

Broughty Ferry New Kirk Magazine

June 2020 online edition

This photo has been sent to us from sunny Australia. Read on to find out more.



BFNK June 2020 online Magazine

Dear Friends

Who would have thought that June would arrive and we would still be living under lockdown? For those of you who are still behind closed doors, we can only sympathise and offer occasional phone calls. The rest of us may have enjoyed a little more company. Our son decided to use his new freedom to visit the old folk (us) and arrived with his two dogs. We managed a walk and a picnic lunch in the garden, suitably distanced but have you ever tried to be socially distant from two excited Border terriers? Not possible!

I hope some of you are able to find our Sunday worship on the website, and I know several of you are enjoying different Sunday offerings on TV. Wherever and however you worship, we are still part of the one Body of Christ.

Rules are changing every week and I hope it will not be long until we can meet as a congregation, but until then let's keep in touch and keep praying for one another. My thanks also to the Work Party and others who are looking after our buildings and grounds meantime.

I've put together a few articles from our members which I hope you enjoy. Do let us know of any needs you hear about or special occasions which we ought to mark.

Your minister,
Catherine

Please remember in your prayers all those who are mourning a loss, especially

Miss Kate Reid our Session Clerk, whose brother Iain died on 27th May
and the family and friends of
Mrs Gladys Langlands, Balgillo Road who died on 24th May age 97

Congratulations to members who recently celebrated key birthdays

Mrs Isa Caird *April*
Mrs Gladys Tennant *May*

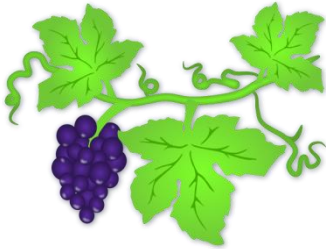
From Junior Church

The leaders have been keeping in touch with the youngsters and their families each week by sending out a pack with activities for them to do. We also raised at least £206 for Children's Hospices Across Scotland (CHAS) in our Geeky T-shirt appeal, #maythe4thbewithyou. The total could be higher as some youngsters may have donated by texting £3 .

We also made a donation, as part of our ongoing activities, of £100 to both CHAS and Christian Aid.

Helen Blair

From **Nicola Montgomery** whose training placement was cut short by Covid.



Reader-in-Training Lockdown Reflections and Thanks

I was intrigued to read some of BFNK's lockdown experiences in the magazine. I've been gardening more – eagerly rescuing plants longing for more light and freedom to grow unhindered by larger plants. I've even climbed into trees and shrubs and balanced precariously on top of our step ladder. As Christians we also long for freedom from everything which hinders growth and keeps us and others from God's light, life and love. As a Reader-in-Training I've tried to communicate this. I've been encouraged by your love, life and light, including your warm welcome to me, your concern and commitment to rescue people from poverty and oppression, and your service to one another and the local community. I was very disappointed that lockdown ended my placement at BFNK early. It was a great privilege to be with you and to learn from Catherine. What hard work it is preparing to lead worship to Catherine's high standards, especially Christmas services (which I especially enjoyed by the way).

My training has at times felt a bit like the top of our step ladder, insecure and scary, but God is forever faithful and I've been able to hold onto him. Readers are primarily equipped to lead worship, including within care homes. I realised there was more to leading services at Orchar House than I'd appreciated – getting visual aids right for residents with failing eyesight, and messages for those who struggle to hear or remember. I was so grateful to BFNK members who came to sing and play keyboard when I was leading – what love and life they brought, a big thank you!

Catherine also broke me into primary school ministry gently so that I was able to take a full class. To my surprise, I loved it. The children were very responsive, joining in with my rap, keen to participate in the drama, and answer questions. Lots to learn though – such as to keep things simpler and shorter. Many of you perhaps wanted to say that to me too on Sundays, but thank you for listening to me anyway (or at least looking like you were listening!). Seeing your cheerful, smiling faces week by week has been wonderful. Thank you for all your encouraging comments and feedback. It has really helped after many hours of preparations to know what has and hasn't helped. I've also learnt a lot from Catherine, from her example, her wisdom, her pastoral compassion, and from her invaluable insights and advice on how to improve. So a huge thank you to Catherine and to you all for making my time at BFNK so enriching. God bless. *Nicola*

Nicola's training in Presbytery will continue once things are more normal. We wish her every blessing for her future service, and hope we can meet up again soon, so that we can wish her well in person.

Margaret Webb, one of our elders, gives her perspective on life in lockdown

My Lockdown

Although I have missed my friends, and think of all the lunches out, conversations and laughs that we had together, the lockdown has given me time to really get on with my hobbies.

Cross stitch, knitting, lap-topping, tidying up etc.....gee that makes me sound old! In many ways it really brings back memories of WW2 and what it was like; when you stayed at home safe, planned where to get food, messages, and went quickly to school when it was open, then sometimes into the school air raid shelter. I was just 5 when it all started, and my memories at this present time are very clear.

One amazing thing I will never forget is our cat, Timmy. We had to share a shelter in the back garden with the people next door who had a dog. Father made a gate in the fence so they could get into the shelter quickly. After a time, we used to see our cat go into the shelter, followed shortly by next door's dog. A few minutes later we would hear the wail of the air raid warning. We came to the conclusion that our cat and doggy friend could hear the warning before we did. It never failed. "Mum Timmy's in the shelter!!" we would cry. So out we all went.

While talking about cats, some years ago I got a stuffed toy cat which had belonged to a lovely old lady in St.Vincent Court who had passed away. I place it on the floor behind my patio door. It causes a lot of fun with people's reaction to it. Children stop and wave, and once a young man came past with a large black Lab, which immediately started barking and jumping up at the railings. I had the door open with the cat as a door stop. I picked the toy cat up and waved it at him. "It's stuffed," I cried, "You had better take him to Specsavers!!"

These things really entertain me.

The most beautiful memory I have during that awful wartime was when my Grandmother was staying with us as her house was damaged by a "doodle bug". Our shelter was crowded, and my Grandma was sitting with me on one side of her, aged 5, and my brother on the other. "Oh. God, please save my children!" she prayed. And thankfully He did.



Margaret J Webb



From Gillian Elliott: working around the virus in Dentistry with NHS Tayside

At the start of March I started to get concerned about the new virus that had swept through China and was seriously affecting northern Italy. Niall had planned to attend an Olympic conference in Monaco and I had planned to take a few days leave with him. We had many discussions about the wisdom of travelling and indeed mixing with large groups of people from all over the world. In the end, the conference was cancelled but small meetings still went ahead. By the end of the week in Monaco, the virus had started to seriously affect London, and we were worried travel was about to be shut down. We managed to change our flights and came home early.

We both spent the last few days of the break working and discussing with colleagues about how to shut services and clinics. I work in dentistry within NHS Tayside. Due to the proximity to a patient's open airway and the fact that most dental procedures produce a fine aerosol of particles from the patient's mouth, dentistry is considered one of the riskiest professions during this crisis with a high potential for transmission of infection. Before all high street dental practices were ordered to be shut down by the Chief Dental Officer, there was a stressful week when we knew about the dangers and risks of carrying out 'aerosol generating procedures' like drilling fillings, but were still instructed to carry on 'business as usual.'

Meanwhile I was helping NHS Tayside to set up new urgent dental centres. We set up urgent dental centres in Perth, Dundee Dental Hospital, Kings Cross and Arbroath. These centres have been set up to treat dental emergencies for patients not experiencing any COVID symptoms. Dentists are very limited about treatment that can be offered during this crisis. We are not able to do fillings or root treatments, so treatment is limited to basic temporary dressings, extractions, antibiotics and advice about painkillers. The clinic at Kings Cross in Dundee is used to see patients with dental emergencies who are COVID positive or have COVID symptoms.

Work is very different from the normal at the moment. It is difficult not being able to do a full range of treatments at present. Now is not a good time to get toothache! My Public Dental Service colleagues have all been fantastic and incredibly flexible about working in different sites and different roles. Many staff have been redeployed within NHS Tayside to a variety of roles including health care assistants on the palliative COVID ward, health care assistants at the COVID assessment hub, domestics, drivers, phlebotomists and COVID testers.

It may be a long time before dentistry is back to normal and we await guidance from the experts about how to look after our patients safely with this new virus. Until then, keep brushing your teeth and not too many sweets!



THE GUILD

By now The Guild is usually well into the “Summer Break” but of course this year, although we did manage to complete all our planned meetings, we, unfortunately, had to abandon plans for our Afternoon Tea on March 24th, the start of lockdown. It also meant our meal at The Woodlands in April had to be cancelled. Usually the syllabus for next session is well underway and speakers contacted and booked but of course this hasn’t been possible this year. Mary has been in touch with a few of The Guilds and they, like us, are holding off meantime. Having been responsible for the syllabus for many years this is usually the time of year when I breathe a sigh of relief, all the meetings covered, and I head off on holiday but not this year.

Hopefully, we will be able to start our new session in the Autumn as usual so we may well be looking for ideas for the first few meetings. All talented people please take note!

Take care, everyone. Keep safe and we look forward to meeting up with you all as soon as we can.

Georgia and Mary.



Letter from Australia

Dalys Lamson has written about a visit to family graves in St Aidan’s graveyard, enclosing an old family photo (see cover page) and expressing her admiration for the efforts we have made there as an eco-congregation:

Some of our ancestors are buried in the grounds and various family members have visited the church & graveyard. I visited in 2018. We have obtained lair references from City Archives, as the headstone is missing for our great great grandfather, his wife, and 2 children. His son George Stewart, wife Ann Nimmo and infant children have an existing headstone. Our great great grandfather John Stewart 1796-1877 was a nurseryman so he would have been very impressed with the Eco-Garden concept.

A 19th century History of Angus tells how in 1835 seedsman John Stewart acquired a field for a nursery in Camperdown St, and added land on the Forthill estate and more near Claypotts Rd. In 1849 he took sons William and David into partnership, creating John Stewart & Sons. They had *‘upwards of fifty acres under crop consisting of all sorts of forest and ornamental trees, evergreen and flowering shrubs, fruit trees and bushes, greenhouse and stove plants and florist’s flowers’*

It goes on to describe the opening of the plant-houses and grounds to the public:

‘when the roses are in bloom the grounds are beautiful in the extreme, and afford unalloyed delight to the crowds of visitors who are attracted to them’