

# KIN-NECTIONS

KINROSS PARISH CHURCH | JUNE - AUGUST 2020

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*Following Christ | Spreading the Word | Serving the Community*

*Following Christ  
Spreading the Word  
Serving the Community*

**Minister**

Rev Alan Reid  
01577 862952 | [areid@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:areid@churchofscotland.org.uk)

**Assistant Minister**

Rev Kathleen (Kathy) Dain  
01577 862570 | [KDain@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:KDain@churchofscotland.org.uk)

**Ordained Local Minister**

Rev Margaret Michie  
01592 840602 | [office@kinrossparishchurch.org](mailto:office@kinrossparishchurch.org)

**Session Clerk**

Jaffrey Weir  
01577 865780 | [jaffreyweir@gmail.com](mailto:jaffreyweir@gmail.com)

**Safeguarding Coordinator**

Enid Campbell | [office@kinrossparishchurch.org](mailto:office@kinrossparishchurch.org)

**Church Office (currently operating remotely)**

Open 10am-12 noon weekdays  
01577 862570 | [office@kinrossparishchurch.org](mailto:office@kinrossparishchurch.org)

**Hire of Church Centre or Church**

01577 862570 | [lets@kinrossparishchurch.org](mailto:lets@kinrossparishchurch.org)

**Kin-nections Design Editor**

Graeme Shaw | [graemeshaw2014@gmail.com](mailto:graemeshaw2014@gmail.com)

**Kin-nections Managing Editor**

Anne Sutherland | [KinNectonsEditor@gmail.com](mailto:KinNectonsEditor@gmail.com)

**Weekly Intimations Editor**

Graeme Paterson |  
[graeme.paterson@rocketmail.com](mailto:graeme.paterson@rocketmail.com)

**Keep in Touch**

[www.kinrossparishchurch.org](http://www.kinrossparishchurch.org)

Kirk Session Council: 23 June  
Pre-Kirk Session Council: 25 August  
Kirk Session: 31 August  
Next Magazine Deadline: 28 July



The Church of Scotland

# SUNDAY SERVICES

## June to August 2020

Although we like to give the themes and readings for the Sundays in the next quarter, in the present circumstances we are not in a position to do so. We look forward to sharing details in due course.

An e-mail is being sent every Sunday morning to all those for whom we have contact details with a link to a pre-recorded Sunday service which is available on the church's **Youtube channel** (search Youtube for 'Kinross Parish Worship') and on the church's **Facebook page** - [www.facebook.com/kinrossparishchurch](http://www.facebook.com/kinrossparishchurch)

You can watch this at any time but if you would like to **gather with others**, please **log in to Facebook at 10.30am**, our usual Sunday morning worship time. The church bells are also broadcast live on Facebook on a Sunday morning and there is an opportunity to join a Zoom gathering from 11.15am for informal chat all together and in smaller groups. If you are not currently receiving e-mails from Kinross Parish Church and would like to, please contact the Church Office.

We are also making audio recordings of these services and posting them to members who do not have internet access. If you are not currently receiving these and would like to, please contact the Church office.

Church services are also broadcast on Sundays on radio and television:

- **Radio Scotland at 7.30am and Radio 4 at 8.10am**
- **A variety of church services are broadcast on BBC TV on Sunday mornings including 'Reflections at the Quay' from Glasgow (mid to late morning) and Songs of Praise (early afternoon).**

Cover: design by Brenda Frier. At Easter, Junior Church members painted sheets of paper in their own homes. These were assembled to make the rainbow for the church windows as a sign of hope.



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[Kinross Parish Church of Scotland](https://www.facebook.com/KinrossParishChurchofScotland)



Find us on Instagram  
[kpcscotland](https://www.instagram.com/kpcscotland)



Find us on YouTube  
[Kinross Parish Worship](https://www.youtube.com/KinrossParishWorship)

**Keeping in Contact:** Every household connected to the Church is now allocated to one of 14 Area Pastoral Teams. Magazines are delivered four times a year and visits are arranged to suit members and elders/visitors. If you want to contact them at other times please phone the Office on 01577 862570 between 10am and 12 noon any week day.

**Kinross Parish Church of Scotland: Charity No. SC 012555 10 Station Road, Kinross, KY13 8TG**

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# CONTENTS

page

2

SUNDAY SERVICES

4

TALKING WITH GOD

4

REFLECTIONS

5

FROM THE MANSE

A message from Alan

5

TIME FOR PRAYER

6

FEATURE - In Conversation With...

Rev Kathy Dain

6

FEATURE - Giving Update:

From the Treasurer

7

Keith Green: A Tribute

7

FEATURE: The Highs & Lows Of Online

Worship

8

FAIRTRADE

8

FAMILY WEEK 2020

8

KINROSS COMES TOGETHER

9

FEATURE: Covid-19 In Malawi

10

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Overview of groups within the church

13

NOTICE BOARD

14

FEATURE - News From The Great

Church, Debrecen, Hungary

14

FEATURE - Covid-19 in Kenya

15

CONNECTING WITH GOD

BACK COVER

COMMUNITY CONTACTS

Welcome to the June 2020 Kin-nections



It's an honour to take over as Design Editor from Ann Marie Neave. She has done a fantastic job over the past seven years and it's a privilege to follow her. I am joined by Anne Sutherland as Managing Editor.

In the very short time (five months!) I have been in Kinross I have been blessed by the community spirit. In these challenging and uncertain times, this issue is about showcasing us coming together.

*Graeme Shaw, Kin-nections Design Editor*

## OUR CHURCH FAMILY

### New Members by Transfer

Deborah Corbett, Montgomery Way, from Perth

Lindsay and Frances Carmichael, Muirs, from Dunfermline

Rev Kathy Dain, from Florida

### Marriage

21 February

Debbie Paterson and Atholl Spalding

### Funerals

10 February

Helen Scott, Whyte Court, Kinross

12 February

Margaret Allan, Argyll Court, Kinross

18 February

Jean Reddoch, High Street, Kinross

28 February

Gay Deas, Argyll Road, Kinross

6 March

James Reid, Green Park, Kinross

19 March

Iris Raitt, Montgomery Street, Kinross

27 March

Agnes Robertson, Green Park, Kinross

16 April

Kenneth Morrison, Springfield Park, Kinross

30 April

Janet Reid, Ashley House, Milnathort

7 May

Thomas Duncan, Glencairn House, Auchterarder

18 May

William Fotheringham, Bowton Road, Kinross

19 May

Keith Green, Whinfield Drive, Kinross

20 May

Annie McRandle, Balado Wynd, Kinross

# TALKING WITH GOD

Father God,

We thank You for Your interest in our lives: for the beauty of our world; for sunshine, rain and signs of new life. Though we may not always live in ways that please You, we thank You for accepting us as we are. We are sorry for things we have done wrong. Please forgive us and help us to be more like Jesus, who showed us how to live.

We pray for people who are anxious or unwell - please heal them. We think of everyone living alone and those who are struggling with being separated from family and friends - please comfort them. We pray particularly for those who have lost a loved one - please give them Your peace.

We pray for those facing uncertainty, particularly people and families worried because they have lost their livelihood - please provide for them. Guard and provide for the poor in our world, for those living with mental illness or addiction; for those in prison. Please be a companion every day. Meet each person in their need, protect every family, restore peace and quiet confidence.

We pray for leaders making critical decisions and for workers who supply our daily needs. We pray for people who have to put themselves at risk to serve the sick, frail and frightened. Protect them from danger, exhaustion and fear.

We ask that wisdom would flourish. Inspire learning, discovery and cooperation across government, science and business, that leaders and experts would succeed in bringing the impact of the pandemic under control. Help us all to play our part, to be wise in our choices, to be patient and to be considerate of others.

Your word promises us that You will never leave us or forget about us. You have said that when we call to You, our prayers will be answered. So, we trust that You will hear our prayer and we thank You.

In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen  
*by Robert Packham*

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## REFLECTIONS



WHEN I AM AFRAID,  
O Lord Almighty,  
I PUT MY TRUST  
in you. Psalm 56:3

In these times of trouble and uncertainty it is sometimes difficult to believe that God is at work in the world. Feelings of anxiety and helplessness drain our energy and it can be a struggle to face the day ahead. At this point we have to give it all up to God and trust in Him. Though our strength may be small, God's strength is more than enough to see us through. He is able to calm the storms of fear in our lives and give us the patience and ability to endure.

Just as wild geese fly in a V formation to support each other, so God will carry us on His powerful wings if we surrender to Him, put our trust in Him and believe in His almighty power and love.

# FROM THE MANSE...



Dear Friends,

I write to you in the midst of very strange and uncertain times when many of the familiar things of life have been taken from us and the way ahead is far from clear. As one whose calling is to shepherd the flock of

God, I am acutely conscious of the fact that the sheep are physically scattered and in some cases in danger and the normal avenues of ministry are not open to me. The revolution in our circumstances has not altered the need that the flock has for support but nor has it reduced the resources that are available to satisfy that need. The issue is simply how to bring resources and need together.

I am deeply thankful for the internet technology that allows so many to join in worship and take part in meetings while remaining in their own homes, and for the telephone which allows us to keep talking. My thanks to those who are facilitating the continuing ministry and mission of the church in these days by contributing to public worship, by leading groups, by telephoning those who are on their own.

Fundamentally, though, our deepest human need is for God and the way to God is open to us all through Jesus Christ. If there are ways in which we as a church can help you find and develop the spiritual resources not only to sustain your life but indeed to flourish in the midst of this time of trial, then please do not hesitate to contact us. People are finding fresh encouragement through prayer and in reading the Bible - if you don't have online access to our monthly prayer diary, we can post a copy to you, and if you are looking for resources to help you read the Scriptures we will be glad to point you in the right direction at whatever stage you are in the journey of faith.

Indications are that restrictions on public gatherings will remain for some time to come and that even when they are eased there will be no speedy return to what we used to consider normal. So we all have the opportunity to develop a greater reliance on God alone - that is, after all, the very essence of faith. Let us all use this time to open up new pathways for God to move in our own lives by His Spirit and in the world around us where we may discover that He is already going before us in ways that we as yet cannot see.

Jesus said, "I will be with you always." (Matthew 28:20)

Yours because His, Alan

# TIME FOR PRAYER

The monthly Prayer Diary is available by email and on the church website. If you require a print edition (including large print), please contact the Church Office.

During lockdown, the following prayer times will be live-streamed on the Church Facebook page and can be accessed at anytime thereafter. Please look out for revised arrangements if restrictions on public gatherings are lifted.

## Prayer for the Nation 7pm on Sunday evenings

In company with others across the whole country there is a short pause for prayer.

## Midweek Prayers Midday on Wednesdays

We take time to pray together for individuals, the parish and the wider world.

## Silent Meditation

1 June, 6 July and 3 August  
Guidelines for a period of reflective stillness are published on the first Monday morning of the month.

## Compline

18 June, 16 July and 20 August  
20 minutes of reflective readings and prayers, a peaceful way to end the day, on the third Thursday of each month at 9pm.

## CROSS REACH

Care you can put your faith in

CrossReach is the operating name of the Church of Scotland's Social Care Council and it supports 10,000 vulnerable people of all ages in Scotland. Our congregation has always shown its strong support for CrossReach.

At this difficult time, please pray for the health and wellbeing of all those cared for by CrossReach through its services - residential care for the elderly, services for children and families, and adults in vulnerable situations.

Recognising the huge pressures they are under, please pray for care home frontline staff, residents and relatives. God give them strength, comfort and reassurance, that they may know the love of Jesus.

# IN CONVERSATION WITH...

## REV KATHY DAIN

I met Kathy Dain on Zoom one afternoon and started by chatting about her background. "I've been to Scotland many times" she told me and reminisced about her visits to the West Highlands and her familiarisation with the Church of Scotland which led her to Kinross.

"When I met Alan I really hit it off with him" Kathy explained. She was impressed by the different and varied sessions that were being held and led by members of the congregation. The first Sunday worship Kathy attended was Café Church back in early March which she told me made her fall in love with the community aspects of Kinross Parish Church. "There's a great sense of connectivity and community" she said. She even learned to knit a pompom for her dog at the Craft Group.

I wanted to get to know a bit more about the creative side of Kathy. Kathy once was a broadcast journalist in the USA which has benefitted Kinross Parish Church in the weekly online worship videos. "I really like working with Alan as he comes up with a vision and gives me freedom on how to do it creatively."

We chatted about how posting online worship videos on Facebook has helped to capture an audience who might not come to Church on a Sunday. Kathy explained that online worship should be about sharing His word with a view to respond. "It is an opportunity to create dialogue and connection", she said but cautioned against letting technology become a distraction to the message of Jesus Christ.

We finished our Zoom call by chatting about scripture she has turned to in these uncertain times. A particular favourite is Psalm 139 about God knowing each one of us individually. Verse 13 reminds us that God knew us when we were in our mother's



*Rev Kathy Dain*

womb "...you knit me together in my mother's womb" (NRSV). This, she concludes, is comforting in all times and especially during this particularly difficult moment.

I wished Kathy a good day and asked what she was doing for the rest of the day. "I've another Zoom meeting now" she said. Zoom has become the new 'normal' and with that we bid our goodbyes.

*- Graeme Shaw*

**Online Worship is an opportunity to create dialogue and connection**

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## GIVING UPDATE: FROM THE TREASURER

I hope you and your family are coping with the lockdown and that you are all safe and well. I've had several enquiries from members and friends who normally donate through the WFO scheme or Open Plate, and are concerned at not being able to do so with church closed. My simplest suggestion is that you might save up the weekly amount and make a 'super-donation' when we return to worshipping together. You could also make a payment direct to our bank account if you have home/online banking. Or perhaps this would be a good time to move to a

monthly bank standing order, the method now used by many of our congregation. For some of you this may not be the time for any of this, and I am acutely aware that many people have been laid off work, or worse. If this is you, just turn the page and ignore the article. **If I can help, drop me a note to alan.mcghie@gmail.com, or call on 01259 743017. We bank with RBS, sort code 83-23-47, account 00185739, Kinross Parish Church.**

*- Alan McGhie*

**Beware email scams:** online criminals are taking advantage of the Covid-19 crisis. Be a healthy sceptic! Never follow anything that insists you take urgent action. Always check.

# KEITH GREEN: A TRIBUTE

On 8 May, we were sad to hear that Keith Green had passed away. Brought up in Bradford, he had to choose between a career in science or music, and though he chose the former, later in life he certainly made up for not choosing music earlier! He was a faithful accompanist of the St Serf Singers for some 25 years and memorably played Caiaphas in Jesus Christ Superstar for MTKY. A big man with a gentle touch and famed for his “twiddly bits” on the ivories, when the call went out for organists to step up in 2003, Keith signed up for Perth Presbytery organ training and played on the rotas in Kinross, Cleish and Fossoway. He became the principal accompanist for the church choir but also accompanied the Cleish choir, Smiddy Singers and more recently Let’s Sing.

Always keen to help, he played at many funerals, did maintenance jobs around the church, coaxing the heating into life and lovingly tending the sanctuary clock and still had time to support the youngsters in

Home Brew concerts. As a Yorkshireman, he was never afraid to speak his mind, and at practices the choir received many a ticking off for getting something wrong!

Kinross Parish Church has lost a good, supportive friend who provided a great service to music-making in church and community. All our sympathy goes to Sheila, Martha, Nathan and family. He will be badly missed in our church family and in Kinross-shire music, as was obvious at his last public appearance at the Choirs Together evening last November, where he supported three choirs.



*Keith Green*

## THE HIGHS & LOWS OF ONLINE WORSHIP

The suspension of public gatherings in mid-March led all of us on a steep learning curve and for Ministers that meant quickly having to decide on how best to enable worship to continue in a very different landscape



where many people (within and outwith the congregation) are looking for spiritual waymarkers. Firstly, not everyone has access to the internet and it has been a challenge to be inclusive. We have about 250 email addresses and we estimate that in excess of 300 members of our church family receive the weekly link to online services. About two dozen audio CDs are recorded and sent by post to those who do not have an internet connection. Still others who do not have a CD player receive a printed copy of the sermon only. Sunday services have been pre-recorded, and with these there have been opportunities for innovation, such as the greater use of images and video, and for the involvement of different voices each recording prayers, readings, testimonies and music in their own home. Editing is a time-consuming business and there are practical limitations on the size of video files that can be uploaded - we would certainly have struggled without the expert help of Rev Kathy Dain who came to us at just the right time. On the other hand there is perhaps less of a sense of fellowship where individuals are

watching alone at different times and the danger is that we come to think of worship as a spectator sport rather than something we are all actively participating in and contributing to, as when we gather as a church.

Where acts of worship have been led 'live' online - particularly the weekly times for prayer - these have had more of an immediate feel and people can respond in real time. However, because of social distancing, these can only be led by one (or, if they are in the same household, two) people which is why we chose to go down the route of pre-recorded services for Sundays. During Holy Week there was a joint Communion service led by the

Kinross-shire parish ministers and the Zoom platform (which is accessible by phone for those



*Zoom get together*

who do not have an internet connection)

has also enabled us to gather for 'after-church' coffee and chat, for housegroups, Jampact and Crossfire and for meetings of the Kirk Session and its subgroups.

*- Rev Alan Reid*

**Let the church keep you in touch:** if you aren't yet receiving a link to Sunday's online worship service contact [office@kinrossparishchurch.org](mailto:office@kinrossparishchurch.org)

# FAIRTRADE IN KINROSS-SHIRE



*Traidcraft goodies*

A huge thank you to everyone who has helped us sell the wonderful amount of £15,519 in the year to March 2020. Not only is this a terrific total but we are also the No. 1 Fairtrader outlet of Traidcraft goods in Scotland and No. 2 in the UK, which is amazing! Whatever you buy, whether large or small, it all counts.

We are very much looking forward to the time that we can once again meet together, but in the meantime you can order from [www.traidcraftshop.co.uk](http://www.traidcraftshop.co.uk) or contact Karena or Isobel direct or via the Church Office.

Traidcraft is continuing to trade, and we need to continue to buy as much as possible, to support producers in 29 countries throughout the world by giving them a route to market and paying them a FAIR price.



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## FAMILY WEEK

3-7 August 2020, online

Family Week is still going to happen 3-7 August, but online! We will be using Scripture Union's Wonder Zone material, which explores God's creation and his love for us through science.

It just feels so appropriate for this time we are all going through and most elements are readily adaptable for an online platform. We are trying to keep it simple but as it grows arms and legs we may see some of the more complex items appearing too.

Obviously we have had to delay planning until the restrictions for August have become more predictable and are really just beginning to put a programme together.



There will still be crafts, and experiments instead of games. Amazingly, most items for these can be found around the home but there will be packs of craft material to distribute around participants.

Family Week is for children and young people age 3 up to S6. The best way to keep in touch with developments will be through the church Facebook page but, as always, feel free to contact me at [moirahookham@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:moirahookham@hotmail.co.uk). It will be fun for everyone, in every sense of the word!

- Moira Hookham

## KINROSS COMES TOGETHER!

All around us we see the community coming together to support one another. There are acts of kindness - small and large - taking place all the time, and many in our congregation are part of these thoughtful good deeds.

Thank you to everyone, including Pastoral Elders and Volunteers, Kinross Kindness, and the Kinross Centre!

For more information on how you can receive help, see page the back page.



# COVID-19 IN MALAWI



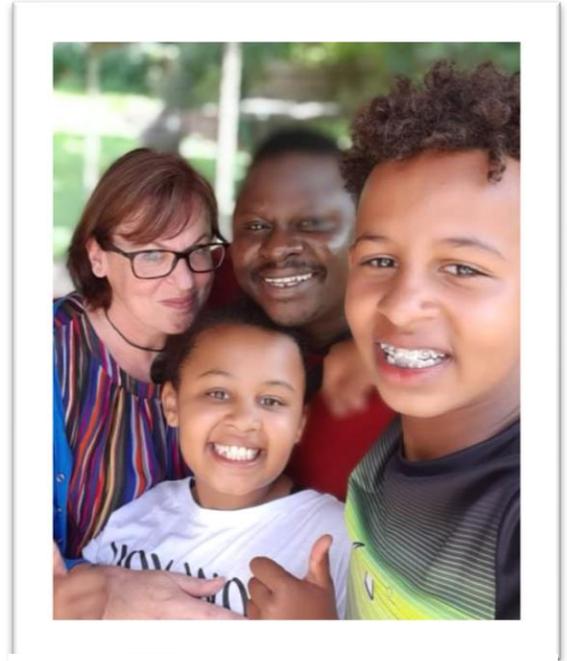
Malawi life has always been different to life in the UK but we are used to that. We should, therefore, not be surprised that the Malawian response to Coronavirus is very different, but we are.

The President tried to impose a lockdown seven weeks ago following the first positive case. Schools were all closed and remain closed. There was a lot of discussion with politicians about the lockdown for the townships, the practicality of imposing restrictions on those squashed in crowded conditions and reliant on daily transactions at local markets to provide for their families, living a hand-to-mouth existence. Incredibly a court injunction was imposed preventing the lockdown from taking place. Indeed, many believe that imposing a lockdown would have led to more deaths from hunger. And from there, one of the poorest countries in Africa seems to be regressing: no help for the poor, no assistance to those struggling with their businesses and very little assistance to healthcare provision. The reality here is life carries on as normal. There is no social distancing - far from it - and all business, bars and restaurants are open. At the time of writing (mid-May), we are at 59 positive cases and three deaths, but is this a true reflection of the reality? Most definitely not. Testing is limited so we are sceptical about any statistics released. Add to this the fact that there are few ventilators and ICU beds in the country, just eight in the whole of Blantyre and the picture is extremely worrying. For those of us who can, we are taking every effort to keep safe. Certainly, within our school campus we have in place all the measures you would expect, and as a

family we are self-isolating as far as possible. It is like living in two worlds, once we drive out of the campus gates 'normality' hits us. Few people wear masks although we have observed a slight change this last week, particularly in shops.

Last week there were huge political rallies, with thousands of people gathering. I fear we will see the consequences of this soon. We live in a country where people die every day, death here is normal so will we ever know the true extent of this virus?

But we remain upbeat and hopeful. As a family we have become stronger and more resilient and, together with our Kinross family, we pray continually for the world not only to come through this but to change, to unite as we move forward together.



*Our friends The Samanyika family who were members of our congregation*

Much prayers and love, The Samanyika family

## COVID-19 IN MALAWI - A YOUNG PERSON'S EXPERIENCE

Being a kid in Malawi always has challenges, this is just another one. This virus means I am studying at home with an online system, although I am lucky to have the freedom of the school campus where we live. I haven't been able to visit my family at the Lake as we are trying to educate them and keep them safe, especially Agogo (my Grandma). Many people don't take this seriously, it's just another worry to their already many worries.

Although my school is closed everything else is open but we try not to go out, just staying at home. I miss my friends and, dare I say it, school! We hope you are all safe there, I am scared for everyone here.

Please keep safe, I miss you all. Unfortunately, we will not be able to visit this summer but hopefully it will not be too long.

William Samanyika, aged 12

## Junior Church

Junior Church is still happening! Through our Facebook group, we have been sharing stories and songs. Easter week was very special as each day one of our children shared a part of the story of Holy week. Big thanks to Mia (and Jack), Olivia, Grace,

Andrew, Niamh, Evelyn (representing Pram Service), Jessica, Joseph and Flora.

As I write this, we are about to start our new block of work on the story of Joseph. Flora Caldwell has organised this block and will be sharing the story with a video, a link to a song from 'Joseph and the Amazing

Technicolor Dreamcoat' and craft options for our young people. If this format works, then we will be looking at continuing it throughout the summer months.

We are looking forward, as everyone is, to being able to see you all again.

- Lynn and the Junior Church

## All Friends Together



It has been a really good year for All Friends Together, and we had our first ever 'virtual' gathering on 24 April via Zoom. Kathy Dain featured part of it in the following Sunday's service. Everyone seemed to enjoy the time together, and I am sure we will be doing it again before the lockdown is over.

Last year, we were delighted to welcome two friends from Immanuel House in Debrecen, Hungary - Zsofia and Edit. We had our usual format - lots of singing, a Bible story (Noah on that occasion), some fun games and a craft, as well as sharing a meal

together. Both the ladies joined in with the animal puppets, throwing two bean bags into a target, then the craft. We all picked an animal (which we had drawn) and coloured it in (not necessarily the usual colours!), then wrote our name on the back. We then threaded the animals together (on tartan ribbon of course), and this was presented to the ladies to take back to Immanuel House.

All Friends Together welcomes all adults with special needs to a monthly celebration of Jesus. If you would like to know more, contact Helena Cant (01577 862923 or helenacant@aol.com)



## The Guild

Nearly every winter a meeting of the Guild gets cancelled, the reason being the weather, but this year it's coronavirus! This means that the AGM has to wait until we come together again. The committee did meet shortly before the lockdown and all the committee members are willing to stay on again for another year. I am very grateful for their support and the members who help with teas. And thank

you to Kirsty Buchan and Margaret Michie who play the piano for our meetings.

At the beginning of March we had a speaker from one of the current Guild projects, Seema's Project, which is reaching out to victims of modern slavery in Pune in India. Our members donated £132 towards the project.

Having been in touch with most Guild members, people are coping amazingly well with the current situation. A Guild

newsletter has been sent from head office every week during the lockdown. The uplifting stories and examples of kindness have been an inspiration. A virtual Sunday soup lunch, part of a wider Church of Scotland initiative, raised a substantial sum for CrossReach.

It is hoped that the next Guild session can start in September, but we shall just have to wait and see if that is possible.

- Helena Cant,  
Convenor

## Kinross Boys' Brigade

With all BB joint activities on hold, BB nationally has come up with weekly activities for Anchors (P1-3), Juniors (P4-6) and Company sections (P7-S6). Members and their parents have been checking these out on the local BB Facebook page or by logging into the BB national website or our own church website. The activities are ideal for all ages, whether or not BB members.

Our Junior Section Bible quiz team won the battalion annual competition, the last to be held before the lockdown. Other battalion competitions have gone by the wayside and we are unsure of what the coming months will entail. Our annual display and presentation of awards, along with the Company's summer camp in Orkney, have had to be cancelled. The Queen's Badge completion course has also been postponed, so our seniors will have to wait a little longer before they complete the final hurdle of their work.



Plans to celebrate our 100th year have also been put on hold and may even have to be postponed until next year. The production of our 100th anniversary badge has also been delayed due to the lockdown but it will be presented to all members sometime in the near future. The design is from a 1950s hand-drawn illustration used to front a company newsletter, updated by previous Captain, Henry Hardie, for the Brigade's centenary in 1983 with the forage cap replacing the traditional pill box hat.

Officers are preparing a display of memorabilia and any members who have photos, newspaper articles or items of uniform, badges etc from the past, we would love to make a photographic record of these for future reference and possible display. With social isolation still being prevalent, please could members make electronic copies/photos and email them to Captain David Munro ([d\\_g\\_munro@hotmail.com](mailto:d_g_munro@hotmail.com)) or text them as attachments to 07935 458 66



## Craft Group

The work of the Craft Group continues...

During the winter months the members knitted storks and flamingos for the London Neonatal Transfer Service, based at the Royal London Hospital. When a baby is being transferred by a specialist team a stork or flamingo is placed in the baby's cot. Some of the ladies had noticed this appeal on social media and suggested the Craft Group could help by knitting these very colourful soft toys. Over 2,000 babies are transferred each year. Our parcel of storks and flamingos arrived safely in London shortly before lockdown!

Since lockdown, members have continued to meet virtually. It has been encouraging to see lots of happy faces at our Zoom meetings. An opportunity to discuss everyday life, church, crafts, gardening, hair - you name it! There's always plenty of chat and laughter.

Some members have also knitted little hearts for a Ninewells Hospital appeal, the idea being that one heart would be given to an ICU patient in their final hours and the other to their closest family member who sadly couldn't be with them.

Many of us are making face masks for ourselves, neighbours and friends. Many patterns have been researched so the ladies have a choice of patterns. Some have also been making scrubs for NHS Tayside, a well-organised appeal.

Looking forward to meeting in the church again when the time is right, but in the meantime, it's Zoom!



- Margaret Clark

## KYTHER - DYNAMIC CHRISTIAN YOUTHWORK

When lockdown was implemented at the end of March 2020, you could have imagined that KYTHE and its youthwork would have stopped. However, due to the benefits of technology and the ingenuity of our two youth workers, Barry and Gillian, they have been engaging with the young people of Kinross-shire on a daily basis.

There is a weekly plan with daily drop-ins via Zoom (with baking lessons on Fridays), Music Mondays on Instagram, Tune-up Tuesday on YouTube, Wingnut Wednesday and more. These have proved popular and, since the middle of March, there have been over 4,000 likes/messages/comments/chat participants over the different platforms. Please pray that this continues and grows during the restrictions and in the future as we seek to connect with more people. Whilst we hope and pray that by the time Kin-nections is published there may be more opportunities to connect with young people and see them face-to-face in the Hub by the Health Centre, we know that God is timeless and he hears our prayers.

Not only have the young people (with the youth workers) embraced the technology available, the management team and trustees have also done so. Regular monthly meetings continue via Zoom, and the planned KYTHE 2025 Strategic Review has begun. Whilst a core group will develop the 2025 strategy, short twice-weekly meetings (via Zoom and facilitated by Drew Drummond) have allowed for discussion, reflection and consideration of new ideas. God is in the meetings, and we have been of one mind, knowing that God is at our core and, while we have funding to deliver universal youth work, we will always display and maintain our Christian principles in doing so, and that God will guide our path over the next five years. The review will take several months, so please keep the planning, writing and implementation of the KYTHE 2025 Strategic review in your prayers.

[www.kythe.org.uk](http://www.kythe.org.uk)



*KYTHER management Zoom meeting*

## ♪ Let's Sing! ♪

Our dementia-friendly singing group celebrates its first birthday in June and it's been a year filled with music, laughter and companionship. Sadly, due to the pandemic, we have been unable to meet in person since March. However, the team has been able to maintain contact with our members through regular telephone calls. Also, on the date we would normally meet each month, we encourage everyone to have a sing at 3pm. We let people know in advance what the song will be and if someone is on their own, a

member of the team will phone and sing along with them.

Our 'virtual' choir is helping us stay connected and promote a sense of community until we are, once again, able to come together in the church building.

For more information about this group please contact:

Brenda Frier [bj.frier@gmail.com](mailto:bj.frier@gmail.com) | 07771 985265  
Isobel Watt [issiewatt@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:issiewatt@yahoo.co.uk) | 07961919967

## Crossfire

In this challenging time for our young people and for all of us, we are reminded that, whatever is going on in our lives, our Lord holds us in the palm of his hands. When there is uncertainty over exams, college and university places, it is comforting to know that God has plans - amazing plans - for each one of us. So even though we have not been able to meet in person, Crossfire (for S1 and above) continues to meet every Sunday online via Zoom. A virus might stop us physically meeting together for friendship and

fellowship but thanks to technology we have meetings in each one of our homes. What a laugh we have had! We played Pictionary online - quite tricky when drawing with your finger on your phone or tablet. We have made hilarious videos showing how many uses simple household objects such as a colander or a tea strainer might have. We have also had guess-the-baby competitions and our usual and amazing Quiz of the Year. We've painted stones and learnt some British sign language signs during Deaf Awareness week. The young people got together

and presented a prayer for one of the Sunday church services. Zoom has also enabled us to have break-out groups where our young people can chat together, sharing the highs and lows of lockdown. Watch out for the video that we are in the process of compiling, showing what an amazing friend Jesus is. It's not just on Sundays that we connect: we've stayed connected throughout the week via our Instagram page. As lockdown continues we will stay in touch, support each other and look upwards for guidance from God until we meet again. If you would like to find out more contact [jennymasson65@gmail.com](mailto:jennymasson65@gmail.com)



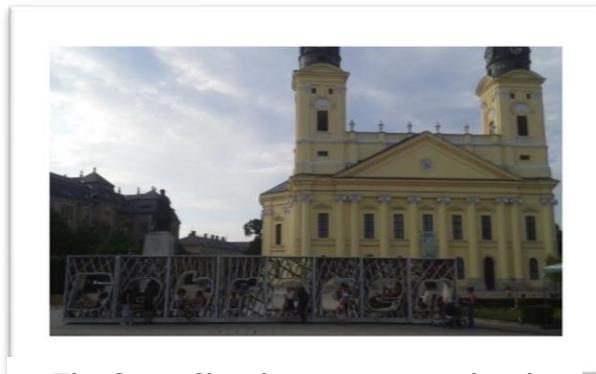
# NEWS FROM THE GREAT CHURCH, DEBRECEN, HUNGARY

Since the Covid-19 pandemic the Great Church has tried to find new ways to keep connected as we can not meet personally. For a few years now we have been using online platforms to reach out to members who could not come to our worship services because of sickness or distance. Little did I know that it would become the only way to spread God's Word. Nor did I believe that I would preach in a church without a congregation.

Worship is a live relationship between God and people of the Church. We really miss our community, but we still worship God on Sundays. As a Minister it is important to preach for the people who are there. During the worship I always watch the faces of the congregation to feel that they understand what message I want to give them. For Ministers this situation is hard as we do not get feedback directly. But we trust that God's Holy Spirit is available where people love Him. This can happen at home too. We believe that the Holy Spirit connects us with people, who watch the worship online, on television or listen on the radio. This brings us together as a community.

After the worship we make a short 2-3 minute video message from our Ministers, called "Daily Soul

Strengthening", and put these on Facebook and our website. We are doing Bible studies for our members, religious studies for students and confirmation classes online. We are also calling our members to ask how they are or if they need help collecting food or medicine. I'd like to finish with a message to Kinross Parish



*The Great Church - our partner church*

Church. I trust in God and I believe we will organise the Scottish camp again. We can pray for each other. I think that the Holy Spirit connects us and He has the power to remove the distance we face. The heart of the Gospel is that we have the salvation to control our attention to the future and nothing can take that mighty gift from us.

- Oláh István

*Vezető lelkipásztor (Leading Minister)*

## FROM DALMAS BUKASU: KENYA - NAIROBI, KIBERA SLUM

Many of you will remember a visit to our church in December by two Kenyan lads who were studying in Scotland at that time. We have now received an uplifting message from Dalmás who is now back in his home in Nairobi. He lives in Kibera which is one of the largest slum communities in Africa. Although he doesn't mention it, his family and their neighbours, along with many in Africa, are facing the onset of Coronavirus without many of



the advantages we have. They live in small shanty-town houses without running water where social distancing and frequent handwashing are impossible. In addition, the health service was already inadequate and Kibera has recently been badly affected by floods.

To the Reverend Alan and all members of Kinross Parish Church,

Receive my humble greetings hoping you are all doing great in the Lord.

Words cannot express how grateful and exuberant I am for your kindness and generosity. I therefore take this golden opportunity to thank you all for the special joy you have added to my life. You have made my world shine.

No matter how big the distance between us, my love for you is big enough to cover it.

May the Lord almighty bless you abundantly that you may live in peace and joy.

**2 Corinthians 9:8** "And God is able to bless you abundantly so that in all things at all times having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."

Much love from Dalmás Bukásu

# CONNECTING WITH GOD

**“Praise be to the Lord, for he has heard my cry for mercy.” Psalm 28:6, NIV**

## Father God, maker of heaven and earth,

You are the author of salvation, yet still You know the number of tears we have shed. What a wonderful and humbling thought, that even though You are in charge of the whole universe and all of Your creation, You are interested in each of us, in our hearts, in our wellbeing. You are a God of Love and O how we need Your healing and Your grace today. We humbly kneel before You, knowing that we can confess anything in complete trust that You have a plan. Complete healing, protection and comfort are Yours, under the safety of Your almighty wings. And yet...You see us in a world where there is a global disease causing illness and death; fear and anxiety; economic turmoil; the shutdown of schools, businesses and places of worship; the new ‘normal’ of social distancing and the impact on the emotional and mental health of nations. The world has been shaken on its axis. And yet... nothing is ‘unprecedented’ to You.

Father God, during this pandemic, there is much that does not make sense and much that has made daily living difficult. Those trying to juggle priorities of schooling children whilst working from home and partners working on the front line. Those self-isolating and finding the loneliness a heavy weight to bear. Those with anxiety and depression heightened at this time of uncertainty. Those who are ill or in pain or danger in their own homes. Those who are scared for their loved ones. Those who have lost their jobs or businesses, worried about the financial impact of the lockdown.

To ‘keep our eyes fixed on Jesus’ was a daily battle before, but now... it is an absolute necessity, an assurance in the fear and reality present before us. On some days it is a comfort and a choice. On other days, it is like hanging onto the cliff edge and all we can do from falling.

Amidst the uncertainties, You have shown us many blessings, oh God. The opportunity to rest, to slow down and refocus on what matters; the bringing together of family and friends and community; the lesson to trust in You and not money or material possessions; the kindness and sacrifice of those helping on the frontline and in the community. The sound of birdsong instead of heavy traffic. The warmth of sunshine on our faces instead of through an office window. The sound of children’s laughter. There is time to spend in Your presence, there is time to spend in Your Word. Leaning on and pressing

into Jesus. Amidst the doubt, Your peace abounds. Where there is darkness, You bring light. Amongst all that has been taken away, You bring blessings. Blessings of hope, answered prayer and a closer relationship with You.

Thank You for these reminders, O God. Forgive us for trying to fix situations on

our own when true help and healing must be found first in You. We come to You and bring You the places of hurt, for You see what no one else is able to fully see or understand. You know the pain we carry. You know where we need to be set free. We ask for Your healing and grace to cover every broken place. Every wound, every heartache and every scar. We surrender and release to You every need and problem we’ve carried or tried to control. We believe in Your goodness to see us through. The daily struggles are more acute and the need to lay these struggles at the foot of the cross more potent. As these strange days unfold new truths, perhaps our greatest disappointments and trials are indeed Your mercies in disguise - for the day of Your comfort and healing is here.



**“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”**

**Matthew 11:28-30, NIV**

# Community Contacts

You are not alone. The Ministers and your Pastoral Elder can be contacted via the Church Office on 01577 862570 or [office@kinrossparishchurch.org](mailto:office@kinrossparishchurch.org). There are many agencies offering support and we list some of them here

	<p><b>Age Scotland</b> You can call its freephone helpline for information, friendship and advice. Its friendly advisers are available to help from Monday to Friday 9am-5pm on 0800 12 44 222</p>
	<p><b>Broke Not Broken</b> Broke Not Broken is a local charity based in Kinross-shire dedicated to tackling the effects of poverty. It runs the local food bank as well as other community projects. It works with referral agencies to make sure you get all the support that you need. Has your income reduced or disappeared as a result of Coronavirus? Please get in touch to see how Broke Not Broken can help. Email <a href="mailto:admin@brokenotbroken.org">admin@brokenotbroken.org</a>. Call 07513 913107 or message them on their Facebook page</p>
	<p><b>Citizens Advice Bureau</b> Email: <a href="mailto:karencampbell@perthcab.casonline.org.uk">karencampbell@perthcab.casonline.org.uk</a> Advice Line: 01738 450580 Appointment Line: 01738 450581</p>
	<p><b>Coronavirus helpline for vulnerable Scots</b> Helpline providing essential assistance to those who do not have a network of support but who are at high risk if they contract COVID-19. Call 0800 111 4000; initially operating 9am-5pm</p>
<p><b>Perth and Kinross Council</b></p> 	<p><b>Crisis Help</b></p> <p>Emergencies <a href="tel:999">999</a> Samaritans <a href="tel:116123">116 123</a></p> <p>Breathing Space <a href="tel:0800838587">0800 83 85 87</a></p> <p>Drug &amp; Alcohol Team (DAAT) <a href="tel:0173847445">01738 47445</a></p> <p>NHS 24 <a href="tel:111">111</a></p> <p>Childline <a href="tel:08001111">0800 1111</a></p> <p>Domestic Abuse Helpline <a href="tel:08000271234">0800 027 1234</a> or visit <a href="http://safer.scot">safer.scot</a></p> <p>Further helpful contacts can be found at <a href="https://www.pkc.gov.uk/mentalhealthresources">https://www.pkc.gov.uk/mentalhealthresources</a></p>
	<p><b>Kinross Kindness</b> Do you need help whilst self-isolating or staying safe?</p> <p>Kinross Kindness is a trusted group of over 85 local volunteers who can help: Collecting and dropping off shopping / prescriptions, Making friendly phone calls, Providing urgent supplies, General help like moving your bins</p> <p>Phone 01577 212036 or fill out a form at <a href="http://www.kinrosskindness.com">www.kinrosskindness.com</a></p> <p><b>Blether Line</b> If you would just like to be able to have a friendly chat with someone. Call the Kinross Kindness Blether Line - 01577 212037</p>
	<p><b>Perth &amp; Kinross Credit Union</b> Although its office is currently closed to visitors, staff at the Credit Union continue to process all the normal daily transactions. Email <a href="mailto:info@pkcu.org.uk">info@pkcu.org.uk</a> or Phone <a href="tel:01738624872">01738 624872</a> (staff available 9am-12 noon) or leave a message on their answering machine</p>
	<p><b>Suicide? Help! App</b> This app gives you information about suicide, how to help, and contacts across Tayside. More information is available on <a href="http://suicidehelp.co.uk/">http://suicidehelp.co.uk/</a></p>