



THE NEW WELLWYNDER

SEPTEMBER 2023

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From the Manse

Dear Friends

After Church this morning, I carried out a couple of home visits, followed by a visit to a member in Wishaw General. I found myself in Adult Critical Care where I was a year ago after surgery. I said that to the nurse and she remembered. She commented that they see folk at their worst but never get to see them having got through the difficult times and it was encouraging for her to see me. It doesn't seem like a year and this time last year when I was unsure about my immediate future, never mind what lay ahead for me and for the congregation. This was all on the same day, to say that on 21st October, I will be stepping down as minister at The New Wellwynd Parish Church to take up a new post as the Clerk to the Presbytery of Clyde. I did it with a heavy heart, having been your minister for some 22 years!

Alistair Begg, a Scottish minister in the States, in his book "Made for His Pleasure" quoted the late Rev Eric Alexander of Glasgow Tron when he was exploring vocation: "There is no ideal place to serve God except the place where He has set you down". Eric was a dear friend of my Uncle Alex and was always a gracious and godly man. I truly believe that God set me down in this place 22 years ago, where I have known the privilege of serving you as your minister. As I said on Sunday morning, we have cried together and laughed together. We have grown and taken risks together. This has been the greatest ministry any minister could have asked for: partners in the gospel and friends along the way.

I have always tried to ensure that I have been in the place where God has wanted me to be and been open to him working in and through my ministry. God has been nudging me elsewhere in recent times which was difficult to face up to and difficult to have to share on Sunday. Hard as it is I do believe that God has a plan for The New Wellwynd which involves quite a different future in partnership with St Columba's and Jackson. God has a plan for me as he is leading me in quite a different direction.

'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future.' Jeremiah 29: 11

As recent times have taught me and this morning has reminded all of us, we do not know what lies ahead or what plans God has for any one of us. What we do know is that he travels with us, he leads us and he enables us to be the people he has created us to be and the followers he has called us to be.

*I do not know what lies ahead
the way I cannot see
yet one stands near to be my guide
he'll show the way to me.*

Forthcoming Services

Sunday, 10th September

11 a.m. Morning Worship
Doing conflict well
The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Sunday, 17th September

11 a.m. Morning Worship
The meaning of forgiveness

Sunday, 24th September

11 a.m. Morning Worship
When God's justice seems unfair

Sunday, 1st October

11 a.m. Morning Worship
Taking responsibility
Harvest Thanksgiving

Sunday, 8th October

11 a.m. Morning Worship
Partners in the Gospel

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 will continue during the autumn months.

The service is followed by tea and coffee.

Welcome Teams

Sunday, 10th September

Team Leader: Maggie Weir
Anne Learmonth, Irene Bremner,
Carol Hamilton, Liz Riddell.

Sunday, 17th September

Team Leader: Moira Gartshore
Matt Fleming, Margaret Jarvie,
Jean Kinniburgh, George Randall,
Ronnie Wright, Elaine McGuire.

Sunday, 24th September

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

*I know who holds the future
and he'll guide me with his hand
with God things don't just happen
everything by him is planned.
So as I face tomorrow
with its problems large and small
I'll trust the God of miracles
give to him my all.*

Your friend always and minister
Robbie

P.S. My last Sunday will be Sunday 8th October and I hope that as many of you as possible will be able to share with me on that day. My official finish date is 21st October.

Harvest Thank Offering

Started by the World Council of Churches in the 1980s, the 'Thursdays in Black' campaign is a form of peaceful protest against violence and rape especially that which takes place during wars and conflicts. The focus of the campaign is to challenge attitudes that cause rape and violence. You are encouraged to dress in black on Thursdays to mark your support for gender justice all over the world. The International Justice Mission (IJM) works to combat violence against women and children in Guatemala, Bolivia, El Salvador, Kenya, Colombia, Peru and Uganda and has been supported by The Guild in the past. This is the charity that we will be supporting this year for our Harvest Thank Offering.

The minister will be available to receive donations on Saturday, 30th September in the Session Room and there will be envelopes provided ahead of this date. You can bring your donation along on the Saturday or on the Sunday. For more information on Black Thursday and IJM two links can be found below.

<https://www.oikoumene.org/what-we-do/thursdays-in-black#resources>

<https://www.ijmuk.org/violence-against-women>

Harvest Flowers

We plan to decorate the church on Harvest Sunday 1st October with flowers. Once again we are asking the congregation to donate flowers. The Flower Team will be in the Crush Hall on Saturday, 30th September from 10 a.m. until 12 noon to receive your gift of flowers. As is usual, these flowers will be distributed to our housebound members and those not so well at this time. Thank you for your help.

Avril and Margaret (Flower Conveners)

Appeal for Volunteers – Street Pastors

I am a volunteer Street Pastor with Glasgow Street Pastors (GSP), working one duty per month, based in St George's Tron Church, Buchanan Street, Glasgow. Since the Pandemic a number of our volunteers have retired which has put a strain on the support service we aim to offer. To be a GSP it is essential to be a committed Christian attending church.

Sunday, 1st October

Team Leader: Karen Taylor
Billy Brooks, Janet Nimmo,
Tom Sorbie, Isobel Sorbie,
Wilma Davidson.

Funerals

6 th June	Jean Clark
15 th June	May Bell
23 rd June	Ronnie Trotter
27 th June	Ellen Hendry
29 th June	John Jarvie
7 th August	Jim Hannah

Weddings

10 th June	Lynsey Dunbar and David Andrew
15 th July	Laura Phillips and Stuart Baldock
11 th August	Gina Ferguson and Sammy Armstrong

Baptism

2nd July	Paige Shepherd Johnston
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Thank You

Margaret Jarvie and family would like to thank the Church family for the love prayers and support shown during John's illness and for all the messages, cards and flowers received following his death. They would especially like to thank Robbie for his love and care at this time and for two beautiful comforting and uplifting services. Many thanks also to Jean and the Snack Bar helpers for the lovely lunch which was much enjoyed and appreciated by all.

Elizabeth Hannah and family would like to thank the Church family for the cards, flowers, messages of support and prayers following the death of her husband Jim. Special thanks to Robbie for his kind words of comfort and for a lovely funeral service. Thanks also to Jean and her helpers for a lovely tea after the service.

May and Jim Mezzetti would like to express their sincere thanks for the Church Flowers that they recently received. The kindness and prayer support of the congregation was very much appreciated.

There are 3 kinds of Pastors who work as a Team each Friday and Saturday night.

1. As a **Street Pastor** we walk the city centre, liaising with police, street aid and other agencies. Our role is to listen, care and help anyone who needs our assistance during the hours of 10pm to 4am. This involves considerable walking.

2. **Safe Zone Pastors** who give support to anyone brought into the Safe Zone, some medical knowledge could help, but caring once again is the main part of our role.

3. **Prayer Pastors** work from home, giving a covering of prayers to the city throughout our shift and to be available to prayer requests from street pastors.

Training is provided for all the above prior to being commissioned. I am happy to answer any questions about GSP and would welcome anyone interested to join me on an Observation evening whenever I go on shift for part of or a full night's duty. I can highly recommend being involved with GSP as it's added to my Christian journey, it's a hugely rewarding and humbling experience. For further information, please call me on Tel: 07765536195. Thank you.

Wilma Davidson

Personal Reflection on Emmaus Course (1 March – 31 May 2023)

I enjoyed this course so much that I wanted to share my experience of it with you. The course took us back to basics looking at our faith, for example, what we believe in, who do we believe in and does it all matter. In the second half of the course we explored how we can grow in our faith, what it means to live out faith and what it means to be part of the Church.

Each session started with a cuppa, biscuit and catch-up with others. The attendance was about 15 every week. We had lots of discussion in our groups. There was no pressure for anyone to express their opinions and there was no judgement about those who did speak. It gave us all a safe space and time to ask questions – no matter how crazy questions were at times (I take full responsibility for the crazy questions!)

Everyone was friendly and supportive. I made new friends, learned from others and felt that my faith deepened. We are never too old to question things about our faith – how can we grow unless we question.

Thanks to Robbie for leading us most Wednesdays and David Walker for being a very efficient stand-in for Robbie. Thanks also to the Discipleship group for all their organisation. Come along and join us at the next study group – you never know what you will learn from it.

Anne Learmonth

Oberammergau Diaries

Now a year after the event, the tale of the intrepid pilgrims draws to a close.

Wednesday, 27th July

DONG! DONG! DONG! For the last time, the bells doth toll at 6am. Hurriedly, after throwing things into the case for the return journey home, we had our last morning prayers in the Library. Our theme was about 'leaving', reflecting on the activities of the past week and

Tom and Isobel Sorbie would like to thank the congregation for the beautiful Church Flowers they received recently. They were very much appreciated.

Prayer Points

- Pray for the Minister, Kirk Session and Congregational Board as they prepare for new challenges and opportunities ahead.
- Pray for the Sunday Club and Bible Class, for all leaders, children and young people as they start a new session with the aid of new material.
- Pray for all of our youth organisations starting up that the vision of the leaders might have been refreshed in the summer and the enthusiasm of the young folk might continue.
- Pray for all of our adult organisations including the Snack Bar and Coffee Morning that these might continue to be ways of reaching out and encouraging fellowship.
- Pray for all young people preparing to start College or University, for those starting work and for those unsure about their futures.
- Pray for the work of the minister in the schools that the strong relationships already enjoyed with Rochsolloch and the Academy might continue to grow and offer opportunities to reach out and witness to the Gospel.
- Pray for the work of IJM and all who seek to make this a better and fairer world for all.

Hall Convener

After more years than he cares to remember Bobby Forrest has retired from his role as the Church's Hall Convener. Bobby is to be thanked for his diligent work and service in fulfilling this role. John Clydesdale has now taken over and we wish John and Bobby all the very best.

Roving Reporter

looking at what and how we go forward on our return home. Our reading was from **Acts 1: 6-11**. Just as the disciples wanted to hold onto Jesus a little bit longer I think most of the pilgrims would quite happily have stayed a little bit longer. But alas, home we must go but taking back with us memories, experiences, new friends and contacts and that continued presence of God that binds us all together as one. Our final prayer: *Lord, thank you for the time we have enjoyed, for the love, the friendships and fellowship that we have shared and for your continued presence, in all that we have done and shared. Now bless us, as we prepare to go home, that we might have a safe and blessed journey. Bless those who welcome and those who accept hospitality that Christ may come among us in journeying and stillness. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen*

Our thought for the day, 'In all that we do, may the Lord make us channels of his peace!'

After breakfast with all the luggage safely stored we had a last morning of leisure before departing for the airport. Some of the group headed down into the centre of Imst to have a wander through the shops, drink coffee and eat cake! I do believe one or two also sampled some local beverages. Me, I jumped on the toy train along the valley to Nassereith that I had missed out on a few days previously, when I went hiking up the Rosengarten Gorge. I was accompanied by a few others, some travelling on the train for a second time. It was a rickety and bumpy journey along the floor of the Gurgltal valley but the stunning mountain vistas on either side were well worth the discomfort! By early afternoon, it was all aboard, as we loaded the coach and said goodbye to Imst. Journeying back to Munich Airport we followed the scenic route along what is called the 'Romantic Road' through the south western part of Bavaria, stopping for a couple of hours in the medieval town of Landsberg am Lech, complete with its castle and cathedral. Many pilgrims spent their time exploring the shops and sampling some local delicacies like sausages and fries! The ice cream was very nice! For the history buffs the town is noted for its prison where Adolf Hitler was incarcerated in 1924. It was during this incarceration that he wrote his book Mein Kampf together with Rudolf Hess. After the Second World War it was the place of execution for more than 150 war criminals. Despite a grizzly period of time in its recent history it had a lovely historical centre with pleasant riverside walks. For one last time, it was time to count heads onto the coach as we departed for the airport. Unlike our outward journey, we had a direct flight back to Edinburgh, where we said farewell to a number of our fellow pilgrims. As midnight approached the New Wellwynders and friends were heading back along the motorway to Airdrie, where family members were waiting to take everyone home! Phew it's all over! Looking back over the course of the week, I think everyone enjoyed themselves. The Passion Play the sights, the sounds, the aromas, the activities and perhaps most important of all, the friendships. Together, we laughed, we cried and shared with each other our own stories (many of which cannot be printed!) We created many happy memories which will remain with us forever. I still here DING! DANG! DONG! But not necessarily at 6am. The dulcet tones of Tom, as he entered a room, with the greeting, 'Hi De Hi'! Aye, memories, ye cannae beat them! **The End**

George Randall

CAMEO

CAMEO resumes for a new session on Tuesday, 19th September at 7.30pm in the Session Room. The opening meeting will take the form of a planning meeting. All welcome.

Jean Kinniburgh

Art Club

As we approach the autumn months and you are perhaps at a loose end on a Friday afternoon, why not come along to the Art Club, which is held in the Church Hall every Friday from 2.30 to 4.30pm. No experience necessary and you will be made most welcome.

Gordon Waddell

2nd Airdrie Boys' Brigade

All sections resume on Monday, 4th September.

Anchor Boys 6pm

Junior/Company Sections 7pm

Jean Kinniburgh

Seniors

The Senior Circle resumes at 2pm on Tuesday, 12th September in the Session Room. Doors open 1.30pm. All will be made welcome

Liz Riddell

Situations Vacant – Church Magazine Distributors

Over the summer months two Districts on our Distributer List have fallen vacant. One area is for part of Gartlea and the other, an area around Deedes Street. If you would like to volunteer and help, your assistance would be very much appreciated. Further information is available from Mrs Margaret Jack Tel: 01236 767898

Useful Contacts

Minister: Rev Robert Hamilton
01236 763022
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Treasurer: David Watt
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Magazine Editor: George Randall
01236 763102
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07774674345



Listen to the Teacher – Teachings of Jesus

Now that Nursery, Primary and Secondary schools are all back, after the summer holidays, it's time to get back to learning and listening to your teacher! You will be amazed at how much you will be able to learn from your teachers. In the Bible one of the most famous teachers of all was Jesus!

The Bible tells us that crowds of people came to Jesus to hear him teach. Sometimes he performed miracles and they knew he came from God. He taught them many things.

Once he taught on a mountainside near the Sea of Galilee. He told people how they should live so that they would be happy and pleasing to God.

He told them to be peacemakers, they would be called the children of God.

He told them to love their enemies and to do good to people who hated them.

They were to pray for people who mistreated them.

He said they were to be like a light that would light the way for others.

His followers were to be a good influence on others and try to get other people to do the right thing.

He wanted people to share with others out of love for them.

"Do not judge others", he told them. "And don't worry about things. God will take care of you." **(This story can be found in Matthew chapters 5, 6, and 7.)**

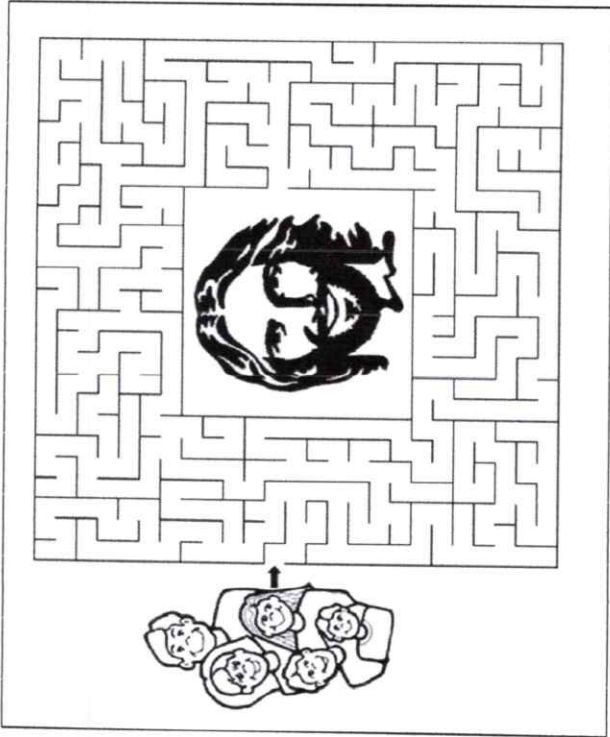
Jesus loved children. No matter how tired he was, he liked to have the children at his side.

One day a group of mothers brought their children to Jesus, to be blessed by him.

His disciples thought Jesus was too busy to be bothered by the children, so they were sending the children away. Jesus stopped them and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." And he put his hands on them and blessed them. **(Mark chapter 10: verses 13-16)**

You are also blessed because Jesus loves you to.



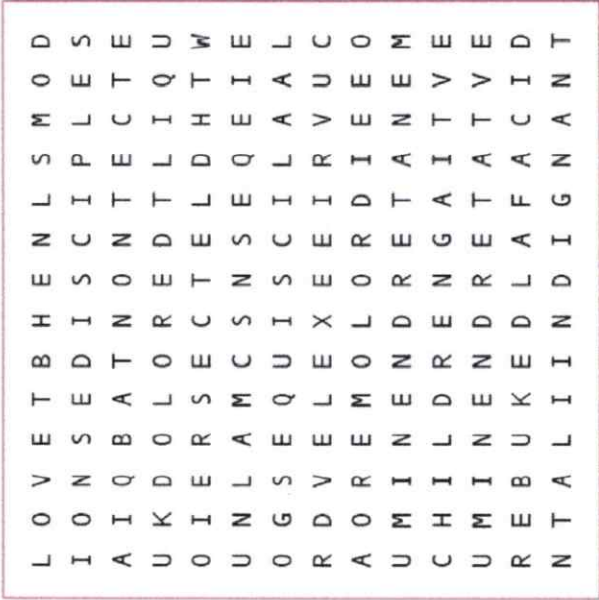


Can you help all the boys and girls find Jesus?
So he can teach and tell them some stories!



Jesus and the Children Word Search

Find the words on the list that are hidden in the puzzle. The words can be left to right, up and down, or diagonally.



BLESSED	INDIGNANT	REBUKED
CHILDREN	KINGDOM	WELCOME
DISCIPLES	LITTLE	
HEAVEN	LOVE	

Welcome Back!