



community

keeping in touch...

SEPTEMBER 2020

Dear friends,

Away back in March when the ‘lockdown’ was first put into place, I don’t think many of us imagined that nearly six months later we would still not be able to worship together in our church building in the ways we had come to think of as normal. As we continue to explore what can, and cannot, be done at this time the only thing we are certain of is that “normal service(s)” will not resume for a while yet. We are exploring all kinds of options and we would like to hear the views of all of you as to what may or may not work while in the meantime we continue with our weekly online worship.

When we first started trying to prepare online resources for worship at home our ‘worship team’ had not only to purchase new hardware and software but also very quickly to acquire a number of new skills. As I said in the last newsletter it has been a steep learning curve and we are all still learning. I suspect most people have very little idea of just how much time and thought has to go into producing what ends up each weekend on our church website, on DVDs, CDs and our online telephone-on-demand service: but I do know, because I’m part of the team.

I want to take this opportunity again to express my own thanks, and that of the whole congregation, to the whole team who help prepare worship each week—our organist, Brian Prentice, our singers, mainly Lesley and me but also on occasion other members of the choir, our bass player, Chris Fachie, and drummer, Ian Brown. After we all record our parts, in our various locations, they are sent back to Brian who then mixes them and sends them back to me to be added to the song words and made into videos.

But the musical team are only part of the process. We are also grateful to Lesley for all the work she does with some of our young people in preparing ‘stories for all ages’ and for those (young and old) who do Bible readings and prayers each week. Again, all this material (audio or video recordings) has to be produced locally in people’s own houses and sent back to be brought together into the final production. It really is a whole team effort and most of it is from **volunteers**.

The church—even in its current ‘online’ form—cannot survive without these volunteers. And that is true not only with respect to worship. In the two short breaks I’ve had over the summer to visit (and be visited by) members of our family, volunteers from the congregation have taken on the responsibility of providing daily reflections on the website and Facebook page.

All those who keep in touch with fellow church members by telephone and email are also volunteers, giving freely of their time to keep our church community together.

A number of other church members are engaged in service to the wider community, among other things providing practical help and support to individuals, assisting the work of the local foodbank, and working to develop the new OneCarluke community website.
www.onecarluke.org.uk

KIRKTONPARISHCHURCH community

Although we are not able to use our church buildings fully at this time, work also still has to go on to maintain the buildings and the grounds. Again, much of that work is done by volunteers— for example, regularly inspecting the premises and ensuring that necessary repairs and maintenance work are carried out.

In that regard, I would like publicly, to thank our Property Convener, Iain McMillan, for the work he has done in the past. As he currently has a number of very demanding and time-consuming responsibilities in his paid employment, Iain is stepping back, at least for a while, from the responsibilities of overseeing the work of our property committee. We are grateful for his voluntary service and also grateful that in the meantime Hugh Kinniburgh is taking over the task of overseeing the various items of work that need to be done at this time—another willing, and skilled, volunteer.

I have run out of space to name the many other people in our church family who give so much of their time, skills and talents, and those who freely give of their financial resources to support the church in these difficult times—but we all benefit from this generous service. And I for one am truly grateful.

Your minister and friend,



KIRKTONPARISHCHURCH
A PLACE FOR ALL



P.S. Don't forget to join us at www.kirktonchurch.com— if you can— for the next **Online Communion Service** on Sunday 6th September

A word from our Youth & Children's Worker



One of our favourite movies to watch when the girls were younger was Monsters Inc. If you haven't ever watched it, it's about Monsters who come through children's bedroom closets to steal their screams to use for an energy source in the monster's world...I know it sounds like a horror movie, but honestly it is a brilliant movie and very funny!!

But what is not funny at the moment is the very real 'monster' that is lurking in our children's closets. Covid-19 is not a cartoon character that has been brought to life by an illustrator. It is something very real that our children and young people are having to exist with every day. Like the monster in the cupboard or the one under the bed, covid-19 cannot be seen, but the effects can be witnessed, and our children and young people are confused and scared.

At a time when they should be experiencing the excitement and at the same time a little bit of nervousness about returning to school (especially if it's a first day at a new school) - they now have the added worry about all the rules and guidelines about what they can and cannot do due to covid-19.

As a parent I worry about what effect the last few months has had on my children, especially my youngest who is about to begin her final year at secondary school. Social interaction with their peers is a vital part of their lives and the fallout from the exam situation will be a big issue for years to come for many.

So, I am asking you to keep praying for our children and young people. Not just the ones in our Church family but the ones who live in our local community, in our country and the whole world over.

No child should ever be scared of a monster in their closet.

Lesley x

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