

Easter 2021

Pews News



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Churches

Re-open

Easter

Sunday

4th April



Maybole

10.30am

Crosshill

12noon

He is Risen!

A message from our interim moderator Rev. Paul Russell.

Dear Friends

As I write this, it is beginning to look and feel like Spring and I am sure we all are conscious of the contrast between lockdown when the sun is shining and the colours of nature are appearing all around us, and in the dark, brooding, often damp cold which we have come through.



It lifts our spirits, as does the fact that the vaccine programme has been rolling out efficiently and has touched many of us and has imparted not only the first element of protection against the virus but also an element of confidence: life as we hope it will become seems to be looming larger on the horizon.

With the positive news which lockdown has achieved, we have also received the encouraging announcement from the Scottish Government and the Church of Scotland that we can recommence Church services for up to 50 people with effect from 26th March.

Can I, on your behalf, thank Lynne Rankin, Paula and Jim Lennox, and Jim Whiteford for checking out the Church and filling in all the requisite paperwork to allow us to proceed to restart services.

When we open, we shall, of course, continue with the same routine of careful protection which we exercised before – social distancing, hand sanitizer, one way system, face masks, and no congregational singing. No matter how encouraged we feel by the improvements, it is important that we continue to do our bit to maintain high standards of safety.

This continues to be a time of uncertainty and change for us as a country and as a Church. Last week the Presbytery of Ayr became the fourth out of six presbyteries to vote to join a new regional Presbytery of the South West of Scotland with effect from next year, assuming the General Assembly approves this. This means the next year will be preoccupied with drawing up the detail of how this large Presbytery can operate and how local groupings will function.

In the meantime, there has been a stop placed on processing existing vacancies, including ours. This suggests that no decisions about how vacancies will be dealt with will come about until the new Presbytery is in operation. Effectively we shall be marking time for this period and it is impossible to guess at, let alone predict, what sort of policy a new body will adopt towards Presbytery planning.

“I rejoiced with those who said to me
- Let us go to the House of the Lord”



Only one thing is certain: more change lies ahead. I give you the guarantee that I shall work untiringly with your office bearers to try to achieve the best possible outcome for Crosshill and Maybole.

We cannot tell where the future lies and what shape it will be for ourselves as individuals and our congregations. Can I suggest that it is, therefore, especially appropriate that we begin to look forward again at Easter: and we recall our faith is a resurrection faith. That is not a history lesson in what happened over two thousand years ago: it is an expression of how God operates in the twenty-first century: even out of the worst this world can inflict

on us, God brings new life, new hope, a new future and we are assured of his blessing on our lives, even if we currently cannot glimpse the way ahead. Let us trust in that promise together and look forward with renewed faith starting from our Easter worship onwards. Jesus' word to us this Easter is “Peace be with you.” May we share in a different kind of celebration this Easter but continue to hold fast to the same promises of faith as we always have.

May God bless you all at this time.

Paul

A message from our locum, Rev. Dr. John Lochrie

It was the Psalmist who said, “I joyed when to the House of the Lord, go up they said to me”. That is something we can echo soon. Things are improving thanks to the success of the vaccination programme and the light at the end of the tunnel is getting brighter. Recent government announcements have opened the way for a return to worship. All being well we shall be able to reopen the churches on Easter Sunday, At the moment the signs are promising. All the vital statistics are moving in the right direction, but caution means avoiding fixing dates in stone too soon. While we are planning to be back in church on Easter Sunday you will be kept informed should we be forced to make any change in the date.

There is a certain symbolism in being back in church at Easter. That is the Day of Resurrection, fitting then that it should be a day of resurrection for the church. I know from my weekly phone calls that many of our members are longing to get back together in church on Sundays. It is also the case that a lot of the anxiety felt at the end of last year is being replaced by hope generated by the success of the roll out of the vaccine. Indeed, by April most of our older members will have had their second dose and almost everyone will have had their initial inoculation and be looking forward to the second by the end of May. The signs are that this will be the key to further unlocking of restrictions.

Worship will be much the same as it was when we reopened in September. numbers still limited as they were in the autumn to maintain the necessary social distancing, and sadly no singing yet. Hopefully if we can continue to suppress the virus the day will not be too far off when we can at last “Sing to the Lord a joyful song”. Nevertheless, what matters is being able once again to come together in fellowship to give praise and thanks to God. The one difference is that this time the Crosshill services will be weekly and not monthly as they were in the autumn.



Now that we know the shape of the route map out of lockdown we are sensing that freedom and a return to a more normal way of life are now almost within our grasp. It remains, however, vital that we continue to take care and, follow the rules, even though it can be irksome at times for this is how we can play our part in bringing the situation under control.

With best wishes for a blessed and happy Easter,

John

COMFORT – the Ecumenical Community Newsletter is available to all with an email address – just email Lynne

Sunday **28th March** (Palm Sunday) and **Sunday 4th April** (Easter Sunday)

Hi Lynne

Being stuck inside looking out at the lovely sunshine, I thought this poem by W.D. Cocker might help cheer up the many folks in a similar position and raises a smile.

AULD LIGHTS

The lang dreich sermon reached an en', In bogs o' doctrine foun'ert deep
An' in the wee kirk in the glen, the doverin' buddies woke frae sleep;
An' syne; "Let us unite in praise! They warstled through a paraphrase

The text, frae Lamentations waaled. Had been a screed devoid o' hope;
Life was a vale o' tears, we failed to fin' oor path an' could but grope



In daurkness, Faith an' Truth were dwinlin' -
An' yet oot-by the sun was shinin'.

The wee kirk skailed, an' frae the gloom
Folk stepped into the gladsome licht.
The mavis whistled in the broom
The laverocks soared oot o' sickt,
An' heich abune the sunny braes,
They sang: "Let us unite in praise"!

I just hope the readers will understand the "Guid Scots Tounge"

{my PC doesn't} **Elsbeth Kidd**

Another memory of Worship... JS is making his way through the old Testament.

" I am now nearing the end of Isaiah and I will probably finish that tomorrow. It is not an easy book as it seems to me to ramble all over the place. As I have worked my way through the Old Testament, and particularly through the Psalms, I have been struck by how often the words bring our hymns to mind, and vice versa. Isaiah does the same for Handel's "Messiah".

Talking about "Messiah" I am reminded about one of the great days in my life. This occurred about fifteen years ago when a friend of mine in Musselburgh invited me to participate in a performance of "Messiah" being done in Loretto School Chapel. I had never sung anything from "Messiah" except "Hallelujah", "Worthy is the Lamb", and "Amen", and I am not a sight reader, but I decided to have a go. We rehearsed all day and performed the entire work in the evening. I will never forget the thrill of hearing the final bars of "Hallelujah" echoing round the chapel. It made the hairs on the back of my neck stand up. It was just a week or so after that that Roger Martin and I took part in a scratch Messiah in Ayr Town Hall.

I miss a good sing. I don't know when we will be able to sing again.

Jim Stevens

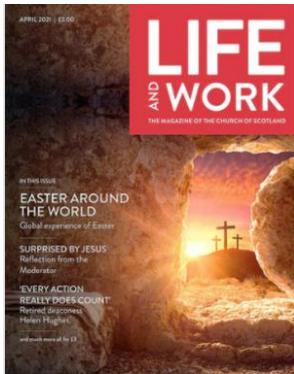
Some thoughts from Elizabeth... **One year on and still we wait for normality whatever that is.**

How has it been for you? For each of us it will have had different ups and non-similar downs. A common factor is missing family and friends. We haven't seen some of our immediate family in all of this time but found ourselves being very grateful for a minor breakdown on our grandson's boat which necessitated a trip to the boatyard in Girvan for repairs and a long afternoon spent in the sunshine. The skipper was glad of homemade cake when Sam returned to the quay in the evening.

We have been well served by shops which have delivered. As someone who really dislikes shopping, it has been good to take to online groceries and a quick phone call to the butcher. Having been married for well over 50 years I have been waiting for most of that time to shop as my mother did. The arrival of a masked delivery person has been a welcome break from routine; albeit it was not a whistling lad on an heavy weight bike.



For more exotic purchases like plants or clothes the Internet is enticing and many suppliers participate in easy fundraising so that means that Maybole Parish Church benefitted by £1.53 in the last month. It's not much but so very painless and once registered the system reminds me automatically whenever I buy anything which qualifies.



For many years I did my daily reading from La Bible, which is a translation akin to Good News. The idea was that I had to concentrate to hear the message and I did not lose my language skill entirely. In pandemic, with no holidays planned for the foreseeable I have reverted to English only, and my elderly brain is enjoying the relief. I have also been enjoy reading Life and Work from cover to cover and comparing it very favourably with the format of earlier times.

Now we have had our Covid jabs we are feeling more confident in returning to limited gatherings and Easter Sunday seems like it will be a celebration like few others. It will be good to share worship with our friends and give thanks for many lessons learned and blessings counted.

Romans 5 v 3-5 (Living Bible version)

³ We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they are good for us—they help us learn to be patient. ⁴ And patience develops strength of character in us and helps us trust God more each time we use it until finally our hope and faith are strong and steady. ⁵ Then, when that happens, we are able to hold our heads high no matter what happens and know that all is well, for we know how dearly God loves us, and we feel this warm love everywhere within us because God has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.

Elizabeth Riome

MAYBOLE PARISH CHURCH COVID 19 PROCEDURES

Accesses - Only direct access to the Church will be used. One-way system will be in effect with social distancing observed at all times. Access to remainder of the Carrick Centre will not be permitted unless in an emergency

Restricted Areas - Only the sanctuary and vestry will be available during services. No access is allowed to any other area.

Contact Information - Contact information will be requested from all individuals or lead member of family group to support Test and Protect. This data will be collected as per the Government Guidelines.

Toilets - Only the toilet in the Vestry will be available during services. Only one person allowed entry at any time. A Marshall will monitor this zone. Sanitiser and hand towels will be available for use on entry and exit. Guidelines will be provided.

Masks - Everyone must wear a mask at all times, unless exempt or the minister preaching.

Collection - Contactless payments are preferred; however, a plate will be available for anyone not wishing to use this method. The collection will be stored in the safe till the following Sunday before being counted and banked.

Cleaning - Cleaning of the sanctuary and vestry areas will be undertaken by a professional cleaning company weekly before each service.

Waste Bins - Waste bins will be provided. All waste will be double bagged before disposal.

Fire - Existing Fire Regulations and Controls will apply.

Signage - Signs provided by the Church of Scotland will be displayed at relevant locations. All signs must be observed.

Maximum Limits - Only 40 people will be permitted in the Church at any one time. This should not be exceeded. Social distancing must be maintained.

Separation Zones - 2 metre separation zones will be established inside and outside the building. Marshalls will ensure these are observed at all times. It should be noted that seating within the Church will be positioned in line with Government Guidelines to maintain the two-metre separation (however households may sit together if seating is available) Seating cannot be moved at any time.

Personal Effects - All personal effects must remain with the individual. i.e. cloak rooms will be unavailable.

Special Needs - An area will be allocated for anyone in a wheelchair. Access to the Disabled Toilet (within the Carrick Centre) will be available on request.

Children - In anticipation that children may attend with adults. We request that they remain with the adult.

Incidents - No one should attend if they have any symptoms of COVID 19, however if anyone becomes unwell, they should inform a Marshall and go home as soon as possible. If they are so unwell that they require an ambulance, we will phone 999 and let the call handler know if we are concerned about COVID-19. Whilst you wait for advice or an ambulance to arrive, we will find somewhere safe for the unwell person to sit which is at least 2 metres away from other people, and in a separate room.



A note from the editor – A year ago this month, I sat on the bench at the front of the Carrick Centre and gave out the first Covid edition of Pews News. We were at that time still able to hand deliver some. I also wanted to be there in case anyone came to church not realising services had stopped.

Elders came and went over the hour or so I sat there, but a lot of the time I sat with only the trees and the birds of the air for company. (pictured here)

It reminded me to worship the Lord not just in the beauty of holiness but in the beauty of Creation. Since then, I have worshipped the Lord in lots of different ways - ways I wouldn't have done if it weren't for the pandemic. From my first zoom



church service with friends at my mother church St. James' in Pollok, Glasgow to celebrating Easter online. **Church has been different this year, but it is still church. We are still the family of God.**

Treasurer's Report - Included in this edition of the pew news is a very brief summary of the 2020 Accounts. To save on postage costs, I have reduced the 13 page 2020 Accounts to a summarised version, not an easy task!

A full copy will be posted on the Church website and paper copies can be requested from me. At a later date, there will be a chance for me to present the accounts to the congregation at the end of a Sunday service.

A few points to note:

Regular income dropped by £10,000 (not including Fundraising losses) despite members continuing to give.

We received a legacy of £3,000 which makes the overall total income look better than it really is.

No loans have been paid since March 2019.

Only unrestricted funds are available for everyday expenditure. (£29,174 at end of December 2020)

If you have any questions or comments about the 2020 accounts or any other Church financial matter or to request a copy of the full 2020 Accounts, please contact me on 883655.

Thank you for your continued support for Maybole Parish Church.

Helen McArthur

Maybole Parish Church of Scotland
Charity No.SC003164
Year Ended 31st December 2020
Summary of Accounts

The principal source of income of the Church is through offerings, which includes FWO envelopes, standing orders either annually, monthly or weekly, open plate contributions and miscellaneous donations throughout the year.

The table below shows a comparison of 2019/ 2020 regular income.

	2020	2019	Difference
FWO (non Gift Aid)	£7,737.00	£9,886.00	-2149
Gift Aid Donations	£29,564.00	£33,627.00	-4063
Tax Recovered on Gift Aid	£8,370.00	£10,416.00	-2046
Standing Orders (non Gift Aid)	£3,388.00	£2,988.00	400
Open Plate	£1,206.00	£3,753.00	-2547
	<u>£50,265.00</u>	<u>£60,670.00</u>	<u>-10405.00</u>

As you can see from the above table, our regular income has dropped by £10,000 over 2020. This is not surprising under the circumstances and could, in fact, have been much greater if Church members had not been so loyal in their giving while they were unable to attend.

As well as several miscellaneous donations, a number of donations were made to specifically cover the publication costs of the Church magazine.

Account Balances at 31st December 2020	2020	2019
Current Account (unrestricted)	930	534
Reserve (unrestricted)	17676	9669
Legacy (restricted)	3000	
Fabric Fund(restricted)	1338	1338
Fundraising (unrestricted)	10568	9940
Choir Fund(restricted)	162	697
Guild(restricted)	716	716
Youth Work (restricted)	437	437
Youth Worker (restricted)	7500	7500
Bell Trust and Graves Trust (restricted)	1930	1851
New Church Project	358	358
Total Assets at 31st December 2020	<u>£44,615.00</u>	<u>£33,040.00</u>

Please consider the unrestricted totals which are the working funds we have available on a day to day basis.

The total of unrestricted is £29174 for 2020. While this appears to be good, it is deceptive.

We have not paid any of the loans since March 2019. They amount to £60,400 and £64,190.

These are approximate figures since at time of publication I am awaiting accurate figures from Church of Scotland.

Collections for Third Parties	2020	2019
Shelter (December 2019)	100	
Hollybush House		370
Session Clerk Retirement	455	
Cancer Research		10
	<u>£555.00</u>	<u>£380</u>

Maybole Parish Church of Scotland
Charity No.SC003164
Congregational Account Year Ended 31st December 2020

	2019		2020
		Receipts	
		Offerings	
	9,886	FWO non Gift Aid	7,737
	33,627	Gift Aid	29,564
		(FWO, Standing Orders and Annuals)	
	3,753	Open Plate	1,206
	2,988	Standing Orders non gift aid	3,388
60,670	10,416	Tax Recovered on Gift Aid	8,370
		Other Receipts	50,265
	1131	Tea/Coffees	239
	713	Sales Table	426
	100	Funerals	0
	4410	Church of Scotland transfer	
	398	Minister's computer	
	1887	Miscellaneous Donations	2,078
		Legacy	3,000
		Grants	450
8,691	52	Interest	33
<u>£69,361.00</u>		Total	<u>£56,491.00</u>
		Payments	
	32814	Ministries and Mission	24,932
33,975	1161	Presbytery Dues	0
		Local Staffing Costs	24,932
	1381	Minister's Travelling Expenses	109
		Locum Travelling Expenses	108
		Moderator Travelling Expenses	
		Locum Fees	5215
	104	Pulpit Supply	0
	650	Telephone etc.	0
	3000	Organist	3000
	55	Organist Supply	0
5,280	90	Office Bearers' Expenses	135
		Building Costs	8,567
		Heating/ Lighting Manse	407
	853	Insurance	650
	1223	Council Tax	0
13,448	11372	Carrick Centre	9,177
		Other Local Costs	10,234
	327	Printing, Stationery,FWO envelopes	199
		Magazine costs	810
	62	Session/ Communion Expenses	0
	198	Music Organ, Piano	204
	4635	Manse bathroom	
		Costs relating to manse letting	
	397	Minister's computer	
	299	Church computer	
6,732	814	Misc.	142
<u>£59,435.00</u>		Total	<u>£45,088.00</u>
		Loan payments	
<u>£8,339.00</u>	8339	Taken from Reserves	<u>0</u>
			<u>£0.00</u>



It is always with sadness that we hear of a friend's passing and in our last edition I omitted to include the loss last December, of a faithful member of the Kirk and beloved husband - **William Young**.

I was reminded of Billy's death by his wife Jane, via What's app, as her family are all now in Australia.

One of the hardest things over the last 12 months, has been our restricted support of those who are grieving. We ask the Lord to bless and comfort them.

"Blessed are they that mourn for they will be comforted"

If you have lost some-one close to you this past year or so, please know that you are in our prayers and in God's hands.



Visiting other places of Worship

Pictured right is St. John the Baptist church in Flookburgh, in the Lake district. I don't expect you will have heard of it. Flookburgh is not a large place, but it is in a beautiful part of the country – just south of Grange over Sands.



We were visiting the area, a few years ago as Emily was working at a nearby holiday camp. And as I like to visit different churches, Stephen dropped me off here. The church was open to the public, and visitors were welcome to wander around and explore its history.

It was fascinating to see parallels between the denominations and worship of this small church and the churches I grew up in. So different, yet in so many ways the same.



But the lasting memory I have of the place, is not the architecture or the liturgy or even its extensive history.

But outside at the foot of one of the drain pipes was this profusion of little bluish purple flowers (they may have aptly, been forget me nots, I'm not sure) It just struck me that no matter how we as humans try to glorify God and praise His Holy name – Nature does it better and God's own creation demonstrates most clearly His Majesty.
God Bless, LR



These 'Covid' editions of the Pews News were put together to help everyone feel more connected with the rest of the congregation. As we look forward, to our churches re-opening I am hopeful that this may be the last of our COVID editions. If it is, we will return to a quarterly magazine. Thank you to everyone who has sent material in.