



The magazine of the Parish of Callander
CALLANDER KIRK and TROSSACHS CHURCH

Lockdown issue

June 2020

A special mini edition of the magazine just to
say 'Hello' and 'God Bless'

Message from the Minister

Yellow. I delight to see yellow in nature and there is much to see at this time of year. Callander provides ready opportunity even under lockdown restrictions for yellow to be encountered. On the old railway line to the north of the town the gorse is showing forth its vibrant petals, easily seen from far off. Encouraging with cheerful vibrancy and also resilience. Tough, able to stand up to the demands of the Scottish climate and indeed the predation of deer. Yet accommodating to birds in need of shelter and bees and butterflies seeking nectar. Year after year, Scotland's gorse brings forth its yellow, come what may. A bit of brightness in what has been for many a far from bright year.

That the gorse will bloom yellow and bright next year we can predict. Small birds will find shelter, bees nectar. How the next few months will pan out for the nation is still undetermined. There are as many questions as there are answers. As part of the Christian Church we look beyond ourselves at all times. We look to Jesus, and in the person of our resilient Lord we can find encouragement. To know that life has purpose and to believe that people have value.

Whatever happens to the economy or holidays or the Church. Which I certainly need to be reminded of, and so does Scotland. Let us all be prayerfully mindful of the great need for encouragement at this time.

Reflections from the Session Clerk.....

Who could have thought?.....Who would have believed?.....that we would be living in such strange times? All expressions we will have heard and perhaps even used over these past months. Just before 'lockdown' started, a good friend said to me, 'You must always remember that the sun will rise again tomorrow.' This is true in so many ways. The sun has certainly shone for so much of these past 10 weeks. I have been fortunate to spend so much time in the garden and appreciate the



wonderful moments of Springtime.....the daffodils, the trees bursting into life, the wonderful carpet of blue by the bluebells, the chorus by the birds, the swans on the river, the cuckoo.....and as I write I am smiling at the symphony of colour appearing across the garden from the rhododendrons and azaleas. Yes, everyday the sun has risen, and new life and growth has appeared in God's precious and wonderful world. We thank Him for all He has created for us....we are so blessed.

But.....why is there so often a but? Life has changed and may continue to change for some time to come. So many people are facing so many challenges. The list appears to be endless. So much of it seems so unfair and I am sure we are questioning why life is so 'upside down'. When will it return to normal? Or should that be, when will it return to the 'new' normal?

As the church here in the Parish of Callander we have had to furlough our staff, Nita, Susan and Chris. We give thanks for all they do and indeed for all they did just before they were furloughed.

The Pastoral Care work continues....in new ways, but no less busy. We are most grateful to Anne McLachlan and the Pastoral Team for all they are doing in these uncertain times to keep in touch with so many people in the Parish. Pastoral Care is one of the five new working groups that the Minister and the Kirk Session have been developing over recent months. I would ask for your continued prayers at this time for those involved in each of these groups, that they can continue to explore how to take the work of these groups forward.

So.....our church buildings may be empty at the moment, but so was the tomb on Easter Sunday. Who could have thought?..... Who would have believed?.....the tomb would be empty? Jesus had risen from the dead! Alleluia! The empty tomb had the power to change our lives and believe in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. It has changed the lives of thousands upon thousands of people down through the ages. The empty tomb had the power to give us Hope. As someone once said, 'Man can live about 40days without food, about 3days without water, about 8minutes without air, but only for 1 second without

Hope'. Our church buildings are empty meantime, but we must have Hope in our hearts that someday soon they will be bursting with life and ready to face a new way of carrying out God's work in our Parish. Let's watch for the sunrise tomorrow.....

Linda Cantlay Session Clerk

Sometimes our light goes out but is blown into flame by another human being. Each of us owes deepest thanks to those who have rekindled this light.

A. Schweitzer

True friendship is when two friends can walk in opposite directions, yet remain side by side.

anon

Pastoral Care

As one might expect, the Pastoral Care team of the Kirk extremely busy during Lockdown and we are grateful to them for carrying out the remit of their group so diligently and of sacrifice to themselves.



- Each member has a number of Kirk members to phone regularly to ensure that they are well and not in need of further support.
- Printed copies of Jeff's services are distributed weekly to those who do not have internet facilities.
- In special circumstances food has been provided where there is an extra need, e.g. temporary health issues.
- Arrangements have been made to supply meals provided by a Community Fund to those who are in special need of some kind.
- Jigsaws have been given to help some folk pass the time. These are then uplifted and passed on to others.
- Further phone calls are made to those not normally covered by Pastoral Care.

- The Bereavement Care Group has been 'resurrected' and plants and cards distributed on the first anniversary of a bereavement. This is done to anyone in the community known to us and not only to church members.
- Any concerns passed to the Convener, Anne McLachlan, are dealt with quickly and sensitively.



The fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

We can practise them all at this time.

The Vestry

Some people who have been around the town recently may have noticed a bit of activity at the vestry now that the office has been moved to the Hall.

The room is being redecorated thanks to a few members of the Kirk who felt it was essential for our minister to have this working space and for Callander Kirk to have it in satisfactory condition for the future.

The money was given *specifically* for this purpose and the work has been carried out at the request and instruction of the individuals themselves and includes the redecorating of the vestry toilet.

The situation was reported to the Congregational Board by the Minister in March.

The Editorial



What a strange period we are living through. Our children and grandchildren will be able to tell their children and grandchildren all about Covid 19 and the Lockdown of 2020.

From its very beginning I have felt that there would be big changes ahead and I am sure many others are of the same opinion. It is tragic that so many people have died and at times I almost feel that has been forgotten as we hear constant arguments about when this should have been done and why other things were not done and the media has, to say the least, made a meal of it all.

That apart, we know that some aspects of our lives will change.

More people will no doubt work from home for periods of their week; G.Ps may well continue to conduct more consultations by telephone; air travel may well be so expensive that few of us can afford those holidays abroad, especially long haul trips; insurance costs will rise, again affecting our budgets; and so we could go on.

But there will surely be benefits. The skies are free of planes, the birdsong can be heard more clearly, many folk are cycling to work, hobbies are being found, food is being cooked instead of just 'pinged' in the micro-wave and people are emailing, phoning, facetimeing and skypeing where at all possible.

But surely best of all are the millions of kindnesses being shown each day by neighbour to neighbour, friend to friend, stranger to new friend, plus the appreciation being shown to all those who care for the sick, the elderly, the lonely, the bereaved and to those who keep our 'world' going: refuse collectors, engineers, van drivers, shop assistants.

I have appreciated greatly the weekly services sent out by Jeff and have also received countless prayers and 'thoughts' from friends around the country. One I remember particularly is from a service I saw online on Easter Sunday.....

"The love of God always throws a bridge over a crevasse". (Karl Bart)

I am so indebted to many friends for all their kindnesses in throwing bridges over my crevasses at this time and I am reminded of Christ's

words in Matthew 25 v 40, ".....whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."

I am certain that this is one of the greatest positives to come from all the tragedy of recent months and pray that whatever the future brings, that will remain. D.C.K.

"If a tiny virus can do this much damage.....

imagine what a Mustard Seed of Faith could achieve".



"Maybe for once we celebrate(d) Easter differently. Maybe we celebrate(d) the Resurrection just as the disciples did: alone, in the silence, hoping the faith outweighs the fear". C. Kerins

A story to make you smile.

Just be careful because people are going crazy from in lock down ! Actually, I've just been talking about with the microwave and toaster while drinking coffee and we all agreed that things are getting bad.



I didn't mention anything to the washing machine as she puts a different spin on everything. Certainly not to the fridge as he is acting cold and distant.

In the end the iron straightened me out as she said everything will be fine, no situation is too pressing.

The vacuum was very unsympathetic... told me to just suck it up, but the fan was more optimistic and hoped it would all blow over!

The toilet looked a bit flushed when I asked its opinion and didn't say anything, but the door knob told me to get a grip.

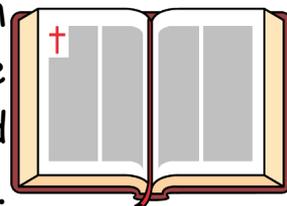
The front door said I was unhinged and so the curtains told me to....yes, you guessed it ... pull myself together!

Lights, Camera, Action!

It has been a long time since we were all able to worship together in person on Sunday mornings. Can you remember that far back?! However, the 'virtual' world of technology has allowed us to continue with a form of worship that has proved highly popular.

Each week, around 11am, Jeff and I arrive at the church building and, keeping a safe distance (and using our respective hand sanitisers), we prepare to video record the service. Whilst I'm fiddling with a laptop, mini loud speakers, an iPad and a tripod, Jeff goes to ring the bell - not to physically call people to worship, but to declare a time for worship, wherever folk may be.

As close to 11.15am as we can get, I give our Minister the thumbs up and away we go! So far, the usual way of conducting the service has been that I have read the Bible passages and the intercessory prayer, but Jeff has, rightly, conducted everything else. We are open to other suggestions though. One idea offered is that different people may record themselves reading the Bible passages or prayers, meditations, etc. earlier in the week and then send them in to be edited into the video. One or two folks have indeed, come forward to help, so by the time you read this, new faces may have already appeared on screen.



Please feel free to also contribute if you are keen and able.

We are grateful to Linda and Fiona Cantlay who email recordings of their accompaniment for the songs on each Saturday evening and then on the Sunday they are played back on my laptop for Jeff and me to sing along to, (albeit not always with strict accuracy!).

Once the filming is complete, my wife Lara uploads the recording to YouTube and Facebook within a few hours, so that most weeks, the service can be viewed online by late afternoon. It is hoped that we may soon be able to 'broadcast' the service live via Facebook as well.

The statistics for those who view the services has been very encouraging. Usually, YouTube gets around 30 views, but Facebook gets well over 300. One week, we got 486 views! It is wonderful to know that despite the lockdown, we are reaching far more people

through our worship than would actually attend at 10am and 11.15 combined! It is certainly giving us much food for thought.
Rob Rawson

By being negative you become negative -by being positive you become positive. Keep smiling!



A word from the Treasurer

Thank you to everyone who gives regularly to God's work here in Callander.

During this difficult time when we can't meet normally on Sundays, you may wish to continue giving.

There is no offering plate being passed around, but there are several other ways you can still give:

- give securely through our on-line giving page by clicking on the following link, or copying and pasting the website address: <https://www.give.net/20033318>
- Alternatively you can make one-off or regular payment directly into our bank account. If you need details of these please phone me on 01877 330101.
- Send a cheque, payable to 'Callander Kirk' to me at 4 Lubnaig Drive, Callander.

Matthew 6:31 -33. "Do not worry then, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear for clothing?' For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."

May God bless you all in these difficult times.

Fiona Murphy

One friend sent me a set of Beatitudes for the current situation and I have written a few here. Perhaps you could make up your own.

- * Blessed are they who stay indoors for they have protected others.
- * Blessed are those who are isolated with their abusers for some day, we pray, they will know safety.
- * Blessed are the checkout workers for they have patience and fortitude in the face of overwork and frustration.
- * Blessed are those who carry on quietly doing their work despite the fact that they will be criticised for 'doing nothing', for they are appreciated.

Some good things about Lockdown.



We have had more time to pray and to read the bible

We have had more time to phone and email friends

We have had more time to clear out our wardrobes

We have had more time to work in the garden

We have had more time to do little kindnesses

We have had more time to count our blessings

We have had more time to learn new things



From the Green Team

Build Back Better

At this time of uncertainty, grief and sometimes just pure terror can we look forward with hope? Hope is surely what Christians have to offer the world in these times. Covid 19 has changed our world - but can it change the world for the better? As we move towards

recovery, we surely do have a chance to reset the clock and build a better world. Secular and Christian organisations around the globe are calling for a “new normal” that could mean a more loving, sharing and caring world.

“Build Back Better” (see <https://www.buildbackbetteruk.org/>) is a Corona recovery campaign calling for a new deal which protects public services, tackles inequalities in our communities, provides secure well paid jobs in our communities and creates a shockproof economy which can fight the climate crisis.

Idealistic? Unachievable? But aren't these the very values we, as Christians, should be fighting for? We may not completely agree with the methods or the politics of one particular campaign but shouldn't we part of the conversation?

On the climate change front the former Archbishop of Canterbury, the Rt Revd Dr Rowan Williams, has said, “The current health crisis has highlighted as never before the need for coherent international action in the face of global threat. Can we learn the lesson and apply it to the global threat of climate change? To do so means taking practical and effective steps to reduce our lethal dependence on fossil fuels.”

The airline, oil and tourism industries (among others) have all been hard hit by the current crisis. This means people's jobs, livelihoods and way of life nationally and locally have been radically changed. However, things cannot be the same in the future and nor should they be. All these industries contribute considerably to greenhouse gas emissions and, in their current guise, they are simply not sustainable. How many of us have therefore heard of the “Just Transition Commission” (see <https://www.gov.scot/groups/just-transition-commission/>), which was set up to advise government on how to achieve a “net zero [carbon] economy that is fair to all”? If we are going to move towards a kinder, more equitable and sustainable world, these and other initiatives should now be at front and centre of our thinking.

After Coronavirus, governments of the world are going to be investing tens of TRILLIONS of dollars into our economies. Are we going to let them continue with our present destructive system, or can we persuade them to invest so that the world is a more resilient place in 10 or 100 years time?

What can we do? As individuals?

Can each of us remind our elected officials that it is their duty to protect its citizens, so that the world will be full of resources and habitable in 10 or 100 years time? "It is insane to say we are growing economically if we are destroying the source of growth" (quote from [Laudato Si webinar by Christiana Figueres, and Fr. Augusto Zampini-Davies](#)).

Margaret Warnock

Cheer yourself up with a song!

No flour in Scotland

When will we see

Sliced bread again?

No Mother's Pride for

Yer wee bit piece and jam.

No cheery toasties

(fur who?)

Wur tartan army

Just pictures of empty shelves

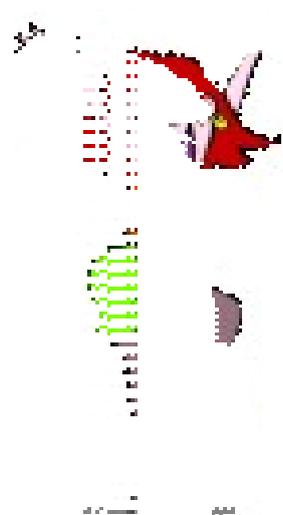
Aye, blink again!

Those days are past now but icy blast, they may remain

But we might still drive (how?), tae get tae Asda again

And stand in queues there, (whit fur?)

Wir milk, bread and whisky and carry them homewards, tae drink again.





On Saturday 16th May, Revd. Dr. Martin Fair, minister of St. Andrew's: Arbroath, was installed as Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. It was a simple but moving ceremony in an Assembly Hall with only five people and the technical team present. The Right Reverend Dr. Fair has had a strange start to his year and it will be a strange year but no doubt Martin will rise to the challenge.

We wish him, and his wife Elaine, God's richest blessings as they work together to bring the hope and inspiration of their faith to the people of Scotland.

Callander



Since the last article I wrote about Messy Church for The Link, life has changed somewhat for all of us. It is nine weeks since we have been in "Lockdown" and have been unable to meet up for Messy Church, or indeed for any activity. However, Messy Church decided that we needed to maintain contact with our families so we have run two Virtual Messy Church sessions, one in March and one in April. Rob and I, with help from Eilidh, have gone "live" on Facebook each month and introduced the Theme, sang a song, told a story as part of the worship and then introduced and explained the craft activities. To accompany this, we have produced a word document and a powerpoint presentation with craft ideas, prayers, lunch suggestions and a Grace.

This month we are going to do something a little bit different. We think that it would be good for our families to see as many team members as possible so we are going to pre record Messy Church putting together a video that will be made up of clips from different team members. Our theme is Mission.

We really value your prayer support for the team who run Messy Church and for the families who are part of our Messy Church family. Being stuck in the house with young children is not easy, especially

when you cannot have friends or family around to break the monotony.

Lara Rawson

I am the proud owner of a small piece of slate decorated with a painted rainbow.

It was made by Lucy Vanhegan-Scott at the first virtual Messy Church and sits where I can see it every day. I also have a large rainbow drawing in my kitchen window recognising the work and sacrifice of all the carers.



Like you, I pray for these people every day but also remember the van drivers, shop assistants, cleaners and others who help to keep our show of life on the road at this time.

(And 'yes', although the above picture hardly reminds you of me, my hair is just about reaching that length!!!)

D.C.K.

A final thought:-

Live like a candle which burns itself, yet gives light to others.

Look back with gratitude,

Upwards with confidence,

Forward with hope.

