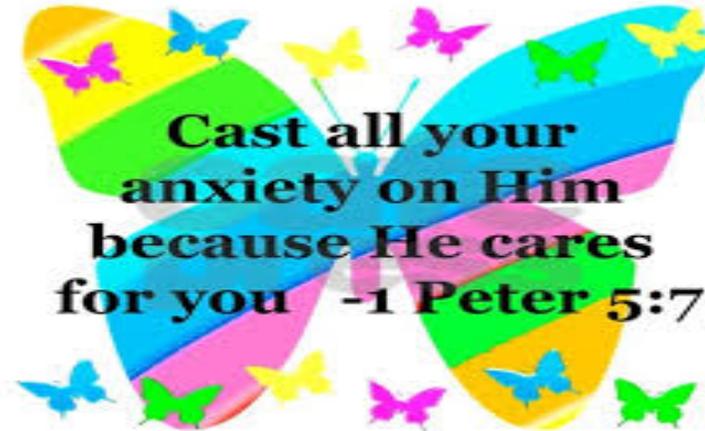


ST COLMON (Arnshean Barrhill & Colmonell) PARISH CHURCH



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From your Minister, Rev Theo Corney

Re the Corona Virus:

It is with sadness that we announce that there will be no church services or church social gatherings until further notice. We recognise that this will be disappointing but are following the advice given today by the Church of Scotland. Our Church will be open during the day for prayer, and the minister and officers will continue to be available by telephone. We can still be in touch with each other and we will be praying for individuals, the community and world in the coming days.

May God`s blessing be with you in these days.

Worship

Rev Corney is looking at ways to offer prayers and reflections through social media and printouts. Sunday broadcasts of a weekly service take place on Radio 4, Radio Scotland and other radio stations. St Colmon Church will be open from 10am to 5pm each day as a place for quiet reflection and prayer. Please use a tissue or gloves to touch door handles and keep a one metre distance from anyone else who may be present.

Points for Prayer

Some words from the Psalms for our encouragement:

"When I said, my foot is slipping, your love, O Lord, supported me.

When anxiety was great within me, your consolation brought joy to my soul.

The Lord has become my fortress, and my God the rock in whom I take refuge" Ps 94

"The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble" Ps 9

"In the Lord I take refuge when the foundations are being destroyed" Ps 11

A prayer written for this time by The Very Rev. Susan Brown

As dark clouds roll over much of the earth and fear threatens, remind us, Lord God, that we belong to you and to one another.

Lift our eyes to see our sisters and brothers in every corner of the world and to find in them a taste of your love and compassion waiting to be shared in Jesus' name, Amen. P.G.

The Church of Scotland is supporting calls for a **National Day of Prayer and Action on **22 March**, which is also Mothering Sunday.**



Rt Rev Colin Sinclair is joining the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, and other church leaders to issue a national call to prayer.

The Moderator said:

“There are many different ways the Church can and should offer support and help to their communities at this time, but one way is through prayer. We believe in a God who hears and answers prayer.

“We are encouraged to come honestly in prayer, sharing openly our emotions, questions and concerns in the light of COVID 19.

“We have become aware in a new way of our frailty and need to renew our dependence on God. I welcome this call to prayer across the UK and encourage you to join in it this Sunday wherever you are.”

Light a candle

The call to prayer asks everyone to light a candle at 7pm on Sunday as ‘a visible symbol of the light of life, Jesus Christ, our source and hope in prayer.’

Church leaders are seeking to quell fears and remind us of God’s presence and love. They write:

“At such a time as this, when so many are fearful and there is great uncertainty, we are reminded of our dependence on our loving Heavenly Father and the future that he holds.”

Pray for leaders

“We have the great privilege and freedom to be able to call upon God, wherever we are, individually and corporately, for healing in our nation. We would pray for all in leadership at this time, making decisions about the containment of the COVID-19 virus, for those working in health and social care, and especially for the most vulnerable, whether elderly or those with underlying health conditions.

“There are already stories being told of wonderful acts of kindness across neighbourhoods. Alongside your prayers, take the opportunity to telephone or email someone who is isolated, buy some additional food for your local foodbank, offer to deliver shopping for an elderly neighbour. We may not be able to touch physically, but we can make connections in so many other ways.

“At 7pm this Sunday, light a candle in the windows of your homes as a visible symbol of the light of life, Jesus Christ, our source and hope in prayer.

Mothering Sunday

“We note that this call to prayer and action comes on Mothering Sunday: a time of thankfulness, remembering especially mothers that have served us, often in very costly ways. It is also a very mixed day for many.

"For some the remembrance is painful, and for others Mothering Sunday is a reminder of disappointment or loss. In many ways, this period under the shadow of the coronavirus will be prompting similarly diverse reactions and so it seems especially appropriate that the call to prayer is made this Sunday.

"Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you" 1 Peter 5:7

Funerals & Weddings

Our Minister and appropriate officials can advise on the necessary modifications for these events to take place. Everyone will make every effort to be sensitive to and to accommodate the needs of all involved.

Pastoral Care Networks

The villages of Barrhill, Colmonell and Lendalfoot have already started a system with every household receiving a card offering contact details for anyone requiring help with delivery of medication, shopping etc.

St Colmon Church family is setting up a telephone contact system to keep in touch and provide prayer and spiritual support.

People may choose to use tools such as Skype, email, letters, greetings cards, Facetime, and Whatsapp. For those without access to social media or technology we will offer phone calls

Offerings

As you may realise having to stop services and activities means St Colmon Church no longer has a regular income.

However, we still have bills to pay e.g. our Minister's salary, buildings insurance, maintenance and power.

Most importantly the Ministry and Mission work of the Church goes on, including the Church of Scotland's Crossreach, which is the largest social care organisation in Scotland and already struggling to deliver hospice care, care for children and the elderly, nursing homes and addiction services etc.

Please would you consider putting aside what you might normally have contributed or tithed, or perhaps even setting up a standing order to support the ongoing essential work of your Church?

General Assembly

The decision has been taken in the light of Scottish Government advice to cancel the General Assembly of May 2020.

To cheer us up a bit...from our old Girvan harbour master, Roddie Leitch.

If Rabbie Burns were alive today.....

Tae a virus

Twa months ago, we didna ken,
yer name or ocht about ye
But lots of things have changed since then,
I really must salute ye

Yer spreading rate is quite intense,
yer feeding like a gannet
Disruption caused, is so immense,
ye've shaken oor wee planet.

Corona used tae be a beer,
they garnished it wae limes
But noo it's filled us awe wae fear
These days, are scary times.

Nae shakin hawns, or peckin lips,
it's whit they awe advise
But scrub them weel, richt tae the tips,
that's how we'll awe survive

Just stay inside , the hoose, ye bide
Nae sneakin oot for strolls
Just check the lavvy every hoor
And stock-take, your, loo rolls

Our holidays have been pit aff
Noo that's the Jet2 patter
Pit oan yer thermals, have a laugh
And paddle ' doon the waater '

Canary isles, no for a while
Nae need for suntan cream
And awe because o this wee bug
We ken tae be..19

The boredom surely will set in,
But have a read, or doodle
Or plan yer menu for the month
Wi 95 pot noodles.

When these run oot, just look about
A change, it would be nice
We've beans and pasta by the ton
and twenty stane o rice.

So dinny think yell wipe us oot
Aye true, a few have died
Bubonic, bird flu, and Tb
They came, they left, they tried

Ye might be gallus noo ma freen
As ye jump fae cup tae cup
But when we get oor vaccine made
Yer number will be up.