

New Horizons

The Magazine of Fowlis and Liff linked with
Lundie and Muirhead Parish Churches

Spring/Summer

Shortened newsletter
during Pandemic

2020



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JAN'S PLANT SALE

This year our extremely popular plant sales were cancelled by lockdown. But Jan Fenton was already prepared with plants having been bought, tended and brought on. But how to sell them?

With lockdown in place, thinking out of the box was required so, using step-son Brian's computing skills, the plants were advertised on the Church's Facebook page. 'Jan's Online Plant Sale' was launched! People were asked to email their orders then they would be contacted when the order was ready to be picked up from outside Jan's home at Clushmill.

After a record-breaking 2,768 people were reached via Facebook, it will be no surprise to hear that the plants were sold out within 24 hours! This is testimony to the quality of Jan's plants produced year on year – and she's already planning for next year!

A remarkable £450 was donated to church funds but even more remarkable is the dedication, determination and skill of an amazing lady. Thank you Jan!



From the Minister....

Welcome to this shortened edition of our Magazine. With the suspension of most of our usual activities, it was felt that we wouldn't have enough to fill a full magazine but we wanted to be able to say 'Hello!' to everyone as well as providing a catch up, particularly for those not on email. I have email addresses for many of you and have been sending out notices of prayer, worship and any other relevant events being held both nationally and locally. If you do have an email address and are not getting these, then please do send me your email address and I can add you to the list.

These are indeed strange times. None of us has experienced lockdown situations like this and it has brought sadness as well as joy. Sadness as we have missed time with loved ones; that we have been unable to fully support those going through difficult times; that we are missing our usual schedules of events and clubs we enjoy attending; the ways in which the lockdown is having an adverse effect on individuals.

But it has also given us a chance to experience events and gestures that have warmed our hearts: the kindness and caring of folks in our local communities; the shopping or prescriptions have been collected and handed in to those unable to go out; displays from children of rainbows and painted stones that are magically appearing in windows or in unexpected corners; the donations for care packs going to those in hospitals and care homes where relatives can't visit; the local production of face masks..... so many and so much more.

Every Sunday evening we are having a time of worship for those who can get online and use 'Zoom' Around forty people joined in last week and it good to see well-kent faces. If you'd like to join in then please email me and I will send the contact details. Using our buildings is still problematic. This could be permitted for private prayer first of all but of course we do have to comply with guidelines. Perhaps from the middle of July we may be able to hold services, but they will look different to what we're used to. We need to have social distancing between people, no singing, no shaking hands! But be assured that the Kirk Sessions will have all necessary measures in place for your safety. We'll be in touch when we have more news.

Meantime I urge you all to keep strong in the faith. We have a God who loves and cares for us. Remember that hope is one of the most powerful Christian realities. When life is challenging, hope comes along and whispers, "Try this. Don't give up. I am with you." Hope is Jesus. The hope we have in God, and from God, strengthens us. God's hope does not disappoint, and we will go on, in hope.

Grace and peace

Donna



Lundie & Muirhead Session Clerk

In Lundie and Muirhead the Session Clerk serves a five year Term of Office. Back in November we recognised that Morag Jones was coming to the end of her five years and Session offered the post to Ken McAra. Ken is a well-known face to many of you and in particular you will recognise him, along with wife Mairi, as the driving force behind the Music Group T5 and the organiser of the annual Carol Singing. Despite still working full-time and his

involvement in a variety of leisure interests – he's learning to play the mandolin at the moment – we were delighted when Ken agreed to be Session Clerk. With his many talents and great sensitivity he will be a great asset to the church.

Of course Ken's appointment means that Morag Jones gets a well-deserved retirement from the post but more about that in our next edition.

FAVOURITE HYMNS

Are you missing hearing your favourite hymn played on the organ?

With typical generosity of spirit, Graeme our organist at Muirhead, so ably assisted on the recording side by his wife Jessie, has offered to help out!

Their many commitments include the work they do for Dundee Congregational Church and for Dundee Audio News which provides “talking newspapers” for the visually impaired. Graeme and Jessie make a formidable team, recording, copying and sending out news to those in need. Then they find time to come along to Muirhead Church on a regular basis to ensure the organ gets some regular exercise. They also take the opportunity to record music for our Worship gatherings on Zoom every Sunday as well as finding time to celebrate Graeme’s 80th birthday by having Afternoon Tea in their garden during a lovely sunny spell in May! And now they have suggested we have a ‘Favourite Hymn Choice’ so that you can continue to enjoy singing some of your favourite hymns.

It is a number of years since we had such an event. When it was “a hymn of your choice”, there were so many different hymns nominated that it was difficult to identify a winner! This time we are giving you twenty hymns to choose from. The list appears below. Please choose two hymns and, because we are kind-hearted, we’ll also let you choose **one** that does not appear here.

You can send your choices to Donna by email, by ringing her up or by popping a note through the door of the manse. You have until Sunday 29th June to get your vote in.

Graeme will record the top three and they’ll be available online or on a CD if you can’t get online. Please let Donna know if you’d like a copy of the CD when you give her your choices.

So time to review the list, sing the hymns and make your mind up! ENJOY!



FAVOURITE HYMN LIST (in no particular order)

1. We Plough The Fields And Scatter
2. The Lord’s My Shepherd
3. Be Still For The Presence Of The Lord
4. Praise My Soul the King of Heaven
5. How Great Thou Art
6. One More Step Along The World I Go
7. Great Is Thy Faithfulness
8. Be Thou My Vision
9. The Day You Gave us Lord Is Ended
10. What A Friends We Have In Jesus

11. Make Me A Channel Of Your Peace
12. I, The Lord Of Sea And Sky
13. Dear Lord And Father Of Mankind
14. Will Your Anchor Hold?
15. Lord Of The Dance
16. Jesus Bids Us Shine
17. All Things Bright And Beautiful
18. Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah
19. Love divine, all loves excelling
20. Jesus loves me

+ Plus you own choice?

A NEW NORMAL

Every normal was once new....
it did not arrive,
but came to be.

Time and tide,
call and creativity,
all played their part
in where we arrived -
in this life in God
which we called normal.

And what of Christ,
our hope, our strength -
whose normal,
once,
was family life,
learning carpenter's ways?

Did he welcome
his call and challenge,
this change to all he knew?

Did he also feel loss,
longing for the familiar,
even while bringing life?

And one day
our new normal,
(still becoming)
will also bring
new hope -
new ways to be.

Things will change
again and always,
for life and faith
never stand still.
God is making all things new.

Even what is normal....

Lezley Stewart
Church of Scotland Faith Nurture
Forum



CHURCH REGISTER



DEATHS

Fowlis & Liff

Douglas McIntosh, Northlands Care Home (late
of The Logan Liff)

Lundie & Muirhead

Evelyn Robertson, Pitkerro Care Home (late of
Muirhead)

Margaret Baillie, Muirhead

Tom Fenton, Muirhead

WE WELCOME THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS

Fowlis & Liff

John and Margaret Vernon, Liff

Lundie & Muirhead

Stan and Gwyneth Hunt, Birkhill

Donald and Marjory Gemmell, Piperdam

Wendy Edwards, Birkhill

DEATH OF THE REV SHIRLEY THOMAS



It was with great sadness that we heard from Martyn Thomas that his wife, Shirley, had died on the 12 March in the Strathmore Hospice in Forfar. Those of us who had planned to be at the funeral had to miss it as lockdown just started.

Martyn was minister of Lundie and Muirhead from 1987 and of the linked charge from 1996. It was during his ministry here that Shirley felt God's call to the Auxiliary Ministry and she was ordained in 2000 and became a much loved pastor in the charges working alongside Martyn.

Shirley and Martyn retired in 2002 and moved to Letham, Angus. There Shirley willingly continued to serve God by helping out the minister in Letham and she also gave invaluable assistance in churches in Forfar.

Shirley delighted in being wife to Martyn, Mum to Cherry and Peter and a very much hands-on Grandma to Rhianne, Robyn and Matthew.
We keep Martyn and her loved ones in our prayers.