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|  | | **St Vigeans Church**  **Newsletter** | | |
| What a strange year 2020 has been.  When we celebrated in January and looked forward to a new decade who ever imagined that this is what it would bring?  Words and phrases such as furlough, lockdown, track and trace, home schooling, safe distancing, zoom meetings and circuit breaker are all now familiar to us having taken on new meanings and become the new normal.  After seven months it is easy to become complacent and frustrated at the restrictions but perhaps, we need to just stop for a moment and remember what this is really all about. It is not about wearing face masks, social distancing or not visiting other people’s homes. It is about saving lives.  Normally at this time of year we would be busy planning the ceilidh, quiz night and thinking about ideas for the Christmas parties. Sadly, not this year as none of these events will take place.  However, I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and pray that 2021 will be a better year!  Worship in the Church will now resume on about a monthly basis following all the guidelines and restrictions.  Full details on Page 3  Take care and stay safe. Margaret | | | | |
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|  | | **REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE**  **IN THE CHURCH**  **ON 8th NOVEMBER**  **AT 10 am.**  Full details of restrictions and guidelines on Page 3. | | |
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| Dear all  Over the past seven months we have experienced life in a very different way. We have had to accept restrictions for our own health and safety as to the way we live our daily lives. This has also been reflected in our church activities, being unable to meet together and worship as we would like.  We held one service at church last month with restricted numbers and following the Church of Scotland guidelines. It was so strange to see everyone sitting in church, socially distanced, wearing face coverings. Restrictions meant we were not allowed to sing, chat or share fellowship over a cup of tea. However, valuable lessons have been learnt from this experience which will help when we next hold a service in church.  I am very grateful to Heather for using her skills and expertise to produce a video service each week and grateful to everyone who has participated by reading the Bible passage. Many thanks to Sheila for being so willing to play the music for the hymns so we can sing along to them at home. This has proved invaluable each week as we can listen or watch a service of worship from St Vigeans Church. It has been good that I can still continue pastoral visits and please let me know if you or someone you know would like me to visit.  The most encouraging thing during these months is the way people have been showing that the church is not a building, it’s the people, serving one another in a range of different ways. Showing love in action.  Many of us have learnt new skills such as” Zoom” so that we can “meet” together each Sunday morning before church with our own cuppie and a chat. This has been a good way of maintaining contact.  Life may have changed somewhat for us, but our God is the same yesterday, today and forever. As we look around us at the beautiful red, brown and golden colours of the leaves as the season changes to Autumn, we know that God is still in control. Let us give thanks that we trust in God who holds the future in His hands.  May we continue to grow in grace and love as we keep in step with our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.  May God’s blessing surround you each day.  Keith. | | | | |
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|  | | INTERESTING FACTS FROM THE BIBLE  Dimensions for Noah’s Ark  Length 300 cubits  Width 50 cubits  Height 30 cubits  A cubit is equivalent to 17.5 inches  So the length of the ark was that of one and a half football pitches! | | |
| Not until the late 19th century did a ship of that size get constructed again. Also the ratio of the ark is still considered the golden meaning for stablising during storms at sea.  With these thoughts in mind let us give thanks for Our God who knew what he was doing when giving Noah the instructions for the ark and preservation of all living creatures at that time and still knows what needs to be done in our present crisis.  May all feel assured of his Grace and Compassion.  Every Blessing. Jean McPhail | | | | |
| WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT ST VIGEANS  It has been decided to hold services in the Church on the following dates:  8th November  20th December  3rd January  and the first Sunday in the month thereafter.  Only a maximum of 50 people are allowed to worship in the Church at the same time. If you would like to attend Church, please telephone: 01241 230200 between 9.30 am and 11.30 am on the Thursday prior to the Sunday to book your place.  For your own safety please also be aware of the following:   * If you display any coronavirus symptoms, please do not enter the building * You are required to wear a face covering * You will be asked for your name & contact details for Test & Protect * You will be asked to sit in a marked seat and move in a particular direction * Use hand sanitiser when entering and exiting the building * Avoid physical contact * Maintain physical distancing * The toilets in the hall are not open   **Services**  In addition to these services there will still be a regular Sunday Service which can be viewed on the website -stvigeanschurch.weebly.com, YouTube or the Facebook page.  Every Sunday morning (when there is no service in the Church) there is also a ‘cuppa’ zoom meeting at 11 am. To access this: load the zoom app on your laptop or tablet. Click – join meeting. You will then be asked for details of the meeting you would like to join. The information you require is: Meeting - ID 768 5707 2274 and Password – 022839. It is the same every week.  If you do not have access to the internet you can listen to the service by dialling 01241 545821 on your normal landline although the service may not be available until sometime on Monday. | | | | |
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| Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of  Marion Milne  Betty Gardner  who both died recently. | | |  | |
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|  | | **HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICE**  ON SUNDAY 25TH OCTOBER  AT 11.30 am  PLEASE NOTE: THIS WILL BE AN ONLINE SERVICE  If you would like to donate non- perishable goods to the Foodbank, please either bring them to Church on 8th November or take them to the Old & Abbey Church Foodbank. | | |
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| Pastoral Group.  Nothing to report but would like to let all our parishioners know we are thinking of them all. Hope everyone is well and they have a lovely Christmas, well as best as it can be who knows what’s round the corner. Take care till we can meet again. Mary and Helen and all pastoral group. | | | | |
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|  | | Congratulations to  ANDREW & CATHY LAWSON  and  SAM & KEIRA LAWRIE  who were married at St Vigeans recently | | |
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| World Aids Day is on 1st December. Last year we donated the monies from our Soup Lunch. We are not in Church this year, but why not have a soup lunch at home and bring a donation for aids to the church? | | | | Image result for red ribbon aids symbol |
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| |  |  | | --- | --- | |  | Annual Blythswood Shoebox Appeal  Leaflets for the appeal are enclosed with this Newsletter or are available on the website. It is obviously difficult when we are not in Church but you may either leave your boxes in the Session Rooms before 1st November, if you have a key, or take them directly to the Blythswood van which will be at the Abbeygate on Thursday 5th November between 11.45 am & 12.45 pm | | | | | |
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| The Guild  Unfortunately, we won’t be able to have our Christmas Lunch this year. I hope that, in spite of the circumstances, you have a joyous Christmas. We pray that we will have a brighter 2021.  Jean Duncan  \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  E mail Addresses  It has been difficult to deliver these Newsletter to all of our members due to current restrictions. To help us keep in touch with as many people as possible we are asking everyone for their e mail address.  If you have an e mail address can you please send it to me?  My e mail address is margaret.pullar@btinternet.com | | Contact Details  Rev Peter Phillips, Interim Moderator - 01241 830464  E mail: pphillips@churchofscotland.org.uk  ----------  Keith Scott, Locum - 01241 879615  07712 044 091  E mail: [k.t.scott@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:k.t.scott@hotmail.co.uk)  ---------  Gerda Reid, Family Worker  07873 394 126  E mail: [family.worker4stvigeans@gmail.com](mailto:family.worker4stvigeans@gmail.com)  -------------  Fraser Bews, Treasurer  07917 211 993  E mail: fraserbews1@gmail.com  ----------  Margaret Pullar, Session Clerk - 01241 876667  07745 943 346  E mail: [margaret.pullar@btinternet.com](mailto:margaret.pullar@btinternet.com) | | |
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|  | Thank you to Keith, Heather, Sheila and all the Readers for the Sunday morning Services, to David and his team who prepared the Church for the Weddings and the Service in Church, and to everyone else who has who has helped us through the last seven months. | | | |
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| PROPERTY UPDATE  The new pump has been installed and the boiler has been serviced.  The humidifier has now been removed from the Vestry, the floor covering really needs replacing, there are floor tiles in storage that were removed from the session rooms and could be laid in the Vestry.  A slater has been asked to inspect the guttering and repair as required  The windows and door for the hall have been ordered and the cost is approximately £17,762 plus approximately £8,000 for fitting and remedial work. It is anticipated that the work will be carried out in December.  Rentokil – The necessary remedial works in the hall were carried out on 6th October. Thanks to George Taylor and Jim Menzies for clearing the area under the stage. | | | | |
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| TREASURER’S REPORT  Giving figures to end of August 2020:-   |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | 2019 | 2020 | Difference | | Open Plate | £2,655.81 | £1,286.71 | -£1,369.10 | | FWO | £10,270.90 | £5,430.90 | -£4,840.00 | | Gift Aid | £13,118.50 | £11,466.00 | -£1,652.50 | | Tax Recovered | £8,831.16 | £7,280.21 | -£1,550.95 | | Total | £34,876.37 | £25,436.82 | -£9,412.55 |   Not surprisingly we are significantly behind last year's giving and whilst I appreciate some of the congregation have set up standing orders or sent cheques for FWO we may need to try and recoup some of this lost revenue.  To give some indication of where we stand at the start of the year the general account Bank balance was £15,424.80, without receipt of the legacy from the late Isabel Alexander the balance would now be at -£5,235.05 on this account.  We have had to pay an initial amount for the new windows for the hall of 50% of the balance due £8,683.81.  I have checked the records and Alex Small had looked into the Anderson Fund before and there are no specific requests in the original bequest as to how these funds should be used but Kirk Session had agreed that it should mainly be used for youth work within the parish but occasionally for other special purposes.  We had spoken about taking money out of investments to cover the costs and I received a letter from NS & I in September advising that from November the interest rate on the Income Bond we have of £10,000 in the Anderson Fund was being reduced from 1.16% to 0.01%.  My thoughts are this is not even near to keeping pace with inflation and we should look to cash this in to help with the cost of the windows.  I have also arranged for £4,045.62 that was sitting in the central Fabric Fund Account from manse rental income received to be transferred to the General Account.  This must be used for fabric costs but annual Insurance of the building is included in this so I would suggest we offset this cost of £3,485 which we have already paid to boost funds in the general account and put the balance of £560 towards the cost of the windows.  After discussion the Board agreed to cash in the Income Bond.  Further expenses anticipated in the next few months –   1. Session Rooms – rhones - £300/£400, insulation - £500 /£600, stonework repair and coping stones between Session Rooms and store - no price at present. 2. The balance of the windows also needs to be paid before delivery probably sometime in December. It was agreed to take £7,000 from the Anderson Fund.   However, as Gift Aid Convener and Treasurer I would ask those of you who can to consider your giving and when you last reviewed this to take into account the present situation with covid and also inflation as expenditure has increased a lot over the past few years and if we want to have a sustainable long term future it’s something we all need to consider occasionally.  Notwithstanding I appreciate this is a difficult time for many and I hope you and your family stay safe and healthy. Fraser  \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  If you normally put money in the plate every week you can pay it directly into our Church Bank Account.  Account Number: 00439369 Sort Code: 801235  Thank you  \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  SCO 003409 | | | | |