



CHRIST CHURCH LANARK  
CLYDESDALE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

APRIL - MAY 2020

## CORONA VIRUS

All Church Services, Meetings & Groups are Cancelled at Christ Church until further notice. We will continue to hold the people of Christ Church in prayer and provide alternative pastoral support, potentially over the phone or online. Feel free to contact any member of the clergy or pastoral support team in the coming days and weeks, particularly if you are feeling isolated or concerned, but even just for a chat.

God is not cancelled, prayer is not cancelled, community is not cancelled and God remains with each of us in this time of uncertainty.

With every blessing, *Lee & Drew*

## ONLINE WORSHIP RESOURCES

So that you can continue to join in with Anglican/Episcopalian worship, albeit from the self-isolation of your homes, we would recommend the following online resources:

### Scottish Episcopal Church

While the SEC hasn't yet published a link to online services, when it does, it will be on the provincial website and Facebook page detailed below and provisionally set for 11am on Sundays.

[www.scotland.anglican.org](http://www.scotland.anglican.org)

[www.facebook.com/scottishepiscopalchurch](https://www.facebook.com/scottishepiscopalchurch)

### Church of England

The C of E has this online Lent resource which you can download an app for or sign up for to get emailed readings and reflections at the following link: [cofe.io/LiveLent](http://cofe.io/LiveLent) . There is also likely to be a virtual service at 11.am on Sundays

### Lanark Churches Together

The clergy of the town are planning to plan, contribute to and record ecumenical services over the time that we are out of our buildings. When the link to these is known we will post it on the Christ Church Website and Facebook page.

Greyfriars Church will broadcast a service each Sunday at 11.00

(<https://ondemand.greyfriars.church>)

### Finally

Week by week, Lee and I intend to post on the Christ Church Website and Facebook page the Collect and Gospel Reading for each Sunday and a little homily/reflection of no more than 150 words.



## D-I-Y LENT & EASTER

While our normal liturgical journey from Lent into Holy Week and on to Easter is disrupted this year we offer these meditations in the hope that they will enable you to make the journey on your own.

Be assured that Lee and I will be praying for you all every day at Morning and Evening Prayer. We will also be celebrating the Eucharist every Sunday morning – in private – in the church – and holding the whole community of faith before God.

If you wish to make prayer requests, please do so by telephoning the Church Office at the Rectory (01555 663065) or by emailing either Lee or myself (Lee – L.Johnston.Gla@gmail.com and Drew – thecanteringcanon@outlook.com)

### LENTEN MEDITATIONS

Lord Jesus, when I am sad and depressed  
Help me think of you praying in the garden.

Lord Jesus, when I am fearful  
help me to think of you being taken prisoner.

Lord Jesus, when I am ill  
help me to think of you being scourged at the pillar.

Lord Jesus, when I have a headache  
help me to think of you wearing the crown of thorns.

Lord Jesus, when I am tired  
help me to think of you carrying the cross for love of me.

Lord Jesus, when I am humiliated  
help me to think of you being stripped of your garments.

Lord Jesus, when I am in pain  
help me to think of you being nailed to the cross.

Lord Jesus, when I am lonely  
help me to think of you hanging on the cross.

Lord Jesus, when I am dying  
Help me to think of you dying on the cross for love of me.

Lord Jesus, help me to remember how much you suffered for love of me  
and help me to love you more and more. Amen.



We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Time to turn our lives again to God and to transform our world with love. **Amen.**

In the name of Jesus who is good news. **Amen.**

Lord Jesus, how kind and loving you are  
to give me your sacred body and precious blood as food for my soul.  
Lord, you are so wise, you know how weak I am and how much I need you.  
You are the bread of life, the real drink.  
You nourish me with your divine self.  
Lord, how can I thank you for this wondrous and generous gift,  
this magnificent and miraculous sacrament?  
Lord, unworthy that I am, I am all yours. **Amen.**

## GOOD FRIDAY MEDITATIONS

**PRAYER AT 3 O'CLOCK** Jesus, you are my Lord and my  
God, you endured such pain and suffering for me, you died  
for love of me. I kneel beneath your cross and beg for mercy.  
Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.  
O blood and water flowing from your side, sanctify and  
cleanse me.  
Lord, I love you with all my heart  
and place all my trust in you. **Amen**



Jesus, you know what it's like to feel abandoned, lost and afraid.  
Walk with us and show us how to walk with others, who live in fear, who face  
death through hunger or war. Show us how to pray for those we do not know  
and will not meet, but who are always loved by you. Walk with us Jesus. **Amen.**

## EASTER MEDITATIONS

You raised Lazarus from dead, saying "Unbind him, let him  
go free."  
You too were bound and laid to rest in a cold tomb, freshened  
by myrrh and aloes.

**Unbind us so that we may also go free.**

In sorrow we left you as the dead Jesus and in wonder you  
returned to us as the Risen Christ. Untied from the strips of  
linen, you offered us a new-found freedom.

**Raise us from the coldness of the tomb in which we are trapped.**

With this freedom we are empowered to make choices about our lifestyle and  
attitudes, but our human frailty prevents us from being courageous  
by taking those first vital steps.

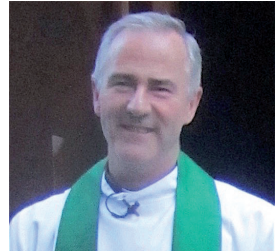
**Release us from the self-imposed exile of our prejudices. Amen.**



Risen Christ, when darkness overwhelms us: may your dawn beckon.  
When fear paralyses us: may your touch release us.  
When grief torments us: may your peace enfold us.  
When memories haunt us: may your presence heal us.  
When justice fails us: may your anger ignite us.  
When apathy stagnates us: may your challenge renew us.  
When courage leaves us: may your spirit inspire us.  
When despair grips us: may your hope restore us.  
And when death threatens us: may your resurrection light lead us. Amen.

Dear Friends

*April is the cruellest month, breeding  
Lilacs out of the dead land, mixing  
Memory and desire, stirring  
Dull roots with Spring rain.*



These lines are from T S Eliot's perplexing masterpiece "The Waste Land". They allude to the fact that though,

for most, the worst of the Winter is past, Spring is often tentative and we find ourselves taking two steps forward and one step back. Flowers bud, trees blossom, and then an unseasonal frost sets things back weeks, or a cold period of rain stunts growth for a season.

The miracle, however, is that lilacs do breed out of a dead land, and each year we marvel at the unstoppable power of snowdrops, crocus, daffodils and the rest pushing past the frozen soil, cracking earth's hard crust, and reminding us that after the long bleak days, new life comes.

For me the symmetry of this imagery with Easter is powerful. The echoes are clear and true. After the hard bleak days of Lent and the hot/cold passions of Holy Week and finally the 'null' day that is Holy Saturday when, from the vantage point of earth, nothing appeared to be happening and God's work was invisible to the human eye, finally, Easter.

Easter bursts on to our awareness in a way that is both subtle and startling. Easter, whatever you make of it, is unstoppable. From the grey-pearled dawn in the garden, to the full burst of sunlight by the empty tomb, to the quiet, reflective dusk on the road to Emmaus the sheer persistence of Easter is a thing of wonder.



When we are tempted to give up or give in, when a broken relationship, or a mind-numbing job, or a cruel bereavement, or an emotional depression persuades us that the clouds are lowered forever and light will never come again; finally, Easter.

Many people struggle with the Good Friday days of pain and suffering and death; or find themselves marooned in the emptiness of a Holy Saturday not able to go back, not able to go forward; then, finally, Easter.

My prayer for all of you, whatever your circumstance, is for a steady joy this Easter time. Work your way through Holy Week; remind yourself, as you do so, that life is not one endless bed of roses but, equally, that the bleakness and toughness of life does not last forever. Hope comes, light shines, peace establishes itself. Finally, Easter.

*Drew*



## **The Church of the Holy Trinity, Lamington**



Once things return to normal it is proposed that on the first Sunday of each month there will be a 9 am celebration of the Holy Eucharist in this little gem of a church.

While we have our Curate Lee and the generous offering of priestly gifts from John Macleod, we will offer this service in the hope that it will help us to connect with Episcopalians (and others) on the other side of Tinto.

At the first service on 1st March there were three people in the building at 8.55 am. When I emerged from the Vestry at 9, that number had risen to twenty! You could have blown me away with a feather!!

Please pray that God will bless this outreach, and us as we engage in it!

*The Revd Canon Drew Sheridan*

## **Our New Bishop**

I would imagine that nearly all readers of this newsletter are by now fully aware that we are delighted to have a Bishop-elect! However, just in case anyone is unaware... on 18th January, the Right Reverend Kevin Pearson was elected as the new Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway. Bishop Kevin is currently the Bishop of Argyll and The Isles and his election to Glasgow and Galloway represents a historic “translation” of a Bishop from one See to another. Bishop Kevin will take up his new post at a service of installation at St Mary’s Cathedral on Saturday 4th July at 12 noon, although he and his wife Elspeth are hoping to move to Glasgow in early June, where they intend to locate at our current Bishop’s House in Newlands once it’s undergone a degree of refurbishment, and prior to Bishop Kevin embarking on a long-planned retreat later in the month. Needless to say, the Episcopal Installation and Enthronement is subject to future government guidance on large gatherings. Assuming that it goes ahead, attendance at this service will be, for the most part, by invitation only due to space limitations. However, there will be a Diocesan Choral Evensong on the evening of Sunday 5th July at 6.30pm, when Bishop Kevin will be preaching, and when all church members (and non-church members) from across the Diocese will have the chance to come and welcome him.

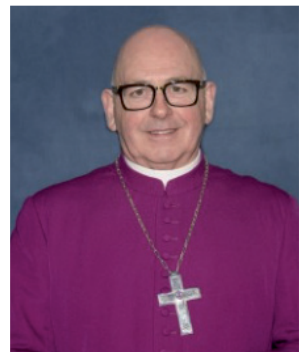
## **Message from Bishop Kevin to the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway**

Dear Friends,

“Letting Go” is the real lesson of faith, which Jesus was constantly teaching his first disciples. When Jesus called Andrew, James and John He simply told them to follow Him and that following involved letting go of their families, homes and jobs.

The Sunday before Lent we have the Gospel of Transfiguration in which the disciples had a vision of Jesus, as He really is. Peter wanted to literally

enshrine the vision but in letting go of that wish the disciples then went on to hear God speak. They had seen Jesus as God’s son, they had felt his presence and charisma but the letting go allowed them to hear God as well. They saw, they felt, they heard and so they knew; God is with us. The gospel of the Transfiguration is read just before Lent to remind us that Lent is all about Letting Go of those parts of ourselves we would rather be without, what by tradition we call sin.





Letting go is very much a part of mine and Elspeth's experience at the present time. We do feel called by God to Glasgow and Galloway and we do feel God is with us, but letting go of Argyll and The Isles is not easy. We are learning again the cost of discipleship while being very excited as we look to the future. Notice when we get to Easter the disciples found Jesus just showing up in different places when they least expected Him.

The disciples had to learn again the lesson of letting go of how they thought God should act and be with them.

Lots of people have asked what the new bishop's vision for the Diocese is. The new bishop heard much during the electoral process that proved to him that faithfulness and holiness are evident throughout the Diocese, no matter the numbers involved. Letting go of worries, over statistics, age, money, is the bishop's real vision so that in the letting go we may all simply be able to say: "I go to church because there I have an experience of the living God."

Pray for Elspeth and for me as we prepare to join you in the Diocese, as we pray for you.

Love and Prayers,

+ *Kevin*

### **Coronavirus Response - The Clergy**

It's important to do what we can to minimise the risk of the Coronavirus and keep people safe by following the advice of the NHS and the College of Bishops.

Please note that that if you have the symptoms of a dry cough, fever/high temperature, breathlessness you should phone NHS 111 or a GP for further advice. Clergy are also available to provide pastoral support in different ways to those affected.

We hope that things can return to normal for ourselves and the rest of the country as soon as possible. In the meantime, we all have a responsibility to care for ourselves and our neighbours who may be vulnerable due to age or illness by following this official guidance until further notice.

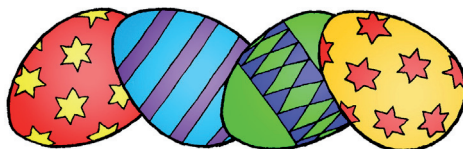
Sunday the 8th of March marked International Women's Day and related events for the World Day of Prayer – such as the service held in St. Mary's – highlighted the key role women play in the Christian Church. Worldwide services and events were led by women from different congregations using resources and reflections created by the Christian women in Zimbabwe.



The central role that women play in our church – whether ordained or not – goes right back to the morning of Easter. It was the women who took responsibility for caring for Jesus' body; it was they who were met at the empty tomb by angels; it was they who were sent first to proclaim the good news to the rest of the disciples and then to the world. Without women, there is no Easter story to share and celebrate.

Imagine what these women felt upon witnessing the events of the first Easter morning. The scriptures record their joy but also their fears. Suddenly they had moved from being in the background of the gospel stories to the foreground; their service was no longer limited to their gender – tending Christ's body with perfumes – but announcing that there was no body because he was risen. It's this subversive aspect of the resurrection that makes our news good. If the news of the resurrection wasn't good for women who were vulnerable and treated as second-class citizens in the first century, then it could not be good news for those who are poor, disabled or excluded. Without women being turned into witnesses, we would always be left to question whether the world dominated by a few powerful men was truly changed by the empty tomb.

Thankfully, women were the Easter witnesses and still are, showing that God calls all of us to the exciting and sometimes scary task of announcing the resurrection to the world. God be with each of you this season as you rediscover the unexpected joy that those women encountered at the tomb, and like them, take that joy to our communities with all their fears and concerns.



## Diocesan Synod 2020

This year's Diocesan Synod took place on Saturday 29th February in The Church of The Holy Trinity, Ayr. It was the last Synod presided over by The Most Revd Mark Strange (Bishop of Moray, Ross and Caithness & Primus), who has been our caretaker bishop since the beginning of the vacancy in see. At next year's Synod our new Bishop, The Right Reverend Kevin Pearson, will be in the chair.



Synod began, as usual, with a celebration of the Holy Eucharist organised by The Bishop's Chaplain (our Drew!). This year's celebration also incorporated The Chrism Mass, at which all those in Holy Orders renewed their ordination vows and the three Oils (Oil of Chrism, Oil of Catechumens, Oil of Healing) were blessed and distributed.

The remainder of the day was taken up with Diocesan and Provincial Business. We had a report on the numerical strength of the Diocese from The Synod Clerk, another one on the financial strength of the Diocese from The Diocesan Treasurer (our Bobby!) and yet another one on how well we were doing digitally as a Diocese from the Diocesan Digital Missioner, Petko Marinov. We elected clerical and lay members of Synod to represent us at General Synod.

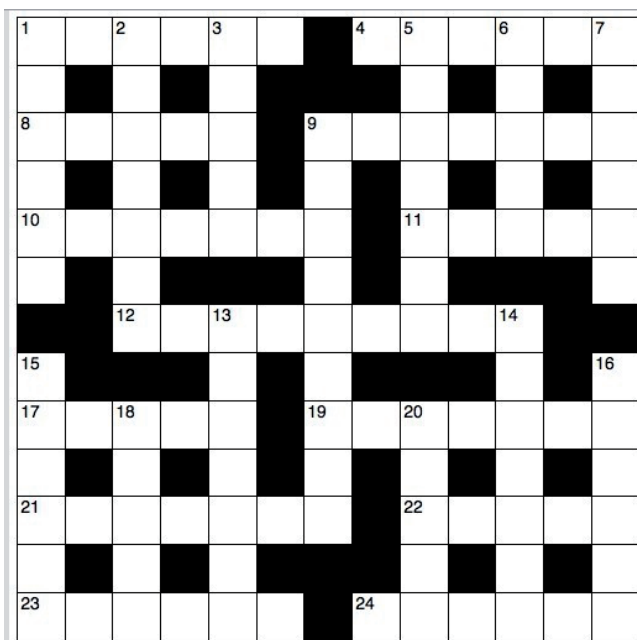
This year's Bishop's Lent Appeal will be going to Glasgow City Mission. After receiving a very interesting talk from Mr Jack Geddes, who is charge of the Mission, we were all encouraged to return to our charges and urge everyone to give as generously as possible to what it is a very good cause, bringing relief to the most needy of people on the streets of Glasgow.

We received an update on the progress of the plans for the new Diocesan Centre in Cochrane Street, Glasgow. We were all very impressed to see how the interior would be transformed when building works get underway in the near future. Compared with the current Diocesan Centre it looks as if the new one is going to offer very comfortable working, meeting and worship space and a superb city centre location (right opposite The City Chambers).

If anyone in the congregation has any further questions on the Synod I will be delighted to answer them in person.

*Jean Patrick*  
*Lay Representative*

**A Crossword to  
give the Corona  
Housebound  
something to do**



**Across**

- 1 Relating to the whole universe (6)
- 4 The disciple who made the remark in 8 Across (John 20:24) (6)
- 8 'Unless I see the nail marks — — hands, I will not believe it' (John 20:25) (2,3)
- 9 He urged King Jehoiakim not to burn the scroll containing Jeremiah's message (Jeremiah 36:25) (7)
- 10 Baptist minister and controversial founder of America's Moral Majority, Jerry — (7)
- 11 'Look, here is — . Why shouldn't I be baptized?' (Acts 8:36) (5)
- 12 Repossessed (Genesis 14:16) (9)
- 17 Port from which Paul sailed on his last journey to Rome (Acts 27:3-4)
- 19 'Moses was not aware that his face was — because he had spoken with the Lord' (Exodus 34:29) (7)
- 21 Roonwit, C.S. Lewis's half-man, half-horse (7)
- 22 Grill (Luke 24:42) (5)
- 23 'The lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the — apostles' (Acts 1:26) (6)
- 24 'I was sick and you looked after me, I was in — and you came to visit me' (Matthew 25:36) (6)

## Down

- 1 Coastal rockfaces (Psalm 141:6) (6)
- 2 Academic (1 Corinthians 1:20) (7)
- 3 Publish (Daniel 6:26) (5)
- 5 For example, the Crusades (4,3)
- 6 11 Across is certainly this (5)
- 7 He reps (anag.) (6)
- 9 Liberator (Psalm 18:2) (9)
- 13 Man who asked the question in 11 Across was in charge of all her treasury (Acts 8:27) (7)
- 14 They must be 'worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine' (1 Timothy 3:8) (7)
- 15 The human mind or soul (6)
- 16 'O Lord, while precious children starve, the tools of war increase; their bread is — ' (Graham Kendrick) (6)
- 18 'We played the flute for you, and you did not — ' (Matthew 11:17)
- 20 Bared (anag.) (5)

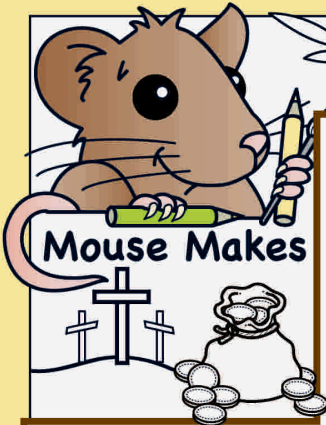
## CROSSWORD ANSWERS (No cheating!)

**CROSSWORD ANSWERS**

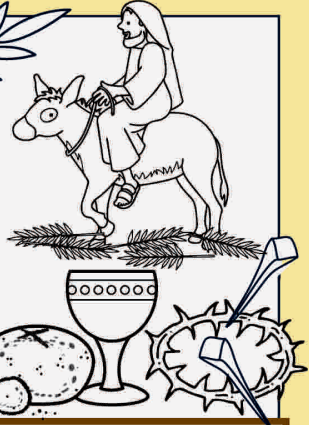
**ACROSS:** 1, Cosmic. 4, Thomas. 8, In his. 9, Delaiah. 10, Falwell. 11, Water. 12, Recovered. 17, Sidon. 19, Radiant. 21, Centaur. 22, Broil. 23, Eleven. 24, Prison.

**DOWN:** 1, Cliffs. 2, Scholar. 3, Issue. 5, Holy war. 6, Moist. 7, Sphere. 9, Deliverer. 13, Candace. 14, Deacons. 15, Psyche. 16, Stolen. 18, Dance. 20, Debar.





LABROAD  
OCROSSE  
RHAPPYB  
DONKEYS  
FSCIASC  
EAHNCAO  
ANEGETA  
SNSPLOT  
TAPALMS



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RPASSOVEROBEARRCHRISTEREE  
IGNABODYKILLIAROOLOOTSUTA  
NEATTMEALGODLYELRWILLUCRT  
KDISCIPLESONSUSTNNMESSIAH  
EBREADWINE DXGETHSEMANEFYE  
DARKNESSHTLINENAHEAVENYYD



HUGDAWN  
RTOMBMG  
EOOTPOE  
ECDEFRL  
DRNM RNK  
AOEPAII  
YWWLINS  
SDSESGS  
EASTERB  
GUARDEU  
SAVIOUR  
PRAISEY  
IDCUTKT  
RIDJOYE  
ICOINSL  
TETREEL

DONKEY • COLT • SAT • COATS  
ROAD • CROWD • CUT • PALMS  
BRANCHES • KING • HOSANNA  
DISCIPLES • ROOM • PASSOVER  
FEAST • EAT • DRINK • BREAD  
WINE • SON • MAN • BLOOD • CUP  
MEAL • JEWS • PLOT • KILL • COINS  
GETHSEMANE • PRAY • WILL  
BETRAY • KISS • ARREST • MESSIAH  
CHRIST • CRUCIFY • JESUS • CROWN  
THORNS • ROBE • TREE • NAILS  
CROSS • SPIRIT • DARKNESS  
TEMPLE • DEATH • LOTS • DICE  
TOMB • STONE • LINEN • BODY  
BURY • GUARD • THREE DAYS  
DAWN • MORNING • ANGEL • TELL  
HEAVEN • GOOD NEWS • LORD  
GOD • RAISED • JOY • PEACE  
PRAISE • SAVIOUR • EASTER



## Laughter is the Best Medicine

### Environmentally friendly transport 'Packet?

While driving in the countryside, a family caught up to an old farmer and his horse-drawn cart. The farmer obviously had a sense of humour, because attached to the back of the carriage was a hand printed sign: 'Ecologically efficient vehicle: Runs on oats and grass. Caution: Do not step in exhaust.'

### On the hop

What do you get when you cross the Easter Bunny with an over-stressed minister during Holy Week?  
An Easter Basket Case

### Hot

What do you call a chocolate bunny that was out in the sun too long? A runny bunny.

### Higher power

A Sunday school teacher said to her children, "We have been learning how powerful kings and queens were in Bible times. But there is a higher power. Can anybody tell me what it is?" One child blurted out, "Aces!"

### Don't break'em

There was a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country. "Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk.

The lady paused for a moment. "Only the Ten Commandments," she said politely.

A small boy was asking his mother where he came from and when he heard his mother's explanation, he replied: 'Mummy, when God planted the seed in your tummy, was there a photo of me on the packet?'

### The Lord is my Shepherd

A Sunday school teacher decided to have her young class memorise one of the most quoted passages in the Bible, Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the Psalm, but little Charles did not find it easy to memorise much of anything.

On the day that the children were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Charles stepped up to the microphone and began proudly, "The Lord is my Shepherd...." He knew that much, but the rest of the Psalm suddenly deserted him. So he concluded bravely: "... and that's all I need to know."



... er... the good news is the youth group have made a great start by pressure-washing the west window

# CHRIST CHURCH LANARK

Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway

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Please remember Christ Church in your will as an act of thanksgiving for the Church. For confidential advice please speak to the Treasurer

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Registered Scottish Charity: No SCO 14937