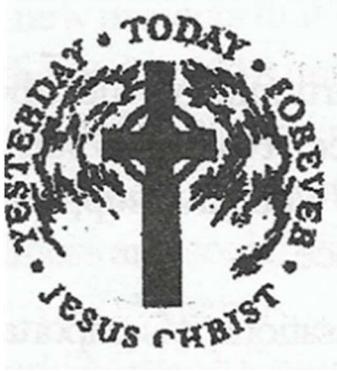


CONTACT



The Parish
Magazine
of
CARNOUSTIE
CHURCH



No 498

Jun/July/ August 2020

From the Minister's Desk

“We are God’s fellow-workers; you are God’s field, God’s building... Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit lives in you?”

1 Corinthians 3: 9,16

Dear Friends,

Our last edition of Contact only had a limited circulation due to the Covid 19 lockdown just being announced. This time we are using the postal service to make sure that we can stay in touch with our members, especially those who do not have access to the internet.

Indeed, online connections have been the best way to stay in touch with our congregation and our community in these times. Elders have been asked to keep in touch with their districts by phone, but we have been able to stream live broadcasts of Church services on Facebook, with links from the website available afterwards.

Other events have also been streamed – Holy Week reflections, afternoon and evening prayers for Thy Kingdom Come during the Ascension to Pentecost period, and the bell-ringing on Thursday evenings for carers.

This has helped to remind the wider community that although our buildings are closed, the Church remains open to all.

I'm writing just as the first phase of moving out of lockdown has begun. We can meet up with a few family or friends outside, and take part in some outdoor sports like golf and dinghy sailing. It's a long road to go, but a start has been made.

All our church buildings remain closed for the meantime. In the next phase in some weeks' time, we may be able to open the churches for private prayer only, but we will have to wait and see what might be appropriate.

When Phase 3 is confirmed, hopefully by August 11th, "places of worship can be opened to extended groups subject to physical distancing and hygiene safeguards". We will also be able to conduct weddings and funerals "beyond close family".

What our Church services will look like by then is still being worked on. We can expect smaller congregations, as some people will still be in vulnerable categories. Many pews will be closed off so that physical distancing can be maintained. Gathering socially before or after the service will not be possible.

Other changes will also be in place. Our Sunday online congregations currently include many who don't normally attend church services, and some who won't be able to return for a number of months to come. We will need to continue to provide online services, either by live broadcasting of the Sunday service or by producing a shorter direct service at a different time.

Guidelines on the gradual future reopening of Church buildings for worship are being worked on by the national officers of the Church of Scotland. In the meantime, we will continue to provide online services at 10.30 am on Sunday mornings. These will continue to be broadcast

live through Facebook, and be made available through the Carnoustie Church and Barry Parish Church websites.

The Kirk Sessions are continuing to meet through online facilities (using Zoom); Elders are keeping contact with their district via phone and other means, and Prayer Meetings and Study Groups are also continuing online.

I've been encouraged by the numbers who have been tuning in to our services live, and many more who have caught up later. While not all of our members have been able to connect in this way, others from outside our regular Sunday congregations have been joining us. In our lockdown situation we've been finding – like many congregations all over the UK and further – that the opportunities for sharing the Good News have increased. The Church buildings are closed, but the Church – the people of God – are more open than ever!

Yet the Church primarily grows through physical relationships, and we long to be able to be back together with one another once more. It's a longing that Christians who have faced oppression have faced throughout the centuries and we see it in the letters of Paul in the Bible.

So technology is not the ideal means of connecting. But it is the means that we have for these days, and we are grateful to God for the ability to communicate with each other through modern media. Longing for the time when we can be back together again, let us encourage each other through prayer, worship and witness in our daily lives.

Yours in the Grace and Peace of our Risen Lord Jesus Christ.

Mike Goss

Prayer Focus

We offer these thoughts to add to your own prayers:

1. **Key workers** – Continue to remember all working in health and care services, with those essential for our daily lives from bin-men, food producers, suppliers and shop-workers, to funeral directors and many others.

2. **Moderator** – Pray for Rt Rev Dr Martin Fair, installed as Moderator of the General Assembly at an online ceremony in May, as he seeks to provide leadership and support for the Church in the world today.

3. **India and Bangladesh** – Pray for all who have suffered from recent cyclones in both the Bay of Bengal and the Mumbai areas, especially the many from poor communities and particularly remembering the Rohingya people in Bangladesh.

Congregational Register

Funerals

“Jesus said, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me shall not perish, but have everlasting life.’”

May 12	Bob Ramsay
15	David Yool*
June 9	Mrs Mary Roberts*

Giving to the Church

We want to start with a huge **Thank you**.

Many of our members give to the Church by Standing Order, and these gifts continue to arrive in the Church bank account. **Thank you** so much! For many who usually put their envelopes in the plate, they may well be simply setting their usual envelopes aside each week or each month to bring once services are able to resume in the Church. Again, a big **Thank you** to you for your thoughtful and prayerful remembrance of the Kirk.

Some of you will have found your income being reduced as a result of changes to your circumstances caused by the national lockdown or other effects of the Covid 19 outbreak. Please be assured that we will understand if that impacts on your ability to continue to support the Church. **Thank you** for all that you are able to contribute, and for your continued prayers.

All this is vital, because the bills continue to arrive as well – for insurance, for maintenance, and for other regular costs. A major part of this is the Ministries and Mission Contributions paid into the central funds of the Church – more than 80% of which is used to pay the stipends and salaries of Ministers, Deacons and other local Church workers all over the country.

Currently we have no income from Hall lets, and nothing collected on a Sunday morning either.

We have been able to ask our Organists/Choir Directors and Hall Keeper to go on Furlough, which means that for now we plan to claim back 80% of their salaries while Churches and Halls are closed. We are continuing to pay the full salaries, and will apply for the 80% Grant from the Government when applications open later this month.

Nationally, the Church of Scotland offices have been closed, and many of the office staff have been put on Furlough, along with a lot of Church workers employed centrally but normally working in local parishes all over Scotland. This action has been taken in the knowledge that many congregations will be hit very hard financially, with loss of Hall rents and other income, and potential reductions in giving as people have their pay reduced or are made redundant.

We do not want to add to the pressures many are facing, but for those who can and who wish to add to their financial support of the Church, may we encourage you to give through Standing Order; details are below.

If that is not so easy for you, then please set aside your gift each week or month for the work of the Church. Remember, if you are a UK Taxpayer, we will be able to reclaim the tax on your gift if you sign a Gift Aid Declaration form.

Above all we covet your prayers for the life of the Church and for the well-being of our Nation.

Minister and Finance Team

GUILD

(An item from the previous un-published Contact)

It is sad that our session has had to come to such an abrupt end, but as you know, all groups and Church Services are cancelled until further notice. However, be assured that the committee have dates in the diary for next session in the hope that we will be able to resume then- we even have a list of possible speakers, some confirmed already.

In February, we had George McKenzie tell us about various therapies. Then on 19th Ann from Ashbrook Nursery in Arbroath shared her extensive knowledge of plants with us, after telling us of the “birth” of the Nursery. Many of our gardens are flourishing with the many plants bought that evening!!

March 4th brought Marta Mitchell with her beautiful crafts- unfortunately I was unable to attend but I’m assured by those who were lucky enough to be there that it was a most entertaining and enlightening evening. March 18th was to have been a speaker from the Foodbank but at least we have collected many Easter Eggs which have been delivered there to brighten up quite a few children’s Easter day!

In the meantime ,folks, keep safe and well and socially distanced and here’s to Session 2020-2021!!

Pru Milne

Friday Coffee Break.
(Also from last Contact)

The storms in February and early March did not deter our intrepid Coffee Breakers from their Friday Coffee Break. Team Leaders and their helpers were busy welcoming everyone with coffee and home-bakes.

Due to the corona virus we have had to cancel the last three Coffee Breaks. No more delicious home-bakes for a while!!

I would like to thank all the team leaders and their helpers for all their hard work and help during the session and a big thankyou to all our Coffee Breakers for their support throughout the year. As you know all the proceeds this session will be donated to the charity Chance for Childhood and I will shortly be sending a cheque for £900.00 on your behalf. A big thankyou from all the committee for such a generous donation. We face a long and difficult time ahead before we meet again so take care and keep in touch.

Evelyn

Pilgrimage Walks and Angus Show

On Palm Sunday, April 5th, it was hoped to have had a pilgrimage walk between Barry and Panbride. Sadly, due to the virus, this has had to be cancelled, as has the ones in Forfar and Arbroath area.

The Angus Show, scheduled for 6th June, is now also cancelled for this year. However, ladies who are knitting fish, please continue knitting. We'll get off to a flying start next year!

Dougal

Scottish Lochs Quiz

Due to unseen circumstances, the Scottish Lochs quiz finish date is being delayed until further notice.

Margaret

Thoughts from our Moderator

Our moderator, Rt Rev Dr Martin Fair, has been looking at the history of the civil rights movement and the legacy of Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr as he reflects on the crisis in the United States. Here are his thoughts:

On August 28th 1963, Martin Luther King Jr. stood at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D,C. and spoke of his dream. He began by making reference to the Emancipation Proclamation which in 1863 had declared freedom for millions of slaves - but went on to say that 100 years later the descendants of slaves are still not free.

Urging the crowd to make that promise of freedom a reality he said, “Now is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice. Now is the time to lift our nation from the quick sands of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood. Now is the time to make justice a reality for all of God’s children.”

Much has changed in the 57 years since that iconic moment and yet much of King’s dream remains unrealised. Along with folks from around the world, we in Scotland have watched in horror at the turmoil that has spread from city to city across America in response to the death of 46-year-old George Floyd on the 25th May at the hands of the Minneapolis Police Department.

Several officers were summarily dismissed from their positions and one is to stand trial for murder. The cry of ‘Black Lives Matter’ is heard again on the streets and the frustration of one more black life lost in such a fashion has erupted into a catastrophic round of destruction and violence.

Many will remember that Martin Luther King also said that, ‘a riot is the language of the unheard’ and that although he advocated non-violent responses, he condemned the conditions that led to such unrest in the first place.

We plead for people of reason and goodwill from across every community to come to the fore to bring an end to the present cycle of violence but just as importantly to begin the mammoth task of addressing the underlying divisions that continue to be a scar through too many of our nations and communities.

We call particularly on people of faith to give expression to Jesus’ words that ‘Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called the children of God.’

In saying as much, and in committing ourselves to pray, we remain mindful that there are divisions within our own society which are every bit as ugly and life-denying and which rear their head all too often. Let us not rest while barriers between one person and another remain and where bridges need to be built.

(Martin of course is minister of Arbroath St. Andrews)

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