

CROSSTALK

AUTUMN 2020



Musings from the manse



Dear friends,

These are uncertain and unprecedented times - we have had a summer where we have been so conscious that the covid 19 virus is still in our midst, and where we have lived with lockdown restrictions. We know that we need to be very careful - to wash our hands, wear our masks, practice social distancing. Yet we are also just a bit weary.



And so we turn to God to help us - when we are unsettled, or exhausted, or just not able to sleep, then we turn to God for our Help. We ask to see things through His eyes, to ask for hope when we are disappointed, to ask for His presence when we feel lonely, to ask for courage, when we feel afraid.

God has always heard the cries of people who turn to Him. He knows when we are heading out in a new direction, and need a sense of calling.

He knows when we are exhausted by all the vicissitudes of life - disappointing exam results, losing our job, ill health - and He longs to come to our side, and to give us strength.

We give thanks for some beautiful summer days, for being able to meet up with family again, for times to rest, for being able to go out for a meal. Simple pleasures in life, are things that we now appreciate more than ever!

And we pray for courage for the next step. Nurseries and schools are going back. We are going to be going into autumn soon. Local lockdowns look like the way ahead.

We do not know what the next months will bring., but we know God's promise "My grace is sufficient for you" 2 Corinthians 12:9.

What we do know, is that God will never leave us. That when we feel discouraged, that God is with us, and that he calls us to be strong and courageous. Whatever lies ahead, may that strength be our inspiration, and may God's holy spirit help us find constructive and creative ways forward.

Let us pray,

Gracious and Loving God, You see us, and want the best for our lives,
You have a good plan for us,
When we doubt, or feel it is all too much,
Lord Jesus, Steady our hearts, and grant us courage.
Even in seasons of change, may Your Holy spirit
Lead us forward, with renewed courage and trust, Amen.

Wishing you strength and courage, as we enter this new session together,

Every blessing,

Fiona

AN ENORMOUS THANK YOU

An enormous thank you to my fabulous team of office bearers, for their flexibility and hard work in these recent months. Thank you to Gail Grieve as my Session clerk, who has worked through long documents and correspondence re covid 19 and who has inspired so many with her good humour and supportiveness.

Thank you to Nancy Quinn, for all her hard work as Treasurer, to cope with such difficult circumstances, and as she seeks to build up her new team. Thank you to Clare Grady, for all her work as Clerk to the Board, and for her good advice.

Thanks to Alan Preston for all his work on property issues, and to Alan, Murdo and Gail, for their enthusiasm and hard work in making sure that the church could reopen for worship on Sunday 2nd of August. Thank you too, to those involved with the cleaning team,

We are only allowed 50 people in the sanctuary at this time, in worship, and we have many government restrictions that we operate under, but we are so grateful to be able to open our doors! And an enormous thank you to Louise for all her work with our children and families, for all the resources that she has sent out, and for her work on the communications team also. Please check out the website - tachurch.org.uk to see what Louise has been up to!

As a church family, we want to keep in touch with everyone. If you need any shopping, or a listening ear or prayer, please contact Fiona on email FGardner@churchofscotland.org.uk

WORSHIP AND THE SESSION AHEAD.

Having discussed this as a leadership team, and met as a Kirk Session, we hope to offer worship every Sunday morning at 11am in the church, but following government and Church of Scotland recommendations - only 50 in the sanctuary, allocated seats 2 metres apart, with masks, no singing, hand gel and social distancing! Despite all these restrictions, it has been good to meet in our beautiful and peaceful sanctuary, and I am grateful to June and the welcome team, Stewart at the organ, to all the Count team, Audrey at the AV desk, and Isobel Brown for organising flowers!



At worship, please do listen to the Guidance given by the stewards, especially coming in and leaving the service. We need to have social distancing in place, so please don't crowd together as we all chat with each other, and please give people space, as we want everyone to feel safe. There are two toilets open, and at the moment, services are shorter than usual. Zoom will continue as usual at the 11am service, for access information please contact Fiona on email FGardner@churchofscotland.org.uk

on **STOP PRESS** we are now allowed some additional people to listen to the service in the old hall as an overflow. If we have insufficient places those we can not accommodate, can leave their name on a list and will have priority the next Sunday.

THURSDAY SERVICE

We hope to start our Thursday service on the 3rd September at 11am. There will be a short service in the sanctuary. This will give additional opportunities for people to attend worship, and I am grateful to Kathleen Creelman for coordinating this. Please note there will be no tea and coffee afterward. The service will also be available by zoom - for access information please contact Fiona on email FGardner@churchofscotland.org.uk



MESSAGE FROM THE SESSION CLERK

So much has happened in the last few months with regard to covid 19 restrictions that it is really difficult to keep track of where we are at and what we are allowed to do. It feels like there are new guidelines every couple of days.

Restrictions are easing and that means we can all do a little bit more than what we were before..... thankfully, this includes being able to attend worship in the Sanctuary.

In order to be able to open our building for worship, there were lots of guidelines published and a lot of work was done by various people in preparation. I am extremely grateful to the members of the Fabric team, who spent many hours preparing the risk assessment and putting in place the signage within the sanctuary. I am also grateful to the team of volunteers who came along on 30th July to deep clean the building. All of this work ensured that we were able to open our doors again on 2nd of August.

I have to admit as well as being excited that we could meet face to face again, I was also a bit nervous. Things were going to be different we have to wear a face covering, keep two metres apart from each other, people wouldn't be able to sit in their "normal" seat, singing isn't allowed, a one way system in place, you need to give your contact details when entering the building so many things for everyone to adapt to. What would people think? Would anyone come along?

I am pleased to say that we have now had two Sunday services and we are all adapting to this new way of worshiping and praying together. I didn't realise how much I had missed hearing the organ until Stewart started playing last week. It is so good to see everyone again and for us to be together as a church family. I'm sure in the weeks and months to come we will see many more changes being put into place but I know that with God's help we will be given the strength to adapt to whatever these may be. I hope to see many of you soon but until then, please continue to stay safe, look after yourself and each other.

Gail Grieve Session Clerk

MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER

During this difficult period of time it has been reassuring that members of our congregation have continued to support the church financially. I feel this shows how important the church family is to all of us and I would like to thank everyone who has ensured that their offerings have reached us.

Due to the loss of income from hall letting in addition to the reduction in offerings it has been necessary to withdraw money from our reserves to enable us to pay our bills.

Due to this pandemic it has been necessary to change a lot of things in our lives. We as a church must also make changes and consider the safety of all our members including the Sunday morning cashiers and door duty teams. We would like to reduce, as much as possible, the necessity for those involved in counting the weekly offerings on Sundays requiring to handle money and envelopes. **In view of this I am asking anyone who does not presently contribute by standing order to consider this option.** I would also ask that anyone who pays sufficient income tax to cover the tax we can claim back on their offering to consider completing a gift aid form which would increase the offering by 25% at no cost to themselves. Gift Aid forms can be obtained from myself or downloaded from the Church of Scotland website. We are allowed to claim back the tax once we have the completed Gift Aid form in our possession. I know that this has previously been mentioned but I feel it is necessary to stress how important this is especially at this time when our income has decreased. Thank you all for continuing to support the church during this difficult period.

Nancy Quinn Treasurer

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING WITH OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

Our families and young people have had an unusual summer working within the social distancing restrictions. It has been a time of worry for many awaiting exam results, and now the uncertainty as nurseries, schools and colleges start back. For some a brand-new adventure for others knowing things will be different. It has been a long time since they were together with friends and teachers.

Sunday club also has not met together for a long time. Our zoom celebration service at the end of June was fun, and an opportunity for everyone to share



activities by email and Facebook throughout lockdown, it is not the same as being together. The continued government guidelines mean that it is not yet possible for all our families to come together in one place, so we are discussing our different options including meeting in smaller groups and using Zoom, so that Sunday club can start back in some form in August.

Until more restrictions are lifted Messy church will run by zoom just now. Our first one is planned for the 28th of August with zoom meetings monthly after that. Please check out the church website for more details.

Please pray for all our young people, their families, our youth groups and their leaders as we all move into the new session.

Louise Reid family and youth worker

OUR CHURCH GROUP ART PROJECT

When you received your copy of the Autumn Crosstalk magazine, there may also have been a pack inviting you to take part in our church group art project. The idea behind it is to bring us together in a creative way. Particularly in this time when the covid 19 virus has changed so many aspects of our lives. Our normal pattern of church, coming together in one place to worship, supporting each other as we chat together over coffee, sharing hugs and handshakes, things we previously took for granted has changed. We have adapted, through lockdown worship together has still taken place, either through zoom meetings or live broadcasts on television, radio, and the internet. Prayer groups have also met through Zoom and our fellowship has continued through many chats over the phone. As we start to meet in person again it seems a good time for us to reflect on the importance of church to us, and our place in the church community. Hopefully the art project will help us do that.

The project starts with a drawing of our church building. This has been cut into small pieces and you are invited to decorate a unique piece using pencils, paint, or any medium you choose (there are more details in your pack). It should be fun, and no great artistic talent is required. The completed pieces will then be put back together to make a large multi coloured patchwork picture of our church building, created by our church community. The finished artwork will be displayed in the church. There is more information in your pack or contact Louise Reid Communication team



Thank you to Marion Stewart and her team for keeping the church garden so well look after, and clearing the litter.

Thank you also to the property team and particularly Fred Quinn for painting the church doors and doing other small jobs around the church keeping things in such good order.



MY RESPONSE TO COVID-19.

Humans are essentially social people. We thrive on interacting with other humans, and the absence of close contact with others, i.e. hugging and handshakes, can be a bit awkward at first.

Living in a covid-19 environment has caused changes to our keeping safe from, and not spreading the virus ourselves. Regular hand washing with soap and water (20 seconds). Avoid touching face, Use face masks, when out and 2 metre social distancing. Use hand sanitiser, and aerosol sanitiser to clean surfaces we have touched.

KEEPING up to date with new advice as and when it is published.

I have been in social Isolation from Tuesday afternoon 17th March and the only person to visit me was Jennifer who lives in Shawlands and comes over every fortnight with the messages. I can keep in touch by phone or through the internet and Zoom. I have had problems with Road Tax, MOT, and my Driving Licence. all due to Lockdown. All solved eventually!

Now that isolating has been relaxed and I can travel more than 5 miles, Shawlands is about 8 miles, I can go and visit Jennifer and Peter which I do once a week.

With the isolating and shielding we have switched to having Virtual Church Services over the internet at 11:00hrs on Sunday and Virtual Prayer Meetings on Tuesday evening at 19:30hrs. All using the Zoom app.

I find that with the changes to our distancing, shielding and the reduction of travelling, overnight the world has become a much quieter environment, and this can only be good for the planet overall. I have found the self-isolating a bonus in one way, I have plenty of time to do some Reading and Writing.

I also find a quieter environment and the enhanced stillness allows me to be more aware of a presence, perhaps the Holy Spirit? during my Prayer time. A Blessing Indeed.

With the further easing of restrictions, I was at the Temple Anniesland church service on 2nd August at 11:00am in the sanctuary with social distancing and wearing face masks. Max 50 people, no singing. I thought it went very well. It was much better in the church, than the Virtual services via Zoom.

We also had the chance to chat after the service, when we came out of the church. I am looking forward to our next service in the church and hope everyone keeps safe and well. Every Blessing to all.

John Brown

Congregational Register

Deaths - “blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted”

Charles Don - May (Church Family)
Winifred Gibb - May (Nursing Home)
Barbara Wilkie - June (Postal)
Eddie McMillan - June (District 9)

New Members – we extend a warm welcome to:

Margaret Parker
Tom Parker

Dear Fiona and friends,

Greetings from Strathclyde house Skelmorlie.

Yes, we have moved after a long wait of well over two months due to the lock-down. It was unfortunate we were unable to say a proper farewell to most of you at Temple Anniesland church. Murdoch and I would like to thank you for the cards sent and flowers and above all your prayer. It has been sad to leave so many valued friends, but we do hope to visit once the church building is open to the usual services.

We are settling very well and enjoying our new home. We have a lovely view from our window looking over the firth of Clyde. We see the ferries from Wemyss bay to Rothsay sailing back and forth. Yachts, tankers, cargo boats and speed boats make for much enjoyment. Some of the sunsets are so beautiful. It does rain though, and the sea can be quite stormy.

Strathclyde house is a retirement complex with a Christian ethos. We have met a number of the other residents but not very many owing to the lockdown and it being summer, the activities are on hold. Once the restrictions are lifted, we hope to have much more fellowship.

Yet again we thank you for your prayers and we continue to pray for you at Temple Anniesland. May God bless you and keep you safe

Murdoch and Christine MacLeod

Blythswood Care Update

Blythswood Care (formerly Blythswood Tract Society) was formed by the late Rev. Jackie Ross in 1966 and since then it has been sharing the gospel and seeing the transformation of lives of people in Europe, Africa, and Asia.

I had the privilege as a young teenager of knowing Jackie and saw first-hand his passion in spreading the gospel. After our Saturday prayer meeting, we would go to George Square where Jackie and others would preach, and tracts would be distributed.

It is wonderful to see how Blythswood Care has developed into the successful Christian Charity it now is. However, there is always more which needs to be done.

When Blythswood Care is mentioned many believe it to be a Christian charity which distributes shoe boxes, however, this is just one of their projects. Last year shoe boxes were sent to Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Kosovo, Pakistan, Romania, Serbia and the Ukraine.

Since the Shoe Box appeal started in 1993 with only 300 shoe boxes, to date 2,407,831 have been sent.

Whilst the Shoe Box appeal focuses on the latter part of the year, there are several all year-round projects.

This is an update on some of the projects.

Talita Kum

This is a social project in Romania started in 2001, it's aim is to help disadvantaged children and young people to fulfil their potential through education. It addresses child poverty, prevents early school leaving and young teenage marriages and keeps families in the area.

Ummus Project

Recently started this Talita Kum style project in Serbia aims to mirror the work being done in Romania. At present it runs for two days a week.

Blythswood Care have also funded the launch of Christianity Explored in Serbia through their partners there. The booklets have been translated and printed; they are currently working on the voiceover for the talk videos.

Donation Opportunities

Three opportunities have been received which are:-

Talita Kum 2 (1)

A programme which will continue providing a nutritious lunch for young people and also a supper before they leave at the end of the day. At home they would not have the opportunity for a healthy diet

Costs for food for one academic year is £4,000

Talita Kum 2 (2)

Qualified and competent teaching staff are employed to train and motivate the young people with their learning.

In addition, social workers, psychologists, cooks, and support staff are employed. Costs for staff for one year is £40,000. One month = £3,333

Talita Kum 2(3)

To maintain the level of teaching support and in turn provide a high level of education to the young people to enable them to continue their education. Young people then move on to face a very different future to what they would have done without the support of TK2.

Cost for a teacher for a year is £5,000.

If anyone would like any further information on these projects please contact me. Diana Johnston

**The deadline for the winter edition of Crosstalk is
Sunday 15th November.**

Articles for consideration can be emailed to me at
louisereid52@btinternet.com
or left in the box on the AV desk on a Sunday morning.

CROSSTALK
WINTER
2020



The Tuesday brownies had their pack holiday the week before lockdown and had a terrific time. The theme was the Jungle book, it seems so long ago. Eight Girls have been promoted to Guides so the Brownie pack will be very small. We have been having weekly zoom meetings to end of June. We had a Guiding history quiz, general knowledge quiz, scavenger hunt, origami session and charades. The girls who took part seemed to enjoy it.

Lesley Murray, Brown owl

BLYTHSWOOD SHOE BOXES

With the virus restrictions our usual shoe box appeal will be different this year. Blythswood are currently still planning to send out shoe boxes but in a scaled down way. Our usual collection of donations and meeting together to cover and fill the boxes will not be possible. This is a request only for shoe boxes if you have any you would like to donate, they can be left at the church on the Sunday 30th August and 6th of September. To meet with current government advice, they will be left for a period before I collect them. If anyone would like to make a financial donation towards postage, there will be a donation box available on these dates also.

Thank you Alison Gray



BOYS BRIGADE UPDATE

“The Adventure begins Here” has never been so appropriate. Boys Brigade have continued to meet over the internet via zoom and what an adventure that has been. We have had so much fun, playing games (including hide and seek !), listening to stories, baking, doing crafts and even learning some new Tik Tok dances ! The boys have all participated in #BBatHome, which is the program designed by the Battalion for young people of all ages. Activity cards are available online for them each week and have a variety of different things for the boys to do. We have set up a private Facebook page where parents can share some of the boys work and show off their creations. We had some very creative vegetable people, as you can see. It is so important for children and young people to know that throughout the restrictions for Covid 19 that they are valued, so , on our last night of the session on 24th June, whilst Colin and I conducted our Zoom meeting, Alan visited each



child and delivered a care package to them . As well as their sweets and little gifts, the bags also included the badges that they had gained in the last session and also a very special medal for participating in #BBatHome. Each child was awarded the Gold medal to show how proud we were of them. Now, it is a tradition for the 247Boys Brigade to have a water fight when we break up for the summer and this year was no exception ! As Alan visited each child, he had some large water pistols with him I will leave the rest to your imagination ! The boys were so excited and there were squeals of laughter wherever he went especially when he visited me in my garden! We are planning our new session at the moment and hoping that we can meet soon in the hall as we really miss seeing the boys and hearing all their stories. Until that is possible we will be continuing to meet over Zoom and see what adventures await us in the new Session.



Gail Grieve. Officer in Charge



At the moment, many things will happen by zoom, and be advertised on the website. According to the Church of Scotland, our church building is still closed for our youth and community organisations, until we get permission to reopen, with all social distancing and cleaning protocols in place.

CHURCH DIARY

Worship every Sunday at 11am in the sanctuary and on Zoom

28th August - 6.30-7.30pm Messy church by zoom

2nd September - 7.30pm Kirk Session meeting by zoom

20th September - The sacrament of communion to be celebrated - possibly virtually.

27th September - 6.30pm - Prayers for healing by Zoom

4th October - Harvest Thanksgiving

7th October - 7.30pm Congregational Board meeting by zoom

25th October - 6.30pm Prayers for healing by zoom

4th November - 7.30pm Kirk Session by zoom

8th November - 10.45am Remembrance service

22nd November at 6.30pm service of prayers in the church, for all who have experienced loss.

The book group continues to meet by zoom. The bible study prayer time with Knightswood St Margaret's and St David's Knightswood church to be confirmed.

The above is just to give everyone a framework to work by. We know that we are living in times, when things can change rapidly. Please always consult the website for up to date details.