



Meldrum & Bourtie

Parish Church of Scotland

Registered in Scotland
Charity Number SCO15960

February / March 2021

Dear Friends,

As most of you already know I have agreed to be your Interim Moderator whilst Alisa is on maternity leave. It is my responsibility to work with your office bearers to keep everything going, ready for Alisa's return. An important aspect of this is to ensure the provision of opportunities to worship and the provision of pastoral care. We are currently negotiating with Alicia Forsyth who has agreed to assist Meldrum and Bourtie during this period. I am delighted about this and look forward to updating you once we have finalised arrangements. I am also of course available to help. We have a Kirk Session meeting on 10th February and will be in touch thereafter.

Meantime my own congregations of Culsalmond & Rayne & Daviot are inviting you to join our weekly Services held via zoom and I have agreed to record a Service specially for Meldrum and Bourtie which will be posted for the first Sunday of February. As you will be aware, it is currently not possible to use church



Kirk News

www.meldrumandbourtiechurch.com
info@meldrumandbourtiechurch.com



buildings for worship because of the current lockdown.

[The Culsalmond & Rayne & Daviot zoom links are available by emailing info@meldrumandbourtiechurch.com]

Thinking of the bigger picture. Our current circumstances are not at all easy. Some of you will be shouldering very particular burdens of grief, anxiety, loneliness or care. Many of you will have economic concerns or will be highly challenged by child care or home education issues. Although we understand the need for the limitations to protect our families, friends and neighbours all of us struggle one way or another...

During this particular season of Epiphany my congregations have turned more than once to the words of Psalm 139,

“Where can I go from your spirit?

Or where can I flee from your presence?

⁸ If I ascend to heaven, you are there;

if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

⁹ If I take the wings of the morning

and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

¹⁰ even there your hand shall lead me,

and your right hand shall hold me fast.

¹¹ If I say, “Surely the darkness shall cover me,

and the light around me become night,”

¹² even the darkness is not dark to you;

the night is as bright as the day,

for darkness is as light to you”.

In these words there is wonderful assurance of God’s presence with us in and through every circumstance. And let us also remember how Paul wrote in Romans of his conviction that there is absolutely nothing that can separate us “from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord”.

With my love and prayers, Mary
Rev. Mary Cranfield

It's a Girl

Our Minister, Rev. Alisa McDonald, is now on maternity leave and we are delighted to confirm that Alisa gave birth to a girl, Arabel Corinne on 18th January 2021.

Both are doing well and we congratulate both Alisa and Neal on the new addition to their family, a sister for Archie and Finley.

Congratulations to all the family!



Kirk News Articles

All items for the April / May 2021 issue of Kirk News should be in the hands of the Editors, Brian Reid, or Simon Hill by Sunday, 21st March 2021.

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

Deaths

Mrs Elma Milne, Turriff 24 Oct 2020

Mr Alexander (Jack) Ironside Garioch Rd Inverurie 6 Dec 2020

Mr Alexander (Sandy) Forbes Seton Way, Oldmeldrum

18th January 2021

PRAYER CALENDAR

February 2021



With bulbs sending up shoots and the arrival of a new baby girl at the Manse we give thanks for these new beginnings. In the “Hymn of Promise” by Natalie Sleeth we find these words of inspiration.

In the bulb there is a flower,
In the seed an apple tree,
In cocoons a hidden promise:
Butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter
There’s a spring that waits to be,
Unrevealed until it’s season,
Something God alone can see.

Later in the hymn Natalie affirms for us all “There’s a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me”. Let us actively look for signs of new life and bright hope as each day passes on the way to spring.

Gracious Father,

We pray that every member of our Church Family and wider community grows in hope and faith as we see the shoots of new life emerge. We pray for the growth of new life and revival in every church as they explore and discover new ways to worship and reach out. We give thanks for the gift of new life and we rejoice in the safe arrival of a baby girl for our minister and her family, may they know abundant blessings.

We pray for all new babies entering our world. We pray for all parents and families who have bravely welcomed newborns during these times of challenge. We bless you Lord for the hope and joy these babies bring. Help us to remember the babies whose parents are in less fortunate circumstances and move us to help where we can.

Loving Father, we ask you to look after all parents, grandparents and caregivers, support them and give them strength, health and freedom from worries about the future. We pray and ask for these things in the name of your beloved son, Jesus. Amen

PRAYER CALENDAR

March 2021



Jeremiah 29 Verse 13: You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

Lent provides us with a time for prayer and spiritual renewal, a time to draw closer to God and his son Jesus, our guide and redeemer. As we travel through Lent on our way to celebrating Easter, at the beginning of April, we are able to reflect on the events and emotions experienced by Jesus and his disciples. How difficult it must have been for these first followers to travel the road to Calvary alongside Jesus. Like them we must all learn to draw near to God and trust in his plan for each one of us.

Psalm 145 Verse 18: The Lord is near to all who call on him in truth.

A Daily Prayer for Lent

I will lean in, retreat from the pressures I face, and move closer and deeper into your love.

I will breathe out, refrain from distractions and become open to receiving your bountiful grace.

I will pause encircled by the depth of your care, and receive the endless gift of your mercy.

I will whisper in this quiet time of prayer and reflection and be honest trusting in your presence.

I will listen, awaken my senses to your guidance and become expectant and hopeful of your Kingdom work in my life.

1 Peter 5 Verses 6 & 7: Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

Many of you will remember David and Rebecca Morton, our former Presbytery Mission Partners, who worked in Nkhoma Hospital in Malawi. David has kept in touch with Malawi and has forwarded information about the very troubling situation in Malawi which is explained in the letter below.

You will also see a reference to an opportunity to contribute financially to the situation and the possibility of donating via a Lewis Church of Scotland congregation. I intend to be in touch with them to find out how best to send money to them. You may wish to wait until you hear back from me to assist.

Rev. Mary Cranfield

22 January 2021

Dear All,

It has been a while since we have communicated with you. Rebecca and I are still living on Lookout Mountain, here in Georgia USA, caring for my aunt who will be 90 in March this year, and is ventilator dependent at home. David is also working part-time at a local community mental health clinic serving a very poor and disadvantaged population. He also teaches part-time at Covenant College here on Lookout Mountain, as an adjunct professor in the Community Development department. In the 2020 Fall semester he taught Global Health, and this semester will be teaching Emerging Diseases and Global Epidemics.

Speaking of Global Epidemics, the Covid-19 situation in Malawi had been manageable up until the end of December, when it exploded. Prior to Christmas the country was seeing an average of 0-3 cases per day. On 20 January there were 1,000 cases just on that day. Two cabinet ministers have died of Covid over the past 2 weeks. The country is overwhelmed, without adequate equipment, medications, or oxygen. The anti-viral treatments and the vaccines available here in the USA or UK, are not available at all in Malawi. Nkhoma is facing great difficulty in affording and obtaining what is available. Just yesterday at my request they sent a preliminary budget of the needs, totaling \$40,500:

1. \$11,900 - 6 - month staffing - cost
 2. \$9,700 - drugs for patient care
 3. \$7,480 - transport to Lilongwe for very critical patients
 4. \$6,570 - Oxygen
 5. \$4,850 – for covid testing
- TOTAL - \$40,500

We are reaching out to multiple sources for assistance. But it is not just the funding, the staff are stressed and overwhelmed. Even when funds are available, sourcing the supplies and oxygen is difficult as the demand is outstripping the supply, especially with oxygen (ventilators are not an option as there are probably less than 20, if that, country wide, and none at Nkhoma). So please pray not only that funding will be available, but that the hospital will be able to source through local suppliers what is needed, especially the oxygen. Please especially pray for Dr Catherine Hodge who is the one overall in-charge of the Covid care at Nkhoma, Paul Mekani the principal nursing officer responsible for the nursing staffing needed, and all the doctors, clinicians and nurses who care for patients, that they will not fear, not be overwhelmed and will be able to remain faithful to their calling to “serve with love and care” as the hospital motto states.

If you are interested, funds should be sent to the Columbus Foundation as listed below:

Please write a check payable to "The Columbus Foundation" and on the memo line you must write "Friends of Nkhoma Hospital USA Fund". The check should be mailed to the following address:

The Columbus Foundation
Attn: Lisa Jolley
Director of Donor Services and Development
1234 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43205-1453

For those in Scotland, Lewis Presbytery is willing to receive funds for Nkhoma payable to “St Columba’s Church”, designated for Nkhoma Hospital and sent to the St Columba’s Church, Lewis Street, Stornoway, UK, HS1 2JF, attention Joan Iverson, Missions Coordinator.

Thank you all for your prayers and concerns for Nkhoma as it continues to be part of our Lord’s healing ministry in the world. I attach a responsive prayer for health care workers that Rebecca and I

used daily for Nkhoma and for those in this country and around the world who are caring for Covid patients.

David and Rebecca Morton
211 Pied Piper Trail
Lookout Mountain
Georgia 30750
USA
kuluva2@gmail.com



Contacts

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Mr W Dalzell	Session Clerk & Roll Keeper	872943
Mr W Paterson	Treasurer	01467 681796
Mrs Lorna Reid	Roll Keeper	01651 873000
Focus Groups:		
Pat Patrone	Worship Group	872797
Kirk News		
Brian Reid	Editorial Rep	872794
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Eileen Oliver	Pastoral Care Visiting Team	873396
Facebook Page	www.facebook.com/meldrumbourti church.org.uk	
Website	www.meldrumandbourti church.com	

Fyvie Oldmeldrum Medical Group:

COVID -19 Vaccination Update

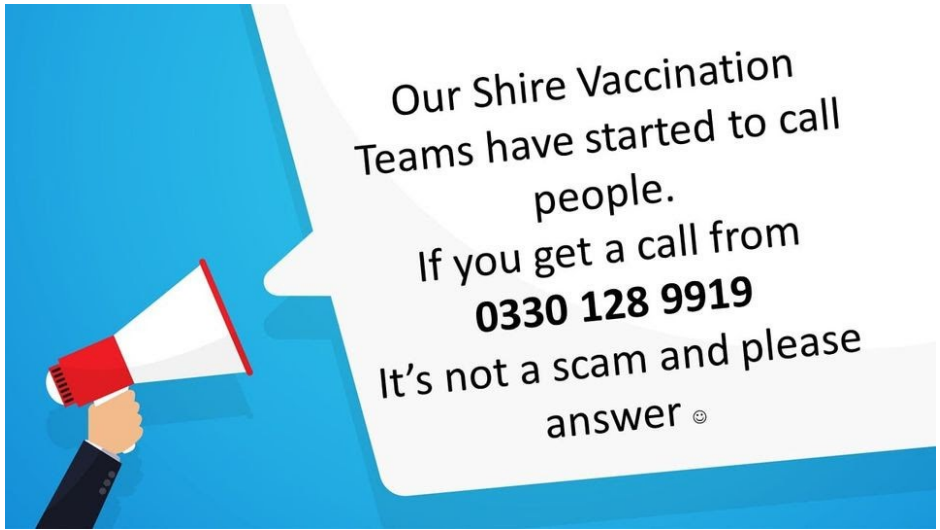
We are delighted to announce that we are starting to vaccinate those aged 80 years and over from Saturday, January 30th, at the Surgery in Oldmeldrum.

There's no need to do anything until you're invited. The Vaccination Co-ordinators have been calling patients over the past week and will advise you of your appointment time.

You do not need to call the GP practice.

For patients aged under 80, there's no need to do anything until you're invited. Letters will be send to patients commencing this week and will advise you of your appointment time. There will be a contact number given within the letter, which can be contacted should you have any queries or concerns regarding your appointment time.

You do not need to call the GP practice.



Our Aberdeenshire Vaccination teams are starting to call people, so please if you get a call from 0330 128 9919 know that it is not a scam and please answer.

Please support others who might struggle by letting them know they may get a call and also the number to look out for.



We are aware of a number of COVID-19 vaccination scams doing the rounds and wanted to remind the general public of a few key points.

- ✘ We will NOT use email to offer appointments.
- ✘ We will NOT ask you to respond with key pieces of personal information.
- ✘ We will NEVER ask you for your bank details - there is no charge for the vaccine.

Any communication you receive suggesting otherwise - no matter how authentic it looks - is a scam and should be deleted immediately.

We are here to help and serve all in our community in this time of uncertainty:

Whatever your need, then please call any of the people whose contact details are listed. Between us, we will do what we can to help:

Elizabeth Buchan	01651 872131	buchan93@hotmail.com
Elaine Buck	01651 872348	elaine.buck123@btinternet.com
William Dalzell	01651 872943	william.dalzell101@btinternet.com
Anne McLean	01651 873254	mcleanann@gmail.com
Eileen Oliver	01651 873396	eileenoliver@live.com
Pat Patrone	01651 872797	p.patrone123@btinternet.com
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Mhari Watt	01651 873210	mhari.watt@btinternet.com

[NHS – Covid-19](#)

[Kirk Services - online](#)

All that we plan to do will be subject to any further measures