



# community

*keeping in touch...*

**NOVEMBER 2021**

Dear friends,

Do you have a favourite Scots word?

I have a few, like “fankle” and “dreich.” I can’t think of any English word that fully encapsulates the meaning and the feeling of the word “dreich.” But maybe you have to live in the Scottish climate to really appreciate what a “dreich day” looks and feels like. Gazing out of my window now as I write this... it’s the perfect word.

Another of my favourite Scots words is “coorie,” often a very useful one to employ on a dreich day, when you just want to close the curtains, curl up and hide away in some cosy corner.

Here’s how one online encyclopaedia explains the meaning and origin of the word.

*“Coorie is a Scots word meaning ‘to stoop, bend, cringe, crouch for protection’ and ‘to snuggle, nestle.’ It has been appropriated and positioned as a ‘lifestyle trend,’ similar to the Scandinavian concept of hygge, which involves ideas such as cosiness.”*

—Wikipedia

Do you remember any occasions in your childhood when you “cooied in” to a parent or grandparent or some other person who cared for you, when you were feeling hurt, or sad, or afraid? Do you remember what it *felt* like to be comforted in this way?

I’ll come back to that Scandinavian word ‘hygge’ in a moment, but first I want to draw your attention to the Bible’s equivalent of this concept. It appears most often in the Old Testament Psalms, and it’s not so much a single word as a picture, based on the way in which an adult bird will shelter its young under the shadow of her wings.

Check it out for yourself in the following Psalms. [Ps 17:8, Ps 36:7, Ps 57:1, Ps 63:7 and Ps 91:4]

For example:

*He will cover you with his feathers,  
and under his wings you will find refuge (Ps 91:4)*

It’s an invitation to “cooie in” to God, take refuge in God’s everlasting love for us and to find in God a place where we can feel safe. It’s what in recent months we’ve learned to call “shielding.”

The same image is used by Jesus to describe how he longed to protect Jerusalem:

*“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing.” (Luke 13:34)*

Unfortunately, over these many long months we’ve all had to engage in so-called social or physical distancing which is the exact opposite of what it would mean to ‘cooie in’ to someone who cares.

Even our normal ways of greeting one another have been suspended. It still goes against the grain for me when someone holds out a hand for a handshake at the door of the Church and I have to refuse because of official Covid guidelines.

However, although in the early days of the pandemic hugs were also “outlawed,” now the view seems to be that it is much safer to hug someone than it is to give a handshake.

Which brings me back to that Scandinavian word “hygge” which in Danish means ‘to give courage, comfort and joy.’

There are various theories about the origin of the word, but to me it is quite clear that both the concept of hygge and the Scots idea of coorie describe what it *feels* like to be held in a warm, sincere, and compassionate embrace by someone who really does care for you.

Whatever your situation, may you know the warm embrace of the everlasting love of God,

Your minister and friend,



**KIRKTONPARISHCHURCH**  
A PLACE FOR ALL



## **Midweek Services**

Our 30-minute reflective midweek services continue on Wednesdays at 1.30pm in the church.

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



By the time you are reading this my Christmas Tree and decorations will be up, and my house will be festive from top to bottom! Whether I'll be feeling festive and ready for Christmas is an entirely different matter altogether!

Last Christmas (cue for a song maybe?) must be without a doubt one of the strangest years EVER!

In my lifetime I have never experienced anything quite like it and I pray that we never again have a Christmas quite like the one that we had in 2020.

One of the highlights of my working year is Advent and all the many things that I get to experience and do with our children, young people, their families, and our schools on the run up to Christmas. Last year as you all will remember was the year we had no Christmas parties, no special trips out, no in person assemblies at school, no Messy Church and Christingle Service and the hardest part for me? No All-Age Nativity Service in Kirkton when we have so much fun in telling the Christmas story in our own special and unique way.

As I begin to prepare and plan for this year, I've spent some time reflecting on last year and all the things that we did differently. Yes, we weren't physically together in the way that we are used to – but we were 'together' in so many other ways. The important message of Christmas and the amazing gift that we received hadn't changed and we were still able to celebrate that.

As the last line in our special version of ***Last Christmas*** from our Lockdown Nativity said ...***Christmas will still be special.***

Wherever we are...whatever we do...it will always be special ***#Christmas2021***

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "lesley".