

**Almondbank Tibbermore Church of Scotland
(St Serf's)**

The Bridge

April 2020



**Minster
Rev Robert Malloch
01738 583727
rojama@live.com**

Letter from the Manse

Dear Friends, I was asked recently what is the purpose of Lent. Generally many Christians see it as a time to remember Jesus alone and fasting in the desert. Others think of it as a time to specially reflect on Jesus and the lead up to the ultimate sacrifice of Easter. Wikipedia website suggests "The purpose of Lent is the preparation of the believer for Easter through prayer, doing penance, mortifying the flesh, repentance of sins, almsgiving, and denial of ego. This event is observed in the Anglican, Eastern Orthodox, Lutheran, Methodist, Moravian, Oriental Orthodox, Reformed, and Roman Catholic Churches. "

Whether or not you did anything special in Lent, it is good to recognise as a Christian you are always in the good company of a worldwide fellowship. People who give time to take seriously the death and resurrection of Jesus, knowing that is what matters in life. After Easter, special days include Ascension day then Pentecost, and later of course Christmas. But without the Easter events Christmas would be redundant. Many people celebrate such special days, however the church is not only open on seemingly special occasions. It is open every Sunday, because Christ is always special to us. Easter is past, please don't ignore Jesus and his church till Christmas.

May God bless you

Your Minister
Robert Malloch



Heaven – Latest travel information

Accommodation: Arrangements for 1st class accommodation have been made in advance – John 14:2

Passports: Persons seeking entry must have proper credentials, having their names pre-registered. Revelation 21:27

Tickets: Ticket is a written pledge guaranteeing your journey John 5:24

Customs: Only one declaration is required - John 20: 28

Immigration: All passengers are classed as immigrants since they are taking up permanent residence in a new country Hebrews 11:16

Luggage: No luggage can be taken - 1st Timothy 6 :7

Vaccination: No injections are required as disease is unknown at destination Revelation 21: 4

Departure times: Exact date of departure is unknown , Travellers are advised to be prepared to leave at short notice. Acts 1:7

Alex McLagan

It was with great sadness that the church had to accept the resignation of Alex as Beadle. Having accepted a temporary position, Alex served the church for over 20 years. His diligence in attending to opening, closing, setting up and attending to heating did not go unnoticed with him being much appreciated by everyone within and from outside the church, such as schools and various other groups.

In addition, his warm friendly presence on Sunday mornings, greeting people by name and assisting them in and out at the church steps was also appreciated. Such was his willing unstinting service that people gave very generously to a retiral collection which, along with a Quaich, he was presented with in the church to much warm applause. We wish Alex well in regaining full health.

Church Janitor – we are pleased to say that Will Paton from Pitcairngreen has taken on the job of attending to heating, opening up, setting out chairs and tables along with any other duties required. Will is very keen to help in any way and can be contacted via the Minister.

Your minister
Robert Malloch



Prayer Group:

Yours in Christ, if ever there was a time to pray it is now. The world is facing a pandemic with the coronavirus which is affecting millions of people many who will die from its effects. So let us all pray to our Father and ask that he will intervene in this tragedy and bring it to an end.

We should also be praying for Britain, our Country, which will be facing many challenges over the next few years as our Government negotiates for a fair deal, and for our economy which will suffer from both Brexit and the coronavirus.

Our churches are also in need of much prayers as numbers drop and people no longer have the longing to seek after Jesus our Lord.

Although things seem bleak, prayer can change this God is always listening to us, and loves us to pray to him.

One thing we should remember in all this chaos God is still In charge and control; of his world, so pray to him for change..

Yours in Jesus

Bill Murray
Prayer Leader



Our Church Family

Deaths – 'I am the resurrection and the life'

Frank Neil	22 October 2019
Kathleen Davidson	20 December 2019
Margaret Walker	26 December 2019
Daphnie Cownie	29 December 2019



Recipe Corner

Raspberry and Coconut Slices

Preheat the oven to 190c, fan 170c, gas mark 5. Grease a 22cm square tin and line with baking paper:

Ingredients:

120 g low fat spread, plus extra for greasing	40g desiccated coconut
200g plain flour	Pinch of salt
60g caster sugar	250g raspberries
50g porridge oats	

In a large mixing bowl, combine the flour, sugar, oats and coconut with a pinch of salt. Add the spread and rub it into the dry ingredients with your fingertips until combined and the mixture resembles purse crumbs.

Press half the mixture into the prepared tin. Top with the raspberries, pressing down gently with a spatula to release the some of the juice. Scatter the remaining oat mixture and smooth with a spatula doesn't matter if some of the raspberries are peeking through.

Bake for 30 minutes or until golden brown. Remove from the oven and set aside to cool in the tin for 1 hour, then turn out onto a chopping board and remove the baking paper. Cut into 16 squares and serve.

Fiona Murray



Below are a couple of amusing intimations which have appeared in various church magazines and noticeboards [not ours I hasten to add!]

- The local school will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7:00 p.m. The Congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.
- Next Sunday Mrs Vinson will be soloist for the morning service. The minister will then speak on "It's a Terrible Experience."