

The **Lych Gate**

The Newsletter of St Machar's Ranfurly Church



August 2021

Volume 23 Issue 4



FROM THE MINISTER

From the minister – refreshment

I write this letter just back from 2 weeks of holiday in Scotland. We have had two wonderful weeks; one in Moray somewhere near Dufftown and one in Armadale, Sutherland. Aside from one autumn break a number of years ago we have not really holidayed in Scotland before as we usually go over to the continent to see my family. Though I'm sad it doesn't look as though we'll be able to visit the Netherlands this summer, we have no regrets for our Scottish holiday. There is just so much space and peace to be enjoyed, and wonderful scenery pretty much everywhere! It was great to have a beautiful sandy beach on the doorstep in our second location, which usually had nobody else on it. There is something very relaxing and soothing about being by the seaside, I find, and for me it helps to let go of everything else. There is something so

enduring and persistent about the coming and going of the tides, the battering of the waves and the wind; you know you just have to let it happen and accept the presence of forces out of your control. In a day-to-day life where one needs to spin many plates and 'stay on top' of many things, this is very refreshing. The sense of an enduring land and sea scape also gives me a sense of God's enduring presence; greater than me, stronger, wilder. Not in my control, and there long before me and long after I'm gone. World without end. It helps to just surrender to that and enjoy the refreshment of resting in God's presence without doing. Of course the sea is also dangerous and frightening at times, and the ancient people of Israel weren't too keen on the sea as they weren't really a sea faring nation. They were mostly at awe and in fear of the power of the sea. It sometimes stood as an image for the powers of death. Hence the

(for us) strange vision that John has of the new heaven and new earth, with no longer any sea in it (Revelation 21:1). I'd find that rather disappointing to be honest, but we have to remember this is an Eschatological vision, not a detailed tourist guide to the new creation! To deal with their existential fears about the sea, the Psalmist proclaims that the voice of God is more powerful than the mighty waters (Psalm 29: 4-5). Whatever frightens and intimidates us, we can trust that God is greater still. Nothing is out of His control. To trust in this, even in the hardest circumstances, can help us to find refreshment and rest in the presence of God, even while the waters roar around us. Hoping that you will experience this refreshment too .

Yours,
Hanneke

COVID AND THE CHURCH UPDATE

Many of you have already been back to church services in person, and if you have you will know we have taken great care at keeping everyone safe. This will still be the case as we move forward to level 0. A number of relaxations are implemented, which means we can now **reduce social distancing from 2 metres to 1 metres**. This means our capacity has increased significantly and as such **you no longer have to pre-book** to attend church. You can just turn up on the day. We will still be keeping an attendance register for test and trace purposes and your name will be either ticked off or added to the list as you come in. If your details are not already on our list you will be asked to provide your name and contact number. We do still ask you to **sanitize your hands** as you come in and to **wear a facemask** unless you are exempt. We

will no longer be directing you to your seat, however we would ask you adhere to the **one way system** and to the place markers as you make your way around the church. On leaving the church please also be mindful of social distancing in the aisles and the vestibule.

We are still encouraging people to give via standing order, as many of you are anyway, but you can bring in your free will envelopes or cash if you wish and put these on the plate on leaving the church.

Possibly the best change (in my book!) is a **return to congregational singing**. As we still have to wear facemasks however, we will ease you in gently and will leave it up to you if you want to join in.

As of last Sunday, the **pew cushions are back** so that is a great leap

forward in your comfort! I do hope if you haven't already been back and are able, you feel encouraged to come back to church.

Of course we will continue to livestream our services via our YouTube channel for those who can't attend.

Yours in Christ,
Hanneke

CHILEAN FIRE TREE



Some 25 years ago Pamela and Bill Wilson accepted an offer from a Church member who was relocating to the seaside to take a sucker from his favourite tree - an Embotrium (subtitled Chilean Fire Tree). It flourished in their back garden in Kilgraston Road and presents every year - from the end of May into June - a spectacular display of flaming orange blossom.

The responses to occasional invitations to have a look have always been of delight, and Pamela and Bill would like to invite members and friends to pop in next year at the end of May or Early June to share in the great pleasure they derive from this wonder of nature.

PS. Propagation has been possible via suckers, and we were pleased to have one of our 'babies' accepted by Ross Priory as a replacement for one lost. It now thrives in their Walled Garden.

Bill Wilson

1ST BRIDGE OF WEIR GUIDES (WEDNESDAY GUIDES)

During May and June, we were very lucky with the weather and were able to continue to meet outdoors on a Wednesday evening. We enjoyed two nights out at South Newton and finished our Girlguiding Scotland 'Out and About Wee Beastie Challenge 2021'.



On our first night we made simple macrame butterfly feeders from wool and paper plates, played games around the campsite and ate delicious chocolate bananas around the campfire. On our second visit to South Newton, we played more games and made Chocolate Orange Campfire Cakes. We scooped out the inside of an orange and filled it with cake mixture and cooked them in the embers of the fire. We also presented outstanding Gold Awards to two of our older Guides who had wanted to come along to

South Newton to get them presented in person - this had been delayed due to the COVID restrictions in place over the past months.

We also enjoyed a great night on cycle ride from Bridge of Weir to Kilmacolm and back. Once in Kilmacolm we stopped, and all enjoyed an ice-cream, and all had our photograph taken at the 'soldiers' along the track.



On our last night of term, we met at the Quarriers Village playing fields. We had a quiz around the

village and finished off the last part of one of our Skill Builders: "Tasty Testing". We brought along three 'caterpillar cakes' M&S's Colin, Tesco's Curly and Sainsburys Wiggles to sample. It was a unanimous decision that M&S's was the best!



Despite the midges being out in full force we had a great evening and presented the last of the term badges which included one Bronze and one Silver Award.

Christine Haddock
1st Bridge of Weir Guides

2ND BRIDGE OF WEIR GUIDES (TUESDAY GUIDES)



During the Summer Term Tuesday Guides have been fortunate to have been able to meet most Tuesday evenings outside either in the church carpark or at South Newton. Unfortunately the leaders having organised

a fun activity night for our final meet up before the end of term, had to cancel this at short notice due to a Covid alert. So feeling slightly short changed we couldn't have our evening at SN, Shona organised an activity day at Lapwing Scout Centre for Sunday 25th July. Fortunately not all our Guides were away on holiday. The sun shone and we all had a super day kayaking, climbing the high ropes, picnicking, playing silly games and following a blindfold trail. We are hoping for a little more normality going forward. Massive thanks to all our parents for their support and patience.



Moira Johnston

1ST BRIDGE OF WEIR BOYS' BRIGADE



The last year has been a year like no other, but we are looking forward to a new and, hopefully, more normal session.

Anchor Boys [P1-3] This group has not met over the past year and they are too young to make use of Zoom. There are now just one or two boys on their roll so a recruitment drive is required! If you have any friends or family with boys in this age group please put in your recommendation. It is a fun mix of games, crafts, baking and bible stories.

Junior Section [P4-6] The Juniors have met by Zoom over the past

year but hope to get back to meeting face to face in St. Machars Ranfurly this coming session. They just have about 12 boys so, again, a big plug is needed. There are games, crafts and stories but also battalion sports competitions to be entered and usually one or two visits during the year to somewhere of interest.

Company Section [P7-S6] All change here with Paul Birch stepping down as Captain, but remaining an officer, and myself taking over. John Semple and Will Mullen are looking to reduce their involvement but John has kindly offered to continue with his famous boat trips and Will with his considerable expertise in Duke of Edinburgh matters. Rob Thomson, who currently works for the Church of Scotland in a youth work

capacity, has agreed to step in, but we are still in need of a further one or two to join our officer team. Please pray that the right people will come forward; it might even be you! This is open to both men and women.

Over the past year some 25 boys have continued to meet with a combination of Zoom, games in the glen and a few face to face meetings in the Freeland Hall. Later than usual, we have both a Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh expedition scheduled over the next few weeks. Thank you for all the support and prayers from our friends in St Machars Ranfurly and Freeland.

Brian Logie

SOME ADVICE FOR THOSE OVER 65

- It's time to use the money you saved up. Use it and enjoy it. Don't just keep it for those who may have no notion of the sacrifices you made to get it. Remember there is nothing more dangerous than a son or daughter-in-law with big ideas for your hard-earned capital. Warning: This is also a bad time for investments, even if it seems wonderful or fool-proof. They only bring problems and worries. This is a time for you to enjoy some peace and quiet.
- Stop worrying about the financial situation of your children and grandchildren, and don't feel bad spending your money on yourself. You've taken care of them for many years, and you've taught them what you could. You gave them an education, food, shelter and support. The responsibility is now theirs to earn their own money.
- Keep a healthy life, without great physical effort. Do moderate exercise (like walking every day), eat well and get your sleep. It's easy to become sick, and it gets harder to remain healthy. That is why you need to keep yourself in good shape and be aware of your medical and physical needs. Keep in touch with your doctor, do tests even when you're feeling well. Stay informed.
- Always buy the best, most beautiful items for your significant other. The key goal is to enjoy your money with your partner. One day one of you will miss the other, and the money will not provide any comfort then, enjoy it together.
- Don't stress over the little things. Like paying a little extra on price quotes. You've already overcome so much in your life. You have good memories and bad ones, but the important thing is the present. Don't let the past drag you down and don't let the future frighten you. Feel good in the now. Small issues will soon be forgotten.
- Regardless of age, always keep love alive. Love your partner, love life, love your family, love your neighbour and remember: "A man is not old as long as he has intelligence and affection."
- Be proud, both inside and out. Don't stop going to your hair salon or barber, do your nails, go to the dermatologist and the dentist, keep your perfumes and creams well stocked. When you are well-maintained on the outside, it seeps in, making you feel proud and strong.
- Don't lose sight of fashion trends for your age, but keep your own sense of style. There's nothing worse than an older person trying to wear the current fashion among youngsters. You've developed your own sense of what looks good on you – keep it and be proud of it. It's part of who you are.
- ALWAYS stay up-to-date. Read newspapers, watch the news. Go online and read what people are saying. Make sure you have an active email account and try to use some of those social networks. You'll be surprised what old friends you'll meet. Keeping in touch with what is going on and with the people you know is important at any age.
- Respect the younger generation and their opinions. They may not have the same ideals as you, but they are the future, and will take the world in their direction. Give advice, not criticism, and try to remind them that yesterday's wisdom still applies today.
- Never use the phrase: "In my time." Your time is now. As long as you're alive, you are part of this time. You may have been younger, but you are still you now, having fun and enjoying life.
- Some people embrace their golden years, while others become bitter and surly. Life is too short to waste your days on the latter. Spend your time with positive, cheerful people, it'll rub off on you and your days will seem that much better. Spending your time with bitter people will make you older and harder to be around.
- Do not surrender to the temptation of living with your children or grandchildren (if you have a financial choice, that is). Sure, being surrounded by family sounds great, but we all need our privacy. They need theirs and you need yours. If you've lost your partner (our deepest condolences), then find a person to move in with you and help out. Even then, do so only if you feel you really need the help or do not want to live alone.
- Don't abandon your hobbies. If you don't have any, make new ones. You can travel, hike, cook, read, dance. You can adopt a cat or a dog, grow a garden, play cards, checkers, chess, dominoes, golf. You can paint, volunteer or just collect certain items. Find something you like and spend some real time having fun with it.
- Even if you don't feel like it, try to accept invitations. Baptisms, graduations, birthdays, weddings, conferences. Try to go. Get out of the house, meet people you haven't seen in a while, experience something new (or something old). But don't get upset when you're not invited. Some events are limited by resources, and not everyone can be hosted. The important thing is to leave the house from time to time. Go to museums, go walk through a field. Get out there.
- Be a conversationalist. Talk less and listen more. Some people go on and on about the past, not caring if their listeners are really interested. That's a great way of reducing their desire to speak with you. Listen first and answer questions, but don't go off into long stories unless asked to. Speak in courteous tones and try not to complain or criticize too much unless you really need to. Try to accept situations as they are. Everyone is going through the same things, and people have a low tolerance for hearing complaints. Always find some good things to say as well.
- Pain and discomfort go hand in hand with getting older. Try not to dwell on them but accept them as a part of the cycle of life we're all going through. Try to minimize them in your mind. They are not who you are, they are something that life added to you. If they become your entire focus, you lose sight of the person you used to be.
- If you've been offended by someone – forgive them. If you've offended someone - apologize. Don't drag around resentment with you. It only serves to make you sad and bitter. It doesn't matter who was right. Someone once said: "Holding a grudge is like taking poison and expecting the other person to die." Don't take that poison. Forgive, forget and move on with your life.
- If you have a strong belief, savour it. But don't waste your time trying to convince others. They will make their own choices no matter what you tell them, and it will only bring you frustration. Live your faith and set an example. Live true to your beliefs and let that memory sway them.

(Cont'd on Page 6)

CHURCHES OF THE WORLD

Here are two further churches which we photographed on our way down the Danube towards Vienna

role in addition to their spiritual function.

St Michaels Parish Church Wachau – Austria



Weissenkirchen Church Weussen – Austria



This is an impressive fortified church right on the banks of the River Danube. Wachau was not a peaceful place during the Middle Ages. Local disputes and the later threat of attack by the Ottoman army meant that many towns lacking a castle needed a well defended place of refuge. These churches were often designed to fulfil this

This is also a further fortified church just down the river from St Michaels which performed the same function since there was no castle in the town.

Helen Bullen

SOME ADVICE FOR THOSE OVER 65 (CONTINUED)

- Laugh. Laugh A LOT. Laugh at everything. Remember, you are one of the lucky ones. You managed to have a life, a long one. Many never get to this age, never get to experience a full life. But you did. So what's not to laugh about? Find the humour in your situation.
- Take no notice of what others say about you and even less notice of what they might be thinking. They'll do it anyway, and you should have pride in yourself and what you've achieved. Let them talk and don't worry. They have no idea about your history, your memories and the life you've lived so far. There's still much to be written, so get busy writing and don't waste time thinking about what others might think. Now is the time to be at rest, at peace and as happy as you can be!

Bill Christie

AUGUST QUIZ (FIND THE SCOTTISH TOWN)

		Answer
1	Fill the Irish island with coal dust	
2	Throw mud at the chips	
3	Bacon, one litre weight	
4	Not a dead pebble	
5	Agitate fish	
6	Tub has an entry	
7	Troy lady's town	
8	Bill's stockade	
9	Women's institute scrubs clean for it	
10	Puss has tangled rein	
11	On off the fruit has two's flower	
12	About form of transport	

June Quiz Answers: 1. Beagle 2. Boxer 3. Collie 4. St. Bernard 5. Mastiff 6. Poodle 7. Greyhound
8. Dalmation 9. Lurcher 10. Pointer 11. Chow Chow 12. Labrador

NOTICES

DIARY

August

Sunday 8th	10.30 am	Morning Service - All age service
Sunday 15th	10.30 am	Morning Service
Sunday 22nd	10.30 am	Morning Service
Thursday 26th	7.30 pm	Kirk Session Meeting
Sunday 29th	10.30 am	Morning Service - Back to Church Service

September

Sunday 5th	10.30 am	Morning Service
Sunday 12th	10.30 am	Morning Service
Sunday 19th	10.30 am	Morning Service
Sunday 26th	10.30 am	Morning Service - All age service

October

Sunday 3rd	10.30 am	Sacrament of Holy Communion
Sunday 10th	10.30 am	Morning Service

FUNERALS



Jesus said "I am the Resurrection and the Life"

Andrea Wharton

10th June 2021

*

Michael Hepburn

7th July 2021

GOLDEN CONGRATULATIONS

To Iain and Alison Robertson who celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary on 25th June 2021. This photograph was taken at St. Andrews where they celebrated with their family.



To Dennis and Mary Taylor who were married in Kirkmahoe Parish Church, Dumfries on Saturday 17th July 1971.

Girlguiding Bridge of Weir and Kilmacolm URGENTLY need adult leaders for our Units.

If you would like to find out more, please register at www.girlguiding.org.uk/ interested

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ROTAS

Date	Stewarding		Cleaning		Registration
August 8th	Norma Hancock	Judy Evans	Norma Hancock	Judy Evans	Dick Hughes
15th	Marion Reid	Morven McLeod	Elizabeth McClure	Morven McLeod	Dennis Taylor
22nd	Scott McLaughlin	Naomi Butterworth	Scott McLaughlin	Naomi Butterworth	Dick Hughes
29th	Anne Allen	Margaret Richardson	Anne Allen	Margaret Richardson	Dennis Taylor
Sept. 5th	Jane Stirling	Jennie Durward	Jane Stirling	Jennie Durward	Dick Hughes
12th	Jane Shepherd	Philip McCulloch	Jane Shepherd	Philip McCulloch	Dennis Taylor
19th	Agnes McKechan	Fred Schellekens	Agnes McKechan	Fred Schellekens	Dick Hughes
26th	Mary Taylor	Dennis Taylor	Mary Taylor	Dennis Taylor	Dennis Taylor
Oct 3rd	Bill Robb	Sarah McNaught	Anne Yeaman	Sarah McNaught	Dick Hughes
10th	Judy Evans	Marion Reid	Judy Evans	Elizabeth McClure	Dennis Taylor

Date	Sound and Vision		Vocalists	
August 8th	Lukas Marshall	David Macdonald	Coral McLaughlin	Naomi Butterworth
15th	Greg Millar	Katelyn Macfadyen	Helen Bullen	Alex Bullen
22nd	Harrison Butterworth	Naomi Butterworth	Margaret Richardson	Fred Schellekens
29th	Beth Robertson	Lois Marshall	Hanneke Marshall	Archie Butter
Sept. 5th	Lukas Marshall	Drew Richardson	TBA	
12th	Harrison Butterworth	Naomi Butterworth	TBA	
19th	Greg Millar	Katelyn Macfadyen	TBA	
26th	Beth Robertson	Lois Marshall	TBA	
Oct 3rd	Lukas Marshall	Drew Richardson	TBA	
10th	Harrison Butterworth	Naomi Butterworth	TBA	



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Contributions for the next issue of *The Lych Gate* should be with the Editor by **Tuesday 21st September 2021**.
Please E-mail to: dennis1taylor@msn.com or pass memory sticks or paper copies to Dennis Taylor.