



Meldrum & Bourtie

Parish Church of Scotland

Registered in Scotland
Charity Number SCO15960

February / March 2022

Dear all,

I am writing this to you in isolation. Yes, we all have covid. The whole manse family. It hit us one by one. During this time of isolation and recovery I am so thankful for the wonder of modern science. That Neal and I are triple jabbed, and the boys double as we were able to get them done while in the States, as it has been heart breaking as a mother to watch my little girl suffer, with no protection for her. Even before we had covid, I loved the analogy of the vaccine as a life jacket. It is not a vaccine in the traditional sense, it really is that float in the crashing seas of illness. It feels strange to finally get this 'thing' which we have been avoiding 'like the plague' for so long. It was Christmas two years ago that the news of a new coronavirus was spreading in China. Two years of our lives have been dictated by this virus. So much has changed in those two years.



Kirk News

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In 2022 we will begin many new things at Meldrum and Bourtie Church, the Community Connect Cafe, Campaign fundraising for our buildings and future projects. Many changes will be thrust upon us from Presbytery and the national Church of Scotland. Even before covid the keyword in education was resilience. Resilience is defined as 'the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties, toughness.' We have been forced to be resilient. Sometimes we can get pushed and pulled too much, in too many ways, too fast. Sometimes we need others to help us be resilient. The changes in the church are going to come, and come far quicker than the church is used to. The church will experience a 'new normal.' As a church we are family. Brothers and sisters in Christ. And just as we have joined together to weather the storm of covid, by supporting others, adapting to change, through phone calls and flower drop offs, etc. In the months to come we will be called to come together to weather the new storms of change.

One of my favourite authors is Brene Brown and in her book *The Gifts of Imperfection*, she discusses the importance of resilience to living wholeheartedly. Brown says there are four requirements for developing resilience: developing hope; combating societal expectations; refusing to numb negative emotions; embracing spirituality. Let us be resilient people of faith, - ready, eager, and equipped for whatever the future holds for us.

Blessings to all and a Happy New Year,

Rev. Alisa McDonald

PRAYER CALENDAR

February 2022



Weeks 1 & 2	Own Church	As the shoots of Snowdrops appear we give thanks for all new life. We pray for the babies baptised in our church and for their parents that they may grow in strength and happiness. We also pray for those who have passed on into the Life Eternal with the assurance of Jesus promise and our future reunion. Holy Spirit at this time of new life we ask that you breathe new life into our Church Family and help us all to grow in deeper fellowship and faith.
	Presbytery	We remember the tasks that all the churches in Presbytery are faced with in this coming year and ask that tolerance, wisdom and understanding be granted to help us through the changes and opportunities ahead. Draw us closer together in your service and when reaching out to the wider community with love.
	World Issues	We pray for the peoples of the South Pacific Islands and all those suffering as a result of volcanic action and any other natural disasters including those linked to climate change. We pray for all those living close to volcanoes and those whose lives are endangered by rising seas and floods. May they be able to implement effective strategies that will save lives. We pray that disaster relief and support is available when it is needed most.

PRAYER CALENDAR

February 2022



Weeks 3 & 4	Own Church	As we focus on the Five Marks of Mission we give thanks that the first is “To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom”. We ask that we are given opportunities to share the Good News and our faith with others. Help us, Lord to find the kind actions and loving words to share your gift of grace.
	Presbytery	We pray that all the churches in our expanding presbytery can be supported and enabled to take up the mission role guided by the Five Marks of Mission within our local communities. We ask you, Lord to help us to follow in the footsteps of the disciples and give us your guidance as we go forward together.
	World Issues	We remember and give thanks for the worldwide work of the Bible Society and all who work to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ in our troubled world. We also pray for the growth of tolerance and empathy as we remember Holocaust Memorial Day on January 27 th . We ask you Lord to let all those who have experienced hate, persecution, discrimination and genocide know some love, peace and healing in their lives and in those of their families and descendants.

PRAYER CALENDAR

March 2022



A Prayer to Walk Humbly Through Lent

Micah Chapter 6 Verse 8 - "O people, the Lord has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God".

Gracious Father,

Today we choose to walk humbly with you. We choose to live by your Holy Spirit and to follow your lead. Help us to hear You clearly, for we do not want to walk by pride or self-sufficiency. We want to walk with You Through Lent and always.

In Jesus name. Amen

From a Prayer by Cally Logan

A Prayer for Maundy Thursday

Lord God,
You sent your only Son into the world,
And before his hour had come,
He washed his disciple's feet.
You had given all things into his hands,
He had come from you, and was going to you,
And what did he do?
He knelt down on the floor,
And washed his friends' feet.
He was their teacher and their Lord,
Yet he washed their feet.
Lord God, help us to learn from his example,
Help us to do as he has done for us.
The world will know we are his disciples if we
love one another.

Strengthen our hands and our wills for love and for service.

Keep before our eyes the image of your Son,
Who, being God, became a servant for our sake.

All glory be to him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
One God, now and forever.

Amen

By Rachel Marie Stong

Please add to your diaries the World Day of Prayer date, which is Friday, March 4th this year. The theme is HOPE and the service has been prepared by the Christian women of England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Their message is "For I know the plans I have for you". Details of the time and venue for this service will be available and communicated following the planning meeting.
All are welcome.

Contacts

Name	Position	
Rev. Alisa McDonald	Minister	
Mr W Dalzell	Session Clerk	
Mr W Paterson	Treasurer	
Mrs Lorna Reid	Roll Keeper	
Focus Groups:		
Pat Patrone	Worship Group	
Kirk News		
Brian Reid	Editorial Rep	
Facebook Page		
		www.facebook.com/meldrumbourtiechurch.org.uk
Website		
		www.meldrumandbourtiechurch.com

Kirk News Articles

All items for the April / May 2022 issue of Kirk News should be in the hands of the Editors, Brian Reid, or Simon Hill by Sunday, 20th March 2022.

If you know of anyone who does not normally receive Kirk News and would like to, please contact the Editor. (see Contacts table)

You can also catch up with our latest news, events and videos on our website @ <https://www.meldrumandbourtiechurch.com/> or on our Facebook page.



The Guild



The Christmas Party on Monday 13th December was held at the Morris Hotel, where we enjoyed a beautiful Christmas Lunch served by welcoming staff. Everyone brought a gift and took one home. It was a lovely social afternoon which was enjoyed by all.

The next meeting of The Guild will be on Monday 14th February in Morris Hotel at 2.30 pm. The Speaker will be Kaitlin O'Brien talking on The Vine Trust. All members welcome.

Baptism

Casper Barrack

28th November 2021

Deaths

Mr Ian Shewan	Distillery Road	1st December 2021
Mr John (Duncan) Harper	Cowgate	6th December 2021
Mrs Doreen Reid	Macmillan Avenue	9th December 2021
Mrs Ruby Clark	Badenscoth Home	14th January 2022

Meldrum Litter Action Group

Over the years MAIG have organised from time-to-time litter picks in and around the town.

In keeping with MAIG's work in enhancing the town with our floral displays it is important that the town is really kept clean with no litter disfiguring the streets and green spaces.

If you agree this is important MAIG would like to set up the **Meldrum Litter Action Group** (A sub group to MAIG)

MAIG would organise and co-ordinate the group, supply all equipment including high vis vests, protective gloves, plastic bags and grabbers.

If you would like to volunteer to join the proposed sub group please contact

Andrew McCartney on 873473 or email a.mccartney642@gmail.com

