

The New Wellwynder

March 2018

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from the Manse -

Dear Friends,

“No thank you, I won’t have a pancake.”

“That’s very kind, but I think I’ll give the biscuit a miss.”

“Capocci’s ice-cream? No thank you.”

These phrases and others like them are ones that I thought I might never utter and, reminiscent as they are of Dawn French as the Vicar of Dibley who had too much to eat on Christmas Day, now I find myself saying them! Yes, believe it or believe it or not, it is now almost a fortnight since I had a biscuit, cake or even the most modest piece of chocolate. The first day of my Lenten discipline was the Wednesday at the start of Lent when, along with my fellow chaplains at Airdrie Academy, I was served tea and coffee as well as all manner of things - from pancakes thick with butter, through to peppermint tray-bakes with hints of Aero!!!

I have never given up anything for Lent before, but this year I decided to, not because of some super spiritual exercise I am embarking upon, but because I need to cut out. Yes, it is good to make a sacrifice to help focus our prayer lives, but it is also good to be able to do something positive for my health and wellbeing as well as my figure.

When I told Carol that I was doing this, and that I have sitting in the kitchen a packet of Jaffa Cakes to be opened on Easter Sunday, she challenged me by asking, “What’s the point of giving up something only to end up back at square one when you start grazing on the goodies again?” Don’t tell her, but I think that she does have a point. I might break the feast but any weight lost and benefit gained I want to be able to maintain.

Lent for many is a time to “give up” or even “take on”: give up something that we particularly enjoy so that it becomes a sacrifice, take on something that is good for our wellbeing and, in particular, our spiritual life. It is a time to focus on the journey of Jesus to the cross and reflect on the significance of it for us, a time to draw closer and closer to God, as we make time with him a priority in the midst of the busy-ness of life. We might manage this in a focused way during this period of preparation, but how hard it is beyond to keep up good habits and keep at bay ones that are not so good.

The discipline of daily devotion (prayer and Bible study) is a key part to our growth in faith. It helps us to grow in our knowledge of God and what he has done and is doing in Christ Jesus our Lord. It helps us to grow in our love for God as we learn more and more of his love for us. It helps us to grow in love for

each other as we look at the world and its people through the eyes of God. I hope to keep to good habits beyond Easter, and I invite all of you to join with me in feeding on the bread of life, on Jesus, each and every day.

Let us walk with him, talk to him and learn from him towards Easter and beyond.

Your friend and minister.



SERVICES

March

- 11 11:00 a.m. - Fourth Sunday in Lent.
*Welcoming the Way of the Cross :
Hidden in the Shadow.*
6:30 p.m. - Lenten Forty Minutes :
*Welcoming the Way of the Cross :
Questions Shared.*
- 18 11:00 a.m. - Fifth Sunday in Lent.
*Welcoming the Way of the Cross :
Beyond our Ken.*
6:30 p.m. - Lenten Forty Minutes :
*Welcoming the Way of the Cross :
Questions Shared.*
- 25 11:00 a.m. - Palm Sunday in Lent.
*Welcoming the Way of the Cross :
Praise and Worship.*
Hymns, Readings, Reflections,
Music for Palm Sunday.
3:00 p.m. Messy Church.
6:30 p.m. - Lenten Forty Minutes :
*Welcoming the Way of the Cross :
Questions Shared.*

April

- 1 10:00 a.m. Outdoor Service
with Easter Egg Roll.
11:00 a.m. - Easter Sunday.
*Beyond the Cross :
with fear and Joy.*
Followed by an Informal
Celebration of Communion.

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

New Members : Mr. David Creswell (D.54).

Funerals : Elizabeth (Betty) Bain (D.9);
Tommy Davidson (D.46); Minnie Wales; Meg Greer;
Janet Bateman; John McCully; Eleanor Fagan.

Change of Address / District :

Aileen Allsop from D.33 to D.51.
Ross Miller from D.32 to D.10.

FLOWER CALENDAR

March

- 11 Margaret Reid; Shona McDonald.
18 Agnes Russell; Liz Riddell.
25 Bobby Forrest; Magda Stark.

April

- 1 Irene Docherty; Lynne Thomson.

DRIVERS / FLOWER DELIVERY.

March

11 Jim Neilson.
18 Alan Cox.
25 Jim and Lynn Dobbie

April

1 Belle Clark

BIBLE READINGS

February 2018

4 John 4 : 1 - 42.
11 John 9 : 1 - 12; Matthew 17 : 1 - 13.
18 Matthew 4 : 1 - 11.
25 Psalm 139 : 7 - 12; Matthew 6 : 9 - 13.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Once again we are holding our joint Holy Week Services with Airdrie: St Columba's, alternating the venue each night between the two buildings. There is the addition of a Service on Easter Saturday. Details are as follows:

Monday, 26th March at 7.30 p.m.

Venue – The New Wellwynd

Tuesday, 27th March at 7.30 p.m.

Venue – St Columba's

Wednesday, 28th March at 7.30 p.m.

Venue – The New Wellwynd

Thursday, 29th March at 7.30 p.m.

Maundy Thursday Communion Service

Venue – St Columba's

Friday, 30th March at 7.30 p.m.

Good Friday Service

Venue – The New Wellwynd

Saturday, 31st March at 7.30 p.m.

Easter Saturday Service

Venue - St Columba's

N.B. Details of the theme will be included in the Intimation Sheet on a Sunday nearer the time.

GOOD FRIDAY VIGIL SERVICE (30th March)

The doors of the church will be open from 12 noon until just after 3 p.m. on Good Friday for a Good Friday Service. There will be short readings, reflections and prayers on the hour and the half hour focusing on the last words of Jesus from the cross. Again, this time of reflection is being led by the minister and other members of the clergy from the town.

THANKS

Pat Blacklaws offers her sincere thanks to Robbie and Laura for their visits and prayers during this difficult time. Also to the Congregation for the beautiful flowers received. They were very much appreciated. A special 'thank you' to **Moirra Gartshore** for being there to help Pat take a very difficult decision.

May Young and Family would like to thank all their friends at New Wellwynd for the flowers and cards received on Ronnie's passing. Special thanks to Robbie and Maxine for their many visits and loving spiritual support.

Ann Gilmour extends her thanks to the congregation for the lovely flowers received recently. They were very much appreciated.

Stuart Greer wishes to extend heartfelt thanks to all within New Wellwynd who sent messages of support,

cards, flowers, visits and sympathy on the passing of his mother, Margaret Greer.

Special thanks must go to Robbie for his immediate response at a time of great need and in such tragic circumstances.

Robbie conducted a very moving, personal and fitting service for my mother in Cairnlea. He has been of immense support to me and my household during and since the events of the past 4 weeks. Although I haven't attended for some time, he may even have paved the way back to New Wellwynd for me.

I think we should stop and take a moment to reflect on the work of elders and ministers within the church. We take them for granted and in our time of need, it is only us who matter. They try to support, comfort and minister to those in need, spreading themselves thinly over a large congregation where there must be many issues and troubles. We bring these issues to them with little or no thought as to who might support them. I've certainly been brought to this conclusion in recent times. Lesson over.

Thank you all so much for your kindness and support.

George Thomson and the McKane family would like to thank Robbie for the lovely service he conducted on the passing of Betty and also for his support and visits during this sad time. Many thanks.

WELCOME TEAMS

March

11 Team Leader: Jack Milne
William Dalling, Matt Fleming,
Moirra Gartshore, Margaret Jarvie,
George Randall, Ronnie Wright.
18 Team Leader: David Watt
Morag Donald, Linda Francis, Margaret Jack,
Allister Jack, Alison Sefton, David Walker.
25 Team Leader: Drew Glen
Billy Brooks, Jean Kinniburgh, Janet Nimmo,
Tom Sorbie, Isabel Sorbie, Karen Taylor.

April

1 Team Leader: Alistair Murray
Lesley Aitken, Irene Bremner, Carol Hamilton,
Gordon Lind, Liz Riddell, Alister Weighton.

WINTER COATS, etc.

A big thank you to everyone who donated warm items of clothing for the local and Glasgow homeless people.

I gave 10 coats to the Airdrie block, and 14 full black bags to Destiny Angels in Glasgow.

All were delighted with the items. Thank you.

MAGGIE WEIR

St. Andrew's Hospice Capital Appeal

A Home-Coming Afternoon Tea with Fizz will be held in our Church Hall on Saturday, 31st March from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.. Tickets cost £10 and can be purchased from Jean Kinniburgh. Please note, that entry to the event is by ticket only.

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 on 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.

----- **EASTER FLOWERS**

Once again, we would like to deliver flowers on Easter Sunday to those in our congregation and parish who have been bereaved during the past year. The Flower Team will be in the church hall on Saturday, 31st March, from 10:00 a.m. till 12 noon to receive any donations of flowers. These flowers will decorate the church for our Easter Sunday Service and then be delivered with our Easter greetings in the afternoon. We hope to have the services of our volunteer drivers to assist with the distribution. Thank you in advance for your continued support .

FLOWER CONVENERS -----

The **Congregational Board** has approved a budget for the Congregation's ordinary activities in 2018 which anticipates a total spend of £173,400.

The largest element of this is just over £95,000 covering our allocation of £92,900 towards the ministries and mission of the Church of Scotland, with the balance being Presbytery dues. Around 84% of the ministries and mission contribution goes towards the national stipend fund, meeting the cost of our local ministry and supporting ministries elsewhere. The balance supports the wider work of the Church.

The second element of the budget is £25,700 for the employment of our ministerial assistant, organist, church officer and cleaner.

The third element is £32,300 for fabric maintenance in our buildings, as well as the regular running costs such as insurances and utilities and Council Tax for the manse.

£12,000 has been planned for outreach and communication. This includes a number of our initiatives such as contact with the parish, Messy Church and the summer programme.

Finally, there is £8,000 for other local costs.

How will this be met? We are wholly dependent on the giving of members and others through weekly or monthly offerings, donations and tax recoveries where offerings are through Gift Aid. Therefore, when making your offering please continue to consider prayerfully the level of activities ongoing at New Wellwynd and what our witness in Airdrie and beyond needs from you in financial terms.

----- **HELLO FROM IRAQ – February 2018**

Hi everyone!

It's been a while since I sent an update - there's been a ton of stuff going on for Tearfund in the Middle East, so it's been all hands on deck! I spent December out of Iraq working in our Amman office, covering security for Syria and Yemen. It was good to get a change of context and really start to understand some of the dynamics in these countries. Tearfund is working in Syria and Yemen through local partners, but operations are currently small. In the next year we're looking to scale up these responses and so organising security was the first step. It's been really cool for me to build that up from the ground and learn from NGOs that are already there. Operating in both countries is extremely challenging. We're planning our first

scoping visit to Damascus in March, but with things deteriorating in Yemen that visit will have to wait for now. Back in Iraq, things are moving on at break neck speed. We've begun operations in Hawija but the context remains challenging. With ISIS remnants still causing problems NGO access is difficult. However, we're going in whenever we can, and have started repairing water supplies in several villages. Like so many of our locations, land mining is a big issue, so there's some locations we can't touch until the de-miners have cleared the ground. I'd love if you could be praying for Hawija, that security there improves and that aid can gain better access. With anti-western militias in control we can't send international staff and so our national staff are running everything. They are so incredible and have such big hearts for serving their community – please pray for protection over them.

With Hawija response up and running my focus now turns to our next new area – heading west of Mosul, first to Tal Afar and then eventually Sinjar. I went to do the on-ground security assessment of Tal Afar today and all went well. The situation is stable, people are returning to their homes and old Sunni-Shia conflicts seem to have been set aside for now. During these assessments, I always try to have a good chat with locals, take a walk down the Main street and talk to shop keepers; mum's out buying groceries and men out having a cigarette. These conversations always give me such a good insight into how they see their situation, what they worry about, and how we might be able to help. I also so admire their sense of humour, they can be talking about how they don't have food to feed their family one minute, then laughing at their friend for their odd choice of headwear the next. It's the result of a constant cycle of conflict, but Iraqis are the most astoundingly resilient people I've ever met. Talking to the owner of a small shoe shop he explained that they hadn't had any government food rations for three months, but he brought us out juice; so kind, so generous and welcoming. Our programme teams will begin need's assessments in the coming month but we'll likely do WASH, protection and livelihoods projects in the area. We're thanking God for the situation in Tal Afar and that people are being able to return to their homes.

Things are also moving really quickly because the situation is improving in our original locations. One of the first camps I visited in Iraq, Laylan 3, has now closed. The 7000 people in the camp have almost all returned to their home towns. It's so incredible to see a situation that looked so bleak begin to resolve and for people to move on with their lives. I'm sure I've asked you to pray for the people in Laylan 3 before, so I just wanted to share that pretty cool result! With the improving situation we're starting to move from emergency humanitarian response to recovery programming. This means focusing on projects such as livelihoods and community peace building to help people rebuild and get back on their feet.

I'm writing this having just returned from a weekend in Dohuk, our northernmost city base that sits among the mountains. With everything that's been going on a few of us decided to take a break and have a weekend hiking in the hills. I only fell once which I didn't think is too bad, right? We got a great view over Dohuk Dam from the top, it was a perfect day!

I know I always say this, but thank you so much for your prayers, they're so appreciated. We prayed that Iraq would be liberated from ISIS – it's happened. We prayed that aid would reach new areas – it is happening. We prayed people would be able to return to their homes – it is happening. Keep praying – they're working!

Lots of love,

FIONA

BOYS' BRIGADE

On Saturday, 24th March 2018, The King George VI Graduation Ceremony is taking place in the New Wellwynd. There will be a lunch provided before the ceremony for the cadets, their families and friends. We are looking for donations of home baking for this event. If you are willing to donate can you please speak to me any Sunday after Church or contact me on 01236 754784. Thank you.

JEAN KINNIBURGH

CRAFT GROUP

A new craft group (still to be named) now meets on the first Tuesday of the month from 10 a.m. until 12 noon in the upstairs hall. Any lady already a crafter, or wanting to learn a new skill, will be made very welcome. On Tuesday 6 March we are going to go pompom crazy – explore what can be made with the humble pompom. On Tuesday 3 April and Monday 1 May those of us who can crochet are going to teach those who want to learn this very relaxing craft. If anyone has crochet hooks they no longer use, we would love it if you could donate them to the group. If you want any more information about the group or have crochet hooks to pass to us please see **Anne Learmonth**.

LIVE STREAMING OF SERVICES

With the new technology now installed in the sanctuary and, hopefully, the website up and running, we are turning our thoughts to “going live” on a Sunday morning. This new facility will allow people at home or anywhere in the world to catchup with morning worship on a computer, a tablet or even a phone. There is still some work to be done in relation to training of those who will film the service and make it available for viewing via the website. Protocols will have to be put in place, as well looking at how this technology is used sensitively, e.g. an area set aside for those who don’t wish to be on ‘cam’. It is an exciting time for us as well look forward to. More information will be available soon, but if you are interested in tuning in, please do let us know. Whether you have missed the service because of work or holidays, or because of illness and frailty, we do hope that this might interest you. There are many “silver surfers” out there who shop online, but if you don’t and your family has access to the net, you can encourage them to download the service and show it to you on their device at a later stage.

This is an important step forward in the mission of this congregation, as we reach out to those unable to be with us, those who haven’t been in a long time, and others who have heard of us but don’t feel ready to make that first step of coming along.

ROBBIE HAMILTON

CAMEO

On 13th March we are delighted to welcome “The Inbetweeners”. This is a concert party who come very highly recommended and, for this evening, we are meeting in the Large Hall. We would be delighted to welcome anyone, who would like to be entertained by a fabulous group, to our meeting on this particular evening, which commences at 7:30 p.m.. Then on 20th March we will have someone from The Hospice giving us an update on how things are progressing within The Hospice. Looking forward to a great turn out at both events.

WILMA DAVIDSON

TRAIDCRAFT

When reading this we’ll be in the middle of Fairtrade fortnight. Please remember, when you’re out doing the shopping – please look out for the Fairtrade mark and where possible buy fairly traded goods – and encourage your friends and family as well. The support by the congregation as well as some organisations given to our own Traidcraft stall is greatly appreciated, but if you’ve not already browsed or bought anything from our own stall – give it a try.

The new Spring/Summer 2018 catalogue will arrive shortly for the new season and there a lots of different items for sale. The catalogue also gives information about the producers in the various countries where goods are purchased.

DAVID WALKER

MESSY CHURCH

Messy Church continues in March and will take place on 25th March (not on 4th March as originally advertised). Doors opening at 3 p.m. 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

PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for all involved in the work of NWPC that we might continue to share in a partnership bringing others to a knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Pray for the time of reflection in the Season of Lent that it might enrich faith, strengthen fellowship and inspire outreach.
- Pray for the services in Holy Week that they might help to encourage greater fellowship and focus on Christ and his great sacrifice.
- Pray for all who are enquiring about service in the Church and for those who are in training at the moment, remembering especially our student Laura.
- Pray for the united witness of all churches in the town and surrounding areas.
- 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.

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.