GRANTULLY LOGIERAIT AND STRATHTAY PARISH MAGAZINE

APRIL / MAY 2020

FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Friends,

Following consultation with the Session and Board, it has been decided that our Parish Magazine will be issued as an email during the present Coronavirus restrictions. It has therefore been necessary for me to make some changes to the format to make it more readable. We realise that not everyone is connected on the internet. If you are aware of members who receive the magazine who are in this situation can I ask that you inform your elder or me. We will then endeavour to get a paper copy delivered.

I apologise if I have omitted to include anyone’s article in this edition. Emails have been arriving in my inbox in huge numbers and it is so easy to overlook something. Likewise, if I have included an article or information which you have already received – again my apologies for this.

Isi Watt [isiwatt@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:isiwatt@hotmail.co.uk) has organised a GLS caring group which is formed of the elders and board members. This will help to make us aware of anyone within our parish (not just members) who requires help and will enable us to provide assistance during these challenging times. Do please make contact with your elder or Isi if you require any kind of support.

I hope that many of you tuned in to the virtual services of worship provided by Harry Mowbray and Geoff Davies. This Sunday, Robert Nicoll will be preaching. The link for Youtube is <https://youtu.be/G9sNJf8OdmA>

Many of you know that I have been involved in Girl Guiding throughout my life. I joined the Brownies as an enthusiastic 7 year old and moved through the sections. I was a Guide leader and Scottish trainer and I am still involved in Perthshire Guiding as a County Vice President. I have a personal book of readings, prayers, vespers, graces etc which I have used as a leader and trainer and I still dip into it from time to time. The following prayer, used at a Guides Own Service while at camp seems particularly apt just now.

Keep us, O God, from all pettiness; let us be large in thought, in word, in deed.

Let us be done with fault finding and leave off all self seeking.

May we put away all pretence and meet each other face to face without self-pity and without prejudice.

May we never be hasty in judgment and always generous.

Let us take time for all things, and make us grow calm, serene and gentle.

Teach us to put into action our better impulses, straightforward and unafraid.

Grant that we may realise that it is the little things of life that create differences, that in the big things of life, we are as one.

And, O Lord God, let us not forget to be kind!

Thinking of you all at this time and wishing you every blessing this coming Easter.

Sandra A Batty (Editor)

A letter from our Interim Moderator

Dear Friends

I doubt if many of us, in our wildest dreams, have ever imagined we would be living through times such as these. Times when we are not allowed to go out of our homes except for very specific reasons, because of an invisible enemy threatening us in the form of this Coronavirus.

Someone suggested that it is like living through a science fiction movie.

We hear of different stories each day. Many people have remarked that such times bring out the worst and the best in us.

We have heard of public service workers and police officers being attacked and abused as they go about their work, often placing themselves at risk in order to help us keep safe and carry on out lives as best we can.

On the other hand , in these dark times, there are good things happening.

We hear of lovely stories of neighbourhoods coming together to look after each other, especially the vulnerable folks who may not be able to leave their homes even if they wanted to. People are also coming together to grieve with those who have lost loved ones.

The “clap for carers” on Thursday evening reinforced the debt of gratitude we owe for the work being done by NHS staff to care for those at risk and already suffering illness as a result of the Coronavirus.

It encourages us to remember also the carers, shop workers, refuse collectors, postal workers, emergency services staff and many others whose work is helping to keep our lives going on.

We may be tempted to look back at other times of crises, none of which in my lifetime have been anything like the present. I sometimes wonder how people managed in those times without the benefit of the modern technology which enables us to keep in touch with our friends and family in so many ways.

Our daughter, her New Zealander husband and our two grandchildren live near Christchurch, in the South Island of New Zealand, while our son and his Canadian wife live in part of Vancouver, Canada. Thanks to the electronics on the devices in our pockets, we were able to spend an hour and a half in a three way video call where we could see each other and hear each other’s news. Above all we were relieved to see and hear that they are safe and well.

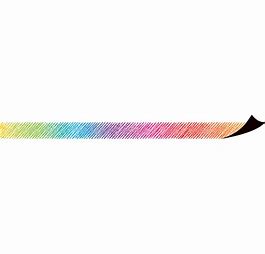
We can all do what we can with the technology we have to keep in touch with our family, friends and neighbours.

There is so much to thank God for, especially in times of difficulty. The Psalms are full of episodes where the Psalmist, sometimes in anger and disappointment, asks God, “Where are you, what are you doing?” We should notice that these psalms always end with the psalmist realising that God shares in each moment of our joys and sorrows and praising God for the comfort of his presence. We remember that God came to us in Jesus, to share our lives in all their comings and goings and is present with us still in the power of the Holy Spirit.

May you all know the comfort of God’s presence, in these difficult times and always.

Best wishes to you all

***Harry Mowbray***

Interim Moderator

From Sheila Wallace

At a time of uncertainty throughout our world, may we hold on to the certainty that is ours in Christ Jesus, and give thanks for *our* faith and *His* forgiveness as Easter draws near.

As we contemplate the depth of Divine love that sanctioned Jesus' sacrifice for us on the Cross, may the Fruits of the Spirit  touch our hearts~ Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-Control.

Blessings this Easter,

Sheila

From our Treasurer

Easter Day of Giving

One of our Church’s annual stewardship campaign is our Easter Day of Giving. Easter as we know is a time for Reflection and Joy however, this year our Reflection is not only about our Faith and how God gave his only Son for us, it is about the extremely challenging time we are presently facing with the virus COVID 19.

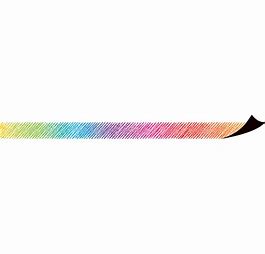
As many of us are self isolating we are extremely concerned about the distressing situation which has changed the very principles, of our way of life. Self Isolating however has given many of us extra time for reflection on what is important to us. Giving is probably well down the list however Giving is not just about Donation it is about making a Difference.

Our Church is working very hard to make a Difference, services recorded by our Interim Moderator and available to listen to at home, community larder to support our local children who are not at school or our parishioners who are not at work, our Elders looking out for us and all of us praying very hard for our Minister Neil and hislovely family during his unplanned prolonged absence.In normal times you would have the opportunity to give your donation by means of an Easter Giving envelope. 

Your Church would be very grateful to receive your Donation to help continue the good work of our Church in our Parish. As there are no Actual Church Services or delivered magazines just now could we ask that you hold your donations until life is back to normal. You could also pay your donation directly into the Church Bank Account. Details of paying direct to the bank or using your card to make a donation can be had by phoning or emailing Sandra Morrison on 07887 610070 or [sandramorrison64@gmail.com](mailto:sandramorrison64@gmail.com).

Thank you .please stay safe

Regards Myra Williamson Treasurer



FROM OUR SESSION CLERK

*(I hope that you all received the letter from our Session Clerk last weekend. The following is an excerpt from Andrew’s letter)*

“Myra, our tireless Treasurer (and Treasure!) has pointed out that opportunities for our free will offerings are denied because of the absence of Sunday services. I hope members will endeavour to continue to set aside contributions at or partially at their customary level and either arrange to have them passed to Myra or Sandra Morrison or save them up for the day when we can once again drop them in the plate!”

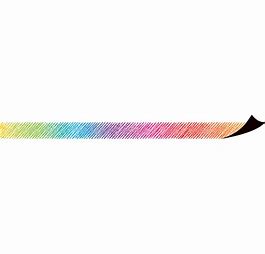


**Sunday Club News….. Sunday Club News…… Sunday Club News…..**

Like everyone else our Sunday Club has not been meeting these last few weeks but before that, we did plenty of interesting things! We promoted our Fairtrade partners with a display of Fairtrade products ranging from tea to chocolate. We prepared a small gift of a Fairtrade tea bag to take home or freshly ground Fairtrade coffee- all offered to our church members at the end of a service. Please continue to use these items when you can. If you are interested, do have a look at the range of Fairtrade gold and silver that is now available through specific jewellery specialists.

We also took time to explore the materials produced in support for World Day of Prayer- we looked at Zimbabwe and its people with their different languages. We thought about languages and words we use – dignity, tolerance and so on. On another week we managed to produce a few pots of Paddington Bear marmalade to share on the Marmalade Sunday with many activities around the theme. We have also acknowledged Holocaust Memorial Day, considering our place in Europe and the World raising the power of “Hope”: hope for peace, hope for living without fear, hope for us as we deal with sadness, hope for the future. We also thought about dignity, freedom, rule of law, human rights, democracy and equality. A real privilege to be part of these discussions with our young children.

So, what is next. Sadly, we will not be able to run our “stay or take away lunches” for Christian Aid but please see the magazine article about the work of this charity. We hope to keep in touch with our young people and although we may not physically see them over Easter, they remain firmly in our thoughts as part of our GLS family. Please remember our young people and their families in your prayers.

MSherriffs



**Christian Aid**

Christian Aid has produced some fantastic resources for use during Lent with their popular *Count Your Blessings* materials including their daily reflections and prayers. Their focus this year is on the climate crisis. Normally we would make these resources available at church but instead you could visit: caid.org.uk/lent

Christian Aid’s current magazine begins with comments from Dr Rowan Williams who states that “the greatest driver of poverty in the immediate future is the impact of climate change.” Christian Aid has been working for 75years in support of those in need. This year’s theme is shown through the eyes of *Faith*, who lives in Kenya with her husband and children. Water is in scarce supply which is compounded by a drought that has meant that no plants would grow. Their lives changed when the local community and Christian Aid partners worked together to build a sand dam which has resulted in better management of rain that does fall, allowing crops to grow and thrive. The charity continues to need your support, both financial and spiritually. You could always “buy a chicken” as a gift this Easter and the money would go to the Agriculture and Livestock fund to be used in supplying chickens to families in Zambia or the like. Visit: caid.org.uk/chickens or call 0333 555 2025

Please do include Christian Aid in your prayers.

Mary Sherriffs

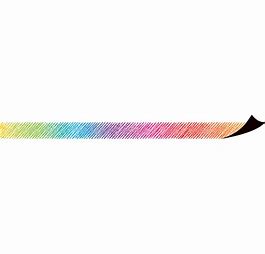
Stamp Appeal

Thank you so much from the many donations of used stamps that we continue to receive from our congregation. This year’s project, as always is run through World Mission and is for theWomen’s Development Centre (WDC) in Kandy, Sri Lanka which operates to support women and girls who have been victims of rape and sexual violence.

The WDC gives these women somewhere to stay, and supports them in caring for their children, helps them return to education if they wish, and trains them in skills they can use to make a living when they leave. The WDC has a social enterprise and café where the women can work and sell their hand-made products. The team at WDC care for and heal girls who are vulnerable and often discarded by their families. It is impossible not to be moved by what they do.

Remember to cut at least ½ cm width around each stamp when you cut it out. Thank you.

***Mary, Meg and the Sunday Club***



**Mission Aviation Fellowship**

Our efforts to gather postcards for this worthwhile charity are on-going, so although our holiday schedules might well be affected by the impact of Covid-19, we still ask that you continue to gather postcards- it might be you have some just sitting at home. The sale of these cards contributes to raising significant funds for this organisation. To find out more about what MAF does, use the link:

<https://www.maf-uk.org/scotland>

**World Mission**

Lots of GLS members enjoy doing jigsaws, just as I do. I daresay, that in these days at home, in our houses, many of us have taken to dusting out those jigsaws that we have meant to do but not been able to. An article in World Mission uses this analogy of our Church being like a jigsaw- on its own a single piece can look lost, but joining together, it makes a bigger picture. It also suggests that each piece is individual, in shape, size and colour but each piece, is just as important and valued. The article indicates that our faith is a shared experience at the heart of Christian life throughout the world. Worth remembering next time you are doing a jigsaw!

***Meg Butler.***

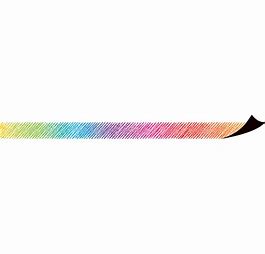
**Tear Times News from their Magazine**

Tear Times is the magazine from TearFund. It is not it’s only publication. For over 30 years they have been producing ***Footsteps***. This magazine is sent all over the world and is used by farmers, pastors, community leaders and development workers in order to provide ideas, inspiration and used as a training tool. Each edition tackles a different topic eg disabilities, water, climate change, human rights and so on. The readership extends to those speaking English, Hindi, Spanish etc. Look at the website if you are interested: <https://learn.tearfund.org/>

“*Young Lives Put to Waste”* is an article in Tear Times that is relevant to all of us. It tells of how our children are pushing for the world’s rubbish problem to be resolved: *Lent a Hand,* is one school’s project to give up single-use plastic in Lent; *Clean-Up Kids*, is about tackling the waste around the world with a student, through Tear Fund working in Bangladesh, with other young people to change how plastic waste is collected and recycled. 4,500 tonnes of waste are produced every day in the capital alone! *“Rubbish to Power”* explains a project happening in Nigeria where young people are finding creative ways to tackle waste in their own communities whilst using solar panels to create power. It is heartening that such projects are often inspired by young people feeling empowered to make a difference.

For your information *Participatory Budgeting* is a way of getting finance for projects through local authorities. I don’t know much about this locally except that in this article we learn about the principle of PB- where local people help make choices, or have a direct say in how public money is spent about projects that would most benefit their communities. For further information please go to website: [www.churchofscotland.org.uk/serve](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/serve) or <https://cos.churchofscotland.org.uk/search/?uid=7&s=participatory+budgeting>

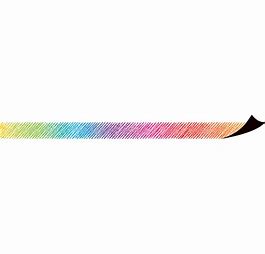
*Meg Butler*



**Perthshire Open Studios**

The GLS Church Group is once again entered into this year’s Open Studios. As with many other events, it is debatable whether it will take place this year but we are continuing to prepare in the hope that it will be!

POS will take place (God willing) from 5th to 13th September so please put the dates in your diary. We fervently pray that we are through this pandemic well before then.

***Lesley***

**From Margaret Ross…….**

My Mother was born in 1910 and lived through the last pandemic, as she would have been 9 at the time, which was the Spanish Flu. It seems strange that 100 years later her daughter and rest of the family are now caught up in another world wide catastrophe.

Mum was born at Tullymet (the correct spelling) and she went to school in Ballinluig. She used to tell stories about her time there for example the school dinners. Each child brought a half-penny per week to school for their lunch which consisted of a bowl of soup. My grandfather would give her produce from the garden to take to school, as did other parents and local farmers, to help provide their lunch.

My Mother’s late friend Mable Noble wrote about her experiences at this time and when we are back to normal I will give it to Sandra to print in the Magazine in instalments.

May the Lord bless you all and keep you safe.

Margaret

***Isobel Cairns saw this in one of her books and felt it appropriate in the light of the current social distancing/self isolation advice.***

On a cold winter's day, a group of porcupines huddled together to stay warm and keep from freezing. But soon they felt one another's quills and moved apart. When the need for warmth brought them closer together again, their quills again forced them apart. They were driven back and forth at the mercy of their discomforts until they found the distance from one another that provided both a maximum of warmth and a minimum of pain.

In human beings, the emptiness and monotony of the isolated self produces a need for society. This brings people together, but their many offensive qualities and intolerable faults drive them apart again.

The optimum distance that they finally find and that permits them to coexist is embodied in politeness and good manners. Because of this distance between us, we can only partially satisfy our need for warmth, but at the same time, we are spared the stab of one another's quills.

Arthur Schopenhauer German Philosopher

***'A friend of Izzy’s sent this to her recently. It certainly resonates, given our present situation.***

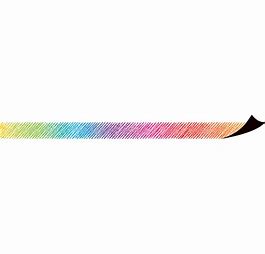
And the people stayed home. And read books, and rested, and exercised, and made art, and played games, and grew gardens full of fresh food, and learned new ways of being, and were still. And listened more deeply. Some meditated, some prayed, some danced. Some met their shadows.

And the people began to think differently.

And the people healed. And, in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless, and heartless ways, the earth began to heal.

And when the danger passed, and the people joined together again, they grieved their losses, and made new choices, and dreamed new images, and created new ways to live and heal the earth fully, as they had been healed.

~Kitty O'Meara 1839 -1888



**Marmalade Sunday**

Marmalade Sunday - 9th February

What an uplifting service we enjoyed on 9th February. We had planned our Marmalade Sunday but had not appreciated all the effort and enthusiasm that everyone would put into it.

Sheila Wallace led our worship and very cleverly used the story of turning bitter Seville oranges into sweet marmalade as an allegory for a Christian leading a better life through the love of God.

Myra had produced a spectacular flower arrangement as a centrepiece for the Communion Table and a similar one for the hall. Anna gamely played the theme from Paddington. Andrew delivered one of his witty poems to summon us all through to the John Kyd Hall which is printed at the end of this report. Here the tables were groaning with delicious marmalade cakes and breads, flapjacks, meringues and biscuits. The industrial table laden down with home made marmalade which Neil carefully judged - naming Marie the winner but without causing offence to the other contributors!

It was a moving moment when Neil thanked everyone for their support and temporarily laid down his arms of office whilst he has his surgery. We all wish him a speedy recovery - we need his guidance and support quickly back in play!

Mary and Chrissie had organized the most brilliant contribution from the Sunday Club. Not only did they produce their own marmalade, but a terrific display with Paddington's suitcase and hat together with marmalade themed drawings on an ivy clad tree which had been hunted for during the sermon.

There was a lovely atmosphere in the hall and many thanks to everyone who played a part.

Thanks to the sales and donations, I am pleased to confirm we raised £350.

Not bad for a fun morning!

***William***

MARMALADE SUNDAY

Ring the bell and sound the klaxon

Put your hats and kilts and slacks on

By command of William Jackson

Get ye to the John Kyd Hall.

Never mind tomorrow’s Monday

For today is Marmalade Sunday

And it’s sure to be a fun day

For enjoyment of us all.

In the Hall you’ll find arrayed

Every kind of Marmalade

That so many hands have made

And a stack of buttered toast.

So forget your Sunday dinner

Be you saint or be you sinner

For the menu is a winner

Better far than Sunday roast.

After such a rousing service

There’s no reason to be nervous

For the choice of your ‘preserve’ is

Orange, lemon, maybe lime.

This will be a great occasion

For our happy congregation

It should be an innovation

Every year, same place, same time.

Spare a thought for my poor Valerie

As she counts up every calorie

She’d prefer a stick of celery

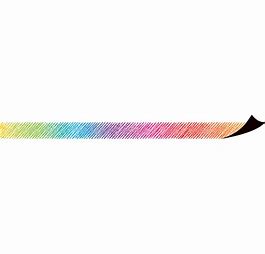
To a slice of orange tart.

But the rest of you get cracking

This is not a day for snacking

Don’t let William catch you slacking

Eat your fill and then depart.

***Andrew Calder***

Prayer diary: April and May

In these strange times we hope that people in our congregation and beyond, will understand our efforts to continue to pray for those in daily need, across the nations. Today so many need our prayers. We have tried to include our partners, our parishioners, our people of this world. Thank you.

**5th -11th April Palm Sunday**

We give You thanks, for the crowds who greeted Christ’s arrival in Jerusalem, singing glad songs of victory. We give You thanks because, for our salvation, Christ was obedient even to death on the cross. The tree of shame was made the tree of glory; and where life was lost, there life has been restored. We give You thanks for Your steadfast love and abundant goodness to all who wait upon the Lord. Amen

(Adapted from Times and Seasons, Passiontide and Holy Week, L1; Psalms 31 and 118)

12-18:  **Easter Sunday**

In the face of death and destruction from the climate crisis, *Faith* has brought her fields back to life. As we face the climate crisis, we do so with the promise of new life from our resurrected Lord, and we look to a future filled with hope. *Christian Aid Resources.*

**A Special Prayer for the week**

**For all that is good in life, thank you,  
For the love of family and friends, thank you,  
For the kindness of good neighbour and Samaritan stranger, thank you.**

**May those who are vulnerable, hungry or homeless, experience support,  
May those who are sick, know healing,  
May those who are anxious or bereaved sense comfort.**

**Bless and guide political leaders and decision-makers, with wisdom,  
Bless and guide health workers and key workers, with strength and well-being.  
Bless and guide each one of us as we adapt to a new way of living.**

**And may the light shining from our windows across road and wynd, glen and ben,  
kyle and isle be reflected in our hearts and hands and hopes.**

**Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.**

***Rt Rev Colin Sinclair in support of National Day of Prayer***

19-25Apr: On their three month placement in Bangladesh, **Tearfund** volunteers were able to partner with local community to tackle plastic waste. By installing community bins and running up-cycling projects, together they explored how to care for God’s creation. Join us as we pray for a greater awareness and passion for creation care across Bangladesh. Bless all those across the world who strive to protect God’s world. Amen

26Apr-2 May: If there is righteousness in the heart, there is beauty in the character. When there is beauty in the character, there is harmony in the home. When there is harmony in the home, there is order in the nation. When there is order in the nation, there is peace in the world.

*Traditional Scottish Blessing*

3rd -9th May: Dear God, please bless our NHS and all who support them particularly during this Covid-19 epidemic. Bless our local doctor surgeries, our chemists/pharmacies, care homes and social care workers. Bless our shop workers, our Co-op shelf stackers, our store in Strathtay, our garage and Post Office in Ballinluig – each and all helping sustain us with food and links to our community. Bless all the local businesses and Churches who have been working to assist in practical ways to help individuals. Allow us to pray in thanks for them and for their continued health and wellbeing in the weeks ahead. Amen

10-16: God of the Sabbath, forgive us for ignoring the rhythms of nature for overextending the Earth and each other. Instil in us sustainable ways of resting and enjoying the goodness of creation and protecting the Earth with all our sisters and brothers. Amen.

*For Christian Aid Week*

17th-23 Dear God, as neighbours in our streets, our straths, our glens and congregations, help us continue to support the vulnerable in our communities. Help us recognise our own aspects of vulnerability and come to you for assistance. Give us grace to help willingly and freely, not out of duty or self-importance but simply as an act of kindness. Help us to understand the power of prayer and remember those close to us and far away as we ask your blessings on them. Amen

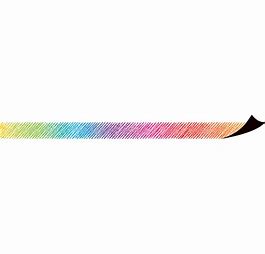
24th-30th Dear God, these last weeks have been a challenge for us as individuals, as communities, as a nation and as world citizens. Please be with us as we share this well-known prayer:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors and lead us not into temptation

But deliver us from evil:

For thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory, forever. Amen

Articles for inclusion in the June / July edition should be sent direct to the editor by Sunday, 24th May, 2020.

Editor – Sandra A Batty

Taigh an Rainich

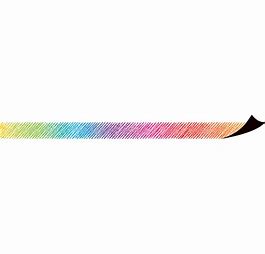
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A picture to colour. Cut it out and make it into an Easter card and send it to a friend or relative.