

The New Wellwynder

October 2017

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from the Manse -

Dear Friends,

Over the years I have enjoyed supervising students on placement. It has been both a privilege and a great pleasure seeing them grow in confidence, in faith, in understanding and, in sharing their ministry with us, blessing us in so many ways. On the first Sunday in October, Harvest Thanksgiving and Dedication, we will be welcoming a student training to be a Deacon in the Church of Scotland. Laura Digan comes to us with a great deal of experience in the world of retail, as well as a great enthusiasm for faith. I know that you will welcome her and support her as you have always done so in the past.

As Laura's supervisor, I am tasked with giving her as wide an experience of ministry as I can and so she will be involved in worship, visits and in many other ways until towards the end of May when her placement comes to an end. A large part of her involvement will naturally be on worship, but what is challenging about that now at NWPC is that we have the joy of seeing so many people involved in worship on a Sunday and at other times - leading prayers, reading the Bible, dedicating the offering. It requires a bit of come and go to allow Laura as wide an experience as possible. But I have to say that it is a good problem to have!

At NWPC I am so fortunate to have my ministry supported by the ministry of many - from the ministry of hospitality and service through to the wide ministry exercised in worship. Worship is a shared experience, not just by those who faithfully support Sunday by Sunday in the pews but also by everyone from our organist and choir through to those willing to take an active role, enriching the time that we enjoy together. It is further enriched by the contribution of our children and young people. What a blessing it is to be here and to be supported in so many ways and enjoy a partnership that time after time I want to celebrate.

Again, there has been a positive support seen and experienced in stewardship with every area of church life seeing volunteers coming forward to help support what is going on, as well as continue to develop the worship, work and witness. If perhaps you were hesitant for whatever reason in responding, even though the program is formally over, there continue to be opportunities for you to become involved again in worship, as well as more and more involved in the wider work of the church and I hope, trust and pray that more and more of you might take advantage of these. It's not only that we need you, but that we want you to share in the good that is happening in our exciting adventure of faith.

*Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.
Christ, be our light!*

May the light of Christ guide us and may the Spirit of God encourage us as we continue to go forward in faith.

Your friend and minister.



SERVICES

October

- 8 11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship :
Go Share; Holy Habit of Eating Together.
The Sacrament of Holy Baptism.
- 15 11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship :
Go Hear; Holy Habit of Prayer.
- 22 11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship :
Go Look; Holy Habits of Gladness and Generosity.
- 29 11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship :
Go (W)Holy; Joy Habit of Worship.
Reformation Sunday.

November

- 5 11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship :
Go Reclaim; Holy Habits of Breaking Bread and Sharing Bread.

We welcome staff and young people from Airdrie Academy as they reflect on a recent visit to Belgium, giving focus to Remembrance Sunday the following week. We also welcome members of the ATC, Monklands (1001) Squadron.

- 6:30 p.m. - Evening Worship.
(Welcoming members of the local Masonic Lodges.)

FLOWER CALENDAR

October

- 15 Betty Tweedie; Jean Robinson.
22 Lesley Aitken; Jennifer Milne.
29 Trudy Henderson; Avril Cockburn.

November

- 5 Beatrice Holden; Isabel Irvine.

DRIVERS / FLOWER DELIVERY

October

- 15 Allan Gibson.
22 Fraser Gillespie.
29 Alan Provan.

November

- 5 Mima Dalziel

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Welcomed into Membership : Wilma Bell (D.28);
Elaine McGuire (D.57).

Baptisms : Matthew William Millar.

Funerals : Sam Smith (D.54); Danny McGuinness;
Joe Sloan.

Change of Address / District :
Jean Soutar from D.46 to D.9.

BIBLE READINGS

September

- 3 Ruth 1 : 6 - 18; Luke 24 : 13 - 35.
10 Genesis 1 : 1 - 2 : 4; Acts 2 : 42 - 47.

17 Genesis 21 : 1 - 3; 22 : 11 - 14; John 13 : 1 - 17.
24 Acts 2 : 42; Genesis 27 : 1 - 4, 15 - 24;
Genesis 28 : 10 - 17; 2 Timothy 3 : 10 - 17.

THANKS

Willie and Maureen Watson send their sincere thanks to the congregation for the lovely flowers received from the church recently. They were much appreciated and cheered us up considerably.

The **Dunbar Family**, along with Isabel, would like to thank the congregation of New Wellwynd for the flowers and cards received on the passing of Ina Fraser. Extended thanks to Robbie and Maxine for their visits and to Robbie for a lovely service.

WELCOME TEAMS

October

15 Team Leader: David Watt
Morag Donald, Linda Francis, Margaret Jack,
Allister Jack, Alison Sefton, David Walker.

22 Team Leader: Drew Glen
Billy Brooks, Moira Gartshore, Janet Nimmo,
Tom Sorbie, Isabel Sorbie, Karen Taylor.

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

November

5 Team Leader: Irene Yates
Avril Cockburn, Alan Cox, Alison Gray,
Beatrice Holden, George Lowdon, Julie Pardoe.

Hello from Iraq! – August 2017

It's been a minute since I last sat down to write one of these emails...or perhaps more than a minute...I'm two weddings, two baby announcements, two holidays and a Mosul liberation down. I've had a busy two months with travelling home, back to Iraq, to Lisbon and back to Iraq again, but I've had so much fun. Meanwhile, in my absence, the story in Iraq has kept moving and Tearfund's response kept going. Let me catch you up.....We've just had our quarterly Iraq Senior Management meeting where everyone comes together to look at what we've achieved and plan what comes next. I got to listen to progress updates from our field bases explaining the work they are doing to provide cash, water sanitation and hygiene, clothing and shelter assistance. They each only have about 30 staff and how they do what they do blows my mind! I spoke on the bigger picture security context. With the offensive in Talafar due to start by next month, elections coming up and militias moving to former IS territory, I'm going to have plenty to keep me busy! We then set out strategic objectives for the next six months - our main focus will be establishing a base in Mosul city and preparing for the flow of people likely to flee Hawija in the next six months.

In my first update, I asked you all to pray for the liberation of west Mosul. Well, a month ago Mosul was declared completely liberated and the humanitarian response is well underway. Aid workers are working around the clock and last week I got to meet a particularly inspiring one whose story I just couldn't believe...he works in a Mosul field hospital but, while back in the US, found out he had brain cancer and had to begin radiotherapy. When this didn't clear the cancer doctors suggested chemo to extend his life for another few years. He de-

clared he wanted the treatment but also that he wanted to spend his last years doing something that mattered. This man is now back working in the Mosul field hospital and does his chemo on his lunch break. I can't imagine the strength and determination it must take to do what he is doing. I'd love if you could all pray for this brave, selfless man. Please pray for his strength, his healing and thank God for such an incredible heart.

I just want to say thanks for all your prayers and well wishes over the last few months. This month, I'd love if you'd continue to pray for the Mosul response, there's still a lot to be done. Pray that the city will stabilise and the army/militias will continue to allow humanitarian access. Pray that Tearfund is able to get the permissions, registration and people it needs to setup a Mosul base. Oh, and one last praise report, you know the multi-million dollar US AID proposal I asked you to pray for...we got it!!

Lots of love,

FIONA.

EXPLORING FAITH

Exploring Faith is a course exploring the Christian Faith published by the Church of Scotland. It is designed for those who want a refresher, or for those exploring for the first time, perhaps with a view to becoming full members. If you are interested in coming along, or know someone who is interested in membership, please let me know. The first session will be on Sunday, 22nd October at 2 p.m..

It is anticipated that some members might come along to fulfil the role of "mentors" in supporting potential new members and enquirers during the course and beyond as they are encouraged to find a place within our church family. If you feel that this is something that you could do, please speak to the minister.

Contact the minister, Robbie on 763022 or email him - rhamilton@churchofscotland.org.uk

TRAIDCRAFT

The Traidcraft Stall continues to be available at the close of the morning service where stocks of all your favourites - biscuits, chocolate, teas and coffees - are available. The new Autumn/Winter Catalogues are also available. Please feel free to pick up a catalogue from the stall and hopefully you'll find something you like and place an order.

The selection of Christmas Cards from this year's catalogue is on display at the Traidcraft Stall.

Orders will be taken until Sunday 19th November - order early to avoid any disappointment.

Many thanks to those members who have already placed orders with us, your support is appreciated.

DAVID WALKER

SENIORS

Our next meeting is on 10th October, when we welcome Morag Thomson from Voluntary Action. On the 24th October, Roy Logie from Gideons will be our guest. Looking ahead to the 7th November, we will welcome David Steven, a retired Police Officer.

ISABELL GIBSON

Life & Work

If you receive a copy of Life & Work, your annual renewal letter will be issued shortly to assist in ordering for next year, 2018. The price for the magazine has not been

increased this year and remains at £30.00 for 12 copies. If you do not currently receive a copy, and wish to order this, a list will be placed on the information table in the next few weeks for you to place your name. Please watch the intimation sheet for further details.

Our order has to be placed with Life & Work no later than 20th November, 2017.

DAVID WALKER

BIBLE STUDY GROUP

As part of the follow-up to the Stewardship Programme 'Alive and Giving', a **Bible Study Group** is starting in the home of one of our elders - Alister Weighton (29 Grahamshill Street, Airdrie, ML6 7EN). It is anticipated that this 'House Group' would meet on a fortnightly basis working through a theme or a book.

The first meeting is planned for Wednesday, 11th October, and the group will follow the pattern of meeting on the second and fourth Wednesday of a month, meeting on the following dates : 11th and 25th October; 8th and 22nd November; 29th November (this date is to avoid a 'clash' with a Kirk Session meeting) and 13th December. The Bible Study will run from 7:30 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. with tea and coffee being served on arrival from 7:00 p.m. onwards. Robbie, our minister, will be leading the first meeting of the group.

Please do get in touch with Alister to indicate your interest. Alister's telephone number is (01236) 750572. If you would prefer to send a text, Alister's mobile number is 079 256 05480.

We look forward to seeing you on 11th October.

The aim of our Bible Study Group is that we might each get to know better our Bible and, above all, our Saviour. As Saint Paul says: "I pray that Christ will make His home in your hearts through faith. I pray that you may have your roots and foundation in love, so that you, together with all God's people, may have the power to understand how broad and long, how high and deep, is Christ's love." (Ephesians 3 : 17 - 18.)

Home Comforts & Food Bank

September was another great month with 160 Brillo Pads & 16 soaps also 70 tins meat and 14 others. Thank you so much.

October is Toilet Rolls & Tinned Fruit and as usual the trolley will be at the front of the church on Sunday 1 October. If you forget then it's o.k. to leave items in the downstairs cloakroom ANY Sunday, and we will collect them. Thank you.

November is Tea Towels and Tins Custard.

MAGGIE WEIR

CHESTNUT TRACES

Thrill and celebration as the burnished conkers fall, they linger in long grasses and round the dry stone wall. There's magic in the chestnut trees in bright mahogany traces, the nimble fingers gathering the gems this season graces. Mellow autumn's treasures trail scattered clasps of fun, snapping twigs and tumbling fruit in copper woodland spun.

DOROTHY McGREGOR

**A Big Thank You from
Airdrie Christian Aid Committee**

I am delighted to report that the combined total of the pew collection in May and the Bread and Cheese Lunch in June was **£821.80**.

On behalf of the Airdrie Committee, I wish to thank those who contributed in all manner of ways - giving via the Christian Aid envelopes and Gift Aid, donating rolls, butter and cheese, setting the tables and preparing the food on the day, setting up the hall the day before and clearing up afterwards.

Christian Aid is so important to so many people in our world. Only this week a fresh appeal has gone out to support the work of Christian Aid and other aid agencies as they scale up their work due to the disaster unfolding in Myanmar and Bangladesh. More information and opportunity to donate can be found on Christian Aid Scotland's website under ROHINGYA CRISIS APPEAL.

LIZ RIDDELL

SANCTUARY RENOVATION

In early September we successfully completed the first phase of the renovation programme in the sanctuary. This involved the complete re-wiring of all the downstairs electric bar heaters (and replacement of those broken), installation of new heating radiators in the gallery and vestibule, and minor alterations to the layout of the chancel with the inclusion of new heaters there. We were appreciative way in which the contractors worked with sensitivity to the nature of the building.

During October, we are intending to begin the next phase of the renovation. There are three parts to this phase, although some works will be undertaken consecutively. The first part is the renewal of the wiring for the lighting and the replacement of the lights dating from 1968 with modern technology. The second part is the installation of audio visual facilities and some modification to sound arrangements. The final part is re-plastering (there are a lot of cracks) and painting. We will also be renewing the downstairs carpet and replacing a number of pew cushions in the gallery. The sanctuary will continue in use for Sunday worship as normal during the renovation, although some areas may have restricted access at different times depending on the progress of the works. The sanctuary will also be available for funerals.

The overall objective of the renovation is to enhance the sanctuary, without making significant alterations to its layout or appearance, ensure that it is fit for the next generation of use and allow for greater opportunities for community use. The audio visual equipment will also allow us to introduce use of visual materials in support of worship, while offering the possibility of wider distribution of worship services through the internet.

The renovation programme is being funded from our own funds and with generous support from Patersons Quarries Limited via the Scottish Landfill Communities Fund.

HARVEST PRAYER

Thank you for the harvest when fruit and berries grow.
Thank you for the ripening corn planted long ago.
Thank you for the autumn and a warm and sunny day.
Thank you for the harvest and crops to store away.
Thank you for the vegetables

and fields of new mown hay.

To feed the sheep and cows when winter comes to stay!

Amen.

Give it some thought

Prayer changes things :

When a believing person prays, great things happen. When God prompts you to pray for somebody, don't wait to do it! Your prayer may be the only thing standing between that person and catastrophe. (Further reflection, John 5: 16).

There's power in prayer :

Why pray? Because nothing lies beyond the reach of prayer! You'll never know how many people have been strengthened because you asked God to encourage them. (Further reflection, James 5: 16).

The serenity of prayer :

God grant me the courage to change the things I can, the patience to accept the things I can't and the wisdom to know the difference. (Further reflection, James 1: 5).

HARVEST FUNNY

A farmer turns up to evensong and discovers that he and the vicar are the only people there.

"What shall we do?" asks the vicar. "Well", replies the farmer, "If I goes to feed my sheep and only one turns up, I feeds her." So after four hymns, two sung canticles, one sung psalm, two lessons, prayers for everything under the sun and a twenty minute sermon, the service ends.

"If I goes to feed my sheep and only one turns up, I feeds her", says the farmer on the way out, "but I don't give her the whole bag full!"

IM JOLLY

BELIEF IN GOD!

There was a well-educated man who solemnly announced to his friends that he would never believe anything which he could not understand. An old farmer overheard the remark, turned to the young intellectual and said, "As I went into town today, I passed a field where some sheep were feeding. Do you believe that?" "Yes," said the young man. "Not far away from the sheep some cows were also grazing. Do you believe that?" "Yes," was the reply? "Not far from the cows were some pigs eating grass. Do you believe that?" "Yes." "All right, now you listen to this," said the farmer. "The grass the sheep ate turned into wool. The grass the cows ate turned into hair. The grass the pigs ate turned into bristles. Do you believe that?" "Yes," the young man said. "Do you understand it?" "No," admitted the young man. "Young man," said the farmer, "if you live long, you will find that there are a great many things which you believe without understanding. God is one of them."

ANON.

WE ARE NEVER ALONE!

Do you know the legend of the Cherokee Indian youth's rite of passage? His father takes him into the forest...blindfolded...and leaves him....alone. He is required to sit on a stump the whole night...and not take off the blindfold until the ray of sun shines through it. He is all by himself. He cannot cry out for help to anyone. Once he survives the night...he is a MAN. He cannot tell the other boys of this experience. Each boy must come into his own manhood. The boy was terrified...could hear all kinds of noise... Beasts were all around him. Maybe even some human would hurt him. The wind blew the grass and earth... and it shook the stump. But he sat stoically...never removing the blindfold. It would be the only way he could be a man. Finally, after a horrific night...the sun appeared and he removed his blindfold. It

was then that he saw his father...sitting on the stump next to him...at watch...the entire night. We are never truly alone. Even when we do not know it our family and friends are watching out for us...sitting on a stump beside us.

THE EDITOR

ANOTHER CHANCE

How often we wish for another chance
To make a fresh beginning.

A chance to blot out our mistakes,
And change failure into winning.

It does not take a new day
to make a brand new start;

It only takes a deep desire
to try with all our heart.

To live a little better

and to always be forgiving,

and to add a little sunshine

to the world in which we're living.

So never give up in despair

and think that you are through.

For there's always a tomorrow

And the hope of starting new!

HELEN STEINER RICE

PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for the Chaplaincy at Rochsolloch and Airdrie Academy as a steady and faithful witness to the love of God continuing in these schools.
- Pray for the work of Scripture Union, especially for the group at Airdrie Academy.
- Pray for all who work with children and young people in churches and in communities.
- Continue to pray for the Sunday Club and Bible Class, for all leaders, children and young people within our congregation.
- Pray for Messy Church within this congregation and beyond.
- Pray for those involved in Sunday morning worship Sunday by Sunday - the Welcome Team, those who read the Scriptures, those who lead the prayers. May they continue to be inspired by God's Spirit and be upheld and encouraged in their work.
- Pray for the work of Tearfund, especially Fiona Randall working with them in Iraq.

We, "The New Wellwynd", aim to be a vibrant, caring, worshipping community of faith, which relates well to God, involving all members, with significant outreach to the wider community. (The New Wellwynd Parish Church of Scotland, Airdrie, is a registered Scottish charity allocated the Scottish Charity No. SC012944.)

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.