



ST COLMON

(Arnsheen Barrhill & Colmonell)

PARISH CHURCH

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Scottish Charity No. SC014381



***'The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything,
but in everything, by prayer and petition,
with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.
And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding,
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.'***

Philippians 4: 6 -7

Dear All,

I hope that as you receive this you are not feeling too overwhelmed. Change can bring stress with it and facing social isolation can make us feel lonely and worried. I am heartened in these days to see the help that neighbours are giving to one another. Even if we can't be in physical contact, it is important to telephone people and to message them in other ways.

We are all trying to do things differently and I know that a lot of people have great concern for loved ones at this trying time. Please be assured that God does hear our prayers. If anyone would like to speak with me, please do phone in the coming days.

The community is very much in my prayers at this time, as is our country and world. The apostle Paul urges us to "Pray without ceasing". We may feel unable to do very much in these days, but we can always pray in hope to our Lord. May we know His comfort and strength.

1 Thessalonians 4: 16-18 "Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus".

Feet fast in the stocks they sang praises!

“... the jailer... put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them” Acts 16: 24-25.

Paul had been witnessing to the Gospel message in Philippi. His loving actions in helping a young woman, which indirectly led to her no longer being able to be exploited; brought persecution from others. Many people were coming to believe in the risen Lord, and were filled with inner joy, but others were against the apostles teaching. Paul had fearlessly witnessed to his faith and he and Silas ended up being stripped and beaten, before being locked up in jail. There they were placed in stocks. Their feet would have been locked, and perhaps their hands and necks too.

They were not disheartened. They didn't give up. They were not moaning about the pain and discomfort they were in. They were filled with joy and sang praises to God. They prayed too, no doubt in adoration, confession, thanksgiving and intercession for others. Their present trials did not rob them of the joy of knowing God. Those around them were amazed, and were made to think, because these men had such faith in Jesus. Paul and Silas knew that their Lord should be praised, and they knew that he was with them, at all times through his spirit.

We now face a situation of lockdown to try to minimize the spread of the Covid 19 virus. We all face change as our movements have been drastically reduced. We may in some respects feel imprisoned and frustrated not to be able to go about our daily routines. But, let us remember that God is still there for us. May we remember too, that God is Holy and is to be praised. May we pray that in his mercy, he would soon bring this difficult time to a close. May we know Gods presence and though restricted still continue to pray and sing praise to God. The book of Psalms is full of songs we can read which speak of God being at work in lots of different situations.

May the way we live in these days (remembering the lonely and vulnerable) speak to others, in the same way that Paul and Silas singing praises did long ago.

Every blessing,

Rev`d Theo Corney

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Stay Home / Save the NHS / Save Lives

- Only go out for food, health reasons or work (only if you can't work from home)
- If you go out, stay 2 metres (6ft) away from other people at all times
- Wash your hands as soon as you get home
- Do not meet others, even friends or family.

You can spread the virus even if you don't have symptoms.

Food Bank

Food Banks are struggling to support the increasing numbers of people in need. If you can't donate goods, please consider making a cash donation. Girvan Food Bank phone 07599071114

A Prayer for our times

Dear Lord,

You know the fear and anxiety that we feel at this time; we are wondering what the future holds, not just for us but for the world we live in. Some of us even wonder if we will have a future at all and we are concerned for family members, separated from us and facing their own struggles. While we cope with isolation or social distancing remind us, Lord that we need never feel distanced from you. You are still God, and although we fight an invisible enemy, coronavirus is not invisible to you, and you know the future as you know the past and present, and you reassure us that we are safe in your hands.

Holy Spirit, by the power of the risen Lord Jesus, drive out of our minds all thoughts of fear and insecurity, come again into our lives and make us strong to live through these days, proclaiming by our lives the saving power of our Lord and Saviour, for the comfort and encouragement of all.

In His name who promised to be with us till the end of the age. Amen

Pat Guthrie, Prayer Convener

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Keeping in Touch

St Colmon Church parish covers the area of Lendalfoot, Colmonell, Pinwherry and Barrhill. Barrhill Development Trust is co-ordinating support in the village and Colmonell & Lendalfoot resilience team is formed of combined community groups. Pinwherry community council has written to residents.

Colmonell & Lendalfoot are kindly helping beyond their boundaries so please contact Claire Pirrie if you need help e.g. shopping, doorstep delivery of fruit, vegetables and meat or prescriptions collecting etc.

We are deeply grateful to the volunteers who are ensuring that anyone in need receives help. This also reduces the number of people making journeys and coming into contact with others.

Our thanks also to those who are ensuring that everyone hears a human voice at least every couple of days – so important to those with only a phone.

For those who can't access this newsletter online and since we are advised not to print and deliver newsletters perhaps if you are phoning someone you could offer to read it to them?

We may not be able to touch physically but it is heart-warming to see that even while we are being forced apart by the current restrictions, we are growing closer in other ways as we recognise, we are all in this together.

Let's Stay Connected

There are many ways we can stay in touch during this time.

We can telephone, write letters or emails.

We can keep up with Church news through this Newsletter.

Did you know our church has its own Facebook Page?

You can find us on Facebook by searching for

'ST COLMON CHURCH'

You will find new things every day

Words of encouragement – Prayers – Music – Videos

Space for you to ask for prayer, add your comments, post a picture.

Go on try it!

Let's Keep in Touch

Watching & Listening

- Sunday broadcasts of a weekly service take place on Radio 4, Radio Scotland and other radio stations. Sunday morning worship is also broadcast on BBC 1 and the God Channel.
- Virtual Choirs on You tube are inspirational – have you seen “In Christ Alone...”?
- <https://www.kentonline.co.uk/faversham/news/familys-viral-les-mis-lockdown-success-224818/>
- sanctuaryfirst.org.uk for daily word, evening prayer, Easter week daily video.
- <https://springharvest.org/spring-harvest-home>

Looking Ahead

This pandemic will end and when it does, we will give thanks and celebrate while remembering and grieving. I am sure there will be lots of ideas, but I wondered if we might prepare now to decorate the Church with colour and we could pass the time by making paper flowers and colourful decorations as we have seen in the rainbows already adorning many houses.

Here are some thoughts and links from Harriet to help your creative skills. Harriet created this flower which is 1 foot across!

Hopefully we'll get a mixture of sizes and colours and with my treasurer's hat on I liked the idea that we could put a pound (or 50p or £5.00...!) in a pot every time we make one, as a Kirk fundraiser? 10p for tiddlers?!

Multi coloured tissue paper gift wrap or paper sheets for art craft are suggested but use your imagination with what you have.

Here's a video link:



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eXwHHDPg_I0

And the non-video one:

<https://www.thesprucecrafts.com/tissue-paper-flowers-4582575>

Easyfundraising

Many of us are now relying on on-line shopping so this is a great opportunity to use Easy fundraising. Please log on to **easyfundraising.org.uk** and look for St Colmon Church. It costs you nothing but at a time when our Church has no income it could give us some much-needed support as the company you buy from donates each time you buy.

Finance Report

The main source of St Colmon Church's income is the offerings of our generous Church family together with the associated Gift Aid.

Last year our average monthly income was £2,540 raised through offerings, donations at weekly events, fundraising e.g. annual kirk fair, auction, Kirk Hall rental, Church tourists etc. Our small investment income is likely to be negligible in the current economic climate.

Just as tremendous imagination is being used to sustain worship and fellowship, we need your help to find new ways to enable donations to continue even when traditional services and events are not taking place.

The General Trustees ask us at this time to fully embrace the Church's belief that our resources are to be shared with the strong supporting the weak.

The crucial point is that the continuing work of the whole Church, ministerial stipends, other salaries and on-costs still must be paid. The monthly outlay on stipends alone is £2.6m and with other commitments this rises to a monthly outlay of almost £5 million. When our people across the country are straining to make a real difference, this is a time when it is vitally important that congregations make every effort to make their Ministries and Mission contributions.

St Colmon Church's contribution to Ministries and Mission work in 2020 is **£13,847**.

I can only estimate some of our other expenses since we can't know how long this situation will last but unavoidable costs include Insurance £2600; Minister's Travel expenses £1500; Presbytery dues £650; Electricity £2200; Organ servicing £160; Organist's salary £1880; Fire checks £60; Manse costs £2000; Building maintenance £1500. Total **£12550**. Annual total **26,397**

The fact is we cannot meet these commitments without your help so please can I ask you to consider:

- Put aside the amount you might have given each Sunday or at events such as coffee morning. Send a cheque for the monthly amount to St Colmon Parish Church or make a bank transfer.
- Set up a bank standing order for a monthly amount.
- Make your special half yearly offering for May by cheque or bank transfer.
- Collect cash in a jar or plastic box with a lid and let me know when I can pick it up from your doorstep. I will keep my distance and wear gloves.

As you can imagine I am struggling to produce a budget for 2020. The only certainty is that the work of God's Church of Scotland and its many charities and mission workers around the world cannot continue without your contributions.

It would be a great help to me to know if you are able to make any commitment so that I can inform the Trustees as to whether we will be able to meet our financial commitments.

Message from Church of Scotland Assembly Trustees

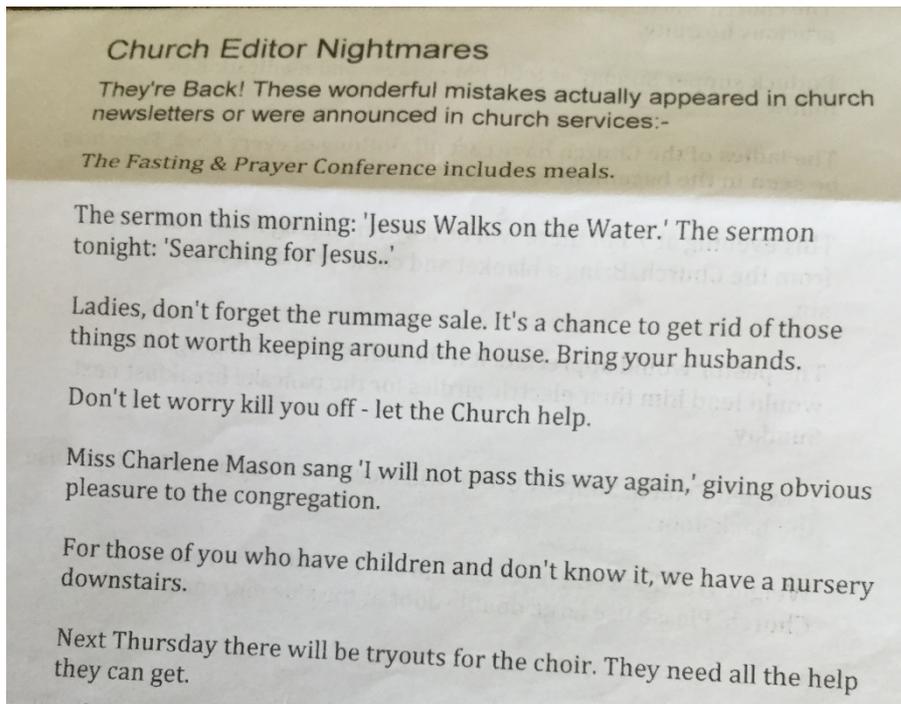
On behalf of the Assembly Trustees I can assure you that the Chief Officer and the General Treasurer are urgently working on measures to ensure the financial sustainability of the Church

going forward. Inevitably this will mean a curtailment of many activities, including the potential for funding the proposed Growth Fund agreed at last year's General Assembly.

Further information and advice on a number of topics will be made available on the Church of Scotland website www.churchofscotland.org.uk including specific advice on various matters relating to the Covid-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic which can be found at <https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/resources/covid-19-coronavirus-advice>

We are facing extraordinary circumstances, but we thank you all for the extraordinary ways in which you are making it possible for the Church to speak a word of comfort and word of faith into the anxiety and uncertainty of these times. Very Rev Dr John Chalmers, Convener

The old ones are always the best!!?



A Prayer for This Time

"May we who are merely inconvenienced.
Remember those whose lives are at stake
May we who have no risk factors
Remember those most vulnerable
May we who have the luxury of working from home
Remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent
May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close
Remember those who have no options
May we who have to cancel our trips
Remember those that have no safe place to go
May we who are losing our margin money in the turmoil of the economic market
Remember those who have no margin at all
May we who settle in for a quarantine at home
Remember those who have no home
As fear grips our country
Let us choose love

During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other
Let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbours

Cameron Bellm



Church of Scotland's CrossReach urgently needs your help today to continue providing our life-saving care services to some of the most vulnerable individuals in Scotland during this unprecedented healthcare emergency as follows:

- We are providing residential care and other services for the elderly, who are particularly vulnerable just now. To protect them we need to be especially careful that any staff with the slightest hint of COVID-19 symptoms immediately self-isolate. This places huge pressure on the rest of the staff and can involve employing agency workers to provide essential care. This all comes at an additional cost and places more strain on already stretched budgets.
- Most of our services for Children and Families have closed as a result of COVID-19. This is a huge disappointment to the many children and families who rely on their time with us each week. To help the children who would normally use our services, our staff teams have been developing materials to still help the children while at home. With the extra materials come extra costs.
- Many of our services for adults in vulnerable situations operate as drop-ins and have also closed. Staff are seeking new ways to help support the people they care for, including those with mobility issues but this too involves additional cost.

Please consider helping CrossReach to provide all these vital services by making a donation today. We will use your donation where there is the greatest immediate need. Please consider making a single gift or a regular monthly donation to help us in this time of extraordinary need. Ideally please donate online by visiting our [JustGiving Page](#), where you can make a one-off donation or set up a regular gift. Alternatively, you can donate by debit card, credit card or cheque. Please email supporters@crossreach.org.uk for further details.

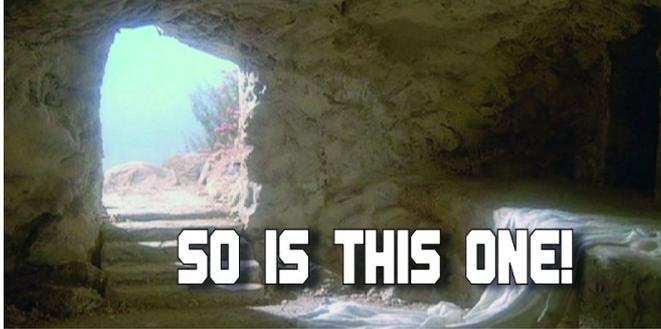
Please also pray for the health and well-being of those we work with, the CrossReach staff team and all our wonderful supporters.

Thank You for supporting us.



THIS ROOM EMPTY AT EASTER?

... RELAX!



SO IS THIS ONE!

“Let's hold firm to the faith we have in a God who knows us, loves us and cares for us...”