

Eastwood Parish Church of Scotland Crossbeam—March 2021

From the Manse...

Dear Friends,

March 2021 marks one year since the World Health Organisation declared a global pandemic. It also marks one year since lockdown began in the UK. One year of staying physically apart from friends and loved ones; one year of the request to stay home; one year in which things have happened that we would never have predicted in our wildest dreams.

And yet, one year on, hope is on the horizon. As more and more of us receive the COVID-19 vaccine, the chances of being able to hug our loved ones again, of being able to travel and of returning to a version of normality, are increasing.

We have hope again.

And we have heard many times during this pandemic about the power of hope. The hope that things will always get better. The hope that there will be a rainbow after the storm. The hope of God's promise to His people.

As we travel through this season of Lent, instead of worrying about what we have or have not given up, I wonder if we should be focusing on hope instead? Hope comes to us again with the message of Easter. For dark times were banished. Death defeated. Love won the day and that Love endures forever. With that love comes Hope. Hope of eternal life. Hope of sins forgiven. The hope that Jesus brings, which was foretold by Prophets, such as Jeremiah who shared this message from God: *'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'*

Yes our Easter celebrations may, again, look different to what we had imagined—even this time last year— yet, the message of hope remains the same—forever enduring.

Your friend and minister,
Jim Teasdale



Where you belong

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Sunday School

The Sunday School have continued to meet on Zoom during the last couple of months given the current situation. We've had around 6/7 each week joining and it has been lovely to see the children and hear how they have been getting on. We have been following the same Bible readings as the church service and have been looking at baptism, making friends, following Jesus, superheroes, being a helping hand and Jesus' amazing work. Here are some photos from what the children have been doing.

Katie Morrison



2020 Reports and Accounts & 2021 Annual Stated Meeting

Reports and accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020 are now available on the church website (www.eastwoodparishchurch.org.uk).

Printed copies can also be obtained from the Treasurer (07739 564 868 / kmareemorrison@gmail.com) if required.

This year's Annual Stated Meeting will take place immediately following the Service on Sunday 18 April.

World Day of Prayer—5th March 2021

The World Day of Prayer service this year was written by the Christian women of Vanuata, a small country in the South Pacific Ocean.

Tropical Cyclone Harold was a very powerful tropical cyclone which caused widespread destruction in Vanuatu in April 2020. Harold battered Vanuatu, bringing with it concerns the natural disaster could prevent the Pacific nation from remaining one of the few countries without any confirmed cases of coronavirus. It was the first Category 5 severe tropical cyclone to occur in the South Pacific basin since Cyclone Gita in 2018 and was also the second-strongest tropical cyclone to ever affect Vanuatu, behind Cyclone Pam in 2015.

Vanuatu proudly waves its flag and its coat of arms with the words, "In God we stand". Their faith has carried them through.

The Vanuatu Committee's prayer is that the ecumenical relationship they experienced during the blessing of working together for the 2021 programme will lift up the voice of Vanuatu women across the world. They stand with the women and men of the world and proudly declare that the Vanuatu nation is built on the Rock of Ages, who is Christ the King. Their theme of the service is **'Build on a Strong Foundation'**

As with all other services this year it was online. A total of 1000 people in Scotland logged on to hear the service which was conducted by people from around Scotland. I am sure any of you who logged on for the service found the prayers and songs very enjoyable. If you missed the service it can still be seen on YouTube.

Donations to World Day of prayer can still be made by transfer to the church account using the reference 'lent' or by sending a cheque to the treasurer Katie Morrison, again using the reference 'Lent'.

Maureen McKillop

West Side Stories

Since 'moving' to Campbeltown, Liz and I have spent many happy hours walking and exploring lots of beautiful parts of the Kintyre peninsula. Many of these days out have been repeat visits to areas we know quite well from our trips over the years and some have been new adventures to places we'd never been before. We know from chats with various Eastwood members that many of you have also visited this area and so thought a wee trip back in time might bring back some happy memories. Hence this wee article from the west coast - and who knows - maybe some more in future editions!

Before writing anything, however, I'd like to start by saying thanks to everyone for your kind wishes and prayers following my recent cancer diagnosis. Not the start to retirement Liz and I had planned for but sometimes other things just get in the way of even the best laid plans. Anyway, I've been assured by the team looking after me that the lymphoma I have is treatable - and curable - and I'm very happy to accept that prognosis! All I have to do is what I'm told (so not much change there then). The care and attention I have had from the NHS, from my local GP and the various different teams in the hospitals in Oban and Glasgow has been nothing short of magnificent. A few more months of treatment and I should be getting back to normal - whatever that might be - hopefully just about the same time as everything else following lockdown. Hopefully not long after that we'll manage to see some of you back at church in Eastwood - where we all belong!

One place we have not visited for many years (partly because until recently we had dogs who were not welcome there) is Davaar Island (or Eilean Dà Bhàrr), at the mouth of Campbeltown Loch.

Davaar is a tidal island and can be reached (at low tide) via a dog-legged shingle causeway called The Dhorlin. Despite the tide times and advice about safe walking times being well publicised, there are still quite regular occurrences of people becoming stranded and, in some case, having to call the RNLI for help!

The island has a lighthouse (all now fully automatic) and for several years has had some accommodation / cottages for rent. On our last trip we even noticed a couple of new glamping pods under construction - no doubt they'll be ready

for the coming season if holidays are allowed by then!

The island's summit is not particularly high (at 115m or 377 feet) and, while climbing to it requires a bit of energy, it is fairly straightforward if you have good boots and a reasonable head for heights (the pathway is very steep and the sides fall away quite dramatically). We last climbed it on Christmas Eve (a beautiful sunny day) and, after a pause at the trig point to get our breath back, enjoyed a wee picnic and the stunning panoramic views. From that height we could see right over Campbeltown out to the west and over to Islay. To the north, east and south we had clear views up to Arran, over to the Clyde Coast and down to Galloway and Ireland.

I know some of our members have visited Davaar Island to see its famous 'Cave Painting'. So, a couple of weeks ago, on another lovely sunny day, we decided to go and have another look at, it for the first time in many years. The low tide was not particularly low that day and Liz was a wee bit concerned that the Dhorlin did not appear to be as wide as it had been the last time we crossed but – after a further check of the tide times – she reassured herself that I had not made a mistake! We had a beautiful walk over and then, after a bit of scrambling round the very rocky shoreline, reached the cave and were as impressed as we remembered having been so many years ago. The painting, which is situated quite deep inside the cave with water running down the walls and from above your head (hoods up!) is quite simply stunning. It looks remarkably bright despite the dark and gloomy surroundings and is very well worth the effort required to get there to see it. As usual on our walks, we enjoyed the obligatory walk picnic (this time even including a wee warming drink to heat us up) on the way back from the cave in the ruins of an old shepherd's hut.

The painting first appeared in 1887 when Archibald MacKinnon, a local art teacher, had a vision telling him to paint a depiction of the crucifixion in a cave on the island. He secretly crossed over to Davaar and completed his painting in one of the many deep caves. When local fishermen came across it, they thought the artwork was a miracle sent from God. In due course, it was discovered that MacKinnon, a mere mortal, had actually painted the picture and he was forced to leave town! Over the years, however, he managed to make a couple of return visits to restore the original artwork and indeed, it has been restored several times since, by art teachers from Campbeltown Grammar School. In 2006 the

painting was vandalised when a large red and black image of the revolutionary Che Guevara was painted over the original work. It was soon restored to its original glory as can be seen in this photo which I took on our trip.

Alistair Dobbie



Discriminated

What has happened to our nation?
Can I claim discrimination?
'Cos I'm past three score and ten
I'm not allowed to work again!

I love my shifts in Barnardo's shop
But now it seems, I'll have to stop
So, I'll go in and have chat
Surely nothing wrong with that
And watch someone who is sixty-nine
Do the job that once was mine!

Will someone listen to my plea
Why aged Lords and MP
A rule for one, but not another
Oh my God, it's now Big Brother.

Ken Harvey

Jesus is Baptized Word Search

F P Q U M C B O S E F L D T P
S N E V A E H T C Y A O O F R
X G U J L J S N E H T B V P E
O S O I O U A N I I H M E D A
B H E R C T O T B A E Y T H C
N V D O N H M P I Q R S H C H
E O L E W I L D E R N E S S I
N E P O C I L B U P I U A T N
K E T R I N I T Y H Y P W L G
R A O B L W A T E R A V S T D

believe
dove
Father
heavens
honey
John
Jordon
locusts
open



preaching
public
repentance
spirit
symbol
trinity
wash
water
wilderness

Phones for Zimbabwe

Do you have any old mobile phones lying around the house? Can they be connected to the internet? If so, Nigel Chikanya would like you to consider donating them for schoolchildren in Zimbabwe to use. If the phone can be connected to the internet, then the children can connect to their lessons online and continue their schooling even if they're not in a school building.

You can donate your phone by contacting Nigel directly on 07566 278132 or by dropping your phone in to the manse by the end of March.

What's On At Eastwood

SUNDAY

10.00 am	Faithbook (1 st and 3 rd Sundays)
11.15 am	Worship
11.00 am	Sunday School (age 2 to 16)

Contact

Erika Watt
Rev Jim Teasdale
Katie Morrison

MONDAY

10.00 am	English Literacy Classes
12 noon	The Lunch Club Open on the 1 st and 3 rd Mondays of the month from 12noon (except July and August)

Christine Nanguy
E:info@pollokshawsaln.org

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all activities including Sunday worship are suspended until further notice.

FRIDAY

9.30 am	Slimming World
7.00 pm	Badminton (from October to May)

Lesley Clark

SATURDAY

10.30 am	Coyle Irish Dancers
7.00 pm	EPYC

Suzanne Coyle
Erika Watt

Church Contacts

Minister	Rev Jim Teasdale	0141 571 7648	JTeasdale@churchofscotland.org.uk
Session Clerk	Erika Watt		
Treasurer	Katie Morrison		
Halls Convener	John Smith		
Roll Keeper	Jamal Issa		
Magazine Editor	Felicity Teasdale		