

## **Welcome:**

Welcome to our Enews update letter. We are hoping to keep all in our congregation up to date with what's on and what's happening in and around the Church. The Kirk News will continue to be published and will have all its usual news and articles. The letter will contain the latest intimations announced in Church.

We will also be looking for stories that you think will be of interest, anyone who would like to contribute can do so by sending their story or news to [info@meldrumandbourtiechurch.com](mailto:info@meldrumandbourtiechurch.com).

You will have two options on how to receive the newsletter:

- 1) We will publish the newsletter on our website
- 2) sign up and receive each issue via email.

We hope you will enjoy reading our Newsletter and look forward to hearing your comments, stories and suggestions.

## **For all the family:**

Each week we will have available on-line a Family Activity Page which will have:

- *Children's activity sheet*
- *Colouring sheet*
- *And for adults a 'Live your Faith Sheet'.*

[Family Activity Page:](#)

## *This Issue's Scripture Reading:*

**Ephesians 2: 17-22.** He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

## **Upcoming Events:**

All services and events have either been cancelled or suspended until further notice due to the Covid -19 outbreak:

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Church of Scotland  
Covid -19 update

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/resources/advice-for-churches-covid-19-coronavirus>

## Reflective Prayer

### Walk/Space:

In Scotland, we are not yet able to re-open our church buildings. So at Meldrum, we have decided to layout a Reflective Prayer Walk/Space in the grounds around and in front of the church, which we invite you to visit. There is a series of boards, each with a bible verse, a prayer, and something to reflect on. If you are in Meldrum, then please walk up and spend a little time there.

If you do go and find it helpful then please tell others and tell us.

### Covid-19:

#### **Covid-19 Phase 2 - Scottish Government announcement:**

*“Churches in Scotland will be able to open their doors again for the first time since the COVID-19 outbreak, for private prayer and funerals with social distancing and strict hygiene measures in place from 22 June. Weddings “with minimal attendees” will be allowed outdoors from 29 June.”*

Phase 2 makes it possible to think about opening for private prayer and I've already been in touch with Elders about starting to make plans, should the Kirk Session decide they want to go down that

#### *Church Notices and Intimations:*

**Joining the Church Family:** If you would like to become a member of our Church family or would just like to find out more about the work we do in and about our community please contact the Minister.

**A Loop System** for the hard of hearing operates throughout the Church

**Large Print** hymnbooks are available in the vestibule. Please return them to the vestibule after use.

**Hospital and home visits:** Please let the Minister or your Elder know by giving them a completed pew card as you leave the church or pass your request to your Elder.

**Inverurie Food Bank:** we are providing a collection bin for donations to the Inverurie Food Bank. Items should be of non-perishable food and basic toiletries. The bin will be situated in the vestibule. Please give generously.

**Gift Aid envelopes** (white) are at the end of each pew for members and visitors to use. By using an envelope – if you are a tax payer – and filling in the details – your offering benefits the church even more and at no extra cost to you! If you normally give by standing order, but are putting some loose change in the plate, please consider using one of these envelopes!

**Click here for this week's Intimations:**

[www.meldrumandbourtiechurch.com/intimations](http://www.meldrumandbourtiechurch.com/intimations)

line. The big news over the last couple of days is that the central church is now saying that in Phase 2 (ie from now) it will be possible to have funeral services in the church – though with the usual parameters re care, cleaning, distancing etc. This has come as a bit of a surprise to many of us as up until now there was no question of that and few of us are ready for it.

The central church is offering guidance, and we're obliged to follow Scottish Government's regulations, but once again decisions are to be taken locally. A lot of us feel that this places congregations in a difficult position as there won't be a unified approach, and church A down the road might be open while church B might decide to say closed. That kind of uncertainty tends to breed confusion in the



populace, not to mention some resentment if folk don't get what they are looking for and don't understand the reasons why, but this is where we are.

As with opening in any shape or form, it's a local (ie Kirk Ssession) decision and we have to make sure all the protocols are in place before Presbytery allows us to open. In some senses nothing has changed as we still need to go ahead with the necessary preparations as per the Scottish Governments guidance. Because the decision is local, some churches will be feeling under enormous pressure to open ASAP, others are saying that they're not prepared to open again until Phase 4. It is causing a lot of stress just now.

At Meldrum & Bourtie we're doing a survey (via Survey Monkey) to try and gauge what people are feeling about some kind of return so when we come to make those decisions we won't just be listening to our own voices, but the voices of the people we hope will be coming back in some shape or form.

**You can complete the survey here, please follow this link:**  
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/GJQ55Y3>

I am sure we all want to keep gathering, learning, serving

and worshipping together – this is church! And church goes on, even while we're temporarily displaced from the buildings where we usually worship. The key question at the moment isn't 'how do we get back into the buildings' but 'how can we continue to be church in this time of exile, and what can we learn from it that will renew our communal life and mission?'. It's hard to keep that to the fore when there's so much going on, but I think these circumstances can be an opportunity to do some of that thinking.

With preparation work due to be started we now must control/restrict access to all our buildings, if for any reason you need access then please call Billy on 07968 000610.

Your forbearance in this will be much appreciated, thank you.

Take care

Billy  
Session Clerk.

### *Prayer*

Lord of the morning,

I rise this day giving thanks

for all that is good and true

I rise this day seeking openness

to all that is strange or alien to me.

Lord of the evening

I take my rest of this day diving thanks

for all that is good and true about the 'other'

I take my rest of this day

holding in the light any

who are persecuted for their

'otherness'.

Amen.

(Taken from – 'Stories of encounter')