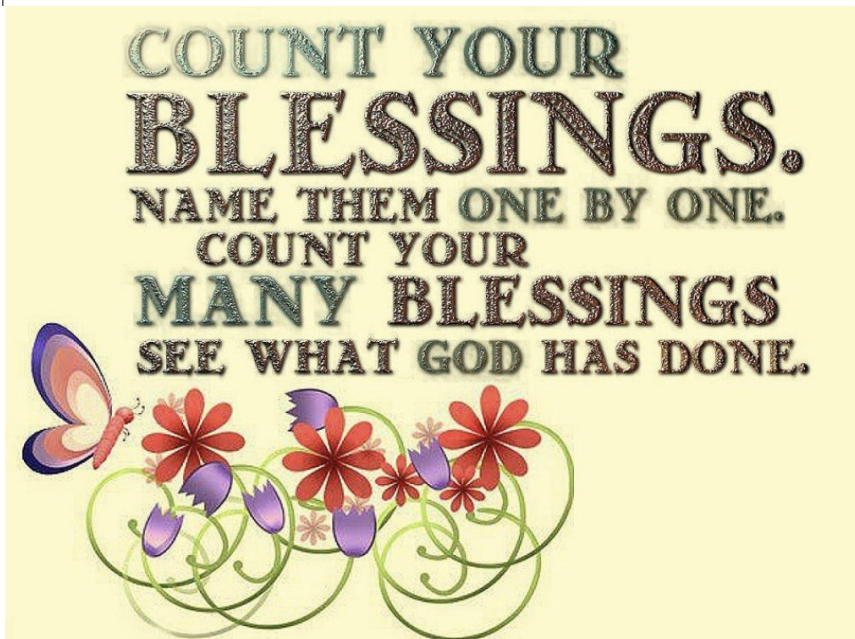




Outlook

St. Leonard's Church Newsletter Summer 2020



*"May God bless us still, so that all the
ends of the earth will fear him."*

-Psalm 67:7



Thoughts from the vestry...

Unusually, our summer is going to start with Communion! On-line and or individual Communion...and this probably messes with our heads. How can we take communion meaningfully when we may be by ourselves at home, with just a printed order? How can we take communion together on-line when we are not physically present, or sharing the same bread or wine...and may not even have bread or wine at home?

So let me talk you through my thinking on this (recognising I'm not a noted theologian – and occasionally can seem to come from a little out of left-field (it's alright, I know some people think I'm strange...the secret is out and I'm not offended!))

My thinking about communion is influenced by a 'thought experiment' I was set back in training – imagine you are ship-wrecked, along with most of your congregation, on a desert island...but your minister doesn't make it! How would you celebrate communion? Well, my answer was geared around shared memory, told and re-told until we thought we'd got the most important parts of communion – the story telling that Paul does for the Corinthian church of what happened on the night was Jesus was betrayed. The significance Jesus gave to the leftovers at the end of the meal. If we can't find bread on this island, is there something else that is a staple in the way that bread was? Is there something else that is a leftover of a meal that can remind us of Jesus' transformative power? Is there something else that can represent blood in colour, or something that can represent a 'pouring out', or a 'refreshing, life-giving' fluid?

The important thing is to burrow down to the meaning and find local substitutes that can bear some of that meaning.

But what about the spiritual significance of being gathered together? How can I solve the problem that different spaces – your house and my house – are in different places? That different times are different moments – you taking communion using the Facebook feed at 8am is removed from me taking communion in front of the church computer at ZOOM church at 10.15 are at different moments in time? Well, for me, this is the joy – o **absolute joy** - of eternity being different from time-bound life; of the eternally existent presence of God breaking into historical time that begins and ends...and enabling that sacramental moment that unites all of us of all times and places in the presence of God. It blows my mind, and my fingers on a keyboard really can't communicate it...and if you've seen me at the lectern trying to explain it, you may remember my arms and hands gesticulating all over the place and my face being all nervously excited and joyful just in case this brilliant thing is something I've got wrong!

So the same thing that makes prayer within time work eternally, is the spiritual truth that enables us to celebrate communion together when we are apart. It will not have the formality we sometimes have when we are together on a Sunday morning – but remember when Jesus instituted it, he was reclined at a table with his friends, having just had a fantastic feast, so some of them would have eaten too much, the table was a mess, there were bits and pieces leftover...and Jesus reached for the fragments of a flatbread, started talking, and tearing the bread up...

However you join with us in Communion on the 7th June – know yourself seated with others in the presence of Christ, our friend, our Saviour, our Lord.

Yours in Christ,

Monika

Talking Technical (or how to use your computer thingy for church stuff)

It is now more than 2 months since we had to close the physical doors of our church buildings as part of the lockdown to help prevent the spread of Covid-19. That presented us with a whole bunch of challenges such as how to offer Sunday worship; how to keep in touch with folks and how to keep the background business of the church running such as finance, planning and the like.

We have had to turn to more technical solutions – a process that has had both its ups and downs as we have surfed our way along the digital super highway (internet), dipped our toes into the whirlpool of social media (Facebook) and stared into our phones and tablets as we gathered as virtual congregations (ZOOM church).

For those who are new to all this techie stuff or are maybe a wee bitty nervous of trying stuff on our phones, tablets and computers (because we have all heard of the nasty things that lurk in this world), let me tell you about some brilliant and inspiring places on *t'interweb* that I think you will enjoy.



(www.youtube.com).

[This Photo](#) by

YouTube is a platform for sharing video files. We quite often use clips from YouTube as part of our church services.

Here are a just a few inspiring videos that you might like to watch.

1. The All Souls Prom Praise 2020. All Saints church in London take over the Albert Hall once a year to host a proms style evening with the best of Christian music. This year, due to the lockdown, the couldn't and so they made a video made up of clips from past years. Watch Grahame Kendrick and Matt Redman perform, sing along with the promenaders, listen to majestic choral works and be swept away by the fantastic All Souls orchestra.

Find this clip at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eKN0I1ExApQ>

2. If you enjoy a good sing, then there are many clips from past BBC *Songs of Praise* programmes – including a couple from Dunfermline Abbey. Find these at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r2s8oCoSH64> and https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KWj_6zB248Q. Watch and see if you can spot anyone that you know!
3. When I was a teenager (rather a long time ago now), I was much inspired by Christian singer/songwriter Barry McGuire. One of his most beautiful songs is called 'Callin' me home'. Listen to it here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hxoRzqZnP98>.
4. Another favourite of the time was a group called 2nd Chapter of Acts. Their excellent song *Mansion Builder* can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W9-YPfqE898>.

These are just a couple of examples of what can be found if you go looking. You can find clips by Graham Kendrick (All I once held dear), Stuart Townend (The Lord's my shepherd), Matt Redman (10,000 reasons) and a whole host of other contemporary Christian songwriters on YouTube. Simply type their name or a song title into the search bar on the YouTube page and then pick your favourite.

Enjoy, sing along and praise God.

Barry.

Adventures in Lockdown



Since lockdown began, the world has been changing around us—as we are safe at home, many of us have taken up old hobbies, discovered new interests, learned new skills when it comes to technology, and felt a new appreciation for people and places that were the norm before... Through this copy of Outlook will be images and snippets from members of our Church about what they are doing during lockdown!



Keeping Busy during Lockdown

One day not long into Lockdown I found a bag of knitting in our loft. I hadn't done any knitting for over 30 years and in this bag were three nearly finished sweaters and right at the bottom of the bag was a very nearly finished pink and white criss cross pram blanket. I had obviously been knitting this for Zoe, my first baby who is 32 now, but had never finished it. So I finished it now for my new granddaughter.



A bit further into lockdown one of my friends started to knit a Sheep Blankie for her impending grandchild and it looked like a good challenge for me to try to do as well. But I had forgotten how to cast



on and needed the help of good-old internet and Youtube. The sheep are knitted within the blanket but the legs and faces are embroidered on. I had great fun trying to make the sheep look different. I feel that my attempt at a black sheep has turned out more like the sheep dog with no tail !! I needed the help of Youtube to be able to cast off.

Patsy Allen



At our last Guild meeting of this session we had a speaker rescheduled from the February meeting which had to be postponed because of the snow. Doesn't that feel like a lifetime ago?

Norma McGovern came to talk about the Seema Project which we are supporting. This project works with women in Puna, India, most of whom have been trafficked into prostitution, and their children. The silence in the room after Norma's presentation spoke volumes. We were all shocked and appalled at these women's situation and could hardly believe the horrors of their lives.

It was then decided, as news was beginning to inform us of Coronavirus, to go ahead with our fundraising Coffee Morning to raise as much as we could for both the Seema project and the Sailor's Society, the two projects we were supporting this year. ££916.25 was raised, a fantastic effort! Little did we know what was ahead of us!

We were unable to hold our AGM and enjoy our end of session Afternoon Tea, although a report was sent out to all members and our Afternoon Tea is on hold.

Our new session due to start in September has the theme of the Extra Mile and our committee met by Zoom on 18th May to make preparation for the 20/21 year. Who says you can't teach an old dog new tricks? Almost all of us managed the technology and a very productive meeting was held and we are quite excited by the speakers we are hoping to invite to our meetings. We will go where God leads us as we go "The Extra Mile" one step at a time!

Libby Nisbet
Convenor



Thank you very much to Eileen, Janet, Jeanette, Alison, Fiona and others who have helped look after babies during Amy Daly's postnatal pilates classes in the church hall. The Mums were extremely grateful to have such kind support from the congregation. Some of their comments included :

loved having the volunteers to help with
my baby

the volunteers were excellent
and really useful

great support from the congregation



ANCHORS

3rd Dunfermline Anchor Boys have gone from strength to strength this session.

A very successful recruitment process saw our numbers grow 200%. All the boys settled in well before the challenging circumstances that hit us...

Following lock down we have met online via Zoom for some fun and exciting activities...

A for **About Me**...our boys shared some interesting facts about themselves and tried to guess which fact was invented!



B for **Baking**...we made some delicious cookies in our own very own '*BB Bake Off*'!

C for **Cards**...exercising, towers and corners, all with just a pack of playing cards!





BB Juniors

Our group of Juniors have coped exceptionally well during this difficult lockdown phase and have loved our online get togethers each week. Parents have been overwhelmingly positive about the contribution these weekly virtual meetings make to their boys wellbeing offering some much needed structure, connectedness and as one mum put it 'lifting everyone's spirits'. It's mayhem at times on our calls, but lots of fun. Boys 'attend' weekly, are still working towards their achievements and awards and we have introduced online certificates for each week's challenges which have been as varied as counting the grains of rice in a handful. Building a card tower and learning a new domestic chore. We try to put our own unique spin on all that we do and this week's online cooking class has provided some amazing BB Bake Off 'showstoppers' Any family is invited to make use of our online resources at: <https://boys-brigade.org.uk/bbathome/>

Please also 'like' our facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/3rdbbs/> to keep track of all we do and to share any activities your family have enjoyed. Stay safe everyone until we can all be together again!

Joseph enjoying his chores!



Calum not loving his!



Aaron hiding in case his tower collapses before the photo is taken!



And an example of our cookie showstopper!!



3rd Dunfermline Boys' Brigade - Company Section

Since Lockdown our Company Section boys have been enjoying an exciting new concept of #BBatHOME with a new programme launched by the Boys' Brigade, this has enabled us to continue to engage with our Boys and their families. It gives opportunities to learn, grow and discover through a balanced programme of exciting activities in their own homes supported by their families.



This has meant our session has continued throughout lockdown and it's a fantastic way of sharing a positive message of hope by showing how we care for and support our boys and their families.

This continues to be a great success and every week we see the amazing fun had by the Boys and their families through our Parents WhatsApp Group sharing photos, videos and comments of all activities completed.



Our Boys are recognised for their participation and their achievements through our new #BBatHome Medals – Gold, Silver and Bronze.

Over the page are just some of the superb photos we have been sent of our boys taking part in the activities each week including our Clap for Carers every Thursday Night.



“Tin Can Lanterns”



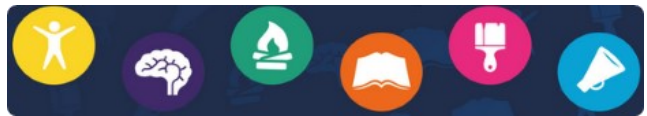
"Clap for Carers"



"Card Pyramid"

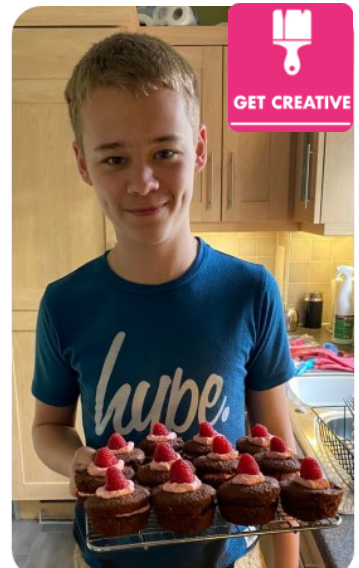


"Milkshakes"



**"Great BB
Bake Off"**

**"Jigsaw
Puzzle"**



Lockdown love



Moira Crockett and her friend have been knitting hearts to go to undertakers for them to give to families who are not able to be with loved one...

What a beautiful thing to do!



Sharing Lockdown Experiences

These last few months have been a bit surreal. I remember watching on TV about the outbreak of corona virus in Wuhan China and its effects. This all seemed very remote, then Italy was affected and this was a bit closer to home. I still did not think the UK would be affected like Italy, but a pandemic was declared and Lockdown and social distancing introduced.

What did this mean for all of us? It was strange, my work with the NHS continued as usual, well not quite. Health visitors were given uniforms (I haven't worn a nurse's uniform for over 30 years) and we were only to carry out essential visits to family's homes. Keeping 2 metres apart in the office was more of a challenge.

If it was strange at the NHS, Church was just as much of a challenge with buildings closed. Who would ever have thought? How would we keep in touch with one another, what style of worship could be offered? I am amazed at what Monika has achieved and through her enthusiasm and faith St Leonards has a variety of ways we can

continue to be church and serve God where we are.

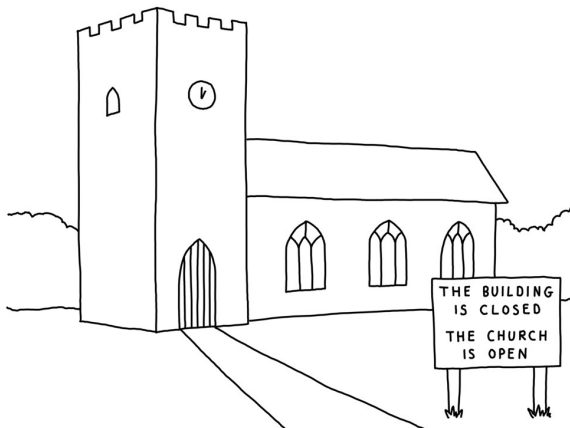
I have found Lockdown to have positive and negative effects on me personally. I am concerned I bring the virus home to my husband and I miss being able to meet up with family and friends, as well as the things we take for granted like going for a coffee. I am privileged that I have a garden and space. So, I am enjoying spending more time at home and pottering about in the garden.

This has been a difficult time for everyone but lockdown will end and although life will not revert to how it was before let's hold onto the good things we have learned and put our trust in God to lead us through this pandemic and out into the light once more.



Hope this finds you well

Margaret OLM



Hello Friends,

The routine in our lives has changed so much since our last Outlook magazine back in early March! Soon after COVID 19 was declared a global pandemic with urgent measures taken in the UK to stem the spread of infection. We heard it was in other countries and fully expected that some cases would land in Britain and here in Scotland, but we were not prepared for the spread and the devastation of lives lost here and all around the world. We all feel powerless, but for the fact that we can all pray and pray and continue to pray to a God who has his whole world in his hands. God knows our concerns (Philippians 4: 6-7). As I write this, we continue to all be in lockdown apart from those on the frontline health services and those who must work to keep us all safe, fed, bins emptied and other necessary service – all at a risk to their own health! Along with our prayers we let them all know how much we appreciate their selflessness at our National Thursday evening clap and the rainbows in our windows.

The sudden lockdown has meant that we have been unable meet for worship and fellowship in the church! Yes, our church buildings may have closed but we can and will continue to worship and pray, albeit in a different way. Fortunately, over the last year most of you have completed your GDPR forms and church up-date details which include your contact details – *great start for us*. To all who have given your email address you are sent church communication including the weekly worship details. These can also be found on the church website and Facebook page. Monika also sends out a ZOOM link invitation for those who wish to join in our weekly service on-line. To those of you who do not have email, we are keeping you updated by post. This includes blocks of weekly worship. (*If you currently receive our communication by post and have an email address, let us know if you would prefer to receive information via email*). Whichever way you receive our regular communication it would be helpful to know if it is useful for you. Should you wish to be removed from our regular

'lockdown contacts lists' please let Lesley at the church office, or I know.

Soon, we hope, we will be able to meet up with others especially our loved ones and our friends, even if it is at a distance, but oh for a hug, gosh ... we soooo miss them all! Although we miss seeing each other at church we are together in spirit and look forward to returning. Unfortunately, it does not look like we will return as we have in the past for some time to come, but it will be good to give a wave across "spaced out" pews (*if that is to be the way*).

We the Kirk Session do hope you and your loved ones are all coping quite well under these 'unprecedented' circumstances. We pray that God will keep you and yours safe and of good health both physically and mentally. We pray God teaches his people to be faithful in this time of global crisis – we can do it – we remember that Jesus laid down his life for the sake of love.

If you have anything you would like us to know about then please do not hesitate to contact your District elder, or me, or if a pastoral need then please contact Monika our minister or Margaret our OLM. ***Please see our contact details on the back page.*** Until we can gather in our usual place of worship, we will try to keep contact with you as much as possible.

May God bless you and protect you

Sheila x

Session Clerk



Stated Annual Meeting

We postponed our Stated Annual Meeting, just as the lockdown began. We were at a pivotal point of our life at St Leonard's and the call by our Presbytery to form deep relationships through conversations with other congregations in our part of Dunfermline (namely St Margaret's and St Ninian's). While many individuals within these congregations know each other – and the ministers do, too – this was an instruction to explore how we might be better able to fulfil our ministry and mission responsibilities. That is the main thrust of the Presbytery Report – although lots of people are tempted to rush past that drive and read it as an instruction to close or amalgamate church buildings and identities (to the frustration of this minister!) Given that the context of the Report is one of an imbalance of rising building costs against decreasing membership/finances, it is an understandably tempting lens through which to look!

The current situation has obviously made these conversations nigh on impossible, while discussion within the national church are also difficult and complex. As I write, I should have been caught up in the hurly-burly of General Assembly rather than awaiting a webinar with the new Assembly Trustees! It is difficult to read what the future holds for either the national church, for St Leonard's...or for our shared corner of Dunfermline Presbytery – and so we learn patience the hard way! We will wait and see how things develop through the rest of the year with regard to our three congregations, our Presbytery, and our part of Christ's witness here in Scotland.

So that's two wee paragraphs to tell you what I **was** going to tell you back in March that may not be relevant **now** because I have no idea what I'll be telling you when we are in a position to have a congregational meeting in the future!

Monika

Animal adventures in lockdown!



As well as teaching her class from home, and helping other colleagues with tech– Hannah has been taking some time out with her chickens!

And here's one for the kids—the real life Peppa pig! (Yes, that is what she's called!)



Coronavirus and St Leonard's – where we are at!

I sit with my hands poised at the keys...I don't know how to write this.

On a good day, I can wax lyrical on how far we've come, on the doors that have opened up, on the opportunities that every crisis is pregnant with.

On a bad day...well, maybe I shouldn't write this on a bad day!

I find it interesting to chart some of the changes in understanding – it reminds me that what I know now is only partial, and so plans I make now are only provisional! That is to say, the last couple of months have been humbling for anyone with even a smidgen of control-freakery in their make-up!

Let me give you some examples. I was really quite chuffed to have thought about what was coming when we locked down, sufficient to have talked with Sheila and Margaret about pastoral care; about seeing people just beforehand because we might not be able to see them for a month or so; about making sure our elders were ready to start keeping in phone contact with people; about talking with the congregation one Sunday encouraging everyone when they thought of someone to follow that up with both a prayer and a phone call. I'd even tried to give the children (and because they were listening in, the adults, too) some hints and tips on dealing with fear! ***And while that has proved hugely valuable – I had no clue we wouldn't be back to relative normality with the schools going back after Easter!***

I started to realise that gathered services would not be permitted for a while, and so prepared to do what we had done during the Beast from East – putting written services on Facebook – but found the idea of recording things to put on-line that may stay somewhere on-line forever (such is the nature of that particular 'beast'!) too much to contemplate. I was a scaredy-cat and it was a step that a temporary

suspension of worship did not warrant...***but Easter changed that!*** We put out written materials by post to everyone, but Easter needed something more, and so a mixture of reflections, reading, visuals were recorded, in the garden, in the Rex Park, at the crosses at the church.

And then I went on holiday to the sewing end of my study!

And there it dawned on me that I needed to be willing to do something more. We have people who have been housebound, or for other reasons, not regularly present in church that our Easter materials had gone to – ***how could we continue to help them bring a God-perspective to their lives?*** Some people have email (and because of the GDPR survey of the last year we had a lot of emails), so we started putting out notes for Sundays. Currently, these go in packets to those we don't have an email for (begging the questions of why we never did this before? and how can we keep doing this?), and by weekly email for those who have it. At the other end of the spectrum, I was also emboldened to try ZOOM church by a retired colleague who had started this for the elderly congregation he helped. So we started trying it too – it's not slick (you know I'm an advocate of it being 'our' worship as a priority that makes it genuine). We still have some things to learn about how to make it easy for people, but it seems to be helping us worship together. ***But Zoom is by invitation... how can we be an open, witnessing community in worship?***

Here our Facebook / website 15 minute services have seemed important. And for this (with very low production values), we have tried to 'master' (probably too ambitious a term!) another level of tech – and grow comfortable (again, probably too ambitious a term!) with having our thoughts, beliefs, worshipping hearts on display. It is important that we do this because it is part of the wider witness of the wider church. It is not about competitive branding for market share (buy our soap powder over St Aloysius's soap powder), but

rather a statement that we and St Aloysius, and all of these other churches believe you need clean clothes!

I read an article the other day that posited that what we are going through this year is akin to the early days of the church. The writers talked about how, when the church was driven out of Jerusalem in the diaspora, it happened at just the right time. The Roman Empire with its Roman roads, and the pax Romana world view meant that the Christian message could zoom across Europe and beyond with an ease that would never have been possible just a generation before. It was driven along those roads by persecution...but thank goodness the roads were there.

Today, the Church has taken steps along the information super-highway that most of us have resisted (*sorry I've been so slow*) because of the virus...a super-highway that did not exist a generation ago. I know we long to be present together again (and I do believe humans need it!), but for the sake of the gospel, we have a calling to find a way forward that does not cause us to hunker down again and forget the super-highway travelling skills we are currently having to learn. The Church of the early days did get to 'return' to Jerusalem, did gather in summit when it could elsewhere, but it remained light on its feet in ways we had long forgotten...until now!

So I guess I've managed to write my way into this being a good day! I don't know exactly what the path ahead will take us through, but a path travelled with God and God's people is always going to be good – even if sometimes that feels like 'good' in a 'those greens are good for you, Monika' kind of way! There are going to be twinges of sadness and loss – to be acknowledged but not overwhelmed by, if we keep our eyes open for the purposes of God, and offer ourselves to be used for the purposes of God.

Monika

Murder mysteries, Baking and Bromley!!



The Gourlay's have certainly been keeping busy in lockdown!



Murder mystery evenings, and lots and lots of baking!!



And, of course, time with the lovely Bromley!!



The Cost of Coronavirus to our Church

Even though we are still in lockdown, the financial aspects of the church continue on a monthly basis. It has been my remit over the last few weeks to consider what effects Coronavirus is going to have on church funds and how the pandemic will affect this year's budget.

Our congregation are very good in so far as many of you donate by standing orders and these have been largely maintained but where there has been an understandable reduction is in open plate offerings. The obvious reason being, of course, that there is no offering collection on a Sunday morning. However, some of you who normally contribute via the open plate have taken the opportunity to set up a standing order to the church, send in cheques or simply, make an occasional bank transfer and I can assure you that this is greatly appreciated.

Our other main income source is from hall users. While we are still receiving payment in from various groups and the Tribunal for hall lettings in the first quarter of 2020, these are now mostly paid and our average income here of between £2,000-£2,500 per month has now ceased. This is probably the most worrying aspect. If you add this loss to the reduction in open plate offering, I anticipate that our accumulated loss of income from June will be approaching £3,000 per month.

On the plus side we have furloughed some members of staff and the cost of heating and lighting in the church will fall considerably. Our outgoings here are reduced but all the other expenses we have remain very much the same. So, with a treasurer's pessimistic hat on, we could see a financial loss to the virus of anything up to £15,000 by the end of the year.

Unlike many churches we do have good reserves so we can weather this storm but for those of you who are able, any extra support that you can give at this time would be welcomed.

John Allen

Treasurer

Crafting during Covid-19...



Fiona MacKenzie has been busy crafting - making over 30 masks, and practicing her quilting!



She's also been painting lovely stones that anyone can find when out and about on their walks—if you're walking in Pitcorthie, keep your eyes peeled!



St Leonard's



f h o l i d a y c l u b
 r a s s f c s r b s r j
 e z t i p a h e r r o b
 y y w h n i m u r h y n
 a a p s e g r i r m r h
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Worship	Fellowship	Bible	Prayer
Friendship	Communion	Singing	Sermon
Family	Baptism	Apse	Holiday Club
Church	Father	Son	Spirit



It's been important during lockdown not to lose sight of the many wonderful charities that do so much good for so many. One of the key charities is Christian Aid and this year our fundraising strategy had to take on a new face.

Without the opportunity for bletherful soup lunches, door-to-door collections in the parish, or heart warming and uplifting concerts in the church, we instead turned to on-line methods using a combination of Facebook, Christian Aid 'e-envelopes' and direct contributions. This has raised more than £1000 and with the agreement of the Kirk Session this will be topped up from our St Leonard's funds to £1500, which equals our average funds raised from the last 3 years and helps Christian Aid to continue their fabulous global work.

Heartfelt thanks and congratulations to all from the outreach team for this amazing response.

If you want to add any further donations you can do that via the church, by sending a cheque made out to St Leonard's or to Christian Aid, or on-line via the Christian Aid website.

Thanks again and please keep the work of Christian Aid and other charities in your prayers, and stay safe.



Iain Gourlay



The Daly family celebrated the 75th anniversary of VE Day by remembering the efforts of our relatives during World War II. Amy's grandfather worked as a German linguist, helping to decipher codes at Bletchley Park. Neil's grandfather was fighting in Burma on VE Day and did not return to the UK until well after VJ Day. You might like to hear more about Amy's paternal grandfather who is known to some of the older members of our Presbytery.

During the war, Eric Marr Duncan was the minister of the parish church of Kirkpatrick Fleming, Dumfriesshire. Very early on he was given two months leave. On behalf of the YMCA, he visited camps for interned aliens and prisoners of war to see how the YMCA could help to improve their facilities.

Later, he and his wife led the local effort to welcome forestry workers from British Honduras who were based in a camp at Kirkpatrick. His most striking appointment immediately followed the War. From 1945 to 1947 he was the European Secretary of the World Student Christian Federation. Based in Geneva, he was one of the first civilians to be allowed into occupied Germany. His task was to make contact with students and professors in Germany, Poland and Czechoslovakia, to give them encouragement and to demonstrate that the Protestant churches of Europe wished to move towards reconciliation.

From 1949 until 1959 he was the minister of Saint Margaret's Church, here in Dunfermline. At that time the church building was at East Port where one of the banks now stands. One of his major achievements there was to lead a big project to renovate the church.

Thanks to the efforts of these men, their wives and many, many others, we were able to enjoy a most peaceful and reflective day in our garden.



L.O.C.K D.O.W.N is a time to:

- L** - isten to God's Voice and reflect. Let go and let God.
- O** - bey His Word and His Teachings.
- C** - all on Jesus name and be calm.
- K** - now what is the purpose of all of this.
- D** - well in His presence. Do not panic.
- O** - ffer a prayer for everyone's safety.
- W** - ait and be patient. This too, shall pass
- N** - uture our personal relationship with Him.

Time to Upcycle!



Monika has been putting her quilting and crafting skills to very good use during lockdown!

Using an old shirt of her dad's to quilt with, and making beautiful fingerless gloves out of an old sweater!



Arty Rainbows!



Isla and Erin have been busy drawing and painting many Rainbows of hope during the lockdown period! They've supplied many of their relatives with a giant Rainbow to put in their windows! Great job girls!!

What St. Leonard's can do for Others at this time

My first article in this edition of Outlook dwelt on the cost to the church of Coronavirus. However, we are a Christian church and while we do have concern for our own wellbeing, our natural desire is to care for others at this time. Many in our local community are struggling and are relying on local charities to help out.

As a consequence, the Church Session have approved the setting up of a fund which can be used to help support various local charities, St. Leonard's Primary School and even any other churches should their position become untenable.

A few years ago, we set up a Reserve Fund and while I know that we may have to use some of the deposits in this fund for ourselves later this year, we can spare a considerable proportion of this for the good of others. A committee is being set up to administer donations to those locally who need help and we will report in due course on how this fund has been of help.

The size of this fund is currently set at £10,000. However, if any members of the congregation feel that they would like to make additional contributions specifically towards this fund, please let me know. Donations can, of course, be gift aided and the gift aid tax reclaim will be added to this fund.

John Allen

Treasurer



Where I see God

B.Meiklejohn

Locked down because of Covid.
People dying all over the world.
Many asking "Why is this happening?
Tell me now 'Where is your God?'"

My God is in the sunrise,
in the stars that shine in the sky;
in the sun and the snow, the wind and the rain.
That's where I can see God.

On the wards and in the care homes;
in the smiles of those that care -
that comforting word, reassuring touch.
That's where I can see God.

In the neighbour that phones on a Friday
just to check that I am still well.
On the telly on Sunday morning.
That's where I can see God.

Though the doors of the church may be bolted
and the organ silent as night,
as we gather on phones and on tablets -
that's where I can see God.

This virus won't be here forever
Social distance a memory, I hope
God's people, all gathered together-
I know that my God is here.

Piping for Key Workers!



Each Thursday when we've all been clapping and cheering for Key Workers, Euan and Owen have been picking up their bagpipes and playing to show their thanks!

At the last ever Clap for Key Workers, the boys donned their kilts and played!



A Hallelujah Chorus of Angels!



Before lockdown, the Church had begun the challenge of making lots of angels for Christmas time - Anne Baker has certainly taken up the challenge, knitting all these lovely angels!



HOLIDAY CLUB!

Normally at this time of year, St. Leonards is preparing for our annual holiday club! The team would have met and gone through the material as we considered how best to share the message of Jesus with the children. The congregation would have been so generously providing us with materials to work and craft with; gearing up to cook, bake and serve, fuelling the team through the week; and continually supporting the whole holiday club in prayer.

The team had met midway through March, to begin looking at the material and stories, before we were really aware of how much Corona virus would come along and transform lives into a completely different way of living! With schools closed, in person gatherings disbanded, and everyone getting used to life in lockdown, our thoughts turned to Holiday Club!

Obviously we're not going to be able to run our usual in-person club, but we still want to do *something*. So, without further ado, St. Leonard's holiday club team presents:



OUR FIRST EVER **VIRTUAL**
HOLIDAY CLUB!!

Utilising Zoom, the Holiday Club team will hold a morning and afternoon session - covering our stories for the day, prayer, and active challenges! Adding to this we have our own holiday club website <https://spaceshipdiscovery.club>, which will have new content released every day of holiday club, including a daily exercise, Bible readings, craft activities - and, of course, our drama!

We understand that not every household has access to multiple devices, or the ability to print anything, therefore we're also intending on creating a paper activity pack that could be delivered to those who need it.

Please encourage any primary school aged kids to join us, and any secondary age young people to log on and access our teen planet! You can sign up at: **slpc.org.uk**

The congregation's thoughts and prayers would be greatly appreciated as the team plan, prepare and deliver the message of Jesus in a completely new way!

The Holiday Club Team

Thank yous...

The last couple of months have not been easy – I know a lot of you have 'thank yous' in your hearts for family, friends, the NHS and others who have kept you going throughout.

Well, I have thank yous, too...the Team Leaders (+) have been an invaluable support, from the very start resolving to meet with me each week and help me talk through where we were at and what needed to be done, and volunteering tech, production, practical and leadership skills and perspectives that I could not have done without. And I have been aware of wider support and prayer, too. Thank you all.



Monika

Brownies



The Brownies have packed in so much to 2020 already!

In January and February, we focused on First Aid = from slings to scalds, recovery position to CPR, allergies and intolerances to mental wellbeing. This was part of our Be Well Theme, which the Brownies had contributed towards by getting their Dancing badge in our Sponsored Zumbathon last November.

In our last in-person meeting before the Coronavirus lockdown came into place, we had invited representatives from the charities, It's Good 2 Give and ClicSargent, and were delighted to hand across £820 to each charity!



Being able to give these amounts means even more now we are in lockdown and we know how many charities have lost fundraising (including our annual Coffee morning!).

We were also super lucky to take some of our Brownies to an amazing sleepover run by GirlGuiding Fife and hosted in the Glasgow Science Centre - we certainly had LOTS of fun!

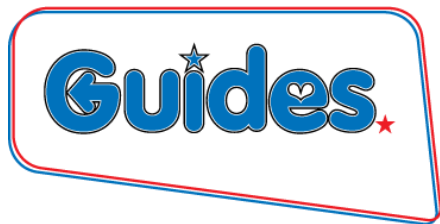


Then lockdown happened, and we reminded ourselves of GirlGuiding's motto 'Be Prepared' and got to work! Initially we encouraged our Brownies to work on Interest Badges, posted Weekly Challenges to our Facebook page, and delivered activity packs to all 30 of our girls! Here are some pictures of what our Brownies have been getting up to!



Then, we summoned up the courage and dipped our toes into Zoom Brownie meetings - and the girls and the Owls loved it so much that we have jumped right in! Meeting on our normal Friday evenings, we have done a riddle scavenger hunt, some fairy yoga, made origami, and even welcomed our new Tweenies from Rainbows! We are looking forwards to trying out even more activities through Zoom until we can meet in person again!



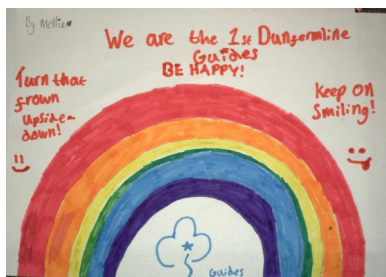
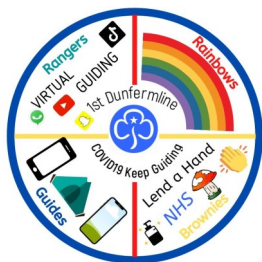


As the concerns started to emerge about Covid-19, the girls leaders at the 1st Guides and Rangers had our last meetings on Friday 13th March. Little did we appreciate just how things were going to change for us all, but in true Guiding spirit, we have, we believe successfully found a way through the lockdown to keep the girls, (along with brothers, sisters and family members!) engaged in Guiding activities.

Over the past few months, we have held a really successful virtual camp with the Guides and Rangers with lots of fun activities including sleeping in dens in our houses, making virus biscuits, dressing pets as super heroes and loads of other things. Making use of our existing Whatsapp parents group has been a great way for the girls to take pictures and video clips of themselves to evidence what they have undertaken.

We've worked with the Rainbows and Brownie sections to create a special Covid-19 badge for the girls to gain as a reward for taking part in activities at this challenging time.

The Guide section have also taken part in the Netherurd Badge, organised by Scottish Girl Guiding's outdoor centre and again lots of fun has been had by girls doing lots of fun activities at home.



More recently the girls have all gained a blanket badge and celebrated VE day by organising tea parties and picnics at home for their families, making decorations, baking war time recipes and building air raid shelters. It has really helped that we have had such lovely weather and many of our girls have been able to enjoy their home garden spaces for their parties.

We had one of our Rangers make her promise on Zoom on Friday evening and we will be welcoming 3 new Brownies into the Guide virtual work.

Going forwards we are now trying to settle the girls back into some adapted Guide programme work and we will be meeting on Zoom every Friday with both Guides and Rangers for virtual meetings and activities and will follow this up on our WhatsApp group with challenges for the coming week. We are missing being our girls each week but until it is safe, we will continue to support and work with the girls and would like to thank our families for showing so much enthusiasm in helping us to keep Guiding fun for our members.

Here are a few photographs for you to enjoy!



Keeping Ourselves Wind and Watertight!

Poor Monika has had a leak! Well, to be more precise, the roof over her office has sprung a leak. Her office sits under a rain gully and the lead lining has split and needs replacement. Temporary repairs have been carried out and, in due course, a new lead lining and repairs to the mortar of the brickwork at this point and the guttering will be carried out.

We have a reliable roofer in Martin Willcocks and he and his team will be hard at work for us on these repairs as well as carrying out other remedial work to the gutters and downpipes on the exterior of the Sanctuary.

John Allen

Property Convener



It's a bit of a Puzzle...!



During lockdown, Libby has been working her way through some jigsaws! After completing two 500 piece puzzles, she's now working her way through a thousand piece puzzle!



The Scouts have also been using Zoom to hold virtual meetings!

So far for Scouts, as well as a virtual camp, we have done the following online activities:

- Pet Show and Tell
- Bingo Game
- Home Scavenger Hunt
- Make a Balloon Powered Car Challenge
- Fun Quiz Night
- Murder Mystery Challenge

We have planned:

- Cake in a Cup/Armpit Fudge
- Home Bivouacking (provisional)
- Maybe end of term virtual BBQ???

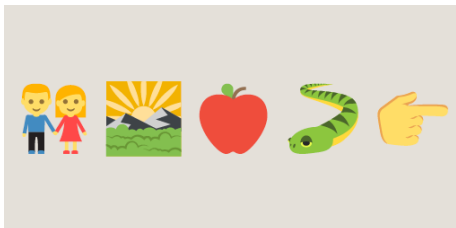
We have had a good level of attendance ranging from our mid teens to low-mid twenties many participating in all sessions. Some have not participated at all and we will maybe reach out to those to perhaps understand why and try to encourage them to do so.



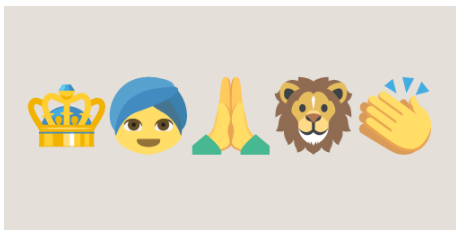
Guess the emoji Bible story!

Can you guess which Bible Stories these emojis are telling?

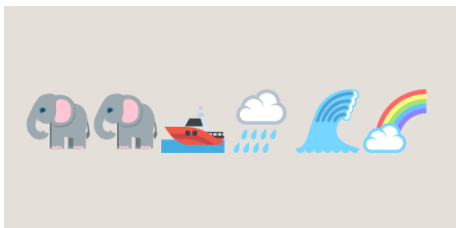
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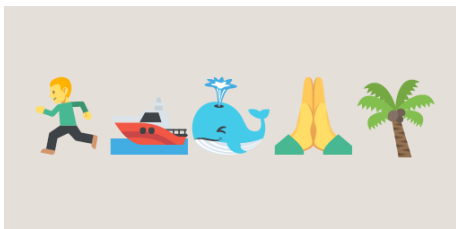
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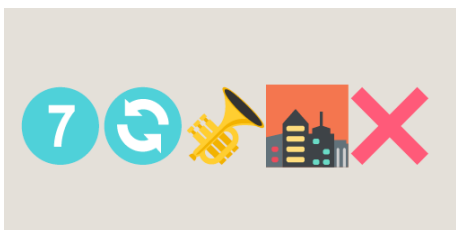
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5.



Find out the answers over the page!



St. Leonard's Church Presents....

Join us for...

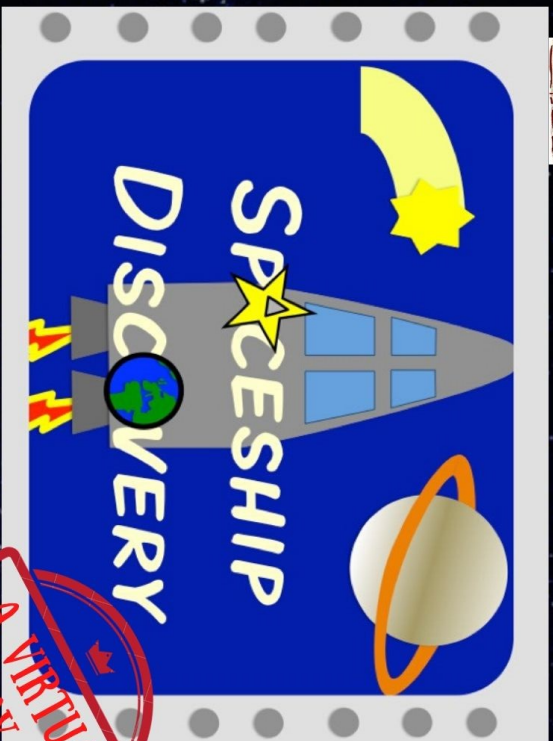
Morning Zoom

10:30 - 11:30am

Afternoon Zoom

2:00 - 3:00pm

And our exclusive activity website:



Monday 6th - Friday 10th

July 2020!



spaceshipdiscovery.club



A Message from Footprints, South Africa

Lockdown has definitely been interesting. It's been very strict - for the first 8 weeks I did not even leave the property. Now we are on Level 4 which means we can do exercise from 6-9am within a 5km radius of the property. One person went out for food for us all. There's 75 of us here. We had quite a few missionaries leave before full lockdown to return to their countries. This included the couple that help me with the boys house. So we've been stretched quite a bit. God is so good though and even though life looks different and many things remain closed, He has kept us healthy and together and we have always had food. So I am very grateful.

Because of lockdown we have been unable to go to the hospital or Munsieville, but I do keep in touch with my friends there and they are doing well. They have received food parcels and donations and say they are managing.

God bless you all

Ruth Turner xxx



Doing what she does best!



This is Alana's cat, Skye - who has become an honorary Brownie as she's been taking part in all of the Zoom meetings!

Here she is during our Yoga session - capturing the perfect Cat pose!



Bible Story Emojis Answers!

1. Adam and Eve (Found at Genesis 1-3)
2. Daniel and the Lions' den (Found at Daniel 6)
3. Noah's Ark (Found at Genesis 6:22—8.22)
4. Jonah and the Whale (Found in Jonah)
5. Fall of Jericho (Found at Joshua 5:13—6:21)

How did you get on??



In our Church family

Sunday School Birthdays

Aaron Daly—10 in March!

Alex Stihler—14 in March!

Erin Livingstone— 7 in April!

Mitchell McMaster—18 in April!

Calum Redman—11 in May!

Isla Livingstone—9 in May!

Brian Stewart—8 in June!



Funerals

We continue to lift up in prayer the family of:

Jim Craig – 5th February

Eck Miller – 20th March

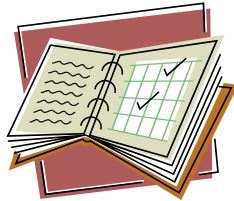
Betty Redman – 25th April

John McFarlane – 10th May



Deadline for submission of articles for the next edition of
Outlook is:

Autumn/Winter



Remember you can visit our website:
www.stleonardsparishchurch.org.uk



Or find us on **facebook**

www.facebook.com/stleonardsparishchurch



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