



# community

*keeping in touch...*

**MAY 2021**

Dear friends,

This time last year we were preparing to have our first ever online Communion. A full year on we are now looking forward to having our first Communion service back in the Church again.

Sharing in a Communion service ‘virtually’ in our own homes will have been a strange experience for most of us. Coming back into the church for Communion is also going to be strange, because it still won’t be ‘the same as before.’ There are still restrictions in place. The truth is many things will *never* be ‘the same as before.’

Whatever else we might have learned since the very first lockdown, I’m sure one thing most of us now appreciate more than ever before (having been deprived of it for so long) is the opportunity to really be with one another.

We’ve tried to stay in touch in all kinds of ways, with family and friends and fellow church members, but nothing beats being fully present with someone face to face.

As I write this I am looking forward to (very soon) being able to invite our children into our house and not just keep them at more than arm’s length outside in the garden. And I’m looking forward to being able to give them a hug.

Perhaps these recent experiences will give us all a deeper appreciation of, and renewed concern for, those who live isolated lives **all** the time.

Throughout these restricted and frustrating times, I have personally been even more conscious than usual of how important it is to me to **know** that God is present with me—even if sometimes I haven't 'felt' that presence.

So, I'd like to share with you the words of a little song I wrote about ten years ago. Whatever your situation is, or has been, this is my prayer for you all.

## **A Simple Benediction**

*May the God who loves us all  
bless you with his truth and grace.  
May you know his gentle presence.  
May he fill you with his peace.*

When you stumble in the dark  
and you struggle to go on,  
May he help to stop you falling,  
hold you in his loving arms.

When you're back is to the wall  
and you're feeling all alone,  
May he bless you with his presence,  
give you strength to carry on.

When the dark clouds start to lift  
and a new light breaks on you,  
May you not forget to praise him  
for the love that brought you through.

*May the God who loves us all  
bless you with his truth and grace.  
May you know his gentle presence.  
May he fill you with his peace.*

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From now on we will continue to develop and strengthen our online presence, and further grow our online church community, through live-streamed and pre-recorded services, and through our website and social media.

However, I am also looking forward to seeing some of you begin to come back to the church in person to worship whenever possible.

In the meantime, don't forget that God is with you always, in good times and bad.

Till we meet again 'properly'...

Your minister and friend,



**KIRKTONPARISHCHURCH**  
A PLACE FOR ALL



## **A word from our Youth & Children's Worker**

A few weeks ago, I was asked to speak at a Church of Scotland webinar about 'Reimagining Church' – my focus was to be on 'Reimagining Children's Ministry'.

It was very daunting to be speaking straight after the current Moderator, Martin Fair and in front of 195 fellow members of the

## KIRKTON PARISH CHURCH community

Church of Scotland, but as a Youth & Children's Worker I'm sure you all know how important Children's Ministry is to me.

Our young people have always been very important to us at Kirkton. We have three amazing, uniformed organisations and a fantastic Junior Church section - our young people truly are at the heart of our Church family.

When I began as Youth & Children's Worker here at Kirkton, I stood in front of our Congregation and promised that I would give of myself to our children and young people, not just here in Kirkton, but also in our community. My life has become intertwined with so many of our young people and their families – especially during this last difficult year.

Before I was appointed in this role, the Elders of Kirkton Church attended a conference to make decisions about the legacy that we had been left by the Caldwell family. It was a unanimous decision on that day that our children and young people should be our main priority and I would like to hope that this is still our main priority especially now as we began the tentative move out of lockdown.

We need to provide a place for them – a family that they feel a part of. A family that encourages them and cares about them – not just between the hours of 11am -12pm on a Sunday. We need buildings that are appealing to them, and which encourage them to want to spend time in them.



Faith in action being always shown to them, loving them all just as Jesus told us to do – nurturing them at every step of the way. Let us all take the time to 'reimagine' what we could be doing for our young people.

*Lesley x*