

Williamwood Parish Church

Newsletter 6

June 2021



Sunday Worship

We are pleased to be able to meet for worship in our buildings during June/July. However, numbers will be restricted for the time being (to 48 including the Minister; Organist, stewards and Tech Team). We will continue to make our services available services *via Zoom* so that those not present in the building can join in online. You can also access the services by telephone. Contact Evelyn Wallace if you want to have the link/telephone number sent to you. An invitation and *Zoom* link will be sent out weekly as usual.

Please note that there remains strictly no access to our church buildings except for our security Team and Property Conveners. If you think you have an urgent reason to need access please contact our Session Clerk, Margaret Robertson.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

We hope to be able to celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion in June. At the time of writing we are thinking of having a service in the church building on Sunday 6th June at 11am and again at 6.30pm. (The sanctuary will be cleaned between the two services).

Your elder should be in touch to ask if you want to attend services during the month of June and also whether or not you'd like to attend one of the Communion services. If we can't accommodate everyone in two services we'll organise an additional service.

The celebration of the Sacrament will be a bit different from usual. We will not pass plates of bread and wine but you'll be asked to come out to tables and take bread and wine from them. This will be at the end of the service so you'll go out of the building immediately after having been at the Table. You'll be asked to observe a 2m distance from others and a one way system in the sanctuary and, of course, numbers attending the service will still be limited.

These services will also be available to join in on *Zoom*.



Sunday School

Our Sunday School groups have been meeting on *Zoom* each Sunday morning at 10am since the first lockdown began in March (with some holiday breaks!). We're grateful to the leaders who have facilitated a programme of Bible stories, songs, prayers and craft activities as well as organising additional elements such as Easter, Christmas and summer holiday club bags delivered to homes. We're also grateful to all our youngsters who have joined in the *Zoom* meetings and other activities.

The final *Zoom* meeting for this session is on Sunday 30th May. On Sunday 6th June, Sunday School is hoping to have a Picnic Party in the church grounds in the sunshine!

Sunday School will resume after the summer holiday on Sunday 29th August and plans are being made for a fun start to the new session. Further details will follow in the coming weeks.

Children's Sunday School



2020

New Leaders Wanted

As we plan for a return to Sunday School activities, on the last Sunday in August, we're still not sure if we'll be meeting in person, online or a mix of the two.

However, whichever way children and leaders meet together we're looking for folks to join our existing team of leaders. The more folk we have, the easier it is to organise an informal rota enabling leaders to play a role while also juggling working hours and holidays

If you think you could help in Sunday School - or if you'd like more information - please contact Maureen McCulloch, Sunday School Coordinator



Doors Open becomes Out Doors

As the weather get brighter and warmer (hopefully!) you are welcome to use the benches outside our church building as a resting place and a spot to enjoy your take away tea/coffee. You may meet others there doing the same. Please ensure you observe appropriate physical distancing and abide by restrictions on numbers as they apply at the time.

Post-Easter Bible Study



At the beginning of June, Clarkston Churches Together are offering a short Bible Study series with a creation/ecological theme. The Study will meet for five weeks and the times for each meeting will be:

Sunday 6th June Evening at 7:30 pm - facilitated by Rev. Nicholas Taylor (St. Aidan's), Dr. Sheena Wurthmann (Netherlee & Stamperland) & Rev. Scott Blythe (Netherlee & Stamperland)

Tuesday 8th June Morning at 10:30 am - facilitated by Rev. Jan Mathieson (Williamwood) and Rev. Jerry Eve (Busby)

Thursday 10th June Afternoon at 2:30 pm - facilitated by Rev. Jeanne Roddick (Greenbank) and Pastor Iain McCallum (Cartsbridge).

The meetings will be online and possibly in person if restrictions allow and a variety of times will be offered. It is hoped that groups will contain people from a mix of congregations. All interest should be directed to Rev.Scott Blythe at SBlythe@churchofscotland.org.uk.

For the event, all people need to have a copy of the 'Caring for Creation' booklet. An order for these has been completed and they should be available in the week running up to the first set of meetings.



Christian Aid

Many of you enjoyed the service at the end of Christian Aid week in which Val Brown (of Williamwood and Christian Aid) took part along with Ross McGhee and Anne Clark (our Christian Aid Co-ordinators) and others.

We're grateful, to, to all those on the Tech Team who worked hard to make sure all the elements of the service were in place and accessible in the sanctuary and on *Zoom*.

It is still possible to make a donation to the work of Christian Aid and you can do this by following the instructions on the Christian Aid website.

To mark the 75th Anniversary of Christian Aid, a book of prayers has been produced and one of the contributors is Rev Graham McGeoch (son of Moira & Jerry). You can purchase a copy of the book via the Christian Aid website.

Art Exhibition & Sale

We said in last month's Newsletter that we would let everyone know the final result for the Clarkston Committee's Art Show, which this year was an online event running for the whole of April. We are pleased to say that 64 paintings valued at £10,019 were sold. As always, both professional and amateur artists had taken part and they were donating 1/3rd of the selling price of the paintings to Christian Aid. Between the sale of the paintings, the income from the prize draw and donations received the total amount raised was £3,542 – a great effort.

Christian Aid Week

This year's Christian Aid Week was from Monday 10th to Sunday 16th May. Thank you to the members of the congregation who handed in a donation – £229 was raised. We also know that some members donated online either via Christian Aid's website or the Clarkston Committee's envelope and we thank them as well.

If you were at Church on the Sunday at the end of Christian Aid Week, either in the sanctuary or via Zoom, you will have heard Val Brown's inspiring talk about the work of Christian Aid and the difference that is being made in the lives of the poor in many countries across the world. By supporting the work of Christian Aid we are part of these changes.

The quiz which was held during that week was very good, well organised by the local Committee's Chairman, Mark Allan of Greenbank.

Talking of the local Committee Chairman, we were saddened to hear that the previous Chairman, Alex Mackie, passed away a couple of weeks ago. We're sure some of you would have known Alex, either from Christian Aid events especially the Art Exhibition at the Carmichael Hall, or from his time as the Provost of East Renfrewshire. Alex had been the Chairman for about 5 years but had to stand down earlier this year due to ill health.

There are no events currently planned but once something has been organised we will let you know.

Anne Clark 644 4776 Ross McGhee 638 4883

Christian Aid Representatives

Williamwood Book Club



A number of people have shown an interest in forming a Book Club to share recommendations about books to read and to share thoughts about books they have enjoyed reading.

The first meeting will take place outside the front of the church on Monday 7th June at 2.30pm.

There are some benches available to sit on but please feel free to bring your own chairs or rugs – and your own tea/coffee. If there are more than 8 people (or the number that restrictions allow at the time) we'll divide into two groups.

If weather is inclement the meeting will be rearranged.

Forthcoming Meetings

Wed 9th June at 7.30pm (on Zoom) – Kirk Session

Tuesday 15th June at 7pm (on Zoom) – Glasgow Presbytery

Tuesday 22nd June at 7.30pm – Kwenderana Partnership Group

Prayer Requests for the Diocese of Hyderabad.

The Diocese of Hyderabad is twinned with the Presbytery of Glasgow.

- The pandemic has had devastating financial consequences as the Diocese has been unable to collect rent. The result is that they are struggling to pay staff – clergy and office and community workers alike. They have survived thus far by taking out loans but this isn't sustainable. Please pray that a financial solution can be found soon.
- The Diocese has launched a new clinic, caring for poor and marginalised Christians in the Mirpurkhas region. The Barnabas Fund in the UK has helped make this happen. Please pray for the smooth running of the clinic and that it is able to reach those who need it most.
- The Barnabas Fund has also helped fund 20 scholarships for poor and disadvantaged students. Please pray that these students can make the most of their studies despite the difficult circumstances.
- Bishop Kaleem John and some other senior staff in the age brackets of 50-80 have been vaccinated and the rest of the staff are waiting for their turns as per their age brackets. Please pray for a successful rollout of the vaccine across the country.
- Churches across the Diocese are struggling to keep going during this continued lockdown. While they have been allowed to remain open for worship, very few people have been able to attend church because of travel restrictions. Please pray that churches are able to stay open and connected with their congregations, offering support to the most vulnerable.

Call for a ceasefire to protect Palestinians and Israelis

The last week has seen the worst violence between Israel and the Palestinians since 2014. And the conflict escalated further still over the weekend as Sunday became the deadliest day so far. As I write this the cycle of violence spirals out of control, with many innocent Palestinians and Israelis dead, wounded or simply exhausted with fear. **'It is terrifying here. This time is not like any time before. Bombs are everywhere, my kids did not sleep since yesterday.** These are the words of Feda'a, a mother to small children and staff member at one of our partner organisations in Gaza. This cannot continue. Join us in calling on the UK government to pursue an immediate ceasefire. Stand in solidarity with all Palestinian and Israeli victims of violence today. Link to Christian Aid campaign. Simply copy and paste into your browser:

https://www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved/campaigns/stand-palestinians-and-israelis-call-ceasefire-today?utm_source=christianaid&utm_medium=email&utm_content=img-body-hero-IsraelPalestine.



We are delighted to announce over the past few weeks we have been recruiting for a new day centre manager and June McLeod has newly been appointed to start next month. We ask for prayers for June and all of the team at LHM as we begin this new chapter together.

We have been delighted that Angela our support worker has been able to resume her one to one appointments with clients.

We give thanks to the small team of volunteers and staff who continue to offer support to those most in need through emergency food parcels, toiletries and second chance clothing. The team have also been busy giving the main hall a freshen up, and a lick of paint for the season ahead.

We ask for prayer as we go forward, for;

- all of our clients, in limbo, currently housed in temporary accommodation awaiting their forever home.
- our partner agencies as services resume and staff return to the front lines
- congregations and businesses whose ongoing support makes possible the many services we provide
- the new manager, June, the staff team, volunteers and board as we begin a new chapter

Deacon Claire Herbert

Chaplain LHM

Pass it on.

We'd be grateful if elders would print out and post a copy of this Newsletter to anyone in their district who does not have online access. If you are unable to do this please pass the names of those requiring print copy to Evelyn Wallace or Margaret Robertson. Postage costs will be refunded.

CHURCH CONTACTS & INFORMATION

Minister - Rev Jan Mathieson Telephone: 0141 579 9997

E-mail: JMathieson@churchofscotland.org.uk

Session Clerk - Margaret Robertson Telephone: 07778148181

E-mail: margaretcrobertson@gmail.com

Website: www.williamwoodparishchurch.org.uk

Safeguarding Contact: Minister /Neil Little	News Bulletin : Evelyn Wallace
Web Page: Editor: Joan Black	FaceBook : Sarah Alexander
SundaySchool: Maureen McCulloch	Media Team David Liddell