

Just a reminder that Kiltarlity Church will be re-opening for worship from **Easter Sunday**. The Zoom services will continue and will be 'streamed' from the church, so that you have the choice between attending in-person or continuing to attend via Zoom. It is hoped that Kirkhill Church will also be able to re-open in the not too distant future.

If you would like to attend the service in Kiltarlity Church then please follow this procedure:

### **Booking Procedure**

If you are planning to attend the service in-person, please either phone **056 0387 7442** and leave a message or email [kiltarlitybooking@kiltarlityandkirkhill.org.uk](mailto:kiltarlitybooking@kiltarlityandkirkhill.org.uk) with the following details:

- Name
- Number of households attending
- Number of people attending
- Contact phone number

That's it! If there are any problems then we will contact you before Sunday. There's no strict deadline for booking, but please try not to phone too late, and please don't leave it until Sunday morning! If we do have too many people booking then we will let you know and we will prioritise those people who are unable to attend by Zoom, otherwise we look forward to seeing you on Sunday.

When you come to church, please remember to bring and wear a face covering and observe 2m social distancing.

# THE ANCHOR

The magazine of Kiltarlity and Kirkhill Churches

## Easter 2021



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

[www.kiltarlityandkirkhill.org.uk](http://www.kiltarlityandkirkhill.org.uk)

SC: 003866; 014918

## A word from Seoras -

How far might you go to save a life? What if it was many lives? Would it make a difference if those in need of rescue were friends of yours? What if they weren't? The following words are to be found in the Bible: "You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

In terms of our relationship to God: we are in need. However good we are, we are bad enough to be not good enough. Easter is about God's execution of his plan to save us. It is our sin that keeps us from God and from having his life in us. On our own, we are dead to God. We are not his friends. Yet, his love for us is such that he had his eternal Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, live among us and give his life for us on the cross, so that by believing in him, we might have eternal life.

Whatever is going on in your life right now: the message of Easter is that God loves you and has provided you with the real answer to your real problem. The problem is that we are dead in our sins and dead to him. He paid for our sins and promises new life to all who believe: to all who trust in him. You might be thinking: if you think that's my real problem then you don't know the half of it. In one sense you might be right and yet in another sense I still don't think I'm wrong. God is interested in every aspect of your life and his people should be too. You and I need to be interested in this crucial aspect: being dead or alive to God. Respond to his offer to sort that and allow him to begin working on the rest.

Happy Easter,

Seoras

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## Christian Aid Week - 10 - 16<sup>th</sup> May 2021

**"Climate chaos is one of the greatest injustices we face. Together we can STOP this climate crisis. Droughts are now more frequent and more intense due to climate change. Millions of people in Kenya are struggling to get enough food and water."**

This year is Christian Aid's 75<sup>th</sup> birthday! And to celebrate and raise money for such a worth-while cause, I'm planning to walk 75 miles! Now don't get too excited, I'm not planning to walk it all at once! It may not sound like a lot to you, but it is to me and I'm planning to start on Good Friday which gives me 38 days to achieve my goal. Do you think you could sponsor me? Please be in touch if you can help...all donations gratefully received!

Angie Dunn

[angie.dunn2@icloud.com](mailto:angie.dunn2@icloud.com) 07732587084

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## Easter traditions from Angie



For most of us, Easter is a time for family, chocolate eggs, Easter bunnies, hot cross buns and roast lamb dinners. Some believe eggs are a symbol of new life or new beginnings, whilst others think rolling eggs downhill represents the stone being rolled away from Jesus's tomb. Painting eggs bright colours representing spring originates in times long past, and, a century ago, it was considered very inappropriate to plough or sow seed throughout Easter week.

Other traditions across the world include being spanked on Easter Monday and sprinkled with cold water in the Czech Republic... this was believed to keep women beautiful, healthy and fertile! In Cyprus competitive bonfires are lit and effigies of Judas Iscariot are burnt to celebrate Easter, although this often involves the police and the fire brigade! Church bells are silenced in France and Belgium - children are encouraged to believe that the bells fly to Rome, returning in the morning with chocolate eggs and rabbits! Easter in some parts of Sweden and Finland is similar to our Halloween. Children dress up as the Easter witch, and knock on doors looking for sweets or bunches of Pussy Willows! Easter dinner in Poland is often accompanied by a lump of butter shaped like a lamb and in Bermuda they fly kites on Easter Sunday. Neighbouring Jamaicans throw cloves of garlic to the floor during dinner to bring luck.

So there you have it, some novel ways to enjoy Easter this year! However you choose to do it, choose to do it with Jesus by your side, remembering what He did for us! Blessings to you all.

## Here is a quick write up from the Young Life International end:

Even during this second lockdown, the Young Life International team continues to be in the lives of young people. Here are three creative ways leaders have been building relationships with young people during this winter lockdown:

1. Taking personalised gift bags to the homes of young people - This has been a practical way to let young people and families know that leaders have not forgotten about them. Twelve team members delivered gift bags to over 60 young people.
2. Shovelling snow around Kiltarlity - Earlier this winter when there were several days of snow, this was used as an opportunity for a local service project. Richard safely and legally met with young people to clear snow and spread grit in paths and driveways. During this time, They were also able to pray together and discuss the importance of serving others in a way that Jesus demonstrated.
3. Online Youth Alpha - There is a small group of girls meeting online to go through the youth alpha program!

Thank you so much for your prayer and support. Because of it, ministry is still happening!

*Richard*





## Church Changes

Kiltarlity and Kirkhill congregation, now united, is experiencing change ..... change in the main with the admission of 1, and ordination and admission of 2 new elders to the united Kirk Session. Following the retirement from active eldership of a number of dedicated and long serving members of the session, Mrs Margo MacLennan, Mrs Angie Dunn and Mr Markus Meier have joined the active team. A very warm welcome is extended to each of them. They were admitted to Session during the Stated Annual Meeting following the church service on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March - all via Zoom - which meant that the normal 'hand of friendship' could not be extended in person, but each of them can be assured that a very real and genuine hand of friendship awaits them.

Also at the SAM meeting, presentation of the annual accounts was made on behalf of both churches. 'Where have the years gone?' could have been the cry, when Ian Morrison stepped down from his tenure of office as treasurer of Kiltarlity. He told the assembled company that he was elected to office under Rev Robin Gilmour, some 40 years ago ! He received his very well-deserved award of a long service certificate, along with both Hamish MacLennan and Simon Fraser, both of whom have also served on Session for many many years. Mrs Clare Bradley has taken over from Ian as treasurer, and all present wished her well.

## Church Outreach looking upwards and onwards

It is sad that through the many months of Lockdown which no one could have foreseen, outreach work with the young has been very much on hold. However, the Church continues to seek ways to outreach to all.

A group of youth leaders attended the 'Grow' conference in Inverness last February, and returned with books, goodie bags and a wealth of ideas - then Lockdown. Although Messy Church, Friday Club and Open the Book have been unable to offer regular opportunities to meet up with the younger children of our parish during current restrictions, we hope each of these groups will once again be in action in the Autumn of this year.

There was also a successful Youth Group working for a while before Lockdown, but, going onto Zoom, everyone was becoming 'screen weary' with school work etc, and it is hoped this will restart too.

Meantime the good news is that Sunday Club has been able to meet regularly by Zoom in breakout rooms during the Sunday service - all organised by Les Bradley. With the Union and the united Session, Les can see opportunities across the wider church.

We are all looking forward to meeting face to face with our young people again.





## An Easter Promise

If we but had the eyes to see  
God's face in every cloud.  
If we but had the ears to hear  
His voice above the crowd.  
If we could feel His gentle touch  
In every Springtime breeze  
And find a haven in His arms  
'Neath sheltering leafy trees.  
If we could just lift up our hearts  
Like flowers to the sun  
And trust His Easter promise  
And pray "Thy will be done".  
We'd find the peace we're seeking  
The kind no man can give  
The peace that comes from knowing  
He died so we might live.

Poem by Helen Steiner Rice



## White Chocolate Easter Cake

### Ingredients

Unsalted butter, 425 g softened  
Eggs, 6 large  
Caster sugar, 425 g sifted  
Baking powder, 3  $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp  
Whole milk 150 ml

### Buttercream and Topping

Unsalted butter, 300g softened  
Icing sugar, 700g sifted  
Soft cheese, 100g  
White chocolate, 200g melted  
Multicoloured mini chocolate eggs.

Heat the oven to 190c, fan 170c, gas 5, cream butter and sugar, then beat in eggs one at a time and add the flour and baking powder. Slowly mix in the milk. Divide the batter between 2 x 20cm round lined cake tins and bake for about 45 -50 minutes. Leave in the tins for about 10 minutes then turn out to allow to cool completely.

Beat the butter and slowly beat in the icing sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in the soft cheese. Finally, mix in the melted white chocolate till the buttercream is thick but spreadable.

Split the cakes in two and layer with buttercream. Spread a thin layer on the top and sides, cool in the fridge, then cover with the rest. Refrigerate for about an hour, then top with the mini eggs.

(Not for those trying to lose Lockdown pounds.....)

Just for fun.....



A few reasons why English is so hard to learn.....

The bandage was wound around the wound

The farm was used to produce produce

The dump was so full it had to refuse refuse

We must polish the Polish furniture

The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert

No time like the present- it's time to present the present

When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes

I did not object to the object

They were too close to the door to close it

### The Anchor

The editors would like to thank everyone who contributes to the magazine. This copy, we have tried to take pieces from the Stated Annual Meeting and added a few extra bits and pieces.

New ideas are always welcome - this is the magazine of our church family after all.

We are looking forward to getting it printed professionally, but in the meantime, please bear with us! This should print out as an A5 booklet, but my printer has a mind of its own!

Have a very happy Easter.

*The Editors*

## From our Session Clerk -

Undoubtedly the major milestone of the year was the Union of Kiltarlity and Kirkhill churches. Legally speaking, this came into being on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 but for practical purposes we have been united since 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020. One of the few benefits of the Covid pandemic has been that it has forced us to have joint services by Zoom and it has therefore enabled us to meet together as a single united congregation every Sunday. I have certainly enjoyed getting to know some of the 'Kirkhill' people I hadn't known previously and I look forward to developing this further when we're able to meet face to face again. We will have to consider how we can successfully continue this joint fellowship once both buildings can open again.

I would like specifically to thank Seoras for being our Interim Moderator, and in particular for the work he put into persuading Presbytery to allow us to unite and keep both our church buildings. It seems a long time ago now, but somehow Seoras managed to pull the right strings and say the right things at the right time and he pulled off what many people probably thought was impossible. Most importantly, he believed in Kiltarlity and Kirkhill.

I have no doubt we are in a significantly better place now, despite the challenges of lockdown. We have a secure future with a united congregation continuing to use both our church buildings and are in the process of looking for a new minister. And we have new elders joining our Kirk Session who come full of energy and enthusiasm to drive us forward! So much time and energy has been spent over the last few years with trying to persuade Presbytery and others of our future, and I think we can now look forward to putting the same time and energy into thriving as a united and growing congregation.

David Garvie

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## Getting to know our new Elders -

We are blessed to have new elders, but we may not all know them very well. We hope these few short facts will help to get you better acquainted.

From Markus Meier

I was born in 1978, and have been married to Lenora since 2004. We have two children, Aaron (born 2006), and Samuel (born 2009).

*Volunteering:* I am helping out as a YL-Leader and help out as coach for the Kirkhill & Kiltarlity Football Club.

I am employed in Switzerland, working in B2B sales as well as running my own little sales agency at the side here in Kirkhill.

*Something surprising:* At the end of my sports career (competitive swimming, inline-hockey, waterpolo) I took up Floorball and have won the Scottish-Championship in 2017 and 2019 with the West Coast Floorball Club.

*Regarding my ordination as Elder:* I am looking forward to serve the Lord within the Kiltarlity & Kirkhill Church of Scotland and I am excited to work alongside so many gifted people and look forward to the changes God has in store for us.

Markus

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## And a brief bio from Margo MacLennan

Hamish and I were married in Glasgow on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1970. We briefly lived in Kiltarlity and moved to Conon Bridge December '70. Relocating to Jamestown in '75 with our first child Simon, having built our own house. We returned to Kiltarlity in '79 with two young children, Simon starting at TX Primary School and Helen joining Playgroup held in the old Gym Hall of TX P. School.

I have always been an active member in Church, singing in the choir helping in Sunday school. Moving north Hamish and I attended Kiltarlity Church along with his parents. We were members of Strathpeffer church whilst living in Jamestown. Returning to Kiltarlity in '79, I attended the Guild and helped out at Sunday Club when required; and now the Friday Club. And Young Life team.

My hobbies are Country Dancing and Social/Ceilidh dancing. I help out the Dingwall Accordion and Fiddle Club.

Hamish and I enjoy visiting Shetland and this pic is at Hay's Dock, Lerwick in October 2015.



I also enjoy popular classical music and assist with the At One with Music lunchtime concerts Inverness; a mix of Classical, Jazz and Traditional music. I work as a Relief Library Assistant in Inverness library and any other local libraries when required.

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I enjoy Gardening and Reading various styles of literature.

I enjoy visiting our son Simon in Bremen, Germany and his family of four, Anga, Amelie, Treasure and Bernard. Our youngest son Matthew lives in Edinburgh with his wife Bryony, wee lad Angus and their new arrival Hector on the 26 March. Our daughter Helen and husband Ian live in Conon Bridge with their two sons Alex and Cameron.

*Margo*

## From Angie Dunn

I moved to the area just 5 years ago when I married the love of my life! I retired from midwifery almost two years ago after 38 years in health care and a year after joining K&K. Before that, I had a brief time at Beaulie church, but before that, I was an elder in Lhanbryde near Elgin where my only daughter and two grandchildren live. You already know that I'm a beekeeper and volunteer in the community garden. What you don't know is that I used to keep Shetland ponies and have recently applied to volunteer for the Riding for the Disabled!

*Angie*

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