



Killearnan Church of Scotland

The Grapevine

March 2020

Reflection from Susan

It's hard to know what to write at the moment, on the morning of Wednesday 18th March. It already feels like a very long week, where the rapidly changing situation regarding Covid-19 (Coronavirus) has led to me having to make the decision to close the church buildings for worship till, goodness knows when.

Will we be able to gather for Easter? I don't know.

Will we even be able to distribute the Grapevine? I don't know.

There are so many unknowns at the moment, and so much information we're being bombarded with through news and social media. And I still can't understand why, of all the things which could be stockpiled, it is toilet paper.

I have no doubt this pandemic is going to change society for many years to come. I pray for good, turning people to be more caring, compassionate and neighbourly. If that happens, at least something positive will have come.

Remaining positive in the face of adversity is difficult. As more and more of us isolate or socially distance, we may go stir crazy or the tensions in the household will rise, as we're forced to spend every moment with those we share our homes with, though we love them dearly.

These are testing times for us all, but as a community of faith, people who are the church wherever we are, we look to the resurrection for our hope. Hope that seemed killed, snuffed out, when Jesus was nailed to that rough wooden cross. Hope that seemed dead and buried, when

Jesus' body was laid in a borrowed grave. Hope, that seemed forgotten, abandoned as the stone was rolled across the tomb.

In many ways, I feel like those followers of Jesus on that first Good Friday (what, exactly is good about it?). That I do not know what the future holds; I am concerned for the safety of my fellow believers and those I love; I feel many of the certainties I had are vanishing into thin air. Gone, forgotten and liquidated.

Yet, I also remember that into that place where everything was bereft and lost, hope came. Hope came bursting from the place where death existed, the hope of the resurrection. Through that hope, we have faith and life. We are children of the resurrection; children of God.

May we live, even in isolation or social distancing as people of the resurrection, in the place between life and death, offering the cool balm of God's love in Christ's name, as his church where we are right now.

Your sibling in Christ
Susan

A reminder to everyone

We are being bombarded with do's and don'ts, often changing daily, but the important instructions remain valid throughout so I have just copied the NHS guidance for information.

NHS Guidance on how to avoid catching and spreading coronavirus (social distancing)

Everyone should do what they can to stop coronavirus spreading.

It is particularly important for people who:

- are 70 or over
- have a long-term condition
- are pregnant
- have a weakened immune system

Do

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- always wash your hands when you get home or into work
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards
- avoid close contact with people who have symptoms of coronavirus
- only travel on public transport if you need to
- work from home, if you can
- avoid social activities, such as going to pubs, restaurants, theatres and cinemas
- avoid events with large groups of people
- use phone, [online services](#), or apps to contact your GP surgery or other NHS services

Message from our Treasurer,

There is no doubt that we are all facing very difficult circumstances as a result of the coronavirus outbreak, not least because we can't support each other during the Sunday Service, or from visits by the Elders.

Unfortunately, from the Treasurers point of view, the bills for our fixed costs (our contribution to Susan's salary, electricity standing charges, insurance premium etc) will keep on coming in, but we will have very little income. Fortunately, 11 members of the congregation have signed up to a monthly bankers order for their offering - for this we are extremely grateful.

There are ways in which the rest of us can help:

- firstly, you could send me a regular cheque, payable to Killearnan Church, and I can pay it in at the post office. My address is : Grianan, Bogallan Croft, Kessock, Inverness, IV1 3XE
- secondly, you could make a BACS transfer direct into the Church account. The bank details are as follows: Bank - Royal Bank of Scotland - Dingwall (B) Branch - Sort Code 83 25 20 - a/c No 00109997
- thirdly, if you write to me I can send you a form to send to your bank to set up a monthly direct debit
- finally, just put your weekly offering in the envelope and put it aside until normal services are resumed - that way you shouldn't miss it, and won't be faced with a dilemma of how much to put in the envelope in, say, 6 months time - yes, we may not be hearing Susan's words of wisdom for that long!!

Please take care during these unprecedented times,
Bob

Prayer from the Moderator

The following prayer was published on the Church of Scotland webpage on Sunday, 22nd March.

“For all that is good in life, thank you,
For the love of family and friends, thank you,
For the kindness of good neighbour and Samaritan stranger, thank you.

May those who are vulnerable, hungry or homeless, experience support,
May those who are sick, know healing,
May those who are anxious or bereaved sense comfort.

Bless and guide political leaders and decision-makers, with wisdom,
Bless and guide health workers and key workers, with strength and well-being.
Bless and guide each one of us as we adapt to a new way of living.

And may the light shining from our windows across road and wynd, glen and ben, kyle and isle, be reflected in our hearts and hands and hopes.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen”

Obituary - Rod Pimm

With the passing away of Rod Pimm, the congregation has lost a stalwart member, and he will be sadly missed.

A forester by profession he loved the great outdoors - from the mountains and rivers, especially the Spey, to the flora and fauna, Rod was an expert, and he was very highly regarded by his fellow foresters. He knew the theory, but Rod was essentially a practical man – he managed a tea plantation in India, looked after forests for Scottish Woodlands, and managed the Christmas tree farm at Drynie. When he lived in Grantown on Spey he became a member of the Cairngorm Mountain Rescue team.

He passed this love on to his eldest son, Andrew, who tragically was killed in a climbing accident in the USA – an event from which Rod never fully recovered, but then who would. Fortunately he had Gill, and Helen and James to look after, and then grandchildren. He really enjoyed being a granddad, and always found time to explain things to them – they loved his untamed ways.

Health and Safety wasn't really Rod's thing – he just wanted to get things done so, even last year he was seen up a ladder cleaning out the gutters. As Property Convenor, he did a great job of looking after the fabric of the Church and Hall, and he will be hard to replace. He was also the unofficial church photographer – and his works were always proudly displayed on the Hall notice boards.

Rod also spent much of his time visiting friends and other members of the congregation – frequently when I delivered a recording of the Service I would be greeted with “oh Rod was here yesterday.” He will be sadly missed by everyone, and I felt honoured to be asked to help lower Rod gently to his final resting place.

RST

Some words of encouragement

“Make up your mind that no matter what comes your way, no matter how difficult, no matter how unfair, you will do more than simply survive. You will thrive in spite of it.”

– **Joel Osteen**

“What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.”

– **Ralph Waldo Emerson**

“Tough times never last, but tough people do.”

– **Robert H. Schuller**

Killearnan Walking Group

This group started in October 2018 and we have done about 30 walks in the local area. They are led by different members of the group. We haven't duplicated a walk yet and none have had to be cancelled due to bad weather!!

We share cars to reach the starting point of the walk and come back to the hall for a cup of tea & biscuits at the end.

The walks are about 3-4 miles long and anyone/ everyone along with their dogs are welcome to join us.



We have seen pods of seals basking on the shore of the Beaully Firth, osprey in the trees at Redcastle, deer on the Brahan Estate, mighty trees and interesting plants, old churches and cottages, fast flowing rivers, beautiful hills and mountains, and lots of MUD!

One walk needs a special mention – it is the only one that had any connection to “church,” and was led by a non-church member during the “Week of Prayer for Christian Unity”. We started off at Arpafeelie Episcopal Church where Canon Mel held a short service. We then walked together with about 10 members of the Arpafeelie congregation, along the Pilgrims’ track to the south side of Gallowhill. Glorious views opened out to the south and west as we headed down into Redcastle Estate, passing the castle ruins to Milton of Redcastle and Killearnan Church. Here, Susan held a short service before we all gathered in the hall for a welcome cup of tea.

You and your friends are all very welcome to join us once the present restrictions on self-isolation are lifted. We normally meet in Killearnan Church Hall car park on the 2nd & 4th Thursday of the month at 1pm during winter months and 2pm from Easter until late autumn.

If you want some fun, exercise and good company please come along.

Defibrillator

On Monday 20th January, about 20 members of the congregation spent a very instructive and enjoyable evening learning how to treat a person who had suffered a cardiac arrest.

First of all we learnt how to do CPR and then practised on five dummies, all called Annie! Then we learnt how to use a defibrillator, and again practised on Annie - for some of us the most difficult part of the evening was getting back on to our feet again!!

We now have our own defibrillator mounted outside the Church Hall, and for that we have to thank a very kind legacy from Bess MacDiarmid, and the funds raised from the sale of Betsy Morrison's Cook Book.'

Something to make you Smile

Smiling is infectious
By Spike Milligan

Smiling is infectious
You catch it like the flu

When someone smiled at me today

I started smiling too

I walked around the corner
And someone saw me grin

When he smiled I realised
I had passed it on to him

I thought about the smile
And then realised its worth

A single smile like mine
Could travel round the earth

So if you feel a smile begin
Don't leave it undetected

Start an epidemic
And get the world infected.

It's confirmed . Fresh cow dung can stop corona

Dip both your hands in fresh cow dung before going out.

This will make sure that

a) you will not touch your eyes, nose, ear or mouth.

b) nobody will shake hands with you.

c) Nobody will come near you when you are out in the streets.

d) You will wash your hands thoroughly before you eat.

