

THE NEW WELLWYNDER

September 2021

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from the Manse -

Dear Friends,

Having been told not all that long ago that the charity trek in Spain is now on in October I realised that when it came to my walking regime and preparation for the walk I needed to move up a gear or two! From walking about 10k every second day I moved onto to a 40k (25 mile) walk over two days: from Milngavie to Drymen and back with, of course, an overnight in Drymen. It is only by stepping out and trying a bit harder and stretching myself that I will both know that I can do the trek and prepare me for the trek.

From a stamina point of view it has been good. It has also been good in relation to my kit. The first issue I had was with my rucksack in that it wasn't terrible comfortable and I could feel the aches and pains on my back grow in intensity with the miles. I was able to adjust the straps and so on which made a world of a difference. My left foot was moving about slightly in the boot and so a tighten here and loosening here of the laces made the difference.

Being prepared for any journey is key to the success of that journey. Stepping out is what we then need to do and, if there is "snagging" to be done then we need to do it along the way: to change certain aspects of what we are doing and how we are doing it. The journey over the past year or so has been such a journey with so many changes as Covid19 has changed and grown but also as vaccines have started to make a difference. Many of the adjustments have been difficult and, at times, we have perhaps found them difficult to take in.

What about church now? I hope that as we do move forward with a continuation of the lessening of restrictions we might see a growth and development in our worship, work and witness: a re-engagement with the life of the Kirk as more people return to worship and more become as involved as they have in the past. I also hope and pray that it might be a time when others might recognise that they have a place in the life of this church with so much to give but also so much to receive which I believe we have.

I have repeatedly said over the past few years and in recent times especially that there are many challenges ahead for the church and for congregations. We still have many strengths but Covid has highlighted areas for development along with the need to harness the gifts of a greater number of people in the congregation, something that we have tried during stewardship programs. This is something that the Session will be looking at over the next session, a reflection that I am keen for the

whole people of God to be involved in here in this place. So, watch this space!

The flip side of challenges is that they can be seen as opportunities. They are opportunities to grow in our faith, grow in who we are as a church, develop in how we are as a church and be enriched by a greater and wider involvement. The minister can only do so much. The office bearers can only do so much. And, yes, ministers and office bearers need to lead the way in all of this by example. Yet, you all have something to offer and that is what I want to see encouraged.

And so, let us nurture one another in faith, uphold one another in prayer, encourage one another in service.

Your friend and minister



SITUATIONS VACANT

Over the past year or so we have been developing our work in the use of PowerPoint and digital media both for the in person congregation and those watching online. This is an area that we would like to develop and harness the skills of a wider number of people in the congregation and so, we need help with sound, camera work and PowerPoint.

Sound: On a Sunday there is a rota of individuals who control the sound coming through the speakers in the Kirk and out to those watching from their houses and homes. Is this something that you think you could learn or, if you know something of it already, develop?

Cameras: There are now three webcams in the sanctuary and these are controlled by a volunteer Sunday by Sunday and at other times. Those controlling the cameras are also controlling what is streamed live. Again, is this something you've dabbled in and would like to learn more? Is it a new challenge you'd like to take up?

PowerPoint: Currently the minister controls the PowerPoint which is what you see on the big screen on a Sunday and on your screens at home - all of the words and videos. It would be good to have a rota of people willing to take control of that on a Sunday. You wouldn't need to know your way around PowerPoint but would only need to be ready to learn how to move the slides on a Sunday and deal with any troubleshooting.

These posts are open to people of any age and full training will be given.

Please contact either the minister (763022) or David Walker (747075).

CHURCH FLOWERS :

We are pleased to be able now to put flowers in the Church for the Sunday Morning Service. There is no Flower Chart available in the church, but we are asking anyone who would like to contribute to the Flower Fund, just to make a donation. Please mark your envelope "Flower Fund". The donation can be handed in when the Church is open for worship or you can phone one of the Flower Conveners and discuss other arrangements.

The Church Flower Service is always very much appreciated by those who receive the flowers.

Thank you again for your help.

Avril Cockburn - 769134; Margaret Jack - 767898.

MORNING WORSHIP

In relation to Sunday morning we await revised guidelines for worship and for other areas of church life (such as hospitality). We are taking little steps forward. There is now no longer any need to book for Sunday morning worship. You are now free to come along. We are still doing track and trace and so you will be asked to write down your details if we haven't already got them or you can scan the QR code on the way in.

We can now sing but unfortunately we continue to have to wear masks but that, and a number of areas, are under discussion. The national Covid Task Group is in discussions with the Scottish Government.

It was anticipated that more information would be available at this stage but unfortunately it is not. We will keep you up-to-date as best we can.

FUTURE SERVICES

Sunday, 19th September 11 a.m.
Morning Worship - *Jostling for position*

Sunday, 26th September 11 a.m.
Morning Worship - *Living your best life?*

Sunday, 3rd October 11 a.m.
Morning Worship - *Let them come to me*

Sunday, 10th October 11 a.m.
Morning Worship - *A wise heart*

Sunday, 17th October 11 a.m.
Morning Worship - *All in this together*

*Delve in at 12 continues
on a Wednesday at 12 noon.

**You are welcome to join us
at any of these services.

THANKS

Many thanks to the congregation for the flowers received following my recent cataract surgery. Thanks also to Robbie for his visit. Much appreciated and thanks. With blessing to all.

Gordon Waddell

George Grant would like to thank the Church for the lovely flowers received after his recent fall. Thanks also to George and Una Lawson for their visit and the lovely tablet. Thanks also to Billy Brooks for standing in at short notice and to everyone else for their good wishes.

Willie and Dianne Stein would like to thank their Church family and friends for the flowers, visits, cards and messages of good will and support during Willie's time in hospital and subsequent recuperation. These were all greatly appreciated.

FUNERAL SERVICES

25th June	Charles Stewart
6th July	Nan Clark
8th July	Brian Spiers
16th July	Gary Boyd
23rd July	Pat Blacklaws
5th August	David Leckie
6th August	Moira Aitchison
6th August	James Mowatt
10th August	Roberta and John Paterson
13th August	Helen Chalmers
26th August	Janette Clark
31st August	Anne Donnelly
8th September	Alice McGowan
9th September	Robert Donaldson

Pat Blacklaws

We were sorry to hear of the death of a well know and much loved and respected elder, Pat Blacklaws. Pat has endured much with her health over the last few years with times in and out of hospital. In all of this she demonstrated such a determination and strong faith. Her focus throughout was on others, her family, her friends and her church family.

Pat has served the church well as she has her Lord and his people. The list of what she did and supported over the years is a substantial one - the Rosebuds (which she helped to start), mother and toddlers, the Guild, the prayer group and any opportunity present to her to serve because her faith gave her such a personal strength but also encouraged and inspired a life of service. Even in the midst of her times of illness and recuperation from surgery she always asked after you and yours.

Pat was proud to serve as an elder and was diligent when it came to attendance at meetings and responding to any call for help. The interest she took in her district was second to none and, even after she gave up her district, she kept in touch with those she had visited and cared for.

In paying tribute to Pat, our thoughts and prayers are with Ian and the family who meant the world to Pat as they meant the world to her.

Baptisms

11th July Blake Bert Lowdon
29th August Arran Alexander Johnston

Admission of New Members

1st August Kristine Anderson
Donna Kinkade

Infant Blessing

22nd August Harry Patrick

Wedding

14th August Elizabeth Haughian
Derek Markie

Christian Aid and COP26!

COP26 is coming to Glasgow. This is an exciting opportunity for Christian Aid Supporters to be part of the conversation and to advocate for those most impacted by the climate crisis.

We are partnering with the [Young Christian Climate Network \(YCCN\)](#) on their Rise to the Moment Relay from the G7 in Cornwall to COP26 in Glasgow. Young people have been walking since June, as an act of solidarity and faith. They believe (and we agree) that no country should be pushed further into debt because of climate change.

I'm writing to let you know that the YCCN Rise to the Moment Relay will be passing through Airdrie on Thursday 28th October till Friday 29th October. This is an exciting opportunity to be involved in building momentum ahead of COP26.

YCCN organisers are keen for churches and groups to support the relay as it moves through Scotland. There are lots of ways to be involved, which can be tailored to fit your availability – from cheering as the walkers pass to organising a section of the route. Some possible ideas are below, with links to more information on the YCCN website.

Meet & Greet - cheer on our walkers, as well as offering them lunch if you are able to do so. The scale of the meet and greet is entirely up to you! The more people from your community who are able to get involved, the better (Covid rules apply)!

Accommodation Host - provide a single night of accommodation during the relay, which could be anything from a spare room to a church hall floor. On most days, accommodation will only be provided for the two Lead Walkers who are typically walking multiple days.

Route Section Team Leader - coordinate volunteers to plan, support, host overnight and walk some of their route section. This is a bigger role requiring logistics and direct support of YCCN volunteers.

Walker - walk alongside the lead walker for a portion of the route. There is no minimum commitment! We welcome all ages to the relay and

children are welcome to participate where they are accompanied by a legal guardian.

If any of these sound like something you'd like to do, [you can register your interest directly with YCCN](#). We'd love to hear about it too, but YCCN are handling the details for this part of the Relay. If you aren't sure what might work for your group or would like to chat through other ways to be involved, we (Lauren or Charlie) would be happy to discuss these with you more fully - just drop us a line by phone or email. (Charlie: 0141 221 7574 / cmeiklejohn@christian-aid.org, Lauren: 0131 240 1525 / lpetherbridge@christian-aid.org) Even if you aren't able to be involved in person, you could [pledge to support the Relay in prayer](#). You might even want to join our art installation of [origami prayer boats](#).

However you might like to support the Relay, we're here to help. If you have any questions, please do get in touch.

Charlie & Lauren, Christian Aid Scotland Churches Team

CAMEO

The committee met on the 24th August to discuss a way forward for Cameo to restart our meetings. We have guidance regarding cleaning/preparation for groups being together and feel we should try to start from September, meeting just once a month. With the hope that things could return to our normal fortnightly meeting in the New Year. However, that decision will have to be taken at a later date.

We look forward to welcoming anyone wishing to join us on **Tuesday, 5th October at 7:30pm**. This will be a "Getting Together" evening. We hope to contact all our group before then. By placing this in the Magazine, we hope this reaches any church member wanting to come along and join Cameo for fellowship on the above date. All will be made welcome.

Giving thanks the "some normality" is allowed to take place and we can share time together as a group learning how being together through Christ once again can help others.

Wilma Davidson

THANKS

I would like to thank Robbie for the lovely service on my retirement from the crèche. It was very moving and emotional. I would also like to thank the children for their attendance. When Lesley left, a rota was introduced and the following people deserve a mention too - Wilma Davidson, Carol Hamilton, Lesley Aitken, Mairi Mitchell, Elizabeth Robertson, May McMullan, Linda Francis and a few others along the way. I could not have managed without these ladies and I am so grateful to them. Thanks also to the many parent and grandparents for entrusting me with their children and grandchildren and to the Kirk Session for their continued trust and support. Finally, a thank you to Robbie for presenting me with the beautiful ornament, certificate and flowers.

Margo Elliot

IN STITCHES CRAFT GROUP

Could existing members or anyone else who is interested in joining the group, please contact me at 01236 763248, phone or text 07743611590 or email me at annelearmonth@btinternet.com. I would like to hear the thoughts you all have about restarting the group after our long absence due to the pandemic, Happy crafting!
Anne Learmonth

Ongoing Appeal for Needy Families

Since the start of 2021 it has become apparent that one of the lasting impacts of Covid is the repercussions in people's day to day living. This is true for Airdrie as well as many parts of Scotland. Last winter we donated a large number of jackets, coats, underwear, gloves and scarves to needy children in Airdrie and in nearby Wishaw. The primary school in Wishaw is located in one of the poorest areas in North Lanarkshire within a community with severe social and economic problems. In 2021, it's hard to believe that some kids don't have warm clothing, waterproof footwear and, sometimes, changes of underwear. The items we gathered were enough so that every child supported received at least one new item. This winter, we would like to do even better! I am liaising with school Principal Teachers to identify which families most need help. By giving clothing, and not money, this ensures the children get what they need, a sometimes cash is spent on less important items. The appeal also raised £900 which was spent buying sale and reduced-price items, so the cash went even further. So far this new term, a total of 181 pieces of School Uniform, mostly used but some new, have been gratefully received by families. All the cleaning items and toiletries have also been put to good use. Moving forward, many challenges still lie ahead for lots of families in all parts of Scotland as the last 18 months have taken their toll. Going forward to the end of the year, we hope to continue donating items for needy families. In next month's Magazine there will be more information on what we hope to gather before Christmas. 'Thank you' to everyone for your continued support.
Maggie Weir

Take Time

Take time to think - It is the source of power.
Take time to read - It is the fountain of wisdom.
Take time to play - It is the secret of perpetual youth.
Take time to me quiet
It is the opportunity to see God.
Take time to be aware -
It is the opportunity to help others.
Take time to love - It is God's greatest gift.
Take time to laugh - It is the music of the soul.
Take time to be friendly - It is the road to happiness.
Take time to dream - It is what the future is made of.
Take time to pray - It is the greatest power on earth.

Phil Osopher

Spell a word!

A lady dies and goes to the pearly gates. There she meets St. Peter and she says, "Did I make it ... Did I finally make it to Heaven?" St. Peter answers, "Well actually not yet. You have first to spell a word correctly." She says... "OK...What word?" St. Peter says, "Any word." She spells L-O-V-E and St Peter says, "Come on in". Then he says, "I've got to go away a bit ... could you mind the gate?" As fate would have it, her ex-husband dies and just then walks up to the gate. He says, "Did I finally make it to Heaven?" She says, "Not yet ... You've got to spell a word." "What word:", he says? She pauses for a moment and then says
antedisestablishmentarianism! **Jo King**

Janet's Story

Janet Ben (31) lives in Ngabu, Chikwawa District, southern Malawi. She and her husband have three children. A pile of muddy bricks is all that is left of her old house after Cyclone Idai swept through Malawi in March 2019. Homeless and only able to eat once a day, she was in a desperate fight for survival. Janet knew that other women in her community had teamed up to improve their finances. 'I used to admire women who were already members of this group,' she says. 'They were able to support their families.' Joining the Makande Women's group has changed everything for Janet and her family.

Christian Aid works with communities and groups like this to promote new technologies, tools, and training to equip them to adapt to the extreme weather conditions that threaten their lives. Pointing to the fruit in the massive baobab trees near her home, Janet tells me how the women make juice from the baobab fruit, working in shifts. 'Once we've made the juice, we take it to the market to sell. After selling, we bring the money together,' explains Janet. She has opened her own stall at the local market. 'My business is doing well, and I have managed to save with the village bank. My two elder kids can now go to school on a full stomach.

As we move towards Harvest Time, Christian Aid continues to raise funds to help more people like Janet find a way out of poverty and become more resilient to the climate crisis! If you can help please donate at www.christianaid.org.uk.

J. Lamb, Christian Aid.

Useful Contacts

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