

Christ's Kirk Chronicle

Glenrothes Christ's Kirk

Pitcoudie Avenue

Glenrothes

KY7 6SU

December 2020



Prayer Call

Thank you God for all your blessings. For the strength you give us each day and for all the people around us who make life meaningful, especially in the dark and difficult days.

Lord, watch over those caring for the victims of coronavirus and others who are suffering illness. We offer our prayers for their protection as they help the sick find healing and the bereaved find peace.

Fill our hearts with hope for new beginnings now a vaccine has been developed to combat this terrible illness that has blighted our world.

Help us find peace and joy over the festive season as we celebrate Jesus' birth, especially those who live alone and the homeless.

Fill our hearts with hope for some sunshine and happiness in 2021 and to begin the new year with renewed strength.



Points for Prayer

- Please pray for the family of Anne Fairgrieve, and be close to Anne's husband Jim at this sad time.
- Pray for the family of Doreen Herd and remember all families who are dealing with loss in the coming weeks.
- Give thanks for the work party who prepared to open the Church for worship, those who open the Church on a Sunday morning and the small team who make the technology work.
- Give thanks for all of those who work in in our hospitals, serve in GP surgeries, drive ambulances, provide paramedic support and keep pharmacies running.
- Remember those in our congregation who continue to be anxious about the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Bring to the Lord, those facing hardship due to losing their jobs and pray for those whose jobs are in jeopardy.
- Pray for the arrangements to bring together 3 Presbyteries to form the Presbytery of Fife as from 1st January. Let's hope for a smooth transition.

Dear Friends,

As I reflect upon the season of Autumn I wonder how you are feeling about the present times. There is no denying that the present Covid-19 restrictions have become wearing for so many of us, particularly as winter approaches. The statistics about the impact and spread of the virus are alarming and causing many of us anxiety. The newspaper reports tell us that the politicians with careful cooperation from the public want to 'save Christmas.' If we are not careful we could be overtaken by doom and gloom. However, we need to acknowledge that a significant level of the population is struggling with the impact that lockdown is having upon their sense of wellbeing.



How has the Church responded to the pandemic during the past 9 months? Some congregations have turned the crisis into an opportunity. They have provided facilities for community larders or used their kitchen facilities to have meals prepared for those in need within their parishes.

For Christ's Kirk we have kept pastoral contact (via social media, email and telephone). I am aware that I don't have contact details for everyone. If you are reading this letter and I haven't contacted you, please get in touch. We provide a weekly YouTube reflection that is sent out through our Facebook page and email. In mid-September we opened the Church building for worship having followed the Scottish Government's directives and gained permission from Presbytery. We have been able to hold in-person worship and stream out the service using the Zoom platform. It has been heartening to see many of our regular congregation join us on a Sunday morning online or via the telephone. Each week I am grateful for those who open the Church on a Sunday and use their gifts to make the technology work. More recently we have begun "Time for a Cuppa" on Zoom on Monday mornings. If you are able, please join us.

So what has the pandemic taught us as Christ's Kirk? We are reminded that we are a community of believers who have put their trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. Christ's Kirk, like other churches, has adjusted how we create our Church community to adapt to the times. There are restrictions for all of us who are present in-person on a Sunday morning, but we give thanks that we can continue to be together. The Church has always been about the community of the saints (believers); here on earth and in heaven.

Secondly, more than ever, the hope that we have in Christ is brought into sharp focus. Christ, the Light of the World, shines through the darkness of these difficult times. The scriptures teach us that we live in a world which is fallen and imperfect. There are many ways that these imperfections manifest themselves; evil, selfishness, conflict, exploitation of creation and sickness. Yet, the risen Christ has promised to return and restore all of Creation as he intended it to be and there will be no "mourning or crying or pain" (see Rev 21:4). Hold on to this hope that Christ has given us!

The hope of creation restored is embodied in Christ's birth at Christmas. God promised through the message of the prophets to send someone, a Messiah, who would save people from sin and destruction. It is the babe born in Bethlehem that saves us. We will not "save Christmas", Christmas will come; it's what we make of it that is important.

Wishing you a safe and peaceful Christmas and a hopeful new year,

Your Minister and Friend

Andrew

THANK YOU, ZOOM!

As we look back to the beginning of the year, no one could have predicted the scale of change and disruption that we have experienced in our lives as the result of the coronavirus COVID-19. By mid-March, our diaries suddenly became empty of meetings with friends and loved ones and the closure of churches meant we were no longer able to attend Sunday worship at Christ's Kirk.

In April, our big extended family get-together in Dunfermline, which had been planned for September 2020, had to be cancelled when we became unsure that any of the family would be allowed to travel. Following the cancellation, our nephew in Houston, Texas, arranged a Zoom meeting so that all the McConnachie cousins could at least speak to and see each other virtually. At the approved time, we were able to engage in conversations with family in Houston as well as in Falmouth, Derby, Lincoln, Kinross and Glenrothes. Although we were unable to cuddle each other, it was a delight to have a feeling of togetherness provided through Zoom.

When churches were allowed to re-open under strict guidelines in August, it was realized that many members in the vulnerable groups would not be attending worship in person and that broadcasting the service live on Zoom was an acceptable alternative. How it has grown! And if you have connections with other churches, it is possible to watch two Sunday services live without leaving the comfort of home!

Of course, at times we encounter problems with technology, but these are overcome with experience. (Do you remember the early days of television outside broadcasting via the Eurovision Link when the black and white pictures looked similar to watching a heavy snowstorm?) We should not dismiss this new venture for Christ's Kirk and other churches who are providing this valuable service to their members. One advantage of watching a virtual Sunday service is that we can sing the hymns at home, although this is not currently allowed in the church.

So, I would like to say a huge 'Thank You' to the team at Christ's Kirk who each Sunday allow me to be together virtually with the church family, sharing in worship – and also a huge 'Thank You' to Zoom for providing a system which brings people together in these difficult times.

Esther

Zoom continued

Doreen has said she is also enjoying the services albeit with hiccups and looks forward to them as well as the mid-week reflections. She misses the interaction with people but is grateful for the use of technology.

Christmas Eve Service

There will be a service on December 24th at 7pm. The service will be on Zoom also and joining details will be available nearer the time.

The Kirk Session agreed that the retiral collection on that evening will be in aid of the Samaritans. If you are not attending that evening and would like to help financially, please put your donation in an envelope marked 'Samaritans' and put it through the church door.

Join us on Zoom

If you are not already getting notification of Christ's Kirk's Zoom meetings please send an email (christskirkglenrothes@yahoo.com) and you can be added to the distribution list.

(Editor)

Finance Report November 2020

Well it is hard to believe that we are almost at the end of another year, and what a year it has been. Life has taken on a new normal and although we are now able to worship together again it is very different with no singing and attendance by Zoom.

One thing that never changes is the finances of the church, we still have to make sure that our bills are paid and our premises are safe and secure. I have done a comparison between our income and expenditure for the same 10 month period January to October to give you an indication on how our finances are and the effect that Covid has had on our income.

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
<u>Income</u>		
Hall lets	5,205.00	1,635.04
Open Plate	2,911.58	1,953.47
WFO Envelopes	8,413.38	4,265.00
WFO S/O	7,160.00	9,695.00
Other income (manse rent, fundraising etc.)	<u>18,961.48</u>	<u>16,212.81</u>
Total income	<u>42,651.44</u>	<u>33,761.32</u>
<u>Expenditure</u>	42,437.14	18,696.18
(Ministries & Mission paid in advance in 2019 for 2020 contributions of £12,000)	<u>12,000.00 -</u>	<u>12,000.00+</u>
	<u>30,437.14</u>	<u>30,696.18</u>

Last year we made an overpayment in our Ministries and Mission contributions which meant that we have not had to pay contributions during this year but if I adjust the expenditure figures to show if this had not been the case then our expenditure is actually pretty much the same as in the previous year. However our income has dropped by almost £9,000 during the same period.

We are very fortunate that the manse is still being let and this has meant that our bank balances at the end of October were £25,000 in the general account, £8,000 in the cafe account, and £1,493 in the fabric/future account. Although these balances look healthy we will be starting to pay for our Ministries and Mission contributions again from the start of the year so this will start to eat into the reserves that we currently have.

If anyone currently contributes by FWO envelopes but are unable to attend church please continue to fill your envelopes and we can either arrange to collect them from you or you can hand them into the church. Alternatively I can send out standing order mandates to anyone wishing to pay by this method. Please email the church or myself to arrange this.

Wishing you all a very happy, healthy 2021.

Rose

Harvest Thanksgiving

On 18th October we held the Harvest Thanksgiving service in church. The Kirk session had agreed earlier that as Christian Aid envelopes could not be distributed in May, instead of asking the congregation to bring foodstuffs, monetary donations would be accepted for the work being done helping poor families in Nicaragua. The amount sent to Christian Aid was £315.



Points to Ponder

Our faith assures us of the love of God, the forgiveness of sins, the joy of salvation and peace that is beyond our human understanding.

GUILD NEWS.



We ought to be celebrating 40 years of the Guild at Christ's Kirk this year but Covid-19 has put paid to that. Perhaps it will be possible to mark the occasion in the not too distant future. It would be a pity not to have the opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the contribution made over the years by so many members, past and present.

Despite the pandemic, the Guild office staff are keeping us up to date with their weekly e-letter. The publication of a magazine is being considered, which would enable members without access to the internet to be informed. It is good to learn how others are coping at the present time.

Some Guilds are having zoom meetings. The knitters are busy. Hats, gloves and scarfs are on their way from Shetland to the Lodge House Mission in Glasgow. Others are knitting angels to spread the good news of Christmas around their communities.

Patricia Robertson, a former national convener, is producing Guild face masks.

The work of the Guild has to continue and the subject of money arises. The capitation fee this year will be £9.00 (previously £12.00). The treasurer is awaiting instructions as to how and when the fees are to be collected.

Roberta from St. Andrew's Guild, Arbroath sends greetings from their members.

Best Wishes to All for Christmas and New Year.

Jenny Catlin.

The Presbytery of Fife

Part of the radical action plan that the General Assembly approved in 2019 was the reduction in the number of Presbyteries that exist in the Kirk from 48 to 12. For some time now, the Presbyteries of Dunfermline, Kirkcaldy and St. Andrew's have been working towards creating a single Presbytery for all of Fife.

The Presbytery of Fife will come into being on the 1st January 2021. Rev Dr David Coulter has been appointed as the full-time Presbytery Clerk. David is currently ministering in Guernsey and formerly served as Chaplain General. Rev John Duncan, currently minister of Guardbridge Church of Scotland will become Deputy Clerk. Rev Jane Barron, an honorary chaplain of St Andrew's University has been nominated to be the Moderator of the newly formed Presbytery.

Glenrothes Area Churches Partnership

The outcome of the Review of the Kirkcaldy Presbytery plan conducted by the Strategy and Resourcing Committee was the formation of the Glenrothes Area Churches Partnership. Ruth Anderson and myself have been representing Christ's Kirk at monthly steering group meetings since the beginning of 2020, when discussions began. The agreed current plan for Glenrothes, will allow for 5 ministers of word and sacrament and 2½ MDS (Mission Development Staff). The Churches in Glenrothes are working more closely together (we have held joint services in Holy Week, the Summer period and now over the Advent season on Monday evenings). As the Partnership develops, clergy will aim to work up to 30% of their time with the wider Glenrothes area and 70% of their time in their own congregation. Presently, the steering group are fine tuning the Partnership Agreement, which will then be presented to Kirk Sessions for discussion and approval. Once the Agreement is complete, the congregation will be given sight of what has been agreed. The steering group agreed to engage in a community mission audit of the Glenrothes area, working alongside the Cinnamon network. Presently the Kirk Sessions are engaged in an internal audit of the skills and activities of their own congregations. If you have any questions, please speak to either Ruth or me.

Andrew Gardner



Instead of your usual calorie packed advent calendar, why not try something a bit different this year with our "Reverse Advent Calendar"?

It's simple, just put an item aside for each day leading up to Christmas, and we'll make sure it goes to make someone's Christmas a little happier.

Their opening hours to accept donations are from 12 noon - 3pm, Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The address is Caledonia House, Pentland Park, Saltire Centre, Glenrothes, KY6 2AL

1 Shampoo	2 UHT Milk	3 Tinned Meat	4 Custard
5 Sponge Pudding	6 Noodles	7 Toothpaste	8 Cereal
9 Jam	10 Toilet Roll	11 Diluting Juice	12 Crisps
13 Tinned Vegetables	14 Coffee	15 Rice Pudding	16 Soap
17 Shower Gel	18 Curry Sauce	19 Instant Mash	20 Sweets
21 Tomato Puree	22 Tinned Fruit	23 Hot Chocolate	24 Pasta Sauce

(Apologies for the poor quality of the picture)

CHRISTMAS 2020 IN NORTH GLENROTHES

Undoubtedly this will be different this year. But it will still be a real, if virtual, Christmas when we shall be celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ some way or another. "Celebrate" is the correct word.

How physically and safely close we get to each other depends on the coronavirus and our government. But we shall indeed celebrate this very special birthday.

Change is always with us, sometimes for the better, sometimes not. It was only in 1958 that Christmas became a public holiday in Scotland. In the years following the Reformation it was not celebrated at all.

One local event is taking place in North Glenrothes - Santa's Sleigh Ride.

Organised by Collydean Community Centre, Santa and Mrs Claus will travel through our community for several evenings, backed by lights and music. This is thanks to donations from Cadham Pharmacy, the RWE Plant, Glenrothes Rotary club, Mr Hussain, NGCC and Christ's Kirk. Stewards in high-viz jackets will ensure safety and no crowds.

The programme is basically as follows with all events starting at 5.30pm.

Saturday 19th	Collydean
Sunday 20th	Pitcairn and Coul
Monday 21st	Leslie
Tuesday 22nd	Cadham
Wednesday 23rd	Whinneyknowe and Balgeddie



Every Monday evening during Advent the Covenanted Partnership churches in the Glenrothes area are participating in a joint venture. (Poster below). Please get your cuppa and mince pie(s) etc. and join them on Zoom.

ADVENT CAFÉ CHURCH

Suitable for families and all ages

On Zoom, bring your own refreshments and paper/crayons/pens to draw an Advent candle each week

HOPE, PEACE, JOY and LOVE



Mondays, 30 November, 7, 14 and 21 December

6.30pm

Why not Invite your friends, family and neighbours?

Hosted by the churches of the Covenanted Partnership Churches

St Ninian's: SC002472 Markinch & Thornton: SC003417 Christ's Kirk: SC007397 St Margaret's: SC009845
Leslie Trinity: SC014025 St Columba's: SC016386

Topic: Advent Cafe Church

Monday, November 30, 2020

For 4 weeks until Monday, Dec 21, 2020

6.30pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87628118479?pwd=V3l0bEdJaEh0NVJOamRxa3J4TCs4UT09>

Meeting ID: 876 2811 8479

Passcode: 032166

Telephone in using your landline telephone

0131 460 1196

Stamp Appeal for World Vision

Please cut out the stamps received on your Christmas cards (6mm border) and bring them along to the church when you can, or place them in an envelope and put them through the letter box.

Communion

The sacrament of Holy Communion which usually takes place on the last Sunday in November has been moved to the following week and will now take place on Sunday 6th December. This will be screened on Zoom so if you are at home that day please have the elements near at hand. The next communion is scheduled to take place on 23rd February 2021.

Church Family News

Death:	Doreen Herd	09/09/20
Death:	Anne Fairgrieve	23/10/20
Baptism:	Nikki Leigh McKeen*	15/11/20
Baptism:	Isabella (Ella) Rose Bowie	29/11/20

* note that this baptism was not done in the face of the congregation

Interim Ministry

In January 2019, I began my appointment with Christ's Kirk as Interim Minister, replacing my colleague Rev David Denniston who was on sick leave at the time. Interim Ministry is a short term appointment to help bring stability to a congregation that has encountered some troubles in its recent history. The purpose is to address any past and present issues, provide a non-anxious presence and prepare the congregation to face the future. I anticipate that my appointment will come to an end in 2021, but there is nothing clear or definite on the horizon at the moment. As soon as I am able I will communicate to the Presbytery and to the congregation a timeline for my departure. Under normal circumstances there is usually a TSG (Transition Support Group) meeting to assess the objectives that were set for the period of Interim Ministry.

Andrew Gardner

CONTACTS

Interim Minister

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Session Clerk Ruth Anderson 07970594033 ruthp.anderson@yahoo.com

Treasurer Rose Bowie rose.bowie14@gmail.com

Website www.christskirk.uk

Facebook Christ's Kirk

*** In following Church of Scotland guidelines, the office is not in use. If you need to contact us please use one of the alternative methods above.**

Glenrothes Christ's Kirk, Pitcoudie Avenue, Glenrothes KY7 6SU.

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