

Wallneuk North - Kirk Session meeting - 14th January 2021

Pioneer Minister - update

Rev Peter Gill & Kirk Session.

I'd like to begin by wishing you all a very blessed New Year and I do hope that 2021 will give you encouragement and may you also know our Lord Jesus' company through it all.

I'm writing to update you since our last Kirk Session meeting on the 5th of November.

The period between November 5th and 14th January has been vastly different from previous Christmases as I'm sure you know already. Early in November a team from Wallneuk came to pick up the "Claranova" organ from St Ninian's Church. This was carried to the car and thanks to all who helped with this adventure. Various sets of drums also went to a good home and are hopefully being used, thanks to Jemma for her contacts.

I kept on working with Street Connect each Tuesday morning till the middle of December. This involved one-to-one meetings with people with life-changing concerns held in Life Church and outside where possible.

I continued to meet with one young man over zoom who has shown an interest in Christian things on a weekly basis and sometimes connect with others over lunch outdoors weather permitting.

Help was given in terms of food and energy supply through the Renfrewshire food bank and the generous gifts of local people in Ferguslie Park through Linnie, Graham and me.

The after-school football club run by Stephen Donaldson and me at Mossvale Primary school ran during November for a few weeks but due to COVID-19 restrictions closed and has still to be re-started.

I still met with my fellow Pioneers over Zoom every two weeks as well as the person who does Spiritual Accompaniment with me every 6 weeks. I also took part in a two-day online conference with the Fresh Expressions Community.

Table Talk over Zoom began late November and lasted a few weeks till the December break. We've not really had much uptake of this at all with only one person outside of our group taking part for one evening. This began again on

Monday 11th January and Wednesday 13th, weekly and we'll give it a go and see how things run. I'm sincerely grateful to Graham and to Linnie for taking this on during December as well as the Advent treasure hunt held in Ferguslie Park over about 10 days in December. I'm sure Graham will say more about this. Due to a family bereavement I had to pull back from things in the two weeks in early December. Thank you to those who sent me and Lesley your condolences.

The memorial service was also held in Glencoats Park in Ferguslie on the afternoon of Sunday 13th December. Despite horrible weather a good group of people met outdoors whilst me, Linnie and Graham helped to lead this half hour service which you can watch recorded on the "Pals of the Privies" Facebook page. Many people were touched by the gathering as the community remembered those who had died both young and older in the year since we last met.

Toys donated through the Salvation Army were also delivered in mid-December to three families known to me. I was on annual leave from Boxing Day to the 5th of January 2021.

I attended the online Scripture Union Team Leaders meeting last Saturday where SU are looking ahead this year to doing Holiday Clubs outside based around the theme "Jungle Adventure." This is a theme that would be for primary-aged children and a teenage group. Obviously, things depend a lot on how things go regarding vaccinations, etc. Time will tell.

Given the strange times in which we've been living ongoing ministry as mentioned before has been difficult. I have written to the Presbytery Office offering my help to any Churches that would make requests of me and have obviously also mentioned the same to your own minister during our team meetings with Graham.

I'll leave it there for now, seeking with you all God's plan and purpose for this year ahead.



Pioneer Minister,
Paisley North End.

Presbytery of Clyde.
12th January 2020.