrance
Cathedral by Night
Glass Mosaic



Organ Pipes

Francis Hancock

LOCKDOWN HUMOUR



I wandered lonely as a cloud
Two metres from the maddening crowd
When all at once my name was called
To enter Waitrose hallowed hall

This was pensioners’ special hour
I’d gone to get a bag of flour.
But I forgot, when through the door
What I had gone to Waitrose for.

The Waitrose staff are extra kind
I told them it had slipped my mind
They asked what else I had forgot
They clearly thought I had lost the plot

I phoned my wife again to ask
She reminded me of this special task
“I need some flour to bake a cake
With all that cream you made me take”

“Ah yes I recall” I had to lie
I dared not ask what flower to buy
But then I saw them next the tills
A bunch of golden daffodils!

(Anonymous: or I forgot who wrote it!)

WHAT'S HAPPENING AND WHAT NEXT?

What's happening and what next?

Local level:

- Junior church is going to have some Zoom sessions
- First Kirk Session meeting by Zoom held on 26th May
- Continue recorded services on Facebook and YouTube with more member participation
- Elders keeping in touch via phone with districts
- Weekly email with links to services and other info
- Begin planning for future
- Income holding up reasonably well, non-essential expenditure postponed

Presbytery level:

- Union with Dumbarton Presbytery will go ahead on 1st of September
- Work begins on nominations so that new presbytery committees can start to work even if presbytery meetings cannot take place for the foreseeable future
- Opportunities for supporting other congregations by sharing ideas and best practice as well as virtual pulpit supply

National level:

- General Assembly 2020 was cancelled, but new moderator Rev Dr Martin Fair installed on 16th of May. Essential and uncontroversial decisions taken by Council of Assembly.
- Shortfall in congregational income expected (especially when heavily dependent on hall lets) impacting Ministries and Mission contributions which pay for ministers, mission development posts and central staff. Many 121 staff furloughed.
- Procedures for calling ministries to vacancies being looked at as currently all mostly stagnant due to inability to call congregational meetings.
- Discussions and preparations underway to give advice and guidance on safely reopening church buildings for worship and other use. A return to in person worship not expected before the autumn and even then will likely have restrictions and may not be accessible to all.



KEEP SMILING

I was robbed by six dwarves today.....Not Happy!

Law of the Bath - When the body is fully immersed in water,
the telephone will ring!

People are funny. They want the front of the bus, the middle
of the road and the back of the church.

Don't let worry kill you off - Let the Church help.

A Junior Church teacher asked the children why it was
necessary to be quiet in Church. Amy replied
"Because people are sleeping"

Answers to Scottish Place Names

1. Shotts 2. Dumfries 3. Dryburgh 4. Eyemouth 5. Falkirk 6. Motherwell 7. Bonnybridge 8. Kilsyth 9. Forth 10. Ayr
11. Leven 12. Kirkwall 13. Bothwell 14. Stirling 15. Buckie 16. Dyce

NOTICES

Face Masks

Homemade washable facemasks available in various materials and sizes.

Phone Coral on 690450 to order.

A donation to Church Funds will be requested.



Funerals

Jesus said "I am the Resurrection and the Life...."

David Millar

1st March 2020

*

Stuart McLeod

20th May 2020

CONGRATULATIONS

to
Alex and Helen Bullen
who celebrated their
Ruby Wedding
on
Tuesday May 19th



SOME USEFUL LINKS

Church of Scotland <http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk>

Bible Gateway <http://www.biblegateway.com>

Christian Aid <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/>

St Martins Parish Church, Edinburgh – Songs from the Manse - <https://en-gb.facebook.com/StMartinsParishChurch>

CONTACTS

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The Manse,
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PA11 3HS

Tel: 01505 **612975**



Session Clerk: Dennis Taylor
33 St Andrews Drive,
Bridge of Weir,
PA11 3HT

Tel: 01505 **612417**

Lord, we pray for our nation
for those who are in positions
of responsibility and authority.
Guide them and grant them wisdom
that their leading
might be according to Your will
and always with the greater good in mind.
AMEN

Free Will Offering Envelopes

If you normally give to the church using Free Will Offering envelopes, obviously you cannot get these to us right now. In any case, it might be hard for you to get to the bank machines to draw cash as well. We would ask you, if you are able to do so, to switch to giving by standing order. This ensures our normal income is maintained at a time where we won't have hall lets

or normal fundraising streams. To set up giving by standing order you need to contact your bank and ask them to transfer a set amount at a regular interval (for example each month) to our church bank account. You can change or stop this whenever you want. With some banks and buildings societies you can set standing orders up over the phone or by internet banking. Alternatively, you can

complete a standing order form and give or send it to your bank. You will need this information:

**St Machar's Ranfurly Church,
Clydesdale Bank,
Sort Code 82-61-11, Account
Number: 9015 5171**

For a standing order form to print please look on our website under 'ADMINISTRATION' and 'GIVING'



Editorial Team

Dennis Taylor
Mary Taylor Marion Reid

Contributions for the next issue of *The Lych Gate* should be with the Editor by **Tuesday 21st July 2020**. Please E-mail to: dennis1taylor@msn.com or pass memory sticks or paper copies to Dennis Taylor.