

THE NEW WELLWYNDER

May 2019

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from the Manse -

Dear Friends,

At the Stated Annual Meeting recently I spoke about my mum visiting my school to express concern that I wasn't working hard enough. As I said then, the end result was more homework. Those of you who saw the Order of Service either on a Sunday morning or online will have seen the homework that I set for all of us. The intention was not for it to be handed in to be marked, but to remind all of us that declaring ourselves as a Christian doesn't begin with "LET US WORSHIP GOD" at the beginning of a Sunday morning service and end with the Recessional at the end. The service itself might have ended but the worship (that is the worship of our whole lives) continues into the daily routine of our lives and the life of the world.

Our time together on a Sunday, Friday, or whenever we gather as God's people, is important but can never be seen as an end in itself, but an experience of gathering around God's Word and acknowledging his Living Word 'Jesus' that we might grow in our knowledge of him, our love for him, our love for each other and a love and respect for the whole of humanity as well as the whole of creation. We do not worship in a bubble which means that we do not worship without an awareness of the baggage we bring with us and what we will be returning, without concerns for the people and the world around us.

Homework is a reminder of two important things. The first is on the importance of what the Psalmist encouraged in the very first Psalm, and that is to meditate on God's law day and night, which means taking the word we hear from the Kirk into our lives and the life of the world. The second is on the importance of living that word; i.e. responding to it in how we share it and how we put it into practice in our lives and respect for God and his people, our neighbours. Robert carrying the Bible out at the end, as I reminded the congregation recently, is a reminder of us carrying the Word of God in our hearts and minds into the life of a needy and weary world.

It is in that very practical book of James, at the first chapter, that we are encouraged to be "doers of the word, not hearers only . . ." The writer goes on to say that "the one who looks at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, they will be blessed in their doing."

Our faith is a living faith as we serve a living God who, through the dying and undying love of his son, our Saviour, walks with us and talks with us, not just for an hour on a Sunday, but each and every moment of each and every day until that day when he calls us home to glory.

May God continue to bless us in our walk together, in our listening and our doing.

Your friend and minister.



SERVICES

May

- 12 11 a.m. **Morning Worship.**
Living the Risen Life:
A Community of Faith.
- 19 11 a.m. **All Age Morning Worship for
Christian Aid Week.**

Living the Risen Life:
A Community of Care
Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

N.B. Christian Aid's Big Breakfast will take place before church, so, look out for more details!

- 26 11 a.m. **Morning Worship.**
Living the Risen Life:
A Community who Share.

June

- 2 11 a.m. **Morning Worship.**
Living the Risen Life:
A Community for All.

DRIVERS / FLOWER DELIVERY.

May

- 12 Maggie Weir.
19 William Stephen.
26 George and Una Lawson.

June

- 2 Colin McPherson and Lesley Adamson.

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Baptisms : Poppy Mia Shanks, Joseph Spiers.
Callum Joseph Easton,
Ross Richard Easton.

Admissions : Eleanor Black, Cathy Harkins,
Jacqueline Spiers, Joe Spiers.

Funerals : Jim Gilmour, Nancy Nelson,
Daniel King.

Change of Address/District :

Miss Lynda Hamilton from D.10 to D.64.

BIBLE READINGS

April

- 7 Nehemiah 8 : 1 - 12; Acts 8 : 27 - 35.
14 Matthew 21 : 1 - 11, 14 - 16.
21 John 20 : 1 - 10, 24 - 29.
28 Jonah 1 : 1 - 10; John 21 : 1 - 17.
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WELCOME TEAMS

May

12 Team Leader : David Watt
Morag Donald, Linda Francis, Margaret Jack,
Allister Jack, Alison Sefton, David

Walker.

19 Team Leader : Drew Glen
Lesley Aitken, Billy Brooks, Avril Cockburn,
George Grant, Alison Gray, Karen

Taylor.

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

June

02 Team Leader : Barbara Watt
George Murchison, Elaine Myers,
Janette McGuigan, David Patterson,
Andrew Paul, William Watson (Sen.).

ROBBIE'S DAY OFF

Members are asked to note that Robbie's Official Day Off will now be **MONDAY** of each week.

THANKS

The family of **Nancy Nelson** would like to thank everyone for the love and support shown during Nancy's illness and following her death. Thanks especially to Maxine and Robbie for their visits and to Robbie for the memorable Thanksgiving Service.

George and Una Lawson wish to say a sincere thank-you for the Church flowers and for all the support they continue to receive from the Church Family. All the care and prayers mean so much.

Christine and Hugh Gibb would like to thank Robbie and all at New Wellwynd Church for the beautiful flowers and good wishes received on the occasion of their recent Ruby Wedding Anniversary. They were very much appreciated.

Grace Frame would like to thank the congregation for the lovely flowers she received on Easter Sunday. They were very much appreciated.

Betty Barton wishes to thank the congregation for the lovely flowers received on Easter Sunday. She was widowed just over a year ago and was delighted to know that we are still thinking of her.

Helen Hutcheson extends her thanks to everyone in The New Wellwynd for the prayers offered, cards received and lovely flowers following her recent illness.

TRADCRAFT

Our Traidcraft stall is available each Sunday after the morning service. Please take some time to come round and have a look.

We have a selection of biscuits, tea, coffee, small Divine chocolate bars and sweets. The Spring brochure is also available.

Remember that, when you purchase items from the stall or brochure, you are giving the producers a fair wage and helping their local communities into the bargain.

DAVID WALKER

HOLIDAY CLUB LEADERS AND HELPERS MEETING

There will be a meeting of all involved in the **Holiday Club** in the Session Room on Tuesday, 21st May at 7:30 p.m..

BIG BREKKIE

You are invited to come along to the **BIG BREKKIE** at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, 19th. May, before the church service and support Christian Aid by doing so. The menu will have a selection of fruit juices and cereals, rolls with sausage or bacon, toast, tea, coffee, orange or red squash. This is an alternative to our usual Bread and Cheese Lunch, so we hope as many as possible will come along.

Our donations will help Christian Aid support their partners in Sierra Leone to train midwives, buy essential equipment, improve medical facilities and remove the fear from women who should be able to find joy in their pregnancy.

Please consult the Church Notice Board for further details of this event or speak to Liz Riddell.

Celebrate the power of mums - Tenneh's story

Tenneh plays with her precious baby Ansumana. She blows raspberries on his belly. Lifting her baby up high she beams with joy. Tenneh gave birth to Ansumana three months ago. Thankfully, he's a happy, bouncy baby. But Tenneh has lost and loved another baby before. When Tenneh's labour started during her first pregnancy, there was no health centre in the village. Her mum took her to a traditional birth attendant. For the two days of her labour, Tenneh was in agony. She fell unconscious and was bleeding heavily. With very little medical training, the birth attendant was way out of her depth. In the days and months after her labour, Tenneh felt very weak and her baby wouldn't breastfeed. Tragically, her baby died when he was three months old. 'That day I will never forget,' she recalls. 'I felt sick like I've never been sick before. If God would not have saved me, I would not be alive today.'

New hope - Through our partner RADA (Rehabilitation and Development Agency), Christian Aid saw how difficult the situation in Sawula village was and began working to ensure that mums and babies have fullness of life. RADA has been working locally to help vulnerable women access healthcare, improve hygiene with simple interventions like hand washing and, with your support, build a bigger, better health care centre. Thankfully, when Tenneh was pregnant a second time, things had changed for good. This time, she had Nurse Judith by her side. With her expert love and care, Judith helped Tenneh deliver her baby safely. Tenneh said: 'During my second labour, I was scared. But Judith was with me, assuring me of everything. When I delivered, I felt so good.' 'With the coming of Judith, so many lives have changed,' Tenneh continued. 'We know that with Judith, as long as we see the light at the end of the tunnel, we'll be OK.' Thanks to Nurse Judith and the

medical training you helped provide, Tenneh could hold her beautiful baby boy in her arms.

The community in Sawula dream of having a health centre that can meet their needs. The current health centre is the size of a small bedroom. Operations, deliveries and baby checkups all happen in one single room with only two delivery beds. Nurse Judith works around the clock to meet the needs of mums and young children who come to the clinic. But the need is great, and sometimes she's forced to send people away. When women come to the clinic at night, there's no light for Judith to use. So she has to ask her patients to bring a torch to see by. In addition to this, there are often not enough drugs at the clinic. Judith sees diseases like malaria and typhoid, especially in children. She has to go on a motorbike or sometimes walk for three hours to collect drugs.

'I need help,' Judith says. 'Women are dying from childbirth, children under five are dying, because of poverty. Please help us.' For Tenneh, and many mums like her, a new health centre would be like a dream come true: 'We'll dance for three days when we have the new health centre,' she says.

With your support today, we could work alongside Judith's community to build a bigger, better health centre to help more mums like Tenneh give birth safely.

This Christian Aid Week (12-18 May), you could help build bigger, better health clinics. More mums like Tenneh can see their babies grow and enjoy fullness of life. Nurse Judith says: 'I know that for women here, thanks to Christian Aid, our situation is going to change.'

Will you stand with mums like Tenneh in Sierra Leone this Christian Aid Week?

THE EDITOR

Tell me the story of Jesus

After our Palm Sunday Service a few weeks ago I sat and watched Songs of Praise while having lunch. The programme had been filmed in Jerusalem, following a choir who were visiting in preparation for Holy Week. Their music and song coupled with visits to many of the key sites relating to the Easter Story certainly focused my mind on Easter. However, there was one song in particular which I had never heard before which really touched my heart. It was a song written by Frances J Crosby - 'Tell me the story of Jesus'.

Tell me the story of Jesus,
Write on my heart every word;
Tell me the story most precious,
Sweetest that ever was heard.
Tell how the angels in chorus,
Sang as they welcomed His birth,
"Glory to God in the highest!
Peace and good tidings to earth."

Fasting alone in the desert,
Tell of the days that are past,
How for our sins He was tempted,

Yet was triumphant at last.
Tell of the years of His labour,
Tell of the sorrow He bore;
He was despised and afflicted,
Homeless, rejected and poor.

Tell of the cross where they nailed Him,
Writhing in anguish and pain;
Tell of the grave where they laid Him,
Tell how He liveth again.
Love in that story so tender,
Clearer than ever I see;
Stay, let me weep while you whisper,
"Love paid the ransom for me."

Tell how He's gone back to heaven,
Up to the right hand of God:
How He is there interceding
While on this earth we must trod.
Tell of the sweet Holy Spirit
He has poured out from above;
Tell how He's coming in glory
For all the saints of His love.

Tell me the story of Jesus,
Write on my heart every word;
Tell me the story most precious,
Sweetest that ever was heard.

If you would like to listen to the song look it up on YouTube. The version by Charlotte Ritchie and Ivan Parker of the Gaither Gospel Music Group is really touching.
THE EDITOR

How cash is changing lives in Iraq!

As Fiona will soon be finishing her placement with Tearfund in Iraq she asked if I could share this recent report.

'Before ISIS came to our village, life was good. I had two houses and I lived the life of a king. But then suddenly everything changed.'

This is what 52-year-old father Ameer and his family faced when ISIS took over parts of Iraq in 2014. Today around 1.8 million people are displaced within Iraq, while around 250,000 have left and are now refugees in other countries. Many have been through unimaginable trauma. 'We were forced to leave and set up home in another part of Mosul,' says Ameer. 'For three difficult years, we faced many challenges. They used to torture me terribly. I am now disabled because of the beatings.' After the liberation of Mosul in July 2017, Ameer was able to return home with his family. But his house had been destroyed. 'The village was empty. There was a smell of ammunition, a smell of war,' he recalls. Ameer's and other families no longer had any basic services, such as electricity, water and shelter. 'Tearfund visited us and helped us. I am so thankful to them because they helped the neediest people in the area and I am one of them. I received cash and decided to buy cement and sand. This

means I can build two rooms, one for my daughter with her children and one for the rest of my family.’ Cash programming has been one of the most successful developments in humanitarian aid in recent years. It’s proven to be one of the most effective and dignifying ways of supporting those in need.

By giving cash, Tearfund and our partners are putting the decision-making into the hands of the beneficiaries themselves. Cash is given based on a person’s vulnerability. Charities such as Tearfund work closely together to ensure as many people are helped as possible, but also to ensure that there is no duplication.

Stories, such as Ameer’s, are an example of the positive impact cash programming can have. ‘Thank you for your humanitarian efforts and thanks everyone who donated for us,’ says Ameer. ‘I really benefitted and my family is very happy with the assistance that we received from Tearfund.

‘Even though my house was destroyed, I always thank God for everything. My family was with me and we were okay – even though we faced many difficulties.’
Love *Fiona*

THE STORY OF LIFE

Sometimes people come into your life and you know right away that they were meant to be there, to serve some sort of purpose, teach you a lesson, or to help you figure out who you are or who you want to become. You never know who these people may be (possibly your roommate, neighbour, co-worker, long lost friend or even a complete stranger) but when you lock eyes with them, you know at that very moment that they will affect your life in some profound way. And sometimes things happen to you that may seem horrible, painful, and unfair at first, but in reflection you find that without overcoming those obstacles you would have never realised your potential, strength, willpower, or heart.

Everything happens for a reason. Nothing happens by chance or by means of luck. Illness, injury, love, lost moments of true greatness, and sheer stupidity all occur to test the limits of your soul. Without these small tests, whatever they may be, life would be like a smoothly paved, straight, flat road to nowhere. It would be safe and comfortable, but dull and utterly pointless. The people you meet who affect your life and the success and downfalls you experience help to create who you become. Even the bad experiences can be learned from. In fact, they are probably the most poignant and important ones. If someone hurts you, betrays you, or breaks your heart, forgive them, for they have helped you learn about trust and the importance of being cautious when you open your heart. If someone loves you, love them back unconditionally, not only because they love you, but because in a way, they are teaching you to love and how to open your heart and eyes to things.

Make every day count! Appreciate every moment and take from those moments everything that you possibly can for you may never be able to experience

it again. Talk to people that you have never talked to before, and actually listen. Let yourself fall in love, break free, and set your sights high. Hold your head up because you have every right to. Tell yourself you are a great individual and believe in yourself, for if you don’t believe in yourself, it will be hard for others to believe in you. You can make of your life anything you wish. Create your own life then go out and live it with absolutely no regrets no matter what age you are!

Phil Osopher

PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for *KIDZONE*, the After School Club being held again in Victoria Primary School.
- Pray for the Church of Scotland soon to be meeting in General Assembly that the Kirk might find new and exciting ways to shine as a light in this land and beyond.
- Pray for the work of Hamilton Presbytery, the Moderator, the Clerk, Conveners and all members that the work of the kingdom might be encouraged in this area.
- Pray for all young people in the midst of exams that they might feel encouraged and supported and be focused on the day.
- Pray for Robbie in his chaplaincies at Rochsolloch Primary and Airdrie Academy
- Pray for the work of the Summer Holiday Club and for the preparation well underway that we might continue to reach out and make an impact in the community around us.
- Pray for all congregations in the town that in their parishes and together might bear witness to the love of God in Jesus.

Church Chuckles

A young couple invited their elderly pastor for Sunday dinner. While they were in the kitchen preparing the meal, the minister asked their son what they were having.

“Goat,” the little boy replied.

“Goat?” replied the startled man of the cloth, “Are you sure about that?”

“Yep,” said the youngster. “I heard Dad say to Mum, ‘Today is just as good as any to have the old goat for dinner.’”

The **Scouts** are saving aluminium cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

Useful Contacts

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.