

# Christ's Kirk Chronicle

## Glenrothes Christ's Kirk

Pitcoudie Avenue

Glenrothes

KY7 6SU

## March 2021



### Prayer Call

Lord, we thank you for our church family and our interim Minister, the Rev Dr Andrew Gardener who brought faith and friendship, healing and hope into Christ's Kirk. We have been encouraged in outreach to the community. As he moves on to continue the Lord's work in another parish, be with Andrew and his wife Julie, who have contributed so much time and talents into our lives.

Heavenly Father, let us not fear this change but embrace it with the strength to go forward in faith. Bless us with the vision to see the best of things to come knowing that you will be walking with us every step of the way.

Lord, we thank you for all that we have in life, our family, our homes, our health and food on our table.

We pray for those who are tired, hungry, homeless and lonely. Be with them as they struggle through each day not knowing your love.

We thank you for teachers and pray for your blessing on them as pupils return to school.

We thank you for the NHS and all who work caring for the sick and injured, all carers and those associated with health care.

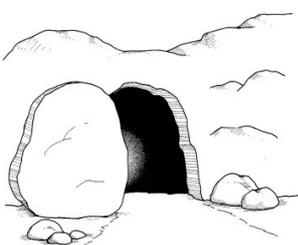
Give comfort to the bereaved and dying.

Help us Lord to bring hope to those who are in despair and sadness due to this long lockdown and not being able to communicate with family and friends. The loss of touch, advising against holding hands or giving hugs has proved to be very difficult for everyone.

Help us to face the future with hope as the spring flowers begin to bloom as a sign of sunshine and happier days ahead.

Amen

*Isabelle* Prayer Secretary



**Easter Sunday 4th April 2021**

**Jesus is risen!**

**Let's shout it from the rooftops**

**Let's tell it in the streets**

**Let's whisper it in our gardens**

**Let's sing it in the sanctuary**

**We have everything when we have you.**

## Minister's Letter

Lent - a time of preparation and reflection. Some people give up luxuries during the 40 days of Lent as a reminder of the Lord's privations during his time in the wilderness. When we give something up - it can sharpen the Christian's focus on the ministry and sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ.



Sadly for Julie and I, this Lent marks our final weeks with you at Christ's Kirk. It has been a great privilege to serve you as Interim Minister since January 2019. This period has allowed the opportunity for a season of settled ministry and time for healing. The congregation of Christ's Kirk will always be part of our extended Church family. We are grateful for your support and friendship and all of the efforts made to provide worship and pastoral support during this past year of the COVID-19 pandemic. Those who look after the Church building, the finances, administration and communication have also worked hard behind the scenes.

As we think of giving things up during Lent - we might reflect on all that Jesus of Nazareth gave up as God's promised Christ.

Firstly, he gave up the comfort of Heaven to live a human life as God incarnate. The person, Jesus of Nazareth was unique in human history being fully human and fully God; one and the same person. There was no other like him and there will be no other like him until he returns.

Secondly, Jesus gave up the safety of Heaven to come to earth and so was exposed to the brokenness of a fallen world where his opponents badmouthed him, slandered him, conspired to have him killed and had him executed on false charges. The spiritual forces of evil against him manifested in the most despicable forms of human evil. Even though he made many disciples and became the focus of people's faith in God, the more he said and the more he challenged the religious and political authorities, the more dangerous the world became for him.

Next, Jesus the Christ was given up by God the Father. God the Father handed his eternal Son over to evil men for a purpose. He was to become the ultimate sacrifice for sinners. Through the God-given regulations of the Old Testament law he defined the ways that his people should worship him with sacrifice (giving something up) at the very heart of their worship. Jesus, God's promised Christ becomes the ultimate sacrifice, the Lamb of God who is sacrificed on the Cross. Through his resurrection on Easter morning, he wins for us the satisfaction of God's wrath, forgiveness of sin, reconciliation with God and friendship with him.

Wishing you God's richest blessing over Lent, Easter and for the future

Your minister and friend,

*Andrew*

## Points for Prayer

- \* Please remember in your prayers the family of Jean Wilkie - who passed away in January
- \* Bring to the Lord our congregation at Christ's Kirk - as we wait for news from Fife Presbytery about the appointment of an Interim Moderator.
- \* Pray for the Lent Bible studies that are being held on Zoom on Sunday evenings at 7pm
- \* Remember those in the congregation who have been ill recently and are now recovering
- \* Give thanks for Glenrothes Foodbank and the amazing work done by volunteers to help those who are in need.
- \* Give thanks for the speed of the roll-out of the Coronavirus vaccine across Scotland

## Guild News



It is almost a year since we have been able to meet in person to share in worship and fellowship with fellow Guild members. Coronavirus seems to dictate much of how we live our lives these days. With the rollout of the vaccination programme, we can only hope and pray that the situation will improve and that some of the current restrictions can soon be eased.

The committee has met online, on two occasions, over the past couple of months. The treasurer is grateful to everyone who returned their capitation fees so promptly. These, together with the proceeds raised at the Daffodil Tea held in March 2019, specifically for our chosen Guild Projects, have been forwarded to the Guild Office and acknowledged.

We are looking to perhaps holding a service during Holy Week. This is an event which has always been on our annual syllabus and it would be good if we could re-connect, even in a different way, at the special time of Easter.

It has also been proposed to hold the Annual General Meeting at the end of April. This gives members plenty of time to come up with ideas for the way forward, in whatever the new normal means in times of adversity.

In the meantime, keep well and safe.

*Jenny Catlin* (Guild Secretary)

### A short prayer for all Mothers

MOTHERS' DAY - 14 MARCH 2021



DIVINE SERVICE PERFORMED HERE  
THREE TIMES A DAY

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Lord of all pots and pans and things,  
Since I've no time to be  
A saint by doing lovely things  
Or watching late with Thee,  
Or dreaming in the dawnlight  
Or storming heaven's gates,  
Make me a saint by making meals  
And washing up the plates.

### Points to Ponder



*The best things in life are the people you love, the places you've seen  
and the memories you've made along the way. - Anon*



Although we are still in lockdown and it is still Winter, there are signs that Spring may not be too far away as snowdrops and other shoots appear in our gardens.

This means it's time to turn our thoughts to Christian Aid Week!

Although we are still unable to take part in the Forth Bridge Cross we can start to think of virtual ways we can support the work of Christian Aid. Let's use our imaginations and our talents to raise funds - do you like quizzes, can you use your daily walk to virtually walk the distance to the Forth Bridge and find friends to sponsor you?

Climate crisis is leaving people, especially those in Kenya, helpless and hungry through drought and flash flooding. Through our efforts in Christian Aid Week we can help victims of climate crisis.

Please consider some way in which you can support Christian Aid Week and let me know your ideas.

*Wilma Page*

## **Fabric Report**

Only the one, but big, item to report, as follows. Every 5 years the Presbytery arranges a professional review of church property. The result of this last "Quinquennial report" has now arrived and is with the members of the Fabric Committee and Kirk Session.

It is professionally very thorough, and is summarised as:

1. Items needing **Urgent Attention** - £3,720 estimated cost.
2. Items needing **Essential Attention** - over 1-5 years. The needed repairs and maintenance estimated cost is £13,270.
3. Items needing **Desirable Attention** - estimated at £7,890.
4. The total is £24,880.

Repairs are what one would do as a house owner - from small repairs, such as sealing cracks and holes, repairing windows and doors, to bigger items such as maintaining and repairing the roof.

Readers of this newsletter will know that Fife now has the new, one Fife Presbytery. This has put on hold ALL repairs, maintenance and the like all over Fife until a policy is decided about the future of churches in Fife. Only emergency repairs will be carried out meantime to make Christ's Kirk wind and water-tight.

Similarly there is a report about our manse. No financial figures are publicised about this, although the congregation is responsible for the upkeep of this property.

*Ron Page*

## **Finance**

The year ended with combined closing balances of £36,839.37 (*see page 5*) which is an amazing achievement considering the strange year 2020 was. There are still some large repair bills pending for necessary roof repairs and other work which was highlighted in our recent quinquennial report, but I still feel that we are in a much better position financially than we have been for a number of years.

The future holds many changes not just for our congregation, but indeed for our local Presbytery and the Church of Scotland as a whole. With God's blessing and guidance I pray that we will move forward in love and acceptance of whatever the new normal brings in both our personal and spiritual lives.

*Rose*

**Christ's Kirk General Account****Trial Balance as at 31 December 2020**

Opening balances			
	Bank	General A/C	9963.12
		Cafe A/C	8000.00
		Future Fund	2433.51
Hall lets			1795.04
Open Plate			2575.47
WFO			17802.5
Coin a day			16.15
Gift Day			
Fundraising			2224.21
Funerals			0.00
Donations			770.00
Retiring Collections	contra		395
Insurance Claim			0.00
Gift aid Guild	contra		21.01
Gift aid			5067.54
Rental Manse			9213.54
CAF			199.68
Council tax			
Speaker Travel			
Ministers travel		1186.70	
Guild gift aid	contra	21.01	
Honorarium church officer			
Pulpit supply		240.00	
Office expenses		708.55	
Churches together		0.00	
Church Electricity		660.93	
Church Gas		2644.37	
Advertising		100	
Church repair & maint		5986.07	
Manse repair & maint		819.43	
Manse phone & internet		0	
Messy church		76.17	
Equipment		180	
Presbytery fees			
Church phone & internet		998.03	
Organist		1720.00	
Insurance		1666.63	
Ministries & Mission		2068.00	
Gardener		1843.40	
Cleaning		1420.00	
Coffee etc		29.81	
Donations		100.00	
Retiring Collections	contra	395.00	
PPE Covid		113.30	
Auditor fees		660.00	
Closing balance		0	
	Bank	General A/C	27345.86
		Cafe A/C	8000.00
		Future/Fabric	1493.51
			<b><u>60476.77</u></b>
			<b><u>60476.77</u></b>

## **Fife Presbytery**

The 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 saw history being made when Fife Presbytery came into existence - following the amalgamation of Dunfermline, St Andrews and Kirkcaldy Presbyteries. This is all part of a major reconstruction of the Church of Scotland, where the number of presbyteries is being cut dramatically by well over a half.

The first meeting of the Fife Presbytery took place via Zoom on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> February. The forenoon session contained a welcome, the actual Constitution of the new presbytery, several fascinating workshops and presentations and "meeting rooms" for introductions. The afternoon was business - installation of new Office Bearers, Boards and Committees. Next meeting is Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> June - note that this means most business is via Boards and Committees.

Chief Office Bearers are:

Moderator - Rev. Jane Barron  
Presbytery Clerk - Rev. David Coulter  
Mission Director - Neil Campbell.

*The Church of Scotland Moderator was present and mentioned one particular statistic for everyone to consider - that 95 people out of 100 do not attend Sunday worship.*

Exciting developments lie ahead regarding worship, caring for people in the community, working with young people and young adults and more. Also, however, a scrutiny of every church's buildings and finances - for next year.

More information can be found on the presbytery website. [www.fifepresbytery.org.uk](http://www.fifepresbytery.org.uk)

*Ron Page*

## **Glenrothes Churches Covenanted Partnership**

The steering group of the Glenrothes Churches Covenanted Partnership meets monthly to discuss and develop the work of the newly formed partnership. We have been working hard to fine-tune the Partnership Agreement and now have a final draft.

Over Advent we organised four Advent Cafe Church services on Zoom. The partnership is also working with congregations to engage in a community mission audit for each parish and Glenrothes as a whole. A Kirk Session skills audit has been carried out, a reflective prayer walk is in hand by some members of each congregation and some statistical analysis of it is being gathered using a variety of parish indicators.

A job specification had been drawn up for a 0.5 Mission Development Staff worker to act as an Administrator for the Partnership. Six Lent Bible studies is being shared on Sunday evenings on Zoom, looking at "The Sermon on the Mount".

*Rev Andrew Gardner & Ruth Anderson*

## **Many Thanks**

During his Interim Ministry, Andrew, ably assisted by Sam, conducted monthly services in Inchkeith Court. To the services came residents, Kirk members no longer able to attend Sunday Service, members of our pastoral group, members of our Kirk and drivers from the pastoral team. Up to twenty-five folk came and the atmosphere was wonderful. The services were much appreciated, especially Holy Communion. After the service a sumptuous tea was served and members soon realised that the plethora of cakes was gifted by a generous Kirk elder. Wonderful heart-warming occasions!  
Thank you Andrew and Sam.

All blessings on you, Andrew as you leave us. You will be sorely missed.

*Evelyn Allsop*

## Lent studies

Lent studies started on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February but you can still join in the group by using the details below.

Join on Zoom. Sundays at 7pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81691596391?pwd=YXBvbWpBVmcxbmtnQ3U5bEJ3bTFmQT09>

Meeting ID: 816 9159 6391

Passcode: 434883

<p><b>GLENROTHES AREA COVENANTED PARTNERSHIP INVITE <b>YOU</b> TO</b></p> <p><b>Lent Bible Studies - The Sermon on the Mount "The King, the kingdom and kinship"</b></p> <p><b>Sundays @7pm 21st February to 28th Mar (incl)</b></p>	<p><b>Join Zoom Meeting</b> <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81691596391?pwd=YXBvbWpBVmcxbmtnQ3U5bEJ3bTFmQT09">https://us02web.zoom.us/ j/81691596391? pwd=YXBvbWpBVmcx bmtnQ3U5bEJ3bTFmQT09</a></p> <p>Meeting ID: 816 9159 6391 Passcode: 434883</p> <p>Tel: 0131 460 1196 (UK) Meeting ID: 816 9159 6391 Passcode: 434883</p>
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## World Day of Prayer

Friday, 5th March 2021 at 2.pm **(login from 1.45pm)**

Due to current restrictions there is no Glenrothes service this year. You are, however, warmly invited to join in with a Scotland wide WDP service by Zoom or telephone

Please use the details below to join the service:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89593983883?pwd=WjF4QmEl dnBjVU5nT0JyRG9lanozdz09>

Meeting ID: 8959 398 3883

Passcode: 901656

Or iPhone one-tap:

+442034815237,89593983883# or +442034815240,89593983883#

Or Telephone:

Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

**0 131 460 1196 (Edinburgh)**

Webinar ID: 895 9398 3883

Passcode 901656

If anyone wishes a large print copy of the service please email the church ([christskirkglenrothes@yahoo.com](mailto:christskirkglenrothes@yahoo.com)) and arrangements can be made to get one for you. All being well we pray that there will be a "real" service at St Luke's in March 2022.

## Zoom meetings

Meetings on Zoom have become very important in church life this year. The last service in church took place on Christmas Eve after which services were suspended as agreed by the Kirk Session. Subsequently, the Scottish government closed all places of worship and as yet we are unsure when this restriction will be lifted.

The Sunday service is being conducted from the minister's home on Zoom and also every Monday morning at 10am the minister is hosting "Time for a Cuppa". If you want the details to join in, please send an email to the church and you will be added to the distribution list.

*The retiral collection after the Christmas Eve service raised £80 for The Samaritans*

## TSG Meeting

On the evening of 18<sup>th</sup> February, quite a few of the congregation joined on Zoom with the Transitional Support Group. After separating into four breakout rooms, discussion took place regarding the three questions that had been put to the congregation, namely the impact of the interim ministry, what we have learned from our experience and what needs to happen next in our church.

All agreed that Andrew had done a good job considering the restrictions of lockdown imposed upon us due of the Covid pandemic, and particularly praised his Pastoral Care skills.

The TSG representatives went away with a positive vibe and have now made their recommendations to Fife Presbytery regarding our situation.

## Events on Zoom

Time for a Cuppa	Every Monday from 10am
Lent Studies	Sunday evenings at 7pm until 28th March
World Day of Prayer	Friday 7th March at 2pm
Communion	Sunday 30th May at 10.30am

## Church Family News

Sadly, we have to announce the death of Jean Wilkie who passed away on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

## CONTACTS

Interim Minister	Rev Dr Andrew Gardner	07411989344	revandrewgar@gmail.com
Church		* 01592 745938	christskirkglenrothes@yahoo.com
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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