



Easter

SUNDAY, APRIL 4th, 2021

Easter Greeting, Friends!

I hope this newsletter finds you healthy and in good spirits. As the sun increases the light in our lives, hope becomes more clearly visible. Like you, we look forward to the days when Covid restrictions ease completely and everyone can get back to enjoying days filled with family and friends. I personally look forward to when our families can travel again, so I can see my mom in Texas. As we wait for those days to come, we rejoice in what we have now, but also acknowledge and grieve for all that was lost.

Easter is a bit of hope and loss mixed up in to one. We are in awe of the never-ending love and grace we receive though the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus, but we acknowledge the heartache of those who loved Jesus in person. More than anything, Easter reminds me that the ground at the foot of the cross is level. God's love exists for all regardless of how others feel about us or how we might feel about ourselves. Grace is abundantly flowing from the cross through the women at the tomb into the world for each of us and that is something to rejoice in dear friends.

It is with hope that we are planning 'in person' worship services starting on **Easter Sunday (4th April)**. At the present time, we plan on the following:

Sunrise Service at 7:30 A.M. in the car park at MDC.

Worship Services at 9:00 A.M. and 11:00 A.M in the Sanctuary.

We expect that the services will be limited to 20 people, so to book a seat please phone/email the Session Clerk Pam Auckland at:

☎ **013398 82722** email: sessionclerk@middeesidechurch.org.uk

Worship will also be available online via Mid Deeside Church's YouTube and Facebook Page on Easter as well as a special Maundy Thursday Service and Good Friday Service. As soon as we can have 50 people in worship, we will discontinue bookings and open Sunday School.

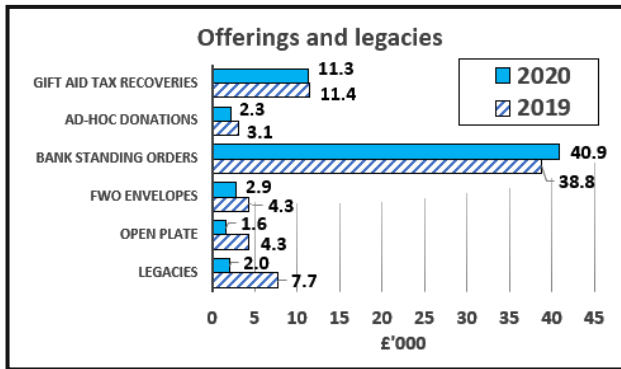
Please know, that you never have to step foot in church to receive help from me. I am here for everyone.

Love,

Rev. Holly Smith

Here is a brief update from the Treasurer on the congregation's finances:

Our income from **Offerings and legacies** fell by **£8,667** (or 12%) from **£69,620** in **2019** to **£60,953** in **2020**. While this drop is not unexpected, thankfully offerings have held up remarkably well considering that there were no physical services in the church for 24 consecutive Sundays between March and August, 2020.



Rental income last year totalled **£5,439** which was **£4,806** (or 47%) lower than in 2019 reflecting the closure of church buildings to outside groups from 23rd March 2020 for the remainder of the year.

The Lochnagar room was offered to and used by the Scouting movement from October to December due to the non availability of the Learney Hall and the Torphins Playgroup has continued to make use of Ha'berry where government guidelines permitted.

Heating & lighting costs fell in 2020 with most of the savings made when church buildings were closed during the lockdown and the cost of **repairs & renewal** rose as we took the opportunity to carry out various repair programs and upgrades during the period when most buildings were closed.

The **General Fund balance** remains strong and stood at **£61,042** at **31st December 2020**. Following a Lockdown year when many organisations, including Charities such as MDC, have faced serious financial problems, we appear to have weathered the storm so far financially and can look forward with cautious optimism to resumption of normal Church activities.

ACORN Project

The Kirk Session have been finding ways to keep in touch with people in our Parish when visiting in homes is not permitted and they have found a useful tool in the Acorn Project as described below. It is shared here in the hope that others might also find it helpful.

The first thing to remember is that in any situation we are called to, God is already there.

A- Ask God if there is someone specific that He wants you to connect with.

C- Call. God will call back on this either immediately or at some point later.

O- Obey the call- use a video call, email, text or just the phone. Ask the person how they really are at this time.

R- Report God at work to another Church member or Christian friend to encourage you both

N- Notice what God wants you/us to do. Feel His presence with you.

A video about this can be viewed at

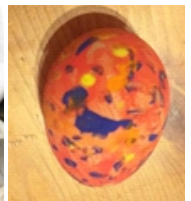
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lcw16Z_y-k0



Online Easter Egg Competition

Here's a chance to join in the fun of our annual Easter Egg Competition: Decorate your egg with all your skill and imagination, take a photo and post to our Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/middeesidechurch anytime **between 29 March and 3 April.**

Be sure to tell us the first name and age of the EGG-cellent artist!
Prizes for four categories: pre-school, primary, secondary, and adult.



Christian Aid Fundraising - *Hilary Dow* Christian Aid Coordinator

This year, **Christian Aid** has teamed up with The **Kiltwalk** for the **Virtual Kiltwalk Weekend** at the end of April.

We are all encouraged to take on any Kiltwalk-inspired challenge you wish. Grab a friend and go for a walk (of any length), cycle, jump on a trampoline, have a dance or take the family on a scavenger hunt!

The **Kiltwalk** is happening virtually all across Scotland from 23-25 April. Get moving for **Christian Aid** and The **Hunter Foundation** will increase your sponsorship by 50%!

Three simple steps

1. Sign up on line at theKiltwalk.co.uk
insert **Christian Aid** as your charity
and **Mid Deeside Church** as your team
2. Ask family and friends to sponsor you by sharing your 'Just Giving' page
(which is set up automatically) on your social media pages or via email
3. Complete your challenge



If you would rather sponsor others to complete a Kilt Walk challenge, Sheila McMurtrie and I are walking around our Parish, taking in Lumphanan, Kincardine O'Neil and Torphins. If you would like to sponsor us the details will be in the next few KIT's and do remember that every £1 donated will result in £1.50 going to Christian Aid projects.

As my involvement with Christian Aid is very recent, I found the following description really helpful in understanding the vital work this organisation is involved in.

"Christian Aid Scotland supports individuals, partners and churches to stamp out the global scandal of poverty. We believe that poverty is an outrage against humanity. It robs people of dignity, freedom and hope, of power over their own lives. Through our international, humanitarian and advocacy work we tackle both its effects and root causes."

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/events/virtual-kiltwalk-weekend>



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