

# THE NEW WELLWYNDER

October 2020

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from the Manse -

Dear Friends,

I can say that we have well and truly settled into the new manse and indebted both to all who helped in the process and those who have sent us cards and good wishes. I am also well and truly settled into my new study which was created out of half of the garage!

We are enjoying the newness of the new house as well as the warmth but it also nice to have brought some familiar things with us which includes pictures. One picture has been relegated to the study is of what looks like the inside of a church. It looks almost like an architectural drawing and is of an archway leading to some stairs. I like it because I look at it and wonder where it is and where the stairs lead to. I have googled the artist and it looks as though he was a cleric in a church in Oxford so I think it must be perhaps the church where he was based in 1897. But the mystery as to where the stairs lead to is unsolved . . .

For me this acts as a parable, a parable that is apposite during this pandemic we are struggling through and at times still coming to terms with. We don't know what lies ahead, what lurks round the corner. We don't know when restrictions will be eased or finally lifted completely. This has been and continues to be a steep learning curve for all of us as the virus and the effects of it have touched every part of life and have had a bearing on all of us.

In all of the certainty one certainty has grown stronger for me and I have seen grow stronger for you and that is the certainty that God is with us. He is with us in so many tangible ways - his word to his, his living word Jesus beside us and his Spirit within us. As Christ brings us closer and closer to God, he brings us closer and closer to each other. We are in this together and together we we will get through. We are a pilgrim people led, nurtured and sustained by our Pilgrim God who travels with us.

Yes, we may not know the future but we do know who holds the future, the same one who

holds us in dark times until we catch a glimpse of light once again.

*I do not know what lies ahead,  
the way I cannot see;  
yet one stands near to be my guide,  
He'll show the way to me:  
I know who holds the future,  
and He'll guide me with His hand;  
with God things don't just happen,  
everything by Him is planned.  
So, as I face tomorrow,  
with its problems large and small,  
I'll trust the God of Miracles,  
give to Him my all.*

May we continue to trust in the same God, the same yesterday, today and forever.

Your friend and minister.



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## CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

### FUNERALS ;

5th June Craig Thomson  
19th June Anne Watson  
8th July Jim Nicol  
21st July John Blair  
27th July Allan Goldie  
28th July Elizabeth Ballantyne  
17th August Betty Hailstones  
21st August Agnes Plunkett  
25th August Davie Aitchison  
28th August Jim Purdie (Memorial Service)  
14th September Liz Kelly

### BAPTISMS

19th August Darryl Watterson  
23rd August Frankie George Kerr

### WEDDING :

7th September  
KirstyCarson to Michael Youngson

### Change of Address / District :

Mr. George & Mrs. Elizabeth Wilson from D.41 to D.57.

Miss Kirsty Carson (D.37) is now  
Mrs. Kirsty Youngson (D.37).

Mrs. Lynne Thomson from D.68 to D.22.

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## SERVICES

### **11th October**

09.30 a.m. Streamed Service *Peace of Mind*

11:00 a.m. In Person and Streamed Service  
*Peace of Mind*

6.30 p.m. In Person Service  
*The Door's Shut - Alone with God*

### **14th October**

12 noon In Person and Streamed Service  
*The Door's Shut - Alone with God*

### **18th October**

09.30 a.m. Streamed Service  
*Imitators and Influencers*

11:00 a.m. In Person and Streamed Service  
*Imitators and Influencers*

6.30 p.m. In Person Service  
*The Open Door - The Open Reward*

### **21st October**

12 noon In Person Service  
*The Open Door - The Open Reward*

### **25th October**

09.30 a.m. Streamed Service  
*So deeply do we care*

11:00 a.m. In Person and Streamed Service  
*So deeply do we care*

6.30 p.m. In Person Service  
*Moses and the Word of God*

### **28th October**

12 noon In Person Service  
*Moses and the Word of God*

### **1st November**

09.30 a.m. Streamed Service  
*Beg, encourage, urge*

11:00 a.m. In Person and Streamed Service  
*Beg, encourage, urge*

6.30 p.m. In Person Service  
*Moses - the Man of Prayer*

### **4th November**

12 noon In Person Service  
*Moses - the Man of Prayer*

### **\*8th November 10.45 a.m.**

In Person and Streamed Service  
*Remembrance Sunday*

6.30 p.m. In Person Service  
*Moses - the Man of God*

### **11th November 12 noon**

In Person and Streamed Service  
*Moses - the Man of God*

\*N.B. On Remembrance Sunday (8th November) there will only be one morning service at 10.45 a.m. which will be in person and streamed allowing all of us to share in the two minutes silence to remember the fallen. There will be a leader and child/young person from each of our uniformed organisations that Sunday. There will also be a quiz for families to fill in at home - more details to follow.

## BIBLE READINGS

### **July**

5 Matthew 11 : 16 - 19, 25 - 30.

12 Matthew 13 : 1 - 9, 18 - 23.

19 Matthew 13 : 24 - 30, 36 - 43.

26 Matthew 13 : 31 - 33, 44 - 52.

### **August**

2 Matthew 14 : 13 - 21.

9 Matthew 14 : 22 - 33.

16 Matthew 15 : 10 - 28.

23 Matthew 16 : 13 - 20.

30 Matthew 16 : 21 - 28.

## JIM NICOL

We were sorry to hear of the death of one of our Elders, Jim Nicol. Jim was never one to have a fuss made of him and everything was on a need to know basis. The family were surprised to hear of health problems that he had never disclosed to them. Fiercely independent he just got on with things. There was a difference over the past four years eventually leading to his move to Croftbank in Uddingston where he was well cared for. As long as he had his Sky Sports and BT Sports he was happy.

Church and faith were important to him, enjoying attending when he could and when he couldn't, hearing what was going on, He served faithfully as an Elder, fulfilling his duties well. He would always ask about the church and enquire after the manse family when visiting - always concerned about my health.

We will miss that dry, pawky sense of humour but he is now at peace. Our thoughts are with Ian, Dorothy and the family.

### Thank you

Mrs Betty Wilson would like to thank family and friends for their best wishes and messages of support over the past few months. Your kind thoughts and words have been greatly appreciated.

### Congratulations

Congratulations to Margaret and Allister Jack who recently celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary. Also to Una and George Lawson who also celebrated their Golden Wedding, and to Jim and Margaret Thomson who had their Diamond Wedding Anniversary. All three couples extend their thanks to everyone for the good wishes and cards, etc., received.

## ELIZABETH BALLANTYNE

We were also sorry to hear of the death of another Elder, Elizabeth Ballantyne. Elizabeth had to contend with a lot of health problems over the years - from polio and countless operations in her younger days through to cancer which returned four years ago. Even with the terminal diagnoses she showed such a strength and determination, still continued to smile and was always just "fine". She got to see the whole family towards the end which is a comfort to them all and she died at home.

Elizabeth's faith gave her such a strength and made her such a rock to the family and others whom she inspired in their own difficulties with health. She enjoyed worship and was able to watch it with Harry online through lockdown. She served faithfully as an Elder - diligent in her duties and compassionate in her care. She was supportive of meetings and supportive of her minister - a word of encouragement and a smile at the door on a Sunday. She was also a familiar face taking the cash at the Snack Bar. She immersed herself in the church over the years as she did Guiding eventually becoming divisional commissioner and county president.

We will miss her smile and encouragement but she is at peace. Our thoughts and prayers are with Harry, Morag, Elspeth, Sheila and the family at this time.

### Where does the time go?

How many times have you heard yourself saying "where does the time go?" It is something I have been asking myself recently looking back over 25 years of The New Wellwynder! Yes, the New Wellwynder is 25 years old, with the first issue being published in October, 1995. Here are one or two wee extracts taken from that very first issue! The first is a poem called, '**Wellwynd - Past Present and Future**' by Andrew Hunter and Rev Robert McVey.

That we live in an age o' progression is true  
Ilka day we're confronted  
    wi' something that's new  
But the greatest improvement,  
    at least tae my mind  
That's been made in oor toon,  
    has been made in Wellwynd!

Frae an' old fashioned well  
    the Wynd first got its name  
That the wells disappeared is a pity and shame  
For tae slocken the drooth  
    o' the folk it was gien

Maybe that's hoo a pub  
    in the street ne'er was seen!

It had 'Models' whaur gangrels  
    were ne'er at a loss  
Gin they mustered a groat  
    tae get shelter an' doss  
An' a kirk on each side,  
    sae I think oan the whole  
That the Wynd catered weel  
    for baith body an' soul!

..... As the autumn leaves fa',  
    yon twa kirks will unite  
And wi' faith in the Lord,  
    it maun work oot a' right  
New Wellwynd's gates  
    will open to welcome the many  
While the Gospels proclaimed  
    by young Fraser Penny!

Come lift up your herts, let the twa be the ane;  
The Kirk is God's people, whatever the name.  
Sae muckles entrusted tae folks in the pew,  
By our God whose design  
    is make all things new!

**Peter Gordon's** final message in a letter of thanks read, "*It has been good to hear this morning that the Inauguration Service of The New Wellwynd Parish went so well last night. This is a time of new beginnings, may you go forward together in hope.*"

**Fraser Penny** in his first message From the Manse wrote, "*We go forward together but more importantly we go forward with God. The church does not depend on our strength, wisdom, energy, cleverness, but on God. We can be optimistic and excited about the future because God will lead and give us the strength we need as together we seek his will for our congregation and parish, seeking glory, not for ourselves or even our congregation, but for God.*"

As we look ahead to the next 25 years, let us continue to go forward together in hope, seeking glory for God.

*The Editor*

### Hope for the Future!

More often than naught, people have a tendency to control everything, their present, and their future. But, it is not possible to be in control of everything in life. The past few months have certainly taught all of us that! It is obvious that we will face adversities in life

and have some bad patches which may discourage us. It is not uncommon to experience difficulties and failures, more than we experience success. It is in these times of darkness, that hope of a better future that keeps us going. People tend to forget that like the fears in our lives, there is an abundance of happiness too. It is up to us, how we feel in the darker phases of our lives. It is true that the future is not ours to see, but we can definitely dream of a better one and shape it well. To create a beautiful tomorrow we need to have a positive approach and be hopeful in life. Hope is what builds our future and encourages us to prepare ourselves for achieving our goals. With hard work, persistence in life, and resilience we will be successful in our endeavour..... ‘Que Sera Sera!’ Some useful quotes to help us along the way.....

- *“Accept what is, let go of what was, and have faith in what will be.”*
- *“If there is hope in the future, there is literally power in the present.”*
- *“A single thread of hope is still a very powerful thing.”*
- *“Hope sees the invisible, feels the intangible, and achieves the impossible.”*
- *“Hope is like the sun, which, as we journey toward it, casts the shadow of our burden behind us.”*
- *“Hope is the only thing stronger than fear.”*
- *“My hope is in you.” Psalm 39:7*
- *“Do something today that your future self will thank you for.”*
- *“Even in the darkest of times there is light and where there is light there is hope.”*

**Phil Osopher**

### **The Coronavirus Diaries**

The Coronavirus Diaries have been a regular feature in the Life and Work Magazine over the past few months. It has been both heartbreaking and heartwarming to read many of the stories from our Church of Scotland partners around the globe. This is one from Kenya, where The Rev Peter Kaniah Kariuki, Secretary General of the Presbyterian Church of East Africa, tells how the church has fed more than 30,000 families during the lockdown.

#### **Caring for one another in Christ**

On March 15, the Kenyan government confirmed the first cases of COVID-19 and announced a nationwide ban on large gatherings, along with the closure of schools and nonessential businesses. Two days later,

the Presbyterian Church of East Africa (PCEA) held a press conference to announce the closure of its worship services in adherence with the government directive. Even as the PCEA leadership discussed the closing of in-person worship services, we recognised the human impact of the government directives. Clearly for many of our people, if they don't work today, they won't eat tomorrow. In a country with nearly 65% of its people working in the informal labour sector, the same directives intended to keep people safe would lead to food insecurity. People around the country could be heard saying they would rather risk COVID-19 than hunger. When people are hungry, it's not about giving them bread for one day. It is about walking with them throughout their period of need whereby you will be able to testify to the goodness of the Lord when you see the daybreak together.

Within two weeks, we as the leaders of the PCEA had mobilised its 4.5 million church members to provide food and support for families. The “Adopt a Family” initiative fed more than 32,000 families throughout Kenya in April, May and June, and its efforts continue. Parishes and presbyteries have heeded God's command to love one another in times of joy and struggle. PCEA members and friends have shown up with bags of maize and flour, vegetables and milk, tea leaves and sugar, and financial support to purchase essential items. In collaboration with local congregations and community administrative officials, the PCEA has identified the most at-risk families and is walking with these families by providing a monthly delivery that provides enough food to sustain a family of four. The church hopes to continue the monthly drop-offs until the pandemic is over. Some of the members who are donating also are struggling financially themselves during this time. These faithful members have committed to giving 50 Kenya shillings a week (around 37p) and they have been donating each week for the past eight weeks. We also have some rural congregations who could not donate money. One such congregation from Nyahururu, a fertile part of the country, sent an entire truckload of maize that they recently harvested for families in the informal settlements of Nairobi. It is one of the great blessings of the Church: **caring for one another in Christ.**

Similar stories can be read in the magazine or look online at [lifeandwork.org/features](http://lifeandwork.org/features)

**The Editor**

## Harvest Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we celebrate this season of harvest, we give thanks for the blessings of food, provision and nourishment.

Please grow in us a harvest for the world.

Come sow a seed of hope within our souls Lord, that we might yield goodness, patience and kindness in abundance.

Sow a seed of peace in our lives Lord, that we might bear the fruits of forgiveness, compassion and righteousness.

Come sow a seed of love in our hearts Lord, that others would reap the blessings of family, friendship and community.

May each seed of hope, peace and love grow within us into a harvest that can be feasted on by all!

*Amen*

## Christian Aid: Lebanon Crisis

On 4<sup>th</sup> August a sudden explosion tore through the port of Beirut, Lebanon as the shock wave raced through densely populated areas. Nearly 150 people have lost their lives and more than 5,000 people have been injured. More than 750,000 people have been affected by this terrible disaster which has left families out on the streets with no food, shelter or emergency medical care. Across the city of Beirut, neighbourhoods were reduced to rubble by the blast, along with hospitals and crucial stores containing around 85% of the country's grain and medical supplies.

Homes and businesses have been flattened to the ground, windows shattered, and doors knocked down. Approximately 300,000 people are now homeless. Please help those who have lost everything. As the country sinks further into severe economic collapse, half the population already face starvation, unable to access basic goods including medicine. Thousands have seen their livelihoods disappear. This explosion has made a most dire situation worse. Our local partners Basmeh & Zeitooneh and Mouvement Social are responding in the most affected areas and reaching those who were already vulnerable. Together we are:

- Distributing food, water, hygiene and disinfection materials as well as clothes, mattresses, and blankets.
- Helping affected households to access medicine and health services.
- Mobilising volunteers to remove rubble in the places most damaged by the explosion.
- Referring families to temporary shelters and providing minor repairs for homes including carpentry and electrical fixes.

If you would like to donate to the crisis appeal you can do so at [christianaid.org.uk](http://christianaid.org.uk)

**Christian Aid Team**

## Church Chuckles - The Bad Apple

Bobby never learned to read and write. When he got old enough to get a job, he had difficulty locating one. No one had a need for someone who was illiterate. In his frustration, he thought surely the church will take me in. Maybe they have something I could do for them. So he applied for the janitor's position at New Wellwynd Church. He went in for an interview and the minister was very nice. They talked for a few minutes before discussing the job itself. "Bobby, you seem like a great guy. I really like you. However, you not being able to read or write is going to be a problem. I'm sorry, but we can only hire someone that is literate for this position." "I understand," said Bobby. Silently, he was devastated. Even the church couldn't help him? What would he do now? Bobby was always the type to land on his feet, so he was not about to give up yet. He got the idea to open a fruit stand in town. He only had the finest fruits and vegetables at his stand and took great pride in customer service. After a few months, his fruit stand was a success! He was so happy that he decided to open a second fruit stand. This one also became successful. After the first two stands, he expanded again and again. Within a few years his fruit stands were the most successful fruit stands in the entire area. Bobby had become very wealthy and successful with fruit. One day he met with a prospective buyer who was interested in his business. The buyer offered Bobby a substantial amount of money for the business and he was interested. The buyer handed Bobby a legal document and told him to look it over and see if he liked the terms. He took the document and looked at the gentleman. "Sir, you're going to have to summarize this for me. I never learned to read or write." The man looked at Bobby in disbelief. "You've got to be kidding me. You built this entire fruit empire without being able to read or write? How is this possible? Do you have any idea where you would be today if you had learned to read?" "Yes. I'd be the janitor at New Wellwynd Church!"

*I M Jolly*

## The Great Realisation

This Morning with Holly Willoughby and Philip Schofield is a programme I seldom watch. But back in May a young man by the name of Tom Roberts caused a bit of a stir with the reading of his poem 'The Great Realisation' so I had to investigate! Written as a children's poem about the future of the world after the pandemic he certainly left no stone unturned. Read for yourself.....

"Tell me the one about the virus again  
then I'll go to bed.  
'But my boy, you're growing weary, sleepy  
thoughts about your head.  
'Please! That one's my favourite.  
I promise just once more.  
'Okay, snuggle down my boy,  
though I know you know full well  
The story starts before then,  
in a world I once dwelled  
'It was a world of waste and wonder,  
of poverty and plenty  
Back before we understood  
why hindsight's 2020  
'You see the people came up with companies  
to trade across all lands.  
But they swelled and got bigger than  
we could ever have planned  
'We'd always had our wants,  
but now it got so quick.  
You could have everything you dreamed of  
in a day and with a click.  
'We noticed families had stopped talking.  
That's not to say they never spoke.  
But the meaning must have melted  
and the work life balance broke.  
'And the children's eyes got squarer  
and every toddler had a phone.  
They filtered out the imperfections  
but amidst the noise, they felt alone.  
'And every day the sky grew thicker  
till we couldn't see the stars.  
So we flew in planes to find them  
while down below we filled our cars.  
'We'd drive around all day in circles.  
We'd forgotten how to run.  
We swapped the grass for tarmac,  
shrunk the parks till there were none.  
'We filled the sea with plastic  
cause our waste was never capped.  
Until each day when you went fishing,  
you'd pull them out already wrapped.  
'And while we drank and smoked and gambled,  
our leaders taught us why,  
It's best to not upset the lobbies,  
more convenient to die.

'But then in 2020, a new virus came our way.  
The government reacted  
and told us all to hide away.  
'But while we were all hidden,  
amidst the fear and all the while,  
The people dusted off their instincts,  
they remembered how to smile.  
'They started clapping to say thank you,  
and calling up their mums.  
'And while the cars keys were gathering dust,  
they would look forward to their runs.  
'And with the sky less full of planes,  
the earth began to breathe.  
And the beaches brought new wildlife  
that scattered off into the seas.  
'Some people started dancing,  
some were singing, some were baking.  
We'd grown so used to bad news  
but some good news was in the making.  
'And so when we found the cure  
and were allowed to go outside,  
We all preferred the world we found  
to the one we'd left behind.  
'Old habits became extinct,  
and they made way for the new.  
And every simple act of kindness  
was now given its due.  
'But why did it take a virus  
to bring the people back together?'  
Well, sometimes, you got to get sick, my boy,  
before you start feeling better.  
'Now lie down, and dream of tomorrow,  
and all the things that we can do.  
And who knows, maybe if you  
dream strong enough,  
make some of them will come true.  
'We now call it the Great Realisation,  
and yes, since then there have been many.  
'But that's the story of how it started,  
and why hindsight's 2020.'  
Night night.....!

*Tom Roberts*

## Useful Contacts

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