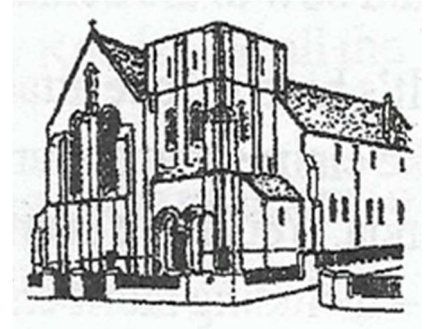


CONTACT

The Parish
Magazine
of
CARNOUSTIE
CHURCH



No 499

Sept/Oct 2020

From the Minister's Desk

‘Jesus said, “Peace I leave with you; My peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”’

John 14: 27

Dear Friends,

Since the last edition of Contact the Elders and the Church Cleaners have been busy and we were able to open Carnoustie Church for worship on Sunday 9th August. It's not what we've been used to – everyone must be physically distanced with 2 metres between us all, so our big Church can only hold a maximum of 44 people for a service.

The first service was more of a run-through for the duty teams so that they could see how to keep people safe as they come to services. We have agreed to alternate services Sunday by Sunday at 9.30 am with Barry Church and they last just over half an hour.

Currently we're not able to sing hymns, but we're glad to have the organists returning to play voluntaries and play over some hymns. Following Sunday morning service in one of the Church buildings I return to the Manse to continue leading the 10.30 am Facebook Live services that many have found helpful in these past months.

Our Facebook Live services continue to be available from the congregational websites, so people without a Facebook account can

access them; thanks to Claire Penman's labours we are now able to offer DVD recordings for those without internet access – please get in touch via your Elder or myself if you would like these.

We cannot be sure how long this will last. With recent outbreaks in Aberdeen and associated with the Coupar Angus chicken factory and schools in Dundee, it is clear that the virus is not going to disappear quickly from our lives. We can expect that restrictions will continue in some form well into next year, although there may be variations in what is permitted as the months roll on.

This makes it hard to plan ahead for Harvest, Communion, Remembrance and particularly for Advent and Christmas. The world is changing, and that means we will also have to adapt our practices in order to shape our mission and worship together for the future.

Yet many Christians have faced such difficulties – and worse – in distant lands or in different times. Persecution means that our brothers and sisters have been imprisoned, injured or even killed for the sake of the Name of Jesus. In some places following our Lord is costly and challenging. We too will have to seek the strength that Jesus offers us as we walk together into all that lies in front of us.

Although the May General Assembly was cancelled, Rev Dr Martin Fair was duly installed as Moderator for the year, and this has been a great blessing to the Church. Martin has provided much support to Ministers – not least in supplying recorded services to let us get a couple of weeks off during the summer. Rhona and I were pleased to get three nights in the Cairngorms and another four on a campsite in Yorkshire.

Martin has also been encouraging us to pray. A particular blessing has been the Week of Prayer held in the middle of August, with online morning prayers and evening Zoom group prayers each day. Around 250 Ministers, Elders and Church Members joined each evening.

Towards the end of the week Martin and two of his friends travelled to the four Munros at the furthest North, West, South and East, to pray for our land. I was delighted to be able to join Martin, Gregor and Richard on the final ascent up Mount Keen, and to share the sausages on the top with the prayers we offered for Scotland.

And Martin will have the opportunity of chairing a General Assembly – a mini-Assembly is planned for Friday evening and Saturday during the day of 2nd and 3rd October. This will be something of a marathon Zoom conference as we discuss many of the challenges facing the Kirk in these times.

A changing world, a changing Church, but an unchanging Saviour to hold us firm and lead us on into the future!

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. **Fire and storm** – Pray for all those who suffered in the Californian fires and the Caribbean storms, remembering those who died and asking for fresh hope for those who lost homes or livelihoods.
2. **Locusts** – On top of the Covid emergency, remember the East African nations blighted by locust swarms this summer.
3. **General Assembly** – Pray for the “Mini-Assembly” planned for 2nd and 3rd October as we gather to shape the life of the Church of Scotland for these times.

Congregational Register

Funerals

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

3rd July – Mrs. Agnes (Nessie) Phillip*

*denotes member

Coming Up

For all Zoom links contact the Minister

Prayer Meetings Mondays 10 - 11 am via Zoom link

Mon 31st Aug 7.30 pm Carnoustie Kirk Session
via Zoom link

Sun 6th Sep 9.30 am Morning Service in **Barry**
10.30 am Facebook Live service

Mon 7th Sep 7.30 pm Mission & Outreach Team
via Zoom link

Sun 13th Sep 9.30 am Morning Service in **Carnoustie**
10.30 am Facebook Live service

Sun 20th Sep 9.30 am Morning Service in **Barry**
10.30 am Facebook Live service

Sun 27th Sep 9.30 am Harvest Service in **Carnoustie**
10.30 am Facebook Live Harvest service

Tue 29th Sep 7 pm Barry Kirk Session
via Zoom link

The Minister is on holiday 4th to 16th October inclusive

Sun 4th Oct 9.30 am Morning Service in **Barry**
10.30 am Internet service

Sun 11th Oct 9.30 am Morning Service in **Carnoustie**
10.30 am Internet service

Sun 18th Oct 9.30 am Morning Service in **Barry**
10.30 am Facebook Live service

Sun 25th Oct 9.30 am *Communion Service in **Carnoustie**
10.30 am Facebook Live service

Mon 26th Oct 7.30 pm Carnoustie Kirk Session
via Zoom link

*It is uncertain how we will be able to lead Communion at this time, so keep in touch for details. Indeed, services may be subject to change as

guidelines are adapted in the weeks to come, so all these times and places should be regarded as provisional.

Sun 8th Nov - Remembrance Sunday

At the moment it looks as if there will be a very small event at the War Memorial. It may well consist of little more than the colour party marching down the lane at the side of the memorial and definitely no youth organisations. It has still to be decided what will happen with the laying of wreaths. More information will be given as the decisions are made.

Dougal

GUILD

The Committee held a Zoom meeting on August 17th.

We cannot make any arrangements for our next session at present, although we do have a list of potential speakers in mind! By the time you read this, each member of the Guild will have received a Postcard from someone on the Committee wishing them well and basically just to let everyone know that, although we can't meet, we just want to keep in touch.

We thought that knitting 6"x6" squares could be something to keep us busy and in making these into knee blankets, ladies and gents in our local homes could benefit.

Of course, we are unable to attend the Annual gathering in the Caird Hall (always a treat!), but happily a "virtual" Gathering will take place. For those who are unable to watch this a DVD will be available to share around.

Likewise, Guild Week and our normal Dedication Service in Church will be different, but working in conjunction with the Minister something will be possible!

How wonderful it is to, once again, worship in our Church building and to see friends face to face. A lot of work has gone into making it safe for all in attendance. Initially, the “rules” may seem a bit confusing but as they say “practice makes perfect”! What was especially good was a combination of congregations each week, beginning in Barry then in Carnoustie Church last week (16th)

One hears folks saying they wish things could return to normal – well I for one hope that we never go back to the way things were, because normal didn’t work. How much kinder people are to each other now, how we look out for others – so much better for all!

Please stay safe and keep well!

Pru Milne

Church project/repairs and Fundraising

First of all, I want say, on behalf of the minister, elders and project group, a heartfelt thank you to everyone who responded so positively to the appeal letter sent to members in June.

Because of the wonderful response, we are now in a position to arrange for work to begin on the vestry roof. Out of the several quotes received, we agreed to go with a local firm and the architect has asked them to carry out the work.

Unfortunately for us, they are so busy just now that work cannot begin until January/February next year but after discussion it was agreed that would be fine. Covid 19 has a lot to answer for but at least the firm is still in business and keeping busy so we can be thankful for that and look forward to the necessary repairs being carried out.

Fund raising is still very much on the agenda but is proving difficult with the current restrictions however several initiatives are in the pipeline.

One planned event is that energetic Claire Penman is planning to cycle from Edinburgh to Carnoustie in a few weeks and will be looking for sponsors. The money is to be split between the British Heart Foundation and our Church building project. Funds will have to be donated through a giving page via the internet and details will become available as soon as a date is set so keep a look out. There may be other chances to take part in events on the same day, so again, keep a look out for details.

If anyone else has any ideas for sponsored events or virtual lunches/coffee mornings/quizzes etc., please get in touch. Again, a huge thanks for all the support given and we can now look forward to seeing work beginning on this long awaited project.

Irene

Stop Press - Claire has now set the date for her cycle run as Sunday 27th September and Neil Russell is doing the challenge with her as well.

The link for giving will be:-

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fundraiser-display/showROFundraiserPage?userUrl=ClairePenman1&pageUrl=1>

Hopefully it will all be set up before this goes to print.

Mike adds :-

The Minister and Kirk Session were hugely encouraged by the response to the roof appeal, as £25,361.70 has been donated towards it. With Gift Aid recovered, this is expected to come to more than £31,000 and has allowed us to contact the preferred contractor to get an indication of a date for starting the work, which is now expected to be early in the New Year.

We are expecting to receive confirmation of Carnoustie Church receiving listed status shortly, which will enable us to apply for a grant to recover the VAT on the work – once that has been achieved we will be able to confirm the contract and move on with securing and repairing the Vestry Roof. We are also seeking estimates for the West Aisle roof and pursuing means of funding that work.

In the meantime, we have been exploring the adaptation of the main project at a viable level, while also continuing to apply for grant aid for this. The General Trustees are not yet able to make site visits, but we hope they will be able to visit this Autumn to provide further advice on the way ahead.

We are pleased to give a huge THANK YOU to all who have continued to support the fabric of the Church with these extra and significant gifts, along with all the life and ministry of our congregation through your regular giving.

Freewill Offerings

The FWO are due to be renewed for 2021. Since lockdown some folk with 2020 envelopes have given to the church in a different way. We need to check whether those will continue this way or want to revert to envelopes when the church meets again.

The treasurer and team would like to know if anyone who used FWO in 2020 would let them know if they **do not want** FWO for 2021.?

If you no longer want to give by “freewill offering envelope”, and would rather use an alternative means of giving, please phone Sandra on 852823 or Robin on 858654. Many thanks,

Sandra Dow

The following is the final verse of a prayer that is on the Church of Scotland website and signed by the religious leaders of the United Kingdom.

Living God, whose name is mercy,
May your name be known throughout the world.
As those who have received mercy,
May your name be known in the place where we are.
Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

CORONAVIRUS (by Kay Landsburgh)

Coronavirus just won't go away
Our lives are not our own, day after day
Remember all those Sundays filled with love
Our prayers and anthems raised to God above
Now, in a new way, we can still rejoice
As we gather gladly with a silent voice
Voices are stilled, yet your heart ascends
In thanks for family health and kindly friends
Remember the little things that people say
Uplifting words to cheer us on our way
So, let's sing our hearts out every single day.

Hymn singing in Church

The Lord has granted each one of us with a gift, or in some cases, gifts plural. In my case I think God had given away all the musical voices to others and thus had none left for me! I'm afraid that I simply can't sing on my own, and can't seem to stay on tune.

Nevertheless, one of the really big losses for me during this period is not being able to stand amongst a congregation and sing hymns of praise. I really look forward to the day when face masks can be removed and our varied voices can be raised in praising God by singing some well-known hymns. By the time you read this the choir will have started practising again – by Zoom. They will thus be ready to lead those of us tuneless members!

Dougal

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Tel: 01241 410194 Mobile: 07787 141567

e-mail: MGoss@churchofscotland.org.uk

church website: <https://www.carnoustiechurch.org.uk>

(Find us on Facebook also)

SESSION CLERK

Mrs Irene Hoar 859405

DEPUTY SESSION CLERK

Mrs Prudence Milne 853911

TREASURER

Robin Limmack 858654

ROLL KEEPER

Mrs Kirsten Reid 01382520519

PROPERTY CONVENER
Mrs Irene Hoar 859405

SAFEGUARDING CO-ORDINATOR
Mrs Evelyn Baker 410832

YOUTH GROUP CO-ORDINATOR
(to be filled)

HALL KEEPER
Mr. David Diamond 07395 180422
carnoustiephilip@gmail.com

FLOWERS CONVENER
Mrs Sandra Penman 852204

GUILD SECRETARY
Mrs Prudence Milne 853911

CONTACT EDITOR
Dougal Edwards
852666 Mob 07758370617
e-mail: dougal.edwards@blueyonder.co.uk