

THE ANCHOR

The magazine of Kiltarlity and Kirkhill Church



2021



Living in the love of Jesus in the rural Highlands

www.kiltarlityandkirkhill.org.uk

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A message from our Minister.....

Well, I think it is now safe to say it is autumn. Break out the jumpers and reset the central heating! We have been blessed to have enjoyed an amazing summer for many reasons. Of course, the weather has been kind but also the celebration of new chapters. It is now nearly three months since our induction and where has the time gone? School is back in, church is feeling a little bit more back to normal but we see there is still a bit more to go.

Last weekend we were blessed to be able to gather at a ceilidh. For many of us it was the first time we had attended a gathering that large and of that sort for nearly two years. It was an amazing well-organised evening full of a variety of entertainment! I am exceedingly grateful to all those who played a part in permitting us to have such an evening of fun, food and fellowship. May there be many more of those to come! Don't panic ladies, we will let you recover first. 😊 However, do give yourselves a pat on the back.

One thing I am noticing as we emerge from the various and prolonged restrictions is that we are all a bit more cautious. What I mean by that is that we are more cautious as we contemplate additions to our 'new' routine. Rightly so. In my opinion, people are much more intentional about what they pick up, take on, or choose to become involved in. There is wisdom in this. We have never been more aware of our fragility - mentally, physically, spiritually - than we are just now, in all likelihood. We have

experienced change on an unprecedented scale for this generation and the change keeps coming in many spheres of life. The great thing about change is that it also highlights the elements of life that do not change. There are things of course that do not change. Hebrews 13.8 reminds us that *Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever*. Psalm 139.7 points out that there is no place we can go where we will not find His presence or His Spirit. His forgiveness and His love are both constant. We cannot be separated from the love of God, Romans 8.38-39 points out. He is our Rock and our Anchor. Rocks don't generally move and anchors keep us grounded or secure in place and both in my opinion are good things. With all the change we have seen and will continue to see the more we are likely to respond by reaching out for things that are rightly and intentionally constant for our own good and keep us rooted. So, when things begin to pick up a bit and you may be feeling as though a wave is about to swamp you, be sure and make time, take time to anchor and root yourself. One of the most powerful and helpful verses in the Bible I find is Psalm 46.10 *Be still and know that I am God*. It is not rocket science - just stop, breathe and ask God to make himself known. He will and you will be better off for knowing that you are His, that He created you, that He loves you, that He is for you, that He will strengthen you and lead you.

So, as we would say in Canada, keep your head up and your stick on the ice. This is an ice hockey reference - 'keep your head up' so you are alert and ready and so you don't get body checked into next week and 'keep your stick on the ice' so you are able to take

a pass, shoot or trip an opposing player. The last one is a penalty by the way and will get you two minutes in the 'sin bin'. You see it is a very religious sport!

In Christ

Drew



Now our churches are open, please try and come along to the services in both buildings. We fought hard to keep our wee churches open, so it is up to us to use them. Remember, we are one church with two buildings. Also, there is nothing like a busy church to gladden a minister's heart!

Kirk Social

Another thing that gladdened our minister's heart was the Kirk Social - a wonderful evening of entertainment and fellowship. The performers were brilliant, the barbecue terrific - thanks to the Scouts - and we even managed a couple of dances. Obviously, one had to be a Canadian Barn Dance! Here is a compilation of photos to give you a taste of the evening.



Our compere, Ian, with the traditional dram for the piper, Craig. In this case, Iron Brew!



Our very own home grown professional musician, Matthew.



Hayley at the keyboard..... and Iain in full flow!



Elizabeth Fraser
Highland Dancers

NTS Folk Group





Margo with a very reluctant Seoras (not a party animal....)

Goodness! Who are these two folks!



More dancing.....



and some final community singing led by John and Ian.

Helping hands wanted!



Many areas of the church need people to run them, and there are quite a few vital jobs requiring volunteers.

Most important of these is the Treasurer. Claire has bravely held the fort over Lockdown, the Union and sourcing a new minister, but now understandably wants to step down. She is a busy woman with a job and family, and the whole Bradley family put a huge amount into our church and community. It is simply unfair to ask them to do more. Please think about the Treasurer's post - you would get help!

Fellowship after the service is also important. A rota for teas and coffees is being organised, so be sure to add your name.

Church flowers over the last 18 months have come from members' own gardens - not always possible when garden flowers are not available. Please look out for a rota in the churches.

'Open the Book' is one of our vital outreaches into the primary schools. More participants are needed - less than an hour a week in term time presenting bible stories to children. Get in touch with Ellenor Thomas or Avril Marr and give it a go.

Finally, we come to Zoom and AV. Someone has to make this work and it is at present in the hands of only a very few people. Iain Clyne has kindly offered to put together a rota for Zoom Hosting so please consider helping out. Training will be organised!

Dates!

October

3rd Kiltarlity

10th Kirkhill

17th Kiltarlity

24th Kirkhill

31st Kiltarlity -

Youth led service

November

7th Kirkhill -

Communion

14th Kiltarlity

21st Kirkhill

28th Kiltarlity

December

5th Kirkhill

12th Kiltarlity

19th Kirkhill

26th Kiltarlity

'MAMA MIA - THE NATIVITY!'

Calling Kiltarlity and Kirkhill folk, young and old!

Do you like to sing-along to ABBA?

Then come along and find out more!

Have some fun and try out

for the musical event of the year!

If you're free on 27th October and would like to get involved in this year's nativity play, join us at Kirkhill Church at 5.30pm for an hour's fun!

Want more info?