

Knightswood
ST. MARGARET'S
Parish Church

CONTACT MAGAZINE



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Minister's Easter Message - The Path of Suffering

We are heading towards the celebration of Easter at a time when all of our churches will be closed and that will feel very strange to all of us. We will, however, be holding some services by teleconference and you can find details on how you can join these services later on in the magazine.

Easter is a time when we follow Jesus down the path of suffering and this year more than any other in the world's history, we will have a greater understanding of what that path looks like. With the onset of the coronavirus and its deadly impact on almost all the nations of the world, we are already aware that the UK is not immune. For the first time many of us are confronting the unthinkable and all of our lives are at risk. It is entirely natural to be fearful and afraid, and as Jesus faced the certainty that a terrifying death awaited him in a few days, we can imagine how he must have felt.

Jesus was the Son of God and lived a perfect life, yet he experienced fear, fatigue, abandonment, humiliation, degrading treatment, torture and though totally innocent, an agonising death on a brutal Roman cross. The question that must be asked is why did he walk this path of suffering?

It was because he loved you and me and he knew that if he did not travel this path, there would no other way for you and I to be reconciled to God. Without Jesus we would be lost and distant from our Creator but through him we can personally experience forgiveness of sin and peace with God./

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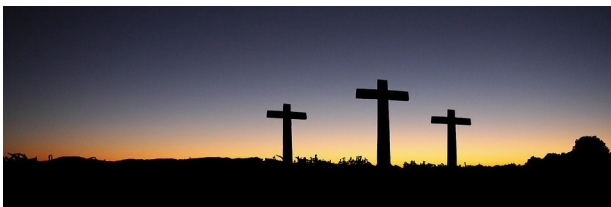
I am reminded of the words of Paul Brand, which I shared with you some weeks ago. Paul was a hand surgeon pioneering new techniques for use in the hands of those with leprosy. He reflected on the hands of Jesus and wondered why Jesus kept the wounds in his hands after he rose from the dead ...

One of the things I find most astounding is that though we think of the future life as something perfected, when Christ appeared to his disciples he said, "Come look at my hands," and he invited Thomas to put his finger into the print of the nail. Why did he want to keep the wounds of his humanity? Wasn't it because he wanted to carry back with him an eternal reminder of the sufferings of those on earth?

When our hand is in God's hand, no matter what comes our way, we will be accompanied by one who understands fear, anxiety, pain and death but came out the other side in glorious resurrection.

May God bless you, watch over you and grant you peace this Easter.

[Rev Iain MacLeod](#)



SUNDAY SERVICES ARE BEING HELD BY TELEPHONE OR INTERNET

Although we cannot meet together in the Knightswood St Margaret's building on Sunday's we have started to meet by telephone or online on Sunday's from 10.45am and you can be part of it, as all you need is a telephone or internet access ...

TELEPHONE ACCESS:

If you have a landline or mobile you can simply call the number below

0333 113 0100

Once the call is answered you will be asked to enter the passcode **490 1378** followed by #

If you are dialling from your landline and have free weekend calls there will be no cost, and similarly if you have an inclusive minute contract on your mobile the time on the call will simply be deducted from your minutes like any other call you make.

If you don't have inclusive minutes or free weekend calls, calls from a landline to 03 numbers are charged at the same rate as standard landline numbers that start with '01' or '02'.

If you are calling from a mobile without an inclusive contract, its best to check the cost of a call to an 0333 number with your provider first.

If you have a smartphone, tablet or PC, you can download an app to join on your computer. **This type of call is completely free** and the link to download the app is ...

<https://hello.freeconference.com/conf/call/4901378>

We hope you can join us each Sunday. The service will start at 11.00am and if you want to chat with some of your friends we will open the lines up from 10.45am each Sunday morning.

SPECIAL EASTER SERVICES

We will hold two special Easter Services on ...

Maundy Thursday - Thursday 9 April at 7pm (lines open from 6.45pm)

(Though we won't be able to celebrate communion, we will reflect on the Last Supper)

Good Friday - Friday 10 April at 7pm (lines open from 6.45pm)

(We will reflect on the events of the crucifixion)



Session Clerk's Report

As the last magazine was issued we were welcoming Rev Iain MacLeod to our midst and now, after what seems like 5 minutes we're getting ready to say, "Aye, ye'll be away then." Not quite 5 minutes, really, and I have to say Iain's stay has been terrific for us. The number of people who have said to me, "Can we no' just keep him?" My answer has always been, "What, in a cage? It's not allowed!"

We're all going to miss him but I'm sure everyone wishes him well in this the first charge of his own up in Sutherland as minister of the congregation of Assynt and Stoer in the metropolis of Lochinver. I hope he realises it'll be a big change from Knightswood. For a start there are no double-decker buses up there. I've already floated the idea of a wee B & B weekend in the manse sometime soon.

As far as the vacancy goes, four representatives of the congregation met with similar groups from St David's and Temple Anniesland at a meeting organised by members of the Presbytery's Strategic Planning Group. We all got on very well. No decisions were taken but there was an understanding that we are all in this together. Further meetings are planned, the next one being on the 26th of March in St Margaret's.

Meanwhile, following Iain's departure we await the appointment of another Interim Moderator and we can expect to appoint a Locum to replace Iain by the end of May. We're in for a long haul but we are still functioning as a congregation.

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Perhaps if you're reading this and you haven't been in St Margaret's for a while, for whatever reason, you may feel you'd like to get back to the church on a Sunday and join us. Trust me, you'll be made most welcome.

David Adams

Session Clerk

Easter Bible Quiz

1. What was the Jewish feast which was being celebrated the week Christ was crucified?
2. When Jesus entered Jerusalem during what is known as His Triumphal Entry, what animal was He riding on?
3. Which disciple cut off the ear of the high priest's servant in an attempt to protect Jesus from being taken as a prisoner?
4. How many pieces of silver did Judas trade the life of Jesus for?
5. What was the inscription above Jesus' cross?
6. When Jesus died there was darkness in the land. How long did it last?
7. Who was the first person to see the risen Christ?
8. What happened 40 days after Jesus rose from the dead?

Answers on page 16.

Book Review

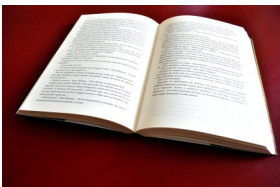
Through the Bible study I have found a wonderful wee book that is light enough to be entertaining, while reverent enough to be spiritually enriching. "Diary of a Prayer Slacker" (Diane Moody) - [ISBN:9780692623688] This wee gem helps to unpick some of the mythology around prayer. The sort of, "it must be the right words, in the right format" to be any way helpful or meaningful. Diane blows that one out of the water first of all with her statement in introduction:

"OFFICIAL AUTHOR DISCLAIMER

I am not an authority on prayer."

The down to earth approach to praying goes on through the notion that you are having a conversation with God when you pray . With chapters titles (I'm sure many of us can relate to - well I can) "*Excuses, Excuses, Excuses*"; "*Our #1 Excuse*"; "*When God is Silent*"; the closing chapters "*The power of Prayer*" and "*The Final Confessions from My Prayer Slackers Heart*" Diane gives serious considerations to all these types of failure to our prayer lives. All of these topics are drawn from many of the authors own real life experiences. She tackles these and many more issues with enough humour to make this wee gem readable, entertaining and educational.

If you read this I hope you will find it as useful to your own prayer life as I have. Truly inspirational.



[Robert McFarlane](#)

Sunday School News

Our young people started the new year enthusiastically taking up the invitation from the Moderator of Glasgow Presbytery to "Chalk the Step".

They chalked the blessing "20+C+M+B+20" - "May Christ bless this house" on our front step and then joined in with this prayer:

Blessed Lord Jesus

Visit this house with the gladness of your presence

Bless all who gather or visit here with the gift of your love

And grant that we show your love to each other

And all whose lives we touch

May we all grown in grace

In the knowledge of your love and in the love of You

And may Your peace be found among us, now and forever.

Recently they have been looking at the work of Christian Aid and soon their attention will be turned to Mother's Day.

Thanks you for your continued interest in and support of our young people.



Christine Keith

DAILY DEVOTIONAL ON PSALMS

Rev Iain MacLeod has started a daily devotional series on the psalms via email on 23 March. If you want to receive this please email Iain at imacleod@churchofscotland.org.uk and he will send you this each morning at 11.00am. In his first devotional he provided an introduction and even if you are not on email you can still take part by reading a psalm a day and reflecting on it as suggested below:

INTRODUCTION

The book of Psalms was the hymnbook of the Old Testament Church and it later became the songbook of the Scottish Reformation. The psalms are a combination of praise, prayer and protest as the writers speak out of their differing experiences in life from joyful happy times to the most challenging circumstances of pain and loss. It seems appropriate that at a time of national and global challenge that we turn to this book for wisdom and insight in the difficult days that we are facing now.

I would encourage you to read a psalm each day, reading it silently first, then reading it audibly and then reflecting on your reading by asking yourself:

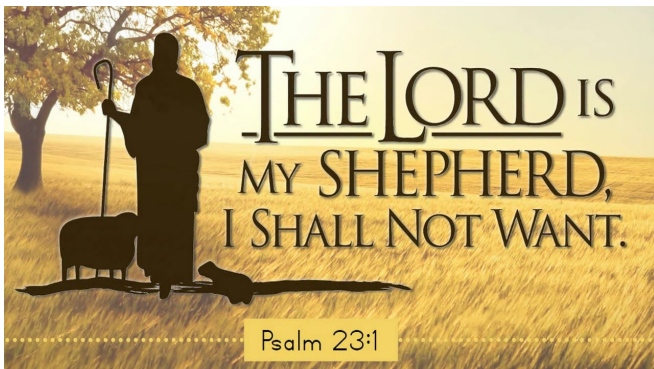
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Cont.....

1. What is the psalmist really talking about in this psalm?
2. What can I learn from this psalm that has relevance to my life?

What do I need to do to respond personally to what I have learned?

I would encourage you to write down these suggestions so that you have them beside you as you read the psalms. If you don't have a Bible to hand you go to <http://biblehub.com> where you will find many translations and study guides to help you reflect on the psalm.



Friendship Café



The Friendship Café usually takes place every Tuesday between 10 and 11.30am when you can pop in for tea, coffee, toast and a chat. We have regular special events, and on the first Tuesday of every month we have armchair aerobics to counteract all our eating of cake etc! Occasionally also Ann Harvey from Knightswood Connects delivers memory boxes on topics of interest e.g. 'Tenement life', 'Education', 'Transport' etc.

Christine Furnish

Sadly the café is cancelled for the time being, but we hope to be back up and running soon.

Ways and Means

A massive thank you to everyone who contributed to the Christmas Market last year in November. The sum of £1635.58 was raised which was fantastic. It is amazing how everyone digs dip to support the Church.

It has been great to see how we have all come together in this time of Vacancy.



Janet Hall
Convenor

Bible Study

Rev. Fraser had started the Bible study group which was left a bit in limbo when he retired. The core group felt they wanted to continue with that initiative and so we have now done so.

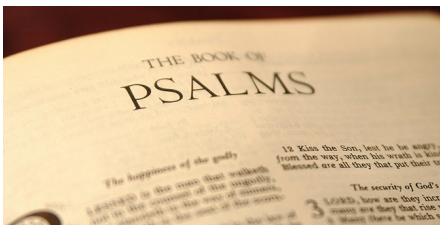
What better way to engage in our Christian faith than to study God's inspired Word (the Bible) and combine it with prayer. So when looking for suitable study material the book (for homework!) we chose was, "Psalms: Prayers of the Heart" by Eugene Peterson (author of The Message). This hopefully combines the two elements of Bible reading and Prayer – all done together in the friendly company of others.

If you are a bit intimidated with the idea of "homework" for Bible study, there is no need to be alarmed. We deal with questions that are accessible to everyone in their daily lives. Questions such as: "Tree is the central metaphor of the Psalm (Psalm 1 v3). Put your imagination to use. How are law-delighting people like trees?"

See what I mean EASY! (and fun). We will be looking at only a few of the Psalms over this year. If you are interested please speak to me or just appear – dates will be intimated through the usual weekly route.

The Bible study is postponed for the moment, however hopefully it will be up and running again soon. Check out our website for updates.

[Robert McFarlane](#)



Congregational Roll

Are you standing to attention? Good, then I'll begin. Wake up at the back there! It is that time again when statistics take over and for a short period we all become numbers. Numbers who attend; numbers who contribute; numbers who leave; numbers who join, get married, have baptisms, etc, etc.

You'll be glad to know that's not strictly true, all the numbers have names and I know where they live. Not that I'm going to tell you, data protection forbids, but statistics have to be compiled and transmitted to those who must be obeyed - the Presbytery of Glasgow to mention but one.

Over the last few weeks, people like me who have roles to fill (note the spelling, I do not refer to ham, sausage or egg-filled rolls) have been inundated with requests for forms to be filled in, calculations to be made and returns to be completed by such and such a date, always asked nicely with apologies for bothering us, but would we please "get on with it."

The basic stats are that we started 2019 with 154 members, we added 2 and lost 12, leaving the Roll at the end of December, 2019 at 144.

Having lost one more member since the start of 2020, we are now at 143. Not a lot, but quality, man, quality!

David Adams

Roll Keeper

A Prayer for Easter

Heavenly Father, the world is a sad, dark place as it is held firmly in the grip of the coronavirus. We ask you to intervene and help us return to a time of normality.

As we approach the Cross we are reminded of the sacrifice made by your Son for our redemption. We remember His pain and humiliation gladly borne for us.

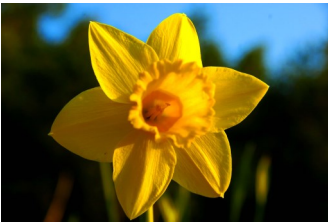
Lord God, in our weakness you are strong, carry us through these difficult days safe in the knowledge that you are with us at all times.

Amen.



Flowers

I would like to thank all those who kindly donate flowers or give generously through the Flower Fund. Also the pastoral care ladies who see to the delivery of flowers to the sick and bereaved.



Aileen Campbell

Website

Check out our new website at:

<https://knightswoodstmargarets.org.uk>

For church information and details of what's on and upcoming events.



Easter Quiz Answers: 1. Passover. 2. A young donkey. 3. Simon Peter. 4. Thirty. 5. Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews. 6. Three hours. 7. Mary Magdalene. 8. The ascension.

The Church Choir

The Church Choir enjoys leading the congregation in singing but as you have probably noticed we are small in numbers and would love to welcome some new members, so please consider joining us. You will be made most welcome on Sunday mornings for services and on Thursday evenings at 7.15pm for Choir Practices, and you don't have to be able to read music, as you will learn from those around you. We look forward to welcoming you.

Choir practice is cancelled for the time being, but hopefully will be back soon.

[Christine Furnish](#)

News From The Homes

It is with much regret that care homes have had to close their doors making visits impossible. The Wednesday service at Oakbridge has also been cancelled until further notice.

During this difficult time let us remember and pray for all carers in the front line of duty, for their families who support them, and for the residents and their families who wait anxiously for the time when coronavirus has become a thing of the past.

May God grant them strength and peace.



[Catherine Morrison](#)

[Chaplain](#)

[Oakbridge Care Home](#)

The Parish Family

“The souls of the righteous are in the hands of God and no torment shall ever touch them. They are at peace.”

*Mrs Christina Green**

03/01/2020



** Denotes Member*

*For all that is good in life, thank you,
For the love of family and friends, thank you,
For the kindness of good neighbour and
Samaritan stranger, thank you.*

*May those who are vulnerable, hungry or
homeless, experience support,
May those who are sick, know healing,
May those who are anxious or bereaved, sense
comfort.*

*Bless and guide political leaders and decision-
makers, with wisdom,
Bless and guide health workers and key workers,
with strength and well-being, Bless and guide
each one of us, as we adapt to a new way of
living.*

*And may the light shining from our windows,
across road and wynd, glen and ben, kyle and
isle, be reflected in our hearts and hands and
hopes. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen***

Hand Washing

Washing hands is central to the expanded public awareness campaign to prevent and slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).

You should wash your hands for the amount of time it takes to sing "Happy Birthday" twice (around 20 seconds):

1. Wet your hands with water.
2. Apply enough soap to cover your hands.
3. Rub your hands together.
4. Use one hand to rub the back of the other hand and clean in between the fingers. Do the same with the other hand.
5. Rub your hands together and clean in between your fingers.
6. Rub the back of your fingers against your palms.
7. Rub your thumb using your other hand. Do the same with the other thumb.
8. Rub the tips of your fingers on the palm of your other hand. Do the same with other hand.
9. Rinse your hands with water.
10. Dry your hands completely.

If you do not have immediate access to soap and water then use alcohol-based hand gel if available.



**May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and
the love of God, and the fellowship of the
Holy Spirit be with you all.**

2 Corinthians 13:14

