



InTouch

April 2021

The Glens and Kirriemuir United Parish Church Linked with Oathlaw Tannadice Parish Church

Easter and Beyond



“When is the church going to re-open?” has been a common question in recent weeks. When the enhanced restrictions were announced in December, GKUPC and Oathlaw Tannadice both agreed that re-opening in Level 4 was undesirable and would only be considered when our area dropped to Level 3 again, indicating a degree of control over the spread and impact of the virus. It is anticipated that this will come towards the end of April as that is when shops, cafes, and the like anticipate being allowed to open. This means that we hope to re-open for

worship (albeit still with restrictions) on the 2nd May. In the meantime, our weekly services will continue on YouTube and via our phone line.

Holy Week Reflections

The Church of Scotland is offering prayers and reflections for each day in Holy Week. More information can be found on the Church of Scotland website:

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/2021/church-of-scotland-to-mark-holy-week-with-prayers-and-events>

For those unable to access online resources, we hope that the short reflections on page 4 & 5 will be of benefit.

On Maundy Thursday (1st April) at 7.00pm there will be a short service with communion on Zoom:

<https://tinyurl.com/WAAMMaundyThursday> or phone 0131 460 1196

Meeting ID: 862 3952 2607

Passcode: 580174



Kirriemuir Parish Church



Cortachy Church



Oathlaw Tannadice Parish Church

The Church of Scotland in Angus

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Office Open:

Currently Closed

www.gkupc.org

Scottish Charity Number SC015123

www.OathlawTannadice.org.uk Scottish Charity Number SC006317

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Guild Update

Hello Guild members and all readers. I hope you are well and finding ways of keeping occupied at this difficult time. Once again I am pleased to have the opportunity to update you on some Guild activities. The Guild News can still be seen weekly on email and recently on Facebook members have been choosing firstly their favourite verses of the Bible and later their favourite hymns, all accompanied by brief reasons for their choices. I expect more of these kinds of posts will come.

Recently Moderator Martin Fair held an on-line quiz, the proceeds of which went to Guild Projects. We are grateful for him for giving up time in his busy schedule.

We thank Ann Findlay for taking part in a Guild Zoom Meeting entitled "The East Area Catch Up". The area stretches from Shetland to Edinburgh and the purpose was to discuss with representatives from down the east coast of Scotland when an Annual Meeting could be held in Dundee around spring 2022.

We are saddened to hear of the death of Dorothy Moss aged 96. Dorothy was a regular member of St Andrew's Guild and Church until quite recently when failing health prevented her attending. Our thoughts are with her sons and friends.

Meanwhile we have to be patient for even longer to try to stop the spread of this virus. Most of us will have been vaccinated, which should give us hope for things to get better and perhaps even to meet one another again in the not too distant future.

Stay safe and well.

Easter blessings to all of you.

Charlotte

From the Minister

It is often said that Christians are an 'Easter people'. I recognise the irony of that as GKUPC and Oathlaw Tannadice have both opted to stay closed for services at Easter. Yet even in that there is a strong message to ponder. Being an 'Easter people' is not about being able to gather on Easter Sunday to belt out 'Thine be the glory', no matter how uplifting and joyous that is. Being able to declare the glory of God and proclaim the risen Christ is a wonderful thing to be able to do, but if all it means is voices echoing within the walls of a building (and that wouldn't be happening this Easter Sunday anyway) then we have rather missed the point of it all.

I've often reflected that, for many, the services at this time of year jump from the joy of Palm Sunday to the joy of Easter Sunday, with no real time given to the intervening period. Our journey through Lent is a preparation for all that Easter means. That includes teaching, healing, betrayal, beatings, abandonment, despair, and, yes, great joy. To understand the hope brought by Easter Sunday we need to comprehend what it is an answer to.

Being an 'Easter people' means that we find hope in dark moments and express joy when there is a moment to celebrate. It means we can lean on God when we struggle to see a clear path ahead and praise God when there is light for our way.

Although we celebrate all of that on Easter Sunday, it is something we should be living every day which is why although Easter Sunday services will be sorely missed they are not the only focus of our faith life. In these difficult times we offer hope when we show that love has not withdrawn from the world. We offer hope when we speak of the joy that will come even in the midst of a time of despair. We offer hope when we face up to responsibilities and challenges, even giving up that which we cherish, knowing that we do so for the sake of others.

God's 'Easter people' do not just celebrate an event within church walls, but live it out every day through acts of kindness and expressions of love. We are an 'Easter people' and we give thanks to God that he has called us to be so.

John

GKUPC Photography Competition

The closing date for entry to the photo competition has changed to **Friday 28th May**. It is open to ALL amateur photographers. If you have been out taking photographs of the local area during lockdown, please enter our photography competition and your photo could be in with a chance of featuring in the 2022 calendar.

Entry forms are available from julia@gkopc.co.uk 01575 572819 and on www.gkupc.org.



Holy Week Reflections

Monday

Reading – Mark 11:15-19

Reflection – Turning the tables challenged the religious leaders of the day. Jesus' words that the Temple was to be a 'house of prayer for the people of all nations' is a challenge for us today. They are a reminder that our faith is outward-looking and built on a concern for others, not rooted in outdated ritual and habit.

Prayer – Loving God, lift our eyes to see a world in need, and lay it before you in prayer. Amen

Tuesday

Reading – Mark 12:28-34

Reflection – Which commandment is the most important? We like clear answers and unambiguous guidance. Jesus' answer to this question couldn't be clearer or less ambiguous, yet we are very good and ringing it around with caveats and qualifications.

Prayer – Guiding God, help us love indiscriminately and extravagantly. Amen

Wednesday

Reading – Mark 14:3-9

Reflection – The actions of an unnamed woman are celebrated across the world. An act of extravagant love at a time of uncertainty and worry. We may not seek to have our actions remembered for all time, but will our acts of love make an impact on those who receive them?

Prayer – Eternal God, even if only for a moment, may your love be known. Amen

Maundy Thursday

You may want to have a piece of bread and a glass of wine/juice to hand.

Reading – Mark 14:22-26

Reflection – So much more than just a memory, but a blessing from God; a life-giving, spiritual-filling act of promise and hope. Taking bread, he broke it and said, "This is my body." Taking the cup, they all drank from it, and Jesus said, "This is my blood poured out for many."

Prayer – Life-giving God, fill us with your blessings and your grace. Amen

Good Friday

Reading – Mark 15:22-41

Reflection – Standing at the foot of the cross, the Roman officer declared, “This man was really the Son of God!” God reveals himself in Jesus, even in the times of apparent defeat and utter loss. Mark notes that it was the women who had helped Jesus in his ministry who remained at the crucifixion. It is a place where we are forced to set aside our own plans and preconceptions and acknowledge God’s way.

Prayer – Merciful God, may we know you better as we work with you to grow your Kingdom. Amen

Holy Saturday

Reading – Mark 15:42-47

Reflection – A time of anguish and mourning for those who were with Jesus. To us, a brief hiatus on our way to Easter Sunday. For them, an end to hopes and dreams; for us, a moment where hope sits waiting. For all, a time between times, waiting for God to burst forth in glorious splendour.

Prayer – Faithful God, grant us patience as we wait, and ready us for the moment we can proclaim the risen Christ. Amen

Easter Sunday

Reading – Mark 16:1-7

Reflection – A time of faithful duty turns in to a moment of wonder. In that moment, darkness and despair are overcome and God’s purposes are revealed. Just as the women were, we are entrusted with the same message – Jesus has been raised!

Prayer – Risen Lord, to you be all glory, thanks, and praise! Amen

Deaths

“I am the resurrection and the life”

Bob Scott
Jessie Ferguson
Betty Clyne
Bill McKay
Dorothy Moss
Douglas Latto



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GKUPC CHURCH FINANCES

During March we have reached the milestone of one year since our lives were fairly severely disrupted by the coronavirus pandemic. We are all well aware of the huge loss of life and of the problems of loneliness, depression, strained relationships, and financial hardship that have been felt by so many during this period. Things have also been very different in our Church life and new ways of worship and of communication have been developed. A big thank you is due to all who have been able to continue with their financial support to the Church as before, and to those who have changed their way of giving to help our cash flow during this period. We also appreciate that circumstances have been such that not everyone may have been in a position to continue with their previous financial commitment.

With the Church Buildings and the Halls being closed for a significant part of 2020 and for the first months of 2021 there have been some cost savings, but these have not been as high as the drop in income, and this has resulted in the General Fund running at a deficit. It is important that we try to get things back on track in the current year and the Finance Group would therefore like to ask all members to think about their financial commitment to the Church at this time. If you normally give in cash through WFO envelopes or through the open plate, then if you have not already made a change, we would ask that you consider the various options shown below so that you may continue to support the work of the Church. To those who are making regular contributions we would ask you to consider whether you are in a position to increase your giving as we proceed through 2021. We realise that not everybody may be able to respond positively to this request, but we do ask that you think about your position and reach a conclusion.

We are hopeful that things will begin to return to normal in the near future, both in terms of services in the Church and the opening of the Church Office and the Halls, but in the meantime the ways in which you can support the work of the Church are as follows:

- 1) Donate by monthly standing order through the bank. (If you use online banking you can set this up yourself. If not, we can supply you with a form to complete).
Contact Julia for Bank details
- 2) Donate by bank transfer. Contact Julia for Bank details
- 3) Weekly Freewill Offering envelopes: These are normally collected with the Offering on a Sunday but while there are no 'in Church' services we would ask that you send a cheque to the Church Office and include a WFO envelope for reference. Cheques should be payable to 'The Glens and Kirriemuir United Parish Church'.
- 4) Send a cheque to the Church Office. made payable to 'The Glens and Kirriemuir United Parish Church'.
- 5) Use the Church of Scotland's online donation facility which will enable you to specify which congregation you are giving to, The link to this service is:
https://cos.churchofscotland.org.uk/donate/?cong=301835#single_donation

And please remember **GIFT AID** - IF YOU ARE A TAXPAYER THE CHURCH CAN RECLAIM AN EXTRA 25p FOR EVERY £1 THAT YOU GIVE BY ANY OF THE ABOVE METHODS PROVIDED YOU COMPLETE A SIMPLE GIFT AID DECLARATION

If you would like further information about giving, or if none of these methods suit you, please contact one of the following:

Julia Mitchell, Administrator: While the Church Office remains closed you can contact Julia by email on julia@gkopc.co.uk or by writing to the Church Office at Bank Street, Kirriemuir, DD8 4BG or by leaving a message on 01575 572819. Shân Coombs, Session Clerk and Gift Aid Convener: coombs.shan@me.com or 01575 574809

Liz Adamson, Finance Convener: lizadamson@hotmail.com or 01575 574771

Similar arrangements can be made for donations to Oathlaw Tannadice Parish Church. Please contact Treasurer John Rome jrome272@btinternet.com

WAAM KINSHIP BIBLE STUDY The Book of Revelation April – June 2021

This eleven-week study will be based on For Everyone Bible Study Guide Revelation by Tom Wright, published by SPCK and also Revelation for Everyone by Tom Wright, published by SPCK. Both books are available to order online in hard copy and on Kindle.

Structure:

- Each week we will cover two chapters of the Study Guide
- These chapters will be introduced by an email on Tuesdays (starting on 13th April) and Fridays
- There will then be Zoom Kinship on the Monday evening (starting on 19th April).

Further Support:

- Extra resources will be made available from time to time.
- There will be a YouTube Video each week highlighting particular aspects
- A moderated email circle will be available for sharing thoughts and questions
- An opportunity to share responses to the questions at the end of each chapter in the Study Book.

Early on in the first Lockdown Stephen Blakey of the Isla Parishes ran a 4-week online Bible Study on the Book of James. The participants came from throughout WAAM and the format was much the same as shown in the above flyer for Revelation. Back in these early days it was great to have the opportunity to 'meet' on screen and to be able to chat with some people we knew well and others we had not met before. Since then, there have been 5 other studies, covering Jonah, Habakkuk, Esther, Advent and a preparatory look at Revelation. There is no pressure on 'homework' and no obligation to contribute verbally. Almost everyone from the first study has signed up for them all, and a few others have joined along the way, but one of the beauties of an online group is that there is plenty space for more people, so we would invite anyone who might be interested to sign up for what promises to be a very interesting look at the Book of Revelation. Please contact Liz Adamson to book a place lizadamson@hotmail.com or 01575 574771

Easter message from Linda

No matter where we are.

No matter who we are.

No matter what happens in the world.

Easter happens.

And we can say Jesus Christ is risen today.

Thanks be to God.

This prayer is for Easter Morning Sunrise or whenever you have risen yourself.

May God bless you all this Easter time, *Linda*

Easter Morning Sunrise Prayer

Lord, we lift our hearts to you.

As the dawn breaks, may we carry the unity we share into every moment.

Knowing that we are one with the risen Christ.

Lord, we lift our eyes to you.

As the sun rises, may this moment stay with us,

Reminding us to look for the beautiful colours of promise in your word.

Lord, we lift our prayers to you.

As the dew air falls,

May we breathe this morning in and know that like the earth,

You sustain us,

Keep us and work within us always.

And so, we lift our voices to you.

We celebrate the greatest day in history,

When Jesus rose from death,

Defeated darkness and bathed the world in stunning resurrection light.

May we ever live to praise you!

Amen

