

WALLNEUK NORTH
CHURCH

NEWS UPDATE

Summer Edition June 2020

Dear Members and friends of Wallneuk North Church,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I trust and pray that you are staying safe and sound in the comfort of your home during this COVID19 Pandemic. I am sure we all are missing our freedom and our church building for worship. When I phone members of our congregation, most of them ask "when will the Lockdown be lifted?" My response is no - one really knows. What will the new normal world will look like in Scotland and in the rest of the world?

This year the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland was cancelled but we had some meetings online. We talked about the radical plans and changes in our churches over the next few years. The way congregations are adapting and seeking to maintain contact with their church members for pastoral care and outreach online may encourage the churches to move towards their goals sooner than planned. In the past three months the Church of Scotland has shown a willingness, flexibility and creativity that we never thought possible. I hope the Holy Spirit will lead us and guide us to move forward.

At the moment there is an uncertainty about how long restrictions of lockdown will last in Scotland, and what the church life will look like after restrictions are lifted. Let us use this time to pray and invite the Holy Spirit into our lives.

Our encounter, with the risen Lord, will resolve our worries and anxious hearts and we will receive peace and comfort by the power of this Pentecost Season.

As Jesus said in the Gospel of John chapter 14. Let your hearts not be troubled, trust in God.

Let's remember our medical staff who are working day and night to save lives and all our key workers who are helping to support all of us.

You are all in my thoughts and prayers

Kind Regards,
Peter

This Easter it was not possible to make the usual cross using yellow flowers, the cross this year was covered with yellow netting and was placed in its usual spot in the church grounds.

The week after Easter the cross was covered with 'Thank You' and 'Keep Safe'

Thank you to Christine for putting the cross up and to Robert for placing a light in front of the cross.



Treasurers Report

Hello, everyone, I hope you are all well and safe.

I would just like to take this opportunity to let you know how we are surviving financially during these very strange times.

We have so far managed to keep our head above the water and have been able to pay most of our bills. The following actions have been taken, I have been in touch with Church of Scotland head office and have suspended our ministry and mission contributions for the time being. I have furloughed our two staff members the Organist and the Cleaner, this means that they still get paid but the government contributes 80% of their salary. The Rev. Alistair Shaw from Presbytery has contacted us to ask how we are doing, I will keep in touch with him and advise him how our finances are looking and if we need any help

I did also apply for a 3rd sector grant but was unsuccessful.

Thanks to all those who have got in touch with either myself or Elaine to arrange how they can give their freewill offering and also to those paying by standing order as this has been a huge help.

I would also like to thank the family of Tom Edwards for the kind donation they made to mark their dad's birthday on 17th may. It was a lovely thought and much appreciated.

With the very uncertain times ahead and not knowing when we will be able to resume church activities I can only take one month at a time but I am confident we will make it through the summer and take up our new challenges once we come together again

I look forward to seeing you all again soon.

Take Care
Anne Gillies

The 'A' Team



During Lockdown Gilbert, Christine, Catherine and Ollie dog have been working in the church grounds, socially distancing of course. Just recently we welcomed a new members to the team, Thanks Agnes for your help. We are missing the rest of the team but hopefully it won't be too long until they will be back working with us. We would like to thank Robert and Annette for their kind gift of a battery operated edger, it was very gratefully received.

Bereavements

Tom Edwards
Rena Dalziel
Sheila Winning
Willie Darroch
Alex Stephen



A week or two ago, tidying up some papers, I happened upon the February 2020 Update and re-read it, including my St. Andrew's Night report. I gasped as I read my last sentence - "I wonder what 2020 will bring?"

Who could have imagined then how very much everybody's life would change – not just that we didn't have the St. Patrick's Night event by the Fun-Raisers, though we nearly did! - but that all life as we knew it was about to be transformed.

I have been nowhere, deciding that my contribution would be to keep out of everyone's way, being one less person to catch the virus or to pass it on. My kind neighbour shops for me once a fortnight. I bake, cook, garden and read, and think of all the jobs I am dodging doing, like household filing, rather than piling, tidying drawers or cupboards except when needed, because there's always tomorrow, no hurry, another day coming, or I'm too busy. Not sure doing what, but definitely too busy!

On the more constructive side, I have spent a lot of time on the phone, chatting to others on their own and recently have had "dropping by" visitors, some entertained at the front garden, others in the back garden, depending on the state of washing line! The most entertaining was Ollie with his ball (sorry if I have offended the humans!)

It has been a strange time. In more than half a century of driving, I have never been so long off the road. I am used to being on my own (note: that is quite different from being lonely) and I have thoroughly enjoyed the extra time for reading. But I would dearly love to go and stand again at the edge of the sea, and to feast my eyes on the beauty of the Scottish scenery, especially in such good weather. And yes, it would be good on a Sunday to share again in the fellowship of worship in the church, but these times will come again, because advancing years teaches that nothing, bad or good, stays the same forever. The "new life" might be better or worse, but it will certainly be different - and interesting! Keep well, keep safe and "keep the heid"!

Sandra McInnes

During lockdown I have been knitting Twiddlemuffs for Alzheimer's Scotland to give to people suffering from Alzheimer's. So far I have knitted 12 and sewn lots of different items onto them. It is a good pass time to keep me busy. If any one who knits wants to make some you can find a pattern online.

Margaret Cochran

*What are **TwiddleMuffs**? A **Twiddlemuff** is a thick hand muff which has bits and bobs attached to the inside and out. It is designed to provide a stimulation activity for restless hands for patients with dementia. People with dementia may develop various restless behaviours such as fidgeting.*



I would like to offer my services to anyone in the church who is finding the present Coronavirus situation challenging. I am a CBT therapist and have been working as a volunteer with Cruse for more than a year. I help bereaved people manage their grief.

I am offering free telephone counselling session to raise awareness on self-care, how to cope/manage stress, mild to moderate anxiety and depression.

If anyone is interested they can contact me on my phone 07715128780

Saboohi Gill

Hi everyone, thinking of you all at this the strangest of times. Hope you're all keeping well, singing plenty and enjoying the lovely weather. Looking forward to seeing you all again soon and raising our voices to the Lord together. Gemma

To all the folks at Wallneuk North, stay safe, stay well. Looking forward to seeing Everyone "hopefully soon". Barbara

Brownies and Guides

Due to current circumstances we are having to take a new approach to guiding. Although we haven't met as a unit since early March we are still participating in guiding activities. Since our last meeting we have had girls earn , The Zero waste, baking, grow your own, Vlogging, Meditation, Fixing, Aspirations, Aviation, Craftivism and Photography badges.

They have also taken part in The Netherurd Challenge, Activities @home challenge and the Guiding @home challenge.

Many of the girls have also been taking part in the weekly clap for keyworkers on a Thursday evening.

On the weekend of the 29th /30th May we had our first virtual sleepover with over 200 members of Paisley Division. We had zoom meetings throughout the evening where the girls took part in games, they then did activities before the next meeting. We had a virtual campfire with lots of fun songs. The girls then slept in their dens or tents in their house or garden. On Saturday morning they took part in a scavenger hunt around their local area before joining our last zoom meeting for a magic show. The girls enjoyed the sleepover as it meant that they got to see their guiding friends (even if it was on a screen).

We don't know when we will be able to meet as a unit again but plan to continue doing activities until we are able to meet face to face again.

Gillian and Lorraine Clements.



Young Church

We couldn't let Easter go past without making sure the all the children received their Church Easter Egg. So the Easter Bunnies, social distancing, delivered them to their homes. A few weeks ago they were on the move again - still maintaining social distancing delivered a gift of their favourite sweets. It was good to catch up with the everyone and hear all about their lockdown activities. Watch out we'll be about and who knows what we will bring the next time.

This year we had planned to go to Blair Drummond Safari Park but we will definitely go next year. We are all looking forward to getting back together again and continuing with our activities

Having Fun in the Sun



After a hard days gardening the only thing to do is slip and slide trying not to end up in A&E

Ruaridh and Lochlan Denovan

What we have been up to during the lockdown due to corona virus

We have actually been very very busy. Just before the lockdown happened we purchased a new pony called Pepper, we love her so much. She definitely has been a wonderful addition to our family. The rules allow us to still go to feed her once a day and have our exercise on her by riding so we have taken advantage of that.

Mummy said she not sure how she is going to fit everything in when she goes back to work.



We have done some baking and arts and crafts.

This is one picture of us "painting nails".



Mummy gave Lochlan his very own lockdown haircut but Ruaridh was having none of it, Mummy said he is still as handsome as ever.



We celebrated Ruaridh's 8th birthday on the 9th May with a lovely BBQ in the garden and we also had Peppers 15th birthday on the 6th May. She even had a cake



We have played in the garden lots as well as going out for walks with Pepper



Overall it's been a huge change for us cause nursery and school are closed but we are so grateful that we get to spend time with mummy and daddy more. Daddy is a key worker though so most days we are with mummy but we do things when daddy comes home too like movie nights. We just want everyone to be safe!! Overall it's been a huge change for us cause nursery and school are closed but we are so grateful that we get to spend time with mummy and daddy more. Daddy is a key worker though so most days we are with mummy but we do things when daddy comes home too like movie nights. We just want everyone to be safe!

One of my best moments of 2020 was seeing my family in Ayr for the first time in 10 weeks. Stay safe and keep well everyone. Christine.

It's 8pm It's Thursday Night It's Gallowhill



Archie decided to dress up on a Thursday to clap for the NHS. The neighbours enjoyed it and it helped raise their spirits. We all had a good laugh although poor Archie was boiling inside the costumes.

Janette McLeod

CORONAVIRUS

By Rab McMillan

This coronavirus has been, nothing but a pest,
I wish it would go away, and give us a rest,
Locked down for months now, to keep it away
"Stay at Home" is the message, or exercise once a day

No church service, as we know it - online's not the same,
We just know that the coronavirus is to blame,
Nothing is normal - except the same old TV news,
While we haven't been able to sit in the pews.

No Sunday, or midweek service, to see to our needs,
But our loyal "A" Team are still keeping down the weeds,
No bowls, or golf, or tennis, or whatever,
It seems like this lockdown has been going on forever.

No visits to family, or friends - for a start,
Hugs and cuddles are quite difficult from two metres apart.
We've done what we've been told by Nicola and Co,
"Stay at Home" is the message - keep your head low.

Not so long ago we were asking - what's a pandemic?
It's a disease that's worldwide - not just endemic,
We won't forget this year in a hurry - 2020,
Lockdown for months, but with sunshine a plenty.

We've observed the rules, with a walk, or ride on a bike
But if you're a government advisor - do what you like,
No relatives to see, and give them our best,
Just a wave at the window, and shouts of "stay blessed"

Having to stay at home, with children to amuse,
Go for a walk, once a day, is the rule - don't abuse,
Social distancing at all times, some people ignore,
They'll soon change their mind, if it comes to their door.

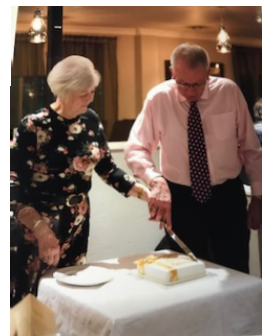
Nicola now says that we're in phase one,
With 2,3, and 4 to follow, but be careful how it's done
We can now play golf, tennis, bowls and fishing again,
But not like old times, we still have to refrain.

"Stay at Home" was the message, and we have all tried,
Boris changed it to "Stay Alert", after he nearly died,
Let's hope the curve has now flattened out,
And we can get back to normal, and get out and about.

With this lockdown, we've missed half of the year,
And the second half will be restricted, I fear,
The weather's been great, for sitting out, reading a book,
But hopefully, soon, we'll get back to Wallneuk. (North)



Congratulation to Gilbert and Barbara Adams
who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary
on the 28th February 2020
Barbara and Gilbert had a lovely time with family and friends at
the Glynhill Hotel



Hi Everybody. Hope you have all managed to meet up with family and friends, since the Lock-down has been eased. Enjoy! Annette and Robert

Hope everyone is safe and well. Missing everyone Hope to see you all soon. Elaine

June 2020 – We've just had the sunniest month of May and are now heading for summer and the longest day in the year... So far, the trend seems to be going the right way (reducing) as far as Covid-19 is concerned, and we can all hope and pray that this will continue and that some small, gradual relaxations will be safe and possible.

Here in Scotland, we are gradually emerging from our lockdown – though for many, there isn't much change yet – and we're better to be safe than anything else.

We are all affected uniquely by the pandemic – for myself, I've been working throughout (since we're food supply) though I've furloughed employees (keeping their jobs open - thanks to the government scheme), as our trade has been affected by the closure of restaurants.

With distancing measures, we are living in an unusual world just now – gradual change will happen, but gatherings of people are how transmission happens, so there will be first outdoors / distanced activity (luckily we're now heading for summer) – and at some stage, (if Rate still reducing) – indoor (distanced) activity will be allowed to re-open; in the meantime, long hair is definitely this year's trend!

My mum is at home, apart from her short daily walk. She understands that she needs to avoid people and keep her distance, but she is less able to understand that her hairdresser can't yet re-open. So far, she hasn't accepted the offer from the in-house amateur, though the hair-washing does happen.

I am the family carer – for both my mum and my partner – and am also supporting a couple of vulnerable friends. This means food supplies, prescriptions, phone-calls, enabling exercise (for one friend), and some unusual online ordering for friends (eg braille watch repairs) and also trying to deal with a situation, on behalf of a shielding friend. With reduced social care, friends/family are often filling the gaps.

One thing that we all have in common - is our church life. Services now Zoom in, as does another group (Iona Community) and my mum is pleased to have joined most of our recent services. Elders keep in touch by e-mail too; church lives through its people and continues in many different ways.

Online this and that can open doors for those that have that access – but remains a mystery to many – however we are all finding new ways of doing all sorts of things just now and many are adapting well.

Church is local, but also world-wide and we should give thanks for all we have in this country (including just now), while others around the globe have no clean water to drink, never mind hand-washing, etc.

Current world events are also a reminder of both the worst and best in humanity. One man is victimized – but around the world, people are standing up – or even lying down (in protest), and in compassion for each other.... One life has ended, but many of us are speaking out and valuing every one of God's children. Petitions get signed and sometimes get results. Even in a pandemic, people are ignoring certain walls and are loving their neighbour instead.

Elsbeth Hogg

Hello everyone hope you are well, just to say keep safe and remember its good to talk.
Look forward to seeing you all soon lots of love Agnes xxx

☯ Happiness Manifesto ☯

A – Z OF LIVING HAPPY!

Accept yourself – Accept others – Appreciate each other – and have Adventures! Breathe deeply – Believe in love – Be still, now and again ...and again! Choose Calm and Compassion – Count your blessings Cuddle – Care for all Creatures – Celebrate life. Dance wildly – Dream passionately – Dare to be Different – Delight in little things. Eat with awareness – Encourage a child – Enjoy being in your body. Forgive yourself – Forgive others – have Faith – Flow with change – Follow your bliss. Greet a stranger – Grow plants – Go within – Giggle! Hug an old person – Hold hands – Help where you can – let love Heal. Honour all people. Invite folks into your home – and into your heart – Imagine peace – know that we are Interdependent. Think Juicy – live Juicy – Judge no-one. Kiss a friend – practise Kindness. Laugh like a child – Listen with your heart – Let go of old stuff – Love who you are with – Let your Light shine. Make soup – Make friends Make a difference – expect Miracles! Nourish one another – have Naps – enjoy and respect Nature. Open your mind – Open your heart – watch for Opportunities – try Optimism! Pray for Peace Play for fun – live on Purpose. Question your intention – enjoy your life's Quest. Rest like a tree – Read less negativity – Rejoice in loving friendships – Reach out and touch. Sing from your heart Smell the roses – Speak your truth with love – Simplify your life Smile ☺ Surprise yourself. Turn off the T.V. – Take time to see with new eyes – Touch sorrow with compassion – Try Tenderness – Trust! Understand that we are all one family – Unite with others in candlelit silence. Visualise a happy, loving, peaceful life – Visit places of beauty. Wake with gratitude – Walk in Wonder – Work with love. X marks the spot – it's right here, right now! Stay Young at heart and say Yes to life – Yes, Yes, Yes! Zzzzzzz – sleep with gratitude and love.

Susanna Michaelis

We would like to thank everyone for their contributions to this magazine. We hope that you are all keeping well and we hope to see you soon.

Catherine and Roberta