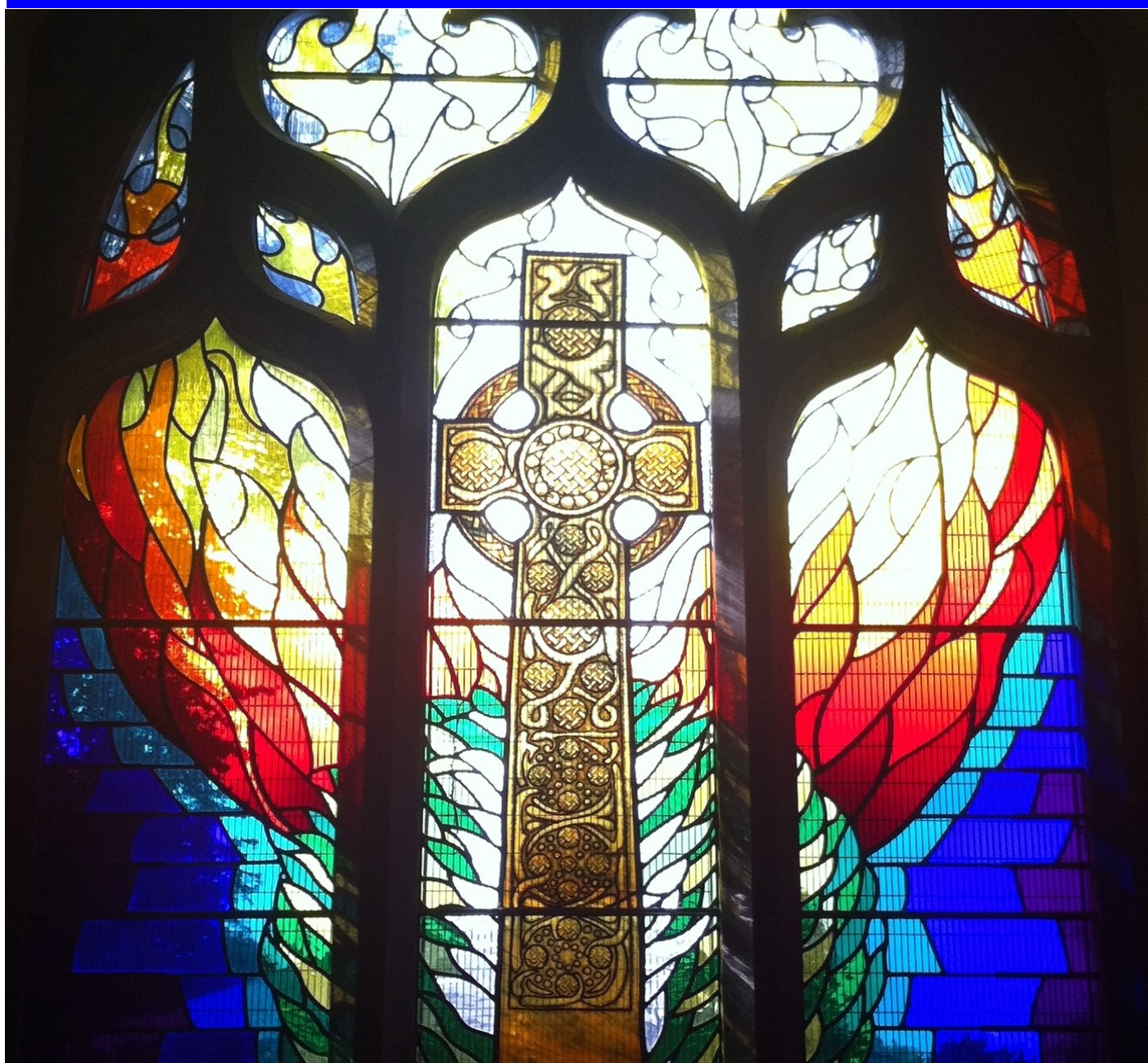


Park Church Stirling

Issue Two: Autumn 2020



***Park Church Stirling , a congregation of the
Church of Scotland
Worshipping in the Peter Memorial Building
Park Terrace, Stirling, FK8 2NA***

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From the Interim Moderator

Dear Friends in Park Church, Stirling,

I hope that this newsletter finds you all well, despite the continuing uncertainties we face at home, at work and in the church.

Nevertheless, we are slowly and cautiously emerging from the worst of the coronavirus pandemic, and must hope and pray that we will continue to keep it at bay, by following the guidance and regulations – which of course we know are intended for our safety, and for the safety and well-being of others.

Many shops and restaurants have now re-opened, albeit under strict rules, and each day it seems, more of 'normal' life resumes. It would be a mistake however, to think that we can return to what we knew of daily living back in February, and the signs that this is indeed a 'new normal' are all around us, in the wearing of face-coverings, physical distancing measures, and the frequent reminders to wash our hands.

It is these measures that now allow us to look to re-opening our churches for services of worship, and I hope that you will be looking forward to that day as much as I am. Over the past five months or so we have learnt many of the benefits of online worship and meetings, which have served to keep us feeling connected; at the same time we have also learnt their limitations, and come to realise how much we miss the physical presence of other people gathered in fellowship within our buildings for worship.

For Park Church in particular, this return to church buildings, even in a limited way, is a step forward in the congregation's journey into its new era, giving us the opportunity to meet (at a distance) and begin to pick up some of activities we were compelled to lay down in the Spring. The first months as a newly-united congregation are never entirely straightforward, but the conditions imposed by the pandemic have made things all the more complicated, and more uncertain.

The Commission of Assembly in July gave permission for Kirk Sessions to meet online, and so the first meeting of the Kirk Session was held on 12th August in the unusual circumstances of a Zoom meeting – many Elders were able to join the meeting, and for a first meeting, it was a relief that there were no technical hitches.

One of the important decisions that the Kirk Session took at this meeting was to agree to open the Park Church (Peter Memorial) building, ensuring that all necessary precautions are in place. Presbytery then gave its permission to open the building, and the Service of Union, planned for April 1st but postponed, will now take place on Sunday 30th August at 11.00 am, Jean Porter DCS, Moderator of Presbytery, to preside and preach.

As things stand, the maximum number of people allowed in the building for a service is 50, so unfortunately this service, and those that may follow, will require people to reserve places ahead of time – details of how to do this will be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

Prevailing legislation, supported by guidance from the Church of Scotland, means that for the time being those attending worship must wear face-coverings inside the church building, use of hand sanitiser will be required on entering and leaving the building, and worshippers will be required to sit in specific places in the pew, from which the cushions will have been removed, to facilitate cleaning. Although the organ will provide music, there is still a prohibition on singing in force. All in all, the experience of worship will inevitably be quite different from what we are used to, and very likely will continue like this for some time to come.

Please then be patient and understanding of the challenges that still face us in these times, and continue to pray for the congregation as it embarks on the next stage of its journey, for the Elders who are called to lead its life and witness, and for the wider Church across the country.



With all best wishes

Alan

Revd Alan F. Miller
Interim Moderator

From the Session Clerks

Some Highlights of Park Church Zoom Kirk Session meeting held on 12th August 2020

The Trustees of the new unified congregation met for the first time and forty six elders attended. Our Interim Moderator opened with a Bible reading and reflection on Matthew 8:23-27- Jesus calms the waves and calls his disciples to follow him. He appreciated the extraordinary challenges faced in recent months but welcomed the opportunity to meet together for the first time. Despite varying experience with Zoom, all elders had the opportunity to contribute to debate, but because of technical limitations of such large virtual meetings, this was not opened to members and others.

The actions taken by the Interim Coordinating Group and other interim groups were approved. These included the interim appointments of joint session clerks, treasurer and depute, roll keeper and Presbytery Elder, as well as furloughing of a number of employees, opening of new bank accounts and approved signatories. There had also been encouraging initiatives to support our young people as well as older members.

The Interim Moderator, Jane Steel, Hugh Buchanan and Peter Murdoch will meet in coming weeks to propose the best way to elect substantive office-bearers, and a paper will be prepared for consideration by elders. There was discussion about a range of committees or teams accountable and regularly reporting to the Kirk Session to consider much of the detailed work required in different key areas of church life.

There is a need to recognise and use the varied talents and expertise of elders and members in the new Park Church congregation. Non- members with particular expertise could be co-opted with approval of Session. The main groups are Property, Finance, Safeguarding, Young People, Faith Impact (including community outreach, Stirling Kirks together , overseas partners), Communications, Data Protection , Communion Arrangements and a Visioning Group looking at future challenges and opportunities.

Expressions of Interest and Applications to join these various groups are sought from both elders and members and should be sent by email or in writing to Jane Steel and Peter Murdoch by 2nd September if possible with an indication of an order of preference if wishing to be involved in more than one committee/team.

Following completion of detailed questionnaire and risk assessment, it was agreed to ask Presbytery for permission to open the Sanctuary of the Park Church Building in Park Avenue (Peter Memorial Building). This has since been approved. It is proposed that there is a service of union on 30th August and Sunday morning worship on Sunday 6th September.

These services will be subject to current Government COVID restrictions including restriction of numbers attending to 50 in the building, wearing of masks, direction to allocated seats, no use of the halls, strict social distancing, recording of contact details and no singing. People should only plan to attend if feeling well and those who have been shielded or have significant medical conditions should seek medical advice if unsure.

Individual choices will be fully respected and all members are equally valued irrespective of attendance in coming months. Services will be recorded on CD and on video and it is hoped that they will be live-streamed on the Church website. People wishing to attend services in person are asked to contact the Church Secretary Duncan Crombie on 462400 or via email park-churchstirling@gmail.com and confirm booking one of the limited places **beforehand**. This may seem strange and bureaucratic but they are small steps in the right direction and dependent on Government regulation.

Unfortunately face to face meetings of various kinds are not yet permitted until further relaxation of restrictions meaning that most former activities in buildings are deferred meantime. The Presbytery working party looking at the future of the former Allan Park South Church Building is yet to report and this may be a further month or two.

Our next virtual Kirk Session meeting will be on 9th September.

We may well contact you in coming months with further details e.g. of services and if COVID restrictions change. Please contact us if you have any queries or concerns in the meantime.

Peter Murdoch & Jane Steel

All age activities summer initiative.

During lockdown, we have all had to adapt to doing things in a different way!

It has been our custom over the summer to have available all age activities for any of our young people plus visitors who have come to our services.

This summer, we have gone out to them thanks to Moira Parry and Wendy MacLean who have initiated activities for our children around the theme of Mr Men in the Bible.

So, we have Jacob and Esau-Mr Wrong, David and Goliath-Mr Small, Samson-Mr Strong in the Old Testament and Mr Lazy-the parable of the talents, Mr Happy-the prodigal son and of course Mr Impossible-turning water into wine in the New Testament.

We hope to share more about all this in the coming weeks!

Lyndsay Boyack



THE MR MEN IN THE BIBLE

Many of us will be familiar with the Mr Men characters, created by Roger Hargreaves, which he started writing in 1971. You may also remember the television programmes about them, produced later, which were narrated by Arthur Lowe. These books and programmes were loved by children over decades and were enjoyed too by parents and grandparents. Did you know however, that these characters can also be found in the Bible?

In the past, over the summer break, we have provided all-age activities for any children who came to church with their families but this year things have been different. Unfortunately none of us have been able to congregate together to worship this year, but some of us felt that the children would miss out on learning more about the Bible so we came up with a plan!

The idea was to make up packs of Bible stories with accompanying activity sheets and craft ideas using the Mr Men as our theme. We divided the children into three groups - under 8s, 8-11yrs and Bible Class ages and then made up appropriate packs.

These have now been distributed and have been very well received.

Now, how much do the adults of our congregation know about the Mr Men in the Bible?

The children's packs contained stories about Mr Strong, Mr Small and Mr Wrong and they can be found in Judges 16: 4-30, Genesis 27: 1-35 and 1 Samuel 17: 1-51.

Can you also identify Mr Happy, Luke 15: 11-24, Mr Mean, Luke 16: 19-25 or Mr Impossible, John 2: 1-10?

I wonder how many of us can imagine ourselves as a Mr Men or do we know of anyone who would fit one of the characters?

How about Mr Greedy, Mr Silly, Mr Nosey, Mr Daydream, Mr Forgetful, Mr Grumpy. Mr Rush, Mr Worry, Mr Busy?

We only worked on the Mr Men this year, but who knows, perhaps we will work on the Little Miss characters next. Little Miss Busy springs to mind as well as Little Miss Helpful. I wonder who they could be?

Moiria Parry

Souvenirs de Paris

Over the years I have been very fortunate to visit the beautiful city of Paris. My first trip was on an exchange to a family who lived in Robinson, an affluent suburb- such a different world to my home in Co. Antrim! I was taken to all the major attractions but the outstanding memory for me was a Son et Lumière evening at Les Invalides- very dramatic and atmospheric indeed!

A couple of years later I returned to Paris, this time as a university student. We stayed in the Hôtel Victoria near the Panthéon in the Latin Quarter. This was the year after the riots in Paris and as a result the intimidating riot police were always on duty in that university area. I returned the following year for a week's induction course in the Sorbonne prior to taking up a post as assistante anglaise in a school in the north of France. It was a great experience being part of such a renowned seat of learning and wandering around the Quartier Latin with its second-hand bookshops, cafés and restaurants.

My next visit to this city was as a teacher accompanying a school group. We stayed outside Paris but were coached in every day to "do the sights". Our pupils were amazed at the immensity of the city, the width of the avenues and the grandeur of the cathedrals, the Eiffel tower and the Arc de Triomphe. Culturally everything was so far removed from what they had ever experienced in their small town in N. Ireland-what a great opportunity for those children!

In 1981 John and I returned with Emma to stay with family. She was not very old so went everywhere in a buggy. My memory of that time was crossing a busy road and being stopped by a lady wanting to know where we bought our buggy! The other memory is having a meal in a small, unimposing restaurant somewhere in Paris! Red checked tablecloths and simple but lovely food.

In 2008, at the request of my senior pupils studying Higher French, I organised a special trip to Paris. This was to be a grown-up one, not a typical school one. We flew from Edinburgh to Charles de Gaulle and were taxied to our hotel in the Opéra area. Hotel d'Antin was a wonderful find and very typical of small Parisian hotels. The location was perfect and for five days we walked to many parts to show our young ladies the delights of this city and also to allow them to use their French language skills and to take responsibility for themselves. We ate in lovely brasseries nearby in the evening, the girls sorted their own bills and used French all the time when ordering and paying. My lasting memory is walking as a group on a beautiful, warm Sunday morning from our hotel up to Sacré-Coeur. We wandered along steep side streets, all was quiet except for church bells ringing in the distance. As we approached Sacré-Coeur there was the most heavenly sound of a harp being played on the steps- truly idyllic and peaceful.

My final trip was five years ago when John and I travelled by Eurostar and stayed in the Opéra area to celebrate a special wedding anniversary. The train journey across the north of France and down to Paris was a new experience I loved. Over the next few days we wandered to many of the usual tourist spots- Notre Dame with its beautiful rose windows, Montmartre with Sacré-Coeur and the Place du Tertre with many artists. We breakfasted on the terrace of a local café and watched the world go by. The new memory from this stay was a tour of the Opera House- a magnificent, grand and beautiful building. We ate in local restaurants each evening except for one when we dined in Le Train bleu, part of the original Gare du Lyon-again so different from anything I have ever experienced in all my trips to Paris.

It is always lovely to reminisce about Paris, one of the great cities in Europe, but, wonderful as it is, it is always good to return to our more peaceful city of Stirling! However, since we in Park church now have links with our friends in Paris, perhaps one day those of us who enjoy good food and wine, French culture and history and who also like experimenting with the French language, perhaps we could organise another trip to Paris and create more memories.

Alison Magrath



Sacré Couer and Paris skyline taken from the Musée d'Orsay in 2017 by Sarah

Extract from letter from Bernard Calvino, correspondent from our twinned congregation of Pentemont-Luxembourg in Paris, with invitation to visit next year:

It is a real pleasure to receive news from you, thank you so much. Except yesterday, when we had rain all the day, the weather is really sunny, but some days too hot.

So, now your church union has happened and I hope you shall be able to resume in September.

Actually the "Luxembourg" church in Paris is still closed because of the renovation of the building, and we hope to have again activities in the beginning of October. We have two services in "Pentemont" church on Sunday morning at 10.30 and 11.45, for only 60 people.

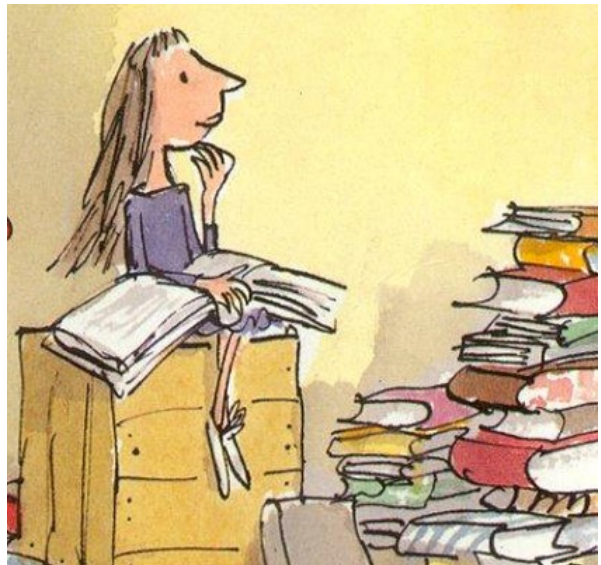
It would be fantastic to have a small group from Stirling in Paris in the autumn of 2021. We are waiting for you ! Thank you so much to have so good friends like you.

Ladies Group.

The committee of the Ladies Group hope all members are keeping well. We have decided in view of the current restrictions not to try to organise any meetings at present.

As the situation changes, we are keeping this under review but would hope to possibly have some meetings in the New Year.

We are looking forward to seeing you all and finding out all about the new skills you have learnt, and the old hobbies you have taken up again during these strange times.



Church Notelets

Thank you to everyone who purchased the Church Notelets which were on sale earlier in the year.

The sum of £100 was raised which has been donated to Church funds

Yvonne McQueen



Keeping in touch with our parish

Elders and visitors from the church have been phoning, visiting and supporting members and friends and neighbours of the congregation over the summer. The Stirling Observer ran a special two page article with colour pictures highlighting some of the activities being undertaken. Original ideas included painted stones to put in the garden or use as a paperweight, pompoms on a Tree of Hope” in the Dumbarton Road gardens and taking a box of tea time treats to those who missed coming to activities in the church. All were hugely appreciated.

Older members of the congregation have not been idle either : Rita MacDonald has knitted seven scarves for gifts to needy folk at Christmas and Margaret Campbell supplied Sarah with jam jars to enable her to keep making homemade marmalade to the housebound members and senior citizens.

The next edition of the newsletter will be the Christmas and winter issue and the editor would welcome some recipes, articles and Christmas photos please!

Congratulations

Helen Moody and Dave Sellick are pleased to share news of the safe arrival of baby James David Sellick on 15th July 2020. He weighed in at 7lb 6oz and looks a very contented little boy in his photos.

Garden Maintenance

Thanks to all who helped to take their daily exercise and mow the lawns in the church grounds

The teams have once again kept the flower beds outside the Peter Memorial building and Dumbarton Road premises have been a blaze of colour and cheered up everyone walking into the town.

We do appreciate their hard work and the exercise must have kept them very fit!



START UP STIRLING REPORT JULY 2020

A note from the Convenor!

I must start by expressing my thanks to Nick Reed, who decided to step back from his activities with Start Up Stirling and left us at the beginning of June. Besides acting as a warehouse volunteer and driver over some years he has acted with immense energy and care over eighteen months as a Trustee and Treasurer. That Start Up Stirling at present does not have immediate financial worries is very largely thanks to Nick's work in managing our finances, in setting our budgets and in working to increase our income. Gillian Morton is also stepping down from the Board, but continuing her work for us as editor of our Newsletters. We thank them for all their work, and wish them both well in the future.

During the current Pandemic emergency, Start Up Stirling's support of those in need is more than ever essential. As the economic effects of Lockdown continue, we anticipate that need will continue to grow. In adapting our operations to work under social distancing rules and in protecting the vulnerable we have been much helped by new 'emergency' volunteers who have stepped in to replace the more elderly of our established volunteers who are in effect "furloughed". Other supporters are also noted in the newsletter and I must again thank all concerned for their efforts and generosity. Of our operations, food bank home deliveries continue and Starter packs are still going out, but in lower numbers than before, as few are being rehoused at present. We remain in telephone contact with the Support Service groups and some of those who are most vulnerable and need continuing support.

We usually will have held our AGM by now. However, the Board recently decided on their web conference meeting that we should delay holding a General Meeting of members until it becomes possible to gather together again, safely. Web conferences are very useful for a dozen or so people to work together but are less satisfactory with larger numbers. We will soon be circulating the Annual Report and Accounts and submitting them to the Scottish Charities Regulator (OSCR). The delay to our AGM will be against the directions of our constitution, but we believe the delay to be appropriate in the present circumstances.

Anthony

Finance Report

This is my first report as your new treasurer and it's also the end of the first quarter of a financial year which promises to be like no other we've seen at Start-up Stirling. As has been reported elsewhere, we have had to make significant changes to our operating model in light of Covid-19 and this has led

to some increases in costs, mainly in the form of personnel, food purchases and transport.

However, we continue to be very well supported through the generosity of many individuals and organisations and have also been successful in our application for a number of grants including the Martin Lewis Fund, Wellbeing fund and Stirling Council's Community Response Food Fund. Our total income from grants and donations during April and May 2020 amounted to over

£130,000 and I am therefore pleased to report that the charity's reserves have increased since the year end. However, we need to be aware that Covid-19 could be with us for some time and we are likely to see additional pressure on our services and running costs in future. We are therefore preparing for the long haul and will continue to be proactive about fundraising and grant applications in the coming weeks.

Elise Ferguson

COVID-19 Operational Update

It's been 14 weeks now since the start of lockdown and we moved all foodbanks to home delivery. We have settled in to a 'new' normal working way of life. We continue to request that all food donations be made at the supermarket donation stations, so we can keep visitors to the warehouse to a minimum. In recent weeks, we have started to see an increase in food donations once again. We are extremely grateful to all those who are continuing to support us in varying ways, ranging from food donations, monetary donations and all the other many efforts which have included initiatives such as quizzes, making and selling cookies in the local community or climbing stairs at home!

Our thanks and gratitude must also extend to all the local supermarkets, who despite their own difficulties, have been promoting our work and to Stirling Council who have continued to support us by assisting us with central purchasing of essential items. Many items have been in limited supply within the supermarkets and this support has been invaluable. We must not forget the significant assistance we have received and continue to receive from Dial A Journey, who continue to provide vehicles and drivers weekly. It has been truly heart-warming to see everyone, existing and newly recruited 'emergency' volunteers, staff and trustees pulling together and working hard to ensure we can continue to provide food to all those who need it, in the safest way possible. We hope you are all keeping safe and well and thank you for your continuing support.

The pandemic by numbers!

We know many of you will be wondering what the picture looks like for those currently receiving crisis food support as there are varying accounts in the press, depending on where in the UK you live. Whilst we are reporting increases in the numbers of individuals supported across April & May, we are pleased to report as we write in June, a more stabilised situation. Many people are moving on quickly having accessed additional supports, although we are aware this is a fast-moving situation, with rapid week by week changes. We are well positioned to meet an increasing demand.

During **April & May** we have supported, through our full home delivery service, an average of 145 households and distributed 213 crates of food weekly.

In April 2020 we supported 556 individuals, up 57% from April 2019 at

354. In May 2020 we supported 489 individuals, up 93% from May 2019 at 254

Our volunteer hours for the combined two months were a colossal 2009! Our staff hours for the combined two months were 1507. hours.

Start Up Stirling is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) SC035477 Start Up Stirling, 16B Whitehouse Road, Stirling, FK7 7SP



Memories of the Second World War—part 2

I enlisted in the Royal Air Force in 1941 and was posted to the RAF base in Montrose waiting to be transferred to the Far East. The field station in the Far East was not ready and I ended up spending most of my five years at Bomber Command, Windsor Field in the Bahamas. I was part of the ground crew maintenance for the Blenheim Bombers.

This was not only a training base for the Air Force, it was also used by the Commandoes who were being trained as underwater frogmen. They were being trained as underwater frogmen who cut out the nets of bombs to facilitate the Normandy Landing.

In 1945, not long after celebrating V.E. Day I was posted back to RAF East Fortune, Scotland waiting to be de-mobbed. So, I was a very lucky young man who never saw any action but who like so many others signed up to do their bit for their country. We had been asked to do a job and whether at home keeping the home fires burning or in the forces, we all towed the party line and did the jobs we were asked to do.

In leaving the forces I started working with my father who had set up his own business as a road surfacing contractor. However, many people found it hard to get back into normal life. Jobs were scarce, everything was rationed and houses were in short number. The country was in the throes of an economic and for many mental depression.

This sounds familiar to what's happening today. Nothing changes except this time it is a virus.

Easton Roy

Royal Airforce 1941-1946

This was written in May -but too late for inclusion in the summer newsletter.

Easton died aged 97 on 10th July 2020 and is fondly remembered as a long time member of the former Allan Park South Church, member of the rowing club and one of the senior players and supporters of the Stirling Rugby Football Club. He will be much missed by his many friends.



"We shall remember them"

11/11 - Remembrance

wallpaper by Lewis Cawte

Wartime Memories

I well remember the day when World War Two was declared. My father, mother and I were preparing to set off for Allan Park Church services when the announcement came over the “wireless”: “Britain is at war with Germany”.

It seemed quite exciting to me in a strange sort of way! At that time I was a pupil in class seven of the Primary High School of Stirling.

After some weeks we were all informed that we would be attending school on half days only as pupils from other schools required our classrooms. Their schools were being taken over by military or German prisoners of war. We were delighted at the news!

Gas masks were soon issued to everyone. Each day when we were in school, half an hour was devoted to practising wearing them. The “windows” in the masks became steamy with our breath, so little work could be carried out at that time.

One day a group of girls was introduced to our class. They were “evacuees” from Glasgow who had experienced enemy bombing resulting in the destruction of many homes and loss of lives. The girls were naturally tearful and upset, staying for only a few months as they missed their families back home. Kindly families had taken them into their homes, mostly around “The Terraces”.

My parents were approached to offer a home either to evacuees or soldiers as we had “spare rooms”. They chose soldiers and two sergeants arrived soon afterwards. On the first day I felt quite shy and sat in the corner of the kitchen, but soon became used to the new situation. My mother was nine pence per night for the two- but no food was to be provided as there was a nearby “base” for their activities and meals. My mother however declared that they were “somebody’s sons” so frequently fed them at our table. Over the years we had eight soldiers in all staying with us.

Food became scarce. Each person was provided with a “ration book” with coupons for mostly everything. For example, per week we were allowed one egg each, two ounces of butter, two ounces of meat – and worst of all only two ounces of “sweeties”.

By the time I was moving to the first year of the Senior Department of the High School all the ground floor windows there were either hidden by brick walls or wooden shutters lest bomb should fall nearby perhaps resulting in shattered glass. As a result, these rooms were electrically lit at all hours of the school day.

There were fairly frequent air aid warnings over the years, as well as all the practices in school. The latter were very popular among most of the pupils as we “escaped” from class work. School uniforms gradually ceased to be worn as we outgrew all the ones we had. Coupons were now needed for all clothing including shoes. Our mothers often knitted or sewed outfits:” **Make do and mend**” was the cry!

I was nearing the end of fourth year when peace was declared. I remember singing and dancing with a large group from my school class later that evening. Someone played records on a gramophone. That tree still stands and I think of that happy time whenever I pass the spot.

Sadly I am the only survivor of these school day memories of wartime in Stirling.

Margaret Cook

Gideons UK have a new name! Good News for Everyone!

Many members of the congregation and friends reading this magazine will remember being presented with a Gideons Testament when they were at school. When travelling in the UK and many other countries you may find a Bible in the drawer of your hotel room. This ministry has been valued in hospitals, prisons and so many other venues.

During the coronavirus lockdown the Gideons produced a new publication entitled “Hope” which is based on John’s Gospel in a colourful magazine format. Copies were delivered to staff in local care homes with a “Thinking of You” card. Copies were also placed in food parcels distributed from local food banks.

Please remember the work of the Gideons in your prayers.

Information extracted from friends Summer newsletter for Stirling & Clackmannanshire.



SUSCOTLAND.ORG.UK=Scripture Union

Scripture Union Scotland are one of the most active bible based organisations for young people offering materials for all ages to church groups for worship and activities; organising school based outreach through both paid workers and volunteers and a wide range of activity holidays in both their own premises and several camps. Around 450 SU groups meet across Scotland every week giving over 6,000 children and young people fun, games, chat and Bible study.

For many years we have used SU materials in the youth work of the congregation, teachers like Moira Parry supported the school outreach and teenagers went to the holidays and made friends while growing in confidence and depth of their Christian witness.

This year as with so many things physical outreach had to be closed and new ways of reaching families and children through on-line sessions. Many staff had to be furloughed and income was reduced because of cancelled bookings in the residential facilities. However the CEO Robin McLean asks us to continue to encourage children and adults to nurture a habit of regular Bible reading and time with God in Prayer. We give thanks for SU and pray God’s richest blessings on their continued work.

Lord, we come to you as we are
For we can come no other way.
We come acknowledging the burdens we carry
And trusting in your promise of rest.
Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.
Lord, we come to you
In the sure knowledge that we are not alone.
We come in the company
Of all who know the challenge of these days.
Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.
Lord, we come to you
Acknowledging that you have already come to us.
We journey to the place where you are to be found
And rediscover that you have always been with us.
Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.



Sailing on Loch Lomond Summer 2020

Duncan Crombie

ART COMPETITION FOR ALL AGES!!

We would like you to design a picture to be used as a card for sale in the church later this year.

The theme is **"WHAT MAKES ME HAPPY!"**

This competition is for ALL ages (I know there are some 'arty' types out there!) and we want you to use as much COLOUR as possible to make it FUN! The master plan is to choose 3 designs and print a collection of notelets for sale later in the year, which can be used throughout the year - so we don't want just Christmassy designs. Feel free to use any medium you like - it can be in pen, paint, pencil, or even collage. Maybe some clever folk are good at needle-work? Whatever takes your fancy - and if you need more materials I'm sure the Sunday School will be pleased to lend you some.

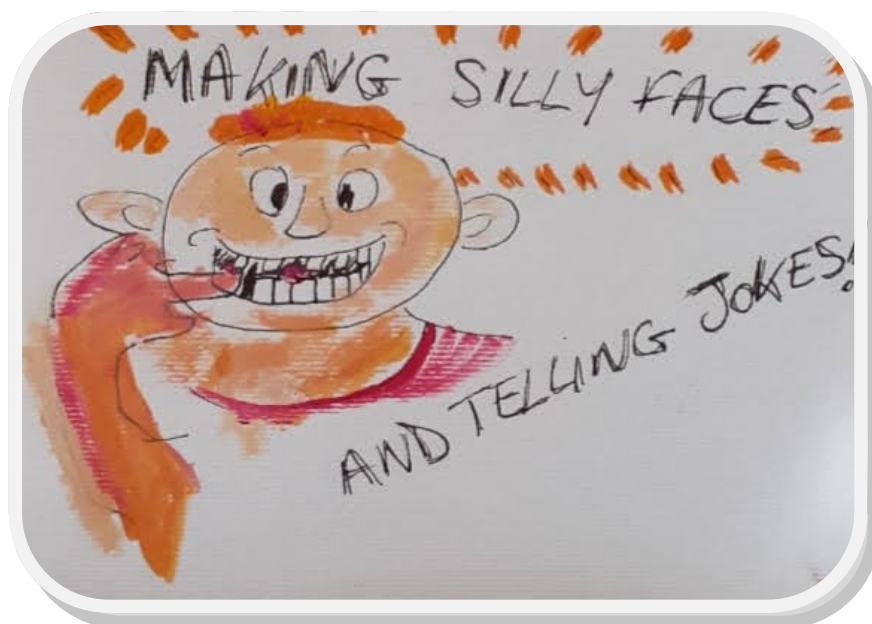
Some older people may have a great idea, but don't feel confident at drawing something, e.g. hands are always tricky. If so, ask anyone under 16 to help! They are brilliant.

Size of designs should not be less than 20 x 20 cms and not larger than my car boot.

I've done a few silly drawings to get you started - remember we want to have a chuckle when we see your designs - you can enter more than one!

We will judge everything 'blind' - so we won't know who did it, but I would ask you to please not write your name on the front, but attach the entry form opposite!

Good luck!
Kate Langley





ALL AGE ART COMPETITION ENTRY FORM

NAME IN CAPTALS.....

**Over 16:
(Please tick)**

Title of your design/s:

Preferred Contact details (e-mail/mobile/phone).....

Return your entry to the Administrator or Office by November 1st.

Anno Domine

Which is the birthday which matters most?
The milestone in living of which you can boast?
When you are **five** all ribbons and frills?
When candle or firework or conjuror thrills?
When you are **twenty** ? So old yet so young?
Those tunes you'll remember whenever they're sung?
When you are **forty** ? Your life at your feet?
With confident prowess in all that you seek?
Fear not years passing ! For as you grow old,
New pleasures and treasures will daily unfold!
Each hour is a birthday! A bonus to live!
Enriched by the loving and caring you give

Margaret Cook



JOKE CORNER

Why did the chicken cross the road?

To get to the other side.

Why did the bubble gum cross the road?

Because it was stuck to the chicken's foot.

A farmer phoned up his neighbour and said,

"I'm going on holiday can you look after my donkey? He's only got 3 legs so I guess you could call him a wonky donkey...and he's got a sore eye so I guess you could call him a winky, wonky donkey...and he needs a bath so I guess you could call him a stinky, winky, wonky donkey"

His neighbour hung up!

What do you call an igloo without a toilet?

An ig

By Alastair McDonald

“Seenager”

Hurrah! I have just discovered my real age group. I am a “Seenager” (senior teenager)

I have everything that I ever wanted as a teenager, only 50-60 years later. I don't have to go to school or work. I get an allowance every month. I have my own pad. I don't have a curfew. I have a driver's licence and my own car. I also know the location of every public toilet between here and Aberdeen.

I have an ID that gets me into bars and the wine store: I like the wine store best. The people I hang around with are not scared of getting pregnant; they aren't scared of anything. They have been blessed to live this long, what is there to be scared of? and I don't have acne. Life is good.

Also, you will feel much more intelligent after reading this if you are also a “Seenager.” Brains of older people are slow because they know so much. People do not decline mentally with age, it just takes longer to recall facts because they have much more information in their brains to sift through. Scientists believe that this also makes you hard of hearing as it puts pressure on your inner ear.

Also, older people often go into another room to get something and when they get there, they stand there wondering what it was they came for. It's NOT a memory problem, it's nature's way of making sure that older people get more exercise. So there!

I have more friends that I should send this to, but right now I can't remember their names, So please forward this to your friends, they may be my friends too.

Duncan Crombie

Grumpy Old Men

As you will see from above contribution the gents have not lost their sense of humour and Duncan Crombie has been working hard to keep in touch with members and elders. Thanks are also due to him for mailing out the “Keeping in Touch-Virtual Postcard” you received in June.

Although the badminton had to be discontinued during the restrictions most of the men could be seen taking their daily walk or cycle and helping folks with shopping in the city.



Why?

What is the shortest verse in the Bible? As many young people will know, either from a quiz or from Sunday School, it is verse 37 of chapter 11 in John's Gospel; "Jesus wept". Why did He weep?

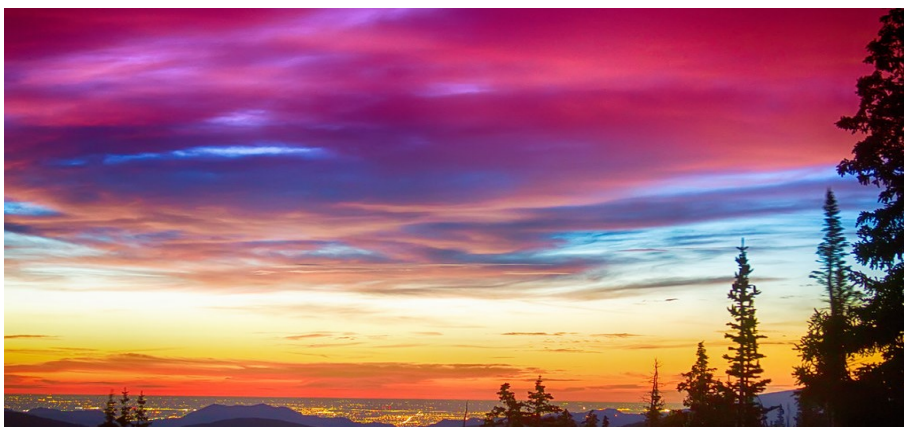
In the first ten chapters of John's Gospel Christ has revealed Himself to an ever-widening circle. This began at the wedding of Cana where there were guests and also His disciples. We are told that His disciples believed on Him. As Jesus moves on in His ministry, John relates how He was revealed to the Jewish nation and how they ultimately rejected His ministry and His person. Chapter 11 is a kind of intermission in the book. His public ministry is over, and He retires into a private ministry relating Himself to individuals.

He had previously met the sisters Mary and Martha, (Luke 10:38-42) and loved this family who had welcomed Him into their home. Now word comes that their brother Lazarus is ill. Nevertheless, Jesus stays two more days where He is, saying, *"This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it"* (verse 4). He had healed so many before but in this case, He allows the disease go to its completion.

Arriving in Bethany He finds the family grieving with many friends comforting them; Lazarus having been buried 4 days. As we visualise the tragic scene unfolding in verses 20-32, the genuine love among this little community is very evident and Jesus identifies Himself with them. Seeing them weeping, He groans in spirit and asks, *"Where have you laid him?"* When they say, "Come and see", Jesus is overcome with emotion and, *"Jesus wept"*.

John here shows the humanity of Jesus and the sympathy He has with us in our sorrows, our troubles, our lack of faith and our spiritual frailty in the face of death. How comforting to us to know that He feels death so deeply with us, especially comforting too, in our present circumstances, when many have lost loved ones.

How sad too, for Jesus Himself to see the effect of death on a human being; His ultimate creation. For John tells us that, *"All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made."* (John 1:3). He was, indeed, our Creator. Earlier in the chapter (verse 8), when Jesus proposes to return to Judaea, the disciples discouraged Him from going back to where he had been threatened with stoning. Look at His strange reply in verse 9. He is telling the disciples about the number of hours in a day, and the difference between day and night. Don't you think He was gently reminding them, "Look, I know what I'm doing. Remember, I'm the one who originally formed the day and the night".



Of the 9 instances of people being restored to life mentioned in the Bible, including Lazarus, all eventually died. Only Jesus was truly resurrected, *“because He (God) has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”* (Acts 17:31). The Bible indicates that, at the right time all will be resurrected, some to eternal life and some to condemnation, depending upon whether they are counted righteous by the appointed Judge, the resurrected Man, Christ Jesus.

Remember, John tells us why he wrote this Gospel: *“many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: but these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name”* (John 20:30–31).

Peter Record



Thanks for your used postage stamps: keep up the good work!

The year the World Mission Department of the Church of Scotland is contributing towards the Women's Development Centre in Kandy, Sri Lanka.

Your used stamps can help the church support women & girls who have survived rape, sexual violence and family rejection: returning them to education or learning skills that will allow them to make a living.

Thank you to everyone who donated their used stamps over the past year. Those running the World Mission Stamp Project are always very pleased to receive our contributions.

Our stamp collection box is now located in the back vestibule of the church. Please remember to leave a wide margin of paper around the edge of your stamps.

Sincerely,

Yvonne McQueen

“The sailing ship "Coronavirus??”

When the lock-down started, I knew that I would need something to occupy my time, so I decided to build myself a model of the sailing clipper, "Cutty Sark." She is a 1:96 scale model of the famous tea clipper now restored and moored at Greenwich in London. The model is 914mm long, from sternpost to bow-sprit, 558mm from keel to main masthead and contains 698 separate parts.

Cutty Sark is a British clipper ship. Built on the River Leven, Dumbarton, in 1869 for the, long gone, Jock Willis Shipping Line, she was one of the last tea clippers to be built for the far east, trade routes and, with her sister ship "Thermopylae," one of the fastest. She came at the end of a long period of design development, which only halted as sailing ships gave way to steam propulsion. She was the first of her generation to be rigged largely with wire hawsers, as opposed to rope, for her 'standing' rigging i.e. the fixed, permanent rigging, principally the braces and supports for the masts and yards. The 'running rigging' i.e. the moveable bits that worked the yards and hoisted the sails was still rope, much of it coming from the equally, long gone, rope works in Dundee.

This is a bit of a labour of love for me. I served my apprenticeship at Charles Connell & Co (Shipbuilders) on the Clyde and second only to my love of aeroplanes, is a love of ships. When I was 18, I was part of the crew of a three-masted schooner, "Prince Louis," operated by the Outward Bound Trust at Burghead on the Moray coast. For reasons that I won't dwell on, she was affectionately known as the "Spewy Louis." It was there that I discovered that I am blessed, in that I don't suffer from sea-sickness. We left Oban harbour one night at about 4.00am and sailed out into a force 10 gale in the "Minches," north past Lewis and Harris, east through the Pentland Firth and eventually south, back into harbour at Burghead. En-route, we almost lost a 'top gallant' sail, that's one of the little triangular sails at the very top of the main masts. It came loose and was threatening to tear free completely. Four of us - who were obviously standing in the wrong place at the wrong time - were volunteered to climb the rigging, all the way to the top, and secure the sail. Health and safety hadn't been invented in these days so, bare-footed and stripped to the waist, up we went, like four monkeys, to retrieve the errant canvas - successfully I might add. In storm conditions, sailing ships have one great advantage over powered ships. Whereas a powered ship takes on a very uncomfortable, (corkscrewing,) motion in heavy seas, sailing ships don't; they tend to go through waves rather than over them, so, yes! you get wet, very wet. "Green oh!" is the call as several tons of cold Atlantic comes barrelling down the deck to engulf you in its embrace, but a sailing ship needs constant attention to keep her well trimmed, so you don't have time to think about being sea-sick.

Back to the Cutty Sark. The model is about three quarters finished, so I need lock-down to last a little bit longer. My better half wants to know where it's going when it's finished?

No idea, but I'll think of something, I need to make room for the next one!

Duncan Crombie



Duncan's model of the Cutty Sark



The Prince Louis

Your help is vital to help keep Bible work alive in the poorest nations

The pandemic has affected Bible ministry all over the world.

Here in Scotland, much of our work has had to adapt and focus more on resourcing the church digitally.

But in some of the world's poorest countries, Bible Societies are struggling to even keep their doors open and to pay staff.

Hama Yaye, Executive Secretary, Bible Society in Niger, says:

“The truth is, we cannot cope. Our Society is not used to digital communications ... We have two people in the office, but no Bibles are sold. People are surviving only. We have no economic reserves. If it lasts longer, things will be very difficult.”

From Uganda, Simon Peter Mukhama, General Secretary, tells us that current circumstances have meant that staff numbers have had to be reduced to just a few people. Income from churches is down to zero, and Bible sales have suffered dramatically. With literally no income, this means that the majority of staff have had to take a 4-month unpaid leave break.

Simon Peter says, “We are still trying to work and minister. We have joined hands with the government to promote Audio Scripture listening, Trauma Healing and Braille Scriptures for the Blind.

“We have also supported many of the clergy, who now have no income, with food parcels. We are also developing new ways of ministering and fundraising through digital technology”.



Please pray for Simon Peter and his team as they struggle to maintain Bible ministry during this pandemic with very little in the way of financial resources.

Name these flags



By Callum McDonald

COMMUNION COMMITTEE APPEAL!

We need some linen table napkins for serving communion and wonder if you have any spare ones lingering unused in a drawer or cupboard? If you can help please speak to Eleanore Hunter or let the Administrator in the Office know and we will gladly put them to good use.



Stirling Kirks Together Messy Church News

We delivered some special paper carrier bags from “Messy Church” containing messages and activities to our Messy Church families in June to show them that we are thinking of them and that we are looking forward to our next session when we can all be together again. The message was hidden in the rainbow sweets and crafts



Lyndsay Boyack

We pray:

Most High God, you are far above us and beyond our knowing. And yet in Jesus you came among us and you are here.

With glad and grateful hearts, we praise you.

Ever faithful God, when waves threaten to overwhelm us and when fire is burning all around us, still you are with us. There is no point at which you run for cover or leave us to manage on our own.

With glad and grateful hearts, we praise you.

Guiding God, you are a lamp for our feet, a light for our path. In uncertain times, with so much that is unknown and unknowable, go before us, we pray, that being attentive to your voice we might sense your leading.

With glad and grateful hearts, we praise you.

Eternal God, there is much that is transient in our experience; we ourselves flourish as flowers and then are gone. But You, Lord, are without beginning or end; the same yesterday, today and forever. Help us to keep our eyes fixed on you and to lay up for ourselves treasure in heaven which shall not be subject to decay or destruction.

With glad and grateful hearts, we praise you.

Loving God, in all things we marvel at your goodness and long only to see you more clearly and to know you more nearly. Put salt on our lips, then, that we might thirst for you more.

With glad and grateful hearts, we praise you.

In Christ's name, AMEN.



Bet Hunter's Busy Lizzie Balsam Plants



These were grown from seeds taken from plants in 2016. They were taken to a number of members of our congregation with the request that they should be put into a sunny place indoors or outdoors and watered daily. They have grown well indoors and outdoors. We hope that when they finish flowering the recipients will save and dry some seeds in a paper bag or clean envelope so we can grow again next year!

Bet is one of our senior members at 98 years young and still enjoys her pot plants which remind her of her lovely garden in Torbrex.

Sarah



Scottish Christians take action on the Environment

Does the environment matter? What can we do about climate change? These vexed questions are hard to answer, but here in Scotland there is a movement whose aim is to help churches address them.

Eco-Congregation Scotland is an ecumenical environmental movement made up of over 300 local Christian congregations whose vision is “a Scotland that cares for God’s creation, now and forever”.

Registered congregations are encouraged to link environmental issues to their Christian faith and take practical action in their church and local community. There are 18 local networks from Orkney to Dumfries providing support at a local level for congregations to live more sustainably.

Eco-Congregation Scotland is open to congregations from any Christian tradition and is supported by many different denominations.

To find out more or to register please visit www.ecocongregationscotland.org.



Summer gardening for all ages

Mrs Lyndsay Boyack delivered the Messy Church Bags and tomato plants to young people in the congregation. She also took pot marigold (calendula) plants grown from seed to some of our older members.

Helen Macdonald's grandchildren planted marigolds in the gardens of Westerlands Care Home. Thanks to all involved.

Anyway

People are often unreasonable
Illogical and self-centred.
Forgive them anyway

If you are kind people may accuse
You of selfish motives:
Be kind anyway

If you are successful,
You will win some false friends
And some true enemies;
succeed anyway

If you are honest and frank,
People may cheat you;
Be honest and frank anyway.

What you spend years building,
Someone could destroy overnight;
Build anyway.

The good you do today,
People will often forget tomorrow;
Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have,
And it may never be enough;
give the world the best you have anyway.

You see in the final analysis,
It is between you and God;
It was never between you and them anyway.

Mother Theresa



Christian Aid has launched a **Lebanon crisis appeal** to provide much-needed support to the most vulnerable.

Together, Christian Aid and its partners are:

- distributing food, water, hygiene and disinfection materials as well as clothes, mattresses, and blankets
- helping affected households to access medicine and health services
- mobilising volunteers to remove rubble in the places most damaged by the explosion
- referring families to temporary shelters and providing minor repairs for homes including carpentry and electrical fixes
-

A prayer for Lebanon

God, our refuge in times of trouble

we pray for our brothers and sisters in Beirut today.

Lord, be with the emergency services as they battle to help the thousands injured.

Lord, hold those who have lost loved ones in the palm of your hand.

Lord, we pray your provision for poor and marginalised communities who face an even more uncertain future.

Lord, we pray for wisdom for leaders as they make difficult decisions.

Lord, open our hearts - may they be full of compassion for the suffering we see.

Stir us to action.

In the tragedy of loss,

we pray your comfort.

In the chaos and injury,

we pray your calm and divine healing.

In the devastation and the heartbreak,

we pray your peace.

We pray that in the despair that lies amid the rubble of the explosion there will be glimmers of hope and life.

Amen.

ANSWERS TO FLAG QUIZ

1-Switzerland, 2-Denmark, 3-South Africa,4.-China,5.-India,6.-United States

NEWSLETTERS FOR WINTER EDITION

Any content for the next newsletter must be handed into the Church office or sent by e-mail to the Interim Editor by 5pm on the date noted below.

We reserve the right to edit or hold over copy if required.

Please send text as a **Windows** file and photos as **JPEG** format.

Handwritten text is accepted but should be in as early as possible please

Any submissions received **AFTER** 5pm on the copy deadline will **NOT** be included in the next issue.

WINTER Edition (December 2020 and January & February 2021)

COPY DEADLINE: Friday 13th November 2020

Interim newsletter editor: Mrs Sarah Murdoch

4 Abercromby Place, Stirling FK8 2QP

Telephone: 01786-473087

In loving memory

It is with sadness, but great thankfulness for lives well lived, that we have to share the news of deaths of the following members of Park Church:

Mrs Thelma MacIntyre on 19th June 2020

Mr Easton Roy on July 10th 2020

Mrs Mary Wright on 15th July 2020

Mrs Margaret Derrick on 17th August 2020

Please remember their families and friends in your prayers



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Welcome to Park Church, Stirling Park Terrace, Stirling FK8 2NA

**All are welcome to worship as the new congregation:
However the number of people attending are currently
limited due to the coronavirus situation and we would ask
that you contact the office during the week to reserve a num-
bered place if you wish to attend on Sunday**

[The Park Church, Stirling website is](http://www.parkchurchstirling.com)

www.parkchurchstirling.com

**The website also provides links to other information and an
on-line copy of this newsletter.**

Park Church Office, Stirling, FK8 2NA

Office telephone :01786-462400

The office is open Tuesday-Friday from 9.30 to 12.

Messages can be left on this number