

# THE NEW WELLWYNDER

**MARCH/APRIL 2024**

Visit us at [www.newwellwynd.org.uk](http://www.newwellwynd.org.uk)

## Message from the Vestry

As I write this, it is the beginning of March and I have already been at New Wellwynd for two months, boy does time fly past! When I arrived we were very much still in the depths of winter with dark mornings and dark nights, it was cold and damp and dreary – it was Scotland in the winter. But . . . walk inside our church doors and it's bright, light and welcoming and that's not the building I'm talking about, but the people. I'm so grateful for your support and encouragement, as I journey, not just through lent but through this journey of formation and probation.

Easter reminds us of the profound journey from darkness into light. During the spring darkness, we find ourselves surrounded by the promise of renewal and the arrival of light.

Just as the earth awakens from its winter slumber, so too do our hearts awaken to the hope and promise of Easter. It is a time of rebirth, a time to shed the shadows of doubt and fear and embrace the radiance of faith and love.

In the story of Easter, we witness the ultimate triumph of light over darkness, of hope over despair. As we reflect on this sacred journey, may we be inspired to carry the light of Easter into our lives and the world around us.

Let's remember that even in our darkest moments, there is always the promise of light. Let us hold fast to the hope that guides us through the challenges we face, knowing that the dawn will always break, and the light will always prevail.

May we be reminded of the transformative power of faith and love this Easter. May we embrace the arrival of light in our lives, and may we shine that light brightly for all to see.

Wishing you a blessed Easter filled with joy, hope, and the radiant light of love.

Yours in Christ

*Eleanor*

**The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it. John 1:5**

## Message from the Interim Moderator

Dear All

I was recently asked to take on the role of Interim Moderator here at The New Wellwynd, a role I have undertaken on a number of occasions in other congregations over the years.

Given that your previous Interim Moderator is awaiting surgery and was asked to be relieved of this duty, I was more than happy to oblige. On that note we want to thank Anne for her time as Interim Moderator, and trust that all will go well with surgery, as we reassure her of our prayers and wish her a speedy recovery.

## Forthcoming Services

**Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> March**

11 a.m. Morning Worship

**Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> March**

11 a.m. Morning Worship

**Palm Sunday**

**Sunday, 31<sup>st</sup> March**

11 a.m. Morning Worship

**Easter Sunday**

**Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> April**

11 a.m. Morning Worship

**Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> April**

11 a.m. Morning Worship

**Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> April**

11 a.m. Morning Worship

**Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> April**

11 a.m. Morning Worship

**Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> May**

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 spring months.

All services are followed by tea and coffee.

## Holy Week

From Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> March to Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> March 2024 there will be joint Holy Week Services between Jackson, St Columba's and The New Wellwynd. These services will start at 7.00pm each evening.

**Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> March**

New Wellwynd

**Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> March**

Jackson

**Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> March**

New Wellwynd



Presently, I am Parish Minister of the linked charge of Blantyre Livingstone Memorial and Blantyre St Andrews, where I have been for the past 7 years, but have also served in West Lothian, and in Aberdeenshire. Prior to that I undertook my Probationary Period at St Columba Church, in Kilmalcolm, which sadly is now a distant memory.

Although you find yourselves in vacancy, it is encouraging to have a Probationer who I have heard has settled in well and has been warmly received. This process is slightly different from what I experienced, but it certainly affords the opportunity for continuity, and experience, and so look forward to working with Eleanor, as well as her Supervisor, the Kirk Session, Congregational Board and yourselves as a Congregation.

It was encouraging in meeting with your treasurer David, who is acting Session Clerk, (pro tem) and Eleanor just recently, and to hear that the congregation is in good heart during what are challenging times for us all as a Church.

I look forward to getting to meet some of you over the next few weeks and months and in line with my other responsibilities as Parish Minister in Blantyre, and Interim Moderator at The New Wellwynd, I will make a point of coming along and conducting Sunday Worship Services when possible, and supporting and directing you through this time of vacancy and change.

With every blessing

**Murdo**

Rev Murdo C. Macdonald  
Interim Moderator

### **Blossoms of Hope**

In fields where winter's cloak once lay,  
Now blooms the promise of Easter Day.  
With daffodils dancing in the breeze,  
And blossoms adorning the budding trees.

The earth awakens from its slumber deep,  
As nature's chorus begins to sweep.  
A symphony of life and light,  
Proclaims the victory of Love's might.

For in this season of rebirth and grace,  
We're reminded of our Saviour's embrace.  
He conquered death and rose again,  
To wash away our every sin.

So let us rejoice and lift our voice,  
In praise of Him who made the choice,  
To give us life and set us free,  
For all eternity.

This Easter, may our hearts be filled,  
With gratitude for all that's willed.  
And as we celebrate His wondrous story,  
May His love shine bright, in all its glory!

*Eleanor Hamilton*

*A Happy Easter to everyone!*

**Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> March**  
St Columba's

**Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> March**  
Jackson

On Easter Day, **Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March**,  
Eleanor is arranging a dawn service in  
the grounds of New Wellwynd Church  
with breakfast thereafter.

### **Funerals**

Helen Hutchison  
Janet Penman  
Hugh Campbell

### **Welcome Teams**

**Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> March**

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

**Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> March**

Team Leader: David Gillespie  
Christine Cassells, Christine Gibb,  
Anne Grainge, David Patterson

**Sunday, 31<sup>st</sup> March**

Team Leader: Bobby Forrest  
Mairi Mitchell, Jim Thomson,  
William Watson, Jean Kinniburgh,  
Alison Sefton

**Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> April**

Team Leader: Maggie Weir  
Anne Learmonth, Irene Bremner,  
Liz Riddell, Jim Nimmo

**Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> April**

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

**Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> April**

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

**Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> April**

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

**Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> May**

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





## Generosity of Giving – Relationships

Dear Fellow Members,

It has been 7 years since our “Alive & Giving” Stewardship Programme when we came in the Town Hall and celebrated our different strengths and encouraged one another

to move forward. Many friendships were re-established and from that many of you volunteered your time, talents and your money to continue supporting the work of the church here in The New Wellwynd.

Since that time we’ve come through the COVID-19 Pandemic, a Cost of Living Crisis as well as Mission Planning and these have highlighted various issues not only in our town, the church but also in our church family.

During the pandemic, we were fortunate to have the technology in place to come together where possible and worship from our homes. Gradually as restrictions eased we returned to in person worship. However the plain truth is that where before COVID our attendances at public worship was between 250 – 300 members per week, now we are lucky if there are 100 members regularly in attendance.

Yes, in the 7 years things have changed – we’re all older, perhaps wiser but we have different issues.

For this reason the Kirk Session has agreed to the “Come Together” Event looking at Relationships as part of the Generosity of Giving programme.

By choosing this topic, we wish with your help to try and find out more about our relationships as members of the church family. To establish what the stumbling blocks are as to why folks are not returning to public worship and what actions (if any) we can take to resolve these issues and build the attending congregation back up. The event will be held over the six Sundays from 21<sup>st</sup> April to 26<sup>th</sup> May 2024 and you should receive your invitation between Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2024 when your Elder will pop this through your door.

The format of the events will be as follows:

**09:30 – 09:45 Gather together**

**09:45 – 10:45 Event Programme**

**(Light breakfast served 09:45 – 10:00)**

**10:45 – 11:00 Move into Sanctuary for Worship**

**11:00 – 12:00 Worship**

The group realise that this might be an early start – but finishing with worship means that you will be able to have the rest of the day for your normal family activities.

A separate Youth Event will be planned for June 2024 after exams etc.

Complete the RSVP and return it to the church or by post – details can be found on the RSVP card. If possible, please return by Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> April 2024 to allow us to organise catering etc.

We are looking forward to sharing fellowship and friendship again at these events.

*David Walker*

*On behalf of the Discipleship Working Group*

## Thank You

**Louise Armstrong** would like to thank the congregation for the church flowers received recently. They were much appreciated.

**May Penman and family** would like to thank the congregation for the beautiful flowers received and the kind messages of sympathy on the death of her sister-in-law Jenny and aunt to the family. Also a special thank you to Eleanor Hamilton for a beautiful service.

## Senior Circle

Having finally returned on the 12<sup>th</sup> September it is hard to believe we are nearly at the end of the 2023/2024 session. We have welcomed friends both old and new and an interesting, entertaining and informative mix of speakers. We’ve enjoyed the fellowship before and during our meetings and look forward to returning in September. Happily, we still have two more meetings to look forward to before the session ends. On Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> March we welcome Wilma Davidson and Ann Nadille from the Glasgow Street Pastors and at our closing meeting on Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April we will be entertained by The Harmony Trio. Instead of tea, coffee and biscuits before our final meeting, a light buffet lunch will be served. Doors open 1.30pm. Meeting starts at 2pm. A warm welcome awaits.

*Liz Riddell*

## Art Club

A warm invitation is extended to everyone to come along to the Art Club, which is held in the Church Upper Hall on Friday afternoon’s starting at 2.30pm. No experience necessary.

*Gordon Waddell*

## RSNO Sings Bruckner

On Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> February a large audience packed the Church to listen to a spell binding performance of the RSNO singing Bruckner! It was a truly wonderful performance enjoyed by all who attended. The concert was held in aid of the Beatson Cancer Charity. Thanks go to all those who supported the success of the event.

*Roving Reporter*



## Christian Aid

Airdrie Christian Aid Group met recently, when representatives from Coatdyke, High, New Wellwynd, Cairnlea and Jackson churches considered various fundraising suggestions for 2024. Some well-established activities like the Annual Quiz Night, Hunger Lunches, Concerts and participation in the Kiltwalk were discussed along with some new ideas, such as a Songs of Praise afternoon, a Sixties Night and Afternoon Teas. Watch this space!

Fundraising by Airdrie churches in 2023 totalled £5284.44 and included:

- £1824.13 Christian Aid Week donations by various churches
- £1030 Kiltwalk
- £1,100 New Wellwynd February Concert
- £642.00 New Wellwynd Hunger Lunch
- £581.31 Cairnlea Quiz Night
- £100 donation from Greengairs

The Airdrie Churches Group would be delighted to hear of any new fundraising suggestions you might have for this and future years. All in support of the on-going work of Christian Aid throughout the World.

*Liz Riddell*

## Home Comforts North Lanarkshire

It is now 10 years since Home Comforts was first started and little did we know, how it would grow and develop. We now distribute both Cleaning Packs and Hygiene Packs all over North Lanarkshire. Last year alone we totalled a combined 1000 + packs which was amazing! We are funded by Grants and donations, and right now we are short of some items, so I am appealing for **Tea Towels and Deodorant** (roll on if possible) There will be a box at the church door for any donations. Thank you

*Maggie Weir*

## Nearly New

The Nearly New Team are once again looking for items of Bric-a-brac, kitchenware etc. Items can be handed in on any Friday that the Nearly New Stall is open. Many thanks.

*Liz Hannah*

## Did you know?

At Easter time we normally associate Easter Eggs with the rolling away of the stone from the cave or tomb in which Jesus was laid to rest. But did you know there is another snack food with a history in Christian faith and that is the pretzel. Pretzels have a long-standing tradition in Christianity, dating back to the Middle Ages. According to popular belief, the pretzel's unique shape was created to resemble arms crossed in prayer, with the three holes representing the Holy Trinity. They were often made by monks and given to children as a reward for learning their prayers. Christians would also offer pretzels as a Lenten treat and a reminder of the spiritual significance of the season. Today, pretzels continue to be enjoyed worldwide as a popular snack food, regardless of religious affiliation. However, their historical connection to Christian faith and traditions remains a significant part of their cultural heritage. Now you know!

*Intrepid Reporter*

## Social Media Accounts

The congregation has Social Media accounts on Facebook and Instagram. On these platforms you will be able to find that Eleanor is posting information about what's going on during the week in the life of the congregation as well as inspirational messages and thoughts for the day. If you are able please take a look and 'like' or 'comment' as you are able.

## Somebody said it!

"Easter is a time when God turned the inevitability of death into the invincibility of life."

"If Easter says anything to us today, it says this: You can put truth in a grave, but it won't stay there."

"He knows the way because He is the way."

"The story of Easter is the story of God's wonderful window of divine surprise."

"Today we celebrate the gift of victory over every fall we have ever experienced."

"We aren't called to shine our own light; we are called to reflect His."

"A man who was completely innocent, offered himself as a sacrifice for the good of others, including his enemies, and became the ransom of the world. It was a perfect act."

## Useful Contacts

### **Probationer Minister:**

Eleanor Hamilton 07594163051

### **Session Clerk Pro Tem:**

David Watt 01698 853921

### **Treasurer:** David Watt

01698 853921

### **Gift Aid:** David Walker

01236 747075

### **Roll Keeper:** Moira Gartshore

01236 761001

### **Hall Convener:** John Clydesdale

07512912016

### **Magazine Editor:**

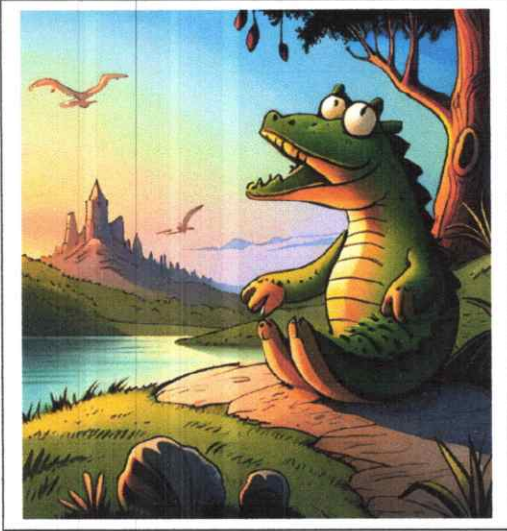
George Randall 01236 763102

### **Organist:** David Stewart

07774674345



### The Easter Crocodile



**Once upon a time**, in a faraway land, there lived a crocodile named Cranky. He was a very grumpy and irritable creature who always had a frown on his face. Cranky was the only crocodile in his swamp, and he didn't have any friends. He would spend most of his days alone, swimming in the muddy water and basking in the sun.

One day, as Cranky was basking in the sun, he saw a group of animals walking towards him. They were carrying baskets of colourful eggs and hopping with joy. Cranky was surprised to see them and asked, "What are you all doing here?"

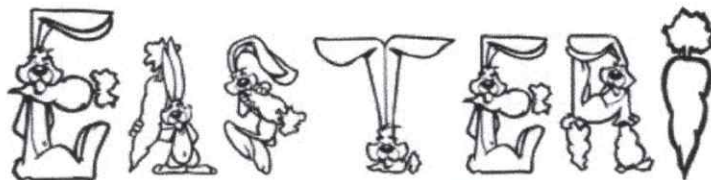
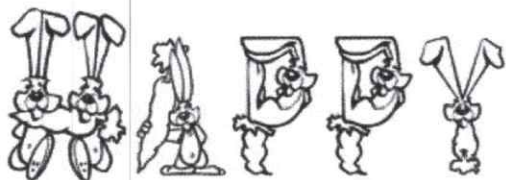
One of the animals, a little rabbit, replied, "We are here to celebrate Easter! We have come to hide these eggs all over the swamp, and we hope you'll join us in the fun!" Cranky was hesitant at first, but he decided to join in the festivities. The animals showed him how to decorate the eggs and how to hide them in tricky places. Cranky was surprised to find that he was actually having fun. He even cracked a small smile for the first time in a long time. As the day went on, Cranky enjoyed playing with the other animals and helping them find the eggs. He realized that he didn't have to be alone all the time and that he could make friends too.

When the day was over, the animals gathered around Cranky and thanked him for joining in the Easter celebration. They had never seen him so happy before. From that day on, Cranky became known as the Easter Crocodile, and every year, he looked forward to celebrating Easter with his new friends.

And so, the Easter Crocodile learned that even the grumpiest creatures can find joy and happiness in the company of friends.

"The Easter Crocodile" is a beautiful story that reminds us of the importance of friendship and celebration. It shows that even the grumpiest of creatures can find joy and happiness when they open themselves up to others. This story encourages all of us to be kind and inclusive, and to always look for ways to connect with those around us. By embracing the spirit of Easter, we can all learn to appreciate the beauty of life and the power of friendship.

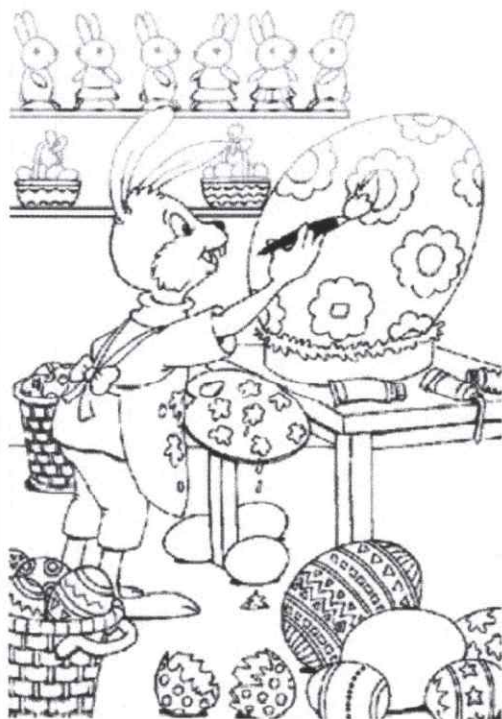
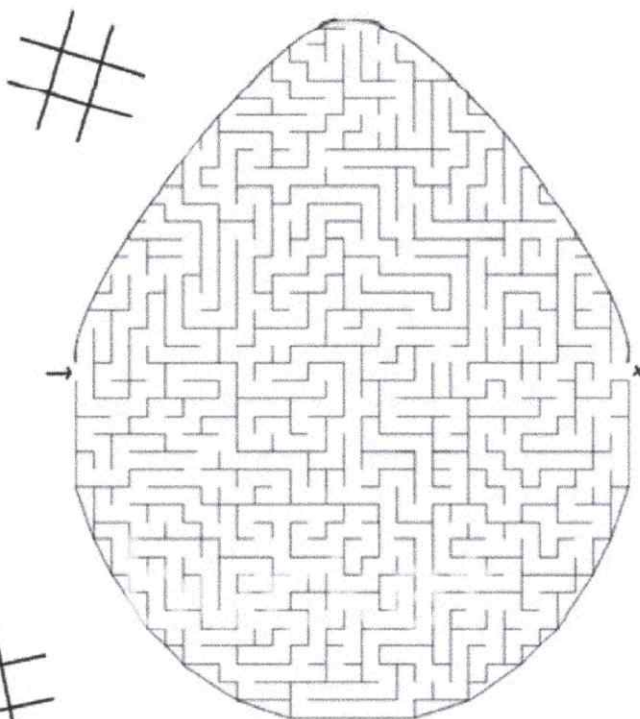




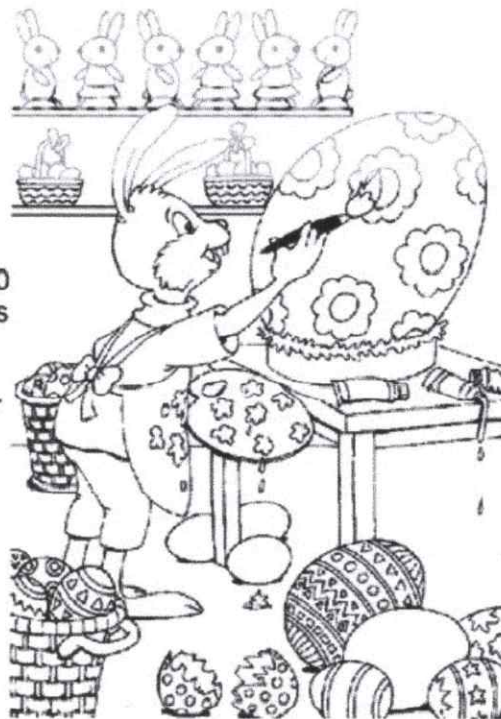
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Find the 10  
differences  
in these  
pictures  
then color  
them.



**Jesus came to earth to show us how to live  
How to put others first and how to love and give  
Happy Easter!**