

THE NEW WELLWYNDER

February 2019

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from the Manse -

Dear Friends,

When I was in my late teens and exploring a growing sense of call into ministry, I was fortunate to be supported by my own minister, John Robertson, and my uncle, Alex Mellroy, who had just retired from his charge in Darvel.

Uncle Alex had gone into ministry late on in life having worked in the local "Factor's Office" for a number of years. His help and support were invaluable, as was his willingness to allow me to share in services with him. I remember on one occasion him introducing the Bible reading and, on hearing that nobody, or very few people, had opened up their Bibles, saying "Have any of you got a Bible with you? How many of you would go for a round of golf and not take your clubs with you?" And, with that wry but warm smile, "Why come to church without a Bible to read along with?" Only Uncle Alex who was a local boy could get away with that!

This was a time when there were no pew Bibles for people to read along with, but his questioning and challenging was much, much more than about reading the Bible passage in church, but about marking it and going back to it later on when at home. He also said to people when they apologised about having a Bible falling apart, "I'd rather see a Bible that is falling apart because it is a sign that it is well read, unlike one in perfect condition which has never been off of the shelf."

Lent is a time to refocus on our lives and our faith, our relationship with God through Christ and with each other. The forty days is an opportunity to do that by taking time to focus on Scripture in working through a pattern of daily readings. This year I have chosen the Book "At Home in Lent" by Gordon Giles. It is an exploration of Lent through 46 objects with a Bible reading and notes for each day. I want to encourage as many people as possible to consider buying this book and even to come along to the Lenten Cafés which will take place on a Sunday evening throughout Lent. If you'd rather not follow the book, I would like to encourage you to take the opportunity to set aside time to focus on Scripture each day in Lent which starts on Wednesday, 6th March, and runs for 40 days until Easter Sunday. You could use the Psalms and work your way through them or even pick a Gospel and do the same.

For any relationship to grow and develop, for trust to be established and for love to grow, we need to work at it as we get to know each other. This is true of faith and the subject matters covered as does the establishing of a daily routine of personal devotion - Bible reading, reflection and prayer. Some people like to give something up for Lent which I sometimes do - usually in-between snacks to lose weight. I also believe that we should take something on and so, if your daily devotional life has been pushed to the side because of the busyness of life and the demands placed on you I hope that you, and all of us, might establish and develop a regular pattern which will go beyond Easter Sunday as in the words of Richard of Chichester "we may see Christ more clearly, love him more dearly, and follow him more nearly . . ."

With love, thoughts and prayers.

Your friend and minister.



SERVICES

February

- 10 11 a.m. - Morning Worship -
The Parables : Persistent Parables.
- 17 11 a.m. - Morning Worship -
Jesus challenges : Seeking the Bread of Life.
- 24 11 a.m. - Morning Worship -
Our Present Adventure : where past meets future.
- All Age Service for Thinking Day.

March

- 3 11 a.m. - Morning Worship -
Jesus' Proclamation!
Sacrament of Holy Communion.

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. The class is kicking off on Sunday, 17th March at 2:30 p.m. in the Session Room. If you are interested in coming along, or know someone who is interested in membership, please let me know.

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

USED POSTAGE STAMPS

Can I encourage everyone to keep collecting and handing in their used postage stamps which go to help raise funds for the Church of Scotland's World Mission?

JENNIFER MILNE

THANKS

Grace, Annette, Scott and Lesley would like to sincerely thank Robbie for all his support during Bert's illness and death. Thank you for the time spent with all of us and the beautiful service you gave Bert and the help you gave us planning such a memorable funeral. Also thanks to Maxine for her hospital visits, to Una and George for their kindness and thoughtfulness during this difficult period. To Jean and especially Robert for recording the service for family members who could not be with us and to our New Wellwynd family for cards, flowers, thoughts and prayers.

Una and George Lawson would like to thank everyone for their support and concern during and after Una's recent surgery. Sincere thanks for the Church and other flowers, the cards, the prayers and all the good wishes she has received. Una feels she is being carried forward on a wave of love.

Nettie Dalling would like to thank the congregation for the lovely flowers received after her stay in hospital. Thanks also to Robbie for his very kind visit. Both much appreciated.

Pat and Ian Blacklaws extend their thanks to the congregation for the lovely flowers received recently. They were very much appreciated.

Betty Hailstones would like to thank Robbie, Maxine and everyone for their visits, cards and beautiful flowers during her long stay in hospital. Betty would like to send everyone all good wishes for 2019.

Tom and Margaret Kane would like to thank the congregation for the beautiful flowers received on the occasion of their Golden Wedding anniversary. They were very much appreciated.

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Funerals :Maud Boyle; Marion McIntyre;
Robert S. (Bert) Frame; Shona MacDonald;
Anne Bettley; Joyce Campbell; Marlene Simpson.

Change of Address/District :

Mrs. Netta Watt from D.47 to D.9.
Mrs. Mary Roberts from D.1 to D.64.
Mrs. Betty Hailstones from D.36 to D.9.
Mrs. Elizabeth Dalzell from D.16 to D.3.
Mrs. Jillian Milligan from D.18 is now
Ms. Jillian Hamilton in D.7.

To Reserve Roll : Mrs. R. Weir (D.58)

DRIVERS / FLOWER DELIVERY.

February

10 Mima Dalziel.
17 George Lowdon.
24 Jack Milne.

March

3 Eleanor Murray.

FLOWER CALENDAR

February

10 Catherine Whellans.
17 Margaret Matthews; Ian Tart.
24 Irene Docherty; Helen Hutcheson.

March

3 Isabel & Tom Sorbie; Angela Gibb.

STREAMING OF SERVICES

We have been streaming the Sunday morning services via our website since the first Sunday in Advent on 2nd December 2018.

Following a few technical glitches at the beginning which have now all been sorted, everything seems to have settled down and our operators are getting to grips with the equipment.

We have had some feedback related to these service which helps us build on the knowledge of what can and cannot be done.

We hope shortly to add a page on the web site which will store a few weeks archive of services – watch this space.

If you are unable to attend public worship, but have access to the internet, we suggest you search for New Wellwynd Parish Church,

- using the link, bring up the church website and either
- click (Watch Live) or from the Menu Drop Down -> Services – select Watch Live.
- This will display a new page, where you will be able to click to watch the service.
- Before the service starts there will be a holding page displayed advising that the service is about to start.

BIBLE READINGS

December

2 Isaiah 9 : 2, 6 - 7; Luke 1 : 30 - 33.
9 Psalm 33 : 1 - 5, 20 - 22;
Colossians 3 : 12 - 17.

January 2019

6 Isaiah 60 : 1 - 6; Matthew 2 : 1 - 12.
13 Hebrews 1 : 1 - 4; John 3 : 22 - 36.
20 Psalm 118 : 15 - 29; Matthew 21 : 33 - 46.
27 Psalm 18 : 1 - 5, 16 - 19, 30 - 32;
Luke 6 : 46 - 49.

BURNS SUPPER

Another successful Burns Supper was held on Saturday 26th January. A huge thank you to everyone who helped in any way to make the evening such a success - those who were there on Saturday all day and night plus the ladies who helped on Saturday morning that couldn't manage on Saturday night. Many hands made light work! Our speakers and entertainers never let us down, every year we benefit from their knowledge of Rabbie Burns and for that a massive thank you.

CAMEO

WELCOME TEAMS

February

- 3 Team Leader : Elizabeth Robertson
Mima Dalziel, Isabell Gibson, George Grant,
George Lawson, Morag Stewart.
- 10 Team Leader : Bobby Forrest
Fraser Gillespie, Mairi Mitchell, Jim Thomson,
William Watson, Maggie Weir,
Catherine Whellans.
- 17 Team Leader: Ian Nicol
Alex Anderson, Sandy Black, Wilma Davidson,
John Jarvie, Anne Learmonth, Dan Russell.
- 24 Team Leader: Moira Gartshore
Matt Fleming, Margaret Jarvie, Jean Kinniburgh,
George Randall, Ronnie Wright.

March

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

IN STITCHES CRAFT GROUP

Did you know that crafting is good for your health? It can improve your mental health – help with anxiety, depression and stress. Knitting, crocheting and slow stitching for example can bring about a calmer state of mind.

Crafting provides social opportunities (again good for our mental health) – being part of a group gives a sense of belonging and allows new friendships to be made.

Learning a new skill gives people a sense of achievement and helps to build self-esteem and confidence.

Find out about what crafting can do for you – come along to In Stitches craft group. We will be meeting on 5 and 19 February in the Session Room from 10 am until 12 noon. Some of our group just come along to enjoy the company of the group while the rest of us craft. If you want any more information speak to Anne Learmonth or any other member of the group.

TRAIDCRAFT

Thank you for your continued support of the Traidcraft Stall within the congregation.

The stall continues to be available every Sunday after morning service in the large hall.

As intimated previously, Traidcraft are downsizing and going forward they will be stocking teas, coffee and other grocery type items – more information to follow in due course when I know more.

Fairtrade Fortnight 2019 runs from 25th February until 10th March 2019 and I would encourage you during this time to look out for fairly traded products.

You will be pleased to learn that since our last newsletter, the Fairtrade Town Status for Airdrie has been successfully renewed for a further 2 years.

We are fortunate in Airdrie that our supermarkets and various other retailers as well as coffee shops and cafés promote fairly traded items.

DAVID WALKER

CAMEO

On the 12th February, we will be delighted to welcome a representative from St. Andrew's Hospice who is going to discuss with us the benefits of Reiki. Then, on 26th February, we welcome our own Revd Robbie. Last year we had a Concert Party entertaining us which was enjoyed so much we had requests for them to return. They have agreed and on the evening of Tuesday, 12th March, they will be performing in The Church. Tickets priced £5 (which includes tea/coffee and home baking) will be on sale from 4th February. This concert is open to everyone and comes highly recommended.

WILMA DAVIDSON

SENIOR CIRCLE

Our session continues on Tuesday, 5th February, with entertainment being provided by the William Hay Concert Party. On the 19th February, we welcome James Baxter with a touch of nostalgia regarding 'Baxter's Buses!' On the 5th March, we are having a Summerlee Heritage Talk. All will be made most welcome.

ISABELL GIBSON

NEARLY NEW!

The 'Nearly New' re-opened on Friday, 1st February. Thanks to everyone who contributed, in any way, during the course of last year. We managed to raise a total of £3600 which was a tremendous sum. I would encourage everyone to come along and browse. You never know, you just might pick up a bargain!

LIZ HANNAH

CHRISTIAN AID CHALLENGE

Did you do it? Did you make one of those well-intentioned, optimistic, New Year, new day, take a deep-clean-breath resolutions? Challenges! It is so easy to resolve to do a new thing or to do an old thing differently, but it is so easy to let that resolve slip. And we downgrade little changes to 'unimportant', especially when huge challenges throw their long shadows over our tiny attempts. What difference does it make if we get to know our neighbour in a world of isolationist political policies? What's the point in working to tackle global inequality if we can't feed the folks in our own backyard? And yet, we live in a global neighbourhood and that is our challenge to you and me for 2019. This year, we challenge you to pick a small change and gather folks around you to do the same. Let's stand together for dignity, equality and justice with our neighbours across the world. Let's walk together, building bridges to our global sisters and brothers by walking across bridges, around Kelpies, along marathon routes. Let's work together to raise our voices and change our lifestyles to join the growing throng calling and acting out for change. Stark challenges are daunting and tempt us back into our bubble. And if we go it alone, we'll never make it. We need friends along the road, people who will walk alongside. We need momentum – political pressure, consumer demand - and that has to be a together thing. Who can you

gather and challenge? Who would join you in cutting back on meat or going plastic free for the sake of the planet? Who would join you to demand fair-trade from their local store? Who would join you to write or lobby their MSP for higher climate change targets? Who would join you, hang up their car keys and get on the bus or the train, or even better put their walking shoes on? The only way we're going to do this is together, so join Christian Aid's global community, across almost 40 countries around the world. We know that big moves do start somewhere, so why not with you?

SALLY FOSTER-FULTON :

Head of Christian Aid Scotland

With the Burns' Season in full swing and our weather as changeable as ever here is a wee poem from the Whinha' Bard.

Aye, I love oor weather
When Icy breezes blow
At seventy miles per hour
An' twenty degrees below!

Aye, I love oor weather
When the snaw gets past yer knees
Ye tak a breath o' winter air
An'a ye dae is sneeze!

Aye. I love oor weather
When the rain is pouring doon
Ye staun in a big puddle
An' yer feet they nearly droon!

Aye, I love oor weather
When the mist it fills the air
Ye cannae see a blooming thing
An' into a void you stare!

Aye, I love oor weather
When the sun comes oot tae play
Ye need tae be fast or you'll miss it
As it quickly goes away!

Aye, I love oor weather
Every season o' the year
Ye never ken whit yer gonnae get
O' that there is nae fear!

WHINHA' BARD

THE SHIP OF FRIENDSHIP

A voyaging ship was wrecked during a storm at sea and only two of the men on it were able to swim to a small, desert like island. The two survivors were good friends. Not knowing what else to do agreed that they had no other recourse, but to pray to God. However, to find out whose prayer was more powerful, they also agreed to divide the territory between them and stay on opposite sides of the island. The first thing they prayed for was food. The next morning, the first man saw a fruit-bearing tree on his side of the land, and he was able to eat its fruit. The other man's parcel of land remained barren. After a week, the first man was lonely and he decided to pray for a wife. The next day, another ship was wrecked, and the only survivor was a woman who swam to his side of the land. On the other side of the island, there was nothing. Soon the first man prayed for a house, clothes,

more food. The next day, like magic, all of these were given to him. However, the second man still had nothing. Finally, the first man prayed for a ship, so that he and his wife could leave the island. In the morning, he found a ship docked at his side of the island. The first man boarded the ship with his wife and decided to leave the second man on the island. He considered the other man unworthy to receive God's blessings since none of his prayers had been answered. As the ship was about to leave, the first man heard a voice from heaven booming, "Why are you leaving your companion on the island?" "My blessings are mine alone since I was the one who prayed for them," the first man answered. "His prayers were all unanswered and so he does not deserve anything." "You are mistaken!" the voice rebuked him. "He had only one prayer, which I answered. If not for that, you would not have received any of my blessings." "Tell me," the first man asked the voice, "What did he pray for that I should owe him anything?" "He prayed that all your prayers be answered."

Moral: For all we know, our blessings are not the fruits of our prayers alone, but those of another praying for us (Congregational Prayer). Value your friends don't leave your loved ones behind.

ANON

PRAYER POINTS

- Give thanks for the family here at The New Wellwynd and the generosity of a congregation with such wide ranging gifts.
- 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 the new and developing ministry with the service now being streamed on a weekly basis, that more and more people will be touched and welcomed back or welcomed for the first time.
- Pray for all who respond to the call to ministry - those in training, remembering especially Beverley.
- 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 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

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|--------------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| Minister | : Revd Robert A Hamilton | 01236763022. |
| Associate Minister | : Revd Maxine Buck | 01555 759063. |
| Session Clerk | : T. Fraser Gillespie | 01236 604860. |
| Treasurer | : David J. Watt | 01698 853921. |
| Organist | : David J. Stewart | 07774 674345. |
| Roll Keeper | : W. Allister Jack | 01236 767898. |
| Hall Convener | : Robert W. Forrest | 01236 767210. |