



Meldrum & Bourtie

Parish Church of Scotland

Registered in Scotland
Charity Number SCO15960

August / September 2020

During our vacancy Meldrum and Bourtie churches have been guided and overseen by Rev Dr Paul McKeown from Belhelvie Church, who has been in place as our Interim Moderator. It is now time for him to step down, and Rev Euan Glen of Monymusk Parish Church will take over as our Interim Moderator whilst the final arrangements are made for the installing of our new minister.

During his time with us Paul has been a wise counsel, steady hand and listening ear and has always been available at the end of the phone to answer any problems or issues that we have had. I am sure many of you will also have enjoyed his online services from Belhelvie Church over the past few months, and the services he conducted for us whilst we were still worshipping in our church buildings. Thank you Paul for all you have done for us and for being such a friend to Meldrum and Bourtie Churches. We send every good wish and blessing to you and your family.

'By the seventh day God had finished the work He had been



Kirk News

www.meldrumandbourtiechurch.com
info@meldrumandbourtiechurch.com



***doing; so on the seventh day He rested from all His work.
Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy,
because on it He rested from all the work of creating that He
had done.'* (Gen:2:2-3)**

As we slowly ease restrictions, and going out to the shops and meeting friends for a coffee once again become everyday activities, I invite you to look back. It was on March 23rd that we were put into lockdown and told we were to stay at home. That directive lasted initially for three weeks, but was extended after that. So for six weeks at least we stayed home, unless it was absolutely necessary to go out. We didn't meet anyone outside our household. It was a strange time indeed.

For me, who is fortunate to not live alone so would not be by myself, it was a time to catch up with jobs about the house and garden. Every cupboard was cleaned out and sorted. The garden flower beds were weeded and trimmed. Books that had been waiting to be read, now were read. It took about a week, but suddenly I realised I was no longer watching the clock to make sure I was at my next appointment, or meeting, or activity on time. Clock watching and time was not an issue. If I didn't get a task completed on one day, well then, there was always the next day to finish it.

Life slowed down. Days were quieter.

Now, I appreciate that for those of you who were trying to home school, or work from home, or living alone, that your experience may have been completely different. You may have found the whole experience traumatic, lonely, challenging or even all three at times. However, I hope that as families were all together and events cancelled, you may have found more time to do things together - enjoying meals round the table. playing games, going for walks, keeping each other amused, or just sitting quietly on your own reading a book in your²armchair.

Life became simpler somehow.

The Creation Story in Genesis tells that after God had worked creating the world, He rested. Later on in the Old Testament we are given the commandment to remember the Sabbath Day, from the Hebrew word Shabbath meaning rest, and keep it holy.

May the enforced slow down and simplification of our daily lives that we have just lived through, remind us once again how important is our weekly day of rest. God commanded that we remember it, not as some punishment or rule, but because He knows we need to have a balance between work and rest in order to stay healthy. All work and no play is not good for us. The Sabbath Day is a holy gift from God for us to enjoy. We may not always be able to rest on a Sunday, the Christian traditional Sabbath Day, but we should prioritise setting aside another day of the week to rest and restore our souls.

As life starts to speed up again, if the lockdown taught us anything, may it be to remember how important it is to slow down occasionally, to set aside time to rest, and to spend time with those you love.

The poem, Leisure sums it up so well:

*What is this life, if full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.*

*No time to stand beneath the boughs
And stare as long as sheep, or cows.*

*No time to see, when woods we pass,
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass.*

No time to see, in broad daylight, 3



Streams full of stars, like skies at night.

*No time to turn at Beauty's glance,
And watch her feet, how they can dance.*



*No time to wait till her mouth can
Enrich that smile her eyes began.*

*A poor life this, if full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.*

(William Henry Davies 1871-1940)

Let us once again commit to make a weekly day of rest a priority. May it be a day when we can enjoy the beautiful world God created for us. May it be a day when we remember to thank God for all the blessings He has given us.

God loves you. God wants the best for you. He cares for you. Enjoy your Sabbath. Rest in His love.

Valerie

Locum Minister

What has been happening – news update:

It is with joyful thanks to God we can announce we are once more able to worship together again in our Church building.

‘When they said, ‘Let’s go to the house of God’, my heart leapt with joy.’ (Psalm 122:1)

Over the last couple of weeks, we have worked hard to prepare the church for opening. We would like to explain to you how church will look and feel as we begin to return so we can allay any fears and anxieties you may have about coming back to church.

We have produced a Risk Assessment, inspected our church building to ensure all is in order, deep cleaned the whole church; all chairs, fabric, carpets, and floors have been steam cleaned, all hard surfaces pews etc have been cleaned with recommended surface cleaner. The entire church was then sanitised using Ultra Low Volume Hydrogen Peroxide fogging. We have set up a strict cleaning regime and timetable. Full details outlining the cleaning along with our Risk Assessment and Data protection information is available online at; <https://www.meldrumandbourtiechurch.com/covid-19>

‘Presbytery, having carefully inspected all of our arrangements, ensuring that we have complied fully with all of the cleaning and safety measures as per the guidance received from the Church of Scotland, have granted us permission to open our church and conduct services.

Our first service will be held on the 16 August.

With the current social distancing rules there will be limited seats available in church, we do not wish to be turning people away at the door so a booking system will be set up until such times restrictions are lifted. If the number wishing to attend is greater than the available seating then we will simply work on a first

come first served basis. Those unlucky people who do not get a seat will be prioritised for the next service. We may decide to hold more than one service to accommodate as many people as possible. It is all new so we ask you to be patient and understanding as no doubt we will experience a few hiccups in the first few weeks.

You will be able to register your wish to attend by the following methods:

Email:

A booking form is available at the back of this issue and this can be used to scan/email to either

Billy at info@meldrumandbourtiechurch.com

or

Eileen Oliver at eileenoliver@live.com

Telephone or Text:

Details required as per the form

to Billy on 07968 000610 or Eileen on 07775 606640

Post:

To - W Dalzell Session Clerk, Deanbank, Albert Road,
Oldmeldrum AB51 0DB

All booking requests must be received no later than midday of the Friday before the service.

The form will be emailed at the start of the week to all those that we have an email address for (unless requested not to do so), and a link will be posted on Facebook to enable you to book onto the next Sunday service. Once you have booked onto the service you will receive an email or phone call (depending on your preferred method of contact) to confirm if a place is available. If the numbers have reached capacity, we will let you know and ensure you are able to attend a service on a future date.

If you are experiencing any symptoms of Covid-19 or have been in contact with anyone experiencing these symptoms, please do not come to church.

More information can be found here -

<https://www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Services will be different as we will all need to follow the guidelines issued by the Government when attending church; face masks/coverings are now mandatory, masks will be available if needed – at this time we will not be allowed to sing hymns (although we will be playing music) – we will not be serving tea or coffee – we will be able to pray together, read/listen to the bible readings and reflection.

In accordance with Test and Protect, Scotland's approach to preventing the spread of COVID-19 in the community, we are required to take the contact details of the lead member of every household who attends church. Our Data protection policy relating to Covid-19 matters can be viewed here;

<https://www.meldrumandbourtiechurch.com/covid-19>

We will be looking at ways on how we can video/record our services to show either on DVD and/or via online services such as You Tube. We do not have a wi-fi connection in church so we will not be able to live stream services at this time.

We will however record all services and a link to listen to the service online will be posted on Facebook or emailed to individuals if requested.

In the meantime, please feel free to use our Reflective Prayer space in front of the church.

Rev Alisa McDonald preaching as Sole Nominee:

You will all now know that our Nominating Committee has selected Alisa as our Sole Nominee but due to the Covid-19 restrictions we have been unable to progress the selection process any further. The Church of Scotland has recognised

that this is a problem causing anguish not only to us but also other churches and especially the individuals involved. To overcome this obstacle, they have introduced temporary measures which will allow us to finally have Alisa preach as Sole Nominee, this service will be held on Sunday 30 August at 11 am. Booking will be essential if you wish to attend the service.

As numbers will be restricted, we will play back the service on screen in the church in the afternoon and evening. Booking will also be essential for all screenings. We will also put the video online and make a DVD to ensure everyone will have an opportunity to hear Alisa. We will try our best to accommodate everyone but if you cannot access the internet or do not have a DVD player then please get in touch with your Elder so that we can make the appropriate arrangements for you. Priority will be given to those who do not have online access or a DVD player.

Ballot papers will be issued to all members. Those who are lucky enough to attend the live service and those who attend the screenings in church will be able to cast their vote at the end of the service/screening. All other ballot papers issued will need to be returned by post or by hand, we must have a hard copy, emailing your vote will not be accepted.

Full instructions and details of where to return your vote and cut-off date will be supplied with the ballot paper. All votes will remain sealed in the unmarked envelope supplied until the cut-off date has passed, Elders will then meet to count the vote, the result will be published on our church notice boards, website, Facebook page, Enews letter and emailed to all those who we have addresses for, Elders will ensure all in their districts are informed of the result.

Pastoral care:

Although we have been unable to meet up in our usual way in Church during Lockdown, the Pastoral Care Team have still been trying to keep in contact with everyone as best we can. We have phoned, emailed and made doorstep visits to chat to those who may have needed some extra help during this time or simply needed the reassurance to know that although we are not together in the Church as a building, we will always be together as a Church family.

If you feel that you, or anyone you know, would like someone to talk to or we can help in any way, then please let us know.

Whether it's by phone, email, meeting up for a walk or joining together for a cup of tea/coffee (socially distanced of course!), please let us know. We would love to spend some time with you.

Please feel free to contact Eileen Oliver if you think the Pastoral Care Team can help.

Phone:- 01651 873396/07775 606640

email:- eileenoliver@live.com

Psalm 46:1 God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble

New arrangement for Flower Rota

Although the flower rota has been suspended since lockdown, flowers have still been distributed to comfort people who are ill or bereaved and to let them know their church family are thinking of them. With the resumption of Church Services for the time being we will not have fresh flowers in the church. The present arrangement will continue, and I would appreciate if members of the congregation could continue to let Elders, Eileen or myself know regarding anyone in the parish that may need the flowers. If



those that had their name down on the flower rota would still like to make a donation then this can be put in an envelope addressed to the Treasurer and marked "Flowers" and either place in the plate in Church or post through Billy's door. Many thanks to all those that have supported the Flower Rota.
Elizabeth Buchan
Flower Convener
01651 872131

Finance:

Like every other church, business, charity, institution our finances have been affected with the restrictions placed on us due to Covid-19. Willie, our Treasurer, has estimated that our income is down by around £4,500 per quarter, this includes any income lost from the letting of the church hall, which remains closed for the foreseeable future. In a time when our running costs exceed our income under normal circumstances it is worrying. Our Stewardship Campaign which was planned to start in May 2020 has obviously not happened and it was a campaign that would have been completely different to what we did in the past. Hopefully we will be able to run the events next year.

If you give by Free Will offering envelope and therefore been unable to give your donation then please feel free to post or hand in your envelopes to my home address at Deanbank Albert Road Oldmeldrum AB51 0DB.

You can also give by setting up a Standing Order. Many of our members now prefer this method. SO forms and Gift Aid forms can be found on our website at:

<https://www.meldrumandbourtiechurch.com/support> .

The Church of Scotland has recognised this difficulty for churches and have set up a dedicated online page for people to donate directly to their own local church. I would just ask that if you decide to use this page then please ensure you select **Meldrum & Bourtie** and please follow this link:

<https://cos.churchofscotland.org.uk/donate/>

Fabric Committee:

Our fabric team (along with a few volunteers) have been busy. If you have been out and about and walked past our Manse in Benview Gardens you will have seen a lot of activity. The team are preparing the manse for our new minister and her family (assuming all goes to plan).

The team are also keeping an eye on all our buildings and ensuring all are safe and sound. Any work required will be carried out whether the building is opening or not.

A big thank you to you all.



Social events:

Many of things we normally do have not taken place this year, our Family BBQ, normally held in August, is also cancelled.

We will be holding our St Andrew Ceilidh on Friday 27 November 2020 in the British Legion hall – if we can that is. Hopefully we will be able to confirm this in plenty of time.



It is the time required to organise all that is needed to run these events that is crucial and although restrictions on the date of the event may be lifted if we have not been able to get all in place then the event just cannot take place.



Kirk News Articles

All items for the Oct / Nov 2020 issue of Kirk News should be in the hands of the Editors, Brian Reid, or Simon Hill by Sunday, 20th September 2020.

If you know of anyone who does not normally receive Kirk News and would like to, please contact the Editor. (see Contacts table)

Deaths

Mrs Anne Gibson	Bennachie View Care Home	1st June 2020
Mrs Ann (Nan) Greczylo	Bennachie View Care Home	3rd June 2020

We are here to help and serve all in our community in this time of uncertainty:

Whatever your need, then please call any of the people whose contact details are listed. Between us, we will do what we can to help:

Elizabeth Buchan	01651 872131	buchan93@hotmail.com
Elaine Buck	01651 872348	elaine.buck123@btinternet.com
William Dalzell	01651 872943	william.dalzell101@btinternet.com
Anne McLean	01651 873254	mcleanann@gmail.com
Valerie Mitchell	01651 806005	valmitchell2@gmail.com
Eileen Oliver	01651 873396	eileenoliver@live.com
Pat Patrone	01651 872797	p.patrone123@btinternet.com
Sheila Simpson	07866 130175	charles.simpson12@btinternet.com
Graham Smith	01651 873415	janggs@aol.com
Mhari Watt	01651 873210	mhari.watt@btinternet.com

[NHS – Covid-19](#)

[Kirk Services - online](#)

All that we plan to do will be subject to any further measures announced by the Government.

PRAYER CALENDAR

August/September 2020



Each week year round and year after year a service of Prayers for Healing is held on Iona. This has continued during lockdown. It reminds us that Prayer is a link that binds us together wherever we are. Like me you will be looking forward to being able once again to join in congregational prayers. To feel at one with all our church family as we pray together. A church family that not only belongs to us but through our brothers and sisters in other countries is worldwide. We can also give thanks for the sustaining power of personal prayer during our time apart.

Prayers for Healing adapted from an Iona Community Service.

We are your people, God
In this time you call us to pray for those in need.
We pray for the people whose names the world knows,
Whose stories are told daily in the news and media
Those from all countries and corners of our world.
GOD in your mercy hear our prayers

We pray for people in places of suffering,
Whose names only you and their families know,
Whose lives you cherish.
We remember and pray for those people who are alone or lonely,
For those who feel overlooked and those deeply anxious about the future
Bring your healing into their lives
GOD in your mercy hear our prayers

We pray for those people whose names and lives we know,
Those who are facing pain, distress or trouble,
Those who are happy and those who are sad.
We also pray for ourselves, God
You know us each by name.

Make us into the people you want us to be,
and if that hurts reassure us with your constant love for us.
GOD in your mercy hear our prayers

LORD, you taught us how to pray and we give thanks for this gift.
Help us to feel your presence whenever we pray. Whether we pray
alone or with others let us know your presence and your precious gifts
of healing, love and hope in these challenging times. We also pray for
the health and well being of all ministers and helpers working hard to
meet the needs of the people in their parishes. We ask all this in the
name of our Good Shepherd, Saviour and Redeemer Jesus, Amen.

Contacts		
Name	Position	
Euan Glenn	Interim Moderator	
Mrs Jean Mitchell	Reader	872745
Mr W Dalzell	Session Clerk & Roll Keeper	872943
Mr W Paterson	Treasurer	01467 681796
Mrs Lorna Reid	Roll Keeper	01651 873000
Focus Groups:		
Pat Patrone	Worship Group	872797
Kirk News		
Brian Reid	Editorial Rep	872794
Church Group:		
Eileen Oliver	Pastoral Care Visiting Team	873396
Facebook Page	www.facebook.com/meldrumbourtiechurch.org.uk	
Website	www.meldrumandbourtiechurch.com	



QUIZ—ANSWERS

Here are the answers to last edition's Quiz.

1) Name the year in which each of the following ministers were inducted into Meldrum & Bourtie Parish Church?

Rev Stewart Granger – 1994,

Rev Hugh O'Brien – 2003,

Rev Alison Jaffrey - 2010

2) Who was the Moderator of the Church of Scotland in the following years?

1952 – George Johnstone Jeffrey,

1996 – John H McIndoe

2004 – Alison Elliot (*first woman to be Moderator and first non-minister to be Moderator since the 16th century*)

3) Name three Session Clerks who were in post prior to 2010 for Meldrum & Bourtie Parish Church?

Any 3 from the following. More could be named.

Mr A H Arthur (1966-1986),

Mr D Andrews (1986-1990),

Mr Jim Walker (1990-1991 & 1997-2013),

Mr Mel Mathewson (1991-1997).

Also, we had Mr J Wilson and Mrs M Green as acting clerk in the absence of the Session Clerk.

REIGION/BELIEFS:

4) Which of the following is a name for the first five books of the Old Testament? **a) Pentateuch**

5) Whom did Rowan Williams succeed as the Archbishop of Canterbury? **a) George Carey**

6) Which animal is usually associated with St Mark?

c) A winged lion

7) How many theses did Martin Luther post on the door of the Church at Wittenberg in 1517? **a) 95**

8) Which day celebrates the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem?

b) Palm Sunday

9) Which of these is the nearest to the original meaning of the word 'apostle'? **b) Messenger**

10) To which of the following did St Paul not write an epistle which is part of the New Testament? **a) Thebans**

SPORT:

11) In which year did women first compete in the Olympic games? **a) 1900**

12) What was the name of the first club Sir Alex Ferguson managed? **a) East Stirling**

13) Which football club has the nickname of 'The Bairns'? **b) Falkirk**

14) Which Scottish team twice reached the English FA Cup Final in the 1880s and were twice beaten by Blackburn Rovers? **a) Queens Park**

15) What nationality is Roger Federer? **a) Swiss**

MUSIC & the ARTS

16) Which of the following landmark 20th century buildings was designed by the Danish architect Jorn Utzon?

c) Sydney Opera House

17) Who painted the 'Night Watch'? **b) Rembrandt**

18) Beethoven used the words of which poet for the 'Ode to Joy' in his 9th symphony? **c) Schiller**

19) Who sang the theme song for the 1987 Bond Movie 'The Living Daylights'? **a) A-Ha**

20) Who had a hit in 1964 with 'Do Wah Diddy Diddy'?

b) Manfred Mann

21) Who directed the 1946 film 'It's a Wonderful Life'?

a) Frank Capra

22) On which farm did Worzel Gummidge live?

c) Scatterbrook Farm

23) In which year did 'The Archers' begin broadcasting?

b) 1951

24) Who plays 'Chandler' in Friends?

a) Matthew Perry

25) How many Oscars did David Leans film 'Lawrence of Arabia' win in the 1962 Awards? **b) 7**

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:

26) For which area of the British Isles did Alfred Wainwright write a series of famous guidebooks

a) The Lake District

27) Who was the Roman Emperor at the time of the birth of Christ? **a) Augustus**

28) How many 'Lords a-leaping' are there in The Twelve Days of Christmas? **b) Ten**

29) If you suffer from 'Homichophobia, what do you fear?

b) Fog

30) "'Oh, Adam was a gardener, and God who made him sees/
That half a proper gardener's work is done upon his knees".

Which writer claimed Adam as the first gardener?

c) Rudyard Kipling

Worshipping together again:

- * If you are experiencing any symptoms of Covid-19 or have been in contact with anyone experiencing these symptoms please do not come to church
- * Please arrive in good time as there may be queuing both inside and outside the building
- * Please enter through the front door
- * As you approach the building you will notice tape on the path to show social distance markings. Please use these markings to help you enter the building in a socially distanced manner
- * There are hand sanitiser stations located at the front entrance and at the rear exit door. Please use the hand sanitiser before entering the sanctuary
- * In accordance with Test and Protect, Scotland's approach to preventing the spread of COVID-19 in the community, we are required to take the contact details of the lead member of every household who attends church
- * The Scottish Government has advised the wearing of face coverings in churches is now mandatory. Masks will be available at the door if required
- * At this time, we will not be allowed to sing hymns (although we will be playing music)
- * We will try and ensure you and your household will be allocated seats together
- * A member of the Welcome Team will take you to your seat
- * There will be no tea or coffee served. If you need water, please bring your own
- * All Bibles and paper materials have been removed and all Bible readings will be on the screen. You are welcome to bring your own Bible
- * We encourage you to give your offering electronically at this time. If that is not possible the Collection Plates will be situated in the vestibule and at the rear door
- * In the event of a fire, please leave the building as quickly as possible. It will not be necessary to maintain the 2m distance in this instance

All of these measures will be reviewed every few weeks and we will lift restrictions in-line with Government guidelines.



**Worshipping together again:
Booking Form.**

Full name:

.....

Email address:

.....

Telephone number:

.....

Preferred method of contact:

Email:

☐

Telephone:

☐

Please enter the date of the service you wish to attend:

.....

Number in your household group (including yourself):

.....

I acknowledge that I am the lead contact for my household group and consent to my contact information being sent to NHS Test and Protect in the event of a suspected Covid-19 case within the church building.

Yes:

☐

No:

☐

20