

THE ANCHOR

The magazine of Kiltarlity and Kirkhill
Churches

Easter 2020



New Life, New Hope

*Living in the love of Jesus in the rural
Highlands*

www.kiltarlityandkirkhill.org.uk

An Easter Message from our Moderator

Core Values

The context is COVID-19. The advice is changing by the day. The implications are huge: socially, economically and generally life affecting. As an Army chaplain, I work with ordinary people who are expected to deal with extraordinary situations and threats. Kit and equipment and training obviously matter; but perhaps what matters most is character and moral compass. Let me share with you the Core Values of the British Army. When remembered, understood and owned: they can serve any community well.

Courage. Exercising moral courage might apply to reminding others about hand washing or self-isolating or a raft of other measures. It is likely to be most effective when demonstrated with respect.

Discipline. When we point the finger at someone else, we have three fingers pointing back at ourselves. Do in relation to others what you would have them do in relation to you.

Respect for Others. People may be frustrated, concerned about finances, or worried about a vulnerable member of the family. Sometimes we need to be told to “man up” and get on with it. Sometimes we need a more understanding approach.

Integrity. It could be you. It could be me. If you think you may be infected, then put your hand up and be dependent on others to support you. If you just crack on and infect someone else’s shopping trolley, then you are part of the problem rather than the solution.

Loyalty. The Government and other organisations are doing their best to get us through this. Toe the line, Follow the advice. Be faithful.

Selfless Commitment. This is going to cost us as a species, as nations, as communities, as families, as individuals. Rather than focusing on “me” and how “I” can get through this. Let’s be prepared to focus on others and how we can work together in-order to overcome.

Jesus said: Love God and love your neighbour as yourself.

Seoras Mackenzie

Interim Moderator

Thanks to David Garvie

We are all so grateful for the work David has done to get us organised with Zoom to keep the churches going. The AGMs have gone ahead and both Kirk Sessions and both congregations have now voted in favour of the Union, and so the next step is for Presbytery to approve it. This will open the way for us to call a minister when this present crisis is over.

David says-

'Inverness Presbytery met in December and agreed that both Kiltarlity and Kirkhill church buildings should remain open (previously Presbytery was expecting one or other building to close). As a result, the 10-year Presbytery Plan has now been amended and both church buildings are safe. As part of the Plan, Kiltarlity and Kirkhill churches will change from being a 'linked charge' to being a 'union', which means that the Kirk Sessions and other committees will merge and all assets will be shared. Worship will continue to use both buildings and it is up to the new joint Kirk Session to decide exactly what services will happen where and when. In the short-term there is likely to be no change to the current pattern of 10am in Kirkhill and 11.30am in Kiltarlity, with a joint service alternating between each church building on the 1st Sunday of every month.

Both Kirk Sessions and Congregations have now approved the formation of the union, and we expect that Presbytery will confirm the detail at their meeting in June. Once that has happened, we should be able to start the process of looking for a new minister.

Starting this Sunday, during the present crisis, we will be restarting regular Sunday Worship at Kiltarlity & Kirkhill Churches. Until we are able to meet face to face again, we will be meeting via Zoom, as a joint 'service' at 10.45am every Sunday.

The plan is to have a short structured 'service' of readings, prayers and a short message, followed by an opportunity for people to remain on the call

and chat. Bring your own tea/coffee! You can join the service at 10.45am by going to: <https://zoom.us/j/305951545>.'

Check your emails for extra instructions, and do let anyone you know who hasn't access to the technology, how to join in by phone.



Just a thought.....

It is very heartening when we learn how our local communities are helping out where they can, and neighbours and friends are very willing to go for shopping or to the chemist, or just stay at a distance and have a chat! Two ladies were spied out walking, about 3 metres apart, enjoying exercise and conversation. For those of us, in our area and usually with gardens, getting outside is not a problem, but spare a thought for those in flats and in the cities. It can't be easy. The main thing is for all of us not only to offer help, but to ask for it when required. It is a great morale boost to anyone to feel they are needed. In Kiltarlity, there is a team of willing volunteers who can help with shopping, etc. If you need any help then please don't hesitate to contact the Session Clerk, David Garvie, by email at david@garviefamily.com and he will put you in touch with someone who can do your shopping, pick up prescriptions, or just have a chat!

By the way....

Is anyone fed up with singing 'Happy Birthday to You' twice while washing hands? 'The Lord's my shepherd' works quite well and I am sure there are plenty more where that came from!

Youth Work in Kiltarlity

Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it. Proverbs 22:6

In accordance with scripture we want to give every child access to bible teaching, and to build a relationship with our Lord. In order to be as accessible as possible the youth ministry at Kiltarlity now has many aspects: Friday Club held after school for primary aged children; Sunday Club meets during church services and is split by age range to enable kids to fully engage; Open the Book goes in to Tomnacross Primary School to bring the bible in to the classroom; and the new Youth Bible Study Group has had a good response (10 members) with meetings continuing online during the current lockdown.

All of these ministry activities are possible due to a team of volunteers for whom I am very grateful, and I thank each person for their continued discipleship. However, more help would be great and that could include you. You require nothing more than a willingness to serve the Lord, although patience can often help too! If you want to discuss helping, feel free to get in touch; we can even have a 'virtual' coffee break together.

Les Bradley

Giant daffodils for St David's Day made by the Friday Club



Iain Clyne

I identify as...

One of the common strivings for so many today is identity. Many of us are very mobile and have moved around a lot, so much of a sense of belonging somewhere has been lost. Others do not trust the big building blocks of our culture as we used to in years past; political parties, churches, big business, marriage, gender are all being rejected, challenged or modified. Even God himself has been dispatched to the waste paper bin of progress. Such is our fast changing secular world!

The consequent shout is 'Who am I?' 'What am I doing here?' 'Where do I fit in?' 'I identify as.....'

And if we are honest, we do really struggle to find the answers. Could this, at least in part, account for the massive growth, particularly in young people, of folk experiencing serious psychological distress, major depression or even suicidal thoughts?

The '**Walk Though The Bible**' gave us great overview of God's loving plan for his creation. It showed so clearly that God continually weaves our day to day existence into his much bigger plan of rescue and security. From creation to the present day, and indeed into the future as well, we saw that he has a project in place to keep us secure in his love. A plan centred on the death and resurrection of Jesus. Jesus' physical resurrection was the start of the renewing of creation; the coming and emerging of the Kingdom of God! And we have been invited to be part of this whole process. The course was such a wake up call to get us thinking about who we are and why we are here!

Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury, on finding that he was born as a result of a fling that his mother had had said, 'I know that I find who I am in Jesus Christ, not in genetics, and my identity in him never changes'

And having grasped the massive overview of the Bible, we can draw so much meaning and depth to verses such as Matthew 11:28. Jesus said, 'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I **will** give you rest.'



A letter of thanks from Highland Foodbank

2019 was another busy year for Highland Foodbank, and during this time we were able to help over 7700 people across the Highlands, an 11% increase on the previous year! The reality is that we were only able to do this because of enthusiastic support from people and organisations in the Highlands: the generous monetary and donations from churches are a key part of this.

Many thanks,

Lorna Dempster

Foodbank Manager

Elizabeth Fraser adds a heartfelt thankyou to everyone who gave her donations of money to buy food as well as the foodstuffs themselves.

Dates for your diaries!

Church Lunches

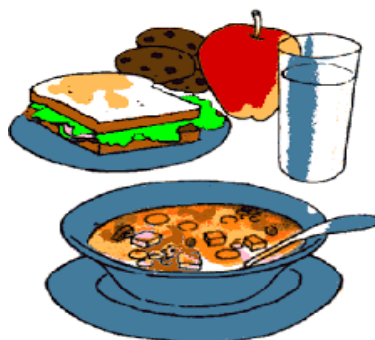
Advanced/ Preliminary Notice

On various occasions over the years members and friends of our congregation have enjoyed soup and sandwich lunches in our church hall. I have arranged, along with support from our Kirk Session and some volunteers to organise three dates where we could come together after the church service and share lunch together.

We would like to encourage our members and friends to come and join us for a simple and we hope an enjoyable lunch. We have chosen the newly built Lovat Shinty Club Pavilion as the venue for our three lunches; the dates for your diaries are all on Sundays - 24 May, 20 September and 29 November 2020 from 1pm. There will be no charge for these lunches and all I am asking you for is your support in this outreach to members and friends past and present of our church.

Sadly due to the Covid-19 virus that is spreading worldwide and due to our Government's guidelines asking us to refrain from meeting face to face on a daily basis. I have decided to cancel our first Sunday lunch date on the 24 May 20. The help and support that our small committee has received from Lovat Shinty Club in the use of their new Pavilion has been excellent. We do hope that the curfew that we are presently all living under will be relaxed by Sunday 20 September.

Margo Maclennan



This might make you smile

Tae a virus

Twa months ago, we didna ken,
yer name or ocht about ye
But lots of things have changed
since then,
I really must salute ye

Yer spreading rate is quite
intense,
yer feeding like a gannet
Disruption caused, is so immense,
ye've shaken oor wee planet.

Corona used tae be a beer,
they garnished it wae limes
But noo it's filled us awe wae fear
These days, are scary times.

Nae shakin hawns, or peckin lips,
it's whit they awe advise
But scrub them weel, richt tae
the tips,
that's how we'll awe survive

Just stay inside , the hoose, ye
bide

Nae sneakin oot for strolls> Just
check the lavvy every hoor
And stock-take, your, loo rolls

Our holidays have been pit aff
Noo that's the Jet2 patter
Pit oan yer thermals, have a laugh
And paddle ' doon the waater '

Canary isles, no for a while
Nae need for suntan cream
And awe because o this wee bug
We ken tae be..19

The boredom surely will set in,
But have a read, or doodle
Or plan yer menu for the month
Wi 95 pot noodles.

When these run oot, just look
about
A change, it would be nice
We've beans and pasta By the ton
and twenty stane o rice.

So dinny think yell wipe us oot
Aye true, a few have died
Bubonic, bird flu, and Tb
They came, they left, they tried

Ye might be gallus noo ma freen
As ye jump fae cup tae cup
But when we get oor vaccine
made
Yer number will be up.

Willie Sinclair.... March2020

How my life of Peace and Tranquility was shattered in December last year.

WHAT DID WE DO?

Our house was turned upside down by the arrival of a bundle of mischief - an IMP! Ancient teddies, formerly happily sharing chairs and stools, are now living in a dark cupboard, probably with headaches. Sticks, moss and stones come into the house, kind friends have given the IMP tough toys that squeak (much to her delight) and every day the IMP gets bigger and taller.

Finding our stairs are easy to gallop up, but a bit fearful to come down, the back legs took a while to get the hang of coordination with her front legs. This resulted in all the doors upstairs being closed after the toilet roll appeared in big white heaps on the landing - her eyes shining in delight and saying "catch me if you can".

Having been encouraged to jump up into the car boot, her back legs found a life of their own - a spring board. Peace in the sitting room was suddenly shattered by IMP's arrival on the couch beside me and able to grab all the cushions and newspapers balanced on the top. MAYHEM AGAIN.

All precious possessions are as high up as possible now. Socks and slippers are favourite chewing items, and everyone wearing gloves outside - irresistible to her sharp eyes. Trying to rescue our possessions involves chasing round the kitchen table, scattering toys and getting exasperated. An experienced pickpocket as well - many a tissue snatched too.

WHAT DID WE DO?

We got a black Labrador puppy called Daisy in the middle of WINTER.

THAT'S WHAT WE DID!

Barbara Wilton



Financial Statement at Kitarlity

The accounts and report for 2019 have been approved by the Kirk Session, independently examined and were presented to the congregation at our Annual Stated Meeting held online on 22nd March, 2020. They are on the website and I would urge you to read the report to see what has happened and what we have achieved over the year. Please digest the figures and if you have any queries, get in touch with me.

Sadly, it has been a very disappointing year income-wise. Offerings were only £16411 against a budget figure of £22000 and a figure of £20525 for 2018. This is a drop of £4122 or 20%. The budget may have been over optimistic especially in light of Jonathan's unexpected departure and we have also lost several generous givers. Our total receipts of £23116 were offset by expenditure of £20028 resulting in a surplus of £3098, but we must remember that any significant expenditure on fabric was deferred pending a decision on our buildings. Now that, happily, both churches are to remain open, our budget for 2020 allows us a fabric expenditure of £10000 which will lead to realisation of £7360 from reserves. Timber preservation work, masonry and joinery work are all required. Against that background, in the longer term, our position is unsustainable unless income increases significantly - obviously over time our reserves will be exhausted and our union with Kirkhill will shorten this timeframe.

The current coronavirus pandemic bringing public worship to an end, certainly for several months, adds to this problem, so the Session is urging all our people to please -

- A] Review your giving upwards wherever possible, and
- B] Ensure that weekly givings continue until we open again, either by bank standing order or by accumulating your F.W.O envelopes until the emergency is over. The first alternative is the preferable one, and details of our banking arrangements can be obtained by contacting me [01463 782727 or patianmo@btinternet.com].

It is really essential that we maintain and increase our income, not only whilst the church is closed, but to secure the future of worship in Kitarlity and Kirkhill. Our locally held reserves have a market value of £57007.

Adding funds of £32531 in Consolidated Fabric Fund with General Trustees plus cash in bank of £13279 means we were worth £102817 at the year end. As I say, however, the rate of attrition of our capital ever continues, so income just has to increase to bring this down to an acceptable level.

Ian Morrison

Some musings from one of the editors.....

Money is always an issue with any concern, and I am always astonished that local people do not know how the Church is funded. I think it is up to all of us to put them right!

On another theme, putting the Anchor together is fine, but always difficult to get articles. It would be rather nice if more members would write a few words about anything that might be of interest - perhaps how the garden is getting along, or something that has happened that amused, excited or even annoyed you. Photos would be good too. Do consider it for the next issue.

Personally, I am forced into the garden most days. No excuses, so work is going pretty well in our couple of acres. I have first and second early potatoes planted in the polytunnel and a few spears of asparagus there too. My tomatoes haven't germinated, but not the end of the world. I have great hopes for the cauliflowers..... The hens are laying well and we are able to drop off the odd box of eggs to our neighbours. There is a limit to how much quiche we can eat!

Now look at that, I have written three paragraphs without any bother. See what you can do next time.

Sheila Moir



Be uplifted



Lockdown

Yes there is fear.

Yes there is isolation.

Yes there is panic buying.

Yes there is sickness.

Yes there is even death.

But,

They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise

You can hear the birds again.

They say that after just a few weeks of quiet

The sky is no longer thick with fumes

But blue and grey and clear.

They say that in the streets of Assisi

People are singing to each other

across the empty squares,

keeping their windows open

so that those who are alone

may hear the sounds of family around them.

They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland

Is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.

Today a young woman I know

is busy spreading fliers with her number

through the neighbourhood

So that the elders may have someone to call on.

Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples

are preparing to welcome

and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary
All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting
All over the world people are looking at their neighbours in a new way
All over the world people are waking up to a new reality
To how big we really are.
To how little control we really have.
To what really matters.
To Love.
So we pray and we remember that
Yes there is fear.
But there does not have to be hate.
Yes there is isolation.
But there does not have to be loneliness.
Yes there is panic buying.
But there does not have to be meanness.
Yes there is sickness.
But there does not have to be disease of the soul
Yes there is even death.
But there can always be a rebirth of love.
Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.
Today, breathe.
Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic
The birds are singing again
The sky is clearing,
Spring is coming,
And we are always encompassed by Love.
Open the windows of your soul
And though you may not be able
to touch across the empty square,
Sing.



A GARDEN is a lovesome thing, God wot!

Beaulieu Cares project is not dissimilar to an octopus - it has many legs that weave their way beautifully throughout the local elderly community and invites involvement and participation at so many levels (don't think octopuses do that?!). My own involvement is minimal and recent - I volunteer in the Community Garden! Such a simple yet beautiful concept; an allotment run by the local community for the local community. Even 'Rona the virus can't keep a good workforce down as the hardworking group of regulars prepare the soil for spring plantings, albeit we have to go individually now and can no longer share a cuppa in the poly tunnel on a Wednesday afternoon! If all goes to plan and once the dreaded 'lurgy' is passed and summer is in full bloom, you must pop down to see us any Wednesday 2-4pm. Come and see how beautiful and accessible it is, heaving with fresh fruit and veg, heavy with blossoms and cheerful banter. A hearty tonic - I thoroughly recommend it!

Angie Dunn



What's in a Garden?

It gives me great pleasure to walk around my little patch of potted garden at home and check out what's changed and what's needing to be done. In the community garden it's a bit different as there is always so much to do!

And then there's the memory of other gardens I've known...working with my father as a child, - turning a mess into something enjoyable and edible!

There have been times of solace as I've worked in the garden - times of harvesting so much I had the joy of giving things away.

So when I walk into a garden all these memories join together and the place becomes a friend.

Spring is just about here now, and I never cease to wonder that this little seed I am putting in will grow into a beautiful shrub a tasty vegetable - how amazing is that!

And of course I do very little else about it to make it grow - water perhaps or some feed - and watch out for other creatures that enjoy 'my' plant! But I then think back to the Creator - He has put everything in the seed to produce beauty.

So when I look at my dinner plate and see all the vegetables, freshly picked I cannot help but be thankful - and enjoy the fresh food!

Ruth Harris

Worker in the Beaulieu Community garden.

An Ecumenical prayer for all. World Day of Prayer 22/3/20

For the love of family and friends, thank you,

For the kindness of good neighbour and Samaritan stranger, thank you.

May those who are vulnerable, hungry or homeless, experience support,

May those who are sick, know healing,

May those who are anxious or bereaved, sense comfort.

Bless and guide political leaders and decision-makers, with wisdom,

Bless and guide health workers and key workers, with strength and well-being,

Bless and guide each one of us, as we adapt to a new way of living.

And may the light shining from our windows,

across road and wynd, glen and ben, kyle and isle,

be reflected in our hearts and hands and hopes.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Just for fun....

THE WEDDING AT CANA

CAN YOU SPOT THE 20 DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THESE TWO PICTURES?

