



Meldrum & Bourtie

Parish Church of Scotland

Registered in Scotland
Charity Number SCO15960

April / May 2020

**Special
Edition**



Kirk News

www.meldrumandbourtiechurch.com
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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.
Isaiah 40:10

Dear friends,

In the light of recent events, I wanted to write to let you know what is happening in the church in response to the outbreak of Covid-19.

We received notification this week from the Church of Scotland that we have to stop gathering for worship immediately and that all activity that brings people together should also stop. Whilst saddened that we cannot continue to worship collectively, there is a huge amount of work going on across our Presbytery to make sure that worship continues online across various platforms.

Many churches and ministers are reaching out... here are a few things that are going on:

- Inverurie West Parish Church and Rev Rhona Cathcart will livestream on Sunday morning at 11am. Follow them on Facebook, on their webpage or through their YouTube channel.
- Ellon Parish Church and Rev Alastair James Stephen Bruce will be live-streaming on Sunday morning at 10:30am. Follow them on Facebook or YouTube to watch.
- Kemnay Parish Church and Rev Joshua Mikelson will be streaming at 10am on Sunday morning. Follow them on Facebook or their webpage to watch.
- Monymusk Parish Church, Cluny, and Rev Euan Glen will be sharing a meditation during the week and on Sunday. Follow them on Facebook or through their YouTube channel to watch.

- Belhelvie Church and Rev Paul McKeown will be sharing a meditation on Sundays at 11am. Follow them on Facebook to watch.
- Skene Parish Church and Rev Stella Louise Campbell will be streaming services on Sunday and sharing daily meditations on Facebook.
- Tarves Parish Church is opening their church for prayer on Sunday at 11am.
- Methlick Parish Church along with other churches are ringing their church bells at 6:45pm on Sunday and calling their congregation to prayer at 7:00pm.

Church goes on, just differently!

We are asking our elders to be in touch with the people in their districts to check if anyone will need any help over the next wee while. Please do let us know if there is any way we can help, even if that is simply a weekly phone call to check in. We are gathering volunteers ready to run errands and to telephone people. There is also a wider community effort being made to help anyone who might need help in coming days and weeks. If you are speaking to your friends, please let them know. More information about the community response will be forthcoming and will be shared as widely as is possible.

We live in uncertain and scary times. I am hopeful that through loving one another we can help each other through the weeks and months ahead. Please do not feel alone, the Lord our God is with us.

Blessing, health and peace be with you.
Your Interim Moderator, Paul McKeown

Prayer

Today, God,
The world is turning,
There is beauty around us,
We have people who love us,
And people to love.
There may be troubles and worries.
There are issues to face,
And problems to solve.
Nothing will magically take these away,
But we have the choice to see good,
To savour what is right,
To appreciate what is lovely,
To honour the efforts of others,
And to be grateful for the small things.
These help us in our coping,
They lighten our spirits,
And bring some balance to our thinking.
May we look beyond our present trials,
And see hope and support,
At least the kind that we might share with others.
Love us through our hardships.
Lift our spirits when they fall.
Be with us and bless us we pray.
Amen.

Philippians 4:6-7 New International Version (NIV)

6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Letter from Session Clerk

Dear friends,

Our Locum Minister Rev Valerie Mitchell and our worship group had been working on ideas as to how we could perhaps provide space for prayer and reflection in this time of uncertainty.

- **Indoor Space for Prayer and Reflection** – we had hoped to open the church for a couple of hours each day.
- **Outdoor Space for Prayer and Reflection** – create a walk with prayer cards at set intervals.
- **Palm Sunday, Holy Week, Good Friday and Easter Sunday** – we had planned a prayer walk for Good Friday with prayer cards and readings set out, we discussed an open-air service on early Easter Sunday morning.

But even as we were discussing these ideas things were changing, new guidelines and restrictions were being introduced. With this fast-moving changing situation, we have sadly decided that our plans and ideas would not be the right thing to do at this time when we are all being advised to stay indoors and keep apart from each other. We may still use the above ideas when restrictions start to ease as perhaps our first steps back to normality.

For all the family:

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

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

In this special edition of the Kirk News we have listed the names and contact details of some of our Elders who have come forward and offered to help in any way they can.

Please if you need help with any of the following or anything else you may need please call any of the names listed:

- Shopping
 - Picking up a prescription
 - Posting mail
 - Or just a friendly chat over the phone
- (we will, strictly follow all the guidance given to help restrict the spread of the Covid-19 virus)

God bless.

William Dalzell
Session Clerk.

Deaths

Mr Bill Scorgie	Lower Cowgate	27th January 2020
Mr George Ritch	East Fingask	10th February 2020
Mrs Marion (Marie) Scott Baird	Westbank Cottage, Lower Cowgate	7th March 2020
Mrs Alice Presly	Kirk Street	11th March 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.

The first Kirk News of Spring 2020, and unsurprisingly it is a little different from normal.

We are calling it a 'Special Edition', for that is what it is!

So - first, the **Bad News** - Sadly All church services at Meldrum and Bourtie are cancelled until further notice.

We will miss celebrating Mothering Sunday and the first Sunday of Spring together in church. Holy Week will also be a little different this year without the usual daily church services, or the joint Maundy Thursday service with our brothers and sisters from St Matthew and St George's Episcopal Church.

There will be no meeting of any other church group for the moment.

Bad news indeed, and a sad time as we will miss the fellowship and worship that we always enjoy together.

But, there is **Good News**, and the Good news is that although the church building is closed, the 'church' is alive and active in this place. We are embracing the opportunity to worship and serve God in other ways, and hope that you may find this period offers you the time and the chance to rethink your faith and what it means to you.

As a community we are all reaching out to each other in any way that we can. Perhaps you are self-isolating, self-distancing, worried, lonely, or need someone to collect a prescription, do some shopping, or just to phone up and have a chat with you. 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.

We are one family, God's family. Families take care of each other, and that is what we pray we will continue to do over the coming weeks.

With Blessings to you,

Rev. Valerie Mitchell

Locum Minister

Tel: 01651 806005

To all our readers:

Please accept our apologies, we had hoped to deliver this edition of the Kirk News to all households in our Parish. But, following Boris Johnson's announcement of Monday evening 23 March directing everyone to stay at home, we feel it is not now appropriate to be asking our fantastic team of deliverers to go out and about with this edition of the Kirk News.

Therefore this edition will only be available on-line via our website.

**Planning Meeting**

Dear Christian Aid supporters, like me you were expecting to be preparing for our Thrift Shop and Door to Door envelope drop but with the latest government advice we shall not be going ahead with either of these fundraising events this May. We would also ask those of you with seed boxes to keep adding to them and we will collect them later in the year.

As Christian Aid continues to do its work all year round the current situation gives us the opportunity to think about what we might do to raise funds at a later date. We are postponing and not giving up so keep an eye on your Kirk News for future information.

Christ's Church is not closed!
The doors may be shut and locked,
the lights out in the building up the hill,
But the Church isn't closed.
We may be told to stay at home, self isolate,
We may be ill or too frail to come,
We may be disillusioned with the institution, or with God
But the Church isn't closed.
The Church cannot close because it is not a building.
The church is YOU, and me, and every child of God
Who feels the tug of His love and senses His presence -
Even in the darkness, even in loneliness,
Even in fear or sorrow.
The Church is open, though the building is closed.
It will stay open as long as His children stay open to God,
and seek His presence wherever they may be.
This day Christ says to you
'I am with you always'
So take this moment to enjoy His companionship,
To be still, to give thanks and to hand over your cares
And know that you do so in company with God's family,
not only in our building, but all over the world.

by Alison Britchfield

Prayer



To help us remember that God is all around us in the difficult times here is a Celtic format prayer based on one from the Iona Community reminding us that we are never alone.

God above us-
Trees, birds and sunshine,
Stars and moonlight
God beneath us-
Earth, rocks and rivers,
Roots and caverns
He is with us in all places and for ever

God around us-
Seas, winds and cities
Animals and people
God within us-
Hope tears and laughter,
Love and wonder
He is with us in all circumstances and for ever

God above us, God beneath us,
God around us, God within us,
You made us and love us,
You call us to walk and rest with you

At this challenging time may we trust in your loving care
Help us to care for one another whenever we can help
We pray for families, friends and all humanity
Strengthen our hearts and spirits for all that lies ahead.

Amen.

Playlist For Life

Due to the current situation there will be no Drop-in sessions for the above but if anyone is looking for any help, or advice, please feel free to phone us.

Eileen Oliver 07775 606640

Mhari Watt 07780 650061



Contacts

Name	Position	
Paul McKeown	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	

The Guild

On Monday 10th February we welcomed Isobel Gregory with her collection of Hats. She put on lots of her hats, which all suited her and told a story about everyone. She was hilarious and there was lots of laughter.

Everyone enjoyed a fun afternoon.



On Monday 9th March Barbara Crane, a retired Biology Teacher, came along to talk about the Woodland Trust. She told us it was a Conservation Charity, which was founded in 1972. Their aim is to Plant, Protect, Restore and Manage trees, which in turn prevent Flooding, Soil Erosion and are useful for Carbon Capture. It was a very informative talk and was enjoyed by all.

Syllabus: All future meetings are cancelled until further notice

Kirk News Articles

All items for the June / July 2020 issue of Kirk News should be in the hands of the Editors, Brian Reid, or Simon Hill by Sunday, 24th May 2020.

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

Committee Members

Sandy Manson

Irene Dunbar

Jan Chalmers

Kaye Cowie

Dot Davidson

Willie Sinclair



23.03.2020

We have unfortunately had to cancel our VE DAY 75 YRS Celebrations in Oldmeldrum. This is due to the current COVID-19 situation and in accordance with the government guidelines.

SPONSORS you have been fantastic for providing sponsorship to enable the event to be planned and a huge THANK YOU to the general public who bought tickets for the event. We are unable to reschedule the event at present therefore all sponsorship / ticket money will be returned as soon as possible.

Sponsorship and tickets that were invoiced will be returned by cheque.

Tickets bought in cash will be returned in cash as soon as possible.

Kind regards

VE DAY 75 YRS COMMITTEE