

THE NEW WELLWYNDER

February 2020

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from the Manse -

Dear Friends,

Recently when talking to the children on a Sunday I produced a portable typewriter to illustrate a point. It wasn't the same but was very similar to the one I bought when I did 'O' Grade Secretarial Studies at school - I had a space in my timetable and I am so glad I did it, especially when I had essays to write at University.

How things have changed! I moved from a manual typewriter to an electronic one which was a very basic word process. From that I moved onto an Amstrad PC with the noisiest of daisywheel printers! Fast forward to 2020 and I find myself typing a sermon on a plane with an iPad and portable keyboard. All of this within my lifetime and I don't count myself as old!

I reckon that during my lifetime there has been the greatest of changes in technology and in so many other areas than any other time in history. The development of everything from computers and tablets through to phones and games has been phenomenal and at such a great rate. No matter where you are in the world you can hear the familiar ping of a text message on someones phone.

We can not only travel to the moon but also offer the possibility of holidays into outer space but what about world poverty, poverty on our doorstep, homelessness, injustices and so many more difficulties and challenges we could care to mention? Is it that there is an inability to do anything? Or, is it that there is not the will in certain corners? If we can do all of this why can we not feed the world as we were encouraged a few decades ago in a memorable song?

The world that we see around us and the reality of what we see on our doorstep is not how God intended the world to be. He made us for fellowship with him with the desire that through that union we would be one with each other and one with the world he has entrusted us with - not to exploit but to enjoy it, cherish it and take care of it.

We can become overwhelmed by what we see and what we read and what we experience or we can move from a conceived inability to do something to make a difference to being people who seek to turn the world upside down, or turn it the right way up.

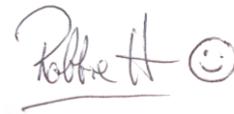
Faith is a very personal thing in its roots but in its expression it is extremely public and practical. Jesus made this very clear at the start of his ministry when

he opened the scroll in the Synagogue and read from Isaiah -

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim
freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.”

May we have the same mind as Christ and the same will to live our faith and in our own way seek to make a difference in setting God's people free.

Your friend and minister.



SERVICES

February

- 9 11 a.m. Morning Worship
Taught by the Spirit.
- 16 11 a.m. Morning Worship
God-given growth.
A Nativity Tale for Today.
- 23 11 a.m. Morning Worship
All Age Worship for Thinking Day.

March

- 1 11 a.m. First Sunday in Lent.
On course.
Sacrament of Holy Communion.
- 3 p.m. Afternoon Service.
Sacrament of Holy Communion.
-

DRIVERS / FLOWER DELIVERY.

February

- 9 Colin McPherson, Lesley Adamson.
- 16 Tom Sorbie.
- 23 Elizabeth Riddell.

March

- 1 Barbara Watt
-

FLOWER CALENDAR

February

- 9 Margaret Thomson; Catherine Graham.
- 16 Margaret Matthews; Catherine Whellans.
- 23 Irene Docherty; Helen Hutcheson.

March

- 1 Tom & Isabel Sorbie.
-

Used Postage Stamps

As we move into another New Year, can I remind everyone, that we continue to collect used postage stamps to help support 'The Church of Scotland's World Mission!' Stamps can be left on a Sunday Morning at the front door or passed to Jennifer Milne.

JENNIFER MILNE

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

New Members : Elizabeth Edmondson,
Elizabeth Reilly.
Irene Davidson.

Change of District :

Ishbel Gartshore from D.40 to D.64.
Jean W. Goldie from D.64 to D.9.

Funerals : Margaret Paterson; Shedden Millar;
Maria Kilday; Annie Murdoch; Phemie Whitelaw;
Margaret McClure; Donald Cameron;
Richard Stephen; May Davidson; Liz McQuarrie;
Angus Cameron.

Wedding : Catriona Barry and John McFarlane.

WELCOME TEAMS

February

9 **Team Leader** : David Watt
Linda Francis, Margaret Jack, Allister Jack,
Dan Russell, Alison Sefton, David Walker.
16 **Team Leader** : Drew Glen
Billy Brooks, George Grant, John Jarvie,
Janet Nimmo, Tom Sorbie, Isabel Sorbie,
Karen Taylor.
23 **Team Leader** : Irene Yates
Alex Anderson, Avril Cockburn, Julie Fleming,
Alison Gray, Beatrice Holden, George

Lowden.

March

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

BIBLE READINGS

December

1 Matthew 24 : 36 - 44.
Isaiah 2 : 1 - 5; Romans 13 : 11 - 14.
Isaiah 40 : 28 - 31; Romans 12 : 3 - 13.
8 Matthew 3 : 1 - 12.
Isaiah 11 : 1 - 10; Romans 15 : 4 - 13.
15 Isaiah 9 : 2, 6 - 7.
Luke 2 : 1 - 7; Luke 2 : 8 - 20.

January

19 1 Corinthians 1 : 1 - 9.
Isaiah 49 : 1 - 7; John 1 : 29 - 42.
26 1 Corinthians 1 : 10 - 18.
Isaiah 9 : 1 - 4; Matthew 4 : 12 - 23.

THANKS

Pat Blacklaws sends her thanks for flowers received and to all who have visited her including Robbie and Laura. Everything is very much appreciated.

David Cresswell would like to thank the congregation for the lovely flowers sent to his family. They were both unexpected and greatly appreciated.

David, Jillian McQuarrie and family would like to thank Robbie and the congregation for the flowers, cards, thoughts and prayers at the sudden passing of David's mum. It meant a lot to them.

Thank you to **Robbie, the Choir and friends** who entertained shoppers with a fine selection of Christmas carols and songs at Tesco on Saturday, 14th December. Well done to all who took part. Here's hoping they'll be back singing in Tesco in 2020.

Janette and George Clark would like to thank everyone at New Wellwynd for the best wishes and flowers received on the occasion of their Diamond Wedding Anniversary.

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTORS

We have three areas which are currently in the need of a Newsletter Distributor. These are in Petersburn, Airdrie Top Cross and Cairnhill. If you think you may be able to help with this service and would like more information, please contact Allister Jack.

SENIOR CIRCLE

We are well through our syllabus already having been blessed with a few of our own congregation as guests to entertain us since the start of the New Year. On Tuesday, 4th February, we will share a musical afternoon when our own Jack Milne will be our guest. On Tuesday, 18th February, we will have another musical afternoon with a duo from Bellshill Baptist Church who, call themselves 'Ministry in Song!' On Tuesday, 3rd March, we will be welcoming a speaker from 'The Friends of Airdrie West End Park', who do such a grand job making the entry into the town such a delight and pleasing to the eye. If you are free on a Tuesday afternoon (from 2 - 3pm) we would love to have your company.
ISABELL GIBSON

ART CLUB

The Art Club continues to meet in the Upper Hall every Friday evening at 7.30pm. Anyone who has an interest in painting and drawing will be made most welcome.
GORDON WADDELL

NEARLY NEW

The 'Friday Morning Nearly New' will be open once again as from Friday, 7th February, 2020. Fancy a wee bargain? Come along and have a look. We look forward to welcoming friends and customers both old and new.
LIZ HANNAH

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. Fairtrade Fortnight 2020 runs from 24th February until 8th March 2020 and I would encourage you, during this time, to look out for fairly traded products.

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

DAVID WALKER

Streaming of Services / Sound System

We'd like to expand the number of people on the rota for helping to operate the Cameras and Sound System.

If you are interested - please speak to either Robert Kinniburgh or David Walker. Appropriate training and mentoring will be given to help you understand what is required. Thanks for your help.

Life is just a stopping place!

Life is just a stopping place
A pause in what's to be.
A resting place along the road
To sweet eternity!
We all have different journeys
Different paths along the way
We all were meant to learn some things
But never meant to stay!
Our destination is a place
Far greater than we know
For some the journey's quicker
For some the journey's slow!
And when the journey finally ends
We'll claim a great reward
And find an everlasting peace
Together with the Lord!

ANON

Fiftieth Anniversary in 2020!

The Church of Scotland's Society, Religion and Technology (SRT) project is marking its 50th anniversary during 2020, with a line-up of celebratory events to share how far it has come since its inception on 1 May 1970. Since the General Assembly made the decision to set up the SRT project in 1969, it has covered a wide variety of mind-boggling topics, from stem cells to synthetic biology, and from economics to environmental issues. The team aims to bring a Christian ethical understanding to issues which are often controversial, working alongside congregations and presbyteries throughout the Church of Scotland.

Dr Murdo Macdonald, policy officer for the SRT project, is delighted to be marking 50 years.

"The SRT project began life as an initiative of the Department of Industrial Mission of the Church," Dr Macdonald said. "It was clear that technology was going to have a profound effect on communities all over Scotland, and it was felt that it was important that the Church's voice was there to speak up for those likely to be most affected, but also least likely to be able to speak for themselves. Whether or not you have an interest in technology, the fact is that it's all around us, and changes the way we do things, the way we see things, the ways in which we relate to each other.

The SRT project seeks to help to bring a Christian ethical reflection on the issues which challenge us, as well as to affirm the good that technology brings.

"One of the Bible passages that I have found most helpful recently is Micah 6:8 'The Lord has told us what is good. What he requires of us is this: to do what is just, to show constant love and to live in humble fellowship with our God'. 'Each of us is called to use the talents and gifts that God has given us in acting justly, showing love, and walking humbly before God. 'The project seeks to help people to live that out - as we realise our place in the Creation, and our responsibility towards those with whom we share the Earth.'"

The team has operated within the era before mobile phones and social media existed, through to today's era of drone delivery services and digital tracking technologies, and they continue to consider all the societal and technological possibilities ahead. Part

of their work is to discern what may be of interest to society in the future, and to help the Church to start thinking theologically about the issues new technologies present and what they might mean for God's creation. Dr Macdonald is supported by Karen Hunter, project administrator, and their work is overseen by a committee of twelve people, chaired by Dr Caroline Cowan. Experts within specific areas are also consulted with on an ad-hoc basis in relation to any issues being investigated.

In recent years, the project has brought many key societal issues to the fore at the General Assembly, including:

- Energy Issues and Fuel Poverty – General Assembly 2016
- Organ and Tissue Donation: opting in or presumed consent? – General Assembly 2015
- Sustainable Agriculture: how do we reconnect with where our food comes from? – General Assembly 2012
- Suicide among young men: How should the church respond? – General Assembly 2011
- Ethics and the Internet: How has the Internet changed the way we interact? – General Assembly 2011

Their current research focuses include:

health and social care, mental health, community-based elderly care, isolation and loneliness, alcohol and substance abuse, and artificial intelligence.

In 2020, the SRT team will be launching a new booklet, taking part in science and technology events, and writing a monthly column in the Life and Work magazine. The first magazine column written by Dr Macdonald, looking ahead to the challenges facing the project [is available in the January edition](#). They will also be launching their new Twitter account where they will be posting everything from events and news to fun scientific facts. You can follow them at [@SRTScotland](#)

This year, too, the SRT team will be inviting people to several celebratory events, including taking part in Greyfriars Kirk's Festival of Science and Religion, part of the church's 400th anniversary celebrations. You can also learn more about their work [on the SRT pages of the Church of Scotland website](#), or [contact Dr Murdo Macdonald](#).

Roving Reporter

CHRISTIAN AID

Maureen Dempsey, Airdrie's Christian Aid Co-ordinator, has asked that a big thanks be passed on to everyone in the Airdrie congregations who have helped the C.A. Committee with fundraising efforts either by giving time, money or both. As a result the sum of £5,345 was transferred to Christian Aid.

The committee hope to meet early in February to consider fundraising activities during 2020. A request for a Collection Day at Tesco has been submitted and we await a response. If you have any suggestions for new and interesting fundraising ideas, particularly something that might reach out and involve the wider community, please get in touch.

.../cont'd.

CHRISTIAN AID (cont'd.)

The annual Christian Aid Gathering takes place in February in Dundee, Dunblane, Dumfries and, our nearest, Glasgow being on Friday 21st February from 10am -1pm at the Wheatley House Academy, 150 Ingram Street. I attended last year's event with Maureen Dempsey and found it very interesting and informative. It was at that time I was able to ask Val Brown, Church and Community Manager, if she would come to speak at the church service following our Big Brekkie last year, which she did as many of you will recall.

You are invited to join Christian Aid at this year's Gathering to discover how Christian Aid responds to communities in crisis and how you can speak up for climate justice. I have registered to attend this year's Gathering and I would be very pleased if others in the congregation would like to accompany me.

With thanks.

LIZ RIDDELL

End to Bitterness!

The Moderator of The Church of Scotland, Rt Rev Colin Sinclair has joined 10 other church leaders from across the UK in signing a statement calling for an end to the bitterness and divisions of Brexit. The statement reads:

· "As Church leaders, we are united in wishing to seek God's guidance and a sense of common purpose as we move from this chapter of the Brexit process into the next."

· "As Christians, we affirm our belief that all people are equally created in God's image. Our country should be one that offers sanctuary to refugees and is intolerant of those who hate because of a person's race or nationality. Both Leave and Remain campaigns agreed on this – we must now make it a reality."

· "The continuing challenges of the climate crisis, global inequality and conflict will require both resolve and close international cooperation to be addressed effectively."

The Church leaders have also sent a letter to European churches saying:

· "We greatly value the love and friendship of our sisters and brothers in other European churches, and have written to them publicly to assure them that these relationships will continue."

· "We also recognise that 31st January will bring uncertainty and anxiety to many EU citizens living in the UK and British citizens living in the EU. Leaving the EU cannot mean abandoning our responsibilities towards these families."

The statement ends with a call to prayer for the future.

· "We pray for the people of the UK, for our leaders, and for the whole of Europe, as we mark this significant moment together. *Roving Reporter*

A Proud Scot

The Burns Season is once again upon us and inspired by a visit to the Bannockburn Battlefield and the words of Robert Burns in his poem 'Scots Wha Hae' the Whinha' Bard has written a wee follow up and here it is!

Robert the Bruce at the Bannockburn
Defeated the English and made them run.
The mighty Edward with all his power
Was no match for the Scots in their finest hour!

That victory is the greatest that Scotland has seen
Though it happened way back in 1314
On a calm summer's day
in the sixth month of the year
Bruce and his army were the ones to fear!

As the English advanced each one was laid low
Freedom being struck with every blow
For dear auld Scotia's King and Law
Freemen stood and freemen did fa!

In the field of battle that day
The English standard lost its sway
Chants of freedom was the Scot's refrain
As Edward and his army were sent homewards - tae
think again!

Victories and loses are part of our story
With tales of battle, honour and glory
Wallace and Bruce for our freedom they fought
So we can proclaim - we are a proud Scot!

Whinha' Bard

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 we 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.

Useful Contacts

| | | |
|---------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| Minister | : Revd Robert A Hamilton | 01236763022. |
| 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. |