

LOGIE KIRK NEWS



May 2021

Logie Kirk Stirling (Church of Scotland),

Charity No.SC001298

A letter from the Interim Moderator

Dear Friends,



As I write this, residual raindrops are running down the study window, the Ochils are sprinkled with icing sugar snow, the sun is trying very hard to break through the clouds and the forecast for hailstones just before lunch! It feels like we are experiencing a year's worth of weather today and perhaps that is timely after more than a year of living under restrictions. It has been good to hear that a good number of you are taking the opportunity to attend services at Logie and I am hopeful that we will see an increase in the possible numbers in the weeks that lie ahead.

For me, these months have brought their own challenges, as they have, I know for each one of you. We have not all travelled the same journey, but I hope that you have sensed that your church has walked the journey with you in care and empathy. In these days of seeming inactivity, much has gone on behind the scenes to support and encourage people, to prepare for the reopening of the church and to keep the necessary lines of communication, finances, property inspections and maintenance open. I am grateful to your Kirk Session who have been working hard to keep Logie Kirk alive.

Now, as the world bursts into life again, my hope and prayer are that so will the life of the church. The Church of Scotland and indeed your own congregation face many challenges in the weeks and months and years that lie ahead. You have your part to play in facing these, through your prayers support of the church, your offerings of all that you are and your willingness to stand up and be counted. The church

needs these more than ever and I urge you to think carefully about what you can offer to help breathe new life into the kirk.

One area of church life which has continued unabated has been the search for a new minister. At this present moment, there is nothing to report to the congregation, but I would wish to assure you all that the committee is working hard, but in a new way using online methods. This makes everything a little slower and more complicated. Please continue to pray for the committee as they work on your behalf and for the person whom God will call to ministry here among you.

I often find that a hymn pops into my head in the morning and I carry it through the day. This morning's hymn was the South African gospel song, "Freedom is coming", clearly a hymn written in the context of apartheid, and yet, one that resonates with me in so many ways as we see the unlocking of our nation, as Scottish Government elections are held, as Christian Aid begins. We are blessed to live with so much freedom, to choose, to elect, to live. As we live as God's children and we rejoice in the coming of more and more freedom, my prayer is that as we remember that with freedom comes responsibility, and in the Kingdom of God responsibility demands commitment to Christ, love to our neighbour and service to God's world. May you know the blessings of freedom and find joy in the responsibility it brings.

God Bless,

Alison

The Manse, Tillicoultry, FK13 6PD

Christian Aid Week 2021



This year's appeal is aimed at fighting injustices caused by the Climate Emergency.

This climate crisis hurts us all. But people living in poverty fight the worst of it every day. From drought to flooding, climate change robs people of control over their lives. Extreme weather means people are struggling to survive without a reliable source of water.

Christian Aid has been working in Kenya since 1997. The climate crisis is having a significant impact on Kenyan Communities. The coronavirus pandemic has increased the urgent need for families to have access to a reliable source of water.

Christian Aid's long-standing partner Anglican Development Services Eastern is helping climate-vulnerable communities to adapt and become more resilient to prolonged droughts and poor rains caused by the changing climate.

Your gift could help a community build an earth dam, so when the rains do come, they will have the water they need to live. A reliable source of water will help families withstand long drought or relentless rainstorms.

This year it has not been possible to deliver the Christian Aid envelopes or to hold the Stirling Christian Aid coffee morning in one of the city centre churches. However you can still donate online through the Christian Aid Week website page at caweek.org

Stated Annual Meeting

Due to Covid-19 restrictions we have been unable to hold our annual meeting to discuss the church accounts. This year we therefore share the summary of our accounts for 2020 through Logie Kirk News and would ask members who have questions to contact either or both treasurers by telephone or email. Alastair Innes 01786 822942 Alastair.innes@talk21.com Alasdair Smith 01786 834460 cotkerse.house@hotmail.co.uk, and they will provide a response.

Financial Review 2020

It will not come as a surprise to learn that 2020 was a financially difficult year for the Church as we came to terms with the various restrictions on movement and meetings imposed during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic - it was inevitable then that our Kirk's finances would be affected to some extent.

There has been a significant drop in donations due to the suspension of worship services, coffee mornings, other community activities and almost the total loss of annual income from hall rentals. The effect has however been slightly reduced by reductions in outgoings with lower returns expected from Logie towards our annual Ministries and Missions allocation during our current vacancy.

Lower costs for heating and lighting our premises have also helped along with the Kirk participating in the UK Government's Job Retention schemes - the salary grants from which allowed us to retain and pay our staff for most of the year.

With the lockdowns in place the process of initiating the search for a new Minister has also been held up and consequently the Kirk Session agreed mid-year, in consultation with the Church of Scotland General Trustees, to lease the Manse in Causewayhead for an initial period of up to six months – income from the let is held in Edinburgh and will be used by Logie for property and fabric purposes once we can resume some form of normality.

Congregational Giving for the year (including Gift Aid tax recovered from HMRC) was £63,045 a decrease of £14,288 over 2019. Expenditure from the Unrestricted General Fund was £62,866 compared to £95,038 in 2019. Within our restricted and designated funds income fell from £37,858 in 2019 to £9,788 in 2020 with expenditure also showing a decrease from £30,019 to £13,423. It is important to report that the regular giving by standing order remained fairly steady with reductions as a result of congregational deaths and transfers being offset in the main by members transferring their giving from our freewill offering scheme to regular monthly giving via various alternative banking options.

Less favourable performance in the financial markets over the year had its effect on the value of our non-bank deposit and investment holdings which were valued at £41,728. At 31 December our managed bank accounts held cash balances totalling £109,783 split over our three main accounting funds.

Looking ahead to the current year, we anticipate that we will face further reductions in income due to the continuing possibility of church closures and reduced congregational numbers due to social distancing measures. Despite the closure restrictions costs continue to be incurred – Heating, Lighting, Insurance, Administration, etc and most significantly our annual contribution to the Ministries and Mission Fund, currently set at the reduced level of £35,875 due to our vacancy. *(Logie under normal circumstances would have had our annual allocation to Edinburgh set at £47,000 for 2021).*



Church of Scotland World Mission Stamp Appeal



Many thanks to those who have left their collections of stamps at the Kirk. These will go to help the Women's Development Centre in Kandy, Sri Lanka which runs a project 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. Please keep collecting, each stamp can make a difference.

Cleaning the Kirk

When the Kirk was able to be open during lockdown, a small team of volunteers have attended between services to clean and sanitise the pews and other surfaces, as well as vacuuming the floor and dusting the window ledges. This was done in accordance with the Church of



Scotland guidance and the Scottish Government guidelines on the re-opening of places of worship.

Now that services have resumed on a regular weekly basis, a more permanent solution has been found by extending the contract of the Halls Cleaner Donald to include the Kirk. Many thanks to those members who have assisted with the cleaning over the past few months that has ensured the Kirk can safely be used for worship.

Presbytery Report

The reorganisation of Presbyteries was part of the Radical Action Plan accepted at the General Assembly of 2019 to reduce from 45 to 12 Presbyteries.

A transition team had been put in place to work out the reorganisation and reform bringing this to a meeting of the Presbyteries of Angus, Dunkeld & Meigle, Dundee, Perth, and Stirling in January 2021. We heard how the new Presbytery of Fife had come into being and gave us some idea of what was ahead of us.

In March we had a further 5 Presbyteries meeting to reflect on further issues arising from the January meeting to discuss the way forward and explore what the new structure for Basis of Union may look like with a focus on Mission. The hope was that it would lead to a proposal being submitted to 2021 General Assembly.

In April, the Business Convenor reported regarding the Union of Angus, Dunkeld & Meigle, Dundee, Perth and Stirling Presbyteries would be named Presbytery of Perth with the Office being in Perth. The time scale for this Union was to have it submitted at this year's General Assembly, unfortunately one Presbytery though approving the Basis of Union decided they require more detail to be finalised so a new timetable was agreed that the overture will now be submitted to the 2022 General Assembly.

The Stirling Presbytery approved a Basis of Union with Angus, Dunkeld & Meigle, Dundee, Perth, and Stirling at this meeting.

More information is expected from the General Assembly this month.

Hazel M Turnbull

Presbytery Elder



Property News

In the Kirk seating distribution is being managed to maximise the size of the congregation, prior to each service, based on booked numbers and in accordance with Church of Scotland and Scottish Government guidance.

To satisfy the latest legal requirements we are required to calculate and display our Physically Distanced Based Capacity. This is our maximum capacity within 2 metre social distancing rules. This will include the gallery, although current numbers attending weekly services do not require the re-opening of the gallery.

The annual church roof and steeple inspection is due to be carried out, and previously approved work in these areas will be started in the coming months.

Following a review by Stirling Presbytery of our updated risk assessment, weekly inspection record and a safety declaration, permission was granted to re-open the Halls, limited to main hall and disabled toilet only, on 26th April. An amended risk assessment will be submitted to Presbytery prior to re-opening the remaining areas.

A review of previously approved repairs to the outside of the Halls will be carried out



Twin Your Vaccine

Rev Liz Robertson,
Convenor of Stirling
Presbytery Church &
Global Society
Committee, has
asked that
congregations be

made aware of this initiative which will help fund UNICEF's mission to provide vaccines for use in the poorest countries as part of the COVAX programme.

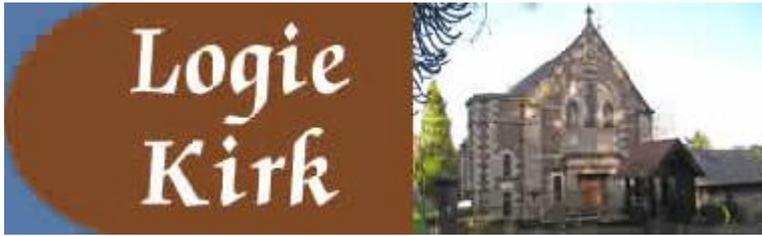


The fund raising programme, set up by Reverend Scott Paterson and his wife Rowan, enables those who have received a free NHS vaccination to make a donation, if they are able, to the United Nations Children's Charity that is aiming to vaccinate 2 billion people by the end of the year.

Further details can be found on their Just Giving webpage <https://rb.gy/6xfjcj>

Services at the Kirk

Services have resumed on a weekly basis on Sundays at 11.00am. The capacity of the Kirk remains limited due to social distancing requirements. If you would like to attend a service, **It is essential to book a place** by calling 07542 730493 as Test and Protect Scotland procedures are being followed.



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