

THE NEW WELLWYNDER

MAY 2022

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From the Manse

Dear Friends

I have reflected in the past about an unsettling vision that I have and that is, someday, we will waken up and there will be no shops or banks or other retail outlets of any description on high streets, street corners or even shopping outlets. I mentioned it rather tongue in cheek a handful of years ago but now the tongue is not in the cheek. M and S, for example are not selling suits in some of their stores. John Lewis is reducing items in the haberdashery instore (don't ask) - you have to go online!

I am not a luddite, far from it, and am the first to see the blessings of technology. For a start, they allowed us to continue to worship and do some of our work as a congregation during lockdown. And, there are aspects of technology that have not only enhanced worship but, in my opinion and that of others, have freed us up. But, nothing beats face to face contact - that buzz at worship as people gather, that ability to gauge a room at a meeting, that ability to smile and nod and engage in ways we haven't for quite some time.

The growing numbers on a Sunday, a Wednesday and at other times is encouraging but at a recent meeting of the Trustees a statistic came as quite a shock to everyone present and that is the number of people on the congregational roll who have no engagement with the life of the Kirk in any shape or form. Those who are giving and doing are giving and doing more than they ever have to not only sustain the ministry and ministries (because we all have a ministry), to continue the work in the congregation and community and, of central importance, an expression of their faith. This is what giving is about, it is giving back to God because he has given us so much - the gifts of his son Jesus who, in asking us to follow him, sets an example in his lifestyle and a rule for living in his commands. It is, or should be, directly linked to the sacrificial giving of Christ on the cross. Yes, our giving in every shape and form maintains the work, worship and mission of the church and ensures that mission is at the heart of who we are and what we do. It is also that direct response to the blessings of God which, when we come to him in a spirit of expectancy and openness, fill our lives and our hearts to overflowing.

But what has the church ever done for me? What can the church ever do for me? And, what's the point of faith. For me, the answer is quite simple and it came from the lips of my own mother when my father died. "I do not know how people cope with death when they have no faith." And for me the peace that I feel right at the moment before a harrowing journey of chemo, major surgery and more chemo comes from that same faith, from belonging to a family like the church, to be surrounded and upheld in prayer and to find a peace and a sanctuary in the Lord's house on a Sunday and at other times.

List of Services

Sunday Morning Services at 11am

Sunday, 8th May
Morning Worship
Perseverance

Sunday, 15th May
Morning Worship
What next?

Sunday, 22nd May
Morning Worship
All shall be well

Sunday, 29th May
Morning Worship
Coming soon . . .

Sunday, 5th June
Pentecost Sunday
Taking it all in

Tea and coffee will be served in the Church Hall after morning worship.

Wednesday Services at 12 noon Delve in at 12

Our midweek service on a Wednesday at 12 noon continues followed by tea and coffee. We are currently looking at the Wisdom of God and what that means for us today and our growth and development in faith as Christians.

Holy Communion will be celebrated on Wednesday, 8th June.

2nd Airdrie Boys' Brigade

As part of our Centenary celebrations we are holding a special service in the Church on **Thursday, 5th May starting at 7pm**. The Moderator of the General Assembly of The Church of Scotland will be in attendance. A cordial invitation is extended to one and all.

Jean Kinniburgh



The peace I know is quite literally “beyond my understanding”. I know it and feel it and what a difference it makes. Think of what brought you to church for the very first time - a wedding, a baptism, a funeral - times of joy to celebrate and give thanks to God as well as times of sorrow to find solace, help and support. If churches, and I mean church as the people of God, disappear and there is no-one, or very few left to bear witness, where will we find any of this?

Hufstutler and Rice in their book “Reformed Worship” hit the nail on the head when they wrote these words about church and about worship in church -

“Reformed worship has nurtured people for centuries, enabled them struggle for freedom, strengthened them in tribulation and oppression, assisted them in finding meaning in their lives and helped them discover God’s gracious intent in a confusing world.”

And if there ever was a time to find that strength, meaning and gracious intent it is now. Church and belonging to the church is a fine balance between what we expect to get from it and what we are willing to put in it. If we come with a sense of expectation we will never be disappointed because that expectation leads to an openness giving the Spirit a way into our lives to transform our lives as well as our living - to comfort us when we need that comfort, to strengthen us when we need that strength, to give meaning when we need that meaning and to open our lives to the possibility of what God can do in us and through and with us. The comfort, strength, meaning and infinite possibilities flowing from that active relationship with God should also naturally flow into the life of the world around us to make a positive difference in the lives of the vulnerable and help to rebuild this broken world and broken planet. This is reflected in the marks of mission found elsewhere in this magazine. We have a focus on eternity but Jesus call to go reminds us of that focus on the here and now.

***Come with me, come wander,
Come welcome the world,
Where strangers might smile
Or where stones may be hurled;
Come leave what you cling to,
Lay down what you clutch
And find, with hands empty,
That hearts can hold much.***

Come, let us step out together as the people of God to new experiences and challenges, to blessings that will thrill us beyond all imagining.

Your friend and minister
Robbie

Marks of Mission

The Session is working through the marks of mission with a view to setting up working groups to involve session members and those in the wider congregation. Have a look at them, reflect on them and see if you perhaps have the skills, energy and enthusiasm to help.

Attending Worship

The Kirk Session respectfully requests that those attending worship wear a mask (if they are able to) as they arrive at church until they take their seat in the sanctuary.

Those who would prefer to keep their mask on for the whole service are more than welcome to do so and those who would rather remove the mask are also welcome to do so.

If you see some seated wearing a mask, please respect that decision and give them some space to ensure they are comfortable attending worship.

Welcome Teams

Sunday, 8th May

Team Leader: David Watt
Linda Francis, Margaret Jack,
Allister Jack, Alison Sefton,
David Walker, Andrew Paul

Sunday, 15th May

Team Leader: Drew Glen
Billy Brooks, John Jarvie,
Janet Nimmo, Tom Sorbie,
Isabel Sorbie, Karen Taylor

Sunday, 22nd May

Team Leader: Irene Yates
Alex Anderson, Avril Cockburn,
Allison Gray, Beatrice Holden,
George Lowden, Dianne Stein

Sunday, 29th May

Team Leader: Harry Shaw
Kate Hamilton, Freda Gilchrist,
Lynne Cartwright, Lynne Thompson,
John Clydesdale, Maureen Paterson

Sunday, 5th June

Team Leader: Barbara Watt
Carol Randall, William Watson (Snr),
Gordon Waddell, Colin MacPherson,
Lesley MacPherson, Una Lawson,

Funerals

23rd March	Jim Johnston
11th April	Elsa Porter
25th April	Netta Walker
27th April	Jim Armstrong
28th April	Betty Wilson

The Marks of Mission are as follows:

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
2. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
3. To respond to human need by loving service
4. To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation
5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

The Revd Peter M Gordon

We were sorry to hear of the death of Peter. He died peacefully on Monday, 28th March at Rosturk House Care Home, Cupar. His funeral service was in Cupar Old Parish Church on Tuesday, 19th April. Peter Gordon was inducted into West Parish Church on Thursday 5th September 1985. The vacancy committee at the time was surprised and suspicious that anyone from such a prodigious charge as Brechin Cathedral would be interested in coming to Airdrie West! All soon became aware that his earlier years at Camperdown Dundee and Castlemilk Glasgow had equipped him for the challenge at West Parish. "Cometh the hour cometh the man" and this was certainly the case and he turned out to be the man to restore The West following a disturbed time gaining respect from all with whom he worked. New life began appearing in the form of the snack bar, the bible study group, joint services with Columba (the manses were next door) and hosting BBC Songs of Praise but his greatest achievement was the original idea of joining Wellwynd with The West without external pressures. He retired a happy man continuing his great interest in his new church 'New Wellwynd!' He loved being kept up-to-date and, if anything caught his eye in the magazine he would be on the phone to the minister who appreciated his tremendous support. In all his work he was ably assisted by his wife Fiona an ordained Deacon in her own right. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with Fiona who has recently moved into care and the family.

News from the Manse

You may or may not know that I have been diagnosed with oesophageal cancer which looks localised and has been caught before any major symptoms. I start a course of chemotherapy on Friday, 6th May and will have four courses in total, one every two weeks. After a time of recovery which looks likely to be later in the summer I will undergo major surgery which will be followed by another four courses of chemo.

I have no idea how the chemo is going to affect me as no-one does at the outset so, I don't know how I will be at different times during the process. I intend to continue to work and serve you as your minister as best I can but recognise that there will be days/periods when that won't be possible. Only time will tell. We are fortunate to have Eckhardt and others whose commitment is second to none and whose gifts and ministries I am so very grateful for.

I continue to ask for your prayers as well as your commitment and dedication to ensure that the worship, work and witness not only continue here but grow and develop with that greater engagement we need now more than ever.

Robbie

Prayer Points

- Continue to pray for the situation in the Ukraine that there will be an end to the carnage and atrocities.
- Give thanks in prayer for 100 years of the work and witness of 2nd Airdrie B.B. and continue to pray for the boys, young men, officers and leaders as they strive to advance the kingdom of God.
- Pray for the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland soon to be meeting in Edinburgh that the advancement of Christ's kingdom will be at the heart of discussions.
- Pray for all housebound members and those in nursing homes that they might continue to get the support and help that they both need and deserve.
- Pray for all young people preparing for and in the midst of important exams.
- Pray for the preparations soon to be undertaken for the Holiday Club and all who will be involved in whatever way this summer.
- Pray for the witness of all God's people that in word and deed others might enjoy that pleasant and life changing experience of God in their lives

Stand in Faith

Even when you can't see your way
Stand in faith
Even when you feel like you can't face another day
Stand in faith
Even when the tears want to flow from your eyes
Stand in faith
Knowing that our God will always provide
Stand in faith
Even when you feel that all hope is gone
Stand in faith
Knowing that He is always there for you to lean on
Stand in faith

Christian Aid Week 2022 – Help turn hunger into hope!

In Zimbabwe, and many other countries throughout the world the climate crisis is causing aching hunger for families. The combined effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, conflict, and drought have robbed many parents of the power to provide for their children. The war in Ukraine will drive up food prices even further around the globe. Without the fertiliser and food - like wheat and cooking oil - that Ukraine and Russia produce, vulnerable families will be pushed even deeper into hunger.

But hope does not disappoint. Hope lives in you.

Your gifts this Christian Aid Week could help families set up water taps on their farm, learn to grow food, and provide seeds that thrive in drought – giving them all they need to turn their dry, dusty land into a garden of hope.

Join us this Christian Aid Week, and help turn hunger into hope.

Hope is in the eyes of Jessica in rural Zimbabwe!

Jessica Mwedzi smiles with love for her children as she stirs a single bowl of porridge for them.....But she knows they're hungry for more. This one bowl of porridge is all she and her family can eat today: 'My children crave a decent meal, but I can't provide. We often go to bed on an empty stomach. It pains me to send them to bed hungry. Women are at the mercy of climate change and hunger.' For Jessica, drought means every day is a struggle for survival. Like many women in rural Zimbabwe - 7 out of 10 rely on farming for income and food - she toils on her farm, but nothing can grow on her ashen, dry land. Drought starves. Intensified by the climate crisis, and the effects of war in Ukraine on global food production, it drives families into hunger. Jessica recalls that 'One year, we had no rain. The scorching sun burnt my crops just as they were about to bloom. It was so painful and disheartening.' It's unjust that drought - exacerbated by the effects of conflict and the global pandemic - robs Jessica of the power to provide for her family. Her husband is unwell, so she's the only breadwinner. Her children look up to her, but she has nothing left to give. Once before, when things were desperate, Jessica asked her neighbours for food but she came home with nothing. Jessica is anything but helpless. In the face of drought, her love for her family gives her courage to stand strong - and we stand with Jessica. 'My children give me the power to go ahead... I pray they have a better future.'

You can help this loving mum turn hunger into hope!

Jessica could grow drought-resistant crops, set up water taps on her farm and learn how to grow food in the harsh climate. Her dry, dusty land could transform into a garden of hope, abundant with fresh food like tomatoes, beans and cucumbers. She'll be proud of the fruits of her work, and she'll see her children enjoy their first full meal in months.

With your gift this Christian Aid Week, families like Jessica's won't go to bed hungry tonight.

Hope does not disappoint. **Hope lives in you!**

You can make a donation to Christian Aid by visiting

www.christianaid.org.uk

Christian Aid Team

Even when you feel like giving up
Stand in faith
Because He is there ... saying, "Just look up"
Stand in faith
Even in those times you feel so all alone
Stand in faith
Hold on and be strong, for He is still on the throne
Stand in faith
Even when it's hard to believe
Stand in faith
Knowing that He can change your situation, suddenly
Stand in faith
Even in those times you feel it's hard to pray
Stand in faith
And believe that He has already made the way
Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen
So stand in faith
Because you already have the victory!

J Chandler



Useful Contacts

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Christian Aid Week 15th to 21st May 2022

I don't believe it!

Have you ever heard a story that sounded too strange to be true? Or maybe you've been told something that was hard to believe?

Well, that happened to someone in the Bible. His name was Thomas, and he was one of the twelve disciples that were close friends with Jesus. After Jesus came back to life from the dead, He appeared to many people. He came to His disciples one day when they were gathered in a room, and they were overjoyed to see the Lord. However...Thomas wasn't there. Maybe he was on an errand or something, the Bible doesn't say. But he missed seeing Jesus. When the other disciples told him about it, he refused to believe them! He said that unless he could put his fingers in the nail marks in the hands of Jesus and see Him with his own eyes, he wouldn't believe it. Well, later on, that's just what happened! Jesus came again, and this time Thomas was there. Jesus had him put his hands in the nail marks, and Thomas certainly believed then! He said "My Lord and my God!" because he realised the truth of the Resurrection. But Jesus told him that he had believed because he saw him...Jesus said "blessed are those who have not seen and still believe."

And you know what? That means us! We haven't seen Jesus physically with our eyes. We haven't had the opportunity to touch His body or see Him in the flesh. But we trust in God's word, the Bible. We believe in Him and believe the Holy Spirit gives us faith to believe even when we don't see or fully understand. So we are those that Jesus called "blessed." We know His words are true, and we know He died and rose again. Because of that, we can trust that we will spend eternity with Him someday. What a wonderful and hopeful promise that is...and it's no trick! We should thank God every day for that beautiful truth.

Why don't we say a prayer of thanks right now?

**Dear God,
Thank you for sending Jesus to live and die for us
We know your words are true and real
Help us to have faith and trust you
Even though we can't always see or understand.
Thank you for your love
we love you, God!
In Jesus's name, Amen!**

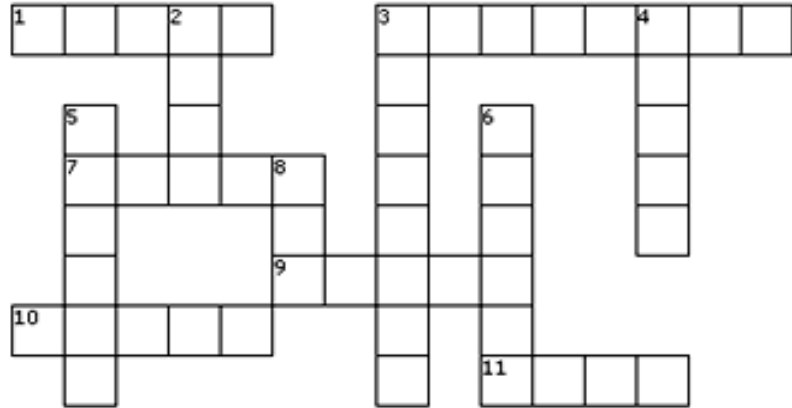


"Stop doubting and believe!"

John 20:19-31 (NIV)



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ACROSS

1. To believe in something for which there is no proof
3. A follower of Jesus
7. The body parts at the end of the arms
9. A pointed and headed fastener designed to be pounded into wood
10. To be in a state of pleasure or delight
11. An entrance into a building or room

DOWN

2. One of two babies born at the same time
3. Unwilling to believe that something is true
4. Free from conflict; getting along with others; opposite of war
5. The disciple who would not believe without seeing
6. Not open
8. Breaking a religious or moral law

Words Used

door	sin	Thomas	nails
closed	hands	happy	disciple
peace	doubting	faith	twin

Jesus is alive!
No doubt about it!