



EXTRA NEWSLETTER

ST JAMES PARISH CHURCH

Thoughts from the Manse

I must say: I admire the BBC immensely these days. They have become exceptionally creative in producing new socially distanced programmes and I really enjoyed the lockdown shows like David Tennant and Michael Sheen playing funnily obnoxious actors who have to be called to order by Judi Dench or the “unprecedented” series. One play I have missed is the lockdown version of Samuel Beckett’s classic “waiting for Godot”, this famous play where two gentlemen are waiting with some desperation for the arrival of a man who never comes. I have always wondered why this play had become so famous, because two men waiting is really all that happens, but now I have a little more sympathy with those characters who wait patiently but in vain. Waiting has become one of the hardest things for me, and maybe for you, too in these strange times: waiting for the first train journey, waiting for a visit to the hairdresser, waiting for opening our church again. Waiting can be hard, but waiting can also bring hope, hope for better times, as the psalmist says: “I waited patiently for the Lord, and he has delivered me”

Every blessing, Barbara

Thank you

The family of the late **Alistair Reid** would like to express their gratitude for the letters and cards of condolence and all tokens of kindness they have received on the passing of their much-loved husband, father and grandfather.

On behalf of Sandra Reid.

What happens now?

Your health and safety is paramount for us. The Kirk Session of St James has therefore taken the difficult decision, **not to open the church until the virus is further suppressed**. Sorry, we cannot give you a date, yet, but will update you as soon as we can. We still want to be there for you:

Worship: We are delighted that in addition to our videos and printable worship on our usual webpage at www.stjamesayr.org.uk we can now offer members to receive recorded worship over the phone under **01292-821277** (your telephone company may charge a local call).

Please also join us on a Sunday morning at 11 am for live worship via zoom (from 16 Aug). The minister will be pleased to pass on log in details and phone numbers under 01292-262420 or by email BSuchanek-Seitz@churchofscotland.org.uk

Pastoral care: Our minister continues to be available for pastoral care under 01292-262420 and can also be contacted if you need practical help with shopping etc.

Community and Congregation: Please check the lockdown news on our webpage or phone the minister (262420) for events like virtual coffee evenings, zoom family services and fundraisers.

Donations: In addition to standing orders or cheques/ cash through the minister’s or treasurer’s door, which we will process, you can now also use our donate button on our webpage. We can also arrange a pick-up for your envelopes, (only if you wish us to). Please phone the minister 262420.



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Message from the Session Clerk

I appreciate that it has been some time since we could meet face to face, however I hope that that will change soon. We will have to accept that the situation in St James' will be no different from other Churches, but the Church we are returning to will be so different from what we have been used to. There will be strict controls in relation to hygiene, and other conditions will also apply. Full details will be circulated once we get the go ahead to re-open. May I express my grateful thanks to all members for accepting the changes to your daily lives during lockdown. At least those that are able can get out and about a bit easier now. I look forward to meeting you all soon. **Bill Mackie Session Clerk**

Junior Church during Lockdown

Because of Lockdown we have not been able to meet as usual, but this does not mean we have not been busy. Since April I have kept in regular touch with the Junior Church kids delivering activity packs, stones, seeds, plant pots etc. I have checked up on their artwork in the windows of their homes. I asked them to plant sunflowers and other plants. All their planting is coming along nicely. I also asked them to paint stones in rainbow colours with a message on the back and then coat with either varnish or clear nail polish and it was great to see some displayed in their gardens, or on window sills. I have a been sent photographs, as well. Thanks to our Minister the children have a weekly Kids Corner on our church website and on Sunday 12th July we had our first "Zoom" Junior church Gift Service followed by a Catchup Meeting. 10 children joined in along with the Minister, myself, two teachers, some of their parents and church members. It was really great to hear and see everyone. The children had been given activities to complete and they showed them online. We also sang a hymn and had a prayer. On Monday 13th all the children had gifts delivered to them along with an activity pack, as we were unable to have our usual Prizegiving and outing. We hope to continue

meeting on zoom but pray that we can meet again face to face soon. **Moyra Smith, Junior Church**

Guides

During Lockdown, the Guides have been using Instagram to communicate, we posted weekly pictures of what we had been getting up to before lockdown. Girl Guiding Scotland released a 'Guiding at Home Challenge' which has been available for the girls to work through at their own pace. We are looking forward to welcoming the girls back to meetings as soon as possible! Gillian sent the girls and staff a 'Thinking of you' card and rainbow keyrings, made from hama beads. The Leaders all received a 'Thank you' card and Ayrshire South Girlguiding From Home badge. We are currently waiting for instructions from Girlguiding and the Church of Scotland to start planning our new session. Therefore, we do not have a starting date yet. We will be in touch as soon as we know. In the meantime, if you know any girls aged 10-14yrs, please encourage them to join us, either by contacting us through the Girlguiding website or by contacting Gillian Hay, 5 Falkland Road, Ayr. KA8 8LN. Email:- gill.ayr@btinternet.com. Tel:- 01292 283924/ **Niamh Toner**

THE BOYS' BRIGADE – 8th AYR COMPANY

Like all other organisations we were advised to discontinue meeting from Monday 16th March 2020, a week before the official lockdown. We have continued to keep in contact with Parents and informing of them using activities such as BB at Home. This was set up for Parents and Leaders during the time the boys were stuck at home, especially if looking for something to do. We used this in the Company Section to complete the outstanding Award work for last session. We now await further guidance from the Boys' Brigade and the Church of Scotland on when and how we can start back safely again. **Stuart Hyslop (Company Captain)**