



# Newsletter

Hola, Christine and I should be in Fuengirola just now enjoying temperatures around 29 degrees C. However, things don't turn out many times the way we expect. That might be a huge understatement when we consider the days we are living in with no end in sight to when we will be able to meet together as a church, the family of God.

Many years ago, I thought we could live in perfect world, we could all achieve what we set out to do, our intentions would always be good and we could all progress towards that brighter future. Naive, you might be thinking and you would be right for those of us who have been around for a bit longer, the 'baby boomer generation'. This generation have had it good, but what kind of legacy are we leaving behind for future generations? Human nature has some very destructive genes built in and this pandemic has made most of us stop and think about where we are in our journey through life. Life is a beautiful and incredibly fragile gift we have been given.

Last night we had a family Connect 4 competition and the laughter that it generated reverberated throughout the manse. Riley the youngest, his antics when we won a game was just hilarious running around punching the air. A priceless moment but how much do we value those moments, those precious memories. Our world is going through turbulent times, but probably no different from previous generations, so where do we find hope in the midst of the chaos we create?

Well I again turn to the words of Jesus Revelation 21:5 He who was seated on the throne said 'I am Making Everything New!' There is a new world to come one that will have no disappointing and heart-breaking news, no one will have to deliver bad news, a world where all our aspirations will be met and where we will see and appreciate each other in a new way, the right way. If anything, this virus has given us an appreciation of each other and the world in which we live. I long for the new world that Jesus will bring, but I also thank him for the new life he has given me today, one that is working towards what is important in life - LOVE.

I hope you are all keeping safe and well and may the Lord bless you and keep you. (And may we be able to meet together soon in church)

Archie

The news that we are very gradually starting to come out lock-down is a time for us to reflect and thank God for the love and support He has given us, as we have journeyed through this valley of trial and adversity. What have we learned? What have we gained? What have we not lost? Hope, love, awareness, faith, respect and care for our neighbours.

Every need in the world gives us an opportunity to share God's love. That's why, as a church family, we have responded to the coronavirus crisis, not by panicking or hiding out of fear, but by serving the people who are most vulnerable. We have been amazed by the response to our foodbank collection days and know that your generosity will make such a difference to many local people. We also hope you are continuing to be blessed by our online services and if you are unable to access the internet, then please contact us so we can make a DVD copy available to you.

With the easing of some of the current restrictions on our churches, talks are now beginning to take place about how we might be able to come together for worship, but the arrangements to make this happen are extremely complex and challenging. So, even as we come out of lock-down we need to remain patient, tolerant and continue to trust that God will work it all out.

I am more aware now than I have ever been, about just how important our faith in Jesus is. Fear, shame, guilt, brokenness, emptiness, hatred and hard heartedness are just as deadly and potentially far more destructive than any virus. The good news is that we have a cure right now for all these things and there is no need for us to wait for it to be developed or found. Jesus has given us the victory over all the difficulties that this life can inflict on us. I am sure that we will soon see a vaccine developed that will finally see an end to this dreadful coronavirus, but praise God that Christ has already delivered our peace, forgiveness and hope.

'The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.' (Deuteronomy 31:8)

Many blessings  
Chris

AT THE BIRDTABLE - Inverkip Church Newsletter Summer 2020

There is an old song by Andy Williams that starts "Where do I begin to tell the story ....." from the film "Love Story" and it has absolutely nothing to do with birdwatching or anything remotely connected with my article in this newsletter.

Those first few words however seemed to mirror my thoughts before hitting the keys of the computer with my musings (or should that be ravings?) for the latest article "At the birdtable". My notebook jottings are pretty sparse as, apart from the usual garden birds. I have only noted Long Tailed Tits and Siskins in February, two male Bullfinches in March, a pair of Blackcaps in April, a Cuckoo at Leitchland, two male Bullfinches (together) and Woodpeckers in May.

On one occasion when out exercising during lockdown I photographed a seal sunning itself on the bank of the Kip Water just above the former road bridge at the marina, I seemed quite relaxed and showed no alarm when being observed by a number of passers-by.

For most of the time, during the very fine spell of weather, I was ordered to relinquish my birdwatching seat and busy myself labouring in the garden under the watchful eye of the head (eejit! that's a flower not a weed) gardener. To her credit (and my prowess as a navvy)

I must admit that the place is looking quite smart. Oh! I neglected to say I was also involved in painting the exterior of the house as well, no rest for the wicked.

The main nesting season is over and as a result of the fine weather I'm sure it has been very successful if the numbers of sparrows congregating in the hedges are anything to go by.

Like everything else in life who knows what the future will bring but I hope that we all manage to keep safe and continue to enjoy ..... cue the music for "What a wonderful world".

Enjoy our world, Dunnock.

## Church Finance

I am sure many of you will be wondering how Inverkip Church is coping financially in the present situation. Please be assured that to date we have been able to meet all our financial commitments. However, due to the church being closed for such a long time our income has, understandably, dropped and our bank balance is reducing month by month. Jac has asked the Session to only commit to essential repairs in the meantime.

We are fortunate in that an increasing number of our members are using standing orders through their banks for their regular giving and, in spite of the situations many people find themselves in due to Covid 19, this income has remained pretty steady. Thanks are due to everyone who is contributing in this way. Standing order forms are available from myself or Jac for anyone who would like to change over to this method of giving. Give either of us a call or drop us an email and we can get that arranged as soon as possible. Contact Jac on 529614, email [jmcalees250205@yahoo.com.au](mailto:jmcalees250205@yahoo.com.au) or Morag on 521455, email [mcowe52@yahoo.com](mailto:mcowe52@yahoo.com) .

I realise that standing orders don't suit everyone and many of you will want to continue to use your freewill offering envelopes or to give cash or cheque donations. Your elders should be in regular contact at the moment and would be happy to pick up your envelopes/donations on a fairly regular basis. Just give them, or myself, a call to arrange something if that would suit you.

If neither of the above is feasible for you at the moment another way of giving to Inverkip Church is through our Church Facebook page. Scroll to the post on the new online donation system and click on it. This will take you to the Church of Scotland website where you will find a button which allows you to donate to your local Church. It is a pretty simple process and you can make your donation using Paypal.

I look forward to us all being able to meet again as a congregation but until then look after yourselves and keep safe.

Morag Cowe

## Merchant Homes

As you will have noticed Merchant Homes have begun to dig on our ground. They met with us before they began and explained the process they were going to use to complete the

work, with the minimum of disruption to us. All damage will be replaced and the entrance to the church and the gravelled area around the church will be upgraded by them.

Discussions are also underway to look at the re – opening of the church for congregational worship .As you will have realised this issue is both emotive and extremely difficult and will require a decision by the Kirk Srsion at some point in the future. I will keep you posted.

David