



Killearnan Church of Scotland

The Grapevine

May 2020

Reflection from Susan

When will the church re-open?

That's a question that people are starting to ask. Germany has begun allowing churches to re-open, and the Roman Catholic church in Scotland has been putting together guidelines for when church buildings will re-open (including removing all the pews!).

The bottom line is, I don't know (it's Star Wars day as I write this – May the fourth). While there are tentative signs from the UK and Scottish governments that there *may* be a scaling back of restrictions, and civil service departments locally have been discussing how they would physically re-open, there's little indication that places of worship are going to re-open in the early (or even mid) stages of the lifting of restrictions.

In all I have read and heard, regarding potential restriction lifting, social distancing will have to be maintained for the foreseeable future. That's the 2 metres (or just over 6') we all have to keep away from others who don't live in the same house as us, when we're out. It's even more important to maintain that distance in an enclosed space. In Killearnan, that would really mean a maximum of 1 household per pew, sitting up towards the wall, so they were at least 2 metres away from the aisle. Then, there being 2 empty pews behind or in front of them, to have that 2 metre gap in each direction. Though I've not been to Killearnan to work out how many that would allow into the church, my guess is around a dozen people. Who would decide who gets to come to worship? And would it be wise to heat a building for so few?

Then, there would be no hymn books or bibles out, no order of service sheets and the welcome team would either stand outside in the car park at the front of the church or not be there at all.

Nor could we have singing, as singing sends the air we breathe out further than 2 metres (up to 8 metres), and teas and coffees after the service just won't be feasible either.

So, even when we're maybe able to tentatively head back to the building, initially, it wouldn't be "church" as we know it.

None of this is going to go away soon. Those of you who have been carefully reading UK and Scottish governments' statements will have noted there may be a need to go in and out of lockdown (of some kind) until the end of the year or beyond. A lot hangs on the development of a vaccine and, though human trials have begun, it's likely to be next year until you and I can receive it, at the earliest.

If you've made it here, well done and thank you! I don't like to be so seemingly negative, but I think it's important to be as honest and upfront as possible at the moment. None of these decisions are taken lightly. As Christians, we're called to love God and love neighbour. At the moment, and for the next wee while, loving neighbour involves not gathering to worship in a church building.

But the church is still going on. It's in our homes, through social media, YouTube and Zoom. Through BBC Sunday services on TV and radio. Through us reading our bibles and praying. Through us serving our neighbours. Through us phoning or messaging or face-timing those we love. Through staying in touch with those we know will be struggling in these strange times.

Then, there are loads of churches, in every street and village, town and city in the land, united in the love of God and of neighbour, through being part of Christ's body around the world.

Services

We are grateful to Susan and James for using their IT skills to ensure our congregation can still hear Sunday services either via Facebook, YouTube or the Killearnan & Knockbain website. (Please note that it isn't necessary to have a Facebook account to see this content).

If you don't have access to the internet, the service can also be listened to from Sunday until about the following Friday by dialling 01463 214737. On connection, it takes approximately 5 seconds between hearing the electronic voice until the start of the service recording. Most people with a BT call package will find it includes free evening and weekend calls, but even as a local number call, this shouldn't be too expensive.

It is also possible to meet together remotely for a half hour "post service" blether at 11.30am on each Sunday until 7th June using 'Zoom'. For more details on joining, please email Susan.

Zoom, zoom

One of our elders, (I won't name her to avoid embarrassment), sent me a note about her experience on her first attempt to download 'zoom'.

"I thought I would install the app on my phone. There was no problem and when they asked me my date of birth, I left it as age 21. The next question was 'did I want to meet boys/girls or both'. Oh my goodness, I think I had downloaded a 'dating website'! My husband was present during all this so there was nothing untoward going on, honestly!

We both had a good laugh and he deleted the offending app. On reading Susan's email more carefully, it looks as if I should have 'joined a meeting' instead.

Oh well, we can't all be IT whiz kids."

Defibrillator

In the previous newsletter we reported the installation of a defibrillator outside the Church Hall and also the training of a good number of the congregation in its use. Here are a couple of photos of the training evening.





Board Games afternoons

There was a good turnout to these events held at 1 pm on the last Fridays of January and February. The idea was to provide some fellowship during the supposedly dreich short winter days.

We started our afternoons with a light lunch, comprising of a choice of soups plus sandwiches/cheese and biscuits followed by tea /coffee.

Several tables were set up with a big choice of board games. After selecting our choice of game, we sat and played and this involved lots of chat, laughter and fun learning new games.



At the end of the afternoon before leaving, we served tea/coffees with baking. It was lovely welcoming new friends along with our congregational family.

These two afternoons were much enjoyed, and we do plan to hold more of these 'get-togethers' during the winter months.

Transport is available for anybody requiring lifts.

AM

Quotes



Helen Keller

“Although the world is full of suffering, it is also full of the overcoming of it.”

Dolly Parton

“The way I see it, if you want the rainbow, you gotta put up with the rain!”

Food for Thought

In April 1943 a USAF B-24 Liberator named “The Lady Be Good” took off from Benghazi in Libya for a mission over Naples. On the way home, because of a navigational error the crew became lost and, with fuel running out, they baled out thinking they were over the Mediterranean Sea. The aircraft continued for another 16 miles before crashing in the desert some 400 miles south of Benghazi, and broke into two pieces.

The crashed plane was spotted in November 1958, but the site was not investigated until May 1959. The radio was still in working order, a thermos of tea was intact, and still drinkable as were canteens of water, and tins of food from the survival rations were still edible – after 16 years!!

Why then, is a can of Beans & Sausages I bought last week dated “Best Before 9/21” and a can of Tuna dated 11/22. How much good food is wasted because of short dating?

Incidentally, the crew gathered together on landing, and started walking north towards the Mediterranean, with only one canteen of water between them – one crew member managed 85 miles! Unfortunately, they went the wrong way - if they had headed south they might have found either the aircraft, or a Wadi, and survived.

RT

Fish and Chip Jumpers

The wonderful Killearnan Knitters have created about 120 jumpers over the months. 64 are ready to go to the Maternity Unit in Blantyre, Malawi and they are currently in Edinburgh awaiting the Corvid 19 crisis to pass. Sadly they may not get to Malawi until next year.

There are another 60 here waiting to go to Blythswood who will take them to Eastern Europe when they can. Thank you all for donating the yarn, the knitting and the fellowship knowing that so many babies will leave hospital with something to wear instead of newspapers. The jumpers are beautiful. Well done.

Nicola



*Our Family is a blessing,
It means so many things,
Words could never really tell
The Joy our family brings*

*Our family is mutual love
The love of Dad and Mother
Showing children how to love
And care for one another*

Our family is heartfelt pride

*The feeling deep and strong
That makes us glad to take a part
And know that we belong.*

*Our family is always home
A place where we can share
Our joys and sorrows hopes and dreams
For happiness lives here*

*Our family is a bond of faith
That even time can't sever
A gift to last throughout our lives
The family of God is forever.*