

Christ's Kirk Chronicle

Glenrothes Christ's Kirk

Pitcoudie Avenue

Glenrothes

KY7 6SU

June 2020



Prayer Call

Dear God

Our sharer and companion on the many journeys we travel in life, walk with us through this difficult time of "lockdown" as we try to protect ourselves and keep our loved ones safe from this terrible illness.



Loving God, touch those who have been bereaved with your hand of healing and peace.

We thank you for all those who have been working on the front line and those who have been inspired to help others in so many ways during the past few months.

Help us to remember what is important in life as we so readily forget.

Help us to rethink what we need,

Help us to cherish new and long standing friendships,

Help us to care more thoughtfully for ourselves, for others and for the Earth

For Jesus' sake

Amen

*Isabelle Farquhar
Prayer Secretary*

Update on the Church of Scotland during the Covid-19 lockdown

The Church of Scotland, across all of its Presbyteries is facing significant financial challenges during these times. It is the same scenario for all Christian denominations and other groups and agencies in the charitable sector. The denomination has lost its income stream from weekly offerings, hall rentals, and investments which the Church holds. The senior management team, based at the Church Offices in Edinburgh, has used modelling to predict the likely deficit that the Church might face for 2020 due to loss of regular income could be in the region of 30 million pounds. There are certain outcomes to this predicted scenario

- i) The speeding up of certain areas of the radical action plan, agreed at the General Assembly of 2019 namely in terms of Presbytery planning (having well-equipped spaces in the right places)
- ii) the process of reducing the number of Presbyteries down to 12 (from 48) and
- iii) the reduction in costs at Church Offices in Edinburgh. The redeployment of monies into the new Growth Fund to resource local congregations has been put on hold for the moment, in order to support front-line ministry during this time of crisis.

Rev Andrew Gardner

Dear Friends

We are living in unprecedented times. How many times have you heard these words since the middle of March? Who would have predicted that we would have faced a global pandemic of a highly contagious virus and that the world economy would have come to a grinding halt? By the time the June edition of the Chronicle is in circulation, there will be some easing of lockdown measures in Scotland.



As I write to you, I am not sure of the consequences that any relaxing of lockdown will have on our churches in Scotland and whether those deemed to be in a vulnerable category will be able to gather for worship; it is difficult to envisage what the new normal will be.

Over the period of lockdown - I have been working from home and keeping in touch with members of Christ's Kirk by different means. Like many other people, I have had to find new ways of working. I have been posting a short reflection twice a week on YouTube and I am grateful to Ian Morgan for uploading these posts on the Church website, Facebook page and sending them out by e-mail. We are very blessed at Christ's Kirk to have a dedicated group of elders. I have appreciated their support and encouragement. By the end of this week, I will be more up-to-date with the Zoom communication platform. I am a luddite when it comes to communications and new technology and I have been slower to learn about all the options open to us in the age of smart phones, tablets and laptops.

Digital technology has been a great blessing during the time of lockdown, but all of us are aware that we are missing the physical presence of our children, grandchildren and friends. I have enjoyed many online coffee meetings with friends and colleagues - but it is not the same as having these loved ones in the same room. Yet in some way - each contact provides a means of support and an effort to reach out.

During lockdown, some congregations have been able to initiate and support local food larder schemes or provide other means of community support. I have been encouraged at the work being done across Scotland. So what about the future, or where do we go from here? It might be some time before lockdown restrictions are lifted for Churches and when they are - there will be a 'new normal' of social distancing and no singing to begin with; but we can adapt to these new ways of worship. Hopefully as time passes and global population can be vaccinated against Covid-19, we might return to something akin of what we enjoyed on the past.

What steps can you take - to look after your physical, mental and spiritual health? If you are able, then try and take some exercise each day. If you have a hobby that you can do at home - then immerse yourself in it. Remain connected with friends and family - pick up the telephone. Those of you with smart phones, tablets and computers can access a vast array of worship services online (check the Church of Scotland website). All of the Glenrothes area ministers are doing something to keep in touch with members of their congregations. We need to remember that God has not forgotten us, he is journeying with us.

Below are the words of Psalm 46 which are words in season for this time.

As a family we send you our warm greetings

Your minister and friend,

Andrew

Psalm 46

- 1 God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.
- 2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,
- 3 though its waters roar and foam
and the mountains quake with their surging.
- 4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy place where the Most High dwells.
- 5 God is within her, she will not fall;
God will help her at break of day.
- 6 Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall;
he lifts his voice, the earth melts.

- 7 The Lord Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.
- 8 Come and see what the Lord has done,
the desolations he has brought on the earth.
- 9 He makes wars cease
to the ends of the earth.
He breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.
- 10 He says, 'Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth.'
- 11 The Lord Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Points for Prayer

- Give thanks for the numerous ways that Churches have offered support and help to their communities during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Thank God for the care workers, the doctors, the nurses, the cleaners, ambulance drivers, paramedics and porters who have put their lives at risk to care for the sick.
- Praise God for the support that has come from friends, families and neighbours during this time.
- Pray for those whose businesses have gone bust and remember those who have lost their jobs.
- Remember the senior management team of the Church of Scotland and some of the difficult decisions that they have had to make and will make in the future.
- Bring to the Lord, those who govern the peoples of this world and the varying responses that they have made during these difficult months.
- Remember the families of Brian Turner and Bob Brown - both of whom passed away recently.

Christian Aid

Today as I write this report it is Christian Aid Sunday - so different from every other year! The last report I wrote for the previous issue of the Chronicle I was looking forward to taking part in the Forth Bridge Cross and hoping to find many sponsors then thinking about getting ready the annual red envelopes for Christian Aid Week!



During this continued lockdown everything has changed apart from the great need to support the work of Christian Aid. It is almost unthinkable to hear of all those who do not have clean drinking water when you think of the number of times we wash our hands, not counting how much water we drink, during this Covid-19 pandemic.

When life returns to some kind of normality I hope you will support the fundraising events to be arranged to support the work of Christian Aid and if possible that you were able to donate on line, by phone or by cheque during Christian Aid Week to bring clean drinking water to those in need. Continue to stay safe and stay well.

Wilma Page

Guild

Due to the current pandemic and subsequent lockdown it has not been possible for the Guild committee to plan any further meetings. The Annual Gathering which was to be held in Dundee in September has been cancelled, a disappointment for those planning to attend, who were looking forward to hearing the Rev Martin Fair's address. On a positive note, next year's Annual Gathering will take place on Saturday 4th September 2021.



It is uncertain when and how we will be able to meet again as a group, but hope this can happen in the not too distant future, when we can look forward to joining together in fellowship and friendship.

In the meantime, keep safe and keep well.

Jenny Catlin (Guild secretary)

Finance Report

The first quarter of the year has been a very strange one for us all but despite not being able to go to church, the day to day operating costs carry on as normal. We were very fortunate last year to have made overpayments of our ministries and mission contributions which meant that this year we have only had one payment of £2,068 to make and that is our total contributions for the year paid, whilst normally we would be paying this amount every month.

This has allowed us to have some much needed reserves to meet our normal expenditure during this period where our only income is our FWO standing order monies and our manse let. Our monthly income is reduced by approx £1500 per month from Sunday offerings and fundraising, plus £650 per month hall lets. The current tenancy of the manse is expected to finish at the end of May and in the current climate it is uncertain how quickly we will be able to re-let the property.

Our Income for the period Jan – April	£17,923.23 (of which £2947.20 was manse rental)
Our Expenditure for period Jan – April	£11,245.98
Surplus for period	£6,677.25

Bank balances at end April 2020:

General Account	£16,640.37
Future/Fabric	£1,493.51
Cafe Account	£8,000.00
Total Funds	£26,133.88

We are in a much better financial position than many churches are at the moment but with no definite end in sight to this pandemic we cannot be complacent moving forward. If anyone would like to change their method of giving to standing order so that your income is guaranteed to us during this time please do not hesitate to contact myself and I can arrange to have a mandate sent out to you.

Stay safe and hope to see you all soon

Rose

Glenrothes Church of Scotland congregations (Strategy and Resources Committee)

Some of you will be aware that the Strategy and Resources committee of Kirkcaldy Presbytery has been working with congregations across Presbytery to help produce a new Presbytery plan from the bottom up (i.e. through a process of consultation). These discussions have moved ahead at different speeds in different parts of the Presbytery. Since Autumn of 2019, representatives of the 6 Glenrothes Churches have been meeting together each month to discuss the way forward. A proposal that was borne out of discussions was to form a Covenanted Partnership. Each minister to work up to 30% of their time deployed across the Glenrothes area. This principal was agreed at the November 2019 meeting of Kirkcaldy Presbytery. More recently the Presbytery Planning Task Group in Edinburgh has given approval to this proposal.

The nature of the Covenanted Partnership is still to be worked out in future discussions, but one immediate consequence is that from now on, vacancies that arise in the Glenrothes Churches, will have 2 members of other congregations on their Nomination Committee. This will have an impact on the forthcoming period of vacancy at Christ's Kirk when the period of Interim Ministry comes to an end (probably early 2021).

Rev Andrew Gardner

Foodbank

In these present times many families are suffering hardship and the need for using Foodbanks has increased. If you can help please take your donation direct to Glenrothes Foodbank. Their opening hours to accept donations are from 9am – 3pm, Monday, Wednesday and Friday.



Tribute to Bob Brown who passed away on 13th May 2020

Bob was an active elder at Christ's Kirk for many years and he also served as Presbytery Property Convener too. This was no easy task, but he used the skills that God had blessed him with. He had to step down from active eldership when his eyesight diminished and he was no longer able to drive.

Bob was born in Glasgow on 17th January 1939 and lived with his family in Coatbridge. He was educated in Coatbridge then attended Glasgow Tech (now called Strathclyde University) where he qualified as a chartered civil engineer.

As a young man, while working for Lanark County Council, Bob met Eleanor and they were married on 10th July 1965. Bob and Eleanor were blessed with one daughter Lesley who remembers her dad as a hard working man. She can recall happy family holidays and visits to see friends in places like Wales, Stranraer, MacDuff and Eastbourne.

For most of his working life Bob worked for Glenrothes Development Corporation as a principal civil engineer. He was the engineer behind lots of the Glenrothes bridges and roundabouts. Bob's professional piece de resistance was Glenrothes airfield of which he designed and supervised its construction.

He loved his days out with his family travelling with Lesley, her husband Matt and his grandchildren Megan and Fergus on steam trains. He particularly enjoyed the Glenfinnan viaduct (how could any civil engineer not love it?) and also a miniature train in the Lake District.

Fabric Committee May 2020 report.

With Christ's Kirk in lockdown there is nothing much to report. The church is being checked regularly (as per Church of Scotland guidelines) and I can report that the church and church hall are okay. Luckily the church gardens were tidied up at the onset of Covid-19, and these are quite attractive, as per the photo. The real situation will dawn when the church opens and a big clean is required and we shall need to look at the roof repairs. We know this crisis will pass and we shall return to our worship and activities.



Ron Page

Pray through the Psalms

Christ's Kirk, along with other congregations in Glenrothes and across the country participated in the 'Thy Kingdom Come' Ascension to Pentecost prayer initiative.

The planning group came up with the proposal of using the rich resources of the Psalms and each evening a congregation led some reflections on the Psalms. This took place by the method of a Zoom meeting from 21st – 30th May and was quite well attended.

Originally it was to be a Pilgrimage Prayer Walk around the Glenrothes Churches but due to the coronavirus that was not possible – perhaps next year we can revisit that plan.

We can't go to church

In the month of March 2020, Covid-19 came to our shores
And people were breathing in, the coronavirus spores
Some of us thought it wouldn't, affect us all that very much
Little did we know, it would stop us going to Church

It was then that the prime minister, asked for our co-operation
He said to the country, "Everyone must go into isolation"
He shut all the cafés, where we would meet our friends for lunch
And he closed down lots of shops and said "I'm also shutting the Church"

"But what about Easter?" The church leaders were all shocked
The government insisted, church buildings must remain locked
Congregations were dismayed, it left lots of people in the lurch
The most important Christian festival, and we can't celebrate in Church.

In Holy Week every minister produced, a reflection to go online
Posted on YouTube and Facebook, and by email which was fine
But who played Rev I.M. Jolly; Alan Kimmitt was my hunch
Sadly part of his message was, "You still can't go to Church"

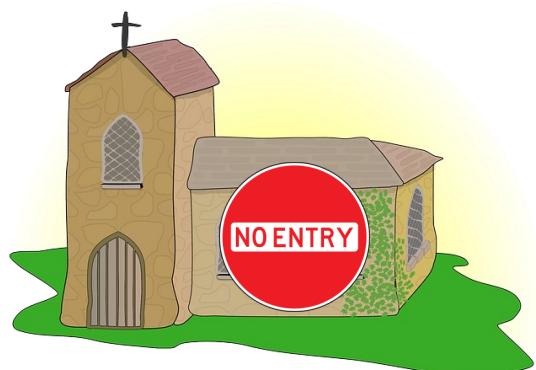
David, Eileen, Andrew and Alan, are working very, very hard
They're using social media, to beam themselves to our back yard
Technology is a wonderful thing, I'm sure you'll agree that's true
Because you can't go to Church, they're bringing the Church to you

Due to the virus there's now, more religious programmes on TV
The one that's seems very popular, is "Reflections at the Quay"
It pulls in lots and lots of viewers, and now here is the crunch
It seems that it draws more people, than actually went to Church

Pentecost this year arrived on the very last day of May
We were still in our houses, as the church celebrated its birthday
No celebrations for us, no birthday cake to munch
We're all still in lockdown, so we're not allowed in Church.

Let's all pray to God, that restrictions will be lifted soon
And we can start to worship together, maybe late in June
Restriction could still be in place, as into July we lurch
It will certainly be a joyful day, when we gather together in Church.

*Ian Morgan
12/5/2020*



Newsletter by email

If you would like to receive future publications of the church newsletter electronically, please send an email with your name and home address (your email address will be at the head of your email) along with a short notification to the newsletter editor at christskirkglenrothes@yahoo.com and we will send it to you.

If anyone would like to join our team, please speak to me or get in touch at the email address above.

*Ian Morgan
Editor*

Collydean Community Centre

Collydean Community Centre was repurposed in March 2020 into a community anchor organisation/crisis centre. Staff and volunteers are offering the following with funding support from the Scottish Government, Supporting Communities Fund and the National Lottery:-

- To connect and coordinate activity in other areas within Glenrothes and Fife
- Shopping for people impacted economically or through reduced contact with society including anyone struggling to access food
- Delivering emergency food parcels
- Providing and preparation of emergency food parcels to people coming through Fife Voluntary Action, "helping hand" (distributed Community Education staff)
- Pick up prescriptions and medical supplies
- Disbursement of funds to specialist agencies or grass root organisations
- Telephone befriending /buddy/phone pal
- Digital connectivity (able to offer free smart phones with unlimited texts & calls for three months and to offer free Wi-Fi, Kindles and Laptops and free phone line for digital support)
- Community fridges and community freezers/referrals to the Glenrothes Food bank
- Distribution Centre for receiving Fairshare/neighbourly and food from the food resilience project at Bankhead for Glenrothes High School and Glenwood High School staff to prepare for families
- Third Sector Referral Agency for One Parent Families, Coronavirus Emergency Energy Fund
- Presence in the Centre every Tuesday & Thursday afternoon, from a Youth Justice Officer, Safer Communities, Fife Council
- Offering digital youth club each Thursday from 6-7.30pm for Primary school age. For example, quizzes, mindfulness and arts & crafts
- Offering health & wellbeing projects i.e. "Growing Together" (grow houses, grow bags, gardening kit, sunflower seeds, tomato plants and potatoes) and "Activity "packs for families
- Making up gift baskets and delivery for the elderly & vulnerable residents in the North Glenrothes area, inclusive of Leslie and Cadham. Funding has been donated by Mr M Hussain, a local business man, North Glenrothes Community Council, RWE Generation (Biomass Plant) and Sandusky's Ltd

Monday – Friday 7.30am – 5pm and Saturday & Sunday from 9am – 2pm (weekday nights in case of requests for emergency food parcels)

Collydean Community Centre have obtained Scottish Government funding through the Supporting Communities Fund that allows them to put in free Wi-Fi and a tablet/kindle into the homes of the elderly and vulnerable. Everything is free. If anyone is interested their consultants will (full PPE) demonstrate how to connect etc and give a little training and there is a dedicated local telephone help line that they can phone up if stuck.

Please let them know if you feel you have anyone in mind

THIS TABLET DOESN'T



- Connect you to family
- Get you a library book
- Use an Encyclopaedia
- Join a family party
- Read a newspaper
- Do the shopping
- Play games with friend
- Re-order prescriptions
- Use TV on demand
- Or even send a letter

UNLIKE THIS TABLET



Calling all Off-line Seniors in North Glenrothes Area
Let's get you connected & show you how it works
Call 01592 359022 to request the use of a Tablet delivered right to your home



The Scottish
Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba



You're not **stuck** at home
You're **safe** at home!



Church Family News

We are happy to announce and welcome new members

Tam McLaren

Brian Turner

Sadly, we have to announce the deaths of

* Brian Turner 21/3/2020

Bob Brown 13/5/2020

God has you in His keeping, we have you in our hearts.

* Brian had been worshipping at Christ's Kirk for some time and was admitted by resolution of the Kirk Session on 8th March 2020.

Messy Church

In March we held our very first messy church with the theme of the Good Samaritan.

The afternoon was based around craft activities, games, singing, a slide show presentation of the story of the Good Samaritan and of course food.

We organised the day not knowing how many, if any, children would attend but we were pleased to have seven children who all enjoyed themselves and indicated that they would be happy to come to future events. We learned a few lessons from the day and the helpers were very pleased that it had been positively received.

It was felt that there is a need and a demand for this type of event in the area and we were keen to keep the momentum going. Unfortunately because of Covid-19 our second messy church planned for May did not take place but God willing once this is all over and we adjust to our "new" normal that this can be resumed.



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