

THE NEW WELLWYNDER

June 2021

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from the Manse -

Dear Friends,

There are many aspects of the new manse which have made it such a good move for the “manse family” and the church itself. Not only is it a nice house, it is also a cosy house in the winter. There is a difference in our energy bills and there will be a difference in the church’s maintenance and repair bills! It is a beautiful house and home and we look forward to properly welcoming people to it.

From the study window where I have placed my desk there is a great outlook: it doesn’t overlook other houses but down a street and beyond in between houses to the hills beyond East Kilbride. It is quite a different perspective from the last study which looked into the garden. I can see and watch life go by and catch a wave from a passer-by as I work away on a sermon or even a letter for the magazine.

Sometimes we need a different perspective. We can look at life for far too long from the same perspective. We can go through the motions of the “same old” without giving a thought to what we are doing, how we are doing it or even why we are doing it. That different perspective can come in a welcome way like a new and exciting opportunity in life. It can also be quite daunting like the past year when the pandemic has turned life quite literally upside down and that includes church life. Yes, it has been challenging but we have been able to have the different perspective on everything from worship through what it means to be a church at the heart of a community.

For any sort of growth and development to happen new perspective is necessary, a new perspective borne out of a renewed vision of who we are and what we are about. Coming out of lockdown is a bit like the phoenix rising from the ashes and for us to effectively come out of these difficult times and, not only survive, but also grow and develop we need to learn from these past few months. We need to continue to learn to be the church in new and exciting ways as we build on changes we have made already in adapting to new circumstances. We need to look at what we want to take with us on our journey into the future and what we want to leave behind. We need a vision of what God wants to be and where he wants us to be and a willingness to grab hold of that vision and run with it.

Recently I spoke about the call of Isaiah and his willingness to respond to God, a response that was inspired within a time of worship. Worship never ends with the benediction because it continues into our lives and through our lives into the life of the world. The Church of Scotland will shortly be going through a time of considerable change. The question is as to how we respond to that change. Are we

willing to go with the trend which is the downward spiral seen for many, many years? Or are we willing to go with God as we catch a glimpse of what we can become if only we allow the Spirit of God to inspire us, motivate us and move us into action.

A lot will be asked of us as members of the Body of Christ and as church set at the heart of this community. Are we ready for that? Will we be on our tip toes shouting to the Lord, “Me, send me!”?

May God so inspire us that he will build us together as a people of power and of praise.

Love, thoughts and prayers from your friend and minister.



FUTURE SERVICES

- Sunday, 13th June - 11 a.m. Morning Worship
The Growing Adventure
- Sunday, 20th June - 11 a.m. Morning Worship
Big Questions
- Sunday 27th June - 11 a.m. All Age Worship
Across the Barriers

***During the summer months we are going to break away from the Common Lectionary and explore how we can renew “wellbeing” and looking at it from a Christian perspective. These have been difficult and challenging times and many have struggled and are struggling in so many ways so, let’s “show down, show up and pray”!

- Sunday, 4th July - 11 a.m. Morning Worship
The Story of Renewal
- Sunday, 11th July - 11 a.m. Morning Worship
What is Wellbeing?
- Sunday, 18th July - 11 a.m. Morning Worship
Be Present
- Sunday, 25th July- 11 a.m. Morning Worship
Be Prayerful
- Sunday, 1st August - 11 a.m. Morning Worship
Be in Partnership
- Sunday, 8th August - 11 a.m. Morning Worship
Get Active
- Sunday, 15th August - 11 a.m. Morning Worship
Take Notice
- Sunday, 22nd August - 11 a.m. Morning Worship
Give
- Sunday, 29th August - 11 a.m. Morning Worship
Forging Ahead
-

MORNING WORSHIP

Due to the ongoing restrictions (which are being relaxed through time) you are still required to book for a Sunday morning at 11 a.m. The gallery is now open which has increased our capacity but with social distancing still in place. We continue to work hard to ensure that any risks are minimised and that we are as safe as we can be.

The booking system for Sundays at 11 a.m. opens on a Monday at 9 a.m. and bookings can be made between then and 5 p.m. on a Wednesday. Please

use the telephone number 07596482556 and you can either phone (and leave a message) or text, but text would be preferable. Please give your name, telephone number and how many seats you/your family/your bubble would like. You will receive a reply, by 5 p.m. on the Friday, to the phone number you have provided.

Our livestream continues each Sunday at 11 a.m. and Wednesday at 12 noon. A recording of the service is available on the phone - call 809268.

It is anticipated that in the next week or two (when we move to level 1) singing will be allowed!!!

Some points to note -

- Facemasks must be worn.
- Sanitisers at the doors (in and out) must be used.
- * Physical distancing (2 metres) MUST be observed between individuals/households/bubbles.
- You will be shown to a seat on arrival.

These safeguards are in place to keep everyone safe.

The uptake to attend worship has been slower than anticipated which is why a questionnaire has been prepared to get a feel as to where people are at regarding a return to in person worship. Please do take time to look at it and fill it out.

If there are any questions please do not hesitate to be in touch with the minister.

DELVE in at 12

Delve in at 12 will continue throughout the summer months offering a quiet time of in-person worship which will also be streamed online. The service is held at 12 noon each Wednesday. There is no need to book for this service but your details will be taken for track and trace purposes.

FUNERAL SERVICES

21st May	Ann Wallace
26th May	John Hamilton
1st June	Andy Aitchison

Christian Aid

The following letter was sent to all the people who took part in Scotland's Virtual Kiltwalk in April, fundraising for Christian Aid. Those who supported my efforts raised £975 which, with the 50% added by the Tom Hunter Foundation, amounted to £1462.50. Many thanks to everyone for their kind support.

Liz Riddell

Dear Elizabeth

On behalf of Christian Aid Scotland and the women, men, and children we work with, thank you so much for taking part in this year's **Virtual Kiltwalk Weekend**. Thanks to supporters across Scotland like you and the generous 50% top up from the Sir Tom Hunter Foundation, we raised over **£160,000** for Christian Aid. Your generous support will enable us to help more women like Florence to withstand the most unpredictable weather. The new dam built by her community provides a reliable water source whether she faces long drought or relentless rainstorms.

'I have been sustained by the earth dam. My life has changed.

I am very happy. You can see it in my face: my face is shining.

I have strength and power.'

With your help we can continue to stand together with thousands of people, ensuring that the poorest and most vulnerable communities in the world do not continue to suffer because of the climate crisis. As we give, act and pray together we can continue to support where the need is greatest and where it will have the greatest impact globally.

With grateful thanks for you all your wonderful support of Christian Aid's work.

Kind Regards

Lauren McFarland

Community and Events Fundraising Manager

Growing up in the Parish

Summer has arrived at last! Temperatures are on the up and the rain has subsided for a little while! When I think back to my boyhood days in Whinhall, I don't think it ever rained, as we carried on regardless! Although, I must admit lighting fires down the glen would have been difficult! Summer really began at the end of June with the start of the school summer holidays. Eight weeks of long lie-ins which ended when I got my first paper round! Yes, eight weeks of freedom to come and go and wander as you pleased. Down the glen, down the moss or out to Hamilton's (Hammies) Farm. Every day was a new adventure which lasted until sunset. The only time you touched base with home was when you got hungry. A piece n' jam for something sweet or a piece n' broon sauce if you fancied savoury! On a special occasion you might get a piece with some meat paste or chopped pork (spam!) At tea time, egg and chips was the order of the day, wi' mince n' tatties on a Sunday! Those were the days and we never went hungry. You would always get a piece at somebody's door or a bit of tablet fae Mrs Elliot at the bottom of Beechbank! The glen (Mavisbank Park) was our main playground. Back in the sixties it was a wild landscape and provided a space for endless fun. The overgrown vegetation was like a jungle and you could easily disappear in the undergrowth. Was brilliant for a game of hide and seek or when you were hiding fae yer mither! The trees that lined the edge of the glen were great for rope swings and many a limb was fractured (not mine) as a result of an ill judged dismount! Running through the glen you had the North Burn, which although bogging provided another form of entertainment, especially at the top end where you had the 'tunnel'. It was like a scene from 'Raiders of the Lost Ark' venturing through the tunnel. Bits of fire lighter acquired (nicked) from the back of the fire lighter factory just off North Bridge Street, stuck on the end of a stick to give a magnificent torch light! You would proceed up the tunnel treading carefully along the way avoiding the rats scampering as the flaming torch lights approached! It was more difficult to avoid the cobwebs, the spiders and the other wee beasties that fell on your head! The tunnel disappeared under North Bridge Street and opened

up again in the deep gorge between Quarry Road and the old scrap yard on Chapel Street. About half way along there was an access point up which you could climb but the manhole cover at the top was often too difficult to remove! So it was back down and retrace your steps. The big challenge was to get out before the flames in your torch did! Apart from the tunnel the burn was also great for jumping across, some sections being a bit wider and more demanding than others. Splash! Sometimes you didn't make it! Down at the bottom end of the glen was Curly Anderson's place. Curly was Whinha's own bookmaker! Shhhhh.....! Her house was on Mavisbank Street but her extensive back garden bordered the glen and it was full of rhubarb! For thruppence you could pick and fill a bag! For a tanner an even bigger bag! For a shilling you could feed the family for a week! A stick of rhubarb with a bag of sugar to dip it in was a Keyhole delicacy! Ma mither's rhubarb pies were to die for, especially after yer mince n' tatties oan a Sunday! Sometimes you would pack some rhubarb along with a pie and head out to Hammies for a wee picnic. As well as all the local adventures there were the odd day trips to the seaside namely Ayr, Girvan and Saltcoats on the Ayrshire coast or Burntisland and Leven in Fife, not forgetting my favourite, Portobello which really sounds exotic! To be honest, coming fae Whinha, all of these places were exotic. In addition to these specific destinations there were also the 'Mystery Tours'. I well remember trapesing up to the old bus station (now the court) with ma mither to go on many of these tours. Peebles, Biggar, Aberfoyle, Callander and Largs were all popular destinations. My everlasting memory will be collecting for the bus drivers using old Wullie Main's bunnet! I think Wullie and his wife Peggy had a season ticket! There were also trips doon the watter tae Rothesay, Millport and Dunoon as well as the blue train to Helensburgh and Balloch. There is nothing to beat a wee trip down memory lane and as we move through the summer months perhaps we will once again get the chance to visit some of these places we hold so dear. Happy holidays!

George Randall

Give it a Thought – Just be!

One evening, after spending several days with his new wife, a man leaned over and whispered into her ear, "I love you." She smiled – and the man smiled back – and she said, "When I'm eighty years old and I'm thinking back on my entire life, I know I will remember this moment." A few minutes later, she drifted off to sleep. The man was left with the silence of the room and the soft sound of his wife's breathing. He stayed awake, thinking about everything they had done together, from their first date to their first holiday together and ultimately to their big wedding. **These were just some of the life choices that the couple had made together that had led to this very moment of silence in the presence of each other.**

At one point, the man then realized that it didn't matter what they had done or where they had gone. Nor did it matter where they were going. **The only thing that mattered was the serenity of that very**

moment. Just being together. Breathing together. And resting together.

The Moral:

We can't let the clock, calendar, or pressure from external sources take over our lives and allow us to forget the fact that **every moment of our lives is a gift and a miracle – no matter how small or seemingly insignificant it is.** Being mindful in the special moments that you spend in the presence of the ones that you love are the moments that truly give your life meaning.

Phil Osopher

Show them your Smile!

If there is one thing I have missed the most during this last year of the Covid-19 pandemic, it has been seeing other people's smiles. When every face has a mask on it you may be safer in the health of your body but you start to feel sicker in the health of your soul. Over the months I have started to notice more the sparkle in the eyes, the lilt in the voice, and the gentle lifting of the mask when people smile at me. Still, it isn't quite the same.

I have always cherished every smile like a treasure. Growing up my Mother's smile added joy to my days. And I am so happy that it lives on today in the faces of my children. My Nana's smile always had a happy "Hello!" to go along with it. My Dad's smile was rarer but I always loved seeing it whenever he laughed.

Over the years I also learned a lot about smiles. I read once that "We don't smile because we are happy. We are happy because we smile." I also read that "I have never seen a smiling face that wasn't beautiful." And I realized that both of these things were true. I remember most, though, something I once heard from a jovial, laughing, minister whose smile was contagious. He said: "If God didn't want us to be happy then why does smiling feel so good and frowning feel so bad?"

It doesn't matter then if you are wearing a mask or not. It doesn't matter if your teeth are white or yellow, many or few, or missing altogether. Show them your smile. Smiles lift our spirits. Smiles share our love. Smiles spread our joy. Smiles shine our light. Smiles warm our hearts. Smiles calm our souls. Smiles make the world a better place. One of the greatest, kindest, most helpful, most giving, and most loving things you can do in this life is give another your smile. Keep smiling then. And know that God is smiling down on you

J Mazzella

Just for Laughs – The New Church Building!

A rich man goes to his minister and says, "I want you and your wife to take a three-month trip to the Holy Land at my expense. When you come back, I'll have a surprise for you." The minister accepts the offer, and he and his wife set off to the Middle East. Three months later they return home. They are met by the wealthy parishioner, who shows them a new church he has had built for them while they were gone. "It's the finest building money can buy, reverend," the man says. "I spared no expense." And he is right. It is a magnificent edifice, outside and in.

But there is one striking difference. There is only one pew, and it is at the very back. "A church with only one pew?" asks the minister. "You just wait until Sunday," the rich man says. When the time comes for the Sunday service, the early arrivals enter the church, file onto the one pew and sit down. When the pew is full, a switch clicks silently, a circuit closes, the gears mesh, a belt moves and, automatically, the rear pew begins to move forward. When it reaches the front of the church, it comes to a stop. At the same time, another empty pew comes up from below at the back and more people sit down. And so it continues, pews filling and moving forward until finally the church is full from front to back.

"Wonderful!" says the minister. "Marvellous!"

The service begins, and the minister starts to preach his sermon. He launches into his text and, when 12 o'clock comes, he is still going strong, with no end in sight. Suddenly a bell rings, and a trap door in the floor behind the pulpit drops open.

"Wonderful!" says the congregation. "Marvellous!"

Jo King

ECKHARDT SAYS :

I have recently started exploring the parish and doing home visits. At each visit, I was received with a warm welcome. It struck me that each family had a very unique and special story. Stories of past events, past occupations, hobbies, family and current events. Sitting and listening to such stories has given me insight into all the different facets of people. It is a very joyous activity. The only difficult part of doing these visits is finding the correct house. Finding the correct address, in Airdrie, can be a challenge. Some of the homes have been numbered clearly whereas others not. It could also be the case that the house numbers were hiding and waiting to be discovered.

In any case, I would like to share my experience of visiting house number 45. With diligence, I found myself in front of the house on time and expecting a warm welcome. I knocked and a person opens. It was clear that this person did not expect any visitors, I could tell by the suspicious frown.

"Is this the house of so-and-so"; I asked. The answer was a directly no.

I apologised as sincerely as I could and walked back to the car. I went through my notes again to double-check the address and the Google Maps application. I was amazed to discover that, for some unexplained reason, the phone application took me to the wrong address. It took me to the homes of 4 - 5! I decided then to rather phone the family. Admittedly, the directions of the family were far better than the high-tech technology. As the saying reminds us: "Technology is great until it breaks."

I think this short experience does remind us that technology is in many ways amazing. However, the effectiveness of direct human interaction should not be underestimated. It is only through direct human interaction that we truly get to know one another. It is for this reason that I am very pleased that lockdown is becoming less restrictive. This will definitely motivate the parish to be more up and

about. Although, technology is great, let us pray that the covid pandemic will become a thing of the past. Then we could do more human interaction and discover all the stories of the Airdrie community.

With warm regards,

Eckhardt

Dear Friends,

Included with your newsletter, you will have received a questionnaire / survey form to allow us to find out how you connected with the church during the lockdown periods. We are also interested in how you plan to re-connect with the congregation in the short to medium term.

Your responses will allow the Kirk Session to make the necessary plans within the guidelines as set by the Scottish Government and Church of Scotland.

Please take time to complete the questionnaire / survey and place it in the envelope provided. During the week of the 21st June 2021, your Elder will call and pick up your envelope.

Alternatively, please post to the address on the envelope.

Thank you for your help with this matter.

David Walker

Parish Development & Local Mission Group.

THANKS :

The family of John Hamilton who died recently, would like to thank the Church for the lovely flowers they received following John's death.

They would also like to thank Eckhardt for conducting the Funeral Service.

CHURCH FLOWERS :

We are pleased to be able now to put flowers in the Church for the Sunday Morning Service. There is no Flower Chart available in the church, but we are asking anyone who would like to contribute to the Flower Fund, just to make a donation. Please write on an envelope "Flower Fund". The donation can be handed in when the Church is open for worship or you can phone one of the Flower Conveners and discuss other arrangements.

The Church Flower Service is always very much appreciated by those who receive the flowers.

Thank you again for your help.

Avril Cockburn - 769134: Margaret Jack - 767898.

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.