

The New Wellwynder

February 2018

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from the Manse -

Dear Friends,

My attention was first drawn to Ronda in Andalusia by Michael Portillo when he stopped there on his rail journey through Spain. My abiding memory of his visit to this picturesque Andalucian town was of the bridge built over the spectacular yet rugged gorge below. I wasn't to be disappointed by my visit there last year as all of my expectations of the place were to be more fulfilled. The place was unforgettable as was the journey, but for quite different reasons.

When in Spain, I always hire a little car and this visit was no different. I made my way up the winding road to Ronda but the journey was hampered by a flat tyre - a sudden blow out! I waited by the roadside for assistance, having failed miserably to work out how to locate and retrieve the space saver tyre. Help came, I managed to limp into Ronda at no more than 80km per hour. Everyone was so helpful and the tyre was repaired for the princely sum of 9 Euros.

So, why am I telling you this? Plans are made. Dreams are caught. Reality on the other hand has a way of turning out in ways we could never have expected when things go pear shaped, or imagined when they have surpassed all expectations. We can make plans and be disappointed, thwarted at every turn. We can make plans and be pleasantly surprised. What is important in all of our plans and journeys is to know and be comforted by the knowing that we don't need to journey on our own or languish in problems on our own. I was in a foreign land, with a limited knowledge of the language, yet I was helped by others. When we get a true perspective on things, we realise that there is more good than bad. There are more helpful people than not, pleasant people who bend over backwards for us. People who, when life and others let us down, never ever do.

The stole I wear for funeral services, gifted to me by a member of the congregation, has bright pictures I can use to bring alive Scripture when children are present. Two images are of the sun and the stars, a reminder of Psalm 121 - "the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night.". God is not distant like the hills or even like those who have promised to be with us and let us down. God is at our very right hand and, in the words of George McLeod, is "closer than breathing itself". This latter statement is so wondrously powerful because you cannot get anything closer to us than breathing, and this image of God is of him, in and through his Spirit, as the very breath of life around us when experiences and situations are in danger of sapping the life out of us.

"Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow" is what that relationship with God in Jesus assures us of - the reality of God with us here and now, as well as the promise of that constant presence in the journey

ahead. May God bless you and keep you close to himself now and forever.

Your friend and minister.



SERVICES

February

- 11 11:00 a.m. - Transfiguration Sunday :
Seeing Clearly.
- 18 11:00 a.m. - First Sunday in Lent :
*Welcoming the Way of the Cross :
A Time to Think.*
- 6:30 p.m. - Lenten Forty Minutes :
*Welcoming the Way of the Cross :
Questions Shared.*
- 25 11:00 a.m. - Second Sunday in Lent :
*Welcoming the Way of the Cross :
"Lord teach us to pray".*
All Age Service for Thinking Day.
- 6:30 p.m. - Lenten Forty Minutes :
*Welcoming the Way of the Cross :
Questions Shared.*

March

- 4 11:00 a.m. - Third Sunday in Lent :
*Welcoming the Way of the Cross :
Created Glory.*
Sacrament of Holy Communion.
- 3:00 p.m. - Afternoon Worship :
Sacrament of Holy Communion.
- 6:30 p.m. - Lenten Forty Minutes :
*Welcoming the Way of the Cross :
Questions Shared.*

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Funerals :

Bill Blades, Tommy Anderson, Janet Davidson, Jeanette Todd, Jean Mowat, William Chapman, Mary Henderson, Alan Gilchrist, Jean Soutar (D.9), John O'Hara, Mary Hammond (D.9), Margaret Stewart, Bruce Robertson, Georgina McNab (D.21), Betty Thomson (D.31).

Baptisms : Finlay Robert Stein,

Alison Margaret Reilly (Adult).

Weddings : Kay Bartlett and Ben Searle,

Helen Ross and Andy Johnston.

Change of Address / District :

Ms. Aileen Allsop from D.51 to D.33.
Miss Louise Nimmo from D.60 to D.5.
Mr. Derek Phillips from D.64 to D.57.
Mr. George McK. Thomson from D.31 to D.4.
Mr. James Gilmour from D.27 to D.47.
Mrs. Karen McGleish from D.60 to D.64.

FLOWER CALENDAR

February

- 11 Ronnie Wright; Catherine Whellans.
18 Ian Tart; Margaret Matthews.
25 Irene Docherty; Helen Hutcheson.

March

- 4 Isabel & Tom Sorbie; Sandra Blair.

DRIVERS / FLOWER DELIVERY.

February

- 11 Dianne Stein.
18 John Jarvie.
25 Beatrice Holden.

March

- 4 Margo Elliott.

BIBLE READINGS

January 2018

- 7 Isaiah 60 : 1 - 6; Matthew 2 : 1 - 12.
14 Psalm 104 : 1 - 15; John 2 : 1 - 11.
21 Psalm 127 : 1 - 2; John 2 : 13 - 25.
28 John 3 : 1 - 21.

THANKS

Rita Fraser and Family wish to send a very special thanks to all in the church for the kindness shown during her illness. Many thanks to Robbie and Maxine for doing what they do best. So glad to be back. Love, Rita.

Helen and John Cairns would like to thank everyone at New Wellwynd for the beautiful flowers received. Also Robbie for his visit and prayers on the loss of Helen's sister.

Angela Gibb and Family wish to thank Robbie for his visits to Jim in hospital, then to Angela and family after Jim's death. Also thanks for the lovely service at Holytown Crematorium. We felt privileged to have so many friends from the church attending the funeral service. We would also like to thank the congregation for the beautiful floral arrangement and for all the expressions of sympathy, the flowers, cards and other gifts we received after Jim's death. It was all really appreciated and was a comfort in our time of sorrow.

Mary Wilson would like to thank Robbie and the congregation for the gift of flowers received after her fall.

Sandy and Jean Stewart extend their thanks to Robbie for the visits to Sandy's mum both in hospital and at home, and also for the lovely funeral service. They also thank the congregation for the lovely flowers received.

WELCOME TEAMS

February

- 11 **Team Leader:** Elizabeth Robertson
Mima Dalziel, Isabell Gibson, Allan Gibson,
George Grant, George Lawson, Morag Stewart.
18 **Team Leader:** Bobby Forrest
Billy Brooks, Fraser Gillespie, George Grant,
Mairi Mitchell, William Watson,
Catherine Whellans.
25 **Team Leader:** Ian Nicol
Alex Anderson, Sandy Black, Wilma Davidson,
John Jarvie, Mark Millar, Dan Russell.

March

- 4 **Team Leader:** Harry Shaw
Lynne Cartwright, Kate Hamilton,
Freda Gilchrist, Alaine Sommerville,
Dianne Stein, Lynne Thompson,
Gordon Waddell.

Church of Scotland World Mission

A little reminder to everyone that we continue to collect **Used Postage Stamps** to help fund the ongoing work of World Mission. Bring them along to Church on a Sunday morning and leave them at the front door or pass to Jennifer Milne.

EXPLORING FAITH

Exploring Faith is a course exploring the Christian Faith published by the Church of Scotland. It is designed for those who want a refresher or for those exploring for the first time, perhaps with a view to becoming full members. If you are interested in coming along, or know someone who is interested in membership, please let me know.

The course kicks off on Sunday, 25th February, in the Blue Room at 2:30 p.m. and will run on subsequent weeks.

Contact the minister, Robbie on 763022 or email him - rhamilton@churchofscotland.org.uk

TRAIDCRAFT

Thank you for your continued support of the Traidcraft Stall within the congregation. The stall continues to be available every Sunday, but going forward, we will only be stocking items that we know have a good turnover.

During 2017, a lot of the large bars of chocolate, biscuits and other items had to be written off because they had gone past their "BEST BEFORE" date, and even trying to sell them off cheaply attracted little sales.

Catalogues are still available and should you wish to purchase anything which we don't stock, this can be ordered for you. The new SPRING 2018 catalogue will be available shortly.

Fairtrade Fortnight 2018 runs from 26th February until 11th March 2018.

We are fortunate in Airdrie that our supermarkets and various coffee shops and cafes promote fairly traded items. Please continue to support this as it all helps the town keep its Fairtrade Town Status.

DAVID WALKER

MESSY CHURCH

Messy Church continues in March and will take place on 4th March, doors opening at 3 p.m. finishing off with a shared meal at 5 p.m..

This is an opportunity to bring families and individuals together for a new and fresh expression of Church and to build on links made through the Holiday Club. It's different, it's messy, but it still has at its heart worship. But what is it? It is a time together to enjoy making a craft, playing a game, learning about the God who loves us and enjoying a meal! It is based on the following principles –

- o To provide an opportunity for people of all ages to worship together.
- o To help people of all ages to feel that they belong in church and to each other.
- o To help people have fun together.
- o To give people a chance to express their God-given creativity.
- o To invite people into an experience of Christian community.
- o To introduce people to Jesus through hospitality, friendship, stories and worship.

SENIORS

Our session continues on the 6th February when the Revd Ian McDonald from the High Church will be our guest. On the 20th February, we welcome the William Hay Concert Party followed by the Cadzow (musical) Quartet on the 6th March. All will be made most welcome.

ISABELL GIBSON

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 the following dates - Wednesday, 22nd to Wednesday, 29th July. The final brochure will be made available at the beginning of March and so there will be a meeting in March - Wednesday, 21st March at 7.30 p.m. in the Session Room.

If you have any initial questions, please do not hesitate to be in touch

CAMEO

Sadly the night out on 16th January had to be cancelled due to the severe snow fall. Another date for this event will be organised at a future meeting. On Tuesday, 13th February, a visitor from Quarriers Homes will be telling us of their work. On the 27th, Mr. Roy Logie will be telling us of 'The Gideons.' We are looking forward to both these evenings. Looking ahead to Tuesday, 13th March, we will welcome a visiting Concert Party called The Inbetweeners, and for this evening we shall be in the large hall. We would be delighted to welcome anyone who wishes to join us for their visit.

WILMA DAVIDSON

CHRISTIAN AID

On Friday, 23rd February, a recital entitled 'Pedals, Pipes and People' will be given by our Church organist, David Stewart and the Church Choir. Tickets, priced £5 including refreshments, are available from Vicki Stein. All proceeds are for the benefit of Christian Aid.

The Bonnie Lass o' Whinha'

With the Burns' Season nearing its end for another year here is a wee poem from the 'Bard of Whinha!'

O' aw the places I hae been I dearly love Whinha'.
It's there the bonnie lassie lives, the fairest o' them a'.
I see her in my nightly dreams the glint o' her blue e'e,
And her face it is the fairest, that ever I did see.

Her eyes they beam with innocence,
like stars up in the sky;
Her smile just melts ma hert, when she passes by.
She dresses tidy in her claes,
baith neat and clean tae view,
An her body's sma and slender
and my love for her is true.

The lassie is as bonnie as the lily on the lea -
Her lips are a lovely red, like the cherry on the tree.
She is indeed the fairest, o' the lassies e'er I saw;
The lovely lass fae Airdrie, the Bonnie Lass o' Whinha'

WHINHA' BARD

Have you ever wondered how Robbie got the job?

The following is an extract taken from the minutes of a New Wellwynd Vacancy Committee meeting back in the year 2001. It lists the names of all the applicants and a summary of the vacancy committee's recommendations on each one.

ADAM: Decent enough guy but has problems with his wife. One reference told us how he and his wife enjoyed walking nude in the woods. He has proved to be a weak-willed and incapable of making correct moral choices at vital moments. Rumours of serious family issues with one son apparently guilty of murder.

NOAH: Former pastorate of 120 years with no converts whatsoever. He is prone to unrealistic building projects.

JOSEPH: A big thinker but a braggart. He believes in dream interpretation and has a prison record. He also dresses too flamboyantly.

MOSES: A modest and meek man but poor communicator. Even stutters at time. Sometimes blows his stack and acts rashly in business meetings.

DAVID: Seemed the most promising leader of all - brave, strong and wise until we discovered affair he had with his neighbour's wife and his involvement in a contract killing.

SOLOMON: Great preacher, clever chap but with serious relationship and infidelity issues.

ELIJAH: Prone to depression and collapses under pressure.

HOSEA: A tender and loving pastor with a deep sense of spiritual justice, but our congregation could never handle his wife's occupation.

JONAH: Told us he was swallowed up by a great fish. He said the fish later spat him out on the beach at Salt-coats. We hung up.

AMOS: Too much of a country yokel. Backward and unpolished but with some seminary training he might have promise. He has hang ups against wealthy people and holds vociferously left wing principles.

JOHN: Says he is a Baptist, but doesn't dress like one. He may be, too Pentecostal. Also, he tends to lift both hands in the air to worship when he gets excited. Sleeps rough, has a weird diet and provokes denominational leaders.

PETER: Too blue collar. He has a bad temper, even said to have cursed. Prone to make promises he can't possibly keep - impetuous and known as bit of a loose cannon.

PAUL: Powerful chief executive type and fascinating preacher. However, he's short on tact, unforgiving with young ministers, draconianly intolerant in gender attitudes and is known to have preached all night.

TIMOTHY: Too young.

JUDAS: His references are solid. He is a strong plodder and upholder of traditional values. Good connections and knows how to handle money. We are inviting him to preach this Sunday as sole nominee.

(Footnote: Unfortunately, Judas has been offered a position elsewhere and has withdrawn his application.)

ROBBIE: Chancer - but worth a look!

The rest is history!

A. MODERATOR

Among the great and glorious gifts
 Our Heavenly Father sends
 Is the gift of understanding that we find in loving friends.
 For in this world of trouble
 that is filled with anxious care,
 Everyone needs a friend in whom they're free to share -
 The little secret heartaches that lay heavy on their mind,
 Not just a mere acquaintance
 but someone who's 'just our kind'.
 For, somehow, in the generous heart
 of loving, faithful friends,
 The good God in his charity and wisdom always sends
 A sense of understanding and the power of perception,
 And mixes these fine qualities
 with kindness and affection.
 So when we need some sympathy
 or a friendly hand to touch,
 Or an ear that listens tenderly
 and speaks words that mean so much -
 We seek our true and trusted friend
 in the knowledge that we'll find
 A heart that's sympathetic
 and an understanding mind.....
 And often just without a word there seems to be a union
 Of thoughts and kindred feelings
 for God gives true friends communion.

HELEN STEINER RICE

SAVED BY THE BELL?

In 18th century England they started running out of places to bury people. Consequently, people would dig up coffins and take the bones to a 'bone-house' and re-use the grave. When re-opening these coffins, 1 out of 25 coffins were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realized they had been burying people alive. So the clergy decreed that they should tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, lead it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell. Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (the 'graveyard shift') to listen for the bell. Thus, someone could be 'saved by the bell'. Also they could be considered a 'dead ringer.'

I. WRIGHT

Need some inspiration?

- Be inspired every day using some of these motivational quotations.
- Imagination will take you everywhere (A Einstein).
- The one who removes a mountain begins by carrying small stones (Chinese proverb).
- Nothing really matters except what you do now in this instant of time (E Caddy).
- Happiness is a way of travel, not a destination (R Goodman).
- Be not simply good, be good for something (H Thoreau).
- Always be a first rate version of yourself, instead of a second rate version of someone else (J Garland).
- Life begins at the end of your comfort zone (N Walsch).
- Genius is one per cent inspiration and ninety nine per cent perspiration (T Edison).
- The difference between ordinary and extraordinary is that little extra (J Johnson).

- Necessity is the mother of invention (Proverb).
- The best way to predict the future is to create it (A Lincoln).
- A mind is like a parachute. It doesn't work if it is not open (F Zappa).

THE EDITOR

Let Your Light Shine!

Does the light of your soul still shine?
 Is it still a beacon that others can find?
 Or does a guilty conscience cover it like a film,
 dulling its rays and causing it to look dim?
 Do you tell yourself everything is just fine,
 ignoring the needs of others as if blind?
 What about those who have gone astray
 and those who are lonely and afraid?
 Search your heart and see what you find -
 ask yourself if you have been unkind.
 Good deeds alone will not get you into Heaven,
 extend a helping hand to your fallen brethren.
 It will clear your conscience and erase your sins
 and the light of your soul will be bright again.
 Others will look upon you as a beacon of hope,
 as down life's road they struggle and cope

ELLEN BAILEY

PRAYER POINTS

- Give thanks for the family here at The New Wellwynd and the generosity of a congregation with such wide ranging gifts.
- Pray for the successful completion of the work to improve our sanctuary.
- Pray that God might guide you through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit as you continue to look forward in faith to all the plans God has made for us.
- Pray for all uniformed youth organisations, especially the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides preparing for Thinking Day towards the end of this month.
- Pray for the continual work of the churches in the schools both at Rochsolloch and Airdrie Academy.
- Pray for the personal witness of all Christians that through "gossiping the Gospel" more will come to a full knowledge of the love of God in Jesus.
- Pray for Messy Church and other ventures as we seek to reach out.

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.