



KIRKTONPARISHCHURCH
A PLACE FOR ALL

KIRKTON CHURCH

SEPTEMBER

2020

FAMILY CHATTER

www.kirktonchurch.com
Scottish Charity Number: SC026539

Property update

Hello everyone and I hope you are all keeping safe and in good health at this very different time in all our lives. I am sure you will all be wondering when we can look forward to having our church open again as normal, well in the hope that it will be sooner than later there has been a lot going on to ensure that when our church doors are fully open to everyone, in any number, it is safe to do so .

It is also the case that the Church of Scotland has issued guidelines setting out what needs to be in place in order that we open up safely. These guidelines include physical improvements to our buildings which will comply with current regulations involving electrical installation compliance and health and safety.

Therefore I will detail out what has been going on during this time of shutdown in order that we have our buildings fit for purpose when the day arrives that we can fully utilise our sanctuary and halls for worship and community use respectively .

Here is the list of work done :-

1. We have completed what was deemed Phase 1 and 2 of the upgrading of our electrical supply and rewiring. Our 3-phase supply distribution was in need of upgrading in order that with current EEI legislation and indeed health and safety. Also, we have renewed our hard wiring where required and most importantly have upgraded and installed

new safety lighting, which is required in the event of a power outage. Finally in relation to Lighting we have installed lighting sensors in many areas so that we use our lighting economically, that simply means that toilet and corridor lights will come on when someone moves into that area and go off automatically after they leave. This work was done at a cost that was approved by the Kirk Session. The Phased work has been undertaken by GN Tait contractors of Lanark. This contractor is the main approved contractor by the Church of Scotland and they have been used by Andrew McGowan, the COS consultant in these matters, on many other church contracts, we are therefore in receipt of high quality work.

2. We also have to annually test all Portable Appliances, like kettles, laptops etc and we have carried this out on all appliances currently within the church. We will however need to test any portable appliances which are planned to be brought into church when we resume our normal attendance.

3. Phase 3, the final phase of the planned works, will see a complete rewiring of the large hall along with new lighting. This work will commence on 28th September.

4. New television screens are being installed in the sanctuary to enhance the presentation during worship etc.

5. Fire safety is an issue for all buildings and more so for those where large numbers of people gather. Therefore, a

Fire Safety audit was commissioned and carried out by Firelink Fire Protection Specialists. Once we can, we will instigate the actions necessary from the audit, therefore ensuring that our church and halls have a system that offers complete safety to all its occupants.

6. I must also mention the work that Kate Nisbet and her House Management team have done during this closure period involving arranging the complete cleaning of all our windows internally and externally. Also, they have had a contractor fully clean the carpet flooring in the sanctuary. It would also be remiss of me not to thank our excellent cleaner Janette for the work she does in maintaining the cleanliness of the buildings internally so well.

In addition to the above we have the need to maintain our gardens and as you all know Kirkton Church and its surrounding area is a very large footprint. Our gardener Gus Gilluley does a great job in maintaining the front garden area and the paddock area to the rear of the church on a monthly basis. I would also like to thank Irene Brown's son in law Kevin for spraying all the car park and manse drive areas in order to control the weed growth. David, Irene's late husband who I'm sure you will all remember, would have done that work in times gone past and Kevin has stepped in to help us.

Also you will notice when we return that a new path has been laid from Station road entrance next to the manse driveway so that it will be easier for people to walk, to push prams, buggies etc when walking up to the church, not to mention less damage to those expensive ladies high heeled shoes from the gravel that they now don't have to walk on!

Sadly on the evening of August 16th , when there were extremely heavy electrical showers in the Carluke area we suffered damage to the ceiling tiles and lights in the corridor between the toilets and the large hall , due to water having overflowed from the valley gutter above . The gutter's water outlets had been blocked by a heavy build-up of leaves and debris to the extent that the water on the gutter built up and had no alternative way of escape other than pouring over the sides this resulting in the damage inflicted on the ceiling below . We therefore had no alternative but to renew the lighting and the tiles in that area.

We also will be renewing the floor covering in the Farron Hall, with Braidwood Flooring commencing the work on 12th October. It is also planned to decorate the walls and ceilings in the Farron Hall. We would hope to carry the decoration through the entrance and corridor areas in the near future.

During the lockdown , due to government guidelines regarding action against the growth of Covid 19 in the population, we , as a requirement from our insurers in relation to action required to ensure the safety of unoccupied buildings, had to inspect our buildings both internally and externally on a twice weekly basis. I would like to thank Alex Aikman for his assistance in carrying out these inspections. During this period of inspection whilst the church was completely closed to anyone, we needed to avoid the potential for Legionella disease forming due to our water systems not being used. So to avoid this and to avoid draining our water systems entirely we followed the COS guidance to run our taps for a short period of time during the weekly inspections, in order that we continue to discharge water through the system. Sadly this exposed a fault in the ball OK of a small header tank situated in the attic area above the Farron Hall and led to a leak of water that damaged the ceiling area in the Farron Hall just below where the tank was situated. Our thanks go to Cameron Baxter, the son in law of Elizabeth and Ian Paterson, who left a contract he was working on to attend to our problem in our hour of need. Cameron has done this for us on numerous occasions and has taken on the mantra of his mother and father in law as being someone Kirkton church is indebted to for offering continual support in whatever way possible as both Liz and Ian have.

Well as you can see we have not let the grass grow, sorry for the pun, during this particularly strange period we live in currently, but have got on with ensuring that when we can fully open once again we have a church and facility that is both safe and fit for purpose.

I look forward to seeing you all, hopefully sooner than later.

God Bless, Hugh.

People and Buildings

As some of you will know, my dad was in the army so when I was growing up, we moved on average every two years. We lived in the U.K. and abroad in army quarters or rented accommodation and by my early teens I was starting my sixth school. Not ideal for family life but my brother and I were lucky to have loving parents who made us feel secure. (Looking back, I realise that whatever children experience is the norm for them, good or bad, until they are older and can make comparisons.)

Wherever we lived, we joined the local church and that helped me to understand that I was part of a wider Christian community. The buildings were different but the faith we shared was the same.

As an adult, I continued to join my local church when I worked and stayed in London, Bristol and Edinburgh before coming to Carlisle.

I have worshipped in garrison churches, village churches and cathedrals – modern, Victorian and Medieval jewels with small and large congregations.

I love history and old buildings and one of my favourite places is the small city of Wells in Somerset where my paternal grandmother lived. Even when I was very young, I liked the sense it gave me of following in the steps of others through the centuries. I particularly love the stairs to the Chapter House in Wells Cathedral because you can see where the stone has been worn down by the pilgrims treading the same way, and also the carved comical faces under the seats and in the stonework which made me laugh.

Buildings hold memories for us – especially churches. They remind us of celebrations for example, christenings, weddings, Christmas and Easter but also sad times such as funerals.

However, I have learnt that people are always more important than buildings. Whenever I moved and joined a church, I met people of all ages and made new friends. We may be individuals, but I believe that people have more in

common than differences. We are all children of God and precious to him.

In these times of restrictions and social isolation, we need to remember that we are never alone. God is not confined to buildings but gave his Holy Spirit, the Comforter, to be with each and every one of us wherever we are.

Kindly contributed by Sue Kehoe.

How soon is tomorrow?

Sarah aged three, was looking forward to a promised ice cream.

Granny, with delaying tactics in mind, assured her “tomorrow.”.

“Oh no” she cried with tears in her eyes , “not two morrows, just one morrow!”

Ice cream is very necessary and important as indeed are lots of things, jobs, matters, letters(?), phone calls, duties, even people

How many morrows do you delay?

Rev. Susan Cowell

God and the Geese

There was once a man who didn't believe in God, and he didn't hesitate to let others know how he felt about religion and religious holidays.

His wife, however, did believe, and she raised their children to also have faith in God and Jesus, despite his disparaging comments.

One snowy Eve, his wife was taking their children to service in the farm community in which they lived.

They were to talk about Jesus' birth. She asked him to come, but he refused.

"That story is nonsense!" he said. "Why would God lower Himself to come to Earth as a man? That's ridiculous!"

So she and the children left, and he stayed home.

A while later, the winds grew stronger and the snow turned into a blizzard. As the man looked out the window, all he saw was a blinding snowstorm. He sat down to relax before the fire for the evening. Then he heard a loud thump. Something had hit the window.

He looked out but couldn't see more than a few feet.

When the snow let up a little, he ventured outside to see what could have been beating on his window.

In the field near his house he saw a flock of wild geese.

Apparently, they had been flying south for the winter when they got caught in the snowstorm and couldn't go on. They were lost and stranded on his farm, with no food or shelter.

They just flapped their wings and flew around the field in low circles, blindly and aimlessly. A couple of them had flown into his window, it seemed.

The man felt sorry for the geese and wanted to help them. The barn would be a great place for them to stay, he thought. It's warm and safe; surely they could spend the night and wait out the storm. So he walked over to the barn and opened the doors wide, then watched and waited, hoping they would notice the open barn and go inside.

But the geese just fluttered around aimlessly and didn't seem to notice the barn or realize what it could mean for them. The man tried to get their attention, but that just seemed to scare them, and they moved further away. He went into the house and came with some bread, broke it up, and made a bread crumb trail leading to the barn. They still didn't catch on.

Now he was getting frustrated. He got behind them and tried to shoo them toward the barn, but they only got more scared and scattered in every direction except toward the barn.

Nothing he did could get them to go into the barn where they would be warm and safe.

"Why don't they follow me?!" he exclaimed. "Can't they see this is the only place where they can survive the storm?"

He thought for a moment and realized that they just wouldn't follow a human. "If only I were a goose, then I

could save them," he said out loud. Then he had an idea. He went into barn, got one of his own geese, and carried it in his arms as he circled around behind the flock of wild geese.

He then released it. His goose flew through the flock and straight into the barn -- and one-by-one, the other geese followed it to safety. He stood silently for a moment as the words he had spoken a few minutes earlier replayed in his mind: "If only I were a goose, then I could save them!" Then he thought about what he had said to his wife earlier. "Why would God want to be like us? That's ridiculous!"

Suddenly it all made sense. That is what God had done. We were like the geese--blind, lost, perishing. God had His Son become like us so He could show us the way and save us.

As the winds and blinding snow died down, his soul became quiet and pondered this wonderful thought. Suddenly he understood why Christ had come. Years of doubt and disbelief vanished with the passing storm. He fell to his knees in the snow, and prayed his first prayer:

"Thank You, God, for coming in human form to get me out of the storm!"

Kindly contributed by Alex Aikman.

A short story by Grace McKeever

By Grace
McKeever

What its like being
back at school!

Its great being back at
School because i get to see
all of my friends again!
We have to wash our hands

6 times a day but its
Worth it if we want to
Keep safe! I love doing outdoor

learning, it is
so fun!



Kirkton Family Chatter: Lesley Ewing

I always pictured working from home as something that could be fun, a little-less stressful and as something that would give me an opportunity to spend some 'quality' time with my family and a chance for me to get caught up with things around the house when my work diary wasn't as full...fast forward 6 months later and the 'working from home' experience is anything but fun, less stressful or less busy for me!

My kitchen table has become a permanent office space, with various large shopping bags being used as filing cabinets. The dresser that sits next to my kitchen table has taken on the appearance of a notice board with important things stuck all over it. One day a week, my bedroom becomes a recording studio which allows me to record the songs needed for worship that week - my poor children have to sit in their rooms and not utter a sound until I am done and the same goes for when I am filming material for use in the online worship with parts of the house being out of bounds. And to be able to do all this preparing of material and resources at home, I have had to purchase a new phone, a new iPad, camera stands, microphones, printer and other equipment.

Another downside to working from home is the danger of never really being off duty – never being able to really ‘switch off’. My ‘office’ is in constant view and it is extremely hard not to just ‘quickly’ do something, for that ‘something’ can end up taking an hour or more to do. Social media and mobile phones are a great resource for keeping in touch with people - but they really can really make you feel that you are on call and available 24/7. I am however making a greater effort to take some time off during the week and to get some holiday time booked in. It has taken me a while, but I am beginning to realise that I do need some down time to recharge my batteries and catch up with my ironing!

A working week now does not include multiple visits to schools and getting to interact with our children and young people. The majority of this is still taking place online and via social media. However, two afternoons a week I get to work with some of the pupils at the High School, where I have been asked to offer nurture and support to them. Our children and young people are missing face to face time, not just with me, but with other groups and organisations. These clubs and groups were a vital part of their week and I am now witnessing what impact the restrictions of not being able to attend these groups is having on their wellbeing and mental health.

This year is entering its last few months and we are heading towards 2021. What will the new year bring? No Covid-19? Less restrictions? Being allowed to be close to people again? We do not really know - but the fallout of the past few months is something that is going to stay with us all for a long, long time.

Lesley xx

Kirkton Family Chatter: Brian Prentice

As we entered lockdown, I wondered how I was going to fulfil my musical duties with the Church. After one week my concerns were no longer. In fact, it became clear that my concerns would be how I would accommodate my full-time job with Scottish Ballet. I was fortunate enough to keep working during this time.

My contribution to our online services began with our Easter Service, with the idea to record our songs and reflective music for Worship as a one off special rather than using commercial recordings which would have had copyright issues. I enlisted the help of Iain and Lesley as singers, Ian Brown JNR on drums and Chris Fachie on bass guitar. The preparation for this required a keyboard and so I brought forward the purchase of a new digital piano for the small hall - however at present it resides in my spare bedroom. It was becoming obvious that the online Services were to continue for some time and to maintain the bespoke feel of

our services, I decided to continue our weekly recordings and to date we have now recorded over 70 songs.

As the weeks of lockdown continued, I felt that it would be more engaging to involve different voices in our recordings not only for variety of sound but also to offer people the opportunity to be involved during these times. Christine and Ray agreed to join as singers, first as a duet then as a four-part harmony alongside Iain and Lesley. This developed into a full-blown production when I asked the choir to record David Mitchell's 'The Lord's my Shepherd'. The choir took on this challenge with their usual aplomb. Recording in bedrooms and cupboards using their mobile phones and them seeking advice from Lesley's prior experience it took 12 hours to piece this one song together.

When Iain took annual leave, I was responsible for keeping Lesley in check or was it vice versa? Alongside the now usual weekly recordings and assisting Lesley with video editing, I had the opportunity to give the Church website a facelift integrating the new Church Facebook Page and YouTube channel for sharing more information about what's going on in the church and providing an easier way to view the weekly online services. You can now watch previous services and our newly established Worship. We are already working to provide live streaming as part of our weekly Worship programme - Kirkton 'Live'. Thinking ahead to the time when we can all be together at 'normal' services again we are installing new TV screens to replace the projection screen which has been up until now obscuring the Cross.

As restrictions fluctuate between easing and tightening, it is becoming apparent that we will have to continue with our current way of working online.

I know I'm not alone in saying how much I miss the Kirkton family and the Services have gone some way into reintroducing ourselves to worship back together.

However, I look forward to the day when I can play for you in person again.

Brian

Diary of a minister's wife

Have you ever wished you had kept a diary to record those moments, especially funny ones, you know will escape you in the future? Well I wish I had kept one this year during lock down. If I had kept one it might read like this.

Tuesday 24th March

I can hear Iain singing, but there is no music, what is he doing, where is he? I follow the sound of him singing and find him singing his heart out to the music which he hears through his headphones in the upstairs laundry cupboard. I stand and watch him from behind, he is unaware that I am there. I quietly close the door and retreat back downstairs. He records the lyrics for every song used in online worship every week in the laundry cupboard. It can take anything

from 15 minutes to 45 minutes for each song that is recorded.

Iain's singing is only part of the process. It begins with Iain sending Brian the hymn list on a Sunday/Monday, Brian records the music tracks and sends them to Iain and Lesley, they then record the lyrics and send them back to Brian. Other musicians are involved from time to time. Everything is sent back to Brian who then mixes the music and vocal tracks, once the finished hymn is completed Brian sends it back to Iain who then adds the backdrop slides and words and makes them into a video so that they are ready for online worship.

Thursday 9th April

How many 'takes' does it take to make a short video of an opening prayer? Well that depends on whether you are outside or inside! It is a bright sunny day and our garden is full of birdsong, I thought that would make a nice gentle backdrop. Take 1: motorbike roars down Station Road. Take 2: ambulance siren is heard going down past Aldi's. Take 3: children in a neighbouring garden have come out to bounce on their trampoline and argue about whose turn it is! Take 4: the postman delivers a parcel and calls to me. Take 5: I have retreated indoors, video done.

Recording takes time and often has to be reworked using software to make it as clear as it can be.

Wednesday 15th April

Iain conducted a funeral today of a church member. He always find funerals stressful because he knows how important it is to get it right for the grieving family, but the stress is magnified by the new government restrictions. I know this has been particularly difficult for him as he has been unable to provide the kind of pastoral support he would have liked to provide at critical times in people's lives.

Saturday 2nd May

We lost a friend to Corona virus today, like many of you, life during lock down for Iain and me, has had its fair share of sorrow and sadness.

Saturday 9th May

You would have thought by now that recording the sermon would be simple and straightforward, that by now we would know how to set up all the equipment and one take would suffice. Well today Iain wanted to speak without notes as he was very clear about what he wanted to say. We set up outside as it was another beautiful day, this entailed carrying all the equipment outside and running a power cable and block outside into a far corner of the garden. Everything was set, I pressed record and listened to the sound balance, the sermon was, if I don't say myself, one of his good ones, really meaningful and the words he used

were just right. We dismantled everything and brought it all indoors. It was then that I discovered that I had not recorded it! Let's just say the temperature inside the house was 10 degrees cooler than outside. With a steely silence everything was set up again and unfortunately the second sermon was nothing like the first one!

Over the months there have been many retakes of sermons: microphone not switch on, telephone or doorbell ringing, microphone slipping into the camera view, stumbling over words, breaking the bread at the first communion, on camera the bread would not tear easily, so we had to start again this time with a cut made into the bread and so on and so on.

Sunday 2nd August

Iain did not come to bed last night until 1.30am, he was fighting with the website, our internet download/upload speeds and mythical IT dragons, Sunday's service would not upload properly onto the website. There was no reason that it should not have, he had been doing it for 5 months now, arghhh!

I could share more insights, there is equipment that I did not know we owned or even existed appearing in random rooms in the house as Iain works on materials for the services. I have to admit life in the manse has been different and challenging at times. Changing to online worship has

been a steep learning curve, acquiring new IT skills, website management, it has been relentless, the days all merge into one and the weeks just seem to disappear, but hopefully you can hear God's voice of hope and love through the worship shared every week.

Maybe I should start to keep a diary.....

Dawn C

What's On

The **Sunday Service** can be found at

www.kirktonchurch.com

[or via Facebook at Kirkton Church, Carluke](#)

Or to be heard via your 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 DVD players 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 on 07780330543 or lesleymewing1@gmail.com

Private Prayer and reflection

The sanctuary is open on Mondays from 4pm -6.30pm. Social distancing, hygiene measures and recording of attenders is mandatory.

Zoom meetings online

Coffee and Chat takes place on Tuesdays at 11.15. **Bible Study and Discussion** Iain leads an online Bible Study Group on Wednesdays at 7.30pm. Please contact the Church office for details of how to access both “Coffee & Chat” and “Bible Study” groups. Email office@kirktionchurch.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

Evening services continue on Sunday evenings at 7pm in the Sanctuary. 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.