

THE NEW WELLWYNDER

FEBRUARY 2022

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From the Manse

*“Pray when you feel like it,
pray when you don’t feel like it,
pray until you do feel like it.”*
(W. Graham Scroggie)

Dear Friends

This year the Kirk Session and the congregation are being encouraged to reflect on something at the very heart of who we are and that is mission. The General Assembly is requiring the whole of the Kirk, all of its congregations and members, to consider five marks of mission - marks that define who we are and how we develop our work around mission. We need only look around at churches and other organisations and see how difficult and challenging it is to survive i.e. to keep heads above water. The marks of mission are partly to lead to a rationalisation of buildings and a slim-lining of the church. But, they are much more than that in that, if taken seriously by office-bearers, members and adherents alike, will lead to a shift from SURVIVAL to REVIVAL.

The church, both our denomination and other ones, have faced critical moments throughout its history which have threatened the future survival, not of the church as the Body of Christ on earth, but of churches in certain forms. Where the crisis has been seen as an opportunity to do what we are doing just now and that is to reflect on who we are and how we are structured and motivated, then this has led to revival. I think of the Reformation where something new and exciting came out of a critical time. I think of the Disruption when the same happened. I think of the period after the war when Billy Graham crusades led many into a relationship with God through Christ.

Where do we begin our journey? We begin with God and we begin with prayer where our focus is on what God requires of us individually and as a body of believers here in this place. This is why the first word in this newsletter this month is “Pray”. We start our meetings with prayer as we seek to give God our thanks and praise, the worship of our lives. We end our meetings with prayer as we seek his place in the worship of our whole lives. We approach everything that we do prayerfully as we open ourselves up to the possibility of what God can do in our lives, with our lives and through our lives. It is only then, when God is real to us as we know him personally in the Lord Jesus Christ, are we able to discern where he is leading us and what he is inviting us to do.

Normally during Lent I encourage you to buy a book to reflect on a particular Lenten theme through the period leading up to Easter. This year I am encouraging you to buy a book which will take you

List of Services

Sunday Morning Services at 11am

Sunday, 6th February
Morning Worship
Out of our depth

Sunday, 13th February
Morning Worship
Love one another

Sunday, 20th February
Morning Worship
Measure for measure

Sunday, 27th February
Morning Worship
Pilgrim’s Progress

Sunday, 6th March
Morning Worship
First Sunday in Lent
Subversive Jesus: As predicted!
The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Wednesday Services at 12 noon Delve in at 12

Wednesday, 9th February
God’s Liberating Gospel
Freedom from pride

Wednesday, 16th February
God’s Liberating Gospel
Freedom from worry

Wednesday, 23rd February
God’s Liberating Gospel
Freedom from tradition

During Lent we are going to take a look at the “I am sayings”. As we get to know more about Christ, what does he say about himself?

Wednesday, 2nd March
Getting to Know You
I am the Bread

beyond Lent and focus both on the Psalms and on prayer.

“Praying with the Psalms” by Eugene Peterson encourages the reader to go on a journey through the Psalms with a focus on prayer. The prayers are short but I hope that they lead to a deeper and more meaningful prayer life for all of us as we consider the serious work of the kingdom of God.

*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing,
give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*
(1 Thessalonians 5: 16 - 18)

May God continue to bless you and yours. May he continue to work in us, with us and through us as we honour his name as we seek to serve him in a life of service.

Your friend and minister

Robbie

Services of Worship

There continues to be no requirement to book a place for our services but we are still encouraged to take a note of who is attending. Mask wearing is still a requirement except where someone for medical or other reasons are unable to wear one. It would be good and encouraging to welcome more of you back either on a Sunday or a Wednesday. Technology has helped immensely in allowing us to worship together in a virtual way but, there is nothing like the feeling of the fellowship when God’s people are worshipping together. “Back to normal” is a long way off but will we ever get back to the way things were? So, why not take that step and make that move because it will be a blessing to you as well as a blessing to those around you as we honour the Lord in our worship together. If you are unsure or have any uncertainties or questions, please get in touch.

Robbie

“Praying with the Psalms” Eugene Peterson

This book takes the reader through the first section of the Psalms over a year and we will jump in part of the year through! It is anticipated that the book will cost around £12 which is a discounted price from the Glo Bookshop in Motherwell. It is more expensive than the normal Lenten book but it offers a Psalm and a prayer every day for a year.

Please do consider buying it and making prayer a priority in our lives and in the life of the congregation.

You can order your copy by email or by phone. There will also be slips of paper available on a Sunday so that you can pre-order your copy.

My email is - rhamilton@churchofscotland.org.uk



Wednesday, 9th March

Getting to Know You

I am the Light

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Please note that teas and coffees are served after all of these services.

Welcome Teams

Sunday, 6th February

Team Leader: Harry Shaw

Irene Bremner, Freda Gilchrist

Liz Riddell

Sunday, 13th February

Team Leader: David Watt

Linda Francis, Margaret Jarvie,

Alison Sefton, David Walker

Sunday, 20th February

Team Leader: Irene Yates

Billy Brooks, Beatrice Holden,

George Lowden, Janet Nimmo,

Isabel Sorbie

Sunday, 27th February

Team Leader: Elizabeth Robertson

Sandy Black, Christine Cassells,

George Grant, George Lawson

Sunday, 6th March

Team Leader: Barbara Watt

Lynne Cartwright, Carol Hamilton,

Elaine McGuire, George Randall

Funerals

22nd December Ian Mackay

24th December Maisie Blades

24th December Derek Herbertson

20th January Cissie Gillespie

22nd January Alec Bulloch

Thank You

George and Una Lawson wish to say a sincere thanks for the church flowers, cards, flowers and all the support received after the sudden death of Morag, Una’s sister.

Tom and Janette Reid would like to thank everyone for the flowers received after Janette’s little fall. Janette’s arm has healed well and the flowers certainly cheered them up.

Lenten Lessons - Exploring the Faith

“Lenten Lessons” sounds a bit like going back to school and, yes, it probably is but not as we know it. It is based around some videos, questions and discussion asking such questions as -

- Is there more to life than this?
- Who is Jesus?
- Why did Jesus die?
- How can I have faith?
- Why and how do I pray?
- Why and should I read the Bible?

I am looking at holding this on the following dates -

Wednesday, 23rd February

Monday, 28th February

Wednesday, 9th March

Wednesday, 16th March

Wednesday, 23rd March

Wednesday, 30th March

All sessions will be held in the church itself at 7.30pm

The course is flexible and relaxed. It is based around Alpha and is open to those who are exploring faith for the first time as well as those who are wanting a refresher. My hope is that a whole mixture of people will come along to listen and to share ideas.

For more information please contact me by email or phone -

My email is - [**rhamilton@churchofscotland.org.uk**](mailto:rhamilton@churchofscotland.org.uk)

My telephone number is 01236 763022

Give, act and pray with Christian Aid in Scotland

Christian Aid continues in the many aspects of its work with our global neighbours, enabling people to become more self-sufficient, fighting for climate justice and being there in emergency situations and disaster zones, one of those being the present crisis in Afghanistan. The Airdrie Christian Aid Committee met recently, when we were delighted to welcome two new reps from Airdrie High Church. The meeting considered various new ideas for fundraising, possibly later this year with the easing of Covid restrictions.

Although we were restricted in 2020/21, with regard to holding any events, an amount of £1715.87 has been transferred to Christian Aid Scotland from the Airdrie Committee account. This was made up mostly of various donations and some house to house/pew collections. Since it was felt that house-to-house collecting was becoming less and less practical a JUST GIVING PAGE was set up for Airdrie Churches Christian Aid Group as an alternative for Christian Aid week last year. This can be used at any time to donate. At present £350 has been raised on this site and it is hoped this will increase as more people become aware of it. Apart from the funds sent from the Airdrie account, the Virtual Kilt walk achieved almost £1500. If anyone has any other new ideas of how to support the work of Christian Aid, please don't hesitate to get in touch. Most importantly please pray for Christian Aid workers in their very challenging work in so many countries. You can find out the latest news by visiting www.christianaid.org.uk

Liz Riddell

..... Thank you continued

George Thomson would like to thank the congregation for the plant received from the harvest service.

Gordon Waddell would like to thank Maggie, Jim, Freda, Eric, Carol, George and Robbie for all their help and support during his recent house move. This was very much appreciated. The TV is still standing!

Stand up for Jesus

Today lay down your shield of sin

Pick up His wooden cross

Carry it proudly on your back

Cry out for the souls of the lost

Stand strong and tall as His warrior

Ready to fight for His name

Listen not to Satan's whispers

Promises of wealth, power, and fame

Be willing to give your life for Him

For He suffered to give us ours

Never fail to glorify Him

Tell all of His Heavenly Charms

For Jesus has bought our troubled souls

With His precious and perfect gift

We owe to Him each breath we take

Through Him our pain will lift

With true faith He will walk with us

In His perfect majesty

His words will gently guide our path

And His love shall set us free

Stand strong for Jesus, one perfect soul

Let your life be to His glory

Shout out His name for all to hear

The promise of His great love story

Patricia Guinn



How good is your faith?

“Faith” means complete trust or confidence in someone or something.

Life is full of surprises, twists and turns. Often we don’t know what will happen. But still, we continue to live our lives and one of the tools that helps us to do that is faith. Faith is like an inner voice that keeps us focused on a positive outlook and helps us to keep going irrespective of the situation in our life.

Faith is unseen but felt,

Faith is strength when we feel we have none,

Faith is hope when all seems lost”

To help you understand how faith can help you in our life, here is a wee short story to make you trust yourself.

God and the Hiker

John was a hiker who used to travel to different places here there and everywhere. One day he made a solo trip to a forest. As he started walking through the forest, there was heavy rain. It was difficult for him to walk as it was slippery. So, he decided to stay in one place for that night and continue the journey the next morning. The rain stopped in the morning but there was heavy fog and the path was still very slippery. He continued walking and came near a cliff. He started enjoying nature and in the process, he lost his balance and fell down. But luckily he hung on to a tree branch.

He could not see anything as the place was completely surrounded by fog. As time passed by he was still hanging on to the branch. Suddenly he heard a voice, “Leave the branch, you will be saved” John replied, “Who are you? From where you are talking? I can’t see anything!

Voice,” I am God”

John,” God? No, I don’t believe you are God!”

Voice,” My son, How you will believe me then?”

John, “You save me first. Then I will believe you.”

Voice,” Okay, just leave the branch!

John, “No, I can’t because I don’t have faith in you!

After that John could not hear anything. He continued holding on to the branch.

A snake on the tree, bit his hand and he fell down to the ground. But nothing happened to him as he was hanging just 3 feet from the ground. But he noticed a snake bite mark on his hand. He started running towards the village for help. As he moved closer he fell down and become unconscious. Time passed by, one of the villagers rescued him and took him to the hospital. John opened his eyes and realized he was in hospital and surrounded by his family and friends. He talked to himself, “God told me to leave the branch to save me from the snake. But I did not believe him. Still, he has saved me.”

Moral of the story:

Faith is a beautiful thing in your life to have. You don’t have to have belief in everything but at the same time, you need to have trust in certain things.

God Sometimes lends his helping hand in one or another. It is you, who has to hold on to his hand and move forward. As we start to emerge from the pandemic that has blighted our lives over the past two years let us all take hold of his hand.

The Editor

Some famous people who have stood up and spoken out!

“If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality.”

— Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

“As long as poverty, injustice and gross inequality persist in our world, none of us can truly rest.” — Nelson Mandela

“Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope.” — Robert F Kennedy

“The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they don’t have any.” — Alice Walker

“In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.” — Dr Martin Luther King Jr

“Speak up for people who cannot speak for themselves. Protect the rights of all who are helpless. Speak for them and be a righteous judge. Protect the rights of the poor and needy.” – Proverbs 31, 8-9

The Editor

Note from the Editor

I hope you have enjoyed reading through our new look magazine? Any feedback regarding the formatting and type-setting would be greatly appreciated. Many thanks.

George Randall

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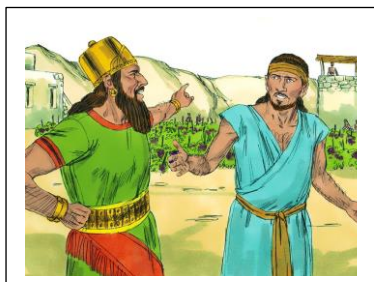
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Naboth's Vineyard

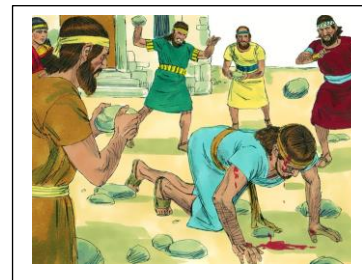


Next to King Ahab's palace lived a man named Naboth, who owned just one small vineyard.

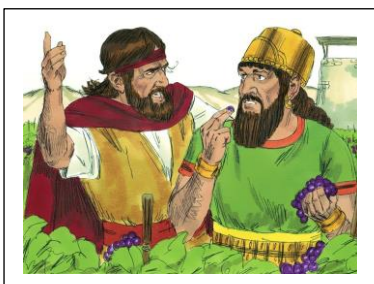
"Give me your land, and I will pay you," said the king.

"This land belonged to my father and his father," replied Naboth.

"It is against God's will to sell it."



King Ahab was very upset. He lay in his bed and sulked. His wife, Jezebel, asked him what was wrong. "I want the vineyard," he whined. "You are the king, aren't you?" said Jezebel. "If you want it, I will get it for you." She wrote letters telling her officials, "Find two people to tell lies, accusing Naboth of saying bad things about God and the king." She signed the letters with the king's seal, and the officials did as they were told. Poor Naboth was taken away and killed.



Then Jezebel said to Ahab, "He is dead. Go and take his vineyard. It is yours." But the Lord spoke to the prophet Elijah, who found King Ahab in the vineyard. "God says, "You have murdered Naboth and stolen his vineyard! I watch over the powerless and punish injustice. Beg for forgiveness or I will destroy you."

King Ahab was truly sorry for what he had done. He begged for forgiveness, and God showed him mercy.

Dear God, help me to protect the powerless.

In our world today, there are many people who are powerless, through no fault of their own. It is not that they want power to allow them to take advantage of other people but the power to live a happy peaceful life, free of injustice, persecution, poverty and hunger. To you and me that perhaps does not seem a lot to ask, as that is our way of life, but for many boys and girls throughout the world that would be a dream! Whether in this country or countries far away we should do our best to help make their dreams come true.

Remember also, that telling lies about people is not nice and can have serious consequences. We must not tell tales and always be truthful. God wants us all to be good friends!




Colouring Page - Ahab asks to buy Naboth's vineyard



Name _____

I can be a
Good Friend

This is one way that I can be a good friend.



Name _____

I can be a
Good Friend

This is one way that I can be a good friend.

