

THE NEW WELLWYNDER

April 2021

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from the Manse -

Dear Friends,

I spoke recently about what people have missed most during lockdown and the answers, naturally, have varied. It probably would come as no surprise to any one of you that I have missed my travels. Particularly during busy and challenging times I look forward to time out and time away. But, as life very often teaches us, journeys are not always easy. There are the exciting ones when we expand our minds in venturing to new places to meet new people and enjoy new experiences. There are also the more difficult and challenging ones that test us to the very limit.

The Emmaus Road story is a reminder of the difficult journeys that all of us have to embark upon from time to time. They went from the very heights of those exciting times with Jesus when the crowds gathered expectantly around Jesus to the very depths when it all came to a sudden halt in his death on the cross. We will never ever know what they spoke about as they walked away from Jerusalem that day, but it couldn't have been an easy discussion.

There is much in the story that resonates with me and different times in my life when disappointments overwhelm and hope seems to all but disappear. Yet, as with many, many stories in Scripture, there is a chink of light which grows in intensity as a stranger joins them on a journey. This stranger enables them to talk as he listens and, as he listens, is able to shed some light on what they had hoped for. For the two on the road, this saw the dying embers of hope being fanned into new life.

It has been a difficult year for all of us in so many ways. It has been a difficult year for all of us together as the church, the people of God who so miss joining together. Yet, let us never forget that we have journeyed together and, as we have done so, the risen Christ has journeyed with us. Even in the little things - like the cards, the phone calls, the coming together to support good causes - we have shared friendship and fellowship. Distanced as we have been and continue to be we have been bound together by our shared faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and our shared experience of being brought together as one in and through the Holy Spirit of God.

In our worship, work and witness we have continued, not only to know Christ in the breaking of the bread and the preaching of the word, but also to make him known to the parish we are called to service.

Over the next number of Wednesdays we will continue to look at the Emmaus story to see what it means to know the risen Christ and what it means to respond to him as we journey with each other through good times and bad, times of certainty and uncertainty.

The Easter season takes us from that glorious Day of Resurrection which is Easter Sunday through to the Day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples. In the church's liturgical calendar the readings take us on that journey to see how the disciples are brought out of themselves by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. No longer do they hold back, but they openly proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord in their speaking and in their living.

As we come out of a time of lockdown in the next few weeks and months the same Holy Spirit will inspire us to reach out and move out to joyfully witness to the risen Christ and what a transformation he can bring into the life of the world and the life of all people.

Love, thoughts and prayers from your friend and minister.



FUTURE SERVICES

April

21	12 noon	Delve in at 12 <i>Emmaus: The Journey</i>
25	11 a.m.	Sunday Morning Worship <i>The Cost of Care</i>
28	12 noon	Delve in at 12 <i>Emmaus: The Encounter</i>

May

2	11 a.m.	Sunday Morning Worship <i>Stay Connected</i>
5	12 noon	Delve in at 12 <i>Emmaus: The Conversation</i>
9	11 a.m.	Sunday Morning Worship <i>Friends</i>
12	12 noon	Delve in at 12 <i>Emmaus: The Story</i>
16	11 a.m.	Sunday Morning Worship <i>The Potential of Prayer</i>
19	12 noon	Delve in at 12 <i>Emmaus: The Story Continued</i>
23	11 a.m.	Sunday Morning Worship <i>Filled to Overflowing</i>
		Pentecost Sunday
26	12 noon	Delve in at 12 <i>Emmaus: he Story Explained</i>
30	11 a.m.	Sunday Morning Worship <i>Getting to Know God</i>
		Trinity Sunday

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FUTURE SERVICES (cont'd.)

June

- 2 12 noon Delve in at 12
Emmaus: The Invitation
- 6 11 a.m. Sunday Morning Worship
The In-crowd
The Sacrament of Holy Communion
- 9 12 noon Delve in at 12
Emmaus: The Recognition

FUNERALS :

- 2nd October Margaret Frame
7th October Isobel McAlpine
12th October Joe Buchanan
26th October Susan Davidson
5th November May Young
30th November Cessie McKee
3rd December Leah Marshall
17th December Dan Russell
22nd December George Wilson
24th December Lyndsay Kent
29th December Margaret Johnstone
6th January Jim Mitchell
11th January Anne Wylie
12th January Susan Stewart
9th February Ruby Thorburn
10th February Helen Cameron
17th February Beth Robertson
18th February Greta Gray
19th February Cecile Nicol
5th March May and Robert Johnston
8th March Barbara Wright
12th March Margaret Campbell
19th March Margaret Miller
29th March Margaret Stevenson
1st April Morag Murnin
9th April Anne Hood
9th April Rita Fraser

Dan Russell

We were shocked to hear of the sudden death of Dan because he was, as I said at his funeral service, very much alive - fit, active and on the go physically, mentally and spiritually.

He had a lifelong connection with church, Wellwynd and then The New Wellwynd. His faith was real and not only did he speak about it as he led services at the Lodging House Mission when in the Youth Fellowship or took part in services here, he also lived it and personified it in a life of humble service. He was never one to laud it over others but bring to life what humble service is about. Faith gave him comfort and moulded his values, values he lived by and encouraged in the life of his family. He enjoyed worship, got a lot of it and put a lot into it. He served faithfully and diligently as an elder. He was vocal at meetings with questions that showed he cared and took an interest in what was happening. This care was also seen in his district visits - so faithful and supportive. If he didn't get the minute for the Stated Annual Meeting early enough, he'd soon say! He also served as Session Clerk for a short time. He was supportive of his ministers - his

wise counsel, advice and genuine support has made a difference to me down through the years as he was one of the first folk I really got to know here as convener of the Vacancy Committee.

We will miss his laughter resounding around his place and a faith that has encouraged us. Our love, thoughts and prayers continue to be with Janet and the family.

Anne Wylie

We were sorry to hear of the death in Millbrae Care Home of Anne. Because of the onset of vascular dementia and Alzheimers Anne eventually needed to go into care at Millbrae Care Home where she received the care, support and security that she needed these past few years.

Anne's faith was always important to her and gave her the comfort that she needed especially after the death of her husband Alex. It was then that she became more and more involved in the life of the church and was a familiar face about the place. She enjoyed attending worship on a regular basis and, when she served as an elder, she was diligent in her duties and faithful in looking after her district. She ably led the Senior Circle and was rightly proud of the part that she played there. She was also involved in the Snack Bar and was a familiar sight at other times with a teapot on hand. Anne was a hard worker over the years for her family and for her church as which where she was so proud to have served. Like Dan, she was one of the first people that I got to know even before I came to be your minister. When I came for an interview it was Anne who looked after Daniel and had him on his knee feeding him his snacks which was remarkable for a boy who was so independent. She loved children and had a great way with them.

Our love, thoughts and prayers continue to be with Betty, Robert, Linda and the family.

Exploring the Faith

I am proposing to run an online class exploring the basics of the christian faith for anyone who might be interested in membership or even simply "refreshing" their faith and "getting back to basics". The classes will be held via zoom on a Wednesday evening at 7 p.m. and the details are as follows -

Wednesday, 5th May - *I believe in God*

Wednesday, 12th May - *I believe in Jesus Christ*

Wednesday, 19th May - *I believe in the Holy Spirit*

Wednesday, 2nd June - *Belonging to the Church*

Wednesday, 9th June - *Promises, promises!*

Wednesday, 16th June - *Still exploring*

Please contact me if you need any more information or if you would like to register for the class.

A word of thanks

George, Anne and Jan Wallace would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to George and Una Lawson for their support in difficult times and for keeping them going in home baking.

A word of comfort in difficult times

I wrote the following poem to send, along with a button, to a friend who was going through a difficult time during lockdown. It was so appreciated by them that I thought others may want to send it to anyone they know who is going through similar difficulties.

It doesn't need to be a button that's sent. A pebble or other small item which is tactile and can fit into a pocket would do. I used a button because most people have them in their homes and they are easy to send through the post. If something else was sent the wording would just need to be changed to suit. This could also be done if multiple buttons were being sent i.e. to a couple or family.

Also, as you may want to send the poem or give it to someone when we are no longer in lockdown I've included an alternative last verse.

It is my hope that you do use it, as many times as you like, to help the people you know who are in need, that together we may bring a little comfort to them when they need it most.

The Button in your pocket

Put this button in your pocket,
and when you feel it there,
know you're loved and not forgotten
and held up to God in prayer.

It's the hug folk long to give you;
It's the hope of a new dawn;
It's the promise of a future
when there'll be another norm.

It's a reminder you are precious,
that God holds you by your hand,
that He knows how you are feeling
and that He understands.

And while folk can't be with you
to be the friends they long to be,
May this button in your pocket also,
Be a hug from me.

Alternative verse

And when I can't be with you,
Or be the friend that I should be,
May this button in your pocket also,
Be a hug from me.

Lilly Easton (formerly minister at Airdrie: Clarkston who, along with her husband Alex, worship with us on a regular basis online).

Christian Aid News

On Tuesday, 16th February I joined the Virtual Christian Aid Gathering online. We heard about Christian Aid's response in Ethiopia following the worst invasion of locusts in 25 years, failure of rains resulting in harvest failure and drought causing livestock deaths. Using the Scottish Government's Humanitarian Emergency Fund, Christian Aid was able to deliver large quantities of pesticides, protective safety kits for sprayers and community training.

We heard from some Christian Aid supporters of many suggestions for fundraising such as Virtual Coffee Mornings, soup lunches, online jam sale, lockdown recipe books, making donations to give thanks for your vaccine and last, but not least, taking part in Scotland's Virtual Kilt walk from 23rd to 25th April. I have signed up for the Kilt walk to raise funds for Christian Aid and my challenge to myself is to walk from Monks Road to Airdrie top cross on each of the three days. There is a Kilt walk Just Giving page in my name, which can be accessed on my Facebook page or I can email it to anyone who wishes to donate. If anyone wishes to donate in the normal way on a sponsor form that can be done too. My contact number is 01236 605824.

Lastly the Gathering looked forward to COP26, the UN Climate Change Conference taking place in Glasgow in November, thinking about how we can all be involved in the fight against Climate Change and we are urged to pray for the success of the conference.

If you are able, please check out the Christian Aid website for more information and please remember their work in your prayers.

Liz Riddell

Prayer for the People of Tigray

During the past 12 months as the World has been gripped by the Coronavirus Pandemic there has been ongoing internal conflict in the region of Tigray in northern Ethiopia. Tens of thousands of innocent people have been caught up and displaced by the conflict with many women and children being specifically targeted by opposing sides. It has only been in the last couple of months that International Aid Organisations have been allowed access to deliver and administer humanitarian aid. My daughter Fiona, who now works with Medical Teams International (MTI) which is a faith based charity has been out in Tigray for the past month and has described some of the scenes as the worst she has seen! The good news is, the much needed aid, is beginning to be distributed within the makeshift camps and communities which have not been completely destroyed. Nevertheless, thousands of innocent people have lost their lives and many more continue to suffer. For these people and millions like them around the World who are the victims of conflict let us pause and think of them in prayer:

Lord God, this beautiful world can be cruel, destroying life and livelihood in an instant. But no one is a stranger to you and no one is ever far from your loving care. In your kindness, watch over refugees and victims of war and those separated from their loved ones. In our broken world, so many people are suffering. They are pushed to the margins and forgotten. Men, women and children are persecuted and left without homes. They are hurting, sick and in crisis. In your kindness be with them. For all of those involved in conflicts, we ask that you help to bring comfort, compassion, sustenance, repentance, forgiveness, healing, love, and a peace that can endure. Amen

The Editor

Kids' Clothes Appeal

Many thanks to everyone who contributed in any way to our Kids' Clothes Appeal which proved to be an outstanding success. The response was truly amazing. All donations were greatly received and passed to many appreciative families. In addition to the items of clothing, a number of cash donations were also received and subsequently used to purchase further items. The appeal has now closed but its impact will last a good bit longer. On behalf of all the families supported, thank you.

Maggie Weir

Growing up in the Parish

It has been quite some time since I last wrote a piece about growing up in the Parish! Last year during the first lockdown when out and about walking, I often ventured down through Whinhal and needless to say many happy memories of a childhood growing up in 'Whinha' came flooding back! From standing at the top of the 'Keyhole', I could see all the gardens we once played in, the doors we used to chap and then run away. I could hear the voices of some well kent characters like Lizzie Morgan or wee Maggie Devlin and smell my tea cooking on the stove – egg and chips during the week and mince and tatties on a Sunday! I would be telling you lies if I said I did not have a tear in my eye! Those were the days!

Last Saturday, whilst enjoying my afternoon of sport (fitba) on the telly, I flicked channels to watch history being made in the Grand National at Aintree with Rachael Blackmore being the first female to win the race on Minella Times. What a wonderful achievement and thoroughly deserved. At the same time, it also brought back to mind another piece of Grand National history that happened away back in 1967 when Foinavon a rank outsider, defied the odds and won the race! Some will argue that it only won because all the other horses fell. However, to win you have to finish the race and the 100/1 shot did! Just goes to show that a steady and sure footed pace gets you there just the same and can help you be a winner! Now that is a lesson in life we should perhaps all remember! However, back in the Parish in 1967 the Grand National had us running about all over the place pretending to be jockeys on our imaginary horses, whipping our backsides with sticks to make us run faster as we raced each other! Just like the big race itself we built fences to jump over, cardboard boxes supporting clothes poles (stretchers) we nicked from somebody's garden! We did the same when the show jumping was on the telly. It was a race in itself to be Harvey Smith or David Broome!

No sooner would the Grand National be over and Wimbledon would come around. Everybody would look out their tennis racquet (made in Pakistan), rope (a piece of a neighbour's washing line) would be tied across the road to form a net and a court would be chalked out on the road itself. You always needed three to play, two players and an umpire who would lower and raise the rope to allow cars to pass! When we got a bit bigger we were allowed to go up to the 'public park' Central Park, for a real game on the tennis courts! Everybody wanted to be Rod Laver! I

got a few strange looks when I said I would be Billy Jean King!

Wimbledon and the tennis then gave way to golf, the British Open! Now there were very few golfers in Whinha but we had access to two putting greens, one at Central Park the other at Centenary Park. One day you would be Jack Nicklaus, the next Arnold Palmer or Gary Player. Match play with your pal was par for the course! My lasting memory of both these championship courses was not the putting itself but the small glass bottles of Barr's ginger you could buy afterwards – Limeade, Cream Soda and Ginger Beer! There was also Golden Wonder cheese and onion and smoky bacon crisps which had just been invented!

Soon it was late July, the Wee Red Book was out and it was time for the start of another football season! Talking of which, I see Airdrie have just scored a late equaliser at Montrose! Yass! Time to go for now - catch you later!

George Randall

Just for Laughs

The Presbyterians were convening in Scotland. After a couple of days of sitting on hard pews, a group decided to stretch their legs in the countryside. Soon they approached a rickety old bridge over a river. They were so busy talking they missed the Keep off the Bridge sign! A villager saw them step onto the dangerous span and yelled for them to stop. "That's all right," one of the ministers responded. "We're here from the Presbyterian convention." "I dinna care about that," came the reply. "But if ye go much farther, ye'll all be Baptists!"

One day the zoo-keeper noticed that the monkey was reading two books - the Bible and Darwin's The Origin of Species. In surprise he asked the ape, "Why are you reading both those books"? "Well," said the monkey, "I just wanted to know if I was my brother's keeper or my keeper's brother."

Volunteer Needed

We are looking for a volunteer to distribute Newsletters to a few homes in Petersburn. If you can help, please contact Margaret Jack (767898).

Useful Contacts

Minister	: Revd Robert A Hamilton	01236763022.
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Treasurer	: David J. Watt	01698 853921.
Organist	: David J. Stewart	07774 674345.
Roll Keeper	: W. Allister Jack	01236 767898.
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