

Soundings

Portobello & Joppa Parish
Church Magazine

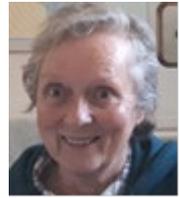
May 2020



Portobello and Joppa Parish Church

Public worship is temporarily suspended because of the current situation

From the editor



Stewart writes in his letter about a young monk in his cell. We feel fortunate to have a whole house to live in, with a garden, lovely weather (at the time of writing), and green spaces to walk in. Many of my friends are emailing triumphantly that they've spring-cleaned the house and tidied all their cupboards during this time of enforced isolation from family and their usual social circle – but strangely these things haven't quite reached the top of my to-do list yet. Since we're separated from our children and grandchildren, we feel the need to do more interesting activities, to cheer ourselves up. Many of our walks have been on Murrayfield Golf Course, currently closed to players. We've lived in that area



for 31 years and had never realised what a big space it occupied and how beautiful it is. I'm currently plotting a people's coup, to turn it into a public park... .

I thought this was going to be a short magazine because

nothing much is happening, but in fact, lots is – much of it via Zoom (a video conferencing website which features largely in this edition of *Soundings*) and over the internet. Michelle tells us about Breakfast Club via Zoom, Godly Play via Zoom and Messy Church via – you've guessed it – Zoom. This has also facilitated the Book Group's discussions.

We have reports about the baked potato lunch – *that* seems a long time ago – and Junior Drama (postponed) and there's an appeal from CrossReach, the social work arm of the Church of Scotland, who need money and prayers in this time of difficulty. And if you can find joy despite it all, you're asked to make a paper chain of thankfulness for when it's all over. Thanks as ever to all contributors.

Pam



From the minister

Dear friends and neighbours

‘Go and sit in your cell and your cell will teach you everything.’

That is line taken from one of the Desert Fathers, the monks who lived simple and focused lives in the early centuries of the Christian faith.

If I remember correctly, it was ostensibly spoken to a young monk who was having trouble praying or concentrating on the religious life. An older and more experienced monk responds with this simple and rather pedestrian (banal?) suggestion. Find God by sitting in a cell? Really?

There was a bit of frantic activity at the beginning of the lockdown. Responding to changes that were underway required energy, imagination and no small amount of fortitude. Now, however, there seems to be a pattern underway and many people seem to have adjusted with greater or lesser equanimity.

Conversations are still important. On the phone, during video conferencing calls and perhaps on the one-a-day bit of walking or exercising, there does seem to be a yearning for dialogue and chatting. And that is as it should be: we are social creatures, and we in the church are called to be people of community and communion.

Yet, the monk’s words came springing back to mind: go to your cell and it will teach you everything.

There is no small amount of enforced solitude, isolation and perhaps loneliness. A mode of being and a way of living that none of us would necessarily have chosen of our own accord.

So many of us are now in our flats and homes and places of residence on our own or perhaps with only a few others. It can be frustrating and it can be enervating and it can be numbing. I especially think of those families with small children who have limited (if any) access to the outdoors: exhausting probably summarises the situation better.

What is God telling us in all of this?

Looking at it all through the wisdom of Christ, what is there to discover?

How might the Spirit of grace be with us?

The older monk was telling the younger monk: find God where you are. Go to your cell, return to your everyday life, open your heart and your mind and your eyes and your ears and your soul, and you will find God. Not that there aren't moments of utter despondency and a spiritual lassitude that the monks called akedia. It will be there. Not that there won't be utter weariness and anger and resentment. These too will be there. But so too will God.

We are born into our everyday lives and in our everyday lives we are called to discover God and witness to Christ's love. To do this we were given the gift of the Holy Spirit. Our homes are our cells. Our families are our cells. Our workplaces are our cells. Our flats are our cells. Our rooms are our cells. It sounds so limiting. Yet perhaps at the same time it can be focusing and liberating.

'Go and sit in your cell and your cell will teach you everything.'

This lockdown has had a huge impact on our lives. The pandemic has had a huge impact on all of our lives. The ripples will be significant and long lasting. We do not know what the future holds.

'Go and sit in your cell and your cell will teach you everything.'

Now more than ever we need time with God, with Christ and with the Spirit.

Now more than ever we need to sit still, breathe deeply, remember those who suffer and give thanks for those who care.

Now more than ever, perhaps God is telling us something. But what?

‘Go and sit in your cell and your cell will teach you everything.’

There we may find the strength and fortitude to continue in grace. There we may find the presence of a God too often obscured in busy-ness and chatter. There, we may discover that Christ sits with us.

Stewart

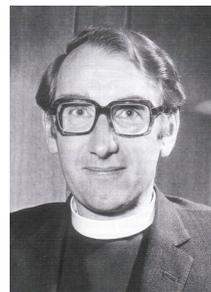
Church Register

Funerals

- 7 April** David Porteous of Craigentiny
16 April Margaret Watret of Gilberstoun
17 April Gladys MacNiven of Queen’s Bay Lodge

Rev Glyn Rees Taverner

The congregation will be sad to hear of the death on April 23 of the Reverend Glyn Rees Taverner, who was the much-loved minister of St Philip’s from 1969 – 1983. A tribute to him will appear in next month’s edition of *Soundings*.



Communication to PJPC members in response to Covid-19 pandemic

April 2020



Dear friend of Portobello and Joppa Parish Church (“PJPC”),

We hope that you and your loved ones are adapting to the new challenges that we face as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic. These are clearly very worrying times for us all. We do hope that the “Thoughts for the Day” and other communications that you are receiving from PJPC are providing some comfort during these difficult days.

None of us knows what’s round the corner or when this crisis might be over. However, we believe that we can take comfort in the words of Jesus as recorded by St. Matthew:

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?” Matthew 6:25-27 (New International Version)

As you might imagine, we Convenors, along with Stewart and Lourens, are trying to plan for the range of potential outcomes arising from the current Covid-19 pandemic. This is an incredibly challenging time for us as individuals and as a church family. We’re very aware that many of you are grateful for any offers of help, support and comfort during these worrying times. Some of you are working on the front-line in a health or social care setting. Others

are simply doing their bit by following the Government's guidance to stay at home. Whatever your personal circumstances, we hope that you will continue to feel valued as an important member of the PJPC church family.

We feel truly blessed to be part of such a thriving church community. On a practical note, we're trying hard to be faithful stewards of the many resources with which we've been blessed, including our finances. This includes doing what we can to minimise the impact of an expected reduction in income that PJPC receives over the next few months while the church buildings remain closed. For example, we've made it easier for people to make donations on line via the PJPC [website](#).

We also have an important role to play in supporting the work of the Church of Scotland nationally. In particular, many of the churches with fewer resources than ours rely on the support that you give them through the Ministry and Mission contribution that we make each month. This is something that we're able to do due to your regular giving and ongoing generosity. Thank you for continuing to do so – we realise how difficult this is for many of you.

Finally, we'd love to hear from you about anything we've outlined above, or the support that PJPC is able to offer during these strange and unusual times in the life of our Christian journey. You can do so by contacting us via office@portyjoppachurch.org.

May the Lord continue to bless you and keep you safe.

PJPC Convenors¹

Breakfast Club and BC 2.0 Through Zoom



Each Sunday since worship was suspended, our youth group has met at our usual time of 9:30am-10:30am on Sundays. There is still breakfast; for many it is still sausage rolls or bacon rolls. There is still lots of coffee for the leaders – Jamie, Lourens , Robert and Michelle. There is still Bible study along with ice-breaker discussions and praying together. The difference, though, is that this is done online, via Zoom. We are still the youth group, just meeting from our own breakfast tables at home.

Each week, we connect and catch up on one another's week – the highs and lows. We open up the Bibles each young person received as they joined the Breakfast Club. We dig into the scripture and reflect on our understanding of it and what we can draw out from it in this time of COVID-19. We then authentically share our concerns with each and we pray together. There are ten young people who have consistently logged in over the last month for online Breakfast Club. It has been a powerful experience of connection and support in these troubling times.

Our youth group would usually be staying up all night in the church from 10pm on Holy Saturday until the 7am Easter Sunrise service. The Easter Vigil is the highlight of the year for Breakfast Clubbers and the point of entry into BC for the rising P7s. This is a loss for our group this Easter. However, as the Easter story is the essential scripture to our faith, we can explore it and celebrate Jesus anytime of the year. We have postponed the Easter Vigil 2020, not cancelled it. We look forward to whenever it happens later this year!

In the meantime, we want to welcome the P7s to BC at Easter as is tradition. Each P7 from Sunday Stars has been gifted their Breakfast Club Bible via post-delivery, purchased from Amazon with funds raised for Breakfast Club by the congregation through the jam/home baking stall. Thank you all for that! Each

P7 has been mailed an invitation to youth group and their parents have been given log-in details should they wish to start meeting with us from Easter morning. The youth group members are looking forward to welcoming them to our group temporarily online and then eventually in person back in the hall as well.

Meanwhile, our BC alumni and oldest BCers (S5s/S6s) have started to connect on Zoom as well. BC 2.0 met recently with David, Lourens and Michelle. It was such a joy to see all their faces and know they are safe. Nine young adults re-connected, especially welcoming back Kinga, who had been away travelling on her gap year when the lockdown began, and celebrating Coll, who works for the NHS and has been on the frontline of this pandemic.

The group decided they would like to meet through Zoom one evening every week as the lockdown continues. It was then also suggested by one of the young people that this will be good to keep up after COVID-19 has passed as a way to stay connected with each other when everyone is again away from home studying at university or travelling. Perhaps we will find ways to keep Zooming with our young adults even when normal church groups begin again.

Michelle



Book group – report on Miss Garnet’s Angel by Salley Vickers

The book group Zoomed in to a meeting this month. The new technology worked remarkably well and members found it easy to air their comments. *Miss Garnet’s Angel* by Salley Vickers is largely set in Venice and for some this evoked memories of time spent there. Venice being a centre of Medieval trade and Renaissance art led to it being an ideal setting for the unfolding of the story.

The notion that someone as “sheltered” as Miss Garnet would set off to Venice for 6 months seemed a little out of character, some might say naive, but real people do make unusual choices. The book raised much discussion about the role of the Apocrypha and the issue of what was included or excluded from the Bible. Like Tobias in the Book of Tobit (or Tobias) many people in the book were on a significant journey. A parallel discussion noted the contrasts between the Medieval Catholic and Protestant approaches to the availability of the Bible in a language other than Latin.

The number of coincidences in the book jarred with some and the role of angels both then and now was aired. Miss Garnet was on a journey, as were most of the characters, and she found it challenging to deal with the unreliability of her assessment of whom she should trust. Her trusting nature allowed her to accept the use of the American couple’s flat and reminded us of the trust we sometimes put in strangers and fellow travellers.

Some found the ending unsatisfactory but in general the book gave rise to much discussion and was enjoyed by most.

Ian

Lockdown China Teacher – a message from China



It has been a while since my last post when we were in 'lock-down' in China and since I've had a few emails recently, I think it's probably time to update everyone.

We are just finishing our 7th week of E-Learning, seven weeks of being mainly housebound and seven weeks of uncertainty. We are healthy, we are happy, and we are humbled. We are allowed to move around freely now with a green QR code that we show when we get our temperature taken. You get your temperature taken everywhere, and it's just become part of the routine.

Most restaurants and shopping centres are now open, and life is coming back to our city. As we watch the rest of the world begin their time inside, here are some of my reflections on the last seven weeks:

1. Accept that you have no control over the situation. Let go of any thoughts of trying to plan too much for the next month or two. Things change so fast. Don't be angry and annoyed at the system. Anxiety goes down, and you make the best of the situation - whatever that might be for you. Accept that this is what it is and things will get easier.

2. Try not to listen to/read/watch too much media. It WILL drive you crazy. There is such a thing as too much!

3. The sense of community I have felt during this time is incredible. I could choose who I wanted to spend my energy on - who I wanted to call, message and connect with and found the quality of my relationships has improved.

4. Appreciate this enforced downtime. When do you ever have time like this? I will miss it when we go back to the fast-paced speed of the 'real world'.

5. Time goes fast. I still haven't picked up the ukelele I planned to learn, and there are box set TV shows I haven't watched yet.

6. As a teacher, the relationships I have built with my students have only continued to grow. I have loved seeing how independent they are: filming themselves to respond to tasks while also learning essential life skills such as balance, risk-taking and problem-solving, that even we as adults are still learning.

7. You learn to appreciate the little things: sunshine through the window, flowers blossoming and being able to enjoy a coffee in a café. To those just beginning this journey, you will get through it. Listen to what you are told, follow the rules and look out for each other. There is light at the end of the tunnel.

Contributed by Davina

Godly Play

Our Sunday Stars participate in full Godly Play sessions with Catherine Cumming, Reuben Addis and me whenever the schools and Sunday Stars are on holiday. As we are currently in a time of school closure as well as suspended worship at the church, we are now offering full Godly Play sessions via Zoom for church families each Sunday from 11am to 12pm.



This has provided a unique opportunity for Godly Play in a couple of ways – we’re exploring how to have authentic community and safe space for childhood spirituality online while also introducing parents from the church to what happens in the halls. Not many parents, or other members of the congregation, have had the opportunity to come to the halls with the children when we are worshipping at church. It has been a real blessing over the last month of Godly Play online to see the children welcoming their parents into this space

with us.

What does a Godly Play Zoom look like? Well, I log into Zoom just before 11am, as my own children get comfortable on the living room couch. We say hello and welcome each family as they arrive to the Zoom meeting. We check in with each family to hear about highlights of the week. Once everyone is there, we all get comfortable in our own homes to be ready for the day’s story.



Then I bring out the story materials of the day and we begin. In the last couple weeks we have shared the Parable of the Good Shepherd; The Great Family (Abraham and Sarah); Mary, the Mother of God; and the Faces of Easter. When our story is finished, our circle (Zoom meeting), wonders together. We wonder what part of the story we liked the best, what was most important in the story, where we see ourselves in the story and if there is anything we would change about the story, but still have all the story that we need. This is open wondering –

children are welcomed to wonder silently or out loud with the whole group.

After we wonder, our response to the story continues. As I put away our materials, I encourage our circle to respond in their own homes for the next 20 minutes. They are encouraged to look around and see if they can tell the story themselves using toys or household objects, create something using art materials in their home, read the story in their Bibles or other books at home, pause and sit in silence in their home or back garden, to stay on the Zoom and chat with me or continue wondering with their parent or sibling, or to find any other way they need to respond and reflect to the story as they continue to wonder.

By 11:45am, we return to the Zoom meeting to say a prayer together and then enjoy our feast. In a regular Godly Play session at PJPC, this is biscuits and fruit but at home, this is whatever snack we have available or even our Sunday lunch. We sit together with our screens and eat together and chat.



When we reach 12pm, I give any announcements of the week, invite them to continue their response to the story throughout the day, share our Godly Play blessing, and then we say goodbye to each other. I say goodbye to each family by name as parents sign their homes off the Zoom meeting. When it is just me on the call, the Zoom meeting ends.

Then I turn to my two Sunday Stars in my home and we continue our response to the story, have lunch and then slowly tidy away the busy morning of being church at home.

It is a full experience for the participants and the storyteller. What is most important, though, is the connection and relationship. Godly Play is about journeying together as we explore the Bible and our faith together. We sit in a circle for our stories when at church as we are all equal in that space – all learning from each other. I wondered if this ethos would still be possible in a Zoom session. What a joy to find it is. If we came to a Sunday when what the children and parents needed most that day was to just talk and connect, then that would also be Godly Play. If all we do in that hour is build the circle and maintain relationship through this time of social distancing, then we are doing Godly Play. It is relationship that connects us and connects us to our creator – a relational God who is at all times – Father, Son and Holy Spirit; Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer.

I have always been thankful for the life's work of Jerome W. Berryman, who began developing Godly Play from the 1960s in America. Now in 2020, this ministry feels all the more important. This is what's happening with several families from PJPC on Sunday mornings at the moment. I wonder if you too would like to know more about Godly Play. Message me for more details at families@portyjoppychurch.org

Michelle

Messy Church



Messy Church has had an interesting winter. In January, we learned about when Jesus was presented in the Temple at eight days old and Simeon and Anna met him and recognised him as the Messiah. This story and the activities, reminded us of the need for intergenerational connection – something we are blessed with through Messy Church. Simeon and Anna, who were full of years, met with this newborn baby and knew him, the one they had been waiting to meet. We explored this story more by celebrating our generations at Messy Church. For one activity, we welcomed in some guest activity leaders from the “Nimble Thimbles” who shared some knitting skills with families and one of our Breakfast Clubbers shared some technical skills with an ipad with older generations. There were great conversations over dinner across the generations as well.

In February, we borrowed the giant floor labyrinth from St Mark’s. The church chairs were cleared away to make room for this prayer path. During our celebration as Taizé music was shared, all of the families walked the labyrinth together until everyone was jumbled together in the centre. Throughout the Messy Church, we explored ways to pray and find silence in Lent. We began this journey to Easter together.

Our March Messy Church was a whole new experience! This time, it was Messy Church Online via a Zoom. As we had just entered the lockdown due to Covid-19, Reuben and Michelle needed to think through – how do we do Messy Church when we can’t be together? What does that look like? In the end, we decided to have it at the same time we would usually meet on the last Saturday of the month. Messy Church families called into the Zoom meeting. Stewart shared the Bible story of the day – The Last Supper. Reuben led us in an interactive prayer – we rubbed lotion into our dry hands

as we prayed together. We remembered the hands that care for us and gave thanks for the NHS.

After this celebration time, Michelle gave the families a list of activities (which had also been emailed to families earlier in the week). Families then took an hour and half to do these activities based on the story in their own homes. At 5:30pm, everyone logged back into the Zoom call to say a dinner grace together and then eat together from our own kitchen tables. We played a game together and then Reuben led us in the Messy Grace to say goodbye. The Messy Church online experience was a bit of an experiment, but it worked. It was relationship, celebration, creation and our very messy selves finding our way to be church together online. What a gift!

We will meet again via Zoom call on 25 April from 3:30pm-6pm. If you would like to join the April online Messy Church, please contact Michelle for log-in details. We hope to be back to the halls by May Messy Church, but we're taking things one day at a time. In the meantime, find us online!

Michelle

There is a knock on St Peter's door. He looks out and a man is standing there. St Peter is about to begin his interview when the man disappears. A short time later there's another knock. St Peter goes to the door, sees the man, opens his mouth to speak, and the man disappears once again.

'Hey, are you playing games with me?' St Peter calls after him when this all happens a third time.

'No,' the man's distant voice replies anxiously. 'They're trying to resuscitate me.'

A Call to Prayer

“Let us run with endurance the race” Hebrews 12, 1.

Experienced runners know that if they just keep going, eventually they’ll get their “second wind”. Some refer to it as “runner’s high” – a release of adrenalin that makes you feel that you could run all day. So, the word for you today is: keep running until you get your second wind.



Paul says, “Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so readily ensnares us, and ... run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of God.”

Keep in mind that what you’re going through now is temporary – so look for a turnaround. In Isaiah 40, we read: “The hills will become a plain, and the rough country will be made smooth.”

Keep running!

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ST6 4JF*

What's happening so far with Junior Drama this year? Rock Bottom - cancelled until further notice

Hi everyone! Everyone at Junior Drama is hoping you are all keeping well in this uncertain and worrying time.

What had we been up to before we broke up due to the virus? Well, singing auditions had all been done, scripts had been all handed out, casting had been done and the young ones had begun rehearsing their parts for the show. So far we had learnt four songs and dances, thanks to Sandra's and Fiona's amazing musical skills and young Emma's talent as a dancer. Charlotte has taught some of the children how to use puppets for the show.

We also had our parents' night and thanks to Maree we have managed to sign up the parents to help us on show week. We loved performing at the Christmas Eve service. We also had an exciting time taking Junior Drama to see the pantomime "Cinderella" at the Brunton Hall in Musselburgh. We also enjoyed seeing the adult drama group's performance of "Carousel", where some of our young actors had parts in the show. Well done to them.

Unfortunately though, everything has come to a halt with COVID-19. It was with a great disappointment and sadness to us to inform the children that we had to cancel the show until further notice. We had been in touch with them, though, to make sure that they are all ok and to find out what they have been doing to entertain themselves; and everyone seems in good spirits.

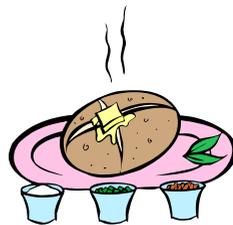
Excitingly though, there have been some suggestions to keep in touch by using Zoom to go over their lines, also the suggestion of having a Junior Drama art gallery to show their pictures and art work to each other which is quite exciting. I am now in the process of trying to get these two things organised and hopefully by the time you read this it will all be in place.



We wish you and your family good health.
Jamie

Baked Potato Lunch

The Sunday Stars and Breakfast Club served a baked potato and salad lunch fundraiser following the 11am worship on 1 March 2020. The church hall was full of people of all ages sharing a meal together and raising money for two great charities – ASHA and Richmond’s Hope.



ASHA is an organisation working with people in the slums of Delhi, India. Their mission is to work with the urban poor to help establish long-term transformation to their quality of life. ASHA looks to support holistic community-based healthcare, empowerment, financial inclusion, education and environmental improvements through training, resourcing and encouraging those in the slum communities to strive for their basic human rights.

Richmond’s Hope is a more local charity, based here in Edinburgh with another hub in Glasgow. Richmond’s Hope provides support for children and young people who have been bereaved. It is a safe space for children and young people to work through their own grief verbally and non-verbally. The staff support these young people with saving memories of loved ones who died and exploring their feelings around this loss.

We were astounded as our treasurer counted the donations turned in. What a joy to say that the fundraising lunch has raised a total of £1070.76! Thank you all so very much for your support of the baked potato lunch fundraiser – whether you cooked, served food, cleaned the dishes, cleared the tables, donated money, enjoyed the food or just wishes us well! We are thrilled to be able to split the donations and give just over £500 each to ASHA and Richmond’s Hope.



Coronavirus (Covid-19) Urgent Appeal

– update from CrossReach



Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

CrossReach has residential services in over 50 locations across Scotland. They have all put in place additional measures to protect the residents and staff.

Each residential service is home to the people who live there. As part of our ethos, we are maintaining that home feeling as much as possible, while balancing it with the clinical needs of the current pandemic and the need to wear PPE.

Like most Social Care residential settings, CrossReach's Care Homes were set up as homes, not clinical establishments. This meant we had to resource, from scratch, all these residential services with the necessary gowns, masks, visors and associated equipment.

The other day, 25,000 masks arrived at our central distribution site and were sent out to our services that same day. This will be repeated regularly for the foreseeable future. These masks cost about 25 times more than they did just a few weeks ago!

Your donations are helping with the provision of PPE but much, much more PPE is needed.

Family visits

We've all had a tear in our eye as we watch Care Home residents who have not been able to be with, or to hug, their family. To help counter this in our residential services we are using digital technology (iPads etc.) to help maintain family connections. This comes at a cost for new technology and training staff to use it, as well as supporting residents to connect with their family.

Your donations are helping provide this morale-saving technology. More technology is needed.

Staffing and Volunteers

The amazing CrossReach staff team have really stepped up to the challenges they face daily. Without them, we simply could not care for the many people we do.

CrossReach's front line staff are, quite simply, **super-heroes**. And they are supported by an army of other super-heroes behind the scenes. But they are all human super-heroes who can also be affected by the virus, or whose families can be affected. This results in staff having to self-isolate. As our residents are our first priority, this can result in other staff or agency workers covering shifts, with resulting additional costs.

Your donations are helping with the cost of these additional shifts. More shifts need covered.

Volunteers are also helping hugely! Their willingness to do whatever they can is a massive help to our staff, and we are so grateful to them. To find out how you can join our wonderful volunteers, see [HERE](https://www.crossreach.org.uk/support-us/volunteer) [<https://www.crossreach.org.uk/support-us/volunteer>] or email volunteer.withus@crossreach.org.uk or phone 0131 657 2000.

Please continue giving

Please do keep giving! We simply don't know how long the need will continue for, but certainly for the foreseeable future. This means there will still be a need for your donations next week, next month, and as long this pandemic crisis continues. Some of you may also have received an appeal letter through the post. Please, do give.

The generosity we have witnessed so far from the many different people, churches and cafés etc. is wonderful. The need, however, is beyond anything we could have imagined.

We really do need you standing with us financially throughout the whole lifetime of this pandemic. Whether you have given before, or have never given, you can join with the many others who are giving and help by giving now. Every £10, £50, £100, £500 helps. Thank you.

Please, give what you can and be a blessing to those fighting so hard to be the physical representation of Jesus amidst this pandemic.

There are several ways to give:

You can **give** [HERE](https://www.justgiving.com/crossreachchurch/donate) [<https://www.justgiving.com/crossreachchurch/donate>] **right now.**

Or you can **send a cheque** (payable to CrossReach) to: Covid-19 Emergency Appeal, CrossReach, Charis House, 47 Milton Road East, Edinburgh, EH15 2SR

Or you can **give by credit / debit card**; call us on 0131 434 4374.

Or you can **give by bank transfer**: call us on 0131 454 4374 for our bank details.

Or you can **set up a monthly standing order**: call us on 0131 454 4374 for more details.

And please keep praying.

As the Apostle Paul says, "Brothers and sisters, pray for us." (1 Thessalonians 5:25)

In addition to praying with the Prayer Diary, please pray for the health and well-being of those we work with, the CrossReach staff team and all our wonderful supporters.

Thank you for your support, both financially and by standing with us in prayer before the throne of our Heavenly Father.

Pete

Donor Partnership Officer



Gardening with George

As I sit and write this, the sun is streaming in through the windows and the cool breeze is stimulating the daffodils and tulips into a merry dance, " fluttering and dancing in the breeze". I have many pots of daffodils in flower at the moment but soon the flowers will fade and they will have to be moved out of sight to recuperate. I will feed them with some high potash fertiliser (if I can get it in these times of lockdown and shop closure) and keep them well watered while the foliage dies down. As the foliage dies down, the goodness in the foliage is drawn down into the bulb. If the foliage is cut off, the bulb starves and the flowering next year is likely to be nonexistent or at least very poor.



Gill and I walk out most days and enjoy the views of other folks' gardens. Many front gardens have never looked so tidy and clear of weeds, with the lawns neatly trimmed and edged. One of the interesting shrubs that is starting to put out its new spring growth now is pieris. The young growths on *Pieris Formosa* var '*Forrestii*' is one such plant, and has bright - often lipstick-red - young leaves in spring. A spectacular plant.

So too are the interesting array of Camellias, many of which have been smothered in blossom this year. Tucked in tight against a house wall or free standing in a corner of the garden, they are very rewarding plants. Once flowering is over, just give them a quick haircut to maintain their shape, give them a feed and keep them well watered over the drier (hopefully) summer months.

In the allotment and veg patch, peas, broad beans, carrots, spinach, lettuce and small turnips have all been sown. Cress has been sown in old yoghurt pots filled with compost and by sowing a new pot each week we manage to keep a successional crop. You don't actually need to use compost for cress. Fold up a piece of kitchen towel, place it on a saucer or an old plastic fruit

container (I have used the plastic containers that blueberries come in), dampen the kitchen towel and sprinkle a small pinch of seed over the top. Set it aside and watch it grow. After about ten days, boil the eggs ready for the egg and cress sandwiches.

There is a lot we can be thankful for in these hard times. I'm lucky that I have a garden and allotment but many will be less fortunate. On your daily walk round the parish or local streets enjoy other folks' gardening efforts, stay safe, keep your distance and above all keep smiling and washing your hands.

Happy gardening and viewing.

George

Paper Chains: Celebration of Thankfulness

Where are you finding moments of joy in this time of lockdown? What have been the highlights? What can you thank God for each day? I wonder if you could write these moments of gratitude down on strips of paper and connect them together to form a chain of thankfulness that grows each day as we are at home. Then, when we gather again at PJPC, bring your paper chains with you and we'll connect them all together.



I wonder if this celebration of thankfulness will make a paper chain that, once fully connected, surrounds the entire congregation on a Sunday morning. If we hang up our prayers of thanks in the church, can we wrap the whole congregation in prayers of joy and thanks? The ministry team at PJPC invite you and your family to collect these moments of joy and moments of thankfulness and we look forward to the day our chain is connected and we are reunited in person.

Michelle

Getting to know you – Maureen. She says, “I was brought up in Windsor Place Church and attended Sunday School and Bible Class there. I went to Brownies and then played badminton with the church team in the Churches League. No time for Guides!!



I moved my lines to St Philip’s when I married Henry and Windsor Place closed.

I’ve always enjoyed being involved in church life and taught in the Sunday School here, led the Young Women’s Group and played more badminton, a long time ago! My niche now is enjoying making coffee on a Sunday morning.”

Q. What is a favourite hymn, and why?

A. *“Now thank we all our God”. I remember singing it regularly as a child and we sang it at our wedding too.*

Q. What is an early church memory?

A. *Easter bonnet and red sandals on, then off to church for the Easter service.*

Q. What are you reading at the moment?

A. *The President is Missing” by Bill Clinton and James Patterson. Just beginning and hope it’s not going to be too gruesome!*

Q. What is your most prized possession?

A. *My family.*

Q. Tell us something that not many people know about you.

A. *I passed my certificate to teach Scottish Country Dancing while at Moray House.*



Q. What luxury would you take to a desert island?

A. Chocolate, definitely! Couldn't survive without it.

Q. What do you do to relax?

A. Walking, knitting, reading, watching sport on TV and listening to Classic FM

Q. What do you miss (or not miss) about being a child? / Don't answer this if you ARE a child!

A. Long hot summers. We seemed to be outdoors all the time.

Q. What makes your heart sing?

A. Sunshine and sea breezes

Gladys Dunn was new to the area and decided to visit the church nearest to her new home. She enjoyed the service, the fine church and the lovely music by the choir, but the sermon that morning went on, and on, and on. Worse, it wasn't even very interesting. Glancing round, she saw more than one person in the congregation nodding off. Finally it was over.

After the service, she turned to a still sleepy-looking gentleman next to her, extended her hand, and said, 'I'm Gladys Dunn.'

'Me too.' he replied.



PS This joke does not apply to PJPC!

Brain Teaser

This month I've chosen words, the first letters of which spell out CORONA VIRUS. Can you find them in this word search?



They are: *church, overcome, recovery, obey, nurses, anxiety, videochat, infection, reading, until, safe.* You will find them forwards, backwards, horizontally and vertically, or diagonally.

Y	T	E	I	X	N	A	X	M	X
I	N	F	E	C	T	I	O	N	R
G	H	O	V	E	R	C	O	M	E
Z	L	N	K	D	J	D	J	F	C
V	I	D	E	O	C	H	A	T	O
B	T	H	F	J	H	S	C	N	V
X	N	H	V	J	U	P	P	B	E
B	U	J	N	U	R	S	E	S	R
Y	E	B	O	U	G	T	H	Z	Y
F	H	E	J	J	H	S	R	W	Q

Alison Marr

LIFE AND WORK – May 2020



During this challenging period, Life and Work is committed to helping keep our Christian community connected and so we have made the May 2020 issue available on our website. This can be accessed by clicking here or visiting <https://www.lifeandwork.org/resources/free-download-may-2020>.

The action to share is unique and in response to the exceptional time period in which we are operating. We have deliberately not provided the full digital experience as enjoyed by our loyal online subscribers and equally to protect our subscribers of the print edition.

It has been a challenge for my editorial colleagues to shift direction of their content at the last minute in response to the speed of which the Covid-19 pandemic has impacted daily life. This also includes a change to what would have been coverage of the timetable and fringe diary of the General Assembly, it of course reads rather differently this year. What they have created will become an important historical record for the magazine of the Church of Scotland.

Highlights from this issue includes:

FEEDING THE HUNGRY Reflection on foodbanks and impact of Covid-19

'GOD HAS NOT FINISHED WITH SCOTLAND' The Moderator-Designate, the Rev Dr Martin Fair

ASSEMBLY CANCELLATION Church's business meeting cancelled for first time in over 300 years

WAR'S END The role of churches in peacebuilding across Europe on the 75th anniversary of VE day

We trust you and your congregation will enjoy reading this issue. We are even more grateful at this time for your generous support and continued loyalty of Life and Work.

Best wishes

Life and Work Team

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Parish Church

Photography by Kim Kjaerside

