

ARBROATH WEST KIRK NEWSLETTER

Feb 2021 Issue 278



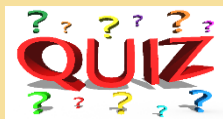
Coffee and Chatter

Every Sunday at 12 noon, why not take the opportunity for a weekly catch up with others on screen.

On Zoom, there's the opportunity to meet as a big group and also in smaller break out groups to chat together.



Why not try a quiz on Zoom? No need to organise a team in advance, we can organise these on the night of Friday 19th February @ 7pm Please get in touch for log in details.



Whilst we're not able to worship in our church building, Sunday School continues.

In January and February, we are posting out a month of crafts/activities that relate to weekly worship and every other week we're meeting at 11am by Zoom too.

Please get in touch if you'd like more details

Hello everyone,

Well, what a start to the year it has been! Though I realised that the beginning of our time with you all in Arbroath would be different, I didn't expect another lockdown! Sadly, this has meant the closure of all church buildings for regular worship. The only exceptions are for weddings (for 5 people), funerals (for 20 people) and essential services, such as foodbanks. The enhanced restrictions also mean that doorstep deliveries of items, such as magazines, are not allowed as they are considered an additional and not essential activity. So, for this month and probably next, if nothing changes, we will be distributing an email newsheet to as many folk as we have an email address for.

The ability to communicate has become increasingly important over the last few months and I'm very grateful to our elders for phoning as many members as they have had phone numbers for and to Myra for organising and updating our database as we've gone through the process. If you think that we may not have your details, please get in touch and let us know. We want to be able to share this challenging time with and support one another.

The last month and I suspect at least the next has been perhaps the worst we have experienced in the pandemic so far. I'm sure we all know of friends and family, work colleagues and acquaintances who are struggling with illness and bereavement. The sadness at times seems relentless and I begin to wonder what sustains us and keeps us going. Perhaps beautiful landscapes, perhaps online contact with others, perhaps books or other "at-home" interests.

I read recently about Stuart Hine who is responsible for the English translation of the Swedish poem by Carl Boberg which we sing as the hymn "How Great thou Art." The poem is longer than the hymn and one of the stanzas that's missing sounds like this;

"When burdens press, and seem beyond endurance,
Bowed down with grief, to Him I lift my face;
And then in love He brings me sweet assurance:
"My child! For thee sufficient is My grace."

Our faith gives us a sustenance beyond our interests and companions. God is with us, whether we know it or not, wherever we are or go and will strengthen us to endure.

Take care, stay safe and God bless, Chris.

Services

Whilst our church building is closed, it's still possible to access our services every week in the following ways:-

1. The weekly service is recorded and is available from 11am every Sunday on YouTube or Facebook. If it's easier to receive an email with a direct link to the service, please let us know and we will email it to you on a Friday.
2. We are very fortunate that we are still able to record a service for Radio North Angus and that's still broadcast each Sunday at 3pm.
3. In response to feedback after the Christmas services there will be a Zoom service, for those who would like to share worship with others on the last Sunday of the month at 6.30pm on Zoom. This will comprise hymns, prayers and reflections for about 40 minutes with a time of fellowship at the end.
4. Advance notice that if church buildings are still closed at the start of March that on Sunday 7th March there will be a celebration of communion online.

Everyone is welcome to any and all of these services.

Diary

- Sun 31st Jan service from 11am on YouTube and Facebook
Coffee and Chat at 12 noon & 6.30pm Zoom Evening Service
- Wed, 3rd Feb Bible Study, 7.30pm
- Sun 7th Feb Zoom Sun School at 11am and recorded service
Coffee and Chat at 12 noon
- Wed 10th Feb Bible Study at 7.30pm
- Sun 14th Feb service from 11am on YouTube and Facebook
Coffee and Chat at 12 noon
- Wed 17th Feb Bible Study at 7.30pm
- Fri 19th Feb Quiz Night at 7pm
- Sun 21st Feb - Zoom Sun School at 11am and recorded service
Coffee and Chat at 12 noon
- Wed 24th Feb Bible Study at 7.30pm
- Sun 28th Feb service from 11am on YouTube and Facebook
Coffee and Chat at 12 noon & 6.30pm Zoom Evening Service.

FEBRUARY 2021						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

Free Date Calendars From: 123Calendars.com



Like many other organisations, the prolonged closure of buildings and activities provides our treasurers with a headache! Though our heating costs have inevitably reduced, so has income from hall hires and our inability to raise funds in the usual manner as we cannot meet, means dipping reluctantly into reserves. Our inability to attend church as we would usually means that our offerings are also down by £17,000 at the end of 2020. We do appreciate it's difficult whilst the building is closed to donate or drop offerings in. Please get in touch with David to discuss ways to make offerings in these challenging times.

Gift Day As this newsletter is being issued digitally there will be no Gift Day envelope included as mentioned in the last magazine. We plan to send envelopes out with the 1st printed magazine with an accompanying note explaining how to return them. We do hope that this is sometime soon and is received positively. Best Wishes,
The Stewardship Group

Prayer is something that we all do in our own way and the assurance that someone else is praying for us is something that we all appreciate. We are blessed at Arbroath West to have a small group who commit to praying (in their own homes at the moment) for those in particular need, with complete confidentiality. Please contact Chris if you know of situations where quiet support would be a comfort.



Duty Teams

I will shortly be doing a new rota but would like a few more people to bring the teams up to strength for when we get back to normal services. Each team does 5 to 6 duty responsibilities in a year. If you are interested in helping or would like more information please call or email the church office and I will get back to you.
Thank you

Linda Bird

Friendship Boxes

HUGE thanks go to Lily White for her idea of Friendship Boxes. Lily, who is used to meeting so many friends at worship each week has been thinking of those she hasn't seen who are needing, for all sorts of reasons, to isolate. Lily, who's 9 and like many of us has had a lockdown birthday, decided to let others know that she was thinking about them designing Friendship boxes. Each box contains tea/coffee and biscuits for 2 and the heartfelt message. "Everyone should know they are not alone. I hope that this box makes someone smile and they can enjoy a cuppy and a biscuit." THANK YOU, Lily, and to all the elders who have helped to post them out. If you know of someone who would like a friendship box, please let me know.



Thank You from Bill Clark.

It has been a privilege and an honour to be trusted as your Session Clerk for over seventeen years. However, as an attempt at succession planning to better manage change Audrey Shepherd stepped forward to become Assistant Session Clerk, and due to my ill health, Audrey then had to take on the bulk of the work of Session Clerk. I take this opportunity to personally thank Audrey in heartfelt gratitude. Appropriately, we now change places and I would ask West Kirk to now give Audrey the friendship and support that you have given me. The congregation and Kirk Session have diverse gifts and knowledge and I have lost count of the number of times I phoned someone looking for a favour to be met with a warm acceptance. Thank you all.

There have been many highlights but let me mention just three. First, during the vacancy I shared the chancel of St Thomas Roman Catholic Church with Father Joseph James, what a privilege to be part of Christian unity in diversity. Second, the union of Knox's Church with the old West Kirk has created a new and exciting mission entity to the west of the Brothock Burn and I personally thank Yvonne Logue for her help and support as Assistant Session Clerk in facilitating that union. Third, I welcomed Chris as our new minister in very unusual style for Presbyterian ordination and induction but I believe the simplicity of the service added to its dignity, and was a joy for Chris and for the new West Kirk.

Thank you again for your trust in me and may God bless our future.

Bill Clark, Assistant Session Clerk.

ARBROATH WEST KIRK – CONTACT INFO

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Office hours Mon 9-11am, Tues 9am – 1pm, Thurs 12.45 – 4.45pm

CHANGE OF ADDRESS/DETAILS

**Please inform Derek Atkinson,
Roll Keeper
3 Seaton Place, DD11 5DS,
Thank you.**

