

**Isaiah 56:1, 6-8—Salvation for Others (page 743 NIV Bible)**

This is what the Lord says:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,  
for my salvation is close at hand,  
and my righteousness will soon be revealed.

And foreigners who bind themselves to the LORD,  
to serve him, to love the name of the LORD,  
and to worship him,  
all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it,  
and who hold fast to my covenant—  
these I will bring to my holy mountain,  
and give them joyful in my house of prayer;  
Their burnt-offerings and sacrifices  
will be accepted on my altar;  
for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations.

The sovereign Lord declares -  
he who gathers the exiles of Israel,  
I will gather still others to them  
besides those already gathered.



**Matthew 15: 10-28—Clean and Unclean (page 982 NIV Bible)**

Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen and understand. What goes into someone's mouth does not defile them, but what comes out of their mouth, that is what defiles them."

Then the disciples came to him and asked, "Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this?"

He replied, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be pulled up by the roots. Leave them; they are blind guides. If the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit."

Peter said, "Explain the parable to us."

"Are you still so dull?" Jesus asked them. "Don't you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body? But the things that come out of a person's mouth come from the heart, and these defile them. For out of the heart come evil thoughts—murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. These are what defile a person; but eating with unwashed hands does not defile them."

## **Matthew 15: 10-28—Clean and Unclean (page 982 NIV Bible) (continued)**

### **The Faith of a Canaanite Woman**

Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is demon-possessed and suffering terribly.”

Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, “Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us.”

He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel.”

The woman came and knelt before him. “Lord, help me!” she said.

He replied, “It is not right to take the children’s bread and toss it to the dogs.”

“Yes it is, Lord,” she said. “Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master’s table.”

Then Jesus said to her, “Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted.” And her daughter was healed at that moment.

### **Currie Kirk Update**

#### **Update on the Care Shelter (from Bethany Christian Trust)**

The Care Shelter has now closed for the summer and the staff are enjoying a well-deserved rest after a busy few months! What a season! Never before has the Care Shelter season been so long, an incredible 42.5 weeks, or helped so many people—1,112 this season! The excellent news is that the final guests in the hotel all moved on successfully—the staff and our visiting partner agencies worked really hard in conjunction with City of Edinburgh Council to ensure no one went back out onto the street. We only had one man left on the last night and he was offered supported accommodation the next day—an excellent outcome for him. He was delighted heading off in the morning with enough spare food to keep him going for a week! We had 486 different individuals stay at the hotel across the three months it was open which just shows how quickly people were able to move on. Besides the success of this season in terms of helping people to move on to other accommodation, we also managed to keep people safe. Incredibly, none of our guests tested positive for Covid-19 which truly feels like a miracle. So many of our guests have underlying health conditions and there was real concern that people would die from Covid-19. Praise God that this has not been the case so far.

The Care Van has been running nightly as usual. Social distancing has meant for Currie that Eddie and I have been the volunteers on the 3rd Tuesday of each month—Eddie has been learning the ropes well!! We've felt very safe and quite humbled by how everyone has coped whether in the hotel, friends' spare bed or the very few who have wanted to remain outside.

It would be so nice to hear any news from anyone so please get in touch.

Keep safe, Fiona.

## Some of Heather's work during lockdown.

Lockdown completely disrupted Church as we know it—for children as well as adults. Messy Church stopped and Holiday Club was cancelled. However, this did not mean that all activity ceased. Heather rose to the challenge and came up with various ideas—some of which she carried out herself and some of which involved others as well.

She put together resources for Sunday Club and activity sheets have been sent out weekly to families within the church. She also set herself the task of going through the alphabet and making a 6 or 7 minute video for each letter, choosing a word to describe God and explaining the reasons for her choice. The videos are very interesting and I would recommend them if you haven't seen them. And she didn't chicken out on Q or X or Z! But you'll have to see for yourself if you want to know what words she chose!

Holiday Club went online using Zoom and resources from Scripture Union. The club "met" for around 45 minutes on a number of Friday afternoons and resources were delivered to the children so that they could get involved practically as well. Interestingly, the parents were much more aware of what went on as they were there too.

Another hands-on activity took place at the start of the school holidays. A group of Messy Church folk got together and, using materials that Heather had sourced, put together activity packs for children of primary age. Each pack contained a Bible story booklet, along with crafts and pens and pencils and an outline of what to do. We made up over 50 packs and these were placed in a large box outside the Gibson Craig Hall. They were all gone within a week!

Heather is now on well-deserved annual leave when she can recharge her batteries and we look forward to her return to work in due course.



We are now pleased to say we would be delighted to start taking the goods listed below from our Church supporters (but please; only the goods listed below) and we do need to ask you to call in advance to get an appointment time to drop off your most welcome and much appreciated donations (0131 476 7741).

The reason we are only taking these specific goods is for the safety of our staff and if you give us goods that are not on this list we will not be able to accept them, as you may be aware it costs us money to get rid of goods we cannot use. However, this is mainly to keep the Fresh Start staff and volunteers as safe as we possibly can. We have worked hard during the crisis to put in place very strict safety procedures including the receiving of donations.

We will only take donations from Churches and not the general public at this point. What we will take:

- Mugs
- Tumbler glasses
- Small side plates
- Large dinner plates
- Soup / cereal bowls
- Cutlery
- Pots and pans
- Small electrical appliances
- Shampoo
- Deodorant
- Soap
- Shower gel
- Toilet cleaner
- Anti bac spray
- Washing up liquid
- Bleach

If you are able to donate please contact Christine Wilson—538 2567



## CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2020

As you are already aware, there was no 'Christian Aid week' in its usual form this year. Due to the method of giving, I have been unable to intimate the total until the Just Giving page was finally closed at the end of June. I would, however, like to thank everyone who responded by that method resulting in a total of £650. An additional £405 was raised by people making payments through the church office or myself bringing the total from Currie Kirk to £1,055.

Although this is substantially less than we usually raise, the circumstances surrounding Covid19 has made everyone's life rather more difficult and therefore I would like to extend my appreciation to everyone who responded in some way. As Christian Aid's statement this year said " Love never fails. Coronavirus impacts all of us. But love unites us all."

With sincere thanks

Ishbel Massie



Margaret Greig will be 90 on Monday 17 August.

A very happy birthday from all your friends at Currie Kirk and the Guild



### Family News and Update

It would be appreciated if any articles which fall into the above heading could be sent to :

[Isobelwebber@btinternet.com](mailto:Isobelwebber@btinternet.com) by the Thursday prior to the Sunday Service being typeset.

Paper copies of the Service and Update are distributed to our Church members who do not have access to the internet.