

Broughty Ferry New Kirk May 2020 'lockdown' magazine

Dear Friends

I hope most of you are managing to cope with lockdown with the help of family and friends. I have been phoning and e mailing members who live alone and I am struck by the number of helpful good neighbours there are in Broughty Ferry. Many elders and members are keeping in touch with friends from church.

However I don't have a phone number or e mail for everyone, and I don't know who might value a call, so do let me know of anyone who would like me to phone.

I hope some of you can use the readings, music and thoughts for the day I have been adding to the website. Helen Blair has also been sending out material from 'Spill the Beans' which we use in Junior Church.

These are not normal times, so our normal activities are on hold. I decided to ask for some 'news from the pews' from people still working under lockdown. The articles will be longer than usual since we don't have to print. Hope you enjoy them.

This edition will go on the website so please pass it on, and perhaps print off any pages you might like to pass on to someone by post or doorstep delivery.

More resources are available on

www.broughtynewkirk.org.uk and see also www.churchofscotland.org.uk

Remember, this time will pass. As Paul wrote to a church going through hard times:

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Your minister
Catherine

Please pray for those who have had sad news recently. Among them are relatives and friends of those who have died:

Mrs Mary White, Forthill Rd

Mrs Beth Garden, Rowanbank Avenue

Mr Gordon Crooks, Redwood house Care Home

Mrs Jean (June) Wilson (nee Jardine), Lochleven Care Home.

Mrs Annie Chapman age 106, Meigle Country House Care home

Mr Alan Clark of Auchterhouse and South Grange Care Home Monifieth.

Mrs Mima Bell, Seaforth Crescent

Greetings from a distance from Jill, Steve, Elise & Amelia in Thurso

Granny (Doris Patterson) is now staying at Aunt Liz's during lockdown as she was still wandering down Byres Road to Waitrose until a few days before lockdown began! 😊

She is obviously fed up with not being allowed out and about but is healthy.

We are all good here, the girls have been excellent although Elise started getting a bit fed up a couple of days ago. Both Steve and I are working from home so we are very lucky. We were obviously very disappointed to not get on our trip to see granny at Easter. It is not looking likely we will get on our summer holiday to Disney world either but as we are all healthy we cannot complain.

As if lockdown couldn't get more bizarre Steve and I took part in a photo shoot yesterday for an article that will go in the Daily Mail in about a fortnight. It is about couples cutting each other's hair in lockdown. When I agreed we were supposed to take before and after shots but before I knew what was happening they were sending a photographer to take photos through our windows as we did it! 😊 We were planning to trim each other's hair anyway and there was a £200 fee for taking part so it seemed like a good idea. It turned out to be a big giggle and a fun afternoon. It's certainly a funny memory to look back on from lockdown! My hair ended much shorter than we meant as Steve made a mistake. We also had to neaten it after the photographer left as it was very uneven but it is fine now. We were cheeky and asked the photographer to take a photo of the four of us before he left (it was worth doing it just for that) and he emailed it last night. Other than that there has been nothing exciting to speak of as we do the same things most days! We missed not having Easter in Broughty as is our usual!

And from Anja Matthalm in the Lutheran church at Neukirchen in Bavaria

Greetings!

We are struggling and getting creative at the same time. It is a real challenge minding Frieda, looking after Paula's home-schooling and keeping the congregation running. But the good thing is: I found a way to reach far more people than I would during ordinary times. I put one of our sofas in the church. And from there I am doing short thoughts every Sunday for facebook and our website. (www.sofakirche.de) We also did Easter services in a shorter way online and many people were watching. Love, Anja

NB Anja's church website has the option of an English translation as well as German

www.neukirchen-evangelisch.de

The youtube video begins with Anja's church and music.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aq6-wd_T9ml



Welcome to **HMS Unicorn**

The Most Original Old Ship in the World



From Finlay Raffle

Learning & Engagement Officer at HMS Unicorn, Victoria Dock, Dundee.

Working During Lockdown – HMS Unicorn

Although COVID-19 has meant that all of Dundee's historic and cultural sites have had to close to the public, there is still work being done.

As the Learning & Engagement Officer at HMS Unicorn – the oldest ship left in Scotland – I am no longer managing to keep busy with tours, school visits, talks and workshops. Instead, with most of the staff on furlough, I have taken over some of the other tasks on board.

My list of responsibilities now ranges from assisting with maintenance checks (COVID does not stop the bilges needing pumped!) to handling all mail and correspondence. Also like many other historic sites and museums, we have been doing lots of online outreach, making sure that the public can still access the ship, its collections and its stories, even when they cannot step foot on board.

Although COVID-19 and social distancing has had a huge impact on the heritage sector, we are all doing what we can to help with the national effort. We are looking forward to a time when we can welcome people back on board the ship safely and hopefully it will not be in the too distant future. Sailors in the Georgian Navy used to disinfect their ships by wiping down all surfaces with vinegar... we might stick to antibacterial spray!



Department for Work & Pensions

From Fiona Pretswell, Department of Work and Pensions

It seemed like a simple plan. Sell our house, move in with mum for two weeks and get the keys to our new house at the start of April. Much less stressful than trying to move out and in on the same day, especially with a four year old with more toys than Smyth's toy superstore.

Then along came Covid-19 and lockdown. The sale was stalled with no expectation of a date anytime soon. Mum (Helen Wishart) was stuck with three visitors indefinitely and the world changed overnight for us all.

In some ways I am one of the lucky few. I work for the Department of Work and Pensions, specifically paying benefits to customers up and down the UK who are over State Retirement age. Therefore I am classed as a key worker.

My routine workwise hasn't changed much. At the beginning of the lockdown it felt strange going into work; 6 of my team are at home due to health issues, the desks have been rearranged to ensure that nobody is sitting within the magical 2 metres, hand gel bottles are everywhere, no seating in the canteen and a one- way system up and down the stairs. We have two stairwells so didn't get the odd instructions from another office 'up on the left and down on the right'. However over the last few weeks we have all adjusted.

We stand back from colleagues when we are talking to them, send questions by text message, have video conferences and it is much quieter in the office . I have also found that the staff that are in are pulling together more, sharing knowledge and happy to help anybody. Our office is large so you didn't always know people in some of the other teams. My team in particular has found their work changed due to the pandemic. Some of them had just finished their telephony training and were due to be on the phones for a couple of hours a day to build up their experience. Now four of them are on from 9.30 - 3.30 every day! The others are working on whatever the priority is that day rather than their normal work.

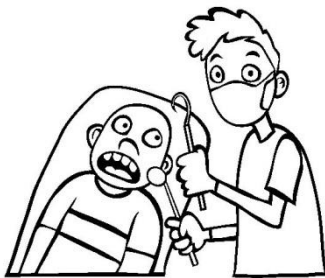
It is hard at times but I know that my job is important. We received a letter from a customer on Friday asking us to review her payments as she had made extra payments to HMRC. Her letter moved me as she acknowledged that this may take some time due to the pressure we must be under. Our department does not always get that recognition from our customers. I passed her case to one of my team and asked her to do it that day. The lady's payments increased and the arrears were issued to her. Hopefully this will cheer her up during this time.

Oliver is still going to nursery so his world hasn't changed as much as some of his friends. He is missing his swimming class and the park is out of bounds due to the 'bad germs'. But he is loving the walks to the beach and comes home with squelchy wet feet every time. It doesn't matter if he has wellies on or not. If he has any memories I hope they will be good ones from the time he lived with Granny and had to wash his hands loads. We have been baking,

playing in the garden and reading lots of books. Ally is working from home and Oliver will often sit beside him and ask him to 'show me how to work like you Daddy'.

So life is a strange mixture of the new ways mixed in with my normal routine. But I will continue to go to work and stay at home the rest of the time. We need to support our front line key workers in the NHS to ensure that all their hard work is not wasted. This is something we can all do together to get us through this pandemic. (And hopefully we will get to move soon)

Fiona, Ally and Oliver (photo shows Oliver socially distancing on the beach)



Graeme Raffle – My Work during Covid-19 Lockdown

Since all high street dental practices were instructed to close their doors on 26th March, I, like most others have been stuck at home with the occasional foray into the surgery to check on equipment, open mail and carry out administration tasks.

We are triaging patient's calls from home and those with a dental problem or emergency, we respond to with the "three A's" approach, namely advice, analgesics and antibiotics. We are emailing and later on sending prescriptions to the nearest pharmacy for the patient who then picks it up after checking it is ready. I have had longer conversations with my patients and pharmacists over the last few weeks than ever before and at the moment, people seem to want to share their opinion on everything, not just dental matters!

It is very frustrating as a dentist speaking to the patient, knowing exactly what is needing done but being unable to deal with the problem appropriately and clinically in person, although occasionally I suspect this suits the patient just fine!

In cases of extreme pain, infection or trauma, we are able to refer a patient to one of the newly assigned emergency dental centres or hubs which are staffed by a dedicated group of dental colleagues from the hospital and public dental services and where I hope they have the appropriate space, equipment and PPE to ensure the strictest cross infection control procedures are implemented. In our region these are at Broxden in Perth, Springfield in Arbroath and the Dental Hospital and Kings Cross, where Covid-19 positive cases are seen, in Dundee. Even in these centres however, only a very basic service is available and patients are well warned to expect an extraction and not much else. Aerosol generating procedures (effectively using the high- speed drill) are almost outlawed at the moment due to the very high risk of spreading the virus this way. If it has to be used in an extreme situation, it also requires specialist expensive PPE and a lot of time, at least an hour, to allow any particles and droplets to “settle” and to clean and disinfect the surgery between patients.

Under these circumstances it is easy to see why “normal” dental practice may not resume for some time. The rest of my working time has been taken up by keeping abreast of the almost daily changes to the regulations of running a dental practice at this time, furloughing our staff and dealing with the financial matters which are necessary in order to keep our business viable in the longer term.

My advice is to buy shares in any company that make “do it yourself” temporary filling kits!

In the meantime, keep a safe distance and may all your dental problems be minor ones. Graeme



44th Dundee Boys' Brigade in lockdown

At this time of the year the 44th, like all BB companies, would normally be thinking about our annual display and prize giving and of course preparations for our annual camp would also be well under way.

However, not this year for obvious reasons. All BB activities and events have been temporarily suspended thanks to Covid-19.

This does not mean that the BB is not functioning. Our National Headquarters staff have produced an online package called BB@home which is a series of activities and challenges for the Boys to do until we are able to resume normal BB work. This enables us to keep in contact with our Boys and to ensure them that the BB is still there for them. It is a well produced package and is proving popular with the Boys.

Our pipe band is looking at the possibility of giving chanter lessons on-line to our learners. We intend having a prizegiving evening early on once we are able to resume normal activities again.

We also decided that we should be doing our bit and do something useful to help in the community at this difficult time so we have lent our minibus, and two of our officers as volunteer drivers, to a charity based in Douglas & Mid Craigie Parish Church which is delivering food to needy families in local housing schemes. We are helping them out with this task three days a week at the moment.

This is a difficult time for everybody but it will eventually come to an end and we can then get back to normal BB activities and promoting our Object to our young people.

We wish everyone in BFNK God's blessing.

From the Officers and Boys of the 44th Dundee Boys' Brigade Company

Money!

All charities will be feeling the pinch just now and I have had an urgent appeal from Crossreach which operates CoS social care including Heart for Art.

Our own income will be dropping with services and hall lets having stopped.

If you don't have a standing order already, do contact Gordon Coupar.

And a painless way to help if you are placing orders online: sign up for www.easyfundraising.org.uk and click on Broughty Ferry New Kirk when you order something. We will receive a donation that costs you nothing!



Christian Aid Week 10th -16th May

We have had to cancel our fundraisers this year, but the need has not gone away. This year's theme is 'Love Never Fails' Coronavirus threatens poorer countries with little access to safe water, food or medical help. Christian Aid says:

Together with our local partners, we are working quickly to limit the impact of coronavirus in some of the most vulnerable communities around the world. We are drawing on our experience from the Ebola crisis and helping communities to prevent and delay infection.

- *We are providing essential soap, water and handwashing training.*
- *We are ensuring urgent health messages get through to help keep people safe.*
- *We are working through our networks of church partners and faith-based organisations to reach the most vulnerable at this critical time.*
- *Donations can be made online at www.christianaid.org.uk/ or for details on how to pay money directly into their bank account call 020 7523 2226.*

Find an online quiz on this website or the Christian Aid website resources page.