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|  | | **St Vigeans Church**  **Newsletter**  **January** |
| Firstly, may I wish you all a Happy New Year and hope that you and your family are staying safe at this difficult time for all of us.  Unfortunately, another lockdown is not what any of us wanted and we had hoped that we would now be back at St Vigeans albeit with restrictions. This however is not the position we are in and we must all support one another, abide by the rules and eventually life will return to normal.  If anyone is aware of someone requiring support in any way, please let myself or your elder know.  Everything is different at the moment but hopefully some of the articles in this Newsletter will let you know some of what has happened over the last few months at St Vigeans and what we are planning for the next few months but throughout this pandemic the best laid plans don’t always work out!!  Margaret | | |
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| I was given a Christmas present of a Bible Wordsearch book and it can be fun looking at a page of letters trying to find the words which can go in all directions, but it can also be confusing.  Life can also be a bit confusing just now with all the restrictions, Church closed, all but essential shops closed, no visits to friends or family, people encouraged to work from home and the main one – stay at home.  We’ve also learnt new words and phrases like bubble; contact tracing; furlough, R number; social distancing; frontline workers…. and no doubt you can add to the list.  But life goes on and together we will get through this. We can see positives – neighbours getting to know each other; helping those in need; looking out for one another and of course vaccinations are ongoing.  In these uncertain times may we not lose sight of the importance of keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith (Hebrews 12 v 2)  Keith | | |
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|  | **COMMUNION SERVICE**  on SUNDAY 31st JANUARY  at 11.30 am  THIS WILL BE AN ONLINE SERVICE  CONDUCTED BY KEITH SCOTT AND REV PETER PHILLIPS  If you would like to take part, please have bread and wine ready. | |

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| CHRISTMAS SERVICES | | | | |
|  | | Nativity  Well done to all the children who participated in this year's Nativity.  It was a lot different from what we normally do, but the children played their part really well and it was enjoyed by all who were able to come along. | | |
| Christingle Service | Many of us greatly enjoyed the online Christingle Service.  More than 20 Christingles were delivered before the service and we are  confident that this was a successful way of getting the true message of Christmas to a number of children in our community. | | |  |
|  | | Watchnight Service  We were unable to have our normal Watchnight Service but we all enjoyed the online Service of Lessons and well-loved Carols. | | |
| Thank you to everyone who helped to make all these Services happen. | | | | |
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| **SONGS OF PRAISE SERVICE** | | | **14th February**  **Online Service**  **at 11.30 am** | |

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| **FAMILY WORKER and FUN CLUB**  It has been difficult to establish and maintain contact with families at the moment.  However, using an idea from Keith, we prepared bible related puzzle sheets that we delivered to children to be completed in November. These were well received by the families who were asked to post their answers on our new Facebook page “St Vigeans Church for Families”. A small prize was awarded to the winner. We repeated this exercise in December when we delivered puzzles to over 20 children, some of whom have never been to Fun Club, but who we have had no contact with in recent times.  Perhaps the most encouraging thing about this exercise is that we were able to re-establish links with families we had lost contact with.  We plan to get the next set of puzzle sheets sent out in early February.  If you would like to see the results of the children’s hard work ask Gerda or Jim to include you as a friend on the Facebook page  Gerda, Sandra and Jim. | | | |
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| **ISN’T SHE CUTE?** |  | | Congratulations to Veronika (Our Bulletin Editor) and John on the birth of their daughter. Julie was born on 14th December. |
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| **GUILD ANAGRAMS**  Unmuddle these anagrams of TV programmes from the 1960's and 70's.  Jean Duncan | | | |
| 1. XNOID FO KCDO ENRGE 2. ELUB EEPRT 3. ISHT SI RYUO IEFL 4. BDDEHRINSRTU 5. EKJU XBO RYUJ | | 1. HET NITSA 2. HET SEYRTFO AAGS 3. ACHWT IHTW HEMROT 4. POOPUTRTYNI SKKONC 5. AEKT ROYU KIPC | |
| Answers on back page. | | | |

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|  | Alex Small was recently presented with a Long Service Certificate.  In his twenties Alex was ordained as an Elder and held the position, for many years, as Session Clerk at Inverbrothock Church. After its closure, he joined St Vigeans where he has also served for many years.  Well done Alex!! | |
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| Congratulations to  Danielle Paton and Richard Strang  who were married at St Vigeans last Saturday. | |  |
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| **PROPERTY** | | |
|  | | Although we have been unable to attend the Church as normal, things have been happening in the background.  The windows and the new access door and side panel for the hall have now been installed. There is still some finishing work to be completed mainly the filler round the outsides of the windows and door, internally small pieces of decoration are all that is required. That said the difference to the look, the heat retention and the amount of light allowed into the hall is noticeable. |

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| TREASURER’S REPORT  Hi all,  2020 has been a challenging year in so many ways and as you can imagine it was a difficult year financially for our church.  Giving for the year and a comparison with 2019 is as follows:-   |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | 2019 | 2020 | Difference | |  |  |  |  | | Open Plate | £  3,829.23 | £  1,668.21 | -£2,161.02 | | Freewill (Non Gift Aid) | £  7,662.25 | £  6,646.40 | -£1,015.85 | | Gift Aid | £24,823.20 | £23,748.00 | -£1,075.20 | | Tax Recovered from Gift Aid | £  8,831.16 | £  7,280.21 | -£1,550.95 | | Total Giving | £45,145.84 | £39,342.82 | -£5,803.02 |   So, in percentage terms giving was approximately 12.85% down on the previous year which, whilst given our inability to attend church most of the year is no great surprise does follow a year on year reduction in overall giving evidenced for a number of years now.  We were of course only able to complete one fund raising social event in 2020, the very successful Joseph Long concert, and overall fund raising from events was reduced by £5,522 when compared to the previous year.  If you take into account that I was already budgeting for a £10k deficit in the church finances for the year we would have been over £20k short in meeting our outgoings if we had not received two legacies totalling £26k.  I hope to pull together the end of year accounts and more importantly budgeted figures for this year over the next couple of weeks and whilst it is likely to be another tricky year stay safe and I have no doubt God will provide.  Very best regards.  Fraser Bews, Treasurer |

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| **Answers to Guild Quiz**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | 1. Dixon of Dock Green 2. Blue Peter 3. This Is Your Life 4. Thunderbirds 5. Juke Box Jury | 1. The Saint 2. The Forsyte Saga 3. Watch With Mother 4. Opportunity Knocks 5. Take Your Pick | |

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