

The *Lych Gate*

The Newsletter of St Machar's Ranfurly Church



August 2020

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MINISTER'S LETTER

Well, a new season rolls on, but it hardly feels like a normal church year. Normally I'd be able to start making a rough plan for autumn and winter and have quite a number of set services and activities fixed in the diary. As it stands, we go into September not knowing very much other than that we will in a very limited capacity return to the church building for worship.

Although I'm personally looking forward to welcoming some people to the building and preaching in front of a 'live audience' once again, I'm also very conscious it will be a far cry from our normal gatherings. No singing, wearing facemasks and a very limited number of people able to attend. It will hardly be the joyous celebration I'd imagined as going 'back to church' following lockdown. Initially (before the summer) the Kirk Session had thought we might wait until restrictions are eased further,

however at present it looks as if the current phase will continue for a long while without further relaxation. This being the case, we felt it might be better to reopen the building for worship for those who wish to attend. You can read elsewhere in the Lych Gate how this will all work.

A decision has also been made to get livestreaming equipment installed in the church. This makes it possible to video our services and to stream them live to our YouTube channel so folk at home can join in with worship simultaneously. I have for the past 5 months been recording, editing and uploading our services and it has been a lot of extra work (approx. 10 hours each week) to do so. Having the livestreaming set up will remove this burden and enable more people to be involved in the technical side of things. The experience of producing online services and sharing these via Facebook and YouTube has

shown that this has been a good vehicle to reach those who maybe can't or don't attend our church services normally. It also allows for catching up on missed services at a convenient time.

Some of us have also enjoyed being able to meet up informally via Zoom for after church coffee and chat at 11:30am. If you've not tried it yet, give it a go. We always finish within 30 mins so you don't need to feel you are obliged to 'hang around'. The invite is in the Sunday email.

However, I know that many, myself included, have missed gathering together for worship and fellowship in a physical sense, and we long for the day when we can once more freely do so without concern for falling ill. That day is not here yet, but we pray for it. Whatever befalls us, may we find our solid ground in the triune God: 'The Lord of hosts is with us, the God of Jacob is our fortress' Psalm 46:11. *Hanneke*

FACE MASKS

Well done and a huge thank you to Coral and all her satisfied customers who have donated so generously to Church funds. Almost £250 has been raised so far!!!

Coral says

"they are now mandatory in shops, public transport, the church and mostly everywhere and I will make them to order for gents, ladies and children too .

I have lots of colours, plain and floral and more masculine fabrics for the gents. I also have nice popular materials for the girls and boys.

If I haven't got what you would like, I will source it for you!"

Would you like a made-to-order, Coral McLaughlin, designer mask? If so contact Coral on 690450 or coral_mclaughlin@hotmail.com

ACCESS TO OUR ONLINE SERVICES

If you are unable to attend Church, then any of the following ways will let you gain access to the services, which will be livestreamed to our YouTube channel from the church.

Go to our YouTube channel (Google: St Machar's Ranfurly Church YouTube) – if you click subscribe then it will be easier to find each week.

Via the Sunday Morning e-mail

Within the e-mail there is a link to click which will take you directly to our YouTube channel

If it is at the same time as the service (10:30 am), you will see the live service

Some time after the service, you will be able to see a recording of the latest service.

If you would prefer a printed copy of the Service please let your Elder know.



Thanks to Trish Telfer for the beautiful Summer Images on this page and on the front cover

RETURN TO CHURCH

We are limited in the number of people who will be able to attend for a service so the following booking system will be put in place. This is currently up to a maximum of 25 which will include the sound and vision team, the stewards on the door and the Church Officer. The minister, organist and a single choir member are separate.

The procedure will be as follows:-

Phone or e-mail the Session Clerk **by Thursday night each week** to book a place

Phone between 10.00 am & 8.00 pm to 01505 – 612417

or

E-mail - sessionclerk@stmacharsranfurlychurch.org.uk

If leaving a message, please say for how many in your household you are booking for.

Please leave a contact telephone number.

It may be easier to go into the church website "stmacharsranfurlychurch.org.uk" and then under "who's who" click on the e-mail id for the session clerk and send a message.

A reply will be given by Saturday night to confirm your place.

If the number is over-subscribed, then you will be offered a place for the following week.

Arrival at the Church

Please do not attend the church if you display Covid symptoms (cough, fever, loss of taste/smell) even if you have booked.

You may need to queue outside, please observe social distancing and wear your face mask.

You will be asked to sanitise your hands on entry.

All people attending Church need to be registered and their details recorded. This will be kept securely for 21 days in case it is required by Test and Protect.

On arrival, please register with the person taking the register before entering the building. If you have provided these details while booking, your name will just be ticked off as present.

Details required are

Name

Phone Number or address

Household groups need only record one main contact

Entry to the Church

After registration, you will be shown to your seat by the Steward on duty.

This will probably be a different seat from your usual seat but this is to ensure we build up the congregation in an orderly manner. A one-way system will be in operation.

Exit from the Church

After the service you will be directed by the stewards to exit in a controlled manner using the one-way system.

There will be no tea/coffee served.

Everyone must continue to observe social distancing and must not congregate in the grounds outside.

Please keep your mask on until you're outside the Church grounds.

1ST BRIDGE OF WEIR GUIDES

During May and June we continued our Guide meetings over Zoom every Wednesday evening. We all enjoyed evenings completing various challenges, games, badges and our Skill Builder activity packs. Two of our favourite activities were completing a virtual escape room and a taskmaster challenge. We also had a fun evening trying to guess who everyone was from baby photos, including the leaders!

As we had to postpone our annual camp we decided to hold a virtual sleepover before we finished for a break over the summer months. We met virtually on the Friday evening and firstly had a look at all the dens the girls made in their living rooms and bedrooms to sleep in that



evening. We played some games including a 'Generation Game' where the girls had to try and remember all the items that passed along a 'conveyor belt' in two minutes and yes that did include a cuddly toy. Afterwards we all made microwave Mug Cakes together for supper. The next morning we met virtually again and started by having a den inspection and then a morning energiser (exercise) class together before making an 'adventure jar' to hold a list of all the challenges and activities we were all looking forward to doing after lockdown. The rest of the weekend we encouraged the girls worked towards their 'Be Prepared' Girlguiding Interest Badge and a Home Sweet challenge.

On our final night of the term on the 24th June we had a virtual badge presentation and finished off all making and eating pizza together. It was certainly an interesting three months taking Guides over Zoom and, despite not being able to meet in person; we certainly managed to have a lot of fun.



Christine Haddock – Guide Leader

AUGUST QUIZ

(NAME THE SCOTTISH COUNTY)

		Answer
1	Hear of the order to dispose of the Church	
2	Change notes in the middle of the stones	
3	Dumb swaps M for B?	
4	Relative has vehicle to eat	
5	Baby loses head for North	
6	Veto very loud noise	
7	To mix fish?	
8	Sounds as if town jives	
9	And where one can get head covering	
10	Speechless chips?	
11	Polar animal drops a letter and needs a light	
12	Send the bailiffs to Dick?	

June Quiz Answers: 1. Ash 2. Sycamore 3. Elder 4. Rowan 5. Pine 6. Laburnum 7. Acacia 8. Elm
9. Willow 10. Birch 11. Hawthorn 12. Oak

CHURCHES OF THE WORLD

Akureyrarkirkja - Iceland (church in Akureyri)



Built in 1940 it dominates the town from high on a hill and the view is very worthwhile if you are prepared to climb the large numbers of steps to reach it!!!

It has a large 3200 pipe organ. There is a suspended ship hanging from the ceiling reflecting an old Nordic tradition of votive offering for the protection of loved ones at sea.

Perhaps the most striking feature is the beautiful central stained glass window above the altar which originally graced Coventry Cathedral and was taken here for safekeeping during World War 2..

Helen Bullen

BOREDOM BUSTING BAGS



200 Boredom Busting Bags were handed out to children in the village on the 9th, 10th and 11th of July. Each bag contained a copy of Dear Theo (a children's version of Luke & Acts), a colouring book and pencils and a craft

envelope. The children then chose a pencil case and toys to put in their bag.

The response from parents and children was extremely positive. The children also enjoyed a drink of juice and a bag of sweets - all donated by Bunty's of Prieston Road.

This mission and outreach project, which was organised jointly with Freeland Church and Hope Hall, presented a great opportunity to further our focus on reaching out to the community.

The total cost of the project was £1440.50 which was shared equally by the 3 churches.

My thanks go to the volunteers from St Machar's Ranfurly Church who helped to "man" the stall. It was particularly good to have one of our Youth members volunteering to help.

Mary Taylor

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.



Volunteers Wanted

Returning to Church at the present time brings with it many challenges.

Extra help is always welcome for a variety of tasks.
e.g. stewarding, cleaning, sound and vision, and live streaming

Please contact Norma Hancock if you can help:

norma.hancock48@gmail.com
or
01505-61494

FROM THE TREASURER

Life for us all as individuals and as members of various organisations has been far from normal over the past five months, and it looks like it will continue to be so for a while yet. The lockdown restrictions to which we are all subject are having a considerable impact on all aspects of church life, affecting not only worship and social activities but also the financial side. With the closure of the church building, a number of income sources are no longer accessible: there are no user groups in the hall; fundraising opportunities are severely limited (although Coral McLaughlin has been making and supplying face-masks for a donation to church funds – many thanks to Coral); and with no Sunday services in church there are no plate collections for cash or Freewill Offering envelopes.

Meanwhile there is little scope to reduce our outgoings. Electricity and gas should be reduced with the drop in use of the building, but this will be offset to some extent by an unexpected removal of our water charge exemption this year; there will be some minor reductions in other items. However, many of our expenditures continue as normal: for example, Ministries and Mission; salaries of the organist, cleaner and church officer (although we have been

able to take advantage of the government furlough scheme for the latter two); contribution to West Renfrewshire Youth Trust; telephone line rentals; service contracts; council tax.

Bearing in mind the foregoing, I have made a forecast of the year-end situation based on actual income and expenditure at the end of July with forecasts for August to December. This suggests that income will be nearly £17,000 less than anticipated at the start of the year, while expenditure could be £13,500 less than expected, thereby increasing the budgeted deficit by £3,500.

We are very grateful to all members who have continued their giving at this time via standing order or having switched from Freewill envelopes to giving by standing order or cheque.

If you are unable or unwilling to do the same, but would like your Freewill offering envelopes collected on a monthly basis, please contact your Elder to arrange this. If you do not know their contact number, please call Dennis Taylor our Session Clerk on 01505 612417. The Kirk Session would encourage you to bring your giving up to date if you are in a position to do so.

We will also be including a link to enable online giving on our church

website under the heading Administration – Giving.

Live streaming installation

The Kirk Session has agreed to have livestreaming equipment installed and our current projectors and monitors replaced inside the church. This livestreaming setup will mean that we can video our church services from September and make this available 'live' for viewing online via our YouTube channel. While we can only return to the building in a very limited capacity, this will mean all those unable to attend will still be able to join in with the worship from their own homes. It also means that even when we can once more have greater numbers in the building, the housebound will be able to join our services remotely and recordings of our services will be available for later viewing too. The elders also see livestreaming as a way to reach those outwith our normal membership as the internet is very accessible for many.

The complete installation will cost £12,000 and if you wish to make a specific donation to meet this expenditure, please indicate this to the treasurer by emailing him.

(Treasurer@stmacharsranfurlychurch.org.uk).

CONTACTS

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 Bridge of Weir,
 PA11 3HS

Tel: 01505 **612975**



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

Tel: 01505 **612417**

ROTAS

Date	Stewarding	Cleaning	Registration
September 6th	Coral McLaughlin Morven McLeod	Naomi Butterworth Morven McLeod	Dennis Taylor Dick Hughes
13th	Jennie Durward Norma Hancock	Anne Yeaman Norma Hancock	Dennis Taylor Dick Hughes
20th	Judy Evans Philip McCulloch	Judy Evans Norma Hancock	Dennis Taylor
27th	Dennis Taylor Mary Taylor	Dennis Taylor Mary Taylor	Dick Hughes
October 4th	Bill Robb Sarah McNaught	Pamela Wilson Sarah McNaught	Dennis Taylor
11th	Marion Reid Agnes McKechan	Anne Yeaman Agnes McKechan	Dick Hughes
18th	Norma Hancock Coral McLaughlin	Dick Hughes Naomi Butterworth	Dennis Taylor
25th	Morven McLeod Fred Schellekens	Morven McLeod Anne Yeaman	Dick Hughes
November 1st	Margaret Richardson Judy Evans	Margaret Richardson Judy Evans	Dennis Taylor

THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE - HOW STRANGE

We'll begin with a box, and the plural is boxes
 But the plural of ox becomes oxen , not oxes
 Then one fowl is a goose, but 2 are called geese
 Yet the plural of mouse should never be meese
 You may find a lone mouse or a nest full of mice
 Yet the plural of house is houses, not hice.

If the plural of man is always called men
 Why shouldn't the plural of pan be called pen?

If I speak of a foot and you show me your feet
 And I give you a boot, would a pair be called beet?
 If one is a tooth, and a whole set are teeth
 Why shouldn't the plural of booth be called beeth?
 Then one may be that, and three would be those
 Yet hat in the plural would never be hose
 And the plural of cat is cats, and not cose.

We speak of a brother and also of brethren
 But though we say mother, we never say methren
 Then the masculine pronouns are he, his and him
 But imagine the feminine she, shis and shim.....

Editorial Team
 Dennis Taylor
 Mary Taylor Marion Reid

Contributions for the next issue of *The Lych Gate* should be with the Editor by **Tuesday 22nd September 2020**.
 Please E-mail to: dennis1taylor@msn.com or pass memory sticks or paper copies to Dennis Taylor.