

Crossroads Newsletter

Keeping us Connected in Love and Fellowship

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Letter from the Minister

Dear All,

Last year when I wrote to you after Easter, we were facing the toughest of lockdowns. So it is with a sense of relief, after the toughest of years, that as I write to you, we hear that to date, all over-50s and those in high risk groups, have now all been offered a first dose of a coronavirus vaccine. Children across Scotland, have returned to school too, and the recent move from 'stay at home' to 'stay local', as well as the easing of so many restrictions announced a few days ago, there are now signs without doubt, that we are coming out of the pandemic, albeit perhaps with a sense that there may still be some ups and downs to face along the way.

Alongside these milestones achieved on a national level, we achieved our own important milestone when we reopened the doors to our sanctuary on Easter Sunday. Our doors were closed last year, not out of 'cowardice' but out of love, to protect us from a disease for which there is only now, a vaccination programme. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight, with the staggering loss of life here in Scotland and across the world, the Church of Scotland and other major churches distanced itself and did not support in any shape or form,

cont'd P2

the legal challenge launched against the Scottish Government by the Christian Legal Centre. At the end of January our Moderator reiterated our position in the Church of Scotland, affirming that the “vast majority of our members understand and support these temporary restrictions”. Unfortunately the media coverage did not highlight our distance, and the Christian Legal Centre were quite happy for the generic and misleading term “church leaders” to be used. As a church we had a duty to demonstrate that we cared as much for our members as for our buildings, and now that it is safer to do so, and in keeping with the Scottish Government and Church of Scotland health and safety guidelines, which we are so blessed to have, we have reopened our doors for worship, albeit in a new way of gathering together.



Yet the Spirit of Easter is new life is it not? So for us this year, it's a 'new life' also in the way we begin to experience coming together in worship. For those of you who booked to come to worship for Easter Sunday, you will have seen the beautiful new Easter Fall we have in our church, made of hundreds of different yellow Easter flowers, each one as different as the world was, that first Easter morning. Going forward every Sunday now at 9:30 am, there is a Sunday service of music and prayer which you can attend. To book you need to telephone the office on a Wednesday or Thursday between 9-12am.

I do hope to see you and welcome you all back into church in the weeks to come. It is of course a different experience, we sit socially distanced with masks and there is no singing, but the feedback so far, is that it is a much appreciated worship experience and I pray coming back to church on a Sunday, will be something which you will all consider, when you feel it is right for you. But for now let me end with words from two of our members who would like to share their experience of returning to worship to encourage you,

“To swap the sofa for a walk to our Church on a Sunday morning and be met by the smiling eyes of the Duty Team was an uplifting experience. Inside, though necessarily austere with well spaced out, easy to sanitise utility seats, thoughtfully arranged, safety concerns were also noticeable in the screens deployed which separated us from Andrew and Cheryl. Yes, it was different and yet there was a welcome sense of gathering again.

The message spoke of the disciples gathering after the Resurrection, reminding us, “For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” It was very calming and affirming to sit and listen to the music in that beautiful space but we missed the congregational greetings at the start of the service, the sound of voices uplifted in praise and our hall coffee time. These we hope will not be far off.

Church is the people, we know, but it was good to be back in the building that holds so many important moments in our lives. “

Hellen and Ron MacPherson

Our Easter fall will remain up for Eastertide and we will take it down on the 23rd of May when we move into the season of Pentecost.

I hope to see you in church soon,

Blessings
Cheryl

EASTER, HOLY WEEK

and Trusting

Throughout Holy Week I hope you enjoyed our daily worship through video. My thanks go to Andrew for the beautiful music he provided for us each day of Holy Week (as he does every Sunday) and my thanks go also to Kieran who drew a beautiful picture for Holy Week for our website.



On Easter Sunday we worshipped in church but also on video, proclaiming as all churches did, a Resurrection message. Many churches did this from behind closed doors with online or pre-recorded worship, as they work hard to put in place the necessary safety measures needed in worship. We are fortunate that we have church members who feel able to volunteer for door duty, so that we can be open, but not all churches do. We are blessed to have clear and strict guidelines to adhere to, which are given to us by the Scottish Government and further guidelines are given also by the Church of Scotland. Guidelines we can have confidence in and trust in. We adhere to them by the letter, so you can feel safe in returning to worship.

Cheryl

NEW SOUND SYSTEM

in our Sanctuary

It was with much joy and some relief that we switched on our new sound system on Sunday 11th April. We are delighted to say the sound quality was excellent. Initial feedback from the congregation was very positive including improved clarity of sound both from the Minister speaking and from the piano and organ.

The new speakers are very neat and inconspicuous and gave a balanced quality of sound throughout the sanctuary.

There is a small amount of work still to complete, mainly around the choir and band requirements, and we will see a big improvement in their collective sound with new floor standing speakers which will give their performance more prominence.

The system was designed to take future requirements into account: Live streaming and video recording for example, could be added at a later date.

The system was installed by a company called Live Systems who undertook a comprehensive modelling analysis to take the shape and acoustics of the sanctuary into account. This was key in identifying the requirements to provide the quality system that is now in place.



The Praise Band

The last year has brought many changes in our lives, not least the closing of churches. Even though we have reopened for services, congregational singing, an integral part of Presbyterian worship for centuries, is still not possible during services. For the Praise Band this has produced a dramatic change in how we make music together.

What have we been doing? When the lockdown started we were stunned by what was happening like everyone else - but by June we realised it was going to last a lot longer than any of us could have guessed. So we started making recordings - using up some of the spare time many of us had, but also enjoying a strange sense of community in our shared isolations. Song arrangements and backing tracks are emailed to everyone weekly and, if possible, members sing or play to the backing track (listening with headphones) and record their performance on a mobile phone. These are combined using special musical software, which edits and balances all the tracks. Often there are over twelve recordings to mix together. We have now built up a library of over 70 songs and are looking to add more for use in our worship videos or live streamed services, until live singing resumes. Getting together on Zoom on a monthly basis is also proving very helpful, where we sing through the forthcoming Praise items. Of course on Zoom, live music ensemble is impossible, but we enjoy making suggestions and comments on the music as well as exchanging news and chat.

We have come to know each other much more than we did a year ago.

The future? Before lockdown, we had started to widen the range of music we were producing for worship - classical and modern, three part vocal harmony, simpler vocal settings with instrumental backing, purely instrumental pieces - and we have managed to continue that process during lockdown, adding descants, clarsach and French Horn to our musical palette. I look forward to that continuing and would **welcome anyone who would like to join us!** As long as live music is so restricted in church, the challenge will be how we incorporate our recordings in a live streaming context, which I am sure we will overcome, as we have many other challenges over the last year! Thereafter, we will have the pleasant challenge of resuming worshipping together through music and making the most of our newly installed sound system. Being back in church on Easter Sunday was the first taste of that for me, and it was good!

If you would be interested in joining us, please email me - andrewsutherl4nd@gmail.com - or contact any other Praise Band member for details.



A TIME TO REFLECT

What does church mean to us? A time to reflect as the church doors open

As we return to worship in our Sanctuary we also begin the important process of reflecting together, as a community of God, how the pandemic and our experience of it, will shape the life and work of the church we belong to in the years to come, on a personal, local national and global level.

Our church here at the crossroads, as a 'building', holds incredibly precious memories for us all, and as I say on a Sunday during our early morning service of prayers, " it is our meeting place between heaven and earth."

But as we reopen the doors, what do we see beyond these open doors? What new life and work do we see ourselves engaging in as a church? What has this pandemic taught us and what can we learn from it? How will that reshape our discipleship here at the crossroads?

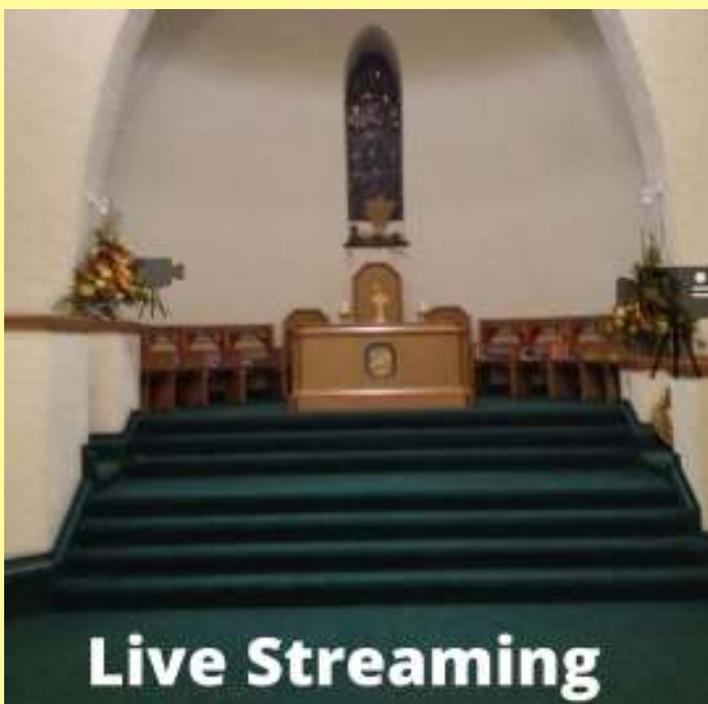
Much has been written, but I found the essay written by N. T. Wright, Senior Research Fellow at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford University, an Emeritus Professor at University of St Andrews,

<https://time.com/5837693/should-churches-reopen-thinking-about-exile/>

to be particularly helpful, and a good starting point as we begin to reflect. I pray you do too.

Cheryl

LIVE STREAMING



The worship videos which we have offered as a church, have been a huge blessing to many over the past year.

As our video productions now draw to a close this summer, my thanks go to Andrew and Carole who have worked with me week after week, to ensure every Sunday we had an offering of worship online while our sanctuary was closed. It was a huge learning curve for the three of us and many hundreds of hours have been spent making these videos.

Now that we have returned to worship in person in our Sanctuary, we are looking into the options available to us, so we can live stream our services. Our Property Committee is exploring what this will entail and this will be discussed at our meeting of Kirk Session on Wednesday 28th April.

CHRISTIAN AID



Christian Aid week is from 10th -16th May this year. This will be our second Christian Aid Week in lockdown and a second year that Christian Aid envelopes won't be delivered to the houses in our Parish, and we won't host our Christian Aid brunch with the Pathfinders Plant Sale. So we are going to have to be creative this year once again and come up with ways of making sure we raise some money.

At Chit Chat Chit Church the children are going to bake at home and if you request a 'delivery' then for a donation we will bring your baking to you! We hope to raise £50.



The Chit Chat Church Children would also like to challenge the adults to raise £500! At Chit Chat Church each week we've been thinking who we should pray for and why. We know there are a lot of people who live in countries where there is not a lot of money and not easy for everyone to be able to get a vaccine for Covid. So we would like the adults here in our church, if they have had the vaccine, to post £5 in an envelope through the church office door marked Christian Aid Chit Chat Donation, or email Carole at the office to let us know you've donated £5 (or more) online to Christian Aid! We will add up all the money donated and hope that 100 people match their vaccine with a £5 donation to Christian Aid.

The link to donate to Christian Aid is here.

https://donate.christianaid.org.uk/Donate/Step/1?ApproachCode=CAM-000805&_ga=2.30106294.860986385.1618529759-1860155274.1618333141

Our Christian Aid Sunday video will be on 9th May at 10.30am on our website.

Update from Val

OUR PARISH ASSISTANT

"Hello, it's Val here, the Parish Assistant at Fairmilehead Parish Church". I am sure many of you have heard me say those words over the phone as I quickly try to explain who is calling you from an unfamiliar mobile number! I have really enjoyed chatting to you on the phone over these last few months and hope that you have too.

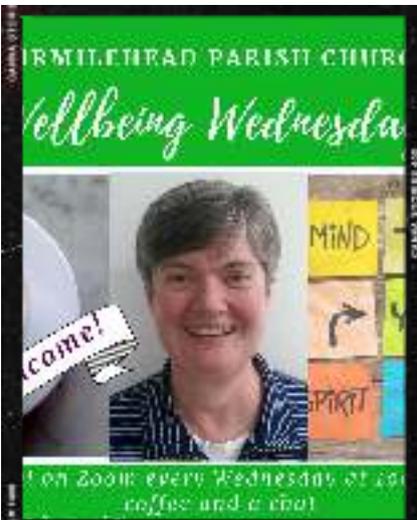
It has also been a joy to see so many now familiar faces on Zoom, either at our Monday Bible Study, or for a chat and coffee at Wellbeing Wednesday, or joining me for an afternoon of poetry and music, or at Chapters our monthly book group. If you haven't yet tried out any of these activities it would be lovely to see you any time.

And on Wednesday afternoons it has been great to get to know the children in our Parish who come along to our Megasound Project, to learn songs and enjoy fun and games together.

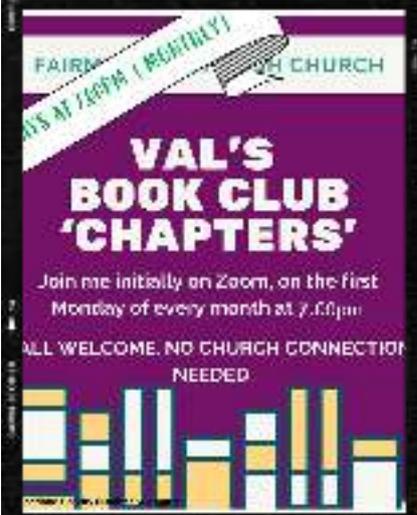
Now that the weather is improving I am looking forward to seeing you out and about in the fresh air, perhaps you would like some company on a walk, (Wonderful 2B out Walking) or maybe we could enjoy a flask of coffee in your back garden - or mine!

Please get in touch with me if you would like to find out more about any of these activities.

val.parishassistant@gmail.com



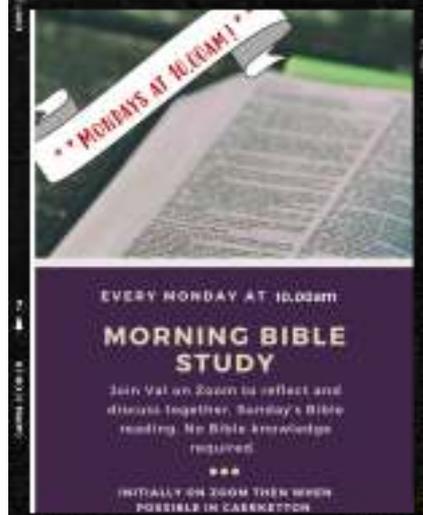
FAIRMILEHEAD PARISH CHURCH
Wellbeing Wednesday
COME!
MIND
SPIRIT
On Zoom every Wednesday at 2pm for coffee and a chat



FAIRMILEHEAD PARISH CHURCH
VAL'S BOOK CLUB 'CHAPTERS'
Join me initially on Zoom, on the first Monday of every month at 7.00pm
ALL WELCOME. NO CHURCH CONNECTION NEEDED



WOW!



MORNING AT 10.00AM
MORNING BIBLE STUDY
Join Val on Zoom to reflect and discuss together, Sunday's Bible reading. No Bible knowledge required

INITIALLY ON ZOOM THEN WHEN POSSIBLE IN CARRINGTON

4pm | FRIDAY 30TH APRIL



all welcome

Join Val for an afternoon of music, poetry and readings. Bring your coffee!

Booking

FOR CHURCH

If you would like to book a seat for Sunday Morning Worship please telephone the church office (0131 445 2374) on a Wednesday or Thursday between 9-12. We can accommodate 40 people on a Sunday. If you are not able to get a seat for Sunday, we will make sure that you have a seat for the following Sunday.



Helping Others in Need

The song tells us 'All you need is love...' but we all know people need other things too. So, last year the Social and International Justice Committee decided to introduce a foodbank donation point in our church. Donated items are collected in our church on Thursday afternoons to pass on to appropriate organisations.

We have gathered food every week which we take to the Edinburgh Food Project for distribution. Morrisons supermarket has supported this and it was in this context that I came to learn about the practicalities of steering fully laden trollies in a zigzag fashion across the car park.

Prior to Christmas there was a tremendous response to our request for toys for Re-Act and a heart-warming mountain grew in the church before the toys were taken away to be wrapped and given to the children of refugee families here in Scotland. I was particularly touched when young children lent their expert opinion to toy selection, then came with their parents to donate these toys to other youngsters.

When the snow came we moved temporarily to the church centre reception area. As this melted away and Easter approached we began collecting Easter eggs - by the hundreds! These were donated to the foodbank to ensure as many children as possible had the opportunity to share in our Easter story through chocolate. My little car struggled to cope with the volume of donations and I feared an egg would land on my lap as I turned the corners on the way to the Food Project!

The impact of the pandemic is such that we will continue to collect donated foodstuffs for families on Thursdays. We greet each other across a table at the door, reflect on the changeable weather and most importantly we thank you for supporting Fairmilehead Parish Church in our effort to help each other.

Please keep coming to donate.

Keren King



**OPEN THURSDAYS 12-3PM
LAUNDRY TABS NEEDED**

ADDRES YOURSELF TO OUR GARDEN
(PLEASE DO NOT ENTER)

FAIRMILEHEAD PARISH CHURCH
**Can you help a family
at this time?**

**Donation point
open Thursdays
12-3pm**

Please note access is through
the church back garden, not
through our halls.

WE NEED

- NOPIPS
- BABY FOODS
- TINS OF FOOD
- SUITABLE FOR CHILDREN
- CONTACT WALKS
- LAUNDRY TABS

DONATIONS WILL GO TO TRUSSELL TRUST
AND RE-ACT, REFUGEE ACTION SCOTLAND
PART OF SCOTLAND FAMILY MINDER SOCIETY

CAERKETTON

a transformation



As lockdown began last year, we were fortunate enough to complete the transformation of Caerketton. When restrictions ease and we can return to our halls for Bible Study, Fellowship and Time of Stillness, it will be precious to give Caerketton a new sense of purpose and fulfil its original vision, of being a place of gathering for different forms of worship, in a setting similar to a small chapel.

UPDATE FROM THE SESSION CLERK

Pamela Black

The Kirk Session have continued to meet on Zoom during the past year of lockdown. I never thought I'd be minuting words like 'Zoom virtual app', 'social distancing' and 'breakout rooms' - all useful information for a future academic researching Kirk Session meetings during a pandemic!

Session's Committees have been working hard during this period of closure too, as have our District Elders. Property have arranged for improved fire safety measures throughout the Sanctuary and Church Centre, checked the buildings at least twice a week for the past year and continued to find a resolution to the leaking roof in the foyer. Paddling pools have helped contain some of the water and it is hoped, with Session's approval, to appoint a contractor shortly to attend to the problem areas. A fund raising campaign to pay for these repairs will be launched shortly. The traditional ways of raising funds are prohibitive at present so, in addition to applying for grants, a direct appeal will be made to the congregation - I hope you will be able to support it. It will be a relief not to anxiously watch the weather forecast each evening and wonder what the paddling pools and buckets will be like in the morning. A new sound system has also been installed, further information is elsewhere in this newsletter.

Session agreed to reopen the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings at 9.30am for a short service of prayer and music. All the measures regarding Covid are in place, my thanks to our Covid Task Group for checking all the necessary risk assessments and documents required.

It is impossible to know when the current restrictions regarding numbers attending church, singing and the return of something nearer life as it was early in 2020 will return. In the meantime, we will have to follow the Government's and Church of Scotland's guidelines.

Special thanks must go to Cheryl, our Minister, for mastering technology to produce the excellent Sunday videos and the more recent videos during Holy Week. This is a huge effort and takes so much time. I know that a 3 minute reading can take half an hour to record, in between stumbling over words, the dog barking or the doorbell ringing. Andrew, our organist has also used this new technology, as have the Praise Band, to bring music and singing to the videos. And thanks too to Carole, our Church Centre Coordinator who puts it all together for us to view on a Sunday. Thank you all.

PASTORAL CARE

an update from our Pastoral Care Convenor



As we looked forward to Spring and Easter with a bit more optimism, Government restrictions were still in place. This has impacted on the way we deliver pastoral care safely to each member. Under Government Guidelines, visiting people in their homes has not been possible. This has made it even more important that we kept in touch with our more vulnerable members by regular telephone calls. Alongside our Minister, our Pastoral Care Team and Parish Assistant, Val have reached out to each member with a regular phone call and chats along with offers of help and assistance when needed. We hope to continue with more doorstep visits as soon as lockdown restrictions ease.

This Easter we again reached out to our Parish and ensured every member received an Easter Card from the Minister including our very best wishes for a Happy Easter. For those on our Pastoral List each person received a gift of daffodils along with their Easter card.

While in lockdown we have continued to send flowers for care and celebration through a Postal Delivery Service, spreading some cheer to our members. The flowers have been greatly appreciated by everyone who has received them and we would personally like to thank our Church Flower Committee for their continued assistance with this. We look forward to being able to make personal deliveries of flowers now that lockdown is easing. If you know of anyone who is celebrating a special occasion or is in need of some cheer, then please let me know directly.

Annette Mackenzie (0131 445 4018)



GIFT AID

What is Gift Aid?

At present we are reviewing communications about Gift Aid. The Gift Aid scheme allows charities like ourselves to reclaim tax on donations from HM Revenue and Customs which are made to the church by UK taxpayers. When Gift Aid is reclaimed it means that for every £1 you donate to the church, we will receive £1.25 in total, without it costing you any extra.

As you can imagine this means any donation you make, where Gift Aid can be reclaimed, blesses and supports more richly the ways in which the life and work of the Church of Scotland takes place on a local, national and international level.

A Gift Aid form is attached to this newsletter. Please consider returning this to the church office addressed to Mr Chris Thompson.

And most importantly thank you for any donations you have made.



Our Young Church Family

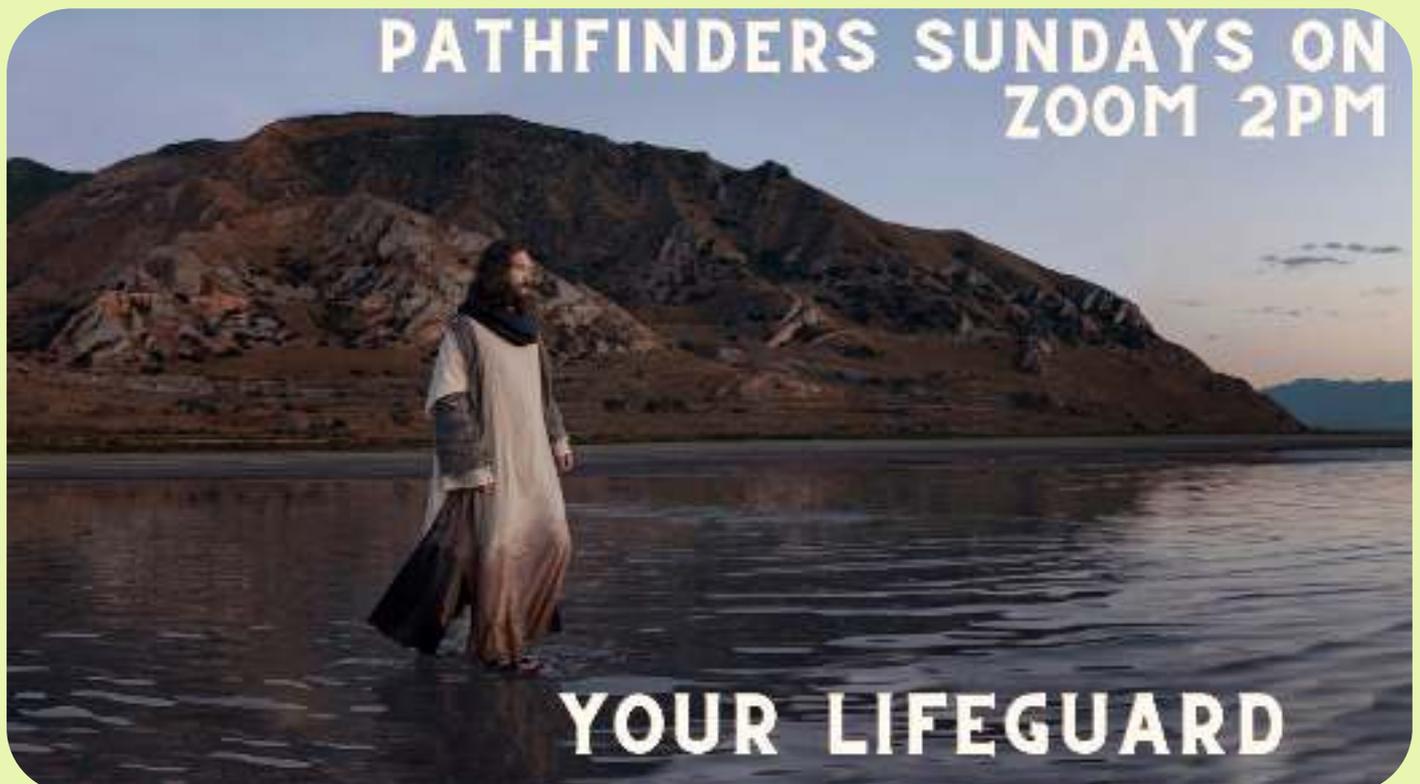
PATHFINDERS

How has your week been? A question asked each week on a Pathfinders Zoom meeting. During this pandemic it could be argued that one week is very much like the last and sometimes we have found that to be the case, however, our Pathfinders are at a pivotal stage in their lives, choosing courses, sitting important exams, applying for higher education courses, starting higher education courses. None of this is easy at the best of times and yet these young people show resilience, cheerfulness, stoicism and resourcefulness through it all.

We have been meeting on Zoom each Sunday afternoon since last summer. We chat, we read a bible text, we pray, we celebrate the good things that have happened, sometimes candles are lit for each person. Most recently we followed a Lenten Spot the Difference course: do we have a love, a joy, a faith, an allegiance, or a concern that shows to others? We played games and discussed stories from the news each week which were relevant to the text, considering how current affairs fit into a Christian context. The discussions are always lively, bright and good fun.

On Sunday we looked at the story of Thomas and his doubt and how it was okay to have doubt, in fact, we decided that critical thought was really important. We are constantly bombarded with information and need to make reasoned judgements about what is true and what is not. Thomas needed to see and touch to believe that Jesus was alive. Jesus understood Thomas and offered his hands to him. We thought about putting our own hands in Jesus' hands, believing that he understands us too and helps us navigate our own personal path, one week at a time. And something for us to take into that week ahead....

'When you find yourself drowning in fear, doubt or discouragement, don't forget, your lifeguard walks on water!'



Chit Chat Church

Every Sunday at 10:30am lots of little faces pop up on screen to meet Cheryl and Sandra as they all come together for Time with the children. It's not quite the same as watching the children run down towards the steps when in church, but what has been created for the children is a safe and fun space where the children share their good news, draw pictures, think about who they might need to pray for in the week ahead and think about why Jesus tells the stories he does in our Rhyme Bibles.

During Holy Week we decided Good Friday should be Bad Friday and Easter Sunday should be Good Sunday. The children have done so well on Zoom. Before Easter we were thinking about what needs to be solid and certain in our lives and what is a bit wobbly and uncertain and drew pictures of the house on the rock which Jesus talks about. Below is Evie's picture and also some words from Rona, Jack's mummy, about how the story about houses, rocks and sand stayed with Jack for weeks afterwards.

EMAIL

CMCKELLARYOUNG@CHURCHOFSCOTLAND.ORG.UK
FOR THE ZOOM CODES



This house was drawn by Evie Monro

The house on the rock.

Jack and I were watching Newsround together recently. There was some article about a homeowner in Boston (USA) who was moving house.

Literally!

The house was on the back of a huge lorry and being moved 2 miles down the road to a new location. We looked at each other, marvelling and giggling at how ridiculous this seemed. The inevitable question followed....if we had to move our house, where would you put it? After the obvious point that Hamish and Max's house would have to move too, Jack told me that if we were to put our house on the back of a lorry, it should really be heading for the beach.

"The beach, huh?".

A pause.

Then a serious face from Jack. He looked at me and said, "It'll need to go on a rock, though!"

more on Chit Chat Church...

'Chit Chat Church is fun', 'a good way to learn about Jesus' and 'great for keeping in touch with the others' is the feedback from my daughters about Chit Chat Church. They, together with other children in the church, have really benefitted from these online sessions, organised by Cheryl and Sandra, every Sunday morning, since last year.

The 45 minute sessions typically begin with a weekly check-in from everyone attending, followed by a Bible reading. The Rhyme Bible storybook was gifted to the children last year, so they can follow the readings themselves at home. Cheryl facilitates the subsequent discussion, then Sandra encourages the children in some related art-work. Afterwards they finish with a prayer, encompassing the children's suggestions.

I've been really impressed by the leaders' energy and skill in engaging the children online. There have been lots of good ideas - a recent bible reading about doubting Thomas prompted a quiz about 'what would you believe and what would you have to see for yourself'. The children really seem to enjoy the sessions, and as a parent, it's been useful to see their interest and learning. Within the family, the sessions have probably sparked more questions and discussion about faith, which might not have happened otherwise. Chit Chat Church has been the core children's activity with church over the last year, but we also valued the Advent trail around Buckstone and Fairmilehead, the virtual February half term kids club, and latterly Melissa and Val's online Megasound choir project. They have helped ensure the sense of community continues and /or develops amongst the children. As for other age groups, many of their routine activities went 'by the wayside' last year due to Covid. Yet, it's been encouraging to see their church has continued, thanks to the enthusiasm of Cheryl and her team.

Liz Whyte



Sunbeams, Stepping Stones & Explorers

Helen Grant, Young Church Co-ordinator

The Young Church leaders have been keeping in touch with the children of our Young Church is with the weekly newsletters, just last week our Minister received an email from one of our future Baptismal families to say how much their older daughter enjoyed reading them. The bright and colourful newsletters follow the readings we hear in our Sunday worship videos and are sent out to all our children in the younger groups (departments), for whom we have email addresses. There is a welcome from the Leaders, Bible story, a simple explanation of the story with questions to prompt some home discussions, prayers and then activities related to the story. Activities include crafts, things to do on a walk, video links, and puzzles. If anyone would like to receive the newsletter, and currently does not do so, please contact Carole in our office to be added to our list.



You may have heard too that during February, the children were offered a three day interactive online Holiday Club, where Detective Zoom solved clues and puzzles. It was good that an encouraging number signed up to attend the Club.

Towards the end of last year, the Young Church Leaders decided to keep in touch with our Young Church children and Pathfinders by delivering an Advent calendar to each child on our list. It was lovely for the Leaders to be able to visit the children and have a doorstep chat, and the chocolates were very well received! So much so, that it was decided to deliver an Easter chocolate bar, which was also well received.

All the Leaders are very much hoping that we will soon be able to meet again the halls and look forward to seeing all the departments return, when it is safe to do so, and permitted under Church of Scotland guidelines. We should have an update towards the end of April and it may be that we can begin to meet in the church garden if not the halls, and as good as Zoom Chit Chat Church has been, we are hopeful that the children will soon meet together with their leaders in person on a Sunday morning for Young Church or Summer Young Church.

OUTREACH TO YOUNG PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY

THE MEGASOUND PROJECT

What a great start the Megasound Project has had! Highlights have included singing sea shanties, pop songs, songs from films and much more. We've also been thinking about how we warm up our voices and how to sing really well. We made a brilliant imaginary popcorn machine with all the sounds and rhythms we could make together. There's always time for some fun games too, such as our two props guess the pops and our guess that sound game, as well as a game of beetle!

The Megasound Team (Melissa, Val, Celia and Stephanie) have had a break for Easter but look forward to seeing everyone again soon. The times are as follows:

P1 - P3 meet from 3.45 - 4.15pm

P4 to P7 meet from 4.20 - 4.50pm

S1 to S6 meet from 5 - 5.45 pm

For the summer term, our youngest Megasound singers will be our cool crew setting sail, and P4s-P7s will begin a fantastic Megasound stars project. Our older singers have embarked on an exciting songwriting task, as well as singing and recording, so do watch this space...

All children and young people are welcome any time. There are no auditions, no need to read music and it is open to anyone who wants to come along and find their voice! We sing a mix of styles of songs - so hopefully there's something to suit everyone. No church connection is needed.

We will meet on Zoom until restrictions permit us to return to the church halls. Further info from Melissa, Val or the church office.

melissafhpc@gmail.com

val.parishassistant@gmail.com

office@fhpc.org.uk

What's On

9.30am Service of Prayer & Music
Book via the church office



Video Worship on our
website



After Sunday Worship -we
meet for coffee on Zoom.

Email the church office if you'd like to take part and
we'll send you the codes to join us.
(office@fhpc.org.uk)



Hearing
God's
Word

If you are not online you can now
telephone **0131 322 1308**.
Calls are charged at your local rate
and last approximately 20
minutes



Fairmilehead Parish Church
Reaching out to Everyone

CHIT CHAT CHURCH WITH CHERYL AND SANDRA

STARTS THIS SUNDAY 10:30 AM

JOIN ME ON ZOOM AT 10:30 AM

Join Cheryl on Sunday for "Time with the children"

**REGULAR
AND SPECIAL
ONLINE EVENTS**

Check our
website for more
information
www.fhpc.org.uk

BRINGING THE VOICES OF OUR CHILDREN IN THE PARISH TOGETHER

FAIRMILEHEAD PARISH CHURCH

THE MEGAPHONE PROJECT

Wednesday afternoon
for children

Dates for Your Diary



Crossroads Island Discs
Only two more left. Don't miss them. The next one is Tuesday 20th April and you really won't want to miss it!

Everything else Val is doing is detailed in her article on Page 6!

Chapters Book Club

Over summer our Book Club will meet twice a month in June and August. Here are the books we will read and I look forward to you joining with me on Zoom. If you haven't joined before now you would be most welcome, just email me for the codes, or telephone Carole for more information in the office.

Email: val.parishassistant@gmail.com

June 7th - The Midnight Library by Matt Haig.

June 21st - All the lonely people by Mike Gayle.

Aug 2nd - The Island by Victoria Hislop.

Aug 16th - The Boy made of Blocks by Keith Stuart.

And in September at some point we will read Expectation by Anna Hope.

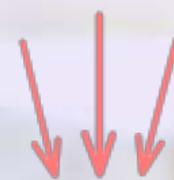
Zoom Coffee

A huge thank you to Anne Lambert who has been keeping us all connected over chat and coffee every Sunday. Who would have thought that Zoom fellowship would have been such a success? Our Zoom coffee will keep going until we can get back into Buckstone for a coffee after church, as will Val's well-being coffee on a Wednesday, her Poetry and Music afternoon, Bible Study and Book Club. .



Crossroads Island Discs will end at the beginning of May. Other Zoom hospitality and fellowship offerings may return after Summer, if we are still unable to meet in person.

Chapters Book Club



New dates for Summer:
7 & 21
June
2 & 16
August



DEATHS IN THE PARISH

we continue to hold in prayer the families of

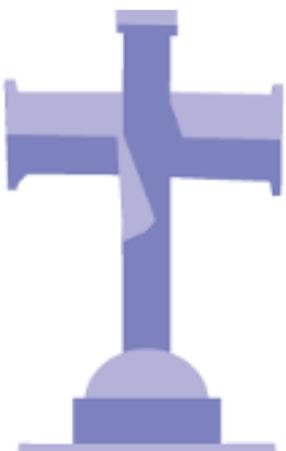
Alexander Justice
Mary Burnie
Eleanor Furneaux



Jesus said
'I am the resurrection and the life'

GIVING TO THE CHURCH

Please consider making a financial contribution to our church. Online donations can be made via the Church of Scotland website <https://cos.churchofscotland.org.uk/donate/> and click on Donate to a Congregation, where you can select Fairmilehead Parish Church.



Fairmilehead Parish Church
1a Frogston Road West
Edinburgh
EH10 7AA

Tel: 0131 445 2374 (answer machine)

Email: office@fhpc.org.uk

Website: www.fhpc.org.uk

Follow us on Facebook (no sign up required)

Scottish Charity SC015967

GIFT AID DECLARATION

Gift Aid Declaration The Church of Scotland

Please complete this declaration in CAPITALS

Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate. Gift Aid is reclaimed from the government by charities from the tax you pay for the relevant tax year. Your congregation can reclaim Gift Aid on your offerings if you pay sufficient Income tax and you provide a signed Gift Aid Declaration (below). In order to Gift Aid your donations, please complete the form and hand it to your treasurer.

I want to Gift Aid all monetary donations I have made in the past four years and those I make from today onwards to:

Name of congregation: _____

Congregation's charity no: _____

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Please tick:

My details:

First name: _____

Surname: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Please notify the Church Treasurer/Gift Aid Convener if you:

- wish to cancel this declaration
- change your name or address
- no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.

If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HMRC to adjust your tax code.

PRIVACY NOTICE

You are giving your personal data to (insert name of congregation)

_____ as the Data Controller.

Your Personal Data: You are being asked to supply your name, address, postcode and signature.

Purpose: The purpose of processing the personal data we ask for is to complete a Gift Aid declaration. The legal basis for this processing is the Legitimate Activities of the Church as a not-for-profit organisation. Your personal data will not be used for another purpose without your consent.

If you do not provide the personal data requested, we cannot complete the declaration.

Data Subjects: Individuals making a monetary offering or donation to this congregation.

Sharing Your Personal Data: Your personal data will only be shared with HMRC as an independent data controller. This sharing is solely for the purpose of administering Gift Aid declarations.

Your Rights:

You have rights under the Data Protection Act 2018. For more information visit the website at www.churchofscotland.org.uk/using-our-site/privacy-centre