



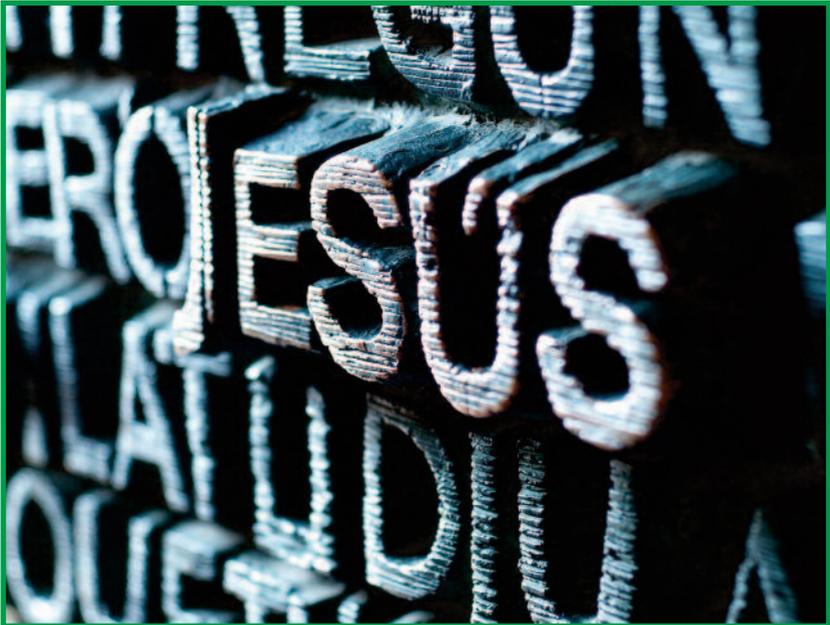
July 2020

Issue 248

Scottish Charity SC000785

GRAPEVINE

Mayfield Salisbury Parish (Edinburgh) Church of Scotland



MALAWI CALLS

LOCKDOWN LOG

MAF RESPONDS TO COVID-19

www.mayfieldsalisbury.org

LETTER FROM HELEN ALEXANDER

Dear Friends,

A few days ago I lost my face mask. Not just any old mask, but a bespoke model made for me by a zany friend out of a Union Jack. (Don't ask!) Not that you'd know that it had started as a flag: the colours are artistically combined in an abstract pattern. I was sure I had the mask when I left the car. When I got to the shop it was gone. I retraced my steps, eyes glued to the pavement and the gutter, looked carefully inside and underneath the car, returned to the shop and whiled away the time in the queue outside the door by working out what I'd say if (when?) I spied an inhabitant of Morningside with a nose-covering of red, white and blue. Later, as soon as I got into the car, there was my mask nestling coyly near the gear stick. The older one gets, the more one's possessions love to play and seek, don't you know?

Over the past twelve weeks or so masks, lost or found have been the least of it as we've all had to come to terms with the consequences of coronavirus for our lives. Some of us have rightly risked sorties from our homes while others have been trapped inside. Some have relished the change to a different, slower pace; others have become increasingly anxious as the hours and the days pass by all too slowly

and unproductively. Some long to get away while others worry about how it will be even to go a few miles. Some have become ill, or have worried that they will and all of us, no doubt have been concerned about other people. We all ask if and when we're going to get back to normal or what the nature of the 'new normal' will be?



This question also confronts us as church. Mayfield Salisbury is fortunate to have committed staff and office bearers who are taking this seriously, and I know we shall receive wise guidance in due course. Meantime, I want to pay tribute to all – staff and others - who have reached out to members of the congregation and the wider community with practical help, phone calls and messages of goodwill; who have kept singing, making music and art, working technological and computing wonders,



manning (literally!) the church office, organising and attending Zoom meetings for young and the not so young, and generally keeping us together. For my small part, it's a continuing privilege and pleasure to do what I can to provide as meaningful worship as possible week by week. I simply couldn't do this without William, Hillary, Kay, Kate, Walter, members of the Mayfield Salisbury Chamber Group, enthusiastic young people, their parents, teachers and readers from the congregation, and I sincerely

thank them all. We have come together in a way none of us could possibly have imagined before the arrival of Covid-19, and while none of us welcomed the virus, perhaps we can say that along with pretty well everything else in our world, it too has brought some opportunities for good.

With warm thoughts and very best wishes to you all

Helen
Locum Preacher

NEWS

The Church is very grateful to all those who give by standing order enabling us to maintain a large portion of our income through these difficult times. We now offer the ability to contribute to our work electronically through the 'give.net' facility which appears on the home page of the Church's website. This provides the possibility of adding Gift Aid to donations.

There is also a direct link to the new system which is: www.give.net/20311853

Please note: the publishing schedule for the forthcoming edition of *Grapevine* has altered from the usual pattern. Therefore, the deadline for next edition now **Friday 31 July at 6.00pm.**

The Mayfield Salisbury Covid-19 Taskgroup is working very hard behind the scenes to implement a safe and robust plan to reopen the church buildings. A more substantial update will be provided in the August edition so stay tuned! If you have any questions before then, please feel free to contact me in the first instance.

Online worship material (in PDF and a YouTube playlist) is published on the church website from 8.00am every Sunday morning. It will be available to view all week so you can access it at a time suitable to you.

ONLINE DONATIONS



Hugh Somerville, Free Will Offerings Treasurer

GRAPEVINE AND COVID-19 UPDATE

William Mearns
Church Manager
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ONLINE SERVICES

Over the past two months of lockdown, I've enjoyed continuing to meet virtually with many of our young people. Using the Zoom platform, I've been able to hold Youth Group on Sunday evenings for the P6 & P7 and S1 – S6 groups, a Youth Worship service on the last Sunday night of the month, Sunday School groups for our 9-11s and 12-16s and a weekly drop-in session for the S1-S6 group. I've been having fun recording children's messages for the Sunday services, and always look forward to creating some artwork to go along with the videos! I've also been updating the church website weekly with resources for our younger families to use at home.

Some of the more creative things we've done virtually as a Youth Group included an escape room, a Netflix watch party, a quiz night, and a game of Family Fortunes.

Although there has been much sadness caused by the cancellation of many events on our 'normal' schedule, it's been wonderful to continue connecting on Zoom with the young people, encouraging and supporting one another in our faith as we journey with God through this experience. We've been learning a lot about what it looks like to adapt to change when life isn't what we expected it to be. I think it's also been a growing edge for all of us as individuals, and as a community, showcasing just how vital relationships are to our health and wellbeing.

On 21 June, Kate and I worked together with the ministry team to create an online service with many young people contributing



to the music (instrumentally and vocally), scripture readings and artwork. It was a joy seeing everything come together so nicely on the morning; we have a multitude of talented and creative young people at Mayfield Salisbury, and we are so thankful that they are willing to share their gifts with us!

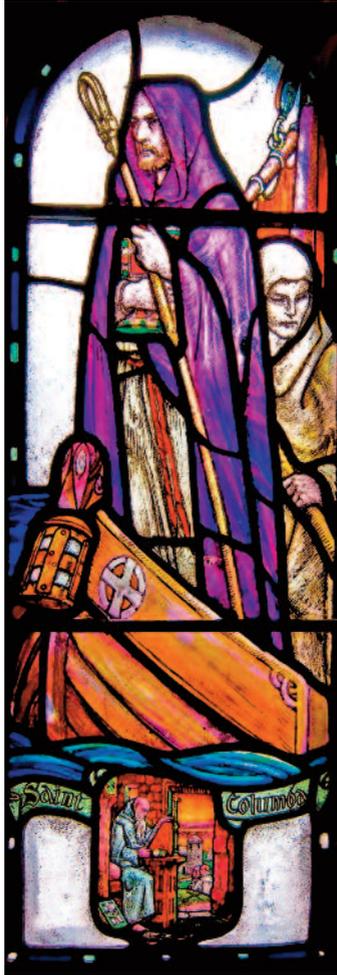
As the summer term begins, I'll have a few more opportunities for the youth to gather before we take a break mid-July. We're having our first youth 'book club' with the S1-S6 group, and I'm excited to see how it goes! We'll also be doing a few Sunday morning devotionals in July with the 12-16s, providing a space for prayer and reflection in lieu of our usual Breakfast Club gatherings.

I'm unsure what's in store for the upcoming autumn term, but regardless of when and how we can meet as a church and youth group, we will do our best to stay connected and continue pushing our creative edges to make the most out of a challenging situation!

TRINITY SUNDAY

St Matthew 28:19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

This year Trinity Sunday helpfully falls shortly before the church's annual commemoration of St Columba on 9 June. I say helpfully because it's a notoriously challenging Sunday on which to preach a sermon, all the more so without the protective option of standing six feet above contradiction in an actual pulpit! God in three persons, blessed Trinity. But today it's blessed St Columba who comes to the rescue, to mine and probably to yours too, just as he did in a sense all those centuries ago when he came to the rescue from across the sea and founded a monastery that became the heart of the early Scottish church and established Iona as an enduring symbol of Christianity in Scotland and far beyond. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.



St Columba stained glass window in St Margaret's Chapel, Edinburgh Castle.

Photo by A Ian Findlay. Licence CC BY-SA 2.0

Columba was a man of noble stock, and by right of birth he was fit to be chosen for the Kingship of his native Ireland. But he chose to serve a different sort of Kingdom and went on from his own monastic education to found a series of monasteries which brought new impetus and vigour to Irish Christianity dating back to the days of St Patrick himself. Columba means 'Dove', a symbol - appropriately enough a week after Pentecost - of the Holy Spirit, and it is clear that Columba need not have flown any further, for equally at home both in the noble houses and in the leading monasteries of his native land, he could have comfortably stayed put in whichever dovecot he chose. But in 565 or thereabouts Columba left Ireland with twelve companions and set sail for Iona. And there he remained, returning to Ireland only for occasional visits, until his death on 9

June 32 years later. From an account written a few centuries later, Columba emerges as a tall, striking figure of powerful build and impressive presence, who combined the skills of scholar, poet and abbot with a fearless commitment to the Gospel. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.



Iona Abbey Image by daisiem from Pixabay

Most of Columba's activity concerned the building of his monastery as a base for his missionary work, and the training of its members to carry out that same work; work which continues to this day thanks not least to the Iona Community founded by George Macleod shortly before the Second World War. This time of year reflects a wartime anniversary too, D Day, when we recall how on 6 June 1944 Allied troops famously and fearlessly landed on the beaches of Normandy, bracing themselves, perhaps not unlike Columba so many centuries before, to encounter a fierce and uncompromising foe. The beaches of Iona, captured in so many paintings by Scottish Colourists over the years, are much more tranquil, but nonetheless proved the setting for a dramatic turning-point in the life of our nation. For when Columba and his associates bravely landed their coracles on the golden sands of Iona, they too faced a potentially hostile reception and resistance

to the Gospel they were bringing with them. In the event they were able to travel widely through the ancient Celtic Kingdom of Dalriada from the base they quickly established on Iona. In years to come Viking raiders and Norse settlers would challenge and threaten the monastery and its monks, but through many a day of darkness it remained the place of calm and stillness that it still is to this day. 'Live in peace,' wrote St Paul in his concluding words to the Corinthians, 'and the God of love and peace will be with you.' Corinth was not naturally a peaceful place, but a busy, bustling melting-pot of a city where a multitude of competing ideas and philosophies, creeds and cultures vied with each other and threatened to distract and divide the early Christian communities struggling to establish themselves there. 'Live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you'. Today's Gospel reading reminds us of the concluding and equally reassuring words of Jesus himself. 'And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.' The disciples must have wondered exactly what lay ahead and

how on earth – literally - they would manage when Jesus had ascended to heaven. His promise to be with them always would help to focus their minds away from potential distractions and divisions as tentatively they set out to obey his commands.

It was George Macleod who described Iona as a ‘thin place’, a place where the gap between the physical world and the spiritual world, between earth and heaven, narrows to such an extent that they meet and merge. In a sense our online worship is about bridging just such a gap, bringing people of faith together whatever the distance between us; and not least on Trinity Sunday when Father, Son and Holy Spirit meet and merge and charge us like Columba before us to Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing

them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And remember, said Jesus, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

Let us pray:

Almighty God, who filled the heart of Columba with the joy of the Holy Spirit and with deep love for those in his care: may your pilgrim people follow him, strong in faith, sustained by hope, and one in the love that binds us to you; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

CHRISTIAN AID *Prayer Thoughts*

‘Let the field exult, and everything in it.’ Psalm 96:12

Give thanks for the labourers working in the fields across the world; for the women spending their days together planting, growing and selling organic vegetables in India.

Pray for provision and support for the farmers in Malawi, who worry that when the rains finally come they will submerge fields and crops, wiping out the harvest.

Pray for the people of India, Malawi and all the countries affected by poverty and injustice, who bear the widespread impact of Covid-19, often in addition to other



serious and underlying infections and diseases. Pray for all their government ministers, health services and community workers.

O God, where fields have fallen silent, let them exult again.

Amen

ASCENSION SUNDAY

Ephesians 1: 15 - 23

St Luke 24: 44 - 53

St Luke's imaginative capacity to translate theological truth into word-pictures didn't only produce the beautiful narratives of Jesus' birth at the beginning of his Gospel for it ends with the striking image of Christ's ascension into heaven. Luke repeated this at the beginning of the Book of Acts, his history of the early church, with embellishments to the story: the introduction of the cloud of God enveloping Jesus, after the manner of the ascension of the prophet Elijah recorded in the First Book of Kings; the appearance of two angelic-looking figures similar to those who appeared to the women in his empty tomb story; and setting the story in a different time frame: forty days after Resurrection Day rather than on the evening of that day which is where he puts it in his Gospel.

Throughout the ages, Luke's account of Christ's Ascension into heaven has produced many artistic representations in churches of the East and West. We've one close to home. The Ascension window in the South Transept of Mayfield Salisbury was the first to be installed in the church in 1899, followed in 1902 by the window beside it entitled the Kingdom of Heaven, depicting a kingly Christ seated in glory surrounded by angels and blessed representations of faithful humanity. The two windows form an insightful

partnership.

Pictures of a glorified Christ with a crown on his head and an orb and sceptre in his hands may appeal less to us than it did to people in the past. Ours is a more egalitarian age, in theory if not in practice. Nonetheless the invitation to 'Rejoice! the Lord is King' may still work especially for those who admire the Queen of the United Kingdom whose long life has been shaped by her acknowledgement of an ultimate authority that is of an altogether different order to her own.

Whatever we make of this, there's an interesting artistic tradition with regard to the Ascension which developed in the Middle Ages, whereby all you see of Christ as he ascends into heaven are his disappearing feet, while the astonished apostles gaze upwards. Some of these pictures with feet peeping quaintly below the hem of his robe have their comical side, perhaps reminding us that humour can be as helpful as sobriety in communicating truth, and sometimes more memorable.

It's impossible confidently to enter into the mind of past artists, but pictures of the disappearing feet make me think of the earthly ministry of Jesus in the dusty land of Palestine. Though he may have hitched

the odd ride on a donkey, it seems that mostly he used shanks's pony. In addition to this literal understanding of the importance of his feet, I suggest it's also justifiable to describe Jesus' mission as being 'grounded', to use a modern idiom. We might say that his feet were firmly 'on the floor': rooted to the earth, to the needs and deepest desires of the people he encountered; to their hunger for food and nourishment of soul; to their struggles in relationship, their hope of healing, their sorrows and their joys. We're told that Jesus prayed, not apparently as pious escapism but in such a way as to send him straight back to the messy reality of life. And in the end, far from tiptoeing around the greatest horror of his betrayal and death, he stepped right up to it in a manner of speaking, and was nailed on the cross by his feet and hands for his pains.



Ascension from a Bible moralisée, Flemish (Bruges), c. 1455-1460

disappearing feet also featured footprints left behind on the earth, embedded in it like ancient fossilized prints that have been discovered in our time.

A comparatively recent picture of the Ascension that highlights Christ's hands and feet was painted in 1958 by Salvador Dali. There's a huge amount in this painting, but one of the striking features is that the large feet are absolutely foreground, their soles coated in what looks like dust or grime, facing towards the viewer. No coy peeping toes here. Whatever else he's doing, Dali's Christ is undoubtedly taking the experience of his earthly toil with him on his journey.

Earlier artists seem to have developed this insight. From early in the Fifteenth Century a number of paintings of Christ's

While many in our day consider the Christian faith something of a fossil itself, this art is far from suggesting such a thing. Rather the imprint of the feet seem graphically to suggest that as well as our humanity's being raised to the highest value by Christ's having lived it – an essential meaning of the story of the Ascension - it is up to believers in any age to seek to live in the light of his life so that it doesn't disappear as if into the heavens but is practised again and again in the world: 'the Word of God became man, that thou mayest learn from man how man may become God' said Clement of Alexandria, whose life spanned the end of the first and

beginning of the second century, thus prompting us to overlook his exclusive language.

Clement is surely implying that it is for you and me to seek to walk in Christ's footsteps; to have 'the eyes of (our) heart enlightened' to adapt the rather lovely phrase of the writer to the Ephesians; to take to heart his teaching; to trust in providence, mercy and grace; to practice integrity and generosity of heart, and to support help for the poorest and healing

for sick bodies and minds.

We are likely to fail in this endeavour of course, certainly some of the time. We may fall on the road and suppose that our burdened feet will carry us no longer. It is then that in Christ's wounded feet we may glimpse something of his glory as well as his pain, and be encouraged to stand on our own feet again to keep the faith in practical as well as worshipful ways, if indeed the two can be separated.

LOCKDOWN LOG

Rosemary Currie

Rosemary Currie discusses the lockdown from both her and her husband's (Douglas) perspective.

Almost immediately we had to order an extra pint of milk as all teas, coffees, white sauces had to be made at home i.e. nine pints a week.

A steep learning curve was needed for me to cope with dealing online as most telephone access was cut. As we had 14 birthdays or anniversaries to mark between 26 March and 1 May, this was a trial!

In order to find any balances on my accounts, I had to go on to digital banking as I could no longer access telephone banking. PHEW!

My gift for a 60th birthday is marooned in a jewellers, and so I tried my old friend Flying Flowers. (I use the phone usually as coping with online ordering reduced me to a gibbering wreck) However across the



Lockdown glamour

screen came a scandalised comment 'we can't send potted plants to THAT address in Aviemore!' Giving in, I settled for a bouquet....

One day on my walk in Queens Crescent, I came upon Rosemary Gold, stalwart secretary of our Scout Troop, weeding her front garden. 'Oh, do come in. I have been



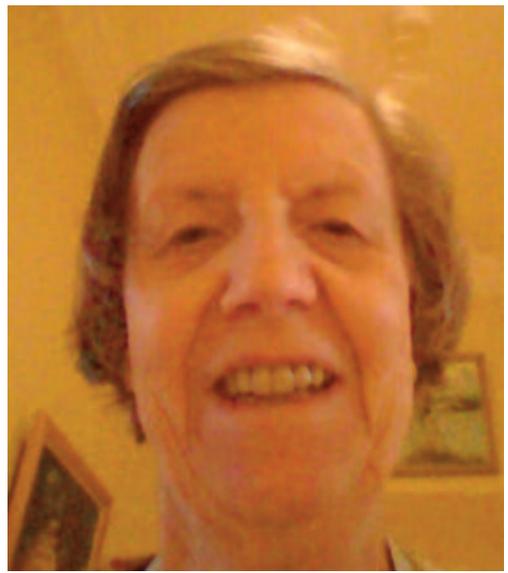
1944 hairstyle

working hard in the garden and I have nobody to show it to! A pleasant distanced tour followed. (The garden is gorgeous.)

Missing the grandchildren a lot, but stories abound. Visiting the ice cream shop in Peebles at present still involves going in to the premises. My daughter was surprised to hear, Jack, 5, asking the proprietor 'Is it all right if I bring my pet in?' At that point Judith realised that Jack was carrying a decidedly moribund fly very carefully on the back of his hand....

We have got through half a bar of Pears soap, a whole bar of Dettol soap, plus liquid soaps and several wipes in the bathroom, but in the kitchen, half a bar of Wright's coal tar kept on going, no sludge, no cracks, until 29 May!

Douglas's blister pack of medication was pretty late on delivery day. 'Trouble?' I asked. 'Dayfeyhell' was the reply.



Lockdown hairstyle

I found out that some locals have got stuck in America and can't get back. They went before Christmas to be there for the births of two grandchildren in January and February.

I usually have some help in the house but am having to manage alone on the whole. Douglas is finding it increasingly difficult to help, although he is amazing really. So one evening, I could not find my table napkin, and discovered later that I had ironed it along with the clean ones that week. 'Poor old thing, says D.'

This week as phase 2 came in, we can now have Judith and the wee ones to visit (she is a single Mum.) It was so good to see them and have hugs all round, but the noise level was shattering after so many quiet weeks. They came at 3.30pm and stayed for a meal, leaving at 6.30pm. That was on Friday. Did Saturday happen?

A pandemic is not limited to urban areas or to wealthy countries with good transport and effective health services. Remote communities in the less developed world also suffer. Using experience gained in the Ebola epidemic, MAF and its partners have sought to meet the essential needs of such communities in the countries where it operates, despite lockdown.



MAF's first coronavirus response flight on 28 March to Liberia
(Credit: MAF, Steven Biggs)

The following are brief descriptions of some emergency and regular services that are still being provided in various countries. More details can be found on the MAF website: www.maf-uk.org/news/coronavirus-world-news

South Sudan - On 11 April, coronavirus test kits were flown to Wau, 20 miles from Juba, and, later that month, food, cement and educational materials about Covid-19 were flown to the Ajuong Thok Refugee Camp, where Samaritan's Purse serves over 31,000 people.

Papua New Guinea - On 10 May, health workers, PPE and other medical supplies, including anti-venom, were flown to the health centre in the remote Morehead District.

Liberia - On 28 March, at the request of the Ministry of Health, MAF flew a medical team to remote Zwedru to test the country's first suspected Covid-19 patient. The test was negative.

Bangladesh - MAF hopes to fly supplies to Rohingya families in the largest refugee camp in the world at Cox's Bazar. Lockdown prevented this, but permission was given to evacuate staff from two partner organisations elsewhere in the country.

Timor-Leste - Numerous MAF flights have recently taken urgently needed equipment and educational materials about Covid-19 to remote Oecusse for Oxfam.

Lesotho - To support the rural health system, MAF is providing essential routine and emergency transport to and from isolated villages, whilst ensuring social distancing and hygienic procedures are adopted to avoid transmitting the virus to patients and staff.

Uganda - Although lock-down grounded many of MAF's planes, the Ugandan government gave MAF permission to fly emergency supplies to thousands of people displaced by flooding.

PASTORAL CARE

As I type this the government has just announced that families will be able to visit their loved ones in nursing homes at the end of this month. Good news indeed!

I bought plants and delivered them to all of our members in nursing homes this week. I did check with staff that the plants would be set aside and only passed on after time had passed for the virus to be gone. In doing so I heard a family being told that they would be given half an hour with their loved one in the garden and they were to make an appointment as there are 55 residents in that care home. I found myself wondering how I would feel in that situation either as a resident or as next of kin. Truly a challenging time for all involved and the staff too.

Some of our members have been making masks, scrubs and scrubs bags and I have been delivering them too. Our nursing homes now have enough but would like to thank you all for your generosity of time and for your kindness in responding to their need.

I am finding that many of our members are struggling with coming out of the lockdown and are sometimes needing a chum in that initial walk around the block observing a safe distance. Bodies are a little bit weaker and will need time to build up their muscles. It is comforting to have a walking chum.

We are still phoning and keeping in touch with you all. We are very fortunate to have



our team of pastoral visitors and five coordinators who are all making regular contact and helping in whatever way that they can. If we have missed anyone, please get in touch with me.

If we can be of any help to you then do not hesitate to contact me (kay@backedge.co.uk or 0790 326 6307) and we will work out a safe way in which to do so. If you would like to be remembered in prayer by the team please let me know.

Contact details for PV co-ordinators:

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Wendy Mathison

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Kay

Kay McIntosh, Pastoral Assistant.

MALAWI CALLS

Malawi is close to the heart of quite a number of the Mayfield Salisbury congregation and I thought you might be interested to hear how the Covid-19 pandemic is affecting Malawi and about the work being done in healthcare with support from Scotland and locally.

Borders were closed in April and quarantine instigated; schools and universities were closed; lockdown was attempted but proved impossible as communities live so closely together, led to riots and the Government had to backtrack. At first there were very few cases, but the number is growing and the peak is expected to hit this under-resourced country in July.

So what are the major challenges being faced? In a society where people live closely together, where commerce is largely in markets and where public transport is usually dangerously overcrowded, social distancing is difficult but has been nominally imposed at 1m as per WHO guidelines imposed. At Nkhoma Mission Hospital, with which I have been associated since 2013, the number of guardians is restricted, one way systems are in place, all patients and visitors are stopped as soon as they enter the gate, they have a temperature check and are asked about symptoms, with any who show respiratory signs being taken to a specially created isolation area. In some hospitals this is in a tent. This is clearly set out in the lovely little video sent in May from Dr Catherine Hodge who is at

Nkhoma as a missionary partner with the American charity 'In His Image' . (www.youtube.com/watch?v=yu99cILYzlk). It all sounds so sensible and what we might have done in Scotland in terms of isolation and infectious diseases hospitals 50-100+ years ago. No ventilators in Nkhoma for very sick patients, but oxygen can be available. What about PPE? There is a shortage, as everywhere else; many organisations and individuals have been trying to help procure masks, aprons, additional scrubs/suits and hand washing equipment, soap and hand sanitisers. Prices have shot up, but ingenuity is increasingly being used whether of local tailors making items to a set pattern or additional funds to allow for the increased purchase price. Again as here, it is not an easily solved problem when the whole world needs more PPE. If you are interested you can read a lot about all that is happening from Scotland



Handwashing at Ekwendeni outreach clinic

on the Scotland Malawi Partnership website, www.scotlandmalawipartnership.org Does the slow spread represent a different clinical response from Malawians to that seen in the UK or an inability to test, trace, record or see those who are very unwell? Whatever the reason, the numbers of cases are still low with 749 confirmed cases [as at 21 June] and 11 deaths. Unfortunately Malawi's re-run of the nullified Presidential election takes place on Tuesday 23 June and political gatherings have been allowed, bringing more people together than one would wish and an unknown impact.

MALSCOT

Many of you know that I have been involved in cervical cancer prevention in Malawi for a number of years, with my colleague Dr Christine Campbell from the University of Edinburgh. Our current project, MALSCOT, aims to increase the access to cervical screening and same day



PPE for MALSCOT clinic providers at Nkhoma

treatment across all Regions of Malawi, to increase the capacity of clinical providers (mainly nurses and midwives) and to train many of the providers to become mentors, thus allowing for a sustainable national programme when our funding ends in 2023. Our co-ordinator, Beatrice should have been in Edinburgh this May by special invitation to Covid-19 has prevented that. I hope you might meet her next year during the rescheduled conference.

Christine and I are proud that our team of committed clinic providers decided that cervical screening and treatment was too important to stop, due to the high proportion of early and late cancers that are found through screening and the benefits that come from treating small lesions on the same visit. In contrast, Scotland stopped all screening services when lockdown started. Of course there has been a drop in attendance as women worry about coming to hospital, but the providers have carried out more outreach clinics, going to women in their villages rather than vice versa. In addition to offering screening, providers are giving Covid-19 awareness and prevention education in these remote locations.

In our first programme in Nkhoma Mission Hospital and its surrounding health centres, over 20,000 women had their first ever screen and around 70% of those who could benefit, received treatment the same day. Now we operate in 7 hubs across the country and a further 17,000 have had their first screen and again a high proportion received same day



Socially distanced queue in a rural outreach setting

again a high proportion received same day treatment when needed. Despite restrictions due to Covid-19, 1700 women were screened in the month of April alone. This is an amazing outcome under difficult circumstances and of course, we hope the staff can continue to provide such an important service. We are trying to support them with increased funding for the most essential PPE which is often not available for them, particularly masks and aprons. If anyone would like to contribute to this programme, please contact me,

Heather@cubie-edinburgh.com in the first instance. We can send funds to Nkhoma through the good offices of the Church of Scotland but it needs to be clearly differentiated from other funds. I am also happy to talk further to any

individual or group who has an interest in Malawi.

The Scotland Malawi Mental Health Education Project

Covid-19 has had a big impact on the activities of Scotland Malawi Mental Health Education Project (SMMHEP). We are supported by the Scottish Government International Development Fund and also received a generous gift last year from the MS Salisbury Fund. A milestone was reached in 2019 when three Malawian doctors completed a four-year Mental Health training course, funded through SMMHEP, to become the first Malawian trained psychiatrists working in this country of 18 million people. A further four doctors are currently enrolled in the training. SMMHEP also continues

teach medical students in the College of Medicine in Blantyre.

However in March this was suddenly put on hold, undergraduate teaching at the College of Medicine was suspended, the impending visits of short term volunteers were cancelled and two long-term volunteers who had planned to spend up to a year in Blantyre, returned to UK before international flights were stopped. SMMHEP then arranged a special appeal through 'Just Giving' to raise funds for hygiene and protective provision in Zomba Mental Hospital where clinical work, of course, continues. People gave generously to this and SMMHEP keeps closely in touch with colleagues in Zomba.

Volunteers who returned abruptly to UK, have been able to seize this opportunity to complete the preparation of a handbook to support non-specialist healthcare workers in Malawi, who find themselves caring for people with mental disorders

for the first time in busy clinics at the district level. *MALAWI QUICK GUIDE TO MENTAL HEALTH* was launched at the beginning of June during a Zoomed event from Mzuzu Hospital in North Malawi. The guide prioritises mental disorders based on their level of burden, includes information leaflets for patients and carers in English and Chichewa, offers tips on how to ask assessment questions in Chichewa and, with SMMHEP funds, is now being freely distributed to every district clinic in Malawi.

It is uncertain when volunteers will be able to travel again. The most important thing now is to protect the training programmes that have been interrupted by the pandemic, to ensure that people in mid-course will graduate, albeit at a later date than originally planned.

Heather Cubie and
Douglas Blackwood

PROJECT TRUST

We recently received this very welcome letter from Eva Sigurdardottir, who spent seven months volunteering in Chile with Project Trust with support from the Shierlaw Fund. Unfortunately her intended one year placement had to be cut short because of Covid-19 but we were pleased to hear that in spite of this she found her time in Santiago worthwhile and rewarding. Eva writes:

In order to go to Chile, I raised £6200 by writing to charitable trusts, hosting fundraising events such as bake sales, cinema movie screenings, a ceilidh, and

part time work. The biggest donation came from the Shierlaw Fund, and thanks to this, I was able to spend the last seven months in Santiago, Chile working as a volunteer English teacher.

I lived with a Chilean family in Quilicura, one of the poorer areas of Santiago, and worked full time as an English teaching classroom assistant at Colegio Juan Luis Undurraga Anat from August 2019 to March 2020. I worked with children at risk, encouraging them to learn English

risk, encouraging them to learn English and to see the wider world of opportunities outside of the community they lived in. Initially, despite having studied Spanish throughout high school, I found that my Spanish was very different to the Chilean Spanish that was being spoken. However, I engaged myself and learned quickly, to the point where I can now confidently say that I am fluent.

Upon arrival, I and my Project Trust partner, Lucy, were told that one of us would have to help with the older half of the school – the ‘high school’ – and the other with the younger children. As I spoke more Spanish than Lucy, we decided that it was less nerve racking for me to work with the older children. Initially this was very scary, as I was not only working with 13/14 year olds, but also with children of ages up to 19 years old, which felt strange given that I was only seventeen. However, I quickly fell in love with the children and my job.

At first, it was clear that they were hesitant to open up, to welcome me into their lives, but as soon as they realised that I was no different to them, they began to reach out to me. I found that with my presence in the classrooms, the children felt more inspired and interested in learning English as they wanted to ask me questions and speak to me. They were all super interested in my story and how it was that I was in a completely different part of the

world, away from my family, working at this school. I heard so many stories from these children that were both heart-breaking and inspiring. Many were carers, had undergone teenage pregnancies, had been kicked out of their homes, were part of gangs, had lost multiple friends, or had families whose main income was from drugs. I woke up every day feeling like I had a purpose, like I would be able to make a difference in one of these children's lives, even if it was just giving them the space to speak and be heard. In this way, my year turned out to be about a lot more than just teaching English.

The seven months in Quilicura passed quickly, too quickly, and before I knew it Covid-19 had arrived and we were sent back to the UK. Not having been able to say goodbye to the children I worked with was really upsetting, but I hope to go back to Chile independently as soon as Coronavirus passes, and continue to volunteer whilst studying psychology with the Open University. I feel that I have found a second home as I completely adore the country and its people. I can honestly say that I have changed significantly during these months and I will forever treasure the impact it has had on me as an individual.

Thank you so much for your support and for making my placement possible,

Eva Sigurdardottir



BETHANY CARE VAN AND SHELTER

We're all familiar with the story of Mary and Joseph and their fruitless search for accommodation in Bethlehem all those centuries ago. The words of rejection, 'No room,' from the innkeeper have become part of our Christmas story repeated down the ages. Happily those words haven't been repeated to the homeless in Edinburgh during the Covid-19 crisis; since 16 April the Bethany Christian Trust has welcomed those without a place to 'stay home' into its Care Shelter in the Old Waverley Hotel on Princes Street. Not only has the Trust provided hot meals and a safe place to stay to 321 individuals but, in partnership with Edinburgh Council, has worked to move people quickly on to alternative accommodation. So far 278 individuals have moved into temporary accommodation or returned to their previous tenancy. This shelter will remain open until 15 July. Many of our regular volunteers from Mayfield Salisbury have generously donated food and money to Bethany for their work in the Care Shelter.

Throughout the lockdown, the Bethany Care Van has also continued its work of providing food to the most vulnerable people on Edinburgh's streets every evening and five lunchtimes a week. Whilst it hasn't been possible for many of our church volunteers to be part of the teams because of government restrictions, as a church we have still been able to play our part. Our scheduled runs in the van

have continued, thanks to the dedication of Daphne Green who has driven the van and a handful of volunteers 'of suitable age', several of whom Daphne has recruited to our teams and had officially approved by the Bethany Christian Trust. The Bethany team is very grateful to Social Bite for the provision of sandwiches which have helped to ensure the running of the lunchtime service and has also helped supplement the evening provision. Also, on behalf of the whole church, the Kirk Session has approved a substantial donation to Bethany's work in the city, especially at this time of crisis.

There is further good news from the Presbytery. Gorgie Dalry Stenhouse Parish Church (GDS), in whose building Diadem is located, have asked permission to raise £41,000 to upgrade the kitchen to equip it to cook meals for large numbers, The Presbytery has agreed as long as Bethany commit to supporting the Diadem Centre in the medium to long term. The GDS church has already given much investment to Diadem and it is excellent that they are keen to continue in this way.

Finally, I'd like to pass on to you all a massive thank you from the Bethany Team who greatly appreciate the donations, volunteering and prayers of all who support them in their work.

Tricia Stevenson



Climate and Covid-19

'Unprecedented' 'We're all in this together'
Words heard frequently relating to the pandemic but equally applicable to the climate emergency. No one is suggesting that the solution to global warming is a global infection which has cost hundreds of thousands of lives and devastated the livelihoods of hundreds of millions. Nevertheless various aspects of the pandemic have had positive effects which are immediate and obvious, notably the reduction in travelling, particularly by air, and electronic communication for both social and business purposes. It is to be hoped that these benefits might continue when we reach the 'new normal'. Tackling the virus has shown that large scale cooperation and behaviour change can happen at a scale and pace many would have doubted possible. Similar changes at individual, local and national levels need to be applied to climate issues.

Eco-Congregation Scotland and Scottish Coasts

Courtesy of Zoom, we took part in Eco-Congregation Scotland's AGM. This included a lecture by Esther Brookes, Marine Policy and Engagement Officer with Scottish Environment Link, on Scotland's Seas, 2020 being the Year of Coasts and Water. There are more than 40,000 marine species in Scottish waters, making it a key area for marine distribution. Marine industries are economically important, seafood being Scotland's second largest export. With our waters having the largest population of whales in Europe, associated tourism nets £411 million annually. In addition, 25% of Europe's renewable energy is contained in Scotland's waters. However, the condition of our waters is not good.

All sharks and rays are either threatened or decreasing; the number of kittiwakes has been reduced to half and seals have decreased by up to 83%. The outlook is poor with seas being further depleted by either climate change or fishing. To rectify this, political will, scientific monitoring and public awareness are all needed. On the positive side, the First Minister signed, along with other world leaders, The Global Climate Energy Declaration in 2019. Various areas are of particular importance: impact on fisheries; increasing Scottish sea levels and temperature; and decreasing sea pH which has a serious effect on shellfish, impacting on their ability to retain and metabolise calcium.

Eco-tips

We hope you have been appreciating the Eco-tips included in each week's intimations for the past four months. We are discontinuing these for the time being, but all the tips published since February are available to read on the website. Follow the Eco Action link. Let's finish with a few practical examples of the 3Rs – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle - for us all to think about. Consider beeswax wrappers rather than clingfilm. Consider shampoo bars rather than bottles (200 million shampoo bottles per year in the UK). Avoid small plastic toys and cellophane wrapped sweets. Think before buying new clothes (the textile industry is the second largest polluter in the world). Let's make a difference.

Links

www.scotlink.org

www.environment.gov.scot

www.bbc.co.uk/ideas/videos/can-fashion-ever-be-sustainable/p07n7630

MID-WEEK AFTERNOON SERVICES

Greetings to our regular congregation who, over the years, gather together to enjoy the reassurance of short less-formal afternoons arranged every second month from March to November, incorporating worship and sharing the company of friends around the tables.

Of course, in mid-May we were unable to meet and as the next Afternoon Service date in our diaries approaches we are all aware that we will again be denied that pleasure of being together in the familiar Bill McDonald Hall in July.

However we will be thinking of each other on Tuesday 7 July and especially those who have been in their own company over this strange lock down period since March when any home visits and gatherings in church buildings have not been permitted.

In this edition of *Grapevine* we especially address those who have not had the privilege of sharing 'togetherness' in the weekly worship on-line via internet links. So, we thought you might appreciate reminiscing on our Summer Afternoon Service in July last year. You might remember that we gathered in good numbers and prayed for families, friends and neighbours who at that time were away on their summer holidays. After the Scripture readings (Galations 6: 1 – 6 and Luke 10: 1 – 11) and a short Reflection on the readings, we paused in silence to listen to sounds of the seashore recorded on the Island of Colonsay. We were surrounded by summer flowers on the tables and the tablecloths and matching napkins were decorated with wild flowers, too.

How appropriate it was to sing Hymn 181:



**For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies...**

This summer we have had time to watch spring turn to mid-summer and the light evenings stretch until very late. Our City is beautiful and the gardens around us have looked extra-colourful this year with the blessing of much sunny weather. Some of us have especially enjoyed local walks each day appreciating friendly smiles from passers-by, and with the lack of traffic, hearing all the birdsong which brings such joy. We have also seen so many loving acts of kindnesses from others during this time, haven't we ?

**'We are pilgrims on a journey,
and companions on the road. We
are here to help each other walk
the mile and bear the load'**

Richard Gillard

Looking forward to coming together again whenever that might be.

The Afternoon Service Team

28TH BRAID SCOUT TROOP



For two months we have been running very successful Virtual Troop Meetings using Zoom. Meetings typically start with patrols going to break-out rooms where a Leader will run an activity which can range across a skill, a challenge or fun. Examples include cooking, growing vegetables in the garden, science experiments, puzzles, magic tricks, observation, scouting skills and making ice cream in ziplock bags. Following the bases, the patrols return to the main room for activities that have included a popular game from camp, talks on health & wellbeing and quizzes. We have also had talks from two former 28th Scouts – the first being Ron Dempster who is a Senior Engineer with Network Rail and has to assess damage to bridges due to, for instance, lorries crashing into them or landslides. He has to use his climbing and abseiling skills first learned as a Scout. The second talk came from Professor

Alastair Edge who is a researcher in Extra-Galactical Astronomy at Durham University. He told the Scouts about his global travels and gave us a quick tour of the galaxy.

The Virtual Troop Meetings have been exceptionally well attended and I have been fortunate in having the support of my outstanding leader team in delivering the range of learning and fun activities. Looking forward to Friday evenings and getting into uniform at least gives a partial return to normality for the Scouts.

Alan Dickson
Scout Leader



Headquarters:
Mayfield Salisbury Church,
Edinburgh
Scottish Charity No SC006141

CHRISTIAN AID

The Christian Aid Committee

Thank you again to everyone who donated to the Christian Aid Week and Covid-19 appeals.

Sally Foster-Fulton, Head of Team at Christian Aid Scotland, writes:

At a time when we couldn't go anywhere, you found ways to reach out to our global neighbours near and far. Covid-19 affects us all, but love unites us. We continue to look to you for ways to fund our work.

As we live through one of the most challenging

times in living memory, thank you for not forgetting that this pandemic, painful as it is for us, will be devastating for those already living in poverty. It will have a huge impact on livelihoods, personal safety and health. Christian Aid is already working with our partners to support vulnerable communities now and to design sustainable solutions with them for the future.

We will always find ways to stand, speak out and act together for a more equal world for everyone.'

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

July

- Sunday 5 Online Worship: The Fourth Sunday after Trinity
Sunday 12 Online Worship: The Fifth Sunday after Trinity
Sunday 19 Online Worship: The Sixth Sunday after Trinity
Sunday 26 Online Worship: The Seventh Sunday after Trinity

August

- Sunday 2 Online Worship: The Eighth Sunday after Trinity
Sunday 9 Online Worship: The Ninth Sunday after Trinity

Online worship material (in PDF and a YouTube playlist) is published on the church website from 8.00am every Sunday morning. It will be available to view all week so you can access it at a time suitable to you.

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Death

Anna Anderson

Eleanor Borthwick

THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

July 2	II Chronicles 35,36 / Luke 1: 39-80	July 21	Job 5,6 / Luke 15
July 3	Ezra 1,2 / Luke 2	July 22	Job 7,8 / Psalms 81,82
July 4	Ezra 3,4 / Luke 3	July 23	Job 9,10 / Luke 16
July 5	Ezra 5,6 / Psalm 77	July 24	Job 11,12 / Luke 17
July 6	Ezra 7,8 / Luke 4	July 25	Job 13,14 / Luke 18
July 7	Ezra 9,10 / Luke 5	July 26	Job 15-17 / Psalms 83,84
July 8	Nehemiah 1,2 / Psalm 78: 1-37	July 27	Job 18,19 / Luke 19
July 9	Nehemiah 3,4 / Luke 6	July 28	Job 20,21 / Luke 20
July 10	Nehemiah 5,6 / Luke 7	July 29	Job 22,23 / Psalm 85
July 11	Nehemiah 7,8 / Luke 8	July 30	Job 24-26 / Luke 21
July 12	Nehemiah 9,10 / Psalm 78: 38-72	July 31	Job 27,28 / Luke 22
July 13	Nehemiah 11,12 / Luke 9	Aug. 1	Job 29,30 / Luke 23
July 14	Nehemiah 13 / Luke 10	Aug. 2	Job 31,32 / Psalms 86,87
July 15	Esther 1-3 / Psalm 79	Aug. 3	Job 33,34 / Luke 24
July 16	Esther 4,5 / Luke 11	Aug. 4	Job 35,36 / Philippians 1
July 17	Esther 6,7 / Luke 12	Aug. 5	Job 37,38 / Psalm 88
July 18	Esther 8-10 / Luke 13	Aug. 6	Job 39,40 / Philippians 2
July 19	Job 1,2 / Psalm 80	Aug. 7	Job 41,42 / Philippians 3
July 20	Job 3,4 / Luke 14	Aug. 8	Proverbs 1,2 / Philippians 4

MAYFIELD MILERS UPCOMING WALKS

CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

WHO'S WHO IN MAYFIELD SALISBURY

Mayfield Salisbury Parish (Edinburgh) Church of Scotland Scottish Charity Number SC000785	Interim Moderator Revd Neil N. Gardner	ngardner@churchofscotland.org.uk	0131 556 3515
	Locum Preacher Revd Helen Alexander	HAlexander@churchofscotland.org.uk	0131 346 0685
	Pastoral Assistant Kay McIntosh DCS	kay@backedge.co.uk	0790 326 6307
	Youth Worker Hillary Leslie	Hillary.MayfieldYouth@gmail.com	0745 372 2224
	Church Manager William Mearns	churchmanager@googlemail.com	0780 801 1234
	Organist Kate Pearson	kate.q.kate@gmail.com	0744 238 2296
	Session Clerk Charles Garland	charles.edin@gmail.com	0776 290 8343
	Treasurer John Graham	culkein@btinternet.com	0131 667 6331
	Gift Aid Donations & Roll Keeper Hugh Somerville	hs.somerville2@gmail.com	0131 466 2446

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Pastoral Care

For Home or Hospital visits,
contact the Pastoral Assistant.

Mayfield Radio

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0131 667 7742

Grapevine Submissions

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churchmanager@googlemail.com

Grapevine Distribution

Kirstine Baxter 0754 991 3813
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Give.net

Secure online donations www.give.net/20311853

Staff Days Off

Pastoral Assistant: Friday & Saturday
Youth Worker: Friday & Saturday
Manager: Monday PM & Friday

Social Media



www.facebook.com/MayfieldSalisbury



www.youtube.com/user/MayfieldSalisbChurch



www.flickr.com/photos/98063709@N06/



www.mayfieldsalisbury.org



Print Run 2: 70:140

Copy date for next issue: 6.00pm on **Friday 31 July**

