

KIN-NECTIONS

KINROSS PARISH CHURCH | SEPTEMBER – NOVEMBER 2020

FREE: Please take a copy

CHURCH REOPENING GUIDANCE

**INTERVIEW WITH
RT REV DR MARTIN FAIR**

GROWING YOUNG

ECO-TEAM

PRAYERS & REFLECTIONS



Following Christ | Spreading the Word | Serving the Community

*Following Christ
Spreading the Word
Serving the Community*

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The Church of Scotland

SUNDAY SERVICES

September to November 2020

From the beginning of September there will be some changes to the way our Sunday services are delivered. From March to August we have been preparing a service that is entirely recorded remotely and then edited together and made available on a Sunday morning. This is hugely labour-intensive and we owe an enormous debt of gratitude to the Rev Kathy Dain for the skill and time that she has put in to what have been extremely professional videos. This method is not sustainable in the long term and so we will be moving to streaming the services live online at 10.30am on a Sunday morning. These services will thereafter be available to view as a video online and to listen to on the dial-up telephone service (Tel. 01577 528270).

To begin with it will not be possible for people to attend the Sunday service in person at the church, although if lock-down restrictions continue to be eased this may become possible later in the autumn. Initially, there will be a short midweek 'face-to-face' service in the church on Wednesdays at 10.30am. Because of statutory limitations on numbers, you must register in advance to attend these services - details of how to do this can be found on pages eight and nine in this magazine.

On the first Sunday of the month Communion will be celebrated via Zoom.

On other Sundays there will continue to be an opportunity for fellowship and chat via Zoom.

You can access Zoom both online or by telephone - contact the Church Office for log-in details.

06 Sept:	Psalm 149 - Sing a New Song
13 Sept:	Psalm 114 - Liberation
20 Sept:	Psalm 105 - Water From the Rock
27 Sept:	Psalm 67 - Harvest Thanksgiving
04 Oct:	Psalm 19 - God Speaks
11 Oct:	Colossians 1:1-14 - Faith, Hope and Love
18 Oct:	Colossians 1:15-23 - The Cosmic Christ
25 Oct:	Colossians 1:24 to 2:5 - Gospel Service
01 Nov:	Colossians 2:6-3:4 - New Life
08 Nov:	Remembrance Sunday - arrangements TBC
15 Nov:	Colossians 3:5-17 - Be Thankful
22 Nov:	Colossians 3:18-4:18 - Christian Living
29 Nov:	Advent Sunday



Find us on Facebook
[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.

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BACK COVER

CONNECTING IN FELLOWSHIP & WORSHIP

Welcome to the September edition of Kin-nections!



I am delighted to welcome you to another packed edition of Kin-nections. My second edition as design editor and another showing church life during the Covid-19 pandemic.

You will have heard a lot of people saying "the new normal" recently. This edition is about new beginnings both for Kinross Parish Church and the Church of Scotland while we continue to live with this virus.

I draw your attention particularly to the centre double spread (pages eight and nine) on important information for the reopening of the church building.

In keeping with our new beginnings theme we have a feature on the Growing Young initiative and ideas for action from the Eco-Team on page six.

I continue with my *In Conversation with* interview series - this time with the Rt Rev Dr Martin Fair on page seven. Rt Rev Dr Martin Fair spoke to me about being installed as the new Moderator of the Church of Scotland remotely and why digital channels will be important going forward.

On page 13 we have a full page about Communion and Harvest offerings.

In addition to our regular reflections piece we have dedicated a page to allow more reflection on page 14.

Can I finish by extending a thank you to all who contributed to this edition and the Kin-nections editorial board. I hope you enjoy reading it as much as I have designing it.

Graeme Shaw, Kin-nections Design Editor

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Funerals

07 July	George Drysdale, Warroch
08 July	Andrew Ballantine, Katrine Place, Kinross
09 July	Christopher Mutter, Dunfermline

TALKING WITH GOD

A Prayer for our Young People

Lord, you say let the little children come to me,
and we say yes, let them come,
let us show them the way.

Lord we pray for all the young people in our community,
for those at home with their parents and carers,
for those at nursery and school,
for those at college and university,
for those at work or looking for work.
Keep them close and give them all they need.

Lord we pray for those who are finding it especially tough,
for those at times of transition,
for those with special needs,
for those whose hopes have been dashed,
for those struggling in other ways.
Give them your special touch of peace and joy
and help them along the path you have laid out for them.

Lord we pray for those who guide the young,
for parents, teachers, youth workers and other contacts.
Give them wisdom, love and compassion.
That they may offer the right support at the right time.

We pray all this in Jesus' name
Amen

REFLECTIONS



Heavenly Father,

In these times of uncertainty and fear when life gets tough.

You are my hiding place; my refuge from the storm.

Shelter me from the enemy and all that would do me harm.

Keep danger without; keep calm within.

I put my trust in you, knowing your promises are true.

Your Word is my hope, my comfort and strength.

I praise you and wait patiently for your will to be done.

Keep despair without; keep hope within.

Amen.

FROM THE MANSE...



Dear Friends,

Things are changing. Not all change is good and not all change is bad, but change is not always easy to deal with.

Very suddenly in March we had to get used to lock-down and that was hard,

although we could all see the reasons for its imposition. Over the summer, the process of easing lock-down has been gradual - too slow for some, too quick for others, sometimes difficult to understand the reasoning behind some of the measures - and that gradual process is set to continue for some time to come. Among many other things, our experience of public worship will be very different from what we have known in the past.

From the beginning of September there will be changes in the way we worship as a congregation. On Sundays, our main act of worship will be live-streamed from the church at 10.30am although initially it will not be possible to come to church in person and everyone will be accessing the service online. For those who are unable to view online on a Sunday morning, the video will be available online thereafter and an audio recording will also be available on the telephone dial-up service or on CD.

Also from the beginning of September there will be a short 'in-person' service in the Church on a Wednesday at 10.30am. Numbers will be limited and you have to register in advance to attend. You should not attend if you are feeling unwell or if attendance would put your health at risk. There are further details about re-opening elsewhere in this magazine. In the decisions we each take as individuals, let us consider how we may best love God in these days while also loving our neighbour as we love ourselves.

Nonetheless, the life of the church continues and I also want to mention two exciting projects that will involve all of us over the coming year as the Church continues to change to meet the challenges and opportunities of the times in which we live. We will be participating with about 20 other congregations in 'Growing Young' which is a process designed to help all of us engage better with younger people as we share our faith. We are also signed up as a Church to be part of the 'Eco-Congregation' movement and to consider the question of how each of us can be better stewards of God's wonderful creation.

Change is all around us but we journey in the company of the One whose love is unchanging and who invites us to trust Him.

Yours because His, **Rev Alan D Reid**

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.

The following prayer times will be live-streamed on the Church Facebook page and a daily prayer is available on the dial-up telephone service (Tel.01577 528270)

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

07 September, 05 October, 02 November

Guidelines for a period of reflective stillness are published on the first Monday morning of the month.

Compline

17 September, 15 October, 19 November

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

Scottish Churches Disability Group

The Scottish Churches Disability Group (SCDG) has been compiling lists of hymns available on YouTube to help people continue to worship during lockdown.

The lists began as a weekly email to one member's congregation, but has now been added to the SCDG website www.scdg.org.uk. Regularly updated, the list consists of hymns and songs of praise available on the video-streaming site, ranging from traditional to modern. They usually have the lyrics to allow you to sing along.

There is a second list consisting of hymns and songs of praise which include sign language, British Sign Language or Makaton.

The SCDG is an ecumenical group which aims to help churches be inclusive of people with all disabilities, by demonstrating and promoting good practice, raising the profile of talented people with disabilities within the churches, and offering solutions to the barriers which keep disabled people from fully participating in church life.



GROWING YOUNG

Leadership begins with listening

Growing Young is a phrase you are going to hear a lot in the months ahead! Kinross Parish Church is embracing Growing Young and all that it offers.

Here's some background. If you haven't read it in the press, church membership is decreasing and isn't reaching the under 40s. If we want a church of tomorrow we need to act today.

The Fuller Youth Institute in the USA has been researching how to grow a thriving church that engages younger generations, with breath-taking success. They have brought their practical strategies here and are engaging with 20 Church of Scotland congregations across the country in a series of webinars and conferences. Here are the six Core Commitments:

1. Unlock keychain leadership: empower others, especially young people
2. Empathise with today's young people: instead of judging or criticising, step into the shoes of this generation
3. Take Jesus' message seriously: welcome young people into a Jesus-centred way of life
4. Fuel a warm community: aim for warm peer and intergenerational friendships
5. Prioritise young people (and families) everywhere: look for creative ways to tangibly support, resource and involve them in all facets of your congregation
6. Be the best neighbours: instead of condemning the world outside your walls, enable young people to neighbour well locally and globally

Kin-nections spoke with Ewan Cathcart, one of the (multigenerational) team who attended the first webinar. "A stand-out message for me was 'leadership begins with listening'. We don't know all the answers but by listening to our young people and giving them authority and responsibility we can build something that is relevant not only for them but across all generations of our church family.



"Another message was 'this is a slow-cooker, not a microwave'. Growing Young will challenge all of us to

perceive and do things differently. This takes time. We are blessed to have an energetic youth ministry - JamPact and Crossfire are two examples - but we must not be complacent. We need to have an ambitious vision."

Young people need a thriving church. A thriving church needs young people. We all need to be Growing Young.

To find out more, watch the YouTube video on the Our Teams page of our church website.

IDEAS FOR ACTION FROM THE ECO-TEAM



The first meeting of the Eco-Team took place in July with a presentation from Stephen Curran, General Manager of Eco-Congregation

Scotland. The focus was the work which is already going on across Scotland with over 450 congregations involved in a range of environmental ideas in action.

The programme has three strands:

Spiritual Living: greening worship, theology and the environment, children and creation care, young people and the environment, and resources for small groups

Practical Living: greening church buildings, greening church spending and churchyard conservation

Global Living: lifestyle issues, community matters, global neighbours and managing our carbon footprint. The first step for the Eco-Team was the completion of a

church environmental check-up audit, the results of this were interesting: in a lot of areas we scored well; however, in other areas not so well. Using the information allows us to focus and prioritise what we would like to do next. The following were discussed by the Eco-Team as potential Ideas in Action:

- A litter picking project across Kinross
- Taking part in local community garden by Kinross Parish Church
- To hold an energy fair to help and support the local community in Kinross
- Tree planting project (Orchard Project)
- A gift box for recycling clothes from the congregation and local community

These are only some ideas in action, and Eco-Congregation Scotland provides resources that we could use to develop our Eco-Team projects.

If you are interested in joining the Eco-Team contact jimsmithk@hotmail.co.uk

IN CONVERSATION WITH...

RT REV DR MARTIN FAIR



Rt Rev Dr Martin Fair

Rt Rev Dr Martin Fair was installed as the new Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in May this year. It was a very different installation in that it was conducted

with very few people physically present and streamed online. "I was worried it would be a bit of non event," Rt Rev Fair told me. Though he explained it turned out to be the very opposite with a real feeling of God's presence and that the Church was around him. Owing to the stripped back approach, the installation felt very meaningful and demonstrated what it was all about. Rt Rev Fair said that he heard anecdotally afterwards that people watching online stood up in their living rooms when asked to do so for the installation. This was the first time a new Moderator was installed remotely. "I'm a fan of quizzes, so maybe I will be a question at some point", he joked.

I was interested to find out what lockdown has meant for Rt Rev Fair both personally and as our new Moderator. Rt Rev Fair described that our timetables have been more in our own hands, allowing more time for reflection and prayer. He spent more time outdoors and for the first time in many years he was very aware of the birdsong in the early part of lockdown. As the new Moderator he found his diary completely blank which, while unusual, allowed him a blank piece of paper to get on with the job at hand. Rt Rev Fair set

about finding ways to support the ministry. He recorded a national service for Pentecost Sunday and recorded two services that could be used for cover during the summer. Additionally, he dedicated time to phone every minister and has spoken to 200 so far. "I asked them how are you doing, how are you getting on?" Rt Rev Fair told me.

The clear diary has also allowed him to start his weekly *It's a Fair Question* series online. This is a chat show style video covering a wide range of subjects from ministers who had recovered from Covid-19 to exploring the relationship between faith and science. The videos have attracted up to 14,000 views. Given the focus on online worship during lockdown I was keen to understand Rt Rev Fair views on how we can maintain and enhance online worship in the future. "Now's the hour to encourage the Church's digital presence," Rt Rev Fair told me. He explained that it is his view that going forward we should not only look to stream services but



as a Church create shorter creative digital content to engage a wider population. Rt Rev Fair acknowledged this would be demanding but suggested that a way to sustain this would be the creation of a digital content library. This would allow each parish to share content with each other.

We finished our interview again reflecting about the joys of being outdoors more during lockdown and how the increased birdsong, wild flowers and butterflies has allowed greater reflection.

You can watch the weekly episodes of *It's a Fair Question* on the Church of Scotland's Facebook and YouTube pages.

- Graeme Shaw

"Now's the hour to encourage the Church's digital presence"

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND & COVID-19

The Covid-19 crisis has meant the Church of Scotland changing procedures and increasing its outreach online. Guidance has been given to congregations on such matters as preparing online services and reopening kirk buildings. Many procedures have changed so that, for

example, ministers may be called to a congregation 'remotely' and consultations on church amalgamations can happen online, as has been in the case in Shetland as it seeks to reduce its 31 church buildings to 11.

- From information on Church of Scotland website

Bible 2020: The Bible 2020 app was created as a way to let the global church join together and cover the earth with God's word. If you are not already part of this uplifting worldwide initiative, visit Bible2020.org.

IMPORTANT REOPENING GUIDANCE: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Kinross Parish Church is looking forward to reopening its building. The Ministers and elders of the Kirk Session have looked carefully at what can be offered as we move towards reinstating life in the church building and, although we are not yet able to come together on Sundays, **we plan to offer a short mid-week service each week beginning on Wednesday 2 September at 10.30am.**

The mid-week gathering is an opportunity to meet together in a small way, but your experience will be very different from what you are used to.

We detail below the steps that need to be taken to make this safe for you and fellow worshippers. These may seem daunting, but we must proceed with caution - we have only your interests at heart.

The following is based on Church of Scotland guidance.

Who can attend?

This is a sensitive question; however, the Church of Scotland has produced a self-assessment tool showing you how different risk factors may have serious health implications should you catch Covid-19.

This will help you to determine if you can attend church or whether you should continue at this stage to participate in church life from home.

If you are experiencing Covid-19 symptoms (new continuous cough, fever, loss of taste and/or smell) you should not attend.

The self-assessment tool is shown opposite.

Registering attendance

As part of the NHS Test and Protect system, all those who wish to attend must **register beforehand by contacting the Church Office.**

It is a requirement that everyone provides name and contact phone number details.

Please do not simply turn up on a Wednesday morning as we cannot guarantee that you will be able to attend the service.

Church building capacity

We can accommodate a **maximum of 40 individuals** in addition to the Ministers and stewards.

The balcony cannot be used, except by the AV technician.

Singing

Singing is not allowed and pew Bibles will not be available; however, there will be music and information on the screens.

Offerings

A collection of the offering **cannot take place but an offering box is available at the entrance for any envelopes or donations.**

Currently

There will only be a mid-week gathering. The Church Office Coordinator continues to work from home. **No other meetings / external lets are allowed in the building.**

It's good to talk - and to listen:

Please continue to look out for and care for one another: making time to chat with someone can really make a difference!

We are aware that not everyone is online or can currently come to church, so we encourage you to join us in other ways:

- Listen to the Sunday service on your phone: 01577 528270 - Option 1
- Listen to a daily prayer on your phone: 01577 528270 - Option 2
- Join our Zoom coffee morning by phone at 11.15am on Sundays (details from Church Office)

Supporting those who attend

On arrival you will be welcomed by a Volunteer Steward and asked to confirm your details.

Hand sanitisers are provided at the entrance and exits of the church.

All individuals must wear face coverings within the church.

A one-way system, marked on the floor, will be in place: entering through the main front door and leaving via the two fire exits.

Signage around the church will guide you.

One toilet will be open for urgent situations only.

The layout of the church has been arranged according to social distancing requirements.



New seating arrangement at Kinross Parish Church

Assessment Tool for individual and group health risks

This tool helps you to see how different risk factors may combine to give serious health complications should you catch the Covid-19 virus. It does not include the factors that may make you clinically extremely vulnerable, where you should be following the guidance for those who are shielding. It includes the factors where there is significant statistical evidence but does not include any rarer conditions which you may have, so this only offers a starting point. You may want to discuss the results with your doctor or with those who have expectations about your involvement with church life. We are not claiming medical expertise in sharing this way of scoring your risk.

Circle the score next to each one that applies to you and add up your score.

Risk Factor		Total Score
Age	50-59	1
	60-69	2
	70-79	4
	80 and over	6
Sex at birth	Male	1
Ethnicity	Caucasian (White)	0
	Black African Descent	2
	Indian Asian Descent	1
	Filipino Descent	1
	Other (Including mixed race)	1
Diabetes & Obesity	Diabetes Type 1 & 2	1
	Diabetes Type 1 & 2 with presence of microvascular complications or HbA1c ≥ 64mmol/mol	2
	Body Mass Index (BMI) greater than or equal to 35	1
Cardiovascular disease	Angina, previous heart attack, stroke or cardiac intervention	1
	Heart failure	2
Pulmonary (lung) disease	Asthma	1
	Non-asthma chronic pulmonary disease	2
	Either of the above requiring oral corticosteroids in the last year	1
Malignant neoplasm (cancer)	Active malignancy	3
	Malignancy in remission	1
Rheumatological conditions	Active treated conditions	2
Immunosuppressant therapies	Any Indication	2
Total Score		

A score of under 3 indicates a lower risk, but you should still be following the guidance for staying safe.

A score of 3-5 suggests a greater risk and you should consider ways of reducing your risk by taking additional precautions or avoiding some activities.

A score of 6 or more suggests a high risk and indicates that you should continue to work or participate in church life from your home.

The scoring is based on an article from the British Medical Association website - David Strain et al.



*All Friends Together member Owen on special drumkit with Ian White
July 2020*

All Friends Together

All Friends Together's next Zoom gathering is **Thursday 10 September at 7pm**. In October there is a return to morning sessions over the winter months.

We have been encouraged by having friends from Fife Prospects groups joining our gatherings over the summer. Our members have also had an opportunity to have Coffee Zooms on Wednesdays and chat to Prospects members from as far away as Lerwick in the north and Peebles in the south.

The Prospects National Gathering was meant to have taken place in Kinross Parish Church in October but this is likely to be an online event hosted by various groups.

Hopefully we will be able to meet all together for our Christmas celebration but we need to wait and see how restrictions ease.

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)



TRAIDCRAFT
Fighting poverty through trade

Traidcraft

Whatever you buy, whether large or small, it all makes a difference. We are very much looking forward to when we can once again meet together, but in the meantime you can order direct from www.traidcraftshop.co.uk or contact Karena or Isobel directly or via the Church Office.

Traidcraft is continuing to trade and we need to keep buying 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.

Please continue to support our stall: we can supply tea, coffee, chocolate, biscuits, dried fruit, rice and curry sauces as well as washing up liquid, soap etc. Look forward to hearing from you.

KYTHER

Well, it's safe to say it's been a completely different summer here at KYTHER than we've ever had before! Does that mean it was bad? Of course not! This summer we have now completed four week-long courses for four young people to attend at a time including:

- Art workshops with our sessional Youth Worker, Katy-Beth and volunteer Ginni - these were so popular we had to run a second course in the afternoon!
- Guitar repair workshops with Gillian, aimed at those who can play, but focusing more on maintaining and fixing your own guitar
- Photography skills with a professional photographer who came and delivered a superb course learning the ins and outs of photography jargon!

With the restrictions in place regarding the number of young people we could see during



DYNAMIC
CHRISTIAN
YOUTH
WORK

one session, this didn't spoil any of the fun as we are a qualitative not quantitative organisation.

As we look forward to finding a new 'normal' back at the Hub, which is next door to Loch Leven Health Centre, we welcome the possibility of resuming our usual offerings of afterschool and lunch-time activities.

To find out more about what we do, visit our social media pages or www.kyther.org.uk.

(Kinross Parish Church is a partner and supporter of KYTHER)

- Gillian Shackleton
Assistant Christian Youth Worker @ KYTHER

Kinross Boys' Brigade

It has been a most unusual time for staff and members of our Anchors, Juniors and Company sections since operations halted in March. BB headquarters have been producing weekly activities for all sections which were highlighted on our Kinross BB Facebook page.

In regards to starting the new session, we are awaiting word from HQ as to when, how and in what form this will be. We intend to start the new session with an awards night so that badges and trophies can be presented to those who have earned them through achievements at Company, Battalion and National levels (we are still awaiting a decision on what happens regarding our two Queen's Badge seniors who missed out on their weekend completion course at Carronvale due to the lockdown).

Our 100th birthday celebrations are also on hold until limitations for large groups will be eased. Meantime we are still on the lookout for Kinross BB memorabilia in the form of photographs, newspaper articles, individual memories etc. If you have anything you would like to share, please contact me at d_g_munro@hotmail.com



Kinross BB Bugle Band at Market Park (1950s)



Kinross BB football team with the league trophy (1960s)

Crossfire

Just now when there is so much uncertainty in our world it is reassuring to know that for certain there is a God who has searched us and He knows us (Psalm 139). During lockdown Crossfire has been meeting via Zoom. We've been baking, playing games and at the end of the session we even had a party. We had loads of fun making a video, "You've got a friend in me". Maybe you saw it during one of the online summer Sunday services. We have amazingly talented young people who produced the music and some who helped with editing all of the videos. Another

week we created some paper butterflies and these photos show the ones made by different Crossfire members. Butterflies remind us of the cycle of life and that by Him all things are created.

Crossfire will start back on **Sunday 16 August**. Until the October holidays we will meet in the church garden for socially-distanced activities 7-8pm, then we will review how best to meet. If you are secondary school age come and join us. For more information contact jennymasson65@gmail.com



The Guild

The AGM was held by Zoom in June and we welcomed two new committee members, Gill Boardman and Dianne Mitchell.

The Annual National Meeting is being held virtually on Saturday 5 September at 11am. This will include an address from the Moderator, Rt Rev Dr Martin Fair. For members who receive the Guild Weekly News online they will find the link there. We have ordered a DVD of the meeting so it can be watched by anyone who would like to see it at a later date. Members are encouraged to keep topping up Sunshine

Bags as, like every organisation, it is hard to raise funds for our projects at this time.

One of the current projects, Join the Dots, is a CrossReach initiative to tackle loneliness and isolation, and it is hoped that during the year we will be able to make a donation to this.

Guild Week begins **Sunday 6 September**. In 'normal times' our meetings would be starting the next week but no date has been decided yet for starting up again. Details will be in the next Kin-nections.



Craft Group: currently meeting on Wednesdays at 1.30pm via Zoom. If you're interested in crafts and would like to join in the chat please contact the Church Office

As part of the Halls Management Committee you will look after the books for our Church Centre on the High Street and be involved with the financial aspects of maintaining our well-loved and much-used community building. Input: approx 2hrs/ month plus some meetings. It's an enjoyable and fulfilling role. For a full description, please contact the Church Office office@kinrossparishchurch.org.

Finally, please remember to be grateful for our wonderful world around us, and say so to God in our prayers.
- Robert Mitchell, Pastoral Group Convener

Many thanks to all who have contributed in any way and to all who have participated.

If you are interested in finding out more, please contact the church office at office@kinrossparishchurch.org

COMMUNION AND HARVEST OFFERINGS

With Covid-19 restrictions for churches still very much in place, collecting your donations via the normal gift-aid retiral envelopes is not safe or practical. Instead, the Kirk Session has decided to make donations from church funds, with £1,000 for Immanuel House and a further £500 to Broke Not Broken.

We hope you agree with this approach, but if you feel a call to donate towards the cost

please visit the giving page of our church website (<https://www.kinrossparishchurch.org/giving>) and quote the reference "retiral". But do not feel under any obligation - we know that many are suffering the financial effects of lockdown.

Broke Not Broken welcomes food donations, and you can give at the donation point at Sainsbury's Kinross.

- Alan McGhie, Treasurer

September Communion Retiring Offering: Immanuel House, Debrecen, Hungary

The September communion retiring offering is for Immanuel House in Hungary. The All Friends Together team had the joy of meeting two of the staff, Zsolia and Edit, when they came over to Scotland last year as part of our links with the Great Church, Debrecen.

Unique for Hungary, Immanuel House supports children and young people from age 6 up to 30 with a wide range of disabilities, including many with complex needs. For the pupils and their families, it is a place of community and belonging. Specially trained staff and volunteers create an environment for learning, communication and expression.

It focuses on individual tailored plans. Children with communication difficulties are able to convey their feelings and needs with the aid of technology known as Alternative Augmented Communication. There is a wide range of activities to make learning fun. As an extension of the Great Church, spiritual education and development are also focuses for Immanuel House. When everyone is in lockdown because of coronavirus, digital technology is used to continue some of the learning and take some strain from families.

During their visit to Scotland, Zsolia and Edit visited schools and universities where they saw some of the latest technology and aids for children with complex needs. Although they have a limited budget, ceiling track hoists, which would make moving and handling so much easier, are high on their priority list.

Opened in 1991, Immanuel House has now grown to 40 staff and 80 children, including some young adults who would otherwise have no provision. They are hoping to extend their services to include early detection and support for infants. They have just received planning permission for a new, purpose-built building and are excited to see what the future holds.



Supporting Broke Not Broken for our Harvest Offering Scottish Charity Number SC 046033



Broke Not Broken is our local foodbank based at St Pauls, which is helping Kinross-shire families facing hardship. You may be one of these families or they may be your neighbour. Need for this service has grown exponentially since Coronavirus - in April last year 34 food boxes were delivered and by this April it had grown to 340. The effects of Covid-19 were immediate (removal of public transport and five-mile restrictions meant no access to cheaper food stores elsewhere) and continued furlough and job losses mean that requests will increase.

Broke Not Broken is more than just a food distribution point: it offers professional counselling and also gets alongside folk to help them negotiate the seemingly daunting process of universal credit applications, other benefits and job seeking. As Chair Annie McCormack noted, "We all need to feel there is someone on our side."

When Covid-19 isn't restricting activities, Broke Not Broken has run community cookery classes, a winter coat campaign and funded sports classes for children who would otherwise be unable to take part.

There is little central funding and Broke Not Broken is grateful for partnerships with local organisations and businesses and greatly values donations, whether money, time or food. In June, Kirk Session agreed to give £500 to Broke Not Broken as our immediate response.

If you know someone in need or facing crisis then they can be referred by the Health Centre or there is a list of agencies, along with other information, on the Broke Not Broken website: <https://brokenotbroken.org/> or on their Facebook page.

A YANKEE IN QUEEN MARGARET'S COURT



It was 24 February 2020. Riley and I took a brief walk in the Florida sun before heading to the airport. Only 8 o'clock in the morning and it was already 30C. I tossed my flipflops in my bag knowing it would be a long time before I

would wear them again and headed out to the airport to begin my one-year familiarisation with the Church of Scotland. Along the way, I heard rumblings of a serious virus, but it was too early to take such matters seriously. Yet, in three weeks' time, the whole world would shudder to a standstill in the wake of Covid-19. What began as a familiarisation process for me and Scottish culture grew to become a familiarisation process for all of us as we navigate a new way to be the Church in the midst of a pandemic.

One might wonder where God is in all this, but as the days have turned to weeks then months, I believe we have all perceived a shifting of our hearts to what is truly important in life - the

melodies of bird song, the glint of the eye from a smile hidden behind a piece of cloth, or the laughter shared through virtual connections on Zoom. Like grain ground to flour, change has not come without a measure of milling.

God is kneading us into a new creation, and through this process letting go of all the distractions that separate us from God's love in Jesus Christ.

Strengthened daily by the Holy Spirit, we are the bricks and mortar of the Church without walls. It is evidenced every time we reach out to another human being - to offer a meal, have a sing, or pray. It is clear each time we witness the unrest and injustice of so many across the globe that God's call thunders that there is still so much more left to do.

How will this year end? God knows. It is into that knowledge that we find peace and our call.

- Rev Kathleen (Kathy) Dain



For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart.
Jeremiah 29:11-13a NRSV

150 YEARS OF THE CHURCH'S SOCIAL CARE

CROSSREACH

Care you can put your faith in

CrossReach is the social care branch of the Church of Scotland. Recently, the former Moderator Rt Rev Colin Sinclair said of CrossReach: "Here is Christian love in action that deserves our backing".

Now in its 150th anniversary year, CrossReach has found itself facing many difficulties during the Covid-19 pandemic. Perhaps most obviously, residential care homes for the elderly have seen additional problems for residents, their families and staff. However, CrossReach also runs many other services which have had to be curtailed during the crisis, reducing contact with vulnerable children and those with learning disabilities, closing drop-in services for vulnerable adults and affecting counselling and other services.

In addition to these impacts, CrossReach also finds itself short of money. Fewer fundraising opportunities, lower charitable giving and increasing costs related to new equipment and working practices have led to an Emergency Appeal which has already been supported by many congregations and individuals in the Church of Scotland

www.justgiving.com/crossreach.org.uk/donate

CrossReach has asked us to: 'Pray for the health and wellbeing of those with whom it works and of its staff and its supporters'.

- From information on the Church of Scotland website

CONNECTING WITH GOD

New Beginnings

by Diane Taylor

Dear Lord,

We come before You and lift up Your Holy name in praise. May all that is within us bless Your holy name. Though our hearts may be going through a season of feeling perplexed and disappointed, we lean not on our own understanding but on the will of God. Christ in the heavens, You are the shaper of new realities. Let us sing before You a new song. A song of deliverance from fear, a song of victory over circumstance. Let us sing a melody of new beginnings.

My Lord, as we walk this uneven path together, let me focus on Your song. Your rod and staff comfort us along this road of doubt and fear. Your Word is our sword, clearing away the clouds of negative thinking and worry. As we move from one phase of uncertainty to another, let us keep our eyes upon You. For indeed, You are the Lord of new beginnings, but You are also the Lord walking with us in the present moment. Through ever changing situations, ever shifting perspectives and ever evolving emotions, You are our ever present help. It is not about overcoming, for You already overcame. It is about trusting and leaning in. Knowing that You are listening. Knowing that You are comforting.

We trust in You by knowing You and drawing close on this Emmaus Road.

Just like the two heartbroken disciples on the road to a town called Emmaus. Leaving Jerusalem after Jesus' burial, they had hoped and believed that Jesus was the one sent to redeem Israel. But those hopes

were shattered just as His body was shattered. Their dreams had died on the cross with Him.

However, on the road they met a man who walked along with them. They talked about the things on their hearts, but were so caught up in their disappointment and pain that they never looked closely at their companion. As the three talked about the recent events, the apparent stranger began explaining to them how Israel was going to be redeemed. He knew the promises of God by heart and explained how those promises would be fulfilled in such a way that they would change the world. A new Kingdom was at hand.

When they reached Emmaus, the disciples urged the man to have dinner with them. When they all sat

down to eat that night, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and began to give it to them. Suddenly their eyes were opened.

Lord Jesus, You walk with us when we are blinded by disappointment. We pray that You might open our eyes. We don't always see the bigger picture, but we thank You that You do. Even Your death



on the cross could not stop Your plan. Your death was the plan, the plan to save us all. You show us that You have made a way for us that goes beyond disappointment into a future abundant with possibility, hope, and victory. Let us talk to You through and out of our troubles. Let us talk to You as we enter a new phase, navigate a new normal and awaken our hearts to new beginnings.

**"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."
(Jeremiah 29:11, NIV)**

CONNECTING IN FELLOWSHIP & WORSHIP

We welcome you to Kinross Parish Church life and hope that you feel part of the church family.

Contact us at the Church Office for more information on 01577 862570 or
office@kinrossparishchurch.org



Find us on Facebook
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/KinrossParishWorship)



YouTube

Sunday service currently available to view from **5am on Sundays** on YouTube.



Live-Streaming

In the autumn, we are moving to live-streaming our service on **Sundays at 10.30am**. The service will then be available as an online recording.



Phone - Listen to the Sunday service on your phone by dialling 01577 528270 and press 1 (calls charged at local rate)



CD / Audio Recording

To be added to the mailing list for a **CD recording** of our Sunday Service, contact us at the Church Office or listen to an **audio or video online recording** on the church website



Read the Sermon

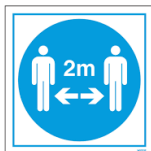
Contact the Church Office for a copy or read online on the Worship Sermon Topics page of our website



Fellowship:

After Service Coffee - join for virtual coffee after the **Sunday Service at 11.15am** via Zoom including by phone: contact the Church Office for details

Café Church - join via Zoom at **4.30pm on Sunday 20 September, Sunday 18 October and Sunday 15 November**: an informal and interactive experience



Mid-Week Services

Starting 2 September 2020 at 10.30am, gather at the church on Wednesdays for mid-week worship: see page 8 for how to book to attend



Join Together in Prayer

Monthly Prayer Diary: available by email and on the church website; if you would like a large print copy, please contact the Church Office

Prayer of the Day: listen on your phone: dial 01577 528270 and press 2 (calls charged at local rate)



Church Facebook page live-streams:

- **Prayer for the Nation** on Sunday evenings at 7pm
- **Mid-Week Prayer** at 12noon
- **Silent Meditation** on the first Monday morning of the month
- **Compline** on the third Thursday of the month at 9pm