



KIRKTONPARISHCHURCH
A PLACE FOR ALL

KIRKTON CHURCH

JULY

2020

FAMILY CHATTER

Kirkton Church Coffee Club

Writing an article for the Church Newsletter is, at this time, a very strange, different and difficult experience. In the past I have always been able to talk about what has happened over the Coffee Club session, from September until May. However, this year has been like no other for the volunteers and their families who come along to share our Tuesdays; as it has been for everyone else.

Normally at the end of May we hand out cheques from the weekly donations we receive and wish everyone a "Happy Summer" until we see them again at the beginning of September. With Lockdown on the 23rd March we were unable to say our "Cheerios" and it was very difficult for us to realise suddenly that we would not see our friends for "who knows how long". I am having as positive a view as possible of a September start to the Coffee Club, even if it has to be in a different format, but only time will tell.

The Coffee Club, like all of the organisations which use the church buildings, are integral parts of what was our normal day to day life. As the Coffee Club is not only for Kirkton Church members but also for the whole of Carluke and beyond, we have been fortunate to meet some amazing people.

Hard as it is for everyone to cope with the current situation, the Kirkton family have been fortunate to access online a Sunday service. Thanks to our Minister Iain, Youth Worker Lesley, organist Brian and all the others who have contributed. This is keeping a close connection until we are all together on Sunday's and at our various organisations.

To all of you we send our love and best wishes to stay safe and strong until we meet again.

Linda Boyle

On behalf of the Coffee Club Volunteers

Have you heard about Sanctuary First?

Using their own description, "Sanctuary First is a pioneer ministry of the Church of Scotland that is passionate about developing new ways for people to connect with God, Christianity and one another. We offer fresh, engaging, digital resources that are freely available to all. We publish daily prayers and Bible readings which you can access on our website, app, social media or email list. Our vision is that we seek to live out the teaching and practice of Jesus and to establish a network

across Scotland and around the world that we can use to encourage and inspire each other.”

This is a much abbreviated version of all that Sanctuary First provides and you can find out much more by visiting their website: sanctuaryfirst.org.uk

There you can read some excellent daily reflections, find pastoral support and subscribe to receive free, daily, thought-provoking messages. Can I recommend that you explore this forward-thinking, Church of Scotland, on-line ministry?

Margaret Dunlop

Crossroads Café

Crossroads café staff welcomed our customers back in January after the Christmas break, the same as we have done for the past 14 years but we did not envisage it would all change so suddenly in March.

We miss your company and our chats that we have with you on Mondays but hope and pray we can all meet again in the near future.

The staff keep in touch with each other by phone, text, posting out cheery cards, it is good to talk to each other.

This is a difficult time for many families so we have donated £2000 to Clydesdale food bank.

We hope all our customers are in good health and the café doors will open again when that happens we look forward to hearing the buzz of people talking to each other and enjoying their lunch.

Love to you all

Linda Johnson

A student experience

My first year of university was unfortunately cut short due to coronavirus. In March all my lectures and workshops came to a halt and I was sent back home from Dundee. I enjoyed being back in my own house with my family, however, it was a big change for my university work as it all moved online and I had to teach myself a lot of it. As well as the lectures I get at uni, my course also has a lot of practical elements to it which have all been missed. My exams were supposed to happen in May and for a while there was a lot of uncertainty about what was going to happen with them. At first, they

were going to be online as well, however, now they have all been postponed until October.

I did miss Dundee a lot at the beginning of lockdown and was really frustrated that I couldn't see any of my friends and had to do all my work myself. However, I realised I am lucky to be able to be at home with my family during this time. A lot of my friends had to stay in Dundee for months themselves as they couldn't get home due to travel restrictions. I was also lucky that I could video call a lot of my friends from uni to keep in touch which was really nice.

I am very unsure about what university will be like when I start my second year in September but I am looking forward to moving into a new flat in Dundee and seeing my uni friends again when coronavirus has hopefully settled down.

Lucy Barnstaple

Discipleship

The purpose of the discipleship workgroup is to promote and encourage everyone connected with the church to grow in their journey of faith, to become more like Jesus and to learn more about God and His calling on their lives.

Prior to Lockdown the discipleship group were preparing a conference to be held in April, these plans of course had to be put on hold. This was an action of great regret for me personally as the topic for the day was "Inclusion", Iain had just completed a series of Sunday services on the same subject. We were concerned that as a church family we should understand and welcome everyone in our community, those who are like us and those who are different to us and those experiencing life's difficulties. The importance of exploring these issues was brought home to me again when the session received the following letter.

I have two daughters

I think we often focus on how hard it has been for ourselves and forget how difficult it is for the children.

They are missing school, activities, friends and family and having to deal with the prospect that it might take some time before they are able to return to any sort of 'normal'. They also pick up on a huge variety of snippets of information that can be frightening to process and understand.

My eldest has found the last few months especially challenging. She is in primary 7 and will be moving to High School in August. She has struggled over the years with anxiety and had a spell where she attended CAMHS for help and support. In the last few months, the lack of support from the schools that should be involved in her transition has been deeply worrying for us and her.

During this time Lesley has been in regular contact providing a level of support that has made a huge difference to our entire family.

Weekly group calls with her peers in youth café church have helped her stay in touch with friends from Church who will be familiar faces when she starts High School.

My youngest daughter has enjoyed the stories Lesley has been recording on Facebook and being asked by Lesley to draw pictures or record a reading to be used in the Sunday service has kept both children engaged with the Church at a time where there can be no physical contact.

One of the greatest fears I have about this pandemic is the long term impact this will have on our children - it has been a source of enormous comfort to me knowing that Lesley is available to provide emotional and spiritual support to us all at this difficult time!

A Kirkton Church Mum (names have been removed for privacy)

(As well as being our Children and Youth worker, Lesley is also a member of the Discipleship workgroup).

We had arranged several speakers for the Conference, one of whom was going to be discussing and enlightening us on Mental health issues and how we as a church family can understand, support and provide an environment that encompasses everyone. We will reconvene the Conference as soon as the restrictions allow and we invite you all to come and participate.

Val Macsween Convenor

My Lockdown Journey

By Freya Callan

When I first found out that we were going into lockdown and were going to have home school I was shocked and confused. I didn't think it would work and I didn't think it would last for so long. It felt strange on the first morning because it was a Monday and my brothers and I weren't going to school. That is because we were already at school! Having lessons at home was different to school because there were only 3 people in my class. I liked having my Mum there to help me when I was stuck.

One of the worst things about lockdown has been missing my friends and family. One of my friends has even moved to Ireland and I couldn't give her a hug goodbye. I have been speaking to them a lot using Zoom and Facetime. I have managed to speak to them a few times face-to-face but it has been hard not to be able to go close to each other or visit each other's houses. I have really missed going to my clubs including Girls Brigade, dancing, gymnastics and my piano lesson. I can't wait until I can hug my friends and the rest of my family again.

I had my 10th birthday last week and I have been looking forward to that for a long time. I saw a few friends for a short time in the garden and we had a barbeque at night. I got an extra big surprise for my birthday.....a hamster. I decided to call him Ash. He is so cute and I love him. Although we had to keep our distance on the day, it was still the best birthday ever!

During lockdown I have really enjoyed going for lots of long walks in the woods and having extra movie nights with my family. Another good thing is that I have had more time to read. I love reading so much and I was delighted that I got 20 new books for my birthday.

I am so excited to go back to school to see all of my classmates and have fun with them. I would really like lockdown to end and for everyone to be able to spend time together again and for everyone to feel safe.

Reflections by Bob Copeland

Wherever in the world I am

In whatsoever estate

I have a fellowship with God

To keep and cultivate

And a lowly task of work to do

For the Lord on whom I wait.

These words were written on the fly leaf of a Boys' Brigade Bible by the Captain of the company Neil Campbell and presented to me on leaving The Boys' Brigade, 11th. Motherwell Company, for national service in 1957. I believe that they come from a hymn written around 1903 by a lady called Anna Letitia Waring

They seemed appropriate at the time since as a young man of twenty one I was about to embark on a journey into the unknown when all I did know was that my medical examination had shown me to be A1A, fit for any theatre of operation, overseas or active service, so that I could find myself 'Wherever in the world' and in 'whatsoever estate.'

One or two of the words may have been changed at the time of writing but the message was clear then and still is. Much of the teaching in The Boys' Brigade is echoed in the verse where I was taught in the B.B. Bible class and in church, that as a member of a world- wide Christian organisation I like all members, had a responsibility to attempt to foster a relationship with God, his son Jesus and the Church.

That bible was carried with me throughout my service when as often as possible I attended church and every time I opened it the words were a constant reminder to me of my responsibility as a Christian and of course a Boys' Brigade Officer. Not only was my B. B. Bible used at church services but gave me some comfort when I found myself in circumstances where I needed it, especially in two trouble spots at the time Cyprus and Aden.

I confess that at times it seemed strange to have to walk through tent lines in Polemedia camp Cyprus clutching my bible, some quarter of a mile to church which was a Nissan hut being converted to a church within the boundary of the camp for the safety of the congregation,

since EOKA was very active at that time and to hold meetings in Limassol was considered too dangerous.

I believe that some of the words of the hymn applied when I was able to convince four of my associates in camp to join me in assisting with the conversion of the Nissan hut, where the work might be considered of a 'Lowly task to do.' The result of my encouragement of my associates was that all four began to join me on Sunday morning at church service provided we were not on essential duties. Conversion work was completed early December 1957 on time for Christmas Day service and we were invited to join the remainder of the congregation in the newly consecrated church.

June 1958 brought about the formation of a new Field Squadron of The Royal Engineers and as a volunteer along with some other fifty soldiers we embarked on June 28th on another unknown journey. Eventually we arrived at Bahrain via Aden and Mombasa Kenya in early July 1958, which was a circuitous route.

Our camp for the next three months was at a place called RIFA some four miles from AWALI, the Bahrain Petroleum Company oil town. At this time I had been appointed C. O. Driver for Lt. Col. J.D. Walker and during a visit by the C. O. to AWALI I learned that there was a Church of England in the town.

Plucking up courage I asked the C.O. if permission could be granted for those of us who so wished to attend church and not surprising the answer was that we could provided I was not needed for driving duties. Word was passed round the squadron and it turned out that six members expressed interest in attending church on Sunday mornings. This I felt was my attempt to continue my fellowship with God as expressed in the words of the hymn. Unfortunately our attendees dropped from six to three and eventually two of us, a lad from Mossparck Glasgow and me.

What we experienced was a real Christian welcome from several members of the church in AWALI and on several occasions I was invited to lunch with a couple of residents. It was during one of these lunch visits after church that my interest in photography was started being shown some lovely slides of CEYLON as it was before becoming Sri Lanka. So it could be said that my photographic interest came about through church.

October 1958 and we sailed to Aden and then in November sailed again to Mombasa and eventually by train to our permanent camp at Gilgil some eighty miles north east of Nairobi.

Again permission was sought for transport to attend church which was some twenty miles from our camp near NAKURU and this was granted although very few of the squadron initially took the opportunity. However the words of the hymn reminded me that here I was in 'whatsoever estate' I found myself I was trying to maintain my relationship with God.

Not surprisingly within a few weeks several members of the squadron began to join in the journey to NAKURU to attend church, which I believed pleased the C.O who was keen that his men made a good impression on the locals since for some time the British army had not endeared themselves to the locals or the expatriate British who lived in East Africa.

One day in January 1959 the squadron runner came to my tent to ask if I had a bible which was a strange question but he explained that the C. O had sent for him and told him to "Ask Copeland if he has a bible and if he would lend it" Apparently one of our number had decided to enrol as a Regular soldier and had to be sworn in on a bible. Apart from surprise it gave me considerable pride to think that in a squadron of some sixty officers and men I was the only one who had a bible but more surprising the C. O should send the runner to me with the request. This same request was repeated in February 1959 when another regular was to be sworn in.

Apart from the words of the hymn meaning much to me it was pleasing to know that my Boys' Brigade bible had been of such use to me and indeed the Royal Engineers in such a way.

My bible served me well back in civvy street and has a place of pride on my bookshelf at home and many times I have reflected on the words of the hymn written so long ago which meant so much to me then and still do and feel that I did my best to follow the advice given in the words and did my best to form and maintain a fellowship with God.

Prayer Corner

Jeremiah 29:12

Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.

Please pray for: the lonely, those going through, or waiting for, treatment for illness. Those who are struggling with poor mental health and the bereaved. Wisdom to make the right choices for ourselves and our community to keep us safe as restrictions ease.

Sunday service via Telephone

We have subscribed to a telephone service that allows the same Sunday service that can be accessed by the Kirkton Church website

www.kirktonchurch.com

to be heard via your telephone. Just dial 01555 363637

We also provide the Sunday service on DVD, if you require a copy please contact your elder or the office.

01555 750778