

THE NEW WELLWYNDER

May 2020

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from the Manse -

Dear Friends,

At the beginning of the period of lockdown I spoke to you about the worship, work and witness of the church continuing. The buildings may be closed but the church never ceases for we are the church and part of a universal church witnessing to the love of God made known in the risen Christ.

I am blessed here in what often I speak of as our “partnership” in the Gospel, a partnership which has continued throughout these difficult times in online worship (**on a Sunday and Friday through the website as well as other days on Facebook**), the personal support given to me in my ministry and in the ongoing ministry of the congregation in a generosity towards those who are struggling at this time. The response to appeals for donations to support both the hospital and food bank has been overwhelming. The response to a time of silence on a Sunday in memory of those who have died these past few weeks has been encouraging as well.

Since the lockdown as many of you will know, I have conducted ten funerals which has been challenging given the restrictions in place but we have found a way through to support families via telephone and in other ways.

The work of the church has not stopped but been seen in other ways. I have tried hard to bring people together in this work but also in worship which is streamed. The worship seen in work and witness needs the continued support, not just of people's time and talents, but also in the freewill offering of God's people which I would invite you to consider and draw your attention to the article which appeared in last month's magazine and reappears in revised form this month.

This is indeed a difficult time for individuals, families, communities and nations and what I am discovering is that people are looking for the support that the church can give as well as the hope which faith offers. There are many people watching the devotions and services being shown online, those who regularly come to church and others who don't, but all looking for some meaning in the madness, something tangible to hold onto in all of the changes and something to hold onto for the future.

I spoke the other day online about Bonhoeffer who was imprisoned by the Nazis during the Second World War and as we are getting close to the anniversary of VE Day it is apt that I should mention him. His powerful Hymn encourages us to turn to God and I encourage you with these words -

*We turn to God when we are sorely pressed;
we pray for help, and ask for peace and bread;
we seek release from illness, guilt, and death:
all people do, in faith or unbelief.*

*God turns to us when we are sorely pressed,
and feeds our souls and bodies with his bread;
for one and all Christ gives himself in death:
through his forgiveness sin will find relief.*

Many thanks for your support and I look forward to the time when we are together again.

Your friend and minister.



Supporting the Church – locally and nationally

Thanks go to those members who responded positively to the article in last month's issue, joining the many members who already support the Church locally and nationally by regular giving by bank standing order. This means some offerings continue during this lockdown period when we are unable to gather for worship or our usual fellowship. However, at a time when the presence and message of the Church was more needed than ever, the resources needed remain under strain. While the financial impact of the virus is affecting our members, this is also a time when we are asked to do our utmost to maintain the income which allow us to sustain ministry and other activities of the Church, both locally and nationally.

If you have access to on-line banking, then it is easy to arrange a one-off or preferably regular donation. Please contact either David Watt or David Walker to obtain the necessary bank details. Alternatively, if you get in touch, David, David or the Minister can post out a form with those details which you can complete and send on to your bank.

It is hoped that shortly after this article appears, there will be a button on our website which will allow members and supporters to make either a one-off or regular donation directly to us. This will be accessible from any computer, tablet or smart phone. The national Church is also working on a similar facility for its website.

As we journey through these extraordinary times, thank you for your financial support which makes it possible for the Church to speak a word of comfort and word of faith into the anxiety and uncertainties around us.

David Watt, Treasurer

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Funerals : Nancy Russell; Grace Mitchell;
Helen Deas; Mary Spiers; Millie Coubrough;
Margaret Lang; Archie Fallow; May Paterson;
Sadie Logan; George Cowie.

THANKS

To The New Wellwynd Church :

Words cannot express how deeply we appreciate all the love, kindness, flowers and support shown to us during this difficult time.

We are so thankful and it will always be remembered by the family of **HELEN DEAS**.

Karen Bell would like to thank Robbie for his hospital visit and the beautiful flowers received from the congregation. It was a lovely surprise and very much appreciated. (Karen was in hospital prior to the current lockdown)

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2020 STYLE

So, no Christian Aid Week fundraisers between 10th and 16th May this year! However, as with so many charities, the work still goes on. If you look online at christianaid.org.uk you will see that a Coronavirus Emergency Appeal has been set up.

Cases of Coronavirus have been reported in all the countries that Christian Aid works in. Thanks to donations, they're already responding in ten countries, delivering life-saving soap and water, helping to inform communities about social distancing, building isolation spaces for people who have contracted the virus and providing urgent training to medical staff on the ground.

You may have seen news pictures on television of the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, holding up notices pleading for help. 850,000 live in cramped camps in Cox's Bazar district, making them very vulnerable to coronavirus. This is one of the places Christian Aid, along with partners are already taking action.

There are many more details online of the response to the pandemic. It would be great, in this month when Christian Aid week would normally happen, if you could feel able to support this Appeal. If you can't contribute online, maybe during that week you could put something aside in an envelope until things are back to normal and donations can be sent to Christian Aid.

By the time this item appears in the May newsletter, I pray that the news at home and globally will be more hopeful and we can all begin to gradually plan for the future.

LIZ RIDDELL

Whinha' Bible -

"Whit happened oan the road tae Emmaus?"

Did ye know that in the last chapter o' Luke's Gospel we hear aboot twa guys who wir disciples o' Jesus walkin fae Jerusalem tae a place ca'd Emmaus. As they wir daundering along the road a stranger joined them. Ye'll never guess who it wiz? Yip - it wiz Jesus! But they didnae recognise him. The stranger asked, "Whit is it yer talkin aboot?" The twa guys wir surprised that the stranger hidnae heard aboot aw the things that hid Jerusalem in turmoil.

They telt the stranger o' Jesus' crucifixion an the report o' His empty tomb. As they walked along the road the gither Jesus gave them a lesson oan the prophecies o' the Old Testament which wir fulfilled in His death an resurrection. Whit a lesson that must hiv been! The Author o' the Book explains His work, makin connections fae Scripture tae the events they hid recently experienced, noo that's something else! Eventually, Jesus said tae them, "Dae ye fun it sae difficult tae believe whit wis written by the prophets in the Scripture? It wis predicted by the prophets that the Messiah wid hiv tae suffer aw these things before enterin His time o' glory." When they eventually goat tae Emmaus it wis early evening and the twa guys stoaped fur somethin tae eat an asked the stranger tae join them. Efter they aw sat doon the gither the stranger broke the bread and blessed the meal. In a flash, "their eyes wir opened" they recognised Him an then he vanished, just like somebody switching aff a light! They baith goat up an returned straight away back tae Jerusalem where they fun the Eleven Apostles an telt them, "It is true! The Lord has risen!"

Did ye know that this story is often seen as a model o' the journey that Jesus makes with many o' us today, as He opens oor eyes, points us tae the Word, an reveals Himself along life's walk as the resurrected Saviour an Lord. **George Randall**

Just the Tonic!

Last month as a way to help brighten up our days and do a wee bit of exercise, I suggested some daily repetitions with actions to the children's song 'Head Shoulders, Knees and Toes!' This month as we are still in lockdown, I am suggesting another children's favourite (with actions) – 'Running Over!'

Running over, running over

My cup's full and running over,

Since the Lord saved me

I am as happy as can be,

My cup's full and running over.

Telling others, telling others

My life's work is telling others,

Since the Lord lives in me

I am as happy as can be,

My life's work is telling others.

Repeat five times at least three times a day! Remember it is just what the doctor ordered! If you cannot remember the actions just make them up and invent new ones – be creative!

Go on! Try it! You know you want to.

It is just the tonic!

Mo T Vate

A Wee Bit of Fun!

To help pass some time and exercise your brain why don't you try this Airdrie place name quiz? From the clues given can you identify the place? Could be an area or a street in and around the town – good luck!

1. Flying machines
2. Mound of stones found at the top
3. Colourful place in the countryside

4. Too hot to stand on
5. Heavy shoe retailer
6. A royal fish
7. Type of dusty building
8. Terminal trees
9. River full of money
10. A hilly brush
11. Religious meeting place
12. Beaten woody plant
13. The road to the big house
14. The opposite of sit
15. Song thrush sings in the valley

How did you get on?

A score of 12 - 15 you are an Airdrieonian through and through!

A score of 9 – 14 you would like to be an Airdrieonian through and through!

A score of 6 – 8 you need to get out and about more!

A score of less than 6 you must be a visitor!

Answers on next page

The Editor

The Struggles of our Life!

Once upon a time a daughter complained to her father that her life was miserable and that she didn't know how she was going to make it. She was tired of fighting and struggling all the time. It seemed just as one problem was solved, another one soon followed. Her father, a chef, took her to the kitchen. He filled three pots with water and placed each on a high fire. Once the three pots began to boil, he placed potatoes in one pot, eggs in the second pot and ground coffee beans in the third pot. He then let them sit and boil, without saying a word to his daughter. The daughter, moaned and impatiently waited, wondering what he was doing. After twenty minutes he turned off the burners. He took the potatoes out of the pot and placed them in a bowl. He pulled the eggs out and placed them in a bowl. He then ladled the coffee out and placed it in a cup. Turning to her, he asked. "Daughter, what do you see?" "Potatoes, eggs and coffee," she hastily replied. "Look closer" he said, "and touch the potatoes." She did and noted that they were soft. He then asked her to take an egg and break it. After pulling off the shell, she observed the hard-boiled egg. Finally, he asked her to sip the coffee. Its rich aroma brought a smile to her face. "Father, what does this mean?" she asked.

He then explained that the potatoes, the eggs and coffee beans had each faced the same adversity - the boiling water. However, each one reacted differently. The potato went in strong, hard and unrelenting, but in boiling water, it became soft and weak. The egg was fragile, with the thin outer shell protecting its liquid interior until it was put in the boiling water. Then the inside of the egg became hard. However, the ground coffee beans were unique. After they were exposed to the boiling water, they changed the water and created something new. "Which one are you?" he asked his daughter. "When adversity knocks on your door, how do you respond? Are you a potato, an egg, or a coffee bean?"

Moral of the story:

In life, things happen around us, things happen to us, but the only thing that truly matters is how you choose to react to it and what you make out of it. Life is all about learning, adapting and converting all the struggles that we experience into something positive.

Phil Osopher

'When this is over'

When this is over, may we never again take for granted.....

- A handshake with a stranger;
- Full shelves at the supermarket;
- Conversations with neighbours;
- A crowded theatre or cinema;
- A Friday night out;
- The taste of communion;
- A routine checkup;
- The school rush each morning;
- Coffee with a friend;
- An appointment at the hairdressers;
- The stadium roaring;
- Each deep breath;
- The Monday morning blues;
- Life itself.

When this ends, may we find that we have become more like the people.....

- We wanted to be.
- We were called to be.
- We hoped to be.

And may we stay that way – better for each other because of the worst.

L Fanucci

Bringing hope to children

Right now, one in six children is growing up in conflict and living in fear every single day. But thanks to people like psychologist Diana, traumatised children at a Christian Aid supported centre in Lebanon have had the chance to recover and enjoy childhood again. Diana gives counselling and arts therapy to children battling grief, depression and other mental health issues, as a result of the horrific violence they've witnessed in countries like Syria. 'We always try our best to provide them a place where they can find peace – working with them, their parents and their whole environment,' she said. Because of people like you, Diana has been helping traumatised children recover at the centre for two years now – and she is incredibly proud of what she does. 'I have been working with children for more than 15 years and I love my work a lot. I love working with the kids at the centre.' With continued support this vital work can be sustained and expanded. More people like Diana can be trained and employed to reach hundreds of other families affected by violence and provide the educational and play facilities that will keep healing them of their trauma.

Christian Aid

What are we fighting for?

What are we fighting for?

We have to do or die.

What are we fighting for?

We can't turn a blind eye.
 What are we fighting for?
 To sleep safely in bed.
 What are we fighting for?
 To keep away fear and dread.
 What are we fighting for?
 To keep our children free.
 What are we fighting for?
 To choose our own destiny.
 What are we fighting for?
 Because there's nowhere to hide.
 What are we fighting for?
 Because so many have died.
 What are we fighting for?
 To challenge oppression.
 What are we fighting for?
 To combat aggression.
 What are we fighting for?
 To win us the war.
 What are we fighting for?
 So there won't be any more.
 What are we fighting for?
 So that we can make sure.
 What are we fighting for?
 It's a war to end war.
 What are we fighting for?
 So we'll never need to say
 What are we fighting for?
 Again.

Brian Moses

Sharing Happiness

Happiness is bubbling forth
 How I wish I knew a way
 To spread it everywhere I go
 And in every word I say.

Alas, happiness is elusive
 And may not often flow to you
 But right now, when I have plenty
 May I offer some to you?

Just line up at my fountain
 Share a cup of joy with me
 I offer it at no cost
 It's absolutely free.

But be sure when you come to get it
 You leave all your gloom behind
 It is happiness we're sharing
 Your gloom we need not find.

Anon

Give it a Thought – The House of 1000 Mirrors!

Long ago in a small, far away village, there was a place known as the House of 1000 Mirrors. A small, happy little dog learned of this place and decided to visit. When he arrived, he bounced happily up the stairs to the doorway of the house. He looked through the doorway with his ears lifted high and his tail wagging as fast as it could. To his great surprise, he found himself staring at 1000 other happy little dogs with their tails wagging just as fast as his. He

smiled a great smile, and was answered with 1000 great smiles just as warm and friendly. As he left the house, he thought to himself, "This is a wonderful place. I will come back and visit it often."

In this same village, another little dog, who was not quite as happy as the first one, decided to visit the house. He slowly climbed the stairs and hung his head low as he looked into the door. When he saw the 1000 unfriendly looking dogs staring back at him, he growled at them and was horrified to see 1000 little dogs growling back at him. As he left, he thought to himself, "That is a horrible place, and I will never go back there again."

All the faces in the world are mirrors. What kind of reflections do you see in the faces of the people you meet? Makes you think!

The Editor

All we are saying is 'Give Peace a Chance'

If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.' **Mother Teresa**

'If you want to make peace with your enemy, you have to work with your enemy. Then he becomes your partner.' **Nelson Mandela**

'Peace is our gift to each other.' **Elie Wiesel**

'Let us not deceive ourselves; we must elect world peace or world destruction.' **Bernard Baruch**

While you are proclaiming peace with your lips, be careful to have it even more fully in your heart

Francis of Assisi

Place name answers:

Plains, Cairnhill, Greengairs, Burnfoot, Clarkston, Victoria Place, Whinhall, Forrest Street, Calderbank, Broomknoll Street, Chapelhall, Thrushbush, Manor Drive, Stand, Glenmavis.

Useful Contacts

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