

Meldrum & Bourtie Enews

April 2020

Issue 6

Welcome:

Welcome to our Enews update letter. We are hoping to keep all in our congregation up to date with what's on and what's happening in and around the Church. The Kirk News will continue to be published and will have all its usual news and articles. The letter will contain the latest intimations announced in Church. We will also be looking for stories that you think will be of interest, anyone who would like to contribute can do so by sending their story or news to info@meldrumandbourtiechurch.com.

You will have two options on how to receive the newsletter:

- 1) We will publish the newsletter on our website
- 2) sign up and receive each issue via email.

We hope you will enjoy reading our Newsletter and look forward to hearing your comments, stories and suggestions.

For all the family:

Each week we will have available on-line a Family Activity Page which will have:

- *Children's activity sheet*
- *Colouring sheet*
- *And for adults a 'Live your Faith Sheet'.*

[Family Activity Page:](#)

This Issue's Scripture Reading:

Isaiah 40: 10.

So do not fear, for I am with you;
do not be dismayed, for I am your God
I will strengthen you and help you;
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Upcoming Events:

All services and events have either been cancelled or suspended until further notice due to the Covid -19 outbreak:

Church of Scotland
Covid -19 update

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/resources/advice-for-churches-covid-19-coronavirus>



This week's news:

Good afternoon,

I wonder how you are all getting on? What a difference a week makes! I made a long list of all the things I planned to do during this time at home, but so far I haven't yet crossed anything off as completed. Perhaps you are being slightly more productive than I am! Although I am enjoying reading to my grandchildren via Skype every evening.

I thought you might like to hear some of things that have been going on this week, so here are the intimations:

1. Lots of you responded to my last email, and I think we have a few knitters making pocket prayer crosses. These will be very useful in the future, so thank you if you're busy with your needles.

2. Louise, at the British Legion in Meldrum, is organising the getting of supplies to those in need. As I said before, if you know anyone who could benefit then please get in touch with her. Her mobile number is 07917 030278. I will be sending her some small cards with the contact details of people from the church who are willing to offer help or a friendly listening ear, to anyone who needs. She will send out the cards along with any food or supplies she gives out.

Church Notices and Intimations:

Joining the Church Family: If you would like to become a member of our Church family or would just like to find out more about the work we do in and about our community please contact the Minister.

A Loop System for the hard of hearing operates throughout the Church

Large Print hymnbooks are available in the vestibule. Please return them to the vestibule after use.

Hospital and home visits: Please let the Minister or your Elder know by giving them a completed pew card as you leave the church or pass your request to your Elder.

Inverurie Food Bank: we are providing a collection bin for donations to the Inverurie Food Bank. Items should be of non-perishable food and basic toiletries. The bin will be situated in the vestibule. Please give generously.

Gift Aid envelopes (white) are at the end of each pew for members and visitors to use. By using an envelope – if you are a tax payer – and filling in the details – your offering benefits the church even more and at no extra cost to you! If you normally give by standing order, but are putting some loose change in the plate, please consider using one of these envelopes!

Click here for this week's Intimations:

www.meldrumandbourtiechurch.com/intimations

have given it to Rhoda to distribute).

4. I hope you are managing to phone and chat with people. I have had a few really good conversations this week which has been lovely. I'll be phoning more of you in the weeks to come so we can have a natter too.

5. As we can't get together in person at the moment, Billy

has set up a Chat Group on Facebook so that we can share silly stories, ask questions, tell jokes, or whatever we need to keep us going! Search for Meldrum & Bourtie community chat group (although its' name may change).

For those of you who are not on Facebook there is a blog you can use to do the same thing. Follow the links to it from Meldrumandbourtiechurch.com.

Just click on '**Join the conversation**' on the welcome page to take you to the Blog. You may need to sign in with your email and create a password and then you're good to go! Let's keep each other amused over the coming days!

6. Finally, there won't be a service at Meldrum Church tomorrow. However, there are lots of other churches showing their services online. Think of this as an opportunity to visit other churches without feeling guilty, or leaving your armchair! Try Belhelvie, Kemnay, Inverurie West and Ellon Parish Church to start with. The best way is to look for them on YouTube. If you find another church service you enjoy perhaps you could let us know on the Blog or Facebook chat page?

6. As an alternative I attach a reflection on the Bible Reading for tomorrow. On it I

Prayer

In the lengthening of days,
Snowdrops emerging
from winter's frozen ground
In the sight of a tiny lamb,
joyfully bounding
across hillside farm

Creator God, forgive our moments of ingratitude,
the spiritual blindness that prevents us
from appreciating the wonder that is this world,
the endless cycle of nature,
of life and death and rebirth.
Forgive us for taking without giving,
reaping without sowing.
Open our eyes to see,
our lips to praise,
our hands to share,
and may our feet tread lightly on the road ahead.

Amen.

(Celtic Prayer from Faith & Worship)

have also listed all the readings that the Lectionary suggest for the 5th Sunday in Lent for you to read. They all fit in amazingly with the situation we are currently experiencing. I will try and do a reflection every weekend for the coming weeks, plus a daily reflection during Holy Week.

I wish you a good week ahead. They say if you do something everyday for 17 days it becomes a habit. Perhaps now is the time to establish

the habit of sitting quietly with God, reading His word, talking to Him and listening for His voice.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."
Romans 15:13

Blessings

Valerie

[Reflection on John 11: 1-45.](#)