



KIRKTONPARISHCHURCH  
A PLACE FOR ALL

# KIRKTON CHURCH

AUGUST

2020

# FAMILY CHATTER

## WHAT'S ON

**Weekly Online Worship** can be accessed at [www.kirktonchurch.com](http://www.kirktonchurch.com) and also via Facebook at Kirkton Church, Carluke.

You can also listen on the telephone - just dial 01555 363637.

We also provide the Sunday service on DVD or Audio CD. If you require a copy, please contact your elder or phone **07786 124526** and leave your name and number. We have a DVD player for loan if that is required.

**Children's Ministry** Our children and young people are continuing to meet during this time via Zoom groups. They are also involved in preparing material for use in our online services. Please contact Lesley for any further information or support at this time. 07780 330543 or [lesleymewing1@gmail.com](mailto:lesleymewing1@gmail.com)

**Private Prayer and Reflection** The sanctuary is open on Mondays from 3pm -7pm. Social distancing, hygiene measures and recording of attenders is mandatory

### Zoom

**Virtual coffee and chat** will commence on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> August at 11.15.

**Bible Study and Discussion** Iain will lead a virtual Bible Study Group on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm commencing 9<sup>th</sup> September.

Please contact the Church office for details of how to access these groups, email [office@kirktonchurch.plus.com](mailto:office@kirktonchurch.plus.com) or leave a message on 01555 750778, we will return your call.

**Pastoral Care** If you require assistance or support please contact your elder, the Pastoral Care co-ordinator 01555 771248, Session Clerk 07738 567084 or the Minister 01555 771262

### **Sunday Evening Worship 7pm**

The Church building will be opening for a limited service on a Sunday evening commencing 30<sup>th</sup> August. If you wish to attend the Evening service, please telephone **07786 124526** to inform us of your intention. If it is an answering service, we **will** return your call.

Coronavirus is still present in the community, please think carefully about whether you should attend a gathering of more than 8 people indoors particularly if you are in the vulnerable group. Church of Scotland have produced a risk assessment tool to aid this decision making, it is available on the Church of Scotland website or contact the Session Clerk for a copy on 07738 567084.

Social distancing, hygiene measures, face coverings and recording details of attenders is mandatory. Numbers will be strictly limited, there will be no singing, you may have to wait outside the church on arrival, please observe the 2metre distancing, a steward will direct you to a seat on the way into church and manage the order in which people leave the Sanctuary. We advise you that there will not be any heating in the church and doors and windows will be open to ensure good ventilation. There will not be a collection during the service but there will be an opportunity to make a donation on leaving the church. If you have, or have been in contact with anyone, who has or has shown signs of Coronavirus we ask that you **do not** attend.

We pray that these restrictions will not all be necessary in the future and we can worship together more freely but until that time may you feel the presence of God wherever you are.

If anyone would like to volunteer their time to assist at these services, please contact the church office or Session Clerk.



Out in the highways and byways of life  
Many are weary and sad  
Carry the sunshine where darkness is rife  
Making the sorrowing glad.  
Make me a blessing, make me a blessing  
Out of my life may Jesus shine  
Make me a blessing, O Saviour, I pray  
Make me a blessing to someone today

**Written by George. S. Schumer**

## **A LOCAL STORY**

Elsrickle is a small village, within the boundary of Lanark Presbytery, of pretty much one street, the A701, and not many more than 100 inhabitants. It now has no church; no garage; no shops; no post office; no school and no pub. But, unusually for such a small village, and perhaps even uniquely, it has two war memorials.

The first was erected after WW1 by the village church, Ellsridgehill United Free Church, now closed. It is common for church war memorials to be erected within the church, often wall mounted, as is our own but this one was erected outside, a little distance from the church, and looks more like a civic memorial.

For reasons explained in the poem below, a second memorial was erected soon after, which is located at the top of the village. The poem below tells the most poignant tale, and far more eloquently than I could.

### **Elsrickle**

#### **The Twa Monuments**

There's a wee auld fashioned village  
that lies aff the beaten track  
And I want tae tell a story that ma  
memory brings me back;  
For in that wee auld village is a sicht  
that's quite unique.  
For you'll find a War Memorial at each

end o' the street.

In that wee auld fashioned village were  
twa puirhoose bairns brocht up.

Twa laddies wha gied their labour for a  
bed and bite and sup.

But when they grew to manhood the  
Great War it broke oot  
And wae a when o' ithers they donned  
the khaki clood.

Frae oot that awfu carnage, were some  
that ne'er came back  
to the auld fashioned village, that  
lies aff the beaten track.

No' in the quiet kirkyard their last  
Resting place was found,  
But far frae bonny Scotland they lie  
in foreign ground.

In memory o' thae gallant lads a  
Monument was raised  
On which their noble sacrifice commended  
was and praised.

Their names were also written there  
but sad it was tae see  
nae mention o' the puirhoose bairns –  
Surely it couldnae be.

For they along wi' ithers, had laid their  
young lives doon.

And just the same as ithers, deserved  
fair Honour's croon.

No muckle wealth nor gear had they,  
but whit they had they gied.

Their very life's bluid they poured oot  
And for their country died.

The minister's attention was drawn tae  
the fact

but he just dismissed the matter and  
quite refused tae act.

But in that wee auld village wis a man that  
couldnae staun

to see in ony measure man's  
inhumanity tae man.

An' sae tae richt the wrang that his  
kindly hert felt sair,

A monument for their ain twa sels he  
had erected there,

Richt at the ither end o' the street, the  
tapmaist and forebye

It stauns tae tell the story tae every  
passerby.

The words engraved upon the stane are  
plain and clearly tell  
That it's for "Twa Gallant Heroes" who  
in the Great War fell.  
And underneath their honoured names,  
without display or fuss,  
The vital fact it simply states  
"They also died for us".

Oh, may we, like that honest man, gie  
honour whaur it's due.  
Esteeming character and truth – be pockets t'm or fu'.  
For aften in the humble cot true riches  
they abound  
When in the mansions o' the rich they  
scarcely can be found.

And let us think o' Anither Yin who  
gied Himself for us  
And ask ourselves the question "Whit dis it mean tae us?"  
Sure it cannae be that we, wi cauld herts can despise  
The Love Divine that bore our sins, in  
Calvary's sacrifice,  
But may we like that honest man with every word and act  
Let oor lives be a memorial to that great and glorious fact.

I'm sorry that I cannot give acknowledgement to the poet, but I don't know who he/she was.

Before we get too judgemental, the reason that the lads' names are not on the memorial, along with the 4 names that are, is probably because it was not a civic memorial, even though it looks like one; it was a church memorial and perhaps listed only church members, as does our own in Kirkton. But I've also seen it reported that, although the two lads worked on local farms, they were not considered to be 'of the Parish' and for that reason they were not recognised as of the 'fallen' from Elsrickle. Interestingly, the name of the one local person who lost their life in the 2nd World War was added not to the large monument, but to the much simpler memorial at the top of the hill.

Ellsridgehill United Free Church started life as Ellsridgehill Free Church of Scotland in 1845 and changed its name after the merger of the Free Church with the United Presbyterian Church in 1900. It became known as Elsrickle Parish when the United Free Church united with the Church of Scotland in 1929 and closed after the churches in the villages of Dolphinton, Dunsyre, Walston and Elsrickle were merged to form Black Mount Parish Church. The Elsrickle building was recently converted for residential use.

**Many thanks to Brian White for contributing this story.**

## **SCOUT GROUP UPDATE**

Since the Corona virus lockdown in March the Scout Group has tried to stay as active as possible. Clearly all Camps and activities were cancelled following lock down and this was particularly disappointing for 5 Explorers who were due to attend Blair Atholl Jamborette in July. On a week to week basis programs continued till July on Zoom for all Sections. These programs were a mixture of Scouting activities and games. A wide range of badges have been earned which will be presented when conditions permit. The Explorers have been particularly active with cooking which is also good fun when done in fancy dress! We have also had the Beavers and Cubs making pancakes. To keep spirits high, we have participated in a wide range of games and quizzes and scavenger hunts (e.g. find your mum, bring her onto Zoom and get her to sing!) We also had a program with a Scout Group in Australia by Zoom which was enjoyed by all. Our Camp film from last year was also shared widely on the Friends of the Lake District Postcard from the Lakes which is distributed widely. Overall a lot of good fun to which over 60 participated in the peak week.

During the lockdown most of the Leaders were still working and the support the Group received from the Young Leaders was really appreciated. In addition, 4 have now completed their Young Leaders Award for presentation in the Church in due course.

Clearly this has been a difficult time for some, and this is also true of the Scout Group. We have tried to maintain contact with all our

members and have been able to provide support and friendship where necessary and will continue to do so in the coming months.

Once the schools have started back and things have settled down, we will evaluate what Scouting we will be able to offer in the coming months. Scouting has introduced a risk assessment process which we will follow in relation to outdoor and hopefully indoor activities in due course. The latter will be a real challenge for us given the users and property layout at Kirkton. In addition, we have challenges with Leader numbers at present. At this time Scouting itself is facing challenges itself with the financial implications of Covid 19 and for the wider Outdoor activity and education sector on both a UK and Scottish basis. No Government assistance is being provided to this sector, with centres already closing and it is currently estimated that 50% of outdoor centres in Scotland will close permanently. Such centres are important to Scouting, schools and other Youth Groups and their closure will have an impact on outdoor education into the future.

At this time the Scout Group trust all stay safe and we all hope to get back to some level or normality in the coming months and into 2021.

**John Moffat**



## Update from 1<sup>st</sup> Carluke Girls' Brigade

Hi Everyone,

Following a very successful Pancake Morning on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2020, I received an email from Girls' Brigade Scotland advising that we had to cease meeting as a company with immediate effect. I know many of us initially were surprised and wondered why this decision had been taken so quickly. The girls had already completed this sessions badge work and were already practicing for our Parents Night which should have been held at the beginning of May. One of our Brigaders Abbie Simpson had completed her Queens Award and should have been presented with this both at our Parents Night & the Thanksgiving Parade but due to Covid-19 this was not able to take place. We did send our congratulations to Abbie and will celebrate with her soon.



The theme this years Parents Night was '**The Fruit of the Spirit**'. Strangely enough, The Fruit of the Spirit was the topic we used with our Girls at GBs this session. The girls discussed and spoke about all the different behaviours and emotions from this bible reading. They had great fun tasting fruit kebabs and drinking smoothies, writing a prayer, as well as designing a Fruit of the Spirit Tree and many more activities.

Little did we know then that many of you and our girls and their families would very shortly be faced with many of these emotions due to the Coronavirus Pandemic that hit not only our local community but Gods entire world.

Lockdown opened our eyes to **Self -Control** and behaving well by staying home and saving lives.

**Patience** was required by everyone as we followed the advice and guidance given by our government and health professionals to help save lives and suppress the virus.

The **Goodness and Kindness** shown by so many to others in their time of need by delivering shopping, medical supplies, meals or perhaps just a phone call to check someone was ok and not feeling isolated.

The overwhelming **Gentleness** portrayed by our NHS & Social Care Staff and Medics supporting the thousands of people suffering from this dreadful virus. Keeping communication links with their families open wherever possible, even in their darkest hour.

The overwhelming **Joy** when we were able to meet up with family and friends albeit following social distancing guidelines. Seeing a new Grandchild for the first time or when a loved one was released from hospital following illness and many more similar situations.

But most of all we have had to rely on our **Faith** and put our trust in God that he will be with us no matter what barrier or situation we have to face as a result of this unbelievable situation we find ourselves in at the moment.

We continue to keep in touch with the girls mainly through our GB Facebook page as well as by letter.

Like other youth organisations, Girls' Brigade plans to take a measured approach to how and when face to face work will be possible. For all of us, the safety of the girls & leaders is paramount and that is why a route-map has been set out for next session.

Companies may resume from 17<sup>th</sup> August 2020 onwards on a virtual basis only.

The first review will be on the 18<sup>th</sup> September 2020 and if the decision following the scientific evidence and government guidelines is favourable then companies may be able to start back on a face to face basis at the end of September, following a Risk Assessment. If not, we will continue to meet virtually until a further review of the situation on the 16<sup>th</sup> October 2020 and if favourable companies can commence face to face activities from the end of October. If not, we will continue to meet virtually until the end of the year.

We will keep you updated on our GB Facebook page and will send out a GB Newsletter.

Kind Regards

**Christine Gilchrist, Company Captain**

## **Report from Boys Brigade**

During lockdown - as with all other organisations - we have not been able to meet for our usual activities, but we have been meeting via Zoom. We have met together on Friday evenings having organised a variety of activities such as quizzes, question times and countdown etc. We also - thanks to Lyle - had a pass the hat session. The officers also had meetings via Zoom so that we could carefully plan for our restart in September. Various outdoor activities are being organised until we can safely meet together indoors.

The Brigade itself has also been listing BB at Home activities so all in all BB life has carried on.

**Eleanor Selfridge, Captain**

## **A Message from the Choir**

Like every group or organisation within our church the choir members are missing the camaraderie of being together to worship and sing. The last occasion when we were together was Sunday 15 March when we went to The Station Inn Braidwood for a meal to celebrate and thank Iain for his years as our choir director. Iain took on this role in 2010 and made the decision to step down in 2019. However, he still acts as depute for me and has also deputised for Anne at the piano. We had an evening filled with joy and laughter quite unaware of what was ahead in the lockdown restrictions that would be imposed in just over a week's time.

Since then services of worship have as you know been prepared remotely and loaded on to our church website. Often at Holy Communion services we have sung the David Mitchell version of The Lord's My Shepherd and I was hoping that Iain would choose this as one of the hymns for our June Communion which he did but with a surprise element.

Brian phoned me to ask if the choir would record themselves singing this hymn. Via our choir secretary Ann, I sent out a group text asking who would like to participate. Fortunately, I keep all my music at home so was able to scan the music and email it to those who were able to take part. Brian then emailed me the recording of the accompaniment which I forwarded to everyone with some timely instructions e.g. "record somewhere where there are a lot of soft furnishings to soak up the ambient sound of the room". Bedrooms are normally a good place and I even know of someone who records in a cupboard.

In order to carry out the recording you require 2 of the following items namely a mobile phone, a tablet, a laptop, a desktop. First of all you need a set of earphones plugged into one of your devices through which you can hear Brian's accompaniment then you record on to one of your other devices, save the recording and email to Brian.

Sounds simple? Well!

Most of us in the choir are of an age where this type of technical knowledge does not just come naturally to us so lots of phone calls, messages on our WhatsApp page and discussions with younger family members followed.

Probably the most disconcerting part is listening to your own voice when you play back the recording because your device of course does not record the accompaniment, only your voice which comes over as

a dead sound (Brian adds brightness to it at his end). I have to say that a bit of cajoling and encouragement had to take place. At the same time Sue had posted on our WhatsApp page a recording of the opera singer Edda Moser singing the aria Hell's Vengeance Boils in my Heart which is the well-known aria sung by The Queen of the Night in The Magic Flute followed by a parrot giving a hilarious and very good mimicry of her. This prompted some of the choir to say that their voice sounded more like the parrot.

However, in the end 17 separate recordings were emailed to Brian who put them all together and added his accompaniment. No mean task I can assure you as the various devices record at different speeds so the skill of the sound engineer comes into play in bringing them all to the same speed. This feat took Brian 12 hours to complete however even although I say it myself the finished result was beautiful.

Who knows when all of us in our Kirkton family will be able to join together in person to sing again but meantime we can continue to enjoy the singing on our on-line worship and join in singing at home where we can as they say **“gie it laldy”!**

**Christine O'Neill**

## **Kirkton Guild**

Our Guild Session runs from October to March but this year our AGM and last meeting was cancelled because of the Covid virus. At our last meeting we normally finish with a lovely supper then all the members mingle and chat and at the end of the evening, I wish everybody a Happy Summer break till we meet again in October but we are living in strange times just now. At this moment in time I am unable to say when our next Session will commence.

I am sure it has been and still is a very difficult time for everybody during lock down but as things are beginning to open up again, we will get back to some normality.

I would like to thank Reverend Iain and all his team for producing the Online Services, CDs, and videos for the Congregation.

Although there are members of the Guild who have not seen each other since March you are all in our thoughts and prayers at this strange time. The Committee are only a phone call away if you fancy a chat and catch up.

Love to you all.

Till we meet again.

**Irene Brown, Convenor.**