

Page 2
Treasurer's
Report

Page 7
All is not what
it might seem

Page 8 to 11
And now the
Good News!

Page 12
Tribute:
Anne Russell

FOCUS



Cardross Parish Church magazine

April 2021



Dear Friends,

Who would have believed that a year since the first lockdown was announced, we would still be living with restrictions today. It has been a tough year in all kinds of ways. Sadly, the Church building has been closed again for worship since December but we continue to welcome worshippers on-line.

In our last edition of Focus you would see that we were quite busy on the run up to Christmas. Our last service in church before the present lockdown began was

our Gift Service on Dec 6th. This produced a mountain of presents for children outwith the parish; the young people associated with the church all received a Fair Trade Chocolate Advent Calendar and story book; those recently bereaved, in care homes or housebound in the community were gifted a 'Goodie Bag' filled with homemade tablet, and the Blessings Bags containing essential items were distributed to the homeless community in Glasgow.

Maggie's view continues on page 3.....

TREASURER'S REPORT

When I last wrote this column in the December issue of Focus, I was delighted to express my sincere thanks on behalf of the Congregational Board for the excellent response from members of the congregation and other to the financial plight that had befallen us last March with the onset of the Pandemic.

With the Church buildings closed for six months and with restricted income, the Giving Campaign kept us going until the end of the year with the added bonus of a financial 'cushion' for the start of the year.

It was therefore with great trepidation that we faced a second lockdown. With the Church and Halls again closed and with the completion of the Children's Panel tenure in the Hall, your Treasurer was again nervous, with bills still coming in for Mission & Aid, Gas, Electricity and other maintenance charges.

However can I again pay tribute to those who regularly send me their weekly Freewill Offering envelopes, to those who make their contributions monthly through the bank and to those in particular who have converted to bank payments since the weekly give via the 'plate' was not available.

All donations will continue to be gratefully received at my new address: 33 Bainfield Road, Cardross, G82 5JQ, or via your Elder or the Minister.

But now, with vaccines starting to make inroads on the effects of the Covid-19, we can maybe hope that our lives can return to some form of reality again. Hopefully we will be able to reopen the Church sometime around Easter, though probably

initially still with limited attendance allowed.

This is something we can all look forward to and Church life will spring back and the Halls will become busy again. I can almost smell the coffee already and look forward to Summer Afternoon Tea and a bustling Christmas Fair.

As the late Captain Sir Tom Moore famously said recently: **"Tomorrow will be a good day."**

And of course he IS right!





(Cont...) We arranged interactive activities for children to enjoy out of doors keeping within the Covid guidelines and we have tried to include every sector of society in some way. A big thank you to all who helped with these projects. We hope that the love of Jesus has been displayed in all that the Church has shared and continues to share.

But here we now are on the run up to Easter! And so our work and witness go on: Every member household will receive a palm cross and Easter card with this magazine; The young people will be gifted a Fair Trade box of chocolate eggs and fun activity sheet to have an egg hunt in their own gardens. As at Christmas, we are grateful for small grants received in order to cover the costs.

Included in this edition is the new flower rota. This has been in abeyance for obvious reasons but please be assured that people have still been receiving flowers when necessary. We hope that when things ease off we can get back to the usual routine. We look forward so much to the latter half of this year when we can hopefully begin to welcome back groups and begin activities once again.

The one big difference of course, will be that we no longer have a functioning church office. It was with mixed emotions

that I visited our friend Sandra McLatchie just before Christmas to pass on with all our love the proceeds of the donations collected to mark the end of her tenure as church secretary. I was able to give Sandra a very substantial cheque along with a jewellery set of earrings and necklace purchased from Linda McDonald, Flowers, chocolates and gift tokens for Ardardan. I was able to convey your thanks for her many years of service and best wishes for the future. Thank you to all who contributed so generously.

And so on closing, I assure you of my prayers for you and your loved ones and wish you a blessed Easter as we remember that all things must pass - that death gives way to life and darkness gives way to light. Our hope must always be in the God of miracles.

"Why are you looking among the dead for one who is alive? He is not here; he has been raised." (Luke 24:5)

With God's richest blessings to you and yours.

Maggie

****STOP PRESS****

As this goes to press, we have just heard that churches are being allowed to open from Palm Sunday with the original restrictions upon numbers. We are still unsure if we will be able to hold the early morning Easter service outside in the garden so please keep an eye on our website & Facebook Page for any updates.

****SEE PAGE 15 FOR MORE DETAILS****



We're One Day Closer...



*Thank you for all your support,
from all at Ardardan*



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Take very good care!

WHO WAS JESUS?



He was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in yet another village, where he worked in a carpenter's shop till he was thirty. Then for three years he was an itinerant preacher.

He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family or owned a house. He didn't go to college. He never travelled more than 200 miles from the place where he was born. He did none of the things one usually associates with greatness. He had no credentials but himself.

He was only thirty three when the tide of public opinion turned against him. His

friends ran away. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. While he was dying, his executioners gambled for his clothing, the only property he had on earth.

Twenty centuries have come and gone and today he is the central figure of the human race. All the armies that ever marched, all the navies that have ever sailed, all the parliaments that have ever sat, all the kings that have ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man on this earth as much as that one Solitary life.

Anon, placed as a newspaper advert

Poppy Appeal 2020

A massive thank you to everyone who supported our village Poppy Appeal. We raised £1562.50 which is fantastic especially during such a difficult year. There was no 'door to door' collecting but we welcome all our collectors back for 2021 and if you haven't done this before and have a few hours to spare in the autumn and would like to help out please get in touch with either of us.

Thank you once again.

Carolyn Craig and Grace Laird.



James Auld Funeral Directors

The Millig Funeral Home, 137 East Clyde Street, Helensburgh G84 7AA
Phone: 01436 677768 Fax: 01436 677726

Little Aiden Cottage, Barbour Road, Kilcreggan, Helensburgh G84 0LA
Phone: 01436 842884 Email: jim@jamesauldfunerals.co.uk

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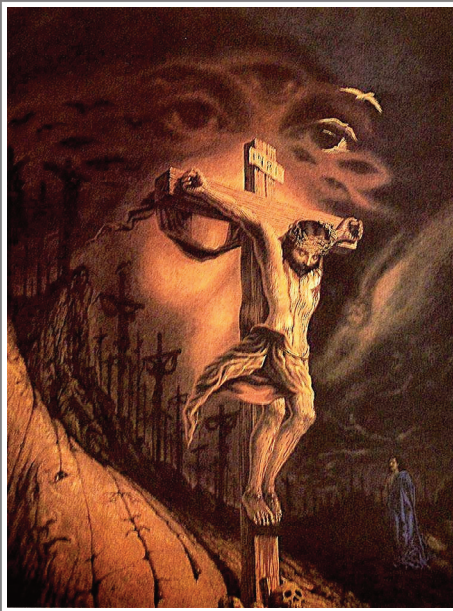
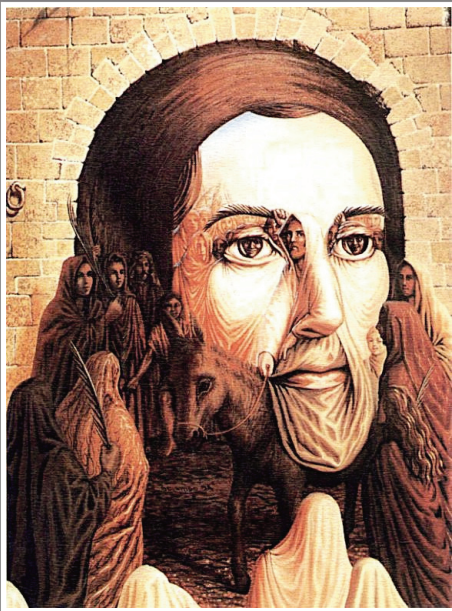
For advice and assistance contact:

Jim Auld 01436 677768

jim@jamesauldfunerals.co.uk

ALL IS NOT WHAT IT SEEMS!

In the Gospel of Matthew 7:7 Jesus tells us "Seek and you shall find." - All is not what as it seems sometimes. Have a look at these art works where the artists have skilfully created the face of Christ. However if you look carefully you will see that all is not what it first appears to be and they are in fact optical illusions. The faces are in fact made up from elements of the Easter story. The exception being the black and white image. Stare closely at the 4 dots in the centre of that image for 20 seconds then look at a plain wall - what do you see? Jesus appears where we least expect.



YES - THERE WAS GOOD

The year 2020 will go down in history as the year when everything we took for granted was suddenly taken away.

We all know what we've lost, what we've missed out on and while that has left us all feeling a bit damaged and hurt there were so many good things

that happened during the pandemic lockdown that would only have happened due to this extraordinary time.

Here we have a look back at just some of the reasons to remember 2020 and be happy!

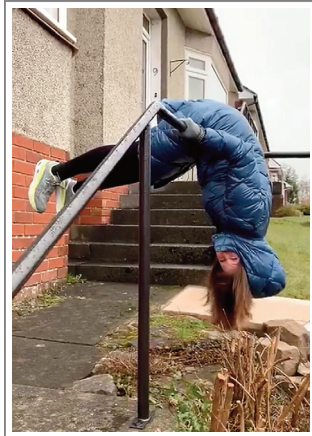


The week before lockdown and the last big event before the first lockdown and Fischy Music filled the church hall and entertained us with an afternoon of songs, stories and prayer.



Christine Galloway kept us laughing with her daily 'Keep fit and have fun' videos.

Maggie is front page news as our worship goes online!

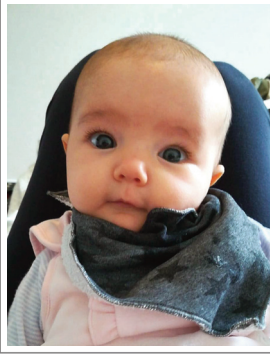


The Music Makes virtual Christmas choir stole the show at the Christmas Eve service with their joyful singing.



**Cardross TV
Starring
Maggie!**

NEWS IN 2020 TOO!

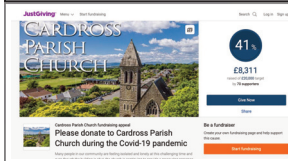


Elsa Cormack made a quick dash over to France at Christmas - the very next day travel was banned between the two countries - to see her new granddaughter Iona who was just 2 weeks old. She managed to fly home after Christmas via Amsterdam and straight into 10 days quarantine - but it was so worth it. Welcome to the world little one!

Baby Isla Fay MacLachlan was born on 15th June. Here she is hours old with her proud Dad Andrew (new Mum Hannah was having a well earned rest!) and with an even more proud Granny Rebecca (a few months later) who, like her beautiful granddaughter, hasn't stopped smiling since June!



There was double good news for John & Kirstine Young. Their son Christopher came home from studying and working in the USA the past 11 years and brought with him his beautiful American girlfriend Lauren Nagy. She is no longer his girlfriend however as they got engaged at the end of January and are making plans to make Scotland their home.



£Thousands have been raised to help the church through the financial crisis of COVID.

(cont....) MORE GOOD NEWS



Margaret MacNeill put the lockdown time into good used by using her knitting skills to make cannula sleeves that were used for babies and dementia patients. Well done Margaret!



Christine Buchanan had the perfect antidote for the lockdown a "Boredom Fighter Jigsaw" featuring a picture of her with all her grandchildren.



Above - Goodie bags filled with homemade tablet were gifted to this recently bereaved, in care homes or house bound at Christmas. **Right** - With so few places open and travel restricted due to the pandemic local businesses such as Ardardan were Godsend. Here's the 'Ladies who lunch' - Davina, Rebecca and Elsa enjoying afternoon tea.

FROM 2020!

The stonework at the front of the church received much need repair work thanks to very generous grants from Miss Hendry's Trust and the National Churches Trust. Our church building is now looking beautiful once more.

Below: from old technology to new - thanks to the wonders of Zoom the Kirk Session and Congregational Board have been able to hold regular business meetings.



Above: Meet Oscar - furry grand baby to Gordon and Pamela Stevenson. Oscar is a 'Red Fox' Labrador and now, some 9 months later, is much, MUCH BIGGER!

Right: Thanks to YouTube we were able to hold a daily episode of our Summer Holiday



Club for our school aged members of the congregation. Maggie and Claire told stories and demonstrated arts and crafts each of the 5 days all of which was filmed and edited by John.

So you see 2020 was a year to remember!

FLOWER ROTA 2021

January

03 Christmas Tree
10 Mrs J Wilson, Riverview
17 Mrs S McLatchie
24 Miss N Gray
31 Mrs S Auty

February

07 Mrs C Craig
14 Mr A McIntyre
21 Mrs P Stevenson
28 A Walker

March

07 Mrs A Lee
14 Mrs R MacLachlan
21 Mrs J Wilson, Riverview
28 M Timmer

April

04 Mrs E Milne
11 Mrs J Fisher
18 Mrs K Young
25 Mrs I Muir, Riverview

May

02 Mrs A Foster
09 Mrs C Fleming
16 Mrs J Goel
23 Mrs M Craven
30 Mrs J Dean

June

06 Mrs M MacNeill
13 Mrs L McKee
20 Mrs J Wilson, Riverview
27 Mrs R Wilson, Auchensail

July

04 Miss K Ferguson
11 Mrs J McKillop
18 Mrs D Colquhoun
25 A McIntyre

August

01 Mr J Young
07 Mrs R MacLachlan
15 Mrs S Kinloch, Walton
22 Miss S McGown
29 TBA

September

05 Mrs J McNeil
12 Guild
19 Harvest Thanksgiving
26 Miss S McGown

October

03 Mrs P Goldie
10 TBA
17 Mrs J Goldie
24 Mrs M Glen
31 TBA

November

07 Remembrance Sunday
14 Mrs J Wilson, Ardoch
21 TBA
29 TBA

December

05 Mrs L Darroch
12 Mrs E Cormack
22 Christmas Tree
29 Christmas Tree

KIRK SESSION TRIBUTE: ANNE RUSSELL

If ever the phrase, “A twinkle in her eye” was appropriate it has to be for Anne. When was she ever without that twinkle! Not even illness or infirmity seemed to dampen her sense of humour. Or at least she would never let on.

Anne had a good start in life. Born to loving parents in Bishopbriggs Anne was encouraged to complete higher education. She is remembered from her days at Park School by Jeanette Scobie as being a senior girl who towered above the others and not only in height it would seem! Anne’s sense of mischief and fun often caused her to whistle at the soldiers from the nearby army barracks. And I am glad to say that her mischievous nature never left her.

On leaving school Anne embarked on a very successful nursing career which took her to Switzerland for a time. This gave her a life-long love of the country and when she married John the honeymoon destination was already decided.

Anne and John had a wonderful marriage and would have been celebrating their Diamond Wedding Anniversary this April. Anne embraced the change of career from successful nurse to successful farmer’s wife. Nothing daunted her and nothing was ever too much for her. They were blessed with a family of their own when George, Maxie, Libby and Alex came along. She was a very supportive mother, encouraging them in their chosen careers and choice of partners.

Life was busy but Anne found time to be involved with the Young Farmer’s Club coaching youngsters in their debating

skills – something that Anne herself excelled in. She was also a member of the Women’s Rural and the Guild becoming famous for her culinary skills –especially her meringues. She became a much sought after judge on the SWRI circuit, leading to many fun times for all concerned.

The church was a very important part of Anne’s life. She served as an elder and was in fact one of the very first female elders of the Church of Scotland. Great fun was to be had at all events and fundraisers and the amount of nonsense that would go on was unbelievable. She brought joy wherever she was. Her favourite saying when speaking about her age was that she was only 21 plus VAT!



When retirement beckoned, Anne and John made the move down to Craigielea where they have had many happy years. The past 12 months have been difficult due to Covid but Anne, indomitable as ever, embraced technology and was able to stay in touch with the family. She was proud to be a Wife, Mum, Mother-In-Law, and Gran. We share in the sadness of the family at this time but we also share in their thanksgiving for a life well lived and love shared.

It has been a privilege to have been part of Anne’s life but we share also in her faith that death is not the end and can be faced without fear. Christ has passed that way before us and overcome death to bring us hope of eternal life.

Praise be to our Risen Lord, now and always.

AMEN.

Thank you Sandra!



Maggie visited Sandra McLatchie to pass on with all our love the proceeds of the donations collected to mark the end of her tenure as church secretary. Due to your generosity we were able to give Sandra a very substantial cheque along with a jewellery set of earrings and necklace purchased from Linda McDonald, Flowers, chocolates and gift tokens for Ardardan. Maggie conveyed your thanks for her many years of service and best wishes for the future. Thank you to all who contributed so generously.

On Sunday 15th March 2020 a meeting of the Kirk Session was arranged to discuss how our congregation would put into practice some new ideas produced by our participation in the National Church initiative, the Local Church Review.

Sadly with the onset of Covid-19 and the first lock-down the meeting was used to make arrangements for the care of the church family and what we could do to care for the wider village community. As we left the meeting a friend smiled and said 'See you at Christmas'. I don't think either of us imagined that a year later we would still be unable to meet our family and friends.

It is so very easy to think of all the sadness and tragedy we have seen over the last twelve months – the friends we have lost, the isolation, the disruption to our lives, the feeling of helplessness against an enemy we cannot, see, hear or touch.

We, who live in Cardross, surely though, have much to be thankful for. Though we cannot be together in church, through the online Sunday Services, Maggie, our Minister, has encouraged, inspired and sustained us with her words and prayers and John's filming and editing skills have shown us the village through all the seasons and from all angles.

Younger or even sometimes older, fitter neighbours have kept a kindly eye on those living alone and those who are shielding -shopping is delivered and bins put out for collection. We live in a beautiful village where we have space to be outside to walk and stay socially distanced.

It is just possible that, with restricted numbers, we may be able to re-open our church for Sunday Worship in time for Easter Day which would be so very appropriate. We pray that with everyone adhering to the rules this will happen. Sadly we will still not be allowed to sing. Having been a member of a church choir since I was ten years old I have missed this part of worship more than I can say.

As Session Clerk I would wish to thank my fellow Elders for all their hard work and dedication over these last difficult months. Whoever thought of a Kirk Session Meeting by Zoom!!

I cannot think of a better way to close than in the words of the Cardross Hymn
'Look forward in faith, all time is in God's hands. Walk humbly with him and trust his future plan'

Maureen Walker

Congregational Diary & Register

"LOOKING AHEAD"

This seems to be a theme running through this edition of Focus. Noel in his article quoted Captain Sir Tom's mantra, "Tomorrow will be a good day"; Maureen in hers quoted from Andrew Scobie's hymn, "Look forward in faith"; I quoted in mine the words of the angel on the day of Resurrection, "Why are you looking among the dead for one who is alive? He is not here, he has been raised." We look ahead and we do so in faith and with hope of better things to come.

So what can we look ahead to in the way of life within Cardross Church? Normally we would include in the diary page of Focus the forthcoming services and events but for obvious reasons this has proved challenging. The situation brought about by the pandemic is a fluid one and we await the official 'Roadmap' out of lockdown but let's look ahead anyway.

March 28th 11am PALM SUNDAY SERVICE in church and online

HOLY WEEK: April 1st 7pm MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE **online**
 April 2nd 7pm GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE **online**
 There will also be daily ecumenical reflections available online from the Helensburgh and Cardross clergy.

April 4th 11am EASTER COMMUNION SERVICE in church and online
April 11th and subsequent Sundays 11am worship in church and online
April 15th 7pm Kirk Session on Zoom
May 10th -16th Christian Aid Week
May 22nd- 27th General Assembly of the Church of Scotland on Zoom
June 6th 11am Communion in church and online
July TBC Depending on restrictions our Holiday Club will either be a daily event held online like last year or a Fun Day held outside in the church grounds.

As we look ahead may I take this opportunity to thank all who have brought us this far by showing love and concern to others within the church community and the wider community through practical and prayerful actions. I commend the membership and office bearers of Cardross Church who have continued to serve the Lord through difficult circumstances. I commend also the Cardross Cares Group set up before March last year who have been invaluable to those shielding and those having to self-isolate. The volunteers have been amazing. So, to everyone within and without the church who have given selflessly to others of their time, talents and money I offer my sincere thanks.

God bless you all.
 Maggie.

DEATHS

Nov 13th	Mrs Sheila Wack, 3 Crawford Drive, Helensburgh
Nov 14th	Mr Peter Kinloch, Ardoch Farm, Cardross
Nov 14th	Mrs Agnes Dunn, 28 Torosay Court, Oban
Nov 22nd	Mr Alastair Shaw, Tigh-an-Truin, Distellary Rd, Port Ellen, Islay
Dec 4th	Mrs Annette Brown, Kilmory, Main Road, Cardross
-2021-	
Jan 23rd	Mr William Derries, 34 Keil Court, Helensburgh
Feb 6th	Mr William Walker, 12 Barrs Road, Cardross
Feb 9th	Mrs Christine MacKenzie, Bernara, The Glebe, Bowmore, Islay
Feb 10th	Mrs Anne Russell, Craigielea, Church Avenue, Cardross
Feb 18th	Ms Mandy Eaglen, A'Chomraich, Aros, Isle of Mull

HELP US TO KEEP IN TOUCH

One of the things that the Pandemic has made clear is that the contact is vital.

Facetime, Skype and Zoom have been a blessing enabling us to 'see' and talk with loved ones near and far during lockdown as well as letting folk work from home and even our children continue their education.

Our church is no different and we have relied on YouTube and Facebook to broadcast our worship services each Sunday and keep you in touch with what is happening and I hope you have found that helpful.

Moving forward we need you now to let us know your email addresses and contact numbers so we can contact you electronically rather than rely on sending

letters through the post which is also expensive. **SO PLEASE** email us with your name: email address: and if possible a mobile telephone number that we can contact you with. This information will be held securely and will not be shared.



PLEASE NOTE NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES FOR CONTACTING THE MINISTER OR CHURCH - THESE ARE NOW IN USE AND YOU SHOULD UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS BOOK ACCORDINGLY.

We are updating our database of congregational members. So please email us with your details, telephone numbers etc to enable us to keep you informed.

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