

Bellie & Speymouth Church
Reaching out - Welcoming in

Weekly Newsletter No 12 – Sunday 7 June 2020

Now here's a piece of Good News

Last Sunday (31 May 2020) as well as being Pentecost was the 95th birthday of George Murdoch, formerly of Westcote, Mosstodloch and now staying at Balhousie Nursing Home, Huntly.

His daughters, Marjory (Whyte), Dorothy (Shewan) and grandson Chris (Campbell) were obviously not able to visit him, but they were able to FaceTime him and the staff at Balhousie Huntly spoiled him and made a cake.

We continue to pray for George and all those in Care Homes and Nursing Homes as well as those who are doing such splendid work in looking after George and others like him.



Time for Reflection – Time for Change.

Those of you who watched the Worship Service led by the Moderator, Rt Rev Martin Fair last Sunday will have heard him call for us to use this time when churches are closed, to consider the future of our Church. The Church of Scotland is currently looking at various ways of streamlining the administration of the Church and how we conduct our business eg reducing the number of Presbyteries to 13. It is clear, at least to me, that the days of one minister to each Parish are gone, at least for the foreseeable future. With over 1,000 charges and only 800 ministers, the numbers clearly don't match. Changes are inevitable and necessary.



Here's a question for you, 'Are we too attached to our buildings?' Last weekend some 60 'goody-bags' went out for 'Messy Church Click and Collect'. That means 'church' was done in living-rooms, at kitchen tables by families together learning at least something about Pentecost. Did they all understand the message of



Pentecost? Of course not, (some of the young ones can't even read yet!) but did some seeds get planted? Of course they did and without planting seeds, nothing will grow.

And all of this was done outside our church buildings!

During the period of 'Lock-down' the sale of Bibles has increased, people are seeking and enjoying new forms of worship on-line. These services are often recorded outdoors or from someone's living-room.

A letter to Scotland's First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, calling for a just and green recovery from the



'lock-down' has been signed by representatives from more than 70 organisations, including the Very Rev Dr Susan Brown, convener of the Church of Scotland's Faith Impact Forum who said, *"At a time of crisis the urgent and immediate response to human need has to take priority. As we move beyond the peak of infections and begin to see lockdown restrictions easing, it is now the time to imagine what our future might be like,"*

So let's start praying about this. Let's start praying about the future of our church, our work in the community and our mission to others.

George Nicol

"George passed away recently after a suspected case of COVID-19. He lived to wonderful age of 95, and it is such a shame that the celebration of his life took place under lockdown, but that is unfortunately the situation we are in.

George was well known and loved in the local area, having lived for almost all of his years at the family home in Kingston. In fact, he moved there before he could even walk, and so has been in his house there since the 1920s.



He was known by many for his quiet kindness and gentlemanly nature. Never one to speak much about himself, he was perfectly content to help others in what ways that he could, requiring no recognition. He faithfully served the local church as a Sunday school teacher and elder for many years, as well as other local groups.

A great talent of his revolved around Scottish music, and in particular - the fiddle. At the time of his passing, there were some 60 violins in his home, most of which crafted by him. He was very involved with local music societies and also enjoyed attending performances and recitals. In particular, he was good friends with a Polish family who performed in a symphony orchestra, going over to visit them several times, and faithfully travelling to see their performances whenever they were in the UK.

Despite having been a local lad from a young age, George had seen the world. During the war, he was a first-class mechanic and served across Europe and the far East.

One of his most renowned characteristics was his self-reliance. Well into his advanced years, he still lived in his home by himself, and would provide kind hospitality to visitors. He was even known to travel across the country without notice well into his 80s!

After a simple graveside service, George was laid to rest in the family plot at Essil. In tribute to his contribution to Scottish music, local fiddlers played a piece at the cemetery after the committal.

George served the local community, served the Lord, and will be greatly missed by many.

There is currently a post on our church Facebook page inviting people to comment with memories/stories about George. If you would like to contribute but do not have a Facebook account, please do email <SOrr@churchofscotland.org.uk>"



Gordon Chapel

Rev Michael Last of Gordon Chapel publishes a 'pew sheet' each Sunday. This Sunday, Trinity Sunday', is Holy Trinity Church, Keith's dedication festival. The 'pew sheet' has a full service of worship attached including hymns. You can access this through the Gordon Chapel web-site, just type in Gordon Chapel and have a look.

They also have a Zoom Coffee Morning on Wednesday at 10.45am. Why not join in with our sisters and brothers from Gordon Chapel and beyond. Joining details: -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81571410697?pwd=UzIRUHIMYkVnWDJBYU5CVETzdTI4dz09>

Meeting ID: 815 7141 0697

Password: 746403

Please don't worry...



We have seen a great response to the request for an additional offering to our church at Pentecost. However, some of you may be having sleepless nights worrying that you have missed your chance to contribute. Please don't worry, there is still time for you to pop that cheque into an envelope and hand it to Betty Brown or any Elder. You can donate by bank transfer if you wish and remember to mark the donation 'Pentecost gifting' or similar to allow us to let you know the amount raised. So no more sleepless nights eh!

Pentecost Parade



What a great response to our request for photographs for our Pentecost Parade. We have flowers, cakes and loads of pictures of youngsters enjoying the Messy Church packs. There is however a lack of big people wearing something red or doing something with a red colour. So, get the phones out and get clicking big people, let's see **your** happy faces at Pentecost.

Well, what do you expect!

Money and other concerns during the Coronavirus COVID-19 Outbreak.

Apart from the widely advertised Furlough Scheme and some loans from Government sources there is less well advertised help available for those in our community who may be struggling financially. There is a useful leaflet available with all sorts of advice to help you with finances. It runs to four pages so if you would like a copy or know of someone who would benefit from a copy, get in touch with me and I'll send it to you. Just to give you an example of what is available: since the Flexible Food Fund was launched 4 weeks ago 196 households in Moray have benefited from a total of

£41,000.

Similarly, there is help for folk feeling stressed during this period. To help with your mental health you can use the link <http://www.moraywellbeinghub.org.uk/> which gives access to all sorts of assistance with your mental health and wellbeing – you can also try praying!

It's Birthday Time.

During the coming week, there are some significant birthdays coming up and as we move into summer, no doubt several wedding anniversaries. There were parties and all sorts of celebrations planned and are now on hold but fear not - these parties and celebrations **will** come and the waiting will make them all the sweeter.

But in the meantime, from your church family and friends,



Enjoy your day

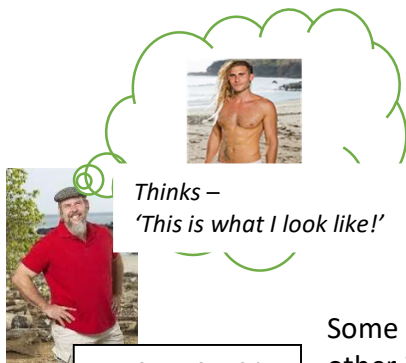


We're getting there but need to be careful.

Last week-end (Pentecost) we enjoyed some lovely early summer weather. This made visiting relatives or friends easier as we could safely meet in gardens or other open spaces. After 10 weeks enforced separation, it was marvelous to see real faces again although we had to keep our 2m distance. This showed us how precious human contact can be. This contact has been achieved by everyone, well almost everyone, sticking to the rules, staying home and keeping our distance. It hasn't been easy and for some, really hard. But God has been with us. Just look at how families, friends, neighbours, even strangers have rallied round helping others in all sorts of ways. There are too many volunteers for the tasks required, praise God for that! – it may be some time before we see that again!



As we move forward, hopefully to the next phase of the release from lockdown, let's still remember in our prayers, all those who have suffered and are continuing to suffer from the effects of this virus. It is still with us.



Reality Check!
No, you don't.
You need to eat fewer pies and more lettuce.

And after a springtime of extra baking (weren't all these cakes, scones and pies just delicious), it's maybe time to check the lettuce leaves and think of how we are going to get into our dookers this summer. Some of our summer clothes may have shrunk (Did you know that calories are small invisible insects which live in wardrobes and eat clothes so they become smaller?)



Some of our church family have been busy with other interests during lockdown. June Prosser has spent time making greetings cards – something different but will no doubt raise a smile on those who receive one.



Remember this week to keep in touch with each other – phone a friend or perhaps someone you haven't spoken to in a while. Why not write someone a letter, remember stamps?

Above all, have faith. God has brought us this far through the trials of the lockdown and the pandemic. He will lead us the rest of the way – just have faith and follow. So, keep God in sight.

And to use the blessing given to Moses while in the desert thousands of years ago (Numbers 6:24-26)
*'the Lord bless you and keep you
the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you
the Lord turn his face towards you and give you peace.'*

Enjoy the rain – the gardens need it
John