



Williamwood Parish Church News Bulletin 6: 17th June 2020

We hope everyone is staying well and enjoying the slight easing of restrictions imposed to halt the spread of the Coronavirus. The good weather means many of us can enjoy time outdoors in gardens; on the golf course or going for walks. We know that some folks are still shielding and unable to get out but we hope things are not too difficult for them – or for anyone.

Elders are keeping in touch with people in their districts by telephone and we're grateful to all of them for the time and care they are giving to this. If you need help, please let them know. If you need help more urgently, don't wait for a call. Please feel free to call your elder or the Minister.



Our Sunday services remain cancelled and our buildings remained closed in line with instructions from the Scottish and UK Governments and from the Church of Scotland.

The latest guidelines from the Scottish Government indicate churches may choose to open for private prayer very soon but before that can happen lots of checks need to be gone through ; cleaning, sanitising and spacing organised and the Kirk Session make the decision as to how and when to open. It is likely that many places of worship will decide not to open for private prayer or reflection but will wait until we can open for some form of (short) service. This will be in the first weeks of July at the earliest.

The Kirk Session will be considering these – and other matters – at a meeting held via *Zoom* Wednesday 24th June. Elders will be sent a link so they can join the meeting. There will also be a phone number for those who wish to join by telephone.

One of the things the Kirk Session will consider is the continuation of worship online via *Zoom* on a Sunday morning and with worship materials on our web and Facebook pages. The on-line worship might be repeated in the church building on a weekday morning.

It is not going to be possible to hold the Stated Annual Meeting of the Congregation by the end of June (which is the date set down in regulations). This is the meeting at which the Financial Statement and Budget is presented to the congregation and members elected to the Congregational Board. We'll put the Financial Statement and Budget on our web site (and anyone who wants a paper copy should contact our Treasurer, Grant Keyes). The Congregational Board will continue as at present. It is likely that the next Stated Annual Meeting will be in the early part of 2021.



Thank you to everyone who is working hard to keep our congregational life going at this time.

Our Property Conveners and others are working hard to read and think about how to implement all the requirements for re-opening from the Church of Scotland and Scottish Governments

Our security team continues to keep as check on our buildings, also observing the requirements set out by the Church of Scotland

We are also grateful to a **small group** which is facilitating our time together via *Zoom* for worship and for meetings. The Group includes Joan Black; Evelyn Wallace; Sarah Alexander and Stuart Young

Our Flower Convener, Jean Little, continues to organise the sending of flowers to folks in our congregation and parish.

Our Finance Team continues to look after our finances and to try to find grants and support that may relieve the financial pressure caused by our Halls being out of use.

The Leaders of our Youth Organisations and Sunday School are sending out materials to our young folk which they can use at home or publishing materials on our web page. Many are also keeping in touch with members of their groups

Our Session Clerk is keeping in touch with our other Hall users.

The Choir is having a weekly get-together by *Zoom*. Please contact Sarah if you need details or help in joining this

The Guild continues with a fortnightly Telephone Coffee Morning which is being much enjoyed by all. Elizabeth Purvis can give further details to anyone who needs them.

SOMETHING NEW!



Freya Young (Lesley's daughter and Mary Montgomery's granddaughter) has been offering an open-air **BOOK EXCHANGE** in Eaglesham where she lives. She's offered to extend this to folks from our congregation who would like something new to read. Books (which are all donated and second hand) are sanitised before being put into freezer -type sealed bag. Freya will deliver book/s to anyone who wants one if you simply contact her and tell her the kind of thing you like to read. You can return or donate books, in a freezer bag by leaving them for her to pick up when she calls. These will also be sanitised before being passed on. We're grateful to Freya for this initiative and for including our congregation in the scheme.

Contact: Mary Montgomery 0141 258 8447.



It is almost five years ago that the Presbytery of Glasgow allowed the congregation of Williamwood to call a Minister. This was for a period of five years after which there would be a review of the congregation and its ministry and decisions made about the future. That review was due to take place at or after the end of October this year. We have now heard from Presbytery's Strategic Planning Committee that, due to the current situation, the review will not take place until the end of October 2021 or after.

The Presbytery of Glasgow has met via *Zoom* to induct Ministers into new charges: at Carnwadric and St George's Tron. There will soon be another induction at Cambuslang. The Rev Dan Carmichael, of Lenzie, has completed his year of office as Moderator and the Rev William Wilson, of Rutherglen, has been installed as Moderator for the coming session.

Our ***Presbytery Elders***, Grant Keyes and Moira McGeoch are continuing to play their part in the work of Presbytery and have been attending a number of Committee meetings via *Zoom*.



DONATIONS and OFFERINGS

Lots of folks are continuing to make regular contributions to our church by donating through a standing order. If you'd like to change to this form of giving please call our Treasurer, Grant Keyes.

If you use weekly givings envelopes please feel free to continue to use them and set them aside until we are back in our buildings or, if you can put a cheque rather than cash inside, you can post them to Grant Keyes.

The Church of Scotland now has a new facility on its website to allow people to make a donation to the work of the national church or to their own local congregation. Have a look on the website and follow the instructions if you'd like to donate in this way. We've checked to make sure Williamwood is on the drop down list – and it is!

We're grateful to everyone who contributes what they can to the work of the church, the upkeep of our buildings and our continuing ministry. In common with many other congregations at this time our income has been significantly reduced because our hall rental income has ceased for now.



Our Church web page has worship each Sunday for personal or household use .It also contains links to our Facebook page where you'll find hymns played by Sarah and others.

BBC1 continues to broadcast worship services and reflections each Sunday morning.

If you haven't joined our online worship time yet, using the Zoom app or by phoning in, we'd love to have you join us. Why don't you give it a go?



To access our Facebook page you don't need to open an account or anything like that. Type Williamwood Parish Church into a search engine and you should be able to click on our church website. When you get on to the site, click on the F for Facebook and you're there!

HELP!

If you need help accessing *Zoom* please call your elder or Joan Black; Jean Little; Evelyn Wallace or Sarah Alexander who will be pleased to try to assist you.

If you have something you'd like posted on the web site or on Facebook please contact Joan Black or Sarah Alexander

We'd be grateful if you'd pass on this News Bulletin or even just the information within it to anyone you know who does not have access to digital forms of communication.

<p><u>Minister</u> - Rev Jan Mathieson Telephone: 0141 579 9997 <u>E-mail:</u> JMathieson@churchofscotland.org.uk <u>Session Clerk</u> - Margaret Robertson Telephone: 07778148181 <u>E-mail:</u> margarectrobertson@gmail.com <u>Website:</u> www.williamwoodparishchurch.org.uk</p>
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CHURCH CONTACTS & INFORMATION

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