

Newsletter - August 2020



Dear Friends

This newsletter is coming to you as a member or friend of Mid Strathearn Parish Church. Like churches all over the country, we have been unable to meet physically for worship since the middle of March, and we are all missing the weekly fellowship and friendship which we had come to enjoy each Sunday.

Sadly, it doesn't look like we will be back worshipping normally in the church any time soon. The Kirk Session has discussed the guidance re re-opening the church buildings, but having studied the requirements for social distancing, mask-wearing, constant cleaning, the ban on singing, and limitations on numbers attending, we have reluctantly decided to wait a bit longer before opening our buildings.

So, we are stepping up our efforts to improve our lines of communication with our members and friends. We hope that you have been able to tune in to the worship services which have been available on television and social media channels. Our website has a weekly reflection, (which has been focussing on the early church, after Pentecost) and prayers; thanks are due to Rev Marina Brown and the worship leaders for their contributions to this. There is also a What's App Prayer group, which anyone is welcome to join. Our Mission Development Committee is currently considering how best we can produce some online visual material using platforms like Zoom, Teams, and/or social media, and we will alert you as soon as this is available.

For a trial period, we will also be setting up a weekly coffee and chat, (for those of you who have become proficient in Zoom during Lockdown!) – details elsewhere in this newsletter.

Also in this newsletter, there are some suggestions regarding activities with which we can all get involved, whatever our age. Please keep an eye on our church web page <https://mid-strathearnchurch.btck.co.uk> and our Facebook page (Mid Strathearn Church). Many thanks to Colin Crawford who does such a good job keeping both up to date.

Coming out of lockdown is proving almost more difficult than going into it, and there are still so many uncertainties and concerns for the future. It is important that we keep looking out for each other, being community, and keeping each other in our prayers. St Paul reminds us in his letter to the Romans that “**Nothing** can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” That is the promise we can hold on to as we travel together in the weeks and months ahead.

With best wishes

Marjorie Clark Interim Moderator

You may have received this newsletter by post or it has been delivered by hand; if you have an e-mail address and are happy to receive future newsletters electronically, please send your e-mail address to Sheena Crawford sheenamcrawford@gmail.com



Are any of you sitting at home wondering what to do next? Have you run out of ideas or even of materials? Do you knit, sew, machine sew? Are you willing and able?

One Idea

You will remember that two Christmases ago we collected baby clothes for the Blythswood Baby birthing boxes and then last year several of the ladies of the parish got together to make birthing sheets and we managed to make almost 100. Although everything is uncertain still, Kate Clements, who organises these things would be delighted if we could help again. There are three things that she would be happy if we could help with.

1. She visited Hungary sometime this last year and went to a home for young girls of 16 to 25 years who have learning disabilities. She said it was a grim place with very little of anything in it, and she is asking for knitted blankets.
2. The Blythswood Baby Boxes are very short of mittens and booties and hats for babies.
3. There is a continuing need for Birthing sheets.

If you are interested in doing any of these things, please get in contact with Judith James, Tel: 01738 730 378 or judej@me.com and she will be able to give you instructions about sizes and patterns etc. The material for the Birthing sheets will be provided.

Something Else.

Have you found Lockdown a very difficult time? Or have you been surprised that there have been some pluses amongst the minuses? It has certainly been a time during which we have had the opportunity to think and reassess our priorities.

There is a suggestion that we try to put together a wall hanging representing our ideas about Lockdown. It has certainly been a memorable time and perhaps we would be wise not to lose the good things, and maybe even the bad, which have come out of it.



If you have time and energy and ideas to contribute, please contact:

Anne Buchan: 01738 730260 buchan2001@btinternet.com

Audrey McColl: 01764 683446

Judith James: 01738 730378 judej@me.com

Isobel Robertson: 01738 635998

isobelrobertson7@gmail.com

Hello everyone – we are so sorry we are unable to meet as



Messy Church at the moment. We are missing you all very much and cannot wait until we can get together again. In the mean time why not head over to our website, www.mid-strathearnchurch@btck.co.uk



where you will find some craft activities, a word search along with a short story. The picture on the left will give you a clue which story we are doing today. Have fun!

We would love to see your creations . Why not send us a picture of your lion to sheenamcrawford@gmail.com , we could put them on our website for everyone to admire.

Super Adults

Super Adults is the name we give to our members and friends who are 60+. Normally we arrange a summer outing including high tea, thanks to the generosity of the Maclagan Trust; sadly, this year's outing could not happen. In its place, however, a number of afternoon teas from Gloagburn were distributed mid-July, organised by David Cameron and distributed by some of the elders. Many thanks to everyone involved; responses indicate that the teas were welcomed and were gratefully received.

Coffee and chat on Zoom – Wednesdays 10 – 11a.m.

For a trial period for four weeks, starting on Wednesday 12th August – anyone welcome to Zoom in and join us.

You need to have downloaded Zoom on to your laptop or tablet, and then, at the given time on Wednesday morning, enter the code below.

Meeting ID: 849 4956 6586 Passcode: 969872

If you would like assistance in setting up Zoom, please contact Alex Haddow on who has offered to talk anyone through the process. Alex.haddow@bellwoodhouse.co.uk, tel: 01764 683484 (preferably by the Tuesday prior to the Wednesday.)



If you would like to join the Mid-Strathearn Church What's App Prayer group, please contact David Cameron on 07775 850316