



The door is open again

CHRIST CHURCH LANARK  
CLYDESDALE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
AUTUMN 2020

# *Sidespeople*

Week Beginning	Sunday	Wednesday
6 Sept	Sylvia Russell	Irene Bryce
13 Sept	Nell Broadbridge	Sheila Cardwell
20 Sept	Frank Caddell	Clergy
27 Sept	Sylvia Russell	Irene Bryce
4 Oct	Nell Broadbridge	Sheila Cardwell
11 Oct	Frank Caddell	Clergy
18 Oct	Sylvia Russell	Irene Bryce
25 Oct	Nell Broadbridge	Sheila Cardwell
1 Nov	Frank Caddell	Clergy



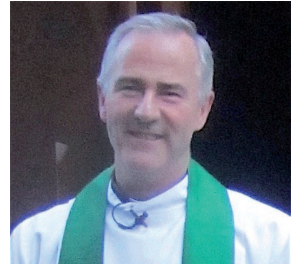
When you come back to Church in the next week or two, please note how lacking in clutter the place is! Over lockdown this gruesome threesome hired a van from Loch Garage, rolled up their sleeves and set to, not only clearing the church, but also the south side pathway, the church hall, the Rectory garage and the Rectory library of mountains and mountains of stuff that had been lying around for ages! The place is now spick and span with no detritus lying anywhere! **KEEP IT THAT WAY!!**

(And contrary to what this photo suggests, social distancing was actually practised!!)

## *Rector's Letter*

Dear Friends

August in Scotland and September in England have always been months of new beginnings. The children go back to school after the holidays, clubs and societies resume their activities and people, feeling refreshed from their summer break, go back to “normal” with new vigour and vision.



To a certain extent this year is no different to any other. The children are now back at school, some groups and clubs are preparing to open up again and, even if it was just a staycation that we had, a few of us have enjoyed that all important summer rest to recharge the batteries in readiness for the onslaught ahead!

However, in some significant other ways nothing is the same this year. Everything has changed. We are returning to a life that looks and feels very different. Face masks have become the norm. Refraining from hugging or shaking hands is now de rigueur. We are much more aware of our personal space and very wary of touching surfaces in a way that would have been unthinkable 6 months ago. Some of us even think twice about going out of the door onto the street. Having said that, we are also looking out for our neighbours more now and contacting the people we haven't seen in ages. We hope we are working our way through a global event that has left thousands dead, economies stretched and many of us traumatised.

The church is included in this mix. It has not been left unaffected. Many of you will not have received the sacrament for 6 months. Corporate worship has been reduced to an online experience. Friends in congregations haven't laid eyes on each other in a long time. But that is all about to change. A new beginning looms.

At Christ Church we will be opening our doors for public worship again on Sunday 6th September at 11 am and on Wednesday 9th September at 11 am with a said service of Holy Communion repeated on both days. This will be our pattern for the foreseeable future. We will also continue our online provision. Numbers in the building will be restricted to 20 “at a sitting”. A booking system has been put in place (either online or via the phone) to facilitate this. Although we will be providing gels and face coverings, please bring your own with you, if you can.

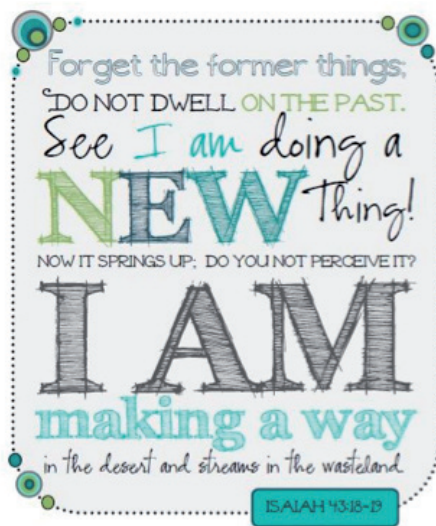
While I am very much looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible again in church and to presiding at the Eucharist on your behalf I am very conscious of those of you who, very understandably, feel unable to join us at this juncture. My heart goes out to you. Please know that you are not forgotten. If you have any pastoral needs at all, do not hesitate to telephone me on 01555 663065. I hope and pray that your confidence will return and that, one day soon, I shall see you sitting in a pew in our beautiful little sanctuary on Hope Street.

I would like at this point to express my heartfelt thanks to the many people who have kept Christ Church ticking along under lockdown and to the Vestry who have worked tirelessly throughout this time supporting the clergy and meeting on Zoom to make decisions often at very short notice. They have done a sterling job.

We find ourselves at a new crossroads looking towards a new future. At times like this I always find it comforting to know that God journeys before us. Wherever we go and whatever happens God is there with us, transforming, if we let him, our challenging times into ones of hope and promise. A few lines from Isaiah 43 come to mind: “ See, I am doing a new thing! Do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.” Be heartened by that message.

God bless you all.

*Drew*



## *The Curate writes .....*

### **CHURCH IS A REMINDER THAT GOD IS EVERYWHERE**

Countless poets and authors have pointed to the reality that God can be found anywhere – at home, in your interactions with people, or in nature. One such poet was Gerard Manley Hopkins who said:



“The world is charged with the grandeur of God...nature is never spent;  
There lives the dearest freshness deep down things;  
And though the last lights off the black West went  
Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs —  
Because the Holy Ghost over the bent  
World broods with warm breast and with ah! bright wings.”.

Hopkins, himself a Jesuit Priest, imagined that God’s Spirit not only hovered over the creation of the world, but continues to fly over it, infusing it with God’s very being. Far from being pie-in-the-sky, this belief that God can meet us anywhere has brought great comfort to Christians the world over during various worldwide lockdowns, which even disrupted Easter itself. We have quickly adapted to finding God at home in front of our computer screens, in a moment of quiet contemplation or in our daily walks for health and mental wellbeing. Thank God that he is everywhere.

But how did Hopkins square his belief in God being in all places with his Sunday duties as a Priest, serving in one of England’s ornate chapels – a place custom built for worship. And, having coped with life and worship in Lockdown, how are we thinking about returning to Christ Church. Is there any advantage in doing so or are we best staying put?

Although the Church is the people – as we have been shown afresh by the Coronavirus – the church building remains important because it is a permanent reminder – a sign pointing upwards – towards the reality of God that is all around us. Moses, after he had set the people of Israel free was told to set up a designated place on a mountain for worship, not because God was limited to space and time, but because the people were soon forgetful. Forgetful that God had delivered them from the Egyptians, led them in the desert and brought them into the promised land. Forgetful that the God who saved them remained with them on the journey.



Our wonderful church building is that permanent sign and reminder of what God has done for us in Jesus Christ and what God continues to do. It's shape and movement call us to direct our hearts upwards in the Eucharist, in the Word – and hopefully once again in song (as permitted). The font reminds us to live out our baptism and the altar tells us to celebrate the abundant gifts God gives us – the most precious gift being himself, in the person of his Son Jesus Christ. In an age when we are tempted to forget who we are and who God is particularly when things are tough as they are now, we need all the help we can get to live the life of worship and joy we are called to. So, if you can, gather again in our sacred space, be reminded of who God is and direct your heart upwards in prayer with thanksgiving to the God who is everywhere: to guide, to save and to love us.

*The Revd Lee Johnson*

## **RETURNING TO CHURCH DURING PHASE 3**

### **Booking System**

We have been granted permission by the Diocese to re-open the church as of Sunday the 6th September. From the 6th, we will do a Sunday and a Wednesday service at 11am. Those wishing to attend will need to book a place at either the Sunday or the Wednesday service each week, but not both, as the amount of people able to attend is limited. We would encourage you to use the online booking system for this, which will allow you to choose a day to attend. You can find the link to book on the weekly emails we send out or on the Homepage at: [www.ChristChurchLanark.com](http://www.ChristChurchLanark.com). Please choose the number of virtual 'Tickets' you need based on how many people from your household will attend. You don't need to bring a ticket or confirmation email with you. Please try your best to use the online system as it helps us keep track of the numbers attending easily. Those who are unable to use the online system should either email Lee or phone Lee's landline number (0141 772 8176) and leave a message a few days in advance of the service. Please book a few days before the service. By booking and attending, you give your consent to us holding your contact details for 21 days and passing them on to NHS Test & Protect should anyone later test positive for Coronavirus.

## What to expect

- **If you or anyone in your household is displaying Covid-19 like symptoms, please do not attend. Instead, engage with the NHS Test & Protect process for further advice.**
- You will need a face covering, but you may also wish to bring your own hand sanitizer and a cushion (as all pew cushions will be removed).
- As you approach Christ Church please place your face covering on before entering the building -it will have to be worn throughout the service apart from when receiving communion.
- You will then be invited to use a hand sanitizing station near the entrance.
- Friendly stewards will be on hand to help with queues and to direct you on social distancing guidelines and seating arrangements.
- Please sit as close to the front as you can, on the pews marked by a green tick. Filling the building from the front to the back.
- There can be no singing by the choir or congregation. Musical recordings may be used to aid worship instead. No physical sign of The Peace can be shared at this time.
- Liturgy will be displayed using the projector and will be familiar, but if someone has trouble seeing the projector, an alternative will be provided.
- Communion (bread only) will be given to you whilst you remain seated in your pew by one of the clergy. Please remove your face covering, take communion and re-cover your face, ideally using hand sanitizer before and afterwards.
- When leaving after the service, please leave using the side fire exit next to the choir stalls, as we are operating a one-way system. Those at the front of the church should leave first, followed by those at the back. Please use the hand sanitizing station placed near the exit.
- 2m social distancing should be maintained at all times whilst within the building, particularly when entering and leaving the building. Floor markings will indicate where it is appropriate to stand.
- Toilet facilities will remain open, with disposable wipes available for cleaning surfaces used.
- The church remains disabled-access friendly and open to newcomers (if booking made in advance).
- No financial offering will be taken, but a plate will be available at the back of the church.

## Happy Events during Lockdown



Margaret Main celebrated her 90th Birthday with her family. Unfortunately she couldn't have her beautiful bouquet of flowers presented to her in church but was delighted to have them delivered to her home.

## Happy Birthday Both



The Rector's Wife, Teresa, celebrated her 60th Birthday on 31st August. She is now the proud owner of a "bus pass" and can't wait to start using it. The photo shows Drew and Teresa celebrating the happy event with a slap up meal at The Ubiquitous Chip in

Glasgow's West End in the company of Catherine, their daughter, and Mark, their future son-in-law. Many Happy returns, Teresa. Until a few years ago you could have become a pensioner at your age too!!





Keith and Elizabeth Baxter are delighted to announce the arrival of their second Grandchild. Cameron Blair Baxter was born on the 11th August, a baby Brother for Rowan.



Doreen and Richard Evans are delighted to announce the arrival of another grandchild. Tracey gave birth to Freya Lorna Stewart on 17th March just before lockdown. A little sister for Emily and a second daughter for proud father Kevin.

## GROWTH

Almost a year ago I was given a beautiful orchid as a house-warming present. I was delighted at such a beautiful gift but at the same time I was a bit scared of it. If I'm honest my success with house-plants is so patchy I thought caring for an orchid was beyond me. However, thanks to some tips from the giver of this gift, my orchid is not merely still alive - it is thriving. I am amazed at its growth and the extraordinary number of blooms it has produced.

According to guides on plant care there are a number of factors for success, namely the correct amount of watering, humidity, sunlight, fertiliser and pruning. Given the right conditions growth occurs. At first growth happens in secret, deep inside the roots and shoots of the plant. Eventually buds appear on the stems which gradually open up to reveal the beautiful petals and inner structure of the flowers. Even though I see my orchid every day there have been times when I've suddenly become aware of how much it has grown as new buds come forth and blossoms emerge.

Psalm 139 speaks of the hidden nature of growth:

For you created my inmost being;  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.  
I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;  
your works are wonderful,  
I know that full well.  
My frame was not hidden from you  
when I was made in the secret place,  
when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.  
Your eyes saw my unformed body;  
all the days ordained for me were written in your book  
before one of them came to be.

Although the early stages of growth are hidden from view, God our creator sees them. He knows who we are and what we are made of. He saw our potential before anyone knew we existed. Year on year we grew in stature until we reached adulthood. We also grew mentally, emotionally and spiritually and we continue to do so throughout our lives.

Over the last few months I've been reflecting on the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Each week I looked at an individual fruit, reflected on it and turned to God in prayer. Just like my orchid, I found myself in an environment that allowed growth to happen even though it was largely hidden.

Growth is imperceptible in the moment, but we can recognise it with the benefit of hindsight. Sometimes the context for growth has been painful but you are given the grace to get through. Sometimes growth happens in the routine of everyday life as we faithfully kept putting one step in front of the other. Sometimes we've gained a sudden new insight that enabled a growth spurt that was joyous. God is doing a secret work in each of us, enabling us to become more hopeful, confident, resilient and whole. One day God's work in us will be revealed for us all to see. Whatever way our growth is happening, we will be encouraged as we look back and see how we have coped, changed and flourished.

*Rev. Harriet Johnston*

### ***Litter Virus***

*A face mask is a helpful thing –  
It traps those nasty germs!  
An extra message I must bring  
In these poetic terms:  
When you've finished with your mask  
A bin is simply found  
So drop it in – an easy task!  
Don't leave it on the ground!*

*By Nigel Beeton*



## Escaping after Lockdown!

A recent trip to the Knapdale Peninsula in the Argyll region took us to St Columba's cave. A path past a small 13th century chapel leads you to a natural cave in the rock face.

It is traditionally said to have been occupied for a time by St Columba on his way from his home in Ulster to his final settlement at Dunadd and Iona.

The story goes that Columba applied to King Conal for permission to establish his monastery at Iona. While he waited for the Kings decision the saint stayed here.

As you enter the cave mouth you will see a raised shelf of rock . A drystone altar has been built on the shelf and behind on the wall a small cross is carved. There are another two crosses carved in other parts of the cave.



The font at nearby South Knapdale parish church, Achahoish, is said to come from the cave. To the west of the cave is a smaller cave showing signs of a dwelling place.

So did St Columba stay here? There is simply no way of knowing but it has been used for human habitation over thousands of years.

Although this is in an isolated position it is well worth the journey to view it.

*Elizabeth Baxter*

## **Noah and the Ark – 2020 version**

In the year 2020, Noah was living in England when the Lord came unto him and said, “Once again, the earth has become too wicked to continue. Build another Ark and save two of every living thing. You have six months before I will start the unending rain for 40 days and 40 nights.”

Six months later, the Lord looked down and saw Noah weeping in his garden, but no Ark. “Noah”, He roared, “I’m about to start the rain! Where is the Ark?”

“Forgive me Lord”, begged Noah “but things have been difficult. I needed Building Regulations approval because the Ark was over 30 square metres. I’ve been arguing with the Fire Brigade about the need for a sprinkler system. My neighbours claim that I should have obtained planning permission for building the Ark in my garden because it is a development of the site even though in my opinion it is a temporary structure, but the roof is too high.

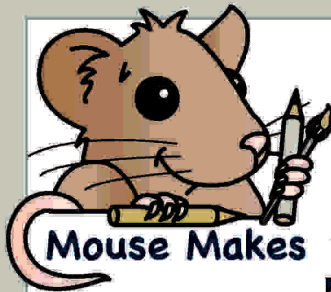
“The Local Area Access Group complained that my ramp was going to be too steep and the inside of the Ark wasn’t fully accessible. Getting the wood has been another problem. All the decent trees have Tree Preservation Orders on them and we live in a Site of Special Scientific Interest set up in order to preserve the Spotted Owl. I tried to convince them that I needed the wood to save the owls - but no go!

“When I started gathering the animals the RSPCA sued me for intending to confine wild animals without the proper paperwork. The County Council, the Environment Agency and the Rivers Authority have ruled that I can’t build the Ark until they’ve conducted an Environmental Impact Study on your proposed flood. The Trade Unions insist that I can’t use my sons to build the Ark; I can only employ members of the Shipbuilding and Allied Trades union. Finally, Customs and Excise have seized all my assets, claiming I am going to attempt to leave the country illegally with endangered species.

“So, forgive me Lord, but it will take me at least another ten years to finish this Ark.”

Suddenly the skies cleared, the sun began to shine, and a rainbow stretched across the sky. “No need for me to destroy the world after all,” observed God. “The government has the matter already in hand.”





The **Bible** is a collection of **books** that took over 2,000 years to write! The books were written by many different people, all helped and inspired by God. The Bible has books about:

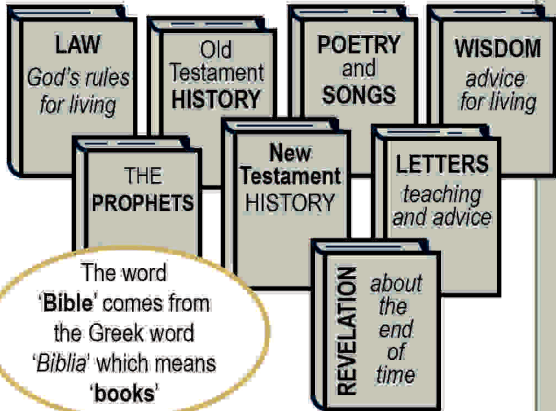
There are **66** books in the Bible. How many can you name?



## BIBLE WORDS

The Bible words in **BOLD** type on this page are also hidden in the word search, can you find them?

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



The word '**Bible**' comes from the Greek word '**Biblia**' which means '**books**'

God speaks to us today as we read the Bible. The Bible encourages us, corrects us and shows us how to live, it also describes itself as:



**Mirror**  
James 1:23



**Food**  
Hebrews 5:12-6:1



**Honey and Gold**  
Psalm 19:10



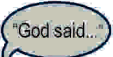
**Light**  
Psalm 119:105



**Rain**  
Isaiah 55:10-12



**Seed**  
Mark 4:14



**Living Word**  
Hebrews 4:12



**Hammer**  
Jeremiah 23:29



**Fire**  
Jeremiah 20:9



**Sword**  
Ephesians 6:17

...but most of all The Bible teaches us about **God** and how we can be friends with Him.

## Laughter is the Best Medicine

Editor: Have you ever wondered what the modern press would make of biblical events?

**If biblical headlines were written by today's media .....**

On Red Sea crossing:  
WETLANDS TRAMPLED IN  
LABOUR STRIKE  
Pursuing Environmentalists Killed

On David vs. Goliath:  
HATE CRIME KILLS BELOVED  
CHAMPION  
Psychologist Questions Influence of  
Rock

On Elijah on Mt. Carmel:  
FIRE SENDS RELIGIOUS RIGHT  
EXTREMIST INTO FRENZY  
400 Killed

On the birth of Christ:  
HOTELS FULL, ANIMALS LEFT  
HOMELESS  
Animal Rights Activists Enraged by  
Insensitive Couple

On feeding the 5,000:  
PREACHER STEALS CHILD'S  
LUNCH  
Disciples Mystified Over Behaviour

On healing the 10 lepers:  
LOCAL DOCTOR'S PRACTICE  
RUINED  
"Faith Healer" Causes Bankruptcy

On healing of the Gadarene demoniac:  
MADMAN'S FRIEND CAUSES  
STAMPEDE  
Local Farmer's Investment Lost

On raising Lazarus from the dead:  
FUNDAMENTALIST PREACHER  
RAISES A STINK  
Reading of Will now to be Delayed

**With Back to School in mind...**

Mother to young daughter after first day at school: "Well, dear, what did they teach you today?"

Daughter: "Not much. I've got to go back again tomorrow."

### Essays

A second year student explaining to a first year student how to write essays: "When you take stuff from one writer, it's plagiarism, but when you take it from many writers, it's called research."



*The bishops had formed a  
'support bubble' all on their own.*

# CHRIST CHURCH LANARK

Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway

Bishop:

Rector: Rev Canon Andrew Sheridan, The Rectory, 1 Cleghorn Road,  
Lanark, ML11 7QT. Email: [thecanteringcanon@outlook.com](mailto:thecanteringcanon@outlook.com)

Tel: 01555 663065

Assistant Curate: Rev Lee Johnston, **7 Hilton Court, Hilton Road,  
Bishopbriggs, G64 3EA**. Email: [L.Johnston.Gla@gmail.com](mailto:L.Johnston.Gla@gmail.com)

Tel: **0141 772 8176 (Note change of address and phone number)**

Church Office: 01555 663065

Lay Readers: Robert (Bobby) Burgon, Richard Evans

Pastoral Care Co-ordinator: Sheila Cardwell 01555 728802

Adult & Child Protection Officer, Susan Tian 01555 871997

## **Vestry:**

Sheila Cardwell - Rector's Warden 01555 728802

Jean Rance - People's Warden 01555 662461

Jean Patrick - Lay Representative 01555 664040

Mary Gibson 01555 663802

Gemma Horsburgh 07949 701195

Jean Patrick 01555 664040

Paula Moody 01555 660233

Jane Milliken 01555 751514

Secretary - Anne Glen

7 Andrew Place, Carlisle, ML18 5UD 01555 772720

Treasurer - Robert Burgon

141 Hyndford Road, Lanark, ML11 8BG 01555 662986

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

Church Flowers: Jane Milliken, 01555 751514

Web site: **[www.christchurchlanark.com](http://www.christchurchlanark.com)**

Magazine and Website Editor: Sylvia Russell: 01555 662676

E-Mail: [sylviarussell555@gmail.com](mailto:sylviarussell555@gmail.com) **(Note change of email)**

Registered Scottish Charity: No SCO 14937