

The Lych Gate

The Newsletter of St Machar's Ranfurly Church



October 2020

Volume 22 Issue 5



MINISTER'S LETTER

I suspect like me you're not greatly looking forward to the next 6 months or so. The respite that summer brought seems to be coming to an end as we brace ourselves for a second wave of Covid infections and restrictions. It's hard to stay positive and calm when this is on the news 24/7 and affecting our own lives too, especially socially.

Whilst we can probably get over the fact that our opportunities for travel are more limited this year, not being able to receive visitors or see family indoors is a lot harder to take for most. And for some of us seeing family actually requires significant travel and so meeting or helping them is nigh on impossible.

Then there are those among us who are suffering the heartbreak of having loved ones in care homes and having only very limited access to visits. There are really no ways to dress this up as a good thing, and nor does faith require us to gloss over the pain and the

suffering that comes with the present crisis. The Bible and the Old Testament in particular encourages lament; complaining to God, pouring out the woes of your own soul and the condition of the world. Lament is plentiful in the Psalms. Lament is healthy in so far as we're not trying to cover up or deny what is actually happening or how we're feeling. We are culturally and psychologically sometimes afraid of lament (our own or that of other people) as we feel it might open the floodgates of sadness, and we prefer a quick fix. We find it hard to sit with our own and other's suffering. If we lament to God, we acknowledge a problem is bigger than we can fix. It is an act of surrendering control, of faith. Only God can help.

In the Psalms of Lament (for example psalm 42) you can often see however, that when the Psalmist complains to God, there is often a turning point in how they feel. They go through the lament, into a new and deeper faith in

God. They commit themselves to remember God's past goodness and hold on to the belief that God will yet rescue them.

This difficult period offers for all of us an exercise in faith; when all our normal comforts, distractions and securities are stripped away, who do we rely on? What gives us ultimate hope?

It can also teach us compassion beyond our normal scope. How can we be of help to our neighbours, when our movements are restricted? While our opportunities for meeting socially as a congregation are restricted, I encourage you to consider what you can do to alleviate the isolation or perhaps practical needs of those near you.

I am the church, you are the church, we are the church together...

Yours,

Hanneke

AUTUMN COLOURS



With Thanks to Francis Hancock

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.

REMEMBRANCE

The Seasons of War

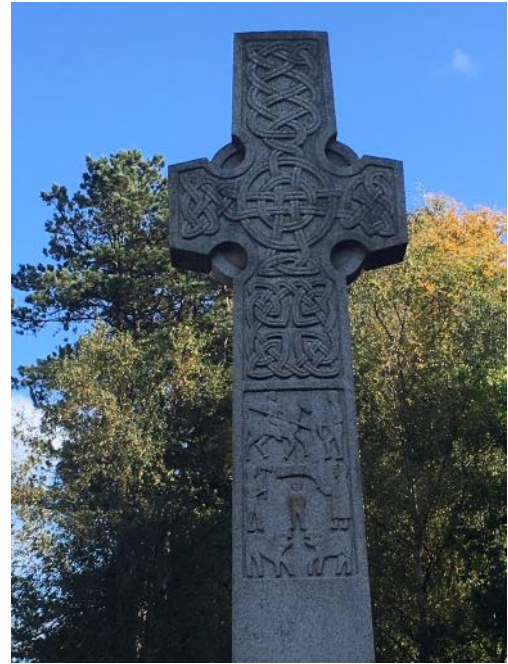
In the war my soldier hears
His men screaming with many fears
Gunshots flying through the air
In the winter when trees are bare

In the war my soldier sees
His fellow men dropping to their knees
Once wasteland, **now the poppies grow**
In the spring they softly blow

When autumn comes war finally stops
While harvest time beckons a bountiful crop
Poppies petals burst and flower and bloom
And now we know there will be no more
gloom
Just the magnificent sun which shines bright
Like a guiding angel in the morning light.

The Poppies entwine together fixing a bond
Grow with souls for eternity
Red, the blood symbolises our peace
Across a war torn globe
Together in Flanders Fields
We will remember them

***Seasons will come and seasons will go
Their memory lives on and this we know.***



Peace

Say NO to PEACE

if what they mean by 'peace'
is the quiet misery of hunger,
the frozen stillness of fear
the silence of broken spirits
the unborn hopes of the oppressed.

Tell them that PEACE

is the shouting of children at play,
the babble of tongues set free
the thunder of dancing feet
and a father's voice singing.



ATTENDING CHURCH

At present due to Covid-19 regulations we are limited in the number of people who are able to attend for a service and so the following booking system is in place. Currently up to a maximum of 36 people can attend. This includes the sound and vision team, the stewards on the door and the Church Officer. The minister, organist and a vocalist are counted separately.

The procedure for booking is 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 07484-280104

E-mail -
sessionclerk@stmacharsranfurlychurch.org.uk

If leaving a message, please say for how many in your household you are booking for and 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 are outside the Church grounds.

SUBSCRIBING TO OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Subscribing to YouTube channels is free. It does not mean you start getting emails from YouTube, however it will make it easier to find our channel and videos (under 'subscriptions'). You can also get notified (eg on your phone) of livestreams. You need to be **signed in** to YouTube before you can **subscribe**. If you don't already have a Google account you can **create one** when you click on '**sign in**' (top right corner) on YouTube webpage or in the YouTube app. This is explained in this video (ignore the part about creating a YouTube channel) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l0eM1_JVqHE
You can **create a Google account with your normal email address**,

see instructions here:

<https://support.google.com/accounts/answer/27441?hl=en#:~:text=Tip%3A%20You%20don't%20need,address%20to%20create%20one%20instead>

If you don't know if you have already got a Google account you can follow the instructions on this page in order to **find out**: <https://support.google.com/google-ads/answer/1722060?hl=en#:~:text=If%20you're%20already%20using,to%20create%20a%20Google%20Account>.

If you have a Gmail account, you will already have a Google account. If you use an Android phone you are also likely to be signed into it with a Google account for storing contacts etc (though you might not!)
When you are signed into YouTube

with your Google account (either existing or newly created) you can **search for our channel** (type St Machar's Ranfurly Church in the search box) When you've found our channel or one of our videos, you can now hit the red '**SUBSCRIBE**' button underneath the video. After hitting the subscribe button a **small bell symbol** will appear. If you click on it you can get notifications when we have put out new videos or are livestreaming. If this seems all too complicated, ask someone else to help, but we appreciate that it is difficult at the moment as you can't bring people into the house. In the meantime, I'll try to reorganise our channel page so that videos are easier to find.
Hanneke

1ST BRIDGE OF WEIR GUIDES



Sadly the Tuesday night Guides like many others have not had the opportunity to meet in person since the middle of March. However that all changed on Tuesday evening when we all got together for a fun filled evening at South Newton, Girlguiding Renfrewshire's Activity and Training Centre. Having conquered the necessary paperwork to hold the evening outside, everyone was really looking forward to getting together, catching up with friends and getting to know our new Guides. Unfortunately as if on cue after a warm almost Indian Summer it was a wet night. The rain was coming horizontally, the wind was

blowing in gusts, the Guides and Leaders all well wrapped up in waterproofs spent the evening playing ball, team running games and a treasure hunt for glow sticks. Loads of fun and lots of smiling faces despite the weather. The evening was concluded with a fire to toast marshmallows and make sommores. Everything going forward is dependent on the advice relating to the infection rate for the virus but a vote was taken and the girls would prefer to continue meeting outdoors when and where possible to have fun together.

Moira Johnston

JUNIOR CHURCH

Due to Covid 19 this session of Junior Church has not yet begun. We are, however, grateful to the members of the Youth Church who have undertaken training in the use of the livestream equipment and have volunteered to operate it on a rota basis. Meanwhile, below is a puzzle to keep youngsters of all ages busy.

Word Search

Words from The Ten Commandments

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

COMMANDMENT
COVENANT
EGYPT

HONOUR
MOTHER
MOUNTAIN

SINAI
STEAL
TABLETS

OCTOBER QUIZ (FIND THE ANIMAL)

		Answer
1	Disturbed Muriel losing one	
2	The French zero average penny	
3	Ruined a ship's pump too	
4	Practical ionization includes one	
5	A backward shopping area	
6	Foreign Office times	
7	Optic attachment has it	
8	Father with confused connector or round it	
9	Untidy used room	
10	Dropping by Fitzgerald's famous character is back	
11	Out of tune orchestra	
12	Window cleaner	

August Quiz Answers: 1.Selkirk 2. Peebles 3. Bute 4. Kincardine 5. Nairn 6. Banff 7. Stirling 8. Roxburgh
9. Wigtown 10. Dumfries 11. Berwick 12. Dunbarton



GUILD NEWS A GUILD FAREWELL

**THE BIBLE
IN
50 WORDS**

It was a very sad day when the Guild announced the death of our President, Margaret Mills, who died on 6th September very suddenly in the RAH.

Margaret had been a member of St. Machar's Ranfurly Guild since 1979 when she was Vice President, then President for the next 3 years.

The following 15 years were taken up with either being a delegate to Paisley Presbytery (now called Guilds Together) or on Presbytery Committee, also a year as Secretary, on the guild committee and a short Presidential term in 1991 – 1993.

In 1997 Margaret became President again and continued in this role until the Guild had to stop meeting in March due to the virus.

Margaret was a good leader of the Guild as she had lots of ideas, was always cheerful and had a fund of wee stories. Every year she went to Edinburgh and latterly to Dundee to the Guild Annual Meeting, which she thoroughly enjoyed. When the Guild restarts we shall miss her and her cheery "GOOD NIGHT LADIES".

At the moment we are not anticipating restarting but hope to keep you informed of our intentions. It is strange that this year has coincided with our new theme for 2020 – 2021....
THE EXTRA MILE.

We hope we can go forward as an organisation dedicated to worship, action and fellowship. Please keep in touch with each other and go safely.

God made
Adam bit
Noah arked
Abraham split
Joseph ruled
Jacob fooled
Bush talked
Moses balked
Pharaoh plagued
People walked
Sea divided
Tablets guided
Promise landed
Saul freaked
David peeked
Prophets warned
Jesus born
God walked
Love talked
Anger crucified
Hope died
Love rose
Spirit flamed
Word spread
God remained.

CONTRIBUTORS SOUGHT FOR AN ONLINE COMMUNITY ADVENT CALENDAR

We would like to create an online Community Advent Calendar for our village this year as it will be difficult to invite widely for our Christmas services due to Covid. 25 short video clips would be shared daily via a dedicated Facebook page (which people could easily share on their own pages).

These videos (approx. 2 mins each) could contain (varying each day): a short reflection on a word or theme, a hymn or religious song performed by someone from our churches, a church member answering a question based on the theme (e.g 'what gives you hope?', 'what does Christmas mean to you' etc), a Bible reading or poem, perhaps something visual like someone painting or drawing or a combination of the above.

There could be weekly themes, perhaps the traditional Hope, Peace, Love and Joy.

The plan is to do this with contributions from the other local churches as well, and to prepare all this well in advance of publication (eg October/November time).

The minister is now looking at people who would like to make a contribution; for example musical, artistic (photos or painting/drawing), poetry, reading, being prepared to be asked a Advent related question etc. Please let her know if you would like to help or have any ideas!



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

Being in 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



FUNERALS

Jesus said "I am the Resurrection and the Life"

Stephanie Hunter

27th August 2020

Margaret Mills

15th September

Life & Work

Once again it is time to collect monies for Life & Work. We are glad to say that the price remains the same as last year and we would ask our distributors to collect £30.60 from everyone, before the end of November.

May we thank all our willing helpers who distribute Life & Work and Lych Gate to the members of the congregation. This is very much appreciated. If anyone has any enquiries about the magazine or would like a copy of it or the Lych Gate please contact Ann Hart 873010 or Norma Hancock 614943.

Good News from The Bridge

The Bridge is now open for 6 days each week. The hours are 10am to 1pm, Monday to Saturday inclusive, and from 2pm to 5pm on Monday.

Post Office - with our banks either closed or opening on a part-time basis please remember you can make cash withdrawals and pay cheques into your bank account through our post office counter. Donald, Stuart and Alison will be happy to assist with your banking needs and all other postal services.

It may come as a surprise but The Bridge preparations are well under way for **Christmas**. From the middle of October our selection of Christmas Cards, Wrapping Paper, Tags, Diaries and Money Wallets will be on sale.

Alison Bannerman, local artist and trustee of The Bridge, has designed a Christmas Card for 2020. A further selection of "The Bridge" charity cards will also be on sale as well as a variety of Traidcraft Cards. All cards,

including the ever popular individual "Greetings from Bridge of Weir" will be available from our Christmas display.

Our **2021** Calendar will be on sale from mid September and makes a perfect gift. Our thanks again go to the members of the **Paisley Colour Photographic Club** who have provided stunning photographs. The A4 sized calendar incorporates landmarks around Bridge of Weir. **Hearing Aid Batteries** - on production of your yellow Hearing Instrument and Battery Record Book and the signing of the battery receipt sheet, the volunteer on duty will issue you with one battery card for each hearing aid.

Please view The Bridge as the place to go for all your postal and banking needs and your stationery and greeting card purchases. Your support is essential to the functioning of The Bridge. Finally a big thank you to all our current customers and our dedicated team of volunteers.

Harvest 2020

Our Harvest Celebration will be held in the Church on Sunday 11th October. Contributions of food or cash for the Renfrewshire Foodbank can be brought to the Church.



CONTACTS

Minister: Rev. Hanneke Marshall
The Manse,
9 St Andrews Drive,
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	Stewards	Cleaning	Registration
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 Dennis Taylor	Morven McLeod Anne Yeaman	Dick Hughes
November 1st	Margaret Richardson Judy Evans	Margaret Richardson Judy Evans	Dennis Taylor
8th	Mary Taylor Dennis Taylor	Mary Taylor Dennis Taylor	Dick Hughes
15th	Jennie Durward Philip McCulloch	Jennie Durward Rosemary Taylor	Dennis Taylor
22nd	Norma Hancock Jane Shepherd	Norma Hancock Jane Shepherd	Dick Hughes
29th	Agnes McKechan Marion Reid	Agnes McKechan Pamela Wilson	Dennis Taylor
December 6th	Sarah McNaught Bill Robb	Sarah McNaught Anne Yeaman	Dick Hughes

SOUND AND VISION

VOCALIST

October 4th	Greg Miller	Lois Marshall	Alex Bullen
11th	Harrison Butterworth	Naomi Butterworth	Margaret Richardson
18th	Greg Miller	Drew Richardson	Archie Butter
25th	Lukas Marshall	Lois Marshall	Fred Schellekens
November 1st	Harrison Butterworth	Naomi Butterworth	Helen Bullen
8th	Lukas Marshall	Drew Richardson	Alex Bullen
15th	Greg Miller	Beth Robertson	Margaret Richardson
22nd	Harrison Butterworth	Lukas Marshall	Archie Butter
29th	Greg Miller	Lois Marshall	Fred Schellekens
December 6th	Lukas Marshall	Beth Robertson	Helen Bullen

Editorial Team

Dennis Taylor
Mary Taylor Marion Reid

Contributions for the next issue of *The Lych Gate* should be with the Editor by **Tuesday 24th November 2020**.
Please E-mail to: dennis1taylor@msn.com or pass memory sticks or paper copies to Dennis Taylor.