

KIN-NECTIONS

KINROSS PARISH CHURCH | MARCH - MAY 2021

FREE: Please take a copy

GROWING YOUNG

**BERTHA PARK PRESBYTERY
MISSION INITIATIVE**

ECO-CONGREGATION

WORLD WATCH LIST

KYTHER

REFLECTIONS



Following Christ | Spreading the Word | Serving the Community

*Following Christ
Spreading the Word
Serving the Community*

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Kirk Session Council: **23 March**

Pre-Kirk Session Council: **27 April**

Kirk Session: **3 May**

Kin-nections Jun - Sep Deadline: **27 April**



The Church of Scotland

SUNDAY SERVICES

March to May 2021

- Sunday Service live: 10.30am on www.kinrossparishchurch.org, YouTube, Facebook or on Zoom (details in Sunday email)
 - From 10am on Zoom - Wake Up, Warm Up, Worship - an informal pre-service gathering
- Sunday Service recordings: Sunday after 1pm on www.kinrossparishchurch.org, YouTube, Facebook or dial 01577 528270
- CD recordings of the service or a printed copy of the sermon available. Contact the Church Office.

Please note: at the time of going to press, it is not yet possible to attend Sunday worship in person, and restrictions mean the mid-week worship gathering is on hold but is available to join on Zoom. Please check for updates.

Communion is celebrated on Zoom on the first Sunday of the month; on other Sundays there is the opportunity for fellowship at Zoom coffee following the service.

Holy Week and Easter services to be announced: please check the website, the weekly email with intimations, church notice boards or contact the church office. Sign up for the weekly email through the church office.

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 07 March: | Quarterly Communion. Mark 15:1-5 |
| | Trial by Pilate |
| 14 March: | Mark 15:6-15 |
| | Trial by the People |
| 21 March: | Mark 15:16-20 |
| | Trial by the Soldiers |
| 28 March: | Palm Sunday. Mark 11:1-11 |
| | Triumphal Entry |
| 04 April: | Easter Sunday. Mark 16:1-8 |
| | Risen Indeed! |
| 11 April: | John 20:19-31 |
| | Peace Be with You! |
| 18 April: | Luke 24:36-48 |
| | Why are You Alarmed? |
| 25 April: | John 10:11-18 |
| | I am the Good Shepherd |
| 02 May: | John 15:1-8 |
| | I am the Real Vine |
| 09 May: | John 15:9-17 |
| | Love One Another |
| 16 May: | Ascension Sunday. John 17:6-19 |
| | That They May Be One |
| 23 May: | Pentecost Sunday. John 15:26-27 |
| | The Helper Will Come |



Find us on Facebook
[Kinross Parish Church of Scotland](https://www.facebook.com/Kinross-Parish-Church-of-Scotland)



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



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

Keeping in Contact: Every household connected to the Church is allocated to one of 14 Area Pastoral Teams. Magazines are currently delivered four times a year, but Covid-19 advice prevents Pastoral Elders visiting. If you want to contact them please phone the Office on 01577 862570.

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Trojan Press Print 250-252 High Street, Leslie, KY6 3AE, 01592 744302

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CONNECTING WITH GOD & BOOK REVIEW

I am delighted to welcome you to our March edition of Kin-nections.



The theme of this edition is 'Reasons to be Thankful'. We wanted to showcase what we have been able to do while we continue to live with the Covid-19 pandemic.

You will find details on the back cover of where to find information about our Easter services.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition of Kin-nections.

- Graeme Shaw, Kin-nections Creative Editor

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Funerals

18 November	Robert (Bob) Dick
19 November	Anna Graham
20 November	Geoff Douglas
30 November	Effie Kidd
18 December	Mary Blackwood
07 January	Mary Halkett
28 January	Betty Osmanski
19 February	Madge Thomson

New members

Harry and Sheena Sangster

Helen Wilson

Date for Your Diary:

Family Week 2-6 August 2021

TALKING WITH GOD

Dear Heavenly Father,

My God, My God, why have you forsaken me? We hear the words of Jesus from the cross and echo them in the centre of our souls.

We feel forsaken and alone in our present state of crisis. We miss our family and friends. We long to hug, shake hands, to greet with open arms. We worry about our loved ones – some are working on the front line, or live in other towns or countries, are ill, in hospital, in care homes – all feel inaccessible.

Why are you so far away when I groan for help?

Dear Lord of Heaven and Earth, you come to us in our groaning, in our forsakenness, in our fear, in our sadness. You experienced this yourself. You were scorned, despised, mocked, spat on, insulted, pierced and nailed to a cross. 'You saved others, you cannot save yourself?' were the cries of torment you heard. Our Lord, it was you who cried out, 'My God, My God why have you forsaken me?'

Were we there when you were crucified?

Dear Lord of our Lives, Creator and Sustainer, we pause in our thoughts to bow our hearts before you. We are saddened, humbled and repentant.

And yet in the words of Isaiah, 'You took our pain and bore our suffering, you were pierced for our transgressions, bruised for our iniquities. His punishment brought us peace, and by His wounds, we are healed.'

Suffering Servant Lord, we give you thanks and praise that through your suffering, death, burial and resurrection, you opened the way for us to experience the Risen Lord! You gave us your Holy Spirit to be our comforter and our friend. You made us sons and daughters of the Prince of Peace. We are heirs to your throne!

Dear Holy Father, Holy Son and Holy Spirit, let us empty ourselves of all that concerns us, let us give our time and talents over to you, let us see you afresh this Easter time through the eyes of the Spirit, knowing you are now exalted, living and reigning in Glory.

We can sing with confidence, 'Up from the grave He arose! With a mighty triumph o'er His foes. He arose the Victor from the dark domain and He lives in Heaven with His saints to reign. HE AROSE, HE AROSE!' Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, we thank you for your amazing gift of new life to us. By your Grace we will live the Risen way,

We ask these prayers through the Precious and Glorious Name of Jesus. Amen.

-Tina Shepherd

REFLECTIONS

The Rainbow, the Dove and the Light

God sent from heaven the rainbow and dove
As symbols to Noah of his grace and love.
A love that's for all through each day and each night,
Which comes to us from Jesus' undying light.

Light shines through the windows our young folk have made.
To the town of Kinross is the message displayed
Of a God with a promise, this uncertain year,
That his strength will support us and cast away fear.

As we stare at the windows in awe at the sight
Of the message from God that is brought by the light.
In his dealings with us, the window relays,
It's not just one way, it works both ways.

Darkness into the abyss he hurled,
When he came to save us, the Light of the World.
But if we hope for a life divine,
As the old hymn says, he bids us shine!

-Irene McFarlane



FROM THE MANSE...



Dear Friends,

This time last year a new threat was on the horizon - a new and lethal virus was beginning to spread around the globe. Little did we know at that stage what lay ahead of us. It soon became apparent that

the initial measures introduced to prevent the spread of the virus in this country were woefully inadequate and very swiftly we were moved into complete lockdown. Overnight we had to find new ways to do everything - church included. Although few of us have enjoyed the experience, for the most part people have learned to cope. Of course, we are all looking forward to a relaxation of restrictions and the prospect of an end to the undoubted struggles of the past year. But what will the future look like?

Now, the prospect of protection from the virus is beginning to dawn on the horizon - new vaccines are being rolled out with commendable speed. But the truth is that we still don't know what lies ahead of us. We have to learn the lessons of the past and be prepared to take radical steps rather than discovering too late that we have been too timid.

In every area of life we have to stop and consider how we can build back better rather than unthinkingly settling back into old ways just because they are comfortable. If we have ears to hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches, we have to listen out for what God is saying to us in these days, not just in relation to our life as a church but in every aspect of our living - our connections and communication with family and friends, our ways of working, our use of God-given resources, the way we care for the most vulnerable.

It is perhaps no accident that before the pandemic as a congregation we had already committed to undertaking the Growing Young process and also to exploring what it might mean to be an Eco-Congregation. Forging a new path ahead is never an easy thing to do and we are all heading into an unknown future without an up-to-date road map. But we *do* have a Guide, the One who knows the end from the beginning and who seeks the very best for us.

I can't promise an easy road either for us as a church or for any of you as individuals. What I *can* promise is a listening ear and companionship on the journey - we are in this together. And most of all I can point you to the promises of the One who says, 'I am making all things new' (Revelation 21:5) and 'I am with you always to the very end of the age.' (Matthew 28:20)

Walking by faith, not by sight,

Alan

Rev.A.D. Reid

TIME FOR PRAYER

Make time for prayer each day, on your own and in company with others. The monthly **Prayer Diary** gives a daily Bible reading from Bible 2021, a point for prayer and the names of streets and areas of our parish to pray for each day. It is available by email and on the church website or on request from the church office.

- There is a reflection and prayer for the day Monday to Friday on the dial-up telephone service (01577 528270)
- Each **Sunday evening at 6pm** there is an opportunity to gather with others to pray on Zoom (online or by telephone)
- Each **Wednesday at midday** there is a time for prayer, broadcast live on Facebook and available to join later on catch-up
- On the first Monday morning of the month guidelines for silent meditation are published on our Facebook page (1 March, 5 April & 3 May)
- On the third Thursday of the month you are invited to join a live broadcast of the late evening monastic prayer service of Compline at 9pm on Facebook. This can also be viewed later (18 March, 22 April & 20 May).

YOU CAN MAKE A PRAYER REQUEST VIA OUR CHURCH WEBSITE

We will be glad to pray for you or for someone you are concerned about. If you have a specific prayer request, please visit our church website and click on Prayer Request. You are welcome to submit your request anonymously or give your details - whichever you prefer. We believe in the God who hears and answers prayer.

PLEASE KEEP PRAYING FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

Due to lockdown lots has changed for our young people. Our youth groups can't meet as usual. Many are missing school, their friends and social activities. The teenagers and young people in our community desperately need our love and after such sad recent events they need our heart-felt prayers. We want them to know they are loved and cherished and unique in God's loving eyes. God has a plan for each of them. May God bless them and keep them and may his light shine upon them and give them peace.

GROWING YOUNG UPDATE

The core team working on Kinross Parish Church's Growing Young (GY) project are starting the year feeling positive, as conversations begin to strengthen relationships in our church family.

GY is a process of forward-looking cultural change, led by the US Fuller Institute and based on global research. We are one of 25 Church of Scotland congregations who are now about five months in to the programme, which aims to equip us to meet the needs of all generations in our church family and ensure that our churches' future is secured for younger people.

The programme encourages us to make positive changes not through quick fixes or glossy modern ideas, but much deeper cultural shifts in our attitudes and behaviours. These take time, and start with listening. We have been using the GY resources to help us listen in an open way, aiming for honest conversations and a culture of curiosity, as well as finding out what KPC's strengths and weaknesses are in relation to GY's six core themes. We were thankful that over 100 people of all ages completed the GY survey. These anonymous responses will be analysed alongside topics that emerged from listening sessions which took place with house groups and others.

Kicking off 2021 with a sermon series based around the GY core commitments is a great conversation starter, alongside mini interviews during services. Building on our reporting to Kirk Session, we hope to have opportunities to discuss GY resources with Session.

CHRISTMAS DAY MEALS - "I AM VERY GRATEFUL"

"I am very, very grateful", "Thank you for my delicious lunch. I really enjoyed it" and "Thank you everyone for your efforts. It meant I had a happy Christmas Day" are some of the messages received by the church office from those who live alone and received a Christmas Day meal in their house this year.

In recent years Richard Scott and his mother Sylvia have organised a Christmas Day meal in the Church Centre. Undaunted by Covid restrictions, this year they organised donations and a team of 15 volunteers so that a three-course meal, a gift - and a cracker - would instead be taken to people in their homes. We wish to thank all those who helped - the folk in the kitchen and the delivery teams, the gifts of meats from Hunters of Kinross, Christmas cakes from Diane and Karen, gifts from Caulders Garden Centre organised (and wrapped) by Kinross Rotary Club, those who gave financial donations, and of course, Richard and Sylvia.

Richard says: "People were very grateful and all of those who helped also got a buzz out of the day. The volunteers and donors come not just from the church but also the wider community. However, it couldn't happen without the support of the church by providing the premises and covering any financial loss - not necessary this year because of generous donations."

The survey results will be shared with the congregation and will help inform our action plan, which asks where we are, why, and where God is leading us. Conversations will be revisited and deepened as we encourage everyone to share their hopes and dreams for our church and help shape this exciting time of growth and change.

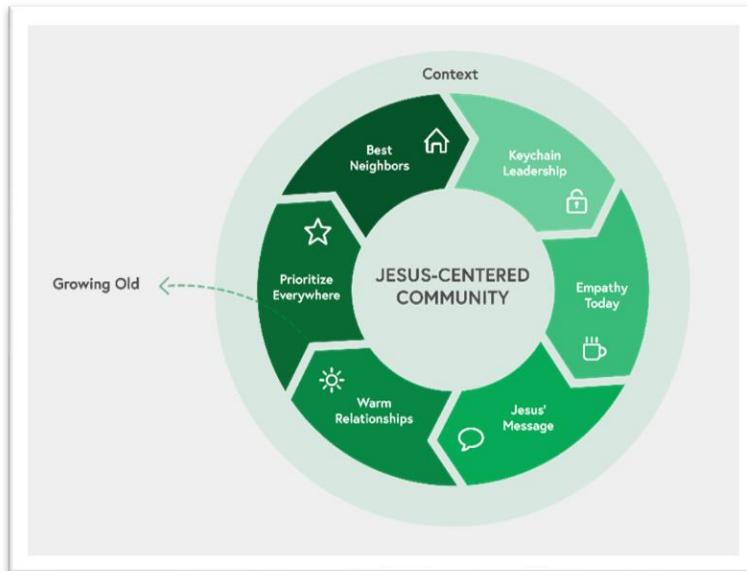
Being part of the core GY group, made up of six people of different ages, has been a positive experience. Eleanor says, 'When I first joined I didn't expect it to be as good as it has been. I have loved talking and

listening to people within our church community who I wouldn't normally talk with. I was surprised how much people have wanted to engage in the process which has been encouraging for us all.'

What can you do?

- **Pray** that the GY process would be meaningful, resulting in the right changes at the right time.
- **Pray** that the core team would be good listeners and good communicators, fostering a culture of curiosity in our church family.
- **Pray** that everyone in our church family will feel able to contribute to GY conversations and know that their opinion is valued.
- **Talk** about GY with your friends and family in and out of church. The core team will be happy to talk with you, too.
- **Ask** how younger people can be involved in plans, decisions and actions throughout your church life.
- **Read** the GY book to understand the research, aims and process. Contact Alan if you'd like to borrow a copy.

-Esther Blackburn



-Gordon McFarlane

STARTING A CONVERSATION...

BEING YOUNG (IN CHURCH)

I became a Christian, one summer, when I was 11. Well, actually, that is what I learned to call it. At the time I would have said that I had a profound realisation that this wonderful world could only exist because of God. I had a deep experience of Jesus' love for me through a Scripture Union leader, who prayed for my sunburnt hands! I readily accepted the invitation - foxes have holes and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head - to be a disciple of Jesus. I didn't ever remember hearing that invitation before, despite being brought up in church and going to Sunday school!

So, going back to church after that summer was interesting. Nothing really changed. I was just a small kid in a large congregation. I had never been to communion before but I knew it was something I should take part in. However, and you will guess what is coming next...I wasn't allowed! Communion was only for members of the church which I couldn't become until I was 16. I had to sit on the sidelines, in a transept of the church, often on my own. Don't get me wrong. I wasn't miserable; with God there, completely the opposite, but it must have looked a bit odd. There are two members of that congregation that I remember with fondness - Mr Martin who always took the time at the end of the service to check our Pathfinders cards, even when he was quite elderly, and Mrs Douglas, who was one of the Bible Class leaders. She was peers with my parents, but was able to chat and communicate, have empathy and understand in a non-judgmental way what was going on with us as teenagers. More than that - she really listened.

So I am now pulled back to Kinross Parish Church, our congregation and the Growing Young process. I am wondering if there are any similarities with when I was young (in church). I am wondering if it is not so much about the young people but about the church culture. Is church, particularly if you are new to it, somewhere that feels a bit alien, uses certain language or requires regular attendance and certain behaviours to gain approval and acceptance? Or is it welcoming with no one left out on the sidelines? Do the people there feel, not that it is just 'nice', but that it is authentic and they belong? Does it feel like family? Growing Young challenges us to change our church culture. Could we challenge ourselves to learn the name of one young person with the goal of remembering it and speaking to them the next week? We don't need to have a special vocation in youth ministry to take these small steps. Need more of a challenge? Perhaps there is one young person where you can 'dive deep', share common interests and empathise, even if you don't totally understand. I would really like to think that someone will remember me as a Mr Martin or a Mrs Douglas.

- *Moira Hookham*

Do the people in our church feel, not that it is just 'nice', but that it is authentic and they belong? Does it feel like family? Growing Young challenges us to change our church culture.

ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS 2020

I am acutely aware that our formal annual report and accounts is a voluminous and, dare I confess, tedious document to read and digest, so I hope that the following text will give you an overview of our financials for 2020. If you have any questions or points to make, or if you would like to have a copy of the full report and accounts, please be in touch with me direct or via the [Church Office](#).

The outcome for the year was better than I could dare anticipate after 41 weeks of Covid-19 restrictions, with a modest deficit of £4,750 against a 2019 surplus of £8,172.

Offerings income held up well and closed at £95,222; 2019 at £99,594. Income from lettings was £15,569 compared to last year's £25,958, an obvious casualty of lockdown. Overall, total income was £139,586; £160,801 for 2019. Expenses were mainly as anticipated save for the granting of an M&M reduction of £4,800, delays in certain non-urgent repairs and maintenance, and lockdown savings including organists' fees and cleaning. Overall, total expenses were £143,376; £156,660 for 2019.

We also managed to invest, and had our website redeveloped to strengthen communication with the church family and for wider outreach, along with £6,000 in livestreaming equipment for the all-important continuity of worship - the world of internet is now within our reach... thanks largely to the arrival of Rev Kathy at just the right time!

Our bank balances are still healthy at £78,569, just down on 2019's £79,117. Details of how this is allocated across our various funds can be found in the formal accounts.

Accountants never like to report deficits, but in doing so in the very strange situation of 2020, I am relieved and hugely grateful to all who continue to support Kinross Parish Church.

Sincere thanks to all of you!

-*Alan McGhie, Treasurer*

BERTHA PARK: BEING THE BEST NEIGHBOURS

Our Growing Young initiative emphasises the importance of being the best neighbours. A living example of this is the exciting project taking place in our presbytery: the Bertha Park Presbytery Mission Initiative. I spoke with its Community Minister, Rev Anne Stott (you may well recognise the name: her husband Kenny was at New College with Rev Alan Reid and they remain close friends).

The Bertha Park housing development at Inveralmond, Perth will eventually comprise 3,000 homes (when complete its population will be bigger than Kinross). How do new houses erected on a green-field site become a community when there is no shared history, and currently no shops or established meeting places?

This is where Perth Presbytery's bold vision comes into play: the seeding of a community church. "Church" is likely to mean - and be - something completely different to the long-established traditions with which we are familiar. Of course, worship, fellowship, discipleship and pastoral care will be at the core, but how these are approached will depend on what Anne hears in her conversations with residents. "My role is to listen, develop relationships, support and earn the right to speak about faith." Anne is Chaplain at the recently-opened Bertha Park High School and volunteers there - she is building relationships.

Practical support is one way to show Christ's message. In the first Covid Lockdown, the bus service was suspended, meaning residents faced at 40-minute round walk to the nearest shops. Anne also recognised that budgets are tight for those whose employment has taken a downturn, so she set up a Food Share - boxes with staples, from which folk could help themselves for

free or indeed add donations. Once the posters went up, word got round and the Food Share supported those who needed it, so they felt they were not alone. Another Kin-nections connection: Anne Redpath from our congregation, who is in training for the ministry, helped at the Food Share.

The church's physical presence is refreshingly non-traditional: it is a corner-shop sized space.

Anne's hope is that this will serve as a hub - people popping in to this church community space. Anne hopes to eventually offer Bible study groups or perhaps an Alpha course, but in ways that meet people where they are at.

If you would like to find out more, here's a [short video](#) about the initiative or search Bertha Park Mission on YouTube. How can Kinross Parish Church be best neighbours? In practical terms, there is a shop space that needs to be fitted out with furniture and essentials, so help with these goods or funding would be appreciated. Likewise, volunteers can help build on what can be offered. Importantly, Anne welcomes your prayers of support.

For more information: www.perthriverside.com/bertha-park.



Rev Anne Stott with Food Share box outside Bertha Park Church premises

REASONS TO BE THANKFUL

Who would have thought that we would all still be caught up in this worldwide pandemic? It has changed our norms and our mindsets as we adapt to the new environment in which we live. Our vocabulary is changing too: "Zoom", "streaming" and "breakout rooms" speckle our speech. God has made us resilient and adaptable and this has been apparent over these past months. This adversity has created positive opportunities for our Church and community.

Our use of technology has become the norm in our communication and engagement with one another. It has allowed us to join in fellowship and faith through church services and our many different church groups. We have maintained and grown our congregation locally and more widely.

The Guild, Craft Group, house groups, choir and others have continued to bring people together who might otherwise have felt isolated.

Until the latest lockdown our young people were able to meet their friends face to face at the KYTHE Hub at the Health Centre. Their mental wellbeing is important, so I hope that the KYTHE Hub is able to reopen soon.

Music has always been an important part of our worship but also in our fellowship together. We have seen innovative ways of allowing people to hear and participate using new technology that might not have happened in the past.

Thanks to you all for all you are doing to keep all our connections strong in the Church and our community. The situation has brought to the fore undiscovered new talents and gifts. Indeed, it has allowed us the time to reach out to others through action and deeds and work alongside other churches and community organisations to support and care for one another.

We have much to be thankful for and glad about as the vaccination programme is rolled out. However, let us not forget what we have learnt from each other over these past months when the world becomes more stable again.

The Lord is always with us and we need to remember to turn to him when times are good and when they are tough. As it says in Psalm 46: 1 **"God is our refuge and our strength, an ever-present help in trouble."**

-Jaffrey Weir, Session Clerk

LOOKING GOOD ON CAMERA!

OK... so we are not talking about make-up, pouting or augmenting our super star looks! As we get used to virtual technology, how do we best connect and make eye contact with another on screen? How do we avoid anything distracting about our image, our background, as we record a prayer or a reading? There are multiple guidelines and videos online, all worth exploring, but of varying complexity. Here are a few tips, which hold true for most devices.

Camera - They say a camera never lies, but we should know a little, so at least it tells the correct story. Where is the camera on your device? If we can locate and look at it, we will give the other person the impression that we are looking at them. The camera should be at eye level. A common position is to put the laptop on the lap, but then the camera is looking up under the chin (or nostrils) - not a flattering look! Prop up the device on books etc to get the right height. Whatever is nearest the camera appears largest. So again a laptop on the lap will augment the upper body with a tiny head. A similar image will result if the laptop screen is tilted back and exacerbated if you are also reclining - all correctable with eyelevel height, screen at 90 degrees and body at 90 degrees! (try a little cushion at your back). Device cameras are often wide angle, and you will be familiar with that distorted image of the big nose with the head curving away from it! Fortunately, this can be resolved by distancing from the camera.

Lighting - As in all photography, lighting is key. There is so much science behind it, but hopefully these little pointers will help! Have your main lighting from the front and preferably from above eye level. If your main light is behind you, the camera gets confused and will depict you as a silhouette. In day time, a window is great and even better if it can be diffuse light, e.g angled venetian blinds, or net curtains. At night, or in a

dark corner, a lamp behind and above the pc, will have the same effect, LED preferred to Tungsten.

Avoid side lighting - every crevice becomes a crevasse, particularly if not softened! Another trick is to turn up the brightness of your screen, to increase reflected light.

Glasses - Of the spectacle kind, are a real pain for many reasons, but on camera, reflections from lighting solutions, blue reflections from the device screen and the shadows cast by frames, can distract and obscure eye contact. The degree of the problem is also dependent on the type of glasses and coatings they may have. There is no easy solution and lots involving multiple lights. It is a matter of juggling height (higher), distance and angle (slightly from the side) of your front lighting and perhaps turning down the brightness of your screen.

Background - I don't know if you are like me, but if someone comes on with shelves of books behind them, I am trying to read the titles, to suss out what kind of people they are! The best backgrounds are boring! That way the viewer is not distracted by the clutter, only the content of what is being delivered.



My unglamorous set-up to get the right compromise for light and glasses

I am definitely a camera-shy Scot, but embracing it has helped me find a workable solution. I'm not too fussed if I am just chatting to friends, but definitely worth it for that more formal situation. Set up a Zoom meeting for yourself, experiment and see what works for you!

-Moirá Hookham

IN CONVERSATION WITH... THE HOUSE GROUPS

The continuation of the House Groups by Zoom has been a reason to be thankful. Members of the House Groups share their thoughts on what this has meant for them...

"Tuesday afternoons have proved to be a special time of friendship and fellowship for us, as over the months we have become increasingly comfortable meeting on Zoom. It has ensured continuity of the group and just seeing each other and chatting has meant a lot, giving focus to the week and company instead of isolation."

"We are about to enjoy our eighth and last session of The Bible Course. Even those who have known and studied the Bible over a lifetime feel that this has opened it up in new ways."

"Continuing to meet in our house groups online during lockdown was an important part of our belonging to the church, connecting with other church members even when we are not able to meet in person. In the house groups we can consciously be with someone in their circumstances because we have become comfortable about sharing with one another."

"Even when we are able to meet again in one another's homes we may choose to have a mixture of online and in-person gatherings, perhaps mostly meeting online but coming together once a month or once in six weeks."



Fairtrade Fortnight 22 February to 7 March 2021

The theme this year is Fairtrade, Climate and You. If you are concerned about climate change there are many individual choices we can make which make a difference. One you may not have known about is that every time you choose to buy an item with the Fairtrade mark, you are also taking a positive action in combating climate change. This is because farmers with the Fairtrade Mark accreditation use sustainable farming methods, which do less harm to the environment, and also these farmers are already struggling with the effects of climate change on their crops, so the fairer price they receive for their goods helps them to continue to grow the goods such as coffee, tea, bananas and cocoa that we so enjoy.

KYTHE - "such a great resource for our town"

At the time of writing, KYTHE is back to adhering to the required restrictions of Tier 4 lockdown. However, under the guidance of Youth Scotland, Walk and Talk was launched with the opportunity to go for a walk (or cycle) with Barry, Gillian or Katy-Beth, with 27 sessions available a week. By the Wednesday of the first week, there were only two slots left for the Thursday and 57.7km had been walked! This innovative way of working is meeting the needs of the young people of Kinross-shire, especially when they are isolated from friends. However, Friday afternoon activities have continued (albeit online).

Looking ahead, there are plans for April holidays and new projects involving other partners within the community. Given that much can change, keep up to date with Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and KYTHE's website.



DYNAMIC
CHRISTIAN
YOUTH
WORK

Please pray for our young people at this time, as even when Covid restrictions are lifted they will still bear the emotional impact of this time, but give thanks for the work done, as seen in this message from Natasha's parents.

"KYTHE has been a great opportunity for Natasha* to do something extracurricular where she feels comfortable and part of a group. She struggles with clubs and most social situations, so it is difficult for us as parents to find outside interests where she is keen to go.

Natasha always leaves the art group happy and relaxed and looking forward to the next time. The staff does an amazing job and always contacts us if there is an opportunity they think Natasha would benefit from. Such a great resource for our town."

*Name change

@instakythe @KYTHEbook @tweetKYTHE
www.kythe



The Guild

It has been encouraging to have 29 members join the Guild this session, even though we have not been able to meet in person. We have had a full programme on Zoom, with a guest speaker at each of our meetings, including from two Guild projects. At this point it looks uncertain if we will have a summer outing!

-Helena Cant



Craft Group

The Craft Group members continue to support the Sailors' Society by knitting hats, balaclavas, neck warmers and teddies. The pile of knitting just gets bigger!

Unfortunately we won't be able to deliver the items to the Leith Chaplain until the Covid-19 restrictions are lifted but in the meantime the ladies "Keep on Knitting"!

If anyone would like to join us in our weekly Zoom meetings or help with the knitting they should contact the church office for information. The church office will direct you to someone who can supply the patterns.

Looking forward to having new members or helpers.

-Margaret Clark

All Friends Together

We ended 2020 and began 2021 online, with our monthly Zoom meetings for All Friends Together (AFT). It is great to see people from other groups (which have not managed to keep 'meeting' in this way) come along to our AFT.



Despite the newspapers and press saying 'Christmas is cancelled', we met together in December to show what we all already knew, that this was not true. We sang carols - singing is always fun with a group on Zoom, as most of you will know by now! - and even had a wee visit from Santa's helper - who very kindly then delivered gifts for our members to help out Santa. As has become our tradition, we ended our Gathering with seasonal jokes.

Despite our hopes that 2021 would see us meeting back in the Church, for now that looks unlikely, so we will continue to meet monthly on Zoom. However we meet, we have plenty of stories, dramas, singing and a few surprises in store for the coming year. Sadly, the Prospects Annual weekend away at Tulliallan has been cancelled for 2021, but Prospects across Scotland has kept the members going with quizzes, coffee time chats and music workshops - all online.

We have heard from Hungary that construction work has begun on the new building for Immanuel House - which our congregation generously donated to last year - and we hope to be able to show you a picture of this in the next issue.

All Friends Together welcomes all adults with special needs to a monthly celebration of Jesus.

-Anne Sutherland

Looking Forward to Family Week 2 to 6 August!

At the time of writing in January, it is difficult to know exactly what the situation will be in eight months' time. However, two things are certain: there will be a Family Week and it will be from **Monday 2 to Friday 6 August**. Ruth Robertson will be coordinating the week and we will need lots of help! Whatever the theme, it will be exciting! Just watch this space!

Eco-Congregation: Take action in our lives!

Care for creation is at the heart of the Eco-Congregation movement. 'The earth is the Lord's', declares the psalmist (Psalm 24:1). It is God's creation, not ours to do with as we please.

In November, the Eco-Team organised a litter pick around Kinross and a few groups took part, collecting over 30 bags of litter. Another litter pick is planned for early 2021.

In November 2021, the UK will host the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow. Why is this important to Kinross Parish Church and the wider Kinross community? Globally, household consumption accounts for about 72% of greenhouse gas emissions. The need for major changes in household consumption is even more pressing in countries like the UK, and this applies equally to Kinross.

Up to now, behaviour change and societal change around lifestyles and consumption have played a relatively minor role in meeting UK emissions reduction targets. However, to reduce our carbon footprint we will all need to make significant changes to allow us to reach zero carbon in Kinross. In the home

- If you have a loft, check the insulation. Is it 270mm thick? Fitting this amount of insulation could save up to £150 a year on heating bills.

On the move

- Can you find an alternative to using a car or share a journey for some of your trips? An average car commuter drives 12 miles a day and reducing this by half could save 400kg CO₂ a year or 170 litres of fuel.

Out shopping

- Producing, processing, and transporting food may be responsible for up to a third of our carbon footprint, yet the average UK house spends £420 a year on food that could be eaten but is thrown away. How do you manage your food shopping?

These are just a few ideas that could help to reduce our greenhouse gases. Let's all take action in our lives!

-Jim Smith



Hear Our Prayer: call 01577 528270 any time of the day or night to hear a recording of one of our Ministers or leaders sharing a daily prayerful reflection.



World Day of Prayer Friday 5 March 2021

This year the World Day of Prayer service from the women of Vanuatu in the South Pacific will be online at **7pm on Friday 5 March**. The chances are that it will be on Zoom, so the passcodes and meeting ID will be announced as soon as we know. If you don't have broadband, you will still be able to listen on your phone - details later.

Vanuatu is a widespread archipelago of islands in the South Pacific, and as well as Coronavirus last year, the islanders have had to contend with Cyclone Harold, which totally destroyed two of the islands. Appropriately their title is Build on a Strong Foundation, and they have chosen the parable of the man who built his house on the rock.

If you have any queries which are not answered by announcements on church news sheets or the Facebook page, Kinross Shire Churches Together, please contact me direct or via the Church Office.

-Alex Cant

Keeping in touch with one another: who will you call?

By the time you read this, many of you may have had your first Covid-19 vaccination, which is great news. As I write, in late January, it looks like the numbers of new infections may be falling, and that is also wonderful, but we are going to be under restrictions on meeting up with others and on travel for some time yet.

It is therefore important that we keep in touch with one other. Why not phone someone you have not

seen or heard from for a while? This lets them know we care, and also helps you feel you are doing something supportive for others in these difficult times. If you become aware that some of our members who do not use computers/ email are missing contact with the Church, please let me know via the Church Office. Anyone can access our church services and prayers by phone: 01577 528270.

-Robert Mitchell, Pastoral Group Convener

KINROSS PARISH CHURCH: PART-TIME CHURCH OFFICE COORDINATOR

16 hours per week over 4 weekday mornings including Monday, Thursday and Friday

Our current Church Office Coordinator is stepping down and we are looking to fill this key role. Do you have previous office experience, good IT skills, along with excellent organisational and communication skills and enjoy working with people?

Since its establishment in 2010, the Church Office has been functioning as an administrative support for KPC's active ministries, for all users of the office and in coordinating hire of the Church and Church Centre. This is undertaken by a paid Office Coordinator and team of volunteers, the office being open Monday to Friday, 10am to 12 noon.

Since March 2020, Covid-19 has forced the office to become virtual, the current Coordinator working remotely. Like all jobs, the role has adapted and developed to meet the challenges of safely delivering what is needed, in this case focusing on supporting online worship, communication and fellowship, requiring acquisition of new, more technical skills.

Until it is possible to return safely to the Church Office, the Coordinator will be required to be able to work remotely and be adaptable to changing situations.

You will be a key point of contact from the congregation, community and beyond so, if you are talented in ensuring that an organisation runs smoothly and have a heart for getting alongside people and helping things happen, we would love to hear from you.

For informal enquiries, please contact Alice Getley on 01577 863395

Job descriptions available from Alison Brown alisonmdollar@hotmail.com

Closing date for applications (CV with 2 referees): Friday 23 April at 12 noon by email to alisonmdollar@hotmail.com

THE LIGHTHOUSE FOR PERTH

MARCH 2021 COMMUNION - SPECIAL COLLECTION

With the continuation of Covid-19 restrictions it is acknowledged that an increase in mental health problems is being experienced in all age groups across the community. In these circumstances The Lighthouse for Perth is the chosen recipient for the special collection connected to our March Communion and is commended to you by our Kirk Session. Although based in Perth they also work in Kinross and have links with KYTHE.

The Lighthouse is dedicated to supporting people who are in crisis. They work with all people aged 12 and over who are struggling with thoughts of self-harm or suicide, or who may be in emotional distress or crisis. They are there to listen and support without judgment.

They have recently settled into a new home at The Neuk; a safe space in the heart of Perth. The Neuk is a purpose-built centre, specifically designed to support people in crisis through multi-agency, peer-support coordination. It is a **safe space for all**. This means all staff and volunteers are committed to creating a welcoming, non-judgmental and comfortable place for everyone.

The move has elevated what services The Lighthouse can offer. They now have access to a sensory room, a teenage room, and five crisis beds at their disposal for those who need them, alongside support from fellow partners.

The Lighthouse for Perth is financed solely by donations and fundraising and your donations would be very much appreciated. Details in Intimations and on church website under Giving about how to donate.

Further information is available on their website <https://lighthouseforperth.org/>. Scottish Charity No. SC046186

The Lighthouse for Perth Crisis Support Line:

Monday to Thursday: 10am-4pm

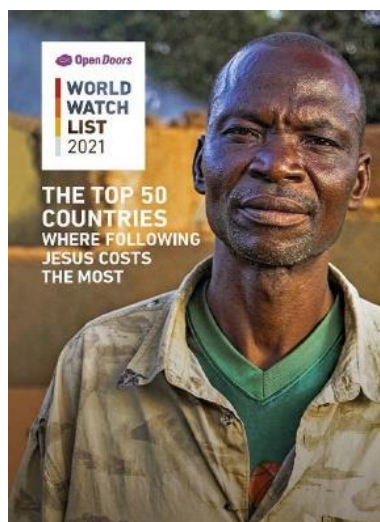
Friday & Saturday: 8pm-2am

Freephone: 0800 121 4820 or contact via FB Messenger

(Outside of these hours, the charity monitors its FB Messenger service and will get back to anyone needing help asap)



WORLD WATCH LIST 2021



The treatment of the Uyghurs, who are nearly all Muslims, by the Chinese government is the most recent instance of the persecution of minorities on account of their religion or belief. However, by far the majority of those who are persecuted because of their faith are Christians. Open Doors UK, an avowedly Christian organisation, but which stands up for those of any faith who are persecuted, reckons that there are at least 260 million Christians worldwide suffering 'extreme or very high' levels of persecution with at least a further 50 million reckoned to be experiencing a 'high' level - one in eight Christians worldwide.

There are several reasons why Christians are persecuted: dictators want to be worshipped as 'gods' (North Korea); ultra-nationalists preach that religion equals race (India); Muslim extremists try to reach paradise by killing 'infidels'. In addition, Christians are often poor and in the minority, making them easy to bully and to blame.

Open Doors UK is one of several Christian organisations (in addition to secular ones such as Amnesty International) which seek to strengthen and support persecuted

Christians - and others persecuted because of their faith. Millions around the world are receiving food and medicine (denied to many of them during this pandemic), spiritual care, training and legal advice.

Each year Open Doors UK publishes a World Watch List which documents the top 50 most severely persecuted Christian groups in the world. This year's list was launched at the Westminster parliament on 13 January, when Fiona Bruce MP, UK Envoy for Freedom of Religion or Belief, spoke, and just short of 100 MPs and more than 3,000 supporters attended virtually. The video of the launch is well worth watching and the actual publication is available free from Open Doors UK at <https://www.opendoorsuk.org/products/product/wwl21-top-50>. This is a superb resource for informing our support and praying for our persecuted brothers and sisters throughout the world.

-John McArthur

COME AND SEE

“COME AND SEE,” SAID PHILIP TO A DOUBTFUL NATHANIEL



One never knows what to expect when accepting the invitation to be a follower of Jesus.

Certainly, there is a wholeness like no other through faith in Christ, but our journey is hardly ever what we might envision. About a year ago, I was discerning where God might be leading me next. I had

determined a sense of call to return to pastoral ministry, leaving behind the mission I loved and had served as their executive director. Two opportunities presented themselves - one in familiar territory, the other in the ‘wilds’ of Scotland. I say ‘wilds’ quite satirically as I could not think of a nicer spot to be placed than Kinross.

A sojourner is described as a temporary visitor. Within a Biblical context, a sojourner is someone living outside their homeland dependent upon the goodwill of the people. Within that framework each of us is a sojourner finding our true home in Christ, reliant on God’s mercy, and nurtured through the Holy Spirit. Whatever the definition, this sojourner found herself warmly welcomed into the community of Kinross.

From the moment I set foot in my new home, I have been made to feel at home. Coming with very little from the US, you helped furnish my home. When months went by without resolve on my car, you offered lifts and even lent me an auto to use; and you have fed me (quite literally) in abundance. Most of all, you have been open and receptive in allowing me to share my small gifts of technology during this historic year. As the crafters might say, “I have been knitted into the fabric of this community.”

We all had expectations of what 2020 might be like. I thought of all the people and new places I would visit, but like everyone else my expectations of what I thought the year might entail followed a different path. The physical, psychological and economic impact of this past year cannot be sugar-coated, but I think it has offered us an opportunity to regain a greater perspective and depth of faith - resting in the peace that only Christ can provide despite all the associated and senseless loss of life. We have been given the opportunity to sift away the things that really served no importance and take root (or grow deeper) in the faith that has nurtured millions of souls throughout history.

As the time nears for me to follow God’s next call, this sojourner leaves with a deep sense of love for the people and community I leave behind.

*In Christ’s Peace,
Rev Kathy Dain*

MARION BARR - A TRIBUTE

We heard the sad news in January of the death of Marion Barr who was such an important part of our church and community life when she lived in Kinross, 1979-97, when her husband Leslie was our minister. Our sympathy and prayers are for all who knew Marion but particularly for Leslie, their children David, Michele and Deborah and their grandchildren.

Here is just one person’s thoughts, Ishbel McFarlane, a child at the time:

“To me Marion Barr was one of those extra-mothers that lucky people get - friends or aunties who care, teach and love you through your childhood. I remember her at the manse, often cooking for me and Debbie before Brownies, or after Quest Club. There was a print of Dürer’s ‘Praying Hands’ outside the kitchen and I remember asking Marion about it and her talking to me gently and seriously about the importance of prayer. I always think of her when I see that drawing and I’m so grateful that she took such care and time with me.

“She was also someone who ran many clubs and groups - she helped with Family Week, Quest Club, Spark Club and others. Quest Club was my regular Monday night activity for years; Marion would pick us up at the primary school and walk us along to the Church Centre where we would sing hymns, pray, do crafts and play. I really felt that Marion treated us as equal learners about God - capable of our own insights into faith and it was there I learnt my childhood faith, just as much as at church. It was also just fun. And Marion was fun. I don’t think I’ve ever known anyone more able to speak with a naughty laugh in their voice.

“It truly takes a village to raise a child - something the pandemic has made clearer than ever as we struggle to raise kids in isolation. And Marion, like the much-loved and lately departed Mary Halkett, was central to the village that raised me, and I thank God for her.”



CONNECTING WITH GOD

JOY IN THE MIDST

...fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart”.

(Hebrews 12:2-3, NIV)

Easter is the most important festival in the Christian calendar, celebrating the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. The significance of Easter is Jesus Christ's triumph over death so that eternal life could be granted to all who believe in Him. If Jesus had simply died, He would have been thought just another teacher or prophet. However, His resurrection provided final and undeniable proof that He really was the Son of God and that He had overcome death once and for all.

In this season of uncertainty during a pandemic, we are travelling together through an atmosphere of fatigue, wondering when an end will be in sight or even some sense of normality. We can see a glimmer of light ahead with the vaccination programme, but daily life is still about being precautionary, being unable to plan ahead due to all the unknowns. In this season of uncertainty we can, however, be certain of the love of Christ. When we are tired and weary, nothing can refresh and strengthen our souls more than to rest in Jesus.

When we are feeling lost and alone, we have a Comforter. When we need someone to talk to and to understand us, we have a Counsellor. When we need someone to take away all our guilt and shame, we have a Redeemer.

How can mere words encapsulate all that Jesus did for us as He bled and died on the cross, all that He did for you and for me? Our loving Lord Jesus experienced bitter betrayal for us, ultimate suffering for us, excruciating pain for us and ultimately death for us. He endured all and conquered all so that we could be set free. The blood of the lamb, a living

sacrifice for our sins. O hearts be humbled that we might understand in our daily lives the magnitude of His feat, that we might realise His victory and know the power of His sacrifice by His blood.

O Lord Jesus,

You are the joy in the midst of our trials. You take whatever pain we hold and make it beautiful. When we accept and receive Your love and

mercy, we are restored forever more. When the world seems bleak and we are feeling forlorn, Your words pierce the dark with light. When we are afraid, and unsure where to turn, You give us direction and hold us tight. Rejoice o hearts of ours. Let us not dwell on the uncertainties, but instead we lift our eyes to see that in Christ Arisen we are redeemed.

Amen.

-Diane Taylor



BOOK REVIEW: THE PRAYER COURSE



The Tuesday afternoon House Group decided to study this eight-week Prayer Course in the second half of 2020. The course involved 20-minute videos (available through their website prayercourse.org) on different areas of prayer: teach us to pray; adoration; petition; intercession; unanswered prayer; contemplation; listening and spiritual warfare - using the Lords' Prayer as the perfect example of how to pray. There was also a book to accompany the videos, called *How to Pray - a simple guide for normal people* by Pete Greig. We would watch the video in advance of the House Group (and read the book, if we had bought it) and then discuss it. The website also has a 'toolshed' of articles on specific topics within each week's session (for example, how to pray the Psalms and how to practise the Presence of God).

I found the videos very watchable, as they take the form of a chat between Pete Greig and Poppy Williams. After watching these, the website gives you some questions to think about and discuss, and the book builds on each of these topics and, in my view, is readable and challenging in equal measure. Right at the start of the book, Pete Greig has a really useful acronym for PRAY - Pause, Rejoice, Ask, Yield. Another soundbite which has stuck with me is that we need to 'keep it simple, keep it real and keep it up' in our prayer life.

In case you haven't worked it out, I thoroughly enjoyed the book and the entire course and would wholeheartedly recommend it to all.

- Anne Sutherland

"In our prayer life, keep it simple, keep it real and keep it up"

KINROSS PARISH CHURCH

EASTER SERVICES 2021

We will be offering worship and fellowship throughout the Easter season.



Please check our Website, Facebook or Church Notices for details of online services



www.kinrossparishchurch.org

