

Mini Tidings



July/August 2020

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Dear friends,

“Lockdown, lockdown, lockdown! Read all about it!”

I don't know about you, but I'm sick of the perpetual news about lockdown, the timing of easing things, and the measures required to enable this. In a nutshell, it seems to be: don't widen the circle of people you meet too widely, keep 6' away from people, and if possible wear a protective face mask (especially when around people indoors such as when shopping). But all this business of how, when, and maybe, feels enough to drive a person demented!

There are three activities of the church that are impacted by all of this: worship, mission, and fellowship. Sometimes it is hard to distinguish between them as they can all happen simultaneously, and this frequently happens from our buildings. However, the buildings remain closed for the foreseeable future. Simply put, indoor activity continues to hold the number one potential infection risk. So how do we live out our Christianity? We can receive a lead in our worship online, on the phone, or from a DVD. We continue to maintain personal responsibility for our daily devotional life of reading and prayer, though there are aids there also. We can keep in contact with one another and especially the most vulnerable, using the telephone and things like Skype or Zoom. Some of these things feel like a new language!

Yet, because of the distance maintained, none of this feels entirely normal. We crave visiting the usual people and places in some semblance of the routines of life. But we balance that with the health and the safety of ourselves and others, be that friends, family, or strangers (Philippians 2:1-4). This is all part of our Christian duty. We help where we can, we console when we can do no other, and we pray at all times (Ephesians 5:19-21).

The church buildings will reopen at some point, and it would be useful to gain some consensus as to how to prioritise various activities. To that end, this edition of Tidings contains a poll. I genuinely would covet your opinions, not just for yourselves but for others. For, in this way, we demonstrate our outward facing Christianity as well as the godliness of our heart. To this end, and simply because I miss seeing so many of you in the course of a week, I look forward to hearing from you.

Your Minister and friend,

Ross



Monday Club

I hope this short update finds you in good health and also good spirit. No decision to restart has been made to date.

Regarding our proposed visit to New Lanark on 21 September that will be updated by the next issue.

We are all currently on a twisting path with this pandemic and we have come a long way along it so far. We need to keep looking onwards and never look back! As Sir Harry Lauder said "Keep right on to the end of the road".

God Bless You All

Charlie Duguid



Lockdown Drama Kirk

Lockdown has presented a particular challenge to Drama Kirk. How do we continue a fresh expression of church designed for large gatherings??!

We have had to make significant changes and are more reliant on team work than ever before. So far, we have presented the Passion Play and three bible studies via YouTube. We are so grateful to everyone who has made this possible. Special mention must go to Jim Henderson, who has spent hour after hour editing footage for the bible studies. It really is no easy task.

The studies are welcoming an audience of about 250 each time, which is a significant increase on the face-to-face sessions. People can still participate, either through getting involved in the recordings or by getting involved in the chat during the presentation; but there is also the option to simply watch and enjoy.

Our latest study, "Job: Wisdom for a Pandemic?" took an imaginative look at how Job's trials might have looked had they taken place during lockdown. It's only about half an hour long, so if you haven't caught up yet, it is still available on the HOPC you tube channel.

Given the ongoing need for social distancing, we have taken the difficult decision to cancel the walk planned for August. Instead, we will continue with the online bible study format. In September, October and November we hope to explore the major prophets who foretold the coming of the Messiah. And then, in December, we will celebrate that coming, Drama Kirk style!

We continue to be supported by the GoForIt fund, in recognition of finding a new way of working. Thinking ahead to the nativity and to 2021, the Drama Kirk Committee and Steering Group will have some difficult decisions to make in the coming months. Please keep them, and everyone involved, in your prayers as we explore new and engaging ways to share the Gospel message.



Wonder Zone “Virtual” Holiday Club

Lockdown said that we couldn't meet for our holiday club but that doesn't mean that we didn't! We did, albeit in a rather different way from usual. Around sixteen children joined us each day via Zoom for our “Wonder Zone Holiday Club” and had great fun singing, listening to bible stories, trying out our experiments and getting busy with all of the crafts. A fantastic time was had by all!

A big thank you to our Minister of Science and his Professors and of course our wonderful “Wonder Zoner” children who made this holiday club such a success!



Saffronhall Singers

As we continue to live our lives under the various restrictions which are in place to keep us all safe, it is difficult to find much to write about! This is a time when we are usually all enjoying summer activities and holidays before all the winter activities start up again. At the moment it is impossible to plan ahead as we just don't know what we will be able to do. It is looking unlikely that our group will be able to resume in September as singing is a high risk activity, so at the moment we are exploring options. We could meet online but that excludes those who do not have access to technology and we have not identified a way we could sing together and hear each other!

We had planned to record much of our repertoire in our last few meetings in March, but these sessions were cancelled due to lockdown. At the moment, I am recording all our accompaniments on the keyboard and I am very grateful to Paul McCrudden who has been helping me with the software package I am using to edit these so that they match the way we sing them.



We hope you are all well and are coping with all the restrictions and we look forward to a time when we can meet up again!

Campbell Barr

Finance

The church continues to meet its monthly commitments and is fairing better than I had initially thought. This is due partly to members moving to standing order or making one-off payments and I would like to thank them very much for doing this. There has also been a number of members who have contacted either myself or their elder as they are collecting a growing number of envelopes. Please do not worry about this. When the church reopens these offerings will be very important in meeting the extra costs involved in keeping everyone safe.

In the meantime I hope you are all keeping well, benefiting from the easing of lockdown and enjoying time with family and friends.

Marilyn Henderson

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Entered into Eternal Life.

"I am the Resurrection and the Life"

*God of grace and peace, in your Son Jesus Christ
You have given us new birth into a living hope.
Strengthen us now to live in the power of the resurrection
and keep us united with our loved one
from whom in death we are not divided;
for you live and reign forever and ever. Amen*

30 April 2020

William Dick

1 May 2020

Margaret Clark

5 May 2020

Mary Preston

7 May 2020

Isobel Stalker

13 May 2020

John Robertson

22 May 2020

Leslie Morrison

2 June 2020

Henrietta Mullen

9 June 2020

George Meldrum

16 June 2020

Edith Gwilt

17 June 2020

Georgina Dickson

3 July 2020

John Bain

4 July 2020

Margaret Flannigan

POLL ON THE USE OF CHURCH BUILDINGS DURING A PANDEMIC

The church buildings are fully prepared for when they might return to use, and we have all the relevant permissions from the Presbytery, the Church of Scotland, and the Scottish Government. Specific guidelines need to be adhered to, which at the present time include 2m distancing (every third pew), a cap of 50 people per building, no singing, and recommended use of face masks. The final decision on building use rests with the Minister, in consultation with the Kirk Session. This poll is designed to gain an understanding of the views of the entire congregation.

Please tick the boxes on the right.

Name:			
When ought the church sanctuary be opened?	For prayer, funerals, baptisms, weddings	For families and the medically fit	For everyone
As soon as possible under the current restrictions			
When restrictions are further eased (e.g. Phase 4)			
After a vaccine becomes widely available			
Comments:			
When ought the halls be opened?	For young people	For Hall lets	For everyone
As soon as possible under the current restrictions			
When the youth organisations restart in September			
When restrictions are further eased (e.g. Phase 4)			
After a vaccine becomes widely available			
Comments:			

An online version of this poll is available here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/LKCBHG2>

PRAYER

Almighty God,
whose hand is over all things
and whose plans are inscrutable,
give us the faith to bear all things
and the courage to back this up with action and inaction.

When we fret or fear
remind us of your presence.

When we pine or give way to unhealthy introspection
remind us that your church is made of many people
who can empathise and console.

When we feel more robust
remind us to actively seek out others
that we might show your face or voice to them,
even in a simple phone call.

Heavenly Father,
keep us centred on Christ,
in the power of the Spirit.

Amen.

