

The New Wellwynder

April 2018

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from the Manse -

Dear Friends,

Just recently I caught up with someone I hadn't seen for many, many years. I went to school with Drew but, like many of us, we lost touch. When we agreed to meet up I was quite excited because it was friendship that I particularly appreciated in my youth. I was also somewhat nervous because, what if we had moved on so much in life that we had nothing in common? What if there were long, uncomfortable silences as we struggled to make conversation?

We met over a plate of steaming hot macaroni cheese and, over two hours later, we both decided we needed to go! I had nothing to worry about in this instance because this was obviously one of those lasting friendships that endures the test of time and allows the friendship to be easily picked up again. We have moved on in many ways. Our worlds were quite different to the world we knew when at school. Yet, we could chat and laugh, offer support and encouragement, listen and share confidences.

It is this kind of friendship that we celebrated in church on Saturday, 24th March as we welcomed the staff and cadets of KGVI class of 2017. As part of the graduation I encouraged a celebration of friendship, the friendship that is much, much more than an association. It is when and where we can feel safe and, no matter how far we travel, how difficult the road might be, we know that the other will be there for us.


It is the kind of friendship that we see in that wonderful story of the Emmaus Road when Cleopas and his friend confided in each other and the stranger who draw alongside them. As they shared their disappointment and retold everything that happened, and as the stranger spoke with them, their hearts warmed within them! As they shared bread they recognised Jesus in their midst.

It is the kind of friendship we are called to and encouraged in as part of the family of the Kirk where there is a place for all and a time for everyone's stories to be heard. May we CONTINUE in friendship and grow in it as Jesus draws alongside side, encourages us and makes himself known in the breaking of the bread.

Jesus, speak to us your truth

*How our hearts are burning!
Keep us on Emmaus' road
Keep us ever learning.
Meet us here, Jesus, Lord!
Walk with us, we urge you.
Oh, how slow we are to see,
Open up your Scriptures.*

Your friend and minister.



SERVICES

- April**
8 11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship
The Way Forward: Fellowship and Discipleship.
Sacrament of Holy Baptism.
15 11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship
The Way Forward: The Church Gathered and sent out.
22 11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship
The Way Forward: Mission and Evangelism.
29 11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship
The Way Forward: A Life of Service.
May
6 11:00 a.m. - **Morning Worship**
The Way Forward: The Poor and the Vulnerable.
Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Baptism : Gabriella Rosalynd Daly.
Funerals : James Orr (D.64); Martha Leckie (D.42);

FLOWER CALENDAR

- April**
8 Liz Hannah; Catherine Whellans.
15 Betty Tweedie; Lynne Cartwright.
22 Trudy Henderson; Alison Reilly.
29 Ina Peacock; Alison Sefton.
May
6 Nan Christie; Helen Fettus.

DRIVERS / FLOWER DELIVERY.

- April**
8 Bill Clark.
15 Dan Russell.
22 William Watson.
29 George Lowdon.
May
6 Allan Gibson.

BIBLE READINGS

March 2018

- 4 Genesis 1 : 27 - 28; Psalm 104 : 10 - 23.
Psalm 23; John 10 : 11 - 18.
11 Romans 7 : 14 - 19; John 8 : 12 - 20.
18 Acts 11 : 1 - 12, 15, 17 - 18:
John 10 : 14 - 16.
25 Mark 11 : 1 - 11, 10 : 32 - 34,
Matthew 23 : 1 - 12.

April

- 1 Matthew 28 : 1 - 8.

THANKS

Billy Gillespie would like to thank Robbie for his visits and also the congregation for the flowers, cards and get well wishes received following his recent stay in hospital.

Elsie McCallum and Marilyn Russell would like to thank Robbie and Alan Gibson for their visits. Thanks also to the congregation for the lovely flowers and their many friends for their messages of support.

WELCOME TEAMS

April

- 8 Team Leader : Irene Yates.
Avril Cockburn, Alan Cox, Alison Gray,
Beatrice Holden, George Lowdon, Julie Pardoe.
15 Team Leader : David Gillespie.
Christine Cassells, Matt Fleming, Christine Gibb,
Anne Grainge Billy Grainge, Jim Nimmo.
22 Team Leader : Jerry Ferguson.
Anne Learmonth, Shona MacDonald,
Jim Neilson, Jim Thomson, Margaret Reid,
Maggie Weir.
29 Team Leader : Elizabeth Robertson.
Mima Dalziel, Isabell Gibson, Allan Gibson,
George Grant, George Lawson,
Morag Stewart.

May

- 6 Team Leader : Bobby Forrest.
Billy Brooks, Fraser Gillespie, George Grant,
Mairi Mitchell, William Watson,
Catherine Whellans.

TRADCRAFT

The new Spring 2018 catalogue has now arrived for the new season and there are lots of different items for sale.

We're still stocking the staple items of Coffee, Tea, Biscuits as well as the small Divine Bars. Thanks for your continued support. Every little helps the producers of the basic ingredients.

The stall continues to be available after the morning service each Sunday. *DAVID WALKER*

SENIORS

This session draws to a close when we have our lunch on the 3rd April. A warm invitation is extended to all. I would like to thank everyone for their support this winter and wish you all a nice, relaxing summer. See you all again in the new session which starts on Tuesday, 13th September.

ISABELL GIBSON

IMAGINE

Can you just imagine
how Jesus felt that day
When they hung him on the cross
and took his life away?
Can you imagine the Roman soldiers,
as they mocked and pierced his side,
And as the blood flowed from Him
Jesus bowed his head and died?
Can you imagine how His mother felt,
as she knelt at the feet of her Son;
As the angry mob was crying
crucify him, it is done?
Can you imagine the two Marys
when they went to the tomb that day,
And found that the grave was empty
and the stone was rolled away?
He's not here, He has risen,
it was all in God's great plans,
And the only proof that He ever died
was the nail prints in His hands.
Now, can you imagine what we'd have done
if that had been me or you,
Could we have said "Father forgive them
for they know not what they do"? *J Gentry*

WANTED!

Do you have a serviceable manual lawnmower sitting in your garden shed or garage which you no longer use? The church gardening team doesn't normally cut grass, but there are occasions when a manual lawnmower would be useful. If you have a mower and would be happy to donate it, the church gardeners would like to hear from you. Please speak to or 'phone either Tom Kane (01236 764120), or Ronnie Wright (01236 761246).
Many thanks. *THE CHURCH GARDENERS*

PETER'S STORY

Profound sadness coupled with terror wrapped Peter's stomach and clenched it into tight, painful knot. Yes, Jesus had told his disciples that he would be killed, even that he would be crucified. But Peter hadn't believed it. When you see daily miracles and hear incisive teaching from a confident public figure, you refuse to acknowledge that anything could ever change. But overnight, Peter's world collapsed. They had eaten Passover together on Thursday night. But only a few hours later, Jesus was under arrest. A hasty trial lit by flickering lamps in the high priest's palace condemned Jesus. Then early-morning shuttles to Pilate, then Herod, then back again to Pilate sealed his fate. By 9 a.m. soldiers were pounding nails into his hands and feet, jerking him upright on a cross to let him hang in the sun - until the sun itself hid its face and left the onlookers to watch the Master die in the eerie chill of this very black day. Peter had fled. In fact, none of the Twelve remained to see him buried. Only Mary Magdalene and a couple of wealthy followers were left to take his body down, carry it outside the city, and entomb it.

If you've ever felt despair at the pit of your stomach, then you know what Peter felt. When he did go out, he would walk in a kind of daze, utterly disoriented, shattered, the centre of his world now a black hole, an empty void. How could the Messiah, the heir of David's throne, be executed? It went against all logic. It was impossible — yet it had happened, and oh so swiftly!

Peter slept fitfully Saturday night and when his eyes opened Sunday morning, the doom of death was heavy upon him. He pulled his cloak over his eyes, hoping he could fall back to sleep, but knowing he wouldn't.

All of a sudden someone was banging on the door. Soldiers! Peter got up with a start. How can I escape? Then he heard Mary Magdalene's voice, and his terror fell back into depression. Mary was breathless, troubled, her face stained with tears. Peter grumbled, "Why did you have to wake me so early?" Mary blurted out: "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb!" Peter pulled his fellow-disciple John to his feet, slammed the door behind them, and began to run through the narrow streets, out the city gate, and then on to the tomb. The great stone that had sealed the tomb stood open. As they entered, the sepulchre was empty, except for some folded grave clothes. The body was gone. Folded? That was strange, folded grave clothes but no body. Hardly what you'd expect from grave robbers!

John seemed convinced by the grave clothes that somehow Jesus had been resurrected or something, but Peter wasn't so sure. How could he believe that after so much had happened? He walked slowly back towards the city pondering, thinking, wanting to believe, but afraid to hope.

Suddenly, Jesus appeared. Peter, the so-called "rock," had publicly betrayed him. He had shouted, "I don't know the man!" He was so unworthy. And yet here was Jesus before him. Peter fell to his knees and wept for joy. Peter never said much to the others about this meeting — what had been said, what had transpired. But after that you'd sometimes see Peter deep in thought, pensive. Then he would nod his head and traces of a smile would begin to transform his face into one written with thankfulness and joy and peace.

Peter had been whipsawed from his pit of despair and pulled by the Master into peace. Life had changed for the good. And since then many have found this same peace, this same smile of wonder at Jesus' amazing grace - maybe you too? Jesus had risen — and Peter never doubted him again.

R. WILSON

THE MEANING OF EASTER

Easter means different things to different people. For the people that believe in Jesus Christ, it is about the love of God and Jesus. To me, Easter means: E is for Everlasting life. God promises this to everyone who has faith in Jesus. People who follow the words of Jesus will get to live with God forever.

A is for all who believe in the word of Jesus. His lessons and message are meant for all people living on Earth.

S is for Sacrifice. Jesus gave up his life to pay for the sins of all people. Because he loves us, he gave something important so we wouldn't have to.

T is for Trust. If we trust in God and Jesus, we can live a happy life. Trust means being sure that God and Jesus will be there for us even when we can't see them.

E is for Eternity. God says we can live forever with him if we follow Jesus. An eternity never ends, and includes when we are alive and after we die.

R is for Resurrection, which means Jesus came back from the dead to lead the people. By doing this impossible thing, he showed us all that his message and powers are real.

Romans 8:11 says, "If the Spirit of God who raised Jesus from death lives in you, then he who raised Christ from death will also give life to your mortal bodies by the presence of his Spirit in you." (Good News Bible)

This is what Easter means to me.....what does it mean to you?

THE EDITOR

Give it a thought - I took your place!

One day, a man went to visit a church. He arrived early, parked his car, and got out. Another car pulled up near him, and the driver told him, "I always park there. You took my place!" The visitor went inside for Sunday school, found an empty seat, and sat down. A young lady from the church approached him and stated, "That's my seat! You took my place!" The visitor was somewhat distressed by this rude welcome, but said nothing. After Sunday school, the visitor went into the church sanctuary and sat down. Another member walked up to him and said, "That's where I always sit. You took my place!" The visitor was even more troubled by this treatment, but still said nothing. Later, as the congregation was praying for Christ to dwell among them, the visitor stood, and his appearance began to change. Horrible scars became visible on his hands and on his sandalled feet. Someone from the congregation noticed him and called out, "What happened to you?" The visitor replied... "I took your place."

ANON

LIVE STREAMING OF SERVICES

With the new technology now installed in the sanctuary and, hopefully, the website up and running, we are turning our thoughts to "going live" on a Sunday morning. This new facility will allow people at home, or anywhere in the world, to catchup with morning worship on a computer, a tablet or even a phone. There is still some work to be done in relation to training of those who will film the service and make it available for viewing via the website. Protocols will have to be put in place as well looking at how this technology is used sensitively, e.g. an

area set aside for those who don't wish to be on 'cam'. It is an exciting time for us as well to look forward to.

More information will be available soon but if you are interested in tuning in, please do let us know. Whether you have missed the service because of work or holidays, or because of illness and frailty, we do hope that this might interest you. There are many "silver surfers" out there who shop online, but if you don't and your family has access to the net, you can encourage them to download the service and show it to you on their device at a later stage.

This is an important step forward in the mission of this congregation as we reach out to those unable to be with us, those who haven't been in a long time, and others who have heard of us, but don't feel ready to make that first step of coming along.

R. HAMILTON

OBERAMMERGAU 2020

It doesn't seem that long since I last led a group to Austria and Oberammergau, but McCabe have been in touch to see if I would be interested in leading another group. I have been allocated at the following dates - Wednesday, 22nd to Wednesday, 29th July. The final brochure is now available.

If you are interested or have any questions, please do get in touch.

PEACH BRANDY

A Church of Scotland minister went to see a member of the community and invited him to come to Church on Sunday morning. The man was a producer of fine peach brandy and told the minister he would love to attend his Church but only if he would drink some of his brandy and admit doing so in front of the congregation. The minister agreed and drank up. Sunday morning came and the man came to Church. The minister recognised him from the pulpit and said: "I see Mr. Johnson is here with us this morning. I want to thank him publicly for his hospitality this week and especially for the peaches he gave me and the spirit in which they were given." *IM JOLLY*

EASTER GIFT

He saw that we were weak and could not shed the awful sin. So, He came down to break us free, so we could be with Him.

He said, "It's very simple, for the sin to go away, it takes a death, to kill it off, and someone has to pay." He said, "The price of sin is more than we can afford, but, He said, "I'll pay the price, if you come to the Lord."

"I will take the sin upon Me and I'll die for you.

Then, on Easter, I'll rise up, then all you have to do, is believe I died for you, and paid your debt that day. Just accept My gift to you, that's all there is to say; it's really very simple, not as men would have it be. Just believe I died for you, then come and follow

Me.

It's not that complicated, like religion's always been, just believe I died for you, to take away the sin.

Then on Easter morning I arose and it was done; now, the minute you believe, your new life has begun.

I will take your life that day and show you what it's for, then you'll know the meaning, when in life you reach death's door.

Life is death and death is life, because of what I've done. You need not fear, because of sin, that.....is why I've come.

I gave you life to seek Me out, the moment you were born, and now Eternal Life is yours, because of Easter Morn."

ANON

CAMEO

We enjoyed a visit from Roy Logie talking about the Gideon's Society on 27th February. We then had a very uplifting evening when The Inbetweeners Concert Party visited on the 13th March. What a marvellous evening was had by all and we would hope that they may come again in the future when more members of the church could experience their wonderful singing. On 20th March we had Rosemary Brolly from St. Andrew's Hospice who updated us on the refurbishment.

On 10th April it's our AGM and a good turnout is hoped for this evening. We also have a meeting on 24th April to finalise details for the seniors outing.

WILMA DAVIDSON

PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for Elders as they visit the congregation that they might be sustained in the work and upheld in their calling.
- Pray for the Pastoral Visitors as they offer support to those at home and in homes.
- Pray for members of the Congregational Board and all who hold office that their skills might be a blessing to the advancement of the kingdom and that they might be encouraged in all that they seek to do.
- Pray for all members and adherents in their/your commitment to the work of Christ and involvement in the Kirk.
- Pray for all housebound members and those in nursing homes that they might continue to get the support and help they both need and deserve.
- Pray for all young people preparing for important exams.
- Pray for all young people mapping out their future.

Useful Contacts

Minister	: Revd Robert A Hamilton	01236 763022.
Associate Minister	: Revd Maxine Buck	01555 759063.
Session Clerk	: T. Fraser Gillespie	01236 604860.
Treasurer	: David J. Watt	01698 853921.
Organist	: David J. Stewart	01357 520555.
Roll Keeper	: W. Allister Jack	01236 767898.

Hall Convener : Robert W. Forrest 01236 767210.