

Inverkip Parish Church Newsletter

Easter 2021

Holy Week Services

28 March – Online Palm Sunday led by Archie and Chris

29 March – Online Joint service filmed in Inverkip, St Joseph's & St Patrick's and Skelmorlie & Wemyss Bay Churches: led by Archie, Father Desmond Berry and Chris

1 April – Online Maundy Thursday service filmed in Skelmorlie & Wemyss Bay Church: led by Chris

2 April – Online Good Friday service filmed in Inverkip Church: led by Archie

4 April – 10am Easter Sunday service in Inverkip Church: led by Archie

Note – Skelmorlie & Wemyss Bay Church would also open on Easter Sunday and their 11.30 am service will be live screened for Youtube and DVD.



Easter thoughts from our Minister

I am going there to prepare a place for you. John 14:2

“Why do we have to leave our home and move?” my grandson asked. It’s difficult to explain what a home is, especially to an eight-year-old. We are leaving a house, that has been our home for over 7 years, but we have a new home, where there will be new challenges and new experiences, yes there will be sadness in leaving our home and all the people we have come to know and love, the school and the teachers who have been so good to you, but we will still be with our family in Paisley and Glasgow. I tried to explain that home is where our loved ones are. It is the place where we long to return after a long trip or after a day’s busy shopping, or a hard day’s work. It is a place that we fill with love and warmth and laughter.

When Jesus was in the upper room just hours before He died, He told His disciples, “Do not let your hearts be troubled” (John 14:1). The disciples were uncertain of their future because Jesus had predicted His death. But Jesus reassured them of His presence and reminded them they would see Him again. He told them, “My Father’s house has many rooms (or mansions I like the idea that we will all live in mansions, everyone will be the same) . . . But it will be more than just a house. I am going there to prepare a place for you” (v. 2). He could have used other words to describe heaven. However, He chose words that describe not an uncomfortable or unfamiliar place but a place where Jesus, our loved One, would be.

C. S. Lewis wrote, “Our Father refreshes us on the journey with some pleasant inns, but will not encourage

us to mistake them for home.” We can thank God for the “pleasant inns” in life, but let’s remember that our real home is in heaven where we “will be with the Lord forever” (1 Thessalonians 4:17).

Our family is happy with their new home, there is plenty of space for them to run around, for the dogs to play, for grandpa to have his workshop and the high school is only 200 yards down the road, but it is not our final home. I hope this new house is more than just a house but a place where everyone will feel loved, it will be an open home to anyone who would like to visit, and it might reflect some of the warmth we will find in the mansion that Jesus has prepared for us.

This Easter time I hope we will find our churches open again, that in God's house we will find that eternal home. It is just bricks and mortar here on Earth but in Heaven it will be living stones, the place that Jesus' love has prepared for us.

May you all feel Christ's love this Easter and Christine and I and the family thank you all for sharing Christ's love with us.

Every blessing this Easter. The Lord has Risen, He has Risen indeed.

Archie

Message from our Pastoral Assistant

I hope that this update for our newsletter finds you well and you are managing to stay hopeful throughout this ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. I thank God for the way that He has gifted the world with such talented people, who have worked so hard on creating and delivering an effective vaccine. This has given us some light at the end of what has been a very long and dark tunnel.

This is the last time I will have the chance to write an update while Archie is still our minister. I will miss him so much when he retires but know that God will continue to bless him and his family as they all move onto the next chapter of their lives. I have been extremely blessed to have been given the opportunity to work so closely with Archie. His guidance, support and love have enabled me to develop my own ministry and I will be forever grateful for this. I have learned so much from Archie and if I can develop into even half of the disciple for Christ that he is, then I will be on the right track.

As we approach the most important date in the Christian calendar, we do so with a renewed hope that Jesus is once again victorious. Our whole faith is built on this single event in history, and the resurrection of Jesus is the reason for our hope. But why does responding to the gospel matter so much? What is the reason that we need a saviour? Well, Isaiah chapter 53 verse 6 says "We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way." So, in order to win us back and offer a way for us to have relationship with Him, God showed us how we could turn back to Him. He sent Jesus to live, to die on the cross and to rise from the dead, for us. God created us and longs to have a personal relationship with us.

We can know Him personally by receiving Him into our lives. Receiving Christ involves trusting Him to come into our lives to forgive our sins and make us live to share His love with others. Trusting in Him requires of us that we believe the truth of what He tells us and we see that regardless of what we think we want to happen, God will have plans far greater than we can ever imagine. This can be hard for us, to hand over our lives to God and trust that He knows best.

This pandemic has taught us many things and one of the most crucial lessons is just how little control we have over our own lives. Many of our plans are no longer feasible and each passing day raises more questions than answers. Pre- Covid, many people had become accustomed to operating independently and having strong control over nearly all of the circumstances in their lives. Life has changed and it is understandable that our lack of control may be confusing and difficult to accept. We have had to learn to surrender to God all our doubts, fears, frustrations and pain. And when we surrender all to God, there is a path that leads us to that place of blessed assurance.

So, this Easter let us all draw nearer than ever to the risen Christ and find peace in His presence.

Many blessings

Chris Barlas

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." (1 Peter 1:3)

Treasurer's report

Firstly, I want to thank everyone for the outpouring of generosity during this global pandemic. We have been comforted and humbled by your continued support of our Church and the monthly collections for Inverclyde Foodbank and Starter Packs. Your offerings continue to make a big difference in the work of our church and community even in these uncertain times.

The 2020 accounts have been examined by Robert J Henderson LLB CA from Henderson & Company. We thank him for all his work, and I will work with the kirk session to address the minor action point he raised before the end of year.

As always, my thanks go to the Finance Committee who have helped with the banking duties, gift aid claims and preparing accounts.

I am pleased to say that during 2020, Inverkip has had a good year financially. Excess of receipts over payments was £5,839, and there are adequate unrestricted cash funds of £48,582 available to meet ongoing requirements.

The main points that I would like to draw your attention to are:

Total receipts decreased compared to 2019. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, our Church/church hall was closed for most of the year so understandably plate donations, grants from congregational organisations and hall rents decreased.

The largest expense is Ministry and Mission allocation that is used by the Church of Scotland to fund ministry work both within Scotland and abroad. This was reduced significantly from previous year due to endowment income from sale of manse land.

We have been able to support many non-profit organisations such as, Christian Aid, Ardgowan Hospice (butterfly service), Compassionate Inverclyde, Starter Packs, and Erskine Hospital.

I hope that everyone enjoys reading the accounts in more detail. If you have any questions, then please let me know.

Thank you. Jacqueline Seggie

Congregational Treasurer

Church Building Reopening

This week we received permission from Clyde Presbytery to open the building for in-person worship after submitting our Risk assessment and Buildings Checklist. Our online worship will continue, and we will add Sunday services for those of you who would like to attend in person. We will be following all the protocols for 2m distancing, sitting in household groups, hand hygiene, and the other regulations (including no singing or handshaking).

The services will be 30-40 minutes and will include live music from our organist as well as other music, visuals, readings, prayers, and sermon.

This Sunday is Palm Sunday, the start of Holy Week.

Holy Week services will be online only.

Easter morning on Sunday at 10am. The service will take place in the sanctuary. There will be an Easter morning service online as well from Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay Church at 11:30

As a reminder:

Under the current guidelines, we can welcome 30 people into the sanctuary, including the minister, organist, A/V operators, and people on door duty. **If you would like to attend a service, you will need to phone ahead: you can call Archie on (phone:07739 901598) to book a place for the coming Sunday.** When our capacity is reached, Archie will let you know and ask if you would like to be first on the list for the following week. If you book a place and then are not able to come after all, please contact Archie so he can offer the places to others who might be waiting.

Please bear in mind the regulations that help us keep each other safe. If you have been abroad in the past 14 days, if you are awaiting a test result or have been exposed to someone with Covid symptoms, or if you have any symptoms yourself, please join in our online service instead. Do not hesitate to phone Archie and cancel a booking if you don't feel well!

On Sundays, doors will open at 09:45. When you arrive, please enter via the East Porch. An elder will ask that you use hand sanitiser, check your details for Test and Protect (those sheets will be kept for four

weeks and then destroyed), and then show you to your seat. There will be a one-way system in place in the sanctuary—the gallery will be closed—and we ask that you sit where the steward indicates, so that we can safely gather. If at any time you need to go out to the toilet, please note that only one person can be in the corridor/toilets at a time. If you feel unwell during the service, the person on duty by the side door will be able to assist.

The worship service itself will be shorter than usual, around half an hour, and will not include any singing, but we will include instrumental music, readings, prayers, a sermon, and perhaps some responses or some visual elements on the screens. Children are welcome, though they will need to stay with you through the service rather than going out — but if they are present, we will have a moment just for them! No orders of service can be given out, and there are no hymn books or Bibles, everything will be on the screens. There will be no plate offering taken at present, we ask that if you wish to give you contact Jacqueline Seggie about setting up a standing order for your spiritual practice of giving.

At the end of the service, you will be guided out, and we ask that you please safely make your way home, rather than congregating in the grounds or the street.

A face covering must be always worn in the building, and because we need to have some fresh air ventilation, I suggest wearing a warm coat! We also ask that everyone take care to maintain appropriate physical distance. It goes against the grain to stand apart and to not be able to chat and hug and shake hands and share a coffee, but right now the best way we can love our neighbour is by protecting each other!

Kind Regards

Ewen Cameron

Session Clerk



INVERKIP CHURCH ECO-GROUP

VILLAGE LITTER PICK DATES 2021

SATURDAY 23 JANUARY	VILLAGE LITTER PICK 10:00-12:00
SUNDAY 21 FEBRUARY	VILLAGE LITTER PICK 13:00-15:00
SATURDAY 20 MARCH	VILLAGE LITTER PICK 10:00-12:00
SUNDAY 25 APRIL	VILLAGE LITTER PICK 13:00-15:00
SATURDAY 22 MAY	VILLAGE LITTER PICK 10:00-12:00
SUNDAY 20 JUNE	VILLAGE LITTER PICK 13:00-15:00
SATURDAY 24 JULY	VILLAGE LITTER PICK 10:00-12:00
SUNDAY 22 AUGUST	VILLAGE LITTER PICK 13:00-15:00
SATURDAY 18 SEPTEMBER	VILLAGE LITTER PICK 10:00-12:00
SUNDAY 24 OCTOBER	VILLAGE LITTER PICK 13:00-15:00
SATURDAY 20 NOVEMBER	VILLAGE LITTER PICK 10:00-12:00

**PLEASE MEET AT INVERKIP CHURCH HALL UNLESS OTHERWISE ADVISED
LITTER PICKERS AND BAGS WILL BE PROVIDED
SAFE DISTANCING AND HAND SANITIZING WILL BE OBSERVED**



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congregation Scotland

