

CHRIST CHURCH LANARK
CLYDESDALE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

MARCH - APRIL 2021

Update on Restrictions

At the time of writing, on the 16th of February, we have still not been advised by the Scottish Government on their roadmap out of Lockdown.

It appears this will be published at some stage during the week beginning the 22nd Feb. It is hoped that their plan, taking into account vaccinations and rates of infection, will give the Scottish Episcopal Church and other churches an idea as to when in-person worship might legally resume.

It is hoped by all of us that we will be able to gather in person to worship during Holy Week and celebrate Easter, but this is by no means guaranteed.

The government has made it clear that its main priority at this stage in the pandemic is the re-opening of schools, which may raise infection rates substantially.

We will keep you up-to-date with the guidance we receive from both the Scottish Government and the College of Bishops of the Scottish Episcopal Church and hopefully be in a position to announce a re-opening date as restrictions are gradually relaxed.

Until then, keep doing your part by staying home: to protect the NHS and save lives.

Meanwhile, please find below some resources to help you start this important season of Lent, preparing ourselves for Easter.

Christ Church's Service of the Word: Each Sunday of Lent 2021

A short service for each Sunday can be found on YouTube.

A written version, which you can read or print off, is available on our website. Both links will also be posted on our Facebook page.

Provincial Service

At 11:00am on Sundays the Scottish Episcopal Church will publish services for online worship.

The services can be accessed by clicking the online link at 11am or afterwards.

Tuesday Zoom Gatherings at 2pm

Each Tuesday at 2.00pm you can join other members of the congregation on Zoom. These sessions vary each week and can be a short service, a talk or a quiz. Lee sends out an email link for you to click on to join the session.

Fortnightly Zoom Study Group will continue with the second installment of the Pilgrim Course, on the Lord's Prayer. The first session will take place on Thursday 5th March at 7:30pm. For those of you who currently attend, booklets will be arriving through your door before the new session begins. Bob R. will be in touch with a Zoom link closer to the time.

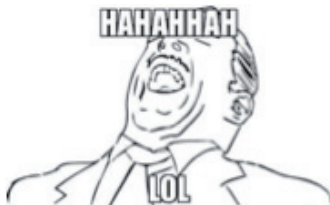
Clergy and the Pastoral Care Team are always available to help with any pastoral issues arising or simply to chat.

Blessings,

The Clergy

ON A LIGHTER NOTE!!!

- What do you call a rabbit with fleas? (Bugs Bunny)
- What's wrong with Easter jokes? (They crack you up)
- How does the Easter bunny stay fit? (Eggs-ercise)
- What do you call a mischievous egg? (A practical yolker)
- Why was the Easter bunny upset? (He was having a bad hare day)
- What music does the Easter bunny like? (Hip hop)



Clergy Cogitations

Dear Friends,

LENT

*“Lent is a time to take the time to let the power of our faith story take hold of us,
a time to let the events get up and walk around us,
a time to intensify our living unto Christ,
a time to hover over the thoughts of our hearts,
a time to place our feet in the streets of Jerusalem or to walk along the sea and listen to his word,
a time to touch his robe and to feel the healing surge through us,
a time to ponder and a time to wonder...
Lent is a time to allow a fresh new taste of God!”
Ann Weems*



These words by noted poet and author Ann Weems capture very succinctly what the essence of Lent is. Lent is a time, a season when we can refocus on what is central to our faith. We all lead very busy lives, even in these days of lockdown and furlough; there is so much that still demands our time, so much that grabs our attention. Some of the things are essential, some are trivial. We need to stay alert and watchful about our time and how we use it.

Here are a few quotes about time:

Dost thou love life? Then waste not time for time is the stuff that life is made of.
Benjamin Franklin

How we spend our days is, of course, how we spend our lives.
Annie Dillard

Use your time well this Lent. And grow in faith, hope and love.

Drew

This April will be the second Easter we spend with the Coronavirus. Only this time, many across the UK – many of you – have received the first dose of the vaccine that we hope will eventually release us from the darkness we've been living in since March 2020. Flickers of light are starting to make it through the doors that keeps us safe, yet confined. Soon, our doors will break open to a world that will be both familiar and different.

The disciples, who had witnessed the death of Jesus, their friend and their hope, were also trying to stay safe on that first Easter morning. They were confined at home with the doors locked in case they should suffer the same fate as their king. There at home, they might have imagined turning back the clock: how they could have saved Jesus from the cross and carried with their normal routine of lessons and miracles with their master by the seashore. If only things could be normal again, if only Jesus could be alive and here again as he was before Good Friday.

Jesus in his resurrection power bursts through the tomb, then through their doors and finally through their expectations. Yes, Jesus is alive again and with them, but what strikes them is not how familiar Jesus is, but how different he is. Some Gospels record that his body and his movements are enhanced – as if built for heaven rather than earth. He's able to walk through walls, yet Thomas can still touch his hands and side. Jesus doesn't want to be held onto by the disciples, kept indoors with the fearful because there's work to be done and hope to be shared. Instead, Jesus talks about launching the church into the world; he tells the disciples to go forward in mission; he's promises the Spirit will be poured out on them to bring new life to the world.

The first thing the disciples learn after the resurrection is that normal is never coming back. Jesus did not rise again just so things could go back to normal – a world where people are betrayed and crucified. He rose again so that new life could emerge, for him; for the disciples and through them, for the world.

As our doors gradually open beyond this Easter into a familiar yet different society – one marked by loss but hoping for change – let's take forward that exciting story of new life breaking into our world afresh through the risen Lord.

Lee

Lent Message From Bishop Kevin

Dear Friends

Hope is much more than mere optimism: that is the lesson of faith and that is why Lent is the Season of Opportunity.

Optimism, that feeling, view of life, that everything will work out well and that things can only get better and we have a right to expect everything to go well. That view of life offers a fraudulent certainty. Lent presents us with the God-given opportunity to recognise true Christian Hope, which is different from optimism.

Hope, true Christian Hope, is based on the vision that we want to be with God who is already with us in the love we experience; but that love gives us a vision of peace, fulfilment, security that we experience here and now but also teaches us to trust in God. That trust is the essence of faith – the vision. In other words, we live in what by tradition we call, ‘the Hope of Heaven’.

It was the late Lord Jonathan Sacks, who made the distinction between Optimism and Hope. Lord Sacks, as Chief Rabbi, said that the history of the European Jewish community in the twentieth century meant that they could not be optimistic, but they lived in Hope. Without that Hope in God, their community could not have continued. Their experience taught them that things do not always just turn out well, but that God is faithful to his people and Hope in God and in God’s faithfulness leads us into a new reality.

That is the Hope that makes Lent the season of opportunity. That is the Hope that in Lent 2021 gives to each one of us the opportunity to embrace our own new reality. In tiny, trivial ways, giving up biscuits for instance. Amidst all that we have been denied, had to give up in these past months, during Lent, as we reach for the biscuit tin, reflect on the many people who have found themselves at food banks for the first time in their lives.

Take that thought and that reflection into bible reading, prayer, and Zoom worship. Listen, read, the scriptures assigned for these weeks of Lent. Notice the optimism of the disciples from the mount of Transfiguration to the glory of Palm Sunday. On Palm Sunday they felt, they knew, they were on the winning side, but that soon proved to be false optimism.

The desolation of Holy Week and the tomb, but God's faithfulness, Jesus, with us in the desolation, there is Hope. Hope of the glory of light and life on Easter Day. The new reality that God is with us but the excitement that we can be with God, God who is love.

Hope lives. The scriptures teach us that, as our communities reflect on the need for food banks, a more just and equitable society must be our hope of the new reality. The Holy Spirit spoke through Isaiah, the prophets, that justice, peace, security are God's yearning for us all.

During Lent, there are many opportunities online, in books, in conversations with those leading our congregations, for us all to reflect on scripture in prayer. Seize the opportunity to embrace the new reality, the journey to and with God, offered this Lent. To bring to ourselves, to share with others, the Easter new reality of Hope that is eternal.

I wish you all a happy and Holy Lent.

+ Kevin
Glasgow and Galloway



EASTER EVEN

There is nothing more that they can do
For all their rage and boast;
Caiaphas with his blaspheming crew,
Herod with his host,

Pontius Pilate in his Judgement-hall
Judging their Judge and his,
Or he who led them all and passed them all,
Arch-Judas with his kiss.

The sepulchre made sure with
ponderous Stone,
Seal that same stone, O Priest;
It may be thou shalt block the holy
One
From rising in the east:

Set a watch about the sepulchre
To watch on pain of death;
They must hold fast the stone if One
should stir
And shake it from beneath.

God Almighty, He can break a seal
And roll away a Stone,
Can grind the proud in dust who
would not kneel,
And crush the mighty one.

There is nothing more that they can do
For all their passionate care,
Those who sit in dust, the blessed few,
And weep and rend their hair:

Peter, Thomas, Mary Magdalene,
The Virgin unproved,
Joseph, with Nicodemus, foremost
men,
And John the Well-beloved,

Bring your finest linen and your spice,
Swathe the sacred Dead,
Bind with careful hands and piteous
eyes
The napkin round His head;
Lay Him in the garden-rock to rest;
Rest you the Sabbath length:
The Sun that went down crimson in the
west
Shall rise renewed in strength.

God Almighty shall give joy for pain,
Shall comfort him who grieves:
Lo! He with joy shall doubtless come
again,
And with Him bring His sheaves.

Christina Rossetti



DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?

Fast from hurting words and say kind words
Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude
Fast from anger and be filled with patience
Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope
Fast from worries and have trust in God
Fast from complaints; contemplate simplicity
Fast from pressures and be prayerful
Fast from bitterness; fill your hearts with joy
Fast from selfishness and be compassionate
Fast from grudges and be reconciled
Fast from words; be silent and listen



Extracts from The Registers

Funerals

December 2020

Christine Duddy

Bobby Paterson

January 2021

Bill Hardie

Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord
and let light perpetual shine upon them



Death of Bill Hardie

We were saddened to learn of the death of a long-standing member of Christ Church. Bill was such a talented person, author, art expert, composer and all round lovely man who coped so well with his speech difficulties following a stroke. He will be much missed by the congregation. Our sympathy goes to his family.

A Golden Celebration

Our magazine editor, Sylvia Russell and her husband, Roy have celebrated their Golden Wedding. Drew presented them with a beautiful, socially distanced, golden bouquet and card on behalf of the congregation.



Sylvia would like to thank the congregation, Drew and Jane Milliken, our Flower Lady, for the lovely bouquet which cheered them both up during this period of Covid lockdown.

My quirky lockdown find

Several months ago I went to replant a large tub in our back garden. When forking over the soil the prongs of my fork hit something hard a few inches below the surface of the soil. It proved to be a hard boiled egg complete with shell! How on earth did that get there? However many weeks later I think I had an answer.



We have a bird feeder for peanuts hanging on an apple tree and get a great variety of birds to watch. We also have a grey squirrel who has discovered it and is a regular visitor. 2/3 weeks ago Frank put some fat balls round the base of the tree. I was at the kitchen sink and happened to look out of the window in time to see our squirrel run across the grass and pick up a fat ball in his front paws. He ran round the corner of the house to our large planter - still empty - and jumped up into it. He had a shock - the surface of the soil was covered in a 3 inch layer of solid, frozen snow and he couldn't make a hole to bury the fat ball.

He jumped back out and ran down a bank to find softer snow. Then went back to the tree twice more to pick up a fat ball and ran in different directions to bury them. So - I can see now how the boiled egg could have been buried in our planter, but have NO idea how a squirrel could obtain a hard boiled egg! Any suggestions?

Marilyn Caddell

Another squirrel story

I have a friend who lives near Perth and had more snow than we did here. She has a red squirrel that visits regularly for the peanuts in her bird feeder. She wanted to go out into the garden, so went to put on her wellies, but couldn't get her foot into one of the boots. She turned it upside down to investigate and a stash of peanuts fell out! Her squirrel was 'squirrelling away' his peanuts in her boot for future use!

Marilyn.

I think the squirrel that is burying stuff in Marilyn's garden is doing the same in mine. I had planted spring bulbs in four tubs on my terrace near the bird feeder and I kept finding the bulbs had been dug out and left on the ground. Then I watched the squirrel raiding the nuts on the bird table and scurrying backwards and forwards to bury them in my tubs. I wonder what might grow?

Editor Sylvia

Recipes from the Rectory Kitchen

Hot Cross Buns

Hot cross buns. Hot cross buns

One a penny, two a penny

Hot cross buns

Give them to your daughters

Give them to your sons

One a penny, two a penny

Hot cross buns

INGREDIENTS

500g strong white flour, plus extra for dusting

75g caster sugar

2 tsp mixed spice powder

1 tsp ground cinnamon

1 lemon, finely grated zest only

10g salt

10g fast action dried yeast

40g butter

300ml milk

1 free range egg, beaten

200g sultanas

50g finely chopped mixed candied peel

oil, for greasing

75g plain flour

2 tbsp golden syrup, for glazing



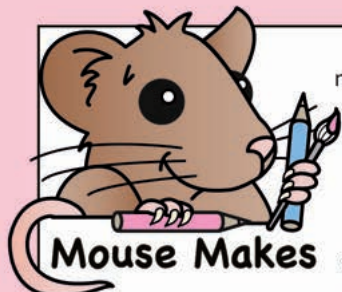
METHOD

1. Put the flour, sugar, spices and lemon zest into a large bowl and mix together. Then add the salt and yeast, placing them on opposite sides of the bowl.
2. Melt the butter in a pan and warm the milk in a separate pan. Add the butter and half the tepid milk to the dry ingredients. Add the egg and use your hands to bring the mixture together, incorporating the flour from the edges of the bowl as you go. Gradually add the remaining milk to form a soft pliable dough (you may not need all of the milk).
3. Tip the dough out on to a lightly floured work surface. Knead by hand, incorporating the sultanas and mixed peel into the dough. Lightly knead for 10 minutes until silky and elastic and forming a smooth ball. The kneading can also be done in a food mixer with a dough hook.
4. Oil a bowl and place the dough in it; cover with cling film and leave to rest in a warm place for about 1 and a half hours or until doubled in size.
5. Turn the dough out on to a floured surface and divide into 12 balls. Line 1-2 baking trays with paper and place the balls on the tray, placing them fairly close together and flattening them slightly.
6. Slip each baking tray into a large clean polythene bag, making sure the bag doesn't touch the buns. Leave for 40 – 60 minutes until the buns have doubled in size.
7. Preheat the oven to 220C/200C Fan/Gas 7.
8. For the topping, add the flour to a bowl with 100 ml of water. Mix together to make a paste and spoon into an icing bag.
9. When the buns have risen, remove the polythene bags and pipe a cross on each bun. Bake for 15 – 20 minutes until pale golden brown, turning the baking trays round halfway through if necessary.
10. Melt the golden syrup in a pan. While the buns are still warm, brush the buns with a little syrup to give a nice shine before setting aside to cool on a wire rack.

TIP

These buns will keep in the freezer for up to 1 month.

Enjoy!



Mouse Makes

Who is my mother?
Look up the Bible verses
then find the mother's
names in the word search

CAIN and ABEL
Genesis 4:1-2

JOSEPH
Genesis 30:22-24

ISHMAEL
Genesis 16:15

TIMOTHY
2 Timothy 1:5

RUBEN
Genesis 29:32

GAD
Genesis 35:26

SAMUEL
1 Samuel 1:20

OBED
Matthew 1:5

ISAAC
Genesis 21:3

Jesus was **loved** by his
mother Mary, she looked
after him, worried
about him and prayed
for him. She **cuddled**
Jesus when he was
born, **cried** when he
died and **rejoiced** when
he rose from the dead.

SOLOMON
1 Chronicles 3:5

JOHN
Luke 1:57-60

ESAU and JACOB
Genesis 25:24-26

JESUS
Acts 1:14



R	A	C	H	E	L	M	A	R	Y	A	V	Z
E	L	I	Z	A	B	E	T	H	H	E	V	I
B	Z	D	R	E	B	V	S	U	A	U	O	L
E	T	M	U	M	L	E	A	H	N	N	L	P
K	M	O	T	H	E	R	R	T	N	I	E	A
A	I	S	H	A	G	A	R	A	C	G	H	
H	S	T	A	B	A	T	H	S	H	E	B	A

There are two other words in the word search, can you find them?

Laughter is the Best Medicine

Bishop

A little girl told her mother, “We went to a confirmation service at the cathedral and I saw the bishop. Now I know what a crook looks like!”

Knock knock

A conscientious minister decided to get acquainted with a new family in his church and so he visited them one Spring evening. After his knock on the door, a lilting voice from within called out, “Is that you, Angel?”

“No,” replied the minister. “But I’m from the same department.”

Switched on

A housewife was helping her aged mother get up the stairs on their brand-new stair lift when the minister telephoned her. He was horrified to hear her say: “I’m so sorry, but I’ll have to ring you back. I can’t talk right now because I’ve finally got Mother in the electric chair and I’m eager to press the switch and see if it works!”

Observations on modern life

Common sense is not a gift. It’s a punishment because you have to deal with everyone who doesn’t have it.

A filing cabinet is a place where you can lose things systematically.

A hangover is the wrath of grapes.

A bus station is where a bus stops. A train station is where a train stops. On my desk I have a workstation.

Little old lady seeks handsome young man

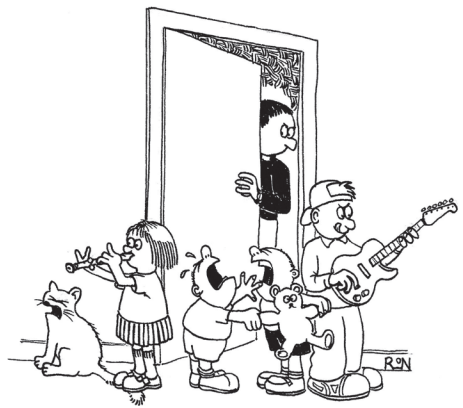
An advert appeared in a student newspaper of a university: “Sweet little old lady wishes to correspond with good-looking university student – especially a six-footer with brown eyes, answering to initials J.A.D.” It was signed: “his mother.”

Paradise lost?

A young mother stood in her kitchen and watched her baby screaming, her sons fighting, her daughter crying, the washing machine leaking, and the dog being sick. She sighed and said to her friend: “I sometimes wish I’d loved and lost.”

Talking with God

Why is it that when we talk to God we’re said to be praying, but when God talks to us, we’re said to be schizophrenic?



Kevin took himself off to his study to pray for peace

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Registered Scottish Charity: No SCO 14937