

THE NEW WELLWYNDER

OCTOBER 2023

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From the Manse

Dear Friends

I have lost count of how many pastoral letters I've written over 28 years of ministry and 22 years as your friend and minister here in Airdrie. Sometimes the words and themes have come easily. At other times it has been more challenging to know what to write to offer an engaging and relevant message. This time being the last letter I will write to you, it is difficult to know where to start, because how can I even begin to express my deep gratitude for the past 22 years of ministry and ministries.

Like many of the October letters this one has been written on the coach returning from the Airdrie Academy Belgium trip, which as always, has been well received by students and staff alike. For me, it has been a great privilege to have led worship on this trip as it has been a privilege and pleasure to lead worship in The New Wellwynd. Worship has changed and developed over the years, as has, the part that you have played in everything from your responses and singing through to your reading and praying.

Worship, work and witness are at the very heart of who we are as we are both inspired personally and personally inspire others. As I hope you have been inspired in our time together, I want you to know how much you have inspired me, as I have seen you grow in faith, grow in confidence and grow in the gifts you offer to God and each other - a growth I pray that will continue in the weeks, months and years to come. With fewer ministers coming through and greater challenges facing the Church, these gifts in particular are needed more than ever, as is that confidence in the Gospel. This is a confidence in our God who has brought that Gospel to life in and through his gift, the gift of his living word Christ who is our source of faith, model for living and inspiration in all things.

One of the pictures used for Communion invitations is of the Last Supper. It caught my eye in a shop in Spain a number of years ago because the image portrays a disciple resting his head on the shoulder of Jesus. We've found ourselves leaning on each other as we have shared so many experiences together - both the joys and the sorrows during the highs and the lows of our journeys in life. I've found myself leaning on you as we have shared in a unique and inspiring partnership.

It was Paul who spoke about that partnership we share as fellow believers. It was Paul who also urged his friends on and I urge you on in the same way -

“... press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”

Forthcoming Services

Sunday, 8th October

11 a.m. Morning Worship
Partners in the Gospel

Sunday, 15th October

11 a.m. Morning Worship

Sunday, 22nd October

11 a.m. Morning Worship

Sunday, 29th October

11 a.m. Morning Worship

Sunday, 5th November

11 a.m. Morning Worship

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, 8th October

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

Sunday, 15th October

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

Sunday, 22nd October

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

Sunday, 29th October

Team Leader: Elizabeth Robertson
George Lawson, George Grant,
Morag Stewart, George Murchison,
Una Lawson

Be thankful for the past because God has been good. Be excited about the future because he will continue to be faithful as he works in and through you.

“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 hope and a future.”

May God continue to bless you as he calls you heavenwards and calls you into the life of the world in his name and with his love.

*Go forth now,
in the Faith which overcomes the world,
in the Hope which will not disappoint you,
in the Love which never fails.
You are ambassadors of Christ
and He is with you always.
Grace, mercy and peace,
from Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
bless, preserve and protect you
today, tomorrow and for ever.
AMEN.*

Your friend always and your minister

Robbie

John Jarvie

We were so sorry to hear of the death of one of our elders, John Jarvie. At John's funeral, I spoke about some people "fighting" cancer and that he "embraced" it, facing up to it and what it meant for him and the family. He did what he did throughout life, he got on with whatever came his way and was never one to look for a fuss. He adapted and found other ways of doing what kept him busy in life and what he enjoyed doing and that was especially true of what he shared with his family who were at the very heart of his life.

John's faith was very important to him and was foundational to his life. He drew so much comfort from it as he attended worship faithfully and attended to his duties as an elder as well as in many other ways. It gave him tremendous comfort in recent times. He was a regular at Board and Session meetings and when he had something to say, it was worth saying. He was Treasurer for a time as he was Treasurer in a number of places down through the years. He looked after payroll. He also wasn't frightened to get his sleeves rolled up in the kitchen as he worked tirelessly in and for the Snack Bar - doing the dishes, becoming the controller of the dishwasher and looking after the accounts. I don't know how many gloves and aprons he went through when doing the dishes! He was very particular about anything he took on and that included the Sunday Tea Rota which he and Margaret looked after.

John was well respected by all who knew him and worked alongside him. In giving thanks to God for John and his unstinting service we also offer Margaret and the family our heartfelt prayers.

The Anxious Leaf

Once upon a time a little leaf was heard to sigh and cry, as leaves often do when a gentle wind is about. And the twig said, "What is the matter, little leaf?" And the leaf said, "The wind just told me that one day it would pull me off and throw me down to die on the ground!"

Sunday, 5th November

Team Leader: David Gillespie
Christine Cassells, Christine Gibb,
Anne Grainge, Jim Neilson,
Jim Nimmo, David Paterson

Funeral

18th September Jean Goldie

Baptism

10th September Jude Graeme Young

Confirmations and Admissions

17th September Elizabeth Brown
Jodie Brown
(Adult Baptism)
Pamela Herbertson

Thank You

Margaret Blackwood would like to thank everyone for the beautiful flowers and for all the kind thoughts and prayers.

Freda Gilchrist would like to thank the congregation for the lovely flowers following the death of her sister Marion.

Isobel Paterson would like to express sincere thanks for the Church flowers she received recently. They were very much appreciated.

The Armour of God Prayer

Instead of prayer points this month, here are thoughts for each day of the week inspired by the passage quoted in the Minister's letter. You can use each section each day of the week or you can meditate on all of them on a daily basis. But please take time to reflect, pray and be ready to be blessed and strengthened.

First—Put on the Armour of God The Helmet of Salvation

- Thank you, Lord, for my salvation. I receive it in a new and fresh way from You, and I declare that nothing can separate me now from the love of Christ and the place I shall ever have in Your kingdom.

The Breastplate of Righteousness

- And yes, Lord, I wear Your righteousness today against all condemnation and corruption. Fit me with Your holiness and purity— defend me from all assaults against my heart.

The twig told it to the branch on which it grew, and the branch told it to the tree. And when the tree heard it, it rustled all over, and sent back word to the leaf, "Do not be afraid. Hold on tightly, and you shall not go till you want to." And so the leaf stopped sighing, but went on nestling and singing. Every time the tree shook itself and stirred up all its leaves, the branches shook themselves, and the little twig shook itself, and the little leaf danced up and down merrily, as if nothing could ever pull it off. And so it grew all summer long, till October. And when the bright days of autumn came the little leaf saw all the leaves around becoming very beautiful. Some were yellow and some scarlet, and some striped with both colours. Then it asked the tree what it meant. And the tree said, "All these leaves are getting ready to fly away, and they have put on these beautiful colours because of joy."

Then the little leaf began to want to go, too, and grew very beautiful in thinking of it, and when it was very golden in colour it saw that the branches of the tree had no bright colour in them, and so the leaf said, "O branches! Why are you lead-colour and we golden?"

"We must keep on our work-clothes, for our life is not done - but your clothes are for rest, because your tasks are over," said the branches. Just then a little puff of wind came, and the leaf let go, without thinking of it, and the wind took it up and turned it over and over, and whirled it like a spark of fire in the air, and then it dropped gently down under the edge of the fence, among hundreds of leaves, and fell into a dream. Such a colourful and beautiful ending that reminds us to marvel at the cycles of the natural world.

Anon

Back to School!

The school summer holidays have very quickly faded into the past as another new session is well and truly under way. I well remember those days as a teacher, returning after a summer break, refreshed and up for the challenges that lay ahead! As a young teacher (a long time ago!) you would volunteer for many things and that included taking a Religious Education (RE) class or two! Believe me, they were challenging but nonetheless both enjoyable and rewarding. Although you had a curriculum or syllabus of sorts very seldom did you stick to it, I just went with the flow. Perhaps it was a survival technique! Anyway, whether it was a new fresh First Year or Fourth Year class full of very opinionated worthies you always got asked the same question, "Sir, what is the meaning of life?" I would reply, "That is a very good question, now let me explain!" Ten months later when I had finished (only one period per week) they wished they had never asked the question! But it gave me free scot to deliver my programme! Back in the Eighties, Christianity and the Teaching of Jesus was a central part of most schemes of work. Today, pupils learn about all World Religions and look more deeply into moral and philosophical issues, within the context of an ever changing society and global community and rightly so. It was certainly less complicated back in the day! Talking of which, another question I was often asked, when I got started, "Sir, What is the Kingdom of God?" Again, I would reply enthusiastically, "What an excellent question!" You could hear sighs and a lot of heads would drop, as I went off at a tangent (Maths teacher remember!) However, that question is every bit as relevant today, as it was back then.

The Belt of Truth

- Lord, I put on the belt of truth. I choose a lifestyle of honesty and integrity. Show me the truths I so desperately need today as I am guided by Your word and led by Your Son.

The Shoes of the Gospel of Peace

- I do choose to live for the gospel at any moment. Show me where You are working and lead me to it. Do not let me become slack in my walk.

The Shield of Faith

- Jesus, I lift the confidence that You are good against any and every assault on me. You have good in store for me. Nothing is coming today that can overcome me because You are with me.

The Sword of the Spirit

- Holy Spirit, show me specifically today the truths of the Word of God that I will need to counter the snares of the enemy. Bring them to mind throughout the day.

Then—Pray

- Finally, Holy Spirit, I agree to walk in step with You in everything—in all prayer as my spirit communes with You throughout the day.

Senior Circle

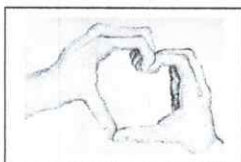
The Senior Circle resumed on the 12th September in the Session Room, when Rev Robbie gave us the background story to a number of hymns, which we then sang, on the theme of "Something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue and something silver in your shoe". An interesting and happy afternoon. On the 26th September, we had a talk from Sandy Black, Homeopathic Practitioner. Looking ahead to the 10th October, we will welcome Lesley Aitken who will treat us to a Beetle Drive. On the 24th October, Maureen Patterson will introduce us to 'Dolls around the World' and on 7th November we will be joined by Margaret Jack and David Walker. Doors open at 1.30pm for refreshments and cheery chatter.

In Mark's Gospel Jesus talks about the Kingdom of God, but what does he mean? The Kingdom of God could be described as follows: (From an old lesson plan)

- a society where God rules
- a place where death is overcome
- a place where diseases are cured
- a place where evil spirits are overcome
- a place where people find a home and shelter in difficult times

Its characteristics and values could be as follows:

- faith
- simplicity of a child/purity
- belongs to those who suffer
- love God and love your neighbour
- honesty/truth
- humility
- joy in others' achievements
- wealth and ambition must be sacrificed



The coming of the Kingdom of God (Mark 1: 14-15)

Here, Jesus says: *"The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"*

He meant that God's rule has come. As his ministry progressed Jesus taught his followers more about what this meant for their lives. Then the hands would go up with deeper more challenging questions that even a school Chaplain would struggle to answer! Alas, some divine intervention – the bell!

George Randall

Good Ways to Produce a Great Crop

- Plant seeds of love.
- Plant seeds of joy.
- Plant seeds of peace.
- Plant seeds of patience.
- Plant seeds of kindness
- Plant seeds of goodness
- Plant seeds of faithfulness
- Plant seeds of gentleness.
- Plant seeds of self-control.



Refresh and feed with a little bit of warmth and friendliness and watch the crop grow!

P Lanter

Airdrie Churches Christian Aid Group – Edinburgh Kilt Walk 2023

The group are delighted to announce that, to date, supporters of Liz and Maureen's participation in the Kilt Walk Big Stroll from Musselburgh to Murrayfield has raised £865 for Christian Aid. In all, twenty Christian Aiders took part, kicking off with a short Church service at Musselburgh. All monies raised will be used by Christian Aid to support those most in need. Visit Christian Aid Scotland's webpage to learn more.

Whatever your charity, we would highly recommend this event to help your cause whether in Glasgow, Dundee, Edinburgh or Aberdeen. A happy day with thousands taking part.

Liz Riddell

The meeting commences at 2pm closing at 3pm. All will be made most welcome.

Liz Riddell

CAMEO

The next meeting of CAMEO takes place on Tuesday, 3rd October when the Rev Robbie Hamilton will be the guest speaker. Later in the month, on the 17th October, the guest speaker is Nicky Miller from the local Homeless Unit. All will be made welcome.

Jean Kinniburgh

New Monkland Songsters

On Tuesday, 31st October CAMEO are hosting a Musical Open Night in the company of The New Monkland Songsters, a community based choir from Glenmavis. It is being held here in the Church with a start time of 7.30pm. Tickets are priced £5 and refreshments will be served in the hall afterwards. All proceeds are going towards the funding of the next 'Seniors Outing.' Tickets are available from any of the CAMEO members.

Jean Kinniburgh

Harvest

The year has turned its circle
The seasons come and go.
The harvest all is gathered in
and chilly north winds blow.
Orchards have shared their treasures
The fields, their yellow grain.
So open wide the doorway—
Harvest comes again!

Useful Contacts

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Who Brought the Harvest?

Once upon a time, in the magical land of harvest, lived many special creatures. They were not your usual rabbits, squirrels or birds but different beings representing elements of nature. There were six Raindrop boys, dressed in soft, grey garments; six Sunbeam girls adorned in bright yellow frilly dresses; six Wind Elf girls in light blue outfits with many streamers; six Soil Soldier boys in suits of black with face masks; six Kernels of Corn boys in red suits and yellow caps; and six Workers – three girls in aprons and bonnets and three boys in overalls and straw hats.

Among all these colourful characters stood the most brilliant – the Harvest Spirit, a tall girl in a bright yellow dress, decorated with brown, red, and green streamers and a crown made of vibrant autumn leaves. One sunny day, the Harvest Spirit, standing proudly in the middle of her realm, remarked, “Once again, the season of harvest has arrived. How fulfilling it is to see the results of our year’s work!”

Suddenly, the Raindrop boys came dancing around her. One of them said, “We help the little seeds grow. Without us, those tiny seeds could never find their way through the soil.” The Harvest Spirit found them intriguing, as they sang a little tune about how they gently fall on the ground, providing the plants with the much-needed moisture.



The Sunbeam girls, hearing their song, came skipping in, holding hands. “We are the Sunbeam children,” said the first Sunbeam girl. “We shine to light the earth, to warm the soil and to bring health to living things.” Then they sang a merry song about how they keep the earth warm and bright all year round.

The Wind Elf girls, seeing all the fun, entered with a whirling motion. They made a “Woo-woo-o-o!” sound, indicating they were the wind elves. Each wind elf told the Harvest Spirit about their unique roles – some carried the warm breath of the south

land, while others brought moisture from the ocean far inland, some even brought a heavy blanket of snow to protect the plants and seeds in winter.

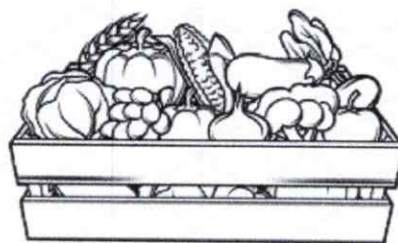
Then came rushing in the Soil Soldiers. Despite their dark appearance, they were as vital as any other in the group. They carried life-giving food to the plants and knew exactly what each seedling needed to grow.

As the group marvelled at the Soil Soldiers’ dedication, the Kernels of Corn entered. “We are the little kernels of corn that grow into tall stalks and bright-coloured tassels with the aid of sunshine and showers,” said the first Kernel boy.

Finally, the six Workers entered, displaying their work of keeping the crops free from weeds. They sang a song about their diligent work in the fields from morning till night.

In the end, the Harvest Spirit exclaimed, “I see that it would be impossible for me to select any one group of workers who make the harvest bountiful, so I must give you all credit for making a real Harvest Day possible.” The air filled with song as they all sang in celebration of their hard work, their unity, and the bountiful harvest they had achieved together. And so, each day, they continued to strive, working together to bring about a plentiful harvest from the soil of their beautiful land.

Their story serves as a reminder that everyone, plays a vital role in the grand scheme of nature and together, we make the world a better place.



Harvest Wordsearch

R	Q	E	W	C	E	F	O	C	K	G	G	S	G
T	X	O	G	R	J	I	A	P	S	A	U	R	F
D	Q	R	V	S	P	E	C	R	C	R	O	P	P
G	J	F	E	A	X	L	E	O	M	D	E	E	E
M	L	T	G	O	H	D	O	D	R	E	F	H	T
W	O	G	E	G	L	C	H	U	E	N	R	G	Y
R	D	S	T	H	C	R	C	C	G	N	U	A	Q
Q	E	H	A	J	E	O	R	E	M	H	I	W	J
I	L	A	B	B	S	Z	W	J	N	L	T	P	I
D	U	R	L	D	R	P	H	W	M	E	A	E	C
T	X	V	E	X	E	E	E	F	J	P	E	E	I
R	F	E	S	T	I	V	A	L	I	Z	S	T	E
I	S	S	L	E	W	O	T	D	M	I	S	M	J
S	Y	T	P	O	M	E	H	R	T	L	J	P	I

Can you find these words in the word search?

HARVEST
FESTIVAL
CROP
CORN
WHEAT
VEGETABLES
FRUIT
FARMER
PRODUCE
BREAD
SEEDS
GARDEN
FIELD
PLOUGH

Harvest Chain

Can you help the farmer to find his way to his wheat? Start at the shaded square at the top and draw a line through the Harvest words until you reach the shaded square at the bottom. The words you are looking for are:

HARVEST, FESTIVAL, PRODUCE, FRUIT, VEGETABLE and WHEAT (in that order).
Good luck!



H	A	R	L	F	J	N	M	L
J	Z	V	B	H	K	Z	X	J
T	S	E	G	X	P	R	O	D
F	W	O	Q	C	L	Y	H	U
E	S	T	I	V	A	W	V	C
I	M	L	S	J	P	R	F	E
E	G	E	V	T	I	U	X	W
T	R	K	U	F	Q	G	Z	R
A	B	L	E	W	H	E	A	T

