



## Musings from the manse Pentecost 2020

The last few months have been times of endings and beginnings. There have been so many losses - the lockdown restrictions necessitated by covid-19 - have meant a loss of choice - not to go out for a meal, to meet with friends, to go on holiday. But at a deeper level, it has also meant people losing their jobs, not being able to see family and grandchildren, hospital appointments being cancelled and delays to treatment. And so many deaths, covid related and not. So much heart break. Yet I believe, and my experience is that God heals the broken hearted and binds up their wounds. And I pray for God to hear our cries, and to build something good out of this mess.

The poet TS Eliot said in his poem Four Quartets "In our end is our beginning" and we pray that somehow there might be new beginnings in all this. We have seen many people and businesses show incredible kindness and generosity, people working long hours as key workers, people being good neighbours, many of us having a different pace to life - time with family, time to notice the beauty all around. There are many bigger questions however - how do we go forward as a society, how do we balance looking after the vulnerable and enabling the economy to start back, whilst also helping people to find holistic patterns of life.

Pentecost is on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> of May, and the disciples and friends of Jesus were upset and bewildered, but God brought them a new start, and my prayer for the church, is that God does a new thing in and for us. In recent months, we have faced many changes - we have learned to embrace new technologies to reach people - meetings and worship on Zoom, videos on you tube, which has been challenging, but helpful. We are still transitioning our new teams, and we are thankful to Tom Griffiths and Elisabeth Robertson for enabling this. Nancy Quinn is our new Treasurer and is gradually beginning to put together a finance team, and Louise Reid is our new Communications Team leader, and is working with our website, magazine and internet system. Please pray for Nancy and Louise, as they take on their new responsibilities through Zoom! We hope to strengthen all that we do as we gain more freedom to meet in person in the future.

Over the weeks past, when I have spoken to people on the phone and on Zoom, I have been struck by the congregation's quiet heroism and humour! I am grateful to those who have joined our pastoral care team, phoning others and keeping in touch.

I have been touched by the number of people praying for others, willing to do shopping, and being encouraging, even when it has not been a great day for them. Thank you for the amazing ways you are demonstrating your faith. May the Holy Spirit continue to inspire and energise us to serve and to love.

Blessings Fiona

Message from the session clerk

As I sat down to write this, I was thinking about how my life (and everyone else’s) has changed since lockdown began. I am now working from home rather than in the Jobcentre and spend my day speaking to people over the phone or via internet calls. I have had to adapt to lots of very new and strange ways of working. This is the same for so many people. I have been doing more things around the house – painting the shed, sorting through photographs and attempting to put them in albums, a job I wish I hadn’t started ! I bake each week and then deliver the cakes and scones to friend’s doorsteps, which no longer feels like a strange thing to do. We are all having to adapt and live our lives in a different way. Everyone talks about the “new normal” but no-one knows what that will be.

Within our church family, there have also been so many changes and new ways of working. Our new admin teams are learning new skills and how systems work, not face to face in the church office but via the internet using Zoom. We are thankful for everyone’s patience during this transition between the teams. Many people, myself included are using Zoom as a way to communicate with family and friends, whether it be for a general chit chat or to take part in a quiz. It is a really good way of staying in touch and it’s great to be able to see people albeit digitally. We even had our first Boys Brigade virtual meeting last night, which was lots of fun.

It has been great to see so many people joining in worship on Sunday mornings too and it is lovely to hear your voices and to see everyone. With all this talk of Zoom, I can feel a song coming on “We’re going to zoom, zoom, around the room, room, room, we’re going to zoom around the room and praise the Lord !” Although, I am enjoying our Zoom services I am hoping and praying that this does not become our “new normal” and that we will all be permitted to meet and worship together in the sanctuary in the near future. Until that happens, please all look after yourselves and stay safe.

Gail  
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Check out our church website

[www.tachurch.org.uk](http://www.tachurch.org.uk)

To find links to Fiona’s weekly meditation posts on Facebook and You tube and much more



Online worship and services

We have an online zoom service each Sunday morning at 11am here are the details of how to access them meeting no 971 7010 7502 password 241564 Tel 0203 4815237 or Tel 0203 481 5240 ( Please update your zoom app, with the latest security update)



Message from the Treasurer.

Having been asked to contribute to this newsletter I thought where do I start as so much has happened this year. This is a time of new beginnings for us in the Church. As many of you will know I have taken over as treasurer and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Tom and Elisabeth for all their time, patience and guidance during this transition period. This has not been easy as the restrictions of lockdown have meant that we can only converse via phone or video conferencing but with their patience and guidance we are getting there.

As our buildings are closed, we have lost our income from hall lettings and the open plate. We are grateful to those members who have paid their WFO contributions into the bank account and if anyone wants to do this, the account and sort code numbers are 00832285 and 80-07-15.

Thanks are also due to those who continue to pay by direct debit.

At this point I also want to thank all the bereaved families who have donated generously to our Church after Fiona has conducted their loved ones’ funerals.

During this difficult time, it has been necessary to conduct worship in a different manner (Zoom meetings) and Fiona should be thanked for all her hard work to allow this to happen. During new beginnings we all require to be openminded, forgiving of mistakes and creative in our thinking (not including the accounting system!!!) to allow us to move forward together as a new team and I would ask for everyone to be patient with us.

God bless, Nancy

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**Communications team update**

One of my new tasks as communications team leader is to manage the church website. Tom has been helping me learn the ropes with great patience. So, you should see some changes over the next few months as I become more familiar with the process.

We are still looking for new members to join our communications team. There are many tasks involved including the church magazine, helping with AV tasks, and managing the church website. If you can spare even an hour or two and are interested in helping please speak to me for more details.

Thanks Louise

## Keeping in touch with our families and young people during lock down

When lock down started I had concerns about the possibility of maintaining some form of Sunday club. Adjusting to being mostly at home and not being able to meet for our usual Sunday club and Messy church would mean finding new ways to engage with our families. But as it says in *Isaiah 42:16*

*16 I will lead the blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths I will guide them; I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth. These are the things I will do; I will not forsake them.*

These words reminded me that the Lord would guide me and provide what I needed. With lots of help I have been learning a lot about technology. With my new skills I have been able to send out emails twice a week with bible stories and activities so the young people can do them at home with their parents help. We have been making rainbows and medals to show support for our key workers, hearing about Jesus making breakfast for his disciples and exploring the fruits of the spirit with peace doves and pop up prayer hearts. We also heard



about the work of Christian Aid during the covid19 pandemic.

In the last few weeks, we have started a Sunday club/Messy church Facebook group. This offers more flexibility allowing me to post videos and more importantly allows the parents and children to share their thoughts, ideas and what they have been doing with the group. We will continue to build on this until we can once again get together.

Take care Louise

## Congregational Register

**Deaths - "blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted"**

### Deaths.

Robert Brodie

Elisabeth Dunsmuir

Margaret Hutchison

Mamie Lavery

Thomas McLean

Gerald Peach

### Church family death

Alannah - grand-daughter of June and Ian Murray.

### New Member

Margo Trainer (Certificate of Transfer)

### Disjunction

Michael Shanks