

# OUTREACH

RENFREW NORTH PARISH CHURCH

2020 – summer edition

[renfrewnorth.org.uk](http://renfrewnorth.org.uk)

## Dear Friends,

At the time of the Spring edition of Outreach, we were journeying through the Christian year, and were part way through the season of Lent. Towards the end of March it was clear that the coronavirus was going to have a major impact on our lives, and the imposition of "lockdown" meant that we weren't able to celebrate Easter within our church building. Who knew that the journey we were following was going to introduce us to some new vocabulary? We have learnt phrases such as "lockdown," "social-distancing" and "self-isolation."

As time has gone on, we have adapted to some changes in life, such as spending a lot of time in our houses or gardens, not being able to meet up with friends and even family, as well as working from home and taking part in a weekly Thursday evening event of "clapping for carers." We have been trying to get used to the "new normal."

Sadly, as that particular journey has unfolded, we have had to say goodbye to some friends and family, and we have nursed family members through illness and challenging times. It has



been a journey which has had more than its fair share of difficulties.

When we look at the lives of some of our journeying biblical friends, we can see that journeying was often fraught with difficulties, challenges and changes. There was Moses and his 40 year journey with the escapees from Egypt, Abraham and his encounters with various kings, there was the time of exile in

Babylon, and even Jesus' travels around Galilee were not without argument, attack or trauma. Journeying is often better with a friend or companion. Through the pits of despair or the mountains of exhilaration, a friend can help us to see some perspective or pull us through a challenge. Choices and change can often be better managed with a friend or loved one.

What better friend to have than the Son of the creator of the world. Jesus has been through it all: humour and relaxation with friends and family, persecution, betrayal, death of friends, as well as isolation and sadness.

With Jesus travelling with us through this time of the coronavirus, with all of the changes that it has brought, we are encouraged and strengthened, and Jesus will guide us as we tackle the future together, attempting to discern a new way forwards and possibly a new way of being church.

Every blessing

*Philip*

## Centenarian

Mrs Violet Livingstone, known to friends as Vi, celebrated her 100th Birthday on 1st May 2020. This was to be quite a celebration, however, due to the lockdown the 100th birthday celebrations had to be scaled down while the inside of the Care Home was closed to visitors, but the staff made a huge effort to mark Vi's special day in the best way possible.

Vi came to Renfrew in 1951 with her husband Bill who worked at Renfrew Airport. After joining Renfrew North Church, their three sons Glenn, Colin and David went through Lifeboys and Boys Brigade. Since becoming a resident of Renfrew Care Home in 2015, Vi has had many visits from family living locally and in other parts of the UK as well as relatives from Canada and USA.

The family were delighted that she received a card from HM the Queen as well as one from the Prime Minister of Canada, Justin Trudeau, and many, many others from family and friends. These are photos with Vi holding her cards and one with two of her sons, David and Colin, keeping their distance as instructed.

Everything went as well as it could on



such a restricted basis. Originally her son Glen and family, who live in Canada and USA were planning to join Vi on this very special day, but during the day they made contact via the internet.

On behalf of Vi's family I would like to convey our thanks to you and the church for all your support.

*Colin Livingstone*

## Potential Church Dates

### July

5	10:00	.....Morning Worship
12	10:00	.....Morning Worship
19	10:00	.....Morning Worship
26	10:00	.....Morning Worship

### August

2	10:00	.....Morning Worship
9	10:00	.....Morning Worship
16	10:00	.....Morning Worship
23	10:00	.....Morning Worship
30	10:00	.....Morning Worship

### September

6	11:15	.....Morning Worship, start of Junior Church
13	11:15	.....Sacrament of Holy Communion
20	11:15	.....Morning Worship
27	11:15	.....Morning Worship

### October

4	11:15	.....Morning Worship
11	11:15	.....Morning Worship
18	11:15	.....Morning Worship
25	11:15	.....Morning Worship

**Congregational Board** Wed 2 Sept at 7pm  
**Kirk Session** Wed 7 Oct at 7pm

(Please note: These dates, details and times may be subject to adjustment)

## Editorial

This is the first edition of Outreach to be produced since activities within the church buildings of Renfrew North were stopped on account of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The buildings have closed, but there has been a considerable amount of activity amongst the community of Renfrew North Parish Church. This edition of Outreach hopes to show you some of what's been going on and what continues to be your opportunities to participate in the life and worship of your church!

You will find some descriptions and photos of what organisations, Junior Church and folks have been doing since the lockdown when we haven't been meeting face-to-face as a church community. There is also a list of ways in which you can participate in the ongoing life and worship of Renfrew North and also share in the life and worship of the wider church. Here are some of the opportunities available to each and every one of us:

## Renfrew North Email Newsletter

As in the past few weeks, there will be a Renfrew North newsletter going out on Sunday mornings, around 10am. If you would be interested in receiving it, you can sign up to do so with this link [renfrewnorth.org.uk/newsletter/](http://renfrewnorth.org.uk/newsletter/)

## Junior Church

Innes Mackay made this comic book version of the Easter story. Well done Innes! Sofia Mackay and her friend have been wearing their highland dance outfits to dance outside their homes as everyone clapped in support of NHS, Care and Key workers on Thursday evenings. You have put your talent to a real good use girls! Rhys and Hayley Carlton made beautiful Fairy Gardens. They look magical! Well done. Kyle McLaren and a shy person have been baking.....mmmm! Was that you Fraser Simpson?

Kyle also made an Easter card for his Granny and sends a hello to all his friends whom he is missing a lot just now. Gregor Simpson has drawn lovely colourful bird pictures. They are amazing, Gregor! Sean Kerrigan has been busy in the garden.....cutting the grass and setting up a new fire pit. That wasn't your fire pit Hayley



Emma and Julia have set up their home restaurant business called 'Around the World'. The cuisine is international and freshly prepared and cooked on the premises by the girls themselves! Fantastic! Do you do takeaways?

## Renfrew North Online

Renfrew North's online presence continues during this current pandemic - a prayer, reflection or song is appearing every couple of days or so on the church Facebook page, which can be accessed via Facebook (if you have it as an app), or directly via the internet on: <https://www.facebook.com/renfrewnorth>

## Renfrew North OnCall

We will be broadcasting a podcast, which is similar to our videos on the internet, but also through the church's telephone system. **Members can dial in** to the church number at **0141 530 1308** and can listen along to the recording. This is a great development for folk within our church community who have no internet access! Please, if you are aware of anyone who could benefit from this, share this information with them!

## A Message every Sunday from Rev Philip Wallace

This is available after 9.00 am on every Sunday on Facebook and also via the Church Website [www.renfrewnorth.org.uk](http://www.renfrewnorth.org.uk)

## Broadcast Television

BBC One Scotland's 'Reflections from the Quay' is normally scheduled from 11.15 to 11.45 am, each Sunday morning.

## Church of Scotland Online

Also, other reflections, prayers, thoughts and other church services available online, etc are available via the Church of Scotland website [www.churchofscotland.org.uk/](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/)

Specifically, you are invited to join together with other Scottish Christians in prayer on Sunday evenings at 7pm. Each week's reflection and prayer can be found by visiting the Church of Scotland website.

## Junior Letters



and Rhys toasted their marshmallows on, was it Sean? Eden Jones captured the hilarious pillar box at Wright Street wearing a rainbow tammy! **Have you seen it?**



...I have been doing family bike rides. We also went for a big walk through the woods and saw some deer. We walked around the Clyde Walk for my Dad's birthday. It was fun! Rhys and I climbed trees and threw stones into the water. I have also been doing dancing on Zoom and practicing my gymnastics. Rhys has been practicing his football too in the garden. I'm missing all my friends and family. I can't wait till this is all over. **Hayley**

Hello Everyone, Me and my brother are staying at my Granny's with my mummy because of the corona virus. My Granny has a big garden. My Granny's garden has lots of toys. My favourite thing to play with are the 2 swings, the 2 slides and the space hoppers. My granny helps me with my school work and my mummy helps Harley with his nursery work. We also go out on our bikes and scooters. I like to walk to the post box with the rainbow hat. On Sunday, it is my Granny's birthday. Hope to see you all soon. **Eden**

Sophie Henderson was inspired to draw a picture of hearts and angel wings. The hearts represent the love we have for our NHS workers, and the wings represent all the angles surrounding them with love. Beautiful!

Her mum thought so too and sent it to the RAH Covid group where it was so well liked that they asked to have it and it now hangs, framed, in the staff Wellness Centre. Well done Sophie!

*Aileen Winch*

...I have been dancing for everyone in the street on Thursdays at 8pm when we all clap for NHS and Keyworkers. Yesterday I as in the Renfrew Gazette! I have been having movie nights over the fence with my neighbours Holly and Gregor and Innes. My dad puts the TV outside. We have watched The Incredibles and loads more! We have popcorn and loads more treats. We have been having loads of birds in our garden. I hope we can come back to Junior church soon. **Love from Sofia**

.....We made scones to celebrate VE day and ate them in the garden. I have been drawing superheroes to keep busy. On Saturday 23rd May it is my birthday and I will be ten. I am sad that I won't see my friends so we are going to have a virtual party on Zoom. We are going to put McDonalds on my friends' doorsteps and eat at the same time! I am missing my friends from school and Junior Church and hope that Ice Cream Sundays is on over the summer. Keep Well. **Innes**



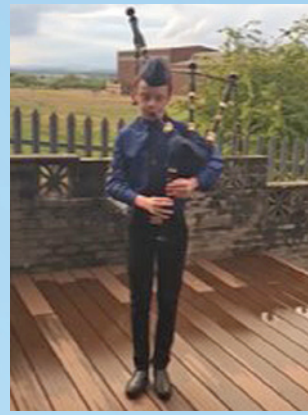
## Boys' Brigade

The 1st/3rd Renfrew had been going at such a pace this session, with new programme material in the Anchors and Juniors and a new structure of programme in the Company Section.

Juniors and Company Section had been taking part in competitions, with our Company Section winning the Paisley & District Battalion Championship prior to everything coming to a halt.

Our Juniors have been confirmed finishing in 3rd place in their Championship, although with one competition to go, the table has been declared final. **Well Done** to both sections. We had been preparing for our Annual Display and Prizegiving in the weeks prior to the brakes being put on, with boys working hard in all sections. We had three senior boys about to attend the Completion Course for the Queen's Badge, with so much more going on, including around 30 boys and 6 staff should have been heading off to their Activity Weekend Camp to Hexham at the end of March.

However, the B.B. nationally adapted very quickly by putting a lot of the programme material online, launching **BBatHome**, providing lots of activities and programme material that boys and other young people across families can take part in. These are updated each week on the BB Website, to



which I have been sharing the links to all our parents and carers. The BB nationally has also had a **'BB's got Talent'** competition, an Art Competition is currently underway and the **Great BB Bake Off** has just been launched. All links are being shared through our social media channels.

Of course, as a nation we have been 'Clapping for our Carers and Keyworkers' each Thursday evening at 8pm, during this time we have got boys to take part in uniform, some even playing bagpipes to support.

At this time, I'd like to thank all our Officers, Helpers, and all others who have helped make this session a success. It is very unfortunate that the session has ended so suddenly, but we can look forward to next session when hopefully we can meet together in some form or other, even though it may not initially be as a full Company.

ly is our current intention to get the session up and running at the end of August as per normal, however with an online programme and badgework. We will be able to meet in small groups for certain activities, depending on the governmental and Boys' Brigade guidance information.

Our staff will be meeting soon (virtually of course!) to put together our plan for the start of next session. We will arrange our prizegiving at the earliest opportunity to celebrate the achievements of last session and we will let you know what's happening with our camp.

Please keep safe and keep well!

*Andrew Scott*

BB Captain

## Lockdown Loungers



Our lockdown loungers have been given opportunities to journal in their youth bibles and have been encouraged to participate in the walking together programme as part of daily exercise as well as play bible card games. As you can see, they've now begun meeting together on Zoom!

## Oberammergau



It's now almost exactly 10 years since Renfrew North had a trip to the Oberammergau Passion Play, which is run every 10 years. Here is the official photograph of everyone who attended. Unfortunately, owing to the Coronavirus Pandemic, the play for 2020 has been postponed to 2022.

For comparison to our current situation, it is interesting to note that in 1633 the villagers of Oberammergau vowed that if God spared them from the bubonic plague which was widespread in Bavaria, they would perform a play every 10 years depicting the life and death of Jesus. Nobody died of plague in Oberammergau after that vow, and the villagers kept their word to God by performing the passion play every 10 years.

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# Register

## Deaths

Roll No	Name	District	Date
744	Mrs J MacIntosh	42	13 Apr 20
445	Mr F Speed	42	15 Apr 20
22	Mrs D Stirling	42	21 May 20



## The Guild in lockdown

Last session we had to finish prior to our AGM which will be held at the beginning of the new session.

During this time of lockdown, Maureen our president has been keeping in touch with the ladies by phone and everyone seems to be coping with 'shielding'.

This is normally our closed session, with just our outing taking place, but this of course was cancelled. Nevertheless, there has been plenty of activity even although we are not meeting!

A group of ladies have been busy sewing scrub bags for the hospital, while others have been making masks as it looks as though they will be required when shopping.

Knitting-pins have been busy making blankets for charity; also baby hats and jackets for the premature baby unit.

Some of us are being optimistic and making toys and goods for the Christmas Fayre. Nan Hill has been an inspiration here! At 98yrs of age she is busy knitting gifts for the soft goods stall.

This week we are all beginning to look forward as we hear about plans to lift lockdown restrictions gradually. This means we can start looking forward and hopefully plan for next session beginning in October even if it means in a 'New Normal' fashion.

This is giving us something to aim for when, hopefully, we will be able to meet and share fellowship. In the meantime – **“Everyone Take Care !”**

*Cathie Cameron*

Secretary

## Sheila's prayer

Heavenly Father, we bring to you those known to us who have been bereaved. May we as a congregation reach out to them in different ways- a card, a letter, a text, a phone call or a prayer. May they feel the warmth of our love overflowing out to them. We pray that in this period of isolation they will not feel isolated from you. Comfort and strengthen those who face such difficult situations where they are deprived of the physical comfort and contact of their family, friends, neighbours and church congregation. May we shine your light on them in their darkness.

*Sheila Love*

AMEN

# Who's Who

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## Potential Plate Duties (if we're back together by then)

**Jul 19, Sep 13, Nov 8 - Leader: Cameron Jeffrey,** Lesley Dargo, Charles Hamilton, David Henderson, Stuart Irving, Gill McKay, Linda Smith

**Jul 26, Sep 20, Nov 15 - Leader: Annette Russell,** Catherine Adamson, Rena Bradley, Elizabeth Bruce, Jim Bruce, Alistair Corkindale, Ellen Strachan

**Jun 7, Aug 2, Sep 27, Nov 22 - Leader: Margaret Cumming,** Jim Bain, Fiona Hendrie, Scott Jeffrey, Lesley McFarlane, Rhona McNeil, Lesley Smith

**Jun 14, Aug 9, Oct 4, Nov 29 - Leader: Scott Mitchell,** Evelyn Brown, John Buchan, Mary Dempster, Vicki Gerrard, Eric Smyth, Andrew Scott, Aileen Winch, Jack Winch

**Jun 21, Aug 16, Oct 11, Dec 6 - Leader: Brian Donaldson,** Alan Canavan, Adam Louttit, Campbell McGregor, Charlie Newlands, June Newlands, Sheryl Pickering, Marion Wallace

**Jun 28, Aug 23, Oct 18, Dec 13 - Leader: Eleanor Burns,** Christine Barr, Marion Henderson, Sheila Love, Bob Parker, Betty Wilson, Valerie Wilson

**Jul 5, Aug 30, Oct 25, Dec 20 - Leader: Stewart Gilchrist,** Alison Gerrard, Aileen Mitchell, David Mitchell, Gordon Simpson, Linda Simpson, May Stevenson

**Jul 12, Sep 6, Nov 1, Dec 27 - Leader: Gordon Ferguson,** Jacqueline Boyd, Marian Ferguson, David Kerr, Sandra Kerr, Jim McNeil, Marion Weir

*(Christmas Eve Duty Group Leader: Cameron Jeffrey)*



## Helping during COVID-19

During the lockdown due to the Covid19, many of you have no doubt been busy helping in some way others. Here are some photos of how some of our church members have been helping. This includes cotton drawstring bags for NHS staff and care staff in nursing homes to pop in their uniforms at the end of shift and then pop the bag into the washing machine when they get home. Joan, Vice Chair of Paisley Patchers, where members and herself have been busy making heart shaped cover cushions for post mastectomy pillows for Maggie centre and Accord Outreach based in R. A. H. Also 'blankets of love' for Neo-natal babies and scrub caps for NHS staff. Aileen has been making gowns for GP surgeries. Nan, 98 years of age, loves knitting and sewing. She has knitted teddies for Police Scotland and, hats for premature babies and toys for the North Church fete hoping at Christmas.

.....Joyce is still knitting prem baby jackets and hats using up all her wool left over from knitting for her grandsons..... Molly has got her grow bags and is eagerly awaiting her ordered tomato plants. She has also been delighted to receive surprise food parcels weekly, organised by a neighbour..... Eleanor's broken arm is getting better as she follows the exercise sheet sent by the hospital in place of physio and has had the courage to venture out for walking exercise. Amazing how we're all learning to adapt to the circumstances!

Margaret says... "Imagine the scene my kitchen, laptop on the table ready to go. First off Zumba for beginners - a 10 minute exercise. I then go on to a 20 minute work out for seniors which leaves me wabbit !!!!! All this because I have managed to get through 9 paperbacks, daily crosswords in my newspaper and now on to jigsaws - all done sitting down !!!! Have to try and keep fit in isolation..." **What have you been up to?**

Articles for Autumn 2020 Outreach should be sent to: [editor@renfrewnorth.org.uk](mailto:editor@renfrewnorth.org.uk) (or for those without access to a computer, please place articles in the 'Church Office postbox', marked 'Outreach'), by Sunday 26 July 2020.